



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
SHELBYVILLE, TENNESSEE
Sunday, February 21, 2021
FIRST SUNDAY IN LENT



February 18, 2021

Dear Friends,

I hope this e-letter finds you well and warm! I understand from the folks I am renting from they have been without power since early Monday afternoon and as of this morning still had no power. I hope that is not the case for any of you.

We are iced-in at this point here in Muscle Shoals. Thankfully, we never lost power, but it is cold, cold, cold. Maybe by tomorrow we can venture out with some modicum of safety.

I trust you were able to be a part of our Ash Wednesday service yesterday. As I was live streaming, I could see names of folks who were watching scroll by. Thank you for participating. I yearn for the day when we can worship again with each other in person. Which brings me to my next item for today.

At our Session meeting this past Monday night, it was decided to lift the current restrictions on in-person gatherings and return to the protocols we were observing prior to our going virtual in mid-December.

Beginning Monday March 1st, committees, Circles, and other church gatherings may resume in-person meetings. This of course includes Sunday worship as well. Until then we will continue to worship virtually, and committees will continue to meet via Zoom through the end of February.

This is good news, but I do want to raise a word of caution. We are by means out of the woods with this pandemic. We must remain vigilant in our efforts to do what we can to not spread the virus. The emergence of new strains makes these simple measures even more critical as weapons against this virus.

We will all need to continue to wear masks, (you may want to double mask as some health experts are recommending now), continue to practice social distancing and washing your hands. Your session and I will continue to monitor the pandemic and will act accordingly and inform you of any changes to our protocols.

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YOU people are Souper! I want to thank all of you who participated in our Souper Bowl challenge. Too bad for Kansas City fans the Chiefs didn't present as much of an effort in their challenge to the Buccaneers. Oh well, there is always next year, right?

If the donations left in the office are any indication of your response CROSS Shelter ministries and their clients were the real winners on Super Bowl Sunday. Thank you.

BUT then you turned right back around and gave once more for our monthly food drive for the Good Samaritan food pantry. You people are super.

As we head into this season of Lent, I hope you will commit yourself to keeping alert for the mysterious ways God works in the world around you and in your life. I hope the devotional materials we have sent out electronically will help you in your journey of faith now and in your lifetime to come.

On a pastoral note, I received a phone call this weekend informing me a former member of this congregation, Sarah Milholen Mason, who grew up in this church, passed away this last week. Her husband Kenneth said it was Sarah's wish that she be buried in Shelbyville, alongside her parents, who were long time and active members of FPC.

There will be a private burial this coming Wednesday. No family members will be in attendance. Plans for a memorial service when Sarah's family can come and celebrater her life and witness with this community of faith which nurtured Sarah in the love and knowledge of Jesus our Christ are in the early planning stages. We will keep you informed as to any developments.

I do believe that's all I have to report. Be smart. Stay safe and warm.

Grace and Peace,
Taylor

SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY-SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 21, 2021

First Sunday in Lent

Welcome and Announcements

Beginning March 1st FPC will once again be open for in-person worship and all other church activities. Masks will be required. We will continue to socially distance during worship so some pews will be taped off. And please use the hand sanitizer we have provided for your safety.

Worship and Music Committee meets Wednesday, March 3rd.

If you have not received an e-version of our Lenten devotionals, please contact the church office. If you would like a hard copy of the devotionals we can mail them to you or have a volunteer drop off a copy. If you know of someone who is not hooked into the world wide web and know they would like a hard copy we can fix them up. Just let us know.

Prelude

Billie Crowell

Responsive Call to Worship

Leader: People of God, on this wilderness journey; what will we eat?

People: The Word of the Lord is our daily bread.

Leader: People of God, in this time of temptation, how will you live?

People: Our faith is in the faithfulness of God.

Leader: People of God, at this kingdom crossroad, whom will you serve?

People: We will worship the Lord our God alone.

All: Come, let us worship God.

Prayer of Preparation

O God, who is with us even in the wilderness, as we devote these forty days to you; shape us by Your Holy Spirit into the image of Christ our Lord, so that we may be ready, by Your grace, to confront the power of death with the promise of eternal life. Amen.

Call to Confession

Happy are those whose sin is forgiven, who no longer suffer in silence, but name their sin and seek God's grace. Let us confess our sin before God and one another.

Assurance of Pardon

This is the message we have heard from Christ himself and proclaim to you, that God is light, and in God there is no darkness at all. If we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus His Son cleanses us from all sin. In the name of Jesus our Christ your sins have been forgiven. Thanks be to God.

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.

Unison Prayer of Confession

Most holy and merciful Father; we acknowledge and confess before You; our sinful nature prone to evil and failing in goodness; and all our shortcomings and offenses. You alone know how often we have sinned; in wandering from Your ways; in wasting Your gifts; in forgetting Your love. But You, O Lord, have shown mercy upon us who are ashamed and sorry for all the things we have done to displease You. Teach us to hate our errors; cleanse us from our secret faults; and forgive our sins, for the sake of Your dear Son. And, most holy and loving Father, help us to live in Your light and to walk in Your ways, according to the commandments of Jesus Christ our Lord. 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

O Lord may the words of Your mouth be our daily bread and may the leading of Your Spirit become our way, in Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

Scripture

Psalm 25:1-10 and Mark 1:9-15

Sermon

“ In Times of Trouble”

Music

Billie Crowell

Profession of Faith

I believe in the living God, the Creator of all that is, who sustains the universe by his power and in his love.

I believe in Jesus Christ, the man of Nazareth, who because of his words and work, his way with others, his use of suffering, and his conquest of death shows us what life ought to be and what God is like.

I believe that the Spirit of God is present with us now and always, and can be experienced in prayer, in forgiveness, in God's Word, the Sacraments, the fellowship of the church, and in all we do. Amen.

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.

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

God of our hope and salvation, Your covenant names us, Your grace sustains us. Your Chosen One calls us, and in our baptism sets us apart. We are a people called to minister and equipped through Your mercy to perform deeds of compassion and love. Accept our offerings as tokens of our faithfulness; enhance their effectiveness in accordance with Your will. May all that we do be a clear sign of our willingness to respond to the call of Christ. Amen.

Charge and Blessing

Worship the Lord, serve only God. And may the steadfast love of God surround you throughout these 40 days and into everlasting life. Go in the peace of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Postlude

Billie Crowell



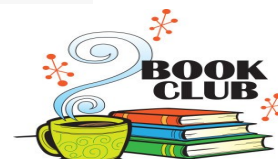
SUNDAY

9:30am via Zoom



SUNDAY

6:00PM via Zoom



March

"American Dirt"

By Jeanine Cummins

PRAYERS FOR CONCERN

Doris Cochrane (Friend of Rev. Dr. Taylor Todd)
Matthew Croson (Nephew of Charlotte Williams)
Evelyn Davidson (Member)
Bob & Alice Durio (Members)
Pat Edmiston (Friend of Christy Jensen)
Ed & Elaine Holcombe (Member)
Carolyn Matusek (Member)
Gail Parsons (Member)

Those in Military Service:

LT Andy Canady (Member)
Airman Chase Blanton (Member)

Those who are suffering physical, mentally, and spiritually.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Worship & Music Committee Meeting

Wednesday, March 3, 2021

March 7, 2021

In-Person Worship 10am

Mission Committee

5 cents-A Meal Collection
March 28; June 27; September 26;
December 19
Second Sunday of every month –
Food for Good Sam blessing at worship service.
Backpacks information forthcoming.