



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN
Church of Nashville

THIRD SUNDAY
AFTER EPIPHANY

January 25, 2026

8:30 & 11:00 a.m.



To know Christ, to make Him known and to exhibit His love through worship, education and service.

WORDS OF PREPARATION

The Gospel is the truth, and therefore it is true for all men. It is the unveiling of the face of Him who makes all things, from whom every man comes, and to whom every man goes. It is the revealing of the meaning of human history, of the origin and destiny of mankind. Jesus is not only my Savior, He is the Lord of all things, the cause and cornerstone of the universe. If I believe that, then to bear witness to that is the very stuff of existence. If I think I can keep it to myself, then I do not in any real sense believe it.

—Lesslie Newbigin

ORDER OF WORSHIP

VOLUNTARY

Dearest Jesus, We Are Here
Gerald Near

WELCOME

INTROIT

O Lord, Open Thou Our Lips
Richard Webster

O Lord, open thou our lips, and our mouth shall show forth thy praise.

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Dr. John Musgrave (8:30)
Rev. Sara Hill (11:00)

Leader: Come all the ends of the earth. Remember and turn to the Lord, and let all the families of the nations worship before you.

All: For this we come, O Lord, from among the nations, to sing to your name. That all the ends of the earth remember and turn to the Lord and that all the families of the nations worship before you.

Leader: Let us bless the Lord from this time forth and forevermore.

All: Praise the Lord!

*OPENING HYMN 321

The Church's One Foundation
AURELIA

*PRAYER OF ADORATION

Gage Arnold (8:30)
Rev. Mallory Hammond (11:00)

FIRST LESSON | Psalm 67 (page 481)

¹ May God be gracious to us and bless us and make his face to shine upon us, ² that your way may be known on earth, your saving power among all nations. ³ Let the peoples praise you, O God; let all the peoples praise you! ⁴ Let the nations be glad and sing for joy, for you judge the peoples with equity and guide the nations upon earth. ⁵ Let the peoples praise you, O God; let all the peoples praise you! ⁶ The earth has yielded its increase; God, our God, shall bless us. ⁷ God shall bless us; let all the ends of the earth fear him!

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

CALL TO CONFESSION

Adrian Taylor

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Lord Jesus, we have sinned times without number, and been guilty of pride and unbelief, and of neglect to seek you in our daily lives. Our sins and shortcomings present us with a list of accusations, but we thank you that they will not stand against us, for all have been laid on Christ. Deliver us from every evil habit, every interest of former sins, everything that dims the brightness of your grace in us, everything that prevents us taking delight in you. Amen.

A moment for silent confession.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

*RESPONSE OF GRATITUDE 581

Glory Be to the Father
GLORIA PATRI

**Glory be to the Father, and to the Son,
and to the Holy Ghost; as it was in the beginning,
is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen, amen.**

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH | Apostles' Creed

I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth; and in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.

Whether you are a longtime member or a guest, please mark your presence by signing the friendship pad and greet those seated near you as you pass it along.

‡BLESSING OF THE YOUNG DISCIPLES

‡During the 8:30 and 11:00 services, PreK and Kindergarten children (ages 4–6) are invited to join Young Children & Worship.

HYMN OF PREPARATION 518

Your Only Son
LAMB OF GOD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE READING | Acts 17:16-34 (page 926)

