

THE WINDOW

First Presbyterian Church

Hendersonville, TN

September 2024



Dear Friends,

In the seasons of uncertainty, may we remember our priority as followers of Jesus Christ. Worship. Thanksgiving. Praise. When our health is failing or we are losing patience for healing, worship the Lord. When loved ones are hurting or taken away, remember God is present in the storms and give him thanks. When politics divides and leaders fail, remember God is bigger than politics and stronger than leaders. We can praise God in the uncertainties of the political climate.

Psalm 104 begins and ends with, “Bless the Lord, O my soul.” The writer looks around the world and acknowledges God as the creator and designer of all that is seen. “You have made the moon to mark the seasons; the sun knows its time for setting. You make darkness, and it is night, when all the animals of the forest come creeping out. The young lions roar for their prey, seeking their food from God. When the sun rises, they withdraw and lie down in their dens. People go out to their work and to their labor until the evening. O Lord, how manifold are your works! In wisdom you have made them all; the earth is full of your creatures (19-24).”

There are 5,000 known species of sponges on the ocean floor and over 300,000 species of beetles. There are an amazing number of flowers, trees, birds, and animals. Genesis reminds us God created everything out of chaos. God created order and beauty out of brokenness. God created light out of darkness. The variety and beauty of the world reflect its Creator.

The Psalmist acknowledges God’s power and creativity in moon and sun, the animals, and humanity. One writer describes our response this way, “And because it is all designed by divine wisdom, these verses invite us to not just marvel at it all but to explore and study it too. It is an invitation to both science and art.” Ultimately, it is an invitation to worship, thanksgiving, and praise. In verse 24, the writer pauses his writing to praise God, “O Lord, how manifold are your works.”

When life feels like it is spinning out of control, God is there. When everything you thought was in your hands is dropped, remember the Lord Jesus never leaves your side and surrounds you with love. When there are no clear answers to your questions, know that there are no dead-ends with God. The one who created the world with all its variety, beauty, and complexities, is the one who comes near to you and calls you beloved daughter and beloved son.

Psalm 62:1-2; 5 is one of my favorite comfort verses. “My soul finds rest in God alone; my salvation comes from him. He alone is my rock, and my salvation; he is my fortress, I will never be shaken.... Find rest, O my soul, in God alone; my hope is found in him.” Pam and I saw five castles while traveling in Scotland, all of them dating back hundreds of years. These fortresses provided protection. God, the Creator of all things, is our castle.

No matter what the circumstances, may we find our hope and strength in God alone.

Love and Prayers,

Michael



A big thank you to Sprigg and Kathy Ebbert who opened their home for our Adult Fellowship gathering held on Saturday, August 3rd. A good time was had by all! Looking ahead, our next gathering will be in the fall, most likely during the month of October. If anyone is willing to host, please contact Marikay Burke at 724-301-7484. Adult fellowship is open to all adult members and friends of First Presbyterian. We meet quarterly in members' homes and enjoy a casual evening of good food and great fellowship. Please plan to join us for our fall gathering. Details regarding date and place will be published in upcoming newsletters/bulletin inserts.



Calvin, Toby, and Luke



The youth had a blast on the lake, as they were whipped around jumping waves. Thanks to the Ebberts and Rouses for organizing and using their boats.



Ariana and her friend



During the month of September, the Missions Committee will be collecting diapers to be distributed to families who come to the Matthew 25 food bank. All sizes are needed, but there is a special need for sizes 5 and 6. Thank you for your support.



September 29th

Please join us for our annual Worship Service and Picnic to be held this year on Sunday, September 29th, at Long Hollow Gardens, located at 2064 Long Hollow Pike, Gallatin, Tennessee. Pastor Michael will be leading our worship service which will begin at 10:00 a.m., music will be led by the Praise Band, and the church will be providing the food. We hope you can plan to attend. We express our heart-filled gratitude to Bob and Sandy Scott and family for offering our use of their beautiful event venue. Be prepared to experience and enjoy a casual but worship-filled service and fellowship and witness God's beauty in nature that surrounds Long Hollow Gardens.



