

On the Calendar for

**MARCH**

Friday, 5th World Day of Prayer

Sunday, 7th 3rd Sunday in Lent  
Worship 10:00am  
Holy Communion

Sunday, 14th 4th Sunday in Lent  
Good Sam food donations

Monday, 15th Session Meeting

Wednesday, 17th St. Patrick's Day

Saturday, 20th Mr. Roger's Day

Sunday, 21st 5th Sunday in Lent

Monday, 22nd World Water Day

Sunday, 28th Palm Sunday  
Holy Week Begins

APRIL

Thursday, 1st Maundy Thursday

Friday, 2nd Good Friday

Saturday, 3rd Great Vigil of  
Easter

Sunday, 4th Resurrection of the  
Lord/Easter

Thursday, 22nd Earth Day

Sunday, 25th Youth Sunday

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**FPC STAFF**

Rev. Dr. Taylor Todd Interim Minister

Cindy Lamb Children and  
Youth Christian Director

Billie Crowell Music Director

Shirley Luscinski Church Secretary

Diane Green Nursery Director

**SESSION**

Lea Anne Windham, Clerk of Session

**Class of 2021**

Rob Marsh, Leo Skelton,  
Margaret Smith, Lea Anne Windham

**Class of 2022**

Aaron Crafton, Melanie Hamilton,  
Ginger Shofner, Richard Smith

**Class of 2023**

Helen Garner, Christy Jensen,  
Kristin Wilhelm, Terry Saylor

**TRUSTEES**

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

*Session minutes are available in the church office  
for any member of the congregation to review.*

**March****ANCHOR LINKS****2021**

*Anchor Links is a monthly publication of First Presbyterian Church, Shelbyville, Tennessee*

Dear Friends,

I hope you are taking advantage of the Lenten devotional by PC(USA) pastor, The Reverend Roger Gench we have made available to you. If you don't have one and would like a copy of these devotionals, please let the church office know and we will email you an electronic version or print out a hard copy for you and even have it delivered to your doorstep or mailbox.

One of the things Roger encourages us to do as part of our daily devotionals is to "attend to the movements toward God and away from God" as we read and meditate on the scripture lesson for each day.

In today's lesson (2/23/21) Roger writes, "It is important to affirm God's live-giving power even as we recognize movements away from God, because it is especially during experiences of despair, fear or anxiety that we need this psalm's assurance of God's steadfast presence."

It was the words, "despair, fear or anxiety" that caught my attention. It seems to me that triumvirate has been with us for over a year now as our nation and our world try to wrest ourselves from the death grip of COVID-19. As our nation mourns the loss of over half a million of our fellow citizens, parents, siblings, relatives, friends, and coworkers I find myself experiencing these emotions of despair, fear, anxiety and more, I'm also very angry and frustrated.

It seems like we have all been living with these feelings of despair, fear or anxiety forever. And while things are improving, and hope is on the horizon these feelings linger. Feelings that Roger says are "movements away from God."

But these experiences are just some of the things that move us away from God. Guilt is another. A feeling of unworthiness is also a movement away from God. You may have noticed Roger did not include the emotion of anger in his list of feelings that draw us away from God.

*Continued on Page 2*

Continued from Page 1

I think it is because anger in fact brings us closer to God and His very presence so, like Job, we might plead our case and be heard. And whenever we are in God's presence there is the possibility of hope.

I hope you will use this season of Lent and Roger's devotionals to place yourself in God's presence, even in your despair, fear, and anxiety. As Roger reminds us in our lesson for February 23<sup>rd</sup>, "The promise of resurrection out of death is foundational to our faith as we journey through Lent toward Easter." Notice Easter is our destination, this is where our journey takes.

Easter is God's assurance that death does not have the last word. Easter is God's assurance that despair, fear, anxiety, and all those emotions that move us away from God do not have the last word. Easter is proof that God has the last word, and that word is life, not death. Life. Full, abundant, joy-filled life. That is our hope, and it is God's promise.

So, as we make our way during this Lenten season to Jerusalem, Gethsemane, Golgotha, and the empty tomb I hope you will feel more and more the presence of God in your life helping to ease some of your despair, fear, and anxiety and that you once again begin to feel the healing balm of God's loving and steadfast presence in your life.

I believe, help my unbelief.

Grace and Peace  
Taylor

### PRAYER FOR PEACE

Lord Jesus Christ,

Make us instruments of your peace.

Where there is hatred, let us sow love.

Where there is injury, let us offer pardon.

Where there is discord, let us build peace.

Oh Divine Lord, you taught us that those who work for peace  
are called the children of God.

Help us to persist in establishing justice and truth as firm and lasting foundations of peace.

Lord, you offer us peace as a gift and peace as a responsibility that we must realize with your help.

Give us the grace to reach for peace, to have attitudes of peace, that our words may be of peace, and that our works be works of peace. Then, may we build the peace that we and our nations need.

Amen

March



3

Bud Saunders  
Ruthie Shepherd

5

Donna Sepull

8

Lisa Neese

9

Theresa Blanton  
Will Jennings

10

Richard Smith

12

Hughes Bradley  
Trena Little

14

Jeff Anderson

16

Barbara Frisby

19

Andrew Matussek

22

William Matussek

23

Billie Crowell

24

Dan Townes

27

Debbie Kee  
Henry Smith

28

Adrian Bomar  
Kate Canady



Dr. Carol Magnuson & Dr. Charles Stimpson



### Gail D. Parsons

February 20, 1937 - February 27, 2021

Gail D. Parsons, age 84, of Shelbyville, passed from this life early Saturday morning, February 27, 2021, at The Heart Remembers after an extended illness.

