

THE WINDOW

First Presbyterian Church

Hendersonville, TN

June 2026



Dear Friends,

I am sure you are familiar with the Irish blessing. "May the road rise to meet you. May the wind be always at your back. May the sun shine warm upon your face, the rains fall soft upon your fields, and, until we meet again, may God hold you in the palm of His hand."

God always surrounds us. Psalm 139 proclaims, "You, Lord, hem me in behind and before and lay your hand upon me (v.5)." Jesus promises, "I will be with you always, to the end of the age (Matthew 28:20)."

The Lord surrounds our lives from the beginning to the end. Colossians 3:1-4 teaches us that Jesus holds our past, present, and future. "So, since you have been raised **with** Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. Set your minds on the things that are above, not on the things that are on earth, for you have died, and your life is hidden **with** Christ in God. When Christ who is your life is revealed, then you also will be revealed **with** him in glory."

Prepositions are important in our communication. Our grandchild, Harper, is just over three years old. She has incorporated a strong throwing arm from both her parents' years playing softball and baseball. I specifically ask Harper to throw the ball to me, not at me. I want her to understand the difference between throwing to me and at me.

In the verses above in Colossians, the preposition, "With" is used three times to describe three different tenses. Each of these tenses represent a time in our lives – past, present, and future.

First, we are raised with Christ (verse 1). The New Testament writers talk about dying with Christ and being raised with Christ. Our dying with Christ describes our repentance and decision to change the direction of our lives. We no longer follow ourselves or others, but Jesus as our Lord. We now are on a new life journey confessing our sins and asking the Holy Spirit to help us become more like Christ. We have died and are raised with Christ.

Secondly, our lives are hidden with Christ (verse 3). This is written in present tense. We are now hidden with Christ. Hidden describes safety and security. Jesus Christ provides protection through all of life, the good and bad. Psalm 32:7 assures us "You are my hiding place, you preserve me in trouble, you surround me with songs of deliverance."

Thirdly, we also will appear with Him in glory (4). Our futures are planned out. When Christ returns and appears in glory, we also will appear with Him in glory. This is the hope for us and our loved ones. This is a promise for those living and those who have already died.

Our lives are surrounded by God's love and power. We have been raised with Christ in the past, are hidden with Christ in the present, and will appear with him in Glory in the future. We are with Christ all the time. There are no worries in our past, present, or future.

Love and Prayers, *Michael*

SPOTLIGHT ON THE DISCIPLESHIP & EDUCATION COMMITTEE

The ongoing goal of the Discipleship and Education Team is to provide spiritual growth opportunities for every individual of every age who desires to grow in the grace and knowledge of Jesus (2 Peter 3:18). Last year, we had a variety of educational offerings and continued to look for opportunities to include and celebrate our youth, and create fellowship opportunities for the congregation.



Nursery

Tina Yar has been a dependable assistant in the nursery. We have improved communication with her via email and text to make sure she knows when worship service will be canceled or off-site. We sometimes have a baby or young child in the nursery, but it is unused most Sundays.

Children's Sunday School and Children's Church

Due to low attendance, we ended the children's Sunday School class that we started offering in fall 2025. In its place, Pastor Michael and Gretchen Tuttle have experimented with family Sunday School classes which have been well received. Gretchen plans to begin regularly offering these classes one Sunday each month beginning fall 2026. She is an excellent planner and already has a calendar for the class. She will communicate with families closer to the start of the class. Children's Church is going well. We have a sufficient number of teachers to cover the classes and Betty Ingram does a nice job of making a calendar and keeping everyone coordinated. The new curriculum is based on stories from the Bible and has been well received by the teachers and children. For the last year, we have had the children return to the sanctuary on Communion Sundays. We do not offer Children's Church on Christmas Eve, Easter Sunday, or days of outdoor/offsite worship.

