

# ***THE WINDOW***

***First Presbyterian Church***

***Hendersonville, TN***

***March 2024***



Dear Friends,

The Israelites are stuck between a rock and a hard place – actually, between the Red Sea and the army of Egypt. You remember the story. Through a series of plagues, God convinces Pharaoh to let the Israelites go. The hard heart of Pharaoh was finally broken. The people of Egypt were glad to see God’s people leave. The plagues were devastating.

The newly freed people are stuck facing the Red Sea and the imminent attack of the Egyptian army, who changed their minds. They are barricading the Israelites against the sea with 600 chariots. The Israelites react in fear and panic. Yelling at Moses, “Was it because there are no graves in the wilderness? Why did you bring us out of Egypt just to die?” In essence, they say we want to go back and serve the Egyptians.

Moses preaches a sermon. “Do not be afraid, stand firm, and see the deliverance that the Lord will accomplish for you today; for the Egyptians whom you see today you shall never see again. The Lord will fight for you, and you have only to keep still.” (Exodus 14:13-14)

Stop complaining and start remembering everything God has done for you. God is bigger than this Egyptian army. God, who is present in a cloud of smoke, moves to the back of the people and blocks the army. Once Moses raises his arms, God drives back the sea waters, creating a safe passage to the other side. God even dries the sea bottom, so they cross on dry ground. The Egyptians are not given safe passage.

In verse 15, God tells the people to go forward. I wonder if this is a two-step process. One – be still. Two – go forward. We cannot go forward until we are still. Quiet ourselves before God. Hush our complaining. Silence our plans to secure our lives.

We all were taught from a young age to work hard, do good things, and help others. If we are responsible, we are good daughters and good sons. We grow up solving problems, fixing broken things, and being responsible adults. Work, work, work. Busy, busy, busy.

Moses’ sermon at the Red Sea teaches us an important lesson. The Christian faith is not about being busy for the Lord but being still. We can get so busy doing church things we forget to be quiet and listen to God. Quiet our busy abilities to let God do something amazing. How often do we panic at being between a rock and a hard place? Life is often overwhelming. Listen to God say to you, “Be still.”

Praying Psalm 46:10 can assist us in slowing down, quieting our busy minds, and finding stillness before God.

Be still and know that I am God.  
Be still and know I am.  
Be still and know.  
Be still.  
Be.

Love and Prayers, *Michael*

**Mission of the Month: Hendersonville Samaritan Center** - One of the first things a person in crisis needs is food. Hendersonville Samaritan Center helps meet this need in our community with their food bank. Our church is supporting the collection of food for the center through March 10th. Please consider making a donation. You may leave your items in the bin at the side entry of the church. They are currently in need of the following items:

- Cooking oil: any size (Canola, Vegetable)
- Canned Meat: tuna, hams, corned beef or roast beef hash
- Canned Chili and Chef Boyardee canned pasta
- Bags (2 or 4 lb.) granulated sugar
- Hamburger Helper, Tuna Helper & Chicken Helper—(Tuna & Chicken preferred)
- Chunky or Progresso soups, all kinds
- Canned Sloppy Joe sauce
- Canned Vegetables: Carrots, Chili Beans, Lima Beans, Blacked Eyed Peas, Kidney Beans, Greens (Spinach, Turnip, Collard)
- Canned Tomato Soup
- Canned evaporated milk or dry milk
- Side dishes of pasta and rice (Knorr, Rice-a-Roni)



**\*\*\*Please** don't purchase green beans, green peas, or corn!  
We are blessed with an abundance of these items.

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**Appalachian Service Project:** Our Appalachian Service Project summer trip is scheduled for July 14-20. The cost per person to participate is \$250.00. If you are interested in going, please call the church office.

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Pastor Michael leading chapel for the day school.

This month was "Just like air, God is there."

**APRIL ADULT FELLOWSHIP GATHERING—APRIL 13th!**



All adult members and friends of FPC are invited to attend our April adult fellowship gathering to be held on **Saturday, April 13th at the home of Brenda and Hal Hubbell** located at 114 Blue Ridge Trace in Hendersonville. We will gather beginning at **6:00 PM**, and a potato bar will be the featured main course. All attendees are asked to bring either an appetizer, salad, side or dessert to share with the group. To help with planning, we kindly ask that those who plan to attend RSVP to either Brenda or to Marikay Burke. To RSVP you may text or call Marikay at 724-301-7484 or email [marikay091759@comcast.net](mailto:marikay091759@comcast.net). The adult fellowship gatherings occur quarterly and are an excellent way to nurture our connection as a church family and to expand our fellowship.

We hope to see you on April 13th!

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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.

