

Focus on First

MAINTENANCE

PASTOR ANDY

Everything needs maintenance. Our cars, lawnmowers, weed eaters, houses, computers and even our bodies need maintenance.

It's lawn mowing season, and I went to mow the lawn, only to find that my battery was dead. A trip to the store and a little elbow grease. Railings on the porch need attention. A trip to the store for a little paint and then a little effort.

Our bodies get hungry, we prepare a meal. Three times a day plus snacks, we gather the ingredients, take out the recipe, spend a little effort and meet that need as well.

What all of these maintenance items have in common is that they require time. When I was in Argentina a few summers ago, one of the pastors had given this reality a lot of thought and mentioned several times how valuable our time was. He was so grateful that Scotty and I had taken time from our own families and churches to come and be with them.

Pastor Ramos pointed out that time was the one resource we possess that in non-renewable, at least here on earth. I feel that so many times that maintenance is required. I have to learn the art of prioritizing the right things.

Our souls require maintenance as well, and this too takes time, precious time.

Just as many of us would not think of allowing our homes or cars to deteriorate; just as others of us would never neglect a trip to the gym; how often do we neglect our souls for the sake of these other earthly maintenance projects.

God has given us the tools to maintain intimacy with Him. Reading Scripture, Praying, Singing, and the Lord's Supper are the basic spiritual tools of soul health. The degree to which we feel close to God and spiritually healthy is directly correlated to the amount of time we spend in the Word, on our knees, seated at His table and glorifying Him in the melody of our hearts. Across these ingredients for a healthy soul is the combination of doing these disciplines with others. The fellowship of the church, the communion of saints, is the family within which we share all God's blessings and are encouraged and held accountable in our walk with Christ.

Colossians 3:16-17 gives us the Scripture recipe for soul care, "Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God. And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him."

Does your soul need attention? Do not neglect it. Open the word, bow your head, join God's people, be nourished at His table, lift your voice in praise. These gifts will repair the hurts, the harms, and the wear that life this side of glory inflicts. Soli Deo Gloria.



WEEKLY SCHEDULE

Sunday

9:30 am Morning Bible Study

10:45 am Morning Worship

Live Streaming also available

Monday

Women's Study Systematic Theology—

ON BREAK

Thursday

9:00 am Men's Bible Study

6-7pm Women's Bible Study

starts June 12

UPCOMING EVENTS

Deacons' Meeting

Thursday, 6/19 10:30 am

Session Meeting

Tuesday, 6/17 8:00 am

Fellowship Lunch

Sunday, 6/22 after morning worship

ON Group (Monthly Octogenarian/
Nonagenarian—see Bobby Duck)

Happy
Father's
Day!

NEWSLETTER PURPOSE:

- Communicate church events and activities
- Communicate community events of interest to our members
- Communicate life events of our members
- Provide discipleship and teaching
- Communicate regarding missions and ministries

Welcome New Members!

Sarah, Lydia, Isaiah Arnold

Tom & Lisa Buettner

Terri Fleck

Paul & Elanor Folta

Bob & Sasha Graham

Judy Hawes

Bob & Kathy Pipkin

Gary & Patti Thompson

Please return **Plateau Pregnancy Services** fundraiser **baby bottles** no later than Father's Day, **June 15**.



Remember, baby bottles can change lives!

Please join us for great food & fellowship at the next **Fellowship Lunch** on **June 22** after the morning worship service. Signup sheets are in the hallway.

SESSION NOTES

FORREST MARION, SESSION CLERK

Currently serving FPC officers held a Joint Diaconate-Session Meeting on Tuesday morning, April 15, which was followed immediately by the regular monthly session meeting (there was no session meeting in March, however).

Pastor Andy led a devotional on one of the teachings of Bernard of Clairvaux (1090-1153), his study of the "three kisses" of the Song of Solomon. One of the kisses – of the foot, signifying faith – is performed by Mary (Lazarus's sister), recorded in the gospels. This kiss by Mary was part of our Scripture readings from Matthew 26 for our Maundy Thursday service – the sharpest possible contrast with the kiss of betrayal by Judas Iscariot.

