

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

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NOVEMBER 2025

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

423.638.4533

The Bell



Psalming

Psalm 13:1 How long, O Lord? Will you forget me forever?
How long will you hide your face from me?

The psalmist's invitation is to an unvarnished honesty that risks confronting God with the depth and breadth of our souls, speaking, and even screaming our hearts' most powerful wrenching.

How do we dare breathe such honest scathing?

Consider this:

When fear and rage, stacked by our own life circumstances, fester in our bones, there is but one being who holds the trifecta of:

[1] loving us without conditions or limits from long before we were born until never-ending eternity,

[2] already knowing what pain and angst are hidden in our hearts,

[3] yearning to be the safe and healing repository for our conflicting vitriol.

Psalm 6:2-3 Be gracious to me, O Lord, for I am languishing;
O Lord, heal me, for my bones are shaking with terror.

My soul also is struck with terror, while you, O Lord—how long?

Psalm 90:13 Turn, O Lord! How long? Have compassion on your servants!

Know that we are psalming with you.

Todd Jenkins

Food Bank Needs: Crackers

Thanksgiving Outreach Meal - 2025

The annual Thanksgiving Day Meal on November 27, for the needy, elderly, and lonely of the area, is now being planned and organized at the Cedar Hill C.P. Church. If you have been involved in this inter-denominational joint effort ministry in the past, the planning committee wishes to thank you for your participation. If you have not participated in this ministry before, we invite you to join with us as we seek to serve the less fortunate. We need prepared food, servers, meal packers, and drivers, as well as monetary donations. More specific information about how, when and where to volunteer is posted on the bulletin board next to the Church Office or you may contact Clem Allison at 423-609-9300 (or bcallison@comcast.net). All meals will be prepared on Thanksgiving morning at the Cedar Hill CP Church at 4170 Newport Highway before being delivered to designated homes throughout Greene County. The entire process is generally completed by 11:30 a.m. Thanksgiving morning. Last year, 2,300 meals were delivered on Thanksgiving as a result of this community-wide project. This year we anticipate the number will be closer to 2,500.

Since this project is funded completely through donations, we would greatly appreciate any monetary gift you can provide. In the past, our church has always played a crucial role in being one of the top two in donating money among the approximately 15 churches that are generally involved in this effort. Hopefully, we can continue that tradition! Donations may be made in cash or by check and can be delivered to Clem Allison, or our church office. **All checks must be made payable to Cedar Hill CP Church and marked "for Thanksgiving Outreach".**

Thanks again for your involvement in this worthy event!

The Food Bank



In August, we collected 210 pounds of Peanut Butter.

In September, we collected 154 pounds of Mac & Cheese.

In October, we collected Oatmeal & Dry Cereal.

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

**Sunday
November 2, 2025**



December Bell Article Deadline

Monday
November 17th



E-mail articles to:

fpcscty@gmail.com

Food Bank Needs: Crackers

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Poinsettias Available

We welcome you to purchase a poinsettia in memory or in honor of a loved one. Poinsettias will be displayed during Advent in either the Sanctuary or Christ Chapel (please designate below). Price per flower is \$15.00. Proceeds will go to community outreach. Please place orders no later than **Monday November 17th**. Make checks payable to Presbyterian Women. Order form and payment may be placed in the offering plate, given to Chris Thorpe or dropped off at the church office.

Please place _____ RED (number) poinsettia(s) in **Christ Chapel**.

Please place _____ WHITE (number) poinsettia(s) in **Christ Chapel**.

Please place _____ RED (number) poinsettia(s) in the **Sanctuary**.

Please place _____ WHITE (number) poinsettia(s) in the **Sanctuary**.

In honor of _____

By _____

In honor of _____

By _____

In memory of _____

By _____

In memory of _____

By _____

Please take your poinsettias with you following the Christmas Eve Service.

Presbyterian Women



PW Coordinating Team will meet in person and via Zoom on Thursday, November 13, 2025 at 1 pm in the church library.

Agape Circle

will meet in person and via Zoom on Thursday, November 20, at 11 am in the church library. Please join us as Pastor Todd leads study Lesson Four from "Finding Resilience, Joy, and Our Identity in Jesus Christ."

Punch/Cookies

will be served by Team 4 on December 14 in the Simon Room following the 11am worship.

