

first EDITION

Published monthly for members and friends of First Presbyterian Church of Nashville



Ryan Moore
Pastor & Head of Staff

“Faith is a living, daring confidence in God’s grace, so sure and certain that a man could stake his life on it a thousand times.” — Martin Luther

On October 31, 1517, a young Augustinian monk nailed his ninety-five theses to the doors of the castle church in Wittenberg, Germany. The doors were a sort of community bulletin board. The young monk’s name was Martin Luther, and he wanted to have a serious family conversation about the state of the church. For many, this was an unwelcome conversation.

Martin Luther, along with many others before and after him, desired to renew the church’s commitment to the Lordship of Jesus Christ—that by grace alone, through faith alone, and in Christ alone is our hope in this life and the next securely found.

This impulse to reform was summed up in a Latin phrase that traces its roots back to St. Augustine:

Ecclesia reformata, semper reformanda secundum verbi Dei.

It reads something like this, “The church reformed, is always *being* reformed, according to the Word of God.” Straightforward as this phrase may seem, it has been widely mistranslated. “Reformanda” is a passive verb, which means the church is not “always reforming” but is “always being reformed.” This is a big difference!

For us in the church today, who are discerning what faithfulness to the Lord Jesus looks like, this is far from inconsequential. The church “always reforming” suggests that Christians are a people who need to keep up with the current fads, teachings, ethics, customs, and conform to the latest and greatest winds of culture.

On the other hand, the church “always being reformed,” which is the correct intent of the original Latin, reminds us that we as Christians are to be reformed by something more permanent, something more lasting, something more eternal.

And that something is God’s Word. *Secundum verbi Dei.* We, as the church, are to be reformed “according to the Word of God.”

Semper Reformanda is not about bending to the prevailing winds of our time. It is not about fitting in to the wider culture. It is not about anticipating the next great theological or ethical trend.

Instead, *Semper Reformanda* is a call to reach back and recover the eternal truths of God. It is about being faithful to the Living Lord Jesus. It is about delighting in the goodness and beauty of God’s Holy Word. It is about celebrating the wisdom of the church handed down through two millennia.

As we move through this Lenten season, let’s go back to the source of our faith and find once again that great indeed is God’s faithfulness from generation to generation.

Joyfully, in Christ,

SUNDAY | MARCH 1

1st Sunday of Lent

8:30 & 11 A.M.

Ryan Moore

THE TABLE | 11 A.M.

Adam DeVries

SUNDAY | MARCH 8

2nd Sunday of Lent

8:30 & 11 A.M.

Ryan Moore

THE TABLE | 11 A.M.

The Confirmation Class

SUNDAY | MARCH 15

3rd Sunday of Lent

8:30 & 11 A.M.

Ryan Moore

THE TABLE | 11 A.M.

Sarah Bird

SUNDAY | MARCH 22

4th Sunday of Lent

8:30 & 11 A.M.

Stuart Gordon

THE TABLE | 11 A.M.

Ben Dreher

SUNDAY | MARCH 29

5th Sunday of Lent

8:30 & 11 A.M.

Ryan Moore

THE TABLE | 11 A.M.

Josh Rodriguez

MARCH Events

MAR 1 Missions Fair
& MAR 8 9:30 A.M. | Courtenay Hall

MAR 13 Concordia Choir Concert
7:00 P.M. | Sanctuary

MAR 14 Youth Spring Break
- MAR 20 Mission Trip to Waco TX

MAR 19 First Friends Lunch Program
12:00 noon | Courtenay Hall

MAR 22 Red Cross Blood Drive
8:30 A.M. - 12:30 P.M.
Enrichment Center

MAR 27 The Anderson Jazz Group
7:00 P.M. | Sanctuary

MAR 29 Apostolos Sunday School
Class Begins - 12th graders
with Adam DeVries
9:45 A.M. | Bryant Room

