

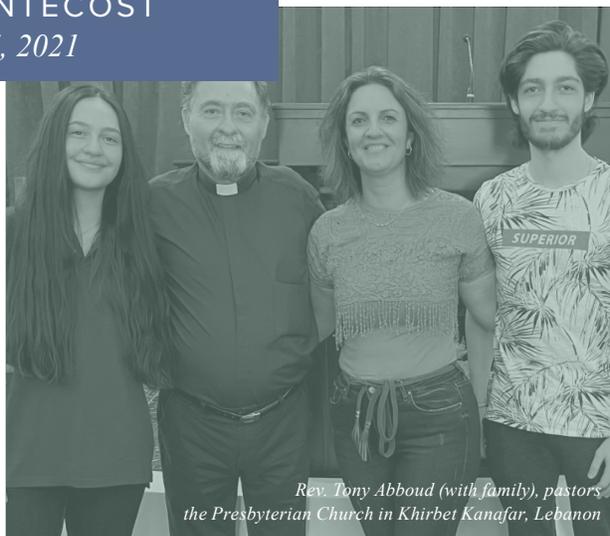


FIRST PRESBYTERIAN Church of Nashville

5TH SUNDAY
AFTER PENTECOST
June 27, 2021



*Marilyn Borst with Rev. Rola Sleiman,
Presbyterian Church in Tripoli*

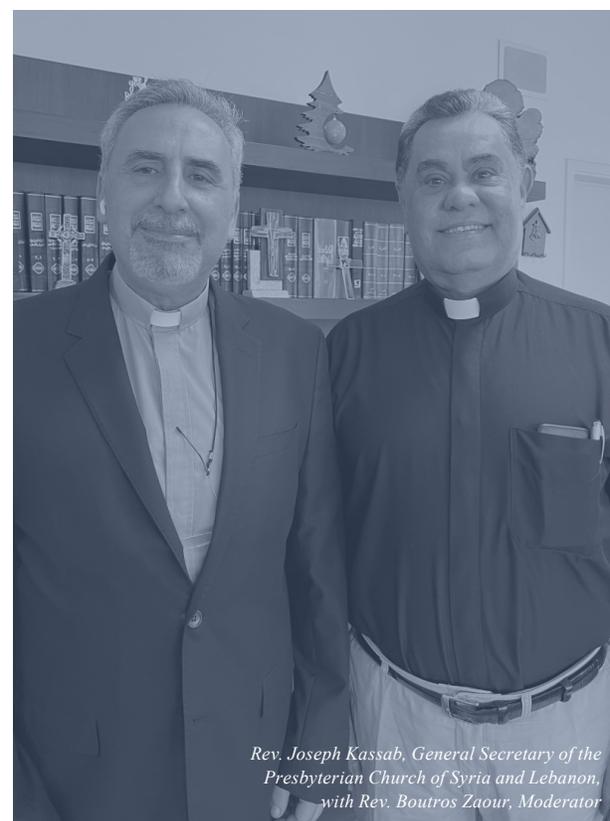


*Rev. Tony Abboud (with family), pastors
the Presbyterian Church in Khirbet Kanafar, Lebanon*

MISSION SUNDAY



*Michael and Sophia,
Presbyterian Church in Minyara.*



*Rev. Joseph Kassab, General Secretary of the
Presbyterian Church of Syria and Lebanon,
with Rev. Boutros Zaour, Moderator*

For Christ, for His kingdom, and for the common good. Since 1814.

WORDS OF PREPARATION

“I say that feet are very religious too. She says that’s what you think. I say that if you want to know who you are, if you are more than academically interested in that particular mystery, you could do a lot worse than look to your feet for an answer. Introspection in the long run doesn’t get you very far because every time you draw back to look at yourself, you are seeing everything except for the part that drew back, and when you draw back to look at the part that drew back to look at yourself, you see again everything except for what you are really looking for. And so on. Since the possibilities for drawing back seem to be infinite, you are, in your quest to see yourself whole, doomed always to see infinitely less than what there will always remain to see. Thus, when you wake up in the morning, called by God to be a self again, if you want to know who you are, watch your feet. Because where your feet take you, that is who you are.”

