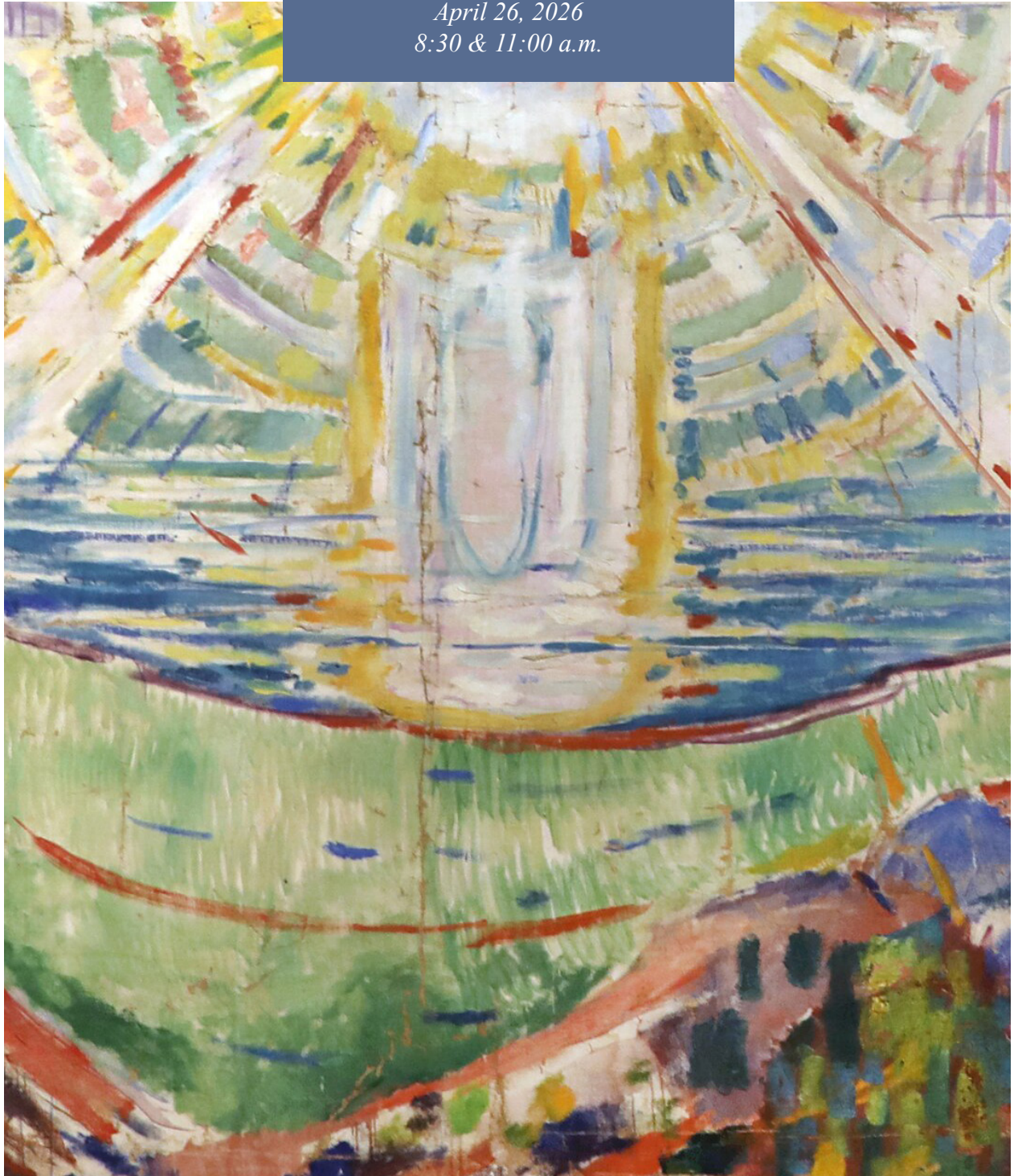




FIRST PRESBYTERIAN
Church of Nashville

4TH SUNDAY OF EASTER

April 26, 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

Because God has already laid the only foundation of our fellowship, because God has bound us together in one body with other Christians in Jesus Christ, long before we entered into common life with them, we enter into that common life not as demanders, but as thankful recipients.

