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JULY 2024

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# *The Messenger*

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER  
OF FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



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## A MESSAGE FROM THE REV

Dear Beloved Saints of First Presbyterian Church,

As I sit down to write this letter, my heart is filled with a mixture of emotions—gratitude, nostalgia, and hope. I accepted the call to serve at Spring Hill Presbyterian Church with both joy and sadness. While my family and I are excited about this new chapter, leaving First Presbyterian Church Florence is incredibly difficult.

First and foremost, I want to express my deepest gratitude to each and every one of you. Over the years, this church has become more than just a place of worship; it has been a home for my family and me. Your kindness, support, and love have carried us through both joyous and challenging times. From the warm welcomes and fellowship to the shared prayers and ministries, you have profoundly impacted our lives. Your faith and commitment to the church's mission have been a source of inspiration and hope.

Reflecting on our journey together, I am proud of what we have accomplished. We have grown in faith, served our community, and supported one another in countless ways. Your dedication and devotion have made this possible, and I have no doubt that you will continue to thrive and make a difference in the lives of others.

As you embark on this transition period, I want to encourage you to lean on your faith and each other. Change can be daunting, but it also brings new opportunities for growth and renewal. Trust in God's plan, and remember that God is always with you, guiding and sustaining you. Continue to support one another, stay connected, and embrace the new possibilities that lie ahead.

I am confident that First Presbyterian Church Florence will continue to be a beacon of hope, love, and faith in our community. Your strength lies in your unity and unwavering commitment to God's work. Keep building each other up, nurturing your relationships, and welcoming new members with open arms.

Thank you for the countless blessings you have given to my family and me. We will always cherish the memories and friendships we have made here. As we move forward, please know that you will remain in our hearts and prayers. I look forward to seeing all the wonderful things God has in store for you.

With a heart overflowing with gratitude,  
Rev. Brandon E. Miles



### **A Message from The Caring Congregational Team**

Dianne Dodson, Harland Dodson, Dave Marbury, John McCluskey, and Elba Barnes

Dear Church Family,

Your Caring Congregational Team at First Presbyterian were called, ordained and installed early in 2024 to serve our church family and pastor in times of stress, illness, bereavement, and other needs.

We are available to you during this particular time of transition for any reason as we acclimate to Rev. Brandon Miles answering God's call to go pastor another church. While we will miss Brandon's joyful presence and leadership here, we accept God's holy will for Brandon and his family.

Knowing our Good Shepherd is also choosing another pastor to lead and serve our own church, we are to sustain our on-going ministries here.

We will maintain an on-call coverage schedule to respond to your needs and you may call Elba Barnes at any time to coordinate a visit, arrange counseling, establish meal services, transportation, and emergency needs. We are also supported on an on-call basis by Dr. Tom Lovell and Ms. Carol Copeland from North Alabama. We believe we will also have a supply pulpit minister soon that we can call upon for pastoral support of church families.

Prayers for grace, wisdom, and strength for each day's needs,

Elba Barnes, Coordinator for Caring Congregation Team and Moderator of Congregational Care Committee  
(call or text any time) Church Office: 256-764-2081



## VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

**TUESDAY, JULY 16**  
**WEDNESDAY, JULY 17**  
**THURSDAY, JULY 18**  
**4:30-7:30 PM**



Sign up today for this event! You can register your kids by using the QR code or the link below.

[VBS Registration link](#)

If you are unable to participate in person, we would appreciate a donation of any amount to help with the cost of t-shirts, food, and decorations.

Thank you so much for your support of the Children's Ministry!



## Lemonade on the Lawn



Sundays in July  
after Worship

**JOIN US AFTER WORSHIP FOR  
LEMONADE ON THE LAWN**



## Happy Fourth of July

Our office will be closed July 4th in  
observance of Independence Day

## CHURCH DAY AT THE LAKE

Location:  
Randy & Wesley's  
Home

**FPC DAY AT THE LAKE  
SUNDAY, JULY 21  
2:00-5:00 PM  
HOME OF RANDY PETTUS &  
WESLEY RODEN**

**SUNDAY, JULY 21 2-5 PM**

# CHILDREN'S MINISTRY



SUNDAY SCHOOL 9:30 AM

Theme for each week:

