

# ***THE WINDOW***

***First Presbyterian Church***

***Hendersonville, TN***

***June 2024***



Dear Friends,

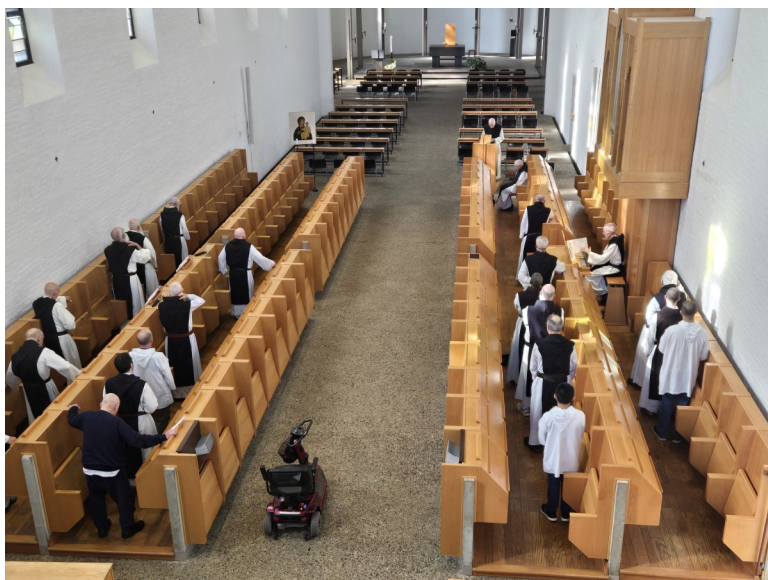
My sabbatical adventure began at the Abbey of Gethsemani in Kentucky. This time slowed me down. As I have mentioned before, this monastery is silent. There are places to speak like in the conference room with the monk, at the receptionist desk while checking in, or walking in the parking lot (phone call home was made). Meal room, bedrooms, certain walking areas, and sanctuary are all silent, although there is a dining room for conversation for groups who want to talk.

The monks describe their calling this way. “In the Cistercian Order of the Strict Observance, the way of life is consecration to God expressed in fraternal union, solitude and silence, in prayer, work, and a disciplined life.” They willingly choose a life of joyful penitence, poverty, vigils, and fasting. They have a zeal for the Kingdom of God and the salvation of the whole human race.

I joined the monks twice a day for worship. They begin at 3:15 A.M. with Vigils (I opted to skip this one), 5:45 Lauds or praise (Community Mass), 7:30 Terce or 3<sup>rd</sup> hour of the day, 12:15 Sext or 6<sup>th</sup> hour of the day, 2:15 None or 9<sup>th</sup> hour of the day, 5:30 Vespers, and 7:30 Compline or night prayer. Most of these gatherings involve reading, chanting Psalms, singing hymns, and prayers.

All the monks have a job to do. Some prepare meals, others make fudge and pottery. There is a wonderful gift shop to buy items made at Gethsemane or other monasteries. The bowl I use during Ash Wednesday was purchased from these monks. There is landscaping, office work, and maintenance all done by the monks. The monks wear a white robe with a brown tunic and a leather belt. Many monks wear white socks with tennis shoes and a few with sandals.

I, along with many other guests, met with Brother Carlos for devotions on Monday and Tuesday evening. He started off talking about silence. “People do not know how to be silent, so help each other be silent.” I seem to transition into silence with ease. He talked about Christianity being more than rules and dogma. Christians are loved people. They experience a relationship with Jesus Christ which moves beyond church tradition. Doctrine leads to disagreement and division. Evangelism is about sharing your experience with Jesus with others. It is a friend of Jesus being a friend to someone else.



One of the most significant things I did while at the monastery was spending time with Deuteronomy 8. Moses tells the people do not forget God when you go into the Promise Land. God led you through the wilderness those 40 years to teach you to trust in God's promises. We do not live by bread alone but by every Word that comes from the mouth of God. Moses knew people tend to take the credit for something God has done. When we focus on ourselves, we are not focused on God. My exercise that morning was making a list of my memories for the last 40 years. Two hours and two pages later, I developed a list of pain and sadness, blessings and joy. I heard God whisper to me, "See the manna I provided for you during this time – opportunities for you to trust me."

Monastery visits create in me anticipation before and after. I am nervous and excited on the way because this time is unplanned and open for God to speak to me. I don't know what to expect. I am also nervous and excited when I return home because I know what is waiting for me. Life is the same as I left it. How will the monastery experience impact my routines at home?

