

FIRST WORD

October 2026



**FIRST
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH,
HUNTSVILLE AL**

WWW.FPCHSV.ORG

Table of CONTENTS



1. New Member Interest Class
2. A Note from the Senior Pastor
3. Session Update & Presbytery Invitation
4. Construction Update
5. Construction Update Photos
6. Music Ministry
7. Reformation Sunday & Kirkin' O' the Tartans
8. Congregational Lunch & Kids Club
9. Children's Ministry
10. Sleep in the Deep
11. Youth Ministry
12. Presbyterian Women
13. Congregational Book Club
14. Goodtimers 2.0, Older Adult Ministry
15. Trunk or Treat
16. Kairos Prison Ministry
17. Santa for Seniors



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Huntsville, Alabama

*Rooted in Scripture, United in Christ,
Reaching Out in Faith*

New Member Interest Class

*Want to learn more about
First Presbyterian Church?*

*Interested in membership?
Contact our church office at
admin@fpchsv.org!*

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH

REV. J. DAVID
RANDOLPH

ALL ARE WELCOME!
8:00AM
10:00AM
WWW.FPCHSV.ORG

FELLOWSHIP
HALL

A Note from our SENIOR PASTOR



I was glad when they said to me, "Let us go to the house of the LORD!"

Our feet are standing within your gates, O Jerusalem...

Pray for the peace of Jerusalem: "May they prosper who love you.

Peace be within your walls, and security within your towers."

For the sake of my relatives and friends I will say, "Peace be within you."

For the sake of the house of the LORD our God, I will seek your good.

- Psalm 122:1-2, 6-9, NRSV

Like the Psalmist, I am overjoyed to be saying, "let us go to the house of the Lord!" Since Christmas, our church family has been worshiping in the Gideon Blackburn House as we patiently navigate all that comes with a facilities renovation project. This important work will help us ensure everyone is able to worship more comfortably in our historic sanctuary and I hope you will help me extend a warm welcome home to all God's beloved children when we return to this sacred space on October 18. Two worship services will be offered at 8:30 and 11:00 am, and the later will include the Aeolians. A catered congregational lunch will follow in John Allan Hall before our children enjoy their monthly Kids Club program and adults get together for a pastor led Bible Study about the Transfiguration from the Gospel of Matthew.

Please note that volunteers are needed on Sunday, October 11 after the 11:00 am worship service to help prepare this sacred space. We will move Bibles, hymnals, pew cushions, a few pieces of furniture, and anything else we need to ensure everything is ready to welcome our church family home. A simple pizza lunch will be provided for any volunteers. Please let the office know if you are willing to help.

October 18 will be an amazing Sunday in the long life of First Presbyterian Church and I look forward to rejoicing with you in worship as we give thanks to God for all the Lord has, does, and continues to do for our church family. As we prepare to return to the promised land, may our prayer be like that of the Psalmist: *May God's peace be within these historic walls; may God's love fill this sacred space with grace; may this time of preparation strengthen the foundations of our faith; may we be ready to share the peace of Christ with all God's beloved children; and may we always seek to do good for the sake of the house of the Lord. Amen.*

Gratefully,

- David

Summary of Session's Stated Meeting on September 21, 2026

The Session met on Monday, September 21 for our monthly stated meeting. Finances were reviewed and the congregation is thanked for their faithful support of our shared ministries. A Funeral and Memorial Service Planning Guide was approved. Elders continue to work committee budgets in preparation for this year's Stewardship season in November. Moving back into the sanctuary was a major topic of discussion. In the next few weeks, the construction contractor is to provide a bid for repair of the water damage in the administrative building. The Session continued to discuss various structures of the church administration, committee structure and the need for a Facilities Committee, and the calling of an Associate Pastor at the appropriate time. The Diaconate continues to work together and are doing a great job. Kids Club needs volunteers and there is a need for a wedding coordinator. The next Session meeting will be October 19 at 5:30 pm.

