

***DOXOLOGY AND PRAYER OF DEDICATION** *Old Hundredth*
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.

***AFFIRMATION OF FAITH** (from the Belhar Confession)
We believe that this unity of the people of God must be manifested and be active in a variety of ways: in that we love one another; that we experience, practice and pursue community with one another; that we are obligated to give ourselves willingly and joyfully to be of benefit and blessing to one another; together come to know the height and the breadth and the depth of the love of Christ; together are built up to the stature of Christ, to the new humanity; together know and bear one another's burdens, thereby fulfilling the law of Christ that we need one another and upbuild one another, admonishing and comforting one another; that we suffer with one another for the sake of righteousness; pray together; together serve God in this world; and together fight against all which may threaten or hinder this unity.

***CLOSING HYMN** *We Are One in the Spirit* 300

***CHARGE AND BENEDICTION**

POSTLUDE *A Mighty Fortress is Our God* Johann G. Walther
**Please stand if you are able.*

WHAT'S HAPPENING AT FIRST PRESBYTERIAN....
Worship Note: The Call to Worship was written by Eliza Buchakjian-Tweedy.
One of our most popular series, "What's Your Story," is back at First Presbyterian! We look forward to hearing more about the lives and adventures of our community members. Please join us November 1st and 8th and in the James Park Room for Worshipful Wednesday and two nights of "What's Your Story."
It's time to place your Advent Calendar orders at the Mission Market! SERRV has them in both milk and dark chocolate this year, and they are only \$8.95 each. Deadline for ordering is October 29. Send your order by email to Colleen Shannon bakhom@earthlink.net. Check the SERRV.org website at <https://www.serrv.org/> for any other special orders you would like and send those to Colleen by October 29.
The family of Jeanne Fox wants to thank the congregation for their kind expressions of sympathy upon her death. While we mourn her loss, we are grateful for her life here on earth and appreciate the love shown to us by this congregation during our family's difficult time.

WELCOME

Welcome to First Presbyterian Church, Knoxville. We have been part of the downtown Knoxville community since 1792. We embrace people from all walks of life and seek to share our spiritual journey with our community. We are part of the Presbyterian Church (USA). We are delighted that you have joined us in worship today.

To learn more about us, please make a note on the Friendship Pad, sign up for our Thursday newsletter, or connect with us at fpcknox.org, via the QR code to the right, or through social media.

Hearing enhancement devices and large print hymnals are available for use during the service. Please ask an usher for assistance.

OFFERING

You may place your offering in the offering plates when they are passed, or you are invited to give securely online at www.fpcknox.org/donate or by scanning the QR code to the right with your smart phone.

STAFF AND LEADERS IN WORSHIP

- | | |
|--|--|
| The Rev. Mark R. Curtis
<i>Senior Pastor</i> | Laura Harmon
<i>Church Administrator</i> |
| The Rev. Dr. Meredith Loftis
<i>Associate Pastor</i> | Lauren Nunn
<i>Director of Parent's Day Out /
Childcare Coordinator</i> |
| Dr. Andy Morgan
<i>Director of Family Faith Formation</i> | Sandra Robinson
<i>Administrative Assistant</i> |
| Mark Pace
<i>Organist/Choirmaster</i> | Victor Lenoir
<i>Custodian</i> |
| Mary Wilson
<i>Adult Ministry Coordinator</i> | Paul Seguna
<i>Sound Engineer</i> |
| Katie Norrell
<i>Director of Communications</i> | Mary Virginia Bohner
<i>Crucifer</i> |
| Jane Holland
<i>Director of Finance/Facilities</i> | Eli Jones
<i>Bible Bearer</i> |

WORSHIP MUSIC NOTES

- | | | | |
|--|---|--|---------------------|
| <i>Trumpet Voluntary</i>
<i>The Church of Christ Cannot Be Bound</i>
Tune: Mc Kee | One License # CGB858_3
One License # 95081 | <i>Not for Tongues of Heaven's Angels</i>
<i>Lord, I Want to Be a Christian</i>
Tune: I Want to be a Christian | One License # 47713 |
| <i>Gloria Patri</i>
Tune: Gloria Patri (Greateorex)
<i>O for a Thousand Tongues to Sing</i>
Tune: Azmon | | <i>We Are One in the Spirit</i>
Tune: They'll Know We Are Christians | One License # 28801 |

FOR OUR YOUNGER WORSHIPPERS

All children are welcome in worship at FPC. Children, Kindergarten through 2nd Grade, are invited to attend Children's Worship in the Children's Area (2nd floor) after Special Time with Young Disciples. Worship Bags are available at each entrance to the sanctuary. A nursery is available for children, in preschool and younger, in the Nursery rooms (2nd floor).



