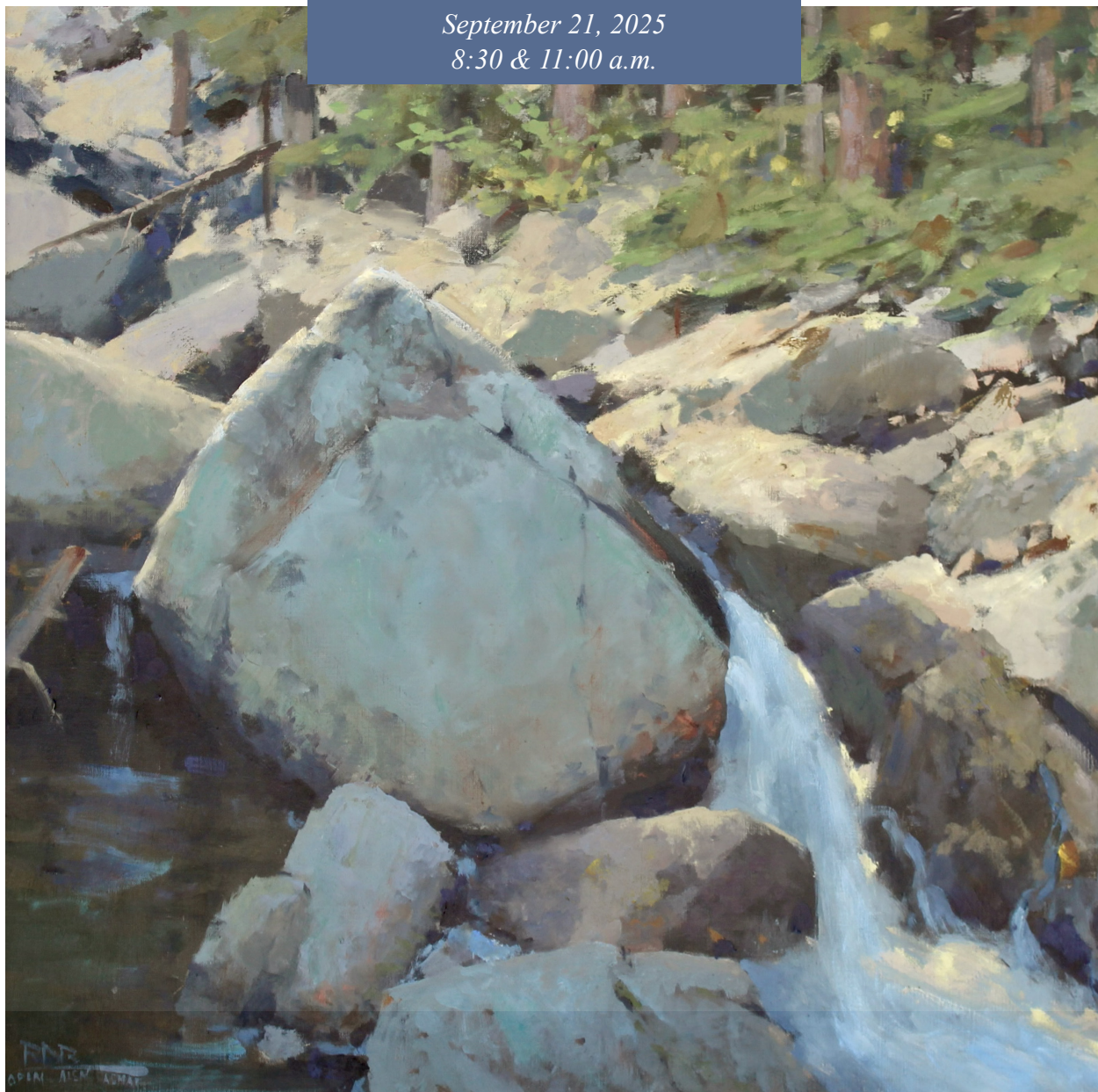




FIRST PRESBYTERIAN
Church of Nashville

FIFTEENTH SUNDAY
AFTER PENTECOST

September 21, 2025
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

We are all fully known, even in the depths that we ourselves cannot see, cannot bear to see. Instead of hoping that God will love us for our good parts and pass over the rest, we know that he died for the bad parts, and will not rest till they are made right. The depth of our sin proves the height of his love, a height we cannot comprehend until we realize how desperately we need it. We are fully loved, and one day will be fully healed, brought into God's presence without spot or wrinkle or any such thing.