Come Support Pastor David at the October Presbytery meeting

At the October meeting of North Alabama Presbytery, Pastor David will stand on the floor to be questioned by and then welcomed into our presbytery. This is one of the last steps in the pastoral search process that formally transfers his membership. A group from FPC will be going to show our support and we welcome anyone to join us! The meeting will be held on Tuesday October 20 at 10am at Camp Maranatha. The bus will be available if anyone would like to ride together. Please contact the church office if you would like to attend.

Renovation UPDATES

Renovation Update
September 2026

Almost Home

After many months of construction, we are excited to share that our renovation and expansion project is entering its final stages! Throughout the building, the focus has shifted from major construction to finishing details, cleaning, and preparing our renewed spaces for use.

Preparing the Sanctuary

The Sanctuary and Chancel are nearly ready to welcome us back. The pews are back in place, final cleaning is underway, and the organ is being tuned as audio/visual systems are set up and finalized. These last steps are bringing the Sanctuary back to life and preparing it once again for worship.

Finishing the Addition

Work throughout the new addition is also nearing completion. The new bathrooms are being finalized, while trim, caulking, roofing, and other finish work continue throughout the building. Outside, there is significant activity as the project moves toward completion. Hardscape, sidewalks, and landscaping are all underway this week, completing the connections between the new addition, existing church, and surrounding grounds.

The Final Stretch

There are still details to complete, final inspections and punch-list items to address, but after watching walls come down, new spaces take shape, and our church transform over the past year, we can finally see the finish line! Thank you for your continued patience and flexibility throughout construction. We look forward to sharing these renewed spaces with our church family very soon.

— The Building Committee

Renovation UPDATES



Music in Words

The refreshing breeze of autumn brings joy and gratitude to our lives. Music at FPC will offer a rejuvenating experience inspired by the Holy Spirit and the love of Jesus Christ, whom we serve and cherish. Please mark your calendars for this upcoming services.



The Aeolians In Worship
from Oakwood University
Sunday, October 18
11:00 am



Reformation Sunday
& Kirkin'O' Tartan
Sunday, October 25
11:00 am



All Saints' Day
Sunday, November 1
8:30 & 11:00 am



Illuminare:
A Christmas Concert
Huntsville Master Chorale
Saturday, December 5
5:30 pm



FPC Chancel Choir
Christmas Cantata
Sunday, December 6
8:30 & 11:00 am



FPC Children
Christmas Pageant
Sunday, December 13
11:00 am



Christmas Eve Services
Thursday, December 24
3:00 & 5:00 pm

The Huntsville Master Chorale cordially invites you to attend its “Light That Jazz” concert on Saturday, October 3rd, at 3:00 am. A pre-concert performance will commence at 2:30 pm. The concert will be held at the Fantasy Playhouse Theater, located at 3320 N Triana Blvd SW.

Reformation Sunday & Kirkin' O' the Tartans

First Presbyterian Church
Huntsville, Alabama
October 25, 2026



*Rev. Dr. Buz Wilcoxon,
Lassiter Chaplain and Dean of
Spiritual Life at Presbyterian College*

First Presbyterian Church is excited to welcome Rev. Dr. Buz Wilcoxon to participate in a unique weekend celebrating our theological tradition. All are welcome to worship on Sunday, October 25 at either 8:30 or 11:00 am, with the latter including a Kirkin' O' the Tartans processional.

FPC will partner with North Alabama Presbytery to host a meet and greet for our connectional church and local Presbyterian College Alumni on Saturday, October 24 from 4:00 pm to 5:30 pm. Come and enjoy an opportunity to strengthen relationships within our region and see how the spirit of the Reformation continues to work among us. Contact Pastor David Randolph at david@fpchsv.org for more details.

A special youth event will be held on Sunday night from 5:00 to 7:00 pm. Dr. Wilcoxon will lead a Vocational Discernment Workshop for high school students to engage in an interactive reflection on who God is calling them to be and how they can follow that calling in the next chapter of their lives. Dinner will be provided. Please RSVP by emailing youth@fpchsv.org

September Congregational Lunch **AND KIDS CLUB**

THANK YOU!!



