

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

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JANUARY 2026

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

423.638.4533

# The Bell



## Teaing

Without denigrating or elevating  
two of my favorite beverages,  
examine with me, if you will,  
what our society does  
with them and us.

We are espressoed at every turn,  
pitched the idea that speed  
is the key to happiness,  
and incited to gulp giant java  
all day long as productivity's enhancement.

What of life's Oolonging?  
Ceremoniously or not,  
there is deliberateness and attentiveness  
in tea's steeping that awakens us  
to life's calming cardiac rhythm.

Shutter speed, it turns out,  
is not all it's cracked up to be.  
Without attention to focal point,  
life is a race to a picture of nowhere.

Todd

**JANUARY Leadership**

\* denotes communion

**Ushers:**

Jay Oberfeiting (H.U.)

\*4 Jay Oberfeiting  
Debbie Nycum\*11 Jay Oberfeiting  
Randy Harley18 Jay Oberfeiting  
Randy Harley25 Jay Oberfeiting  
Debbie Nycum**Sound & A/V**

Aaron &amp; William Caton

**Lectionary Readers**

\*4 John Maddux

\*11 Mike Hartsell

18 Andy Wehrle

25 Eva Wehrle

**Flowers:**

All dates are open and available

**Sanctuary Side Door Greeter:**

\*4 Nancy Russell

\*11 Beverly Selmeski

15 Nellie Blevins

25 Beverly Selmeski

**Main St. Door Greeters:**

\*4 Rebecca Scharding

\*11 Peggy Bible

18 Pat Donaldson

25 Zan Walker

**Communion**\*4 Preparers:  
Servers:\*11 Preparers:  
Servers: Jeanne Stokes  
Sally Causey**Home Communion Servers**\*14 Jan Wilford  
David Sallee  
Tim Miller**Food Bank Needs: Pasta****Donations for 2025**will be accepted through  
Sunday, January 11, 2026.Please be sure to mark on the  
memo line that it is for 2025.

Thank you!

**FPC Financial Update**

<b>General Funds</b>	<b>November 2025</b>	<b>YTD</b>
Budgeted	\$33,631.00	\$391,921.00
Expenditures	\$28,891.00	\$381,210.00
Offerings	\$36,526.00	\$368,278.00
	\$ 7,635.00	(\$ 12,932.00)

**February Bell  
Article  
Deadline**

Monday January 19

E-mail articles to:

[fpcscity@gmail.com](mailto:fpcscity@gmail.com)**Food Bank Needs: Pasta**

## 2026 PW Coordinating Team

Co-Moderators:	Leeann Smith, Jeanne Stokes
Secretary:	Nancy Russell
Treasurer:	Dot Culton
Bible Study Leader:	The Reverend Todd Jenkins
Community Involvement:	Dot Culton
Creative Ministries:	Rosetta Wells
Flowers:	Chris Thorpe
Funerals/Memorials:	Joyce Johnson/Leeann Smith
Kitchen Committee:	Dot Culton, Loretta Lyle, Jeanne Stokes, Ann Van Buskirk
Membership:	Coordinating Team
Mission Opportunities:	Coordinating Team
Special Events:	Coordinating Team
Sunshine:	Beverly Selmeski
Agape Circle Leader:	Nancy Hobbs
Winnie Prugh Circle Leader:	Chris Kilday
Ruth's Blessings Coordinator:	Jama Garner
Service Teams Co-Chairs:	Team 1 - Dot Culton Chris Thorpe
	Team 2 - Olivia Lodge Ann Van Buskirk
	Team 3 - Beverly Selmeski Jan Wilford
	Team 4 - Loretta Lyle Mary Alice Williams

## Food Bank Needs: Pasta

## Presbyterian Women



**PW Coordinating Team** meets Thursday, January 8, at 1 pm in the church library and via Zoom.

**Agape Circle** meets Thursday, January 15, at 11 am in the church library. Pastor Todd leads us in Lesson Five, Part II - Finding Joy "The Gift of the Woman Who Was Poor." Plan to join us for a meaningful experience and a time of fellowship.

**Winnie Prugh Circle** meets Friday, February 6, at 10 am in the Fellowship Hall kitchen to prepare its famous "Souper Bowl" turkey wild rice soup. Orders may be picked up on the morning of Sunday, February 8.



