

THE WINDOW

First Presbyterian Church

Hendersonville, TN

October 2023



Dear Friends,

This is an exciting time for me, as I plan next year's sabbatical. My previous sabbatical in 2018 blessed my life and ministry in many ways. I anticipate this next sabbatical to enrich my next years of ministry with you.

I am applying for a grant from General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church. The session approved the application at their last meeting. Here is the narrative from the grant application.

~ This sabbatical will incorporate a family trip to Ft. Morgan Beach, AL, providing meaningful family time. God blesses me richly through my family times. Investing in my family is a priority of my life.

~ I have been blessed with some wonderful friends in my life. I plan to visit two friends from college and walk the campus of Appalachian State University where I was called to be a full time pastor.

~ One of the goals of my previous sabbatical was identifying a spiritual director. I have been meeting with him for over four years. He has recommended some resources to deepen my spiritual awareness. I will spend 3-4 days at the Abbey of Gethsemani, Kentucky, and attend a seminar at The Academy for Spiritual Formation with the Upper Room.

~ Photography and woodworking are my two favorite hobbies. I will take a photography class with the National Geographic called Fundamentals of Photography along with taking evening woodworking classes at Woodcraft to broaden my woodworking skill.

~ Another goal of my sabbatical is interviewing four retired pastors in the presbytery. I will ask them a series of questions about how they finished their careers. What would they do differently? What advice do they have for me?

~ I hope to share my abilities and learn new skills through volunteering with Habitat for Humanity.

~ Pam and I will take a trip to Scotland and London. It will be exciting and enriching to personally walk the places of my rich Presbyterian history, which has been a dream of mine for many years.

~ I will read several books off my shelf that have been on my reading list for years along with some novels.

I have already secured two thirds of the pulpit supply with Tom Tyndall and Warner Durnell.

I look forward to the wonderful things God will do in my life and ministry and our congregation through this sabbatical time.

Love and Prayers,

Michael

The Theology of Hymns

For All the Saints was written by Rev. Doctor William Walsham How, an Anglican Bishop in England. He was called the “Poor man’s bishop” or “the children’s bishop” because of his passion for working with the marginalized and destitute who lived in the slums of London.

This hymn is typically sung on All Saint’s Day since it recognizes those who have died and are in heaven. They rest from their earthly labors and wait for us in glory. It connects earth with heaven – saints above and saints below. We still struggle on earth and they shine in Christ’s glory (third stanza). Remembering them, strengthens us in our struggles. “And when the strife is fierce, the warfare long, steals on the ear the distant triumph song, and hearts are brave again and arms are strong.” Hebrews 12:1-2 draws a picture of those in heaven cheering us on in our race on earth.



All Saints Ceremony

On Sunday, November 5th we will recognize our church members who have died in the last year with a chime of the bell. We will also have a remembrance ceremony after worship in Martin Hall. This is a beautiful time to recognize our loved ones by lighting a candle. There will also be a devotional provided that you can use in Martin Hall or at home.

Guys and Gals, we had our first gathering of something new called "First Wednesday Coffee Talk" last month. Our next meeting is Wednesday, October 4th at 10:00 a.m. Join us for coffee (and if you are not a coffee drinker, how about tea?). Meet new friends, catch up with old friends, and / or bring a friend. We have some stimulating conversation, exchange ideas, and catch up on what is happening. You can drop in with no reservation, and may come to any First Wednesday or every First Wednesday. A lot of great things start with a cup of coffee and with friends to share it....there will be cookies, too!!! For more information, you may contact Freda Blackwell (615-390-5788) or June Still (615-275-5973).





CONNECTION GROUP SCHEDULE = 2023-2024

September 10—December 3 = 12 weeks
(No meeting Thanksgiving week)

January 7—March 3 = 8 weeks

March 24—May 19 = 8 weeks
(No meeting Palm Sunday week)

Are You Ready for an Encounter with Jesus?

We're pleased to announce a very special study beginning October 8. During our 9 A.M. Sunday study group, we'll be going through *Encounters with Jesus: Unexpected Answers to Life's Biggest Questions*. Written by bestselling author and pastor Timothy Keller, and facilitated by the enthusiastic and inimitable June Still, this is an opportunity not to be missed.

