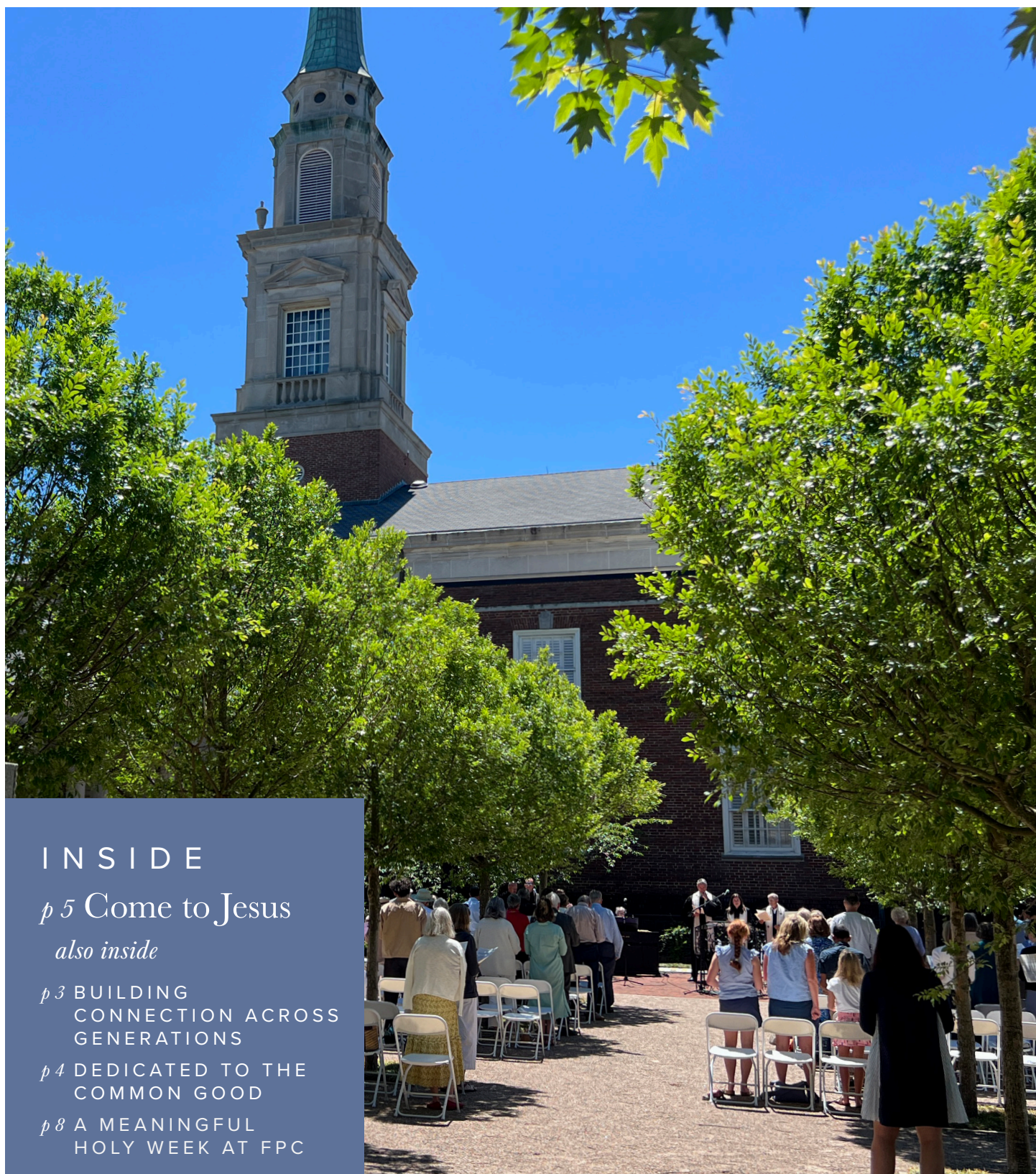


FIRST NEWS

SUMMER 2026



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FPC STAFF

PASTORS

Rev. Gage Arnold
*Associate Pastor to Youth
and Their Families*
Rev. Mallory Hammond
Parish Associate
Rev. Sara Hill
Parish Associate
Dr. Darren Kennedy
Associate Pastor for Discipleship

