

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
SEPTEMBER 8, 2019

GOOD SOIL

**Sowing Seeds of
Faith**



First Presbyterian Church

September 8, 2019

WELCOME

Welcome to all who are worshipping with us!

Children are always welcome in the sanctuary, but if you prefer, child care is available for children, birth through kindergarten, in the education building.

Please, as you enter this holy space and time, silence your cell phones.

GATHER IN GOD'S NAME

CHIMING OF THE BELL

PRELUDE *Invocation* C. Gounod

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CHORAL INTROIT *We Have Gathered* Stan Pethel
Chancel Choir

*CALL TO WORSHIP Psalm 95
One: *Your word is a lamp to our feet and a light to our path.*
All: Your word is our heritage forever, the joy of our hearts.
One: *In gratitude and love, let us worship God together!*

*OPENING PRAYER

*OPENING HYMN 395 *Blessed Jesus, at Your Word* LIEBSTER JESU

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (unison)

Patient and persistent God, we come, polished and presentable, to this comfortable room as if we knew what to expect, as if this were a safe and predictable place, as if we could simply observe. Holy One, forgive our tepid expectations. In the mystery of your love, overshadow us. Plant the seeds of your gospel in each of our hearts until we bloom and spill with your passion to serve in a world that is wasting.

(In silence, let us offer our personal confessions.)

Amen.

KYRIE *Lord, Have Mercy* Hal H. Hopson

FPC Bicentennial Commissioned Service Music

(the congregation is invited to sing each line of the kyrie located in the back of the hymnal)

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

One: There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. The Spirit of God dwells in you. If you hear nothing else today, hear these words: There is no condemnation and in the name of Jesus, you are forgiven.
Many: **Thanks be to God! Amen.**

*HYMN 581 *Glory Be to the Father* GLORIA PATRI

*THE PASSING OF THE PEACE (8:30)

One: The peace of the Lord be with you.
Many: **And also with you.**

Worship bags and materials for children are available by the front door. Children are encouraged to share their "Worship Art" by placing it in the marked baskets by the front door after the service.

Worship begins as the people gather and are called to worship God. Words of scripture are spoken or sung to proclaim who God is and what God has done. Christian worship joyfully ascribes all praise and honor, glory and power, to the triune God. In worship the people of God acknowledge God as present in the world and in their lives. As they respond to God's claim and redemptive action in Jesus Christ, believers are transformed and renewed. In worship the faithful offer themselves to God and are equipped to perform God's service in the world.

As we confess our sin together we turn away from all that keeps us from God and turn toward the life-giving gospel offered in Jesus Christ.

**Those who are able, please stand.*

PROCLAIM GOD'S WORD

TIME FOR YOUNG DISCIPLES (11:00)

Kathy Gillmore

At this time all children will be invited to come to the chancel steps. Afterward, parents of children KINDERGARTEN AND YOUNGER may then walk them to the nursery for sign-in to the child care program. 1ST GRADE AND UP should remain in the sanctuary with their parents.

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

FIRST LESSON

Genesis 25:19-43

These are the descendants of Isaac, Abraham's son: Abraham was the father of Isaac, and Isaac was forty years old when he married Rebekah, daughter of Bethuel the Aramean of Paddan-aram, sister of Laban the Aramean. Isaac prayed to the LORD for his wife, because she was barren; and the LORD granted his prayer, and his wife Rebekah conceived. The children struggled together within her; and she said, 'If it is to be this way, why do I live?' So she went to inquire of the LORD. And the LORD said to her, 'Two nations are in your womb, and two peoples born of you shall be divided; the one shall be stronger than the other, the elder shall serve the younger.' When her time to give birth was at hand, there were twins in her womb. The first came out red, all his body like a hairy mantle; so they named him Esau. Afterwards his brother came out, with his hand gripping Esau's heel; so he was named Jacob. Isaac was sixty years old when she bore them. When the boys grew up, Esau was a skillful hunter, a man of the field, while Jacob was a quiet man, living in tents. Isaac loved Esau, because he was fond of game; but Rebekah loved Jacob. Once when Jacob was cooking a stew, Esau came in from the field, and he was famished. Esau said to Jacob, 'Let me eat some of that red stuff, for I am famished!' (Therefore he was called Edom.) Jacob said, 'First sell me your birthright.' Esau said, 'I am about to die; of what use is a birthright to me?' Jacob said, 'Swear to me first.' So he swore to him, and sold his birthright to Jacob. Then Jacob gave Esau bread and lentil stew, and he ate and drank, and rose and went his way. Thus Esau despised his birthright.

