



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
Shelbyville, Tennessee
Sunday, February 14, 2021



Dear Friends,

Wasn't 2021 supposed to be better than 2020? Seems like we have had a lot put on our plates since the first of the year. But as Robert D. Hales so famously said, "It's not how you start the race or where you are during the race – it is how you cross the finish line." I'm afraid that finish line is still some distance away.

So, let's add what the author of the Letter to the Hebrews says. "Let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us." Perseverance is what is needed these days. The race against this pandemic is far from over. We must persevere and be vigilant in our efforts to stem its spread.

I am encouraged by the knowledge some of our members are beginning to get their vaccinations. Yay. I'll be thrilled for them. But folks we need to understand the vaccine is not a "silver bullet." It is simply another weapon in our arsenal in our war against this deadly virus.

So, if you have had one or both doses of the vaccinations, please persevere. Keep your guards up. Continue to wear masks around others, social distance, and yes, continue to avoid contact with other people as much as possible. The more vigilant we are in combating the virus the sooner we will finally gain the upper hand.

OK. I'm tired of starting off these weekly emails with a public service announcement, but as long as we are fighting this virus, I will be urging you to do what you need to do to protect yourself and others. It's the Christian thing to do. At least that's what I think.

As you know this Sunday is Super Bowl/Souper Bowl Sunday. If you have seen this month's copy of Anchor Links, you have seen how we have decided to collect this year's offering. This year we are designating the CROSS Shelter ministry as the recipient of your donations.

We have even added a slight incentive. We are asking Kansas City Chiefs fans to donate chicken soup (C for Chiefs) and beef soups for the Tampa Bay Buccaneers. (B for Buccaneers). Regardless the outcome of the game, thanks to your generous gifts the clients of the CROSS Shelter will be the real winners on Souper Bowl Sunday. Go Saints! (That's you by the way, not the football team.)

Finally, I want to thank Harold Dawkins for filling the pulpit for FPC last Sunday. I enjoyed my week of continuing education. I spent my time preparing for the Confirmation Class we will be offering our youth soon.

If you have any pastoral concerns or things to celebrate, please let us know. We like sharing.

Take care and stay safe.

Grace and Peace,
Taylor

SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY~SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 7, 2021

TRANSFIGURATION OF THE LORD

Welcome and Announcements

This month you have two opportunities to help your neighbor and obey Christ's call to feed the hungry. Today we are dedicating our annual Souper Bowl offering to CROSS Ministry. You will find how to participate in this year's offering in our monthly newsletter, Anchor Links.

Next Sunday is the second Sunday of the month when we bring our gifts for Good Samaritan. Leaving a collection box outside the Fellowship Hall so you can drop off your contributions to Good Samaritan seemed to work well last time. So, beginning Monday, February 8th we will leave the collection box out during church office hours, 8AM – 1PM.

Mission Committee will meet via Zoom on Monday, February 8th at 5:30PM. If you would like to "sit" in on the meeting send me your email address and I will add you to the list.

Prelude

Billie Crowell

Unison Call to Worship

Psalm 147

It is good to sing praises to our God. God is gracious and a song of praise is fitting. He heals the brokenhearted and binds up their wounds. The Lord lifts up the downtrodden; He casts the wicked to the ground. Great is the Lord, and abundant in power, whose understanding is beyond measure. The Lord takes pleasure in those who worship Him, in those who hope in His steadfast love. Come, let us worship God.

Prayer of Preparation

We do not presume to come to Your table, merciful Lord, trusting in our own goodness, but in Your all-embracing love and mercy. We are not worthy even to gather up the crumbs under Your table, but it is in Your nature always to have mercy. So, feed us with the body and blood of Jesus Christ, Your Son that we may forever live in Him and He in us. Amen

Call to Confession

We fool ourselves if we think that our ways are hidden from God. Therefore, let us confess our sin, trusting in the mercy of God our Maker. Let us pray.

(A time of silent personal confession).