—Frederica Matthewes-Green

ORDER OF WORSHIP

VOLUNTARY

Cantilene
Malcolm Archer

WELCOME

MINUTE FOR MISSION | Stewardship

Kevin Garvey

INTROIT

Tell Out My Soul, the Greatness of the Lord
WOODLANDS

Tell out my soul, the greatness of the Lord: unnumbered blessings give my spirit voice; tender to me the promise of his word; in God my Savior shall my heart rejoice.

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Dr. John Musgrave

Pastor: He who is the blessed and only Sovereign, the King of kings and Lord of lords, who alone has immortality, who dwells in unapproachable light, whom no one has ever seen or can see.

All: To him be honor and eternal dominion. Amen.

Pastor: Now the salvation and the power and the kingdom of our God and the authority of his Christ have come.

All: Therefore, rejoice, O heavens and you who dwell in them.

Pastor: Believers in Christ, come and seek the face of your Lord.

*OPENING HYMN 2

Come, Thou Almighty King
ITALIAN HYMN

*PRAYER OF ADORATION

Rev. Sara Hill (8:30)
Rev. Mallory Hammond (11:00)

FIRST LESSON | Isaiah 61:1-7 (page 620)

Fritz Haimberger (8:30)
Kacy Schmit (11:00)

¹ The Spirit of the LORD GOD is upon me, because the LORD has anointed me to bring good news to the poor; he has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to those who are bound; ² to proclaim the year of the LORD's favor, and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all who mourn; ³ to grant to those who mourn in Zion—to give them a beautiful headdress instead of ashes, the oil of gladness instead of mourning, the garment of praise instead of a faint

spirit; that they may be called oaks of righteousness, the planting of the LORD, that he may be glorified.
4 They shall build up the ancient ruins; they shall raise up the former devastations; they shall repair the ruined cities, the devastations of many generations. 5 Strangers shall stand and tend your flocks; foreigners shall be your plowmen and vinedressers; 6 but you shall be called the priests of the LORD; they shall speak of you as the ministers of our God; you shall eat the wealth of the nations, and in their glory you shall boast. 7 Instead of your shame there shall be a double portion; instead of dishonor they shall rejoice in their lot; therefore in their land they shall possess a double portion; they shall have everlasting joy.

Pastor: The Word of the Lord.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

CALL TO CONFESSION

Is He Worthy
Andrew Peterson

Do you feel the world is broken? **We do.** Do you feel the shadows deepen? **We do.**
But do you know that all the dark won't stop the light from getting through? **We do.**
Do you wish that you could see it all made new? **We do.**
Is all creation groaning? **It is.** Is a new creation coming? **It is.**
Is the glory of the Lord to be the light within our midst? **It is.**
Is it good that we remind ourselves of this? **It is.**
Is anyone worthy? Is anyone whole? Is anyone able to break the seal and open the scroll? The Lion of Judah who conquered the grave, he is David's Root and the Lamb who died to ransom the slave. Is he worthy? Is he worthy? Of all blessing and honor and glory, is he worthy of this? **He is.**
Does the Father truly love us? **He does.** Does the Spirit move among us? **He does.**
And does Jesus, our Messiah, hold forever those he loves? **He does.**
Does our God intend to dwell again with us? **He does.**
Is anyone worthy? Is anyone whole? Is anyone able to break the seal and open the scroll? The Lion of Judah who conquered the grave, he is David's Root and the Lamb who died to ransom the slave. From every people and tribe, every nation and tongue, he has made us a kingdom and priests to God, to reign with the Son. Is he worthy? Is he worthy? Of all blessing and honor and glory, is he worthy? Is he worthy? Is he worthy of this? **He is.**

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Adrian Taylor

Almighty God, you have raised Jesus from death to life, and crowned him Lord of all. We confess that we have not bowed before him, or acknowledged his rule in our lives. We have gone along with the ways of the world, and failed to give him glory. Forgive us and raise us from sin, that we may be your faithful people, obeying the commands of our Lord Jesus Christ, who rules the world and is head of the Church, his body. In his name we pray, Amen.