Survivors include: children, Pam (Joe) Galbreth; Fayne (Kasey) Parsons and Tim Parsons of Shelbyville; brother, Anthony M. (Norma) Daniel of Birmingham, AL; sister, Rilla Daniel of Knoxville; Grandchildren, Addison Galbreth, Holt Parsons, David Parsons, Anna Parsons, and Timothy Parsons; sister-in-law, Catheryn Daniels of Birmingham, AL.

Funeral service will be held Tuesday, March 2, 2021, at 12:00 p.m. in the chapel of Doak-Howell Funeral Home with Pastor Bobby McGee officiating. Burial will follow at Willow Mount Cemetery.

Visitation will be held prior to funeral service starting at 10:00 a.m. Tuesday, at Doak-Howell.

Family request that mask be worn and social distancing guidelines be followed.



### IN MEMORY

**SARAH HILHOLEN MASON**

*for Memorial Fund*

by Mike and Frieda Bone

# Serving in

## Sunday, March 7th

Ushers/Greeters

**Pat Thomas**  
**Charlotte Williams**

A Time for Young Christians

**Kate Canady**

Hall Monitor

**Tommy Anderton**

## Sunday, March 14th

Ushers/Greeter

**Aaron & Connie**  
**Crafton**

A Time for Young Christians

**Kate Canady**

Hall Monitor

**To be Announced**

## Sunday, March 21st

Ushers/Greeters

**Bailey & Trena Little**

A Time for Young Christians

**Kate Canady**

Hall Monitor

**To be Announced**

## Sunday, March 28th

Ushers/Greeters

**Aaron & Connie**  
**Crafton**

A Time for Young Christians

**Kate Canady**

Hall Monitor

**To be Announced**

DATE	COLOR	HOLY COMMUNION PREPARATION
March 7	White	Kate Canady & Belinda Craig
April 1 Maundy Thursday	White	Aaron & Connie Crafton
April 4 Easter	White	Mary Marsh
May 2	White	Richard & Kathy Smith
June 6	White	Aksel & Norma Zae Jensen III



## Friday, March 5th

### World Day of Prayer

Pray for our Nation, for all of God's creation,  
and Him as  
Creator.



### Book Club

11am First Presbyterian Church Fellowship Hall.  
Discussion of

**"The Perfect Horse"**



## Tuesday, March 9th Night Circle

6:00pm~Russell Classroom  
Lesson 4-I am the Good Shepherd  
in our book I Am-Discovering Who  
**Jesus Is.** Social distancing will be  
observed and **please wear a mask.**  
Look forward to seeing everyone!



## Sunday, March 28th Palm/Passion Sunday

Sunday, March 28th through Saturday, April 3  
Thursday, April 1 Maundy Thursday  
Friday, April 2 Good Friday  
Saturday, April 3 Great Vigil of Easter  
Sunday, April 4 Resurrection of the Lord/Easter

Sunday, March 14th  
Bring food donations for Good Sam.



Monday, March 15th  
Session Meeting—5:30pm



## Friday, March 26th Book Club

11am Never Rest Park-Depending  
on the weather, First Presbyterian  
Church –Fellowship Hall.

**"American Dirt"**



5 ¢ A Meal 2021 Dates

March 28 June 27

September 26

December 19

Information on Backpacks page 5.



## a *time* for *yOUNG* c**HRISTIAN**S

March 7 Kate Canady  
March 14 Kate Canady  
March 21 Kate Canady  
March 28 Kate Canady

### Children

Our children are so fortunate to be at First Presbyterian Church! To celebrate the upcoming Easter season, you have gifted them with a variety of books. Included in this gift bag were several books about Easter, some stickers, and of course, some Peeps! Thank you for the money that you give to make these gifts to our kids possible!

### Youth Group!

The Youth and their parents will be meeting at El Mexico this Sunday at 6:00. We will be discussing Confirmation as well as plans for the rest of the semester. We would like for all parents and youth to attend this important Parent/Youth meeting.

## KIDS CHURCH

Cindy Lamb

March 7, 14, 21, 28

During Worship



## A Minute from



### THANK YOU FPC

In January/February we received acknowledgment from Shelbyville Community Soup Kitchen, CASA, The Outreach Foundation and Blue Monarch for financial donations made to them in 2020. Soup Kitchen board was particularly grateful as the pandemic has altered their meal preparation system. Instead of lower cost meals being prepared at the Methodist church, the meals have to be catered at a greater cost. CASA advocates for abused children in the Bedford County Juvenile Court. The Outreach Foundation provides mission and evangelism all over the world. Blue Monarch serves families who are working to rebuild their relationships that have been damaged by addiction. I will post these thank you letters on the bulletin board outside the church office if you would like to read them in their entirety.

### RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVE



Coming soon to FPC.....Later this Spring we will be hosting a Red Cross Blood drive in our fellowship hall. Stay tuned for date and time so you can make an appointment if you wish to donate and invite others to do so.

### A Visit from Dr. Tara Clements

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## back packs

"OK- we've talked about spring, and then the icemania happened. So now, we are not going to use the spri#%g word, and just talk about BackPacks! During the end of March, our most vulnerable students are going to be out of school for a week, and blessedly we are known as a church who helps with that! Because of our constant Covid issues, these boxes will be actually packed at Edgemont Baptist. But- our bank account is a bit light.

Please- as you join us in worship again, grab one of those cute Little Brown Envelopes and place your Love Offering in it, and then in the plate or church office.