

First Presbyterian Church
110 N. Main Street
Greeneville, TN 37743
423.638.4533

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APRIL 2026

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

423.638.4533

The Bell



This & That from Greg Cartwright

As Easter approaches, I hear people speaking about their different traditions and celebrations, my emails get flooded with different devotionals and writings about the season, and I find myself trying to collectively put together all the pieces of the picture that reflect God's great love for us through Lent and Easter. Eeeekkkk, that was a long sentence, I know. I hope I grammatically put it together correctly! One of the characteristics that Jesus loved to see in his disciples was loyalty. In reading several devotions during this time, I ran across something I wish to share. So the following is a summary from an article that I stumbled upon but find it helpful for our day and time!

The Greek word, *agape*, is often translated "unconditional love," that no strings attached kind of love that God has for us. There is an Old Testament equivalent of sorts called, *hesed*. The word is less known but means "loyal love." Loyalty is almost a lost value in today's world. It seems almost everything is for sale, i.e., friendships, affection, devotion, and the list goes on. Some of the disciples struggled with loyalty at times, as we all do, and others tried their best to be loyal to the very end.

This is what I think and get from the reading . . . maybe this Easter, we allow ourselves to have a deeper understanding of God's *agape*. In turn, the deeper the manifestation of our *hesed*. (or loyal love) Just a thought! Happy Resurrection Day!

Pastor Greg

APRIL Leadership

* denotes a communion Sunday

Sanctuary Side Door Greeter:

- *2 Beverly Selmeski
- 3 Zan Walker
- *5 Kathleen Copeland
- *12 Pam Harley
- 19 Pat Donaldson
- 26 Zan Walker

Main St. Door Greeters:

- *2 The Mitchells
- 3 The Mitchells
- *5 Nellie Blevins
- *12 Chris Kilday
- 19 Ann Van Buskirk
- 26 Joyce Johnson

Communion Preparers:

- * 2 Leeann Smith *(Maundy Thursday)*
- * 5 The Mitchells
- *12 The Harleys

Communion Servers:

- * 2 *(Maundy Thursday)*
Debbie Nycum
Nellie Blevins
- * 5 Nick Mitchell
Mike Hartsell
- *12 Loretta Lyle
Sally Causey

Ushers:

Jay Oberfeiting (H.U.)

- *5 Nick Mitchell
Jay Oberfeiting
- *12 Debbie Nycum
Nick Mitchell
Jay Oberfeiting
- 19 Debbie Nycum
Jay Oberfeiting
- 26 Debbie Nycum
Jay Oberfeiting

Lectionary Readers

- *5 Andy Wehrle
- *12 Randy Harley
- 19 Mike Hartsell
- 26 Sally Causey

Flowers:

- *5 Easter Lilies
- *12 John DeWit
- 19 Myra Cunningham

Home Communion April 15

Jan Wilford
Ann Van Buskirk
David Sallee

Food Bank Needs: Oatmeal & Dry Cereal

Thanks to our church family for the many prayers, cards, phone calls, visits and loving care during Dan's illness and recent death.

Todd and Greg's visits as well as Home Communion brought us much comfort.

Love in Christ,
Dot Culton and Family

Deacons meeting:

April 12, 2025
After the 11:00 a.m. worship service

FPC Financial Update

<u>GENERAL FUND</u>	<u>February 2026</u>	<u>YEAR TO DATE</u>
Budgeted	\$35,876.00	\$72,760.00
Expenditures	\$32,280.00	\$69,611.00
Offerings	\$29,094.00	\$60,459.78
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	(\$3,186.00)	(\$9,151.22)

Food Bank Needs: Oatmeal & Dry Cereal

Important dates:

- April 2 Maundy Thursday Service (@FPC)
- April 3 Good Friday Service @ First Presbyterian Church
- April 4 Easter Egg Hunt (@ Doak House)
- April 5 Easter Sunday (including Sunrise Service)
- April 8 Home Communion FWFC
(*Living Waters for the World Presentation*)
- April 11 ETA Banquet
- April 12 Deacons Meeting
- April 18 Blessing of the Animals
- May 6 Pasta Party (*Montreat Fundraiser*)
- May 7 National Day of Prayer
- May 13 PW Gathering
- July 26 Church Picnic
- October 25 PW Baked Potato Bar

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Presbyterian Women



PW Coordinating Team meets Thursday, April 16, (**please note date change**) at 1 pm in the church library and via Zoom.