Dr. Ryan Moore
Pastor/Head of Staff
Dr. John Musgrave
Parish Associate
Dr. Sandra Randleman
*Associate Pastor for
Congregational Care & Mission*

ADMINISTRATION

Frank Coyle
Church Executive
Lynn Elliott
Executive Assistant

Laura Purswell
Human Resources Coordinator
Ginger Sheppard
Worship Program Coordinator

COMMUNICATIONS

Rachel Davis
*Director, Communications &
Strategic Engagement*

Keaton Schenck
Creative Coordinator

CHILDREN & FAMILIES

Suzanne Di Piazza
Nursery-Kindergarten Coordinator
Valerie Duncan
Program Assistant

Rev. Mallory Hammond
Parish Associate, Director
Katie Higgins
Assistant Director

MINISTRY STAFF

Judy Lawrence
Ministry Assistant
Ellen Mayo
Wedding Coordinator
Sally Ostheimer
First Friends Ministry Coordinator
Ellie Richmond
*Coordinator for
Communities of Belonging*
Jennifer Richmond
Hospitality Center Coordinator

Kim Rogers
Chef
Charlotte Schierbaum
*Ministry Assistant for Congregational
Care & Officer Training*
Julia Wilk
*Connections & Engagement
Coordinator*

FINANCE

Lipscomb Davis
Staff Accountant
Donna Ellis
Interim Accounts Payable & Payroll
David Lewis
Interim Finance Director

David Robinson
Interim Accountant
Mary Russ
Contributions & Donor Relations

MUSIC

Raphael Bundage
Director of Music
Maggie Martinez
Ministry Assistant for Music

Rhonda Swanson
Assistant Organist

OPERATIONS

Don Brown
Church Caretaker/Security Assistant
Norma Canas
Day Porter
Tim Minnifec
Facilities & Maintenance Manager

John Pentecost
*Assistant Facilities &
Grounds Manager*
Cecilia Polina Cuadros
Day Porter
Leo Talledo Marchena
Events & Maintenance Technician

PRODUCTION

John Dennis
Production Associate

Stephen King
Production Manager

RECREATION

Jen Kutzner
Director of Recreation
Haley Lutts
Recreation Coordinator

Hope Shacklock
*Interim Assistant Director
of Recreation*

YOUTH

Rev. Gage Arnold
*Associate Pastor to Youth
and Their Families*
Evan Benbow
Assistant Youth Director

Gabby Poston
Assistant Youth Director

MISSIONS

Elizabeth Sullivan
Mission Ministry Coordinator

Adrian Taylor
Director of Missions

FROM THE PASTOR

"Therefore I tell you, do not be anxious about your life..."

—LUKE 12:22

I RECENTLY ASKED A GROUP OF TEN-YEAR-OLDS "Can anyone tell me what it means to be anxious?" The hands, to my amazement, all flew up in the air, and their answers came out in a steady stream. They were lively and animated, clearly speaking from their own experiences.

The experts tell us we are living in an especially anxious age and raising an anxious generation. By degree, that may be true. However, this side of Eden, every generation has its reasons for uneasiness and apprehension about the current state of affairs. Nothing, as Solomon once said, is new under the sun. The experts also tell us that the way of peace requires an inward journey into the human soul, heart, and psyche. No doubt this is important, but it is not the only thing of importance and, as we will see, not even the most important part of the journey.

Apparently, ten-year-olds in the American South and grown Galilean men in the first century both suffer from the same thing: anxiety. Jesus says to his disciples, "...do not be anxious about your life..." Easier said than done! Thankfully, Jesus isn't encouraging "mind over matter" or a force of the will, "Just get over it!" No, Jesus first leads the disciples out of their inner life, "Consider the birds of the air...God feeds them...Of how much more value are you than birds!" Or "Consider the lilies of the field...But if God clothes the grass...how much more will he clothe you..."

