

THE FIRST WORD

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

629 Main Street Shelbyville, Kentucky 40065 (502) 633-2693

Email: 1pchurch@bellsouth.net Web Page: www.fpcshelbyvilleky.com Facebook: www.facebook.com/FPCShelbyville Office Hours 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. Monday - Thursday



Volume XXXV, Number 10

October 2018

Stop Making God a Priority

by John Odom Presbyter for Community Life

Too often I hear well-meaning church leaders encouraging the faithful to make God a priority in their lives. God—who is often somewhere between #34 "Saving for retirement" and #40 "Eating Healthy"—winds up on our priority list of things that have little in common with each other. That's why we make priority lists in the first place. When we prioritize family, then job, then friends, we are saying that all of these things are different and distinct. If family and job and friends were all exactly the same thing, then they'd only have to go on our priority list once.

If God is #1 or #3 or even #35 on our priority list, that means that there are a whole bunch of other things on our list that have nothing to do with the Lord and Giver of Life. With God as a first priority, the Almighty might get 3-4 hours per week You might go to Sunday School and worship. You might pray and meditate. You might fix a casserole for a sick neighbor, but then real life kicks in. You've got to get back to all of the other priorities that were neglected when you were making God number one.

But scripture proclaims: "the earth is the Lord's and all that is in it" (1 Corinthians 10:26). Herein lies the problem. When you and I make God a priority we relegate God to a small part, a very distinct subset of being. But God doesn't want to be relegated to a single part of our lives.

God has ordered existence so that God is the substance of every part, the logic behind every choice. Abraham Kuyper (1837-1920)—Dutch Reformed pastor and Prime Minister of the Netherlands, in his inaugural speech, proclaimed: "There is not one square inch in the whole domain of human existence over which Christ who is sovereign does not cry out 'Mine!'"

Following God cannot be relegated to a small part of life. Following God changes the way we do everything else. When we love God with all of our heart and soul and mind and strength, we will love God in the way we serve our family, the way we build our friendships, the way we earn our paycheck. God wants to be the substance of every part of life, the logic behind every choice.

So stop trying to make God your top priority. Live, instead, a life that is more radically faithful. Give God everything.

Go out and preach the Gospel, using words if you have to.

OCTOBER 2018 REVISED COMMON LECTIONARY FOR SUNDAYS & FESTIVALS

We are encouraged and invited to read and reflect on these scripture passages as a part of our preparation for each worship service.

20th Sunday after Pentecost—October 7 27th Sunday in Ordinary Time / Proper 22 Semicontinuous Job 1:1; 2:1–10 Psalm 26

Hebrews 1:1–4; 2:5–12

Mark 10:2-16

Complementary
Genesis 2:18–24

Psalm 8

Hebrews 1:1-4; 2:5-12

Mark 10:2-16

21st Sunday after Pentecost—October 14 28th Sunday in Ordinary Time / Proper 23 Semicontinuous Job 23:1–9; 16–17

Psalm 22:1–15 Hebrews 4:12–16

Mark 10:17-31

Complementary Amos 5:6-7, 10-15 Psalm 90:12-17 Hebrews 4:12-16 Mark 10:17-31 22nd Sunday after Pentecost—October 21 29th Sunday in Ordinary Time / Proper 24 Semicontinuous Job 38:1–7 (34–41) Psalm 104:1–9, 24, 35c

Hebrews 5:1–10 Mark 10:35–45

Complementary Isaiah 53:4-12 Psalm 91:9-16 Hebrews 5:1-10 Mark 10:35-45

23rd Sunday after Pentecost—October 28 30th Sunday in Ordinary Time / Proper 25 Semicontinuous Job 42:1–6, 10–17 Psalm 34:1–8 (19–22) Hebrews 7:23–28 Mark 10:46–52

Complementary Jeremiah 31:7–9 Psalm 126 Hebrews 7:23–28 Mark 10:46–52



OCTOBER GREETERS & USHERS

Oct. 7—Joyce Dotson, Sue & John Davis

Oct. 14—Mark Whittaker, Norma Beasey & Roger Tate

Oct. 21—Martha Flood & Meme Lafferty

Oct. 28—Mary Ann Soergel & Judy Schostkewitz



All women are invited to participate in our Evening Women's Bible Study Group held one Wednesday a month. The group determines

which Wednesday based on schedules. Check with Ruth Welch for October's date.



