

Jefferson City, TN 37760
721 Church St.
First Presbyterian Church

Dear Church Family,

As I've been preparing for worship this February, I have been thinking a lot about the heart of our faith. What is it that defines our center as people of faith—in our worship, in our devotion, in our life together and in the world? What does our faith require of us?

As the prophet Micah asks, "With what shall I come before the Lord, and bow myself before God on high?" (Micah 6:6). Does the Lord want burnt offerings, thousands of rams, ten thousand rivers of oil? Perhaps thinking of Abraham and Isaac all those generations before, Micah proposes, Does God want us to sacrifice that which we hold most precious—"Should I give up my oldest child?" (Micah 6:7).

For many of us, not only here in Jefferson City but in the wider community of faith among both the Jewish and Christian traditions, Micah's response to these options has become a personal creed: "He has told you, O human, what is good; and what does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?" (Micah 6:8). According to Jewish rabbinic commentary, this passage sums up the whole Law: "Six hundred and thirteen precepts were communicated to Moses, three hundred and sixty-five [were] negative precepts...Micah came and reduced them to three [positive principles]." Do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly. That about sums it up, doesn't it?

Something I've found interesting in looking at this passage is the variety of options for translation. There is general agreement about how to convey the first principle: "do justice" or "act justly." That being said, you'll find a wide variety of options for translating the second principle: "love kindness," "love mercy," "love goodness," "embrace faithful love," "be compassionate and loyal in love." I'm curious, which of these have you memorized and looks most familiar to you? The reason for the variety has to do with a special Hebrew word that is used to convey the quality of covenant relationship that shows up all over the place in the Bible: *hesed*. It's often translated elsewhere in the Old Testament as "loving kindness," "covenant faithfulness" or "steadfast love." I'm fascinated by the range of meaning this implies in Micah, where we are called to love, not only God and neighbor, but *hesed* itself: to love—to honor and respect and be passionately steadfast and committed toward—faithfulness and loyalty themselves, to love that which is good wherever we find it in relationships of all kinds. It's a brilliantly broad, open-ended kind of love.

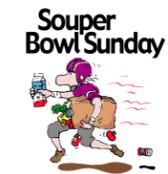
Finally, the third principle in Micah 6:8 usually comes across as, "walk humbly with your God," or as it appears in the old 1560 Geneva Bible, "to humble thyself, to walk with thy God." Again according to Jewish commentary, there's an implied expansion to this in the Hebrew language, which conveys something that amounts to "walk wisely." Much as we learn from Proverbs, that "the fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom" (Prov 9:10), there's

a sense that in walking humbly, with reverence and awe in relationship with God, we enter the path of Wisdom, who guides us in all our ways, no matter what path we find ourselves walking.

What does our faith require of us? What's the defining center of our faith? Do justice, love *hesed*, and walk humbly in wisdom with your God. As we enter a series in worship this February on Christ's teaching from the Sermon on the Mount, I encourage you to reflect, wherever you are in faith or in the world today: what might it mean if these words from Micah were a defining expression of the heart of our faith? How do they inform our understanding of the Gospel? What kind of good news do they offer for us to share with our world today?

As always, I hope you are doing well, and I look forward to our ministry together in the coming month!

Grace and Peace,
Dave



Souper Bowl Sunday

SOUPER BOWL SUNDAY

We are participating in Souper Bowl of Caring through our Five-Cents-A-Meal Offering on Sunday, February 2nd. All money given will be sent to Holston Presbytery, and the total amount collected will be reported to The National Souper Bowl Organization. Please plan to give generously!

CHOCOLATE BARS & TEA FOR SALE

The Creation Care Committee is selling Equal Exchange chocolate bars and boxes of tea beginning on Sunday, February 2nd. Items will be located on the table in the library. Chocolate bars will be \$3.50 each and boxes of tea are \$4.50. Cash or checks can be placed in the box provided. If you have any questions, please see Sandy Long or Jessica Evans.



SUPER BOWL PARTY FOR MIDDLE & HIGH SCHOOLERS

All Middle and High Schoolers are invited to a Super Bowl watch party at the home of Matt and Jennifer Gowan on Sunday, February 2nd, from 6:30 p.m. to half time. Pizza and soft drinks will be provided and you can bring a snack to share. You are welcome to bring a friend and your transportation person is welcome to hang out with us. We look forward to seeing you. Matt and Jennifer's address is 158 Ostrich Lane, Rutledge, TN, Jennifer's Cell is 865-310-9335.