The following agenda items may be of interest:

- a. Deacon Dave Miser provided an update on the education building (CEC), which despite an expanded project has remained within budget. The CEC move-in workday on Sat. May 3 was well attended and highly productive. (Our first adult Sunday School class was held in the CEC on May 4.)
 - b. The officers discussed the new playground. All should be aware that the main reason for the playground being on the non-sanctuary side of the road is because the children are on the non-sanctuary side for Sunday School and sometimes for other activities.
 - c. Ruling Elder Richard Parks will join the Financial Advisory Committee.
 - d. The elders and deacons discussed potential officer candidates.
- Following the Joint Meeting, the elders held their regular session meeting:*
- e. Session discussed ideas pertaining to the search for Teaching Elder candidates to assist in FPC's ministry.
 - f. Noah Aikens will be serving us this Summer in the Calvin Fellowship. From late May to August, Noah will serve FPC in several capacities including playing musical instruments for worship, discipling young men, and finishing M.A. classes; he will reside in Geneva House.
 - g. The session named RE Rich Parks and RE Robert Berman as commissioners to the PCA 2025 GA in Chattanooga, Tenn., week of June 23-27.
 - h. Session named commissioners to interview several prospective new members.
 - i. i. Adult Sunday School: Robert Berman is continuing the study of Revelation.
 - j. We continue to research and develop a plan for a counseling ministry for Cumberland County.

Upon completion of the agenda, the elders spent time in prayer for the Shepherding and other needs of the congregation.

Next Stated Session Meeting: was Tuesday, May 20, 8am.

CUMBERLAND GOOD SAMARITAN THRIFT STORE

Dan & I have been volunteering at Good Samaritan Thrift Store on 10th Street in Crossville for the past four years. George Clark approached us and was hoping we might consider taking his and Carol's place. We had been looking for a place where we could serve as a couple. It certainly has been a blessing for both of us.

Look in your mailbox for a sheet listing everything that would go into a box for families that are in need of help when times become difficult to make ends meet. Please consider bringing an item to donate to help these families. There is no deadline to donate because there is always a need. You'll find a donation container near the mailboxes and we'll see that it's taken to Good Samaritan.

Volunteers are always welcome at the Good Samaritan!

Thank you, Dan and Bev Dolan

MISSIONS UPDATE

—LYDIA GOEGLEIN, SOFIA, BULGARIA

It's been a little while since I've told you all what I do, so I wanted to start with a short rundown of my job at the moment:

- I work with Църква “НОВ ЖИВОТ” (New Life Church) on the planning team, with women's and children's programs, and with the worship team.
- I run and teach at Sofia Christian Academy, a small school for missionary kids from preschool through high school. This year I get to teach phonics and reading, Bible class, high school literature and writing, sponsor the school newspaper, and help teach a painting class.
- I teach in our English Club on Wednesday nights for anyone who wants to work on their English (these days students are between ages 16 to 80 years old)
- And I mentor our summer interns and train them how to teach English.

Here are some recent answers to prayer:

- New Life Church is a particularized church!
- Our team is beginning a new student ministry with help from our 11-month intern, Jacob Heath, and New Life church members.
- Sofia Christian Academy's seniors are graduating May 30th!
- For the healing of my dear friend I asked you to pray for last year as she struggled with a mental health crisis.

Please Pray:

- On Sundays: For New Life Church as we now have a project fund for a new church space that can house a self-sustaining congregation! We would like to have a church space that can hold a large enough congregation to pay its pastor and also begin to send out its own church plants.
- On Mondays: For my team. On Mondays we gather to pray for each other, so we would love to have your prayers join ours. Please pray for our new student ministry. Their goal is to start a Bible study of 3-4 university students this fall.

Please pray that they make connections and have opportunities to share the gospel and that there is interest in a Bible study.

- On Tuesdays: For me as I study Bulgarian with a friend, teach art class for 2-7th graders, and get to host a Bible study with two good friends. Please pray that God would lead into more areas of ministry.
- On Wednesdays: For English ministry as we get ready for a summer of interns. Please pray for opportunities for summer Bible studies and partnership with a Christian coffee shop downtown.
- On Thursdays: For my roommate and for Brianna. Please pray that God would comfort and guide my roommate into what is next. Please pray that Brianna would continue to follow the Lord, find a church, and seek community.
- On Fridays: For SCA as we are searching for new teachers. Pray for wisdom for us as we host two teachers for a vision trip this month that God would supply all of their and our needs this coming school year.
- On Saturdays: For Spring of Hope (anti-trafficking organization) and Solunska church, our mother church in downtown Sofia. Please pray especially for the two children's camps in Roma neighborhoods that local churches will host and Spring of Hope will run (with help from our summer interns). Please pray that these camps would show these children that they are loved, that they are important, and give them practical life skills and real hope for the future. These camps are part of Spring of Hope's trafficking-prevention measures.

