

WHAT'S HAPPENING AT FIRST PRESBYTERIAN....

Join us at 2 pm for the **Churchwide Pool Party** at the Peninsula Club, 2222 Houser Road. Pizza and drinks will be provided.

Churches in downtown Knoxville are stepping outside the church walls and into the streets together to serve the community with United Knoxville's Inasmuch service day on Saturday, August 19th, with service projects available from 8am - 5pm across various locations. There are projects for everyone, from the youngest to the oldest. Register to serve today using the QR code to the right.



Missionaries Jeff and Christi Boyd, based in the Democratic Republic of Congo, will be leading Sunday School in the Chapel on August 20th. Come learn more about their service and the needs of the community they serve.

2023 Fall Softball Season is here! Wear your purple and support our co-ed softball team, the Fightin' Turnips on Tuesday evenings at Caswell Park near Parkridge neighborhood and Old North Knoxville. Fields are located at 620 Winona St, 37917. This season, all games are played on Tuesday evenings. Can't wait to see you there!

- Game 2, August 15th – 8 pm
- Game 3, August 22nd – 6 pm
- Game 4, August 29th – 8 pm
- Game 5, September 5th – 7 pm
- Game 6, September 12th – 6 pm
- Game 7, September 19th – 7 pm
- Game 8, September 26th – 7 pm

If you would like to join the Turnips, attend their games, or have some questions, please get in touch with Preston Smith at prestonsmith07@gmail.com.

A New Membership Inquirer's gathering will be held on September 17th at 9:45 am in the Session Room on the first floor of the church office. This class is a great opportunity for those who are interested in learning more about our church and what it means to be a member, as well as how to connect and serve at First Presbyterian. During the class, Pastor Mark Curtis, along with other ministry leaders, will be leading the discussion and answering any questions you may have. If you are interested in attending, please email him at mcurtis@fpcknox.org for more information. We want to emphasize that membership is not mandatory, but it is a way to become more involved in the church and to connect with other members. There will be an opportunity to join the church after the class, but there is no obligation to do so.

WELCOME

Welcome to First Presbyterian Church, Knoxville. We have been part of the downtown Knoxville community since 1792. We embrace people from all walks of life and seek to share our spiritual journey with our community. We are part of the Presbyterian Church (USA). We are delighted that you have joined us in worship today.

To learn more about us, please make a note on the Friendship Pad, sign up for our Thursday newsletter, or connect with us at fpcknox.org, via the QR code to the right, or through social media.



Hearing enhancement devices and large print hymnals are available for use during the service. Please ask an usher for assistance.

OFFERING

You may place your offering in the offering plates when they are passed, or you are invited to give securely online at www.fpcknox.org/donate or by scanning the QR code to the right with your smart phone.



STAFF AND LEADERS IN WORSHIP

The Rev. Mark R. Curtis <i>Senior Pastor</i>	Laura Harmon <i>Church Administrator</i>
The Rev. Dr. Meredith Loftis <i>Associate Pastor</i>	Lauren Nunn <i>Director of Parent's Day Out / Childcare Coordinator</i>
Dr. Andy Morgan <i>Director of Family Faith Formation</i>	Sandra Robinson <i>Administrative Assistant</i>
Mark Pace <i>Organist/Choirmaster</i>	Victor Lenoir <i>Custodian</i>
Mary Wilson <i>Adult Ministry Coordinator</i>	Paul Seguna <i>Sound Engineer</i>
Katie Norrell <i>Director of Communications</i>	Daniel Curtis <i>Crucifer</i>
Jane Holland <i>Director of Finance/Facilities</i>	Maddie Pitt <i>Bible Bearer</i>

WORSHIP MUSIC NOTES

God Is Here! Tune: Abbot's Leigh	One License # 110180	Jesus Loves Me! Tune: Jesus Loves Me	
Let Us Build a House Tune: Two Oaks	One License # 00004	Cantique de Jean Racine Go, My Children, with My Blessing Tune: Ar Hyd Y Nos	One License # 23571 One License # 110843
Glory to God, Whose Goodness Shines on Me Tune: Glory to God	One License # VT429	Toccata Brevis	One License # 1004493
Glorious Everlasting	One License # FBC-A015798		

FOR OUR YOUNGER WORSHIPPERS

All children are welcome in worship at FPC. Children, Kindergarten through 2nd Grade, are invited to attend Children's Worship in the Children's Area (2nd floor) after Special Time with Young Disciples. Worship Bags are available at each entrance to the sanctuary. A nursery is available for children, in preschool and younger, in the Nursery rooms (2nd floor).



First Presbyterian Church
FOR CHRIST IN THE HEART OF KNOXVILLE

RALLY DAY

AUGUST 13, 2023

Connect With Us



www.fpcknox.org

620 State Street
Knoxville, TN 37902

THE PREPARATION OF GOD'S PEOPLE

PRELUDE *Highland Cathedral* Arr. James Wetherald

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

*CALL TO WORSHIP

To you, O God, I lift up my soul;
my God, I put my trust in you.