I am hoping we can plan a day trip to visit the monastery sometime in the fall so be checking your schedules. Next on the list is a trip to Miami and Sebring with Gracie to visit family and then off to Scotland.

Love and Prayers,



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## Save the Date: Rise Against Hunger 2024



Our annual Rise Against Hunger event will be held on Saturday, July 27, 2024. Rise Against Hunger is a non-profit organization that coordinates meal packaging events and sends meal packs of rice, soy, and dried vegetables around the world. All volunteers (children and adults) are welcome, and the event will be fast paced with lots of music and gong ringing! Our goal again this year is to package an entire pallet of meals - 14,256 meals! We need both volunteers and donations to reach our goal. Our fundraising goal is \$3,400.

### Volunteers needed:

**8:00 a.m.—9:00 a.m. :** 8-10 volunteers needed for unloading and set up – we need some strong muscles to unload the rice and equipment from the truck and get Martin Hall set up.

**9:00 a.m.—11:30 a.m. :** 40-50 volunteers for the meal packaging event. There are jobs where you can stand, sit, or run!

Please email, call, or text Eva Dye if you would like to volunteer ([evadye@yahoo.com](mailto:evadye@yahoo.com), 615-559-3860). Donations can be sent to the church office and designated for Rise Against Hunger.

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First Wednesday Coffee Talk is on June 5, 2024 at 10 a.m. in the Historical Room. This is a welcoming, once a month, gathering of kind, loving people of good cheer. This group is designed for hospitality and fellowship. We enjoy great laughs...there are 14 plus muscles involved in a smile, therefore we take our fitness seriously! The coffee and tea are hot and delicious, the cookies are fresh baked, and the conversation is fun and free of controversy. We hope you join us to start your month with a smile. No reservations necessary.

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## 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.

June 1	Reflection
June 2	Reflection
June 3	Romans 15
June 4	Romans 16
June 5	Ephesians 1
June 6	Ephesians 2
June 7	Ephesians 3
June 8	Reflection
June 9	Reflection
June 10	Ephesians 4
June 11	Ephesians 5
June 12	Ephesians 6
June 13	Philippians 1
June 14	Philippians 2
June 15	Reflection
June 16	Reflection
June 17	Philippians 3
June 18	Philippians 4
June 19	Colossians 1
June 20	Colossians 2
June 21	Colossians 3
June 22	Reflection
June 23	Reflection
June 24	Colossians 4
June 25	Philemon 1
June 26	Luke 1
June 27	Luke 2
June 28	Luke 3
June 29	Reflection
June 30	Reflection

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**Don't miss your  
chance  
to donate blood  
in June**



**Four opportunities  
this month!**

**Where: First Presbyterian Church**  
**When: Thursday, June 6th**  
 11:00—4:00 p.m.  
**Friday, June 14th**  
 11:00—4:00 p.m.  
**Thursday, June 20th**  
 11:00—4:00 p.m.  
**Thursday, June 27th**  
 11:00—4:00 p.m.

**Please call 1-800-RED-CROSS  
 or visit RedCrossBlood.org and enter:  
 HendersonvilleCM  
 to schedule an appointment**

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**Sunday,  
June 16th**

Proverbs 20:7 ~ “The righteous who walks in his integrity—  
blessed are his children after him”

Proverbs 23:24 ~ The father of the righteous will greatly rejoice;  
he who fathers a wise son will be glad in him.

Joseph Dye attended the Vex Robotics World Championship in Dallas, Texas at the end of April. His team - Hendersonville High School Codemandos Taco Libre - did exceptionally well! The World Championship brings over 800 robotics teams from around the world to compete, and the HHS team was one of 17 teams representing Tennessee. Joseph's team was a bit of an underdog going into the finals (13th seed). They met the challenge and were runner up in their division and in the top 1% of Vex robotics teams in the world. The Taco Libre team was also a crowd favorite. One team from the United Arab Emirates even asked for the team to autograph a Taco Libre sweatshirt!



