

THE WINDOW

First Presbyterian Church

Hendersonville, TN

February 2025



Dear Friends,

I am sure you remember the children's song; *I am the church! You are the church! We are the church together!* "All who follow Jesus, all around the world! Yes, we're the church together! The church is not a building; the church is not a steeple; the church is not a resting place; the church is a people."

This is exactly why the church is challenging, conflicted, and sometimes hurtful. People are the problem with church. One pastor complained, "If it wasn't for the people, I would like my job!" The Apostle Paul writes many letters reprimanding and correcting the early churches. The Corinthian church is one example. There is selfishness, heresy, drunkenness, and broken relationships. Through history, when the church fails to discern God's will, they make poor decisions.

For example, in 1722, the Town Council of the city of Leipzig was looking for a new cantor for the school of St. Thomas and an organist for the church of St. Thomas. The council searched for this new person and selected an excellent candidate who turned them down. Then, they contacted the second choice who also turned them down. They decided, as one member of the council subsequently wrote, "since the best man could not be obtained, a mediocre one would have to be accepted." The third choice they hired, the "mediocre" candidate, was Johann Sabastin Bach.

The Corinthian Church was constantly making poor choices about leadership, relationships, and worship. Their priorities were self-centered, and they ignored the teachings of Christ. People with certain spiritual gifts were elevated and others were devalued and ignored. Most of the letter to the Corinthians consists of Paul reprimanding them for their terrible behavior.

The sermon series starting on January 26 focuses on the importance of three foundational parts of God's plan for the church – diversity combined with unity, connectedness and dependence, and loving like Jesus Christ. The church cannot survive without these three concepts that provide a Christ-like attitude.

When the church follows God's plan for the church, it fulfills this stanza of the hymn mentioned above. "We're many kinds of people, with many kinds of faces, all colors and all ages, too from all times and places."

1 Corinthians 12 and 13 can be called Paul's recipe for a healthy, joy-filled church. A church that is united in Jesus Christ and not doctrine. A church that is found from Hendersonville, Nashville, America, and around the world. A church where worship is energetic, relationships are loving and people are eager to serve others.

Gordan Cosby, founder and pastor of the Church of Our Savior in Washington, D.C., tells about preaching at a Lenten mid-week evening service somewhere in New England. The worship was particularly dull and uninspiring. Nobody sang the hymns; nobody smiled or reacted. The only thing that moved was the offering plates. Afterward, he and his wife were down and depressed. The church had reserved a room for them in a roadside inn, above a tavern. And they couldn't help compare the sounds of laughter, music, and camaraderie beneath with the grim lifeless exercise in religion they had experienced. He said, "I realized that there was more warmth and fellowship in that tavern than there was in the church. If Jesus of Nazareth had his choice, he would probably have come to the tavern rather than to the church we visited."

May we be the church God intends for us to be, "And when the people gather, there's singing and there's praying; there's laughing and there's crying."

Love and Prayers,

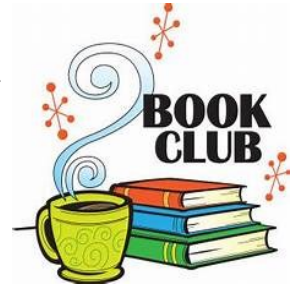
Michael



First Wednesday Coffee Talk will meet at 10 a.m. on Wednesday, February 5, 2025. Join us for interesting conversation and good friends, old and new. Enjoy a cup of hot coffee, tea, and fresh baked cookies. Everyone is welcome.

*Winter notice: Coffee Talk observes Sumner County snow days. If schools are closed for inclement weather, we don't meet either.

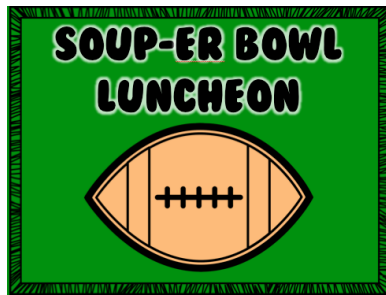
The FPC Evening Book Club is currently reading **The River We Remember** written by William Kent Krueger. This complex novel is a spellbinding mystery, a masterful portrait of mid-century American life, and also a testament to the enduring power of the stories we tell about the places we call “home.”



We will meet for discussion on **Monday evening, February 10, at 6:30 pm.**

Read along and meet with us for discussion from the comfort of your own home as we meet by Zoom. Just send an email to our “Zoom Master” Charles Lott so he can send you a link. (crlott@bellsouth.net) For any further questions, contact Jackie Decker (thepauldeckers@comcast.net).

Looking ahead: At present, we are ranking books and creating a new list of future “reads.”



The traditional Souper Bowl Luncheon will be delayed until Sunday, February 23 to allow for greater participation. We invite members to bring a favorite soup, stew, or chowder to share, which can be dropped off in Fellowship Hall prior to our church service. All donations will benefit Hendersonville Home Bound Meals Program, a non-profit serving meals to home-bound residents for more than forty years. More details to follow in the February bulletins.



