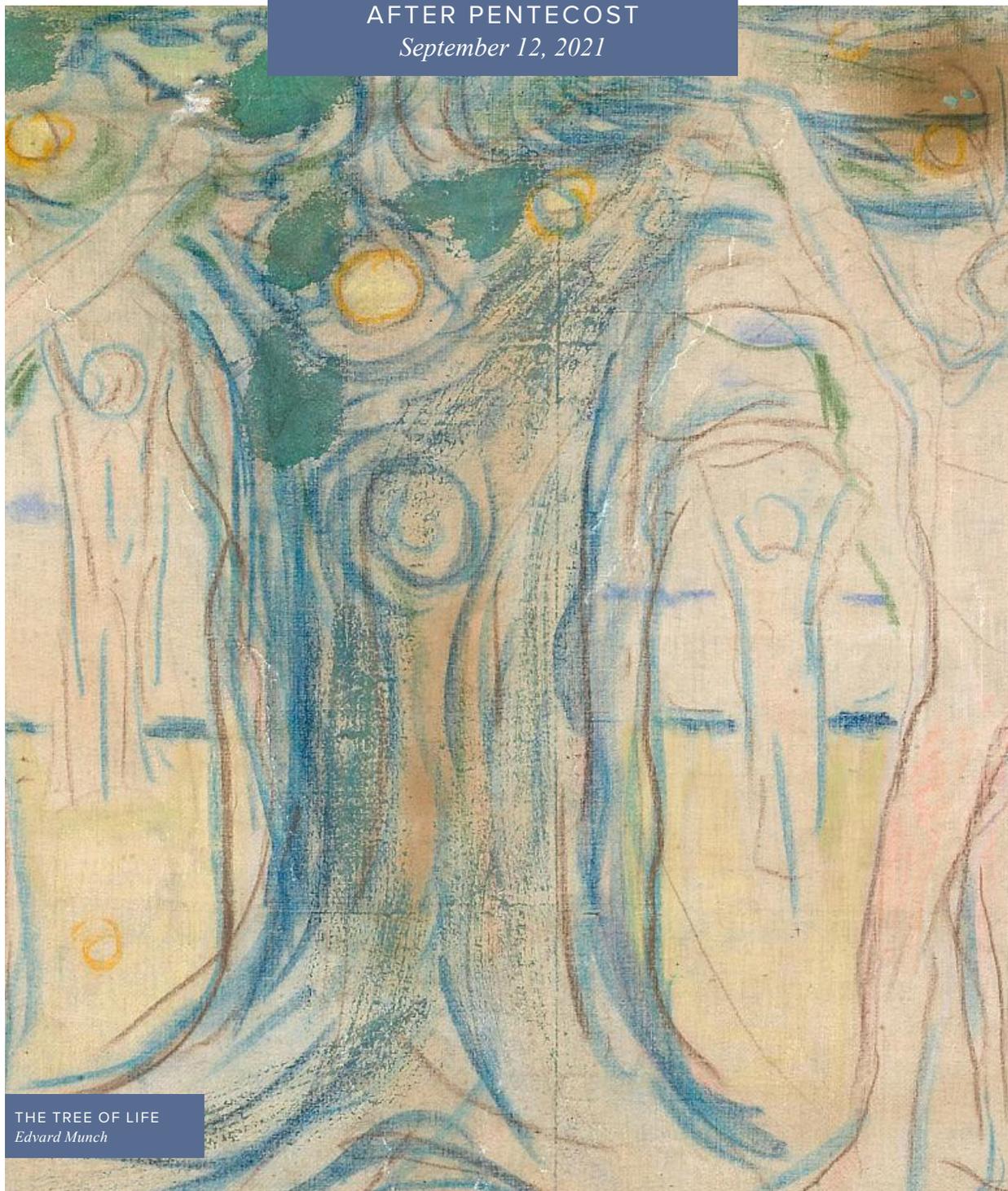




FIRST PRESBYTERIAN  
Church of Nashville

16TH SUNDAY  
AFTER PENTECOST  
*September 12, 2021*



THE TREE OF LIFE  
*Edvard Munch*

## WORDS OF PREPARATION

O you high and holy One that inhabits eternity, you are to be feared and loved by all your servants. All your works praise you, O God; and we especially give thanks unto you for your marvelous love in Christ Jesus, by whom you have reconciled the world to yourself. You have given us exceeding great and precious promises. You have sealed them with his blood. You have confirmed them by his resurrection and ascension, and the coming of the Holy Spirit. We thank you that you have given us so many happy opportunities of knowing the truth as it is in Jesus, even the mystery which was hid from ages and generations, but is now revealed to them that believe.

