

# July Anchor Links 2021

Anchor Links is a publication of First Presbyterian Church, Shelbyville, Tennessee

Dear Friends,

In an article published on June 14, 2016, by Hanne Elisabeth Tidnam, I was reminded the words “under God” were not a part of our national Pledge of Allegiance until they were added by an act of Congress on June 14<sup>th</sup>, 1954, as part of an anti-Soviet campaign in America during the Cold War days following World War II.

According to the article the Pledge of Allegiance as it was first written in 1892 by Francis Bellamy originally stated, “I pledge allegiance to my Flag and the Republic for which it stands, one nation, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.” According to the article Bellamy had hoped and intended it to be a pledge that could be used for all nations.

And so, the pledge remained, from 1892-1954 when the words “under God” were added. With the Cold War in full swing and anti-Soviet sentiment running high something ignited an anti-Soviet campaign to add the words, “under God” to the pledge. In fact, it was a Presbyterian minister who may have been the catalyst for the change in wording.

The Reverend George M. Docherty, who was then the pastor of the New York Avenue Presbyterian Church where President Eisenhower worshipped, spent one Sunday sermon declaring this about the Pledge of Allegiance. “There is something missing” he avowed, “Indeed, apart from the mention of the phrase, ‘the United States of America,’ it could be the pledge of any republic. In fact, I could hear little Muscovites repeat a similar pledge to their hammer-and-sickle flag in Moscow.”

A public outcry followed, and on June 15<sup>th</sup>, 1954, President Eisenhower made a speech celebrating Congress’ resolution to add the words “under God” just the day before on Flag Day, June 14<sup>th</sup>, 1954.

As I survey the political and cultural landscape of my beloved nation today, I wonder if those words expressed more a wishful thinking than fact. It begs the question, “Have we ever truly been one nation?” Our history, past and present, would argue against that notion, that hope.

In his first inaugural address President Abraham Lincoln spoke of our nation’s journey to becoming a “more perfect union.” I wonder how far we may have come since those early pre-Civil War days.

As a nation we will always be under God’s scrutiny and care, but let’s not fool ourselves. We have never been one nation, there has always been an “us and them.” Whether these demarcations were based on race, region, or religion the result has been the same. We have always been a divided nation, and I imagine we will always have our differences.

I guess the question is, will we be able to rise about our differences to realize, as we are in the eyes of God, all the same? Or will we continue to allow our differences divide and define us as a nation? As candidate for the U.S. Senate, in his House Divided Speech, Abraham Lincoln wisely observed, “A house divided against itself cannot stand.”

It is my prayer and my hope for this nation I love so dearly, one day we will be “one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.” It is my hope and prayer one day the vision of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. will be a reality, and we will judge people, not by the color of their skin, but by the content of their character.

When we, as a nation, have reached that level of maturity I believe the words, “one nation under God” will be a reality, and not just wishful thinking or anti-everything propaganda. In the meantime, it’s up to you and me and other disciples of Jesus Christ to continue to sow the seeds of the gospel and trust that God will do the rest.

May God indeed bless America with unity as well as bounty.