Show me your ways, O God, and teach me your paths.

Lead me in your truth and teach me,
for you are the God of my salvation.

**Remember, O God, your compassion and your love,
for they are from everlasting to everlasting.**

Let us worship the God of love and light!

***OPENING HYMN** *God Is Here!* 409

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God of mercy, we confess that too often we find ourselves chasing after riches, as if by so doing we might build a safe future for ourselves and for our children. Yet we fail to recognize that the only gift that matters is the gift of your love. Too often we worry about the neatness of our homes, instead of attending to the quality of life within them. We become so wrapped up in our own lives that we fail to care for the lives you have entrusted to us, or we become so exhausted by caretaking that we fail to take care of ourselves.

Forgive us, O God. You have made us to be one family, children of God, brothers and sisters to one another. Guide us in our homes, in our church, in our community, and in the world. Help us to live in right relationship with each other as we seek to serve you in this world...

(a moment for silent confession)

*ASSURANCE OF PARDON

***MUSICAL RESPONSE** *Glory to God, Whose Goodness Shines on Me* 582

Glory to God, whose goodness shines on me, and to the Son, whose grace has pardoned me, and to the Spirit, whose love has set me free. As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be. Amen.

World without end, without end. Amen. World without end, without end. Amen. World without end, without end. Amen. As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be. Amen.

*PASSING OF THE PEACE

***MUSICAL RESPONSE** *Come! Live in the Light! (v. 3)* 749

Sing! Sing a new song! Sing of that great day when all will be one! God will reign, and we'll walk with each other as sisters and brothers united in love. We are called to act with justice; we are called to love tenderly; we are called to serve one another, to walk humbly with God.

THE PROCLAMATION OF GOD'S WORD

FIRST SCRIPTURE LESSON Deuteronomy 6:4-9 Jim Given

⁴Hear, O Israel: The LORD is our God, the LORD alone. ⁵You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your might. ⁶Keep these words that I am commanding you today in your heart. ⁷Recite them to your children and talk about them when you are at home and when you are away, when you lie down and when you rise. ⁸Bind them as a sign on your hand, fix them as an emblem on your forehead, ⁹and write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates.

ANTHEM *Glorious Everlasting* M. Thomas Cousins
Glorious, Glorious, Everlasting. I will praise Thee, O Lord among the people, I will sing unto Thee among the nations. I will praise, I will sing, I will praise Thee, O Lord, I will sing unto Thee, I will praise Thee, O Lord, I will sing unto Thee. Glorious, Everlasting! I will praise Thee, among the people. I will sing unto Thee, O Lord. Be Thou exalted, O God, above the heavens, Let Thy glory be above all the earth. Glorious, Glorious, Everlasting.

BLESSING OF THE BACKPACKS Dr. Andy Morgan

SECOND SCRIPTURE LESSON Matthew 18:1-5, 19:13-14

¹At that time the disciples came to Jesus and asked, "Who is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven?" ²He called a child, whom he put among them, ³and said, "Truly I tell you, unless you change and become like children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven. ⁴Whoever becomes humble like this child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven. ⁵Whoever welcomes one such child in my name welcomes me."

¹³Then little children were being brought to him in order that he might lay his hands on them and pray. The disciples spoke sternly to those who brought them; ¹⁴but Jesus said, "Let the little children come to me, and do not stop them; for it is to such as these that the kingdom of heaven belongs." ¹⁵And he laid his hands on them and went on his way.

SERMON "Belonging" Rev. Mark R. Curtis

THE RESPONSE OF GOD'S PEOPLE

***HYMN OF RESPONSE** *Jesus Loves Me!* 188

PRESENTATION OF BIBLES TO OUR 3RD GRADE STUDENTS & PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Leader: Loving God,

People: hold us and our prayers.

MacClain Long,
daughter Jake & Anna Long

Jack Mayberry,
son of Jack & Jami Mayberry

RECEPTION OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS

OFFERTORY ANTHEM *Cantique de Jean Racine* Gabriel Fauré

O Redeemer divine, our sole hope of salvation, eternal light of the earth and the sky, we kneel in adoration, O Savior, turn on us Thy loving eye. Send down on us the fire of Thy grace all consuming, whose wondrous might dispersed the powers of hell, and rouse our slumbering souls with Thy radiance, that they may waken Thy mercy to tell! O Christ bestow Thy blessing on us, we implore Thee, who here are gathered on penitent knee, accept the hymns we chant to Thine eternal glory and these Thy gifts we return unto Thee!

***DOXOLOGY AND PRAYER OF DEDICATION** *Old Hundredth*

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise him, all creatures here below; praise him above, ye heavenly host; praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH *The Apostles' Creed*

I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.