March 1	Hebrews 1	March 24	Reflection
March 2	Reflection	March 25	Galatians 4
March 3	Reflection	March 26	Galatians 5
March 4	Hebrews 2	March 27	Galatians 6
March 5	Hebrews 3	March 28	James 1
March 6	Hebrews 4	March 29	James 2
March 7	Hebrews 5	March 30	Reflection
March 8	Hebrews 6	March 31	Reflection
March 9	Reflection		
March 10	Reflection		
March 11	Hebrews 7		
March 12	Hebrews 8		
March 13	Hebrews 9		
March 14	Hebrews 10		
March 15	Hebrews 11		
March 16	Reflection		
March 17	Reflection		
March 18	Hebrews 12		
March 19	Hebrews 13		
March 20	Galatians 1		
March 21	Galatians 2		
March 22	Galatians 3		
March 23	Reflection		



Congratulations to Charlie & Diane Swan on the birth of their granddaughter. Levee June Powers. She was born on February 6, 2024, weighing 6 lbs and she was 19 1/2 inches long. Proud parents are Troy & Natalie Powers.



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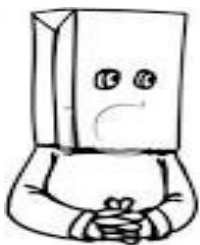
**First Wednesday Coffee Talk:** March 6<sup>th</sup> is the day – 10:00 a.m. is the time. Please join us in the Historical Room for inspiration, connection, conversation, and laughter ... and don't forget ... there will be cookies!!! All are invited and no reservations needed.

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**Graduate Reception:** We will have our high school graduate reception on April 21st after church. We are doing this a little earlier than usual so that Pastor Michael can be a part of it before his sabbatical. These are the graduates we know of: Sasha Dishman, Joseph Dye, Morgan Thompson, Avery Batey, and Brayden Elliott. Please let us know if we are missing anyone. Also, let us know if you have a family member who is graduating college this year. We will be featuring all these students in the church newsletter in May. Contact Jean Getter or Sarah Ice if you have any additions to our list or any questions.



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



This month's Mystery Member is someone who is relatively new to the church, at least new compared to many of you. It's really nice that we have had so many new people join, especially when things were so unusual during COVID! This member is younger than I am....but is a parent and is employed by the Sumner County Schools. There is one child in the family.

This member is a native of Hendersonville! That is a clue that might get your attention. Even born at Hendersonville Hospital in the 1980's! Our Mystery Member does love to travel out of our fine city....in fact, a special trip in the relationship of the couple was when they first met... in Baja, Mexico. They have been married for 20 years. As a family, travel has continued, although now it is more often camping, something the whole family loves. She refers to herself as someone who is "outdoorsy". She has always loved being outdoors, and some of the traveling has included the great outdoors. She's been from Alaska to Mexico ... seeing the beautiful country all around. Once she was even able to land on a GLACIER!

This member loves flowers from all around. Gardening in Middle Tennessee is a challenge with the local wildlife. Attempting to outsmart the deer that live all around Middle Tennessee keeps her on her toes! Amazingly, the deer have been pretty good about not eating all of their flowers! I wish I could figure out the trick to being smarter than the deer!

She comes from a relatively small family.....just one sister, and two nieces. Not surprisingly, as someone who loves being outside, watching tv is not a big part of this family. When I asked for a favorite tv show, however, there was no hesitation in answering "All Things Great and Small"... a PBS show, all about animals! In addition to the two legged child in the family, there is a favorite four legged furbaby... the family cat!

You might have gotten the impression that our Mystery Member lives in Hendersonville, since I mentioned being born at Hendersonville Hospital, and working for Sumner County Schools, but that is a little deceptive. Home is NOT in Hendersonville, but in one of our small surrounding communities. Have you figured out our first Mystery Member of the new year?



On Sunday, February 22, the church's youth hosted the Souper Bowl lunch for the congregation. Members contributed more than 15 soups, stews, and chowders as well as an assortment of cookies. Eleven youth assisted with set-up, serving, and clean-up. The event raised a total of \$ 965.00 for the Samaritan Center, a Hendersonville-based association that helps families meet a variety of needs including food, utility bills, housing costs, and clothing. The center's website states that it was able to help a total of 1,911 families in 2022. Thanks to all who took part in this special event!



Amy Bish, Janna Willis, Casey Thompson & J.T. Thompson



Our Hosts for the Souper Bowl of Caring, Our Amazing Youth Group



Ruth Woodworth, Marikay Burke & Brian Burke



Freda Blackwell, Jun Still, Barb Polhemus & Suzy Schrader

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**Gifts of Women's Sunday:** Hey Ladies! Gifts of Women Sunday is March 10th. Please plan to attend this beautiful service celebrating the gifts of the women in our own church. Also, please be in prayer asking God how you can share your gifts during this service. If you would like to volunteer in any way, let Amy Bish know - 615.210.6064.



