
AUGUST 2024

The Messenger

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER
OF FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



Picture: Kayaking Event 2023

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A MESSAGE TO THE CONGREGATION

Dear Friends,

Greetings. Let me introduce myself to those of you who do not know me. My name is Taylor Todd. I am a child of this church and a recently retired Minister of Word and Sacrament. My wife Abby is a member of this church. You may have seen me sitting with her.

I have been asked to serve as your “Interim, interim.” Basically, what that means is that for the next three months I’ll be your pastor. During this time an Interim Pastor search committee will be formed and the search for a full-time interim will begin.

The interim pastor will guide you until a new minister can be installed to be the next pastor in a long line of strong ministers who have been called by God to lead this congregation.

I know transitions like this can be unsettling for a congregation. That’s normal. I hope my time with you will help answer some of your questions and ease some of your concerns.

But remember this, God has shepherded this congregation for over 200 years. That’s one thing that won’t change. And frankly, that’s the most important thing to remember. God is with you now and will be with you all along the way until the next person God has already called will take up the mantle of leadership and walk with you as you live out your ministries as individuals and as a congregation.

I am excited, honored, and humbled to be a part of this journey with you. It should be a lot of fun.

Grace and Peace,
Taylor



**THIS SATURDAY!
AUGUST 3
GRILL & CHILL**

5:00-7:00 PM

**BRING A CHAIR AND JOIN US FOR
GRILLED HOT DOGS & ICE
CREAM**



**THIS SUNDAY, AUGUST 4
CHILDREN'S SUNDAY SCHOOL
THEME: LUAU DAY
JOIN US AT 9:30 AM**



**RALLY DAY BREAKFAST
& BLESSING OF THE BACKPACKS**

SUNDAY, AUGUST 11

NOTICE THE SCHEDULE CHANGE:

- 9:00 COFFEE & TEA CAFÉ
- 9:45 RALLY DAY BREAKFAST
- 10:30 CHOIR PRACTICE
- 11:00 WORSHIP

**We still need a few items for the Rally Day breakfast.
Signup sheet is in the church foyer, online, or by
contacting the church office.**

<https://volunteersignup.org/EQQWJ>

**Blessing of the Backpacks for our children- don't
forget your school backpack!**





INQUIRER'S CLASS

AUGUST
18 & 25
9:45 AM

Come learn more about our church, community and people as well as what we believe in the Presbyterian church.

JOIN US ON SUNDAY,
AUGUST 18 & 25 AT 9:45 AM
AS WE LEARN MORE ABOUT OUR
CHURCH AND WHAT WE BELIEVE
IN THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH.

Remember:

*No Wednesday practice for
choir or handbells during the
month of August.*

ALL SAINTS
COLLEGE MINISTRY

Church Partner Progressive Dinner

Starts at First Christian Church
700 N Wood Avenue
5:00 PM on Sunday, August 25

Bus will be driven between
downtown churches.



All Saints
COLLEGE MINISTRY

All Saints UPCOMING COLLEGE MINISTRY EVENTS

KICKOFF WEEK

AUGUST 20

WORSHIP WITH THE
GATHERING AT SRB
5:30 PM @ SINGING RIVER BREWERY

AUGUST 21

WELCOME BACK DINNER
(FIRST DAY OF CLASSES)
6:30 PM @ TRINITY EPISCOPAL

AUGUST 22

THE BIG DEAL
6:00 PM - 8:00 PM @ UNA

AUGUST 25

COLLEGE SUNDAY &
PROGRESSIVE DINNER
DINNER STARTS AT 5:00 PM
@ FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH FLORENCE

AUGUST 28

"THAT'S WEIRD"
DINNER & DISCUSSION KICK-OFF
6:30 PM @ TRINITY EPISCOPAL

SEPT. 15

POOL PARTY/GAME NIGHT
5:30 PM @ THE ASHLEY'S

SEPT. 21

UNA FAMILY DAY
AFTERNOON, LOCATION TBD

SEPT. 22

ALL SAINTS SUNDAY
WORSHIP @ TRINITY
10:30 AM (LUNCH TO FOLLOW)

