



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN  
Church of Nashville

TWELFTH SUNDAY  
AFTER PENTECOST

*August 31, 2025*  
*8:30 & 11:00 a.m.*



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

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## WORDS OF PREPARATION

*God does not merely tolerate the weak; He works out His glory through them.*

—Herman Bavinck, *Reformed Dogmatics*

## ORDER OF WORSHIP

VOLUNTARY

*The King of Love My Shepherd Is*  
C. V. Stanford

WELCOME

Rev. Sara Hill

MINUTE FOR MISSION | Nueva Vida Food Project

Alex Dalrymple &amp; Adrian Taylor

INTROIT

*Come, Ye that Love the Lord*  
arr. Alice Parker

Come, ye that love the Lord, and let your love be known; join in a song of sweet accord and thus surround the throne, and thus surround the throne. Let those refuse to sing who never knew our God; but favorites of the heav'nly King may speak their joys abroad, may speak their joys abroad.

\*CALL TO WORSHIP

Dr. John Musgrave

Pastor: Come, let us sing for joy to the Lord; let us shout aloud to the Rock of our salvation.

**All: Let us come before him with thanksgiving and extol him with music and song.**

Pastor: Come, let us bow down in worship, let us kneel before the Lord our Maker; for he is our God

**All: and we are the people of his pasture, the flock under his care.**

\*OPENING HYMN 32

*I Sing the Mighty Power of God*  
ELLACOMBE

\*PRAYER OF ADORATION

FIRST LESSON | Deuteronomy 6:4-9 (page 151)

R.J. Bascom (8:30)  
Anna Robicheaux (11:00)

<sup>4</sup>“Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one. <sup>5</sup> You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might. <sup>6</sup> And these words that I command you today shall be on your heart. <sup>7</sup> You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise. <sup>8</sup> You shall bind them as a sign on your hand, and they shall be as frontlets between your eyes. <sup>9</sup> You shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates.

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

**All: Thanks be to God.**

CALL TO CONFESSION

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PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**Almighty and merciful God, we have erred and strayed from your ways like lost sheep. We have followed too much the devices and desires of our own hearts. We have offended against your holy laws. We have left undone those things which we ought to have done; and we have done those things which we ought not to have done. O Lord have mercy upon us. Spare those who confess their faults. Restore those who are penitent according to your promises declared to the world in Christ Jesus our Lord. And grant, O merciful God, for his sake, that we may live a holy just and humble life to the glory of your holy name.**

*A moment for silent confession.*

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

\*RESPONSE OF GRATITUDE

*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 739

*O For a Closer Walk with God*  
CAITHNESS

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE READING | Matthew 18:1-5 (page 823)

<sup>1</sup> At that time the disciples came to Jesus, saying, “Who is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven?” <sup>2</sup> And calling to him a child, he put him in the midst of them <sup>3</sup> and said, “Truly, I say to you, unless you turn and become like children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven. <sup>4</sup> Whoever humbles himself like this child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven. <sup>5</sup> “Whoever receives one such child in my name receives me...”

Pastor: The Word of the Lord.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

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SERMON

**How to Be Great**

Mallory Hammond

*Who is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven? —Matthew 18:1*

OFFERTORY

*Be Still, for the Presence of the Lord*  
arr. Richard Shephard

Be still, for the presence of the Lord, the Holy One, is here; come, bow before him now, with reverence and fear. In him no sin is found, we stand on holy ground; be still, for the presence of the Lord, the Holy One, is here. Be still, for the glory of the Lord is shining all around; he burns with holy fire, with splendour he is crowned. How awesome is the sight, our radiant King of light! Be still, for the glory of the Lord is shining all around. Be still, for the power of the Lord is moving in this place; he comes to cleanse and heal, to minister his grace. No work too hard for him, in faith receive from him; be still, for the power of the Lord is moving in this place.

*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

*Amen*  
Peter Lutkin

\*CLOSING VOLUNTARY

*Finale Jubilante*  
Healey Willan

*\* Those who are able, please stand.*

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SYMPATHIES

We extend our condolences to the family and friends of

**Rev. Dr. Harry Sharp Hassall, who died August 21.**

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## PARTICIPANTS IN THE SERVICE

Sara Hill, MDiv – Parish Associate  
John Musgrave, DMin – *Parish Associate*  
Adrian Taylor, MDiv – *Director of Missions Ministry*  
Mallory Hammond, MDiv – *Director of Ministry with Children & Their Families*  
Raphael Bundage, DMA – *Director of Music*  
Joseph Fala, MM – *Assistant Director of Music and Organist*  
Rhonda Swanson, MM – *Assistant Organist*  
*Acolytes* – Sam Gould, Samantha Bowers

## SANCTUARY FLOWERS

Flowers in the chancel are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of Mr. and Mrs. James A. Webb, Jr., Mr. James A. Webb III, Mr. William Vann Bartlett Webb, and Mr. William Vann Bartlett Webb, Jr.

