

January 2025



The Mustard Seed



New Beginnings

In the coming months, as we prepare to close the doors of the beloved church building, Collierville Presbyterian Church, we are reminded that the Church has never been about the walls, but about the people and the mission of God. For years, this place has been a beacon of light, where countless lives have been transformed by the gospel, where prayers have been lifted, and where the community has come together to serve, worship, and grow in Christ.

While this chapter is coming to a close, the legacy of this ministry lives on. Every child who sang in the choir, every couple who exchanged vows, every heart that surrendered to Jesus within these walls is a testimony to the faithfulness of God. We rejoice in the seeds planted here, knowing that his Word never returns void.

Even as we close this chapter, we sense that God is writing a new story for Collierville. Isaiah 43:19 reminds us, "See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it?" We believe this is a season of new beginnings. Our God is still moving, and his plans for this community are greater than we can imagine. Let's lean into this hope and commit to being part of the exciting work he is unfolding.

Thank you for being part of this journey. Let us move forward together, trusting in his promise to make all things new.

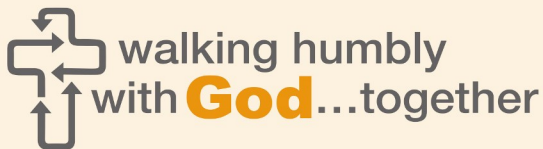
Blessings,

Rev Mark Howland



Current Session Members:

Rev. Mark Howland, Moderator
Karen Wimpee
Patrick Seiler
Suzanne Dunn



"Steps of Faith, Beyond the Pew"

Anonymous

Within these walls, where echoes dwell,
A past we hold, stories to tell,
But time moves on, a rising tide,
With open hearts, we step outside.

The steeple points to heavens high,
A guiding light against the sky,
Yet in our souls, a new path gleams,
To face the future, not just dreams.

The hymns we sang, the prayers we shared,
A foundation strong, a love declared,
Now, with each stride, our spirits soar,
To reach beyond the church's door.

With open arms, we reach to heal,
The wounds unseen, the pain we feel,
Beyond the walls, our mission calls,
To serve the world, to answer all.

So let us walk, with grace and might,
Into the dawn, where hope shines bright,
For in this journey, hand in hand,
We'll find our purpose, understand.

~ STEWARDSHIP UPDATE

As of December 28, 2024

YTD Income: \$48,517
YTD Expenses: \$58,792
YTD Net Income: (\$10,275)

Parenthesis indicate negative number.

*Every man shall give as he is able, according to the blessing of the Lord your God that he has given you.
Deuteronomy 16:17*

~ PRESBYTERY PRAYER CONCERNS



Below are prayer concerns from the Presbytery of the Mid-South for this month. Please add these to your prayers for the week:

- Week of 1/5: The Presbyterian Church (USA), Synods, Presbyteries, & Churches
- Week of 1/12: The Presbytery of the Mid-South, Staff & Volunteers
- Week of 1/19: Race Relations/Racial Intercultural Justice, Criminal Justice
- Week of 1/26: Synod of Living Waters, Staff & Volunteers



[Click here to find out what's happening at your library!](#)



Collierville
BURCH
LIBRARY



Town of
Collierville
TENNESSEE

[Click here to find out what's happening in your town!](#)



Focus on First Presbyterian Church Outreach

First Presbyterian Church is deeply committed to Jesus' call to love our neighbors. We attempt to alleviate the stress of life on the streets or in substandard housing, by providing needed items such as food staples, pants, shirts, socks, hygiene kits and blankets in addition to a hot meal served every Sunday afternoon. If you are seeking active involvement in meeting the needs of our neighbors, there is ample opportunity here.

