

WHAT'S HAPPENING AT FIRST PRESBYTERIAN....

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 6, September 12th – 6 pm

Game 7, September 19th – 7 pm

Game 8, September 26th – 7 pm

New Membership Inquirer's gathering will be held on September 17th at 9:45 am in the Session Room adjacent to the church offices on the first floor. 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 mc Curtis@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.

We're excited to announce the Middle School Retreat at John Knox Center is coming up on September 22-24. We are seeking adult chaperones to join us on this exciting adventure. If you are interested, please RSVP with Kallee Pittenger at (865) 387-4748 or kallee@purvisbuilders.com. The cost of the retreat is \$100, and the theme is "Our Cup Overflows."

The Youth will be Tubing in Townsend on September 17th. RSVP Kallee at (865) 387-4748 or kallee@purvisbuilders.com

The finance committee is trying to get an early start on formulating the 2024 budget. In order to facilitate your requests and start working on the budget in October, we would like for you to discuss it during your September committee meetings. If your committee is not going to meet next month, please email anyone from whom you need input and send your committee's budget request to Jane Holland by email.

If you need a copy of the detailed breakdown for 2023 allocated budget dollars, please email Jane and she will send it to you. jane@fpcknox.org

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

WORSHIP MUSIC NOTES

Christ Is Made the Sure Foundation
Tune: Westminster Abbey

Glory to God, Whose Goodness Shines on Me One License # VT429

Tune: Glory to God

Come! Live in the Light! One License # 00174

Tune: We Are Called

The Gift of Love One License # 111454

Draw Us in the Spirit's Tether
Tune: Union Seminary

Blest Be the Tie That Binds

Tune: Dennis

One License # 00-32234

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

FIFTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

SEPTEMBER 10, 2023

Connect With Us



www.fpcknox.org

620 State Street
Knoxville, TN 37902

THE PREPARATION OF GOD'S PEOPLE

PRELUDE *Amazing Grace* Arr. Lloyd Larson
Adult Handbell Choir

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

This is the day that the Lord has made;
Let us rejoice and be glad in it!

*CALL TO WORSHIP

The world belongs to God, the earth and all its people.

How good and lovely it is to live together in unity.

Love and faith come together, justice and peace join hands.

If we were to keep silent, these stones would shout aloud.

O Lord, open out lips,

And our mouths shall proclaim your praise!

***OPENING HYMN** *Christ Is Made the Sure Foundation* 394

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Holy God, you call us to imitate your Son, our Lord.

**You call us to speak truth to one another,
but we are fearful and silent.**

**You call us to be angry when we see injustice,
but we are more often angry with those we love.**

**You call us to encourage one another with our words,
but we speak ill of our brothers and sisters.**

**You call us to forgive one another as Christ has forgiven us,
but we are bitter and resentful, not wanting to forgive.**

How we must grieve your Holy Spirit, O God.

Forgive us, yet again.

**Point us toward Christ,
and empower us through your Spirit to follow him
each day... (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 Romans 13:8-14 Sharon Frankenberg

⁸Owe no one anything, except to love one another; for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law. ⁹The commandments, "You shall not commit adultery; You shall not murder; You shall not steal; You shall not covet"; and any other commandment, are summed up in this word, "Love your neighbor as yourself." ¹⁰Love does no wrong to a neighbor; therefore, love is the fulfilling of the law. ¹¹Besides this, you know what time it is, how it is now the moment for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we became believers; ¹²the night is far gone, the day is near. Let us then lay aside the works of darkness and put on the armor of light; ¹³let us live honorably as in the day, not in reveling and drunkenness, not in debauchery and licentiousness, not in quarreling and jealousy. ¹⁴Instead, put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.

ANTHEM *The Gift of Love* Hal Hopson

*Though I may speak with bravest fire, and have the gift to all inspire,
and have not love my words are vain, as sounding brass, and hopeless gain.
Though I may give all I possess, and striving so my love profess,
but not be given by love within, the profit soon turns strangely thin.
Come, Spirit, come, our hearts control, our spirits long to be made whole.
Let inward love guide every deed; by this we worship, and are freed.*

SPECIAL TIME WITH YOUNG DISCIPLES Dr. Andy Morgan

SECOND SCRIPTURE LESSON Matthew 18:15-20

¹⁵"If another member of the church sins against you, go and point out the fault when the two of you are alone. If the member listens to you, you have regained that one. ¹⁶But if you are not listened to, take one or two others along with you, so that every word may be confirmed by the evidence of two or three witnesses. ¹⁷If the member refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church; and if the offender refuses to listen even to the church, let such a one be to you as a Gentile and a tax collector. ¹⁸Truly I tell you, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven. ¹⁹Again, truly I tell you, if two of you agree on earth about anything you ask, it will be done for you by my Father in heaven. ²⁰For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them."

SERMON "Family Feud" Rev. Mark R. Curtis

THE RESPONSE OF GOD'S PEOPLE

***HYMN OF RESPONSE** *Draw Us in the Spirit's Tether* 529

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND LORD'S PRAYER Dr. Andy Morgan

**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in
heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our
debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into
temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the
kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.**

RECEPTION OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS

OFFERTORY ANTHEM *Notre Père* Maurice Duruflé

Translation of French text:

Our Father who art in Heaven, Hallowed be Thy name.

Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done, on earth as it is in Heaven.

Give us our daily bread, and forgive us our trespasses,

as we forgive those who trespass against us.

And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

***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** *Blest Be the Tie That Binds* 306

*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE *Little Prelude and Fugue in C* Johann S. Bach