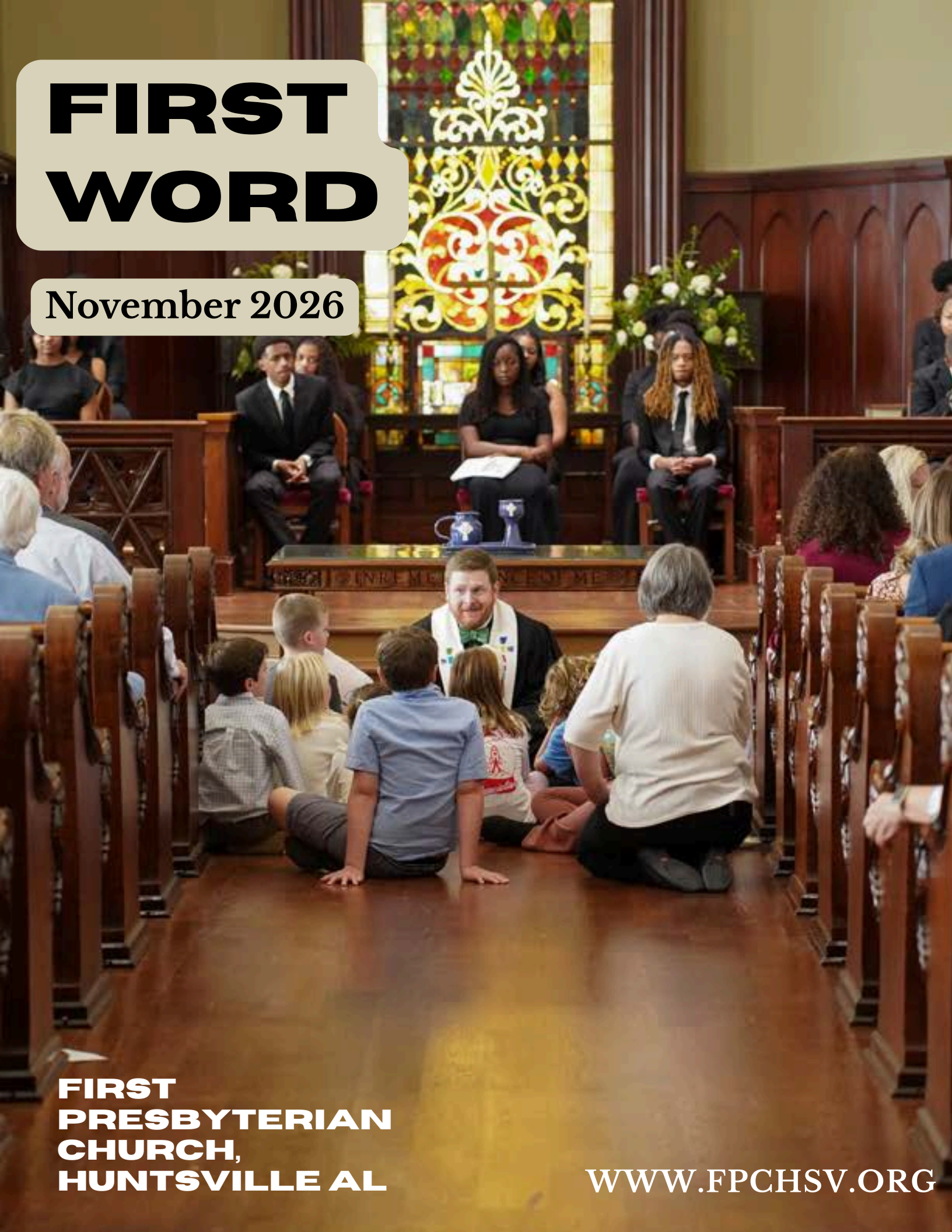


FIRST WORD

November 2026

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, HUNTSVILLE AL

WWW.FPCHSV.ORG









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FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
Huntsville, Alabama
Rooted in Scripture, United in Christ,
Reaching Out in Faith
New Member
Interest Class
Sunday, November 15th
12:15pm
Interested in membership?
Contact our church office at
admin@fpchsv.org!
FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
REV. J. DAVID RANDOLPH
ALL ARE WELCOME
WWW.FPCHSV.ORG
FELLOWSHIP HALL

A Note from our SENIOR PASTOR





"God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble. Therefore we will not fear, though the earth should change, though the mountains shake in the heart of the sea; though its waters roar and foam, though the mountains tremble with its tumult. There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God, the holy habitation of the Most High. God is in the midst of the city; it shall not be moved; God will help it when the morning dawns… 'Be still, and know that I am God! I am exalted among the nations, I am exalted in the earth.' The Lord of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our refuge."
(Psalm 46:1-5, 10-11, NRSV)