Grace and Peace,  
Taylor

## Reverend Doctor Taylor Todd

### Till We Meet Again...

- Thank you for serving us during a most difficult time! We, at FPC, are honored and fortunate to have such a fine interim. Please return and visit us some time. Best Wishes, Naomi Luna
- I can honestly say that Taylor Todd is the most pleasant pastor I have worked with. His kindness and gentleness makes everyone he meets feel comfortable. I feel he is much more than an interim pastor; I feel like he is a forever friend. Cindy Lamb
- We would like to say thank you to Dr. Taylor Todd for his experienced leadership during this past unusual year in our church life. Our journey with Taylor has been a very enjoyable one and his calm, patient and easy-going, but effective manner has resulted in keeping our church moving forward as we searched for our new permanent Pastor. Thank you again, Taylor for all that you have done. Bailey and Trena Little
- I will never forget the day that the Presbytery forwarded Dr. Todd's Personal Information Form to me. I literally looked up to Heaven, laughed out loud, and said, "Well don't **YOU** have a sense of humor!" You see...Dr. Todd had most recently served as the Interim to the church Rev. Allen Cross had gone to serve. After meeting, Dr. Todd and his wife, Abby, I realized that while God may have a great sense of humor, He will also bless us in amazing ways. Thank you Dr. Todd for serving us and leading for the past year during the most unusual of circumstances. Thank you for jumping in and being a part of this church's life. We know that God will bless you...and we hope that you know you are always welcome at First Presbyterian-Shelbyville! Kate Canady
- I have really enjoyed having Dr. Todd in the pulpit these past month. His sermons really speak to the issues of the day and connect to the word of the Lord. Love his sense of humor, too. God bless you and keep you, Taylor. Come back and see us sometime. Mary Brown
- Thank you Dr. Todd for all you have done for First Presbyterian Church! You were the calm and reasoning voice we needed during this time of getting through a pandemic and remaining safe. God does answer prayers and you were the answer to First Presbyterian Church's prayers for an interim. Aaron and Connie Crafton
- I feel we have been so very blessed to have Reverend Taylor Todd as our Interim Minister here at FPC. He came to us at a time our church was in need of leadership and a strength that he delivered with Christian love and kindness. He is so down to earth and has an easy going personality that radiated through our congregation each Sunday. He held our church together during unprecedented times in our nation and for that, we are so grateful. May God Bless him and his sweet wife always. Belinda Craig
- Matthew 24:45  
"Who then is the **faithful** and wise **servant**, whom the Master has put in charge of the **servants** ....  
This verse reminds me of Taylor. He is truly a born leader in the work of our Lord. Compassion for our Savior is very evident in his actions and in his heart. I admire his dedication in the responsibility of promptly submitting bulletin, e-weekly newsletter, and Anchor Links 'homework'. I will truly miss you, Taylor and you are forever in my prayers. Shirley Luscinski



## Report from PNC

During a Congregational Meeting held following the worship service on Sunday, June 13, 2021, the Pastor Nominating Committee, who was in unanimous agreement, nominated Dr. James Moran as First Presbyterian Church's next minister. The congregation voted via ballot to accept this nomination.

Dr. Moran is a graduate of Presbyterian College in Clinton, South Carolina where he majored in Psychology and Business Accounting. He received both his Masters in Divinity and his Doctorate in Ministry from Columbia Theological Seminary. He comes to us with over 30 years of experience in the pulpit.

Dr. Moran and his wife, Denise, are extremely excited about coming to Shelbyville. They spent eighteen years in Hermitage and they are very eager to "return home" to Middle Tennessee. Denise plays an integral part in Dr. Moran's ministry. She enjoys creating and teaching Bible Studies, particularly for young adults (those in the process of raising their own children) and she enjoys singing alto in the choir. The Morans have one adult son, Alex.

Monday, August 2, will be Dr. Moran's first day in the office. Presbytery has approved his official installation ceremony for Sunday, September 12, 2021 at 5:00 p.m.

In addition, the congregation approved for the PNC to be "retasked" and renamed. The committee will stay intact for one year as the Pastor Transition Team. We will meet with Dr. Moran periodically in support and we will be scheduling opportunities in the coming months for the congregation to meet and get to know the Morans in small group settings. It is our hope that the congregation will work hand in hand with the Morans as they begin their ministry with us.



# 2021 CLASS OF



Dear First Presbyterian Church Family,

Thank you, so much, for allowing me to receive the very generous scholarships!

I am very grateful for the love and support of my church.

I will continue to try to be the person God would want me to be.

Aiden Edwards

## Confirmation Class

Each graduate was awarded scholarships from the **Buchanan Hall and Greg Garner Scholarships**





VBS

MEGA  
SPORTS CAMP

Are you ready to  
Rumble?



Thank  
You for ALL  
The Food!



ouch does







MORE MISSION OPPORTUNITIES

The Mission Committee, wishing to offer an opportunity to follow Christ’s message in Matthew 25, "When you do it to the least of these, you do it to me", is exploring with the Red Cross to make FPC a Blood Donation Site. After initial discussion with a Red Cross representative, it will most likely be October before the first event will occur with the goal to become an every other month donation site. Recruiting donors for that first month will be shared responsibility between our church and the Red Cross with the goal of FPC taking full responsibility for recruitment and scheduling appointments as we become a regular donation site. In order to accomplish this project, we are looking for folks who in interested in our church providing a valuable service to our community to join the committee in planning and providing oversight for this project. If interested, please contact the church office. As we learn more, we will post information in the weekly church E-Newsletters and worship bulletins.