Soup Kitchen

The Soup Kitchen was started over 40 years ago to provide a hot meal on Sunday afternoons to the food insecure of Memphis. Back then, there was no organization in Memphis that offered a meal on Sundays. Our Soup Kitchen founder famously said, "well people are hungry on Sundays too!" And we started from there. First Presbyterian Church provides the facilities and the leadership while volunteers from around Memphis assist in welcoming our guests, serving a hot meal, and outfitting guests in the clothes closet. You don't have to be Presbyterian to help in the Soup Kitchen; we value our partners in this ministry, no matter your faith, sexual orientation or age. [Please contact the office if you'd like to plan a day for your group to send volunteers!](#)

The Soup Kitchen is grateful for our ministry partners! We currently serve an average of 80 men, women and children on Sunday afternoon. Eight to fifteen volunteers assist each Sunday. In addition to the hot meal we open our clothes closet every week.

Birth Certificate Program

You probably haven't thought about your birth certificate in years. You don't need to. You are thoroughly documented with driver's licenses, social security cards, utility bills and bank statements. Most of our guest are not. Their valid IDs have expired and they cannot begin to rebuild their identity without a certified birth certificate. On the first two Sundays of each month, we interview clients, process and pay for their birth certificate applications. This past year we interviewed 366 clients and processed applications to 22 states from Maine to California. Since many of our clients are in a residency transition, their birth certificates are returned to the church and we allow the clients to receive mail and use our church address for their correspondence.

Room In The Inn

First Presbyterian is proud to partner with the saints of Room In The Inn, a congregational shelter program that has been ministering to our unhoused neighbors in Downtown Memphis for over 15 years. Pickup takes place seven days a week in our Fellowship Hall from November 1st through March 31st. [Check out their website for volunteer opportunities here.](#)

Clothes Closet

On Sunday afternoons we continue to provide men's and women's seasonal work clothing for those in need. We expect the need to increase in the coming years and welcome contributions in kind from churches and organizations throughout the Mid South. As with the Soup Kitchen we welcome volunteers to help with the sorting and distribution of garments and accessories.

The Hospitality HUB

First Presbyterian Church is a founding member of The Hospitality HUB, and continues to support The Hospitality HUB at 146 Jefferson. Created by the Downtown Churches Association in 2007, The Hospitality HUB provides spiritual sanctuary for Memphis' homeless and particularly to the newly homeless. The HUB connects its clients to resources that help them achieve physical, mental, spiritual and economic stability. The HUB provides counseling, processes birth certificate applications, interviews for state IDs and makes their own runs to the licensing bureau on the 3rd and 4th Wednesdays of each month.

MIFA Meals on Wheels

Volunteers from the congregation of First Presbyterian Church have assigned days and routes with the [MIFA Meals on Wheels program](#). MIFA is a long-term ministry partner of First Presbyterian, and once found it's home in our church building during the early days. We continue to support MIFA's work in Memphis through MIFA Community Days and Meals on Wheels.

Thistle & Bee

First Presbyterian Church partners with this unique non-profit that helps women recover from a life of prostitution in a variety of ways. Their granola makers use our kitchen to bake their wonderful-smelling granola. [Check out their website here.](#)



[Pinecrest Camp and Retreat Center](#)

Nestled among 450 rugged wooded acres, Pinecrest is rich in fun, friendship, learning, and adventure. The beautiful forest, located 35 minutes from Memphis, provides the ideal backdrop for summer camp fun, school field trip science-based education, beautiful outdoor or indoor Chapel weddings, receptions, or gathering friends for thoughtful reflection.

[NaCoMe Camp & Retreat Center](#)

Nestled in a valley of Pleasantville, TN, NaCoMe Camp & Retreat Center is a home away from home for generations of people. We offer a wide variety of [summer camps](#) and [retreats](#) for churches, schools, or groups of any size. All of our programs are centered around our mission of building community, connecting people with God, and renewing spirits.



WILL WE RECOGNIZE JESUS?

by Karen Wimpee

Then the righteous will answer him, 'Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry and gave you food, or thirsty and gave you something to drink? And when was it that we saw you a stranger and welcomed you, or naked and gave you clothing? And when was it that we saw you sick or in prison and visited you?' And the king will answer them, 'Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me.' Matthew 25:37-40

During choir practice a few years ago, an older gentleman came into the sanctuary from outside and sat in the back pew. He had a bag over his shoulder, which probably contained his only possessions. Sam Magliolo spoke with him, then told us that he was passing through town and needed a place to stay. By this time, the man had left the sanctuary. Although Tingting tried to find him in the church, he was gone.