## 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](http://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 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 and special events or view past services, visit [youtube.com/firstpresbyterianchurchofnashville](http://youtube.com/firstpresbyterianchurchofnashville).

**Children of all ages are** invited to worship alongside their families, and worship activity bags are provided at each entrance to the Sanctuary. Children ages 4-6 are invited.

**Join us downstairs** in Courtenay Hall between services for coffee and doughnuts.

**Young Children & Worship** following the Blessing of the Young Disciples. Parents pick up their child after worship at Grundy Hall, located in the Children’s Ministry Wing. Following 8:30 a.m. worship, children of all ages are invited to stay for the Education Hour. Check-in and pickup for Nursery–Kindergarten is located in the Children’s Ministry lobby, while Elementary is located in Oak Hill C-Wing. **Nursery care** for children ages 0–3 is available from 8:15 a.m.–12:15 p.m. The **Mother and Infant Quiet Room** is located in the Nursery Wing.

## INTERESTED IN GETTING MORE CONNECTED?

If you are new to our community, we would love to get to know you and welcome you personally into the life and ministry of First Presbyterian Church. Whether you are a guest or a longtime member, fill out the Connect Card to get more involved, update your contact information, or sign up for church communications. Drop your completed Connect Card in the offering plate so we can follow up!

*Stay informed about news and upcoming events by reading FPC’s weekly Parish News email.  
To subscribe, email [communications@fpcnashville.org](mailto:communications@fpcnashville.org).*

# First Friends

First Friends is a dynamic ministry that caters to the needs of adults in the later stages of life, including those who are almost-retired, just-retired, and considerably retired. This fall is packed with opportunities for a wide variety of interests. Whether you have been active before or never attended a First Friends event, you are invited to join any of the activities below! For questions or more information about any First Friends event, contact Sally Ostheimer at [sostheimer@fpcnashville.org](mailto:sostheimer@fpcnashville.org) or 615-298-9551.

## Five-Week Book Review

Thursdays, through Sept. 25 | 3:00 p.m. | Vance Hall

## Luncheon & Speaker Series: Cryptocurrency

Sept. 18 | 12:00 p.m. | Courtenay Hall | \$10

## Book Club: The Giver of Stars

Sept. 16 | 2:30 p.m. | Memorial Library

## Woodworking Project: Charcuterie Boards

Sept. 22 | 10:00 a.m.–12:00 p.m. | Julia Wilk's Workshop | \$60

## Active Adults Overnight at NaCoMe

Oct. 3-4 | NaCoMe

## New Beginnings Widows Group Lunch

Oct. 9 | 11:30 a.m.

## Men's Trip to Lane Auto Museum and Lunch

Oct. 10 | 10:00 a.m.–2:15 p.m.

## Day Trip to Dickson and Lyles

Oct. 13 | 9:30 a.m.–3:00 p.m.

## ALL ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOLS RESUME SEPTEMBER 14

Adult Sunday School classes offer an excellent opportunity to develop friendships and enjoy Christian community. Classes range in size, formats, and content. Most classes start at 9:45 a.m. during the Education Hour unless otherwise noted.

### Bible & Coffee Class

Jones Session Room

### Cornerstone Class

Vance Hall

### Current Issues Class

L-200

### Discipleship Class

Witherspoon Room

### Fellowship Class

Memorial Library | 10:00 a.m.

### Good News Class

Room L-207

### June Ramsey Class

Cheek House Living Room

### Life Together

Room L-203

### Logos Class

Stanford Chapel | 10:00 a.m.

### Young Adults

Courtenay Lounge

Thinking about trying a Sunday School class? September 14 is a great time to join—whether it's your first visit or it's been a while, you will be warmly welcomed.

**MUSIC NOTES:** *Six Short Preludes and Postludes for Organ, Set 1, Op. 101: VI. Andante con moto* - organ arrangement by Charles Villiers Stanford - © 2020 The Leupold Foundation. All rights reserved. OneLicense.net License #A-714895. | *The Lord Bless You and Keep You* by Peter Lutkin (c) 1959, Concordia Publishing House. All rights reserved. OneLicense.net License #A-714895. | *Finale Jubilante* by Healey Willan (c) 1951 BMI Canada Berandol Music LTD. All rights reserved. CCS License #9151.

