

THE WINDOW

First Presbyterian Church

Hendersonville, TN

January 2026



Dear Friends,

We are now stepping out of 2025 and into 2026. The Christmas message lights up the sky and echoes around the world – the Savior has been born. He is Christ the Lord. This continues to be good news of great joy for all people. Good news yesterday, today, and tomorrow.

Mary Carpenter, Presbyterian pastor and author, kept a doll from her childhood which she called, “Buttercup.” She kept it in the attic and brought it out every year at Christmas to be the baby Jesus in the manger. But she had to explain herself when one of her kids told another, “The baby Jesus lives at our house. We keep him in the closet until Christmas.”

Christmas trees are recycled or squished back into their original boxes until next year. Ornaments are wrapped back up for storage. Soon the house will be put back to pre-Christmas order, and we are off into another year. Everything is packed away except for Jesus.

As we begin another year, may we remember the awesome power of the loving God who lives with us – Immanuel – God with us. Here are some reminders to take into 2026.

- God is infinite – “Great is our Lord, and abundant in power, his understanding is beyond measure” (Psalm 148:5).
- God is all powerful – “By the word of the Lord the heavens were made, and all their host by the breath of his mouth” (Psalm 33:6).
- God is omnipresent – “Where can I go from your spirit? Or where can I flee from your presence? If I ascend into heaven, you are there; if I make my bed I Sheol, you are there” (Psalm 139:7-9).
- God is good – “O taste and see that the Lord is good” (Psalm 34:8).
- God is gracious – “The Lord is gracious and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love” (Psalm 145:8).
- God is loving – “Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God” (1 John 4:7).
- God is holy – “Holy, holy, holy, is the Lord God Almighty, who was and is and is to come” (Revelation 4:8).

As we begin this new year, may we grow deeper in our understanding of the good news of great joy for all people, including us. May we be intentional about how we spend time with the Lord, learning more from scripture (Growing in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, 2 Peter 3:18) and praying more for others and ourselves.

Love and Prayers,

Michael

Happy New Year

Missions

Our congregation has shared a lot of Christ's love this Thanksgiving and Christmas holiday season! Thanks to your extraordinary generosity, the 2025 Holiday Season ended with a bang. The outpouring of gifts for our Community Childcare Center Angel Tree drive, along with significant monetary donations, allowed us to exceed expectations. We delivered 50 bags of Christmas presents, gift cards and Christmas story books for CCC families. Additional donations provided enough money to purchase a large number of diapers and wipes, as well as a gift card for each of the staff.



We also delivered five full Christmas meals to families at Lakeside Park Elementary School.

We are all blessed to be a blessing to others, and look forward to another year of serving our brothers and sisters in Christ.

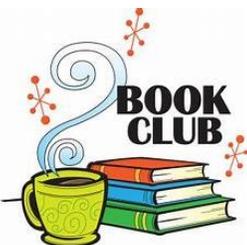


Caroling Group: Every year we sing to our homebound members. This year with the low temperatures, we sang to those in nursing homes – Brenda DePriest, Jennifer Keen, and Linda Plunk (Laurie Dishman's mom).

Warm Hearts, Warms Bowls On A "Chili" Night!

Our next adult fellowship event will be held at the home of **Casey and J.T. Thompson** on **Saturday, January 24th**, and all FPC adult members, friends and visitors are invited to attend. Chili will be provided as our main course, and those attending are asked to bring an appetizer, salad, side dish or dessert to share. We will gather at the Thompson home located at 106 Cheyenne Drive, Hendersonville at 6:00 p.m. In order to assist our hosts in set up and chili preparation, we ask that you kindly RSVP to either Casey at 704-516-9996 or to Marikay Burke at 724-301-7484 / marikay091759@comcast.net. We look forward to a wonderful evening of fellowship and delicious food! Adult Fellowship events occur 3 to 4 times per year at members' homes, and all adults are welcome!