Sunshine Fellowship Christmas Gathering



First Baptist Church Ukulele Band, including Santa!



Always a great crowd for the Christmas gathering!

Daily Bible Reading—2025

Reading, studying, and reflecting on the Bible is a vital part of our discipleship. This year we will read through the main parts of the Bible from beginning to end. Each day there will be a selection for you to read. Here are some questions for reflection. Where do I see God in this passage? What is God saying to me?



February 1	Leviticus 25:35-43
February 2	Numbers 6:22-27
February 3	Numbers 11:4-15
February 4	Numbers 13:1-24
February 5	Numbers 13:25-33
February 6	Numbers 20:1-13
February 7	Numbers 22:2-21
February 8	Numbers 22:22-35
February 9	Numbers 23:1-26
February 10	Numbers 23:27-24:25
February 11	Deuteronomy 6:1-9
February 12	Deuteronomy 6:10-25
February 13	Deuteronomy 8:1-20
February 14	Deuteronomy 16:1-8
February 15	Deuteronomy 26:1-11
February 16	Deuteronomy 30:1-20
February 17	Deuteronomy 32:1-43
February 18	Joshua 1:1-9
February 19	Joshua 3:1-17
February 20	Joshua 5:13-6:20
February 21	Joshua 24:1-28
February 22	Judges 2:6-19
February 23	Judges 4:1-24
February 24	Judges 5:1-31
February 25	Judges 6:11-24
February 26	Judges 6:33-40
February 27	Judges 16:1-20
February 28	Judges 16:21-31

Proverbal Insights... Wisdom from Proverbs

Proverbs 15:18 – “A hot-tempered man stirs up dissension, but a patient man calms a quarrel.”

Our quick tempers make the daily conversations and meetings worse and prevent healthy relationships. Taking a breath and pausing our quick responses enriches relationships and eliminates arguments.



- ◇ The church staff would like to thank everyone for your Christmas gifts and generous donations to the Love Offering. We are blessed to serve at such a wonderful church and we really appreciate your love and support throughout the year.
- ◇ Thank you to Bob & Sandy Scott of Long Hollow Nursery for donating the beautiful wreaths which adorned the church during the Advent season.
- ◇ Very special thank you to Sprigg & Kathy Ebbert for taking on the HUGE task of cleaning and ironing all of the church choir robes over the past month. A lot of hard work and long hours were needed to get those robes back in shape after years of neglect!

Introducing Our



Paul Decker – Paul was raised in south Nashville and has lived in Hendersonville since 1969. He likes the people and work he has done for over 50 years. He is a retired teacher, coach, and administrator in both public and private schools. Paul’s favorite hobby is following his grandchildren in school and community activities. He and his wife, Jackie, were married in our church and is proud of the church’s community involvement. Paul is excited to serve God and this church on the session, filling a one-year term.



Laurie Dishman – Laurie grew up in Carthage and Powell, TN. She has lived in Hendersonville since 1999 and recently moved to a brand-new townhouse in Galatin. She has enjoyed raising her daughter in our city and it is safe and near Nashville. Laurie is a Mathematics Professor and Executive Director of Institutional Effectiveness at Cumberland University. She enjoys playing bells and recently was invited to join the Music City Bronze. Laurie is a huge Nashville Predators fan and enjoys spending time with family and friends playing board games and cards. This church loved her through her crisis when they did not know her. The timing was right to join the session and looks forward to what the future holds for our church.



Howard Renton – Belleville, MI and has lived in Hendersonville for five years. He is friendly, and has nice hobbies. He has worked 37 years in IT related to computer sales support and program management. He enjoys spending time around the house and going for exercise. Howard is a great person to have in our congregation as warm, loving, and supportive. He arrived from the first time he was here. He felt God call him to give back and the Spirit of God accepted this call.



ur New Elders



Howard grew up in Hendersonville. He likes that our city is near family, good weather. He spent his childhood roles like coding, sports, project and professional. He enjoys “puttering” in the yard and swimming. He describes our congregation as a loving, and welcoming community. He and his wife, Deb, have been calling to serve. Spirit moved him to accept



Kevin Suhr – Kevin was raised in Kewanee, IL and Elkton, SD and has lived in Hendersonville for seven years. He likes our city’s parks, lakes, and good food. Kevin operates his family’s business. He enjoys reading. He is married to Cara. He enjoys our church’s excitement coupled with tradition and looks forward to serving and growing as a person on session.



Ched Yearout – Ched was raised in Princeton, WV and has lived in Hendersonville since 1981. He likes that our city has a small-town vibe and is close to everything. Ched is a retired Mechanical Engineer Manager from Bridgestone and enjoys music and exercise. He is married to Janice. He describes our church as a loving congregation of believers and looks forward to serving God on session.