Agape Circle meets Thursday, April 16, at 11 am in the church library and via Zoom. Pastor Todd will lead Lesson 8 of the PW/Horizons Bible Study “Remembering Jesus’ Baptism.”

A Reception hosted by PW is planned immediately following worship on Youth Sunday, April 26, in the Fellowship Hall. Plan to join us as we honor our high school graduates: Cole Benson, Destiny Ratliff, and Marley Van Buskirk.

Save the date: A PW Gathering for all women in the church is planned for Wednesday, May 13, from 5 to 7pm in the Simon Room. You are asked to bring a sweet or savory dish. The meat, drinks, and a guest speaker will be provided. In order to know how many to prepare for, please RSVP to the church office before noon on May 8. Mark your calendar and plan to join us for a fun evening and great fellowship!



This years annual Easter Egg Hunt will be at the Doak House Museum at Tusculum University on April 4th, 10 am to 12 pm.

Please help us by supplying the candy to fill the easter eggs.



Food Bank Needs: Oatmeal & Dry Cereal

Honorariums & Memorials

Given to Ruth's Blessings

In memory of Dan B. Culton, Jr.

In memory of Evelyn DeWit

In memory of Elizabeth "Betty" Stewart

By Sarah Kreeger

In memory of Dan B. Culton, Jr.

By Barbie Zeigler

By The Trinity Class

By John and Jan Maddux

By Peggy Bible

By The Carter Family

By Dr. & Mrs. Dan Donaldson

By Randy and Pam Harley

By Jim and Dorothy Hensley

By Susie Loven

By Richard and Donna Parrack

By Loretta Lyle

By Douglas and Felecia Payne

By Glenda Robinson

By Jeanne Stokes

By Arthur and Brenda Franklin

By Kathy and Michael Richards

By Sylvia Knight

By Jerry and Sally Hodge

By Virginia "Cissy" Kite

By John and Joyce Johnson

By The Pectol Family

By Judy Rhea

By John and Leeann Smith

MAY Leadership

Date	Main St. Door Greeter	Lectionary Readers	Sanctuary Side Door Greeter	Flowers
3-May	Sarah Kreeger	Susan Craig	Susan Craig	
10-May	Beverly Selmeski	Nancy Sallee	Kathleen Copeland	Carnations for Mothers' Day
17-May	Nellie Blevins	John Smith	Barbie Zeigler	Myra Cunningham
24-May	Rebecca Scharding	Sally Causey	Zan Walker	
31-May	Joyce Johnson	Mike Hartsell	Beverly Selmeski	

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**ATTENTION
GREETERS, USHERS & ELDERS**

Please check your closets for Greeter, Usher or Elder tags that may have gone home with you. We appreciate when you wear them but we are running short at the church.

April Birthdays

1	Lloyd Jackson	18	Mike Hartsell
3	Destiny Faith Ratliff	18	Wesley Pectol
3	Harris Copeland	20	Chris Kilday
3	Max Smith	22	Floyd Gray
5	Renee French	23	Marley Jane VanBuskirk
6	Olivia Lodge	23	Tyler Kilday
7	Nolen Hunt Dickson	24	John Maddux
8	Bob King	26	Holden Barrett Leach
10	Val Wall	26	Meredith Duffin
11	Anna Elise Waggoner	27	Ray White
13	Dawn Self	27	Kathy White
13	David Hendricksen	28	Jaime Greene Lamb
14	Willard Blevins	28	Sam Thomas Smelcer
14	Pam Harley	29	Pam Goforth
15	Douglas Payne	29	Don Payne, Jr.
15	Carolyn Root	29	Christa Shackelford
17	Emmarie Gray	30	Henrik Allen
		30	Karen Solomon

April Anniversaries

3	Kidwell & Laraine King
8	Kenny & Sarah Benson
20	Ben & Tara Bolton
25	David & Susan Craig
25	Nick & Chelsey Mitchell

Did I miss a Birthday or Anniversary?

