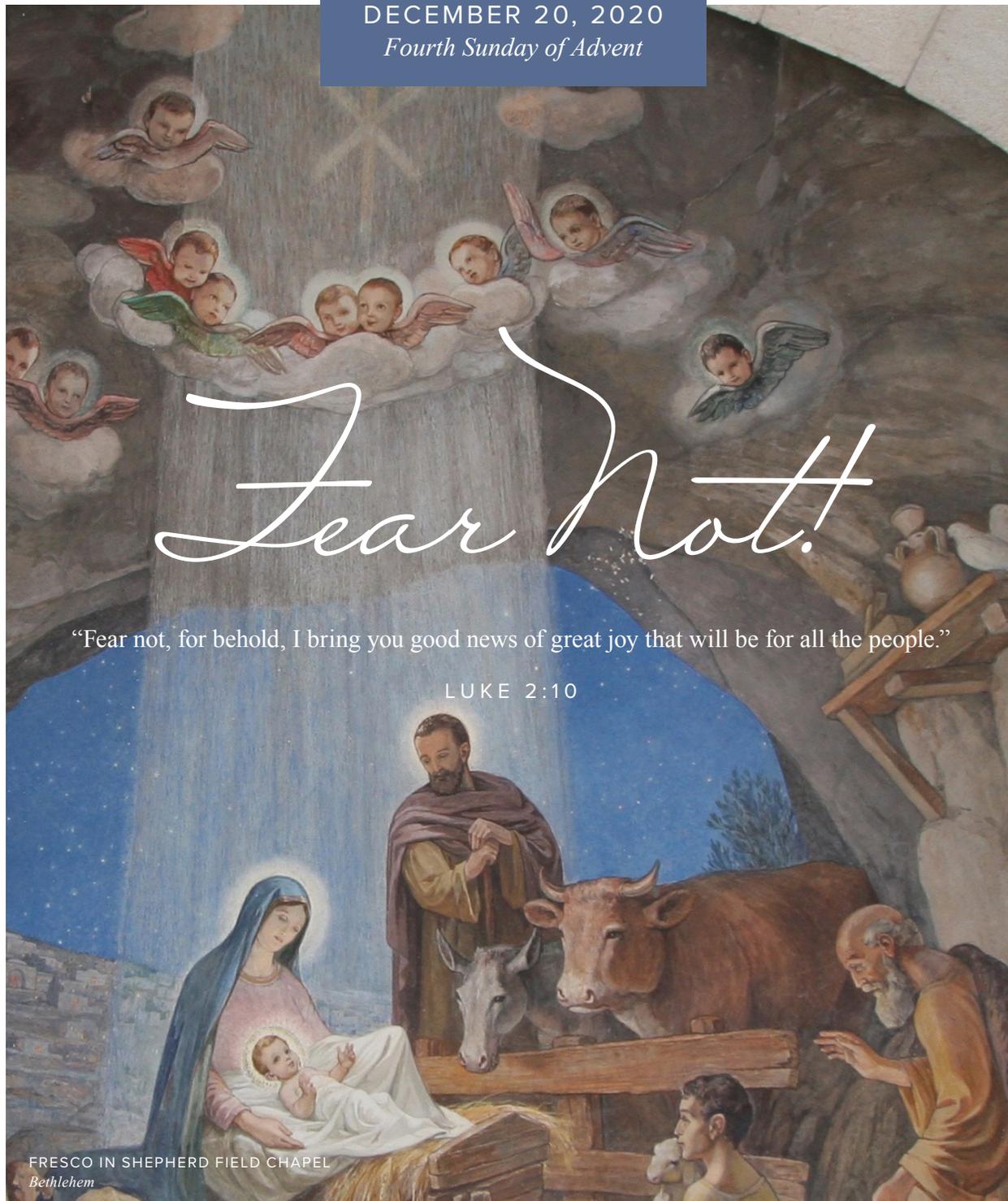




FIRST PRESBYTERIAN
Church of Nashville

DECEMBER 20, 2020
Fourth Sunday of Advent



“Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people.”

LUKE 2:10

FRESCO IN SHEPHERD FIELD CHAPEL
Bethlehem

For Christ, for His kingdom, and for the common good. Since 1785.