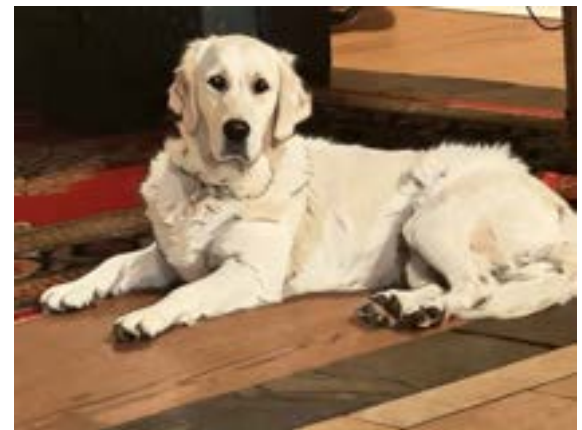
***Thank you to all who supported
and attended our September
congregational lunch!***

Save the Date

**Our next church lunch and Kids
Club will be October 18th!**



This month meet Hanna the therapy dog! Hanna's partner Serena Neely will share stories of her training, care, and service!



Sunday School Classes for Children

We are on a mission! Children are “secret agents” learning about God’s love and how to share that love with our congregation and the world. Join us for *Mission Possible Kids* on Sundays 9:30-10:30 in the basement of the Gideon Blackburn House. All ages are welcome!

Children’s Church

Children of all ages - infants, toddlers, preschoolers, grade schoolers - are welcome to worship for the whole hour with the congregation. We encourage even young children to worship with the congregation for the first part of the service. After the “Time for Young Disciples” we invite any child who wishes to join us in the basement youth room in Gideon Blackburn House to continue worshipping in Children’s Church.

Sleep in the Deep

AN OVERNIGHT RETREAT



Our FPC kids, youth, & adults had an amazing weekend “sleeping in the deep” at the Tennessee Aquarium in Chattanooga! This overnight adventure was filled with wonderful memories & time spent in awe of God’s creation!





We have had a wonderful Fall in Youth Ministry at FPC Huntsville! Some highlights have been packing personal hygiene kits for ShowerUp Ministry, welcoming a speaker from HEALS Inc. to talk about their medical services offered in Huntsville schools, a pool party, and an awesome laser tag night (with s'mores!). To learn more about our youth programming, contact youth@fpchsv.org.

Upcoming Calendar:

Sunday, October 4-Sunday, October 11: Fall Break

Sunday, October 18: PYC 5-6:30pm

Sunday, October 25: Discernment Workshop for High Schoolers

Sunday, November 1: PYC, 5-6:30pm

Sunday, November 8: Girls Floral workshop with Charlotte Wessel, PYC, 5-6:30

Sunday, November 15: PYC at *Christmas at Pemberley* at the VBC Playhouse



Presbyterian Women UPDATES

Presbyterian Women began the year with our first lesson, taught by Pastor David, and a business meeting led by Moderator Stella Wilson. Harriet Bibb installed the new leaders for the year:

Moderator: Stella Wilson

First Vice Moderator: Sharon Hudson

Second Vice Moderator: Betty Loeb

Secretary/Historian: Susan Lewis

Treasurer: Karen Madison

Together in Service Chair: Susan Livingston

Music Coordinator: Diann Berry

Publicity Chair: Janis Williams



Minutes from the May Gathering and the Treasurer's report were approved. The clothes collection for Christian Job Corps will continue with donations in October and November this fall and March and April in the spring.

Our next meeting is October 12. Circles 1 and 2 will meet in the Carriage House at 10 am, and the Evening Circle will meet in the Carriage House at 4:30. We welcome all women in to our inclusive and caring community.

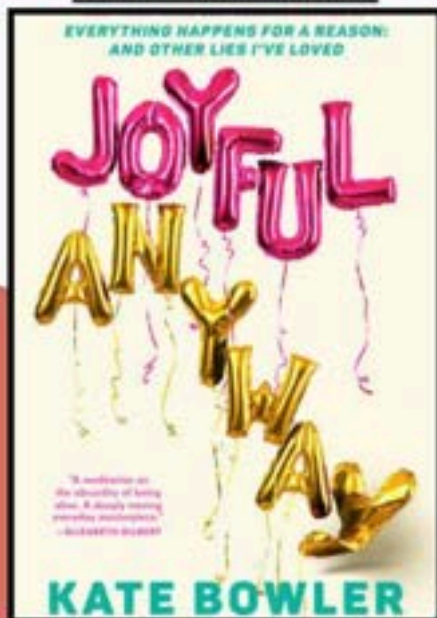


Congregational Book Club

Calling All Book Lovers!