July 7- Scavenger Hunt

*"Where do you see God?"*

July 14- BFF Day

*Bring a friend to church*

July 21- Paint Day

July 28- "Minute to Win It" Game Day



## SUMMER SCHEDULE

JULY 7	SUNDAY SCHOOL - SCAVENGER HUNT "WHERE DO YOU SEE GOD?"
JULY 14	SUNDAY SCHOOL - BFF DAY - BRING A FRIEND TO CHURCH
JULY 16, 17, 18	VBS - START THE PARTY - 4:30 - 7:30
JULY 21	SUNDAY SCHOOL - PAINT DAY
JULY 28	SUNDAY SCHOOL - MINUTE TO WIN IT GAME DAY
AUG 4	SUNDAY SCHOOL - LUAU DAY
AUG 11	RALLY DAY BREAKFAST - NO SUNDAY SCHOOL



## VBS CRAFT SUPPLIES NEEDED

We need donations of canisters for our VBS crafts. Do you have empty Pringles, oatmeal, large peanut canisters, etc. ? If so, please drop them off at the church!

**Thank you for your support!**



## Sanctuary Flowers

There are several open opportunities to provide flowers in the Sanctuary. The flower chart (calendar) is located on the wall in the foyer area. (by the front office).

You may contact your favorite florist or provide arrangements from your personal garden.

If you have any questions, please contact Mary Lynn Fraser.



## FREE PIANO! LAST CHANCE!

We have a Baldwin piano to give away. This piano has been relocated to the half hallway (**not** the piano in the Fellowship Hall).

If you are interested, contact Tommy Bowser or the church office ASAP!



# Mission Committee

## **GLEANING PROJECT**

We need volunteers!

The Gleaning Project is a mission of FPC designed to help feed friends of the Shoals who may not have access to fresh vegetables. The project runs from June through October.



We collect donations from farmers and patrons of the Farmer's Market each Saturday. The produce is distributed to those in need through the Soup Kitchen, The Help Center, and Safe Place. Come lend a hand as local produce can help a family grow and prosper in the Shoals. If you have questions, see Tom Gillis or Tom Frith. Online sign up link:

<https://volunteersignup.org/events/summary/559916>

## **SOUP KITCHEN**

On June 8th First Presbyterian Church, due to a medical issue at Magnolia Church, was pressed into action to man the Soup Kitchen. A request for help went out and the following people stepped up.

Thanks to Julie and Marlie Rice, Tom Martin, Dave Marbury, Libba Sherrod, Landis Williams, Julie Bunt, Jane Frith and her caregiver Nina Coat, and Tom Gillis. We were also assisted by our ever-faithful volunteer dish scraper Fran Jacobs and dish washers Brian Jacobs and Richard Thomas. We served pizza from the Pie Factory (Special Thanks to those guys for giving us an amazing price for the pizza), salad, and 120 Amazing homemade cupcakes courtesy of Tom Martin.

Thanks again to all that helped make this happen!! We served 56 mobile ministry meals (12 for Safeplace) and additional 50+ meals in house.

We welcome anyone who would like to volunteer for the Soup Kitchen. We especially need team leaders.

Tom Frith  
Mission Committee





## TRASH PANDA'S BASEBALL GAME IN HUNTSVILLE



## FIRST FRIDAY TABLE TO PROMOTE VBS THANK YOU ENGAGEMENT & FELLOWSHIP COMMITTEE





## CHILDREN'S MINISTRY POOL PARTY

JUNE 8





# June Session Minutes

## Stated Meeting of Session 5-28-24

On behalf of the Congregational Care Committee, Rev. Miles presented a list of inactive members they are recommending be removed from the rolls. Laura Moody moved that this list be approved as amended; it was seconded and approved. (This list is attached to the minutes.)

Laure Moody, Moderator of the Personnel Committee, moved that we create the position of Nursery Coordinator. The Personnel Committee will determine the salary, to be no more than \$XX.00/hour. This was seconded and approved.

## Unfinished Business

Rev. Miles gave an update on the Be Renewed campaign.

Rev. Miles reported that we received the check from the NAP for the grant we had requested for audio and video upgrades in the Fellowship Hall and the sanctuary.

Dixie reported briefly of the Sexton search.

Tom Frith reported on the Nominating Committee.

