

First Presbyterian Church
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Return Service Requested

The Voice

First Presbyterian Church

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September 2025**To Know Him and To Make Him Known**

Siblings in Christ,

Big news in American social culture this week! Taylor Swift and Travis Kelce are engaged, and the Starbucks Pumpkin Spice Latte is back. The excitement is so grand that a few young people have even remarked, "All is right again with the world!"

Of course, we know that it is not. A marital engagement, no matter how public, doesn't magically fix worldly strife. Likewise, a seasonally flavored latte cannot solve all of life's problems. But neither of those is really the reason why these two events are breaking* the internet. No, people are excited because they've been expectantly waiting for both. Fans of Taylor Swift have been tracking her relationship with Travis Kelce for almost two and a half years, waiting for there to be a ring (an engagement ring, not a Super Bowl ring). Starbucks lovers look forward to pumpkin spice lattes each year because it signifies that Fall is officially on its way. These events prove that what people have hope for – longed for – can and do come true.

First Presbyterian Church has been hoping and longing for something too: returning to the sanctuary. Though we've known that we would eventually make our way back after air conditioning repairs, camera installation, and cleaning, not knowing when has felt just as bad as not knowing if it will ever happen! It may not make headlines outside our community, but our wait is almost over. Mark your calendars because Sunday, September 7, 2025 is the big day. We will joyfully gather in the main sanctuary after three months of worshipping in the Fellowship Hall. Dreams do come true!

Yet, as we prepare for our own feeling of “all is right again” in our church world, I pray that we do not forget what we discovered in our waiting to be in the sanctuary:

- Passing the Peace became an event, not just a moment of waving from the pews. More than once, the greetings continued after the Children's Time began!
- The congregation could see and hear the choir beautifully, and many of you commented on how delightful that made the worship experience.
- Due to the proximity between pulpit and “pews,” sermon engagement went up. I could hear your responses and see your smiles, and that always does a preacher's heart some good.
- In general, overall awareness of one another was more prevalent, and that is exactly what the Gospel of Jesus Christ calls us to do.

Friends, in our waiting, the church was the Church! But just as an exciting engagement or the resurrection of a favorite drink only begins a season of joy, know that our expectant waiting is not *fulfilled* on September 7. It is simply the start of a season – a renewed life – together. It may not be the wedding of the era, but it will be a celebration. Thanks be to God!

Peace,

Lex

*Overwhelmed the internet with the news.

SEPTEMBER WORSHIP

September 7-Clothe Yourselves with Love

September 14-Clothe Yourselves in Wisdom

September 21-Clothe Yourselves with Mercy

September 28-Clothe Yourselves in Justice



If you would be willing to provide flowers for our worship service, please sign up on the Flower Chart by the office. Please consider participating in this ministry!

Upcoming Events

September 1-Labor Day-Church Closed-NO Bible Study

September 4-Dinner at Broussards at 5:30pm followed by Faith in Film at Maiden Alley Cinema 7pm

September 7-Youth Choir/Group resumes

September 8-Bible Study 12pm

September 9-PW Circle 10am at Viola Blackwell's home

September 13-Presbytery Boundary Training in Princeton

September 14-Friends & Family Sunday

September 15-NO Bible Study

September 16-Book Club at Shirley Wrinkle's house 1:30pm

September 16-Session 7pm

September 18-TOTs 6pm

September 22-Bible Study 12pm

September 22-LILs 6pm

September 29-Bible Study 12pm

Treasurer's Report-Year to Date through 7/31/25

	Actual	Budget	Over/Under
Income	273,538	256,953	16,585
Expenses			
Benevolences	17,536	19,577	(2,041)
Church Staff	112,770	131,497	(18,727)
Administrative	29,212	26,363	2,849
Worship	2,264	5,133	(2,869)
Christian Life	5,140	5,017	123
Property	41,704	40,494	1,210
Pastoral Care	-	175	(175)
Missional Outreach	200	1,575	(1,375)
Programs	1,215	1,679	(464)
Buddenbaum	3,003	2,917	86
	213,044	234,427	(21,383)
Net Total	60,494	22,526	37,968

The summary financial operating statement for the first seven months of 2025 is presented above. Income was higher than expenses by \$60,494 as of 7/31/2025. This is primarily explained by the facts that we have not been fully staffed (\$18,727 under budget for church staff), and that many of the members who pledged gave a large portion of their pledge during the first seven months (\$16,585 ahead of budget for income). Please let me know if you have questions.