**COVER IMAGE:** Uhde, Fritz von. *Lasset die Kinderlein zu mir kommen (1884)*. Oil on canvas, 188 × 290 cm. Museum der bildenden Künste, Leipzig.— Jesus tenderly welcomes those who are humble in heart, illustrating the enduring nature of God's kingdom and the virtues that belong to it. Placed at the center, the children symbolize openness, trust, and dependence on God—qualities that reveal the spirit of discipleship across all ages. Jesus' attention to the children emphasizes the eternal love and grace of God. The artist portrays the subjects in his own time, reminding us that God's transformational message transcends time and that true greatness is found in approaching Jesus with humility, exactly as we are.

**Kickoff Sunday | Sunday, September 7 | 9:30 a.m. | Front Porch**—Join the entire church family at our all-church kickoff as we reconnect after a busy summer! Our Kickoff Sunday is a time to gather as a church family for fellowship and learn ways to connect at FPC this fall. Our football-themed celebration kicks off outside the Sanctuary between morning worship services with fun for all ages.

**Columbarium Rededication | Sunday, September 7 | 6:30 p.m. | Sullivan Gardens**—Join us for a special evening as we rededicate the Sullivan Gardens and Columbarium following its complete landscaping restoration. Light refreshments will be served. The renewed space offers a beautiful and peaceful setting for remembrance and prayer. The service will include music and moments of reflection as we give thanks for this cherished space where we remember the saints who have gone before us in faith.

**Ordination of Mallory Hammond | Sunday, September 14 | 3:00 p.m. | Sanctuary**—We are delighted to share that Mallory Hammond will soon be ordained as a Minister of Word and Sacrament in the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). After her ordination, Mallory will continue as our Director of Ministry to Children and Their Families as a Parish Associate. Her ordination is the culmination of years of theological study, preparation, and discernment, and we give thanks to God for guiding her to this calling. Please join us for Mallory's ordination service on Sunday, September 14, at 3:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary, and in praying for her and our church as she begins this next chapter of ministry among us.

**PW Fall Gathering | Tuesday, September 9 | 11:00 a.m. Courtenay Hall**—All FPC women are invited to the PW Fall Gathering. Register online or in person in Courtenay Hall on Sunday, August 31, during the Education Hour. Registration closes September 4. Register online at [fpcnashville.org/pw](http://fpcnashville.org/pw)

**Men's Bible Study | Tuesdays | 7:00–8:00 a.m. | Vance Hall**—Our Tuesday Men's Bible study has been a cherished tradition for decades—a place where friendships grow, faith deepens, and meaningful conversation happens over a good cup of coffee. This fall, we will finish our study of Acts, led by a variety of group members and church staff. Whether you have been with us for years or are just curious to see what it's all about, you're invited to join anytime. Coffee is ready at 7:00 a.m. No registration needed. Questions? Contact Ron Pasquale at [ronpasquale@comcast.net](mailto:ronpasquale@comcast.net) or 615-812-6215.

**Empty Nester Fellowship | Wednesday, September 17 | 6:30 p.m. | Tyne House**—Join us for an evening of dessert, fellowship, and encouragement for those entering the “empty nest” season of life. Pastor Ryan Moore will gather us to reflect on this new chapter, share stories, and consider ways we can support one another as households grow quieter and roles shift. Whether you have just dropped off your youngest at college or launched your post-college adult into the world, this is a space to connect, reflect, and walk this season together. RSVP at [fpcnashville.org/emptynest](http://fpcnashville.org/emptynest).

**Congregational Care in Sandra's Absence**—If you have a congregational care need—such as a hospitalization, surgery, or personal crisis—please contact Charlotte Schierbaum, Congregational Care Ministry Assistant, at [cschierbaum@fpcnashville.org](mailto:cschierbaum@fpcnashville.org) or 615-298-9527. Charlotte is coordinating all care concerns and will confidentially share them with Senior Pastor Ryan Moore and Parish Associates Dr. John Musgrave and Rev. Sara Hill to ensure you are supported with prayer and presence.

**September Women's Chorale**—Women's Chorale will rehearse September 14, 21, and 28 from 9:45–10:00 a.m. and will sing more advanced music on September 28 in worship. With only two rehearsals, it's best for confident singers. Led by Dr. Raphael Bundage. To sign up, contact Daphne Garey at [dgarey@fpcnashville.org](mailto:dgarey@fpcnashville.org).

**Soccer Saints | Saturdays, September 6, 13, 20, 27**—Help us welcome soccer families as they play, cheer, and coach on the FPC campus on Saturday mornings. Volunteers serve at one of our three welcome tables, greeting families, handing out treats to players, and answering questions. 25 percent of the guest children at this year's VBS came through FPC soccer referrals. Volunteer slots are open between 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. on the following game days: September 6, 13, 20, and 27.

### MISSIONS

**Fall Habitat for Humanity Build | September 13-14, 20-21, 27-28, and October 4-5**—This fall, our church is partnering with Habitat for Humanity to help build a home and build community. With over 170 volunteer spots for both construction and lunch crews, there's a place for everyone to serve. Register at [fpcnashville.org/habitat](http://fpcnashville.org/habitat).