Youth Group and Youth Sunday School

We have not had any youth regularly attending Sunday School. Ariana Brew will visit from college on occasion and will have a Sunday School lesson with Stan Campbell. We have not had any youth group outings, but the youth have helped with events at church such as the Souper Bowl of Caring and the Easter egg hunt.

Adult Sunday School

Adult Sunday School classes have included the following topics:

- Last fall (2025), Jim Miller led a class based on N. T. Wright's *James*.
- June Still led a class during winter based on the book *Hearing Jesus Say Well Done* by Daniel Steiner.
- During Lent (2026), we used James W. Moore's *Give Up Something Bad for Lent* which was led by the Bish Family.
- In the spring (2026), Billy Dye led a class discussing the Six Great Ends of the Church.
- This summer (2026), Michael will facilitate a class we're calling "Discussions on . . ." Each week we will designate a different biblical topic (fear, hope, prayer, money, etc.) and ask participants to contribute their opinions and favorite Bible verses/passages regarding that topic. We're planning a relaxed and open discussion (not lecture), perhaps in Martin Hall, with refreshments each week. Our hope is that lots of people will come whenever they can this summer and get to know one another better in a casual setting.

We have noticed that attendance seems to be better when we offer Bible-based courses, such as those based on books by N. T. Wright.

Men's Weekly Bible Study

Our weekly Wednesday morning men's Bible study continues to chug along—often slowly, but always faithfully. After spending nine months going through the Gospel of Matthew (due, in part, to several holiday breaks), they plan to begin the book of Hebrews on June 17. It's a decent-sized group who all enjoy their weekly discussions, but one thing would make it better—they would like to see some new faces more often. If you're a man (young, old, or somewhere in the middle) with some available time at 8:00 Wednesday mornings, you have an open invitation to join them. It will only take an hour to check it out for yourself (or two, if you want to join them for breakfast at Cracker Barrel afterward).

Women's Monthly Bible Study

We use the Presbyterian Women's Horizon Bible Study. This year, the study was *Let Justice Roll Down: God's Call to Care for Neighbors and all Creation* by Patricia K. Tull. They will break for the summer and begin *United Through Christ, Bound to Each Other* by Rhonda Mawhood Lee on the second Tuesday in September. Women's Bible Study is led by Linda Ballenger.

Women's Weekly Bible Study

This group meets in the Session Room every Thursday from 11 – 12 to discuss devotions from the Presbyterian devotional, "These Days." As word spreads about this new group, their current attendance of 9 to 12 people is expected to grow. The group will continue through the summer and has requested 16 copies of the next quarterly edition. The group is led by Freda Blackwell.

Connection Groups

Connection Groups were established about twenty years ago with three goals: Bible study, fellowship, and prayer. Groups of a dozen or so people meet in homes or at church to reflect on the previous Sunday's sermon, ask questions, discuss personal application, and pray for one another and any other concerns. Many include food – usually light refreshments, though some in the past have shared full meals. Some of the strongest bonds in our church today were forged in one of these groups.

Currently, we have two Connection Groups. One meets Thursday nights and is led by Stan Campbell; it has about 16 members with a regular attendance of 10 – 12. The other group is led by Diann Hall and meets Wednesday morning with a regular attendance of 3 – 4. Anyone who is interested in attending or joining a group is encouraged to speak to Pastor Michael.

Other Activities

Other committee activities include an Easter egg hunt, graduate reception, Super Bowl fundraiser for local nonprofit, and several Fifth Sunday breakfasts.

Our committee members are: Sarah Ice, Lucas Bish, Jackie Decker, Kathy Ebbert, Stan Campbell, Jean Getter, Susan Gartett, and Gretchen Tuttle.

There's still plenty of room around the table for other interested volunteers. Maintaining, improving, and introducing spiritual growth programs is often demanding and time-consuming, and we welcome all the help we can get. We're thankful for the participation and support of the church throughout this year and are praying for continued interest and growth in 2027.