Contact Me =>

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Moving Day at CEC

5/3/2025



First Presbyterian Church

Identity and Mission

We belong to the family of the Redeemed. Transformed by the grace of Jesus' death and resurrection, we are delighting in the supremacy of God in all things as we reach up to Him in worship, reach in to one another with biblical teaching and shepherding care, and reach out to the world with Christ.

So that in everything Christ might be preeminent. —Colossians 1:18

Session:

Andy Aikens, Senior Pastor
Robert Berman, Bobby Duck
Forrest Marion, Clerk
Richard Parks, Jim Sparks

Deacons:

Dave Miser-Chair,
John Reed Secretary, Mike Tuuk

Staff:

Music Director: Matt Bundy
Finance / Admin: Holly Kisly

Ministry Support:

Treasurer: Bill Allbright
Technology Specialists: Matt Bundy
Accompanists: Matt Bundy
Library: Kathy Pipkin
Newsletter: Darlene Gendjar
Sanctuary Flowers: Sherry Hewitt

Our Missions Family—

International

Julian and Rachel Bacon, MTW
Brussels, Belgium.
Lydia Goegelein, MTW
Sophia, Bulgaria.
Brian & Becky Schrader,
Pioneers in Africa.
Lee Leadbetter,
RUF-International at UT.

Our Missions Family—

North America

Christ Church Pres in Powell
Plateau Pregnancy Services
Good Samaritans
RUF Tennessee Tech, Ryan Angel
Rural Church Dev., Corey Pelton
Myers Park Initiative, Greg Salazar
Occom Ministries, Native American Initiative



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FPC LIBRARY IS OPEN

Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.

~ Psalm 119:105

Brothers and sisters, what a blessing to have excellent preaching and study, the wisdom of the reformers, pilgrims, and church fathers, and access to many brilliant theologians readily available in our church library! Pastor Andy has graciously added over 1,000 books from his personal library for our use! I encourage you to avail yourselves of the opportunity to use these resources in our ever-expanding library to grow in Christ. Even if you have used the library in the past, new books are added on a regular basis.

The **Library Open House** was on Sunday, May 25, so we are open for business! If you missed the open house, please see Kathy Pipkin or contact her at library@firstprescrossville.org to schedule a tour of the library, receive checkout instructions and a personalized First Presbyterian Church library card!

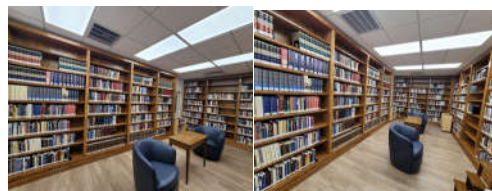
The library, in the renovated Christian Education Center, provides a peaceful environment for reading, study, prayer, and meditating on God's Word. Drop in and take advantage of these resources during the week and you may even find a handwritten note in one of the classics; some of our books are 70+ years old! Please keep the paper where you found it as a treasure for someone else to find.

Here are some library stats:

- There are currently 2,616 books in our three collections: Vermigli, Aikens, and Reference
- These books include 31 trusted series (Commentaries, Works, Collected Writings, etc.)
- We have 163 Library Patrons (including you!)
- There are 198 books with the word "Reformed" in the title or description

Please Note: We will not be able to accept donations until we finish organizing our current backlog and develop intake, approval and other ongoing processes. When the library is ready, Kathy Pipkin will provide us with the necessary information.

Finally, thanks to the many people who contributed to this project which started in October 2022!: Kathy Pipkin - FPC Librarian, Fran Allbright, Sasha Graham, Judy Hawes, Holly Kisly, Charlotte Lewis, Beth McCrabb, Sherri Merchlewitz, Lynn Miser, Sherry Nichols, Meridith Williams, Val Wyson



NEW MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

My husband Bob and I have been living here in Deer Creek in Crossville as happily married retirees for almost six years now. I was born and grew up in Tulsa, Oklahoma, but was living in California before I moved here.

Bob was born in Oakland, California. I received a BA in language arts from the University of Oklahoma—with a major in Latin and a minor in English. I have had an extensive career in education teaching English, Latin and Library Media. Bob graduated from the University of Califor-

BOB & KATHY PIPKIN



nia at Davis with a degree in fishery biology. He worked for twenty years doing research with several species of fish. Afterwards, he was co-owner of a large animal vet hospital and worked with horses for 26 years. Currently I volunteer at the Art Circle

Public Library and am a Board secretary for The Friends of the Library, a fundraising organization. Bob enjoys golfing, and I enjoy reading, learning and family ancestry. We both enjoy traveling and visiting areas outside of Tennessee.