–Frederick Buechner

ORDER OF WORSHIP

WELCOME

MINUTE FOR MISSION (8:30)

Rev. Adam DeVries
Riley McDaniel

†INTROIT | from Jeremiah 29:10–13, 32:38–41

Jeremiah the Prophet: The Promise
Amy Tate Williams

Thus says the Lord, “When seventy years have been completed for Babylon, I’ll visit you and I will fulfill my promise to you, to bring you home, for I know the plans that I have for you,” declares the Lord, “plans for your welfare and not for calamity to give you a future, to give you hope. Then you will call on me and pray and I will listen. And you will seek me and find me when you search for me with all your heart. And I will make an everlasting covenant with you, my people, to do you good, to give you one heart and mind to fear me always and never turn away from me and I will rejoice to do you good and will faithfully plant you in this land with all my heart, and all my soul,” thus says the Lord.

CALL TO WORSHIP

Rev. Joshua Rodriguez (11:00)

Pastor: Be exalted, O God, above the heavens! Let your glory be over all the earth!

All: My heart is steadfast, O God, my heart is steadfast! I will sing and make melody!

Pastor: Awake, my glory! Awake, O harp and lyre! I will awake the dawn!

**All: I will give thanks to you O Lord, among the peoples;
I will sing praises to you among the nations.**

Pastor: For your steadfast love is great to the heavens, your faithfulness to the clouds.

All: Be exalted, O God, above the heavens! Let your glory be over all the earth!

*†OPENING HYMN

O For a Thousand Tongues to Sing
AZMON

**O for a thousand tongues to sing my dear Redeemer’s praise,
the glories of my God and King, the triumphs of God’s grace!**

**The name of Jesus charms our fears, and bids our sorrows cease,
sings music in the sinner’s ears, brings life, and health, and peace.**

**Christ speaks, and listening to his voice new life the dead receive;
the mournful waken to rejoice; the poor in heart believe.**

**My gracious Master and my God, assist me to proclaim,
to spread through all the earth abroad the honors of thy name.**

**To God all glory, praise, and love be now and ever given
by saints below and saints above, the church in earth and heaven.**

*PRAYER OF ADORATION

Will Hannon (8:30)
Mark Ison (11:00)

FIRST LESSON | 1 Peter 2:4–12

⁴ As you come to him, a living stone rejected by men but in the sight of God chosen and precious, ⁵ you yourselves like living stones are being built up as a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. ⁶ For it stands in Scripture: “Behold, I am laying in Zion a stone, a cornerstone chosen and precious, and whoever believes in him will not be put to shame.” ⁷ So the honor is for you who believe, but for those who do not believe, “The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone,” ⁸ and “A stone of stumbling, and a rock of offense.” They stumble because they disobey the word, as they were destined to do. ⁹ But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light. ¹⁰ Once you were not a people, but now you are God’s people; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy. ¹¹ Beloved, I urge you as sojourners and exiles to abstain from the passions of the flesh, which wage war against your soul. ¹² Keep your conduct among the Gentiles honorable, so that when they speak against you as evildoers, they may see your good deeds and glorify God on the day of visitation.

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

CALL TO CONFESSION

Dr. Stuart Gordon (8:30)
Rev. Sarah Bird Kneff (11:00)

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Eternal God, our Judge and Redeemer, we confess that we have tried to hide from you, for we have done wrong. We have lived for ourselves and apart from you. We have turned from our neighbors and refused to bear the burdens of others. We have ignored the pain of the world, and passed by the hungry, the poor, and the oppressed. In your great mercy forgive our sins and free us from selfishness, that we may choose your will and obey your commandments, through Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.

