

THE WINDOW

First Presbyterian Church

Hendersonville, TN

February 2024



Dear Friends,

All of us have asked our parents “Why?” Why can’t I stay out later? Why can’t I skip school just this once? Why do I have to go to church? A man was sitting watching television on Sunday morning. His wife came into the room and told him he should get ready for church, or he would be late. He told her he didn’t want to go. She pushed him a second time. “No, I don’t like church.” “What do you mean,” she asked? He responded, “I don’t want to go to church. No one likes me and I don’t like them.” She responded, “you have to go!” “Give me one good reason why I should go to church.” “Well, for one thing, you are the pastor.”

Psalm 100 tells us why we should go to church and why we should praise God. It is a beautiful song commanding us to sing and make music to God. “Make a joyful noise to the Lord; worship the Lord with gladness; come into his presence with singing and thanksgiving.” Verse 3 and 5 answer the question why. The Lord is God, and the Lord is good. “Know that the Lord is God. It is he who made us, and we are his; we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture.” And “The Lord is good; his steadfast love endures forever and his faithfulness to all generations.”

The motivation to worship the Lord is because he is God. The Lord is over all gods and all powers. God is Creator of the world and everything in it, including us. God created you and me. The Lord is also good. God defines goodness. The goodness we see around us in creation is all God’s doing. John Calvin said, “Creation is the theater of God’s glory.” Furthermore, the Lord’s love is steadfast and never runs out. In God, we have an endless supply of goodness and love. We worship God with gladness and joy because his faithfulness also never runs out. There is enough faithfulness for our kids, grandkids, their kids, and their grandkids. God’s love and faithfulness are forever.

Psalm 100 summons us to offer ourselves to God, knowing we do not own ourselves. “It is he who made us, and we are his; we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture.” Everything we are and everything we have belongs to God. If we belong to God, so do our possessions. Our money, our homes, cars, and boats; all our stuff in our homes. Our confession to follow Jesus Christ as our Savior and Lord transfers ownership and everything we have is seen as a gift from God’s goodness.

Many families, along with my own, grew up with the mealtime prayer, “God is great, good is good. Let us thank him for our food. By his hands we all are fed. Give us Lord our daily bread.”

May we begin each day and every meal with thanksgiving and praise.

Love and Prayers,

Michael

HOLIDAY SEASON UPDATE! As the Holiday Season has ended, the Missions Committee wanted to provide an update on a beautiful giving season by the Congregation. As Community Child Care is a main church mission project, during the month of November, food/money was collected from the Congregation which filled 25 Thanksgiving food baskets for those families (from Community Child Care) in need. Immediately after Thanksgiving, gifts/money were collected for 50 children (from 40 families) from Community Child Care. Also, a children’s book (depicting the meaning of Christmas) was purchased for each of the 40 families. A \$25 gift card was also purchased and given to each staff member at the child care center. Christmas food baskets were also given to 5 families at Lakeside Park Elementary School, along with a Walmart \$25 gift card for each of these families. Also, the Missions quilting group made 50 quilts which were distributed to various nursing homes in the area.



So, from the Missions Committee to the church congregation, we would like to say “Thank you” for your donations in helping to make the lives of others happier throughout the past year.....especially, during the Holiday Season. Also, we would love to have more volunteers to help serve on the Missions Committee! If you are interested, please reach out to Diane Swan or Joe Ottevaere.

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.

February 1	Acts 8	February 25	Reflection
February 2	Acts 9	February 26	Acts 25
February 3	Reflection	February 27	Acts 26
		February 28	Acts 27
February 4	Reflection	February 29	Acts 28
February 5	Acts 10		
February 6	Acts 11		
February 7	Acts 12		
February 8	Acts 13		
February 9	Acts 14		
February 10	Reflection		
February 11	Reflection		
February 12	Acts 15		
February 13	Acts 16		
February 14	Acts 17		
February 15	Acts 18		
February 16	Acts 19		
February 17	Reflection		
February 18	Reflection		
February 19	Acts 20		
February 20	Acts 21		
February 21	Acts 22		
February 22	Acts 23		
February 23	Acts 24		
February 24	Reflection		





**Partners
in Ministry**

The Missions Committee and FPC would like to thank Sanders Ferry Pizza for their partnership with us in feeding the Community Child Care staff once again in January. They donated XL pizzas for the staff! If you haven’t tried Sanders Ferry Pizza, you should. The staff is amazing and the pizza is delicious!