The FPC Evening Book Club is currently reading *Remember Us: American Sacrifice, Dutch Freedom, and a Forever Promise Forged in World War II*, written by Robert Edsel. The author draws on never-before-seen letters, diaries, and other historical records, to show the painful price of freedom, on the battlefields and inside American homes.

We will meet for discussion on **Monday evening, January 12, 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: Our next book is *Theo of Golden* written by Allen Levi. Avid reader Judy Hodges praises this story as "her favorite all-time book ever."

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?

January 1	Matthew 1
January 2	Matthew 2
January 3	Reflection
January 4	Reflection
January 5	Matthew 3
January 6	Matthew 4
January 7	Matthew 5
January 8	Matthew 6
January 9	Matthew 7
January 10	Reflection
January 11	Reflection
January 12	Matthew 8
January 13	Matthew 9
January 14	Matthew 10
January 15	Matthew 11
January 16	Matthew 12
January 17	Reflection
January 18	Reflection
January 19	Matthew 13
January 20	Matthew 14
January 21	Matthew 15
January 22	Matthew 16
January 23	Matthew 17
January 24	Reflection
January 25	Reflection
January 26	Matthew 18
January 27	Matthew 19
January 28	Matthew 20
January 29	Matthew 21
January 30	Matthew 22
January 31	Reflection



January 2026

Sunday Worship Schedule

9:00 a.m. - Sunday School

10:00 a.m. - Worship

Music Group Practice Schedule

Handbell Choir Practice

Sundays at 11:00 a.m.

Praise Band Practice

Tuesdays at 6:30 p.m.

Adult Choir Practice

Wednesdays at 6:30 p.m.

Weekly Group Meetings

Sew Many Blessings

Mondays at 10:00 a.m.

Crochet Group

Mondays at 10:00 a.m.

Men's Bible Study

Wednesdays at 8:00 a.m.

January Monthly Meetings / Group Meetings

January 1 - New Years Day—Office Closed

January 5 - Education Meeting 6:30 p.m.

January 6 - Missions Meeting 10:30 a.m.

Membership Meeting 4:00 p.m.

January 7 - Coffee Talk 10:00 a.m.

Staff Meeting 10:30 a.m.

January 11 - Connection Groups Begin

January 12 - Zoom Book Group 6:30 p.m.

January 13 - PW Women's Bible Study 10:00 a.m.

January 14 - Worship Meeting 6:00 p.m.

Budget & Finance Meeting 6:30 p.m.

January 19 - Session Meeting 7:00 p.m.

January 20 - Sunshine Fellowship 10:30 a.m.

January 24 - Adult Fellowship-Thompsons 6:00 p.m.

February Window Deadline—January 21st

Welcome Our New Members



Welcome Harry Covert. He has been married to Nancy for 63 years. They have two adult boys and one grandchild. They relocated here from Southern California last January. He is a retired manager. He served as an elder, deacon, and Stephen Minister at Palm Desert Community Church. He also works with Kairos, a prison ministry.

**Harry Covert—454 Mya Marie Drive—Gallatin, TN 37066
310-968-7925 ;
hncouvert@gmail.com**



Welcome Matt and Amy Iceman. They are both from Ohio. Matt moved to Nashville to pursue a career as a professional drummer. They were married in 2008. Matt is a full-time musician, and Amy is an elementary music teacher at George Whitten. They love to spend time outside hiking and biking, along with traveling to visit family. Ella takes ballet and loves to read, write, and make art. Ethan also loves to make art, Legos, trains, and animals. Amy enjoys singing, cooking, and reading. Matt is a runner and loves Christmas time. They all love their dog, Lloyd.