HOLY COMMUNION

SUNDAY | MARCH 1

8:30 A.M. & both 11:00 A.M. services

*Prepare your hearts to celebrate
the sign of Christ's love.*

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Lent & Easter CALENDAR

APRIL 5 - PALM SUNDAY

Journey to the Cross
3 P.M. | FPC Lawn

APRIL 9 - MAUNDY THURSDAY

5 P.M. | Dinner in Courtenay Hall
6 P.M. | Worship Service

APRIL 10 - GOOD FRIDAY

12 P.M. | Worship Service
7 P.M. | Tenebrae Service

APRIL 11 - EASTER EGG HUNT

APRIL 12 - EASTER

6:30 A.M. | Sunrise Service
7 A.M. | Easter Breakfast
8, 9:30, 11 A.M. | Worship Services

Memorial Lilies For Easter

A memorial fund has been established for chancel and Sanctuary flowers during Easter. Please send your contribution and the name(s) of those to be memorialized to the finance department at the church office by **March 22**. Include the words "Easter Memorial" on the check memo line.

FPC Red Cross Blood Drive

MARCH 22ND | 8:30 A.M. - 12:30 P.M.
FPC ENRICHMENT CENTER

Sign up on fpcnashville.org or contact Annette Crout at acrout@fpcnashville.org or 615-298-9507.

Music Ministry Offers Spring Concerts



Mark your calendar for two special concerts at FPC this month. On Friday, March 13, at 7:00 P.M. in the Sanctuary the Concordia Choir of Moorhead, Minnesota, will perform an eclectic program of traditional and contemporary choral works. Director Rene Clausen is conducting his 34th and final tour with the 73-voice choir. The choir has performed with the Grammy Award-winning King's Singers and in major venues including Carnegie Hall and the Kennedy Center.

On Friday, March 27, at 7:00 P.M. in the Sanctuary enjoy the music of The Anderson Jazz Group from New York's Julliard School. Both concerts are free and open to the public.

The Anderson Jazz Group
from New York's Julliard School
Friday, March 27



Communities of Belonging Highlight Season of Lent

Unlike the Gospels of Matthew, Mark, and Luke, John does not record a lot of Jesus' miracles; there are only seven mentioned, but each of the signs tells us something very important about who Jesus is and the new Kingdom He was inaugurating. In our Lent C.O.B. study, we will take a closer look at the seven signs of Jesus found in the book of John by gathering together for discussion in groups that will meet at different days and times during the week. We will also be reflecting on these scriptures in a sermon series during Sunday worship (Sanctuary and the Table). In addition, the Lenten devotional booklet for 2020 will focus on the book of John. Pastor Sarah Bird says, "We will be reading through the entire gospel in 40 days which will be a great supplement to our study of the signs. The devotional will be available both online and in the literature racks at church."

Join us for this great way to grow deeper in faith and in relationship with other folks here at FPC. Sign up for a group at fpcnashville.org/communities-of-belonging/.

Contemplative Prayer

Join Rev. Sandra Randleman on Thursday mornings from 8:30-9:15 A.M. for a study of contemplative prayer. We engage in a time of lectio divina followed by contemplative prayer. We meet in the Prayer Room next to The Gathering Place. Everyone is welcome! We are all beginners and instructions are provided!

For more information, contact Sandra at 615-298-9502 or srandleman@fpcnashville.org.

First Friends MARCH EVENTS

COMMUNITIES OF BELONGING MARCH 12, 11 A.M. | VANCE HALL

First Friends will combine with Pastor Stuart Gordon's Communities of Belonging study group beginning March 12 at 11:00 A.M. in Vance Hall. The group's readings and discussion will explore the seven signs of Jesus as recorded in John's Gospel.

COFFEE, TEA & MOORE MARCH 12, 1:30 P.M. | CHEEK HOUSE

First Friends will host a "Coffee, Tea, and Moore" gathering on Thursday, March 12, at 1:30 P.M. in the Cheek House living room.

THURSDAY LUNCH/ PROGRAM MARCH 19, 12 P.M. | COURTENAY HALL

Nashville historian Ridley Wills will be the guest speaker for the Thursday Lunch/ Program on March 19 at 12:00 P.M. in Courtenay Hall. Mr. Wills remained at the Downtown Presbyterian Church when First Presbyterian moved in 1956 to our current Franklin Pike location. He will share his perspectives on the issues, emotions and results of that key event in our history. Special guests invited to the luncheon include thirty of our current members who elected to move to FPC.