ADULT FELLOWSHIP

- Meaningful fellowship
- An abundance of delicious food
- A warm fire and twinkling lights
- A fun trivia challenge
- A few ugly Christmas sweaters
- LOTS and LOTS of laughter



The above are just some of the outstanding moments from our January 13th Adult Fellowship Gathering held at the home of Kay Keck. 35 adult members and friends of FPC came together for an evening of fun, food and meaningful fellowship. This is a quarterly event that is held in a member's home and is open to all adult members and friends of our church. Our next gathering is scheduled to be held in the month of April, and Hal and Brenda Hubbell have graciously agreed to host. Please watch for details regarding date and time in upcoming editions of our newsletters and bulletins. This is a great way to nurture existing friendships within the church and to reach out to those who are new to our church family. All are welcome and encouraged to attend!





Everyone is invited to join our gathering of First Wednesday Coffee Talk at 10 a.m. on February 7. Let's enjoy fellowship, laughter, deepening friendships, coffee, tea, and cookies. In our January gathering, June Still gave us cause to contemplate "How we look, but do not see". No reservation needed.

Michael answered a question from our question box...his answers inspire. Thanks, Michael.

Q. What is the difference between gifts and talents?

A. Talents are abilities you are born with and probably develop along the way. A musician takes classes to develop her ability to play the piano.

Gifts are an ability God gives to people. This is coming from the Christian perspective. A gift is something given as grace. Therefore, an ability God gives us comes from God's grace. There is no limit to God's giving. God's gifts can vary from playing the piano to painting; from sports to business.

Talents and gifts obviously cross over. I can have a talent that can also be seen as a gift from God. The difference is who is getting the glory, attention, or the credit. If I am getting the credit and acknowledgment then it is my talent. If I am giving God the glory and thanks, then my talent is also a gift God has given me.

There are lots of opinions about these topics.

For more information on Coffee Talk contact June Still @ 615.275.5973, Freda Blackwell @ 615.390.5788 or Karen Baylor @ 615.973.4065.

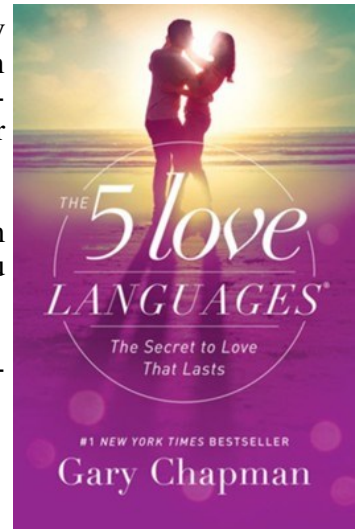
Tim and Amy Bish will be leading a 9 week Bible study beginning February 21. The 5 Love Languages book by Gary Chapman proved relationship growth in their marriage as well as a stronger connection to their friends and family members. Everyone is invited to attend this offering and it's not limited to married or engaged couples - it's for everyone who has a relationship with anyone!

•First, the start date is February 21. We will meet at 6:00 p.m. in the Martin Hall. Tim and I will be providing our meal that evening - our treat & gift to you all!

•Second, you will need the book The 5 Love Languages by Gary Chapman. We ordered our 2nd copy from Amazon. Here is the link:

The 5 Love Languages: The Secret to Love that Lasts <https://a.co/d/bRtsYzG>

•Third, childcare will be provided by one of our teen church members.



join us

•Fourth, block off the following 8 Wednesdays from 6:30-8:30 p.m. Our final session together we will have a pot luck dinner and we will push back to the 6:00 p.m. hour as we did for our first time together.

•Finally, know that Tim and I have been praying for you and for our time with you! We will continue to pray.



One of the most inspirational events in worship is elder ordination and installation. We welcome our new elders Brian, Billy, Sarah, and Casey. In the Presbyterian Church, once a person is an elder, they are an elder forever and in every Presbyterian Church. The Holy Spirit is felt when all these elders come forward to lay hands on the new elders for the prayer of ordination and inspiration. Please remember to pray for our session, as they lead our church.



**Happy
Valentine's
Day**



Every year Session writes a new Statement of Faith, which they recite at the beginning of every meeting throughout the year. Below is the new Statement of Faith for 2024.

Session Statement of Faith—2024

We believe God is the all-powerful, creator of heaven and earth who, designed each of us with greatness, honor and purpose.