What happened? Were we too surprised to do anything? Too busy singing? Or just too afraid? We continued singing:

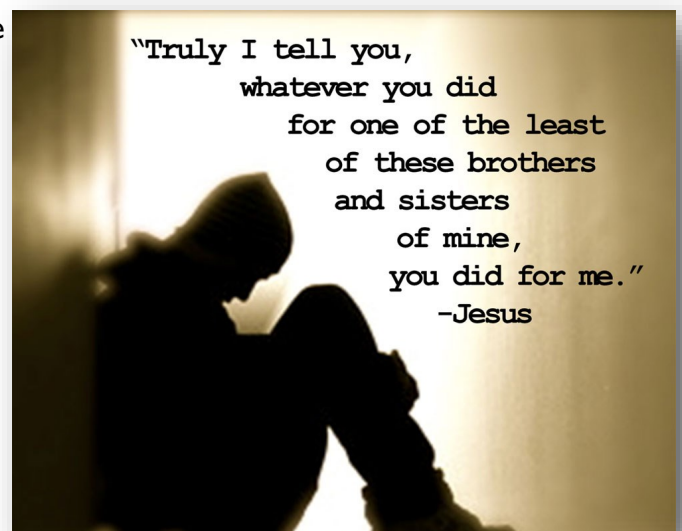
"Down in the village alone in the park is an old man without a friend to share a Christmas cheer. The smile that he used to wear has become a silent tear. Oh, where is his spirit? Who took his joy away? Will he be alone again through another holiday?"

At this point, I knew this was not a coincidence. I have never felt so sad. Was Christ in this room but we didn't see him? Are we missing everyday encounters with Christ because we just don't see them? After choir, I drove around Collierville in tears looking for this man. I prayed that I would find him, but I did not.

A few weeks later, I volunteered at the Soup Kitchen. I hoped this man would be there. He was not. I continued to pray for this man that came through our doors that Christmas season. We missed our chance to do more.

Prayer:

Lord, open our hearts so that we will not miss the chance to serve others. As our church is growing to serve, help us to see Your face in the ones we serve. In Christ's name we pray. Amen.





a prayer for the NEW YEAR

Lord, please bless the coming year. Help me to use my time wisely and strengthen my resolve to consistently do all of the following:

Never stop praying (1 Thessalonians 5:17)

Lord, teach me to pray without ceasing. Remind me to make prayer my first response rather than a last resort. Conform me to the image of Christ, that I might with Him pray, "Not my will, but Thine be done."

Encourage one another (1 Thessalonians 5:11)

Lord, open my eyes to the needs of those around me. Help me to love my neighbors as I love myself & to put their interests ahead of my own. May every word I speak edify and uplift and point others to You.

Work without complaining (Philippians 2:14)

Place a guard on my mouth. God, that I might not grumble about the tasks I've been given to do. Help me to serve others with gladness & do my work heartily & cheerfully, as a sacrifice of praise unto You.

Yearn for Christ's return (Mark 13:32-33)

Lord, keep me mindful of the fact that my hope is not rooted in social movements or political reform, but in Christ alone. Speed the day of His return & let me be found faithfully doing His work when He appears.

Evangelize the lost (Mark 16:15)

Give me a heart for those who don't know You, God. May I boldly & urgently proclaim the gospel of grace & forgiveness of sins freely available to all who confess Jesus is Lord & believe You raised Him from the dead.

Acknowledge Him (Proverbs 3:5-6)

Don't let me outlive my love & devotion to You, Lord. Let my life serve as an example of what it means to trust You fully. May all I do & say & hope & think bring glory & honor to Your precious, holy name.

