

# FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH TIDINGS

September  
2022

## A Message From Pastor Jen

I knew I was in trouble when God was relentless. What am I talking about you ask? Well, let me tell you a story. I have been praying over scriptures and asking God to speak to me as many pastors do when it comes to worship. I prayed and prayed upon arrival to Madisonville. I met with the worship team and laid out what I thought God was directing me to for the first several Sundays. The passages all fell together into a larger context around faith. Week one was around how people of faith act by understanding the promises of God. Week two was this past Sunday (Aug 14) as we looked at how faith helps us discern the will of God by using our Father's teachings to give us better eyes of faith.

As the Spirit selected passages through my studies weeks ago, I didn't think much about the text selection. As time got closer and closer, as I studied more, prayed more, and wrestled with God's Word, I got more and more anxious. It became clear what God wanted us all to hear and therefore I wanted to run for the hills. I begged, ran from God, and finally went to the lectionary (a collection of passages that are on a three-year rotation that flow with the church calendar) in search of new passages that might not be as terrifying. Well, would you believe that the lectionary had the same passages?!

I buckled in, held on, prayed like crazy, and tried to be faithful. It was unnerving, challenging, and

stretched my faith but I think part of the reason that it is so difficult is because it is a hard passage and message for me to hear too. The Good News? Christ's redemptive love and grace goes with us as we try to be more faithful -even when we mess up.

Thanks be to God.

Pastor Jen



## Find Us On Social Media

Facebook— newfpc  
Twitter— @newfpc  
Instagram— @newfpc  
Website— www.newfpc.com  
YouTube— newfpc

Service Time:

10:15 AM Worship Service

First Presbyterian Church  
260 W. McLaughlin Ave  
Madisonville, KY 42431  
(270) 821-6426

**Psalm 103:1-8**



Crowned with mercy  
 Bless the LORD, O my soul,  
 and all that is within me,  
 bless his holy name.  
 Bless the LORD, O my soul,  
 and do not forget all his benefits—  
 who forgives all your iniquity,  
 who heals all your diseases,  
 who redeems your life from the Pit,  
 who crowns you with steadfast love and mercy,  
 who satisfies you with good as long as you live  
 so that your youth is renewed like the eagle's. (Ps. 103:1-5)

**Additional Readings**

**Numbers** 15:32-41

**Hebrews** 12:3-17

**Hymn Suggestion**

**Ten Thousand Reasons**

**Prayer:**

*Redeeming God, your mercy brings healing, forgiveness, and renewal where our lives have fallen into the pit. Summon all that is within us to bless your name, remembering daily the power of your love in our lives.* -Bread For The Day, Daily Bible Readings and Prayers

**If God be for us, who can be against us? Romans 8:31**

One of the most comforting truths, yet perhaps mysterious, is God's sovereign control over any harmful acts of others toward us. He can and does restrain such acts; we do not always understand why such acts prevail at one time and are restrained at another. However, we can be assured that through God's infinite wisdom and love, our good is the ultimate intension.

A familiar classic illustration is found in the story of Joseph. When Joseph's brothers decided to sell him into slavery God did not restrain them. Neither did He restrain Potiphar's wife when she maliciously and

unjustly accused him. But in God's time He turned those circumstances around. God was orchestrating the wicked acts of people exactly as He planned in order to accomplish His purpose through Joseph. In the end, Joseph could look back over all the difficult events and say to his brothers, "You intended to harm me, but God intended it for good to accomplish what is now being done, the saving of many lives"(Genesis 50:20) God is never the author of sin, but sin can never thwart His plans. Paul said, "For everything that was written in the past was written to teach us,

so that through endurance and the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope" (Romans 15:4).

—Danny Byrum



## Online Giving Now Available

Go to the **First Presbyterian Church** website home page at [www.newfpc.com](http://www.newfpc.com). At the top right of home page find and click the three (3) parallel lines in the top right corner. Go to the very bottom of this list to find **Online Giving**. Click **Online Giving**:

1. Enter amount you want to give
2. Click one:
  - Give to General Fund
  - Give to Building Fund
  - Give to Tornado Relief Fund
3. Click one:
  - Give this One time
  - Give this Weekly
  - Give this Every 2 Weeks

- Give this Monthly
  - Give this Yearly
  - 4. Give by credit/debit card or give by ACH bank transfer
  - 5. Type your name and email and bank or card information.
- You will receive confirmation via email.

If you need additional information please call the church office (270)821-6426

Thank you for supporting the ministry and mission of the First Presbyterian Church in Madisonville, Ky.



## FINANCES AT A GLANCE—SEPTEMBER

Income	\$28,651.54	YTD Income	\$158,281.92
Expense	<u>-\$30,856.53</u>	YTD Expense	<u>-\$161,625.73</u>
Net	-\$2,204.99	YTD Net	-\$3,343.81

Undesignated		YTD Undesignated	
Income	\$10,051.75	Income	\$118,806.22
Expense	<u>-\$30,136.44</u>	Expense	<u>-\$147,246.42</u>
Net	-\$20,084.70	Net	-\$28,440.20

Designated		YTD Designated	
Income	\$18,599.80	Income	\$39,475.70
Expense	<u>-\$720.09</u>	Expense	<u>-\$14,379.31</u>
Net	\$17,879.71	Net	\$25,096.39

Operating Funds	
Beginning Balance	\$139,474.55
Ending Balance	\$118,603.07
Investment Account	\$201,359.17

## NEW CHURCH OFFICE HOURS



**The church office hours will be Monday-Friday from 8:30a-12:30p.**

Unless there are unforeseen circumstances, someone will be present to assist you and the community during those hours. If you call outside of those hours, you may need to leave a message and your call will be returned the next business day.