—Dietrich Bonhoeffer

ORDER OF WORSHIP

VOLUNTARY

Be Thou My Vision
arr. James Curnow

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 | Psalm 95:1-7

Gage Arnold (8:30)
Rev. Sara Hill (11:00)

Leader: O come, let us sing to the LORD; let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation!

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

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

All: In his hand are the depths of the earth; the heights of the mountains are his also.

Leader: The sea is his, for he made it, and the dry land, which his hands have formed.

All: O come, let us worship and bow down; let us kneel before the LORD, our Maker! For he is our God, and we are the people of his pasture and the sheep of his hand.

*OPENING HYMN 32

I Sing the Mighty Power of God
ELLACOMBE

*PRAYER OF ADORATION

Dr. Sandra Randleman

FIRST LESSON | Isaiah 2:1-5 (page 567)

Graham Swafford (8:30)
Chris Holstein (11:00)

¹ The word that Isaiah the son of Amoz saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem. ² It shall come to pass in the latter days that the mountain of the house of the Lord shall be established as the highest of the mountains, and shall be lifted up above the hills; and all the nations shall flow to it, ³ and many peoples shall come, and say: "Come, let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, to the house of the God of Jacob, that he may teach us his ways and that we may walk in his paths." For out of Zion shall go forth the law, and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem. ⁴ He shall judge between the nations, and shall decide disputes for many peoples; and they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war anymore. ⁵ O house of Jacob, come, let us walk in the light of the Lord.

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

CALL TO CONFESSION

Adrian Taylor

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Merciful God, you made us in your image, with a mind to know you, and a heart to serve you. But our knowledge is imperfect, our love inconsistent, our obedience incomplete. Day by day, we fail to grow into your likeness. In your tender love, forgive us through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

A moment for silent confession.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

*RESPONSE OF GRATITUDE

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

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

PRESENTATION OF CHILD (8:30)

Lee and Libby Smith McLellan are presenting their son, Porter Lee McLellan, for baptism.
Assisting Elder: Chuck Lassing

PRESENTATION (11:00)

Caroline Mari Cahill, Amelia Michelle Emfinger, Anderson Elisabeth Emfinger, Thomas Clements Emfinger, Finn Tiger Perkin, and Sebastien Gabriel ROUNGOU are presenting themselves for baptism.
Assisting Elder: Austin McMullen

BAPTISMAL QUESTIONS

*PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

THE BAPTISM

PRESENTATION OF THE 2026 CONFIRMATION CLASS (11:00)

Rev. Mallory Hammond

Profession of Faith and Reaffirmation of the Baptismal Covenant

CONFIRMATION AND COMMISSIONING

PRAYER OF BLESSING

‡*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 (8:30)

Brother James's Air
arr. Mack Wilberg

The Lord's my Shepherd, I'll not want, he makes me down to lie in pastures green; he leadeth me the quiet waters by. My soul he doth restore again, and me to walk doth make within the paths of blessedness, e'en for his own name's sake, within the paths of blessedness. Yea, though I pass thro' shadowed vale, yet will I fear no ill; for thou art with me, and thy rod and staff me comfort still. My table thou hast furnished in presence of my foes; my head thou dost with oil anoint, and my cup overflows. Goodness and mercy all my days will surely follow me; and in my Father's heart always my dwelling place shall be. And in my heart for evermore thy dwelling place shall be.

HYMN OF PREPARATION (11:00)

In Christ Alone
Getty | Townend

**In Christ alone my hope is found; he is my light, my strength, my song;
this cornerstone, this solid ground, firm through the fiercest drought and storm.
What heights of love, what depths of peace, when fears are stilled, when strivings cease!
My comforter, my all in all, here in the love of Christ I stand.**

**In Christ alone, who took on flesh, fullness of God in helpless babe!
This gift of love and righteousness, scorned by the ones he came to save.
Till on that cross as Jesus died, the wrath of God was satisfied;
for every sin on him was laid; here in the death of Christ I live.**

**There in the ground his body lay, Light of the world by darkness slain;
then bursting forth in glorious day, up from the grave he rose again!
And as he stands in victory, sin's curse has lost its grip on me;
for I am his, and he is mine, bought with the precious blood of Christ.**

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE READING | Acts 2:42-47 (page 911)

⁴² And they devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers. ⁴³ And awe came upon every soul, and many wonders and signs were being done through the apostles. ⁴⁴ And all who believed were together and had all things in common. ⁴⁵ And they were selling their possessions and belongings and distributing the proceeds to all, as any had need. ⁴⁶ And day by day, attending the temple together and breaking bread in their homes, they received their food with glad and generous hearts, ⁴⁷ praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to their number day by day those who were being saved.