WORDS OF PREPARATION

“Those who believe in God can never in a way be sure of him again. Once they have seen in him a stable, they can never be sure where he will appear or to what lengths he will go or to what ludicrous depths of self-humiliation he will descend in his wild pursuit of man. If holiness and the awful power and majesty of God were present in this least auspicious of all events, this birth of a peasant’s child, then there is no place or time so lowly and earthbound but that holiness can be present there too. And this means that we are never safe, that there is no place where we can hide from God, no place where we are safe from his power to break in two and recreate the human heart because it is just where he seems most helpless that he is most strong, and just where we least expect him that he comes most fully.”

– Frederick Buechner

ORDER OF WORSHIP

†VOLUNTARY

Savior of the Nations, Come (BWV 659)
J.S. Bach

†INTROIT

Prepare the Way, O Zion
Kenneth Dake

Prepare the way, O Zion, your Christ is drawing near!
Let ev’ry hill and valley a level way appear.
Greet One who comes in glory, foretold in sacred story.
Oh, blest is Christ that came in God’s most holy name.
He brings God’s rule, O Zion; he comes from heav’n, above.
His rule is peace and freedom, and justice, truth, and love.
Lift high your praise resounding, for grace and joy abounding.
Oh, blest is Christ that came in God’s most holy name.

WELCOME & CALL TO WORSHIP

Pastor: Jesus said, “I am the light of the world; the one who follows me will not walk in darkness but have the light of life.”

People: We light this candle as a sign of the coming light of Christ.

Pastor: Prepare the way of the Lord. We light this candle in peace, the peace that Jesus, our Savior, gives to the world.

People: Prepare, then, the way of the Lord.

Pastor: You know what time it is, how it is now the moment for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we became believers; the night is far gone, the day is near. Let us then lay aside the works of darkness and put on the armor of light.

People: Let us stand in honor, and worship God!

*†OPENING HYMN

O Come, All Ye Faithful
ADESTE FIDELES

**¹ O come, all ye faithful,
Joyful and triumphant,
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem!
Come, and behold Him,**

**Born the King of angels!
O come, let us adore Him,
O come, let us adore Him,
O come, let us adore Him, Christ, the Lord.**

² Sing, choirs of angels,
Sing in exultation!
Sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!
Glory to God, all Glory in the highest!
O come, let us adore Him,
O come, let us adore Him,
O come, let us adore Him, Christ, the Lord.

³ Yea, Lord, we greet Thee,
Born this happy morning;
Jesus, to Thee be all glory given;
Word of the Father Now in flesh appearing!
O come, let us adore Him,
O come, let us adore Him,
O come, let us adore Him, Christ, the Lord.

*PRAYER OF ADORATION

Bob LaGrone (8:00)
Virginia Wall (9:30)
Tricia Carswell (11:00)

FIRST LESSON

2 Samuel 7:1–11, 16

¹ Now when the king lived in his house and the Lord had given him rest from all his surrounding enemies,
² the king said to Nathan the prophet, “See now, I dwell in a house of cedar, but the ark of God dwells in a tent.”
³ And Nathan said to the king, “Go, do all that is in your heart, for the Lord is with you.”
⁴ But that same night the word of the Lord came to Nathan,
⁵ “Go and tell my servant David, ‘Thus says the Lord: Would you build me a house to dwell in?’
⁶ I have not lived in a house since the day I brought up the people of Israel from Egypt to this day, but I have been moving about in a tent for my dwelling.
⁷ In all places where I have moved with all the people of Israel, did I speak a word with any of the judges of Israel, whom I commanded to shepherd my people Israel, saying, ‘Why have you not built me a house of cedar?’”
⁸ Now, therefore, thus you shall say to my servant David, ‘Thus says the Lord of hosts, I took you from the pasture, from following the sheep, that you should be prince over my people Israel.
⁹ And I have been with you wherever you went and have cut off all your enemies from before you. And I will make for you a great name, like the name of the great ones of the earth.
¹⁰ And I will appoint a place for my people Israel and will plant them, so that they may dwell in their own place and be disturbed no more. And violent men shall afflict them no more, as formerly,
¹¹ from the time that I appointed judges over my people Israel. And I will give you rest from all your enemies. Moreover, the Lord declares to you that the Lord will make you a house.
¹⁶ And your house and your kingdom shall be made sure forever before me. Your throne shall be established forever.”