¹⁶ Now while Paul was waiting for them at Athens, his spirit was provoked within him as he saw that the city was full of idols. ¹⁷ So he reasoned in the synagogue with the Jews and the devout persons, and in the marketplace every day with those who happened to be there. ¹⁸ Some of the Epicurean and Stoic philosophers also conversed with him. And some said, “What does this babbling wish to say?” Others said, “He seems to be a preacher of foreign divinities”—because he was preaching Jesus and the resurrection. ¹⁹ And they took him and brought him to the Areopagus, saying, “May we know what this new teaching is that you are presenting?” ²⁰ For you bring some strange things to our ears. We wish to know therefore what these things mean.” ²¹ Now all the Athenians and the foreigners who lived there would spend their time in nothing except telling or hearing something new. ²² So Paul, standing in the midst of the Areopagus, said: “Men of Athens, I perceive that in every way you are very religious. ²³ For as I passed along and observed the objects of your worship, I found also an altar with this inscription: ‘To the unknown god.’ What therefore you worship as unknown, this I proclaim to you. ²⁴ The God who made the world and everything in it, being Lord of heaven and earth, does not live in temples made by man, ²⁵ nor is he served by human hands, as though he needed anything, since he himself gives to all mankind life and breath and everything. ²⁶ And he made from one man every nation of mankind to live on all the face of the earth, having determined allotted periods and the boundaries of their dwelling place, ²⁷ that they should seek God, and perhaps feel their way toward him and find him. Yet he is actually not far from each one of us, ²⁸ for “‘In him we live and move and have our being’; as even some of your own poets have said, “‘For we are indeed his offspring.’” ²⁹ Being then God’s offspring, we ought not to think that the divine being is like gold or silver or stone, an image formed by the art and imagination of man. ³⁰ The times of ignorance God overlooked, but now he commands all people everywhere to repent, ³¹ because he has fixed a day on which he will judge the world in righteousness by a man whom he has appointed; and of this he has given assurance to all by raising him from the dead.” ³² Now when they heard of the resurrection of the dead, some mocked. But others said, “We will hear you again about this.” ³³ So Paul went out from their midst. ³⁴ But some men joined him and believed, among whom also were Dionysius the Areopagite and a woman named Damaris and others with them.

Pastor: The Word of the Lord.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

SERMON

Foreign Gods

Dr. Scott Sunquist

OFFERTORY

Let All the World in Every Corner Sing (from *Five Mystical Songs*)
Ralph Vaughan Williams

Let all the world in every corner sing, my God and King. The heavens are not too high, his praise may thither fly: the earth is not too low, his praises there may grow. The church with psalms must shout, no door can keep them out. But above all, the heart must bear the longest part.

As you reflect on the Lord’s goodness, you can make an offering by dropping your gift in the offering plate, texting “GIVE” to 707-475-3005, or donating online at spcnashville.org.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD’S PRAYER

Dr. Darren Kennedy

Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.

*CLOSING HYMN 826

Lift High the Cross
CRUCIFER

*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

CHORAL RESPONSE

I Will Lift Mine Eyes
Jake Runestad

The Lord will keep your going out and your coming in from this day forth for evermore.

*CLOSING VOLUNTARY

Hyfrydol
Ralph Vaughan Williams

** Those who are able, please stand.*

PARTICIPANTS IN THE SERVICE

Ryan Moore, PhD – *Pastor*
Mallory Hammond, MDiv – *Parish Associate, Director of Ministry to Children and Their Families*
Sara Hill, MDiv – *Parish Associate for Congregational Care*
Darren Kennedy, PhD – *Associate Pastor for Discipleship*
John Musgrave, DMin – *Parish Associate*
Sandra Randleman, DMin – *Associate Pastor for Congregational Care and Missions*
Gage Arnold, MDiv – *Director of Youth Programming*
Adrian Taylor, MDiv – *Director of Missions Ministry*
Raphael Bundage, DMA – *Director of Music*
Joseph Fala, MM – *Assistant Director of Music and Organist*
Rhonda Swanson, MM – *Assistant Organist*
Acolytes – Corinne Kaufman, Thomas Kaufman, Lylah Hill, Georgia Moore

SUPPORTING FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

You can make a gift or fulfill a pledge payment by placing your gift in the offering plate, texting “GIVE” to 707-475-3005, donating online at fpcnashville.org, or scan the QR code.



WELCOME

First Presbyterian Church extends a warm welcome in the name of Christ to all who worship with us today. Since 1814 First Presbyterian has sought to be faithful in service to Jesus Christ and the common good. We are rooted in the Reformed, orthodox, and evangelical traditions of the larger church. If you do not have a church home, we would love to welcome you!

Hearing Assistance App Directions

Join FPC_guest WiFi network. You must be connected to this network for the app to work. Download the WaveCAST app. Open the app and select “First Pres Sanctuary.” Plug in your headphones and adjust the volume to your preference.

