

on second Thought...



This month I thought I would wade into one of the most controversial topics in the landscape of controversies in our society today. It's one of the most divisive issues in Tennessee, but I believe it has parallels to other controversies in the church and in our nation.

With apologies to William Shakespeare, the essence of the controversy can be summed up in one short sentence: To woo or not to woo, that is the question. Hopefully, you all know what I'm referring to, but just in case, I mean the "WOO!" in the UT fight song, Rocky Top. (And yes, I know that the actual fight song is really Down the Field and not Rocky Top, but one controversy at a time, please.)

I have not found many Tennessee fans without an opinion on the matter. Very few people stand apathetically in the middle ground when it comes to the WOO. The question seems to illicit passionate feelings on each side of the divide. My less-thanscientific research on this issue has uncovered a key indicator that, while not always accurate, can usually predict which side a person is on.

Most anti-WOO Tennessee fans remember when Neyland Stadium was shaped like a horseshoe, recall seeing the Vols on television only once or twice a year, cheered for the likes of Hacksaw Reynolds, Stanley Morgan, Reggie White, and Condredge Holloway, remember George Cafego, cheered when Johnny came marching home from Pitt, and believe crimson red is the color of our most hated rival.

Most pro-WOO fans never saw the UT on the side of The Hill, remember Peyton Manning from their childhood, never had to wait for Sunday morning to see what the game actually looked like on the coach's show, and believe orange and blue are the colors of our most hated rival.

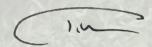
in other words - it comes down to the number of years one has been a UT fan. I remember when there was no WOO in Rocky Top. When I was a child, there was no WOO; when I graduated UT there was no WOO; when I bought my first season tickets in 1996 when the upper deck of the north end zone was built, there was no WOO. Then I was away for a few years in the late 90s. I came back, and there was a WOO.

My wife, who is the same age as me but did not grow up watching Tennessee football, loved it. I did not. She still loves it. I still do not. My children both love the WOO. I don't understand it. But I have resigned myself to the fact that it is here to stay, whether I like it or not. So I have a choice. I can be bitter and resentful about it, longing for the days when things used to be different and feeling like my opinion, and those of people like me, are being ignored; then getting angry about it and trying to make people go back to the old way of doing things and dismissing anyone who WOOS as "not a true Tennessee fan".

Or I can recognize that traditions change, that the WOO people enjoy Tennessee football just as much as I do, that it's just a different way of supporting the team, that it really has no bearing on the actual game, that it's something they enjoy, that it's not really up to me to decide who is and who is not a Tennessee fan and how they express that, that the WOO doesn't diminish my love of Tennessee football one bit, and (to paraphrase Thomas Jefferson) that it neither picks my pocket nor breaks my leg for someone else to WOO during Rocky Top.

I can't change the WOO. I can't control the WOO. I can only control how I react to those who WOO. I'm choosing the Jesus way. Love. Grace. Understanding. And maybe a little forgiveness.

Grace and peace...



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UPCOMING SERMON TEXTS & TOPICS

Our summer sermon series will conclude on Sunday, September 3rd. Pastor Sarah is focusing on passages from the Psalms while Pastor Tim's series is called The Fatherhood of God: Seeing God Through a Father's Eyes.

August 6th	Psalm 145:8-9	Proclaiming the Lord's Praise
August 13th	Romans 8:26-39	The Fatherhood of God: For Us not Against Us
August 20th	Job 23:1-9	The Fatherhood of God: When God Feels Far Away
August 27th	Psalm 138	Purpose Fulfilled

WE ARE PLEASED TO WELCOME A NEW STAFF MEMBER Julie Hill

Hello, my name is Julie Hill, and I am excited to be a part of the staff at Second Presbyterian. I live in Knoxville with my husband Rick. We have been married for 32 years. We don't have children of our own but spend a lot of time with our extended family. Having grown up in the church (my dad was a Lutheran pastor), it is a familiar and comfortable place to be.

I enjoy helping others in the work of the church and have worked as a support staff member in a few churches over the past 25 years (Sequoyah Hills, Beech Grove Baptist, Ebenezer UMC, and Church Street UMC).

I look forward to meeting and working with you on Tuesdays.



08.04 ANDY MORGAN

08.06 CHARLENE COTTON

08.07 FINLEY KENNEDY

08.07 JOHN REYNOLDS

08.10 KIM ELROD

08.11 CHARLES WHITE

08.12 ROCHNE ULLRICH

08.13 PATRICIA KENNEDY

08.15 DEAN TURNER

08.16 SARAH MORGAN

08.18 LOUISE JOSEPHSON

08.21 KATHRYN FREEMAN

08.21 TAYLOR JONES

08.21 NOAH LEWIS

08.21 JOHN PENMORE

08.24 PATRICIA BAILEY

08.24 BETSY FOSTER

08.24 CRAIG HENDRIX

08.26 CAROLINE BUCKNER

IF WE INADVERTENTLY MISSED SOMEONE...HAPPY BIRTHDAY!
PLEASE HELP US UPDATE OUR RECORDS SO WE'LL HAVE YOUR SPECIAL DAY ON FILE.!



Join us for an ice cream social at 2PC as we head into Fall!

The church will provide ice cream, toppings, and drinks, and all you need to bring is a picnic supper.

A fun inflated "bounce house" will be available for kids, too!

Even if you have other dinner plans, feel free to stop by and enjoy some delicious ice cream.

Visitors and guests are always welcome!

