



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
Shelbyville, Tennessee
18th Sunday after Pentecost
September 26, 2021



Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

So, what is a Presbyterian? We now have four identifying beliefs of Presbyterians: a faithful stewardship that shuns ostentation and seeks proper use of the gifts of God's creation, a covenant life marked by a disciplined concern for order in the church according to the word of God, the election of the people of God for service as well as for salvation, and the sovereignty of God. A fifth tenet of the Reformed faith is "the recognition of the human tendency to idolatry and tyranny." (Book of Order, section F-2.05) Or, we may say it another way: humans are sinners. Not long after God created the earth, the story of how sin ruined paradise through Satan's rebellious work with the original couple Adam and Eve is the ongoing saga of sinning human beings. In the Book of Confessions and the Bible we find ample support for our human tendency to sin. The Second Helvetic Confession, chapter 8 "Of Man's Fall, Sin and the Cause of Sin," tells us about the source of sin and its effect: "By sin we understand that innate corruption of man which has been derived or propagated in us all from our first parents, by which, we, immersed in perverse desires and averse to all good, are inclined to all evil." Not a very pleasant understanding of who we are! This confession talks about the spiritual death sin brings on humanity and quotes Ephesians 2:1ff: "We were dead through trespasses and sins... and were by nature children of wrath, like the rest of mankind. But God, who is rich in mercy...even when we were dead through our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ." It also quotes from Paul's letter to Rome: "As sin came into the world through one man and death through sin, and so death spread to all men because all men sin." (Rom. 5:12) (Book of Confessions, 5.038) The Confession of 1967 talks about sin in more contemporary (though gender exclusive) terms: "In sin, men claim mastery of their own lives, turn against God and their fellow men, and become exploiters and despoilers of the world. They lose their humanity in futile striving and are left in rebellion, despair, and isolation." (Ibid, 9.12)

As we "claim mastery" of our "own lives," our sin is that we truly create God in our image and govern our own lives all by ourselves. We live with a mirror in front of ourselves. The Reformer John Calvin coined a phrase for how trapped in sin humanity is: total depravity. Now, I do not like to think of myself as being totally depraved, but without God whom I know in Jesus, I am left a sinner without hope because I cannot save myself from sin; no one can. I am lost, trapped, and totally depraved. As Paul wrote in Romans in his discussion on the all consuming power of sin, "For I know that nothing good dwells within me, that is, in my flesh. I can will what is right, but I cannot do it. For I do not do the good I want, but the evil I do not want is what I do. Now if I do what I do not want, it is no longer I that do it, but sin that dwells within me." (7:18-20) This sin is the sin of idolatry, which means to make something created ultimate rather than God the Creator. We make ourselves ultimate and worship the creature, whatever we desire and want to do, instead of worshipping the Creator only. We are not our own masters and gods.

A third creed that details this sin of idolatry is "The Theological Declaration of Barmen" written around 1934, which was the time the Third Reich and Hitler were building their power base in Germany. The Confessing Church in Germany put this Declaration together as a witness to the true church in Germany, not the state, which required an ultimate commitment to the state rather than God. Dr. Jack Rogers, former Moderator of the General Assembly, wrote, "In Reformed theology, atheism is not the problem. Idolatry is.... An idol is any humanly created thing to which people give their ultimate allegiance. Idolatry is giving our total commitment to something in the creation rather than to the Creator alone." (191, Presbyterian Creeds: A Guide to the Book of Confessions)

The Declaration states that Jesus is Lord, not the state. In its first article, after quoting John 14:6 and 10:1, 9, is written: “Jesus Christ, as he is attested for us in Holy Scripture, is the one Word of God which we have to hear and which we have to trust and obey in life and in death.” (8.11, Book of Confessions) We are freed from this idolatrous sin through our faith in Jesus Christ. It does not mean we won’t sin, but only that in Jesus we find forgiveness and the power to change our EGO, “Edging God Out,” as Methodist minister Adam Hamilton described sin in our Sunday school study of the Ten Commandments. The good news is that Presbyterians believe that the grace of God is more powerful than sin. That’s what we believe as Presbyterians.