One: This is the Word of the Lord.

Many: **Thanks be to God.**

ANTHEM

8:30 *My Faith Has Found Resting Place*

Arr. Patti Drennan

Dr. Lois K. Lee, piano

11:00 *Joy in The Morning*

Natalie Sleeth

Chancel Choir

Joy, there'll be joy in the morning.

There'll be joy on that day, with the light of dawn, the dark is gone.

There'll be peace, evermore on the earth once more,

Ev 'ry heart and voice will again rejoice, there'll be peace evermore

And the glory of the Lord will shine

And the glory of the Lord will bring the truth divine,

There'll be love, and forgiveness ev 'ry where

And the way of the Lord will be restored,

There'll be love, sweet love ev 'ry where.

There'll be joy in the morning, there'll be joy on that day,

With the bright dawn, night gone,

There'll be joy.

There'll be peace and contentment forevermore,

Ev 'ry heart, ev 'ry voice will together rejoice.

And the glory, glory, glory of the Lord will shine,

And the glory of the Lord will bring the truth divine,

There'll be love and forgiveness ev 'ry where

There'll be love ev 'ry where

And the way of the Lord will be restored.

There'll be love and forgiveness,

there'll be peace and contentment,

there'll be joy, joy!

***Those who are able, please stand.**

In the Genesis passage today, God responds to Rebekah's troubled pregnancy with an announcement regarding the future relationship between the twins in her womb (25:23). Basically, the divine oracle specifies that the older of the twins (Esau) will serve the younger (and weaker!), namely, Jacob. Is this an instance of God choosing the weak to shame the strong (see 1 Corinthians 1:26-31)? Certainly the text does not seek to justify Jacob's behaviors, yet God is able to work in and through them. God's choices do generate conflict on the way to God's desired future. The dysfunctionality in this family cannot simply be explained in social or psychological terms. From enterthebible.org

SECOND LESSON

Matthew 13:1-17

That same day Jesus went out of the house and sat beside the sea. Such great crowds gathered around him that he got into a boat and sat there, while the whole crowd stood on the beach. And he told them many things in parables, saying: "Listen! A sower went out to sow. And as he sowed, some seeds fell on the path, and the birds came and ate them up. Other seeds fell on rocky ground, where they did not have much soil, and they sprang up quickly, since they had no depth of soil. But when the sun rose, they were scorched; and since they had no root, they withered away. Other seeds fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked them. Other seeds fell on good soil and brought forth grain, some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty. Let anyone with ears listen!" Then the disciples came and asked him, "Why do you speak to them in parables?" He answered, "To you it has been given to know the secrets of the kingdom of heaven, but to them it has not been given. For to those who have, more will be given, and they will have an abundance; but from those who have nothing, even what they have will be taken away. The reason I speak to them in parables is that 'seeing they do not perceive, and hearing they do not listen, nor do they understand.' With them indeed is fulfilled the prophecy of Isaiah that says:

You will indeed listen, but never understand,
and you will indeed look, but never perceive.
For this people's heart has grown dull,
and their ears are hard of hearing,
and they have shut their eyes;
so that they might not look with their eyes,
and listen with their ears,
and understand with their heart and turn—
and I would heal them.'

But blessed are your eyes, for they see, and your ears, for they hear. Truly I tell you, many prophets and righteous people longed to see what you see, but did not see it, and to hear what you hear, but did not hear it."

One: This is the Word of the Lord.