—John Wesley

## ORDER OF WORSHIP

†VOLUNTARY

*Chorale Fantasia on the Old Hundredth*  
C. Hubert H. Parry

## WELCOME AND CALL TO WORSHIP

Pastor: I was glad when they said to me,  
**All: Let us go to the house of the Lord!**  
 Pastor: For the Lord is the great God,  
**All: He is King above all others.**  
 Pastor: From the rising of the sun to its setting,  
**All: The name of the Lord be praised!**  
 Pastor: Come, let us join voices in joyful praise to our God!

\*†OPENING HYMN 826

*Lift High the Cross*  
CRUCIFER

\*PRAYER OF ADORATION

Mary Grace Smith (8:30)  
Sarah Bellardo (11:00)

## FIRST LESSON | Psalm 130

<sup>1</sup> Out of the depths I cry to you, O Lord! <sup>2</sup> O Lord, hear my voice! Let your ears be attentive to the voice of my pleas for mercy! <sup>3</sup> If you, O Lord, should mark iniquities, O Lord, who could stand? <sup>4</sup> But with you there is forgiveness, that you may be feared. <sup>5</sup> I wait for the Lord, my soul waits, and in his word I hope; <sup>6</sup> my soul waits for the Lord more than watchmen for the morning, more than watchmen for the morning. <sup>7</sup> O Israel, hope in the Lord! For with the Lord there is steadfast love, and with him is plentiful redemption. <sup>8</sup> And he will redeem Israel from all his iniquities.

Leader: The Word of the Lord.  
**All: Thanks be to God.**

## CALL TO CONFESSION

Dr. Stuart Gordon (8:30)  
Dr. Sandra Randleman (11:00)

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Merciful God, you made us in your image, with a mind to know you, a heart to love you, and a will to serve you. But our knowledge is imperfect, our love inconstant, our obedience incomplete. Day by day, we fail to grow into your likeness. In your tender love, forgive us through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

*A moment for silent confession.*

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

\*RESPONSE OF GRATITUDE

*And Can It Be That I Should Gain*

SAGINA

And can it be that I should gain an interest in the  
No con-dem-na-tion now I dread; Je-sus, and all in  
Sav-ior's blood! Died he for me who caused his pain! For me? who  
him, is mine; a-live in him, my liv-ing Head, and clothed in  
him to death pur-sued? A-maz-ing love! How can it  
righ-teous-ness di-vine, bold I ap-proach th'e-ter-nal  
be that thou, my God, shouldst die for me? A-maz-ing  
throne, and claim the crown, through Christ my own. Bold I ap-  
love! How can it be that thou, my God, shouldst die for me?  
proach th'e-ter-nal throne, and claim the crown, through Christ my own.

\*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.

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*Whether you are a longtime member or a guest, please mark your presence by signing the friendship pad and greet those seated near you as you pass it along.*

‡ BLESSING OF THE YOUNG DISCIPLES

*‡ Children who are age 4, 5, or 6 (not in 1st grade) are invited to join Young Children & Worship.*

HYMN OF PREPARATION 802

*The King of Love My Shepherd Is*  
ST. COLUMBA

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE READING | 2 Corinthians 5:17–20

<sup>17</sup> Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come. <sup>18</sup> All this is from God, who through Christ reconciled us to himself and gave us the ministry of reconciliation; <sup>19</sup> that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting to us the message of reconciliation. <sup>20</sup> Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, God making his appeal through us. We implore you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God.

Pastor: The Word of the Lord.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

SERMON

**Living in Christ**

Dr. Greg Jones

OFFERTORY

*I Was Glad*  
C. HUBERT H. PARRY

I was glad when they said unto me, “We will go into the house of the Lord.” Our feet shall stand in thy gates, O Jerusalem. Jerusalem is builded as a city that is at unity in itself. Pray for the peace of Jerusalem, they shall prosper that love thee. Peace be within thy walls, and plenteousness within thy palaces.