Grace and peace for another week,
Jim

SERVICE FOR THE LORD’S DAY

18th Sunday after Pentecost

September 26, 2021

PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP (Reading before service for quiet meditation):

The last words in Dr. Shirley Guthrie’s classic reformed theology: “Do you want to be born again to be a truly free, truly human man or woman – free to be yourself as you are free for the disturbing, demanding love of God and other human beings? Then you may enter the kingdom of God, no matter how sinful you may have been in your religious piety or lack of it, your immorality or morality. You may have eternal life not only in the future but already now. All you have to do is choose the God who in Jesus Christ has chosen just such lost sinners as you. That is, all you have to do is find yourself in surrender to Christ who was totally with and for God, totally with and for other people, and therefore totally human.

“That is the Good News addressed both to sinful outsiders and to sinful insiders. For God so loved the world – the sinful world – that God came in Jesus Christ to bring eternal life to those who believe in him. He came not to condemn the world but that the world – the whole world! – might be saved through him (John 3:16-17).”

(Christian Doctrine (revised edition), pp. 398-399)

Prelude

“My Faith Has Found A Resting Place”

Billie Crowell

Welcome and Announcements

Rev. Dr. James A. Moran

Introit

“Come Into God’s Presence”

Choir

*Responsive Call to Worship

Leader: In the sight of our ancestors, God worked marvels in the land of Egypt.

People: God divided the sea and let them pass through it.

Leader: God split rocks open in the wilderness and gave them drink abundantly as from the deep.

People: God makes streams come out of the rock, and causes waters to flow down like rivers.

Leader: God provides and protects the people of God in this wilderness journey in life and in death.

All: Your praise endures forever. (Psalm 78:12-16)

*Prayer of Preparation

God and Father of all, You have willed that the last shall be first, and You have made a little child the measure of Your kingdom. Give us that wisdom which is from above, so we may understand that, in Your sight, the one who serves is the greatest of all. We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, Who lives and reigns with You in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever. Amen.

***Call to Confession**

Leader: We have not remembered that You are our Rock, the Most High God, our Redeemer, and have sinned.

People: Yet, we also remember that You, being compassionate, forgive our iniquity and do not destroy us; often You restrained Your anger, and do not stir up all Your wrath.

Leader: Leaning on Your compassion, our Rock and Redeemer, we confess our sins, praying...

***Prayer of Confession (Unison)**

Longsuffering Lord, we confess that, in our life of faith, our words of commitment have been many, but our deeds of love and obedience have been few. Like a mother who cannot forget her children, You keep drawing near to us and answering our cries for help, even though we forget our promises to be faithful to You. In Your mercy, forgive the emptiness of our words. Enable us by Your Holy Spirit to serve You faithfully, putting into practice the faith our lips profess, through Your Holy Son, who took upon Himself the form of a servant for our sake.

(time of silent confession)

***Assurance of Pardon**

Leader: If anyone does sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous,

People: And He is the expiation for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the sins of the whole world.

All: We believe the good news: in Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.

***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.

***Passing of the Peace**

Leader: May the peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

People: And also with you.

Leader: Please share the peace of Christ with those around you.

Time for Children

Pastor Jim

Children’s Church

Cindy Lamb

Prayer for Illumination

New Testament Reading

James 5:13-20

Page 231-232, NT Pew Bible

Anthem

“I Believe in God Almighty”

Choir

New Testament Reading

Mark 9:38-50

Page 45, NT Pew Bible

Sermon

“A Cup of Water and a Little Salt”

Jim Moran

***Affirmation of Faith**

Apostles Creed (p.14, Hymnal)

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.

Pastoral Prayer***Doxology**

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; Praise Him all creatures here below; Praise Him above, ye heavenly host; Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen.

***Prayer of Thanksgiving 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.

Hymn 383*"My Faith Looks Up to Thee"**

Choir and Congregation

***Charge and Blessing**

Leader: Never be a stumbling block to little ones in the faith.

People: Spiritually use plenty of salt.