Tusculum will host the Theologian-in-Residence series on Tuesdays throughout the month. Each session starts at 10 a.m. and lasts until 12:30 p.m. in the Chalmers Conference Center of the Scott M. Niswonger Commons. Those who register will be eligible to enjoy a free luncheon afterward in the Tusculum cafeteria.

Dr. Jeffrey Perry, an assistant professor of history at Tusculum, will share his research at the Feb. 5 and Feb. 12 sessions, and Dollie Boyd, the university's director of museums, will provide her insights at the Feb. 19 and Feb. 26 sessions. They will discuss subjects touching on Colonial America, the Revolutionary Era, the founders of Greenville College and Tusculum Academy and the education of women in the 19th century.

The session dates and their subjects are:

- Feb. 5, "Religion in Colonial America" — This session will focus on religion's role in England's North American colonies from their settlement through the Great Awakening of the mid-18th century. This session will examine the variety of church-state relationships developed from Massachusetts to the Carolinas and the central role religion played in colonial society.
- Feb. 12, "A Revolution in Church and State" — This session will explore the religious landscape of the Revolutionary Era and specifically address the rise of once marginal groups such as the Baptists and Meth-

odists and the competition for souls on the frontier. Revivals of the mid-18th Century set the stage for Americans to question religious and civil authorities.

- Feb. 19, "'I will never make way for the Devil': The Differing Presbyterian Theologies of the Founders of Greenville College and Tusculum Academy" — This session will concentrate on Hezekiah Balch and Samuel Witherspoon Doak. Although they were both Presbyterians, they held differing views of religious ideology.
- Feb. 26, "The Role of Presbyterians in the Education of Women in the 19th Century" – The 19th Century experienced an exponential rise in the number of colleges for women and previously all-male higher education institutions becoming co-educational. This movement was controversial. In an era when women could not vote and had little political and economic power, some saw the advanced education of women as wasteful or downright harmful. Tusculum admitted women for the first time in 1875.

All sessions are free, but Tusculum appreciates donations, organizers said in the release. Registrations are preferred for planning purposes.

To reserve a seat and lunch or for more information, call the Office of Institutional Advancement at 423-636-7303 or email kkidwell@tusculum.edu.

WEDDING SHOWER

Please plan to come together on Sunday, February 9th, in the fellowship hall, immediately following worship, for a special time, a wedding shower, for Ellison Berryhill and Megan Lock. A light lunch will be served and all are welcome. Ellison, son of Carolyn Berryhill and Doug Berryhill, grew up in our church and we are pleased to celebrate this happy occasion. Ellison and Megan will be married in a private ceremony in Nashville, March 21st. They are registered at Bed, Bath, & Beyond and welcome Lowe's gift cards.



WOMEN'S PRAYER BREAKFAST

The Women's Prayer Breakfast and study will meet on Saturday, February 8th, from 9:00-11:00 a.m., hosted by Del Deaton in the Church Parlor. If you have any questions, please contact Debby Rinehart (423-581-3135)



MEN'S PRAYER BREAKFAST

The next Men's Breakfast is scheduled for Tuesday, February 11th, at 8:00 a.m. at Owens Family Restaurant in Dandridge for a time of study and fellowship. We hope to see you here!



CHURCH STREET CAFÉ DELIVERY

We are in need of volunteers to help with our next delivery of food from Midwest FoodBank on Wednesday, February 12th at 12:00 p.m.. We will need help unloading, sorting and stocking the goods. If you have any questions, please contact Linda Noonkesser (865-216-0715).

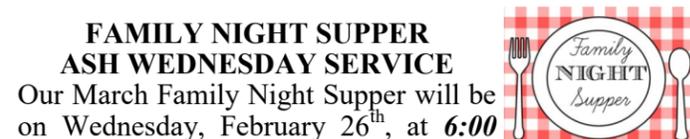
GRACE NOTES FLUTE CHOIR

We are pleased to announce that on Sunday, February 16th, the Grace Notes Flute Choir will be with us during our worship service. The Grace Notes Flute Choir is a group of professional and amateur flutists based in Maryville. This inspiring group of flutists, including our own Dr. Sue Swilley (Director of the group), is sure to enrich our worship experience together.