*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](http://fpcnashville.org).*

COMMISSIONING OF YOUTH LEADERS

Rev. Joshua Rodriguez (8:30)

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

Rev. Sarah Bird Kneff (11:00)

**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 366

*Love Divine, All Loves Excelling*  
HYFRYDOL

\*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

CHORAL RESPONSE

*Dona nobis pacem* (Grant us thy peace)  
Ludwig van Beethoven

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\*CLOSING VOLUNTARY

*Lift High the Cross*  
Rebecca Groom te Velde

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

*† Latecomers may be seated.*

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GUEST PREACHER GREG JONES

Our guest preacher today is Dr. Greg Jones, President of Belmont University. Known for his entrepreneurial leadership and fundraising, he served as Dean of Duke University Divinity School 1997–2010 and 2018–21. He has also served as Executive Vice President of Baylor University. His tenure at Duke was marked by significant financial growth and a number of new initiatives. An ordained United Methodist minister, Jones is the author or editor of 19 books and has published over 200 articles. He holds bachelor's and master's degrees from the University of Denver, as well as a master of divinity and a PhD in theology from Duke. He is married to Rev. Dr. Susan Pendleton Jones. The two are the proud parents of three adult children and three granddaughters.

PARTICIPANTS IN THE SERVICE

Ryan Moore, PhD – *Pastor*

Stuart Gordon, DMin – *Executive Pastor*

Sarah Bird Kneff, MDiv – *Associate Pastor for Discipleship & Engagement*

Sandra Randleman, DMin – *Associate Pastor for Congregational Care & Missions*

Joshua Rodriguez, MDiv – *Associate Pastor for Young Adult Ministry*

Raphael Bundage, DMA – *Director of Music*

Peter Rogahn, DMA – *Organist and Assistant Director of Music*

Alec Blazek and Michael Arndt – *Trumpeters*

Joshua Hickman – *Timpanist*

Ali Gooding Hoffman – *Violinist*

Avery Harr, Ryan Harr, Elijah Moore, Jonah Moore, Ada Shapiro, Isaac Shapiro – *Acolytes*

SANCTUARY FLOWERS

Flowers in the chancel are given to the glory of God in celebration of the wedding of Anna Kate Rader and Jacob Morris Lowry and in loving memory of Kent Lowry, Franklin Rader, Spencer Thornton, Annie Glen Thornton, Ken and Mary Theresa Lowry, and Dood Harwell.

MUSIC NOTES

The special instrumental music today is made possible by the M. Stratton Foster Charitable Foundation, in memory of Eleanor Gray Foster.

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*Lift High the Cross* Music; Rebecca Groom te Velde Tune: *Crucifer* from Oxford Hymn Settings for Organists: Autumn Festivals, Oxford Publishing © 2016. All rights reserved. OneLicense.net License #A-714895.

COVER IMAGE

Edvard Munch, *The Tree of Life*, 1910, tempera and crayon on unprimed canvas, Munch Museum, Oslo, Norway.

NURSERY CARE AND YOUNG CHILDREN & WORSHIP

**Young Children & Worship** will meet in the Children's Ministry Wing. Parents will pick up their child after worship at the door to Grundy Hall.

**Nursery care for children 6 weeks to 3 years old** is available for the 8:30 and 11:00 a.m. services, and during the education hour. Reservations are required weekly and can be made at [fpcnashville.org](http://fpcnashville.org). Pickup for nursery care is located in the interior parking lot by the Gathering Place.

In a large church such as ours, a Sunday School class offers a great opportunity to develop friendships and enjoy Christian community. The weekly rhythm of Sunday provides a regular opportunity to gather with others and study the Christian faith. Our adult Sunday morning program includes a variety of regular classes with a wide range of sizes, formats, and content. Leadership is drawn from among church staff, church members, and professional guests. See the descriptions of current classes as you search for one that might be right for you. Visitors are always welcome. For assistance, contact Rev. Sarah Bird Kneff, Associate Pastor for Discipleship and Engagement, at [sbird@fpcnashville.org](mailto:sbird@fpcnashville.org). Most Sunday School classes this fall will be informed by the Big Read. Find descriptions of each class below.

**Bethel Bible COB | Room L-200 | Led by Marty Kauffman and Mary Marraccini | Life stage: Adults of all ages** — Join us as we engage the Big Read through the lens of the Bethel Series, which takes a historical approach to the Hebrew-Christian heritage of faith with an overview of the Old and New Testaments. All are welcome to this class, which will consist of both lecture and discussion.

**Big Read Forum | Courtenay Hall | Led by Dr. Stuart Gordon and others | Life stage: Adults of all ages** Are you following the Big Read? Would you like to know more about the context of what you're reading? All are welcome to hear from pastors and other leaders in our church as we offer a broader understanding of the assigned Big Read texts for the week and place them within the overarching biblical narrative.

**Coffee and Bible Class | Memorial Library | Led by class members | Life stage: Adults of all ages** This class will follow the Big Read, with discussions based on fall Community of Belonging materials.

**Cornerstone Class | Vance Hall | Led by John Hollins, Chris Kirkland, Ben Merrill, Darryl Thompson, and Julia Wilk | Life stage: Adults in their late 30s–50s** — This class involves short lectures followed by facilitated discussion.