Amen

Unison Prayer of Confession

Eternal God, who delivered Your ancient people from slavery and in the fullness of time sent Jesus Christ to rescue us from sin; hear our prayers for deliverance and liberty: Deliver us from habits that enslave, from bondage to selfishness, from contentment with mediocrity. Deliver us from fragmentary living, from divided aims and rival loyalties, and from failure to seek and achieve wholeness in thought, word, and deed. Deliver us from counterfeit humility, from the arrogance which creates the world in our own image.

Deliver us from religious selfishness, for the piety that is centered upon safety rather than service, from seeking peace of mind instead of reconciliation with You and with all people. Deliver us, above all, from substituting religion for Christian faith, from taking refuge in systems and ceremonies that bring us comfort and security rather than encountering Your disturbing presence. Restore us to the joy of Your salvation and uphold us with a steadfast spirit. Through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen

Assurance of Pardon

As the Gospel reminds us, "The very stone which the builders rejected has become the head of the corner; this was the Lord's doing, and it is marvelous in our eyes." Christ is our foundation; God's will in Him cannot be shaken. Our redemption is sure; we are forgiven. Thanks be to God.

Amen

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

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

People: And also with you.

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

Time for Children

Connie Crafton

Prayer for Illumination

Shine upon us, God of glory, and by Your Spirit reveal to us the grace and truth of Jesus Christ, Your Word made flesh. Amen.

Scripture

Mark 1:29-39

Sermon

"The Spirit of the Law"

Rev. Dr. Taylor Todd

Profession of Faith

Based on Romans 8:31-39

We shall not be separated from God's love that comes to us in Christ Jesus--

Not by life or death,

Not by depression's darkness nor any addiction's snare,

Not by an abusive past or any co-dependent habits.

We are more than conquerors because of the power of God's love for us.

We shall not be separated from the love of God

by a fall from sobriety or a failed marriage,

by painful memories or financial disasters,

by cancer's attack or COVID-19's havoc.

God's love is as constant as the rising sun, and there is nothing that can come between us and God's love through Christ Jesus. Believe it and live it.

Amen

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 Dedication

We give You thanks, God of all creation, for the power of Your life-giving Word, making the winds blow and the waters flow. Receive these gifts from our hands and use them to bring peace and blessing to all Your children.

Celebration of the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper

Invitation to the Lord's Table

Words of Institution

Prayer of Consecration

Distribution of the elements

Prayers of the People 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

Charge and Blessing

Go forth in the light and love of God, giving glory to God in all that you do. And may God, the ruler of heaven and earth, dismiss you in peace; Jesus, the light of the world, uphold you in love; and the Holy Spirit, revealer of God's mystery, lead you in all truth.
Amen

Postlude

Billie Crowell

Children's & Youth Ministry

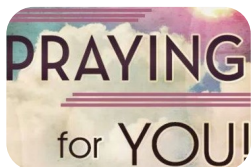
**Children's Church at 9:00am via Zoom on Sundays through
Youth will meet at 6:00pm on Sundays through via Zoom.**

The Youth at First Presbyterian church invite you to join us for the **SOUPER** Bowl! We would like to donate cans of soup to Cross Ministry which is a ministry that assists the homeless.

We thought we would make this a fun contest. If you are rooting for the **Kansas City Chiefs**, please donate any kind of *chicken soup*.

If you are rooting for the **Tampa Bay Buccaneers**, donate *beef soup* of your choice.

We want to make donations easy for you. You can order a case of soup on Amazon for about \$20.00 and send it directly to Cross Shelter Project 116 Hickory Drive or you can drop soup off at the church. Thank you for your help!



Matt Coroson, Evelyn Davidson, Bob & Alice Durio, Pat Edmiston,
Tommy Franks, Elaine Holcombe, Carolyn Matusek, Gail Parsons

In Military Service: LT Andy Canady, Airman Chase Blanton.

Those serving at home and abroad.

HOLY COMMUNION Preparation

February	7th	Jackie Bane & Ginny Saylor
March	7th	Kate Canady & Belinda Craig
April	1st	Maundy Thursday Aaron & Connie Crafton
April	4th	Easter Mary Marsh

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