Pastor: The Word of the Lord.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

SERMON

The Promise of the Church

Dr. Darren Kennedy

*They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship,
to the breaking of bread and the prayers.—Acts 2:42*

OFFERTORY

The Call of Wisdom
Will Todd

Lord of wisdom, Lord of truth, Lord of justice, Lord of mercy; walk beside us down the years till we see you in your glory. Striving to attain the heights, turning in a new direction, entering a lonely place, welcoming a friend or stranger. I am here; I am with you. I have called: do you hear me? I am here; I am here. I am with you. Silver is of passing worth, gold is not of constant value, jewels sparkle for a while; what you long for is not lasting. I am here; I am here with you. Rulers govern under me with my insight and my wisdom. Those who know me know my love; those who seek me find their answer. I am here; I am with you. I have called: do you hear me? I am with you. God the Father and the Son, Holy Spirit coeternal. Glory be ascribed to you, now and to the end of ages. Here, I am here with you. I have called: do you hear me? I am here with you.

*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

Dr. John Musgrave (8:30)

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 838

Standing on the Promises
PROMISES

*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

CHORAL RESPONSE

May the Mind of Christ, My Savior
ST. LEONARDS

May the mind of Christ, my Savior, live in me from day to day. By his love and pow'r controlling all I do and say. May the Word of God dwell richly in my heart from hour to hour, so that all may see I triumph only through his pow'r. May the peace of God my Father rule my life in everything, that I may be calm to comfort sick and sorrowing. May his beauty rest upon me as I seek the lost to win; and may they forget the channel, seeing only him.

*CLOSING VOLUNTARY

I Sing the Mighty Power of God
arr. James Curnow

** Those who are able, please stand.*

PARTICIPANTS IN THE SERVICE

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*
Sandra Randleman, DMin – *Parish Associate for Congregational Care*
Gage Arnold, MDiv – *Director of Youth Programming*
Adrian Taylor, MDiv – *Director of Missions Ministry*
Raphael Bundage, DMA – *Director of Music*
Rhonda Swanson, MM – *Assistant Organist*
Sanctuary Singers – Greg Thomas, Director
Acolytes – Graham Swafford, Kennedy Swafford, David Mapangala, Julianna Mapangala

2026 CONFIRMATION CLASS

Juliet deVilliers Alden	Samantha Kay Huddleston	Kathryn Elizabeth Richardson
Kasen Christopher Bede	Corinne Collier Kaufman	Sébastien Gabriel Rongou
Edward Robert Byram	Elizabeth Grace McInteer	Worthen Graham Scott Jr.
Caroline Mari Cahill	Ann Nelson Ozier	Louise Graham Suscha
Christopher Murray Douse II	Finn Tiger Perkin	Cathleen Beasley Vrettos
James William Ekiss III	Lauren Katherine Pitman	George Graham Walker IV
Amelia Michelle Emfinger	Blythe Alifair Pons	Brooks Oakley Ward
Lillian Bentley Flanagan	Hudson Trapp Potter	John Hollister Ward
Ruffin Hoyle Harris	Caroline Smith Ramsey	Josephine Florence Yancey

Confirmation Teachers: Austin McMullen, Chris Holstein
Small Group Leaders: Jon Cahill, Chris Douse, Polly Douse, Betty Elrod, Susannah Harris, Marty Kaufman, Blewett McInteer, Seth McInteer, Jennifer Richardson, Jessie Yancey

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.

Intergenerational Esther Women's Study | Mondays through May 18 | 9:30–11:00 a.m. — We are so excited to invite you to an intergenerational study of the book of Esther. Each week we'll gather as a large group and then break into smaller discussion groups as we explore how the story of Esther points to a God who fulfills his promises to his people and creates redemptive patterns in human events. Cost is \$10 and includes a study guide. Those who participated in the Ruth Study may use their existing book at no cost. Registration is required (fpcnashville.org/esther), and childcare is provided. Led by Rev. Mallory Hammond and Ellie Richmond. Questions? Contact Ellie Richmond at erichmond@fpcnashville.org.