Please RSVP for lunch (cost is \$6) by March 16.

BOOK CLUB MARCH 26, 2 P.M. | MEMORIAL LIBRARY

The Book Club selection for March is Elizabeth Strout's Pulitzer Prize-winning novel *Olive Kitteridge*. Join us for a discussion of the book on Thursday, March 26, at 2:00 P.M. in Memorial Library.

Children's Choir Hits High Notes

One of the most cherished evenings of our church year is Christmas Eve, of course, and at First Presbyterian, the Family Christmas Eve Service at 5:00 is a favorite! The packed sanctuary brings a sense of excitement as our Children's Choirs sing praises and join the Holy Family and wise men in welcoming our Lord Jesus into this world. The children worked hard during November and December to prepare anthems and learn Christmas carols for the evening. Earlier in December, our choirs made the short journey to the Cannon Center for our second annual caroling with the guests of Room In The Inn, followed by dessert and conversation. It was a meaningful and fun evening as we joined voices with our guests and shared the joy of the season with them.

The choirs began their second half of the church year with a special guest director from MTSU, Dr. Jennifer Vannatta-Hall, who worked with them on an upcoming anthem followed by some fun musical games. Recreation Director Bryan Miller joined the group for some crazy game playing of his own, topped off with pizza and Oreos. The choirs are currently preparing for Palm Sunday and Mother's Day and looking forward to visits from several of our pastors and musicians.

Children's Choir is so much more than just singing in church. They are a family of friends and place of learning, belonging, growing, and serving. We invite all children of our church, ages 4 through 6th grade to come join the fun! For more information, contact Kelly Posey, Children's Choir Coordinator, at kposey@fpcnashville.org.

Broadway Jr. Fun!



Sixth Graders Move Forward to Confirmation



The weekend of February 8-9 was an exciting one for this year's Confirmation Class. What do you get when you mix thirty-plus sixth grade disciples with beautiful weather, amazing adult leaders, and 660 acres of beautiful land at Camp NaCoMe? Well — the outcome is a slice of heaven! Retreat day began with the sixth graders gathering at church for breakfast and some meaningful games and testimonies led by older Youth, Adam DeVries, and Dave Garvey. When the Grayline coach arrived, it was time to load gear and people, and the journey to NaCoMe was underway. The bus ride provided opportunity for the kids to do get-to-know-you exercises, write a group cheer, and reflect on the retreat hours that lay ahead.

Time at NaCoMe was a gentle mix of praise and worship, games, messages from our keynote speaker, Will Penner, and more games. The pinnacle was the time for the confirmands to write their personal Statements of Faith. S'Mores and the reverent burning of last Palm Sunday's palm branches ended day one, and everyone headed to their cabins for Pow-Wow, a spiritual practice of reflection.

Sunday morning greeted us with 60-degree temperatures and sun so much of our time was spent outdoors building friendships and having fun. After lunch, the Grayline coach arrived and we loaded up 30 dozen of NaCoMe's famous cinnamon rolls, the gear and the people. As the group headed back to Nashville, it was apparent that they had become brothers and sisters in Christ. Praise God for a wonderful retreat. - *Deb O'Brien*



Youth Upcoming Events

APOSTOLLOS SS

Apostollos SS with Adam for 12th graders begins March 29 and meets April 5, April 19, April 26, and May 10 in the Bryant Room.

SENIOR BANQUET

Monday, April 20 in Courtenay Hall

YOUTH SUNDAY

Youth lead in all services on Sunday, May 3

FPC Youth Plan Active Spring

GUYS' RETREAT

On Friday January 31, 2020, a group of young men from FPC traveled to Saint Louis, MO for a weekend of play and community. These young men learned about being a man after God's own heart, following the story of King David. After a weekend away from all of the distractions of the world, and after the comfort of being with other like-minded believers, we pray that these students go back into their worlds with a new sense of calling to be the men God has called them to be.



YOUTH EXPLORE ENNEAGRAM STUDY

High school junior Mary Grace Smith led a wonderful Enneagram Small Group to start off our second semester. During the five-week study, MG showed how knowing more about how we are "wired" helps us in our relationships. She shared encouraging Bible verses for each of the enneagram types.