A moment for silent confession.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

*RESPONSE OF GRATITUDE

Glory Be to the Father
GLORIA PATRI

**Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost;
as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be,
world without end. Amen, amen.**

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH | Apostles' Creed

I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth; and in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic Church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.

BLESSING OF THE YOUNG DISCIPLES

‡ SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM (11:00)

Dr. Ryan Moore
Waymon Tipton, Assisting Elder

PRESENTATION OF CHILD

Elizabeth and Hughes Tipton are presenting their son, Charles Perry Tipton, for baptism.

BAPTISMAL QUESTIONS

*PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

THE BAPTISM

‡ *During the 11:00 a.m. service, children who are age 4, 5, or 6 (not in 1st grade) are invited to join Young Children & Worship.*

HYMN OF PREPARATION

Facing a Task Unfinished
AURELIA

**Facing a task unfinished that drives us to our knees,
a need that, undiminished, rebukes our slothful ease,
we who rejoice to know you renew before your throne
the solemn pledge we owe you to go and make you known.**

**Where other lords beside you hold their unhindered sway,
where forces that defied you defy you still today,
with none to heed their crying for life and love and light,
unnumbered souls are dying and pass into the night.**

**We bear the torch that flaming fell from the hands of those
who gave their lives proclaiming that Jesus died and rose;
ours is the same commission, the same glad message ours;
fired by the same ambition, to you we yield our pow'rs.**

**O Father, who sustained them, O Spirit, who inspired,
Savior, whose love constrained them to toil with zeal untired,
from cowardice defend us, from lethargy awake!
Forth on your errands send us to labor for your sake.**

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE READING | Romans 8:14–17

¹⁴ For all who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God. ¹⁵ For you did not receive the spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received the Spirit of adoption as sons, by whom we cry, “Abba! Father!”

¹⁶ The Spirit himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, ¹⁷ and if children, then

heirs—heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, provided we suffer with him in order that we may also be glorified with him.

Pastor: The Word of the Lord.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

SERMON

An Inconvenient Truth

Marilyn Borst

OFFERTORY

Children of the Heavenly Father
arr. Paul Christiansen

Children of the heavenly Father safely in his bosom gather; nestling bird nor star in heaven such a refuge e'er was given. God his own doth tend and nourish; in his holy courts they flourish; from all evil things he spares them; in his mighty arms he bears them. Neither life nor death shall ever from the Lord his children sever; unto them his grace he showeth, and their sorrows all he knoweth. Though he giveth or he taketh, God his children ne'er forsaketh; his the loving purpose solely to preserve them pure and holy.

As you reflect on the Lord's goodness, you can make an offering by dropping your gift in the offering plate, texting "GIVE" to 707-475-3005, or donating online at fpcnashville.org.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

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.

*HYMN

How Firm a Foundation
FOUNDATION

**How firm a foundation, ye saints of the Lord,
is laid for your faith in God's excellent Word!
What more can be said than to you God hath said,
to you who for refuge to Jesus have fled?**

**"Fear not, I am with thee, O be not dismayed,
for I am thy God, and will still give thee aid;
I'll strengthen thee, help thee, and cause thee to stand,
upheld by my righteous, omnipotent hand.**

**"When through the deep waters I call thee to go,
the rivers of sorrow shall not overflow;
for I will be near thee, thy troubles to bless,
and sanctify to thee thy deepest distress.**

**"When through fiery trials thy pathway shall lie,
my grace, all sufficient, shall be thy supply;
the flame shall not hurt thee; I only design
thy dross to consume, and thy gold to refine.**

**"The soul that on Jesus hath leaned for repose,
I will not, I will not desert to its foes;
that soul, though all hell should endeavor to shake,
I'll never, no, never, no, never forsake."**

*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

CHORAL RESPONSE

Go, My Children
AR HYD Y NOS

“Go, my children, with my blessing, never alone. Waking, sleeping, I am with you, you are my own. In my love’s baptismal river I have made you mine forever. Go, my children, with my blessing, you are my own.”

