

First Presbyterian Church
 721 Church St.
 Jefferson City, TN 37760

MISSION COMMITTEE CORNER

The next special offering we will collect, any time through Easter Sunday, April 4, is One Great Hour of Sharing. “In a world of disaster, hunger, and oppression, millions of people lack access to sustainable food sources, clean water, sanitation, education, and opportunity. The three programs supported by One Great Hour of Sharing - Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, the Presbyterian Hunger Program, and Self-Development of People - all work in different ways to serve individuals and communities in need. From initial disaster response to ongoing community development, their work fits together to provide people with safety, sustenance, and hope.” (from OGHS website) Please send your offering to the church office, marked OGHS. Thank you!

Annual Prayer Shawl Report—Our Church’s team of knitters is continuing to make both prayer shawls and scarves for our members to give to friends and neighbors who are facing difficult times. In spite of our inability to have in person services and activities in 2020, we have continued this program and delivered 23 shawls/scarves to individuals along with our prayers. We are repeatedly receiving word of how greatly our concern is appreciated!

Did You Know? In mid-March we will be rolling out a more streamlined way to give online through Vanco Faith. Be sure to watch your emails for this new program and instructions for use. Along with a more streamlined giving program, we will be introducing an app for our church family called Vanco Mobile. More details about these exciting changes will be coming soon!

Dear Church Family,

With the month of March, we enter a full year away from our sanctuary. We are tired, we are worn, and we are unsure of where life goes from here. It strikes me that this is exactly where God’s people found themselves in the wilderness wanderings: forty long years, depending daily on God’s provision and guidance. We are now also journeying together through the season of Lent, a forty-day period designed to draw us into that wilderness of longing for God and depending upon God’s provision. As we embark upon this journey, it is my hope that we can explore paths of spirituality that will nourish and nurture our lives of faith beyond the pandemic.

At our Ash Wednesday service, we began a series we’ll be exploring this season of Lent. Tracking with our lectionary scripture readings as well as with our Lenten devotional, *The Way to Shalom*, this season we will work with the themes of covenant and shalom, vital concepts that center us in a spirituality built for journey.

Shalom can be translated in a variety of ways from the Hebrew, but its basic meaning is peace—and peace not only as the absence of violence or conflict, but also as the presence of justice and wholeness. Shalom is God’s desire for us and for all the world. It is all creation, all creatures flourishing in the completeness for which they were created.

As we will see this season, the way that God brings about shalom is through *covenant*. Rather than doing what we all might often wish God would do—intervene and just put everything right already—God has chosen to work with us, to enter into relationships with human beings. These relationships of promise and solidarity are called covenants, and it’s through these covenants with God that we find ourselves being formed into covenant community with one another, journeying together toward God’s shalom.

There are different kinds of covenants in the Scriptures. Toward the end of this season, we will hear about the New Covenant written on our hearts and sealed in Christ. But along this journey we also find God’s covenant with Noah and with all creation, made with the sign of God’s bow hanging in the clouds, an enduring promise to every creature of God’s unconditional desire for peace.

We will also hear of God’s covenant with Abraham and Sarah, a promise to bless all people that’s made to two people who are knocking at death’s door. Hoping against hope, the promise to Abraham and Sarah is an enduring sign of God’s resourcefulness to make a way out of no way: new life from places of death, creation out of nothing.

Finally, we will also look to God’s covenant through the Law, commandments given to us that we might do them and live. With the covenant of the Law, we receive the grace to embody a new way of life together, grounded in the love and justice of God. As God’s ways become our ways, we find ourselves at peace with God, one another, and the earth itself: shalom.

I hope we can all be together in person someday soon, but until that day arrives, please keep one another in prayer and reach out to one another in care and concern. These are the times that try our souls, a wilderness none of us saw coming. Be the grace you long to see in this world. Speak the kind words you long to hear. Be the compassion, generosity, and peace our world so desperately needs. Be the body of Christ, and may the Lord bless you and keep you in these days.

In Christ,
 Dave



VIRTUAL MEN’S PRAYER BREAKFAST

The Men’s Prayer Breakfast will meet again beginning on Tuesday, March 9, 2021 at 8:00 a.m. We will be meeting by Zoom and you will receive an email with the link to join in.

CSC DELIVERY

We are in need of volunteers to help with our next delivery of food from Midwest FoodBank on Wednesday, March 10th at 11:30 a.m.



VIRTUAL WOMEN’S PRAYER BREAKFAST

The Women's Prayer Breakfast will meet on Saturday, March 13th, at 9:30 a.m. by Zoom. Please be sure to watch your emails for the Zoom invitation.

DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME

Daylight Savings Time begins on Sunday, March 14th. Don’t forget to set your clocks ahead!!





FPC WALK & TALK DAYS

Please consider joining us for an outside fellowship opportunity on March 14th, at Wayne Hansard Park (in Morristown, off Hwy 160) at and March 28th, at Douglas Dam Tailwaters at 2:00 p.m. Watch your weekly email announcements and bulletins for more details as the dates approach. FPC Walk & Talk days are intended to be an opportunity to get outside and walk in fellowship with each other and have time to talk about what's happening in our lives. No signing up is required, but feel free to reach out to Troy Evans at 423-619-4386 with any questions. If the weather forecast turns for the worse for either day, then a church-wide email will go out with cancellation/postponement plans.