Using a discussion-oriented format, each week participants will examine a biblical account of someone's encounter with Jesus and the results of the confrontation. Fellow Presbyterian Timothy Keller adds much to each story: historical context, observations from other authorities, memorable quotes, personal experience, and other insights. More importantly, each weekly encounter underscores how *we* might improve and benefit more from our own encounters with Jesus.

If you've never come for one of our 9 A.M. groups, please consider giving this one a try. Books are available for this study, at no expense. Let June know if you'd like one.

This series will run through Christmas, so isn't this an ideal time to focus on better appreciating our relationships with our Savior? And the 9:00 A.M. meeting time not only provides regular opportunities to prepare for the worship service to follow, but also allows you to get to know your fellow churchgoers a little better, week by week.

This group is for singles, couples, and all ages. For those of you with young children or grandchildren, the nursery and age-appropriate Sunday school classes are available for them so that you have the opportunity for a little fellowship with your peers. We encourage you to come out every Sunday this fall and have your own encounter with Jesus!

October Has Five Sundays!



Do you know what that means? It means we'll be offering a fifth-Sunday breakfast at 9 A.M. on October 29. Mark your calendars and plan to come early that day for a hot breakfast and time of fellowship and conversation before moving on to the worship service. If you've been to any of this year's previous fifth-Sunday breakfasts, you know that the food is plentiful and the conversation is spirited. Don't miss this final one of the year. All are invited!

All adults of the church are invited to attend a fall adult fellowship gathering to be held on Saturday evening, October 28th at 6PM at the home of Al and Linda Ballenger (258 Lake Terrace Drive, Hendersonville). After a long hiatus, due to covid, we are pleased to once again offer this opportunity for adults to meet in members' homes on a bimonthly basis to share food and fellowship. All adult members and friends of the church are invited! At our first gathering at Linda and Al's home, a variety of delicious soups will be offered for our main course. Attendees are asked to contribute a salad, bread or dessert. Those planning to attend are asked to RSVP to Marikay Burke. Please text or call her at 724-301-7484 or email to marikay091759@comcast.net. Please indicate how many from your household plan to attend and the type of side dish you would like to bring. Also, for those who may not drive at night, please let Marikay know if you need transportation so that we might arrange a ride!! This is yet, another chance, for us to nurture our connection as a church family and to meet those who may be new to our fellowship. Again, please mark Saturday, October 28th on your calendar!! Also, we are looking for a volunteer to host in December (host may choose the date)!



SAFETY UPGRADES AT HENDERSONVILLE PRESBYTERIAN DAY SCHOOL 2023

Because of past and recent events both locally and across the country, we want to share with you the safety upgrades implemented at Presbyterian Day School this year. One of the most important things we do at our school is provide a safe and secure environment for our children and staff. Our day school director, Carolyn McCoy, has done a great job of securing grants that have allowed us to implement many of these upgrades. We also want to thank our Church Property Committee for additional funding and oversight of the upgrades that have been made.

- We have upgraded the entrance doors and hardware to provide more secure access to the school. This includes a new intercom and camera system that will allow the staff to monitor people who want to come into the building.
- We have replaced all entry doors and classroom windows with shatterproof glass.
- We have rekeyed and replaced hardware on exit and entrance doors.
- We have replaced a wood door in the hall with a more secure metal door.
- We have addressed the mold issue in the HVAC closet in Martin Hall.
- We have installed additional cameras to monitor the outside of the building.
- We have continued to have safety training with the Hendersonville Police Department.



If you ever have any questions or concerns about the safety of our school or any other questions, please contact Carolyn. We want everyone to be a part of the safety team providing a safe and orderly environment.

Thank you for allowing us to serve the educational and spiritual needs of your child and family.

I would like to give a heartfelt thank you to everyone for the cards, phone calls, messages and prayers for me and my family during the loss of my dear mother. Your many expressions of kindness have touched me deeply. I am blessed to be part of such and loving and supportive church family. - Paulette Farnham





People have different images of pastors. This past Sunday Palmer and Sheppard artistically drew a picture of me. I am sure many of you would question the halo, especially my wife!