***CLOSING HYMN** *Go, My Children, with My Blessing* 547

*CHARGE AND BEDICTION

POSTLUDE *Toccata Brevis* Daniel Gawthrop

**Please stand if you are able.*

GET PLUGGED IN THIS FALL

ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASSES

The Carrick Class uses a variety of teachers, topics, and teaching styles. So just like the weather in East Tennessee, if you do not like it, just wait, it will change. We are going to study the Gospel of Mark assisted by the NT Wright Bible study guide this year. In addition, we are going to tackle what it means to be an elder care giver, the 7 deadly sins, Knoxville history, the faith of Elvis Presley and other random topics. We always welcome differing ideas and opinions and love discussions. Contact Debbie Christiansen at kpippi@aol.com or Debbie Jones at djones52@me.com for more information. Meets in in Heritage A Classroom.

The Discipleship Sunday School classes will be studying *Jonah for Normal People: A Guide to the Most Misunderstood Prophet of the Bible*, by Jared Byas, which can be ordered from Amazon. Contact Judy Cagle for more information at barlach4227@yahoo.com. Meets in Courtyard A Classroom.

The Embarked Class is lead by Diana Curtis. We always spend a few moments checking in, and try to start our study around 10:00. This Fall, Andy Morgan will lead the first three weeks of our class on the Intersection of Faith and Development. We will follow that with a study called "How the Bible Actually Works" and continue with "Read the Bible through a Love-Centered Lens." We invite anyone to attend, but our conversation caters mostly to those between college age and those with kids in college. Contact Diana Curtis for more information at diana.curtis11@gmail.com. Meets in James Park Classroom.

The Foundation Builders Class will resume its DVD series "The History of Christianity: From the Disciples to the Dawn of the Reformation," with Dr. Luke Timothy Johnson of the Candler School of Divinity at Emory University as the lecturer. We will resume our study with lesson #22 "The Court of Justinian and Byzantine Christianity." Our series has 36 lessons in total. The DVD lectures last 30 minutes, and we have 15 minutes of discussion afterward. These lectures on the History of Christianity are very interesting and something most of us have never studied before. Please come join us any Sunday, as together we will work to build our foundation of faith. Contact Bill and Ginny Morrow for more information at twomorrow@bellsouth.net. Meets in Heritage B Classroom.



INTERESTED IN MAKING FIRST CHURCH YOUR CHURCH HOME?

We are overjoyed that you are with us as we gather to worship and serve God, and we hope you will experience First Presbyterian Church as your family of faith. As we work together to live out our call to witness, service, and growth for Christ in the heart of Knoxville, we invite you to join us. If you are interested in becoming a member of FPC or would simply like to know more about the process, please let Pastor Mark Curtis know at mcurtis@fpcknox.org and join us at our New Member Inquirer's gathering on September 17th.

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WORSHIPFUL WEDNESDAYS

This fall, Dr. Andy Morgan will be teaching a seven-part class called "**Learning the Language of the Church: An Introduction to Theology Through *The Book of Confessions***" in which we will explore some of the basic tenets of theology (including God's sovereignty, sin, the role of the church, salvation, etc.) by exploring the depth and breadth of the confessional heritage of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). This class will help demystify the practice of theology, equipping learners with the resources and confidence to live as practical theologians, capable of articulating their beliefs in clear and robust language. Meets in James Park Classroom.

Do you want to develop a more intimate prayer life? Even more, do you want to hear from God in practical ways? Let Priscilla Shirer prepare you by giving you a deeper understanding of the Holy Spirit. Based on the life of Samuel (who first heard God's voice while still a small boy) and packed with practical examples from Shirer's own life, *He Speaks to Me* speaks directly to the need to develop a richer prayer life and a deeper, more intimate relationship with God and to learn how to comfortably share your experience of God with others. If you would like to attend, please contact Mary Wilson at (mqwilson1@gmail.com) to register and order your study booklet. Meets in Ministry Room B.



PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN CIRCLES

This is a place where faith is nurtured and growth takes place. Typically, Presbyterian Women in the Congregation are organized into small groups called circles. A circle is where:

- Women are challenged to stretch beyond their limits.
- Women move beyond the safe places of life, reaching out to others.
- Christian leadership is born, nurtured and sent forth into ministry.

Chi Ro — Virginia Stormer & Diana Curtis (moderators). Rachel Patton McCord (Bible).

Effie Rule — Celeste Whaley (moderator). Sharon Patton & Ann Myers (Bible).

Esther — Liz Key & Jennifer Maryanski (moderators). Shared (Bible).

Julia White — Jenny Eversole (moderator). Anne Pittenger & Ginny Morrow (Bible).

Lydia — Lane Hays (moderator). Shared (Bible).

If you would like to get connected to a PW circle, please contact moderator Liz Key at lizkey1@gmail.com.

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