10/04 Diann Cook 10/05 Tandy Chenault 10/05 Callaway Zaring 10/06 Katie Meier Searcy 10/08 Geena Shepard 10/09 Martha Flood 10/10 Jennie Rupert 10/11 Sacha Gill 10/12 Sarah Dodd 10/14 John C. Kalmey 10/15 Lynn Whittaker 10/19 Rachel Cook 10/19 Rachel Henson 10/22 Sarah Cook 10/23 Marshall Long 10/23 Eleanor Redmon 10/24 Jenny Pippin 10/25 Ava Carriss 10/25 Jess Shelton 10/25 Sarah Smith 10/30 Alexander Logan 10/30 Barbara Troyer 10/31 Joe Easley 10/31 Henry Mathis 10/31 Bruce Sherrod



10/12 AI & Diann Cook 10/24 Becca & Ben Weible

Looking for an awesome babysitter?

We have one in our midst!!!

Call Shelby Luckenbill
(Diane Palmer's Granddaughter)
217-993-1558

All ages CPR Certified References Available



If you know of someone whose birthday or anniversary aren't included, please contact the church office so we can add their information to our records.





CONTINUE SAVING PLASTIC BOTTLE TOPS

The children's Sunday School classes are joining forces with Carlen Pippin by collecting plastic bottle tops to recycle into a bench for our Park system. Watch for upcoming Moments for Mission to learn more, and SAVE THOSE TOPS!



OUTREACH COMMITTEE REPORT SEPTEMBER 9, 2018

Two families were helped with electricity this month; one family was helped with rent.

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A Place to Sleep

- -193 children have received beds in 2018 making a total of 1652 children having received beds with 89 on the waiting list.
- -A Place to Sleep is registered for "Give for Good Louisville" which occurs on September 13. Volunteers are needed to help raise online donations on that day.
- 37 beds were delivered with the help of Christ Community Church on their "Love Shelbyville" day.

Give a Kid a Brighter Day

- Cadence plans her annual Halloween costumes for the needy.

Serenity Center

This church is volunteering at the Serenity Center on 7th Street the first Wednesday of each month. An age limit has been placed on volunteers. Carlen Pippin has been sharing extra food with God's Kitchen, Colonial Hall, and the Women's Renaissance Center.

Musical Instrument Ministry

103 instruments have been donated and placed in the schools. Gary has placed a notice on the Community page of the Sentinel News.

God's Kitchen

God's Kitchen will be September 13. We appreciate the volunteers who continue to help supply food and come to serve: The Steinhiblers with potato soup, Boyd Phillips with bean soup, Berry and Elaine Lane with cornbread, and Susie Phillips with bologna sandwiches, cookies and brownies. Leftovers will be taken to Colonial Hall. Anyone with desserts should bring them to the church by 10:00 and those wishing to help serve should be at Victory Baptist by 10:30. The October date is October 11.

Christmas Baskets

We will again prepare and deliver 50 Christmas baskets. The date of this activity will be December 15. Assistance is needed this year with organization and preparation as Boyd & Susie Phillips' schedules are already overflowing. Talk to Susie if you would like to help. The congregation can also help by donating money to cover costs, dropping off unexpired, non-perishable food for "extra" items, and bringing new or gently used toys.

Coupons are being collected for the military.

Flip tops are collected for Ronald McDonald House.

Donations for the Backpack Project and BooBoo Buddies are being collected.

Cancelled stamps are being collected.

Shoes are being collected for the water project.

Magazines are collected for A Second Time Around.

Plastic caps are being collected by Carlen Pippin for a bench for the Park.

The next meeting will be October 14.



Outreach

Ministries

JOIN US ON
Wednesday, OCTOBER 3
Anytime between
12:00 noon & 4:00 p.m.
At the Serenity Center,
98 7th Street

Help distribute food to Shelby County residents.