First Presbyterian Church
 FOR CHRIST IN THE HEART OF KNOXVILLE

TWENTY-SECOND SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
OCTOBER 29, 2023

Connect With Us

www.fpcknox.org

620 State Street
 Knoxville, TN 37902

THE PREPARATION OF GOD'S PEOPLE

PRELUDE Trumpet Voluntary Clarke/Eithun
Joyful Noise Handbell Choir

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

This is the day that the Lord has made;
Let us rejoice and be glad in it!

*CALL TO WORSHIP

What does the Lord require of you?

**To do justice, and to love kindness,
and to walk humbly with our God.**

What does God command of us?

**To love God with all our heart,
and all our soul,
and all our mind,
and all our strength,
and to love our neighbor as ourselves.**

God does not call us to ease or to comfort.

**But to presence, and abundance,
and grace in our struggle.**

Let us worship the God who believes in us,
and trusts in us, and abides with us.

**Let us worship the God who will ask much of us,
but will be beside us every step of the way.**

***OPENING HYMN** The Church of Christ Cannot Be Bound 766

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Eternal God, your law commands us to love our neighbor as ourselves. Too often we prioritize our own interests above the health and welfare of others. We betray you and our best selves by living without regard for the ways our actions harm our neighbors in need and the planet entrusted to our care. Open our hearts to love. Open our minds to honestly acknowledge our role in wrongdoing. Forgive us and return us to your way of righteousness. Amen.

(a moment for silent confession)

*ASSURANCE OF PARDON

***MUSICAL RESPONSE** Gloria Patri 581

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

***MUSICAL RESPONSE** O for a Thousand Tongues to Sing (v. 2) 610
The name of Jesus charms our fears, and bids our sorrows cease, sings music in the sinner's ears, brings life, and health, and peace.

THE PROCLAMATION OF GOD'S WORD

MOMENT FOR STEWARDSHIP Filled with the Fullness of God Stacy Davis

FIRST SCRIPTURE LESSON Leviticus 19:1-2, 15-18 Amye Cole

¹The LORD spoke to Moses, saying: ²Speak to all the congregation of the people of Israel and say to them: You shall be holy, for I the LORD your God am holy. ¹⁵You shall not render an unjust judgment; you shall not be partial to the poor or defer to the great: with justice you shall judge your neighbor. ¹⁶You shall not go around as a slanderer among your people, and you shall not profit by the blood of your neighbor: I am the LORD. ¹⁷You shall not hate in your heart anyone of your kin; you shall reprove your neighbor, or you will incur guilt yourself. ¹⁸You shall not take vengeance or bear a grudge against any of your people, but you shall love your neighbor as yourself: I am the LORD.

ANTHEM Not for Tongues of Heaven's Angels Roy Hopp

*Not for tongues of heaven's angels, not for wisdom to discern,
not for faith that masters mountains, for this better gift we yearn:
may love be ours, O Lord.
Love is humble, love is gentle, love is tender, true, and kind;
love is gracious, ever patient, generous of heart and mind:
may love be ours, O Lord.
Never jealous, never selfish, love will not rejoice in wrong;
never boastful nor resentful, love believes and suffers long:
may love be ours, O Lord.
In the day this world is fading faith and hope will play their part;
but when Christ is seen in glory love shall reign in every heart:
may love be ours, O Lord.*