Having said that, if you have a pastoral need or want to let the church know of someone else's urgent pastoral need, please text and call (704)519-9091.

We are excited to welcome church member, Madeline Stocke to step in to help with some of tasks in the office for the next 30 days on a part-time temporary

basis. This will give us a chance to evaluate the workload and needs of the desk more accurately for the permanent position.

It is our desire to keep this transition as smooth as possible and we so appreciate your understanding. If you have questions, feel free to reach out.

## CHURCH WORK DAY SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 3

### CHURCH CLEAN UP FIRST SATURDAY OF THE MONTH

On the first Saturday of each month we meet at 8:00 AM for coffee and donuts. We walk around the church grounds, pick up, clean up, and pray over the building. All are welcome!

For details or questions, contact Larry Wilson or Jim Howard.

—Building and Grounds Committee

*“Alone we  
can do so  
little;  
together we  
can do so  
much.”  
-Helen  
Keller*

## HOW TO JOIN IN THE WORK OF THE SPIRIT



- Pray for FPC, those on the prayer list, people impacted by the ministries of the church, pray for a Spirit of openness
- Invite someone to worship with you
- Speak directly to Pastor Jen if you have concerns or fun ideas. No idea is bad!
- Write a note to someone you haven't seen telling them that you are thinking about them
- Donate any of the following items: yarn, Playdoh, Legos, butcher paper, bean bag chair or camping chair, a Cricut the church could use occasionally

## A LETTER FROM OUR NEW PASTOR

August 8, 2022

Church Family:

It is hard to believe that my family and I have been here for two weeks now! As I reflect on the last six months, I'm keenly aware of the ways in which God was preparing us all for the journey ahead. I remember sitting on zoom calls with the Pastor Nominating Committee (PNC) back in early 2022 and thinking about the loveliness of the committee and their impressive stamina for finding the right fit for FPC. After visiting Madisonville and engaging in challenging growth conversations, I knew that God was pointing me to FPC. Rich and I prayed; our family prayed. The call was made clear to me, affirmed by Rich, and confirmed by the Holy Spirit through the PNC.

We are so grateful to this faithful community for letting us put our things in the manse before the congregational vote which is not the typical process. Due to committee date changes at the Presbytery level, the meeting of the congregation happened a bit later than we anticipated. As some of you know, we had to sell our Little Rock house, get a quote and schedule movers, and move out while I was out of town fulfilling an obligation to Montreat Youth Conferences in Montreat, North Carolina. The movers quote depended on the dates of relocation. Pushing forward by even a few weeks was a difference of tens of thousands of dollars!! Crazy! For boxes to arrive early meant we were going out on faith and trusting God's call! We knew that if necessary, we would pay the extra amount and move all the boxes out. My constant prayer was and is for God to lead and for me to have the faith to follow.

I am ready for this journey. I have served over 20 years in churches with a wide range of political and theological views. I enjoy getting more people involved. I value tradition. I also love trying new things as we grow in faith and as a community. I won't be perfect. I may frustrate you and encourage hard conversations. The same is true for me. Someone is going to gossip or fail to hear one another and it may have challenging moments. But, we are family now. I love you and I hope you will grow to love me (if you haven't already ☺). Let's do this! God is ready. I am ready. My family is ready. Are you?

**"Now faith is confidence in what we hope for and assurance about what we do not see." Hebrews 11:1**

Grace and Peace,

Pastor Jen





2nd	Jim & Ruth Hendrix (A)	20th	Amy Taylor
4th	Ashlee Goodwin	22nd	Trey Evans
11th	Carroll Steinfeld	26th	Tom & Judy McLean (A)
	Kellan Stocke	27th	Marge Wilkerson
	Stella Hoagland		Susie Jackson
15th	Aaron Taylor		
18th	David & MaryAnn Thomas (A)		

# September 2022

Sun      Mon      Tue      Wed      Thu      Fri      Sat

				1	2	3 <i>Church Work Day 8:00 AM</i>
4 <i>Sunday School 9:00</i>	5 <i>Labor Day Office Closed</i>	6 <i>1:30 Bible Study 6:00 Session Mtg 6:00 G.B. Team Meetings</i>	7 <i>6:00 Bible Study</i>	8	9	10
11 <i>Sunday School 9:00</i>	12 <i>6:00 G.B. Team Meetings</i>	13 <i>Bible Study 1:30</i>	14 <i>6:00 Bible Study</i>	15	16	17
18 <i>Sunday School 9:00</i>	19 <i>6:00 G.B. Team Meetings</i>	20 <i>Bible Study 1:30</i>	21 <i>6:00 Bible Study</i>	22	23	24
25 <i>Sunday School 9:00</i>	26 <i>6:00 G.B. Team Meetings</i>	27 <i>Bible Study 1:30</i>	28 <i>6:00 Bible Study</i>	29	30	