Introducing Our Newest Members



Welcome Michael and Brenda Conard. Between the two of them, they have four children and nine grandchildren combined. Michael works for MGM Windows. He enjoys outside work, detailing cars, watching sports, and is quite the handyman. Brenda loves cooking, meeting people, having fun, and babies and old people. She also enjoys driving all kinds of trucks including school buses and semi-trucks in her past.

**Michael & Brenda Conard—314 E. Eastland Street
Gallatin, TN 37066**

629-200-8780 (B) ; 901-849-7637 (M)

Mconard59@yahoo.com

Welcome Beth McKay. She has been a member of Harpeth Presbyterian Church since 1957. She is an Elder and served as Clerk of Session for 17 years. She was born in Kentucky. Her family moved to Nashville when she was nine. She taught elementary school in Nashville for 31 years until retiring in 1997. She enjoys playing bridge and canasta, crocheting, reading, and spending time with family. She moved from her house of 72 years in Nashville to Hendersonville to be closer to her niece, Eva Dye and family. She will remain a member of Harpeth but is an Affiliate Member of our church.

**Elizabeth (Beth) McKay—141 Saundersville Road, # 1408
Hendersonville, TN 37075**

615-431-0608 ; 615-975-0014 (c)

gibsonmckay@yahoo.com



Welcome Mike and Tara Mielnik. You will often see their son, Carson's daughter Molly, at church. They are wonderful grandparents. Tara teaches history at Cumberland University. She enjoys trivia nights and is an avid reader. Mike is a consulting CPA. He plays in a men's ice hockey league. They have been married 30 years and lived in Nashville most of that time. They are hard and fast Predator fans.

**Mike & Tara Mielnik—392 Willow Bough Lane
Old Hickory, TN 37138**

615-710-7045 (T)

Mike_mielnik@comcast.net

Welcome Lucas and Leah Niven. They have their first baby arriving in June. Her name is Naomi Elizabeth. Lucas grew up in Mount Juliet and Leah in Traverse City, Michigan. They met at Michigan State University and got married in July of 2024. Lucas is very close to receiving his license as a veterinary technician. Leah works as an environmental scientist and cartographer.

**Lucas & Leah Niven—1391 Foxland Blvd., Apt. T202
Gallatin, TN 37066**

615-594-4104 (Lucas) ; 231-632-4005 (Leah)

lniven615@icloud.com





April Missions Update – Grace Place

Thanks again to all who contributed so generously to Grace Place in April - we took several loads of household supplies throughout the month! As a reminder, this Hendersonville ministry provides safety, shelter, food, vocational assistance and spiritual guidance for single mothers and their children. By supporting them with prayers and donations we're helping our neighbors in small but meaningful ways. What a blessing it is to be part of a congregation with a Missions heart!



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?

June 1 Acts 27
June 2 Acts 28
June 3 Romans 1
June 4 Romans 2
June 5 Romans 3
June 6 Reflection

June 7 Reflection
June 8 Romans 4
June 9 Romans 5
June 10 Romans 6
June 11 Romans 7
June 12 Romans 8
June 13 Reflection

June 14 Reflection
June 15 Romans 9
June 16 Romans 10
June 17 Romans 11
June 18 Romans 12
June 19 Romans 13
June 20 Reflection

June 21 Reflection
June 22 Romans 14
June 23 Romans 15
June 24 Romans 16
June 25 1 Corinthians 1
June 26 1 Corinthians 2
June 27 Reflection

June 28 Reflection
June 29 1 Corinthians 3
June 30 1 Corinthians 4

Poolside Gathering and Potluck Planned for June 27th



Please mark Saturday, June 27th on your calendar! All adults and friends of FPC are invited to a poolside gathering/potluck at the home of John Allen. We will gather at 6:00 p.m. at the Allen home located at 2421 Mansker Drive, Madison, TN. A main course of the picnic variety will be provided, and those attending are asked to bring a side, salad or dessert to share with the group. We kindly request that those planning to attend please RSVP to either John at 615-351-7871 or to Marikay Burke at 724-301-7484 OR mari-kay091759@comcast.net. Hope to see you there!

