



VOICE of FAITH

A Newsletter of Faith Presbyterian Church

July 2026

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Dear Faith Family,

July is shaping up to be a wonderful month in the life of Faith Presbyterian Church. Summer is in full swing, and God continues to provide opportunities for worship, fellowship, learning, and growing together.

We begin the month on Sunday, July 5, by welcoming our brothers and sisters from Hope Presbyterian Church for our annual Independence Day joint worship service. This has become one of my favorite traditions as we gather as one body in Christ, celebrating not only the blessings of our nation but, more importantly, the freedom we have through Jesus Christ.

On July 11, we will send four of our youth to the Montreat Youth Conference. Montreat has been a life-changing experience for generations of Presbyterian youth, and we are excited for these young people to grow in their faith, build lasting friendships, and encounter God in fresh ways. The Presbytery as a whole is sending 9 youth. Faith is sending 4 of those youth and 1 adult! Please keep them, their leaders, and everyone traveling in your prayers throughout the week.

Our summer sermon series, "What the Hell?" continues throughout July as we examine what Scripture says about heaven, hell, judgment, and the hope we have in Christ. Our well-attended Faith Forum Sunday School class will transition from discussing Love Wins to Erasing Hell. The discussions in Faith Forum have been thoughtful, engaging, and respectful as we wrestle with difficult theological questions together. We are also excited to welcome Rabbi P.J. Schwartz, who will help us understand the Jewish perspective on the afterlife and hell.

Finally, July marks the unofficial beginning of an exciting new chapter for Faith Presbyterian Church. As I shared last month, after much prayer, conversation, discernment by the Worship Committee, and approval by Session, we will officially move to one combined worship service beginning in August. Starting in August, Sunday School will begin at 9:00 a.m., followed by one worship service at 10:00 a.m. Worship will primarily take place in the Sanctuary, with occasional services in the Fellowship Hall as needed. We will no longer have separate Faith in the Morning and Traditional services. Instead, we will simply gather as one church family for one service of worship.

(Continued on Page 3)

FINANCIALLY SPEAKING -MAY 2026

	INCOME/EXPENSES			PLEDGES & NON-PLEGDED	
	MAY	YEAR TO DATE		MAY	YEAR TO DATE
TOTAL INCOME	\$69,467.00	\$235,128.00	ACTUAL	\$64,250.00	\$211,996.00
TOTAL EXPENSES	-\$41,702.00	-\$198,284.00	BUDGET	\$33,565.00	\$167,826.00
OVER/LOSS	\$27,765.00	\$36,844.00		\$30,685.00	\$44,170.00



In July we will continue our Faith Forum style adult Sunday School at 9:00AM in the Fellowship Hall followed by one worship service each Sunday at 10:00AM.

Regular Children's Sunday School is paused for the summer until August 9th. Childcare will be available in Room #120 at 9AM on Sundays so that adults may attend the summer adult class.

Thursday Morning Bible Studies:

Women's Bible Study at 9:00-10:00AM in the Franklin Center.

Men's Bible Study at 11:00AM-Noon in the Parlor

Summer Worship Schedule—Continuing in July we will have only one worship service each Sunday at 10:00AM.

July—Worship in the Sanctuary at 10:00AM



July Anniversaries

Michael & Karen French	07/01
Rob Preece	07/01
Steve Solley	07/19
Mary Hooper	07/24

Average Attendance in May

Average Total 60



July Birthdays

John McSwaim	07/03
Maggie Robinson	07/03
Eddie Lee	07/11
Martha Whitener	07/12
Sally Priester	07/13
Avrie Adams	07/14
Rob Preece	07/14
Christi Robinson	07/18
Karl Rass	07/25
Reanna Bowe	07/26
Philip Franklin	07/27

(Continued from Page 1)

I am genuinely excited about what this means for our congregation. We will sing together, pray together, celebrate together, and serve together. There is something beautiful about the whole church gathering as one body to glorify God. As we enjoy these summer months, may we continue to grow together in faith, hope, and love. I look forward to worshipping with you throughout July and to all that God has in store for Faith Presbyterian Church.

Engage•Nurture•Bless,
Michael
Pastor



The Items of the Month for July are Cereal and Spam.

A big **Thank You** to everyone who brought breakfast and granola bars for Faith's pantry during May! You are saving mission funds for other causes when you donate items. Otherwise they are purchased to go into the Elderly Mission Project boxes which volunteers pack and deliver each month to seniors who need additional food toward the end of the month.

There are baskets for your donations in the Narthex and Fellowship Hall.



A Minute for Mission!



Camp Maranatha

For over 60 years, Camp Maranatha has served North Alabama and beyond as a safe gathering place for retreats, summer camps, and group events. It has been, and will continue to be, a place where differences are set aside and our humanity, spirituality, and commonality are reignited. Nestled on the banks of the Tennessee River on beautiful Lake Guntersville, the beauty of creation provides the campers a unique chance to unplug and experience Maranatha.

The camp has hosted summer camps and groups of all ages and sizes since shortly after the initial purchase of 95 acres along the Tennessee River in 1956 for \$6,000. Maranatha's founders, members of the North Alabama Presbytery, created it as a ministry to serve the greater church and provide an affordable camp facility for youth and families in the region to allow them to connect with God in his creation. Building on these early foundations, Maranatha ultimately expanded to 118 acres in 1983, constructed new facilities, and enhanced access to the lake with the construction of a sea wall and dock. As our alumni base grew, the camper numbers increased as those campers shared their experiences with friends and neighbors.