BOOK CLUB

October 21st



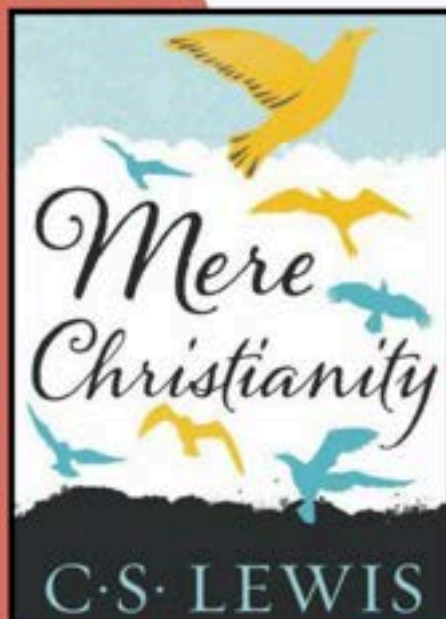
Let's explore our shared faith
by reading and discussing
books together!

**Gideon Blackburn
House**

5:30-6:30 PM

Need More information?
Contact Kathy Gillmore
at...

dce@fpchsv.org



November 18th

Goodtimers 2.0



GOODTIMERS 2.0

Meet Mr. Lincoln



Dennis Boggs presents an enlightening, informative, and educational look at the life of the 16th President as it might have been told by Abraham Lincoln himself.

Mr. Boggs has researched countless books and papers and has diligently designed a presentation that encompasses fifty-six years of Abraham Lincoln's life.



JOIN US FOR AN EDUCATIONAL AND ENTERTAINING EVENT

October 13th
John Allan Hall
2:00pm

Sign up on our website or through the church office.

Save these dates:

Host of Christmas Past trip to Fayetteville, TN
Saturday, November 14, 10:00 am - 2:00 pm

Christkindlmarkt trip to Cullman, AL,
Thursday, December 10, 10:00 am - 2:00 pm



Trunk or Treat



Join the Trunk or Treat Fun! Wear
your costume and bring your
candy bag for an evening of fun!

Bouncy Slide - Candy-
Greene Street Market

Thursday, October 29

First Presbyterian Church

307 Gates Avenue

5:00-6:00



Mission and EVANGELISM

Kairos, or “God’s Time” uses the transforming love and forgiveness of Jesus Christ to make prisons less violent, reduce the chance of re-incarceration, and help communities on the outside become safer. Our next 3-day weekend at Alabama’s largest men’s prison, Limestone Correctional Facility, will be *October 16 -18*.

Ways for First Presbyterian members to support this ministry include:

- Working inside prison (adult male only)
- Working just outside of prison at a nearby church (adult male and female)
- Preparing Agape in the form of food and other testaments of God’s love.
 - Children/youth make placemats and posters showing Jesus’ love
 - Adults can donate money to pay for prisoners’ individual meal tickets during that weekend and sign up for a weekend prayer vigil.
 - All can bake cookies and pray over them!

During a Kairos weekend, the atmosphere of the prison changes as we hand out cookies to prisoners and corrections staff. The prisoners see that Jesus’ people have not forgotten them, and that the Holy Spirit cannot be stopped by prison walls. So, look out for a Kairos table between services in September and October offering many ways to get involved. "Remember those in prison as if you were bound with them, and those who are mistreated as if you were suffering with them." (Hebrews 13:3)



Santa for Seniors

Once again, FPC has the opportunity to partner with TARCOG- Area Agency on Aging to provide Christmas gifts for 60 low-income, disabled, homebound seniors.

Beginning November 8th, a Christmas tree with names of the seniors and their wish lists will be in the Narthex of the church.

Please select a person to sponsor and
**RECORD THE NAME OF THE PERSON,
YOUR NAME & PHONE NUMBER ON THE LIST BY THE TREE.**

Gifts should be WRAPPED and placed in a large gift bag with the name of the senior attached to the bag.