Presbyterian Women Spring Gathering | Tuesday, May 12 | 10:30 a.m.–1:30 p.m. | Stanford Chapel — A time for fellowship and reflection on the past year. Join us in the Cheek House as we enjoy lunch, thank our outgoing leadership and discuss the focus for Presbyterian Women heading into the next year. Join us for worship in Stanford Chapel at 10:30 a.m., followed by a luncheon and fellowship in the Cheek House. Registration ends at 5:00 p.m. on May 5. Register at fpcnashville.org/pw, or in person today in Courtenay Hall.

Ascension Day Worship (11:00 a.m.) and Lunch (12:00 p.m.) | Thursday, May 14 — Join us as we celebrate the good news of Christ's resurrection and ascension into heaven on Ascension Day, traditionally celebrated 40 days after Easter. This intimate service will remind us that Christ's promise is good news for today, tomorrow, and eternity. We will worship together at 11:00 a.m. in the Sullivan Gardens, weather permitting. In the event of inclement weather, worship will be in the Stanford Chapel. We will gather for a light lunch following the service in the Cheek House. Please register for lunch at fpcnashville.org/events.

Soccer Saints Volunteer Sign-Up | Saturdays through May 23 | One-hour shifts from 7:30 a.m.–2:30 p.m. — Thousands of guests attend our campus for spring and fall soccer each year. We want to welcome and love these families as they play, cheer, and coach on the FPC campus. Would you help us create a warm and welcoming atmosphere by volunteering as a Soccer Saint at one of our welcome tents on Saturday mornings? Whether you are young, old, or in between, it's a great way to serve God's people and spread joy. Your ministry of presence will be a blessing to our community. To sign up, visit fpcnashville.org/ministry/soccer.

Officer Nominations for Class of 2029 | Recommendations due by May 22 — The Officer Nominating Committee is soliciting recommendations from the members of First Presbyterian Church for persons to be considered to serve in the Offices of Elder and Deacon for the Class of 2029. Please prayerfully consider submitting a recommendation for this important and vital service for your church. To submit a recommendation, please complete an Officer Nomination form found in the church literature areas or on the church website by May 22.

Flower Vases Needed — Each week, volunteers repurpose our sanctuary flowers into several smaller arrangements and deliver them to homebound members of our church family. These arrangements bring cheer and encouragement to those who cannot worship with us in person. We are in need of small vases, approximately 5 inches high, preferably with a curve at the top. We cannot use large vases or round pot/planter type containers. Vase donations can be dropped off at the Hospitality Center. Thank you for supporting our ministry of encouragement.

MISSIONS

Nueva Vida | Tuesday, May 12 | 4:30-7:30 — Looking for a meaningful way to serve? Help pack and distribute food to our neighbors in need through the Nueva Vida Food Project. Whether you're sorting items, stocking shelves, or offering a warm smile, your time makes a real impact. No experience necessary—just a willing heart! We're looking for up to 5 volunteers each evening. If you're interested in joining or have any questions, reach out to Adrian Taylor (ataylor@fpcnashville.org).

Intergenerational Mission Trip | July 18–25 | Lynn, MA — Join FPC for an intergenerational trip to Lynn, Massachusetts, July 18-25, 2026. We will serve a diverse community by offering VBS, as well as participating in other mission activities. The cost is \$650 per person, which includes everything except travel to Boston (accommodation, ground transportation, and food). Families are responsible for arranging their own transportation to Boston Logan International Airport by 2:00 p.m. on July 18. The minimum age to participate is 6; all minors must be accompanied by at least one parent. Contact Adrian Taylor at ataylor@fpcnashville.org for more details.

FIRST FRIENDS

Natchez Trace Picnic on the Parkway | Thursday, May 7 | 10:30 a.m. — The Natchez Trace Parkway is a limited-access national parkway in the Southeastern United States that commemorates the historic Natchez Trace and preserves sections of that original trail. Join us for a springtime picnic on part of the Parkway near Leiper's Fork. We will provide the picnic set up. Cost is only \$10 per person. Register online at fpcnashville.org/events. Contact Sally Ostheimer (sostheimer@fpcnashville.org) for more information.