**Way To Go  
Team Codemandos  
Taco Libre  
and our very own  
Joseph Dye!**



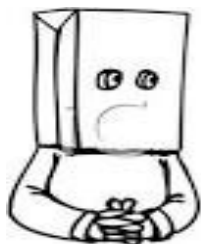
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# Outdoor Worship Service

May 19, 2024—Otherwise known as “The Great Cicada Invasion 2024”



**Mystery Member Time!** If you are keeping score, you'll be aware that last month came and went without one of these articles! And that was on me. I had a very ungraceful fall at my neighbors, and learned I had broken my elbow. Basically I needed to be in a sling for 4-6 weeks. I'm good at wearing it like I'm supposed to, except when it really cramps my style. I couldn't type a month ago. But I'm better now! Even in the sling.—  
Lucy Hardin



### The Mystery Member This Month Is ...



So, this month our Mystery Member is someone you might not know very well yet, but I found her to be very interesting to talk to, and learned a lot about her.

Obviously our MM is a woman. She and the man in her life have been attending HFPC since before Christmas. And they recently joined, so if you paid attention to the new members in May's newsletter, you'll probably guess who she is quickly. They live in Gallatin, but work in Nashville. They have been together for 3.5 years, spending most of that time living in separate states. She was in NC. He got a job offer in Nashville, and her job in NC had just cut 3 positions, one of them being hers! It had to be KISMIT, right? Perfect time for them to start new careers and new lives in the Nashville area. So they packed up and found a house to rent in the area. They are building a house in Gallatin. It was the first time she had been away from her family, and she discovered that she really missed seeing and talking to them every day! She has discovered that the phone works well in keeping you connected, and she and her mom have daily phone calls.

She grew up in the Methodist Church, but when they got serious about wanting to be part of a church, they found themselves at our doorstep! They became involved by attending the Bible Study on Sunday mornings, started staying for church, and loved the friendly people, and Michael's sermons.

BTW, she's really into music, having sung in a Contemporary Christian band, who's mom happened to be in the band. She sings and plays the piano...something she's done her whole life! Someone might want to encourage her to join one of our choirs. She still loves music...especially enjoying Taylor Swift, when Taylor was younger.

She grew up in Gastonia, NC, and loves going back for visits because her family is all there, except her brother, who lives in Raleigh. He is 30, and works for one of the senators in state government.

She loves camping, and uses her knowledge of it in her job, although her job is not as much camping as administrative stuff. If you ever want to make a trip to DisneyWorld, she should be your first call. She was even trained at Disney University! She's made the trip to FL so many times she can't remember how often. They are going to be going in July, so she'll get her Disney fix this year!

I asked her what some of her most treasured things are, and the first thing she said was a framed, personally autographed picture of Carol Burnett for her birthday. Her 22nd birthday! It's the first thing she'd grab if her house caught on fire!

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Have you noticed anything missing from the front of the sanctuary? It's flowers! We used to have beautiful flowers at the front of the sanctuary almost every Sunday morning. You can bring flowers from your own yard, local store or florist to celebrate birthdays, anniversaries, or any special occasion. Just call Linda in the church office to sign up and you can even put a special dedication in the bulletin.



The Dogwood tree has a story. The legend holds that the tree was once very large, like a Great Oak tree, and because its wood was strong and sturdy, it provided building material for a variety of purposes. According to the story, it was the dogwood tree that provided the wood used to build the cross on which Jesus was crucified.

Because of its role in the crucifixion, it is said that God both cursed and blessed the tree. It was cursed to forever be small, so that it would never grow large enough again for its wood to be used as a cross for a crucifixion. It's branches would be narrow and crooked--not good for building at all.

At the same time, however, the tree was blessed so that it would produce beautiful flowers each spring, just in time for Easter. To remember God's promise to the tree it is said he gave it a few traits so that whoever looks upon it will never forget.

The grouping of berries in the middle of the flower represents the crown of thorns. The tips of the petals are indented reminding people of the nails that pieced Jesus. Even the colors of the petals look like drops of spilled blood.

This beautiful tree that blooms near Easter reminds us of God's love in sending Jesus Christ into our world and into our lives.



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### How Well Do You Know Your Session Members?

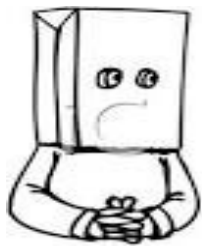
We asked them to tell us their favorite place to travel, favorite hymn or scripture, and their favorite restaurant? See if you can match answers with the correct session member.

