

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

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AUGUST 2025

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

423.638.4533

The Bell



What I Have Discovered: by A Former Office of Emergency Management Officer . . . For those grieving the recent flood victims

I have tried and failed, so I do not pretend, to have the thoughts to express. To comfort the nightmare of so many lives, of the young swept away in distress.

How young lives, in the dark water's depths, were taken far too soon. Or even to fathom the right words of prayer that seem the right thing to do.

As thoughts of grief make so much for now far too random and jumbled, even my tears cannot compare that's what my mind and heart mumbled.

Compared to the grief that these families must bear as they ask the questions unnumbered. I have tried and failed to have an answer that would quench and give peace unencumbered.

It is true I could force the words of love that God makes so abundant at least. But even for now, I do not know how, in the fog of such loss they'd appease.

This mystery has haunted me way before now in past life occupation's sadness. When called to a scene in the middle of night . . . the lights, the sirens, the madness. To pluck from the waters what once was a life, that smiled and walked and talked. The words are still impossible to find as I admit I am still at a loss.

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Food Bank Needs: Peanut Butter

First Presbyterian Church Mission Statement

The mission of First Presbyterian Church is to celebrate, proclaim, and share God's reconciling love in Jesus Christ. To that end, we are a community of believers in faith, worship, growth, and service, giving sacrificially for the sake of Christ in the world.

Therefore, we commit ourselves in mission:

- To call people to faith in Jesus Christ
- To proclaim in word and deed the good news of the gospel
- To minister to people's hurts and hopes
- To nurture and provide care for people within and beyond our community of faith

Church Office Hours

Monday: 9 am - 3 pm
 Tuesday: 9 am - 3 pm
 Wednesday: 9 am - 3 pm
 Thursday: 9 am - 3 pm
 Friday: 9 am - 12 noon

Email: fpcscty@gmail.com
 Phone: (423) 638-4533

Food Bank Needs: Peanut Butter

Honorariums & Memorials

Given to Pastor's Discretionary Fund

In memory of my parents, Edwin and Bettie Anne Logan
 By Ed Logan

Given to Sanctuary Painting Fund

In memory of Wanda Wisecarver
 By Randy and Pam Harley

In memory of Jimmy Loven

In memory of Oscar and Gay Nell Payne, Jr.

In memory of Wanda Wisecarver
 by Jim and Wendy Warner

In honor of all Office Helpers
 By Mindy Meade

Given to Capital Improvement Fund

In memory of Wanda Wisecarver
 By John and Jan Maddux

Given to Memorial Fund

In memory of Wanda Wisecarver
 By G. W. And Elaine McIntosh, Jr.



Continued from the front page

Maybe God gave blinders, back then, to hide the tears from flowing. Not to be heartless, cold, or cruel, but to understand his future calling.

To bring the lifeless back to shore, to families collapsing and fraught. Their tears were real of the nightmare you see, of the boat with a bag slowing down in its speed. It's a horrible anguish, and I wish it upon none, to see their loved ones whom death has succumbed.

What I discovered has little to do with helping the heart for now, as now's not the time to offer quaint words that do little but disavow.

The time will come when the heart and mind will quiet to still small voices. That is when God finds people in tune to hear his voice in the silence. We would love to hear his voice thunder aloud and give a quick, easy, answer of wonder. That's not God's way, if you asked me to say, what it is that I've discovered through my blunders.

The tears do flow in looking back, as they will for the parents who packed their backpacks. How I wish for the blinders that I once possessed, but they were only a temporal, school teacher at best. I would give them away if only they'd help but that's not what I've discovered.

What I can say, and what I do know, comes only from what I have seen. At times it has left me torn apart and at times it has made me complete. God knows the heart can be a rift, as faith is a risk that mends souls adrift. I have more than seen it in lives so torn, as God himself needs time to mourn.

Pastor Greg

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Presbyterian Women

PW Coordinating Team will not meet during the month of August. Our next meeting will be on Thursday, September 11, at 1pm in the church library and via Zoom.