Karen Durbin, Treasurer

September Birthdays

1~Jack Cody	17~Matthew Dochniak
1~Jane Gamble	18~Megan VerCautren
1~Henry Skinner	19~Justin West
4~Peyton Courtney	20~Lucia Robertson
6~John Halsell	21~Sandra Anderson
7~Ashlee Dochniak	21~Brian Courtney
10~Joe Sutor	22~Lucy LeBuhn
10~Layne Wolfrom	26~Eli Brown
14~Henry Stratemeyer	26~Leslie Peeples
16~Ted Mungle	28~Philip Mayne
16~Debra Pfeiffer	29~Johnny McClintock

September Anniversaries

16~Evan & Karen Brown	
17~Allan & Johanna Rhodes	

Book Club

Tuesday, September 16th at 1:30pm at Shirley Wrinkle’s house

The book for September is “The River We Remember” by Kent Krueger. Make plans to join us!

Mission Opportunity-Nigerian Water Project

It’s been 13 years since First Presbyterian Paducah sent a mission team to Kenya to install two water systems with the House of Hope clinics in Katito and Kandaria.

In August, Session endorsed a water mission project in Nigeria. The **Nigerian Water Project** will be a Rotary Global Grant project that will partner our church with Rotary, the Presbytery of Western Kentucky, and Living Waters for the World (LWW). Key to this project will be the family connections among all three partners. Our own **Charity Gar** will be leading the education portion of the project. Her brother, **Joseph Gar**, is a Rotarian with the Paducah Rotary Club. He and Ralph Young will be working on the Rotary Global Grant. Charity and Joseph’s nephew, **Benjamin Gar**, is the president of the Rotary Club of Makurdi in the Benue State of Nigeria. Benjamin will be representing his club on the project.

We are still in the fundraising stage of this \$60,000 project. The Presbytery has pledged \$2,500 and First Presbyterian Paducah has \$4,879 in their LWW account. We need an estimated \$2,621 more to fund the church’s part of the project. If you would like to support this project by traveling to Nigeria or making a donation, please contact the church or Ralph Young. If you would like more information on this mission project, please contact Ralph or Charity Gar.



Community Assessment Team from the Ajaba Community near Makurdi, Nigeria

Lifelong Learning Sunday School Class

The Lifelong Learning Class will continue our study on **Searching for the Historical Jesus**. This series of videos will be presented by Jean-Pierre Isbouts with Wondrium. Jean-Pierre Isbouts is an historian, biblical scholar, and best-selling National Geographic author. After earning his DLitt at Leiden University, he served as a member of the doctoral faculty at Fielding Graduate University for more than 15 years and now holds the title of Faculty Emeritus.

Some of the 15 lesson titles include:

- The Historical Jesus
- Growing Up in Galilee
- The Mystery of Miracles
- The Jesus Movement in Crisis
- The Rise of Christianity

Please join us in Memorial Hall for some interesting discussions.

Presbyterian Women

The 2025-26 Horizon's Bible Study is "Finding Resilience, Joy, and Our Identity in Jesus Christ." We will host our first meeting on September 9th at 10am at Viola Blackwell's home (622 Woodland Drive, Paducah). Viola will lead the group in discussing Lesson 1. If you need a regular print (\$15) or large print (\$20) copy of the study, please contact Chris Krueger soon.

Wonderful Wednesdays

Wednesdays from 4-5:30pm

We are underway with a new year of fun, singing, studying and crafts. We will take a deeper look into the Ten Commandments and will share our music with you at the Family Night Supper on October 15th at 5:30pm. Mark your calendar now!

Friends & Family Sunday

Sunday, September 14th

Invite your friends, family, and neighbors to join us for Friends & Family Sunday. A light lunch will be served after Worship in the Fellowship Hall.



Church Picnic Fun!!