

Reflections From Visioning Day

Following morning worship, June 29, a time of visioning was held in the Bethesda Community Hall. Nearly twenty of our members spent about two hours in carefully reflecting about our congregation past, present and future. It was exciting to hear the thoughts and recommendations from each participant. We all agreed that FPC is a wonderful place to worship and serve. Below are some of the highlights of our time dreaming about the future of our church. We concluded our time with a service of covenant and communion. We hope to have another event like this soon.

Visioning Day

Without a vision the people lose restraint;
but happy is the one who follows instruction. (Proverbs 29:18)

FIVE INSTRUCTIONS
FOR THE CHURCH

- 1. WORSHIP
- 2. MINISTRY
- 3. EVANGELISM
- 4. FELLOWSHIP
- 5. DISCIPLESHIP



Catch the Excitement!
Witness the Joy!
Shape the Vision!

STRENGTHS OF
THE CHURCH

- ▶ Worship
- ▶ Preach Jesus
- ▶ Teaching the Word of God
- ▶ Children
- ▶ Music
- ▶ Outreach
- ▶ Staff
- ▶ Volunteers
- ▶ AV/Media
- ▶ Church Facility
- ▶ Christian Ed
- ▶ Fellowship
- ▶ Our Heritage (206 + years)
- ▶ Financial Stability
- ▶ Location
- ▶ Multi-Generational
- ▶ Gospel Centered
- ▶ Sew Blessed
- ▶ Forward Thinking/Visioning
- ▶ Pastor/Open Door
- ▶ Welcoming
- ▶ Website

A FEW
SUGGESTIONS

- Leadership Development
- Birthday Potluck (church birthday)
- Men's Evening Bible Study (same time as Dames & Dinner Bible study)
- International Potluck
- Community Prayer Box
- Game Night
- Increase communication with the community
- Add Deacons for leadership development
- Community Garden
- Pass out water during Makers Market
- Single Men and Single Women ministry
- Help Elderly with home projects

Notes

GOALS AND NEXT STEPS

- 1. Develop ministry for men
- 2. Prioritize our mission outreach
- 3. Children/Youth involvement in worship
- 4. Participate in community events
- 5. Mission Minute from pulpit on Sunday
- 6. Strengthen our continuing education
- 7. Transparency of Session requirements/responsibilities
- 6. FOLLOW THROUGH WITH PLANS!



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Church Office Hours
Monday — Thursday
8 a.m. — Noon
office@fpcaky.org

STAFF

Rev. Bill Pollack
Minister

Max Jackson
Choirmaster/
Organist

Nanette Pollack
Administrative
Assistant

Glen Thomas
Facilities Manager

Kara Adkins
Nursery Attendant

SESSION MEMBERS

Mitch Hall
President of
Congregation

Kelly Hanni
Secretary of
Congregation/
Clerk of Session

Cathy Wilson
Treasurer

2026
Mitch Hall*
Jan Holbrook
Ryan Whitman*

2027
Lee McCloud*
J.T. Norris*
Jimmy Hall

2028
Teresa Cassity
Kelly Hanni *
Donna Jones

*2nd term of service

HEARTBEATS

A monthly publication of First Presbyterian Church

Volume 7 | Issue 9 | September 2025

HELLO
September

Though the fig tree does not blossom and no fruit is on the vines; though the produce of the olive fails and the fields yield no food; though the flock is cut off from the fold and there is no herd in the stalls, ¹⁸ yet I will rejoice in the LORD; I will exult in the God of my salvation ¹⁹ GOD, the Lord, is my strength; He makes my feet like the feet of a deer and makes me tread upon the heights. (Habakkuk 3:17-19)

In the journey of life there come times when all is not well. The beauty turns to uncomeliness. The joy fades to a mere remembrance of good times. Our smiles are replaced with tears. It ceases to be fun. However, in the midst of difficulties, we can find that we have reason to be thankful. We have cause to celebrate. The prophet reminds us that no matter what, there is reason to be glad. It is possible to be restored in the promise of life. He reveals this hope with one word! I encourage you to read the scripture above and see if you discover the word that causes the prophet to have confidence in his future.