National Day of Prayer

The National Day of Prayer was held on May 7 at the Community Church. Many cities, towns, and schools participated in praying for our nation and communities on this day. There were over 300 people from over 42 different denominations and non-profits organizations who were represented. Seven leaders from different denominations led in the prayers for the different topics: church, family, education, business/workplace, military, government, and arts/entertainment/media. It was a wonderful example of the unity we have in Jesus Christ.



Ched Yearout, Jack & Marge Kurtzman, Howard & Debbie Renton, Harry Covert, Becca Pendergrast and Missie Colson



June 21st



The Mystery Member This Month Is ...



Time for the latest contribution of Hendersonville First Presbyterian Church newsletter's Mystery Member! Last month I totally missed the fact that it was time to send Linda the article.

This month, our Mystery Member was born in Hendersonville. This person is not very old....but he IS a member of the church. In fact, he's pretty sure he has attended all of his life! He is an only child, although he grew up with a canine sister, and remembers always having dogs at home. He has lived in Hendersonville his whole life, except for a couple of years when his family was living in Gallatin. He graduated from Beech High School.....a time that he always enjoyed. He was active in sports at Beech, and loved being part of that community.

He's single, but has been with his girlfriend for about two years. They met through a mutual friend, and obviously it was a good choice. He actually steered her toward a job opening at the place he had been working, Twelve Stones Golf Course. He wasn't currently employed there, but his girlfriend did follow up on his advise, and got a job there.

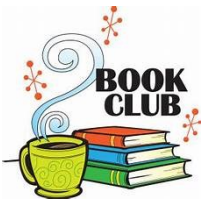
He has many interests that keep him busy. He loves to play golf, playing the guitar, and bass guitar. He is currently working at a job that he really didn't have any experience in. He's learned a lot, and is enjoying his job. (He actually got the job initially through a family contact....it is ALWAYS helpful to have someone refer you to a job you end up enjoying.) He definitely enjoys playing the guitar, and is part of a small group of friends who play together. Basically just for fun. BTW, there's no better way to enjoy life than create music. Although, he does have other hobbies that always make him smile!

He attended college at MTSU, but just for a short time. It just wasn't the best fit for him. Most of us don't know if the college we pick to attend is going to be where we end up. Lots of students transfer schools.

He loves to travel. One of his favorite trips was to Bandon, OR with his dad. They share a love of golf, and he discovered that he loved going to the Pacific West. He has travelled to Mexico but definitely would like to go to Europe at some point. Everyone I know who has travelled to Europe has wanted to get to go again.

He loves TV and movies. His favorite movie series is "The Pirates of the Caribbean trilogy". Yep, he's a Johnny Depp fan! His favorite music genre is Classic Rock. He has always loved rock music. I remember hearing a lot of Def Leppard and Van Halen at my house in the early 90's.

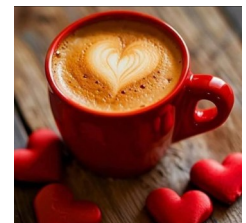
I asked him what he sees himself doing in 10 years, and he said he'd definitely like to be married, and maybe have a child. Did you figure out who this member is?



The FPC Evening Book Club is currently reading *Wholehearted Faith* by Rachel Evans with Jeff Chu. Evans died at 37. In her final collection of writings, readers will find someone deeply human: funny, irreverent, curious, wise, forgiving, nonjudgmental. Evans is widely recognized for her theologically astute, profoundly honest, and beautifully personal books, which have guided, instructed, edified, and shaped Christians as they seek to live out a just and loving faith. Join us for our discussion on **Monday evening, June 8th, at 6:30 p.m.**

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. (crlott@bellsouth.net) For any further questions, contact Jackie Decker (thepauldeckers@comcast.net). Looking ahead: We are in the process of compiling our next reading list.