**Discipleship Class | Witherspoon Room | Led by David Goodcase, Charlie Bryan Sr., and Jim Cawood | Life stage: Adults of all ages** — This Bible-based class often engages in line-by-line study of a particular passage from Scripture.

**Enneagram Class | Chapel | Led by Abbi Rodriguez | Life stage: Adults of all ages** — Join certified Enneagram teacher Abbi Rodriguez in the Enneagram Sunday School class this fall as we take a look at our personalities and our Christian faith through the lens of the Enneagram. Each week, we will explore the text from the church-wide Big Read curriculum while discovering the gifts of our personality and the blind spots that impact our spiritual growth. This class will incorporate interactive teachings as well as group discussions to process the information. Every generation is welcome and no prior knowledge of the Enneagram is required to join in! Please register for the class at [fpcnashville.org](http://fpcnashville.org).

**Family Fellowship Class | Session Room | Led by Dr. Ryan Moore | Life stage: Parents of young children** — This class for parents of young children will be led by Ryan Moore and will follow the Big Read timeline.

**Good News Class | Room L-207 | Led by Rev. John Musgrave | Life stage: Adults of all ages** “Remembering Who We Are” will be our theme. Each Sunday a person will be selected from that week's portion of the Big Read. A presentation will be given discussing how God shaped and molded that individual and what part he or she played to further God's kingdom. Then there will be a sharing on how we see ourselves in this biblical character and what we can learn about God and ourselves. This class is primarily lecture-based.

**June Ramsey Class | Virtual | Led by guest speakers, coordinated by Scott Pearson | Life stage: Adults of all ages** — This interactive lecture class features a monthly invited speaker, usually from Vanderbilt Divinity School, to guide us through a topic of their interest. We are intensely curious, ask lots of questions, and enjoy good discussion. This fall, we plan to follow the Big Read. All dispositions are welcome. Contact Sarah Bird Kneff, [sbird@fpcnashville.org](mailto:sbird@fpcnashville.org), for the Zoom link.

**Young Adults Class | Bryant Conference Room | Led by Lipscomb Davis | Life stage: Young adults** We will read through the Letter to the Romans through the lens of stories and sermons from the Big Read.

**Presbyterian Women Fall Gathering | Tuesday, September 14 | 10:00 a.m. Sanctuary | Boxed lunch to follow in Courtenay Hall** — The Presbyterian Women Fall Gathering will focus on women of the Bible, and our guest speaker will be Rev. Lauren Scharf. Lauren is a priest serving in the Pittsburgh Diocese of the Anglican Church of North America (ACNA). She has served two local churches over the past decade and is currently pursuing doctoral studies at Trinity School for Ministry. She has a particular interest in practical theology and issues relating to empowering women in the church. The cost of lunch is \$15; childcare will not be available. Register at [fpcnashville.org](http://fpcnashville.org).



**Rev. John McCall to Lead Men's Bible Study on September 14** — The Tuesday morning Men's Bible Study meets every Tuesday from 7:15 to 8:00 a.m. via Zoom. Led by Dr. Sandra Randleman, the group is currently studying 1 Samuel and is open to new members. On September 14, the Bible study will be led by Rev. John McCall, from his place of ministry in Taiwan. John teaches classes at three seminaries in Taiwan, and his ministry is supported by First Presbyterian Church. For more information, please contact Sandra Randleman ([srandleman@fpcnashville.org](mailto:srandleman@fpcnashville.org)).

**Fall Communities of Belonging** — Communities of Belonging this fall will follow the Big Read. They begin the week of September 19 and continue through the week of December 12. Discussion will be focused on the previous Sunday's sermon. It is not necessary to commit to reading the entire Bible to join a COB, but all participants are encouraged to pick a reading track and spend time in the Word each day. There are several groups to choose from, including in-person, virtual, and hybrid formats. COB registration is now open.

**Midweek Study with Ryan Moore | Wednesdays beginning September 22 | 11:30 a.m.–1:00 p.m. Session Room** — Beginning Wednesday, September 22, join Dr. Ryan Moore at 11:30 a.m. in the Session Room for a weekly Bible study. The class will be an overview of the Scriptures, in conjunction with the Big Read. Kim Rogers will serve a light lunch each week, payment for which will be donation-based. Weekly registration will be required, mainly to let our hospitality team to know how much food to prepare. All ages are welcome.