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

CHILDREN’S ANTHEM (9:30)

Away in a Manger
James R. Murray
arr. Vicki Hancock Wright

¹ **Away in a manger, no crib for his bed,
the little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head.
The stars in the bright sky looked down
where he lay,
the little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.**

² **The cattle are lowing; the poor baby wakes,
but little Lord Jesus, no crying he makes.
I love thee, Lord Jesus; look down from the sky,
and stay by my side until morning is nigh.**

³ **Be near me, Lord Jesus; I ask thee to stay
close by me forever and love me, I pray.
Bless all the dear children in thy tender care,
and fit us for heaven to live with thee there.**

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

The Rev. Adam DeVries (8:00)
Dr. Stuart R. Gordon (9:30)
Dr. Sandra L. Randleman (11:00)

Lord Jesus, we have not kept watch for you. We have occupied ourselves with our own concerns. We have not waited to find your will for us. We have not noticed the needs of the people around us. We have not acknowledged the love that has been shown to us. Forgive us for our lack of watchfulness. Help us to wait to know your will. Help us to look out for the needs of others. Help us to work and watch for your coming again. Interrupt our busy days and our silent nights with tidings of great joy...

A moment for silent confession.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

*RESPONSE OF GRATITUDE

Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus
STUTTGART

¹ **Come, thou long-expected Jesus,
born to set thy people free;
from our fears and sins release us;
let us find our rest in thee.**

² **Israel's strength and consolation,
hope of all the earth thou art;
dear desire of every nation,
joy of every longing heart.**

³ **Born thy people to deliver,
born a child and yet a king,
born to reign in us forever,
now thy gracious kingdom bring.**

⁴ **By thine own eternal Spirit
rule in all our hearts alone;
by thine all-sufficient merit
raise us to thy glorious throne.**

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

Nicene Creed

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary and became truly human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets.

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

HYMN OF PREPARATION

While Shepherds Watched Their Flocks
CHRISTMAS

¹ **While shepherds watched
their flocks by night,
all seated on the ground,
the angel of the Lord came down,
and glory shone around,
and glory shone around.**

² **"Fear not," said he, for mighty dread
had seized their troubled mind:
"Glad tidings of great joy I bring
to you and humankind,
to you and humankind.**

³ “To you, in David’s town this day,
is born of David’s line
the Savior, who is Christ the Lord,
and this shall be the sign,
and this shall be the sign:

⁴ “The heavenly babe you there shall find
to human view displayed,
all humbly wrapped in swathing bands,
and in a manger laid,
and in a manger laid.”

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE READING

Luke 2:8–14

⁸ And in the same region there were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night.
⁹ And an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were filled with great fear. ¹⁰ And the angel said to them, “Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. ¹¹ For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. ¹² And this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger.” ¹³ And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying, ¹⁴ “Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among those with whom he is pleased!”

Pastor: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

SERMON

The Outsiders

Dr. Ryan V. Moore

“Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people.” – Luke 2:10

OFFERTORY

For Unto Us a Child Is Born (from *Messiah*)

G.F. Handel

**For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given;
and the government shall be upon His shoulder;
and His name shall be called: Wonderful Counselor,
Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.**

*As you reflect on the Lord’s goodness, you can make an offering by leaving your gift
in the offering basket, texting “GIVE” to (707) 475-3005, or donating online at fpcnashville.org.*

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE & 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

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

MENDELSSOHN

¹ Hark! The herald angels sing,
“Glory to the newborn King.
Peace on earth, and mercy mild,
God and sinners reconciled!”
Joyful, all ye nations, rise,
Join the triumph of the skies;
With the angelic host proclaim,
“Christ is born in Bethlehem!”
Hark! The herald angels sing,
“Glory to the newborn King!”

² Christ, by highest heaven adored,
Christ, the everlasting Lord!
Late in time behold Him come,
Offspring of the virgin’s womb,
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see;
Hail the incarnate Deity,
Pleased in flesh with us to dwell,
Jesus, our Emmanuel.
Hark! The herald angels sing,
“Glory to the newborn King!”

**³ Hail the heaven born Prince of Peace!
Hail the sun of righteousness!
Light and life to all He brings,
Risen with healing in His wings.
Mild He lays His glory by,**

**Born that we no more may die,
Born to raise us from the earth,
Born to give us second birth.
Hark! The herald angels sing,
“Glory to the newborn King!”**

CHARGE

*CHORAL RESPONSE

O Little Town of Bethlehem
St. Louis

How silently, how silently, the wondrous gift is given!
So God imparts to human hearts the blessings of His heaven.
No ear may hear His coming, but in this world of sin,
where meek souls will receive Him, still
the dear Christ enters in.