To **livestream** worship or to view past services, visit youtube.com/firstpresbyterianchurchofnashville.

Sunday Morning for Families

On Sunday mornings, children are welcome in worship alongside their families. **Nursery** care is available for ages 0–3 in the Nursery Wing from 8:15 a.m.–12:15 p.m., with a Mother and Infant Quiet Room nearby.

Children ages 4–6 are invited, following the Blessing of the Young Disciples, to Young Children & Worship (Pickup in Room CW 110 after the service). **Older children** remain in worship, where activity bags are available at each Sanctuary entrance. At 9:45 a.m., children of all ages are invited to the Education Hour. Nursery through 3rd grade gather in the Children’s Ministry lobby for check-in and pickup. Preteens (4th–5th grade) check in outside Room CC 131, while 6th graders in Confirmation gather outside Room E201 in the Oak Hill C-Wing.

GUEST PREACHER



Dr. Scott W. Sunquist is President of Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary and a widely-respected scholar of world Christianity, mission, and church history. Ordained in the Presbyterian Church (USA), he and his wife previously served as missionaries in Singapore, where he taught church history and Asian Christianity. Dr. Sunquist has also served on the faculty and in leadership at Fuller Theological Seminary and Pittsburgh Theological Seminary and has published extensively on global Christianity and mission theology.

Join us during the education hour for “Lessons in Mission from Asia” in the Stanford Chapel.

MUSIC NOTES: *Liebster Jesu, Wir Sind Hier, Choraleworks, set II* by Gerald Near (C) 1995 Birnamwood Publications (ASCAP), a division of MorningStar Music Publishers, Inc., St. Louis, MO OneLicense.net License #A-714895. | *Your Only Son. Lamb of God* by Twila Paris © 1985 Jubilee Communications Inc.; Mountain Spring Music For use solely with the SongSelect® All rights reserved. www.ccli.com CCLI License # 1121456 | *Let All the World in Every Corner Sing* (from *Five Mystical Songs*) Ralph Vaughan Williams © 1990 Galaxy Music Corporation. Used by permission. All rights reserved. OneLicense.net license #A-714895. | *Three Preludes* (founded on Welsh Hymn Tunes): III. Hyfrydol - organ arrangement by Ralph Vaughan Williams Music - ©2020 The Leupold Foundation All rights reserved. OneLicense.net License #A-714895.

COVER IMAGE: Kephisodotos (after). *Eirene* (Personification of Peace). Roman copy of Greek original, ca. 14–68 CE. Marble, Rogers Fund, 1906, Greek and Roman Art, The Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York.— This Roman marble statue of Eirene, the personification of peace, shows a divine figure holding wealth, embodying human ideals of prosperity and harmony. In Acts 17, Paul stands in Athens among altars to many gods—“unknown” and broken—reminding us that human attempts at peace and fulfillment apart from God are incomplete. Like Eirene, these images promise wholeness but cannot deliver it; only the living God reconciles and restores true peace.

Wrapping Up the 2026 Stewardship Campaign — Because of your generosity, the 2026 Stewardship Campaign is nearing the finish line. Together, 468 households have pledged \$4,798,993—bringing us to 92 percent of our \$5.2 million goal. This strong response gives us real confidence as we plan a fully-funded budget and prepare to sustain and strengthen FPC's ministries in 2026. If you have already pledged, thank you—your commitment is making a meaningful difference. If you have not yet had the opportunity, we invite you to submit your pledge by mail, in the offering plate, or online at fpcnashville.org/pledge as we wrap up the campaign.

Midweek Study: Attributes of God | Wednesdays | 11:30 a.m.–1:00 p.m. | Session Room — It is important to know not only that God exists, but also who God is and what God is like.

God as Creator informs much of how we understand creation: who we are and who we are called to be. In this midweek study, we'll explore the attributes of God through familiar Bible stories. All are welcome to join us for a weekly lunch and study led by Dr. Ryan Moore. A light lunch will be served; donations are welcome.