*CLOSING VOLUNTARY

Processional
William Mathias

** Those who are able, please stand.*
† Latecomers may be seated.

SANCTUARY FLOWERS

Flowers in the chancel are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of The Rev. Dr. John A. Ishee by his family.

PARTICIPANTS IN THE SERVICE

Ryan Moore, PhD – *Pastor*
Adam DeVries, MDiv – *Associate Pastor for Youth & Their Families*
Stuart Gordon, DMin – *Executive Pastor*
Sarah Bird Kneff, MDiv – *Associate Pastor for Discipleship & Engagement*
Joshua Rodriguez, MDiv – *Associate Pastor for Young Adult Ministry*
Raphael Bundage, DMA – *Director of Music*
Peter Rogahn, DMA – *Organist and Assistant Director of Music*
Rhonda Swanson, MM – *Assistant Organist*

MUSIC NOTES

Today’s introit is by Amy Tate Williams, Chorusmaster/Accompanist of the Nashville Opera, and will be sung by Daniel Shirley, a Grammy-nominated tenor who has been critically lauded for his performances of new operas, musical theater classics, and symphonic masterpieces. A native of Jackson, Mississippi, Shirley received the bachelor of music degree from the Vanderbilt Blair School of Music, and master of music and doctor of music degrees from the Indiana University Jacobs School of Music.

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Nursery care is open for the 8:30 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. services and serves children 6 weeks to 3 years old. Reservations are required weekly and can be made at fpcnashville.org. Young Children & Worship introduces children ages 4, 5, and 6 to the meaning and actions of corporate worship in age-appropriate ways. Pickup for nursery care and YCW is in the interior parking lot by the Early Preschool Playground. Please do not use inside hallways to pick up your child.

MISSION SUNDAY

Guest Preacher Marilyn Borst — Today's guest preacher is Marilyn Borst, Associate Director for Partnership Development at the Outreach Foundation. Marilyn works with churches around the United States to help them discern God's call to global engagement while connecting them to that work alongside the global Church. She holds degrees in classical studies, art history, and theology, and is also an ordained elder in the Presbyterian Church.

Special Lecture | 9:45 a.m. | Courtenay Hall — Marilyn will share images and stories from her recent journey to Lebanon, where she interfaces with our Presbyterian family—the National Evangelical Synod of Syria and Lebanon—who have been generously supported by FPC. Through a difficult season of economic collapse, pandemic, and the explosion in the port of Beirut that devastated the city, the Church in Lebanon has persevered in its mission and ministry.

Share a Square Food Drive Packing | 3:00 p.m. | Courtenay Hall — This afternoon, church members of all ages will pack donations for delivery to the Little Pantry That Could in North Nashville, then assemble 200 hygiene kits for Presbyterian Disaster Assistance. Join us for this time of serving, then help yourself to a sweet treat from the Friends Life Treat Truck and finish your afternoon off with Worship on the Porch at 4:30.

Sanctuary Renovation This Summer — Over the past year, we have made multiple improvements to the Sanctuary, seeking to care well for a space that previous generations have established and sustained. While many of these renovations have focused on the functionality of the room, the underlying intention has been to make the Sanctuary a liminal space where we can proclaim the Word, offer prayer, and sing praises to the living God. These improvements have been funded by a bequest from a deceased church member, an unsolicited gift from a current member, and endowment income, enabling us to complete the work without impacting our operating budget. Beginning Sunday, July 11, through the month of August, the Sanctuary will be closed for the final steps of the renovation process. During this period, worship will be in the Enrichment Center, still at the familiar times of 8:30 and 11:00 a.m. Thank you for your patience and flexibility during this time of renewal.

Summer Youth Opportunities — There is a lot going on for youth (rising 7th–12th graders) this summer: trips, weekday meetups with youth staff, Wednesday Night Festivus, and more. Find up-to-date information about opportunities for youth and their families at linktr.ee/fpcnashyouth.

