

THE WINDOW

First Presbyterian Church

Hendersonville, TN

September 2026



Curtis Island Lighthouse



Dear Friends,

On our vacation to Maine this summer, Pam and I enjoyed whale watching (have a great photo of a Fin Whale in my office), sunset sailing cruise on a schooner, eating at restaurants on the water (I had lobster almost once a day), sightseeing, shopping, and investigating lighthouses.

Lighthouses lit up the rocky shorelines, shallow water, and hidden reefs so ships would not run aground. Their lights revealed the dangers and where to safely

travel. Lighthouses served as Navigational Aids helping sailors figure out where they are and point out the way to safe harbors.

These lighthouses reminded me of the song “The Lighthouse.”

There's a lighthouse on the hillside that overlooks life's sea.
And when I'm tossed it sends out a light that I might see.
And the light that shines in darkness now will safely lead us o'er.
If it wasn't for the Lighthouse my ship would be no more.

Everybody that lives around us says tear that Lighthouse down.
The big ships they don't sail this way anymore there's no use of it standing round.
Then my mind goes back to that stormy night when just in time I saw the light.
Yes, the light from that old lighthouse that stands there on the hill.

And I thank God for the Lighthouse I owe my life to Him.
For Jesus is the Lighthouse and from the rocks of sin.
He has shown a light around me that I could clearly see.
If it wasn't for the Lighthouse (tell me) where would this ship be.

The psalmist recognizes God as the light. *It is you who light my lamp; the Lord, my God lights up my darkness (18:28).* Psalm 119:105 proclaims God shining through His Word. *Your Word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.*

The kings of the Old Testament were lights for God’s people. Lighthouses of God. Through their leadership, the people learned how to worship and honor God. The kings shined the light of God when the people were tossed and walking in darkness.

God sends Jesus into the world to shine the light of God. He is the light of the world (John 8:12). The church now is the light of Christ in the world. *You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill cannot be hid. No one after lighting a lamp hides it* (Matthew 5:14-15). We are lighthouses of God.

It is said lighthouses have a distinct rhythm of flashes (its “character”) or specific painted patterns, so sailors know exactly which coast they are seeing. First Presbyterian Church has a unique vision and mission that distinguishes us from other Hendersonville congregations. Each one of us has a different story, different personality, and different experiences with the Lord. God calls us to be lighthouses to each other loving one another through our differences. We shine our lights for our families, friends, neighbors, colleagues, and the world. May we shine brightly.

Love and Prayers,

Michael

New Vision Statement

First Presbyterian Church is a family of all generations, joining our voices in worship and extending our tables in mission — growing together in the ever-expanding Kingdom of God, where every neighbor is welcomed and known by name.

SPOTLIGHT ON THE MISSIONS MINISTRY COMMITTEE

2026 Missions Committee Co-Moderators: Howard Renton and Rick Bass

Current Members: Eva Dye, Evelyn Kemp, Jim Miller, Debbie Renton, Suzi Bass, Rick Bass, and Howard Renton



Purpose: The Missions Committee is responsible for our ministries of compassion beyond our congregation which include not only local service projects and programs but also local and other benevolences and worldwide ministries.

Our congregation has such a heart for ministry! You can see and feel it every time we gather, whether in Sunday morning worship service, working together at one of the ministry events, or our tremendous response to identified needs as they arise. The Missions Committee regularly meets on the first Tuesday of each month and serves to organize and communicate to the congregation about our ongoing ministries, as well as emerging and emergency needs. Beyond your generous donations, other ministry opportunities include:

- Saturday food distributions once a month at the Matthew 25 Nueva Vida location
- Providing lunch every other month to the staff of Community Child Care Center
- Ad Hoc sorting and shelving of food at the Hendersonville Samaritan food center
- Joining with Sew Many Blessings or Crochet
- Helping at the annual Rise Against Hunger meal packaging event
- Joining the team that spends a week in the summer at an Appalachian Service project site

Matthew 25:40 *“The King will reply, ‘Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.’”*

For more information about each of the organizations and ministries we support, please visit the Missions page on the FPC web site at: <https://fpchendersonville.org/missions>.