## New Business

Rev. Miles asked the members of the Session to consider a new schedule for the annual Session Retreat.

Harland Dodson reported that he will not be able to attend the NAP meeting on June 18, 2024.

Randy Pettus was elected to be his replacement.

## Called Meeting of Session 6-19-24

Rev. Miles informed that the Session that he has met with Evie Frith and her mother, Tosha. They wish that Evie be baptized. Tom Frith moved that we approve the baptism of Evie; it was seconded and approved. She will be baptized on June 30.

Rev. Miles informed the Session that he has been called, and has accepted, the position of Head Pastor at Springhill Presbyterian Church in Mobile, Alabama. His last Sunday with our congregation will be July 14, 2024. He will be out of the pulpit on June 23; Tom Lovell will be preaching.

# June Committee Minutes

## Christian Education

No Moderator Notes

## Congregational Care

- Congregational Care Committee continues to assess the layered interests in our congregation. The Committee plans to survey interests in a variety of ways including mailing a cover letter and survey form to learn determine what ways they would like to see available to engage and grow spiritually together.

## Engagement & Fellowship

- Thank you to all the volunteers that helped at the June First Friday event. Members distributed Vacation Bible School Invitations advertising our VBS Program to children and parents.
- Lake Day – July 21 – 2:00–5:00 – Randy & Wesley's Lake Home – Directions and more information to follow.

- Ice Cream Social/Back to School Kick off – August 3 – Church Parking Lot – 2:00-5:00 – Please join us for Hot Dogs/Ice Cream.
- Vacation Bible School – July 16, 17, & 18 (4:30 – 7:30). If you would like to participate, please contact the Church Office.

### **Mission**

First Presbyterian, due to an illness at Magnolia, prepared and served meals last Saturday (June 8th) for the Soup Kitchen. We served pizza from the Pie Factory, salad, and amazing cupcakes made by Tom Martin.

Our volunteers included Julie and Marly Rice, Dave Marbury, Libba Sherrod, Landis Williams Tom Gillis, Julie Bunt, Jane and Tom Frith and Jane's caregiver Nina Coats. We served 56 to go meals(12 for Safeplace) and another 50 in house. Can't forget our permanent volunteer dishwashers Fran and Brian Jacobs and Richard Thomas.

### **Stewardship**

No Moderator Notes



**Please join us!**

**It's never too late to join a committee! You are welcome to visit anytime. Meetings are held on the 2nd Tuesday of the month. See the schedule below. No commitment required.**



## **July Committee Schedule**

**All committee minutes are due Tuesday, July 16 at 4:00 pm**

### **Tuesday, July 9**

4:00 pm Congregational Care/Appleby

5:00 pm Christian Education/Library

5:15 pm Worship/Meade

6:00 pm Engagement & Fellowship/**Meade**

Mission/**Appleby**

Stewardship/**Library**

**Tuesday, July 23** 5:30 pm Session Coordinating meeting/Appleby

6:00 pm Stated Meeting of Session/Meade



# WORSHIP SCHEDULE

## July 7

Liturgical color: **White**

Acolyte: **Luke Reaves**

Reader: **Wes Stubblefield**

Flowers: **Rice & Smith**

## July 14

Liturgical color: **Green**

Acolyte: **Marlie Rice**

Reader: **Landis Williams**

Flowers: **N/A**

## July 21

Liturgical color: **Green**

Acolyte: **Evie Frith**

Reader: **N/A**

Flowers: **N/A**

## July 28

Liturgical color: **Green**

Acolyte: **Ava King**

Reader: **N/A**

Flowers: **N/A**

# Happy Birthday



- 1 Evie Frith
- 2 Adele Kauchick
- 2 Bill Wharton
- 3 UU Redd, IV
- 4 Josephine Redd
- 6 Ceil Marbury
- 7 Vivienne Cho
- 7 JoBeth Hurt
- 9 Charlie Morgan
- 13 Virginia Moor
- 14 Jan Schroeder
- 17 Tim Baker
- 18 Caroline Johnson
- 25 Amelia Wharton
- 25 Mary Young
- 26 Tony Smallwood
- 27 Rhonda Tyree
- 28 Ron Hughes
- 28 Sarah Miles
- 31 Elizabeth Marbury
- 31 Hatton Marbury



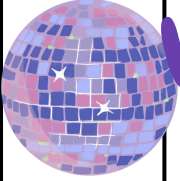
## GIVING OPPORTUNITY TO BENEFIT THE PRESBYTERIAN HOME FOR CHILDREN

### **Have you put your "birthday offering" in the Birthday Jar?**

It is a long-standing tradition that we give at least 1¢ for each year of your birth. (Please don't feel that you must give pennies. Dimes, quarters and dollar bills work really well.)