I took this picture on Friday, October 16. As I stood there alone in the silent sanctuary, all I could think about was the joyful noise our church family would create in the coming days: the wedding of Aaron and McKenna Stephens, the first Sunday back in the Sanctuary after the renovation, Reformation Sunday and Kirkin' O' The Tartans, and more. Looking back, it was a transfiguration moment more wonderful than I could have dreamed of and I hope the entire congregation enjoyed being back in this sacred space to worship just as much as I enjoyed being in there with you for the first time. Thank you to all those who have faithfully worked so hard for more than a year to make these past two weeks possible; Thank you to the Capital Campaign Committee for raising the money to make our space accessible to all, to the Interiors Committee for ensuring this sacred space reflects the Glory of God we long to see, to the Construction Committee for bringing this vision to life even with a few change orders, and to the Session and Staff for helping to guide the church through the stormy waters that swirl during any transition. God has been and still is our refuge; God is indeed in the midst of this community, and no matter what comes next, I know the Lord will continue to help us all each day as the morning dawns!

Back on that Friday evening before we opened the doors to this high holy place, one more thing popped into my head that unexpectedly transformed my perspective: **"Be still, and know that I am God!"** Yes, our congregation was about to hit the ground running in a new season of ministry, but what I remembered mattered most is that our church family felt the presence of God in this place. The Glory of the Lord, the Light of God's Love, the divine peace that is beyond all understanding is truly revealed whenever two or three people gather in Christ's name. What matters is not where we gather, but how we come together to "be still, and know the Lord our God" Maybe that's what really transforms our church, not new spaces but renewed hearts; maybe that's what really transfigures our collective ministry, not simply returning to regular programming, but resurrecting a Christ-centered view that sacrificially serves others first. Maybe, that's what God keeps asking us all to remember as this time of transition continues – **"Be still, and know that I am God!"** The Lord of Hosts is indeed with us, and I am still excited to see how the divine presence continues to be at work transforming our church family more and more into the Kingdom of God, on earth as it is in heaven.

Gratefully,

- David





Session Updates - October 19, 2026

The Session met on Monday, October 19 for our monthly stated meeting. Minutes were reviewed and committee reports were received. The Session discussed the re-opening of the Sanctuary on Sunday with over 450 people in attendance between two services and streaming online. Gratitude was expressed for all the hard work offered by volunteers and staff to allow the congregation to return to the Sanctuary as early as possible. It was a joy to have friends return to worship now that our facilities are more accessible. The Diaconate has done a wonderful job organizing extra ushers to welcome everyone home. Discussion continues on the need for an Associate Pastor and the various ways to accomplish calling an additional partner in ministry. Pastor David's installation at FPC was discussed and will occur on January 10, 2027, at the same time as the installation of the new class of officers. Although we are back in the Sanctuary, there is still a checklist of items to be completed before the project can be considered complete. Carpeting for the balcony and runners for the wood floors will take longer to be completed. New glass coverings over the stained glass windows are to occur in November. Water damage to the administrative area is still being addressed by FPC, the insurance company, and the contractor. The Session continued to discuss new models for church administration, committee structure and the need for a Facilities Committee.

One major item of discussion was the annual budget for 2027. To sustain the current ministries of the church, Session named a stewardship season goal of raising 1.25 million dollars in the 2027 annual budget. The Session is very hopeful for the future of First Presbyterian Church and asks members of the congregation to prayerfully consider how they may faithfully support our shared ministry by the giving of their time, talents, and treasures. Stewardship season will run November 8 through 22, with November 22 serving as Stewardship Sunday. The next Session meeting will be on Monday, November 16 at 5:30 pm.

Renovation



After many months of construction, planning, and anticipation, we are pleased to be worshiping again in our renovated Sanctuary! It has been wonderful to see our church family return to this familiar space, now renewed and refreshed for the years ahead. From the restored Sanctuary and Chancel to the renovated classrooms, gathering spaces, and new addition, the transformation of our church has been remarkable.

A Few Finishing Touches

While we are enjoying our renewed spaces, a handful of items remain before the project is fully complete. The contractor is continuing to work through the final punch list, including installation of remaining door hardware, the automatic door operator, and the last decorative light fixtures. Projects of this magnitude require a tremendous amount of patience, flexibility, and cooperation. Throughout construction, our congregation, staff, preschool, and ministry groups have adapted to changing entrances, temporary spaces, construction noise, and the many inconveniences that come with renovating an active church.