Dinner & Discussion Wednesday Nights 6:30 PM
at Trinity Episcopal Church



**Congratulations to our
High School Seniors!**
Annie, Jack, and Leo Cho

CARINGPLACE OF THE SHOALS
Presents:

Ladies' Night

September 16 | 6 PM
BRICK & IVY
1128 North Wood Avenue, Florence

Light Dinner & Drinks
Pimento Cheese | Chicken Salad | Waldorf Salad | Parfait Dessert
Wine | Tea | Water

Featuring Decorating Tips from Tim Causey
Nashville/Shoals Decorator
with Cindy Harrison

Exclusive Announcement of
2024 Caringplace Holiday Tour of Homes Participants

LIMITED TICKETS AVAILABLE FOR \$50 AT
Kennedy Douglass Art Center
First United Methodist Church of Florence
Sheffield Public Library

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

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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

Reception for Brandon
July 14



Mission Committee

GLEANING PROJECT

We need volunteers for the following dates:

September 28

October 12, 19, 26

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.

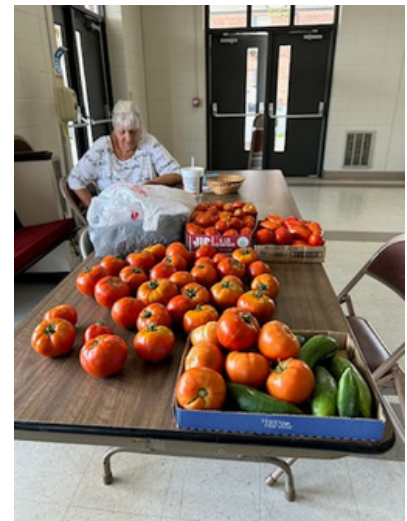
Online sign up link:

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

SOUP KITCHEN

Thank you to St. Michael's for the delicious meal!

July 20



ARCHIVAL ANECDOTES

Notable Florence First Presbyterians



James Jackson, from Ballybay County, Monaghan, Ireland, educated as a civil engineer, came to America in 1799, living briefly in Philadelphia, then moving to Nashville in 1801 where he was a successful merchant and financier. In early 1818, he and his wife Sarah relocated to the northwestern part of the Alabama Territory near the Muscle Shoals in today's Lauderdale County.

Jackson, one of the founders of Florence, was a charter member and president of the Cypress Land Company. He bought 3000 acres of land from Cherokee Chief Doublehead in Lauderdale County and built a manor house near the confluence of Little and

Big Cypress Creeks – the “Forks of Cypress” – the columns of which still stand.

After the home was completed, Jackson built a standard horse racing track. At the time, English horses were superior, so he imported several horses from England to breed and improve the American stock. The most famous horse, Glencoe, a chestnut stallion, Jackson purchased from the stables of King George IV and imported in 1836. Glencoe quickly established a name for himself on both the racetrack and as a great sire. Horse owners from all over the country brought their mares to Florence to be mated with Glencoe. He sired 481 foals and was so successful that by the mid-20th century virtually no thoroughbred in the world could be found who did not descend from Glencoe of the Forks of Cypress.

In 1822, Jackson was elected to the Alabama General Assembly and held offices in both houses, serving as Senate President, 1831-32. Jackson was a Presbyterian and a Whig. He was a founder and trustee of the Presbyterian Meeting House, formed in 1818, with a permanent structure built in 1824.