**Matt & Amy Iceman—107 Shiloh Ridge—Hendersonville, TN 37075
615-557-8172 (M), 615-519-0046 (A);
amy_iceman@yahoo.com; icelikesdrums@gmail.com**



Welcome Justin and Stacey Reno. They have been married for 14 years and have two daughters, Autumn (10 years old) and Molly Kate (5 years old). Justin was born and raised in Hendersonville and Stacey is from East Tennessee (Morristown). Justin and Stacey met at UT Knoxville at the Presbyterian Student Ministry house. Their home is filled with music and dog hair (they have two dogs). Most of their free time is spent at dance classes and at Triple Creek Park.

**Justin & Stacey Reno—110 Beth Court—Gallatin, TN 37066
615-587-1855 (J), 423-231-4962 (S) ;
icerenol@gmail.com; staceysparrow@gmail.com**



Welcome Stuart and Mary Ruffin. They have four children and eight grandchildren. They moved to Middle Tennessee in 2019 from Northern Illinois. They both work in health care. Stuart is a dietary manager in senior living at The McKendree. Mary is in Operations and Project management for a radiology office. She also travels internationally with Swimmers Passion. They enjoy spending time with family, outdoors, and reading.

**Stuart & Mary Ruffin—4920 Greenbriar Circle—Old Hickory, TN 37138
847-903-0881 (S), 847-275-5571 (M)**

Introducing Our New Elders



Rick Bass spent most of his years in California (San Fernando Valley and San Diego). He and his wife Suzi moved to Hendersonville in 2021 to be with family. Two favorite travel locations were Australia/New Zealand and Africa along with Alaska and Western Canada. He is retired from Law Enforcement and college associate professor. Rick's favorite hobbies were playing tennis, hiking, and woodworking until his unique disease limited his activities. Now he enjoys grandkids, cooking, and reading/studying to deepening his Christian faith. His favorite part of church are the music, genuine fellowship, and his pastor.



Lucas Bish has been in our church his whole life. He was raised here in Hendersonville. His favorite place to travel is the Pacific Northwest. His occupation is an airplane pilot. Lucas enjoys playing music (bass guitar). His favorite part of the church is the tight community and the feeling of family.



Scott Blackwell has been a Presbyterian for 40 years. He grew up in Meridian, Mississippi. His favorite place to visit is Europe. His occupation is a Chef and Restaurant Manager. Scott enjoys reading literature and listening to music. His favorite part of the church is the historical warmth.



Becca Pendergrast has been a member of the church since 2005. She grew up in Bristol, VA. Becca's favorite short trip is Boone, NC and long-distance trip is Italy (hopefully a Scotland trip in the future). She spent 20 years with Bellsouth in large business sales and product management. For the last 23 years, she has been a real estate Agent/Broker. Becca loves music, walking, hiking, and recently watercolor. Her favorite part of the church is the variety of music and different ways people connect both inside and outside the formal church setting.



Paulette Farnham has been a member of First Presbyterian for 40 years. She grew up in Missouri. Her favorite place to travel was Ireland. Paulette is a retired registered nurse. Her favorite hobby is diamond painting. She loves our congregation's hospitality.



Ordination and Installation: One of the most exciting worship services is when we ordain and install new elders. All elders gather around the new elders laying hands on them during the prayer which symbolizes God anointing them with the Holy Spirit for their calling as elders.



First Wednesday Coffee Talk hosted a very successful 2nd annual Kay Keck Cookie Swap on December 3rd....great fellowship, fun, and a large variety of scrumptious cookies. If you missed it, we missed you! Be proactive and add it to you 2026 calendar for December 2. Check out the vintage recipe below for Snowball Jewels that Judy Wallis baked for a cookie swap in 1990. Karen Baylor baked them, and they were wonderful. Our next regular meeting is January 7, 2026 at 10 a.m. Everyone is welcome.

(*Our severe weather rule is the same as the Sumner County schools. We cancel if they cancel.)

Snowball Jewels Recipe

- 1—14 oz flaked coconut
- 1—14 oz sweetened condensed milk
- 1 tsp almond extract
- 1/4 tsp salt
- 1 1/2 cups M&M



Combine all ingredients, mix well. Drop by rounded tablespoonfuls onto greased cookie sheet. Bake at 350 degrees for 9-11 minutes or until edges are very lightly browned. Using moistened spatula, immediately remove from cookie sheet. Cool thoroughly on wire rack. Makes 3 dozen.



