



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN
Church of Nashville

SIXTEENTH SUNDAY
AFTER PENTECOST

September 17, 2023

8:30 & 11:00 a.m.



To know Christ, to make Him known and to exhibit His love through worship, education and service.

WORDS OF PREPARATION

*“Nothing in this world is terrible. Life is everything. Life is God.
Everything changes and moves and that movement is God... To love life is to love God.”*

—Count Pierre, a prisoner of war, suffering and struggling to understand life

War and Peace

Fyodor Dostoyevsky

ORDER OF WORSHIP

†VOLUNTARY

Alleluia from Exultate Jubilate
Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart

WELCOME

Dr. Ryan Moore

†INTROIT

Tell Out My Soul, the Greatness of the Lord
WOODLANDS

Tell out, my soul, the greatness of the Lord: unnumbered blessings give my spirit voice; tender to me the promise of his word; in God my Savior shall my heart rejoice.

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Dr. Stuart Gordon

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

All: And also with you.

Pastor: O come, let us sing to the Lord and shout with joy to the rock of our salvation!

All: Let us come into God's presence with thanksgiving, singing joyful songs of praise.

Pastor: Praise the Lord.

All: The Lord's name be praised!

*†OPENING HYMN 826

Lift High the Cross
CRUCIFER

*PRAYER OF ADORATION

Stuart Campbell (8:30)
Lonnie Stout (11:00)

FIRST LESSON | Deuteronomy 30:15–20 (page 172)

¹⁵“See, I have set before you today life and good, death and evil. ¹⁶If you obey the commandments of the Lord your God that I command you today, by loving the Lord your God, by walking in his ways, and by keeping his commandments and his statutes and his rules, then you shall live and multiply, and the Lord your God will bless you in the land that you are entering to take possession of it. ¹⁷But if your heart turns away, and you will not hear, but are drawn away to worship other gods and serve them, ¹⁸I declare to you today, that you shall surely perish. You shall not live long in the land that you are going over the Jordan to enter and possess. ¹⁹I call heaven and earth to witness against you today, that I have set before you life and death, blessing and curse. Therefore choose life, that you and your offspring may live, ²⁰loving the Lord your God, obeying his voice and holding fast to him, for he is your life and length of days, that you may dwell in the land that the Lord swore to your fathers, to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob, to give them.”

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

CALL TO CONFESSION

Dr. Sandra Randleman

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Holy and merciful God, in your presence we confess our sinfulness, our shortcomings, and our offenses against you. You alone know how often we have sinned in wandering from your ways, in wasting your gifts, in forgetting your love. Have mercy on us, O Lord, for we are ashamed and sorry for all we have done to displease you. Forgive our sins, and help us to live in your light, and walk in your ways, for the sake of Jesus Christ our Savior.

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.

*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

*‡During the 8:30 and 11:00 services, PreK and Kindergarten
children (ages 4–6) are invited to join Young Children & Worship.*

HYMN OF PREPARATION 801

The Lord's My Shepherd, I'll Not Want
CRIMOND

SCRIPTURE READING | John 10:1–16 (page 902)

¹“Truly, truly, I say to you, he who does not enter the sheepfold by the door but climbs in by another way, that man is a thief and a robber. ² But he who enters by the door is the shepherd of the sheep. ³ To him the gatekeeper opens. The sheep hear his voice, and he calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. ⁴ When he has brought out all his own, he goes before them, and the sheep follow him, for they know his voice. ⁵ A stranger they will not follow, but they will flee from him, for they do not know the voice of strangers.” ⁶ This figure of speech Jesus used with them, but they did not understand what he was saying to them. ⁷ So Jesus again said to them, “Truly, truly, I say to you, I am the door of the sheep. ⁸ All who came before me are thieves and robbers, but the sheep did not listen to them. ⁹ I am the door. If anyone enters by me, he will be saved and will go in and out and find pasture. ¹⁰ The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life and have it abundantly. ¹¹ I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. ¹² He who is a hired hand and not a shepherd, who does not own

the sheep, sees the wolf coming and leaves the sheep and flees, and the wolf snatches them and scatters them. ¹³ He flees because he is a hired hand and cares nothing for the sheep. ¹⁴ I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me, ¹⁵ just as the Father knows me and I know the Father; and I lay down my life for the sheep. ¹⁶ And I have other sheep that are not of this fold. I must bring them also, and they will listen to my voice. So there will be one flock, one shepherd.