The outbound journey continues, "...seek his kingdom, and these things will be added to you." A kingdom isn't a kingdom without a king. So, Jesus' exhortation, in its most basic form, is to seek the King! Seek Jesus... and all these things will be added to you. The rest will take care of itself.

Jesus doesn't say, "...do not be anxious..." and leave it at that for us to figure out. Strikingly, he leads the way out of our tangled web of anxious emotions. Look to the goodness of God's providential care for the lesser things in the created order. Be encouraged by how much more God desires to care for you. Look to King Jesus and his already-but-not-yet kingdom as the true reality of the way things ought to be and will eventually be for all eternity. God's track record is proven. His care and provision are steadfast for that which he has made, redeemed, and is perfecting for the age that is to come.

The peace of Christ be with you,



Ryan V. Moore

Dr. Ryan V. Moore



Helen Dale, the most senior member of the group, welcomes Mary Collier Cain, the youngest attendee.

Building Connection Across Generations

INTERGENERATIONAL WOMENS RUTH STUDY COB

THIS SPRING, A UNIQUE INTERGENERATIONAL Bible study at First Presbyterian Church of Nashville brought together around 50 women ranging in age from their 20s to their 90s for a season of Scripture, fellowship, and connection centered on the stories of Ruth and Esther. The study aimed to create an accessible space for women to engage the Bible together while also forming relationships across age and life stage.

Participants explored the lives of Ruth, Naomi, Boaz, Esther, and Mordecai, while also discovering meaningful parallels between their own stories and God's ongoing work in Scripture. Guided by teaching from Rev. Mallory Hammond and Ellie Richmond, the study provided biblical context and clarity for participants at all levels of familiarity with Scripture, making it an easy place to enter with questions and curiosity.

Each gathering consisted of structured fellowship time, weekly "Table Talk" prompts that intentionally mixed participants beyond their usual circles, and small group discussions that remained consistent throughout the study to foster depth of relationship. A defining feature of the study was

its intentional bridging of generations: women were grouped across decades, encouraged to share stories from different stages of life, and to bring "mystery items" from their generation to spark conversation and joy. The outcome was a deep sense of community, as women built new friendships, strengthened existing ones, and found themselves learning from perspectives both older and younger than their own.

Leaders emphasized that this reflects the heart of the body of Christ, where all ages walk together in faith. For many participants, the Intergenerational Women's COB became a place of belonging, renewal, and encouragement, where studying Scripture together naturally led to deeper relationships and a shared recognition of God's faithfulness across every generation of the church. The format will continue in June with a study of Psalms aligned with the summer sermon texts. During the summer session, childcare will be provided for infants through elementary-aged children. Women interested in joining in June can register online at fpcnashville.org/cob, or contact Ellie Richmond (erichmond@fpcnashville.org) for more information.



Habitat Home Dedication

FOR OUR CHURCH, BUILDING HOMES with Habitat for Humanity is one of the ways we live out our commitment to the common good. That commitment came into focus at the recent Habitat for Humanity home dedication service, where eight completed houses were handed over to the families who will now call them home. Members of our church gathered with partner families, volunteers, and Habitat staff as each household was introduced and a local pastor offered a prayer over the homes. Afterward, the group moved to the house sponsored by First Presbyterian Church for a ribbon cutting with the homeowner Mary, shared a gift, and spent time walking through the home together.

Mary's home is one of eight in this build, and several of those houses were shaped by FPC volunteers. Over four Saturdays last fall, more than 120 people from our congregation showed up—working on site to help build and also preparing and serving meals for crews. It was steady, shared work that brought people together and contributed in a real way to what now stands.

Habitat has been a part of our church's life for more than 30 years, and in 2025, we spent \$72,550 to support this particular build. It remains a clear and practical expression of our faith—showing up, working alongside others, and taking seriously the call to serve our neighbors in the name of Jesus Christ.

For those considering getting involved, Habitat is a place to start. You don't need experience—just a willingness to show up. It's a good way to spend a Saturday, get to know others in the church, and take part in work that supports families in our community.