God is kind, loving, giving, forgiving, providing, and the source of all goodness in the world. The ever-present God answers our prayers, gives us peace, and leads us to minister to others.

We believe Jesus Christ is the Son of God, our Savior, Lord, friend, and guide.

Jesus Christ died on the cross for our sins and was raised to life for our salvation. Jesus' life demonstrated how to love one another with grace and forgiveness.

We believe the Holy Spirit lives in us and connects us with God and Jesus.

The Spirit guides our lives, strengthens our faith, and inspires our love.

We believe our source of power, direction, and assurance comes from the Holy Spirit.

We believe the Church is the body of Christ - people, not a building.

The church body encourages and comforts one another with God's healing, strength, and direction.

The church is a center of worship, ministry, and mission in the world.

We believe serving Christ is the mission of the church in the world.

God equips believers with spiritual gifts to serve others and witness to Jesus Christ's life, death, and resurrection.

We glorify God by serving Christ through our service to others.



Mark your calendar for Sunday, February 11th for Souper Bowl of Caring

There's more to life than football. Most of us know that Super Bowl LVIII is coming on February 11. But before the big game and rowdy parties that day, our young people will be participating in the Souper Bowl of Caring, a nationwide program to help feed the hungry among us. The money raised will go to the Hendersonville Samaritan Center. Everyone is invited to enjoy a wide assortment of delicious homemade soups, stews and chilis ... and it's a golden opportunity for some warm fellowship on a cold day.

If you are planning to come, please let us know. We are also looking for several volunteers to provide a pot of soup. If you are willing to bring one, let us know that as well! (Thanks in advance for your delicious contribution.)

We had a good, enthusiastic crowd last year, and hope to have another one this year. Save the date—February 11th—and come if you can!



SERMON SCHEDULE

- February 4**—(Communion) – Flexibility with people, Corinthians 9:16-23
- February 11**—Reflecting Christ, Mark 9:2-9
- February 14**—(Ash Wednesday) – Offering your heart to God, Joel 2:1-2, 12-17
- February 18**—Everyone in harmony, 1 Corinthians 12:12-27,
- February 25**—Relationships of grace, Romans 4:13-25



SESSION ACTION

- Prayed for congregation
- Affirmed our faith using the session statement of faith
- Approved minutes from November 27, December 3, and December 31
- Discussed article, *Polarities in Presbyterian Polity*
- Approved ministry unit reports
- Heard pastor's report
 - ◊ Including update on sabbatical
 - ◊ Michael is now a member on the Hendersonville Samaritan Center board
- Update on repairs after the tornado

Thru December 2023

Revenue	\$ 375,698.31
Expenses	\$ 333,929.21
Surplus	\$ 41,769.10



Ash Wednesday Service is on Wednesday, February 14. There will be a shortened service with no music at 1:00 P.M. and a full service at 7:00 P.M. Imposition of ashes will be at both services.

Sabbatical Update

Michael's sabbatical will be in May, June, and July. He and Pam have planned a trip to Scotland and England. They will also have a trip together and a family trip to the beach. Michael will start sabbatical off with three nights at the Abbey of Gethsemani in Kentucky.

Here are some updates:

- Pulpit Supply scheduled
 - ◊ May – Steve Martin preaching twice, Men's Sunday, and picnic at the church with praise band leading
 - ◊ June – Tom Tyndall (he will serve communion)
 - ◊ July – Warner Durnell (he will serve communion)
- Liturgists – Amy Bish, Janna Willis, and Richard Roche (each taking one month)
- Pastoral Care
 - ◊ May - Mark Bryan, Glen Leven PC
 - ◊ June – Keith Gunter, New Creation PC
 - ◊ July – Sherard Edington, Lebanon PC
- Moderate session
 - ◊ May & June – Keith Gunter (no meeting in July)



Pastor's
SABBATICAL UPDATE

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*

PDSDDirector123@gmail.com

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Sunday School—9:00 a.m.

Worship Service—10:00 a.m.



- 1 - Ryan Estep
- 4 - David Farrar
- 9 - Richard Wallis
- 10 - Kaitlynn Kitchen
- 11 - Jackie Decker
- 12 - Emma Wells
- 13 - Ethan Minor
- 14 - Susan Keen
- 15 - Linda Shipley
- 17 - Sprigg Ebbert
- 18 - Ben Dye
Clint Young
- 24 - Ian Pettit
- 25 - Cathy Lind
Ched Yearout
- 29 - Diane Swan