We are especially grateful to everyone who helped guide the project, make decisions, coordinate activities, and keep our church operating throughout construction.

As we bring this renovation to a close, we look forward to seeing these spaces filled with worship, fellowship, learning, and ministry for many years to come.

— First Presbyterian Church Building Committee







Music in Words



On October 18, we celebrated the reopening of our sanctuary with great joy. Pastor David delivered a thoughtful address, emphasizing that while the sanctuary underwent renovations, one aspect remained unchanged: the unwavering commitment to serving our community of faith.

Although many aspects of the renovation plan were not initially anticipated, God's unmeasurable providence bestowed upon FPC numerous exceptional blessings. Notably, the installation of new, aesthetically pleasing floors within our sanctuary, the construction of a well-structured chancel platform, the repositioning of pews to enhance accessibility and provide additional space within the chancel area, and the acquisition of state-of-the-art sound equipment, all of which were not part of the renovation plan, will undoubtedly serve the house of the Lord for generations to come.

One particularly significant gift bestowed upon FPC was a brand-new Shigeru Kawai piano. This instrument of praise will undoubtedly inspire both the congregation and visitors alike to worship God in all His splendor. This special gift was received with great joy and thanksgiving. Dr. Lois Lee and I drove to Birmingham to unpack the piano that came directly from Japan. Witnessing the joy of Dr. Lee playing the piano for the first time was a special moment. The delivery and installation of the piano to FPC was an interesting and celebratory event that we will never forget.

We extend our heartfelt gratitude to the generosity of a congregation member who, through prayer and discernment , provided our church with such a blessing to us all.



Music in Words

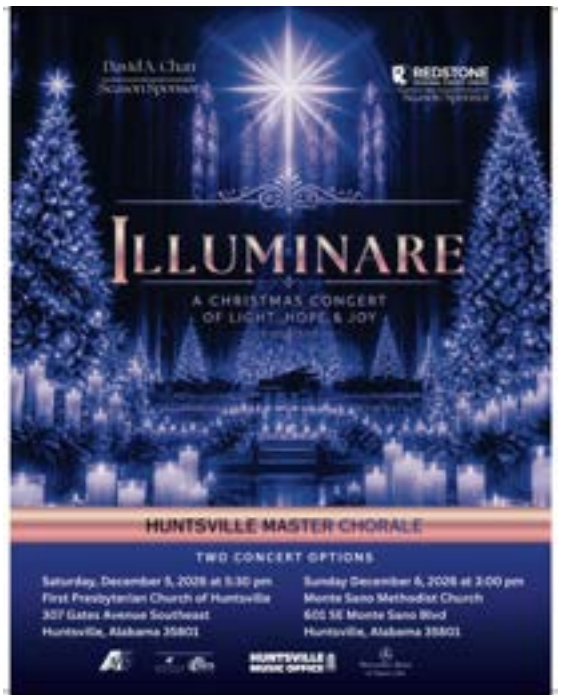






On October 18 the Aeolians inspired our congregation with sublime music that enhanced our worship service that day. The power of the new acoustics in our sanctuary has become one of the most preferable spaces to sing. For that reason, the Aeolians will return to our Sanctuary to perform their concert live along with the Oakwood University orchestra. Mark your calendars for Saturday, November 14 at 5pm. Another remarkable concert at FPC will be with the Huntsville Master Chorale presenting *Illuminare* on December 5 at 5:30 pm. Both concerts are free.





Children's Music MINISTRY





Children in Worship

During this Fall season, the FPC Children Choir has diligently rehearsed the song "How Majestic," which will be performed during the worship service on November 15th at 11:00 AM. We kindly request that parents ensure their children arrive at the sanctuary by 10:15 AM to facilitate their participation in the worship service that day.



Christmas Pageant

We are delighted to announce that our Children's Christmas Pageant will be held on December 13th. Throughout the Kids Club sessions, children have had the opportunity to learn the Christmas songs and rehearse their lines for the upcoming Christmas Story.

If your child is interested in participating in the Christmas Pageant as shepherds, angels, or townspeople, rehearsals in December are the following.