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.

September 1 Reflection
 September 2 2 Corinthians 9
 September 3 2 Corinthians 10
 September 4 2 Corinthians 11
 September 5 2 Corinthians 12
 September 6 2 Corinthians 13
 September 7 Reflection

September 8 Reflection
 September 9 1 Timothy 1
 September 10 1 Timothy 2
 September 11 1 Timothy 3
 September 12 1 Timothy 4
 September 13 1 Timothy 5
 September 14 Reflection

September 15 Reflection
 September 16 1 Timothy 6
 September 17 2 Timothy 1
 September 18 2 Timothy 2
 September 19 2 Timothy 3
 September 20 2 Timothy 4
 September 21 Reflection

September 22 Reflection
 September 23 Titus 1
 September 24 Titus 2
 September 25 Titus 3
 September 26 1 John 1
 September 27 1 John 2
 September 28 Reflection

September 29 Reflection
 September 30 1 John 3



Last spring I took this photo of a hawk with his fish dinner on our fence around the playground. I am guessing he was a Presbyterian hawk. I was reminded of Matthew 6:25-27. “Therefore, I tell you do not worry about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink, or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more important than food, and the body more than clothing. Look at the birds of the air; they neither sow nor reap nor gather in barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they?”

If God provides for the Presbyterian Hawk, how much more will God provide for you?

I would like to thank Pastor Michael and my church family for your prayers and support during my recent surgery and hospital/rehab stays. Your cards, phone calls, visits and prayers have been greatly appreciated. I am truly blessed by your friendship and hope to be back worshipping with you soon.



In Christian Love, Ruth Woodworth



The 1st Wednesday Coffee Talk met on August 7. It was great to welcome Michael home. We loved the new faces in our crowd. We are a place to form new and deep friendships in our lives as Christ followers at First Presbyterian. We are an eclectic bunch of interesting people with different interests and backgrounds...how about a cattle rancher from Montana, or a swamp gal with Alabama river mud between her toes, or even, a lady with TBI history...professional, not felonious! We are eclectic and electric! Join us on September 4th at 10:00 a.m. We laugh, we pray, we eat cookies and sip coffee and tea.

Appalachia Se

Service: To meet someone as an equal in a

Sunday July 14th, 13 volunteers loaded up bright and early and headed to the Home Improvement Project. Founded in 1969, ASP has a mission of warmer, safer, and is set up with programs similar to a youth church camp, but different. The team consisted of Carrie Batey, Luke Batey, Kathy Ebb, Parks, Toby Parrotta, Thomas Rouse, Jadon Wells, Carter Wells, and

The team from First Presbyterian Hendersonville was assigned to help a woman and 3 children, all under 15. The team was split into two groups, one completing a low access to a back door for safety, the other completing a siding project. Both projects were completed. In addition, the boards were repaired. The oldest child had broken through the board

The week was full of serving, building, learning, breaking and new emotions of the week can not be put into words. It is a transformative experience of faith.



Service Project

A mutually beneficial way to serve each other.

Traveled to Perry County, Kentucky to serve with the Appalachian Servant, drier. The summer program is designed around youth mission, during the day you serve local homeowners by repairing their dwellings. Drew Hall, Griffin Lloyd, Mark Lloyd, Parker Lloyd, Harrison and Robert Wells.

Two projects on a mobile home. The family served was a man and two children, with one focusing on building a back deck and stairs to allow for easier access to the back porch. The other project was to make the home warmer and drier. Despite typical weather conditions, the windows and doors were caulked, and the front porch was repaired at one point and injured his leg.

Repairing water lines, fellowship, bonding, and also puppies! The project was a positive, giving one a stronger hope in humanity and a deeper understanding of the love of God.



Presbyterian Day School = August 2024

The teachers and staff are pleased to report that we have had a fairly “normal” start to the school year. Tears have subsided (for the most part), friendships are being made, routines are being followed and fun has been had by all.

