



First Presbyterian Church

Tullahoma, Tennessee

Stewardship Dedication Sunday September 24, 2023

Vision Statement:

Worshipping God, growing together, serving others, and welcoming all

Service for the Worship of God – 10:30 a.m.

Welcome and Announcements

If you are visiting with us and would like to leave your contact information, please fill out the “Welcome” card (located in the pew rack) and put it in the offering plate.

Prelude

Still your heart and prepare to worship God.

Water is poured into the baptismal font calling us to remember our baptism.

Acolytes symbolically bring the light of Christ into the service.

Call to Worship (responsively)

Led by Liturgist

In deep gratitude we come to worship God.

We recognize God as the source of all goodness.

All good gifts come from the Spirit of God:

Love, peace, joy, patience, kindness and gentleness are all of God.

We come with grateful hearts for God’s healing, redeeming love.

We gather to show our gratitude in song and prayer.

Invocation

Liturgist

****Hymn No. 611**

Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee

****Call to Confession**

Liturgist

****Prayer of Confession (unison)**

Led by Liturgist

Almighty God, we confess how hard it is to be your people. You have called us to be the church, to continue the mission of Jesus Christ to our lonely and confused world. Yet we acknowledge we can be more apathetic than active, isolated than involved, detached than compassionate, legalistic than loving. Gracious Lord, have mercy and forgive us. Remove the obstacles preventing us from being your representatives to a broken world. Awaken our hearts to the promised gift of your indwelling Spirit. This we pray in Jesus’ name. Amen.

Assurance of Pardon

Liturgist

****Choral Response, No. 399 (2 times)**

God Welcomes All

*God welcomes all, strangers and friends;
God's love is strong, and it never ends.*

Time with Young Christians

Special Music

Prayer of Illumination

First Lesson: Exodus 16:2-15

Found on page 62 in the Old Testament of the pew Bible

Holy Word, Holy Wisdom

Thanks be to God.

Second Lesson: Matthew 20:1-16

Found on page 21 in the New Testament of the pew Bible

Holy Word, Holy Wisdom

Thanks be to God.

Sermon: The Only Punishable Offense

****Affirmation of Faith (unison)**

We belong to God, eternal and infinite, Creator of all things and all that is to come. We follow Christ, who reveals God to us and calls us to join in his ministry. He was crucified, died, and was raised again by God, and reigns over all creation, and he bids us to die and rise with him in the service of the healing of the world. We are moved by the Holy Spirit, together with the communion of saints, as members of the body of Christ, God's holy universal church. In all things, it is our desire to follow Christ, by the grace of the Holy Spirit, for God's glory. Amen

****Hymn No. 711**

Lord of All Good

Stewardship Commitment and Dedication

See white insert.

Prayers of the People (Leader) and The Lord's Prayer (unison): Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.

Presentation of Ourselves and of our Gifts

Call to Offering

Liturgist

Contributions can also be made online at www.fpctullahoma.org

Offertory

Consider how you can use your time and abilities as an offering and expression of your stewardship.

****Doxology, No. 609**

*Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; Praise God, all creatures high and low.
Alleluia, alleluia! Praise God, in Jesus fully known: Creator, Word, and Spirit one.
Alleluia, alleluia! Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!*

****Prayer of Dedication**

Liturgist

****Hymn No. 700**

I'm Gonna Live So God Can Use Me

****Charge and Blessing**

****Postlude**

*****All who are able are invited to stand.***

Ministers – Our entire congregation
Stephen G. Yates, Pastor
Colman Connally, Today's Musician
David Hiebert, Organist
Katie Prasser, Minister to Children
Bethany Sterling, Minister to Youth
Robert Wright, Choir Director
Bethany Sterling, Liturgist

Thank-you for your help with the Surprise Reception

Thank you to the entire congregation for your help in making Stephen's 10th Anniversary reception a success. Many people helped in some form or fashion. I apologize in advance if I have left someone off, but the following helped me in specific ways. **Martha Bradley** was my consultant-in-chief and was the one who brought the anniversary to my attention. (Apparently, she's also a much better liar than I am, since Stephen had no idea she was involved.) **Jessica Smith** helped with picking up the food from Publix as well as helping to command the kitchen. **Katie Prasser, Jessica Smith, Betty Gault, Melissa Hall, and Christy Sherrer** helped serve food, cake, or drinks. **Bonnie Watts, Kathy Beckett, and Kayla Keough** helped with setting the tables. **Betty Gault** put together the beautiful flowers for each table; she and **Mary Jane Christopher** traveled around the area collecting wild flowers. **Katie Prasser, Lesley Lawson, Melissa Hall, Greg Sterling, and, yes, Stephen Yates** set up the tables and chairs. (Thanks also to **Alan Harris** who went to set up Saturday only to discover we were a step ahead of him.) **Clark Lawrence** collected the donations for Stephen's gift. Many hands make light work. My committee of one greatly appreciated the assistance! --- Bethany Sterling

A multitude of thanks to Bethany Sterling for the weeks of planning, scheming, and telling "little white lies" to make this reception happen! To quote an eminent authority, "A lie is an abomination to the Lord but a very present help in time of trouble."