JUNIOR HIGH SMALL GROUP MEETS ON SELECT WEDNESDAYS

Our junior high small group meets in The Gathering Place, 6:00 – 7:00 P.M., on March 4, April 1, and April 15. Join leaders Brandon and Savannah Van Pernis, Matt and Katie Wild, Drew Robison, Allie Mudd, and Ellie Ford for games, Bible Study, prayer, relationship building, and fun.

GIRLS' RETREAT

On Friday, February 14th, 26 high school and middle school girls along with 12 adult women made the drive to the beautiful St. Augustine, Florida for the first ever (totally technology-free) Beloved Beach Retreat. Throughout the weekend, the girls built a beautiful community which expanded beyond their normal grade-based friendships. They spent a lot of time jumping waves in the Atlantic Ocean, built several sandcastles, played a lot of spike ball, failed to see dolphins on a dolphin boat cruise, explored downtown St. Augustine, and learned what it means to be God's Beloved through the words of Scripture and of Henri J.M. Nouwen in his book, *Life of the Beloved*. It is our hope that these girls head back into the world, as daughters of God, deeply rooted in their Beloved identity with a deep sense of what it means to bless one another.



MISSIONS OPPORTUNITIES for Youth

MAR. 14 – 20

Spring Break Mission Trip to Waco, Texas

MAY 31 – JUNE 5

(Seniors depart May 29)

High School Trip to Panther, West Virginia

JUNE 7-12

Junior High Great Escape in Cleveland, Tennessee

JUNE 18-25, 2020

Mystery Trip for Graduated Seniors

Register Online Today!
youth.fpcnashville.org

Jamaica Mission Trip Continues Service & Friendship



“We’re back!” For an amazing 22nd time, FPC participants in the Jamaica Mission Trip greeted their local hosts and partners as they arrived on the island in early February. Not all the faces were the same; the group changes with every annual trip, of course, but there is a remarkable continuity of relationship and service to FPC’s partnership with the Andrews Memorial United Church of Mandeville, Jamaica.

The 2020 trip offered multi-faceted opportunities for FPC travelers to use their talents. A construction crew set out to build the roof structure for a new fellowship hall at the Ebenezer Church, designed by Michael Hindman, architect and FPC member. Ebenezer Church is yoked with Andrews Memorial, with pastoral leadership from the Reverend Kehreen Wilson-Bailey. While gale-force winds prevented them from laying the roofing metal, the crew was able to make some significant improvements to the building, including completing the laying and rough-casting of block for all second-floor walls, framing the roofing supports, and rough-casting the staircase laid by our youth mission team from last year’s Spring Break Mission Trip.

A dental clinic has been a part of the trip for several years. The team of three dentists and their assistants provided services to some 100 people each day, helping many local residents who could not afford dental care otherwise.

In addition, three teachers from Oak Hill School joined the trip and hosted professional development experiences for teachers at the Ebenezer Elementary School. Other FPC team members got to try some of their learning tools including a boat-building exercise resulting in much laughter and fun competition!

Executive Pastor Stuart Gordon says “I love how this Jamaica experience summons our veteran volunteers and new participants, who add new talents and perspectives each year. In addition to eating some of the best seafood in the world, our FPC team has their faith strengthened and relationships deepened with each other and with our Jamaican neighbors in really remarkable ways.”



Join the FPC 2020 Mission Trip to Cuba

August 1-7, 2020 will mark the 16th consecutive year that FPC has sent a mission team to Cuba. We go to Cuba in support of our sister church, Dora E. Valentín Reformed Presbyterian Church of Cuba (IPRC), and her pastor, Dopico. The church and Dopico represent an amazing story of dedication, perseverance and love. Adults of all ages are invited to consider joining this relational mission to visit, support, love, and learn from these lively Christians.

The trip will begin with a few days in Varadero, a beautiful beachside city about ninety miles east of Havana. We will participate in the work and worship of Dora E. Valentin church and several home churches in the surrounding community. The trip will conclude with two days in Havana, visiting other churches, the Presbyterian seminary and sight-seeing. Good company, fellowship and of course, good food make this a very special experience!