Current Session and Ministry Unit Assignments

- **Billy Dye—Clerk of Session**
- **Howard Renton—Missions**
- **Sarah Ice and Jack Kurtzman—Discipleship & Education**
- **Phyllis Klym and Paul Decker—Congregational Care**
- **Amy Bish and Laurie Dishman—Worship**
- **Kevin Suhr and Ched Yearout—Property**
- **Brian Burke and Casey Thompson—Membership**



Sunday Worship Schedule

9:00 a.m. - Sunday School
10:00 a.m. - Worship

Music Group Practice Schedule

Handbell Choir Practice

Sundays at 11:00 a.m.

Praise Band Practice

Tuesdays at 6:30 p.m.

Adult Choir Practice

Wednesdays at 6:30 p.m.

Weekly Group Meetings

Sew Many Blessings

Mondays at 10:00 a.m.

Crochet Group

Mondays at 10:00 a.m.

Men's Bible Study

Wednesdays at 8:00 a.m.

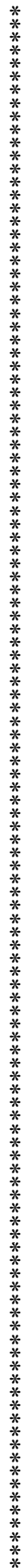
February Monthly Meetings / Group Meetings

- Feb. 3—6:30 p.m. Education Meeting
- Feb. 4—10:30 a.m. Missions Meeting
- Feb. 4—4:00 p.m. Membership Meeting
- Feb. 5—10:00 a.m. Coffee Talk
- Feb. 8—Presbytery Meeting (FPC—Shelbyville)
- Feb. 10—6:30 p.m. Zoom Book Group
- Feb. 11—10:00 a.m. PW Bible Study
- Feb. 12—6:00 p.m. Worship Meeting
- Feb. 12—6:30 p.m. Budget & Finance Meeting
- Feb. 17—7:00 p.m. Session Meeting
- Feb. 18—10:30 a.m. Sunshine Fellowship
- Feb. 23—11:00 a.m. Souper Bowl Luncheon

March Window Deadline—February 19

Presbyterian Day School

Christmas at PDS is exciting! Every day is organized-chaos, but fun. Songs to sing, books to read, things to make (& bake too), and food to eat. Happy Birthday Jesus.



SERMONS

February 2 (Communion) 1 Corinthians 13:1-13, Follow Jesus' Steps

Series on Resurrection

February 9 – 1 Corinthians 15:1-11, The importance of the resurrection of Christ

February 16 – 1 Corinthians 15:12-20, Without the resurrection there is no hope

February 23 – 1 Corinthians 15:35-38; 42-50, Our resurrected body



SESSION ACTION

- Prayed for congregation
- Read the session statement of faith
- Approved minutes from November 8, December 8, and December 22
- Discussed first chapter of Spiritual Leadership for Church Officers
- Approved ministry unit reports
 - ◊ Including moving \$12,780 surplus from 2024 to the Reserve Fund
 - ◊ Including a plan for memorial service receptions
- Heard pastor's report
- Approved Billy Dye as clerk and Bud Anderson as treasurer
- Approved 2025 communion dates



Thru December 2024
Revenue \$ 374,486.43
Expenses \$ 360,937.11
Surplus \$ 13,549.32

CELEBRATION OF LIFE RECEPTIONS

Congregational Care has several ministry units that work together to fulfill needs and to promote fellowship within the congregation. One of these ministries is to show love and condolences to families and friends by offering a time for them to gather and share memories following a funeral service at a Celebration of Life Reception.

The Celebration of Life Reception could take place in Martin Hall, at the request of the family, immediately following the funeral service. A light snack would be provided that might include crackers, cheese, chips, nuts, cookies, and mints. Plus coffee, tea, and water. Any attendees would be welcome at the reception, offering a time and place for visitation and sharing with the family. If the family wants more than a light snack, we can offer catering suggestions which the family can arrange, but that would be their responsibility.

Congregational Care and the Session want grieving families to feel the Presence of God's Love in all things. We want to offer this small gesture of love in response to that Grace.



**Jaden Wells, Calvin Ice and a friend
packaging meals for the Matthew 25 Ministry!**

CHURCH STAFF

Michael Davis, *Pastor*

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Linda Agee, *Church Administrator*

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Lee Druce, *Pianist*

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Tina Yar, *Nursery Attendant*

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

PDSDirector123@gmail.com

First Presbyterian Church

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Email: linda@hendersonvillefpc.org

Sunday School—9:00 a.m.

Worship Service—10:00 a.m.



- 1 - Ryan Estepp
- 4 - David Farrar
- 9 - Richard Wallis
- 11 - Jackie Decker
- 12 - Emma Wells
- 13 - Ethan Minor
- 14 - Susan Keen
- 17 - Sprigg Ebbert
- 18 - Ben Dye
- 25 - Cathy Lind
- Ched Yearout