

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

Return Service Requested

Non-Profit Organization
US POSTAGE PAID
Greeneville, TN 37743
Permit #137

The Bell



AWOL Apology

When an apology is never offered,
what can you do?

Sometimes, forgiveness consists
of letting go of the pain and anger
that an AWOL apology creates.

I say “letting go”, not because
I expect it to be like gently setting
your teacup in its saucer.

Letting go of such traumatic
and emotional feelings is,
in one sense, prying fingers
from ‘round your neck;
and what you’ll find,
if you look closely,
is that you’ve had two sets
of hands strangling you.

One of them, of course,
is the hands of the person(s)
whose words, silence, actions,
or inactions hurt you.

The other pair is your own,
tightly squeezing forgiveness’ lack
on top of the original pain,
which adds another layer to your ache.

continued on page 23

Food Bank Needs: Crackers

March Leadership

* denotes a communion Sunday

Sanctuary Side Door Greeter:

Ushers:

Jay Oberfeiting (H.U.)

1 Jay Oberfeiting
Debbie Nycum
Hal Binkley

***8** Jay Oberfeiting
Nick Mitchell
Randy Harley

15 Jay Oberfeiting
Debbie Nycum

22 Jay Oberfeiting
Randy Harley

***29** Jay Oberfeiting
Nick Mitchell
Debbie Nycum

Lectionary Readers

1 Bryan Root

***8** Debbie Nycum

15 Andy Wehrle

22 Susan Craig

***29** Randy Harley

Flowers:

1

***8** PW

15

22 Louis & Susan Hankins

***29** PALMS

Main St. Door Greeters:

1 Nancy Russell

***8** Peggy Bible

15 Rebecca Scharding

22 Kathleen Copeland

***29** Pat Donaldson

Communion Preparers:

*** 8** Harley Family

*** 29** Mitchell Family

Communion Servers:

*** 8** Nellie Blevins
Kidwell King

*** 29** Susan Craig
Pam Sizemore

In-Home Communion Servers:

*** 11** Leeann Smith
Sally Causey
David Sallee

Continued from the front page . . .

The difficult part, which only you can do,
is to find somewhere safe and strong
to lay all of this relative rage,
because continuing to hold onto it
punishes you more than
it punishes your adversary.

Forgiveness is a strength,
not a weakness.

It has nothing to do with placing yourself
in a position of vulnerability
to experience the hurt again.

It's about creating new space
and boundaries that allow you
to return energy and focus toward becoming
more of who you are,
and less of what your relational tragedies
have tried to do to you.

© 2026 Todd Jenkins

Easter Lilies for April 5

On Easter Sunday you can have Easter Lilies placed in Christ Chapel or the Sanctuary in honor or in memory of loved ones. Lilies are \$10 each. A portion of the proceeds will go to Community Outreach. If you would like to request one or more Easter Lilies, please complete this order form and drop in the offering plate, put in Chris Thorpe's mailbox, or drop off at the Church Office. Make checks payable to Presbyterian Women.

March 30 is the order deadline.

Easter Lily Order Form:

In honor/memory (circle one) of:

By: _____

Chapel _____ Sanctuary _____

In honor/memory (circle one) of:

By: _____

Chapel _____ Sanctuary _____

Food Bank Needs: Crackers

FWFC March Menu

3/4

Chili Cook OFF

Dust off those chili
recipes

The Chili COOK-OFF
Is Wednesday March 4

If you are interested
in competing,

Contact Pastor Greg

Food Bank Needs: Crackers

Honorariums & Memorials

Given to Capital Improvement Fund

In honor of Joel Hausser
By Deane Gray

Given to General Fund

In honor of Dr. Jerry Ward on his birthday
By Pamela Shuman

Given to Sanctuary Painting Fund

In memory of Danny Rice
By Douglas and Felecia Payne

Given to Montreat Worship & Music Conference

In memory of Evelyn DeWit
By Douglas and Felecia Payne

Holy Week Schedule

<u>March 29</u>	Palm Sunday	830 am - Christ Chapel, 11 am - FPC Sanctuary
<u>April 1</u>	Wednesday Lenten Service	12:00 pm @ Asbury UMC
<u>April 2</u>	Maundy Thursday	7 pm - FPC Sanctuary
<u>April 3</u>	Good Friday Community Service	7 pm @ First Presbyterian Church
<u>April 5</u>	Easter Sunday	7 am Sunrise Service @ Mt. Bethel Cemetery 8:30 am - Christ Chapel 11 am - FPC Sanctuary

Food Bank Needs: Crackers

March Birthdays

1	Ashley Deans	16	Lauren Hinkle
3	Dr. Nancy Sallee	16	Maggie Ward
5	Betty Fletcher	16	Stewart Cowles
6	Cissy Kite	16	Caroline Barr
6	Tim Ward	16	Jared Stokes
7	Roy Klumb	16	Maggie Yancey
7	David Dalton	17	Kyle King III
7	John DeWit	17	Richard Delosh
8	Felecia Payne	18	Bryan Root
9	Noah Maxwell	19	Kay Payne
9	Rachel Schell	20	Tylan Lamb
12	Susan Jackson	20	Stan Shelton
13	Payton Hopkins	21	Dan Donaldson
14	Harper Cobble	21	Joy Schrottenboer
14	Barbara Freeland	23	Ian Self
14	Robert Foster	25	Ellen Ellenburg
14	Andy Wehrle	26	Melissa Dalton
15	Mike Laposky	31	John Albert Hankins

March Anniversaries

2	Dr. Nancy & David Sallee
8	Andy & Eva Wehrle
10	Glenn & Heather Doyle
16	Lynn & Debbie Collins
24	Ed & Ann Rice
26	Mike & Patti Hopkins
27	Bob & Chris Thorpe
30	Scott and Mandy Deans

Did I miss a Birthday or Anniversary?

You can send the information to my email

fpcscty@embarqmail.com

Thank you, Mindy

Food Bank Needs: Crackers

APRIL Leadership

Date	Main St. Door Greeter	Lectionary Readers	Sanctuary Side Door Greeter	Flowers
5-Apr	Nellie Blevins	Andy Wehrle	Kathleen Copeland	Lilies
12-Apr	Chris Kilday	Randy Harley	Pam Harley	Open
19-Apr	Ann VanBuskirk	Mike Hartsell	Pat Donaldson	Open
26-Apr	Joyce Johnson	Sally Causey	Zan Walker	Open

In the spirit of love and friendship

there is a basket of note cards and paper for anyone to use to send a message to another church member or to anyone.

Please take as many as you would like. There are more and they will be replenished as needed.

Food Bank Needs: Crackers

**Celebrate the Gifts of Women Sunday
March 8, 2026**

International Women’s Day (which is March 8) recognizes the extraordinary acts of courage and determination by ordinary women around the world. In 1908, National Women’s Day was established in honor of the garment workers’ strike in New York. Thereafter, women in the United States and Europe held rallies to express solidarity with other activists and the Russian women’s peace movement during World War I. International Women’s Day was first celebrated by the United Nations in 1975 and has continued its global connections. In worship and daily living, Christians are called to greater support of women’s rights and their full participation in both political and economic arenas of life. The Presbyterian Church (USA) marks the Sunday nearest to March 8 as Celebrate the Gifts of Women Sunday. A reception in the Simon Room is planned immediately after worship. We hope you can join us.

General Fund Update

General Funds	January 2026	YTD
Budgeted	\$36,778.00	\$36,778.00
Expenditures	\$37,325.00	\$37,325.00
Offerings	\$31,365.78	\$31,365.78
	(\$5,959.22)	(\$5,959.22)

Food Bank Needs: Crackers

Presbyterian Women



PW Coordinating Team meets Thursday, March 12, at 1 pm in the church library and via Zoom.