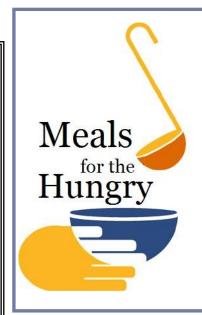


Bring plastic bags (Kroger, Walmart, etc.)



OCTOBER 14 Remember Love Sunday

Funds collected on Love Sunday are used to help many individuals in the community needing assistance with utilities, prescriptions, school supplies, and more. Payments are made directly to the vendors, and cash is never given to an individual. Individuals may request assistance once in a 12-month period with a \$ limit per request. Make your checks payable to First Presbyterian Church and mark it for LOVE SUNDAY.



VOLUNTEER TO SERVE LUNCH AT GOD'S KITCHEN 715 Main Street Downtown Shelbyville

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 11 10:30 A.M.

INTERESTED? Talk to Boyd or Susie Phillips about how you can help. Desserts are always needed.



November 11





Luta, Jeremy, Jathniel and Azai are PC (USA) Mission Co-workers serving with the Church of Central Africa Presbyterian in Malawi, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

Contact Info

Luta Garbat-Welch, MPH: <u>luta.garbat-</u>welch@pcusa.org

Rev. Jeremy Garbat-Welch, BCC: jeremy.garbat-welch@pcusa.org

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ!

Greetings from the Warm Heart of Africa! We have been back in Malawi now for 3 weeks and are starting to return to our routines, as much as routines can actually exist in the ever-changing scenarios of real life.

We returned to Malawi to a vehicle that had been in an accident while we were gone and is un-drivable, and within a week our house-keeper had a life-threatening health emergency. After the fear had worn off I chuckled to myself that this seems to be our life, one mishap/disaster after another. It seems there's rarely a moment where life moves along at a steady peaceful pace. I laughingly told a friend "well that's the life of a mission co-worker isn't it?" But as I have reflected, I think that this is often the case for anyone around the world, regardless of their job or where they live. I imagine that many of you have had seasons of your life where there always seems to be some bump or mishap occurring.

When we were in the USA this summer I popped into a Christian bookstore to buy a devotional for a young lady who had been living with us over the past year. I came across a devotional - Gracelaced –that focuses on the steadfastness of Christ across the seasons of life. The first page of the book reads: "This is a book for those who wrestle with the seasons of the heart. It's for those of us who need to remember that who we are and who He is never changes, even though everything else – including our own hearts – rarely stays the same." When I read this, Immediately bought a copy for myself!

It has been rejuvenating for me to read these devotionals in these weeks that we've been working on resettling back to life in Malawi. I often get bowled over by the circumstances of my life – they seem to overwhelm me. I seek to be a person of joy and steadfastness, but the bumps seem to perpetually make me lose my footing. As I have been focusing on God's steadfastness, God's unchanging faithfulness, I've also been searching for the silver linings in the bumps we've been experiencing.

My silver linings:

Thankfully everything worked out well with Amayi Khumbanyiwa (our housekeeper). She was able to get the care she needed and is recovering well. Being with her in the hospital was scary, and brought to life for me the 'stats' that I know about healthcare in Malawi. It made it personal. Sometimes, when we live next to poverty we become numb to the realities. I'm thankful that my heart can continue to grieve with others, and even more thankful that even with the healthcare challenges that exist here, good outcomes do happen!

Primarily because car parts are difficult to find, we have to order parts for the car from South Africa. It will likely be another 2-3 months before the car is drivable again. Without a vehicle we are having to depend much more on our community, and become creative in how we get things done in a big city. A friend of ours – Bright Mleta - drives a taxi and he has been picking up Jathniel and I in the morning, dropping Jathniel at school and then me at a café to work, and then picking us up in the afternoons. Daily time together in the car has opened up opportunities for great conversation – I've learned new things about other transport opportunities between cities, learned more about the university educational system, and the current political climate. Being without a vehicle is challenging when we can't hop in the car and get stuff done when we need to, but it is deepening friendships and expanding our knowledge of Malawi. It is also providing a regular income for a friend. I will miss this time once our car is fixed.