Many: **Thanks be to God.**

SERMON

"Good Soil: The Worst Farmer Ever"
The Rev. Dr. Tara W. Bulger

*HYMN 171

A Sower Came from Ancient Hills
(Verses 1, 2, and 4)

SEACHRIST

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

from *The Nicene Creed*

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen. We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made. Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

The pastor will begin praying and then invite the congregation to join in saying the Lord's Prayer together.

Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.

We will be reciting parts of the Nicene Creed over the next few weeks. The Nicene Creed is the most ecumenical of creeds. The Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) joins with Eastern Orthodox, Roman Catholic, and most Protestant churches in affirming it.

**Those who are able, please stand.*

PRESENTATION OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS

OFFERTORY *More Love to Thee* William H. Doane
Arr. Marianne Kim

*DOXOLOGY OLD ONE HUNDRETH
***Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise Him, all creatures here below;
Praise Him above ye heavenly host;
Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost.***

*PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING AND DEDICATION

SHARE GOD'S LOVE WITH THE WORLD

*HYMN 545 *Lord, Bid Your Servant Go in Peace* LAND OF REST

*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION *The Lord Bless You and Keep You*

*POSTLUDE *Toccata Giocosa* Gilbert M. Martin

**TODAY AT FIRST
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH**

Pastors

The Rev. Dr. Tara W. Bulger

Music

Dr. Patricia Hacker, Director of
Music

Lois K. Lee, Organist/pianist
Chancel Choir

Ushers

8:30

Marilyn McCorkle

11:00

Rick Rawls

Bryce Connor

Dag Rowe

Melissa Rowe

Daniel and Anne Fowlkes

Schreeder

Liturgists

8:30

Bill Chappell

11:00

David Smith

****Those who are able, please stand.***



First Presbyterian is a Congregation of the Presbyterian Church (USA) and a Stephen Ministry Congregation

We welcome you as a participant in worship today. We pray that you will find this service meaningful. Worship is but one of the many ministries of First Presbyterian Church.

Have questions about the Church? Please speak to the usher after the 8:30 service or the "Ask Me" person standing at the rear of the church after the 11:00 service, who this week is Dianne Bowling. Mrs. Bowling is available to answer questions about First Presbyterian Church, our programs, or finding locations within our building.

If you would like to receive our Weekly E-News, please call the church office at 256-536-3354, or send your name and email address to officeadmin@fpchsv.org. The bulletin and weekly E-News are posted on our webpage (fpchsv.org) each Thursday.

The flowers this morning are given to the Glory of God and in honor of Sarah and Andy Watson for the 13th anniversary of their marriage by Sharron and Elliott Abernethy.

FLOWER GUILD HONORS AND MEMORIAL

Please consider placing honors and memorials for loved ones through flowers in the worship service. The flower guild counts on these to fund Easter and Advent flowers. Pink envelopes can be found in the church pews and forms are on the bulletin board. Thank you to all who help support this ministry.

Are you interested in joining our church? Or do you have questions about who we are and what we do? Please contact Dr. Bulger at 256-655-1818 or seniorpastor@fpchsv.org

Liturgists needed. If you are interested in serving as a Liturgist on Sunday mornings, please email officeadmin@fpchsv.org.

THIS WEEK AT FPCHSV

Sunday, September 8, 2019

8:30 a.m. Worship Service/JAH
9:30 a.m. Handbell Choir/BR
11:00 a.m. Worship Service/SAN
5:00 p.m. PYC/FH

Monday, September 9, 2019

9:00 a.m. First Friends Preschool
9:00 a.m. Vine PCC/GBH
10: a.m. PW Gathering/FH

Tuesday, September 10, 2019

9:00 a.m. First Friends Preschool
9:00 a.m. Transformation Yoga Basic/CH
11:00 a.m. Transformation Yoga Gentle/CH
5:30 p.m. Session Meeting/FH
6:30 p.m. Boy Scouts 633/GBH
6:30 p.m. HMC Rehearsal/CR

Wednesday, September 11, 2019

9:00 a.m. First Friends Preschool
7:00 a.m. Men's Bible Study/FH
5:00 p.m. WNL Children and Youth
5:30 p.m. WNL Adult class and dinner/LIB/FH
7:15 p.m. Chancel Choir Practice/CR