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: Crackers

NOVEMBER Leadership

Ushers:

- Jay Oberfeiting (H.U.)
- 2** Nick Mitchel,
Jay Oberfeiting,
Debbie Nycum
- *9** Hal Binkley,
Jay Oberfeiting,
Randy Harley
- 16** Nick Mitchell,
Jay Oberfeiting,
Randy Harley
- *23** Hal Binkley,
Debbie Nycum
- 30** Hal Binkley,
Jay Oberfeiting,
Debbie Nycum

A/V:

Aaron Caton
William Caton

Lectionary Readers:

- 2** Nick Mitchell
- *9** Jeanne Stokes
- 16** Sally Causey
- *23** Joyce Johnson
- 30** Kidwell King

Flowers:

- 2** Open
- *9** Open
- 16** Rosetta Wells
- *23** Open
- 30** Jann Mirkov

Sanctuary Side Door

Greeters:

- 2** Susan Craig
- *9** Jeanne Stokes
- 16** Leeann Smith
- *23** Pat Donaldson
- 30** Beverly Selmeski

Main St. Door Greeters:

- 2** Pat Donaldson
- *9** Chris Kilday
- 16** Peggy Bible
- *23** Kathleen Copeland
- 30** Sarah Kreeger

Communion Preparers:

- * 9** The Mitchell Family and
The Harley Family
- * 23** Leeann Smith

Communion Servers:

- * 9** Mike Hartsell
Nick Mitchell
- * 23** _____
- _____

In-Home Communion

Servers:

- * 12** Jan Wilford
- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____

* denotes a communion Sunday

November Lectionary Readings

Nov. 2

All Saints Day observed

Daniel 7:1-3, 15-18
Psalm 149
Ephesians 1:11-23
Luke 6:20-31

Nov. 9

Haggai 1:15b-2:9
Psalm 145:1-5, 17-21
2 Thessalonians 2:1-5, 13-17
Luke 20:27-38

Nov. 16

Isaiah 65:17-25
Isaiah 12
2 Thessalonians 3:6-13
Luke 21:5-19

Nov. 23

Christ the King

Jeremiah 23:1-6
Psalm 46
Colossians 1:11-20
Luke 23:33-43

Nov. 30

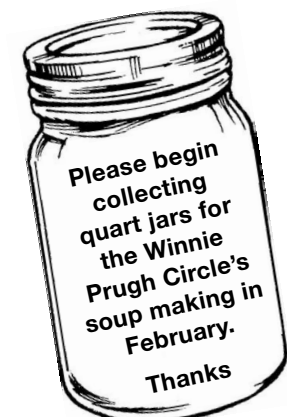
1st Sunday of Advent

Isaiah 2:1-5
Psalm 122
Romans 13:11-14
Matthew 24:36-44

Food Bank Needs: Crackers

Christmas Giving Opportunity

Presbyterian Women shop for a family in need each Christmas. This year we plan to assist a family with four children through the Greene County school system. If you would like to contribute to this ministry, your donation may be dropped off at the church to the attention of Dot Culton or mailed to her at 402 Oak Grove Avenue, Greeneville, TN 37745. Please be sure to earmark your check or donation for Christmas family. Your support to this Presbyterian Women ministry is greatly appreciated!



November Birthdays

1	Anna Benson	9	Ben Hopkins
1	Katherine White	9	Mary Elizabeth Thomas
3	Jay Oberfeiting	10	Sammy Fox
4	Dan Culton	14	Courtney Fletcher Holland
4	Jim Morgan	15	Barbara Henriksen
5	Debbie Collins	15	Pam Smead
5	Phoebe Spranger	15	George Spivey
6	Kristi Dalton	20	Jennifer Waldroupe
6	Patti Hopkins	20	Brandon Allen
6	Andrew Riggs	21	Paul Harr
6	Abigail Spranger	22	Pat Donaldson
7	Kidwell King	23	Emily McCaslin
7	Jeremy Gray	28	Erin Kobs
7	Ty Henriksen	28	Alex Riggs
9	DeAnna Bowman	30	Bob Beamer
9	Alan Britton	30	Zan Walker

November Anniversaries

20	Jan & John Maddux
22	David & Becky Myers
22	Mark & Katie Smelcer
26	Bryan & Carolyn Root

Food Bank Needs: Crackers

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DECEMBER Leadership

Date	Main St. Door Greeter	Lectionary Readers	Sanctuary Side Door Greeter	Flowers
7-Dec	Nellie Blevins	Beverly Selmeski	Beverly Selmeski	Tori & Wolf Spindel
14-Dec	Peggy Bible	Eva Wehrle	PamHarley	Open
21-Dec	Zan Walker	Randy Harley	Rebecca Scharding	Open
24-Dec	5:00 pm TBD 11:30 pm TBD	5:00 pm TBD 11:30 pm TBD	5:00 pm TBD 11:30 pm TBD	Poinsettias
28-Dec	Sarah Kreeger	John Smith	Ann VanBuskirk	Open

