

**Vacation Bible School 2024**

The smiles tell much of the story! At this year's Vacation Bible School, August 9–11; the children were invited to "Make a Splash with Jesus." And they literally did on Saturday with a pool party hosted by J.T. and Kelly Norris at their home. In the between times, all the children were led in a time of faith exploration. There was singing! There were Bible stories, crafts and other opportunities to become better friends! The church family celebrated with a delicious brunch following morning worship on Sunday, August 11 in the Bethesda Community Hall. Thanks to everyone who made this year's VBS a great success (a special thank you to Lee Hall for providing all the food). We can't wait until our next VBS in 2025! Make plans to be a part of next year's experience.



**Youth Group News!**



FPC Youth Group is for youth in grades 7–12. During the month of September, we will meet on **Sundays, September 8 and 29** immediately following morning worship. Lunch is provided. Upcoming events include:

- ⇒ **AARF ROCK PROJECT** by Bettie George Frye. The youth will paint rocks for the flower garden at their facility. Barb and Chris Payne oversee that project for AARF.
- ⇒ **ENVIRONMENT JUSTICE** by Kathleen Filkins. Kathleen will lead our youth in discussing "Caring for God's Creation, Including Neighbors:" Topics include 1) Care for Land, 2) Care for water, 3) Care for Air. Join us for fun activities and lessons on being good stewards of God's creation. We hope that all youth will come and join the fun and excitement! For additional information or questions, contact: Bettie George Frye or Kelly Hanni.



# HEARTBEATS

A monthly publication of First Presbyterian Church Volume 6 | Issue 9 | September 2024



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 Monday — Thursday  
 9 a.m. — 1 p.m.  
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**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

**2025**

**Kelly Hanni**  
**Kim Whitman**  
**Geri Willis**

**2026**

**Mitch Hall\***  
**Jan Holbrook**  
**Ryan Whitman\***

**2027**

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

\*2nd term of service

*He said therefore, "What is the kingdom of God like? And to what should I compare it?" <sup>19</sup>It is like a mustard seed that someone took and sowed in the garden; it grew and became a tree, and the birds of the air made nests in its branches." (Luke 13:18–19)*

I am married to an incredibly gifted woman. She is many things to many others; but to me she is my wife, friend, nurse, encourager, an alongside helper who steadies me when I can get, well, unsteady.

Maybe you know Nanette has a passion for sewing. It is amazing to watch her mind take a couple of yards of fabric along with a pattern and create a garment or some other work of art. I am grateful she has a "sewing studio" at the house where she can go and create something out of nothing; starting small and creating something much bigger. The picture above is an example of a current work in progress. Eventually the hexagons will unite with fabric resulting in a comforter in our bedroom. It starts small but results in a much bigger creation. In many ways, I can see a similarity with our scripture passage for this month's edition of Heartbeats. I like how God uses the simple to make something greater. How He creates a masterpiece out of nothingness. How He takes someone, like you

and me, and transforms us into something far more than one would ever imagine we could become.

A mustard seed is the smallest of seeds and yet once planted becomes more than adequate for greater things to happen. Large enough to accommodate a resting spot for the birds of the air. Nests that create a safe place to abide. God can do this for us as well. Through the Holy Spirit, He can make us become something far greater we can imagine. He can use us to become a place of safety for a world in which many are fearful of their future. The question is, "Will we allow Him access to our life?" Nanette uses her creativity to bless others through the giftedness that God has placed in her mind and heart. I have seen the works she has produced from a single thought to the finished work.

I am convinced that God is wanting to work through you to be His instrument of peace, with love and compassion for a world that is increasingly lost. Please spend time in prayer to see how God wants to use you in the coming days. Read Scripture to hear what God is wanting you to comprehend for your spiritual wholeness. Know that God can begin a small work in you that can become a place of safety for others who want to have what you do! SDG!

*Pastor Bill*





► **Empty Nesters** are meeting again. This is a parent group for our FPC young adults, college and above, who are no longer living at home. The group meets on the fourth Monday of each month for a project to mail their young adults. Contact Pam Potter.

► **Chancel Choir Rehearsal** has begun. They meet on **Wednesdays at 6:45 p.m.** Make a joyful noise and join the choir!

► **Sunday Morning Study** resumes **Sunday, September 1, 9:28 a.m.** in room 3. "Considering Colossians" is our new study. Join us as we delve into the rich

teachings of Colossians, discovering how this ancient text holds profound wisdom for living a Christ-centered life in today's ever-changing world. Contact John Ferguson.

► **Open Chapel** resumes **Wednesday, September 4, 5:30–8 p.m.** The Sanctuary will be open the first Wednesday of each month. This is an opportunity for you to come and spend time in quiet prayer and meditation as you find need. Contact Heather Shay.

► **Horizons Bible Study** "Celebrating Sabbath: Accepting God's Gift of Rest and Delight." It begins **Thursday, September 5 from 6–7:30 p.m.** It will meet the first Thursday of each month. The cost is \$10. To sign up, please contact Ann Wiseman or Bettie George Frye (606.831.8579).