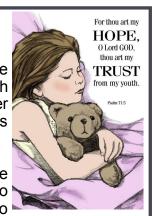
We had a whirlwind trip this summer visiting with many of you! For those of you we saw, we are thankful for renewed connections. It is such a joy for us to see your faces again and to fellowship together in person. For those we got to meet for the first we are excited to deepen those relationships over the coming years. For those of you we weren't able to see, we hope we'll see you next time we're in the USA.

Your fellowship with us is a silver lining! Thank you!

A Place to Sleep

We have helped 227 children so far in 2018, making a grand total of 1,686 since December 2009. And, as it always is, there are 47 children on the waiting list. With your help, we raised \$4,344.53 online through Give for Good Louisville on September 13. Cash and check donations totaled \$1,035.00 making a total of \$5,379.53, and this is before any bonus \$\$!

Since no one raised \$1,000 or more individually, we will be auctioning off the 4 piece patio set during a fundraiser in February (more below). Thank you to everyone who donated and especially to those who went out and gathered donations. A Place to Sleep operates on God's Grace through volunteers and donations.





CALLING ALL RUNNER!

If you or someone you know is a runner and has either ran a mini/marathon or is thinking about it, A Place to Sleep wants you to join our team for the Kentucky Derby Festival minimarathon/Marathon on April 27, 2019! Send us the names and contact information of any runners you know. We'd like them to sign up to support our charity, A Place to Sleep! Registration is now open at KDF.org, just look for team "A Place to Sleep" under social teams, then sign up to raise money for us. We will be reimbursing the entry fees of anyone who raises at least \$500!

GATSBY MASQARADE GALA February 1, 2019



Join us at the brand new Gatsby in downtown Shelbyville - a grand space that once housed the Shelbyville Red Devils' basketball, gymnastic, and walking track - and is now a 500 person space full of glitz and glamour. HOLD THE DATE to help raise money for project-based learning at Painted Stone Elementary, along with two local non-profits that help our students most, The Back Pack Program and A Place to Sleep. Sponsored by Painted Stone Elementary PTO.

FINANCE REPORT JULY 2017

In July, we collected \$13,812.68. On the expense side, we spent \$15,461.33. We spent \$1,648.65 more than we collected. Questions? Please call Fred Waits (502) 321-5128.

FPC Shelbyville Financial Sumr	mary as of July 201	8	
	Last Month	Year to Date	
Pledges Received	\$7,317.00	\$68,587.27	
Kroger Gift Card	\$366.60		
From Savings	\$0.00		
Other Income	\$6,129.08		
Designated Funds	\$25.00		
Total Income	\$13,837.68	\$117,680.01	
OPERATING INCOME	\$13,812.68	\$111,157.86	
Personnel Expense	\$11,519.41	\$96,342.35	
Utilities	\$3,236.69	\$10,477.64	
Building Maintenance	\$178.86	\$9,301.77	
Youth & Education	\$190.26	\$465.20	
Music	\$0.00		
Office	\$162.76		
Shared Mission	\$0.00		
Per Capita	\$0.00		
Other	\$173.35		
Designated Expenses	\$112.98		
Total Expenses	\$15,574.31		
OPERATING EXPENSES	\$15,461.33	\$126,366.04	
Summary 2018	Income	Expense	Difference
December			
November			
October			
September			
August			
July	\$13,812.68	\$15,461.33	(\$1,648.65)
June	\$19,576.00	\$15,704.99	\$3,871.01
May	\$11,221.00	\$21,410.25	(\$10,189.25)
April	\$19,362.11	\$16,122.69	\$3,239.42
March	\$15,252.00	\$15,352.91	(\$100.91)
February	\$13,603.53	\$23,506.21	(\$9,902.68)
January	\$3,149.80	\$19,821.82	(\$16,672.02)

FINANCE REPORT AUGUST 2017

In August, we collected \$9,200.00. On the expense side, we spent \$18,109.97. We spent \$8,909.97 more than we collected. Questions? Please call Fred Waits (502) 321-5128.