Celebrate the Gifts of Women Sunday

is March 8. Plan to join us for punch and cookies provided by Team 1 in the Simon Room immediately following the 11 am worship.

Agape Circle meets Thursday, March 19 at 11 am in the church library and via Zoom. Plan to join as Pastor Todd leads us in Lesson 7, The Woman Who Was Bent Over, of the PW/ Horizons Bible Study “Finding Resilience, Joy, and Our Identity in Jesus Christ.”

Save the Date:

A baked potato/salad bar hosted by PW is planned for Palm Sunday, March 29, immediately following the 11 am worship service in the Fellowship Hall. The cost is by donation with proceeds going to support church repair projects funded by the Capital Improvement Fund. Please plan to join us for good food and great fellowship.

Food Bank Needs: Crackers

Moment for Mission February 15, 2026 Mission Peniel

Hope and Kindness to Mision Peniel, Immokalee, Florida, 2026 - the original hope was to have a group of volunteers go to Immokalee in March to assist the Mision Peniel staff in their outreach to immigrant farmworkers, however, this plan has to be postponed for another year. Instead, Fabian and Nadine Luna will take a collection of items to Immokalee and then return to Greenville. A list of items which are most in demand at the mission are the following:

Needed items:

SHAMPOO, CONDITIONER, BODYWASH (REGULAR SIZE)
 DEODORANT
 TOOTHPASTE-TOOTHBRUSHES
 RAZORS, SHAVING CREAM,
 SOCKS
 HAND TOWELS
 BLANKETS
 SWEATERS OR JACKETS (NO COATS)
 RICE
 DRY PINTO BEANS
 CANNED MEAT (BUT NOT TUNA PLEASE)
 CEREAL
 COOKING OIL
 CANNED VEGETABLES

If you can donate any of these items to be taken to Mision Peniel, please bring them to the first floor of the church by Sunday, March 15th, and sooner if you can. There will be a box ready for your contributions.

Food Bank Needs: Crackers



Greenville – Greene County Community Ministry, Inc. (Food Bank)
 107 North Cutler St. Greenville, TN 37744 P.O. Box 545
 Phone: (423) 638-1667

First Presbyterian Church
 110 N. Main Street
 Greenville, TN 37743

February 10, 2026

Dear Members of the Congregation,

On behalf of our entire organization, thank you for your continued partnership and generous support. We are truly grateful for your ongoing commitment to serving others and for the 3623 pounds of donated non-perishable food items throughout 2025...WOW!

Your generosity makes a meaningful difference in the lives of individuals and families in our community. Because of your willingness to give, we are better able to meet real needs and provide hope and stability to those we serve. It is inspiring to see faith put into action through such kindness and compassion.

We deeply value our partnership with your congregation and appreciate the care and dedication you consistently show. Thank you for standing with us and for being a vital part of this shared mission.

With sincere appreciation,

Jamie Painter, Assistant Executive Director

Food Bank Needs: Crackers

The Winnie Prugh Circle's "Souper Bowl" was a great success!

Thank you to everyone who donated ingredients, jars/lids, to the volunteers who helped in the kitchen, and to those who purchased soup. Your support is greatly appreciated.

Connect with us



Remember in Prayer

Mission:

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

- | | | |
|-------------------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| Trish Chaloux | Jim & Sarah Hornsby | +Anthony Sasscer |
| +Andrew Dalton | *Jackson Jeter | Maggie Joy Selmeski |
| David & Kristi Dalton | Bob Johnson | +Wyatt Wilson |
| Haskell Fox | +John Lopez | Kathleen Wright |
| Dr. Mark & Susie Hannis | Arcelito Mai | +Clay Yancey |
| Wanda Headrick | Mel Pierce, III | Jenny & John Yeip |
| Gay Jenkins Howell | Tim Price | |
| | +Austin Riggs | |

• +Military serving stateside. *Military serving overseas.

