

# ***THE WINDOW***

***First Presbyterian Church***

***Hendersonville, TN***

***October 2024***



Dear Friends,

Periodically, the session asks the question, “Where will our church be in the future?” In five years? Ten years? As many of you know, the presbytery offered six churches a free participation with Cyclical Full Circle, an assessment process to help churches look at their present strengths and areas of needed growth and make strategic decisions for exciting future ministry and mission.

Sixty of you participated in the survey emailed to you. Thank you. The leaders have told me this is one of the highest participations on record. This survey is an imperfect tool to begin the conversation about our church’s health. It will lead to more discussions about who we are as First Presbyterian Church and where we want to go in the future.

The next step will be on November 2 when Niki, a team member from Cyclical will meet with the session to discuss the results. We will meet with Niki from 8:00 A.M. to approximately 4:00 P.M. The session will decide the most effective ways to share the information with the congregation.

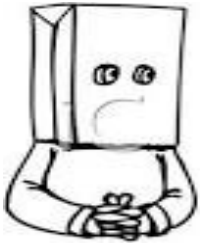
There are seven areas of discussion.

1. Incarnational Disciple-Making – this involves growing in our relationship with Jesus Christ and moving beyond our walls and property to share this love with the community. The goal is always sharing God’s love in Jesus Christ and helping people find their spiritual gifts and ministry.
2. Administrative Competencies – the church needs a committed and visionary staff with administrative paths that help people discern God’s direction for the church, take risks, and have courage to try new ministries and mission.
3. Joining the Mission of God – healthy congregations move from resistance to change, from self-serving patterns to serving their neighbors and community. God is always working in us, creating new ways of serving Jesus Christ.
4. Leadership Development – strong churches equip and train leaders of all ages to accomplish God’s mission. This not only includes elders on session, but everyone from children, teens, and adults.
5. Contextual Worship – worship is always bigger than our personal desires. Healthy congregations have a variety of music, liturgy, and involves multi-generational people involved in the leadership.
6. Caring Mutual Relationships – “Healthy churches are thriving, multi-tiered ecosystems of relationship.” People connect and grow with their closest friends, small group companions, mid-sized communities of care, and wider church family.
7. Ecclesial Health and Sustainability – healthy churches understand that they exist primarily for those who are not yet there. They equip one another and plan for the future.

This is an exciting time to look at our future. What does God have in store for us? Where is God leading us? May we remember the promise of Jeremiah 29:11-13. *For surely I know the plans I have for you, says the Lord, plans for your welfare and not for harm, to give you a future with hope. Then when you call upon me and come and pray to me, I will hear you. When you search for me, you will find me.*

Love and Prayers,

*Michael*



## The Mystery Member This Month Is ...

It's about that time again! Did you miss this feature from me last month? Maybe two months....not sure! My summer has just been so fun, I can't remember when things happened! I spent a couple of hours with this month's Mystery Member and learned so much about her.



She hasn't lived in Hendersonville really long. She said her job situations changed because of COVID, back in 2020. Long held and well loved careers in the freezing state they had called home gave her a chance to try life as a Southerner. She also decided to really change her life and try retirement! She loved it... and she found her days soon became filled with GRANDKIDS! As much as she loved her job before, nothing compares to those sweet little babies... soon to be four... grandbabies! She and her husband have two adult children, one currently living in TN. They are the parents of two of the grandbabies. Their other child has one baby, and the second baby will arrive this year.

She found moving to Hendersonville filled with positives. A life long Lutheran, she and her husband checked out a couple of churches, until they came to HFPC! They knew right away that they had found their new home church!

In her spare time, she loves to read. She reads every kind of book... Kindles, and hard and paperback books.

The big downside to moving when they did is that even though she and her husband had worked at their jobs for many years, they were not able to say goodbye or celebrate retirement plans with friends. She has family, a brother, in the area. This working couple tried continuing their jobs using Zoom, and then came to the conclusion that it was a good time to stay here and enjoy what they do.

**I should throw out here that this is actually a twofer this month. Continue reading to see if you can figure out who this "couple" is?**

The other part of this couple has become the chef in the family! He loves to cook, and after cooking for her family for so many years, she is happy to let him take over the kitchen! She'll contribute to the dinner preparations... she's a pro at mashed potatoes! He's the main dish cook. It seems to be working great for them!

They share their home with an "amazing" dog! He runs the house, keeping those grandbabies under his watchful eye. And if anyone he doesn't know comes over, he will greet them with his loud, strong voice. But he's all bark... no bite. They actually said he's really OCD!