This month we have concentrated on getting acquainted, learning about each other and our families, and our emotions.

September is when we study about our community. This includes where we live, the whole idea of city/state/country, and addresses for PreK. In the past we have had visits from police officers, fire fighters, musicians, nurses, FedEx drivers, librarians, and dentists. We welcome mommies, daddies, grandmoms, and granddads to come and let us know about their occupations/career choices. What could you share with the children? You may be retired now, but still have stories to tell, and maybe one of these littles will grow up and be just like you. If you could visit, please call the office 615-824-3004 and get on the calendar. Usually visits are around 9:30 a.m. and only take about ½ hour. But we welcome anyone at any time – just not during naptime please.

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



The Elder Nominating Committee has begun the process of discernment and prayer as they try to find five individuals who feel called to serve on the session for a three-year term. Accepting a call to serve the church as an elder is a fun, exciting, and challenging opportunity to grow in your faith and life. If you have any recommendations for candidates, please contact one of the nominating committee members: Casey Thompson, Brian Burke, Cathy Young, Kathy Campbell, Janna Willis, and Tim Bish, or you can contact Linda in the church office.

SERMON SCHEDULE

September 1 (Communion) – Psalm 1, Lessons from the Sabbatical
September 8 – Isaiah 30:15-18, Lessons from the Beach
September 15 – Psalm 116:1-9, Finding Rest for your Soul
September 22 – James 3:13-4:3, What is Your Source of Wisdom?
September 29 (Four Cents Offering) – James 5:13-20, Being the Church

SESSION ACTION

- Prayed for congregation
- Read the session statement of faith
- Approved minutes from June 17
- Discussed observations during Michael's sabbatical
- Approved ministry unit reports
- Heard presbytery report
- Heard pastor's report
- Removed from the roll the following, at their request: Alex Miller, Stephanie Miller, Greg Miller, Bryan Miller, Lauren Roche Powell, Leigh Masters, Gayle Casey, Lauren Duke Woods, and Kaitlynn Edmonson Kitchen



Thru July 2024

Revenue \$ 161,741.26

Expenses \$ 193,957.15

Shortfall \$ - 32,215.89



CONNECTION GROUPS

Connection Group Schedule for 2024-2025

September 8—November 17 = 11 Weeks

January 5—February 23 = 8 Weeks

March 30—May 18 = 8 Weeks

(No Meeting Palm Sunday, April 13)



Meet our new Music Director - Sheri Brazelton

We are excited to introduce the newest member to the staff of First Presbyterian Church, Sheri Brazelton. She is our new Director of Music. Sheri is a private voice teacher and owner of BrazelDazzle Studioz, a performing arts studio for local youth. She brings over a decade of teaching and performing experience and a passion for finding, creating and worshipping through music. Sheri and her 4 boys moved to Hendersonville in 2010. Grown men now, they live in Chicago, Atlanta, Nashville, and Boston. She misses them terribly, but is very much enjoying being alone for the first time and is looking forward to this new opportunity of working with First Presbyterian. She loves watching football, cooking and yoga. She keeps up with her dog Kirk, an Aussiedoodle. His behavior will prevent him from becoming Captain Kirk.

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

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Sunday School—9:00 a.m.

Worship Service—10:00 a.m.



- 1 - Jerry Klym
- 3 - Susan Garrett
Ruth Woodworth
- 5 - Nita Anderson
Paul Decker
- 9 - Janna Willis
- 10 - Wayne Huddleston
- 17 - Sandy Keene
Laurie Dishman
Marikay Burke
- 18 - Jennifer Frazier
Mary Leah Venable
- 20 - Ben Batey
Sherry Tarbutton
- 21 - Jackson Reeves
- 22 - Jim Miller
- 23 - Evelyn Kemp
- 24 - Jo McCrary
- 25 - Carter Wells
- 26 - Earl Linn
- 27 - Stan Campbell
Sandy Scott
- 29 - Barry Ingram