A Meaningful Holy Week at FPC

HOLY WEEK AT FIRST PRESBYTERIAN Church of Nashville carried us from the cross to the joy of the resurrection through worship, music, and shared life together. One member described the week as beautiful, not because of any single moment, but because people stayed present throughout it.

High schooler Lila Bess Vargas reflected that the Lenten services helped her see “how Easter is not a day, but a season.” She described the week moving from welcome on Palm Sunday to sorrow on Good Friday and then to joy on Easter morning, each part revealing something of God's love and faithfulness.

Palm Sunday began with movement and joy as a procession led worship into the sanctuary. Children's voices and waving palms filled the space. A visiting donkey stood nearby and became part of the morning's delight.

Before Maundy Thursday and Good Friday services, people gathered around tables in Courtenay Hall for dinner and conversation. These shared meals deepened the rhythm of the week, creating connection and setting a worshipful tone before services.

Maundy Thursday centered on communion and remembrance. Elder Lauren Ross said, “Maundy is always one of our favorite services. It truly sets the tone, and our hearts, for the days that follow.”

Good Friday drew the congregation into the story of Christ's suffering through the music of J.S. Bach. Argued to be one of the greatest sacred musical works, a full choir and orchestra offered selections from *St. Matthew Passion*. While typically performed in concert halls, the piece was framed within the order of worship. Several musicians commented on how meaningful it was to be a part of this worship service, where over 325 members and guests gathered.

After reflecting on the cross, the joy of Easter broke through with delight. Worship began at sunrise in the Sullivan Gardens and Columbarium, a setting that quietly proclaims the hope of the resurrection and the promise of life everlasting.

Later, the sounds of brass filled the sanctuary in celebration of our joyous hope. During the Blessing of the Young Disciples, Pastor Ryan Moore offered a moment of joyful surprise as he unveiled a small flock of baby chicks, drawing smiles across generations.

We give thanks to God for a week of worship that invited over 2,000 worshippers to rehearse the mighty acts of God—reminding us of our call to live as Easter people, transformed and made alive by the work of the living God.



“For many years, I sought answers in the wrong places, relying solely on my own understanding. Thankfully, God placed some wonderful men right in my path and they led me to Jesus, right here at First Presbyterian.”

Come To Jesus

HIS INVITATION TO THE TABLE

By Tom Stumb, Clerk of Session

THE THREE WORDS “COME TO JESUS” mean different things to different folks. Even the way those words are spoken can suggest many meanings. When said commandingly, they create excitement, which can be positive or negative. If spoken as a question, they sound like a beckoning—*will you come to Jesus?*

The beckoning variant of ‘Come to Jesus’ resonates with me. My purpose in this open letter to First Presbyterian Nashville is to invite—to beckon—you to reflect: what inspired your Come to Jesus at First Presbyterian? Who first invited you, and what motivated you to believe First Presbyterian could be a place to know Christ or know Him better? Were you broken in spirit when you arrived, or did that come later? Did it occur to you that maybe the people who crossed your path at that (those) pivotal moment(s) were deliberately called to do so by the Almighty Himself? I hope these questions might provoke you to consider what coming to Jesus in this season might mean for you.

In the business world, a Come-to-Jesus meeting is typically unpleasant. A meeting where something that has gone awry gets discussed, and painful resolutions frequently ensue. There have been a number of those throughout my 43-year career.

But at First Presbyterian, we have been blessed for 211 years to be witnesses to God’s mercy, grace, and love and to be guided by the teachings of his son, Jesus Christ, our Savior. Front and center in our Church’s mission statement are these words: *to know Christ and to make Him known*. When my family joined First Presbyterian about 25 years ago, it was already familiar to us. All of our kids already had several friends whose families were members here. My wife, Kathy, and I likewise had numerous friends at First Presbyterian, some of whom had been faithful members here their entire lives. With five young children, we were certainly attracted to this congregation because of its reputation for ministry with children and youth.