You can send the information to my email

fpcscy@embarqmail.com

Thank you, Mindy

**Honorariums & Memorials****Given to Memorial Fund**

In memory of Kathy Cole

In memory of Richard Linn

In memory of Elizabeth "Betty" Stewart

By Jeanne Stokes

Given to Choir Fund

In memory of Evelyn DeWit

By Betty Burley

By Debbie Nycum

Given to Presbyterian Women

In honor of Loretta Lyle

By Joel Hausser

Given to Sanctuary Painting Fund

In memory of Dan B. Culton, Jr.

By Louis, Susan, and John Albert Hankins and Judy Neas

Given to Capital Improvement Fund

In memory of Dan B. Culton, Jr.

By Deane Gray

The Agape Circle

will meet Thursday , April 16 in the Library and via zoom at 11:00 a.m.

Pastor Todd will lead the discussion on Lesson 8- Remembering Jesus' Baptism.

This is an opportunity for fellowship and worship. No reservations required.

April Lectionary Readings

April 1

Wednesday of Holy Week

Isa. 50:4-9a

Psalms 70

Heb 12:1-3

John 13:21-32

April 2

Maundy Thursday

Exodus 12:1-4 (5-10) 11-14

Psalms 116:1-2, 12-19

1 Corinthians 11:23-26

John 13:1-17, 31b-35

April 3

Good Friday

Isa. 52:13-53:12

Ps. 22

Heb. 10:16-25 OR

Heb. 4:14-16, 5:7-9

John 18:1-19:42

April 5

Resurrection of the Lord/Easter Sunday

Jeremiah 31:1-6

Psalms 118:1-2, 14-24

Colossians 3:1-4

Matthew 28:1-10

April 12

Acts 2:14a, 22-32

Psalms 16

1 Peter 1:3-9

John 20:19-31

April 19

Acts 2:14a, 36-41

Psalms 116:1-4, 12-19

1 Peter 1:17-23

Luke 24:13-35

April 26

Acts 2:42-47

Psalms 23

1 Peter 2:19-25

John 10:1-10

Food Bank Needs: Oatmeal & Dry Cereal

First Presbyterian Recycle Team
would like to thank
Loretta Lyle
for sorting all the pill bottles by size for
shipping to [Matthew 25 Mission](#).

Food Bank Needs: Oatmeal & Dry Cereal

Blessing of the Animals

Please bring your beloved pet to our first ever Blessing of the Animals, happening on Saturday, April 18th at 10:00 am in the Courtyard of our Church behind the Chapel. A banner will be placed in our front yard, as we want to invite the community to this event. Please have your pet on a leash or crated for safety. Rain or Shine.

Save the Date:



Thursday, May 7
National Day of Prayer
Christ Chapel will be open for you to
stop by.
All are asked to be united in prayer on
this day.

The Food Bank



In February, FPC donated a total of 116 jars of Peanut Butter, totaling 152 pounds to the Greeneville, Greene County Ministries Food Bank.

Last Month we collected boxes of Crackers.

This month we are collecting Oatmeal or Dry Cereals. Our goal is to collect 100 boxes.

Gideon Report



Food Bank Needs: Oatmeal & Dry Cereal

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Happy Birthday to Ruth's Blessings!

- Yes, Ruth's Blessings will turn 13 years old on April 10.
- Although the distribution process has changed since it began in 2013, this community outreach program is still an important mission of the Presbyterian Women. Special thanks to our Ruth's Blessings Coordinator, Jama Garner, and our sexton, Marsha Bowers, for monitoring inventory and coordinating the monthly city and county school systems' pickups, and also for their preparation/delivery of items to the residents of Plaza Towers each quarter.
- Presbyterian Women are grateful and thankful for your support to Ruth's Blessings during these past 13 years. Our hope is that you will continue to support this worthy mission through your prayers and monetary donations so that it may keep on being a blessing.
- Thank you!

Dinner Out Group



We will gather in the church parking lot on Saturday, April 25 at 4:30 pm.
We will travel to C. J. Papadops for dinner.