**PLEASE RETURN THESE GIFTS
TO THE CARRIAGE HOUSE BY
SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 22ND.**

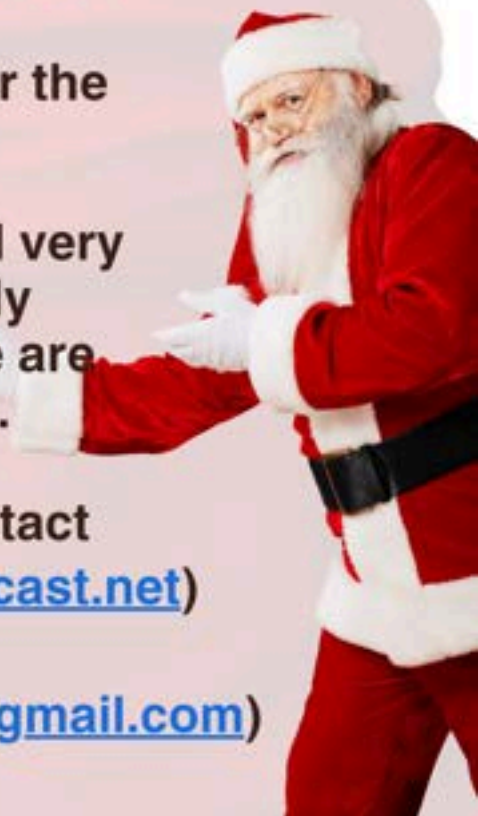
TARCOG Case Managers will deliver the gifts in December.

Many of these seniors live alone and very little help and support from family members. The gifts that we provide are often the only gifts they receive.

If you have questions, please contact
Karen Madison (karenmadison@comcast.net)

or

Marilyn McCorkle (marilynmccorkle24@gmail.com)



Leadership at First Presbyterian Church

Ministry Team and Staff

(256) 536-3354

Rev. J. David Randolph, *Senior Pastor*.....david@fpchsv.org
Lora Bohan, *First Friends Director*.....ffdirector@fpchsv.org
Ellen DeAngelo, *Director of Finance & Administration*.....finance@fpchsv.org
Kathy Gillmore, *Director of Christian Education*.....dce@fpchsv.org
Dr. Patricia Hacker, *Director of Music*.....music@fpchsv.org
Dr. Lois K. Lee, *Organist/Pianist*
Anne Dillon Loflin, *Youth Director*.....youth@fpchsv.org
Kristin Pepper, *Administrative Assistant*.....admin@fpchsv.org
Gary Whited, *Facilities Coordinator*.....facilities@fpchsv.org

CHURCH OFFICERS

Elders:

Class of 2026
Caitlin Thomas, Christian Education Committee
Houston Matthews, Finance Committee
Diann Berry, Mission and Evangelism Committee
David Young, Worship Committee

Class of 2027
James Lee, Christian Education Committee
Hamilton Holliday Sr., Finance Committee
Erin Cobb, Mission and Evangelism Committee
Nicole Schroer, Worship Committee

Class of 2028
Daniel Carter-Finance/Personnel
Nancy Lundy-Missions/Evangelism
Libbie Rentz-Christian Education
Sherry Smith-Worship

Deacons:

Class of 2026
Katy Bryan, Care Committee
Hudson Cornelius, Fellowship Committee
Courtney Allen, Hospitality Committee

Class of 2027
Ginger Bryant, Care Committee
Jenny Schreeder, Fellowship Committee
Vicky Goodwin, Hospitality Committee

Class of 2028
Marian Bevel-Care Committee
Dave Goodwin-Hospitality Committee
Brent Cobb-Fellowship Committee

Trustees:

Class of 2026
Roy McCorkle
Angela Rawls

Class of 2027
Ryan Parker
Melissa Rowe

Class of 2028
Mac Martinson
Andy Watson

Church Nominating Committee:

Erin Cobb- Chair, Session
Nicole Schroer- Session
Lucinda Shreeder
Glen Adams
Patty Conley
Bob Frank Smith
Jenny Schreeder- Deacons

Presbyterian Women:

Stella Wilson, Moderator