Upcoming events... mark your calendars!



The Presbyterian Women's Group which includes all the gents as well, will resume its monthly meetings on September 12, 2023, as usual on the second Tuesday of each month, 10:00 a.m. -11:30 p.m.

We will continue with a format similar to the 2022-2023 program year with each meeting including hymn singing led by John Lasater, mission reports and a Bible study focused on the person and work of Jesus Christ in Luke and Acts.

ATTENTION TO ALL THE WOMEN AT SECOND CHURCH

For the first time, **Presbyterian Women** is sponsoring a fall, one-day women's retreat at the church on

Saturday, November 11, from 9:30 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

This is a unique opportunity for all church women—members and visitors—to join in learning and worshiping together in fun, fellowship, and study.

Look for details in September.

SECOND

The Second Readers group has scheduled a meeting on August 9th at the Buckingham Clubhouse, starting at 11:30 a.m. Our chosen book for discussion is "Searching for Sylvie Lee". We invite all interested individuals to attend and participate.

Please bring your own lunch and enjoy an indoor activity in a comfortable, cool environment. For any inquiries or further details, please contact Margaret Sullivan at 865-363-3967.

We hope to see you there.



BREAKFAST AT VMC



The Go Team is providing breakfast at the Volunteer Ministry Center's Resource Center four times this year. The second breakfast was served by volunteers on Friday, June 30th.

The next two breakfasts are planned for **September 29th** and **December 29th**. If you would like to volunteer for either of the upcoming breakfasts, please contact Leonard Bailey at lbailey@chartertn.net or by phone or text at 865-207-4947.



2ND PRES VOLUNTEERS

Ten volunteers from 2nd Pres recently served at the Love Kitchen packing and serving meals. Five volunteers worked on July 19 and another five worked on July 26. On the two days combined, a total of about 850 meals were packed for future delivery.

In addition, about 300 meals were packed and served by the two groups. The volunteers stayed busy, but it was definitely for a good cause, and it was fun.





Thank you to all our volunteers!

WEST VIEW ELEMENTARY SCHOOL WON'T FORGET! WORKDAY' Mugust 5111

Meet us at 1714 Mingle Avenue from 8 a.m. until 12 noon to help prepare the school for the new school year.

You can sign up by scanning the QR code below or using the sign-up link in our Friday E-news. Contact Leonard Bailey at (865)207-4947 or Clara Hardin at (865) 803-2942 or (865) 693-3770 if you have any questions.

We are also collecting school supplies! Ask us what they still need!





Pastor Tim will be on vacation July 31st-August 6th.

JUNE BUDGET REPORT

	JUNE	YTD	BUDGET
TOTAL GIVING	\$50,074.09	\$480,449.62	\$784,417.00
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$85,281.21	\$389,299.77	\$819,176.00
EXCESS (SHORTAGE)	(\$35,207.12)	\$91,149.85	(-\$34,759.00)

AUGUST RORE

SAT	S a.m - 12 p.m. West View Work Day (1714 Mingle Ave)	ਟੁ	<u>n</u>	ე მ	a
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O H ⊢	ට 1 p.m. GO team (Barbour Room)	<u>o</u>	17 10 a.m. Arts & Crafts (Room 227) 12 p.m. Realm 101 (Small Conference Room) 1 p.m. Realm 102 (Small Conference Room)	2니 1p.m. Realm Leaders Class (Small Conference Room)	<u>-</u>
WED	⊇ 2 p.m. Compassionate Cuisine (Atrium)	9 11:30 a.m. 2nd Readers (Buckingham Clubhouse)	G 9 a.m. Realm 101 (Small Conference Room) 10 a.m. CPM meeting (Barbour Room) 10 a.m. Realm 102 (Small Conference Room) 2 p.m. Compassionate Cuisine (Atrium)	23 10 a.m. Realm Leaders Class (Small Conference Room)	O m
□○□	 4:30 p.m. CONNECT team (Barbour Room) 5 p.m. Facilities Support team (Zoom)	8 6 p.m. WORSHIP team (Barbour Room)	1도 6 p.m. Session (Barbour Room)	으은 9 a.m. Fish Pantry (Fellowship Hall) 1 p.m. GROW team meeting (Zoom)	<u>ព</u>
Z O S	m	7 10 a.m. Staff meeting (Barbour Room) 4:30 p.m. Gross Ministries Board Meeting (Barbour Room)	三	○ I 10 a.m. Staff meeting (Barbour Room) 12:00 p.m. Pre-School Board Meeting (Zoom) 3 p.m. Budget & Finance Support Team (Zoom)	88
N N S	O m	6 9:30 a.m. Faith, Science & The Future (Barbour) 10:30 a.m. Worship	13 9:30 a.m. Faith, Science & The Future (Barbour) 10:30 a.m. Worship 5 - 7 p.m. Ice Cream Social	20 9:30 a.m. Faith, Science & The Future (Barbour) 10:30 a.m. Worship	27 9:30 a.m. Faith, Science & The Future (Barbour) 10:30 a.m. Worship

• The events included in this calendar will take place as listed if we are in COVID Phase Green or Yellow, BUT NOT if Red.

• Please see the home page & calendar on our website, 2ndpres.org with up-to-date information on COVID Phase changes and new criteria, as well as real-time calendar updates.



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Transitional Associate Pastor for Congregational Life & Mission

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Responding in gratitude to God's love and grace, we are a welcoming, faithful, and hopeful community, following Jesus and serving him in the world.

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