TONY RICE CENTER—The congregation’s response to the Tony Rice Center’s wish list was very generous. Each week when the items were delivered, there was heartfelt gratitude expressed by the residents at TRC. Thanks to all who participated in the sharing of our resources.



PRAYER requests

- Patti Jo Bennett (Sister of Jim Sepull)
Wayne Bomar, Jr. ( Stepson of Adrian Bomar)
Evelyn Davidson (Member)
The Family and Friends of Bob Durio (Member)
Pat Edmiston (Friend of Christy Jensen)
Alex Hutto (Son-in-Law of Sheri Emerson)
Carolyn Matusek (Member)
The Family and Friends of Buddy Wilhelm (Father of Richard Wilhelm)
Sheila Withers (Friend of Shirley Luscinski)

- Those in Military Service
LT Andy Canady (Member)
Airman Chase Blanton (Member)



Those serving abroad and at home.

PRAY FOR OUR NATION!



In Loving Memory



WALTERL HIGGINS
for Memorial Fund
from
Bill and Carol Marsh
David and Cindy Bagley

\*The church office will be closed on Monday, July 5th in observance of the 4th of July.

\*Chenel Gervais, our new church office administrator/secretary will begin Tuesday, July 6th! Please make Chenel welcomed as she joins our church family. It will take her some time to become familiar with everything she will need to do.

- \* Your Session has removed virtually all COVID-19 protocols. This means masks and social distancing are longer required in or around the church property, including worship services and indoor Fellowship meals. HOWEVER-those who wish to wear masks and observe social distancing are encouraged to do so for your own peace of minds.
  - \* Sunday, July 11th—Bring your food donations for Good Samaritan. You are welcome to bring them on Sunday or drop them in collection box outside the Fellowship Hall.
  - \* Choir Practice on Wednesday nights at 5:30pm—Come join us!
  - \* Memorial service for Sarah Milholen Mason will be held Saturday, July 17th at 2:00pm in FPC’s Sanctuary.
  - \* Located at the back of the sanctuary
- Our Daily Bread Devotionals for June-July-August  
5 Cents-A-Meal Banks
- \*\*Looking for volunteers to learn how to operate our video equipment for live streaming our worship services.**



# Smith Family~James, Lori, Jacob, Susanna

~**Family Night:** family nights have changed for us quite a bit since moving back to Bell Buckle. We had many nights of ball fields, tennis courts, and the dance studio while the kids were growing up. Now, we are sure to have dinner together as much as possible between tennis and projects.

~**Hobbies:** We love to travel ...cities, coasts, and locally. Inspiration and re-centering always come from these experiences. We all love music, sports, and food as well!

~**Jacob and Susanna:** Jacob has just graduated with a degree in Construction Management and is a Project Manager for Shane McFarland Construction. He loves all sporting activities associated with water. Susanna is entering her Junior year at The Webb School. She has adapted well to life in the country but loves staying connected with friends, working creatively and playing tennis.

~**Lori:** After college, I had a long career in pharmaceutical health care. In 2013, I went back to my roots and used my skills in business and strategies to help people as they created their residential and commercial projects. We own Daffodilly Design, a full-service interior design firm that serves clients all over.

~**James:** Has been with United Postal Service for 28 years. He knows how to handle logistics, from UPS to Daffodilly Design furnishings! His love for the outdoors keeps him bury in the yard or on the golf course.

Welcome to First Presbyterian Church. Please, do not hesitate if we can be of service to the Smith Family.



## MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

Please fill out the form providing the information requested and place in the offering plates or mail to FPC, 600 N. Brittain St.

⇒ Name(s)  
⇒ Address  
⇒ Home Phone Number  
⇒ Cell Phone (Please indicate whose number it is)  
⇒ Preferred Email

*\*\*The form will be in Sunday’s Bulletin.*

## Happy Birthday

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| July 2<br>Allen Cross                       | July 21<br>Fayne Parsons III<br>Gage Smith    |
| July 5<br>Jackie Bane                       | July 24<br>Chase Blanton<br>Helen Garner      |
| July 6<br>Johnnie Wright                    | July 26<br>Elliott Caine<br>Melanie Hamilton  |
| July 7<br>Charles Stimpson<br>Janice Womble | July 27<br>MacKenzie Craig<br>Isabella Craig  |
| July 8<br>Timothy Bane                      | Will a Kate Shofner                           |
| July 9<br>Taylor Todd                       | July 29<br>Mary Helen Maupin<br>Morgan Ridner |
| July 13<br>David Kee                        | July 30<br>Linda Brown<br>Naomi Luna          |
| July 20<br>Leo Robert Strasser              |   |