Reading Through the Bible in a Year: This year there will be daily Bible readings in each monthly newsletter. By this time next year, you will have read through the whole Bible. There will be 4-6 readings each day, except for the weekends. The weekends can be used to catch up or reflect on what was read the previous week. The Old Testament readings are chronological.

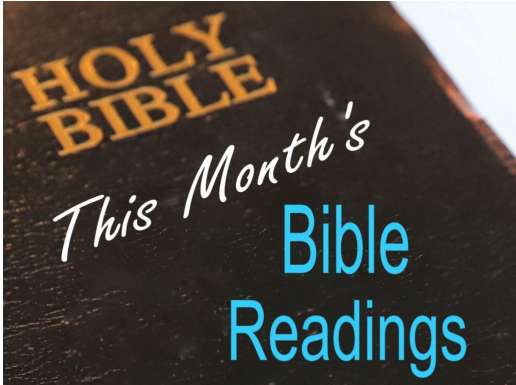
October 1 Reflection
 October 2 2 Chronicles 29-31; 1 Corinthians 8
 October 3 2 Kings 18-19; 2 Chronicles 32; Psalm 67; 1 Corinthians 9
 October 4 Isaiah 36-37; Psalm 123; 1 Corinthians 10
 October 5 2 Kings 20; Isaiah 38-40; Psalm 68; 1 Corinthians 11
 October 6 Isaiah 41-44; 1 Corinthians 12
 October 7 Reflection

October 8 Reflection
 October 9 Isaiah 45-48; 1 Corinthians 13
 October 10 Isaiah 49-52; Psalm 69; 1 Corinthians 14
 October 11 Isaiah 53-55; Psalm 128; 1 Corinthians 15
 October 12 Isaiah 56-59; Psalm 70; 1 Corinthians 16
 October 13 Isaiah 60-63; 2 Corinthians 1
 October 14 Reflection

October 15 Reflection
 October 16 Isaiah 64-66; 2 Corinthians 2
 October 17 2 Kings 21; 2 Chronicles 33; Psalm 71; 2 Corinthians 3
 October 18 Nahum; Psalm 149; 2 Corinthians 4
 October 19 2 Kings 22-23; Psalm 73; 2 Corinthians 5
 October 20 2 Chronicles 34-35; 2 Corinthians 6
 October 21 Reflection

October 22 Reflection
 October 23 Habakkuk; 2 Corinthians 7
 October 24 Zephaniah; Psalm 74; 2 Corinthians 8
 October 25 Jeremiah 1-4; Psalm 130; 2 Corinthians 9
 October 26 Jeremiah 5-7; Psalm 75; 2 Corinthians 10
 October 27 Jeremiah 8-10; 2 Corinthians 11
 October 28 Reflection

October 29 Reflection
 October 30 Jeremiah 11-13; 2 Corinthians 12
 October 31 Jeremiah 14-16; Psalm 76; 2 Corinthians 13





I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for the cards, flowers, phone calls and especially the prayers for me during my recent “health scare”, which required open-heart surgery and a long recovery period. A special thank you to Freda Blackwell for getting volunteers to fill-in for me in the office, Diane Swan for making sure you had a bulletin each week, and Drew Covington for making sure bills got paid! To each and every volunteer who lent your time to make sure things ran smoothly, I am forever grateful! It gave me comfort knowing I could rest easy and focus on healing. I am truly blessed and God is good! Love you all—Linda Agee