## Honorariums & Memorials

### Given to General Fund

**In memory of Melvin Thomas Pierce, Jr.**  
By Zan Walker

### Given to Memorial Fund

**In memory of Melvin Thomas Pierce, Jr.**  
By John and Jan Maddux  
By Jeanne Stokes

**In memory of Jimmy Loven**  
By Faye Jaynes and Family

**In memory of Evelyn DeWit**  
By Don and Karen Solomon  
By Frances Sauls

### Given to Choir Fund

**In memory of Jimmy Miller (Cissy Kite's brother)**  
**In memory of Evelyn DeWit**  
By Dan and Dot Culton

### Given to Living Waters (International)

**In honor of Pastor Todd**  
By Jan Wilford

### Given to Youth Ministry Fund

**In honor of Pastor Gregg**  
By Jan Wilford

### Given to Capital Improvement Fund

**In memory of Melvin Thomas Pierce, Jr.**  
By Deane Gray

### Given to Honorarium Fund

**In honor of Office Helpers:**  
Jennie Jenkins, Chris Kilday, Zan Walker, Jeanne Stokes, Amy Pace,  
Jama Garner, David Sallee, Grant and Karen Reaves,  
Nellie Blevins, and Eva Wehrle  
By Mindy Meade

**In honor of Cooks: Bonnie Brownell and Ann Van Buskirk**  
By Mindy Meade

## Souper Bowl Soup!



The Winnie Prugh Circle will be making its famous Turkey and Rice Soup again this year.

The soup will be prepared on Friday, February 6 at 10 am.

If you would like to help,  
please join us.

Soup will be available for pick-up on Sunday, February 8th.

We request reservations by Sunday, February 1st

The cost of the soup remains at \$8.00 per quart.

You can pick-up your soup on Sunday February 8th following the worship service, in the FH kitchen.

Proceeds from the soup sales will go to church projects.

Thank you for your support!

Please return order form with offering or to church office.

**Name** \_\_\_\_\_

**Phone** \_\_\_\_\_

I would like \_\_\_\_\_ quarts of homemade turkey and rice soup.

## January Birthdays

1	Jama Garner
1	Mary Merrill
3	Jeffrey Maxwell
3	Angie Spranger
10	Tyson Lamb
10	Greg Spranger
11	Josh Beckett
12	Tom Sizemore
13	Liza Waldroupe
14	Nicholas Cowles
15	Cole Benson
17	Meg Cobble
19	Theo Hensley
21	Peggy Fox
21	Jordan Stokes
22	Brieanna Dalton
22	Kathleen Wright
25	Payne Cave, Jr.
26	Eva Wehrle
27	Diane Strimer
27	Julie Waite
30	Duncan Cave
30	Daniel Harr
30	Anne Osborne
30	Jerry Ward
31	Robin Schell



## January Anniversaries

1	Jared & Bethany Stokes
3	Hannah Britton & Bob Tryanski



**Food Bank Needs: Pasta**

## Food Bank Needs: Pasta

## February Leadership

Date	Main St. Door Greeter	Lectionary Reader	Sanctuary Side Door Greeter	Flowers
1-Feb	Sarah Kreeger	Nancy Hobbs	Ann Van Buskirk	Open
8-Feb	Peggy Bible	John Smith	Jeanne Stokes	Roses for Valentines Day
15-Feb	Zan Walker	Susan Craig	Susan Craig	Open
22-Feb	Sarah Kreeger	Randy Harley	Pam Harley	Open

## Lectionary Readings

### January 4

*Epiphany*  
Isaiah 60:1-6  
Psalm 72:1-7, 10-14  
Ephesians 3:1-12  
Matthew 2:1-12

### January 11

Isaiah 42:1-9  
Psalm 29  
Acts 10:34-43  
Matthew 3:13-17

### January 18

Isaiah 49:1-7  
Psalm 40:1-11  
1 Corinthians 1:1-9  
John 1:29-42

### January 25

Isaiah 9:1-4  
Psalm 27:1, 4-9  
1 Corinthians 1:10-18  
Matthew 4:12-23

**Food Bank Needs: Pasta****The Food Bank**

In November, we donated 100 boxes of crackers (purchasing 22 boxes to make the final count) and 27 miscellaneous items.

In December, we donated pasta sauce.

This month we are collecting Pasta.  
The goal is 100 boxes.

*Thank  
you*

Thank you to everyone at First Presbyterian Church for the prayers, cards, hugs and gifts during this difficult time of loss.

I am blessed by your thoughtfulness and love. I thank God daily for guiding me to this job. I found a home that I didn't know I was looking for.

Mindy

**Food Bank Needs: Pasta****This and That from Pastor Greg Cartwright . . .**

I read an article lately that was both profound and forward-reaching. Pondering on the reading, I couldn't help but think how others may profit spiritually from it as we enter into the new year. Summarizing the article for you, think on the words of the author and ways to gain encouragement for the days and months to come.