Wednesday, December 2 & 9 5:30-7:00 pm
Dinner included (REQUIRED)
Saturday, December 12 10:00 AM-12:00 PM
Dress Rehearsal (REQUIRED)
Sunday December 13 9:45 am Call
Meet in Godly Play Room



Our new stable for our Christmas pageant built by David Smith

Advent Calendar

Advent I
November 29

Hanging of the Greens Service
8:30 & 11:00 AM

Advent II
December 6

Love Came Down at Christmas
Christmas Cantata with
Chancel Choir and Orchestra
8:30 & 11:00 AM

Advent III
December 13

Contemplative *Service*
8:30-9:15 AM
Children's Christmas Pageant
11:00 AM

Advent IV
December 20

Ringing Christmas Bells
8:30 & 11:00 AM

Christmas Eve
December 24

3:00 & 5:00 PM
Candlelight Services

Children's MINISTRY



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

We are excited to be in our new nursery space and our Godly Play room for Children's Church. After the Time for Young Disciples, at every worship service, we travel through the new addition and down the hall to our wonderful spaces to continue worshiping God with developmentally appropriate and spiritually enriching materials.





Children's MINISTRY



We had such a great time at the October Kids Club event practicing the song we are going to sing in church on November 15, learning about our parts for the Christmas Pageant, and meeting a therapy dog named Hanna and her human partner Serena Neely. God's Creation is amazing and we love to learn about different ways to serve God and our neighbors. Serena and Hanna are the hands and feet (and paws!) of Christ out in the world!

In November Kids Club will continue working on our song and the pageant, and we will make ornaments and decorations for a First Presbyterian Church Children's Christmas tree for the Tinsel Trail! Join us on November 8, after the Congregational Lunch, for this special time of learning and preparing to share the message of God's love.







Trunk or Treat

THANK YOU!

Our Trunk or Treat collaboration with Greene Street Market was an amazing success! It was such a joy to see and meet hundreds of community members, as well as our church families! Thank you so much to all who coordinated and participated in the event. We are already counting down the days until next year!







Youth MINISTRY



This Fall in Youth Ministry has been filled with wonderful memories, faith formation, and lots of fun! After Fall Break, youth members helped unwrap and put back every pew cushion, hymnal, and bible into our beautiful Sanctuary! We are so grateful for their help, and for their care and preservation of our historic space. On Sunday, October 18, church member Roy McCorkle visited our youth group to speak on his fascinating career in the Secret Service! On Reformation Sunday, October 25, guest preacher Dr. Buz Wilcoxon presented a discernment workshop for our high schoolers on their futures as followers of Christ. While our high schoolers met onsite, our middle schoolers enjoyed a delicious dinner at Sam and Greg's, and decorated the church (haunted) bus for Trunk or Treat!

Upcoming Calendar:

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

Sunday, November 8: Girls Floral workshop with Charlotte Wessel,
Boys at the Matthews' Farm, 5-6:30

Sunday, November 15: PYC at *Christmas at Pemberley* at the VBC Playhouse, 2-4:30

Sunday, November 22: Galaxy of Lights, 7-8pm





Presbyterian Women UPDATES



Doug Marshall, CEO and President of the Presbyterian Home for Children; Janis Williams, former board member; and Kay Campbell (R), Music Director at First Pres - Fayetteville, TN, met with Linda Harris, Director of the Ascension Leadership Academy, for a tour of the school and an update on all the happenings. Janis and Kay also toured the PHFC campus as well as Union Village, a joint project of the Home and the Alabama Institute for the Deaf and Blind, providing safe, affordable housing for deaf, blind, and deaf-blind residents



Each Friday, Second Mile Preschool hosts "Mystery Readers" from our church. Presbyterian Women (Marie Brackbill and Janis Williams) read to the three and four year classes. John Syster reads to the Spanish speaking children. Our visits are joy-filled! Second Mile Preschool is an amazing place.

Goodtimers 2.0





The Goodtimers (Older Adult Ministry) enjoyed a fascinating afternoon with Mr. Lincoln! Dennis Boggs presents an enlightening 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. Many thanks to all who coordinated and attended this event!



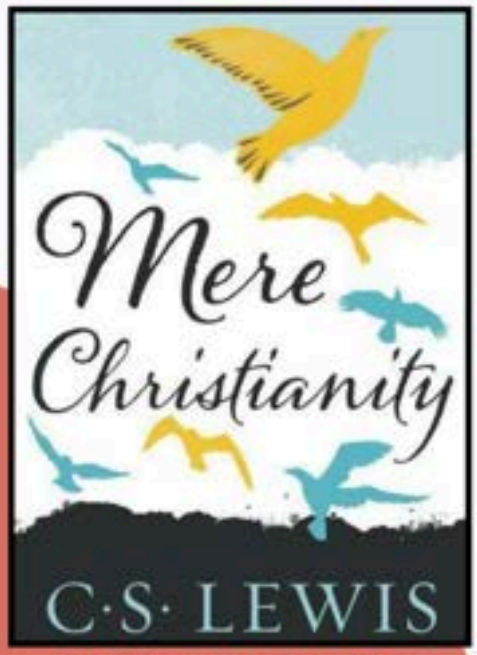
Up next! Join us for a fun-filled day at the Host of Christmas Past event in Fayetteville, TN! Sign up on our website or contact the church office to RSVP.