SIT 'N KNIT GROUP

On Friday, February 21st, at 7 p.m. we will be having the Sit 'n Knit gathering at the home of Eva Zirkle (1454 Royal Dr, Jefferson City). Anyone interested in learning to knit or crochet or come for fellowship is very welcome. Contact Debby (423-581-3135) or Gail Twine (865475-3323) for more information.



FAMILY NIGHT SUPPER ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE

Our March Family Night Supper will be on Wednesday, February 26th, at 6:00 p.m. Our Ash Wednesday Service will be in the Sanctuary immediately following dinner at 7:00 p.m. Please bring a covered dish to share. If you have any questions, please see Pam Kustermann

PRAYER CONCERNS

SPECIAL CONCERNS:

Lynn and Judy Watkins Judy Finley
Sara Piper John Rinehart
Kenneth Winslow Arlene Peck
Bill and JoAnne Vest The Washam Family
All members of the military and their families, especially those stationed overseas.

ILL AND RECOVERING:

John Thomas, friends of Dail and Ruth Meadows, who is being treated for esophageal cancer
John Blonder, friend of Carolyn Berryhill, who is under going cancer treatments
Karen Matijevich, friend of John Zirkle, who has been diagnosed with cancer
Emma Daniels, student at Joppa Elementary School, who was diagnosed with leukemia
Elaine G., friend of Martha Sanders, who is undergoing chemo and radiation treatments for breast cancer
Cindy B., friend of Martha Sanders, who has been diagnosed with Stage 4 B-Cell Lymphoma
Juanita Dykstra, who is undergoing cancer treatments

IN RESIDENTIAL FACILITIES:

CHANDLER HOUSE: C.R. Vest, Frank Woodard
SIGNATURE HEALTHCARE of JEFF CITY:
Paulette Bozeman, Pat Patton (Rm 117)
LIFECARE MORRISTOWN: Elsie Sorey (Rm 209)

B&G CORNER

February is quite the Super month. Super bowls, Super-bowls-of-caring, Super cold temps and a Super group of members for the 2020 B&G committee! Many thanks to all that have agreed to be on the committee this year, as well as to all of you that do so much behind-the-scenes. Our 2020 committee consists of Troy Evans (chair), Kerry Antoniewicz, Carolyn Berryhill, Kent Clouser, Libby Gardner, Mike Kustermann, Scott Kustermann, Max Lupton, and Dail Meadows. If you have any thoughts, concerns or questions about our building and grounds, please bring them up to any member or you can call/text Troy at 423.619.4386.

A few quick project updates: B&G is replacing two electrical panels at the behest of our insurance company. We have received a very generous donation to cover these costs and have received 3 bids for service. We will be choosing a contractor and moving forward on this project soon. Work will be scheduled on a Friday to minimize any disruptions to church activities. Otherwise, we continue to work on the ever-present water issues in the Fellowship Hall and are planning a couple projects to direct water from our downspouts away from the foundation.

We are blessed to have such a historic and beautiful place to worship, and our committee is honored with the task of caring for it. Have a Super February!

Highlights from Session (January 8)

- The session examined and joyously approved Shanna Carmack and Rick Pinkerton-Long for ordination and installation to the office of elder, and Carol Antoniewicz, Carolyn Berryhill, Matt Gowan, and Ted Folsom, who have been previously ordained, for installation to active service. The new elders were ordained and installed in worship on January 12.
- The session elected Ted Folsom as the 2020 Clerk, and elected the 2020 Commissioners to Presbytery: Shanna Carmack, Ted Folsom, Matt Gowan, and Rick Pinkerton-Long.
- Session approved adding FPC to the Safe Church Task Force, a group of churches in Jefferson County that have provided contact information to the Sheriff's Office in order to be notified in the event of any safety concerns in the area. The Health and Safety Subcommittee hopes to continue reviewing our security and safety protocols and procedures in the future.
- Session also restructured the Personnel Committee, proposing that members be drawn from each of the three classes of session, and a fourth member be nominated by the session as an at-large member from the congregation to serve for a three-year term. In this way, all members of the Personnel Committee would serve rotating and overlapping three-year terms. More information about committee members will be forthcoming.
- Session also began a discussion of how to engage the PC(USA)'s invitation to become a "Matthew 25 Church." According to the Presbyterian Mission website, "Matthew 25:31-46 calls all of us to actively engage in the world around us, so our faith comes alive and we wake up to new possibilities. Convicted by this passage, both the 222nd and 223rd General Assemblies (2016 and 2018) exhorted the PC(USA) to act boldly and compassionately to serve people who are hungry, oppressed, imprisoned or poor... We recognize Christ's urgent call to be a church of action, where God's love, justice and mercy shine forth and are contagious. And we rejoice how our re-energized faith can unite all Presbyterians for a common and holy purpose: our common identity to do mission." The three areas of ministry focus for the Matthew 25 initiative are: 1) building congregational vitality, 2) dismantling structural racism, and 3) eradicating systemic poverty. Look forward for more information about this initiative in months to come!