Offering/Tithe Envelopes Available

A monthly offering/tithe envelope service is available for members and friends of the church at no cost. If you are interested in this service, please contact Mindy in the church office at (423) 638-4533 to get signed up. Each month you receive through the mail a packet containing the number of weekly offering envelopes for the next month. The offering envelopes arrive personalized with your name and address. Also included are pre-addressed envelopes should you prefer to mail your church contribution. If you are already receiving this service but wish to discontinue it, please contact Mindy.

Please remember

The prayer list will start over in
January 2026.

In the future, names will remain on
the list for 1 month and will then be
removed. If a name needs to remain
on the list, please submit a new
request each month.

Thank you, Mindy

Remember in Prayer

Storm & Flood Victims

Hurricane Helene Victims

Mission:

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

Clyde Austin
Trish Chaloux
+Andrew Dalton
David & Kristi
Dalton
Haskell Fox
Gayle Green

Dr. Mark & Susie
Hannis
Gay Jenkins Howell
Jim & Sarah
Hornsby
*Jackson Jeter
+John Lopez
Arcelito Mai

Tim Price
+Austin Riggs
+Anthony Sasscer
Maggie Joy Selmeski
+Wyatt Wilson
+Clay Yancey
Jenny & John Yeip

• +Military serving stateside.

*Military serving overseas.

Food Bank Needs: Crackers

GIDEON REPORT

"I'm so thirsty, I just want to know more!"

Abir was a devout Muslim, raised to live his life in obedience to the Quran. But after hearing the story of Jesus, He began to have questions about his faith. Abir reached out to a Christian man and started to ask questions. This man led Abir through Scripture - written in a language he could understand - and Abir found truth within those pages. These were the answers he was looking for, and Abir told his friends with tears in his eyes . . . "I want to be a disciple of Jesus." Now, with access to God's Word in his heart language, Abir can't get enough of the hope he has found in the Word of God . . . "I'm so thirsty. I just want to know more!"

General Fund Update

	September 2025	YTD
Budgeted	\$31,316.00	\$313,408.00
Expenditures	\$29,431.00	\$305,310.00
Offerings	<u>\$23,999.00</u>	<u>\$301,230.00</u>
	(\$5,432.00)	(\$4,080.00)

Food Bank Needs: Crackers

Honorariums & Memorials

Given to Capital Improvement Fund

In memory of Charles Avery

by Mike Tucker and Jetta Cook

Given to Presbyterian Women

In memory of Kathryn Smith

by Joey and Genie Jackson

Given to Ruth's Blessings

In honor of Jama and Mike Garner

by Ed and Ann Rice

In memory of Sherry Quillin

by John and Leeann Smith

In memory of Philip M. Bachman, Jr.

In memory of Deborah Bible

In memory of Danny Rice

In memory of Patricia Russell

In memory of Judith Jones

In memory of Kathryn Smith

by Dan and Dot Culton

Extra Virgin Olive Oil Sales

(from Jericho)

Deadline: Sunday, November 16

\$ 13.00 per bottle or \$156.00 per case of 12

Also available: DATES \$ 14.00 for a 1lb package.

Please make checks payable to Dr. Dan Donaldson
Order form available in the FPC office.
Drop off completed form and payment @ the FPC
Office.

Food Bank Needs: Crackers

All Saints' Day Saturday, November 1

Will be observed in the 11:00 a.m.
worship service on Sunday,
November 2, 2025.

SAVE THE DATE

An evening of dinner, fellowship, and
International Holiday music

December 3rd is our scheduled meal at Wednesday at First Church. After the meal we will celebrate the season with Christmas music. We will sing traditional hymns and fun Christmas tunes that will promise to get you in the holiday spirit. Kasie Shellnut will be on keyboard.

Our dinner tables will be decorated with items from other countries. Many of our favorite Christmas arrangements are from countries around the world. If you have items from France, Finland, or the United Kingdom that you would not mind to be displayed, please contact Joyce Johnson or Pam Harley.

The children will participate by singing 2 songs that will touch your heart and The Bell Choir will also gift us with their talents.

Please make your dinner reservations for December 3rd and come join your church family for a night of Christmas joy.