FPC Shelbyville Financial Sum	mary as of August	2018	
	Last Month	Year to Date	
Pledges Received	\$6,720.00	\$77,625.24	
Kroger Gift Card	\$0.00		
From Savings	\$0.00		
Other Income	\$2,480.00		
Designated Funds	\$430.00		
Total Income	\$9,630.00		
OPERATING INCOME	\$9,200.00	\$122,525.83	
Personnel Expense	\$13,699.76	\$110,042.11	
Utilities	\$499.56	\$10,977.20	
Building Maintenance	\$3,429.18	\$12,687.33	
Youth & Education	\$188.75	\$653.95	
Music	\$75.00		
Office	\$173.72		
Shared Mission	\$0.00		
Per Capita	\$0.00		
Other	\$44.00		
Designated Expenses	\$0.00		
Total Expenses	\$18,109.97		
OPERATING EXPENSES	\$18,109.97	\$144,432.39	
Summary 2018	Income	Expense	Difference
December			
November			
October			
September			
August	\$9,200.00	\$18,109.97	(\$8,909.97)
July	\$13,812.68	\$15,461.33	(\$1,648.65)
June	\$19,576.00	\$15,704.99	\$3,871.01
May	\$11,221.00	\$21,410.25	(\$10,189.25)
April	\$19,362.11	\$16,122.69	\$3,239.42
March	\$15,252.00	\$15,352.91	(\$100.91)
February	\$13,603.53	\$23,506.21	(\$9,902.68)
January	\$3,149.80	\$19,821.82	(\$16,672.02)



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Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
30 Children's Fifth Sunday Outing Uspiritus Fifth Sunday Offering WORSHIP IN THE PARK 9:45 AM Sunday School for All Ages 10:15 AM Choir Rehearsal 11:00 AM Worship 7:30 PM NA/AA 12-Step Group Meeting	1	2 3:30 PM Emerging Artists 6:00 PM SCCT 7:00 PM Boy Scouts 7:30 PM NA/AA 12-Step Group Meeting	3 10:00 AM PEO Event (FH and Kit) 12:00 PM Food Distribution at Serenity Center 6:00 PM SCCT 6:30 PM Choir Rehearsal	4	5 3:30 PM Emerging Artists 7:30 PM NA/AA 12-Step Group Meeting	6 12:00 PM NA/AA 12-Step Group Meeting
HOLY COMMUNION Peace and Global Witness Offering 9:45 AM Sunday School for All Ages 10:15 AM Choir Rehearsal 11:00 AM Worship 7:30 PM NA/AA 12-Step Group Meeting	8 Columbus Day OFFICE CLOSED	9 3:30 PM Emerging Artists 6:00 PM Session Meeting 7:00 PM Boy Scouts 7:30 PM NA/AA 12-Step Group Meeting	10 10:00 AM PW Morning Bible Study 6:30 PM Choir Rehearsal	11 10:30 AM FPC serves lunch at God's Kitchen	12 3:30 PM Emerging Artists 7:30 PM NA/AA 12-Step Group Meeting	13 12:00 PM NA/AA 12-Step Group Meeting
14 LOVE SUNDAY 9:00 AM Outreach Ministry Meeting 9:45 AM Sunday School for All Ages 10:15 AM Choir Rehearsal 11:00 AM Worship 7:30 PM NA/AA 12-Step Group Meeting	15 12:00 PM Newsletter articles due	16 3:30 PM Emerging Artists 7:00 PM Boy Scouts 7:30 PM NA/AA 12-Step Group Meeting	17 10:00 AM Congregational Care 6:30 PM Choir Rehearsal	18 10:00 AM Four Seasons Garden Club (use of main floor/sanctuary - ALL DAY)	19 3:30 PM Emerging Artists 7:30 PM NA/AA 12-Step Group Meeting	20 12:00 PM NA/AA 12-Step Group Meeting
21 9:45 AM Sunday School for All Ages 10:15 AM Choir Rehearsal 11:00 AM Worship 7:30 PM NA/AA 12-Step Group Meeting	22	23 3:30 PM Emerging Artists 7:00 PM Boy Scouts 7:30 PM NA/AA 12-Step Group Meeting	24 6:30 PM Choir Rehearsal	25	26 3:30 PM Emerging Artists 7:30 PM NA/AA 12-Step Group Meeting	27 12:00 PM NA/AA 12-Step Group Meeting
Price	29	30 3:30 PM Emerging Artists 7:00 PM Boy Scouts 7:30 PM NA/AA 12-Step Group Meeting	31 6:30 PM Choir Rehearsal	1	2 3:30 PM Emerging Artists 7:30 PM NA/AA 12-Step Group Meeting	3 12:00 PM NA/AA 12-Step Group Meeting