Pastor: The Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SERMON

Life Abundant

Dr. Todd Jones

OFFERTORY

Greater Love Hath No Man
John Ireland

Many waters cannot quench love, neither can the floods drown it. Love is strong as death. Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends. Who his own self bare our sins in his own body on the tree, that we, being dead to sins, should live unto righteousness. Ye are washed, ye are sanctified, ye are justified, in the name of the Lord Jesus; ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness, into his marvelous light. I beseech you, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies, a living sacrifice, holy, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service.

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.

*CLOSING HYMN 697

Take My Life
HENDON

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

CHORAL RESPONSE

Amen
Peter Lutkin

*CLOSING VOLUNTARY

Prelude in G Major, BWV 541
Johann Sebastian Bach

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

PARTICIPANTS IN THE SERVICE

Ryan Moore, PhD – *Pastor*

Stuart Gordon, DMin – *Sr. Associate Pastor for Christian Formation & Witness*

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

Raphael Bundage, DMA – *Director of Music*

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

Claire Paschal – *Soprano*

Terri Richter-Franklin – *Soprano*

Greg Thomas – *Tenor*

SANCTUARY FLOWERS

Flowers in the chancel are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of Nelson Shields by his wife Sheila Shields.

Wreaths on the Sanctuary doors are given to the glory of God and in deep appreciation of Dr. Todd B. Jones and his ministry of love and caring among us by Judy, Robin, and Henry Campbell.

SUPPORTING FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

You can make a gift or fulfill a pledge payment by placing your gift in the offering plate, texting “GIVE” to 707-475-3005, donating online at fpcnashville.org, or scan the QR code.



CONGREGATIONAL MEETING TODAY FOLLOWING BOTH WORSHIP SERVICES

A congregational meeting is being held today for the purpose of voting on a slate of candidates presented by the Officer Nominating Committee and for the purpose of voting to confer the honorary title of Pastor Emeritus to Dr. Todd Jones. Nominated as Elder Class of 2026 are Denise Bellardo, John Eason, Michael Hindman, John Hollins Jr., Malcolm Liles, Scott McConnell, Austin McMullen, Lauren Ross, Emmett Russell IV, Tricia Scott, Elizabeth Wagster, and Hobbs Yarbrough. Nominated as Deacon Class of 2026 are Summer Bryan, Allen Callison, Sarah Dalton, M.L. Davis, Sally Einstman, Ben Elrod, Bill Girard, Kim Greene, Harold Harr, Greg Hill, Travis Holland, Chris Holstein, Ben Huddleston, Cindy Luna, Mary Marraccini, J.T. Martin, Alex Nicholson, Donna Platt, Robert Rolfe Jr., and John Thomas. Nominated to serve as congregation-at-large members on next year's Officer Nominating Committee are Betsy Davies, Ben Elrod, and Blewett McInter.

WELCOME

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!

Hearing Assistance App Directions

Join WiFi network. You must be connected to this network for the app to work. Network Name: FPC Guest; Password: GreenRock-81. Download the WaveCAST app. Open the app and select "First Pres Sanctuary." Plug in your headphones and adjust the volume to your preference.

Join us downstairs in Courtenay Hall between services for coffee and doughnuts.

To **livestream** worship and special events or view past services, visit youtube.com/firstpresbyterianchurchofnashville.

Children of all ages are invited to worship alongside their families and worship activity bags are provided at each entrance to the Sanctuary. **Young Children & Worship** meets in Grundy Hall in the Children's Ministry Wing for ages 4–6. Parents pick up at the door of Grundy Hall. After 8:30 a.m. worship, children can stay for the Education Hour. **Nursery care** for children ages 0–3 is available from 8:15 a.m.–12:15 p.m. Check-in and pickup for nursery care are both located at the nursery entrance near Courtenay Lounge. The **Mother and Infant Quiet Room** is located in the Nursery Wing.

INTERESTED IN GETTING MORE CONNECTED?

If you are new to our community, we would love to get to know you and welcome you personally into the life and ministry of First Presbyterian Church. 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 so we can follow up!

