

January/February 2022

Heard on High

FPC Columbia's *Heard on High* is published monthly for all members and friends of First Presbyterian Church

I am writing this article in 2021 before Christmas eve and prior to all the family gatherings and travel plans scheduled during the Christmas holiday season.

Last year at this time, FPC, Columbia was coming to terms with the approach of a very different year. The pandemic was raging. 300,000 COVID deaths seemed unimaginable. Worship services had been cancelled. Programming was put on hold. Many people were anxious because the future looked very uncertain. We had not seen something like this before. I think we all knew that COVID would eventually quiet down and life would return to normal, but things looked like the world would get worse before it would get better. It did!

On top of COVID last year there was a heightened level of anxiety and uncertainty within First Presbyterian Church, Columbia itself. The Presbytery of Middle Tennessee was involved in issues within the church. Attendance had declined. Feelings were hurt. People were struggling to find some joy.

Last year was quite a year.

It has been so encouraging to be present since August at this church. Advent has been especially delightful. Attendance has been very encouraging at both Wonderful Wednesdays and on Sundays. Recently, I was part of the Children's Christmas Play and listened to the Lessons and Carols service. Life at church is very positive. FPC, Columbia is a church with great energy and renewed vision. In addition, there is more good news. The 2022 budget looks very good. Plans are underway for a possible kitchen and/or chapel remodel. The Session is active. The presbytery is involved, and the membership engaged.

Yet here we go again with a new strain of COVID – Omicron. Today, I wonder how troubled we will become with this new strain. It does make me feel anxious. I am a bit unsettled. And frankly, I don't like to be that way.

Yet when faced with difficulty, there Jesus is, doing some of the His most incredible work. Dark, difficult times have given me the impression that God is remote and uninvolved. There have been numerous times in my life when I looked up at the heavens and said, "Where are you, Jesus?"

I can often identify with David in the Old Testament. Failing in strength and wounded in spirit, David cried out to God for his need for refuge. The Hebrew term "refuge" speaks of a protective place, a place of safety, security, and secrecy with God. Eventually, God became this place for David. In God, he found encouragement, safety and support.

We can do the same.

If we try to engage with the world on our own, the world can be/is a frightening place to live. One might even conclude it is a dangerous place to live. Yet, we have hope. God is with us and is willing to be our shelter in the storms.

Why not take shelter in the way David did? Call upon the one David referred to as "My Strength, Mighty Rock, Fortress, Stronghold and High Tower."

In the Bible, David's story ends well. He had many struggles and challenges, but in the end, God took care of him and sheltered him.

A new virus is on the horizon. We must do what we can to help ourselves, but always remember that God is there to guide and direct you. Our Refuge never fails.

Mark

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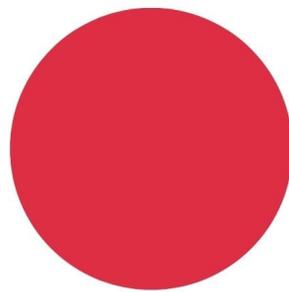
News From the Session

Members of First Presbyterian Church, Columbia

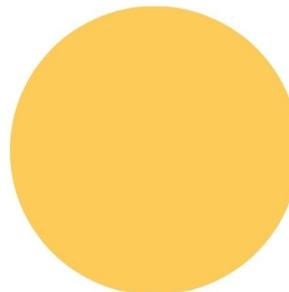
In a special called meeting on Sunday, January 9, the Session voted to suspend our Wednesday evening activities until Ash Wednesday, March 2, due to the alarming rise in COVID cases in Maury County. Worship services will continue as will the various small group gatherings on Sunday and throughout the week, such as Sunday school, committee/officer meetings, and women's Bible circles.

Masks continue to be strongly recommended at all activities. Social distancing should also be observed as much as possible.

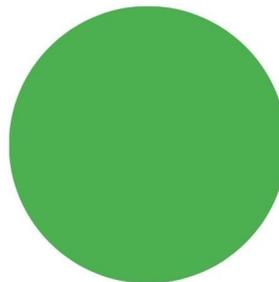
COVID MASKING RECOMMENDATIONS



Masking Strongly Recommended
9% or higher county positivity rate.



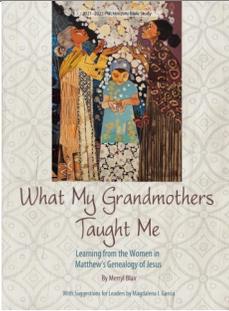
Masking Recommended
7-8% county positivity rate.



Masking Encouraged
6% or lower county positivity rate.

As of Monday, January 10, 2022 the positivity rate for Maury County is 16%

Bible Study



Our Presbyterian Women's Bible study classes for the months of January and February are as follows. The Monday Circle will meet on Monday, January 31, and Monday, February 21 at 1:00 PM in the Fellowship Hall. The Tuesday Circle will meet Tuesday, January 25 and Tuesday, February 15 at 6:30 PM in the Fellowship Hall.

Study books are available in the church office. For more information please contact Susie Baxter at sbaxterfpc@gmail.com or call the church office.

Children's Sunday School



We all have gifts and talents given to us by God. As Christians, we are to use these gifts and talents in serving God. We are extending a call to service asking you to prayerfully consider becoming a Sunday school teacher and a leader. We are recruiting teachers to serve from February through May in the following age groups:

Pre-K (3-5 years of age)

K-2nd

3rd-5th

Please contact Susie Baxter at sbaxterfpc@gmail.com if you would like to learn more about being a leader in Children's Ministry.