Since our last issue, we lift up the following in our prayers:

Joyce Dotson
The family of Mary Jane Glascott
The family of June Whitaker
The family of David Latham
Gary & Marcia Mitchum
Maha, case worker for KY Refugee Ministry
Corbin Harris
The Henson Family
The Pearce Family
Nancy Finney
The family of Troy Goins
The family of Linda Casey
Vandy & Linda Powell

We give thanks to God for:

All those celebrating birthdays, including: Bethany
Blair, Chad Waits, Oakley Waits, Sarah Ohs, Alan
Zaring, Reagan Dew, Billy Cook, and Gloria Shepard
Sarah, Jason & Brandon Ohs worshiping with us
Jenna Schostkewitz as she continues to recover
Kentucky Refugee Ministry dinner celebration
Katie Hodge's ACT score

Katie Hodge & friends who achieved positions in the highest level orchestra of the Louisville Youth Orchestra

Lawson Zaring on his Confirmation

We continue to lift up:

Dan & Charlene Herrinton
Dottie Segretto
Gary & Mary Steinhilber
Jewel Davis
Jim & Jan Bonner
Marshall & Claudette Long
Nancy Pearce
Sharon Nichols Townsend
The Garbat-Welch Family
The Hodge Family

We pray for our military family & friends:

Alaine Shepard, medic US Army, wife of Steve Shepard, daughter-in-law of Linda Shepard

Brandon Pettyjohn

Brandon Brouillet, father of Tyler Brouillet

Carmen Aragon Corum, sister of our childcare workers

Daniel Ehrichs, nephew of Joanne Burke

David Luebke

Frank Renner, US Navy, Leslee Bottorff's son

Gabriel Romeo, US Army, brother of our childcare workers

Hannah Riddle, US Air Force, granddaughter of Carlen & Jenny Pippin

Hunter Moore, US Marine Corps, Tom & Brenda Seacat's nephew

Jack Walters

Jared Bentley, US Marine Corps, Tom & Brenda Seacat's nephew

Jonathan Bowman

Lt. Col. Marshall MacClellan, US Air Force chaplain, currently stationed in GA, nephew of Nancy Sears Matthew Harper, Alaine Shepard's son, US Army

Ryan Donaldson, grandson of Joanne Burke

Seth LeMaster, US Marines, family of Lynn & Mark Whittaker

Spencer Goetzinger, US Army, husband of Bobbie Renner Goetzinger, son-in-law of Leslee Bottorff Todd Dillon, US Army, friend of the Whittakers

(If you have additional information regarding any of the folks listed above or have someone else to add to the list, please contact Lynn Whittaker or leave with the church office.)

First Presbyterian Church 629 Main Street Shelbyville, KY 40065

THE FIRST WORD

Non-Profit Org. U.S. Postage PAID Shelbyville, KY **Permit No. 19**

Articles for November's First Word are due by 12:00 noon, October 15.



Cadence Collins and her Give A Kid A Brighter Day ministry will again be collecting and donating Halloween costumes and Trick or Treat buckets for the children at the Home of the Innocents. She plans to also include a book this year.

Costumes for all ages are great. Several boy costumes have already been donated, so if you need to choose, girl or gender neutral would be good. Nothing too scary, though.

Last day to donate is October 14 so Cadence will have time to organize, purchase any parts needed, and take them to Louisville to the children.

Questions, contact Maree Collins at 502-321-2788.



December 8

Norma Beasey, self-proclaimed "Bag Lady", is still collecting:

<u>Plastic bags</u> (Kroger, Walmart, etc.)

Box tops for Education for local schools

Coupons current or expired for military personnel

Old cell phones for military personnel

Ink cartridges from ink jet printers

Pull tabs from cans (soda, soup, etc.)

Postage stamps cancelled

Shoes any condition for Water Step

Magazines for Second Time Around Eye glasses, cases, etc.



