



# HEARTBEATS



A monthly publication of First Presbyterian Church

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Nanette Pollack  
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Nursery Attendant

## SESSION MEMBERS

Mitch Hall  
President of  
Congregation

Kelly Hanni  
Secretary of  
Congregation/  
Clerk of Session

Cathy Wilson  
Treasurer

2023  
Judy Fannin  
Mitch Hall  
Ryan Whitman

2024  
Cathy Wilson\*  
J.T. Norris  
Breck Tarr

2025  
Kelly Hanni  
Kim Whitman  
Geri Willis

\*2nd term of service



## Reason to Celebrate By Rev. Bill Pollack

*"O give thanks to the LORD, for He is good; His steadfast love endures forever!" (Psalm 118:1)*

As you may well be aware, 2022 has not been the best of times for the Pollack household. Beginning December 30, 2021 when Nanette was shown the need for surgery the medical dilemma of our lives was set in motion. Then in January, I had an ERCP performed at KDMC and was told I had Ampullary cancer and would need a Whipple surgery (done April 4 in UKMC, Lexington) that would excuse me from the pulpit for six weeks. Oh, how we missed FPC during this time. Prior to my surgery while visiting family in Colorado, I had a relapse of jaundice and was admitted into the #1 GI hospital in Colorado just down the street from our family. I experienced my first ambulance ride (2 more to come). So to recap— 2 ERCP procedures, Whipple surgery, a return to UKMC for another surgery due to an infection, surgery for the implant of a port for future chemotherapy and a blood clot in my right leg which was diagnosed by our Primary Care Physician. I have recently completed my fourth infusion with eight more to go! On top of this Nanette had breast surgery on June 28 and will begin radiation treatment soon for her Ductal Carcinoma. Following this treatment, she will take a pill for 5 years. This for someone who has never been on medication. In a nutshell this has been our 2022, so far.

However, let me tell you some great news! We have received great care and compassion by all the physicians, nurses and especially our

Church family! Through your prayers, acts of kindnesses in meals, cards, calls and texts (and a flock greeting us on our return from UKMC) we realized just how grateful we are to be a part of the FPC family and back in Kentucky.

In our recent devotional reading through the Psalms, we came to Psalm 118. It is a Psalm celebrating the "steadfast love of the Lord that endures forever." It is repeated several times – Let Israel, the house of Aaron, the people who fear the Lord – celebrate the steadfast love of the Lord that endures forever. We added the Pollack household to this celebratory statement. I hope you will add yours as well.

My point is simply this – life may be difficult, hard and downright devastating to us in ways we never expected; but we have a compassionate loving Father in heaven who feels our hurt and understands our pain. His desire is for us to lean on Him in these times when we feel all is hopeless. In Him we have help! In Him we have hope! In Him we have a friend who never will leave us forsaken! To Him be the glory.

I leave you (us) with this promise from God – **"Have I not commanded you: be strong and courageous, do not be afraid, do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go!"** (Joshua 1:9)

Nanette and I covenant to be in prayer with and for you in this time of your lives. We are grateful to be in ministry alongside you. Together, we are going to see amazing works of the Lord. God is good and His steadfast love endures forever from the past, in the present and throughout all our remaining days. **This is a reason to celebrate!** ✝

**Memorial Gifts Given**

Memorial gifts were given in memory of:

† **Pollyanne Sager** by Jan Winans

† **Ira Smith** by Max & Lois Jackson; Jan Winans

**With Sympathy**

We offer our love and sympathy to the family of Pollyanne Sager. She passed away Friday, August 12, 2022. Please keep her family in your prayers.

# September

**Sunday School**, 9:30 a.m.

**Men's Bible Study**, Wednesdays, 7 a.m., Bob Evans

**Chancel Choir Rehearsal**, Wednesdays, 6:45 p.m.

**Men's Lunch Bunch**, Thursday, Sept. 8, 11:30 p.m.

**Ministry Team Meetings**, Monday, Sept. 12, 5:30 p.m.

**Dames for Dinner**, Thursday, Sept. 15, 5:30—7 p.m.

**Sew Blessed**, Monday, Sept. 19, 6 – 8 p.m.

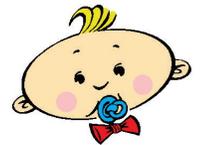
**Finance Meeting**, Tuesday, Sept. 20, 5:30 p.m.

**Men's Lunch Bunch**, Thursday, Sept. 22, 11:30 a.m.

**Session Meeting**, Tuesday, Sept. 27, 5:30 p.m.

**It's a Boy!**

Congratulations to Brett & Brooke Gehringer and family of the birth of Ransom Brooks. He was born August 20. He weighed 9.15 lbs. and was 22 inches long. Blessings to the family!



**Charles Holbrook**: September 1

**Heather Shay**: September 1

**Kevin Shay**: September 1

**Brooke Gehringer**: September 2

**Barry Barbour**: September 5

**Calvin Riggs**: September 12

**Larry Wilson**: September 16

**Max Jackson**: September 19

**Bonnie Pettijohn**: September 19

**Kaitlyn Stevens**: September 19

**Jane Ann Goodwin**: September 22

**Lois Jackson**: September 26

**Eli Scott**: September 26

**Birthday Celebration!**

Please join us on **Sunday, September 18** as we celebrate the birthday of our own Max Jackson. There will be a reception immediately following Morning Worship in the Narthex. There will be a basket for cards.

**Labor Day Reflections**

Labor Day brings to mind picnics, cookouts and family gatherings. Falling on the first Monday in September, it marks the unofficial end of summer and the beginning of a new school year. But the holiday was created in 1882 to honor the social and economic contributions of American workers. It's easy to take for granted the ability to work and be paid well. But times have changed during the past few years, with many people still struggling with unemployment and underemployment. During our holiday celebrations this year, let's give thanks for the jobs we have, pray for those who aren't as fortunate and offer words of encouragement or help to someone who needs it.

## member spotlight



We are pleased to recognize Jan Holbrook as our member spotlight for September. Most of us know her love for the community and First Presbyterian Church. She currently serves as the Committee Chairperson of the Neighborhood located on Carter Avenue here in Ashland. She is Chairperson of the FPC Personnel Ministry Team. She is an avid photographer of outdoor life. She just returned from sneaking up on some Alaskan Brown bears. She is a Law Partner with Dinsmore & Shohl LLP in Huntington, WV. She is married to Charlie Holbrook and together they remain very active here in the Church. Jan, we are grateful for all you are and do!