



# First Presbyterian Church Newsletter

**Our Mission: Connecting with God and sharing the Good News  
of Jesus Christ with the community.**

## **FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

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### **Church Staff:**

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**Brittany Haywood**

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Accompanists

**Sean Russell**

Sound Room Technician

**Ana Ortiz**

**Kira Sewell**

Nursery

### ***Inside . . .***

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- 3 - Church Calendar
- 4 - Puzzles &  
Humor
- 5 - Worship Volunteer  
Schedule
- 6 - September Birthdays,  
Finances

### ***From our Session***

*Earnestly keep praying.* I believe that's a quote from the Bible in Corinthians, though I'll need to look up its exact whereabouts. It's what we want everyone to do. Come to God in prayer .... whether it's community prayer during worship .... joining with a friend, neighbor (or stranger) in prayer .... or taking a quiet moment alone with God. As a church with many challenges in front of us, many prayers are needed. Our Worship Team and Session believe we need to encourage prayer and so, beginning with the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday in September and the third Sunday of each month through December, our worship service will include a special emphasis on prayer.

Did you ever set out with a goal in mind and then somewhere along the way run into an obstacle or a difficulty that makes achieving that goal seem almost impossible? All of a sudden you find yourself saying, "What am I doing here?" or "Why did I ever think I could do this?" Of course we have. Sometimes all we need is a little encouragement to get back on track; sometimes we need to redefine the goal or challenge; and sometimes we may need to take a step back and rethink the entire process. And that's not the way we planned it.

Sometimes discouragement and disappointment have a way of

getting in our way. Of messing up our plans. So here is where you can help. We need your encouragement, support, participation and certainly ***your prayers***. We have challenges in front of us. We have a team looking for an interim pastor and another team in search of our next permanent pastor; we have new elders about to join the leadership team; we have programs to plan, etc., etc. Among other things, we definitely need prayers. And yet, as believers, we know that prayers aren't always answered in the way we expect. So, it's a rough row to hoe at times. Support us, encourage us, participate with us, and then take it a step further. Could be someone sitting next to you who needs a word of encouragement or perhaps a word of prayer right now. Pass along God's blessing to them.

*And earnestly keep praying.*

*Jocelyn Bolles*  
Clerk of Session





### After School Food Program

Beginning September 5, Epiphany Enrichment Programs will return to distribute meals to students after school in Fellowship Hall between 4 and 5 p.m. on school days only. We began this arrangement during the 2022-23 school year and will continue it for the 2023-24 school year. Meals prepared elsewhere are distributed to students along with a container of milk. For the most part, students pick up the meal and take it with them. A few students sit at tables in Fellowship Hall to enjoy their meal. As an addition to the meal, we provide apples, tangerines and/or fruit snacks.

Naturally dependent upon the number of children who come and request a meal (which can vary from 5 to 30 daily), our cost for the fruit and fruit snacks varies as well, though we have set a budget of a \$50 weekly maximum. If you are interested in helping with this cost, either by providing a bag of apples or tangerines or through a monetary donation, we would greatly appreciate it. Bags of apples and/or tangerines can be left in the kitchen. If you make an on-line or check donation, please indicate it is for the "after-school food program".

Thank you for your support.  
Session

God is working,  
**even when we can't see it**  
and don't understand.





# FIRST Presbyterian Church

September 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday																																																																																				
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9:15 AM Sunday School for All Ages 10:30 AM Worship Service <b>Congregational Meeting to Elect Elders</b>	Office Closed for  <b>Labor Day</b>		7 PM Choir Rehearsal	 6:30 PM Worship Planning Meeting		 <b>Men's Fellowship 9 AM</b>																																																																																				
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9:15 AM Sunday School for All Ages 10:30 AM Worship Service <b>Installation of Elders</b> Back to School Bash after church	7:00 PM Member Care Meeting  <b>Patriot Day</b>	7 PM Women's Fellowship 	7 PM Choir Rehearsal		 <b>Newsletter Deadline</b>	 <b>Men's Fellowship 9 AM</b>																																																																																				
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9:15 AM Sunday School for All Ages 10:30 AM Worship Service <b>Prayer Service</b> <b>3rd Sunday Potluck</b>			4:00 PM Parking Lot Ministry 7 PM Choir Rehearsal																																																																																							
24	25	26	27	28	29	30																																																																																				
9:15 AM Sunday School for All Ages 10:30 AM Worship Service	<div>           The Sandwich Project  <hr/>           Bring your Sandwiches for the Homeless         </div>		7 PM Choir Rehearsal	 6:30 PM Session Meeting																																																																																						

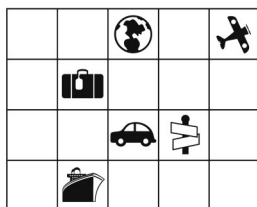
# Puzzle & Humor Page



## Wherever we go

No matter where we journey, God always protects us.

