

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 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.

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.

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." We'll be sharing more information about the retreat soon, so stay tuned for updates. This is a great opportunity for middle school students to make new friends and deepen their faith. We hope you will sign your youth up for this fun event!

Other Upcoming Youth Activities:

September 6 - Youth clean up crew after Wednesday night dinner

September 17- Tubing in Townsend, RSVP Kallee at (865) 387-4748 or kallee@purvisbuilders.com

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	Harris Eddins Crucifer
Jane Holland Director of Finance/Facilities	Maddie Pitt Bible Bearer

WORSHIP MUSIC NOTES

God of the Ages, Whose Almighty Hand
Tune: National Hymn
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
Blessed Are They One License #76999

Love Divine, All Loves Excelling
Tune: Hyfrydol
O for a World
Tune: Azmon

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

FOURTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

SEPTEMBER 3, 2023

Connect With Us



www.fpcknox.org

620 State Street
Knoxville, TN 37902

THE PREPARATION OF GOD'S PEOPLE

PRELUDE Aria Noel Rawsthorne

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

*CALL TO WORSHIP

"Come," my heart says, "seek God's face!"
You, O Lord, do we seek.

**We come to this place to seek God,
to glimpse the face of God.**

You are standing on holy ground.

**May we hear God's voice and respond to God's call.
Let us worship God!**

***OPENING HYMN** *God of the Ages, Whose Almighty Hand* 331

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**God, you call to us as you have called your people
throughout the ages. In mysterious and surprising ways, you
shed your light in the midst of uneventful days. Yet all too
often we fail to recognize that all ground is holy ground, and
that this day is the time when you call us to do your work.
Forgive us, God. Free us to see you at work in us and around
us, and to live in ways that honor you. Give us the strength
and courage to follow your way, for we pray in the name of
Jesus the Christ... (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 Exodus 3:1-5 Pat Chambers

¹ Moses was keeping the flock of his father-in-law Jethro, the priest of Midian; he led his flock beyond the wilderness, and came to Horeb, the mountain of God. ² There the angel of the LORD appeared to him in a flame of fire out of a bush; he looked, and the bush was blazing, yet it was not consumed. ³ Then Moses said, "I must turn aside and look at this great sight, and see why the bush is not burned up." ⁴ When the LORD saw that he had turned aside to see, God called to him out of the bush, "Moses, Moses!" And he said, "Here I am." ⁵ Then he said, "Come no closer! Remove the sandals from your feet, for the place on which you are standing is holy ground."

ANTHEM *Blessed are They* Jack Noble White

Blessed are the poor, who search for God, for theirs is the Kingdom of Heaven. Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see their God. Blessed are the hungry, they shall be filled and those who mourn shall laugh for joy. Blessed are the peacemakers, they shall be called the children of God. Blessed are the children of God. Blessed are we.

SPECIAL TIME WITH YOUNG DISCIPLES Dr. Andy Morgan

SECOND SCRIPTURE LESSON Romans 12:9-18

⁹ Let love be genuine; hate what is evil, hold fast to what is good; ¹⁰ love one another with mutual affection; outdo one another in showing honor. ¹¹ Do not lag in zeal, be ardent in spirit, serve the Lord. ¹² Rejoice in hope, be patient in suffering, persevere in prayer. ¹³ Contribute to the needs of the saints; extend hospitality to strangers. ¹⁴ Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them. ¹⁵ Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep. ¹⁶ Live in harmony with one another; do not be haughty, but associate with the lowly; do not claim to be wiser than you are. ¹⁷ Do not repay anyone evil for evil, but take thought for what is noble in the sight of all. ¹⁸ If it is possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all.

SERMON "Mediocre Faith" Rev. Mark R. Curtis

THE RESPONSE OF GOD'S PEOPLE

***HYMN OF RESPONSE** *Love Divine, All Loves Excelling* 366

RECEPTION OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS

OFFERTORY ANTHEM *Zion's Walls (Revivalist Song)* Aaron Copeland

*Come fathers and mothers,
Come sisters and brothers,
Come join us in singing the praises of Zion.
O fathers, don't you feel determined
To meet within the walls of Zion?
We'll shout and go round
The walls of Zion.*

***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** *O for a World* 372

*CHARGE AND BLESSING

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

**Please stand if you are able.*

WHAT'S HAPPENING AT FIRST PRESBYTERIAN....

The newly formed media and technology committee is looking to enhance our streaming video services, and we value your feedback. We want to ensure that our worship services are accessible to all, and that our viewers can easily connect with us from home. We are looking for several congregants to interview about their experience watching our worship services online. Your input will help us improve our online worship experience and ensure that we continue to provide you with the best possible broadcast. If you are open to a brief phone interview about this, please email committee chair Bill Eversole at bill@wjeversole.com. We thank you in advance for your time and appreciate your continued support of our ministry.