



# FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Jefferson City, Tennessee

Organized in 1867 as *The Presbyterian Church at Mossy Creek*

January/February 2026 Newsletter

## When Hymns Become Prayer: Music as Meditation

*Listening for the Holy Spirit through song, reflection, and prayer*

To mark the beginning of 2026, I have adopted a new prayer practice—and I would love for you to know about it—and perhaps even join me. To get us started, I will choose a hymn from *Glory to God*, our Presbyterian hymnal. Not the ones we can sing by heart, but the unfamiliar hymns—the ones we may have skimmed past, the ones whose melodies and words have not yet settled into our bones. These hymns will become our prayer texts.

Much like *Lectio Divina*, where Scripture is read slowly and prayerfully, this practice will invite us to listen—deeply and repeatedly. For my part, I will listen to several musical settings of the hymn, letting the tune and the text wash over me. I will sit with a phrase that lingers, a line that catches my attention, a word that surprises or unsettles. From there, I will write a brief meditation, offer a few prompts for reflection, and close with a short prayer.

Each reflection will be shared as a short offering—posted on Substack and emailed to the church family. My hope is that this becomes a gentle rhythm: something you might return to, perhaps with a cup of coffee or tea, or a walk where you let the hymn play in your ears and your heart.

This spiritual practice is not about analyzing hymns or mastering new music—even though some may eventually find their way into our shared musical life. This practice is about letting the Spirit pray in us through poetry and song. Hymns carry theology, memory, longing, and hope. They give us language when our own words feel thin. They slow us down. They teach us how to breathe again.

You are welcome to engage with this practice in whatever way fits your life. Read. Listen. Pray. Or simply receive it as a blessing. There is no right pace, no expectation—only an invitation.

In a world that often demands quick answers and loud voices, this practice is an act of holy attentiveness. Together, we will listen for the God who still sings among us.

Grace & Peace,  
Dr. Glenda Hollingshead





## Ordination and Installation of Elders

First Presbyterian Church  
Sunday, January 25

## **SOUPER BOWL OF CARING, ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL/CORPORATION MEETING, AND SOUP LUNCHEON**

On Sunday, February 8 we will collect our Souper Bowl of Caring Offering. Additionally, after worship we will have our Annual Congregational/Corporation Meeting and Soup Luncheon prepared by the Education and Fellowship Committee, and we will hear reports from each of our committees. Electronic copies of the 2025 Annual Report will be emailed out the week before; hard copies will be available at the time of the meeting.



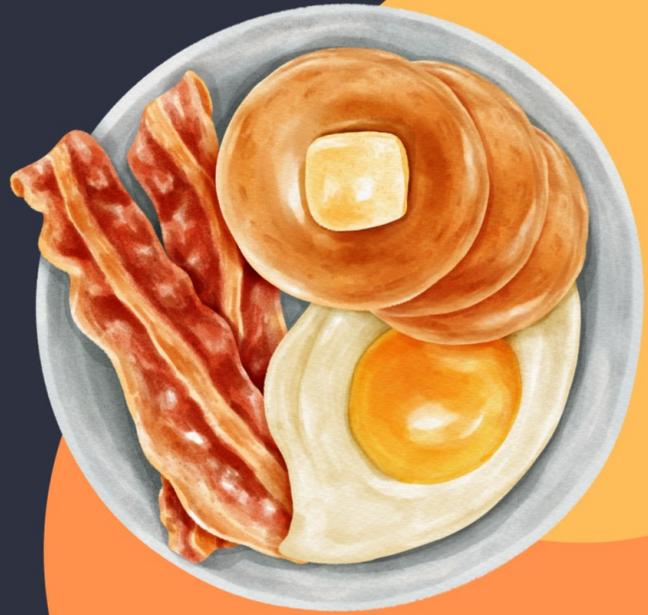
## COFFEE & CONVERSATION

Looking for a casual, offsite Sunday School option for adults? Starting Sunday, February 1st, join us for Coffee & Conversation at 60 Beans Coffee at 120 E Broadway Blvd in Jefferson City. Those with children may drop them off at the church at 9:30 a.m. Afterward, the adults will gather for coffee and fellowship. Each week, we'll also explore 2-3 questions or prompts inspired by the upcoming sermon-perfect for reflection, connection, and a fresh perspective on faith in everyday life. Grab a cup, join the chat, leave inspired!