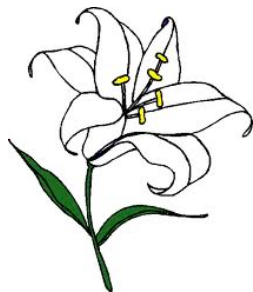
Please contact the church office @ (423)638-4533 or fpcscty@gmail.com if interested in joining us.

You Are Invited

A PW Gathering for all women in the church is planned for Wednesday, May 13, from 5 to 7pm in the Simon Room. You are asked to bring a sweet or savory dish. The meat, drinks, and a guest speaker will be provided. In order to know how many to prepare for, please RSVP to the church office before noon on May 8. Mark your calendar and plan to join us for a fun evening and great fellowship!



With Sympathy



Our sympathies to Dot Culton, family & friends in the passing of her husband Dan Culton.

Our sympathies to Patricia Linn, family, & friends in the passing of her husband, Richard Linn.

Sympathies to family and friends in the passing of Elizabeth "Betty" Stewart.

Food Bank Needs: Oatmeal & Dry Cereal

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Campaign for Our Next 250

A Capital Campaign to restore our building is coming soon!

Late last year, our F&F Committee contracted with Skyline Restoration who completed a comprehensive needs assessment for our building, and no surprise, they found many small and large issues with our Sanctuary building which happens to be 178 years old, our 3-story classroom addition celebrating it's 100-year birthday this year, and our "new" addition, finished 26 years ago. As we head into our 250th year as a congregation, these issues must be addressed in as much of a planned orderly fashion as possible.

So, in October, we will launch a capital campaign that we are calling, "Campaign for Our Next 250" to raise necessary funds. Closer to time and with better estimates we will set the campaign goal—get ready! It won't be cheap! We will also know at that point if the Sacred Places restoration grant* we applied for is in play.

The Skyline needs assessment, with photographs, is available for you to review upon request. You will see EXAMPLES of the needs that were obvious from the surface. At this stage, this document is for your information, so you understand the need for a larger campaign. Please find time to view it!!!

*The National Fund for Sacred Places grant is a program of The Partners for Sacred Places and the National Trust for Historic Preservation. Funding is made possible by the Lilly Endowment. IF we are accepted into this program, their funding, up to \$500k, will serve as a challenge grant for our campaign. Here's what that means: **WE MUST WAIT TO RAISE CAMPAIGN DONATIONS UNTIL WE HAVE HEARD IF WE ARE ACCEPTED INTO THE PROGRAM**, as we must **MATCH** the amount they provide to us



Food Bank Needs: Oatmeal & Dry Cereal

Faith & Grief

First Presbyterian Church has a Faith & Grief Team that offers a monthly support gathering on the 4th Tuesday of each month. This month, we will meet on April 28, at noon, in the First Presbyterian Church Simon Room (2nd floor).

Our team is trained to facilitate small group conversations (5-7 people around a table) about the real-life experiences that accompany grief and loss. We're not trying to fix or end grief, because neither of those can be done. Our purpose is to help people realize and remember that one of the most important gifts we can give to people who are grieving is our presence. Not our voices; not answers; but listening and compassion.

Speaking within the small groups is completely optional and voluntary. Some people, when they first come to our support gathering, aren't comfortable speaking the name(s) of their dearly departed or telling any personal stories. They prefer to sit and listen as others share. Over time, hearing others' stories and recognizing grief is a prime indicator that, though life after loss is different, love never goes away.

If you know anyone who might be interested in attending one of these sessions, please have them register at FaithAndGrief.org



CHILI COOK-OFF RESULTS

FIRST PLACE

TOM KILDAY

SECOND PLACE

EVA WEHRLE

THIRD PLACE

PAM & RANDY HARLEY

**Food Bank Needs:
Oatmeal &
Dry Cereal**

**Mother's Day Flowers
Sunday, May 10**

The Senior High Youth are selling flowers to be placed in the Sanctuary or Chapel on Mother's Day. You may purchase a pink or white carnation for \$4.00 each in honor or memory of your mother or special lady. Please order your flowers by Monday, May 4. Make checks payable to First Presbyterian Church. You may give your check and order directly to Ann VanBuskirk, drop it in the offering plate or mail your order form with check to First Presbyterian Church.