Thursday, September 12, 2019

9:00 a.m. First Friends Preschool
9:00 a.m. Transformation Yoga Basic/CH
11:00 a.m. FPC Prayer Group/LIB
11:00 a.m. Transformation Yoga Gentle/CH
12:15 p.m. Al-Anon/GBH

Friday, September 13, 2019

9:00 a.m. First Friends Preschool

Saturday, September 14, 2019

Sunday, September 15, 2019

8:30 a.m. Worship Service/JAH
9:30 a.m. Handbell Choir/BR
9:30 a.m. Sunday School
11:00 a.m. Worship Service/SAN
5:00 p.m. PYC/FH

Calendar Legend:

BR - Bell Room	GBH - Gideon Blackburn House
CH - Carriage House (GBH)	HR - Historical Room
CER - Christian Ed Resource upstairs	JAH - John Allan Hall (GBH)
CR - Choir Room	LIB - Library
FH - Fellowship Hall	SAN - Sanctuary
	SMR - Stephen Ministry Room

Beauty Out of Ashes



A Benefit Concert for
The Aeolians
of
Oakwood University

Sunday evening
September 15
5:00 p.m.



First Baptist
HUNTSVILLE

600 Governors Drive, Huntsville

Featuring:

*UAH Concert Choir
Alabama A&M Choir
Ars Nova School of the Arts
First Baptist Sanctuary Choir and Orchestra
Church Choirs from First Presbyterian, First United
Methodist, Oakwood, Trinity United Methodist,
Weatherly Heights Baptist
Huntsville Community Chorus
Huntsville Master Chorale
Selected instrumentalists from the Huntsville
Symphony Orchestra*

and

The Aeolians
of
Oakwood University



Wednesday Night Live

Join us Wednesdays September 4 - November 20. Please register on-line on our church website: www.fpchsv.org or email Kathy Gillmore at dce@fpchsv.org. 5:00-7:00 for children and youth 5:30-7:00 for adult class and dinner

One Church, One Book

All are encouraged to read the book Just Mercy by Bryan Stevenson and, if possible, view the documentary, "True Justice: Bryan Stevenson's Fight for Equality," which is available on HBO. Look for opportunities to gather in community to further examine these important works in small groups, and to reach out in love by participating in the many mission projects planned for the fall. This combined effort of Christian Education and Mission seeks to build up our congregation for the important task of being disciples of Christ in the world.

Discussions started - Join us!

- *Harry B. Wade Sunday School Class
- *WNL Adult Class



SEPTEMBER

- 8 - PYC (6-8) 5-6:30 p.m.
(9-12) 6-7 p.m.
- 15 - PYC (6-8) 5-6:30 p.m.
(9-12) 6-7 p.m.
- 22 - PYC (ALL GRADES) 5-7 p.m.
- 29 - TECHNOLOGY CLASS at 12 noon/GBH

FALL TECH CLASSES

September 29th
12noon (after worship)
Gideon Blackburn House
Light lunch provided
Sign up on the bulletin board!



Follow-up to FPC Mission Activities, sponsored through The Outreach Foundation

Agnes Nyiraminani graduated from Protestant Institute of Arts and Social Sciences (PIASS) in June. She was recently ordained and is already leading a congregation. Agnes' education and training would not have been possible without the four years' of college/seminary tuition that FPC has provided: she is very grateful for our support and prayers.



Mission of the Month, Manna House

Manna House is a 501 ©3 Public Charity that provides food assistance to those in need. Manna House is supported by individuals, churches, civic groups and businesses. While some food is locally grown, most is purchased for their food programs, providing for families, individuals, and the homeless in our community. Manna House welcomes everyone in need every time they are open. Manna House serves meals on Monday, Wednesday, and Thursday from 4pm until 7 pm every week except for major holidays or severe weather. Volunteers are welcome anytime between 2-7 pm.