Agape Circle will begin the 2025-26 PW/Horizons Bible Study, "Finding Resilience, Joy, and Our Identity in Jesus Christ," led by Pastor Todd Jenkins on Thursday, August 21, at 11am in the church library and via Zoom. All women of the church are invited and encouraged to attend. You may stop by the church office and see Mindy for your copy of the Horizons Bible Study at no charge. We hope to see you on August 21 for an interesting Bible study and great fellowship!

As you do your summer clean-up,

- please save and donate any scraps or things you just do not want any longer (ribbons, fabrics, tid-bits, colorful calendars) for school children to use in collages!
- Also being collected are can pop-top tabs (for McDonald House) and greeting card fronts (please no writing on the other side).
- Toiletries donated are always delivered to places in need.
- It's fun to know that difficult-to-part-with "treasures" will be used by others!
- Leave in a bag on top of the mailboxes outside the conference room with TREASURES written on it.

THANK YOU!!

The Gideons Report

Hotel managers who had been wondering how to obtain Bibles, found their answer when Gideons arrived unannounced with Scriptures in hand. Muslim and Buddhist school administrators welcomed the teams and permitted distributions - even class by class.

"To be able to hold up His Word in front of entire student bodies and invite them to read it with their hearts is a dear memory I will cherish," said team member Kevin Goertzen (Aurora Camp, Nebraska).

Even with language barriers and logistical hurdles, God moved powerfully. First-time blitz participant Gary Robertson (Franklin County Camp, Virginia) shared, "This was a life-changing experience for me. Seeing the openness of young students, the excitement to receive a Testament, and the opportunity to explain how the Bible shapes our lives - it was a blessing beyond words.

Dinner Out Group

August plans are still in the works.

Our fearless leader, Jan Maddux

promises that the surprise she has in store for us will be absolutely delicious!

If you are interested in joining us, please contact Kathleen Copeland
(copestone911@gmail.com)

or let the church office know.

(423)638-4533.



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** denotes communion Sunday*

Ushers:

Jay Oberfeiting (H.U.s)

3 Jay Oberfeiting
Debbie Nycum
Nick Mitchell

***10** Randy Harley
Loretta Lyle
Trey Ricker

17 Jay Oberfeiting
Nick Mitchell
Trey Ricker

24 Jay Oberfeiting
Debbie Nycum
Loretta Lyle

31 Randy Harley
Debbie Nycum
Trey Ricker

Lectionary Reader

3 Randy Harley
***10** Mike Hartsell
17 Eva Wehrle
24 John Smith
31 Kidwell King

Sanctuary Side Door Greeter:

3 Pam Harley
***10** Leeann Smith
17 Kathleen Copeland
24 Barbie Zeigler
31 Pat Donaldson

Main St. Door Greeters:

3 Ann Vanbuskirk
***10** Chris Kilday
17 Chris Kilday
24 Zan Walker
31 Sarah Kreeger

Flowers:

3
***10**
17
24
31

11:00 am Communion:

***10** Preparer: Leeann Smith
Servers: Mike Hartsell
Sally Causey

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August Birthdays

1	Matt Wallin	11	Lauren Gilbertson
2	Eddie Barnes	11	Hannah Britton
2	Todd Jenkins	11	James Hope
4	Greg Bowman	12	Eric Cobble
4	Phyllis Williams	12	Brent Lodge
5	Eric Collins	12	Matt Riggs
5	Mark Smelcer	13	Mike Hopkins
5	Rebecca Trinkle	13	McKenzie Smith
6	Carrie McCaslin	14	John Hinkle
6	Tim Miller	14	Ed Logan
6	Lee White	17	Pat Holt
8	Samantha Harr	20	Crystal Gray
8	Wanda Headrick	22	Kim Shepard
9	Anne Laposky	23	Louis Hankins
9	Aaron Caton	27	Trey "Samuel" Ricker
9	Barbie Zeigler	29	Phil Bachman
10	Martha Beamer	31	Austin Shepard
11	Cindy Beckett		

August Anniversaries

2	Tyson & Jaime Lamb
8	Ron & Phyllis Williams
14	Todd & Jennie Jenkins
18	Terry & Nancy Maxwell
20	John & Leeann Smith
21	Bob & Olivia Lodge
22	John & Joyce Johnson
25	Mike & Laura McCall
27	David & Tonya Easley

Did I miss a Birthday or Anniversary?