***Benediction**

(Hebrews 13:20-21)

Now may the God of peace, Who brought back from the dead our Lord Jesus, the great Shepherd of the sheep, by the blood of the eternal covenant, make you complete in everything good so that you may do His will, working among us that which is pleasing in His sight, through Jesus Christ, to Whom be the glory forever and ever. Amen.

Benediction Response*"Go To The World"**

Choir

Postlude*"The Solid Rock"**

Billie Crowell

POWER OF PRAYER

Jackie Bane (Member)
Patti Jo Bennett (Sister of Jim Sepull)
Wayne Bomar, Jr. (Stepson of Adrian Bomar)
Ken Crowell (Relative of Donna Sepull)
Evelyn Davidson (Member)
Frank Douglas (Friend of Terry & Ginny Saylor)
Pat Edmiston (Friend of Christy Jensen)
Paige Martin Fague (Friend of Ginger Shofner)
Tina Flynt (Sister of Carol Magnuson)
Fred Hunt (Member)
Carolyn Matusek (Member)
Gracie Perryman
(Friend of Brooke Anne & Blue Jay Farrar)
Family of Kelly Dyan Reed (Dana Edwards' sister)
Jim Sepull (Member)
Stephen Stone (Nephew of Aaron Crafton)
Family of Chris Sullivan (Marylyn Caperton's 2nd cousin)
Warner Family (Friends of Brooke Anne & Blue Jay Farrar)
Zack Willmore (Friend of Ginny Saylor)
Sheila Withers (Friend of Shirley Luscinski)

Those in Military Service
LT Andy Canady (Member)
Airman Chase Blanton (Member)
Those who are serving abroad and at home.

If you would like to add someone to the
Prayer List, please call the church office at

Happy
Birthday

| | |
|--------------|----------------|
| September 20 | John Hittle |
| September 20 | Jackson Smith |
| September 24 | Linda Anderton |
| September 24 | Kristin Conley |
| September 24 | Sarah Hunt |

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND EVENTS

Homes of Hope of Bedford County has generously sent us 8 tickets to attend their Fall Dinner & Auction, it is on Saturday, October 2nd, 5:30pm at Blue Ribbon Circle. If you would like to attend please let Chenel in the office know and she will give you the tickets.

NOMINATIONS FOR ELDERS AND TRUSTEES FOR 2024

When you have completed your list please send or give your list of nominees to Pastor Jim or a member of the Nominating Committee or place your list in an envelope and place it in the offering plate or mail it to the church. Please mark it to the attention of the Nominating Committee.

Look for the insert

*For your convenience envelopes have been placed in the back of the sanctuary by Our Daily Bread Devotionals.

DEADLINE FOR SENDING IN YOUR NOMINEES IS TUESDAY, OCTOBER 5TH

Butter Braid Sale for youth is coming up...starts on October 22nd concludes on Nov. 5th

Trunk or Treat will be here before we know it. We need your trunk, if you are willing to volunteer please let Cindy or Chenel know. It will be held on Sunday, ~~October 31st~~ 5:00pm-6:30pm



Blood Drive is coming – to register go to redcrossblood.org then Shelbyville Comm. FPC
October 27th from 10:00am – 2:00pm

Looking Forward:

| | |
|--------------------------------|--|
| October 9th | Soup Kitchen Breakfast: Prep at 7:30am – Handout at 9:00am |
| October 22nd | Butter Braid sale starts for youth |
| October 27th | Blood Drive 10:00am-2:00pm |
| October 31st | Trunk or Treat 5:00pm-6:30pm |

Located at the back of the sanctuary

- ♦ **Our Daily Bread Devotionals** for September-October-November
- ♦ **5 Cents-A-Meal Banks**

Holy Communion Preparation

| | |
|-------------|----------------------------|
| October 3 | Adrian Bomar & Pat Thomas |
| November 7 | Frieda Bone & Susan Spears |
| December 5 | Karisa Matusek |
| December 24 | Pat Thompson |