FINANCE REPORT — FEBRUARY 2021			
TOTAL FEBRUARY		\$3,770.00	
YEAR-TO-DATE (YTD) INCOME/EXPENSES			
	Actual	YTD Prorated	YTD Budget
INCOME	\$50,550.00	\$13,133.20**	\$22,880.00
EXPENSES	\$16,880.33		\$30,944.38
YTD ACTUAL INCOME OVER EXPENSES: \$33,669.67			
YTD PRORATED INCOME OVER EXPENSES: -\$3,747.13			
<i>** Some members pay their entire yearly pledges in January. This number has been adjusted to reflect what actual giving through February would be, if completed yearly pledges, were divided out monthly. If you have questions, please see Heather.</i>			

“Always show kindness and love to others. Your words might be filling the empty places in someone's heart.”

—Mandy Hale

B&G

CORNER

The Building & Grounds (B&G) Committee has been looking into the purchase and installation of air sanitization devices placed in the church’s air handlers (there are five of them). The idea is to clean the air by getting rid of dust, mold, pollen, bacteria, virus, smoke, odor and VOCs (volatile organic compounds). The potential products are not inexpensive so we carefully studying them.

The Committee is also considering hosting a couple of events. We are planning on having an outside Workday prior to Easter Sunday likely on the 20th or 27th of March. There will be more information about this event coming out. The second event is still in the planning stages, but B&G and Creation Care are looking to host an electronics recycling event. B&G has contacted Scott Recycling in Knoxville and they have offered to assist in the event. They will accept a wide variety of electronic items except for appliances (but microwave ovens are okay). In addition, Heather suggested we might try to conduct a shredder event at the same time as the electronics recycling. Please keep an eye out (why do we say this it seems painful) for more information about these events.

If you would to be part of the Building & Grounds Committee please contact Kerry Antoniewicz or Troy Evans. Finally, as always, please pass along any issues or project ideas.

SESSION HIGHLIGHTS (FEBRUARY 11, 2021)

- Session moved to create a taskforce whose purpose would be to get everything prepared for reopening the church; the taskforce is still in the early stages but in plans to set up a timeline and procedure for reopening, making recommendations to session about all the when’s and how’s of reopening.
- For the time being, we are going to remain in virtual worship mode unless weather allows and then we can explore outdoor worship again. It is possible the Reopening Taskforce will have new recommendations for us during the month of March, but at the very least, there is a desire to plan for outdoor services during Holy Week: Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and Easter. The current idea for Maundy Thursday is to include a tailgate also, honoring the tradition of gathering for a fellowship meal before that special service.
- The Session is seeking additional people to serve on the Building & Grounds and Fellowship & Evangelism Committees. We are short-handed in these areas of ministry, so please consider serving!
- Upcoming Walk and Talks: The plan is to go to Cherokee Dam on February 28 at 2:00 p.m., to Wayne Hansard Park in Morristown on March 14 at 2:00 p.m., and to the Douglas Dam Tailwaters on March 28 at 2:00 p.m.



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3 Mission Mtg. 11:00 a.m. Virtual Fellowship and Bible Study 6:30 p.m. Gary & Jennifer Bates	4	5	6
7 Communion Zoom Sunday School 9:15-10:15 a.m. YouTube Live Worship Service 10:45-11:45 a.m. Deborah Scarlett	8	9 Virtual Men’s Breakfast 8:00 a.m. Church Street Café 5:00 p.m.	10 CSC Delivery 11:30 a.m. Virtual Fellowship and Bible Study 6:30 p.m. Matt Gowan	11 Session 6:30 p.m. Dian Wise Alice Pryor Matt & Kim LeClerc	12	13 Virtual Women’s Breakfast 9:30 a.m.
14 Zoom Sunday School 9:15-10:15 a.m. YouTube Live Worship Service 10:45-11:45 a.m. Walk and Talk 2:00 p.m.	15	16	17 Virtual Fellowship and Bible Study 6:30 p.m.	18	19 Arlene Peck	20 NEWSLETTER DEADLINE
21 Zoom Sunday School 9:15-10:15 a.m. YouTube Live Worship Service 10:45-11:45 a.m.	22	23 Church Street Café 5:00 p.m. Annabelle Tilton	24 Virtual Fellowship and Bible Study 6:30 p.m. Doug & Julie Moody	25	26	27
28 Zoom Sunday School 9:15-10:15 a.m. YouTube Live Worship Service 10:45-11:45 a.m. Palm Sunday Service Walk and Talk 2:00 p.m.	29	30 Martha Sanders Tom Sites	31 Roxanne Moser			

Holy WEEK

WORSHIP

SCHEDULE

April 1, Maundy Thursday (6:30 PM; Communion)

We will gather in the church parking lot for a tailgate fellowship meal, after which we will celebrate in outdoor worship together. Jesus washes the disciples’ feet, teaching us that no one has greater love than laying down one’s life for friends. In sharing this love with both Judas and Peter, Jesus shows there is no length to which he will not go in order to show his love for us. This service continues on Good Friday.

April 2, Good Friday (6:30 PM)

We will gather again for an outdoor worship service. Tonight, we commemorate the day Jesus died for us on the cross, telling his story through readings, special music, reflection, and prayer. This service continues on Easter Sunday.

April 4, Easter Sunday (Communion)

Gathering again for outdoor worship, we celebrate the good news of the risen Lord.