



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN
Church of Nashville

FOURTH SUNDAY
AFTER EPIPHANY

February 1, 2026

11:00 a.m.



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

WORDS OF PREPARATION

What, then, is our duty to our neighbors, whether they be friends or foe? We are to love them.

—John Stott

ORDER OF WORSHIP

VOLUNTARY

Dearest Jesus, We Are Here
Gerald Near

WELCOME

Dr. Ryan Moore

INTROIT

Oh 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

Leader: Oh come, let us sing to the LORD;

All: Let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation!

Leader: Let us come into his presence with thanksgiving; let us make a joyful noise to him with songs of praise!

All: For the LORD is a great God, and a great King above all gods.

Leader: Oh come, let us worship and bow down; let us kneel before the LORD, our Maker!

All: For he is our God, and we are the people of his pasture, the sheep of his hand.

*OPENING HYMN 310

I Love Thy Kingdom, Lord
ST. THOMAS

*PRAYER OF ADORATION

Adrian Taylor

FIRST LESSON | Psalm 46 (page 471)

Gage Arnold

¹ God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble. ² Therefore we will not fear though the earth give way, though the mountains be moved into the heart of the sea, ³ though its waters roar and foam, though the mountains tremble at its swelling. ⁴ There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God, the holy habitation of the Most High. ⁵ God is in the midst of her; she shall not be moved; God will help her when morning dawns. ⁶ The nations rage, the kingdoms totter; he utters his voice, the earth melts. ⁷ The LORD of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our fortress. ⁸ Come, behold the works of the LORD, how he has brought desolations on the earth. ⁹ He makes wars cease to the end of the earth; he breaks the bow and shatters the spear; he burns the chariots with fire. ¹⁰ "Be still, and know that I am God. I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth!" ¹¹ The LORD of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our fortress.

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

CALL TO CONFESSION

Rev. Sara Hill

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Gracious God, our sins are too heavy to carry, too real to hide, and too deep to undo. Forgive what our lips tremble to name, what our hearts can no longer bear, and what has become for us a consuming fire of judgment. Set us free from a past that we cannot change; open to us a future in which we can be changed; and grant us grace to grow more and more in your likeness and image, through Jesus Christ, the light of the world. Amen.

A moment for silent confession.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

*RESPONSE OF GRATITUDE 634

To God Be the Glory
TO GOD BE THE GLORY

**To God be the glory;
great things he has done!
So loved he the world
that he gave us his Son,
who yielded his life
an atonement for sin,
and opened the life-gate
that all may go in.**

Refrain:

***Praise the Lord, praise the Lord;
let the earth hear his voice!
Praise the Lord, praise the Lord;
let the people rejoice!
O come to the Father
through Jesus the Son,
and give him the glory:
great things he has done!***

**Great things he has taught us;
great things he has done,
and great our rejoicing
through Jesus the Son;
but purer and higher
and greater will be
our wonder, our transport,
when Jesus we see. *Refrain***

*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 377

I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light
HOUSTON

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE READING | Matthew 5:38-48 (page 810)

³⁸ “You have heard that it was said, ‘An eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth.’ ³⁹ But I say to you, Do not resist the one who is evil. But if anyone slaps you on the right cheek, turn to him the other also. ⁴⁰ And if anyone would sue you and take your tunic, let him have your cloak as well. ⁴¹ And if anyone forces you to go one mile, go with him two miles. ⁴² Give to the one who begs from you, and do not refuse the one who would borrow from you. ⁴³ “You have heard that it was said, ‘You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy.’ ⁴⁴ But I say to you, Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, ⁴⁵ so that you may be sons of your Father who is in heaven. For he makes his sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the just and on the unjust. ⁴⁶ For if you love those who love you, what reward do you have? Do not even the tax collectors do the same? ⁴⁷ And if you greet only your brothers, what more are you doing than others? Do not even the Gentiles do the same? ⁴⁸ You therefore must be perfect, as your heavenly Father is perfect.”

Pastor: The Word of the Lord.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

SERMON

The Kingdom Love

Dr. Darren Kennedy

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 fpcnashville.org.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD’S PRAYER

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 840

When Peace Like a River
VILLE DU HAVRE

*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.*

SYMPATHIES

We extend our condolences to the family and friends of

Helen Ware Gallimore, who died January 23.

PARTICIPANTS IN THE SERVICE

Ryan Moore, PhD – *Pastor*
Mallory Hammond, MDiv – *Parish Associate, Director of Ministry to Children and Their Families*
Darren Kennedy, PhD – *Associate Pastor for Discipleship*
Sara Hill, MDiv – *Parish Associate for Congregational Care*
John Musgrave, DMin – *Parish Associate*
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 – Caroline Cahill, Elyse Cahill

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

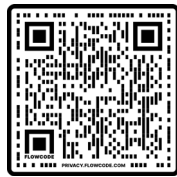
Join FPC_guest WiFi network. You must be connected to this network for the app to work. Download the WaveCAST app. Open the app and select “First Pres Sanctuary.” Plug in your headphones and adjust the volume to your preference.

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.



VISIT [LINKTR.EE/FPCNASHVILLE](https://linktr.ee/fpcnashville) TO REGISTER, DONATE, OR LEARN MORE

STAY CONNECTED

*Stay informed about FPC by:
reading our weekly email, Parish News,
or seasonal print newsletter, First News.*

To sign up, email communications@fpcnashville.org

*or update your subscriptions at:
fpcnashville.org/my-subscriptions.*

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. | *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: Van Gogh, Vincent. *Almond Blossom*. 1890. Oil on canvas. Van Gogh Museum, Amsterdam. — Van Gogh’s *Almond Blossom* shows fragile white flowers opening from dark, weathered branches. The blossoms do not retaliate against the hardness that bears them; they respond with life. Jesus calls his followers beyond retaliation to a generous, enemy-loving grace. This love remains open and vulnerable, reflecting the Father’s indiscriminate goodness that gives freely.

Congregational Meeting | Sunday, Feb. 8 | Following Both Worship Services — The Session has called a Congregational Meeting to be held on Sunday, February 8, following both worship services. The purpose of the meeting is 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.

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) have begun, 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.

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.

Women's Intergenerational Ruth COB | Mondays through 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.

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.

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

Jamaica Mission Trip — Our Jamaica Mission Trip takes place February 7–13. This team includes dentists, educators from Oak Hill School, and other church members who will serve the community surrounding our partner, Andrews Memorial United Church. Please join us in praying for Bill Akin, Will Akin, Lexy Baker, Coneale Bethurum, Phillip Ezell, Ford Gatgens, Spencer Haley, John Hollins, Adele Holloway, J.T. Martin, Tom Martin, Gabby Poston, Stewart Roddey, Hal Sauer, Temp Sullivan, Adrian Taylor, and Aaron Weber.

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.