I would like to request carnations for the following:

In honor / memory of: (Circle one)

By: _____

Pink _____ or White _____

Chapel _____ or Sanctuary _____

In honor / memory of: (Circle one)

By: _____

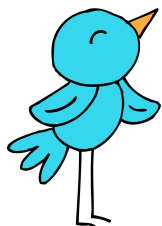
Pink _____ or White _____

Chapel _____ or Sanctuary _____

Please take your flower(s) with you after the service on May 10.

APRIL 2026

1	10:00 a.m. HOLA English Class 6:30 p.m. Choir practice	11	5:00 p.m. Exploring the Arts Banquet
2	10:00 a.m. Staff Meeting 7:00 p.m. Maundy Thursday Service	12	2nd Sunday of Easter 8:30 a.m. In-Person Worship in Christ Chapel 9:30 a.m. Sunday school In person and ZOOM meetings 11:00 a.m. In-Person Worship Service in Sanctuary FaceBook live Service 12:00 p.m. Deacon's Meeting 6:05 p.m. Hand Bell Practice 7:00 p.m. Library Class ZOOM mtg.
3	7:00 p.m. Good Friday Service @ First Presbyterian Church	13	5:00 p.m. PW Gathering
4	10:00 a.m. Easter Egg Hunt @ Tusculum University Doak House	14	5:30 p.m. F & F Meeting
5	Easter Sunday 10 Cents-A-Meal Offering 7:00 a.m. Sunrise Service @ Mt. Bethel Cemetery 8:30 a.m. In-Person Worship in Christ Chapel 9:30 a.m. Sunday school In person and ZOOM meetings 11:00 a.m. In-Person Worship Service in Sanctuary FaceBook live Service 6:05 p.m. Hand Bell Practice 7:00 p.m. Library Class ZOOM mtg.	15	10:00 a.m. HOLA English Class 1:30 p.m. Home Communion 6:30 p.m. Choir practice
8	10:00 a.m. HOLA English Class Wednesdays at First Church 2:30 p.m. FPkidz and Youth 5:30 p.m. family meal 6:30 p.m. Choir practice	16	10:00 a.m. Staff Meeting 11:00 a.m. Agape Circle Meeting 1:00 p.m. PW Coordinating Team 5:30 p.m. Congregational Life
9	10:00 a.m. Staff Meeting 4:30 p.m. Mission & Outreach 6:00 p.m. E & E meeting	18	8:00 a.m. Men's Breakfast 10:00 p.m. Blessing of the Animals
		19	3rd Sunday of Easter 8:30 a.m. In-Person Worship in Christ Chapel 9:30 a.m. Sunday school In person and ZOOM meetings 11:00 a.m. In-Person Worship Service in Sanctuary FaceBook live Service 1:00 p.m. Session Meeting 6:05 p.m. Hand Bell Practice 7:00 p.m. Library Class ZOOM mtg.
		22	EARTH DAY 6:30 p.m. Choir Practice



APRIL 2026

23	10:00 a.m. Staff Meeting 6:00 p.m. Beer & Hymns @ Old Oak Tap room
25	10:30 a.m. Dinner Out (@ C.J. Papadops)
26	4th Sunday of Easter Youth Sunday 8:30 a.m. In-Person Worship in Christ Chapel 9:30 a.m. Sunday school In person and ZOOM meetings 11:00 a.m. In-Person Worship Service in Sanctuary FaceBook live Service 12:00 p.m. PW Reception for the Graduates 6:05 p.m. Hand Bell Practice 7:00 p.m. Library Class ZOOM mtg.
28	12:00 p.m. Faith & Grief
29	6:30 p.m. Choir practice
30	10:00 a.m. Staff Meeting

EARTH DAY



APRIL 22

MAY Bell Article Deadline



Monday, April 20th

E-mail articles to:

fpcscty@gmail.com



April Menu

4/8

Breakfast for Dinner

**Food Bank Needs:
Oatmeal and Dry Cereal**