As I mentioned in the first part, reading is big in their house! However, she loves to read EVERYTHING with words! I actually learned that he and I read some of the same authors. But he branches out and acknowledged that he LOVES HARD SCIENCE FICTION. And NERD SCIENCE FICTION. Something else I had never heard of and I had to ask what that is... and I not only did not know anything about his favorite books, I still don't think I understand it!

The couple has a favorite tv show that they make watching together a priority. They really love crime stories, all kinds of drama, action, and this won't surprise you... dark humor! I had to admit again that I had no idea what that is. He said "Resident Aliens"! Nope, that one was wasted on me too.

They do love to travel, and go to a cabin they have in Canada. I'm guessing they visit there when it's 100 degrees in Nashville. And not in the winter. They do seem to enjoy the weather here more than where they lived before moving here.

Hope you enjoyed learning about someone you might sit next to in church, but might not know much about.

# Daily Bible Reading—2024

In 2024, the daily Bible reading plan is reading the New Testament. Using the Navigators tool, take 5 minutes to read the scriptures assigned for the day and read 5 days a week. You can underline or highlight key words or phrases; write what you read in your own words; ask questions to deepen your understanding, like who, what, why, where, or how; or think about how the passage applies to your life.

October 1 1 John 4  
October 2 1 John 5  
October 3 2 John 1  
October 4 3 John 1  
October 5 Reflection

October 6 Reflection  
October 7 1 Peter 1  
October 8 1 Peter 2  
October 9 1 Peter 3  
October 10 1 Peter 4  
October 11 1 Peter 5  
October 12 Reflection

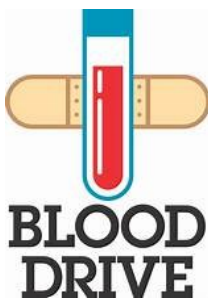
October 13 Reflection  
October 14 John 1  
October 15 John 2  
October 16 John 3  
October 17 John 4  
October 18 John 5  
October 19 Reflection

October 20 Reflection  
October 21 John 6  
October 22 John 7  
October 23 John 8  
October 24 John 9  
October 25 John 10  
October 26 Reflection

October 27 Reflection  
October 28 John 11  
October 29 John 12  
October 30 John 13  
October 31 John 14

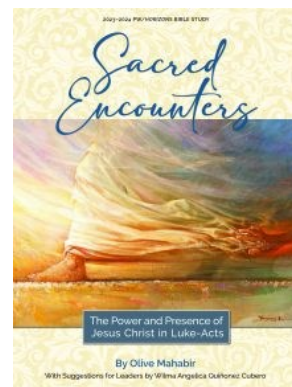


**What do you see?** Our sanctuary is empty. It is quiet. No worship. No mission. No ministry. This is the way it should be during the week. We gather on Sunday mornings to worship God and find refuge, recovery, and strength. Our worship space is empty because we are sent into the community, workplaces, and neighborhoods worshipping God and equipped to serve those around us. We each have a God – calling. Wherever you are is the place of ministry and mission. We leave the sanctuary empty on Sunday to be the church in the world on Monday.



**Where: First Presbyterian Church**  
**When: Wednesday, October 9th**  
**From: 1:00—6:00 p.m.**  
**Please call 1-800-RED-CROSS**  
**or visit RedCrossBlood.org and enter:**  
**HendersonvilleCM**  
**to schedule an appointment**

On September 1st, the **Presbyterian Women's Bible Study** found out what we were studying for the year. Our next meeting is October 8th and we will begin our first lesson. The bible study is titled *Sacred Encounters*. Please join us for an interesting study of the Power and Presence of Jesus Christ in Luke-Acts. Our leader for this study is Rev. Dr. Olive Mahabir! She lives in Georgia, but was born on the island of Trinidad in the Caribbean where she started her ministry and went to St. Andrew's theological school (It can't get more interesting than that). She graduated from Drew University and Columbia Theological Seminary We are bound to learn a lot from her.





We had a great weekend at NaCoMe! We had a small group but had lots of fun even with soggy weather. The rain let up enough for us to do all our outdoor activities on Saturday. We played games inside and enjoyed the front porch rocking chairs during the rainy times. I took several pictures of the new buildings - they are so nice!



**Our Sunday Group**



**Ariana & Tonya enjoying kayaking**



**Eva Dye—Target Practice**



**Wading in the Creek**



**Competitive Card Games**



**Some of the New Buildings!**



Thank you very much Bob and Sandy Scott for hosting the worship service last Sunday. It was a beautiful location to worship God and fellowship together. We appreciate your hospitality.



# Presbyterian DaySchool

All last month we were learning about our Community, where we live and the Community Helpers that make it work. We had visits from an Auto Mechanic and Medical Doctor. We also had the Hendersonville Fire Department scheduled, the Mounted Police of Hendersonville scheduled, and of course, Sumner County EMS and the ambulance service. The children enjoyed having the visitors come and explain their career choices. We don't know what any of them will grow up to become, do we?