Food Bank Needs: Crackers

Lenten Services

Date	Host Location	Guest Preacher
Feb 25	Reformation Lutheran Church	Ken Saunders
March 4	First Presbyterian Church	Andy Blackwelder
March 11	Cumberland Presbyterian Church	Sarah Varnell
March 18	St. James Episcopal Church	Sharon Bowers
March 25	Trinity Methodist	Todd Jenkins
April 1	Asbury Methodist	Mike Sauls

Food Bank Needs: Crackers**March Lectionary Readings****March 1**

Genesis 12:1-4a

Psalm 121

Romans 4:1-5, 13-17

John 3:1-17

March 8

Exodus 17:1-7

Psalm 95

Romans 5:1-11

John 4:5-42

March 15

1 Samuel 16:1-13

Psalm 23

Ephesians 5:8-14

John 9:1-41

March 22

Ezekiel 37:1-14

Psalm 130

Romans 8:6-11

John 11:1-45

March 29***Palm Sunday***

Isaiah 50:4-9a

Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29

Philippians 2:5-11

Matthew 21:1-11

Save the Date

Saturday, April 18th, First Presbyterian Church will host a Blessing of the Animals at 10:00am in our Courtyard.

Look for more information soon

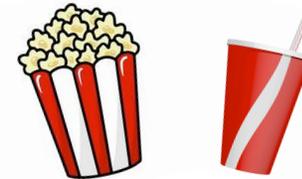
Food Bank Needs: Crackers**Winter Movie Afternoon**

Church Family,

Come join the fun as we watch together Little Giants. This warm, funny tale of a misfit group of wannabe football players is a comic crowd pleaser that proves heroes come in all sizes. Rated PG with a running time of 106 minutes.

This event was rescheduled to Saturday, March 7th at 2:00 pm in the Simon Room. Popcorn & Drinks will be provided. Bring a snack to share if you wish. Bring a lawn chair for comfort.

See you at the movie!

**APRIL Bell Article Deadline**

Friday, March 20th

E-mail articles to: fpcscty@gmail.com



Food Bank Needs: Crackers



The Food Bank

In January, FPC donated a total of 122 boxes of pasta, totaling 137 pounds to the Greeneville, Greene County Ministries Food Bank.

Last Month we collected jars of Peanut Butter.

This month we are collecting Crackers. Our goal is to collect 100 boxes.

AGAPE Circle

Will meet Thursday, March 19 at 11 am in the church library and via Zoom.

Plan to join as Pastor Todd leads us in Lesson 7, The Woman Who Was Bent Over, of the PW/ Horizons Bible Study “Finding Resilience, Joy, and Our Identity in Jesus Christ.”



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

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



Food Bank Needs: Crackers



Save the Date:

May 6th

Pasta Party
Montreat Fundraiser

Dinner Out Group

The March outing will be at Mulligan’s Pub in Johnson City
Contact the church office, 423.638.4533
if interested in joining us.



If you have restaurant suggestions, please send them to fpcscity@gmail.com

Gideon Report:

In the world's largest Muslim-majority nation by population - Indonesia - millions of men and women have never owned a Bible or read the words of Jesus for themselves. People like Hasan (not his real name.)

Hasan was a respected teacher of the Quran in his Indonesian community. One day, he was offered a New Testament where members of the Gideons International were distributing them.

Out of curiosity, he accepted one.

At first, he set it aside. But something about it stirred his heart. Late at night, when no one else was awake, Hasan began to read.

"For six months" he says, "I kept reading. I wanted to understand who Jesus really was."

When he reached the words of Jesus in John 14:6(ESV) - "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me" - his heart trembled. These were not the words of an ordinary prophet.

He showed the New Testament to his wife, and together they read until they came to Romans 10:9: "If you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved."

That's when everything changed.

Hasan reached out other a local pastor. Not long after, both he and his wife surrendered their lives to Christ and were baptized.