*FYI...First Wednesday Coffee Talk never takes a Summer break. We have too much fun to need a break. Be sure to enjoy your family vacations and when you return, return to Coffee Talk with good memories. We will be waiting to hear your stories. Our June meeting is June 3rd in the library at 10:00 a.m. The coffee will be ready and the cookies will be waiting. Hope to see you there.



SERMONS

June 7—(choir, Communion) – Faith in the impossible, Romans 4:13-25

June 14—(Praise band) – Appalachia Service Project participants sharing

June 21—(Bells) – Choosing life, Deuteronomy 30:11-20

Sending off Montreat Conference participants June 28-July 3

June 28—Men's Sunday



April 2026

Revenue \$ 92,324.55

Expenses \$ 137,380.75

Shortfall \$ - 45,056.20

SESSION ACTIONS

- Prayed for congregation
- Read the session statement of faith
- Approved minutes from April 20 & 26
- Discussed the book, *Proclaiming the Great Ends of the Church* – The Maintenance of Diving Worship
- Approved Ministry Unit reports
- Heard and approved verbal report from Congregational Care Committee
- Received pastor's report
- Discussed and approved hiring two police officers to help with entering and exiting the parking lot on Sundays. The money will come out of the Memorial Reserve Fund.
- Approved Scott Blackwell and Becca Pendergrast's wedding on August 28
- Approved two people for Elder Emeritus (They will be announced at a later date)



**Rise Against
Hunger
August 22nd!**

Adult Summer Sunday School



This summer the education committee is offering an adult Sunday School class who will discuss different passages of the Bible. It is titled, "Discussions on...." There will be discussions on fear, hope, prayer, money, faith, love, comfort, and leftovers (topics that were not covered). This will be an opportunity for you to bring your Bible passages along with your questions. The leader will facilitate an open discussion on each topic. It will be in the upstairs classroom from June 7-July 26. Hope you will come with some Bible verses and questions.

Ministry Around the Church

It seems there are all kinds of ministries around the church any day of the week. On the first Wednesday of every month, you will find a group of ladies laughing, sharing stories, talking about devotionals shared, and growing in relationships and faith. We also have a new group that meets every Thursday at 11:00 a.m. for a study focused on *These Days Daily Devotionals*. Everyone is welcome for an encouraging time. Oh! Don't forget about the food.



These Days Bible Study Group



Coffee Talk Group

CHURCH STAFF

Michael Davis, *Pastor*

michael@fpchendersonville.org

Linda Agee, *Church Administrator*

linda@fpchendersonville.org

Sheri Brazelton, *Music Director*

sheri@fpchendersonville.org

Lee Druce, *Pianist*

leedruce@gmail.com

Tina Yar, *Nursery Attendant*

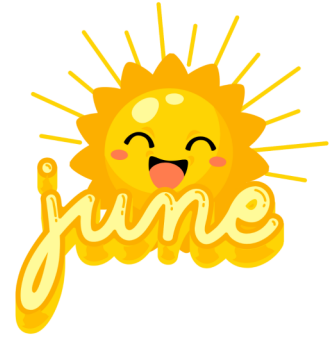
Tina.ostovar@gmail.com

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

PDSDirector123@gmail.com



**This month's
Mystery Member is
Lucas Bish**



- 2 - Brayden Elliott
- 3 - Kelly Estep
- 6 - Toby Parrotta
- 7 - Amy Bish
Suzy Bass
- 10 - Jim Perry
- 12 - Jesse Conner
- 14 - Tom Rouse
- 19 - Mary Perry
- 20 - Addison Riggs
- 21 - Melinda Elliott
- 22 - Lucy Hardin
- 23 - Kathy Ebbert
- 25 - Reggie Craig
- 26 - Mike Estep
- 30 - Jarrett Ipox

First Presbyterian Church

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Sunday School—9:00 a.m.

Worship Service—10:00 a.m.