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
10:00 am Worship in the Park – Communion – Sanders Ferry Park – Shelter # 8 – Fellowship Meal to Follow	10:00 am Sew Many Blessings 10:00 am Crochet Group 6:00 pm Local Missions Meeting 6:30 pm Education Meeting Fall Break	11:00 am Staff Meeting 6:30 pm Praise Band Practice Fall Break	8:00 am Men’s Bible Study 10:00 am Coffee Talk 7:00 pm Adult Choir Fall Break	11:00 am Zoom Bible Study 1:00 pm Blood Drive Fall Break	Fall Break	
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
9:00 am Sunday School 10:00 am Worship 11:00 am Handbell Choir Practice 11:00 am Youth Gathering 11:00 am Cong. Care Meeting	10:00 am Sew Many Blessings 10:00 am Crochet Group 6:30 pm Zoom Book Group	10:00 am PW Bible Study 6:30 pm Praise Band Practice	8:00 am Men’s Bible Study 10:00 am Membership Meeting 6:00 pm Worship Meeting 6:30 pm Budget & Finance Meeting 7:00 pm Adult Choir	11:00 am Zoom Bible Study		
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
9:00 am Sunday School 10:00 am Worship 11:00 am Handbell Choir Practice Handbell Choir Concert	10:00 am Sew Many Blessings 10:00 am Crochet Group 7:00 pm Session Meeting	10:30 am Sunshine Ministry 6:30 pm Praise Band Practice	8:00 am Men’s Bible Study 7:00 pm Adult Choir Window Deadline	11:00 am Zoom Bible Study		
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
9:00 am Sunday School 10:00 am Worship 11:00 am Handbell Choir Practice 11:00 am Youth Gathering	10:00 am Sew Many Blessings 10:00 am Crochet Group	6:30 pm Praise Band Practice	8:00 am Men’s Bible Study 7:00 pm Adult Choir	11:00 am Zoom Bible Study		6:00 pm Adult Fellowship—Ballenger Home
29	30	31				
9:00 am Sunday School – (5 th Sunday Breakfast) 10:00 am Worship 11:00 am Handbell Choir Practice	10:00 am Sew Many Blessings 10:00 am Crochet Group	6:30 pm Praise Band Practice	<h1>October 2023</h1>			



SERMON SCHEDULE

- October 1** – Where is Your Mind? Philippians 3:17-21
(Picnic in the Park and Communion)
- October 8** – Worrywarts to Prayer Warriors, Philippians 4:4-7
- October 15** – Guardian of Your Heart, Philippians 4:8-9
- October 22** – Everything is Possible with Christ, Philippians 4:10-13
- October 29** – Wealthy in Christ, Philippians 4:14-23



Thru August 2023

Revenue \$ 177,766.72

Expenses \$ 225,740.64

Shortfall \$ - 47,973.92

SESSION ACTION

- Prayed for congregation
- Affirmed our faith using the session statement of faith
- Approved minutes from August 21, 2023
- Discussed the article *Backwards and in Heels*
- Approved ministry unit reports
- Heard verbal report from Property and Worship
- Removed Jackie Andrews, Jonathan Davis, Bob and Jane Marshall, and Jon Pickerel from the roll
- Heard pastor's report and approved his Sabbatical grant application
- Approved paying Tony back pay for sick leave and disability benefits overlooked last year when he had shoulder surgery (\$777.60)



Hand Bell Dedication and Concert

Thank you to the many generous donors who helped us make our most recent purchase of the low bass bells and cases last year. We are planning a brief dedication during worship on October 15th with a concert that afternoon at 2:00 p.m. These bells were purchased in memory of Ed Covington, Virginia Duffett, John Westendorf and Ruth Lee. Come join us for a glorious concert of inspiration and joy.



Where: First Presbyterian Church
When: Thursday, October 5th
1:00—6:00 p.m.
Please call 1-800-RED-CROSS
or visit RedCrossBlood.org and enter:
HendersonvilleCM
to schedule an appointment



CHURCH STAFF

Michael Davis, *Pastor*

michael@hendersonvillefpc.org

Dr. Anthony Williams, *Organist/Choir Director*

tony@hendersonvillefpc.org

Linda Agee, *Church Administrator*

linda@hendersonvillefpc.org

Sara Webne, *Nursery Attendant*

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

PDSDDirector123@gmail.com

First Presbyterian Church

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Website: www.hendersonvillefpc.org

Email: 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
- 9 - Jean Getter
- 11 - Laura Pickerel
- 13 - Patricia Scott
Bob Scott
- 15 - Jenny Sibomana
Robin Schultz
- 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 - Ally Estepp
- 30 - Bill Keene