A former teacher of the Quran and a leader in the Muslim community, Hasan - and his wife - now face bitter opposition for their newfound faith. But their joy and gratitude run deeper than fear. He says:

"Thank you. I'm grateful that I have come to know Jesus as my Lord and Savior."

Food Bank Needs: Crackers

Important dates:

- March 4 FWFC - Chili Cook-Off
- **March 7 Movie in Simon Room
(RESCHEDULED)**
- March 8 Punch & Cookies
- March 16-22 Mission Trip
- March 22 Fun Bunch Who Lunch
(@ La Perla)
- March 24 Faith & Grief
- March 26 Beer & Hymns
- March 29 PW Baked Potato Bar
- 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 FWFC
(Montreat Fundraiser)
- May 8 Upward Bound Banquet
- May 13 PW Gathering
- July 26 Church Picnic
- October 25 PW Baked Potato Bar

Wild & Precious

“Tell me, what it is you plan to do
with your one wild and precious life?”
[Mary Oliver]

We have been deeply encultured
to believe that “wild” and “precious”
are deeply polar opposites
on civilization’s accepted spectrum;

that all we should hold to be precious
is light years away from wild,
and all that is obviously wild
has no possible path to preciousness.

The poet, however, begs to differ.

She recognizes the connecting thread
between the gifts of mystery and surprise,
and the tender pocket of cherished adoration.

She dares to use her words,
yea, even her breath and very life
as a hostage negotiator
between the protectors of precious
and the unleashers of wildness;

and all who dare to tiptoe
through the random rows
of her unpredictable verbal garden
run the risk of being pulled
into a dance heretofore unimaginable.

I think I hear the music.
What are we waiting for?

© 2026 Todd Jenkins

Food Bank Needs: Crackers

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

Deacons Meeting
April 12, 2026
12 noon

MARCH 2026

1	2nd Sunday in Lent 10 Cents-A-Meal Offering 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.	12	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
4	Wednesdays at First Church 2:30 p.m. FPKidz and Youth 5:30 p.m. Family meal Chili Cook-OFF 6:30 p.m. Choir Practice	15	4th Sunday in Lent 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.
5	10:00 a.m. Staff Meeting 6:00 p.m. E & E ZOOM mtg.	18	6:30 p.m. Choir Practice
7	9:00 a.m. Exploring the Arts 2:00 p.m. Afternoon Movie	19	10:00 a.m. Staff Meeting 11:00 a.m. Agape Circle meeting
8	3rd Sunday in Lent Celebrate Gifts of Women Daylight Savings Time begins 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. Punch & Cookies 6:05 p.m. Hand Bell practice 7:00 p.m. Library Class ZOOM mtg.	21	8:00 a.m. Men's Breakfast 9:00 a.m. Exploring the Arts
10	5:30 p.m. F & F meeting	22	5th Sunday of Lent 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. Fun Bunch Who Lunch <i>@ La Perla</i> 6:05 p.m. Hand Bell practice 7:00 p.m. Library Class ZOOM mtg.
11	1:00 p.m. Home Communion 6:30 p.m. Choir Practice	24	12:00 p.m. Faith & Grief <i>(Simon Room)</i>
		25	10:00 a.m. Hola English Class 6:30 p.m. Choir Practice

MARCH 2026

26	10:00 a.m. Staff Meeting 6:00 p.m. Beer & Hymns <i>(@ Old Oak Taproom)</i>
28	9:00 a.m. Exploring the Arts
29	Palm Sunday 8:30 a.m. In-Person Worship in Christ Chapel 9:30 a.m. Sunday school In person and ZOOM meetings 9:30 a.m. Gideons Presentation <i>(in Simon Room)</i> 11:00 a.m. In-Person Worship Service in Sanctuary FaceBook live Service 12:00 p.m. PW Baked Potato/Salad Bar Fundraiser 6:05 p.m. Hand Bell practice 7:00 p.m. Library Class ZOOM mtg.

**Food Bank Needs:
Crackers**