Directions: Use the map and compass to answer the clues. Then write the boxed letters in order in the spaces below to complete Psalm 121:8, NIV.



**Start at the SHIP.**

Move 1 space N, 3 spaces E, and 2 spaces N ☐ \_ \_ \_

**Start at the WORLD.**

Move 1 space W, 1 space S, and 1 space SE ☐ \_ \_

**Start at the SUITCASE.**

Move 1 space NE, 2 spaces S, and 1 space E ☐ \_ \_ \_

**Start at the PLANE.**

Move 2 spaces SW, 1 space S, and 1 space W ☐ \_ \_

**Start at the CAR.**

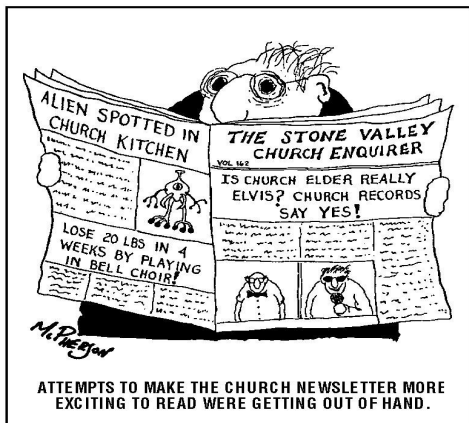
Move 1 space E, 1 space N, and 1 space NW ☐ \_ \_ \_

**Start at the SIGN.**

Move 1 space SE, 1 space W, and 2 spaces NW ☐ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_

The \_ ORD will watch ove \_ your comi \_ g and go \_ ng  
both no \_ and for \_ vermore. Psalm 121:8, NIV

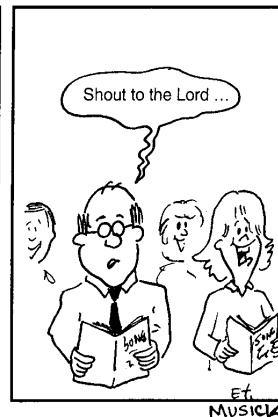
Answer: plane, car, sign, ship, world, suitcase. The LORD will watch over your coming and going both now and forevermore. Psalm 121:8, NIV



JOE ON SATURDAY



JOE ON SUNDAY



## Bible Quiz

Paul declares that nothing "will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord." Which of the following does Paul specify as unable to block God's love?

- A. death; life
- B. angels; demons
- C. present; future
- D. height; depth
- E. all of the above



Answer: E (See Romans 8:38-39, NIV.)

## Bible Quiz

Fill in the blank to complete this verse from a psalm of thanksgiving: "Bless the LORD, my \_\_\_\_\_, and forget not all his benefits"

- A. people
- B. soul
- C. heart
- D. children



Answer: B (See Psalm 103:2, ESV.)



**Worship Volunteer Schedule  
September 2023**

<b>September 3</b>	<b>Greeters</b> <b>Tellers</b> <b>End of Service Prayer</b> <b>COMMUNION Servers</b> <b>COMMUNION Prep</b>	Connie Steger Jocelyn Bolles & Margaret Lewis Nancy Bergman Dub Guthrie & Connie Steger TBD
<b>September 10</b>	<b>Greeters</b> <b>Tellers</b> <b>End of Service Prayer</b>	Sharon Ingram Joan Brown & Teresa Reed Darlene Cowand
<b>September 17</b>	<b>Greeters</b> <b>Tellers</b> <b>End of Service Prayer</b>	Dudley Austin Lori Glover & Jaime Cordova Lori Glover & Brenda Everett
<b>September 24</b>	<b>Greeters</b> <b>Tellers</b> <b>End of Service Prayer</b>	Jocelyn Bolles Brenda Everett & Linda Simons Brittany Haywood


"I believe that God is in me as the sun  
is in the color and fragrance of a  
flower,  
the Light in my darkness, the Voice in my  
silence."

— Helen Keller

# September Birthdays

If we've missed your birthday and you would like us to include it in this "birthday" section of the newsletter, please contact us at (972) 298-3043 or info@fpcd.org. Thank you.

- Charlotte Fithian, Sept 1
- Treva Jones, Sept 6
- Ana Ortiz, Sept 11
- Ginger Hertenstein Conley, Sept 14
- Jack Pegues, Sept 14
- Tori Favors, Sept 20
- Caden Thorpe, Sept 21
- Sharon Ingram, Sept 22
- TJ Epperson, Sept 23
- Aiden Gaskins, Sept 26
- Beau Gaskins, Sept 26
- Marlene Skinner, Sept 26
- Margaret Lewis, Sept 28



2023 MINISTRY RECEIPTS UPDATE

	Receipts	Expenditures
July	\$ 19,893	\$ 15,319
Jan—Jul	\$143,913	\$ 179,215