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 | Heidelberg Catechism, Q & A 1

Pastor: What is your only comfort in life and in death?

All: That I am not my own, but belong—body and soul, in life and in death—to my faithful Savior, Jesus Christ. He has fully paid for all my sins with his precious blood, and has set me free from the tyranny of the devil. He also watches over me in such a way that not a hair can fall from my head without the will of my Father in heaven; in fact, all things must work together for my salvation. Because I belong to him, Christ, by his Holy Spirit, assures me of eternal life and makes me wholeheartedly willing and ready from now on to live for him.

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.

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM (11:00)

PRESENTATION OF CHILD

Ellie and Jack Richmond are presenting their daughter, Elizabeth Mae Richmond, for baptism.
Assisting Elder: Lynn May

BAPTISMAL QUESTIONS

*PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

THE BAPTISM

HYMN OF PREPARATION 821

My Life Flows On
HOW CAN I KEEP FROM SINGING

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE READING | Matthew 5:1-4 (page 809); Romans 7:21-25 (page 944)

¹ Seeing the crowds, he went up on the mountain, and when he sat down, his disciples came to him. ² And he opened his mouth and taught them, saying: ³ “Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. ⁴ “Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted.

²¹ So I find it to be a law that when I want to do right, evil lies close at hand. ²² For I delight in the law of God, in my inner being, ²³ but I see in my members another law waging war against the law of my mind

and making me captive to the law of sin that dwells in my members. ²⁴ Wretched man that I am! Who will deliver me from this body of death? ²⁵ Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ our Lord! So then, I myself serve the law of God with my mind, but with my flesh I serve the law of sin.

Pastor: The Word of the Lord.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

SERMON

Kingdom Comfort and Good Mourning

Dr. Ryan Moore

Blessed are those who mourn for they shall be comforted. —Matthew 5:4

OFFERTORY

My Eternal King

Jane Marshall

My God, I love thee; not because I hope for heav'n thereby, nor yet because who love thee not must die eternally, thou, O my Jesus, thou didst me upon the cross embrace; for me didst bear the nails, the nails and spear, and manifold disgrace. Why, then why, O blessed Jesus Christ, should I not love thee well? Not for the hope of winning heav'n, or of escaping hell; not with the hope of gaining aught, not seeking a reward; but as thyself hast loved me, O ever-loving Lord! E'en so I love thee, and will love, and in thy praise will sing; solely because thou art my God, and my eternal king.

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 353

My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less

SOLID ROCK

*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

CHORAL RESPONSE | from Psalm 121

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

Recessional

William Mathias

** Those who are able, please stand.*

PARTICIPANTS IN THE SERVICE

Ryan Moore, PhD – *Pastor*
Sara Hill, MDiv – *Parish Associate*
John Musgrave, DMin – *Parish Associate*
Adrian Taylor, MDiv – *Director of Missions Ministry*
Mallory Hammond, MDiv – *Parish Associate, Director of Ministry to Children and Their Families*
Raphael Bundage, DMA – *Director of Music*
Joseph Fala, MM – *Assistant Director of Music and Organist*
Rhonda Swanson, MM – *Assistant Organist*
Acolytes – CG Ward and Watts Ward, Powell Byram and Vaughan Yancey

SANCTUARY FLOWERS

Flowers in the Chancel are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of Matthew Edwin Hill by David and Carolyn Hill, Reid, Katy, Andrew, and Caroline Hill.

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 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.

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 in Grundy Hall, with 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.