I was drawn to First Presbyterian in 2001 through an invitation to a Bible study from a dear college friend. We met once a week from 6-8 a.m. in the Cheek House dining room for two years. Everyone in that group, except me, was already a member of First Presbyterian. I learned a lot about Jesus from them. In 2001, I turned 40. Kathy and I had our fifth child that year. The dot-com business I had co-founded in 1999 folded in 2001. I was struggling in almost every part of my life—as a husband, father, and businessman. We also spent two years searching for a new church home. I was broken in spirit.

For many years, I sought answers in the wrong places, relying solely on my own understanding. Thankfully, God placed some wonderful men right in my path, several of whom I had met for the first time in that Bible study group, and they led me to Jesus, right here at First Presbyterian. When I began studying scripture, worshiping in this community, and, most of all, praying for Jesus to use me, everything changed for the better.

Over the past 25 years, I have observed that about half of our membership may be broken in spirit as well. Many of our congregation are actively experiencing a meaningful void in our lives that only Jesus can fill. Perhaps their brokenness is reflected in their attendance, or lack thereof. Maybe they come to worship regularly but are no longer active in discipleship (Sunday School, Community of Belonging, etc.), or vice versa. Maybe they used to be actively engaged with one of our mission partners, but somewhere along the line, that engagement lapsed and didn't resume. Maybe they just got out of the habit of coming to church at all during the COVID pandemic and haven't come back. Maybe they've suffered a heartache, divorce, or a death in their family, and they have not sought and/or felt support from our church.

Friends, I ask you to consider: who do you know who might need help coming (back) to Jesus? My hope is that, together, we can recognize these needs and respond with compassion.

As the Holy Spirit puts names on your mind and heart, please take a step today: reach out to that person and personally invite them to worship with you next Sunday. After the service, plan to connect further—invite them to brunch or lunch to deepen your fellowship. Follow up with a call, email, text, or handwritten note to ensure they feel welcome and supported as they reconnect.

If you are the one who needs to invite, my prayer is that you might have a Come-to-Jesus moment again at First Presbyterian. If you are actively here, my prayer is that God would use you to re-engage with one of our members who has lost touch with this outpost of his kingdom. Whether extending an invitation or accepting an invitation, I pray that you will know Christ better and make him known. After all, that is our mission here at First Presbyterian Church in Nashville.

So friends: Come to Jesus, and intentionally bring a friend or loved one along. Your invitation may be the turning point someone needs.

First Presbyterian Church of Nashville exists as a community of believers—a faithful outpost where we worship, grow, and serve together in Christ. Your presence strengthens this community, and together we reflect God's love and faithfulness to one another and to the world around us. We invite you to stay connected and engaged, so that together we can be our fullest expression as God's family.

MONDAYS IN JUNE | June 1, 8, 15, 22

Intergenerational Women's Psalms Study

9:30–11:00 a.m. | Jones Session Room

Monday Fellowship Lunches

11:00 a.m.–12:00 p.m. | Courtenay Hall

Mahjong Open Play

12:00–2:00 p.m.; 6:00–8:00 p.m. | Cheek House

MEN'S

First Tuesday Men's Lunches with Darren

Tuesday, June 2 | 12:00 p.m. | Peg Leg Porker

Men's Workouts

Fridays, June 5, 12, 19, 26 | 6:00 a.m. | Track & Field

Men's Summer Breakfast Speaker Series

Thursday, June 18, July 16, Aug. 13 | 7:00–8:00 a.m. | Courtenay Hall

COMMUNITIES OF BELONGING

This summer, we'll be exploring the Psalms alongside the church's summer sermon series through relaxed, discussion-based gatherings. We would love for you to join the conversation this summer. See options below. Register at fpcnashville.org/cob.

Sheppard/Chestnut

Sundays | 6:30 p.m. | Green Hills.

(New Day!) Sauer

Mondays | 9:30 a.m. | Church + Zoom

Randleman/Puryear/Raymond

Mondays | 5:00 p.m. | Green Hills.