# Men's Breakfast

Tuesday, February 10  
at 8:00 a.m.

Perkins in Dandridge



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
721 CHURCH STREET  
JEFFERSON CITY, TN

## CHURCH STREET CAFE

February 10<sup>th</sup> 4:30-6:00 p.m.



@fpcjeffcity.org



*different brews*



*different views*

# PUB THEOLOGY

— BEER, CONVERSATION & GOD —

*all perspectives welcome*

Saturday, February 14th at  
1:00 p.m. at 1907 Brewing  
Company. Let's gather  
around tables to share  
different brews and views.

Thank  
You!

We would like to express our gratitude to everyone in the congregation for the generous Christmas gift. We are touched by your thoughtfulness and extremely appreciative. Thank you!!

We wish you all a Happy and Healthy New Year!!

— Dr. Glenda, Heather, Tiffany, and Andrew

# Grace Notes Flute Choir



FEBRUARY 15 AT 10:45 A.M.  
POTLUCK LUNCHEON TO FOLLOW

The March  
Newsletter  
will be emailed  
the week of  
February  
23rd.

DEADLINE IS FEBRUARY 18.



## First Presbyterian Church Threads of Friendship Women's Group

A warm, welcoming space for all women of the church-where every thread, whether yarn or conversation, weaves us closer together. Whether you knit, crochet, craft, or simply want to connect, you're invited to be part of the gathering. Can't make it in person? Connect with us via Zoom. Come, share a laugh or two, and be part of something meaningful.

Thursday, February 19th at 2:00 p.m.  
Church Parlor  
(Be sure to bring your own beverage.)



## A "Save the Planet" Moment brought to you by Creation Care

"Let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven." -Matthew 5:16

Do you ever tire of trying to do the right things for the environment while wondering if it's making any difference? Jesus urged his followers to keep doing the right things so that others might notice what they were doing and be inspired themselves. This month, be conscious that whatever good you do to care for the earth may be setting an example for others to follow, even if you'll never know it. Keep using public transit instead of driving, bring your cloth bag to the grocery store or your re-usable mug to the coffee shop, refuse the plastic straw at the restaurant, or put on a sweater instead of turning up the heat at home. Turn your efforts over to God and ask that they inspire others. © The Pastoral Center / PastoralCenter.com. All rights reserved.

We have continued to get occasional donations from God's Warehouse, mostly of food, drink, and other items from CVS. These donations have supplemented the grocery bags and giveaway cart items for our Church Street Café guests. Sometimes we get SO much of a particular item that we donate the excess to the local fire stations, Boys & Girls Club, and CARE shelter, as appropriate. We are doing our part to share what is received so that none of it goes to waste! And of course all the cardboard boxes the donations come in are broken down and taken to be recycled.

# Missions

Your Mission & Creation Care Committee will continue to focus in 2026 on one project or 'ask' each month, sometimes including our ongoing projects of Five Cents a Meal, gently-used items to KARM, and personal care and cleaning supplies for the Neighborhood Center.

The January focus will be soup for the Souper Bowl of Caring for Church Street Café. Please join either team chicken noodle or team vegetable beef by bringing cans of soup to the Amen corner pew any time between now and Super Bowl Sunday, February 8. We will also collect the Five Cents a Meal offering on that Sunday, rather than the last Sunday in January. Can we meet or beat our total for 2024, which was 300 cans? We didn't make it, last year!

During February, please plan to bring in items for the Neighborhood Center, to show our love for our neighbors in honor of Valentine's Day. Needed are personal care items such as shampoo and soap, paper goods such as paper towels, and cleaning supplies. And please consider if YOU could take on the task of recording our donations and delivering them to the Neighborhood Center, every month or so. Thank you!

Some news of significance from the national church: At the last General Assembly, PCUSA approved some changes to the Special Offerings as of this year, removing the Pentecost offering and adding a children and youth ministry focus to the Christmas Joy Offering. In another change, no part of the offerings will be retained by the local congregations or presbyteries; 100% of the funds collected will go to the shared mission funds of the national church.

Please contact chair Carol Antoniewicz or any other member of the committee (Del Deaton, Linda Noonkesser, and Linda Raines) with any ideas or comments you have on Mission or Creation Care.