How do you restore hope when life has been utterly shattered? When next year looks as bleak as the one gone by? God undertakes this task of restoration of his shattered people by speaking words of hope through his prophet Isaiah. Curiously, in an amazing series of chapters, Isaiah speaks of Judah's fall and exile in Babylon long before it even takes place. And then he includes the words of encouragement they will need to leave the land of their oppressors and return to Jerusalem.

In earlier chapters, Isaiah's task has been to call to repentance. Now, he becomes the bringer of hope -- centuries in advance. You and I, like Israel of old, may have experienced a difficult season of life, with hope drained by circumstance and heart utterly exhausted by life's trials. Here is a word of encouragement from God to you. That word, which I give to you as homework, comes in reading these verses: Isaiah 40:1-2; 43:18-21. Take the time to read through these words and meditate on them with a spiritual savor.

Pastor Greg

**Food Bank Needs: Pasta****Remember in Prayer**

Mission:

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

Trish Chaloux  
+Andrew Dalton  
David & Kristi Dalton  
Haskell Fox  
Dr. Mark & Susie  
Hannis

Gay Jenkins Howell  
Jim & Sarah Hornsby  
\*Jackson Jeter  
+John Lopez  
Arcelito Mai  
Mel Pierce III

+Austin Riggs  
+Anthony Sasscer  
Maggie Joy Selmeski  
+Wyatt Wilson  
+Clay Yancey

+Military serving stateside.

\*Military serving overseas.



The prayer list started over in January 2026. If you would like someone added back to the prayer list, please contact Mindy in the church Office.

(423)638-4533 or fpcscty@gmail.com

Thank you

**Food Bank Needs: Pasta****Dinner Out Group**

We will meet at  
Sweet's Sports  
Tavern & Eatery  
(805 Tusculum Blvd.,  
Greeneville, TN)



At 12 noon on  
January 10, 2026

Join us! They have great  
burgers and fries!

If you need a ride, call the  
church office and we will  
arrange a ride for you.

Contact the church office  
at (423) 638-4533  
if interested in joining the  
group.

**Valentine's Day Roses**

Don't forget to order roses for  
Sunday, February 8. Deadline to  
order is Monday, January 26.  
Cost is \$5 per rose. Please make  
checks payable to Presbyterian  
Women and return order form  
and payment to the church office  
in an envelope marked  
Presbyterian Women/Flowers.  
Proceeds from the sale will go to  
Fellowship of Least Coin.

Circle color: RED WHITE  
YELLOW

In honor / memory of:

By: \_\_\_\_\_

In honor / memory of:

By: \_\_\_\_\_

Please take your flower(s) with  
you after the February 9 service.



**Food Bank Needs: Pasta****Moment for Missions – Asbury Warming Shelter**

Today's Moment for Mission is about our neighbors in real need right now. Some of us tend to think of neighbors in terms of someone who lives near us or goes to church with us. But the neighbors I'm talking about have no houses. They find shelter in doorways, an alcove, or a tent or lean to in the woods. These neighbors are at terrible physical risk with this cold weather. I'm talking about the white flag nights at Asbury Warming Shelter directed by the CARE Center.

Each night is covered by two individuals (one male and one female) who sit the night shift from 8 PM to 8 AM in the Asbury Fellowship Hall at AUMC. Duties include assisting the CARE staff with registering every individual, directing the clients to snacks, coffee, and restroom facilities; serving as gatekeepers for 'lights out' at 10 PM and 'rise and shine' at 7 AM. The clients are good at getting their bedding and cots from storage and returning them again in the morning.

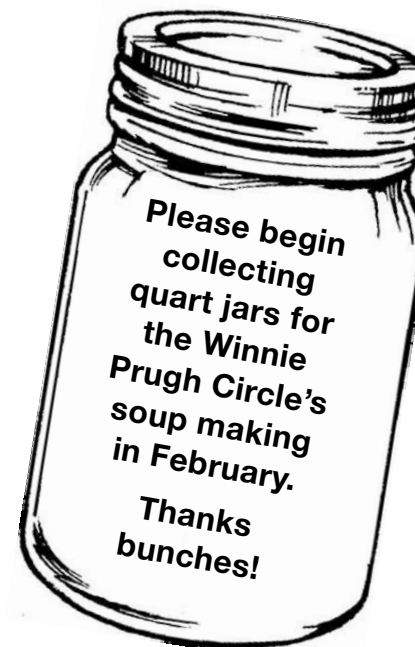
This is a nightly schedule that will stretch out the winter months (that's about 70 more days spanning January, February, and early March). Volunteers are asked to sign up for one or more nightly shift(s) and then watch the weather – you report for duty at 7:45 PM by the back entrance to the Fellowship Hall. If temperatures moderate and are not predicted to go below 32 degrees, then you are off the hook for that night. Shift splitting is allowed but is highly

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**Food Bank Needs: Pasta****Sanctuary Flowers**

Would you like to provide flowers for the worship services on Sunday mornings?