SPECIAL TIME WITH YOUNG DISCIPLES Dr. Andy Morgan

SECOND SCRIPTURE LESSON Matthew 22:34-46

³⁴When the Pharisees heard that he had silenced the Sadducees, they gathered together, ³⁵and one of them, a lawyer, asked him a question to test him. ³⁶“Teacher, which commandment in the law is the greatest?” ³⁷He said to him, “‘You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind.’ ³⁸This is the greatest and first commandment. ³⁹And a second is like it: ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’ ⁴⁰On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets.”⁴¹Now while the Pharisees were gathered together, Jesus asked them this question: ⁴²“What do you think of the Messiah? Whose son is he?” They said to him, “The son of David.” ⁴³He said to them, “How is it then that David by the Spirit calls him Lord,

saying, ⁴⁴‘The Lord said to my Lord, “Sit at my right hand, until I put your enemies under your feet” ’? ⁴⁵If David thus calls him Lord, how can he be his son?” ⁴⁶No one was able to give him an answer, nor from that day did anyone dare to ask him any more questions.

SERMON

Rev. Dr. Meredith Loftis

THE RESPONSE OF GOD'S PEOPLE

***HYMN OF RESPONSE** Lord, I Want to Be a Christian 729

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND LORD'S PRAYER Rev. Mark R. Curtis

**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.**

RECEPTION OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS

OFFERTORY Lord of the Dance Arr. John Gerguson

*I danced in the morning when the world was begun,
And I danced in the moon and the stars and the sun,
And I came down from heaven and I danced on the earth:
At Bethlehem I had my birth.
Dance, then, wherever you may be,
I am the Lord of the dance, said he,
And I'll lead you all, wherever you may be,
And I'll lead you all in the dance, said he.
I danced for the scribe and the Pharisee,
But they would not dance and they wouldn't follow me;
I danced for the fishermen, for James and John;
They came with me and the dance went on:
I danced on the Sabbath and I cured the lame:
The holy people said it was a shame.
They whipped and they stripped and they hung me on high,
And they left me there on a cross to die:
I danced on a Friday when the sky turned black;
It's hard to dance with the devil on your back.
They buried my body and they thought I'd gone;
But I am the dance, and I still go on:
They cut me down and I leapt up high;
I am the life that'll never, never die.
I'll live in you if you'll live in me:
I am the Lord of the dance, said he.*

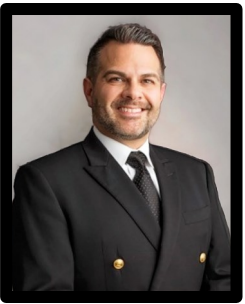
NEW MEMBERS



Jim Boyd, a native North Carolinian and a UNC-Chapel Hill graduate, concluded a 40-year career in the newspaper business in 2016. He has one son, Harris, and granddaughter Abby in Wake Forest NC, and two granddaughters, Natalie and Sarah, in Lenoir City from his second son, Andrew, now deceased. Jim is a life-long Presbyterian.



Joe Cagley is an optician who enjoys traveling, photography and dining out.



Chris Massie is VP and Executive Director of Business development of the Titanic Museum Attractions. He has 2 daughters, Lindsey and Madison. Chris enjoys traveling, clogging, dining out, and spending time with friends and family. He actively volunteers with Samaritan's Feet International.



Suzan Rochelle (pronounced Susan), a native of Bristol VA, has lived in Knoxville 39 years. A UT-Knoxville graduate, she was in the furniture business 25 years, owning and operating stores in Knoxville and Bristol. Upon selling her businesses, she became an independent interior designer, which remains her present work. Suzan has one son (Brandon), and two grandchildren (Ethan, 11, and Eva, 7). Suzan is an avid

pickleball player, having begun playing well before pickleball was cool. She's a long-time Presbyterian.



Miriam Zimmermann was born in GA and has lived in 5 states as well as England and the Bahamas. She's been in TN since 1991. While in England, Miriam was stage manager for various theaters. She is also a retired registered nurse, and Star Trek and Beatles fan. She has 2 daughters here plus awesome granddaughter Eleanor Efurud and grandson Sailor Whitt. Miriam's precious husband, Anton (they married in England) passed away

almost 1 year ago. Miriam is waiting to get onto the Vanderbilt Kidney Transplant list and is on dialysis 3 days per week. She is so grateful and blessed to be a new Presbyterian.