

NEW & UPCOMING AT FIRST PRES

Dick Fisher Retirement Reception – Today

Our Pastor of Visitation Dick Fisher has retired as of August 31, after 11 faithful years of ministry here at 1st Pres. Please join us to celebrate his work here today, after the 11:00am service in the Nell Davis Room!

Annual Church Picnic – September 28

Please join us Saturday, September 28, starting at 11:30am for our Annual Church Picnic at Clearwater Farm (7501 W Clearwater Rd; follow Thrasher Pike to W Clearwater Rd, NOT Manassas Dr.). We'll have BBQ, snowcones, swimming, bounce houses, games, hay rides and more!

Stephen Ministry Informational Meeting – September 29

Are you interested in being a Stephen Minister and learning the skills that facilitate one-on-one Christian care-giving? Come to the First Pres Forum Class in the Fellowship Hall on Sunday, September 29, at 10:15am to learn about this ministry and how to join the upcoming training program!

Woman at the Well – September 30

Join us Monday, September 30, from 6:30pm - 8:00pm, in the Fellowship Hall for a fun evening of fellowship, dessert, and a testimony from Samantha Adair! We'll also be participating in a service project, partnering with New City Fellowship to help stock their Outreach Pantry! Go to 1stPresbyterian.com/Events for a list of items, and you can deposit them in one of the donation boxes during the event. For childcare, please contact Mary Campbell Harris at MC@1stPresbyterian.com by September 25.

Children's Ministry – Volunteers Needed!

We need volunteers for our Children's Ministry! We especially ask that parents whose child(ren) regularly participate in our Children's Ministry commit to volunteering with us at least once a quarter. **Right now, we need more support in our Children's Church, which requires 6-8 volunteers each week. If we do not have enough volunteers consistently each week, we will no longer be able to offer this service.** Note that a background check may be required for you to volunteer, and we will reach out to you if necessary. Learn more and sign up for a shift at 1stPresbyterian.com/Kids.

Join the History Committee!

If you have an interest in history and preserving the history of First Presbyterian Church, please consider joining the History Committee! Gifts in organization, creativity, and computer skills are desirable to help maintain our archives! If you're interested, please reach out to Harriett Berman at Bermans@Epbfi.com.

Staff Changes

As of this past week, our Receptionist Crystal Middleton has moved into our new Office Manager position and will oversee the church calendar, the ShelbyNext directory and database, our facility rentals, and church policies. Crystal can be reached at Crystal@1stPresbyterian.com. We have welcomed Chandler Overby as our new Receptionist, and she can be reached at Office@1stPresbyterian.com.

Midweek – continues September 25

Join us each Wednesday at 5:30pm in the Fellowship Hall for food and fellowship, followed by a variety of electives for all ages starting at 6:15pm! Learn more at 1stPresbyterian.com/Midweek.

For more information on these and other upcoming events, subscribe to our Weekly Email Announcements on our website under the "Resources" tab, or go to 1stPresbyterian.com/Events.

SUNDAY SCHOOL - 10:15AM EACH SUNDAY

Adult

Bible 101: SS 212

A round-table discussion on the basic studies of Scripture following the Chalmers Center Guide. Currently studying *The Jesus Storybook Bible*.

Chapter by Chapter: Tower 804

Currently studying Colossians.

College Class: SS 203

Invites rising and current college students.

Fellowship Class: SS 210

Currently studying Isaiah verse-by-verse.

First Pres Forum Class: Fellowship Hall

Offers a rotating schedule of speakers; Pastor Ron Brown on "The Centrality, Meaning, Challenge, and Encouragement of Love" today only; Stephen Ministry on their upcoming training program Sept. 29.

Icebreakers Class: SS 211

A short lesson followed by small group discussion, focused on understanding Reformed Theology. Currently studying the Westminster Standards.

The Joy of Learning: Tower 258

A no-pressure, discussion-based class currently studying 1 Timothy.

Link Class: SS 209

Fellowship and prayer followed by a study of selected Psalms for the summer.

McCallie/Anderson Class: Chapel

Class dates back to 1924 and is named after legendary Sunday School teachers J. Park McCallie and Lee Anderson. Currently studying Isaiah verse-by-verse.

Reformed by the Word: Tower 10th Floor

An interactive class studying Hebrews. Lessons are followed by a time of prayer.

Rocking Chair Class: Tower 302

Focuses on discovering "what sayest the Scripture." Currently studying John MacArthur's series, "The Rapture & the Day of the Lord."

International & Adult Bible Discussion: SS 204-F

Part of the First Friends Ministry, welcomes international college students. Currently studying the Kingdom of God.

Welcome All Class: SS 202

Currently studying how Jesus lived as a person and what it means to be fully human as God planned, using Paul Miller's *The Person of Jesus*.

Young Professionals: Tower 304

The current series is "Psalms: Prayers of the Heart."

Youth & Kids

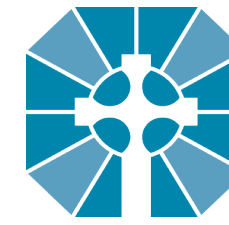
Youth Large Group: 6th – 12th grade, Student Center (across McCallie Ave.)