We had a great turnout for our annual Rise Against Hunger meal packaging event in August, and later this month we will be asking for donations of food items for the Hendersonville Samaritan food center. Stay tuned to weekly bulletins for donation timing, as well as the food center’s most pressing needs.

Want to be more involved in Missions?

There are so many ways for you to be more involved, and we would love to have you. Please contact Howard Renton, Rick Bass, or any member of the Missions Committee.



Rick Bass, Howard Renton, Debbie Renton,
Suzi Bass and Jim Perry



Evelyn Kemp and Eva Dye

DAILY BIBLE READING

This year we will read through the New Testament. There will be one chapter for each weekday and no reading assignments on weekends. This time can be used to reflect on the weekly readings. Here are some reflective questions after you read the chapter through twice. Is there a word or phrase that gets my attention? How does this touch my life? Is there an invitation for me? How will this impact my life today?

September 1 Colossians 4
September 2 1 Thessalonians 1
September 3 1 Thessalonians 2
September 4 1 Thessalonians 3
September 5 Reflection

September 6 Reflection
September 7 1 Thessalonians 4
September 8 1 Thessalonians 5
September 9 2 Thessalonians 1
September 10 2 Thessalonians 2
September 11 2 Thessalonians 3
September 12 Reflection

September 13 Reflection
September 14 1 Timothy 1
September 15 1 Timothy 2
September 16 1 Timothy 3
September 17 1 Timothy 4
September 18 1 Timothy 5
September 19 Reflection

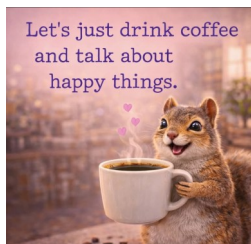
September 20 Reflection
September 21 1 Timothy 6
September 22 2 Timothy 1
September 23 2 Timothy 2
September 24 2 Timothy 3
September 25 2 Timothy 4
September 26 Reflection

September 27 Reflection
September 28 Titus 1
September 29 Titus 2
September 30 Titus 3



To my church family,

Thank you so much for your support after my father's passing. Your cards, phone calls, texts, meals, and hugs made the Dye family feel very loved—Eva



100TH BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION: PLEASE JOIN US!

Join us for a 100th birthday open house for Ruth Woodworth (mother of Marikay Burke) in the church fellowship hall on Sunday, September 13, 2026, from 2:00 PM to 4:00 PM. Your presence is our present; please, no gifts. Let us celebrate a century of God's grace together!



Celebration Details

- **Date:** Sunday, September 13, 2026
- **Time:** 2:00 PM – 4:00 PM
- **Location:** Church Fellowship Hall
- **Honoree:** Ruth Woodworth
- Refreshments will be served

Dear Church Family,

Thank you to each and every one of you for the love and support you have been giving me. You may have sent a card, made a phone call, paid me a visit or made a memorial in Wally's name, etc. Your love and kindness is greatly appreciated by me and my family—Judy Wallis



Even though we can't see Fall in our future, it is coming. I know, because as I write this in sweltering heat and oppressive humidity, "Pumpkin Spice" is popping up everywhere. It has become the harbinger of Autumn. First Wednesday Coffee Talk is on September 2, 2026. We gather at 10:00 a.m in the library. We are still telling our stories....and they are fun, and very interesting. Maybe some pumpkin spice will appear...if the cookie baker is on target.



Many thanks to everyone for your support of our Rise Against Hunger event which took place this year on August 22nd. We exceeded our fund-raising goal of \$4,000 and raised \$4,495! Many folks gathered in Martin Hall that morning and packed 14,256 meals during the event which puts our 8 year total for all events at over 100,000 meals distributed to hungry children around the world. We even earned our own special gong in honor of surpassing this significant milestone! We continue to be blessed to be a blessing.



RAH Rep presenting Eva Dye & Michael Davis with our very own "Gong"



Brian Burke & Karen Baylor



Michael Conard & Barry Ingram



Betty Ingram & Brenda Conard



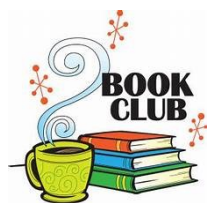
Our Amazing Groups Hard at Work!