## MISSIONS

**Red Cross Blood Drive | September 15 | 11:00 a.m.–5:00 p.m. | Courtenay Hall** — The pandemic has led to a severe blood shortage in Nashville, and the Red Cross is relying on organizations like FPC to meet this critical need. Each unit of blood donated can save up to three lives. There were 45 donors at the March blood drive and 47 at the June drive. Sign up to give blood at [redcrossblood.org](http://redcrossblood.org) (donor code: FPCnashville) and help us reach 50 donors!

**Golf Scramble | October 5 | 12:30 p.m. | Nashville Golf and Athletic Club** — The fall Golf Scramble is scheduled for 12:30 p.m. on Tuesday, October 5, at Nashville Golf and Athletic Club. All ages and skill levels are welcome to enjoy food, fun, and fellowship at this fundraiser for Preston Taylor Ministries. Registration is \$110 per player and is open to both singles and teams.

## CHILDREN & FAMILIES

**Children's Education Hour Launches Next Week** — On September 19, children's programming begins in earnest with a new format: instead of grade-specific classes, there will be three primary gatherings based on age group, all guided by the Big Read. Children ages 6 and younger will gather for Bible Time, a play-based approach to Bible learning, with ages 6 weeks–3 years in the nursery area and ages 4–6 in Grundy Hall. Ages 7 and above will assemble in the Enrichment Center Auditorium for the cross-generational Sunday Breakfast Club (SBC), which will feature a Bible-focused presentation and simple breakfast treats. Parents and grandparents are welcome to attend SBC, as are younger children accompanied by an adult.

**Children's Milestone Blessing and Lunch** | Sunday, September 19 | 11:00 a.m. | Sanctuary — To all families with 1st, 2nd, and 3rd graders: We will be celebrating faith milestones during worship on September 19. Children will be presented with the milestone gift associated with their grade: 1st and 2nd grades, Sacraments of Baptism and the Lord's Supper; 3rd grade, God's Word. A family lunch and short program, organized by grade, will immediately follow worship and will finish up by 1:00 p.m. Contact Deb O'Brien ([dobrien@fpcnashville.org](mailto:dobrien@fpcnashville.org)) for more information.

**Special thanks to The Home Depot for providing the mum decorations for First Fest.**



The Big Read is a 90-day, all-church reading of the Bible. While most of us are familiar with individual stories from Scripture, the Big Read seeks to move us beyond that, to develop a sense of the Bible's overarching narrative—a single story of salvation, from Old Testament to New, held together by a faithful God and pointing to Jesus Christ. This is an opportunity to immerse ourselves in God's story, to find ourselves in it, and to see the world with new clarity.

## Big Read Registration

Over 300 church members have registered for the Big Read, and there's still time to sign up. Registering is a great way to commit to the daily practice of reading Scripture, and it will also give you access to a reading plan. Sign up today at the Adult Education booth at First Fest, or online at [fpcnashville.org/bigread](http://fpcnashville.org/bigread). We encourage all members to take this vital step in joining the Big Read. Reading track options:

- **Audio:** Listen to three to five chapters each day using a Bible app.
- **Chapter:** Read 90 chapters of the Bible, committing to one chapter per day.
- **Comprehensive:** Read the entire Bible, committing to about 30 minutes per day.
- **Family:** Read daily passages, predominantly from the *Read and Learn Bible*, appropriate for children of all ages.

## The Big Read Forum

SUNDAYS BEGINNING SEPTEMBER 19  
9:45 A.M. | COURTENAY HALL

Are you following the Big Read? Would you like to know more about the context of what you're reading? The Big Read Forum offers a chance to hear from pastors and other leaders in our church as we offer a broader understanding of the assigned texts for the week and place them within the overarching biblical narrative. While other Sunday School offerings will engage with the Big Read, this class will have the most explicit focus on our journey through the Bible.

## First Fest Today!

9:30 A.M. | OUTSIDE SANCTUARY

This morning, FPC is launching what we hope will be a new tradition: First Fest, held outside the Sanctuary at 9:30. On one hand, the event marks the culmination of a multiphase renovation of the Sanctuary; on the other, it marks a new beginning: the church-wide Big Read kicks off today, and with it the full slate of fall 2021 programming. First Fest will have the feel of a country fair, with all manner of fun activities. There will also be a full breakfast, live music (from the Sam Levine Trio and the Singing Pastors), and booths for each ministry with age-specific information about the Big Read.

[Learn more at fpcnashville.org/BigRead](http://fpcnashville.org/BigRead)

### 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 to get more involved, update your contact information, or sign up for church communications. Drop your completed Connect Card in the offering plate.

SUNDAY WORSHIP LIVESTREAM AVAILABLE



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