Presbyterian Day School: This year PDS adopted two sets of siblings for our school's Angel Tree mission. I am proud to say that taking on 5 children was a great success.



Teachers: Ms. Jasmine Britton, Ms. Rosi Lewis, Mrs. Ashley Romain, Mrs. Lauren Finn (P.D.S. Director), Ms. AJ Cline and Mrs. Becky Jelinek.



Ministry Around First Presbyterian Church

Starting this month, there will be photos of church members doing ministry. Ministry is happening all the time. Sometimes we see it and sometimes we don't. If you capture a photo of ministry in action, send it to the pastor.

Sheri is conducting the choir, praise band, and bell choir rehearsing for the cantata *A Thrill of Hope*. The music program of our church blesses us each week in worship. They spend many hours planning and rehearsing to lead our worship. The variety of music is one of the unique features of our church's ministry. *A Thrill of Hope* was a blessing to our congregation. Thank you to everyone who participated.



SERMONS

January 4 – John 1:1-18, What did you get for Christmas?

January 11 – Matthew 3:13-17, Claimed and Called

January 18 – Playing your part, 1 Corinthians 1:1-9

Four-week series on The Beatitudes

January 25 – Kingdom of God living, Matthew 5:1-4



Thru November 2025
Revenue \$ 295,773.05
Expenses \$ 342,129.13
Shortfall \$ - 46,356.08

Current Session and Ministry Unit Assignments

- Billy Dye—Clerk of Session
- Howard Renton and Rick Bass—Missions
- Sarah Ice and Lucas Bish—Discipleship & Education
- Scott Blackwell and Becca Pendergrast—Congregational Care
- Laurie Dishman and Paulette Farnham—Worship
- Ched Yearout—Property
- Brian Burke and Casey Thompson—Membership



- ◇ The church staff would like to thank everyone for your Christmas gifts and generous donations to the Love Offering. We are blessed to serve at such a wonderful church and we really appreciate your love and support throughout the year.
- ◇ Thank you to Bob & Sandy Scott of Long Hollow Nursery for donating the beautiful wreaths which adorned the church during the Advent season.

Where will God take us by 2030?

Dear Congregation,

On Sunday, November 16 we gathered in Martin Hall to discuss where God might be leading us in the next five years. Here are the areas mentioned most often:

- Reaching out to young families and youth
- Expanding the facility for growth and accessibility.
- Capitalizing on the quality of our music ministry.
- There is an appreciation and blessing for relationships we are building on Sundays and during the week.

The community mission we provide is a foundation of our congregation.

Early next year the Future Planning Team will spend time discerning how to connect these areas, prioritize and choose the top three to become our vision for the next five years. It seems likely this vision will continue much of what we are already doing, but with more depth and intentionality. Most likely we will change our existing vision statement, *responding to God's love and grace, our vision is to serve Christ through our service to others*, to become our mission statement, since it describes who we are and what we do but not specifically where we plan to go. Vision statements give churches direction into the future.

If you have any questions, please contact Michael or the Future Planning Team (Cari Lou Westendorf, Elisabeth Ipox, Casey Thompson, and Paul Decker).

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



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.



- 2 - Frank Tuttle, III
- 6 - Zane Riggs
- 7 - Rosie Lewis
- 9 - Carrie Batey
- 10 - Karen Abbott
- 11 - Tim Bish
Andrew Getter
- 13 - Howard Renton
- 14 - Brenda DePriest
- 16 - David Abbott
- 17 - June Still
- 20 - Drew Covington
Ruth Faulkner
- 24 - Jonathan Davis
- 25 - Wendolyn Ebbert
Jadon Wells
- 31 - Sasha Dishman