► **Harmony of the Gospels:** Christian Education is offering a new class this fall. This study coordinates the incidents in the Life of Christ as recorded by the Gospels. Some incidents are recorded in all four Gospels, some by two, some only by one. All are included in this study. A workbook is provided and, of course, the answers are only found in the Gospels. Come join us this Fall as we look closer into the Life of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. The class begins **Sunday, September 8, 9:30 a.m.** in room 11. All ages, High School–Adult. If you have younger children and want to attend, Kelly Hanni will provide childcare and a Sunday School lesson. Contact Jane Justice.

**You Are Invited!**

We have some MISSES getting ready to become MRS. You are cordially invited to join in on their wedding showers in celebration of their upcoming weddings:

*Rachel Dillon*—**Saturday, September 7, 1 p.m.** in the Bethesda Community Hall. She is registered at Amazon, Target and Pampered Chef.

*Summer Whitman*—**Sunday, September 15, immediately following morning worship** in the Narthex. She is registered at Amazon.

**Operation Christmas Child Box Monthly Drive**

Mission Team is asking for monthly donations to help fill the OCC shoeboxes this year. We will gather items through October and begin packing in November. As always, if you wish to fill your own box, we will have plenty for you too! Thanks always for your support and generosity. If you have any questions, please contact Mission Ministry Team Chair, Geri Willis.

**September: Wash clothes, combs, brushes, toothbrushes, fun band-aids, nail files**

**October: Small stuffed animals, craft kits, yo-yos, kaleidoscopes, Slinky, balls**

**November: Money for postage. Boxes will be packed this month and delivered November 17.**



**Dress A Girl Around the World**



Several women have been diligent in creating blessings for girls with the making of dresses that will be sent through "Dress a Girl" International. These dresses are specially labeled to prevent the abduction of young girls in the places they live. **Thank you to each one who made dresses for this ministry.** We will present the dresses **Sunday, September 15** during worship and invite the children of our congregation to assist in the blessing of these dresses before sending them to their central destination.



**Sunday Morning Study:** Sundays, 9:28 p.m.  
**Armchair Theologians:** Sundays, 9:30 a.m.  
**Harmony of the Gospels:** Sundays, 9:30 a.m.  
**Sunday Morning Worship:** 10:50 a.m.  
**Labor Day/Office Closed:** Monday, Sept. 2  
**Men's Bible Study:** Wednesdays, 7 a.m., Bob Evans  
**Bells Rehearsal:** Wednesdays, 5:45 p.m. (resumes 9/4)  
**Chancel Choir Rehearsal:** Wednesdays, 6:45 p.m.  
**Open Chapel:** Wednesday, Sept 4, 5:30–8 p.m.  
**Paper Angels:** Thursday, Sept. 5, 1 p.m.  
**Horizons Bible Study:** Thursday, Sept. 5, 6 p.m.  
**Wedding Shower/Rachel Dillon:** Saturday, Sept. 7, 1 p.m.  
**Youth Group Meeting:** Sunday, Sept. 8, 12:15 p.m.  
**Ministry Teams Meeting:** Monday, Sept. 9, 5:30 p.m.  
**Men's Lunch Bunch:** Thursday, Sept. 12, 11:30 a.m.  
**Dress A Girl Blessing:** Sunday, Sept. 15, 10:50 a.m.  
**Wedding Shower/Summer Whitman:** Sunday, Sept. 15 following morning worship  
**Sew Blessed:** Monday, Sept. 16, 6 p.m.  
**Finance Ministry Team:** Tuesday, Sept. 17, 5:30 p.m.  
**Paper Angels:** Thursday, Sept. 19, 1 p.m.  
**Dames + Dinner:** Thursday, Sept. 19, 5:30 p.m.  
**Session Meeting:** Tuesday, Sept. 24, 5:30 p.m.  
**Men's Lunch Bunch:** Thursday, Sept. 26, 11:30 a.m.  
**Max's Birthday Celebration:** Sunday, Sept. 29, Noon  
**Youth Group Meeting:** Sunday, Sept. 29 following morning worship  
**Empty Nesters:** Monday, Sept. 30, 5:30 p.m.



**Charlie Holbrook**—September 1  
**Heather Shay**—September 1  
**Kevin Shay**—September 1  
**Brooke Gehringer**—September 2  
**Barry Barbour**—September 5  
**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

**Special Dates**

Labor Day, *September 2*  
 National Grandparents Day, *September 8*  
 Patriot Day, *September 11*  
 First Day of Autumn, *September 22*



**Happy Birthday Max!**

Please join us on **Sunday, September 29** 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.

**Notes Of Gratitude**

Thanks to all of you for the beautiful Christmas cards, and also my loving friends at *Paper Angels*. Your cards of love, hope, and Christian encouragement have helped me get through all the trials I've been facing. Thank you all for caring so much. Love to all and God bless. (*Paula Kiser*)

I am truly humbled and honored by First Presbyterian Church's donation of \$651.83 during the Baby Bottle Blessings fundraiser. I stand in awe of God's goodness, His church and each of you who said "Yes" and filled a bottle. (*Sandy Bellomy, Executive Director Two Hearts Pregnancy Care Centers*)

p.s. We actually raised more money than \$651.83, we had a few bottles returned after the deadline. Thanks to all who participated this past year. ☺