Looking to Connect in a Smaller Setting? Winter COBs Begin This Week — Our six-week small groups, called

Communities of Belonging (COBs), begin the week of January 25, and follow our winter sermon series using *Reading the Sermon on the Mount with John Stott* by John Stott and Douglas Connelly. COBs are an easy way to grow in faith and meet new people in a warm, small-group environment. Questions about finding the right fit? Contact Ellie Richmond at erichmond@fpcnashville.org or 615-298-9570. Register at fpcnashville.org/cob. COB's include:

Sheppard/Chestnut | Sundays | 6:30 p.m. | *Green Hills*
Hindman/Stringham | Sundays | 6:30 p.m. | *Brentwood/Belle Meade*
Young Adults | Sunday Supper | 6:30 p.m. | *Rotating homes*
Pickel (Women) | Mondays | 1:00 p.m. | *West Meade*
New! Randleman/Puryear/Raymond | Mondays | 5:00 p.m. | *Green Hills*
New! Pace/Dowdle (Women) | Tuesdays | 10:00 a.m. | *Green Hills*
Davis (Women) | Wednesdays (bi-weekly) | 6:45 p.m. | *Oak Hill*
Sauer | Thursdays | 9:30 a.m. | *At church + Zoom*

Grief Support Group | Sundays through Feb. 8 | 1:30–3:00 p.m. | Jones Session Room — Dr. Sandra Randleman will lead a Grief Support Group focused on understanding the stages and feelings of grief as well as how prayer can help us in seeking the difficult time of grieving the losses of life. The psalms of lament in the Bible will provide a model for our study of prayer. To register contact Charlotte Schierbaum at cschierbaum@fpcnashville.org or 615-298-9527. *Please note: the incorrect time was published in previous communications.*

Women's Intergenerational Ruth COB | Mondays, Jan. 26-Mar. 2 | 9:30 a.m. | Jones Session Room | Cost \$10 — Women of FPC: Would you like to connect with women from across our church? You are invited to a new six-week COB to study the book of Ruth on Mondays from 9:30–11:00 a.m. beginning Jan. 26. Each week we'll gather as a large group and then break into smaller discussion groups as we explore the lives and faith journeys of Ruth, Naomi, and Boaz, and reflect on our own stories and God's presence in often surprising ways. Cost is \$10 and includes a study guide. Registration is required; please note childcare needs during registration. Led by Rev. Mallory Hammond and Ellie Richmond. Questions? Contact Ellie Richmond at erichmond@fpcnashville.org or register at fpcnashville.org/cob.

Mahjong Open Play begins Feb. 11 — We're excited to offer Mahjong as a fun way to build intergenerational community at our church. This is not a competitive league, but a welcoming space to connect through a game many already enjoy and others are eager to learn. Daytime open play sessions for all levels will be held 12:30–2:30 p.m. on Feb. 11, 25, Mar. 11, 25, Apr. 8 and 22 in the Cheek House. Registration is requested to ensure enough tables and coaches are available. Sign up at fpcnashville.org/mahjong.

FIRST FRIENDS

Gatherings for adults, retired and not-so-retired! Register online or contact Sally Ostheimer (sostheimer@fpcnashville.org). For more information, visit fpcnashville.org/first-friends.

Dress Rehearsal of Swan Lake | Thursday, Feb. 5 | 10:00 a.m.–1:45 p.m. — Travel by church bus to Nashville Ballet Studios to observe part of the dress rehearsal, followed by Dutch-treat lunch at Edley's BBQ.

Luncheon: History of Belcourt Theatre | Thursday, Feb. 19 | 12:00 p.m. | Courtenay Hall — Listen to Allison Inman from the Belcourt Theatre as she shares the Belcourt's rich history, its role as a Nashville cultural landmark, and a look ahead to what's coming to the theatre this year.