You can send the information to my email

fpcscity@embarqmail.com

Thank you, Mindy



Food Bank Needs: Peanut Butter

Date	Main St. Door Greeter	Lectionary Reader	Sanctuary Side Door Greeter	Flowers
9/7	Peggy Bible	Nick Mitchell	Ann Vanbuskirk	open
9/14	Pat Donaldson	Mike Hartsell	Beverly Selmeski	open
9/21	Nellie Blevins	Andy Wehrle	Loretta Lyle	Jan Mirkov
9/28	Peggy Bible	Sally Causey	Zan Walker	open

Remember in Prayer

Mission:

- Danny Sharpe & Hollman Mendoza (Vida Joven Nicaragua)
- Please remember military and first responders with PTSD.

Clyde Austin
Debbie Bible
+Andrew Dalton
David & Kristi Dalton
Lisa Deans
Haskell Fox
Gayle Green

Dr. Mark & Susie Hannis
Jim & Sarah Hornsby
*Jackson Jeter
*John Lopez
Arcelito Mai
Tim Price

Sherry Quillin
Danny Rice
+Austin Riggs
+Anthony Sasscer
Maggie Joy Selmeski
+Wyatt Wilson
+Clay Yancey

• +Military serving stateside.

*Military serving overseas.

Food Bank Needs: Peanut Butter

Save the Date

First Presbyterian Church will visit Myers Pumpkin Patch on October 4, 2025, from 11:00 am to 2:00 pm.

We will roast hotdogs, marshmallows and have chips, drinks, and brownies. Cost for the meal will be \$ 3.00 per person.

A hayride through the fields will be available along with a country store where you may purchase fall decorations, jellies, jam, and apple butter.

The church van will be available for those who do not wish to drive. Watch for posters to go up around the church.

Congregational Life Committee

General Fund Update

	<u>June 2025</u>	<u>YTD</u>
Budgeted:	\$30,740.00	\$211,415.00
Expenditures:	\$32,738.00	\$209,782.00
Offerings:	<u>\$38,638.39</u>	<u>\$186,162.86</u>
	\$ 5,900.39	(\$23,619.14)

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Volunteers needed for 250th Anniversary Celebration for 1st Presbyterian Church, Greeneville -2030

The session voted earlier this year to establish an Action Team to begin planning for our 250th Anniversary Celebration in 2030. I don't know about you folks, but the way time speeds up as I age, 2030 will be here in what used to feel like 2 years. Sally Causey and I agreed to help get our task force off the ground by leading the early steps of discerning the what, when, how, and how much of the celebration (we already know the why).

Since we don't have anyone still with us that witnessed that beautiful day when the faithful gathered around the Big Spring to worship as Presbyterians, as Reverend Samuel Doak led the first service of what would become our church, we would really appreciate those of you with long or short histories with First Presbyterian to help us to form our Action Team.

We need volunteers who will become and/or support the leaders for the tasks determined to be implemented in order to have a moving, meaningful, and joyful celebration for our church, our community, our Presbytery, and our state during 2030. We hope that people with knowledge of our history, ideas on music, experience with other big celebrations, with contacts with the local government and religious leaders, etc. will volunteer to meet with our 250 in 2030 Action Team.

Please let Sally Causey (423) 278-0607 , David Sallee (575) 639-0790, or Mindy Meade at the church office (423) 638-4533 know of your interest in serving on the Action Team and we'll begin our planning. Also, if you have ideas you'd like to share, we would appreciate your input as well. Finally, keep us in your prayers that we will keep our focus on praising our Lord as we celebrate 250 in 2030!

Sally Causey and David Sallee,
Initial Co-chairs of the session's
Celebrating 250 in 2030 Action Team.