This special offering goes to the Presbyterian Home for Children in Talladega. The Birthday Jar is located in a window sill in the sanctuary. Please feel free to drop your change in any time — even if it isn't your birthday! It all goes to the children!



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>  3:00 Staff Meeting/Library	<b>3</b>  NO Handbells NO Choir Practice	<b>4</b> <b>Office Closed</b> 4th of July	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>  12-1pm Soup Kitchen
<b>7</b> 9:00 Coffee Cafe 9:30 Children's SS Adult SS nursery 10:00 Choir Practice 10:30 Worship nursery Lemonade on the Lawn	<b>8</b> 10:00 Caregiver Support Group/Meade	<b>9</b> 12:00 Shoals Ministerial Alliance 3:00 Staff meeting/Library 4:00 Congregational Care 5:00 Christian Ed/Library 5:15 Worship/Meade 6:00 Engagement & Fellowship/Meade Mission/Appleby Stewardship/Library	<b>10</b>  5:30 Handbells 6:15 Choir Practice	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b> 12-1pm Soup Kitchen
<b>14</b> 9:00 Coffee Cafe 9:30 Children's SS Adult SS nursery 10:00 Choir Practice 10:30 Worship nursery <b>11:30 Reception for Brandon Miles</b>	<b>15</b> 	<b>16</b>  3:00 Staff Meeting <b>4:30 Committee Minutes due</b>	<b>17</b>  5:30 Handbells 6:15 Choir Practice	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>  12-1 pm Soup Kitchen
<b>21</b> 9:00 Coffee Cafe 9:30 Children's SS Adult SS nursery 10:00 Choir Practice 10:30 Worship nursery Lemonade on the Lawn <b>2-5- Lake Day</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b> 3:00 Staff Meeting/Library  5:30 pm Session Coordinating/Appleby 6:00 pm Stated Meeting of Session/Meade	<b>24</b>  5:30 Handbells 6:15 Choir Practice	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>  12-1 pm Soup Kitchen
<b>28</b> 9:00 Coffee Cafe 9:30 Children's SS Adult SS nursery 10:00 Choir Practice 10:30 Worship nursery Lemonade on the Lawn	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>  3:00 Staff Meeting/Library	<b>31</b>			

# Prayer List



Art work by Morris Cracraft

## Hospitalized

### Homebound/Nursing Home/Rehab

Penney Griffin, Lauderdale Christian Nursing Home

Lynn Johnson, Green Oaks

Sara Elizabeth Doss, at home

Phillip Mackey, Mitchell-Hollingsworth, son of Jane Mackey

### Church Members in need of prayer

Wesley Roden and family, passing of his brother, Dewayne

Lee Hudkins, recovering from knee replacement surgery

Nancy Burrows, recovering from surgery

Carol Howdyshell

John Palme

Phyllis Nofzinger

Cynthia Briand, home

Kelly Larkins

Michael Hasty

Nancy Palme, cervical spine injury

### Family & Friends in need of prayer

Lindsey Eslick, daughter of Candace Lewis, pregnancy complications

Joanie Williamson, friend of Jan Schroeder

Jean Comer, hip replacement, mother of Cathy Foust

Liz Moore, friend of Randy Pettus and Wesley Roden

Clay Holden, cancer, friend of The Marbury's

Chuck Gillis, brother of Tom Gillis

Cora McCluskey, mother of John McCluskey

Marna McCay, cancer, friend of Tom Gillis, sister of Kerry Shapiro

Kerri Putman, Glioblastoma brain tumor, friend of Candace Lewis

Randy Perkins, cancer, brother-in-law of Jo Lynn McClure

Ken Patterson, cancer, father of Rhonda Tyree

Edna Carter, sister of Mary Young

Roger LaBiche, friend of Kelly LaBiche-Larkins

Ed Smith, father of Wilder Smith