The 2026 flower chart is in the lobby on the 3rd floor for sign-ups. Or you can call Mindy in the church office 423-638-4533.





**Food Bank Needs: Pasta**

### 2026's FWFC (First Wednesdays at First Church)

January 7 will be our first FWFC of the new year. The theme for this gathering will be "God's Story People." Whatever else we're able to learn from the book we call the Bible, one of the most obvious and repeated messages is that we define ourselves by our own life stories, and we find our connection in the sacred community by listening to and learning from the stories of those who are sojourning with us on planet earth.

After our meal together, pastor Todd will introduce us to and lead us through a fun activity in small groups, around the tables where we're sitting, which will give us all an opportunity to contribute to a shared story.

Please make your reservations (online or by contacting the church office) by 12:00 PM on January 6. We hope to see you there!

--

Todd Jenkins

### WFC Family Dinner MENU

January 7th

Chicken Casserole

**Food Bank Needs: Pasta**

*Continued from page 8*

individual. Most adults who have raised kids have the skills to do this work. CANUP is helping recruit our volunteers for this service because we urge any of our clients to seek shelter when it is this cold. Please consider this opportunity to stand by and support our unhoused neighbors shielding them from the uncertainties of winter weather. We have found them to be universally grateful for the relief from the elements; you might find it inspiring as you get to learn the circumstances of clients who live daily without housing.

Contacts to give dates you can serve -

Kathy Shea – (423) 620-8456 CANUP Board member

Rhonda Castro - (423) 620-9786 CARE Center founder

Rules for reminders for clients staying at the Warming Center:

1. Outer door is locked at 10 PM; no one goes out to smoke until 6:30 AM. If you go out before that, you are not let back in.
2. Only one client at a time is allowed in the restrooms.
3. Everybody mutes their phones or uses headphones or ear buds; screens after lights out are to be shielded by blanket.
4. Clients remain in the Fellowship Hall and corridor to restrooms only; no wandering the church facility.
5. Fellowship Hall is left clean and tidy by 7:55 each morning.
6. Clients bag all trash and carry to the outside dumpster.

**Food Bank Needs: Pasta****Gideons Report****From Auschwitz to the cross**

Rudolph Höss, commander of Auschwitz was responsible for the deaths of millions during the Holocaust. His grandson, Kai, did not learn of this dark family legacy until his teenage years. The revelation weighed heavily on him. He pursued success in the hotel industry living by the Motto “work hard play hard,” and achieved senior management roles in five star hotels across Asia.

Then life collapsed. After a surgery went wrong, Kyia lost significant blood and faced a near-death emergency. In the days that followed, wrecked by pain and depression, he reached for a Bible in his hospital room in Singapore - the very Bible placed by The Gideons International. At first, he read out of boredom, thinking: *At least I can say I read it.* But when he came to Psalm 51 and read David's remorseful response to Nathan, God pierced his heart.

Though he returned to his old lifestyle after recovery, the Lord continued to pursue him. A fellow German repeatedly invited him to church, and eventually Kai agreed to attend. There, God opened his heart fully, and he gave his life to Jesus Christ - confessing Him as the eternal Son of God and the only savior.

Christ's transforming grace freed Kai from the generational weight of his grandfather's horrific sins. For more than 20 years, he has faithfully pastored a church in Germany, with a special call to serve the Jewish people through biblical teachings and the ministry of reconciliation.

“God used the Bible in the drawer, placed by The Gideons to change my entire life ,” Pastor Höss says. He moved me from a heritage of darkness to proclaim Jesus Christ as savior.”

**Food Bank Needs: Pasta**

Church wide  
Bowling Event

January 11th  
5:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.

**Think ahead...**

Check out sales on socks and underwear for the

**Sharing Tree**

Collecting socks, underwear, and  
disposable diapers

For individuals birth to 18 years old

All donations go to needy children through the  
Health Department.

Bring your donations to the church office.