In the Month of September FPC will be going to Manna House each Wednesday. Volunteers are asked to meet at the church by 5:00 and we will go as a group. The plan is to help with any necessary food prep or food service from 5:15 until 6:15. There is also a Prayer Room, if you would prefer to serve in that way. We will return to the church in time for Wednesday Night Live supper. If you would rather meet the FPC group at Manna House, the address is 2110 Memorial Parkway SW. Proper attire is close toed shoes and casual wear that you do not mind getting dirty. If you have any questions please contact Andrew Bevel at andrew.bevel@gmail.com.



CCLI # 1345744

Choir Retreat

If you would like to sing in the choir during the Advent and Christmas season, please join us in a Choir Retreat on Saturday September 28 from 10:00 am-2:00 pm (Lunch included) For more information please contact Dr. Patricia Hacker www.music@fpchsv.org

Chancel Choir Practices

You are invited to join the Chancel Choir. Rehearsals are Wednesdays from 7:15-8:45 pm

Handbell Practice

Join us in the bell room Sunday from 9:30-10:30 a.m.



The **Presbyterian Women** will be canning pickles on Monday, September 16 and Monday, September 23 at 10 a.m. in the church kitchen. This is open to ALL women! Please join us!



First Presbyterian would like to welcome Freda Clark as our new part-time Sexton. Freda is here Monday through Friday 8 a.m. - 12 p.m.



Worship of the Living God is not confined to one place or time. We encourage you to take this bulletin home and use it to guide you in private moments of worship for the next week.

Discuss:

Name a time when you were given something you did not deserve. Is there anyone you think should not be given grace?

Read Scripture:

Monday: Mark 15:40-47
Tuesday: Mark 16:1-8 (9-20)
Wednesday: Matthew 2:1-12
Thursday: Matthew 2:13-23
Friday: Matthew 3:1-12
Saturday: Matthew 13-17

Pray:

Pray for those people or groups who feel they do not belong in the church.

PRAYER LIST

Church Members:

- Sharron Abernethy
- Charles Danner
- Lou Horn
- Cay Lambert
- Carsten Schroer
- Jim Bond
- Julie Fowler
- Dave Goodwin

Friends and Family:

- Stella Fair - Sister of David Galloway
- Robert Guynes - Son of June and Buddy Guynes
- Richard Hartley - Friend of Tam Bevel
- Beverlee Leo - Mother of Lori Smith
- Diana Rose - Mother of Serena Neely
- Scott Sedlitz - Stepson of Annewhite Fuller
- Leigh Vincent - Friend of Linda and Woodward Howard
- Paige Olmo - Daughter of Paula Weider
- Sean Larkin - Friend of Linda Howard and Bryce Connor
- Dylan Greiner- Son of Cay Lambert
- Pegge Murphy- Friend of FPC PW
- Luke Wylie - Mary Darsey's granddaughter's friend
- Brandon Greiner-grandson of Cay Lambert
- Janice Culbertson - sister-in-law of Betty Duna-way
- Dale Brown - brother of Doug Brown
- Nell Pike - mother of Charlie Pike
- Eula Battle - friend of the congregation
- Margaret Bruce Walker - Friend of Janis Williams
- Leigh Steele - goddaughter of David Hatch
- **Jim Gamble - brother of Mary Adams**

Members and Relatives in Specialty Care:

- Ray Rose (Diversicare of Big Springs)
- Marge Sharp (Birmingham).
- Jonancy (Jo) Edwards (Redstone Village)
- Dolly Shuey (WBC @ Magnolia Trace)

The Church:

- The Rev. Dr. Tara W. Bulger, and her family
- The Rev. Dr. James W. Roberts, and his family
- First Presbyterian Church, the Session, the Board of Deacons, the North Alabama Presbytery, and for all the church staff
- NAP seminary students Devon Reynolds (New Market), Sara Jane Bush Nixon (First, Athens), and Joe Lundy (First, Huntsville).

Military & International: All those serving in the armed forces.

Our Nation: President Trump and our representatives.