SPECIAL ART SERIES: BEATITUDES THROUGH THE ART OF ROGER DALE BROWN

ABOUT THE ARTIST: Roger Dale Brown, a Tennessee native, has spent his life studying and capturing the beauty of nature, history, and culture through painting, earning Master Status with Oil Painters of America, the American Impressionist Society, and the American Society of Marine Artists. A celebrated teacher and juror, he has led workshops across the United States and abroad while continuing to create art that reflects the Impressionist belief that painting from life is essential. Roger and his wife, Beverly Ford Evans, were married by Sandra Randleman in 2014 and began attending First Presbyterian that same year; together they formally joined in 2022. For this series on the Beatitudes, Roger has prayerfully paired his own artwork with each passage, inviting us to engage both heart and senses as we worship the living God together.

COVER IMAGE: Roger Dale Brown, *Summer Cascade*. Oil on canvas, 30 × 30 in.—“Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.” Feeling sorrowful over our sins and the spiritual inadequacy of the world is something we all experience. In these moments, God understands and encourages us to come to and rely on him. When I paint a scene with a creek or river it immediately calms me, the same way God does when I have failed him. I chose this painting because I felt the calming presence of God as I created it. –RDB

Security Changes for Sunday Mornings—For the past several months, our Worship Council and Diaconate have been thoughtfully reviewing how best to make our Sunday mornings both safe and welcoming. As part of this effort, beginning Sunday, October 5, the Hospitality Center doors (located to the left of the Sanctuary, near the accessible parking and elevators) will remain locked throughout the morning. Because we know this entrance is especially important to many, a greeter will be stationed there from 8:00–11:00 a.m. to welcome you and provide entry. These doors may feel a little different—locked instead of open—but you will still be able to use them as usual, now with the added benefit of being greeted personally. Our main entrances on Sunday mornings remain the Children’s Entrance and the Sanctuary Entrance, both of which continue to be staffed with greeters and security personnel.

Our Pastoral Staff Is Here for You—With Prayer and Presence—Dr. Ryan Moore, Rev. Sara Hill, Dr. John Musgrave and Rev. Mallory Hammond are committed to walking alongside you in every season of life. If you are facing surgery, spending time in the hospital, or simply in need of a call, a visit, or prayer, our pastoral staff would love to support you. Please reach out to one of our pastors, email care@fpcnashville.org or contact our Congregational Care Assistant, Charlotte Schierbaum at 615-298-9527. Any concerns shared will be held in confidence and passed along to our pastoral team with great care.

Midweek Study with Ryan Moore | Wednesdays | 11:30 a.m.-1:00 p.m. | Session Room—All are welcome to a weekly lunch and study with Dr. Ryan Moore. This fall, the class will be studying the book of Ecclesiastes. Ecclesiastes is for people who have their doubts about God but can’t stop thinking about him. The author of Ecclesiastes has his doubts also, and these allow him to speak to skeptics and believers down through the ages. A light lunch will be served, payment for which is donation-based.

Spiritual Gifts Workshop | Two date options provided: Sept. 24 | 6:00–8:00 p.m. or Oct. 5 | 12:00–2:00 p.m.—Join us for a shared meal followed by a workshop led by Rev. Sara Hill on discovering and cultivating your spiritual gifts. Together, we will explore how God equips each of us with gifts to be used at home, at work, and in the church. Come ready to identify your gifts and consider how they can be used to God’s glory. Registration is required; please note if you need childcare when registering. Register at fpcnashville.org/events.

Congregational Meeting | Sept. 28 | Following both Worship Services—The Session has called a Congregational Meeting for Sunday, September 28, following both worship services, for the purpose of voting on a slate of nominees to serve on an Associate Pastor Nominating Committee, and voting on a slate of new officer candidates presented by the Officer Nominating Committee. View the slate of nominees at fpcnashville.org/nominees.

Soccer Saints | Saturday, Sept. 27—Help us welcome soccer families at the final soccer gameday 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. Volunteer slots are open between 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. Visit fpcnashville.org/soccer to sign up.