*BENEDICTION

The congregation will be seated and will be dismissed by pew following the benediction.

*CLOSING VOLUNTARY

Prelude in G Major, BWV 541
J.S. Bach

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

PARTICIPANTS IN THE SERVICE

Ryan V. Moore, PhD – Pastor
Stuart R. Gordon, DMin – *Executive Pastor*
Adam DeVries, MDiv – *Associate Pastor for Youth & Their Families*
Sandra L. Randleman, DMin – *Associate Pastor for Congregational Care & Missions*
Raphael Bundage, DMA – *Director of Music*
Peter Rogahn, MM – *Organist and Assistant Director of Music*
Jeff Bailey, *Trumpet*
Preston Bailey, *Trumpet*
Joshua Hickman, *Timpani*
Alison Hoffman, *Violin*
Campbell Grace Ward, Elaine Morgan, Kennedy Swaffords, and Mira Alexander: *Treble Voices*
Kelly Posey and Brianna Meler, *Directors*

We're Glad You're Here! – Please use a Connect Card to let us know your needs or what is new with you. We would love to hear from you! When you leave, please place in the basket in the narthex.

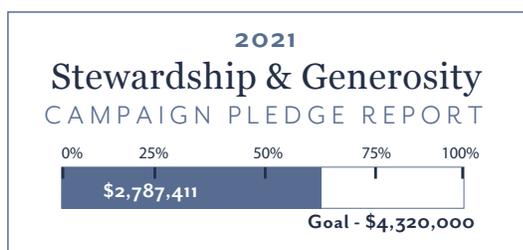
Mother and Infant Quiet Room – If you need a quiet place for nursing or calming your baby, we invite you to use our family room located in the Nursery Wing.

Audio Bluetooth Capabilities – Connect your personal device by downloading the WaveCAST app, join WiFi network “FPC Guest” Password: GreenRock-81, select First Pres Sanctuary, plug in your headphones, and make sure you turn up the volume.

Giving – To contribute to the mission of First Presbyterian Church of Nashville, you may either text “GIVE” to (707) 475-3005 or visit fpcnashville.org/generosity.

MUSIC NOTES

Orchestral music at FPC during the Advent season has been sponsored in part by the M. Stratton Foster Charitable Foundation in memory of Eleanor Gray Foster.



Generosity Campaign — Your help is needed to reach our goal for 2021: 600 pledges totaling \$4,320,000 with an average pledge of \$7,200. Currently we stand at 393 pledges totaling \$2,787,411 with an average pledge of \$7,092. To make your commitment, place your card in the basket at worship, mail it to the church, or visit fpcnashville.org/generosity to contribute online.

Christmas Eve Services — Due to current health guidelines, seating will be limited in the sanctuary for our Christmas Eve services. Once capacity is reached in the sanctuary, people will be directed to Courtenay Hall and will be able to watch the service on the screen. We have reached capacity for our 3:00 and 8:00 services, so registration is open only for the 5:00 outside service and the 11:00 service. The link to register for our 5:00 and 11:00 services is on the front page of our church website.

Grief Support — **Sundays, January 17 – February 7 | 2:30–3:30 p.m. | Zoom or In-person**
The grief support group will focus on understanding the stages and feelings of grief as well as how prayer can help us in seeking the comfort of God during the very difficult time of grieving the losses of life. The psalms of lament in the Bible will provide a model for our study of prayer. There is a limited number for in-person participants. For more information, please contact Sabrina Vlahos at svlahos@fpcnashville.org or 615-298-9509.

Devotions for Advent through Epiphany — Our pastoral staff has crafted thoughtful reflections on scripture for each day of the season. Devotions will be published weekly in Parish News, Sunday Worship email, and on our website.

Registration for Early Preschool 2021-2022 — January 1 – January 21

Virtual tour, registration, and more info at childrens.fpcnashville.org/preschool.

Epiphany Bonfire — **Sunday, January 10 | 3 p.m. | FPC Lawn**

Join family and friends for an afternoon of hymn singing, lighting of the bonfire, and fellowship. Please remember to wear your mask.

Christian Fasting: A Season of Prayer for God's World — **Beginning January 28 | Thursdays at 7 p.m**

Dr. Stuart Gordon's Thursday class will be a study and exercise in fasting. Beginning January 28, meeting via Zoom each Thursday evening at 7 p.m. To sign up, contact Charlotte Schierbaum at cschierbaum@fpcnashville.org or 615- 298-9527.