## Communion Preparation

- July 4th  
Kristin Conley & Melanie Hamilton
- August 1st  
Helen Garner & Trena Little
- September 5th  
Aaron & Connie Carter
- October 3rd  
Adrian Bomar & Pat Thomas

## Committee Meetings

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <u>Tuesday, July 6th</u><br>Worship & Music<br>5:30pm ELA Classroom | <u>Wednesday, July 13th</u><br>Faith & Development<br>6:00pm |
| <u>Wednesday, July 7th</u><br>Administration<br>Committee 8:00am    | <u>Wednesday, July 19th</u><br>Session 5:30pm                |
| <u>Monday, July 12th</u><br>Property 5:00pm                         |  |





## Happy Anniversary

- July 2  
Terry & Ginny Saylor
- July 3  
Leo & Brenda Skelton
- July 10  
Jeff & Elizabeth Anderson
- July 12  
Richard & Kristin Wilhelm
- July 21  
Brent & Kate Canady
- July 24  
Tommy & Linda Anderton
- July 26  
Aaron & Connie Crafton
- July 28  
Ben & Lana Craig



# JULY

2021

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3
4 Worship 10:am  Happy 4th of July	5 Church Office Closed	6 Worship & Music 5:30pm ELA  Nat'l Fried Chicken Day	7   World Chocolate Day	8	9	10
						
11 Worship 10:am  Food Donation for Good Sam	12 Property 5:00pm  Mission Meeting 5:30pm  Nat'l Pecan Pie Day	13 Faith & Development 6:00pm  Cow Appreciation Day	14   Nat'l Mac & Cheese Day	15	16	17 Memorial Service for Sarah Milholen Mason  2:00pm  at First Presbyterian Church
						
18 Worship 10:am  Nat'l Ice Cream Day	19 Session 5:30pm	20	21  Nat'l Hot Dog Day	22	23	24 
						
25 Worship 10:am  Parents' Day	26	27	28	29  Nat'l Lasagna Day	30  Int'l Day of Friendship	31  Nat'l Avocado Day
						

July is National Parks Month & National Picnic Month  
July Birthstones are Ruby and Onyx  
July Flowers are Larkspur and Water Lilly





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**STAFF**

Rev. Dr. Taylor Todd  
Interim Minister

Cindy Lamb  
Children & Youth Christian  
Education Director

Billie Crowell  
Music Director

Chenel Gervais  
Church Secretary

Diane Green  
Nursery Director

**SESSION**

LeaAnne Windham, Clerk of Session

Class of 2021  
Rob Marsh, Leo Skelton, Margaret Smith  
LeaAnne Windham

Class of 2022  
Aaron Crafton, Melanie Hamilton, Ginger Shofner,  
Richard Smith

Class of 2023  
Helen Garner, Christy Jensen, Kristin Wilhelm,  
Terry Saylor

**TRUSTEES**

<u>Class of 2021</u> Kathy Smith	<u>Class 2022</u> Pat Thomas	<u>Class of 2023</u> Tommy Anderton
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DATE	USHERS/GREETERS	HALL MONITOR	A TIME FOR YOUNG CHRISTIANS	CHILDREN’S CHURCH	NURSERY
July 4th	Roy & Lisa Turner	Richard Smith	Kate Canady	Cindy Lamb	Pat Thomas
July 11th	Bailey & Trena Little	Pat Marsh	Kate Canady	Cindy Lamb	Mary Marsh
July 18	John Marsh & Pat Thomas	Nancy June Brandon	Connie Crafton	Cindy Lamb	Christy Jensen
July 25	Richard & Kristin Wilhelm	Kathy Smith	Kate Canady	Cindy Lamb	Katherine Marsh



# A Summer Prayer

Walk beside me, Jesus as I begin the season of Summer. As I work, play, enjoy family time and friendships, may I hear Your voice within me, guiding me to all that is right and good.

Give me faith in Your presence, knowing You walk beside me always , everywhere and everything I do. Gracious and Loving Jesus, thank You for the gift of Summertime.

May the warmth of it’s sun and the beauty of the season remind me daily of Your love for me.

Allow me to enjoy every moment.

In Jesus Name,  
Amen