Okay. Have you found the word? I believe you did. It is the word YET. Following a hopeless visual when lack is a plenty, the prophet still has reason to be encouraged. In short, he has been able to use the word YET to imply an emphatic YES! This is an amazing transformation that can be our experience as well.

Being a part of the family here at First Presbyterian Church, Ashland, Kentucky, has given me the opportunity to grow in my faith and knowledge of God. Through the nearly six years of being your pastor, I have experienced the outflow of love, prayers and support of each of you. You have been such an encouragement to Nanette and me. You have truly been our YET to YES moment in this time of our lives. There is no better place for us to worship and serve than right here with you. I hope you feel the same about our church family.

So, regardless of where you are in your life right now; look with the vision of the prophet who sees a time when things are not favorable YET has hope. God wants to be, and is, our strength in times of uncertainty and lack. He promises to fill us with His strength for the journey before us. He wants to provide for our every need. He wants each of us to feel His forever presence as we walk with Him. He wants to add His blessings to all we do in His name. He wants to share His hope and promise to the countless people whom He loves. He wants to do all this through you and me.

I am excited, encouraged and empowered for the future of FPC. Together, let's make a difference in the life of our communities and change the YET to YES for others!

Pastor Bill

With Sympathy

We offer our Christian love and sympathy to the family of **Mary Patterson**. She passed away August 8. Please keep her family in your thoughts and prayers.

Memorial Gifts Given

Memorial gifts were given in memory of **Kim Whitman** (designated for the organ repair fund) by Betty Craddock; Bill Gesling; Mitch & Lee Hall; Jane Justice; Kathy Hermansdorfer; Andrew & Donna Jones; William & Kelly Julian; Cindy Lambert along with lifelong friends and classmates: Memorial Methodist Church; Nancy Payne; Cathy & Larry Wilson

Memorial gifts were given in memory of **Mary Patterson** (designated for the backpack ministry) by Julie & Craig Browning; Karen Dansby; Tammy Dobbins; Marc L. Fleischauer; Nancy A. Jameson; Jane Justice; Chelsea Kross; Sharon Mayo; Pastor Bill & Nanette Pollack; Gary Schetrompf; Christi Sims; Greg & Geri Willis

Dress a Girl Around the World – Volunteers Needed!



Dress a Girl Around the World has distributed over two million dresses to girls in 90 countries, including the U.S.A. Our Sew Blessed group has contributed more than 100 dresses so far (we contributed 55 dresses in 2024). This is our fourth year participating in this meaningful mission. We’re currently looking for seamstresses to help us sew dresses for girls in need. All completed dresses will be blessed during Morning Worship on **Sunday, September 14**. If you have any questions or would like to get involved, please

see Geri or Nanette. To learn more about the Dress a Girl Around the World organization, visit dressagirlaroundtheworld.com.

Happy Birthday Max!

Please join us on **Sunday, September 21** as we celebrate the birthday of our own Max Jackson. There will be a reception immediately following Morning Worship in the Narthex. A basket will be available for cards and/or other expressions of appreciation.



Poage Landing Days Worship, Sunday, September 28

We will gather for worship **HERE** in the sanctuary beginning at **9 a.m.** The community worship service is hosted by House of Grace and begins at 11 a.m. on the Main Stage. There will be NO Sunday School on the 28th. Parking should not be an issue for this service. Hope to see you then.

Congratulations Glen!



We are delighted to share some wonderful news with you all! Our very own Glen was presented with the prestigious Golden Apple Award from WSAZ on August 18th. This recognition is truly well-deserved and highlights Glen's incredible dedication. Hager Elementary specifically commended Glen for consistently going above and beyond to keep the school clean. They emphasized that his meticulous efforts directly contribute to the well-being and academic success of their students and staff, creating a positive and healthy learning environment. We are incredibly proud of Glen's hard work and commitment. Way to go, Glen! We are so proud of you and grateful for everything you do.