Florence remembers James Jackson by the following designations:

- A founder of Florence
- A founder of First Presbyterian Church
- Importing English thoroughbreds and breeding with American stock
- Jackson Road
- Elected to the Alabama General Assembly, holding offices in both

Landis Williams, Curtis Flowers, www.encyclopediaofalabama.org





Transportation Ministry

Your FPC Congregational Care Committee is developing a Transportation Ministry in which we invite you to participate as either a rider or a driver. This ministry will consist of volunteers to provide a ride to Sunday School and/or Sunday Worship. There may be other church services or other occasions that could be a meaningful event in the lives of those unable to attend unless a ride were easily available. So, we will need volunteer drivers in this ministry!

Likewise, your participation as a rider will indeed bless our church family because of your presence with us. If you are interested in participating, we ask that you fill out the “ride needed section” of the form and return it back to us.

In Christ’s service for all to come and worship,

Elba Barnes

Moderator of Congregational Care Committee

Tom Martin

Coordinator of Transportation Ministry

First Presbyterian Church Transportation Ministry Form

DRIVER VOLUNTEER

Name: _____ Cell Phone Number: _____

Address: _____

Do you have a valid driver’s license? ____ Yes ____ No

Do you have car insurance? ____ Yes ____ No

____ I can pick up in time for 9:00 am Coffee Time

____ I can pick up in time for worship service

____ I can pick up for other events

RIDER INFORMATION

Name: _____ Phone _____

Address: _____ Zip Code _____

Will you need the handicap access entrance to the church? _____

Your Questions or Comments: _____

A member of our committee may call you to determine any special instructions or directions for the driver.

July Session Minutes

Called Meeting of Session June 25, 2024

Unfinished Business

- Brandon gave an update on the Be Renewed campaign.
- Dixie gave an update on the Sexton Search Committee.
- Tom gave an update on the Nominating committee. He requested that the SOP be suspended for the Class of 2027 be changed from 5 session members to 4 session members. This was approved. The nominating committee will fill the clerk's position for the next 3 year term.
- Session retreat date will need to be set soon so we can set our goals.

New Business

- Randy gave a report on the Presbytery Meeting held on June 18.
- A discussion was held on permanently changing the Sunday worship hours.
- There are 3 baptism requests for July 7. Marlie Ann Rice, Callan Winston Cobb and Carson William Cobb. Tom Frith made the motion to approve. This was seconded and approved.
- Two people were nominated to be on this committee. Randy Pettus moved to appoint Dixie Carter and Wes Stubblefield to be on the committee to get a contract ready for Taylor Todd to become our bridge interim pastor. This was seconded and approved.

Called Meeting of Session July 14, 2024

The purpose of the meeting was to approve the baptisms of Jesse Mills and Rory Mills and approve the contract for Rev. Taylor Todd as transitional minister.

Rev. Miles informed the Session that Suzanne and Drew Mills had requested that their children, Jesse Reese Mills and Rory Arnold Mills be baptized. Joni Willingham moved to approve the baptism, it was seconded, and approved by the Session. The boys will be baptized at today's service.

Rev. Miles presented the contract for Rev. Taylor Todd to serve as our transitional minister beginning August 1, 2024, and ending on October 31, 2024. He will also serve as our Pulpit Supply on July 21 and 28, 2024.

July Committee Minutes

Christian Education

No Moderator Notes

Congregational Care

no moderator notes

Engagement & Fellowship

- July 14 – Miles Family Reception – Church Library – 11:30 am
- Vacation Bible School – July 16, 17, & 18 (4:30 – 7:30)
- July 21 – (2:00-5:00) Lake Day – Randy & Wesley's Lake House (See directions above)
- Ice Cream Social/Back to School Kick-Off – Front Lawn – August 3 -5:00-7:00

Mission

Chris King is the new First Presbyterian board member of the Shoals Community Clinic. He will also serve as our new direct contact to that board.

Stewardship

No Moderator Notes

Worship

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.