SERVING

SERVING Sunday, September 26, 2021

Ushers/Greeters
**Richard Wilhelm &
Kristin Wilhelm**

A Time for Young Christians
Kate Canady
Hall Monitor
Pat Marsh

Children's Church
Cindy Lamb
Nursery
Christy Jensen

SERVING Sunday, October 3, 2021

Ushers/Greeters
**Roy Turner &
Lisa Turner**

A Time for Young Christians
Pastor Jim
Hall Monitor
John Marsh

Children's Church
Cindy Lamb
Nursery
Pat Thomas

SERVING Sunday, October 3, 2021

Ushers/Greeters
**Brenda Skelton &
Charlotte Williams**

A Time for Young Christians
Connie Crafton
Hall Monitor
Lisa Turner

Children's Church
Cindy Lamb
Nursery
Katherine Marsh



Dear Friends at FPC,

Your wonderful welcome for the Morans has been a true blessing to us! We experienced great joy and love from the Congregation and the presence of Christ during the Installation Service on September 12th!

What a holy time to celebrate the beginning of our shared ministry, as we hosted the Presbytery Commission, both Executive Presbyters, visiting pastors, and family and friends. The reception, hosted by the Presbyterian Women, was beautiful with plenty of delicious food and desserts.

Thank you for your loving welcome to our new Church home and the many ways the Transition Team (formerly PNC) has opened pathways to get to know you better with our Meet & Greets, which are still ongoing!

With great appreciation and gratitude,
Pastor Jim, Denise, & Alex

Call for Nominations for the Officer Class of 2024

First Presbyterian Church of Shelbyville

Over the rich history of our church we have been blessed with dedicated leadership from those elected by the congregation to serve as ruling elders and trustees. Now it is time again to nominate from among our members those who will make up the class of 2024, and we will again call upon you to help us identify our new leadership by filling out this nomination form. Think of those members you know who have shown a special dedication to the church, who would bring a needed talent or expertise, or who might like to serve but have been hesitant to step forward. Or if you yourself feel called to serve, do not hesitate to put down your own name.

Please use the forms on this sheet to nominate church members. All nominations are welcome and will be seriously considered by the nominating committee.

Below are members of FPC who are **NOT** eligible for nominations because they are Trustees or Session members:

RULING ELDERS (Session)

| <u>Class of 2021</u> | <u>Class of 2022</u> | <u>Class of 2023</u> |
|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|
| Rob Marsh | Aaron Crafton | Helen Garner |
| Leo Skelton | Melanie Hamilton | Christy Jensen |
| Margaret Smith | Ginger Shofner | Terry Saylor |
| LeaAnne Windham | Richard Smith | Kristin Wilhelm |

TRUSTEES

| <u>Class of 2021</u> | Kathy Smith |
|----------------------|----------------|
| <u>Class of 2022</u> | Pat Thomas |
| <u>Class of 2023</u> | Tommy Anderton |

As you nominate, prayerfully consider the following attributes:

- *Exemplary Christ-centered living
- *Attendance at Church events
- *Pastoral and compassionate caring for others
- *Sharing attitude
- *Desire to learn through God's Word
- *Strong Aspirations to serve God and other through the church

Nominations for the Office of Trustee:

Nominees should be active members of First Presbyterian Church who demonstrate faith, dedication and good judgment. Trustees serve as members of the Board of Trustees, which is responsible for the financial and capital holding of the congregation. (Includes personal property, funds and property)

1. _____ 2. _____

Nominations for the Office of Ruling Elder:

Nominees should be active members of First Presbyterian Church who demonstrate faith, dedication and good judgment. Elders serve as members of the Session, which is responsible for the mission and government of the church. Each Ruling Elder will serve within one of the following area, so please nominate people whose gifts fall within that category:

Administration, Property, Finance

Have gifts of organizing, managing finances, maintaining and improving church facilities, understanding and supporting personnel.

1. _____ 2. _____

Faith Development, Worship, Music, Mission

Have gifts and a heart for educating all ages, ministering with youth, reaching out to the "least of these", planning worship, incorporating arts into our church

1. _____ 2. _____

Pastoral Care, Evangelism, New Member, Fellowship

Has gifts for sharing hospitality, reaching out to people in our community who need a church family, caring for the sick, hurting and grieving members of our church family, creating a welcoming church environment, planning fun events

1. _____ 2. _____

*Permission from the person you are nominating is not necessary at this time.