**Blood Drive | Wednesday, September 3 | 11:00 a.m. | Courtenay Hall**—Someone in the United States needs blood every two seconds due to an accident, disaster, or illness. Roll up your sleeves to help save lives in your community by giving the gift of life by donating blood at our next blood drive. Sign up on our website or in person in Courtenay Hall in between services. Contact Adrian Taylor for more information at [ataylor@fpcnashville.org](mailto:ataylor@fpcnashville.org)

### GENERAL FUND GIVING SUMMARY

YTD AT JULY 31, 2025

**Actual \$2,597,940**

**Budget \$2,786,500**

*Variance (\$188,560)*

As part of our commitment to transparency and to deepen our shared understanding of church finances, the Finance Committee is now providing monthly updates on giving.



## September 7 | 9:30 a.m. Front Porch

**O**ur football-themed celebration kicks off outside the Sanctuary between morning worship services with fun for all ages—pony rides, an inflatable obstacle course, games, and even the chance to collect vintage FPC swag!

This year's special highlight is Missions. Explore the Missions Fair to meet our Kingdom Partners and current Project Partners. ThriftSmart will also have a donation truck on site—bring gently used clothes to share. For every pound donated, ThriftSmart will provide \$1 in gift cards to bless another mission partner.

Kickoff Sunday is your opportunity to gather for fellowship and discover new ways to grow and serve at FPC this fall—through small groups, Sunday School classes, service opportunities, and more. Join the whole church family as we reconnect after a busy summer!

**Join us for 8:30 or 11:00 worship service, and the 9:30 Kickoff Festival**

## UPCOMING EVENTS

- Sept. 1** | Office Closed for Labor Day
- Sept. 3** | 11:00 a.m.–5:00 p.m. | Blood Drive
- Sept. 7** | 9:30 a.m. | Kickoff Sunday
- Sept. 7** | 6:30 p.m. | Sullivan Gardens Rededication
- Sept. 14** | 3:00 p.m. | Ordination Service for Mallory Hammond
- Sept. 24** | 6:00–8:00 p.m. | Spiritual Gifts Class (Option 1)
- Sept. 25** | Dinner (5:30) and Choral Vesper Service (6:30)
- Oct. 5** | 12:00–2:00 p.m. | Spiritual Gifts Class (Option 2)
- Oct. 25** | 9:00 a.m. | Inquirers Class
- Oct. 26** | 8:30 & 11:00 a.m. | Reformation Day Worship
- Oct. 26** | 3:30–5:00 p.m. | Fall Festival Trunk or Treat
- Oct. 29** | Dinner (5:30) and All Saints Vesper Service (6:30)

## CHILDREN & FAMILIES

- Sept. 21** | 9:45–10:45 a.m. | Singing the Faith Milestone (Age 2–3)
- Sept. 27** | 5:00–8:00 p.m. | Parents Night Out
- Sept. 28** | 9:45 a.m. | Missions Milestone (4th–5th Grade)
- Oct. 26** | 9:45 a.m.; 11:00 a.m. Recognition | Baptism  
Remembered Milestone (Kindergarten)

## YOUTH

- Sept. 7** | 6:00 p.m. | Youth Small Group Kickoff
- Sept. 14, 21, 28** | 9:45 a.m. | Follow Me Sunday School Series  
for 7th Graders & Parents
- Oct. 19** | 5:30–7:00 p.m. | Blacklight Dodgeball
- Oct. 25–26** | Fall Overnight

## FIRST FRIENDS

- Sept. 4** | 3:00 p.m. | Book Review: *Conscious Living, Conscious Aging* (Thursdays through September 25)
- Sept. 18** | 12:00 p.m. | Lunch & Speaker Series
- Sept. 22** | 9:30 a.m. | Woodworking Workshop with Julia Wilk –  
Making Charcuterie Boards
- Oct. 9** | 11:30 a.m. | New Beginnings Fall Lunch for Widows
- Oct. 10** | Men's Trip to Lane Auto Museum and Lunch
- Oct. 13** | Day Trip to Dickson and Lyles
- Oct. 16** | 12:00 p.m. | Lunch and Speaker Series
- Oct. 30** | Nashville Ballet Viewing of Nutcracker Rehearsal

## PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

- Sept. 9** | 11:00 a.m. | PW Fall Gathering
- Oct. 14** | PW Circles Begin

## MISSIONS

- Sept. 3** | 12:00–5:00 p.m. | Blood Drive
- Sept. 9, Oct. 14** | 4:30–7:30 p.m. | Nueva Vida Service Project
- Sept. 13–14, 20–21, 27–28, & Oct. 4–5** | Habitat Build