Scott Greer is the trip leader, and Josh Rodriguez is the trip pastor. Trip cost will be approximately \$1,400 - \$1,500. The registration deadline is April 1 in order to obtain travel visas for team members. *Vaya con Dios!* Contact Annette Crout at acrout@fpcnashville.org to learn more.



Missions Fair Highlights FPC Partners

Local non-profit community service agencies supported by FPC will continue to share information about their work during Missions Fairs on March 1 and 8, 9:30 – 11:00 A.M. in Courtenay Hall. Stop by to learn more and to explore volunteer opportunities. Check out the new Missions Brochure by picking one up at the Fair.

Where in the World at FPC is This?

Do you know the location of this remarkable mosaic of the Lord's Supper? The large artwork was created by students at Oak Hill School in art class in 1973. It's made of tiny bits of Kleenex boxes!

Look around, perhaps explore spaces at the church that you have not visited and send your answer to communications@fpcnashville.org.



BookMarks Offers Books, Gifts, and Cards



Stop by BookMarks, FPC's bookstore to browse their great selection of books, new and gently used, greeting cards, and unique gifts handmade by artisans working with Ten Thousand Villages.

Located across the hall from Courtenay Hall, BookMarks is open Sunday mornings 9:30 to noon.

Let's Get Grilling!

The Local Missions Committee is starting a grill ministry for FPC sponsored events. We are looking for volunteers with grill skills to be a part of the FPC grill team and get cooking! This team will support our ministries including our Habitat build, Picnic on the Lawn, and other events. To learn more, contact Mike or Annette Crout at missions@fpcnashville.org.

Whether or not you have cooking skills, get your creative juices flowing and suggest a catchy name for our future group of grillers.

Send your suggestions to our Communications Department at communications@fpcnashville.org.

SYMPATHY

The First Presbyterian Church family extends prayers and sympathy to the following people and to other members of their families during their time of loss:

Mrs. Dollye Clayton, on the death of Dollye's niece and Beth Scott Clayton Amos' first cousin, **Jane Ruth Clayton Ohrtmann**, who died on December 30, 2019, in Englewood, CO. Sympathy also to Timothy.

L. Amos. Claudia Torrey and Michael Torrey, on the death of their father, **Claude A. Torrey**, who died on January 20, 2020.

Stephanie Huffman on the death of her mother, **Donna Kae Huffman**, who died on February 4, 2020.

Mallie and Joe Almon and Ellen and Will Farris Jr., on the death of Mallie and Will's mother, **Leslie Oliver Cook**, who died on February 7, 2020. Sympathy also to Courtney Almon, Lacey Almon, and Jane Oliver.

Carney Farris, on the death of her husband, **Alfred Carter Farris III**, who died on February 8, 2020. Sympathy also to Evelyn & Dan Raines, Farris and Taylor Smith, and Anne Carney Raines.

BIRTHS

The First Presbyterian Church family congratulates:

Tori and Dave Alexander on the birth of their daughter, **Roberta Carson Alexander**, on October 16, 2019. Proud grandmother is Donna Tucker.



Janie and Robert Rolfe on the birth of their daughter, **Margaret Holladay Rolfe**, on January 23, 2020. Proud grandparents are Kathy and Bob Rolfe, great-grandmother is Gayle Welch, and aunts are Carly and Leslie Rolfe.

Savannah and Brandon Van Pernis, on the birth of their daughter, **Emily Mirette Van Pernis**, born on February 1, 2020. Proud grandparents are Crea & Alan Sielbeck and Tom Van Pernis.



To share your birth announcement, email information and photos to hospitalitycenter@fpcnashville.org.

BAPTISMS

In the presence of family, the congregation of First Presbyterian Church, and God, the following persons claimed God's covenant promise through the Sacrament of Baptism.



Katherine Kimmel & Brett Meeks presented their daughter, **Dorothy Leflore**, for baptism on January 12. Assisting Elder was Mark Kimmel, from FPC Greenwood.



Jennifer & Brent Lankford presented their daughter, **Catherine Hall**, for baptism on February 9. Assisting Elder was Ben Merrill.



Steele & Katie Hutto presented their daughters, **Michelle Marie and Kathleen Louise**, for baptism on February 16. Assisting Elder was Stuart Campbell.



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