Maranatha expanded its vision as well, becoming a favorite refuge to people of all walks, economic situations, and cultures as a means to enjoy nature and use it to deepen their relationship with God. Maintaining the relationship with the North Alabama Presbytery provided the financial resources to grow to their current 4 climate controlled cabins, 6 climate controlled hogans, Summer Lodge, Winter Lodge, and outdoor pavilion, as well as a large kitchen and Dining Hall/Event Space.

During those years, Maranatha also became more than just a summer camp. With many family-oriented groups using the space for retreats, Maranatha has long been a spiritual haven for adults as well as children. With the construction of the Lakeside Conference Center in 2002, which features 16 hotel-style rooms with en-suite bathrooms, a 1600 square ft reconfigurable conference room, sitting area, and kitchen, the camp expanded the opportunities to serve North Alabama and beyond.

In Spring 2016, Maranatha separated from the North Alabama Presbytery to operate as a stand-alone 501(c)3 Non-Profit Organization. This has opened up new doors for Maranatha as it continues to draw its' deep historical roots and network of alumni to create new experiences in nature that allow campers to connect with God and be transformed for his purpose. Some of these events this year include the Mommy + Me Day Camp and the Join the Adventure Camp Day.

Dear Faith Family,

Our 4th annual Arts and Music Camp for children last week was a resounding success. 37 children spent 4 hours each morning singing, playing instruments, making art, and of course enjoying delicious snacks, all while preparing the beautiful worship service we enjoyed together. From the simplicity of our littlest ones singing *"Praise Him, Praise Him, All Ye Little Children"*, to our big kids playing *"Joyful, Joy, We Adore Thee"* on xylophones, the constant theme was praise for our loving God.

This week would not have been possible without our 27 adult and teenage helpers. Thank you to all our volunteers who gave of their time, talent, resources, and mental and physical energy to keep all our children safe, fed, focused, and engaged. We are grateful to God for each of you.

In the June newsletter, I introduced our **Summer Discipleship Challenge**, a bingo-board styled game with bite-sized challenges for all ages to encourage your engagement in following Jesus over the summer months. The large board in the fellowship hall (now moved to the Narthex for the rest of the summer) shows that many of you have been playing along. Pastor Michael's Faith Forum Sunday School series has been a particularly popular item, along with attending worship and enjoying God's creation. Many of us can check off "Attend or volunteer at Arts and Music Camp", for which I am deeply grateful.

As the summer continues, I hope that each of you will keep exploring and deepening your faith, perhaps even trying something new. I personally have yet to begin memorizing my verses and selections from the Book of Confessions, but I know that these words, once committed to heart, will be a source of comfort and sustenance for years to come.

Our Discipleship Challenge will run through Sunday, August 23rd. On that day, we will enjoy lunch together in the fellowship hall and recognize our Bingo winners. There has been a request for M&Ms as prizes... hmmm, sounds good to me!

In Faith,

Clara Reed-Lee
Director of Christian Education



July 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday																																																																																											
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2026

Summer

DISCIPLESHIP BINGO

Tell a friend about your church	Experience worship in the Fellowship Hall if you usually attend the Traditional service - or the other way around!	Experience the beauty of God's creation in nature and give thanks in prayer.	Memorize a "verse": Creeds and Confessions	Donate school supplies for our back-to-school supply drive
Add food to our Little Free Pantry	Attend or volunteer at Arts and Music Camp	Visit or send a card (or picture) to someone who is sick or homebound	Volunteer to serve as usher, greeter, communion server, or liturgist	Visit a different church while traveling out of town
Care for God's creation by nurturing a plant, garden, or animal	Memorize a verse: New Testament		Borrow and read a book from our church library - or choose a different devotional book	Go to the Faith/Hope Summer Picnic
Memorize a verse: Old Testament	Write a note of appreciation to our pastor or someone else who helps our church	Bring an item of the month for the EMP boxes	Draw a picture or take notes during the sermon	Pick up litter in your neighborhood or clean something at church
Attend a Faith Forum Sunday School	Enjoy God's gift of water at the pool, lake, or ocean	Add a book to our Little Free Library	Go to a church camp or conference	Memorize all the books of the Bible (advanced) or Memorize the gospels (beginner)

How to Play

- 1) Pick up or print your own personal Summer Discipleship Bingo grid.
- 2) Complete as many challenges as you can. See how many bingos you can get!
- 3) Share your progress with your church family by marking your completed challenges on the large group game board at the back of the fellowship hall or in the Narthex.
- 4) Optional: Take photos to document what you have read, learned, given, enjoyed, shared, or thanked God for this summer. Email photos to clara@presby.org to be printed and displayed next to the group game board.

Notes and More Information

- 1) **Sunday worship** will be held at 10AM in the Fellowship Hall in June, and in the Sanctuary in July
- 2) **Memory Verses:** Suggested verses for each memorization category will be printed and placed in baskets by the large game board in the back of the Fellowship Hall or in the Narthex. Shorter/easier options will be printed on yellow paper, and more advanced on blue paper.
- 3) **Arts and Music Camp** will be held June 22 - 26. Contact Beth Cape to volunteer.
- 4) To **volunteer as liturgist**, contact Libba Nicholson (libban@mail.com).
To **volunteer as communion server**, contact Holly Wilks (holly-wilks@outlook.com)
- 5) Yes, our **church library** is back! Books and resources are available to borrow upstairs in the Education Building, in room 211.
- 6) Our annual joint service and **picnic celebration with Hope Presbyterian Church** will be held here at Faith on Sunday, July 5th.
- 7) Items for our **Elderly Mission Project food boxes** are collected in baskets in the Narthex and back of the Fellowship Hall. The items of the month for June are canned peas and green beans, and the items of the month for July are canned corn and carrots.
- 8) Pastor Michael will lead this summer's **Faith Forum Sunday school** each Sunday morning in June and July at 9AM in the Fellowship Hall.