Did you know our church has a Lost and Found drawer? We have cups, keys, eyeglasses that belong to some of you. See anything familiar? Just see Linda and you can be reunited with your lost item. Enjoy this poem by J. Berrie Shepherd.

### Remembering

Where I left the car keys,  
the remote for the TV, that letter  
from the lawyer, my spectacles and pills.  
I must have left my gloves somewhere.  
And as for that umbrella that the kids  
gave me last Christmas ...  
Lost objects occupy these latter days  
like an invading host, demand their dreary  
ransom of the hours spent in searching -  
pockets, drawers, desks, and sofas -  
to locate whatever is missing.  
Might there be, somewhere,  
an eternal Lost and Found, a place  
where folk and missing things are reunited,  
where a sympathetic clerk roams miles of shelves  
and cubby holes until he finds just what it is  
you're looking for and sets it on the counter  
with a smile? And if such a place existed,  
what would I ask for first?

- J. Barrie Shepherd



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*Pastor's*  
**SABBATICAL UPDATE**

### Sabbatical Updates

During Michael's sabbatical in May, June, and July, there are several trips planned. Three nights at the Abbey of Gethsemani, 9 days in Scotland and London, Michael and Gracie to visit his parents in Sebring, family beach trip, and trip to Boone, NC to visit college roommate and Pittsburgh to visit good friend from seminary.

## SERMON SCHEDULE

- March 3** – Dressed like Jesus, Galatians 3:26-29 (Communion)
- March 10** – Women’s Sunday
- March 17** – Warner Durnell, guest preacher
- March 24** – From a wedding to a funeral (Palm Sunday)
- March 28** – A job nobody wants, John 13 (Maundy Thursday)
- March 31** – Resurrection fear, Mark 16:1-8 (Easter)

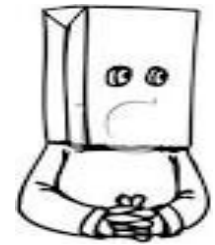


January 2024

Revenue \$ 16,705.00  
Expenses \$ 22,676.20  
Shortfall \$ - 5,971.20

## SESSION ACTION

- Prayed for congregation
- Affirmed our faith using the session statement of faith
- Approved minutes from January 22 and Annual Congregational Meeting on January 28
- Discussed chapter from *Lessons in Leadership*
- Received presbytery report
- Approved ministry unit reports
  - ◊ Verbal report from Property
- Heard pastor’s report
  - ◊ Including update on sabbatical
  - ◊ Approved Sabbatical Administration Team
    - ⇒ Sherry Tarbutton, Paul Decker, and Casey Thompson
- Approved Communion dates for the year
- Approved moving surplus of \$39,553.13 from 2023 to Reserve Fund
- Approved recommended changes to the Employee Manual



## GREAT NEWS!!!

Our Mystery Member is back by popular demand. Try to see if you can identify our featured member for March!

Special thanks to Lucy Hardin for agreeing to interview and write articles for the monthly newsletter. It’s a great way to get to know people better.

Have you figured out who our March member is?

**Answer: Morgan Linn!**

Maundy Thursday Service will be on March 28th at 7:00 p.m. We will remember the last week of Jesus’ life with music, liturgy, communion, and scripture reading.



In the Presbyterian church, elders lead the church along with the pastor. The word “Presbyterian” means elder. One special way the church honors elders who cannot serve anymore on session is electing them an Elder Emeritus. Our church has honored the following people this way: Powell Stamper, Al Ballenger, Ed Convington, Lois Foxall, Bill Keene, and Sandy Keene. If you would like to recommend someone to this position of honor, contact Michael for more information.

**CHURCH STAFF**

**Michael Davis, *Pastor***

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**Linda Agee, *Church Administrator***

linda@hendersonvillefpc.org

**Sara Webne, *Nursery Attendant***

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

PDSDirector123@gmail.com

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Sunday School—9:00 a.m.

Worship Service—10:00 a.m.



Daylight Savings Time begins on March 10th! Don't forget to move your clocks forward one hour. It's also Gifts of Women Sunday, so you don't want to be late and miss this special service.



- 2 - Kevin Suhr
- 5 - Janet Wahl
- 8 - John Martin
- 9 - Diana Lynn
- 22 - Terry Wright
- 23 - Emily Wilkie
- 27 - Barbara Brooks  
Deb Renton
- 28 - Michael Davis
- 30 - Jennifer Haag