First Presbyterian Missions & Ministries:

- Appalachia Service Project (ASP)
- Good Samaritans
- International Missionary Fellowship (HaitiHospital.org)
- The Vine Pastoral Counseling Center
- The Presbyterian Home for Children
- Second Mile Preschool
- The CUP program
- Camp Maranatha
- Mission Aviation Fellowship

Other Prayers:

Let us remember all those who have suffered and continue to suffer from natural disasters, our Presbyterian Disaster Assistance program, and other benevolent agencies.

In case of a pastoral emergency, you may contact Dr. Bulger at 256-655-1818.

(The worship service is broadcast over WLOR AM 1550 or FM 98.1)

- ***Newest prayer requests are in bold print***
- ***To add or remove a prayer request, please contact the Receptionist***

LEADERSHIP AT FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

MINISTRY TEAM AND STAFF 256-536-3354

The Rev. Dr. Tara W. Bulger, *Senior Pastor*
seniorpastor@fpchsv.org Ext. 122
256-655-1818 (cell)

The Rev. Dr. James W. Roberts,
Parish Associate
parishassociate@fpchsv.org Ext. 127

Dr. Patricia Hacker, *Director of Music*
music@fpchsv.org Ext. 126

Dr. Lois K. Lee, *Organist/Pianist*

Louise McCallion, *Youth Director*
youth@fpchsv.org Ext. 131

Kathy Gillmore, *Director of Christian Education*
dce@fpchsv.org Ext. 129

Lacey Guthrie, *First Friends Preschool Director*
ffdirector@fpchsv.org Ext. 128

Ellen DeAngelo, *Finance Assistant*
finance@fpchsv.org Ext. 121

Gary Whited, *Facilities Coordinator*
facilities@fpchsv.org Ext. 136

Julie Boykin, *Office Administrator* Ext. 132
officeadmin@fpchsv.org

Alicia Walker, *Receptionist*
receptionist@fpchsv.org Ext. 130

Michelle Lester, *Nursery Coordinator*

Freda Clark, *Sexton*

ELDERS:

Class of 2019

Leigh Brown, Christian Education Committee
Charlie Bozeman, Mission and Outreach Committee
Leslie Ecklund, Worship Committee
Steve Cornelius, Finance Committee

Class of 2020

Mary Adams, Christian Education Committee
Karen Madison, Mission and Outreach Committee
Mac Martinson, Worship Committee
Marshall Schreeder, Finance Committee

Class of 2021

Michael Lastovic, Christian Education Committee
Andrew Bevel, Mission and Outreach Committee
Al Steenwyk, Worship Committee
Angela Rawls, Finance Committee

DEACONS:

Class of 2019

Lou Horn, Care Committee
Anne Brigance, Hospitality Committee
Bryce Connor, Fellowship Committee

Class of 2020

Paula Hatch, Care Committee
Ed Green, Hospitality Committee
Stephanie Hyatt, Fellowship Committee

Class of 2021

Willie Anderson, Care Committee
Marilyn McCorkle, Hospitality Committee
Karen Clayton, Fellowship Committee

TRUSTEES:

Class of 2019

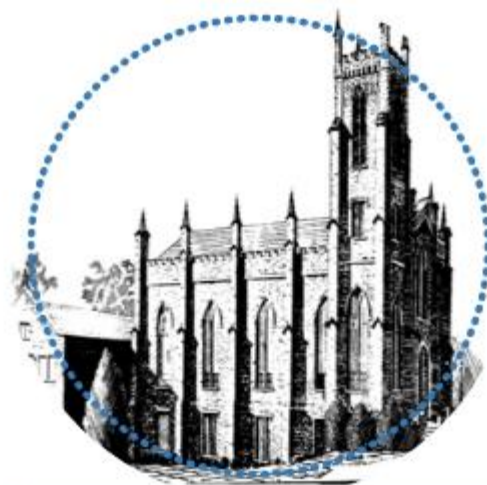
Jim Daughtry
Bill Lummus

Class of 2020

Sara Graves
Andy Watson

Class of 2021

Dag Rowe
Gary Tucker



First Presbyterian Church

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