GENERAL FUND GIVING SUMMARY

YTD AT MARCH 31, 2026

Actual \$1,390,129

Budget \$1,444,257

Variance (54,065)

We are grateful for your faithful giving and your commitment to the life of our congregation. Your generosity sustains the ministries we share and strengthens our work in the community. Above is this month's financial summary.



NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER

National Day of Prayer

Thursday, May 7

*Coffee & Refreshments | 7:00 a.m. | Cheek House
Prayer Service | 7:15 a.m. | Stanford Chapel*

The National Day of Prayer is an annual observance held on the first Thursday of May, inviting people to pray for our nation.



Theology & the Arts: Roger Dale Brown

Saturday, May 9

10:00 a.m. | Courtenay Hall

What happens when faith takes shape on canvas? Join artist and FPC member Roger Dale Brown—whose work has taken him around the world—as he offers a live painting demonstration and reflects on the creative process as a spiritual practice. Facilitated by Dr. Darren Kennedy, this conversation will explore the intersection of art and theology, beauty and belief, and the ways visual art can deepen our understanding of the gospel. If you were moved by the Beatitudes series that graced our bulletins last fall, come see the heart—and the hands—behind the work. Join us Saturday, May 9, in Courtenay Hall. Enter through the Hospitality Center doors. Register at fpcnashville.org/arts or contact Dr. Darren Kennedy (dkennedy@fpcnashville.org) for more information.

UPCOMING EVENTS

- Apr. 27; May 4, 11, 18 | 9:30–11:00 a.m. | Intergenerational Esther Women's COB
- Apr. 29 | 6:00–8:00 p.m. | Evening Mahjong Lessons
- May 3 | 11:00 a.m. | Ordination of Gage Arnold
- May 4 | 9:00 a.m.–12:00 p.m. | PW Handiwork Drop-in
- May 5 | 12:00 p.m. | First Tuesday Men's Lunches with Darren: Martin's BBQ Belmont Blvd
- May 7 | 7:00 a.m. Coffee & Refreshments; 7:15 a.m. Prayer Service | National Day of Prayer
- May 9 | 10:00 a.m. | Theology & the Arts: Roger Dale Brown
- May 12 | 10:30 a.m. | Presbyterian Women Spring Gathering
- May 13, 27 | 6:00–8:00 p.m. | Evening Mahjong Open Play
- May 14 | 7:00 a.m. | Men's Summer Breakfast Speaker Series
- May 14 | 11:00 a.m. | Ascension Day Service
- May 14 | 12:00 p.m. | Ascension Day Lunch
- May 17 | Kirkin' Sunday
- May 28 | 8:00 a.m. | College of Elders Breakfast

CHILDREN & FAMILIES

- June 23–25 | 5:00–7:45 p.m. | VBS

FIRST FRIENDS

- May 7 | 10:30 a.m. | Natchez Trace Picnic on the Parkway
- May 19 | 2:30 p.m. | Book Club: *Sipsworth*
- May 21 | 12:00 p.m. | Luncheon: Mission Presentation from Matthew 25

MISSIONS

- July 18–25 | Intergenerational Mission Trip
- Sept. 14–25 | Kenya Mission Trip

RECREATION

- May 2, 9, 16 | 8:00 a.m.–2:30 p.m. | Soccer Saints
- Wednesdays | 5:30–8:00 p.m. | Pickleball (Except May 6)

YOUTH

- Today | 9:45 a.m. | Volunteer Appreciation Breakfast
- May 3 | 8:30 a.m. | Youth Sunday
- Jun. 1–5 | Pilgrimage to Yosemite (Seniors)

MUSIC NOTES: *In Christ Alone* by Keith Getty | Stuart Townend © 2001 Thankyou Music Ltd For use solely with the SongSelect® Terms of Use. All rights reserved. www.ccli.com CCLI License # 1121456. *The Call of Wisdom* by Will Todd © 2012 Oxford University Press All rights reserved. OneLicense.net License A-#714895. *Be Thou My Vision* and *I Sing the Mighty Power of God* from *Great Hymns*, Arr. James Curnow. (c) 2000 Curnow Music Press Inc. *Brother James's Air* arr. By Mack Wilberg. (c) 2010 Oxford University Press, Inc. All rights reserved. OneLicense.net License #A-714895.

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