Food Bank Needs: Crackers

FPC's Living Waters for the World-International

LWW-International is sponsoring a fundraiser to pay for the installation of water systems in Belize.

Join us on Saturday, November 8th at 6:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall for a lovely dinner prepared by Chef Priscilla Hutto. Priscilla will show us how to make salad dressing, focaccia, lasagne (vegetarian will also be available), and tiramisu. As she is demonstrating, we will be eating her creations.

Tickets go on sale on October 1st. The tickets cost \$60 per person which includes the cooking demonstration and dinner. A limited number of tickets will be available from any member of the LWW-International team and also on the church's website. Members include Jennie and Todd Jenkins, Chris Kilday, Tim Miller, Nancy Russell, Jeanne Stokes, and Mary Alice Williams.

Please help support this important mission project of FPC. Encourage your friends to join us as there will be room for 8 people at each table.

Help us purchase water systems that will provide clean water which is desperately needed for the children of Belize and their families.

Thank you for your participation in this event.

Food Bank Needs: Crackers

Agape Circle

will meet on Thursday, November 20 at 11:00 in the Library and via Zoom. Pastor Todd will lead the study on Lesson Four "The Prodigal Child, the Eldest Child, and the Devoted Parent". The study is very interesting and we have a very nice time of Worship and fellowship.

Huge Rummage Sale a Success!!!

On behalf of the Mission & Outreach Committee, I want to thank each and every one of you who volunteered, supplied donated items, and made purchases at our Huge Rummage Sale! The leftover items will be auctioned at the Shiloh Auction Company in the near future. We can't give an exact total raised, but it will be close to \$3000. With other Benevolence monies designated for local missions, the committee voted to distribute \$1500 to CANUP to address homelessness locally, \$1000 to Mission Peniel to address the needs of farm workers and their families in Immokalee, FL—mission opportunity coming soon, and \$500 to Frontera de Cristo, a Presbyterian cross-border mission based in the sister cities of Douglas, Arizona, and Agua Prieta, Sonora. Frontera de Cristo serves migrants and community members on both sides of the border offering shelter, resources, education, emotional support, medical care, and new solutions.

If anyone has any questions, comments, and ideas for future fundraising, please call me and/or consider joining the Mission & Outreach Committee.

--Sally Causey, 2025 Mission & Outreach Chairperson

'Hanging of the Greens!'

Sunday, November 30, 2025, the church will enter the Season of Advent. Advent is the season of preparation and anticipation leading up to Christmas, beginning on the fourth Sunday before Christmas Day.

This year, as each Sunday of Advent unfolds, more greenery and decorations will be added both inside and outside the church.

To celebrate the beginning of the Advent Season, ALL are invited to come and participate in 'Hanging of the Greens', Tuesday, December 2nd @ 10:00am in the sanctuary!

Hope, Peace, Joy, and Love to all!



Deacons

will meet Nov. 9th after the
11am worship service

Food Bank Needs: Crackers

Food Bank Needs: Crackers



Dinner Out Group

We will meet at 11:00 am at the church to load the bus on Saturday, November 22, 2025.

It's one of two plans.

We are invited to a friend's home.

Restoration of early autos is his hobby and he has fascinating early cars. There, we would have Ingles box lunches IF the weather is good.

If not, we'll go to A Taste of Dandridge.

If you are interested in joining us, please call the Church Office (423) 638-4533

Or send an email: fpcscity@gmail.com

Amazing work!

The Shepherd's Class have now packed over one thousand food bags this year. Isn't that amazing? Congratulations to Melissa, Travis, Heather, Noah and their teachers. We will be recognizing them at the beginning of the eleven o'clock worship service the third Sunday of November- November 16. I am hoping we can give them a standing ovation. We will be giving them a paper certificate and a gift card. If you would like to contribute to the gift, I will have an envelope in class marked "packers."

Thanks for all the food you have contributed to fill the 1000 food packets.

Food Bank Needs: Crackers

WELCOME!

Cynthia (Cindy) Sams
Director of Music Ministry

We are so happy to welcome Cindy to First Presbyterian Church! Born in Ft. Wayne, Indiana, she has lived in Greeneville since the 4th grade. She met her husband, Bernie, in high school and they married in 1971. She lost him in 2019 to complications following a stroke. She has two children, Michael and Jessica, and loves being "Grammie" to her two grandchildren.

Cindy received her B.S. from ETSU in 1970 with a major in Music Education, and a Masters of Music in Music Education in 1997, with a minor in Children's Pedagogical Literature; she is certified to teach Music Education K-12.