Nancy, Michael & Pam Davis



Matt & Ethan Iccman



The FPC Evening Book Club is currently reading *Hamnet*, written by Maggie O'Farrell. This mesmerizing novel is currently a Netflix movie. In 1580 England, Hamnet, a young penniless Latin tutor, marries Agnes, known for her unusual gifts as a healer who understands plants and potions better than she does people. Just as Hamnet's career on the London stage is taking off, his beloved young son succumbs to sudden fever. Join us for our discussion on **Monday evening, September 14, at 6:30 pm.**

Read along and meet with us for discussion from the comfort of your own home as we meet by Zoom. Just send an email to our "Zoom Master" Charles Lott so he can send you a link. (clott@bellsouth.net) For any further questions, contact Jackie Decker (thepauldeckers@comcast.net). Looking ahead: *The Separation of Church and Hate*, written by John Fugelsang.

Presbyterian Women: Ok Ladies of the church heads up, PW (Presbyterian Women) starts September 8th at 10:00 a.m. This year our book is *United Through Christ, Bound to Each Other*. We will be studying Paul's letter to the Corinthians. Our author is Rev. Dr Rhonda Mawhood Lee. She is an Episcopal priest in North Carolina. She is from Montreal Canada. She has her MDiv from Louisville Presbyterian Theological Seminary and her PhD from Duke University. Each lesson has a different narrator so that will be fun. Come join us! The books are in the PW mailbox!

Save the Date: Fall Adult Fellowship & Bonfire!

Mark your calendars for a wonderful evening of food, fun, and fellowship! On **Saturday, October 17th**. Janet and Drew Covington are opening their home and backyard to host an outdoor picnic and bonfire for our adult church community.

Whether you've been a long-time member or are looking to connect with new friends, all adult church members and guests are warmly invited to join us as we gather around the fire and enjoy the crisp autumn evening together.

Event Summary:

- **What:** Adult Fellowship Picnic & Bonfire
- **When:** Saturday, October 17th
- **Where:** The Home of Janet & Drew Covington
- **Who:** All adult members and friends of the church



Keep an eye out for complete details—including time, directions, and what to bring—in upcoming Sunday bulletin inserts and the October newsletter. We can't wait to see you there!

There will also be a special recognition on Nancy Davis' 95th birthday!

Ministry Around the Church

Here is the stack of greeting cards I have received so far. Add to the pile of love text messages, phone calls, and office visits. You are also sharing your love by transporting me across the pond to Mt. Juliet. Thank you very much for loving, supporting, and encouraging Pam, Mom, and me during this unexpected medical emergency and recovery. Our congregation loves people like this every week.

When I was a youth pastor in Miami, I had a sign over the youth room that read, "Love is Spoken Here." Love is spoken at our church. While I was reading through Romans in the hospital, I read this wonderful imperative of God, "Owe no debt to anyone, except debt to love one another (Romans 13:8)."



May we owe the debt of love to everyone we meet!



The Mystery Member This Month Is ...



Time for the Mystery Member article! This month my selection was a HUGE help, filling me in on so many things I had no idea about. And I've known her for many years.

She is married and has two adult children, aged 43 and 40. She also has five grandchildren who make her so very happy...and she gets to see four of them quite often. She and her husband help their mom with school pickups and fun times with them whenever they are needed. Her oldest grandchild no longer lives at home. He's 19, and is out finding his "thing", living across the country, working on the career he wants to pursue. She misses seeing him as often as she used to, but it's just that time. He wasn't excited about the prospect of college yet.....so decided to try to make his dream happen. Not everyone needs to go right into college after high school graduation. They stay in touch often with those wonderful devices most of us have learned to use pretty well....personal computers and those phones everyone has, that are basically small computers!

Since our MM spends lots of quality time with her grandkids, she is proud to share that she is a real PRO on a razor scooter! I'm impressed....hopefully she's always careful!