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August Lectionary Readings

August 3

Hosea 11:1-11
Psalm 107:1-9, 43
Colossians 3:1-11
Luke 12:13-21

August 10

Isaiah 1:1, 10-20
Psalm 50:1-8, 22-23
Hebrews 11:1-3, 8-16
Luke 12:32-40

August 17

Isaiah 5:1-7
Psalm 80:1-2, 8-19
Hebrews 11:29-12:2
Luke 12:49-56

August 24

Jeremiah 1:4-10
Psalm 71:1-6
Hebrews 12:18-29
Luke 13:10-17

August 31

Jeremiah 2:4-13
Psalm 81:1, 10-16
Hebrews 13:1-8, 15-16
Luke 14:1, 7-14

The Food Bank



In June,
FPC
donated
110 cans
of soup.

In July,
we collected bags of rice.

This month we are
collecting Peanut Butter.

Our goal is to collect
100 jars.

SEPTEMBER Bell Article Deadline

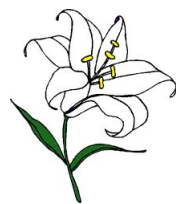


Monday,
August 18,
2025

E-mail articles

to: fpcscty@gmail.com

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With Sympathy

Our sympathies to family and friends in the
passing of Myrtle Brown.

Our Sympathies to family & friends in the passing
of Von Clayton in Buford, GA.



The Agape Circle

will begin the new study on
Thursday, August 21, at 11:00 in the
Library and via Zoom.

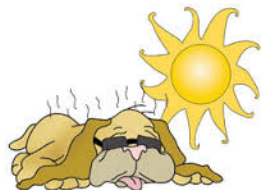
Mark you calendars now for the third
Thursday of each month for a wonderful
time of fellowship and worship.

Study books can be picked up at the
church office.

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AUGUST 2025

3	8th Sunday after Pentecost 10 Cents-A-Meal Offering 8:30 a.m. In-Person Worship in Christ Chapel 9:15 a.m. Coffee & Pastries (2nd floor) 9:30 a.m. Sunday school In person and ZOOM meetings 11:00 a.m. In-Person Worship Service in Sanctuary FaceBook live Service 7:00 p.m. Library Class ZOOM mtg.	17	10th Sunday after Pentecost 8:30 a.m. In-Person Worship in Christ Chapel 9:15 a.m. Coffee & Pastries (2nd floor) 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 7:00 p.m. Library Class ZOOM mtg.
7	10:00 a.m. Staff Meeting 6:00 p.m. E & E mtg.	21	10:00 a.m. Staff Meeting 11:00 a.m. Agape Circle
10	9th Sunday after Pentecost 8:30 a.m. In-Person Worship in Christ Chapel 9:15 a.m. Coffee & Pastries (2nd floor) 9:30 a.m. Sunday school In person and ZOOM meetings 11:00 a.m. In-Person Worship Service in Sanctuary FaceBook live Service 7:00 p.m. Library Class ZOOM mtg.	24	11th Sunday after Pentecost 8:30 a.m. In-Person Worship in Christ Chapel 9:15 a.m. Coffee & Pastries (2nd floor) 9:30 a.m. Sunday school In person and ZOOM meetings 11:00 a.m. In-Person Worship Service in Sanctuary FaceBook live Service 4:00 p.m. Holston Youth Roller Skating in JC 7:00 p.m. Library Class ZOOM mtg.
12	5:30 p.m. F & F meeting	26	12:00 p.m. Faith & Grief Mtg.
14	10:00 a.m. Staff Meeting 4:30 p.m. Mission & Outreach Mtg. 5:30 p.m. Congregational Life Mtg.	28	10:00 a.m. Staff Meeting 6:00 p.m. Beer & Hymns
16	8:00 a.m. Men's Breakfast	31	11th Sunday after Pentecost 8:30 a.m. In-Person Worship in Christ Chapel 9:15 a.m. Coffee & Pastries (2nd floor) 9:30 a.m. Sunday school In person and ZOOM meetings 11:00 a.m. In-Person Worship Service in Sanctuary FaceBook live Service 7:00 p.m. Library Class ZOOM mtg.



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Important dates:

August	School Starts
August 26	Faith & Grief
August 28	Beer & Hymns
September 1	Labor Day (Church Office Closed)
September 7	Punch & Cookies
September 11	PW Coordinating team
October 4	Myers Pumpkin Patch Outing
October 26	PW Baked Potato Bar
November 2	Tusculum University Day
November 9	Deacons' Meeting