(New!) College

Mondays | 6:30 p.m. | Belle Meade

Davis (Women)

Wednesdays (Bi-Weekly) | 6:45 p.m. | Oak Hill | This group is primarily women in their 20s-40s

Hill/Douse (Women)

Wednesdays | 6:45 p.m. | Franklin

Mission Impact Report

OVER THE PAST 18 MONTHS, WE HAVE WORKED to rebuild and strengthen our missions program through partnerships that reflect both our congregation's history and Christ's call to serve. Guided by Matthew 25, our Local Missions Committee supports Kingdom Partners, gospel-centered ministries aligned with our mission; Heritage Partners, long-standing Nashville relationships; and Project Partners, which address specific community needs. We also continue to serve alongside our Basecamp Partners who share our campus.

Globally, FPC sent mission teams to Jamaica and Rwanda in 2025. In Jamaica, the team provided dental care, construction support, and educational partnership in Mandeville, while also responding to needs following Hurricane Melissa. We also celebrated 25 years of ministry partnership with Kanombe Parish in Kigali, Rwanda, a church FPC helped build.

In 2025, FPC invested more than \$525,000 in missions efforts, including support for local and global partners, benevolence ministries, seminarian support, the Middle Tennessee Presbytery, and missions staffing. These efforts supported 22 nights of Room In The Inn hosting for men experiencing homelessness, a Habitat for Humanity build involving 120 volunteers, and approximately 10,000 volunteer hours serving local organizations throughout our community.

As we look to the year ahead, our projected missions expenses exceed \$800,000 as we expand opportunities for service and discipleship locally and globally. As of April 30, our net missions spend has already exceeded \$100,000. We are grateful for the ways God continues to use FPC Nashville in his mission to redeem and restore all things.

At First Presbyterian Church of Nashville, our mission is "to know Christ, to make Him known, and to exhibit His love through worship, education, and service." As we grow in Christ through worship and discipleship, we are called to share His love in Nashville and around the world. This is the work of the Missions Ministry at FPC.



LOCAL

KINGDOM PARTNERS

Begin Anew
ELI's House
Legacy Mission Village
Matthew 25
Men of Valor
Nueva Vida
Preston Taylor Ministries
Siloam Health

HERITAGE PARTNERS

Alive Hospice
Martha O'Bryan Center
Pinson Hospitality House

PROJECT PARTNERS

Habitat for Humanity
Rise Against Hunger
Hope Clinic for Women
Safe Haven Family Shelter

BASECAMP

Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts
From Within Counseling
Oak Hill School
YoungLife – Valor College Prep
Room in the Inn

GLOBAL

The Outreach Foundation
Andrews United Memorial Church (Jamaica)
Stu Ross Mission Consultants (Kenya)
Mantanzas Evangelical Seminary (Cuba)
Valentin Reformed Presbyterian Church (Cuba)
EPR Ndera Community School (Rwanda)
EPR Kicukiro Sunday School (Rwanda)
Son Servants
Children's Nutrition Program (Haiti)
Solid Rock (Dominican Republic)

NEW MEMBERS



Sherry & Dan Andrews

644 Belle Park Cir.
Nashville, TN 37205-4238
Sherry: 615-479-2941
sherryandrews@comcast.net
Dan: 615-352-4084
dandrews@tennbank.com



Michael Crick

6526 Lickton Pike
Goodlettsville, TN 37072-9155
Michael: 615-519-1692
lmcrick@comcast.net



Becky & Russell Filipski

Birdie and Win
817 Brentview Dr.
Nashville, TN 37220-1509
Becky: 919-593-4752
rebecca.n.filipski@gmail.com
Russell: 973-931-8765
russell.filipski@gmail.com



Chris Montville (Michelle)

Noelle and Liam
1037 Beech Grove Rd. Brentwood,
TN 37027-8917
Chris: 615-866-8377
cmontville@gmail.com



Mary & Chad Fowler

Claiborne and Macon
101 Patricia Lee Ct.
Franklin, TN 37069-0401
Mary: 615-934-4050
marycfowler@gmail.com
Chad: 615-397-4049
fowlerce@gmail.com



Laura & Matt Lonergan

420 Royal Oaks Dr. | Nashville, TN
37205-3437
Laura: 615-804-0821
laura.lonergan@me.com
Matt: 615-491-7762
mclonergan58@gmail.com



