



First Presbyterian Church

Shelbyville, Tennessee

Weekly Newsletter

January 12, 2020



This Sunday is the customary day for celebrating the baptism of Jesus. In some ways that baptism is very odd. Why would Emmanuel, God with us, need to be baptized? Why would this sinless, divine person need a divine blessing and redemption in the waters of grace?

Traditionally we see in the baptism of Jesus, the human person (rather than the divine person) of Christ being blessed by His divine Father and that blessing shows the world that Jesus is truly divine. The baptism connects Jesus to God Almighty in a way that all the angel choirs at Christmas did not.

So if His baptism gives Jesus identity, then our own baptisms also give us our identities. Jesus' baptism identified Him as God's own and our baptisms identify us as Jesus' own. We are more than voluntary followers of Jesus. We belong to Him and our baptism demonstrates His claim upon us.

That's a very different way of identifying ourselves than we customarily do. If someone asks us who we are, we usually name our family/ tribe/ work/ church in about that order. But this Sunday we are invited to identify ourselves, first and foremost, as belonging to Jesus - not just on Sunday but our whole lives long.

Our celebration will begin with the opening hymn *On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry*. It was new to many of us when we sang it last year so here is a link to follow to get a preview from the choir of St. John's College, Cambridge, England:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qVCv6vSVxEc> .

I hope to see many of you this Saturday morning for breakfast and then to help take down and put away the sanctuary Christmas decorations. Night circle meets on the 14th at the home of Brenda Skelton and the Youth Lock-in is coming up on the 17th. So if you have youth who need to be locked-in bring them for this time of fellowship next Friday.

And please remember that this Sunday we will do the blessing liturgy for donations to Good Samaritan. We began this tradition last month and the donations largely came from a few individuals. We hope to have a broader base of donations in the future so please remember to bring something this Sunday.

See you in church!

Allen

SUNDAY, JANUARY 12, 2020

**Join us as we gather for worship of our Lord and Savior
JESUS CHRIST**

Old Testament: Isaiah 42:1-9

New Testament: Acts 10:34-43

Sermon: "Who is Jesus? Who Am I?"

Rev. Allen Cross

| SERVING SUNDAY, JANUARY 12, 2020 | | SERVING SUNDAY, JANUARY 19, 2020 | |
|---|--|---|--|
| Acolyte | | | |
| Lay Liturgist | Connie Crafton | Lay Liturgist | Brenda Skelton |
| Ushers/Greeters | John Marsh Kathy Smith Lisa Turner Roy Turner | Ushers/Greeters | Theresa Blanton Helen Garner Bailey Little Ginny Saylor |
| Hall Monitor | Nancy June Brandon | Hall Monitor | Terry Saylor |
| A Time for Young Christians | Kate Canady | A Time for Young Christians | Connie Crafton |
| Children's Church | Katherine Marsh | Children's Church | Katherine Marsh |
| Nursery | Pat Thomas | Nursery | Maddie Hittle |

January 12 through January 19th

Sunday, January 12th

***Bring your food donations
for Good Samaritan ~ there
will be a Blessing of the food.***

Monday, January 13th

**Mission Meeting
5:30pm**

Tuesday, January 14th

**Faith Development
5:30pm**

Tuesday, January 14th

**Night Circle 6:30pm
at the home of Brenda Skelton**

Friday, January 17th

Youth Lock-In

Opportunities to **SERVE**

Prayerfully consider serving in 2020. FPC needs volunteers for the following:

Lay Liturgist, Ushers/Greeters, Hall Monitor,
Children's Church Teachers, and Nursery Helpers.

Call the church office at 931.684.6541 or email:
first.pres.church600@gmail.com.

Offering Envelopes & January Anchor Links

Located at the rear of the Sanctuary



Little Library

If you have books you would like to share, please
put them in the library by the parking lot.

Follow FPC on:



firstpresbyterianchurchshelbyvilletennessee



firstprezshelbyvilletn



When Bedford
Co. Schools are
closed due to
inclement
weather all church
activities will
be
cancelled.



Green Jar Ministry
Drop your change for
those who come to the
office for assistance.