



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Shelbyville, TN.

WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

May 28, 2020



Are you tired of virtual church yet?

Many people are very tired of not seeing friends or getting the weekly lift that many feel just by being in the church building. Others are glad to be at home, watching on an electronic device. They are comfortable on the sofa with that cup of coffee that most churches don't allow in the sanctuary.

Our worship practices are certainly changing. We Protestants know theologically that church is a group of people rather than a building, but we also know that we are gathered together in a worshipping community for God's glory.

On the first Sunday in June, we will be reopening the church doors for worship and we'll have to come to terms with the intersection of the wish for traditional worship practices and changes that are necessary if we are to remain safe from COVID-19. And this situation is likely to linger beyond this summer, beyond this fall, and maybe beyond next year, according to the latest modelling. So we will need to adapt as a congregation if we're going to survive as a worship community.

This Sunday is Pentecost, celebrating the day the Holy Spirit swept through the room of disciples, giving them spiritual gifts and empowering them for ministry in the world. The holy wind and fire of that moment brought change that could not be reversed and God was glorified by that change.

As we celebrate Pentecost this year, I'm profoundly glad for the unbridled activity of God's Spirit in the world spurring us toward accomplishments that we would never have the will to strive for on our own. Another essential tenet of Reformed Protestant theology is that every good thing we do, even accepting Christ in our lives, is driven by the work of the Holy Spirit within us. The Spirit will never leave us looking backward for long.

Just one more virtual church service followed by live church that's also broadcast over Facebook and other changes that we will have to discern in the weeks ahead. So won't you join me in praying for the hastening of the arrival of the Spirit so that we might glorify God this Sunday and all the new Sundays to come?

Godspeed,

Allen



Sunday Morning:
A Time For Young Christians 9am

<https://www.facebook.com/First-Presbyterian-Kids-Shelbyville>

Worship 10am

<https://www.facebook.com/First-Presbyterian-Church-Shelbyville-Tennessee>

Worship Liturgy

Call to Worship:

This week we have a Litany for Pentecost. Your response, when signaled with a hand gesture will be:

People: Come, Holy Spirit!

Prayer of Confession:

Almighty God, You poured Your Spirit upon gathered disciples, creating bold tongues, open ears, and a new community of faith. We confess that we hold back the force of Your Spirit among us. We do not listen for Your word of grace; speak the good news of Your love; or live as people made one in Christ. Have mercy on us, O God. Transform our timid lives by the power of Your Spirit and fill us with a flaming desire to be Your faithful people, doing Your will for the sake of Christ.
(*silent prayer*)

Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

New Testament: Acts 2:1-21

Sermon: The Restless Spirit

Affirmation of Faith: (from the Confession of 1967)

God the Holy Spirit fulfills the work of reconciliation in humanity. The Holy Spirit creates and renews the church as the community in which people are reconciled to God and to one another. The Spirit enables them to receive forgiveness as they forgive one another and to enjoy the peace of God as they make peace among themselves. In spite of their sin, the Spirit gives them power to become representatives of Jesus Christ and His gospel of reconciliation to all humanity... To be reconciled to God is to be sent into the world as God's reconciling community.

BAILEY AND LUCY EVANS TRUST

The Church Gift Fund Committee is receiving requests from members of the church, groups and/or committees for disbursement from the Bailey and Lucy Evans Trust.

The Evans family were former members of our congregation and upon the death of their daughter, Patricia Evans Hamilton, their trust became active.

These requests must be made in writing and turned in to the church office. They must be specific in purpose and amount and **include documentation of a group's current 501(c)3 status.** Only one request for a particular need and/or from a particular group or individual shall be considered in any calendar year.

The deadline for these requests is Sunday, June 14, 2020.

CONCERNS FOR PRAYER

Members

Helen Garner
Cory Hartbarger
Margaret Jarrell
Carolyn Matusek
Mike May
Gail Parsons

The Family and Friends of Sharon Werner
(Friend of Charlotte Williams)
Charles Mayer (Brother of Charlotte Williams)

If you would like to add someone to the Prayer List, please call the church office or email: first.pres.church600@gmail.com

**Breathe upon us, breath of God, young and old alike.
Send us forth, gifted with your power, to serve your people. AMEN.**