The Gathering Place Reopens — Youth Sunday School is back in the Gathering Place beginning today.

Family Summer Sundays Under the Tent | Sundays in June 9:45 a.m. | Enrichment Center Porch
The education hour between morning worship services will provide a chance for families with children of all ages to enjoy fellowship together.

Worship on the Porch | Sundays in June | 4:30 p.m. | Front Porch — Come as you are to this family-friendly service, where we delight in worship and fellowship with one another. Each Sunday after the 4:30 worship service, head down to the FPC pool to enjoy pizza and popsicles. Please note that there will not be a lifeguard on duty. In the event of inclement weather, this service will be canceled.

One-Day Inquirers Class | July 10 — The next Inquirers Class will be offered as a one-day retreat on Saturday, July 10. If you are interested in joining the class or just learning more about membership at First Presbyterian, reach out to Rev. Sarah Bird Kneff (sbird@fpcnashville.org).

Pickup Pickleball | Thursdays in June | 5:00–8:00 p.m. | Enrichment Center — Pickleball is back this summer! All ages are welcome. Email Josh Rodriguez (jrodriguez@fpcnashville.org) for more information.

Flower Vase Donations No Longer Needed — Thanks to multiple generous donations from the congregation, our Monday Flower Ministry now has a sufficient supply of vases. Thank you to all who have contributed.

Presbyterian Women Survey — We are currently planning Presbyterian Women programs for 2021–22 and are seeking feedback from all women at FPC. Find the survey at linktr.ee/fpcnashville.

For more information on events and mission opportunities, visit fpcnashville.org or sign up for our weekly Parish News email by emailing communications@fpcnashville.org.

All are welcome to join in these opportunities for worshipping, playing, or serving together.

July 11, 18, & 25 | Poolside Vespers | 4:00 p.m. | FPC Pool
Sundays, beginning July 11 | Worship in the Enrichment Center
Thursdays, June–August | Pickup Pickleball | 5:00-8:00 p.m. | Enrichment Center
July 10 | Inquirers One-Day Class | 9:00 a.m.–1:00 p.m. | Jones Session Room
July 18 | Mission Sunday: Rise Against Hunger | 3:00 p.m.
Aug 7–8 | NaCoMe All-Church Retreat

CHILDREN & FAMILIES

July 15 | ME Moms Picnic in the Park | 11:00 a.m.
July 19 | VPS Playground & Popsicles | Ages 4–6 | 9:00 a.m. | Early Preschool Playground
July 29 | VPS NaCoMe Fresh Air Day | Grades 1–6

YOUTH & FAMILIES

July 5 | Sunday School moves to Gathering Place
Summer Wednesdays | Festivus | OHS Gym
5:30–6:30, Junior High
7:00–8:00, High School
June 28–July 3 | Middle School Barefoot Republic Camp
July 11–17 | 9th Grade Great Escape Midwest
August 1 | Passages Retreat | Rising Senior Girls

INTERESTED IN GETTING MORE CONNECTED?

First Presbyterian Church extends a warm welcome in the name of Christ to all who worship with us today. Since 1814 First Presbyterian has sought to be faithful in service to Jesus Christ and the common good. We are rooted in the Reformed, orthodox, and evangelical traditions of the larger church. If you do not have a church home, we would love to welcome you!

We are delighted you have chosen to join us in worship. Whether you are a guest or a longtime member, fill out the Connect Card (found in the pew racks) to get more involved, update your contact information, or sign up for church communications. Drop your completed Connect Card in the offering plate.

The Mother and Infant
Quiet Room is located in the
Nursery Wing.

Audio Bluetooth Capabilities: Use the WaveCAST
app to connect your personal device and headphones.
WiFi: FPC Guest | Password: GreenRock-81
select “First Pres Sanctuary”

Text “GIVE” to 707-475-3005,
or donate online
at fpcnashville.org.

SUNDAY WORSHIP LIVESTREAM AVAILABLE