January's Theme

The Connection Between Self Control and God

We trust God no matter what. Even when we face unexpected circumstances, we can respond to them with self control. We can trust that we don't need to rush in or take matters into our own hands. We can trust that God is working. Self-control is a Fruit of the Spirit. As we follow Jesus throughout our lives, the Holy Spirit trans-

forms us and helps us live more like Jesus. We can follow His example and choose to do what we should do—instead of what we want to do. The Holy Spirit can give us the power and wisdom to show self-control.



February's Theme

The Connection Between Compassion and God's Character

God's compassion for us led to the greatest act of love the world had ever seen. God sent Jesus to rescue us. We reflect God's compassion when we care about others and work to make things right.

Congregational Care

SAVE THE DATE

A Valentines Love Lost Dinner

*For widows of First
Presbyterian Church
Friday, February 11, 2022
at the home of
Argie Satterwhite*

Invitations Coming Soon

Inclement Weather Policy

First Presbyterian Church of Columbia follows the guidelines of the Maury County Public School System for inclement weather, all church activities are cancelled and the church office will be closed if Maury County Schools are closed.

Congregational Care

Memorials for January

John Satterwhite Endowment Fund

In **memory** of Dr. Tom Lewis by: Sue & John Chiles

In **memory** of Mary Jane Miles by: Sue & John Chiles

In **memory** of John Satterwhite by: Ed & Andy Harlan

Grateful for the love and life of John Satterwhite given
by Argie Satterwhite

In **memory** of Mary Jane Miles by: Dorothy Duncan, Brenda Martin

In **memory** of Melvin Taylor by: Dorothy Duncan

In **memory** of Patty Ridley by: Dorothy Duncan, Phyllis Herrmann

In **memory** of Homer Martin by: Dorothy Duncan, Merrill Lynch (Anonymous)

In **memory** of Dr. Harold Pryor by: Dorothy Duncan, Brenda Martin, Merrill Lynch (Anonymous), Sue & John Chiles

In **memory** of Dr. Tom Lewis by: Brenda Martin

In **memory** of John Fletcher by: Brenda Martin

In **memory** of Lewis Daniel by: Brenda Martin

In **memory** of Mary Howard Frierson Shelton by: Pam & Gary Hamburg

In **memory** of Deb Porter by: Bob Sweeney

In **honor** of Sue & Ken Brinkley, Rita & Ken Hillis by: Dick Green for Room in the Inn

In **honor** of Bill Handy by: Dick Green for The People's Table

Chancel Flowers for 2022

The calendar for placing flowers in the Sanctuary for 2022 is now available on the table in the Education Wing. To secure your date please sign up now. Thank you to those of you that provided flowers in 2021.



Membership



FPCC is starting a new ministry to help members keep in touch with one another. This ministry is in response to the survey-questionnaire sent to each member last spring and the recent pandemic.

We are forming small groups consisting of around six family units with a church Elder or Deacon assigned as a contact person for each group. The Elder or Deacon will be checking on members of his or her Care group by phone at least once per month.

We hope that you/your family will want to be a part of this ministry.

Pastor Nominating Committee

The pastor nominating committee has been working hard through the holidays to complete our Ministry Information Form. The MIF allows us to tell our ministry narrative that will help match us with compatible leaders looking for calls in our area. It is a 6 page document telling our story and who we are. While there is much more work to be done over the next couple of weeks, we are happy with the progress we have made over the Christmas break and are excited for where we are headed. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact one of the members of the PNC.

Chair: Dwight Fox

Co-Chair: Ed Lancaster

Secretary: Jeff Baxter

Internet Communicator: Matt Campbell

Church Communications: Dawn Taylor

Correspondence: Beth Patton

Church Liaison: Jean Mac Ball



January 2022

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1 Happy New Year!
2 One Service @ 10:30 No SS	3 Office Closed	4	5 No Wonderful Wednesday	6 Epiphany of the Lord	7	8
9 Worship-8:15 SS-9:10 Worship 10:30	10	11	12 No Wonderful Wednesday Choir 7:00 PM	13	14	15
16 Worship-8:15 SS-9:10 Worship 10:30	17 Martin Luther King Jr. Day Office Closed	18	19 No Wonderful Wednesday Choir 7:00 PM	20	21	22
23 Worship-8:15 SS-9:10 Worship 10:30	24	25 Women's Circle Bible Study 6:30 PM	26 No Wonderful Wednesday Choir 7:00 PM	27	28	29
30 Worship-8:15 SS-9:10 Worship 10:30	31 Women's Circle Bible Study 1:00 PM					

hello 
FEBRUARY

February 2022

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2 No Wonderful Wednesday Choir 7:00 PM	3	4	5
6 Worship-8:15 SS-9:10 Worship 10:30	7	8	9 No Wonderful Wednesday Choir 7:00 PM	10	11 Lost Loves Dinner	12
13 Worship-8:15 SS-9:10 Worship 10:30	14	15 Women's Bible Study 6:30 PM	16 No Wonderful Wednesday Choir 7:00 PM	17	18	19
20 Worship-8:15 SS-9:10 Worship 10:30	21 Women's Bible Study 1:00 PM	22	23 No Wonderful Wednesday Choir 7:00 PM	24	25	26
27 Worship-8:15 SS-9:10 Worship 10:30	28					