THANK YOU for YOUR help with our Sharing  
Tree!

**Food Bank Needs: Pasta****'Dedecorating' the Church**

The Season of Epiphany begins Tuesday, January 6, 2026, officially marking the end of the Christmas Season.

Epiphany is a time to focus on the mission of the church in reaching others by sharing the manifestation of Jesus as the Savior to ALL people. It is also a time of focusing on Christian community and fellowship.

To celebrate the beginning of the Epiphany Season, ALL are invited to come and participate in 'dedecorating' the church, Tuesday, January 6, 2026 @ 10:00am. We will begin in the sanctuary!

**The Agape Circle**

will meet Thursday, January 15, at 11:00 in the Library and via Zoom. Pastor Todd will lead the study on Lesson 5 - "The Gift of the Woman who was Poor". This is a wonderful time of worship and fellowship.

It doesn't matter if you haven't attended before, please plan to come. It will be a nice way to start the new year.

**Food Bank Needs: Pasta**

## Welcome to Session: Class of 2026

**New Member**

Loretta Lyle

Eva Wehrle

Betty Burley

Clem Allison

**Committee**

Congregation Life

Education &amp; Enrichment

Finance &amp; Facilities

Mission &amp; Outreach

**Snow Policy**

On those Sundays when we have snow, we will have services at 8:30 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. for those who can arrive safely. The 11:00 a.m. service will be broadcast on the church's Facebook page and Youtube channel. There will be music and a sermon broadcast on the radio (WSMG, 1450 AM from 11:00 to 11:30) for those who cannot make the trip. On Wednesday, we follow the Greeneville City School schedule. If city schools are closed or dismissed early, we will not meet for Wednesdays at First Church. If in doubt, you are encouraged to listen to WGRV, WSMG or WIKQ for information.



## January 2026

1	<b>New Years Day Office Closed</b>	15	10:00 a.m. Staff Meeting 11:00 a.m. Agape Circle
4	<b>2nd Sunday of Christmas Epiphany Observed</b> 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	17	8:00 a.m. Men's Breakfast
6	<b>Epiphany of the Lord</b> 10:00 a.m. Dedecorating the church	18	<b>2nd Sunday After Epiphany</b> 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 (w/Installation of Elders) FaceBook live Service 7:00 p.m. Library Class ZOOM mtg.
7	<b>Wednesdays at First Church</b> 2:45 p.m. Activity Programming 5:30 p.m. Family Meal 6:30 p.m. Choir Practice	19	Martin Luther King, Jr. Birthday
8	10:00 a.m. Staff meeting 1:00 p.m. PW Coordinating Team 4:30 p.m. Mission & Outreach 5:30 p.m. Congregational Life 6:00 p.m. E & E Meeting	21	6:30 p.m. Choir Practice
10	12:00 p.m. Dinner Out (Sweet's Sports Tavern & Eatery, Greenville, TN)	22	10:00 a.m. Staff Meeting 6:00 p.m. Beer & Hymns
11	<b>Baptism of the Lord</b> 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 5:00 p.m. Church wide Bowling	23	<b>Resurrection Conference</b>
13	5:30 p.m. F & F Meeting	25	<b>3rd Sunday After Epiphany Resurrection Conference</b> 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 7:00 p.m. Library Class ZOOM mtg.
14	1:30 p.m. Home Communion 6:30 p.m. Choir Practice	27	12:00 p.m. Faith & Grief
		28	6:30 p.m. Choir Practice
		29	10:00 a.m. Staff Meeting

Food Bank Needs: Pasta

## Food Bank Needs: Pasta

**Important dates:**

- January 1 New Year's Day  
Office is Closed
- January 2 Church Office closed
- January 7 WFC
- January 11 LWW Commissioning  
Church Wide Bowling
- January 15 Agape Circle Meeting
- January 18 Installation of Elders
- January 18-26 LWW in Belize
- January 22 Beer & Hymns
- January 23-25 Resurrection
- January 25 **Session Meeting**  
Fun Bunch Who Lunch  
(@ Circle S)
- January 27 Faith & Grief
- February 4 WFC (Mission & Outreach)
- February 18 Ash Wednesday Meal
- February 24 Faith & Grief
- February 26 Beer & Hymns
- March 4 WFC - Chili Cook-Off
- March 16-22 Mission Trip
- March 24 Faith & Grief
- March 26 Beer & Hymns
- April 1 WFC (possible Isiah House  
presentation)
- April 2 Maundy Thursday Service  
(@FPC)
- April 3 Good Friday Service
- April 5 Easter Sunday