MISSIONS

Newest Needs for Room In The Inn — As temperatures drop, our Room In The Inn ministry becomes even more critical for people experiencing homelessness. This winter, people experiencing homelessness can find shelter through Room In The Inn at FPC. We are fortunate to have a facility where COVID-19 health and safety protocols can be carefully observed.

There are several ways to serve in this ministry. Right now, our greatest needs are:

- Overnight hosts: Volunteers stay overnight with guests, arriving at 5:30 p.m. on Wednesday night and leave by 6:30 a.m. on Thursday morning. Special arrangements can be made for hosts who may need to arrive late on Wednesday evenings. Hosts have a private bedroom and bathroom.
- New clothing: We need men's t-shirts, boxer shorts (sizes M, L, XL, XXL and 3XL) and socks. Due to COVID-19 precautions, all items must be new.

There are other ways to support this ministry from van driving to providing breakfast and lunch to providing clean laundry. To learn more about the new safety measures and sign up for this important and fulfilling opportunity, visit missions.fpcnashville.org

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.

PLEASE INCLUDE IN YOUR PRAYERS

Ann Alexander	Kathryn Downs	Jeff Koch	Mary Evelyn Reese
Mary Baker	Diane English	Kaye Knox	Trey Russell
Mary Helen Bailey	Don Fisher	David Linn	Mike Shampain
Kristin Batten	Mary Francis	Catherine Loflin	Trish Simpson
Martha Bartles	Lewis Frost	Emily Love	Lucas Spickard
Linda Berry	Jimmy Gibson	Ben and Anna Lovell	Ed Stone
Lauren Brinkley	Lynn Hardison	and families	Marsha Stubbs
Nat Carswell	Willie Hardison	Bracey Mayo	David Thomas
Merry Lynn Cato	Harry Hassall	Liz McConnell	Linda Thompson
Jim and Nancy Cawood	Ann Hayes	and family	and her father
Alice Christian	Mary Howard Hayes	Tom McDonald	Robin Thompson
Tim Coomer	Phyllis Heard	Jason Kenneth Meler	Peter van Lingen
and family	Ashley Higgins	and family	Janice and Bud Wendell
Andrea Cooper	Laura Hobson	Sherri Middendorf	Lynda Wimberly
Chip Crabb	Helen Holland	Maureen Milam	Kristin Wright
Lipscomb Davis	Annie Evelyn Hollins	Noah Mudd	Tom Wright
Margaret Davitt	Tim Ishii	Drew Peacock	Nahed Zehr
Suzie DeYoung	Bob Jackson	Sister 'Kathleen' Pugh	
Burton Dietz	Bob Joss	Shelby Eaker Quinley	
Michael DiTraglia	Bill and Susan Kirby	and family	

Please pray for the leaders of our nation and world and community and for their wise and compassionate decisions; for those most vulnerable to illness; for those without homes and no safe place to go; for those whose economic livelihood is in jeopardy; for those without childcare for their children while they work; for doctors and nurses and all those caring for the sick; for medical researchers seeking treatment and means of prevention of COVID-19 and its complications. Please pray for our city, state and nation, for the healing of deep wounds and for God's spirit of peace, justice, mercy, mutual respect and love to rest upon and between all people.

Please pray for our mission partner, Room In The Inn. RITI provides emergency and long-term support for those struggling with homelessness in Middle Tennessee. FPC is one of only 45 congregations in Middle Tennessee that provides shelter and food during the winter months to homeless men. In past years there were 200 congregations, but COVID-19 has changed that. Room In The Inn operates year-round at its downtown comprehensive center, where they offer emergency services, transitional programs, and long-term solutions. Room In The Inn's programs place an emphasis on developing relationships that can support people on their journey. Members can also volunteer for FPC's RITI program by visiting our website

HAVE A PRAYER REQUEST?

Prayer request cards can be found in the pew racks and can be dropped in the offering baskets or the prayer request boxes located in the narthex and at the Hospitality Center. Church officers meet weekly to lift up prayer requests to God.

OFFICE HOURS

Monday – Thursday 8:30 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.
Friday 8:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

4815 Franklin Pike, Nashville, TN 37220
(615) 383-1815

fpcnashville.org
communications@fpcnashville.org

SUNDAY WORSHIP LIVESTREAM AVAILABLE



fpcnashville.org



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