Highlights from the Annual Meetings of the Corporation and Congregation (January 15)

- At our January Family Night Supper, we held our annual Meetings of the Corporation and Congregation. At the Meeting of the Corporation, we re-elected our church officers: as President, Beth McGhee-Folsom; as Vice-President, John Zirkle; as Secretary, Matt Gowan; and as Treasurer, Lyle Juroff.
- At our Meeting of the Congregation, we received reports from the Pastor and all our committees. If you would like a copy of these reports, they are available upon request by email as well as in hardcopy form.
- Within the report of the Stewardship & Finance Committee, the Pastor's Terms of Call was reviewed and approved, accepting a 1.6% Cost of Living Adjustment to salary that was recommended by the Stewardship & Finance Committee for all members of staff.
- At the conclusion of the reports, we recognized a variety of ministries that were left unacknowledged within the committee reports themselves—a result of areas in our life together that function semi-autonomously from our committee structure. This was a procedural oversight that we hope to amend in our future meetings in order to recognize the full range of ministry currently feeding our congregation's life. These areas are as follows: inclusion of the slate of officers to be elected at the Meeting of the Corporation; reports from our subcommittees for Congregational Care, Creation Care, and Health and Safety; reports from our Music ministry, our Prayer Shawl ministry, our Young Adults ministry, the Going-On Group, the Women's and Men's Prayer Breakfasts, and Sit 'n' Knit. In addition, space might be provided to acknowledge the activities of Reformed University Fellowship (RUF) and other community partners. If you review our Annual Report packet and discover other areas in which we can improve the document for future use, please let us know!

AWAITING THE CALL

The question we must ask our heart is, "Am I comfortable under the eye of God? Or is God getting too close?" We are strange and lovely creatures. We can ache for God tremendously yet find ourselves getting nervous if God gets too close. After all, the closer God gets, the more we hear the call to be divinized. It is both exciting and frightening to hear that call.

—MacRina Wiederkehr

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
FEBRUARY						1 Eva Zirkle
2 Communion Sunday School 9:30-10:30 a.m. Worship Service 10:45-11:45 a.m. Souper Bowl of Caring	3 STEWARDSHIP & FINANCE 6:30 P.M.	4 RUF 6:00 P.M. BUILDING & GROUNDS 6:30 P.M.	5 MISSION COMMITTEE 4:00 P.M. Melissa Needs	6	7	8 WOMEN'S BREAKFAST 9:00 A.M.
9 Sunday School 9:30-10:30 a.m. Worship Service 10:45-11:45 a.m. WEDDING SHOWER 12:00 P.M.	10	11 MEN'S BREAKFAST 8:00 A.M. CHURCH STREET CAFÉ 5:00-6:30 P.M. RUF 6:00 P.M.	12 CSC TRUCK DELIVERY 12:00 P.M. SESSION 6:30 P.M.	13	14	15
16 Sunday School 9:30-10:30 a.m. Worship Service 10:45-11:45 a.m. GRACE NOTES FLUTE CHOIR Mike & Pam Kustermann	17 Liana Evans Lucas Kirkpatrick	18 CREATION CARE 3:30 P.M. RUF 6:00 P.M.	19 NEWSLETTER DEADLINE	20 Wayne King	21 SIT 'N KNIT GROUP 7:00 P.M. Helen Jolley	22 Harry Finley
23 Sunday School 9:30-10:30 a.m. Worship Service 10:45-11:45 a.m.	24 Bill & JoAnne Vest	25 CHURCH STREET CAFÉ 5:00-6:30 P.M. RUF 6:00 P.M.	26 FAMILY NIGHT SUPPER/ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE 6:00 P.M.	27	28	29

Did You Know?