1. Las Vegas ; I'll Fly Away ; Sanders Ferry Pizza
2. Alaska ; Psalm 23 ; Moby Dicky's
3. France ; Philippians 4:4-8 ; The Southern
4. British Islands ; Amazing Grace ; Jimmy Kelley's
5. Madrid and Montreat ; Lift Every Voice & Sing ; Lyncoya
6. Any place tropical ; Here I Am Lord ; Lyncoya
7. No favorite ; John 1:1-14 ; Lyncoya
8. New York City ; Holy, Holy, Holy ; 5 & Taylor
9. Bermuda ; How Great Thou Art ; Archer's in Rockland, Maine
10. Lake Cumberland, KY ; On Eagle's Wings ; J. Alexander's
11. Florida for vacations / Visit our son ; How Great Thou Art / Luke 2:8-14 ; Anywhere pizza is sold



Session Members Are: Billy Dye, Sarah Ice, Jean Getter, Joseph Ottevaere, Mike Estepp, Brian Burke, Casey Thompson, John Martin, Amy Bish, Phyllis Klym and Jack Kurtzman.

**See How Well You Have Done—Answers on back page!**



Mystery  
Member:

Elisabeth King

### SESSION ACTION

- Prayed for congregation
- Read the session statement of faith
- Approved minutes
  - ◊ Session Meeting on April 15, 2024
- Approved ministry unit reports

**Note: Keith Gunter, Serving as Moderator of Session during Pastor Michael’s sabbatical**



**Y.T.D. thru April 2024**  
**Revenue \$ 95,470.91**  
**Expenses \$ 122,308.54**  
**Shortfall \$ - 26,837.63**

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### LOOKING AHEAD TO A FRUITFUL SUMMER?

The members of the Discipleship and Education team want to wish everyone the best possible summer this year. Travel and summer vacations are a welcome and well-deserved respite after a grueling school year, a break from a hectic job, or the monotony of retirement, and we hope you return refreshed and relaxed.

However, we believe summer is no time to take a vacation from spiritual growth. In fact, summer is a growing season. As good farmers know, what you grow and store during the heat of summer can get you through a lot of long dry stretches and frigid spells later on. That’s why we’re hoping you’ll help us harvest much fruit by summer’s end.

Beginning June 2, every Sunday morning in June and July, we’ll be in Martin Hall to discuss one of the fruit of the Spirit (from Galatians 5:22-23) . . . and “discuss” is the key word—no long lectures or tedious theology. We’ll sit around tables with coffee, juice, and pastries as we invite God’s Spirit to speak to us through Scripture and our shared insights and experiences.

If you’re coming to church anyway, why not come an hour earlier to join the conversation? Or do you already have all the love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control that you need? (If you do, you need to come to help the rest of us!)

This will be an all-ages group: middle school and high school students are urged to attend and share their thoughts. Parents with younger children can entrust their infants with Sara in the nursery, and we’ll have age-appropriate classes for elementary students. (If you have questions, please contact Jean Getter, Sarah Ice, or Stan Campbell.)

We’re praying this “fruitful” summer will strengthen us as individuals and make us a more spiritually enlightened church in preparation for Pastor Michael’s return in August. So make the most of your time away, but when you return, please join us Sunday mornings at 9:00 for a rewarding hour of laughter, spiritual growth, and Christian fellowship. We hope to see you there!

(And be sure not to miss on June 30 when we’ll have our fifth-Sunday full breakfast . . . just our way to celebrate *kindness*, the topic for that day!)

**CHURCH STAFF**

**Michael Davis, *Pastor***

michael@hendersonvillefpc.org

**Linda Agee, *Church Administrator***

linda@hendersonvillefpc.org

**Sara Webne, *Nursery Attendant***

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

PDSDirector123@gmail.com



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Website: www.hendersonvillefpc.org

Email: linda@hendersonvillefpc.org

Sunday School—9:00 a.m.

Worship Service—10:00 a.m.



1. Mike Estep 2. John Martin 3. Phyllis Klym
4. Joseph Ottevaere 5. Jean Getter 6. Amy Bish
7. Billy Dye 8. Sarah Ice 9. Jack Kurtzman
10. Casey Thompson 11. Brian Burke



- 2 - Brayden Elliott
- 3 - Kelly Estep
- 6 - Toby Parrotta
- 7 - Amy Bish
- 10 - Jim Perry
- 12 - Jesse Conner
- 15 - Barbara Fleming
- 19 - Wava Huddleston
- Mary Perry
- 21 - Melinda Elliott
- 22 - Lucy Hardin
- 23 - Kathy Ebbert
- 24 - Morgan Linn
- 25 - Reggie Craig
- 26 - Mike Estep