Tucker & Chip Petree

George and Walter
891 Robertson Academy Rd.
Nashville, TN 37220-1130
Tucker: 336-830-6053
tuckerpetree@gmail.com
Chip: 615-293-3844
chip.petree@gmail.com



Katie Atkins & George Ritzen

Emmaline and McCord
309 54th Ave N.
Nashville, TN 37209-3317
Katie: 615-519-6697
marykatherineatkins@gmail.com
George: 615-812-4675
georgeritzen1@gmail.com



Lauren & Matt Ryan

June and Weathers
4824 Briarwood Dr.
Nashville, TN 37211-4314
Lauren: 404-862-8286
weatherslm@gmail.com
Matt: 256-763-1338
matt.ryan.tn@gmail.com

NEW MEMBERS



Taylor & Kit Sawyer
Trip III
4824 Briarwood Dr.
Nashville, TN 37211-4314
Taylor: 303-539-7726
taylor.young314@gmail.com
Kit: 615-483-6424
davidsschwarz@gmail.com



Berkley & David Schwarz
Baker and Carter
1305 Beddington Park
Nashville, TN 37215-5814
Berkley: 202-222-5957
beschwarz@gmail.com
David: 202-905-6614
davidsschwarz@gmail.com



Dylan Stamer (Holly)
Leo and Vienna Grace
4919 Tyne Valley Rd.
Nashville, TN 37220-1500
Dylan: 609-658-2596
dylanwstamer+1@gmail.com



Sophie & Henry Terrell
5629 Knob Rd.
Nashville, TN 37209
Henry: 202-538-1525
henry.terrell@raymondjames.com



Kara & Steve Townsend
Charlotte, Jane Catherine and Lily
1011 Stonebridge Park Dr. Franklin,
TN 37069-4001
Kara: 606-682-9900
kkotownsend@gmail.com
Steve: 202-538-1525
stephen.townsend1@gmail.com



Cynthia Wright
3808 Cleghorn Ave, Apt 617
Nashville, TN 37215-2589
Cynthia: 918-645-5146
cwright539@cox.net

FEATURED EVENTS



Psalms Summer COBs

Various Times and Locations

Join a Summer Community of Belonging (COB) for six weeks of small group discussion and connection. Visit fpcnashville.org/cob for more info and to register.



Mondays in June

June 1, 8, 15, 22

Join us Mondays in June for a variety of ways to learn, grow, and play together. For more info on all events, visit fpcnashville.org/mondays-in-june.



Nashville Fellows Host Home Interest Meetings

June 21 or July 19 | 10:00-10:30 a.m. | Courtenay Hall

Join us at one of two informational gatherings to learn more about becoming a host home for the Nashville Fellows Program.



NaCoMe All Church Retreat

Aug. 1-2

Join us for the NaCoMe All-Church Retreat, a weekend of fellowship, fun, and growth in faith and community at NaCoMe Camp & Retreat Center.



Kickoff Sunday

Sunday, Aug. 30 | 9:30 a.m. Festival

Kickoff Sunday is an opportunity to gather for fellowship and to discover new ways to grow and serve at FPC this fall. Join FPC as we reconnect after a busy summer.



Dominican Republic Medical Mission Trip

Nov. 7-13 | Registration deadline Aug. 1

FPC has partnered with Solid Rock International on another medical mission trip to the Dominican Republic. Those with and without medical experience are welcome!

LOOKING AHEAD



DEEP SEA VBS

Tuesday-Thursday, June 23-25 | 5:00–7:45 p.m.

Set sail for Deep Sea VBS and explore Bible stories, music, crafts, games, and skits that reveal deep love of God. Each evening begins at 5:00 p.m. with an optional family dinner, followed by the VBS program from 5:45 to 7:45 p.m. VBS serves children ages 4 through rising 4th grade.

VOLUNTEER FOR VBS!

VBS is a ministry for the whole church, and volunteers of all ages are essential to make it happen! Whether you'd like to help prep ahead of time, serve onsite, or be part of the VBS Prayer Team, we'd love to hear from you. Contact Katie Higgins (khiggins@fpcnashville.org).