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

Congregational Book Club

Calling All Book Lovers!

BOOK CLUB



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

Gideon Blackburn House

5:30-6:30 PM

November 18th

Need More information? Contact Kathy Gillmore at... dce@fpchsv.org



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 FELLOWSHIP HALL 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)

Mission Aviation FELLOWSHIP

François' Flight Deck

November 2026 • Serving together with Mission Aviation Fellowship • Issue 04



In this season of growth, it is hard to believe it has already been 12 months since our wedding day and 9 months since we first arrived in our new home in Lesotho. From the core of our hearts, we give thanks to our Father for the incredible journey He has set us on.

That being said, the past six months have been incredibly challenging for us, but we want to express our deepest gratitude for your continued prayers and for the many of you who reached out to check in—it truly means the world to us.

In the past few weeks, we have been blessed to have multiple high-level visitors from MAF's Headquarters come to Lesotho to help support the program. Their presence was beyond helpful and served as a beautiful reminder that MAF is, at its core, a people organization. In the end, it is not about the airplane; it's about the relationships we make along the way.

To support that vision and strengthen our local leadership, **I was asked to take on the role of Director of Maintenance, and Deborah was asked to step into the Director of Quality role.** We prayed earnestly about these opportunities, consulted with friends and family, and accepted both roles.

During this new season, we anchor ourselves in Proverbs 3: 5-6: "Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths." (ESV)

The task at hand is not small, but it can only be accomplished by leaning on Him, both as individuals and as a team. **Your prayers and support are a vital part of His work, so thank you! A**nd we praise God that our ministry is currently fully funded!

However, consistent monthly or yearly partnership remains vital to keeping us in the air. The invitation to partner with us is always open. If you feel led to support our work, or know someone who might be interested, we would love to have you join our team. See our information at the bottom of the second page.



With Keith Anderson, International Director of Maintenance

Mission Aviation
FELLOWSHIP

Prayer Points

- Praise: That it's no longer winter here (says Deborah)
- Praise: For one year of marriage already!
- Prayer: For stamina and wisdom in managing our workloads
- Prayer: That my 2027 maintenance budget will get approved. It's quite the increase from the previous years, but it's necessary.

Navigation Log

Reaching isolated communities in Lesotho often means a grueling day hike at 8,000 feet with an average of 2,000 feet elevation change, and the spiritual climb is steeper. **The local missionaries face complex struggles that feel straight out of one of Paul's epistles.**
Recently, a cultural misunderstanding involving a pastor led to harsh words and broken trust in the Kuebunyane area. To help restore these communities and build a true foundation, a pastor named Ntate Setlokoane was called to step in.

When I flew to pick up Ntate Setlokoane, I was absolutely shocked. As a pilot/mechanic, my mind is constantly wrapped around the vast resources and specialized tools I require to do my job. But for months of living and serving in the harsh mountains, everything he, his wife, and his child brought with them fit entirely into the single green hiking backpack pictured by the airplane.

Looking at that single backpack, I realized his entire life and ministry were stripped down to absolute faith. Our aircraft didn't just save them an agonizing mountain hike with a young child; it carried their profound sacrifice directly to the people who needed it the most. Because they were willing to go, that broken trust is now healing, and unbiblical practices are being gracefully addressed.
It is an absolute honor to fly and maintain the aircraft that bridges the gap for such selfless laborers.

For His glory,

Zacharie & Deborah Francois



Setlokoane Family Backpack

ZFrancois@maf.org | DFrancois@maf.org

Checks payable to MAF | notate 9148
Mission Aviation Fellowship | PO Box 47 | Nampa ID 83653

www.maf.org/francois
Donor Services | +1 208 498 0759

MAFmissionariesraisesupport forapooledfund out of whichMAF coverssalary,housing, benefits, and staff-related ministry expenses. MAF exercises discretion over the use of missionary support to carry out its mission and care for its staff.

Galaxy of Lights

Botanical Gardens
Galaxy of Lights
November 22, 7:00-8:00pm



All are welcome to crash FPC youth group
for an evening walk through
the sparkle of the Botanical Gardens.
Please register with QR code, the link below or with the
church office by November 17 for a discounted ticket.
https://fpchsv.breezechms.com/form/8b2dd01091

Fellowship & Fun!











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