August Committee Schedule

All committee minutes are due Tuesday, August 20 at 4:00 pm

Tuesday, August 6

5:00 pm Christian Education/Library

Tuesday, August 13

4:00 pm Congregational Care/Appleby

5:15 pm Worship/Meade

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

Mission/**Appleby**

Stewardship/**Library**

Tuesday, August 27 5:30 pm Session Coordinating meeting/Appleby

6:00 pm Stated Meeting of Session/Meade

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.



WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Head Ushers: **Tommy Bowser**
Wesley Roden

August 4

Liturgical color: **White**
Acolyte: **Henry Morgan**
Reader: **John Carter**
Flowers: **Elba Barnes**

August 11

Liturgical color: **Green**
Acolyte: **Ceil Marbury**
Reader: **John Carter**
Flowers: **N/A**

August 18

Liturgical color: **Green**
Acolyte: **Gresham Morgan**
Reader: **John Tate**
Flowers: **N/A**

August 25

Liturgical color: **Green**
Acolyte: **Tillar Speaker**
Reader: **Matt Dorrance**
Flowers: **N/A**

Happy Birthday



2 Carol Smith
3 Jackie Zickler
4 Thomas Wallace
5 Elba Barnes
5 Beverly Cheney
5 Lucy Harris
10 Katherine Speaker
11 Vicki Gillis
11 Kyle Moor
12 Mack Fraser
12 Ann Reynolds
13 Jennifer Smith
14 Michael Hasty
15 Tyler Harrell
18 Mickey McClure
18 Elizabeth Willingham
22 Irene Potts
25 Gloria Tetteh
29 Charly Carter
30 Dick Peck



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!

August

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2	3 12-1pm Soup Kitchen 5-7 pm Hotdog & Ice Cream Social
4 9:00 Coffee Cafe 9:30 Children's SS Adult SS nursery 10:00 Choir Practice 10:30 Worship nursery Lemonade on the Lawn	5 2:00 Caregiver Fundraiser meeting/Meade	6 3:00 Staff meeting/Library 5:00 Christian Ed/Library	7	8	9 Caring Place fundraiser/Tenn. St. parking lot reserved	10 12-1pm Soup Kitchen
11 9:00 Coffee Cafe 9:45 Rally Day Breakfast/FH 10:30 Choir Practice 11:00 Worship nursery	12 10:00 Caregiver Support Group/Meade	13 12:00 Shoals Ministerial Alliance 3:00 Staff meeting/Library 4:00 Congregational Care /Appleby 5:15 Worship /Meade 6:00 Engagement & Fellowship /Meade Mission /Appleby Stewardship /Library	14	15	16 Church Office Closed	17 12-1 pm Soup Kitchen
18 9:00 Coffee Cafe 9:45 Children's SS Adult SS Inquirer's Class nursery 10:30 Choir Practice 11:00 Worship nursery	19	20 3:00 Staff Meeting/Library 4:00 Committee Minutes due 	21	22 10:30 Caring Place Exec. meeting 11:30 Caring Place Board Meeting	23	24 12-1 pm Soup Kitchen 2-4 pm FH reserved (Shoals Theater)
25 9:00 Coffee Cafe 9:45 Children's SS Adult SS Inquirer's Class nursery 10:30 Choir Practice 11:00 Worship nursery 2-4 pm FH reserved Shoals Theater	26	27 3:00 Staff Meeting/Library 5:30 Session Coordinating/Appleby 6:00 Stated Meeting of Session/Meade	28	29	30	31

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

Rhonda Tyree, recovering from hip replacement

John Palme

Phyllis Nofzinger

Cynthia Briand, home

Kelly Larkins

Michael Hasty

Nancy Palme, cervical spine injury

Family & Friends in need of prayer

Cathy Foust, Covid, UAB hospital

Bill Lupton, brother of Allison Lupton, undergoing treatment for blood cancer

Susan Smith, sister of Kim Curry, biopsy

Lindsey Eslick, daughter of Candace Lewis, pregnancy complications

Joanie Williamson, friend of Jan Schroeder

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