Notes of Gratitude

♥ *With all of our hearts we thank you for the love, support, flowers, and prayers during this time. We love you all! (The family of Kimberly Whitman)*

♥ *On behalf of the Ashland Blazer Youth Services Center, thank you for your generous donation of food, hygiene items, and school supplies. Your kindness and continued support make a meaningful difference in the lives of our students, helping us meet their basic needs so they can focus on learning and growth. We are truly grateful for your partnership in serving our school community. (Amanda Hetherington, ABYSC Director)*



SEPTEMBER

Sunday Morning Study: Sundays, 9:28 p.m.
Armchair Theologians: Sundays, 9:30 a.m.
Sunday Morning Worship: 10:50 a.m.
Chancel Choir Rehearsal: Wednesdays, 6:45 p.m.
Men’s Bible Study: Wednesdays, 7 a.m., Bob Evans
Tai Chi Classes: Tuesdays, 5p.m. and Saturdays, 11 a.m.
Zumba Classes: Wednesdays, 5 p.m. and Saturdays, 9:30 a.m.
Paper Angels: Thursday, Sept. 4, 1 p.m.
Ministry Teams Meeting: Monday, Sept. 8, 5:30 p.m.
Handbell Rehearsal Resumes: Wednesday, Sept. 10, 5:45 p.m.
Men’s Lunch Bunch: Thursday, Sept. 11, 11:30 a.m.
Horizons Bible Study: Thursday, Sept. 11, 5:15 p.m.
Sew Blessed: Monday, Sept. 15, 6 p.m.
Finance Ministry Team: Tuesday, Sept. 16, 5:30 p.m.
Paper Angels: Thursday, Sept. 18, 1 p.m.
Dames + Dinner Bible Study: Thursday, Sept. 18, 5:30 p.m.
Max’s Birthday Celebration: Sunday, Sept. 21, Noon
Empty Nesters: Monday, Sept. 22, 5:30 p.m.
Session Meeting: Tuesday, Sept. 23, 5:30 p.m.
Men’s Lunch Bunch: Thursday, Sept. 25, 11:30 a.m.

Special Dates

Labor Day, September 1
National Grandparents Day, September 7
Patriot Day, September 11
First Day of Autumn, September 22

Operation Christmas Child



You may choose to fill your own box or donate to the monthly cause each month. A schedule is provided below, and the donation box is in the Narthex. The OCC boxes will be blessed on November 9, 2025. Questions, contact Donna Jones.

September: wash cloths, combs, brushes, toothbrushes, fun band-aids, nail files; *October:* small stuffed animals, craft kits, yo-yos, kaleidoscopes, Slinkys, balls; *November:* Money for postage.



SEPTEMBER

birthdays & anniversaries

Charlie Holbrook–September 1
Heather Shay–September 1
Kevin Shay–September 1
Brooke Gehringer–September 2
Fetima McGill–September 8
Grant Weston–September 8
Calvin Riggs–September 12
Elsie Clark–September 14
Larry Wilson–September 16
Max Jackson–September 19
Bonnie Pettijohn–September 19
Kaitlyn Stevens–September 19
Theodore Martin–September 19
Jane Ann Goodwin–September 22
Lois Jackson–September 26
Eli Scott–September 26
Gretchen Dillon–September 26
Evelyn Goodwin–September 28

Wedding Anniversaries
Jessica & Brook Goodwin–September 1
Judy & Don Lilly–September 6
Blythe & Greg Weston–September 7
Holli & Keith McClelland–September 15

Ashland Men’s Bible Study
CornerStone Methodist Church
2203 29th Street Ashland
Monday Evenings 6:30-8 p.m.



It will begin Monday, September 8
Contact Info: Ish Stevens
606.571.6032 or ishstevens@windstream.net We invite you to join us for a regular bible study for men 18 years and older. This is a chance for Christian men to gather together in God’s Word and share learning and fellowship. This is a Christian “non-denominational” class. We ask that participants refrain from “political” discussions or criticism of other denominations. We will have an opening prayer with rotating music or devotions, followed by small group discussion and prayer, and conclude with a rotating devotion or brief large group discussion. The material for this year will be based on the *Engaging God’s Word* series, starting with Phillipians. You can order your own book from Amazon or the church can order it tax-free, this is the only cost. We do ask that, when possible, you would consider an offering to our host church. We hope to see you there!