*Stay informed about news and upcoming events by reading FPC's weekly Parish News email.
To subscribe, email communications@fpcnashville.org.*



TODAY: GUEST PREACHER DR. TODD B. JONES

Today we welcome Dr. Todd B. Jones as our guest preacher. Dr. Jones was senior pastor of First Presbyterian Church of Nashville from 2002–2019. A congregational meeting will be held following both worship services to confer the honorary title of Pastor Emeritus to Dr. Jones. The role of pastor emeritus has no pastoral authority or duty. Still, this honorary relationship is built upon the gratitude and affection of our congregation for Todd's dedicated service for seventeen years. We will celebrate the election of this honorary relationship with a reception in Courtenay Hall during the Education Hour.

LOOKING AHEAD

Sept. 24 | Youth Crud Day
Oct. 17 | Lecture with Warren Kinghorn
Oct. 22 | Fall Festival
Nov. 1 | Room In The Inn Begins
Nov. 4 | Inquirers Class
Nov. 11 | Moonlighters Big Band & Dance
Nov. 19 | Advent Wreath Workshop
Nov. 20 | Rise Against Hunger Meal Packing



NEWS

2023 Directories Available—The new 2023 printed directories are now available. Stop by the hospitality desk to pick up a copy for your household.

2024 Stewardship—Next week is Stewardship Sunday! Our theme shares the all-important message to *Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow*. Your pledge puts our mission to work and truly calls us to know Christ and to make Him known. Gratitude is our response to the grace poured out for each of us. We invite you to take a moment and watch a special message from Damon and Carrie Hininger. Visit our Linktree page to watch. Thank you!

What Do We Really Need? Lecture with Warren Kinghorn | Tuesday, October 17 | 7:00 p.m. | Courtenay Hall—Rates of depression and anxiety are rising, especially among young people. Sometimes the reasons are clear and close to home, sometimes not. But do diagnostic labels help or harm? And how can churches and Christian communities contribute to healing? Join psychiatrist and theologian Warren Kinghorn for a conversation about the roots of anxiety and depression, what our hearts long for, and who God is calling us to be together. This event is held in partnership with St. George's Episcopal and Duke Divinity. Visit our Linktree page to register.

ADULT EDUCATION

A Public Faith: Fall Study | Wednesdays and Fridays | 12:00 p.m.—This fall, Dr. Stuart Gordon will lead weekly discussions of Richard Haass' book, *The Bill of Obligations*. You're invited to a conversation that welcomes folks from across the political spectrum, regardless of faith commitment. A Public Faith is the Rev. Gordon's effort at encouraging Christians to engage in the public sphere in respectful, reasonable conversation with fellow citizens. Groups will meet Wednesdays in Vance Hall and on Zoom, and Fridays on Zoom only. Contact Stuart Gordon for details (sgordon@fpcnashville.org).

Midweek Lunch & Study with Ryan Moore | Wednesdays, 11:30 a.m. | Jones Session Room—All are invited to a weekly Bible study and lunch with Dr. Ryan Moore. This fall, Ryan will be taking a deeper dive into Hebrews. Kim will be serving a light lunch (cost: donation). Please let us know if you would like lunch so we know how many to prepare for (615-298-9504 or lelliott@fpcnashville.org).

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Welcome Visitors as a Soccer Saint | Saturdays, through October 7—Would you help us create a warm and welcoming atmosphere by volunteering as a Soccer Saint at one of our welcome tents on Saturday mornings during soccer season? Whether you are young, old or in between, it's a great way to serve God's people and spread joy. Your ministry of presence will be a blessing to our community. Visit our Linktree page to sign up.

TEAM Volunteers Needed | 10:00–11:00 a.m. (Wednesdays and Thursdays) and 2:00–3:00 p.m. (Wednesdays and Fridays)—TEAM (Therapeutic Equine Assistance Method) at FPC is our therapeutic horseback riding program. We are currently looking for volunteers to serve as horse leaders from 10:00–11:00 a.m. on Wednesdays and Thursdays and from 2:00–3:00 p.m. on Wednesdays and Fridays. Volunteers will assist with lessons, grooming, and tacking activities. Prior horse experience is preferred but is not required. Contact Curt Stacy (cstacy@fpcnashville.org) for more information.