# THANK YOU FOR YOUR FAITHFUL GIVING

We are deeply grateful to our church family for your generous financial support throughout the year. Beyond your pledged giving, your additional donations-including gifts given in honor or in memory of loved ones-have made a meaningful and lasting impact on the life and ministry of our congregation. Because of your generosity:

- We purchased a 12-foot Christmas tree through memorial gifts in honor of David SKeen
- Replaced a rickety, wooden ladder with a safer "Little Giant Ladder" for various tasks around the church
- Installed a Keurig coffee station in the Fellowship Hall
- Received a generous life-insurance gift from the estate of John Zirkle
- Along with many other improvements that continue to bless our church community.

Thank you for your continued love, generosity, and support.

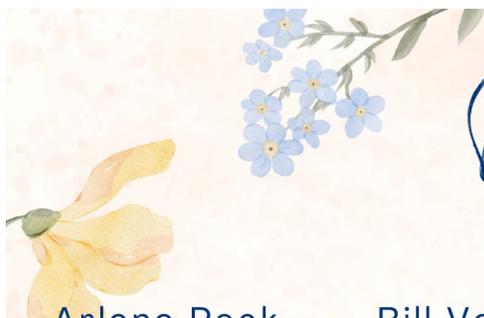


Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 OFFICE CLOSED GLENDA OUT	2	3 Jim Hearn
4 Worship Service 10:45 a.m. GLENDA OUT	5	6	7	8 NEWSLETTER DEADLINE Steve Wintermute	9	10 Pub Theology 1:00 p.m.
11 Sunday School 9:30 a.m. Worship Service 10:45 a.m.	12 Heather Hill	13 Men's Breakfast 8:00 a.m. Church Street Café 4:30-6:00 p.m. Doug Moody	14	15	16	17 Abby Reagan
18 Sunday School 9:30 a.m. Worship Service 10:45 a.m. All Committee Meetings	19	20	21	22 Threads of Friendship 2:00 p.m.	23	24
25 Sunday School 9:30 a.m. Worship Service 10:45 a.m. Ordination and Installation of Elders	26 Libby Gardner Jennifer Gowan	27 Margy King	28	29	30 Dianne Wice	31



# FEBRUARY

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1 Communion Sunday School 9:30 a.m. Worship Service 10:45 a.m.  Eva Zirkle	2	3	4	5	6	7
8 Sunday School 9:30 a.m. Worship Service 10:45 a.m. Annual Congregational Meeting and Lunch 12:00 p.m.  Souper Bowl of Caring	9	10 Men's Breakfast 8:00 a.m.  Church Street Café 4:30-6:00 p.m.	11	12	13	14 Pub Theology 1:00 p.m.
15 Sunday School 9:30 a.m. Worship Service 10:45 a.m. Grace Notes Flute Choir & Luncheon Session 6:00 p.m.	16	17	18 Ash Wednesday Contemplative Service 5:30 p.m.	19 Threads of Friendship 2:00 p.m.	20	21
22 Sunday School 9:30 a.m. Worship Service 10:45 a.m.	23	24	25	26	27	28



# Prayer Concerns

## SPECIAL CONCERNS:

Arlene Peck      Bill Vest      Doug Moses      Jama Seahorn      Neal Beck  
The health and wellbeing of our country and those who live within its borders  
Members of the military & their families  
Peace in Ukraine, The Holy Land, and other war-torn nations

## ILL AND RECOVERING:

Angelia Ramsey, wife of Jim Deaton's friend, James, who has cancer  
Marjorie Helton, Libby Gardner's sister, who had a successful surgery and  
begins radiation soon  
Kris Ridyard, who is undergoing immunotherapy  
Paul Sorey, Linda Noonkesser's brother  
Jane Sorey, Linda Noonkesser's sister-in-law



## NEW ADDRESS

EVA ZIRKLE  
5705 FAYETTEVILLE RD., APT 5102  
DURHAM, NC 27713

*The mission of First Presbyterian Church is to form disciples  
who are invested in reflecting the love of Christ Jesus to the world.*

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To access Online Giving or for more information about First Presbyterian Church you may visit our website at [www.fpcjeffcity.org](http://www.fpcjeffcity.org) or scan this QR code with your smartphone.