MISSIONS

Room In The Inn — As we welcome guests each Wednesday through March, we especially need help in two crucial areas: overnight hosts (men only) and site coordinators. These roles ensure we can continue offering safe, warm hospitality. Questions? Contact Kevin Hughart at khughart@fpcnashville.org

ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

GET YOUR COPY OF THE 2025
ANNUAL REPORT



Annual Congregational Meeting & Breakfast | Sunday, Feb. 1 | 9:45 a.m. | Courtenay Hall—The Session has called a Congregational Meeting to be held on Sunday, Feb. 1, during the Education Hour. Two items of business will be considered. First, the congregation will be asked to act on a change in the pastoral relationship between Dr. Sandra Randleman and FPC, reflecting her request to serve in the role of Parish Associate. Second, the congregation will hear the report of the Associate Pastor Nominating Committee and vote on its recommendation of a candidate for Associate Pastor for Youth and Their Families.

RECOMMENDATION FROM THE ASSOCIATE PASTOR NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Following a season of prayerful discernment, the Associate Pastor Nominating Committee (APNC) is bringing forward an in-house candidate for consideration. In keeping with our Presbyterian process, the committee believes this nomination reflects careful listening to the Spirit, thoughtful evaluation of gifts and experience, and ongoing conversation about the needs of our congregation.

In 2022, a committee was formed to search for a new leader to serve our Youth Ministry. One of the primary questions the committee considered was whether this role should be filled by an ordained pastor. The committee recognized that prioritizing ordination could further limit an already small pool of qualified applicants, something consistent with the broader national landscape for pastoral searches. Nevertheless, the committee agreed to begin the search with a strong preference for an ordained candidate, with the understanding that this preference could be revisited if necessary.

It was within that context that Gage Arnold entered the search. While Gage was not ordained at the time, he expressed deep love of the Lord and a clear conviction that he was called by the Holy Spirit to pursue ordained ministry. The committee supported that call and hired Gage as Director of Youth Programming, a role he has held for three years.

Following his arrival at FPC, Gage entered an extensive ordination process which included examinations, written work, interviews, and required milestones. Gage's candidacy was overwhelmingly approved by the Presbytery, including permission for an accelerated timeline waiving the customary one-year waiting period.

Since this APNC was formed in the summer of 2025, an important part of the committee's work included a comprehensive evaluation process. The committee developed a thorough set of questions informed by feedback and concerns gathered from various perspectives within the congregation. Gage's written and verbal responses were candid, thoughtful, and transparent, addressing both areas of growth and his vision for the ministry ahead.

Following this discernment, the committee reached a unanimous recommendation to bring Gage Arnold forward for ordination and installation as Associate Pastor for Youth and Their Families. The next step in this process is the congregational vote, which will take place at the Congregational Meeting on February 1. The committee invites the congregation to continue in prayerful discernment as we seek together to follow God's leading for the life and ministry of this church.

A NEW CHAPTER OF MINISTRY WITH DR. SANDRA RANDLEMAN

After many years of faithful service as Associate Pastor, Rev. Sandra Randleman is entering a new season of ministry at First Presbyterian Church—one that allows her to continue serving the congregation she loves in a part-time role.

Following prayerful discernment, Sandra requested on November 21, 2025, to transition from Associate Pastor to Parish Associate, effective January 1, 2026. Church leadership received this request with joy and gratitude, recognizing both Sandra's desire for a more sustainable rhythm and the congregation's continued need for her pastoral gifts.

As a Parish Associate, Sandra will focus primarily on congregational care. She will continue pastoral visitation, support members through grief counseling and group leadership, assist with Stephen Ministry training and coordination, and participate in seasonal care ministries such as the flower ministry. Sandra will also remain engaged in discipleship through coordinating the weekly men's Bible study and providing training for Presbyterian

Women Bible study leaders. She will continue to lead in worship and assist with baptisms, weddings, and funerals.

During this transition, Sandra also pursued retirement from the PC(USA) while continuing to serve FPC. With the support of the Presbytery of Middle Tennessee and approval from the Board of Pensions, an exception was granted allowing her to receive retirement benefits while serving in this part-time, compensated role.

The final step is a congregational vote to dissolve Sandra's installed pastoral relationship, which will be included in the February 1 Congregational Meeting. Sandra is already serving faithfully in her Parish Associate role, and this vote will formally recognize what is already a lived reality in our life together.

We give thanks to God for Sandra's ministry and look forward with gratitude to her continued presence and care among us.