**And, on a completely different topic, we have First Aid/CPR/AED training scheduled for October 19th at 9:00 a.m. If you would like to participate, let Carolyn know. It costs \$50/person, and is with the American Heart Association.**

Carolyn McCoy, Director  
Presbyterian Day School  
W 615-824-3004



**Presbyterian Day School Children Learning From a Medical Doctor!**



**Mrs. Carolyn's husband is a mechanic and he taught the children about working on cars!**



## SERMON SCHEDULE

**October 6** (Communion) – Disfunction in God’s family, Genesis 25 – 27 (selections)

**October 13** – Genesis 28:10-22, Jacob’s ladder

**October 20** – Genesis 32:22-32, Walking with a limp

**October 27**—(Reformation Sunday) – 1 Peter 2:4-10, Everyone a priest



## SESSION ACTION

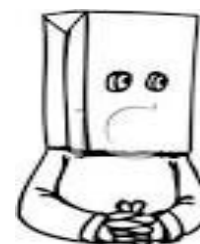
- Prayed for congregation
- Read the session statement of faith
- Corrected and approved minutes from August 19
- Discussed article on *The Church of 2030*
- Approved ministry unit reports
- Received pastor’s report
- Discussed upcoming visit with the consultant

Thru August 2024

Revenue \$ 182,932.61

Expenses \$ 218,282.81

Shortfall \$ - 35,350.20



## FALL, FARE & FRIENDS



Please mark Saturday, October 19th on your calendar and plan to attend our fall adult fellowship gathering. Brian and Marikay Burke will host at 1097 Kennesaw Blvd., Gallatin, and we will gather at 6:00 p.m. Ham and a potato dish will be provided. Those attending are asked to bring side dishes, salads or desserts. Adult fellowship gatherings are held quarterly and are open to all adult members and friends of our congregation. We kindly ask that those planning to attend please RSVP by contacting Marikay at 724-301-7484 (text or call) or via email at [marikay091759@comcast.net](mailto:marikay091759@comcast.net). This is a wonderful opportunity to nurture our bond as a church family and to connect with those who may be new to our fellowship. Please plan to join us on October 19th for a casual evening of great food and Christian fellowship!

Did you guess who our Mystery Couple was?

Debbie & Howard  
Renton!

**Mission of the Month: Thanksgiving Baskets** - Thanksgiving is fast approaching, and the Missions Ministry Unit is planning to collect items for Thanksgiving Baskets for Community Child Care again this year. Our goal is to provide 25-30 baskets of food. Community Child Care is a nonprofit childcare center for working parents whose income falls below a certain level. Many parents cannot afford to provide a special Thanksgiving meal for their family without assistance. The Missions Unit is providing the meat but needs help with the following items.

- Instant Mashed Potatoes
- Canned Sweet Potatoes
- Cornbread Mix
- Green Beans
- Canned or Jar Gravy
- Canned Corn
- Stuffing Mix
- Cranberry Jelly



Please place your food items in the collection box at the side entrance. If you are not attending church in-person or unable to drop off items, please contact the church office to arrange a porch pick-up of items. Monetary donations are welcome as well, and volunteers can shop on your behalf! The deadline for bringing items is November 25th.

## CHURCH STAFF

**Michael Davis, *Pastor***

michael@hendersonvillefpc.org

**Linda Agee, *Church Administrator***

linda@hendersonvillefpc.org

**Sheri Brazelton, *Music Director***

srbm402@yahoo.com

**Carolyn McCoy, *P.D.S. Director***

PDSDirector123@gmail.com



## First Presbyterian Church

172 W. Main St. | Hendersonville, TN

(615) 824-8604 ; Fax (615) 824-3631

Website: [www.hendersonvillefpc.org](http://www.hendersonvillefpc.org)

Email: [linda@hendersonvillefpc.org](mailto:linda@hendersonvillefpc.org)

Sunday School—9:00 a.m.

Worship Service—10:00 a.m.



- 2 - Andrew Haag
- 3 - Glenda Greek
- 4 - Mary Kay Campbell
- 5 - Lynda Applewhite  
Addie Pickerel
- 8 - Rick Bass
- 9 - Jean Getter
- 10 - Elisabeth King
- 11 - Laura Martin
- 13 - Patricia Scott  
Bob Scott
- 15 - Jenny Sibomana
- 16 - Connie Booze
- 17 - Mason Thompson
- 22 - Wendy Wells  
Glenda Watson  
Brian Burke
- 23 - Karen Scott
- 24 - Bud Anderson  
Debby Reno
- 25 - Conn McConnell
- 28 - Allyston Estapp