Parents Night Out | Saturday, Sept. 27 | 5:00–8:00 p.m.—Enjoy an evening of fun for children with a family-friendly movie, games, and dinner provided. \$20 covers three hours of childcare and dinner. Take this time to recharge, spend time with loved ones, or enjoy quiet moments with the Lord. Register at fpcnashville.org by September 24.

Fall Habitat Build | Sept. 27-28, and Oct. 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.

Service Project | Oct. 14 | 4:30–7:30 p.m. | Nueva Vida—Help pack and distribute food to our neighbors in need through the Nueva Vida Food Project. Tasks include sorting, stocking shelves, and offering a friendly smile. We are looking for up to 5 volunteers for each date: Oct. 14, Nov. 18, Dec. 9. Register at fpcnashville.org/missions.

First Friends—First Friends is a dynamic ministry that caters to the needs of adults ages 55 to 105. Whether you’ve been active before or never attended a First Friends event, you’re 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, call 615-298-9551 or visit fpcnashville.org/firstfriends.

Oct. 9 | 11:30 a.m. | New Beginnings Widows Group Lunch
 Oct. 10 | 10:00 a.m.–2:15 p.m. | Men’s Trip to Tour Lane Auto Museum and Lunch

Oct. 13 | 9:30 a.m.–3:00 p.m. | Day Trip to Dickson and Lyles
 Oct. 16 | Luncheon & Speaker Series: Cybersecurity 101
 Oct. 21 | 2:30 p.m. | Book Club: *A Walk in The Park*
 Oct. 27 | 9:30 a.m.–1:30 p.m. | Goodwill Industries Tour & Lunch

GENERAL FUND GIVING SUMMARY

YTD AT **AUG. 31, 2025**

Actual \$2,889,990

Budget \$3,248,000

Variance (\$358,010)

While giving to date is below our projections, expenses have also been lower than expected, so our financial position remains stable. Many households choose to make their full pledge later in the year, and we have \$1.8 million in pledges yet to be received. We invite everyone to prayerfully consider the timing of your 2025 pledge and how you might participate in supporting our shared mission.



Choral Vespers

Dinner and Worship Service

Join us September 25 at 5:30 p.m. in Courtenay Hall to enjoy a delicious dinner prior to a special Choral Vesper Service in the Chapel at 6:30 p.m.

After the meal, we invite you for an evening of scripture, music, and reflection in this special choral vesper service. Led by our choir and Dr. Ryan Moore, the service will explore the Psalms through word and prayer, with guest Dr. Megan Daffern of Wells Cathedral in Somerset, England.



Please register in advance for dinner online at fpcnashville.org/events or scan the QR code.

UPCOMING EVENTS

- Sept. 24** | 6:00–8:00 p.m. | Spiritual Gifts Class (Option 1)
- Sept. 25** | Dinner (5:30) and Choral Vesper Service (6:30)
- Sept. 24-27** | Oak Hill School Fall Consignment Sale
- Oct. 5** | 12:00–2:00 p.m. | Spiritual Gifts Class (Option 2)
- Oct. 25** | 9:00–1:00 p.m. | One Day 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. 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. 21, 28** | 9:45 a.m. | Follow Me Sunday School Series for 7th Graders & Parents
- Oct. 25-26** | Middle School Fall Overnight

FIRST FRIENDS

- Oct. 9** | 11:30 a.m. | New Beginnings Fall Lunch for Widows
- Oct. 10** | 10:00–2:30 p.m. | Men's Trip to Lane Auto Museum and Lunch
- Oct. 13** | 9:30–2:30 p.m. | Day Trip to Dickson and Lyles
- Oct. 16** | 12:00–1:30 p.m. | Lunch and Speaker Series
- Oct. 30** | 9:30–1:45 p.m. | Nashville Ballet Viewing of Nutcracker Rehearsal

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

- Oct. 14** | Circles Begin

MISSIONS

- Sept. 27–28, & Oct. 4–5** | Habitat Build
- Oct. 12** | 4:30–6:30 p.m. | Serving Meals at Matthew 25
- Oct. 14** | 4:30–7:30 p.m. | Nueva Vida Service Project

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