Announcements for September 24, 2023

Sunday, September 24 – Stewardship Dedication Sunday

9:00 Sunday school for adults
10:30 Worship service
11:30 Fellowship time hosted by Katie Prasser and Bethany Sterling
Elder Training following Fellowship Time

Monday, September 25

8:30 Learning Place Preschool

Tuesday, September 26

8:30 Learning Place Preschool
5:30 p.m. Girls Night Out quilters meeting in Fellowship Hall

Wednesday, September 27

8:30 Learning Place Preschool
5:00 – 6:30 p.m. Kingdom Kids for children Pre-K – 5th grade
5:00 – 6:30 p.m. Presbyterian Youth Connection for middle school students
6:30 – 8:00 p.m. Presbyterian Youth Connection for high school students

Thursday, September 28

8:30 Learning Place Preschool
8:45 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. Heirloom quilters meeting in Fellowship Hall

Friday, September 29

9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. Heirloom quilters meeting in Fellowship Hall

Saturday, September 30

9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. Girls Night Out quilters meeting in Fellowship Hall

Next Sunday, October 1 – World Communion Sunday

9:00 Sunday school for children, youth, and adults
10:30 Worship service
11:30 Session meeting in Fellowship Hall

Fellowship Time – The Family Activities Committee has restarted having Fellowship Time after church each Sunday except when there is a special event. We are asking members of the church to sign up in the narthex to bring light refreshments on their chosen Sunday. The sign-up sheet is on the lectern beside the liturgist sign-up. Suggestions are granola, fruit or cereal bars, cookies, muffins, pastries, fruit and/or finger foods. Suggested drinks are lemonade, water, and/or tea. You may want to partner with other friends and family. Please join us in helping enhance our time together.

One Day of Hope for Coffee County – Here's a reminder that this is the last week to bring the requested items for this mission project (end date is October 1). Bring coats and shoes for adults and children, children's clothes, and work boots and place them in the narthex closet. You can also make a monetary donation to FPC designated for One Day of Hope.

Stewardship Commitment

Pastor: Today is a day of celebration in the life of First Presbyterian Church because today we remember that each and every one of us — young and old — is called by God to be stewards of justice, stewards of creation, stewards of peace, stewards in this family of faith. Stewards give from all aspects of their lives. As we accept this call to be stewards, we each become a living example of Christ's gospel, proclaiming faith through all that we do and all that we give. As it is written in I Peter, "Like good stewards of the manifold grace of God, serve one another with whatever gift each of you has received." And so, people of God, I ask you now, do you promise to enter into this covenant together to be God's stewards with all your mind and heart? If so, please answer, "I do."

Litany of Commitment (responsively)

PASTOR: Gracious God, you have made a world for us and given us incomparable gifts: air and water, family and friends, your steadfast love and forgiveness, and your son Jesus the Christ. For all the gifts and wonders you have bestowed on us,

PEOPLE: we thank you and worship you with renewed gratitude.

PASTOR: O God, you created us to love one another as Christ has loved us so we are concerned about all your children, those who live near us, and those who live far away. We are eager to participate in the work of the whole church and to further the ministry and service of this congregation.

PEOPLE: We are called to be your stewards. We thoughtfully shoulder our personal share of responsibility, and we dedicate our lives and resources as a witness to the good news of Christ. Today we respond to your grace with our hearts and hands and voices.

PASTOR: We are confident in your love and care for us.

PEOPLE: We gladly dedicate our whole lives – our time, our talents, and our financial resources – to our gracious God.

PASTOR: Let these symbols of our faith and belief be dedicated to the purposes of demonstrating your love in our community and throughout the world. Let them reflect a deeper commitment to care for the earth and all of creation as a testament of our love for you.

PEOPLE: Let them be symbols of the love we have received, the justice we will work towards, and the mercy in which you hold us now.

PASTOR: Above all, O Lord, receive them as a testimony of our gratitude for the love that sustains us, restores us, and gives life meaning and purpose. Amen.

ALL: Gracious God, as you have called workers to various tasks in the world and in your church, so you have called each of us, with unique experiences and gifts, to serve you. Fill us with wisdom and patience, with love, with faithfulness and hope, and with courage and compassion. We ask you to rekindle the gift of your spirit in each of us, remembering that you have given us not a spirit of timidity but a spirit of power and love and humility. May we with gladness join as a community that as individuals and as a whole supports one another, serves our neighbors in need, and works for a just and peaceful world for all of your creation. Amen.