[FPCNASHVILLE.ORG/VBS](https://www.fpcnashville.org/vbs)



To register or see our full calendar of events, scan the QR code above or visit

[FPCNASHVILLE.ORG](https://www.fpcnashville.org)

UPCOMING EVENTS

June 1, July 6 | 9:00 a.m.–12:00 p.m. | PW Handiwork Drop-in
June 1, 8, 15, 22 | 9:30–11:00 a.m. | Intergenerational Psalms
Women's COB
June 1, 8, 15, 22 | 11:00 a.m.–12:00 p.m. | Monday Fellowship Lunch
June 1, 8, 15, 22 | 12:00–2:00 p.m. | Daytime Mahjong Open Play
June 1, 8, 15, 22 | 6:00–8:00 p.m. | Evening Mahjong Open Play
June 21 & July 19 | 10:00 a.m. | Nashville Fellows Host Home
Interest Meetings
July 26 | 8:30 & 11:00 a.m. | Celebration of the Lord's Supper
August 1-2 | NaCoMe All Church Retreat
August 10 | 5:30 p.m. | Back to School Worship
August 30 | Kickoff Sunday

CHILDREN & FAMILIES

June 23–25 | 5:00–7:45 p.m. | VBS
August 16 | Confirmation Kickoff Ice Cream Social

MEN

June 2 | 12:00 p.m. | First Tuesday Men's Lunch: Peg Leg Porker
June 5, 12, 19, 26 | 6:00 a.m. | Men's Workouts | Track & Field
June 18, July 16, Aug. 13 | 7:00 a.m. | Men's Summer Breakfast
Speaker Series

FIRST FRIENDS

June 5 | 5:00–9:00 p.m. | Nashville Symphony Concert
June 11 | Day Trip to Mammoth Cave and Bluegrass Winery
June 16, July 21 | 2:30 p.m. | Book Club

MISSIONS

June 9 | 4:30–7:30 p.m. | Nueva Vida Service Project
June 21 | 4:30–6:30 p.m. | Matthew 25 Meal
July 15 | 11:00 a.m.—5:00 p.m. | Blood Drive
August 16 | 4:30–6:30 p.m. | Matthew 25 Meal
Second Tuesdays | 4:30–7:30 p.m. | Nueva Vida Service Project
Sept. 14–25 | Kenya Mission Trip
Nov. 7–13 | Dominican Republic Medical Mission Trip

RECREATION

Wednesdays | 5:30–8:00 p.m. | Pickleball
June 1–19 | Fall Soccer Early Registration
June 7, 14, 21, 28 | 2:30–4:30 p.m. | Pool Fellowship & Open Swim

YOUTH

June 1–5 | Pilgrimage to Yosemite (Seniors)
June 10 | 6:00–7:30 p.m. | Mega Slip & Slide
June 14–20 | High School Mission Trip to Davy, WV
July 1 | 10:00 a.m.–1:00 p.m. | Youth Float the Harpeth
July 13–16 | Middle School Mission Trip
July 24 | All Day | Dollywood
August 16 | 9:45 a.m. | Annual Youth Parent Meeting
August 23 | 4:00 p.m. | Crud Day

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN
Church of Nashville

4815 FRANKLIN PIKE
NASHVILLE, TN 37220-1121
(615) 383-1815

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This summer and fall, First Presbyterian Church is launching several new opportunities designed to help men grow in faith, build friendships, and engage more deeply in the life of the church. Offerings led by Dr. Darren Kennedy include a monthly men's breakfast speaker series, weekly summer workouts, and lunch gatherings around town. Additionally, plans are in the works for a men's Community of Belonging (COB) and a new men's Sunday School class launching this fall. Together, these efforts are intended to create consistent spaces for connection, discipleship, and spiritual encouragement for the men in our congregation. For more information, see page 6, or contact Darren (615-2989505 or dkennedy@fpcnashville.org).

TO LEARN MORE, VISIT [FPCNASHVILLE.ORG/MEN](https://fpcnashville.org/men)