Our website features not only current uploads of sermons, bulletins, announcements, and newsletters (see the "Activities" menu on our homepage), but also up-to-date information about our worship services for the coming month and our current Sunday School programming. Under the "Ministry" menu, select either Worship or Christian Education to see where we are headed next in these areas!

MISSION CORNER

Up front, folks, I need to be serious for a few minutes. I know what you are thinking...." OK, what is she going to ask of me now?" Let me explain before you zone out and move directly to the calendar of events. It is no secret that the population of our church has decreased in size. It is also no secret that our church, being a mission church and meetings-saturated organization, is task oriented which requires volunteers. I am guessing here, but I think am valid in saying that of all the committees, the Mission Committee requires the most volunteers to complete or coordinate its generated tasks. Kerry may disagree with me, and if so, I acquiesce to his superior knowledge and experience and will certainly take second place after Building and Grounds. But folks, with our decreasing pool of human resources, we must decrease workload to match the available workforce and/or strive to "work smarter not harder". We did this for the 2019 Mission Yard Sale, and now it is time to do it for the Mission Committee itself. We hope there are folks out there that would love to volunteer to help with mission related activities, but for a variety of very valid reasons cannot take on any long-term commitments. Valid reasons such as; childcare limitations, work requirements especially when both parents of a family work, family member care requirements, already being tasked or overtasked to the point of burnout, must be considered when we ask for volunteers. To this end, your Mission Committee this year is going to move in a slightly different direction from simply asking you to join our Committee, or a Church Street Café team, or the 2020 Mission Yard Sale task force. If you feel moved, however, to do that, please don't let me stop you. We would love to have you. This year, to make it easier for folks to volunteer, we are going to set up a list of time-restricted tasks so that anyone can volunteer for as little or as much time as are able or want to. A calendar of tasks including dates and times will be provided so that you can simply sign up and show up. No strings attached. No long-term commitments. Build your own schedule around your personal commitments. Regardless of whether you have a little time or a lot of time to share it's OK. We can use whatever you can donate. Consider it a volunteer's smorgasbord. Pick something one month, if you don't like it, move on to something else. We are in the process now of creating this list. Watch for it, hopefully, next month, and if the spirit moves you, consider signing up for a task. Who knows? You might even like it and want to stay for a while.

FINANCE REPORT FINAL DECEMBER 2019

		YEAR-TO-DATE (YTD) INCOME/EXPENSES		
			YTD ACTUAL	YTD BUDGET
DECEMBER 1	\$3,209.50			
DECEMBER 8	\$4,743.00			
DECEMBER 15	\$1,749.00			
DECEMBER 22	\$2,806.00	INCOME	\$197,012.10	\$201,351.00
DECEMBER 29	\$1,790.00	EXPENSES	\$200,514.28	\$213,132.00
TOTAL	\$14,297.50	YTD ACTUAL INCOME OVER EXPENSES:		
		(\$3,502.70)		

(\$17,430.41 is needed monthly to meet budget)

FINANCE REPORT — JANUARY 2020

MONTHLY INCOME		YEAR-TO-DATE (YTD) INCOME/EXPENSES			
			ACTUAL	YTD PRORATED	YTD BUDGET
JANUARY 6	\$41,536.00				
JANUARY 12	\$1,961.00	INCOME	\$44,621.00	\$10,044.33**	\$15,583.75
JANUARY 19	\$1,124.00	EXPENSES	\$12,213.59		\$16,329.33
JANUARY 26	N/A				
TOTAL	\$44,621.00	YTD ACTUAL INCOME OVER EXPENSES: \$28,987.70			
		YTD PRORATED INCOME OVER EXPENSES: -\$2,169.26			

(\$16,329.33 is needed monthly to meet budget)

**** Some members pay their entire yearly pledges in January. This number has been adjusted to reflect what actual giving through January would be, if completed yearly pledges, were divided out monthly. If you have questions, please see Heather.**