She taught in the Greeneville City and County schools, retiring after more than 39 years. Her tenure at Tusculum View School (TVS) was 25 years.

In addition to teaching in the classroom, Cindy conducted the TVS Children's Chorus, and the Cumberland and Asbury choirs. A gifted musician, she sings, plays the piano, and handbells. She is the director of the Andrew Johnson Singers. It is impossible to think about Cindy without thinking of music!

What does she do when she isn't performing, conducting, or planning? She loves her family; the theater, both directing, as well as performing (most recently as a nun in "The Sound of Music"); the beach!, landscaping her yard and antiquing. Jessica lives with her and their new puppy, Lucy, whom they both adore. Cindy says she doesn't cook - Bernie was the cook in their home - but Jessica does! She also wants you to know that she already has her Christmas tree up!

Perhaps even more than her talents as a musician, Cindy has the gifts of caring for others, for listening, and for understanding. She is looking forward to being a part of First Presbyterian Church's music ministry!

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

Connect with us



Food Bank Needs: Crackers

Christmas Gift Idea!

If you're wondering what gift you might give to anyone associated with First Presbyterian Church or interested in local history, consider giving a copy of our history: *Doak, Balch, and the Presbyterians Who Followed*. You may also want to request it as a gift for yourself! It makes a beautiful book for display, is 400 pages, and includes an extensive index. Consider perusing a church copy in the Narthex or at the Side Door Entrance. Look up yourself (or anyone/anything) in the index and see what you find!



Food Bank Needs: Crackers







Date: Nov. 5th
Dinner: 5:30
Program: 6:15

Come join us for a delicious WFC meal on November 5th, where we will hear from Jana Wills and Abby Keller, executive directors of My Neighbor's House. My Neighbor's House is a nonprofit organization founded in the aftermath of Hurricane Helene. Come hear powerful stories of recovery, hope and community resilience. Learn how you can get involved- through volunteering, donations or spreading the word.

Luke 10:27

WFC MENU

11/5

Breakfast for Dinner

11/19

Traditional Thanksgiving Meal
(Meal ONLY)

NOVEMBER 2025

1	All Saint's Day	12	1:30 p.m. Home Communion 6:30 p.m. Choir Practice
2	21st Sunday after Pentecost 10 cent-a-meal Offering Tusculum Sunday All Saints's Day Observed Daylight Saving Time Ends 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 7:00 p.m. Library Class ZOOM mtg.	13	10:00 p.m. Staff Meeting 1:00 p.m. PW Coordinating Team 4:30 p.m. Mission & Outreach 5:30 p.m. Congregational Life
4	Election Day	15	8:00 a.m. Men's Breakfast
5	Wednesdays at First Church 2:45 p.m. Activity Programming 5:30 p.m. Family Meal 6:30 p.m. Choir Practice	16	26th Sunday after Pentecost 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.
6	10:00 a.m. Staff Meeting 6:00 p.m. E & E meeting.	18	12:00 p.m. Faith & Grief
8	6:00 p.m. Cooking with Priscilla LWW-International Fundraiser	19	5:30 p.m. Traditional Thanksgiving Meal (ONLY) 6:30 p.m. Choir Practice
9	22nd Sunday after Pentecost 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 7:00 p.m. Library Class ZOOM mtg.	20	10:00 a.m. Staff Meeting 11:00 a.m. Agape Circle Meeting
11	Veterans Day Hosting Presbytery Meeting (8:30 - 5) 5:30 p.m. F & F Meeting	23	Christ the King 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. Lunch Bunch 7:00 p.m. Library Class ZOOM mtg.

**Food Bank Needs:
Crackers**

NOVEMBER 2025

27	Thanksgiving Day Office Closed
28	Office Closed
30	1st Sunday of Advent 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 7:00 p.m. Library Class ZOOM mtg.

**Food Bank Needs:
Crackers**

Dates to remember ...

November 2 Tusculum U. Day
November 5 WFC
November 8 LWW Fundraiser
(Cooking with Priscilla)
November 9 Deacons' Meeting
November 11 Hosting Presbytery MTG.
November 14-16 Presbytery Youth Retreat
November 18 Faith & Grief
November 19 Thanksgiving Meal
November 27 & 28 OFFICE CLOSED
December 3 WFC
December 5 Christmas Downtown
December 11 Beer & Hymns
December 14 Lessons & Carols
Punch & Cookies
December 16 Faith & Grief