Kid's Sunday School: Pre K – 5th grade, ground & 1st level Children's Wing

Nursery: Infant – 4-years-old

SS = Sanctuary Side

Find more info on our Discipleship Ministries at 1stPresbyterian.com/Discipleship.



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH of CHATTANOOGA

At First Presbyterian, we seek to be a healthy church exhibiting all the fullness of Christ as we disciple believers who develop spiritually, connect relationally, and engage missionally to reach Chattanooga and the world with the gospel.

The Lord's Day

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 22, 2024

9:00 AM

THE GATHERING OF GOD'S PEOPLE

WORSHIP REFLECTION

How do you respond to devastating news? Nehemiah's response was not to panic or plot but to pray. His first thought was to call on the only One who could truly make a difference.

Prayer does not begin with man and his needs, but with God and His glory. . . . Nehemiah began with God because He knew that only in God would he find the help he needed.

– James Montgomery Boice

Nehemiah does what a man of faith does in a crisis: he prays. . . . But note how he prays— with confession, humility, and an appeal to God's promises. His prayer is not merely emotional but theological, rooted in the character and covenant of God.

– J.I. Packer

PRAYER OF PREPARATION

O Lord, mercifully hear and answer the prayers of Your people who call upon You. Grant that we may know and understand what things we ought to do, and grant us grace and power to accomplish them faithfully through Jesus Christ our Lord, Who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

† Please stand as you are able.

† GATHERING SONG

"Come as You Are"

THE PRAISE OF GOD’S PEOPLE

†CALL TO WORSHIP

Nehemiah 9:5b ESV

Pastor: Stand up and bless the LORD your God
from everlasting to everlasting.

**People: Blessed be Your glorious name,
which is exalted above all blessing and praise.**

†PRAYER OF INVOCATION

†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

†SONGS OF PRAISE

**“Our Great God”
“Be Unto Your Name”**

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

Westminster Shorter Catechism, Q&A 98

Pastor: What is prayer?

**People: Prayer is an offering up
of our desires to God,
for things agreeable to His will,
in the name of Christ,
with confession of our sins,
and thankful acknowledgment of His mercies.**

CONFESSION OF SIN

based on Prayer of St. Patrick, 5th century

**Holy Father, I arise today through
Your strength to pilot me. Your might to uphold me.**

Pardon my self-sufficiency.

Your wisdom to guide me. Your eye to look before me.

Forgive my spiritual callousness and apathy.

Your ear to hear me. Your word to speak to me.

Pardon my prayerless, distracted, and divided heart.

Your hand to guard me. Your shield to protect me.

Forgive my ignorance of the adversary’s schemes.

I arise today through Your Spirit

**to save me from snares of devils, temptation of vices,
and everyone who would wish me ill far and near.**

**I pray in the name of my Brother, my Captain,
and my King, Jesus Christ the Lord. Amen.**

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

1 John 2:1-2 ESV

My little children,

I am writing these things to you

so that you may not sin.

But if anyone does sin,

we have an advocate with the Father,

Jesus Christ the righteous.

He is the propitiation for our sins,

and not for ours only,

but also for the sins of the whole world.

SONG OF ASSURANCE

“Blessed Assurance”

PRAYER OF INTERCESSION

ANNOUNCEMENTS & OFFERING

GREETING & DISMISSAL TO CHILDREN’S CHURCH

*Please take your PreK-1st grade children to the check-in station at the 1st - 3rd grade
Children’s Wing on the first floor behind the Sanctuary.*

†DOXOLOGY

THE WORD FOR GOD’S PEOPLE

SERMON

“The Primacy of Prayer”

Nehemiah 1:1-11

“A City That Lasts: Seeing Christ in the Book of Nehemiah”

Gabriel N.E. Fluhrer

SERMON OUTLINE

1. The Way of Life in Exile (vv. 1-4)

2. The Pattern of Prayer in Exile (vv. 5-11)

†SONG OF RESPONSE

“Have Mercy on Me”

THE SENDING OF GOD’S PEOPLE

†BENEDICTION

based on Philippians 4:7

May the peace of God,

which surpasses all understanding,

guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. Amen.

Worship Leader

West Breedlove, *Assistant Director of Worship*

Presiding Liturgist

Gunther Griffin, *Director of College Ministry*

Minister of the Word

Gabriel N.E. Fluhrer, *Senior Pastor*



*New to 1st Pres?
We’d love to connect with you!
Scan with your phone camera
to fill out a connect card!*



*To make a secure contribution
to 1st Pres, scan with your
phone camera or go to
1stPresbyterian.com/Give.*

Giving Update as of 9/15 – fiscal year April 1 - March 31

	<u>Deacons (General Fund)</u>	<u>World Missions</u>
<i>Annual Budget</i>	\$3,460,000	\$900,000
<i>Budgeted Giving</i>	\$1,596,923	\$415,385
<i>Raised</i>	\$1,456,403	\$302,827

Donations to First Presbyterian Church are tax-deductible. In accordance with IRS regulations, donors agree that ultimate control over donated funds lies with the church.

*The flowers today are given to the glory of God and in memory of
Mary Grace Meade and Henry Clapp, and Eleanor and Doug Powell.*

*The flowers will be arranged by the Flower Committee and delivered by volunteers
to our homebound and hospitalized on Monday, September 23.*

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