Ok, she is not a native Tennessean. She was actually born in, and grew up, in a small college town in Pennsylvania Amish country! She still loves small town life, and since she lives close enough now to be a HFPC member, she is obviously in our general area.

Her career since college has been incredibly varied. She got her bachelor's degree in criminal justice, along with a double minor in Psychology and Sociology! After college, she worked for awhile as a correction counselor in a work adjustment center for juvenile and adult offenders. It was located in Ohio. No wonder she is content living in middle TN now, enjoying her family!

She loved being a stay-at-home mom for several years. When she did go back to work, when her kids were a little older, she worked for three years as the coordinator for the Sumner County "Just Say No" program. Her next career move was spending 10 years in the banking industry. She finished out her working life as the office/facility manager of a local Hendersonville business. She retired in 2017 but definitely stays busy.

Her hobbies include home decorating and remodeling, as well as music in all aspects....singing, playing, and enjoying all of it!

Our Mystery Member first joined Hendersonville First Presbyterian Church in 1988. Both of her children grew up in our church. They took a brief break from church but came back as very involved members in 2022! She has served as an elder, was on the Day School board, and has been on many committees! She also participated in ASP several times!

While she LOVES staying busy, she also shared that her favorite pastimes now include sitting on the porch, visiting with friends and neighbors. Whew.....she is one busy lady! She does like to travel, enjoying the beach as well as the mountains!

Her mom also lives in Hendersonville and is about to celebrate a milestone birthday! And of course, our Mystery Member will be celebrating it with her!

SERMONS

September 6 (Communion) – 2 Corinthians 1:3-7,

How our struggles can help others

September 13 – 2 Corinthians 2:12-17, God's favorite perfume

Series on Philippians

September 20 – Philippians 1:21-30, Do I like who I am becoming?

September 27 – Philippians 2:1-13, humility. Am I proud of my humility?



Thru July 2026

Revenue \$ 166,148.68

Expenses \$ 230,727.01

Shortfall \$ - 64,578.33

SESSION ACTIONS

- Prayed for congregation
- Read the session statement of faith
- Approved minutes from May 18, June 15, Congregational Meeting on June 7
- Discussed concerns of members
- Discussed the article, *10 Reasons Your Ministry Isn't Growing*
- Heard a report from presbytery and a healthy discussion
- Approved Ministry Unit reports
- Heard and approved verbal report from the Missions Committee
- Received pastor's report
- Discussed next steps with the vision statement
 - Approval of the Congregational Meeting on August 23
 - Session, committees, and music groups discerning how they can connect with it.
 - In September, host some small group gatherings for the congregation to share ideas
- Received a pavilion update
- Voted to keep the side entrance door open during worship since we have police presence
- Approved a gift for Cailyn (\$250) and Lee (\$500)



**Progress
on the
Pavilion**



CHURCH STAFF

Michael Davis, *Pastor*

michael@fpchendersonville.org

Linda Agee, *Church Administrator*

linda@fpchendersonville.org

Sheri Brazelton, *Music Director*

sheri@fpchendersonville.org

Tina Yar, *Nursery Attendant*

Tina.ostovar@gmail.com

Lauren Finn, *P.D.S. Director*

PDSDirector123@gmail.com



**This month's
Mystery Member is
Marikay Burke**



First Presbyterian Church

172 W. Main St. | Hendersonville, TN

(615) 824-8604

Website: www.fpchendersonville.org

Email: linda@fpchendersonville.org

Sunday School—9:00 a.m.

Worship Service—10:00 a.m.



- 1 - Jerry Klym
Molly Kate Reno
- 3 - Susan Garrett
Ruth Woodworth
- 5 - Nita Anderson
Paul Decker
- 9 - Janna Willis
- 10 - Tina Yar
- 11 - Scott Blackwell
- 17 - Laurie Dishman
Marikay Burke
- 18 - Jennifer Frazier
Mary Leah Venable
- 20 - Sherry Tarbutton
- 21 - Jackson Reeves
- 22 - Jim Miller
- 23 - Evelyn Kemp
- 24 - Jo McCrary
- 25 - Carter Wells
- 27 - Stan Campbell
Sandy Scott
- 29 - Barry Ingram