MISSIONS

Upcoming Mission Trips—FPC is committed to serving Christ around the world, and we are planning several mission trips in the coming months. Please check the website for more details about these exciting opportunities or contact Missions (missions@fpcnashville.org) for more information.

Jamaica Mission Trip | February 3–10, 2024—This year's mission trip is looking for dentists and construction help to build much-needed homes in the community in partnership with St. Andrews Church. Oak Hill School is also sending a team of teachers to work on school programs for the children. The deadline for registration and deposit is due by October 31. J.T. Martin is the trip leader.

Multi-Generational Jamaica Mission Trip | March 10–15, 2024—Join this amazing multi-generational mission trip to Jamaica. This will be a trip for building relationships with projects for ages 12 and up. We encourage families as well and individuals to participate. The deadline for registration and deposit is due by December 31.

UPCOMING FIRST FRIENDS EVENTS

FPC Book Club | Tuesday, September 19 | 2:30 p.m. Church Library—We will discuss *Horse: A Novel* by Geraldine Brooks

First Friends Luncheon: Panel Presentation on Homelessness—Thursday, September 21 | 12:00 p.m. | Courtney Hall

First Friends Outing: One-man play Churchill at TPAC—Sunday, October 8 | 2:00 p.m. | Johnson Theater | \$31
Reservations required and limited.

CHILDREN & FAMILIES

FPC Children's Choir is starting back up this fall! Join us for our choir kickoff with pizza and games this afternoon, followed by our first rehearsal. All children four years old through 6th grade are invited to join! Our first singing date will be Sunday, October 22, during the 8:30 a.m. service. Rehearsals will be on 9/17, 9/24, 10/1, and 10/15 directly after the second service, with lunch provided by the church. Registration will occur for each singing date, so kids can participate in one or all of our performances throughout the year (Fall, Christmas, Winter, Spring, Mother's Day). You can register for the September–October term by visiting our Linktree page.

ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL

New Opportunities and Updates

Adult Sunday School classes offer an excellent opportunity to develop friendships and enjoy Christian community. Classes range in size, formats, and content. Most classes start at 9:45 a.m. during the Education Hour unless otherwise noted. This fall, we have several new classes launching.

Bethel Bible Series

Leaders: Marty Kaufman, Hal Sauer & Tom Swain

Location: Room L-203

The Bethel Bible Series teaches the Bible to us as one fully connected love story by God, from Genesis to Revelation. The class is for anyone who wants to learn and understand key biblical concepts, underlying cultural, social and historical context, or gain a new understanding of biblical events. Learn and grow with us as we take this journey.

Confirmation 201

Leader: Dr. Jonathan Cahill

Location: OHS Board Room

Karl Barth was fond of saying that theology is always a matter of “beginning once again at the beginning.” This class will track with the 6th-grade confirmation class as they journey through the New City Catechism and think together anew on the foundational teachings of the Christian faith. The class is for parents of 6th-grade confirmands, those new to exploring the Christian faith, those who have spent decades in the church, and anyone in between.

Hide and Seek

Leader: Matt King

Location: Courtenay Lounge

Time: 10:05 a.m.–10:35 a.m.

This gathering will be a unique Sunday School hour option that offers spiritual nourishment for all, following the scripture of the sermon each week. Discussion and participation are encouraged but not required.

Life Together

Leaders: Ashley & Jake Higgins, Keats & Phil Leach, Tara & John Thomas, Nahed & Joel Zehr

Location: Enrichment Center Room 100

The Life Together Sunday School class is designed for people wanting to dig a little deeper into what it means to be a follower of Jesus in our families, our workplaces, and our communities. The class will be designed through the lens of scripture, using topical books as our resources. We seek to regularly serve and fellowship together in a family-friendly way outside of Sunday mornings. All are welcome!

All Adult Sunday School Classes

Visit our [Linktree page](#) to learn about these and all our Sunday School offerings.

Bethel Bible Class | Room L-203
Coffee & Bible Class | Memorial Library
Confirmation 201 | OHS Board Room
Cornerstone Class | Vance Hall
Current Issues Class | L-200
Discipleship Class | Witherspoon Room

Fellowship Class | Jones Session Room
Good News Class | Room L-207
Hide & Seek | Courtenay Lounge
June Ramsey Class | Cheek House Living Room
Life Together | Enrichment Center Room 100
LOGOS Class | Stanford Chapel