Redeem the time (Ephesians 5:15-16)

"Lord, teach us to number our days, that we might apply our hearts to wisdom." Don't let me squander my time on earth. Show me how to invest it wisely in activities & pursuits that will bear fruit for all of eternity.

Pickleball

Lessons

50+ Age Group Lessons



SESSION DATES

- January 14, 16, 21, 23
- February 11, 13, 18, 20
- April 8, 10, 15, 17

Fee: \$40 (4 classes)

Dates/Time: Tuesday & Thursday, 9-10:30 a.m.

Location: Linda Kerley Center, 175 W. Poplar Ave

Limit 10 participants per session

Please wear the correct shoes (court shoes)
for playing pickleball.

REGISTER ONLINE



collierville.recdesk.com



901-457-2769



TOWN OF COLLIERVILLE
PARKS
RECREATION
ARTS

What is Pickleball and Why is It So Popular?

Over the last few years, pickleball has been rising in popularity. In fact, pickleball is considered one of the fastest-growing sports in the United States. Due to the soaring popularity of this decades-old game, many parks and recreation departments are now adding pickleball to their sports programming. But what is pickleball exactly, and why is it becoming so popular?



What is Pickleball?

Pickleball is a paddle sport that combines elements of tennis, badminton, and ping-pong using a paddle and plastic ball with holes. It is a game that is appropriate for players of all ages and skill levels. Rules for pickleball are simple, making it a great introductory sport. It can also be quite the challenging, fast-paced, and competitive game when people become more experienced at playing.

Why is Pickleball So Popular?

There are many reasons for pickleball's popularity in recent years. Here are just some reasons why the USA Pickleball Association (USAPA) calls the sport, "highly contagious":

Pickleball is Ideal for All Skill Levels

Because pickleball rules are so similar to ping-pong, it can be easy for practically anyone to learn how to play the game. Whether you're a beginner who just wants to learn a new sport for fun, or you're a seasoned player who craves the thrill of more competitive play, pickleball offers something for everyone.

Pickleball is a Social Activity

Because a pickleball court is smaller than a tennis court (you can actually convert one tennis court into four pickleball courts), gameplay allows players to be close enough to one another that they can hold conversations. So, if you're looking to bond with your family or have an outing with friends new or old, pickleball makes it easy to do just that while also giving you the ability to fit in a fun workout.

Playing Pickleball is Healthy

If you are looking for some great exercise for your mind and body, pickleball can't be beat. Playing pickleball allows you to work on your balance, agility, reflexes, and hand-eye coordination without putting excessive strains on your body. Pickleball is a wonderful alternative for older players who used to play tennis, but have physical limitations such as hip, shoulder, knee, or other joint problems.

Collierville Pickleball Court Locations

Collierville Community Center Gym	4 courts
*Linda Kerley Center	3 courts
Suggs Park	6 lighted, outdoor courts; refer to posted rules for play
H. W. Cox Park	3 outdoor courts (no lights); open for recreational play; first-come, first-served

*Linda Kerley Center:

Fee:	Resident : \$10 for 5 play days or \$20 for 10 play days. Punch card purchased on-site. Non-Resident : \$25 for 5 play days or \$50 for 10 play days. Punch card purchased on-site.
Location:	Linda Kerley Center & Collierville Community Center
More Info:	Monthly calendar for open pickleball




☺ Birthday ♥ Anniversary

January 2025

Collierville Presbyterian Church



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3	4
5 2nd Sunday after Christmas	6 ◆ Boy Scouts (7pm)	7	8	9	10	11
12 Baptism of Our Lord ◆ Daisy Troop 13258 (2pm) ◆ GS Troop 13139 (2pm)	13 ◆ GS Troop 13920 ◆ Boy Scouts (7pm)	14	15	16	17	18
19 2nd Sunday after Epiphany	20 ◆ Boy Scouts (7pm) 	21	22	23	24	25
26 3rd Sunday after Epiphany	27 ◆ GS Troop 13920 ◆ Boy Scouts (7pm)	28	29	30	31	