

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

WALK & TALK



We will be having an April Walk and Talks on Saturday, April 9th, at 11:00 a.m. Meet at the picnic area parking at Cherokee Dam. We will be walking out the Cherokee Dam Loop trail, about 1.8 miles. The first mile of trail is paved, and then gravel beyond that. Please contact Martha Sanders with any questions.

MEN'S PRAYER BREAKFAST

The next Men's Prayer Breakfast is scheduled for Tuesday, April 12th at 8:00 a.m., at Perkins in Dandridge.



CHURCH STREET CAFÉ DELIVERY



We are in need of volunteers to help with our next delivery of food from Midwest FoodBank on Wednesday, April 13th at 11:30 a.m.

HOLY WEEK WORSHIP SCHEDULE



Palm Sunday (4/10) we will have our Annual Easter Egg Hunt and lunch. Following worship, everyone is invited downstairs to the Fellowship Hall to enjoy lunch with the children, followed by the egg hunt. All the children (5th grade and under) are invited to participate in the hunt. Don't forget to bring your Easter baskets!

Maundy Thursday (4/14), we will gather again in the Fellowship Hall for a meal together at 5:30 p.m. and the move up to the sanctuary for our Maundy Thursday at 6:30 p.m.

Good Friday Tenebrae (4/15), we will gather again in the sanctuary for our Good Friday Service at 7:00 p.m.

Easter Sunday (4/17), we will gather at 10:45 a.m. for our Easter Worship Service.

"What does the Lord require of you but to do justly, to love mercy, and to walk humbly with your God?" Micah 6.8b

The preacher Fred Craddock, which Newsweek Magazine once listed among America's best, passed away in 2015 after a brilliant teaching and preaching career and in his later life lived in Blue Ridge GA. Fred Craddock who came from Humbolt, TN tells of an experience that he had when he was early in his career that I'm going to share with you.

He was a teacher in Oklahoma early in his professional life. And he said he had just completed a very busy spring. He said he was just worn out and tired. And so, when the semester was over, he and his wife took a trip back to Tennessee - time to reconnect and recharge their batteries. He said during the trip they took a few days to go up into the Smoky Mountains and to Gatlinburg.

One night they were eating in a restaurant and as they were eating, Craddock noticed a white-haired man beginning to make his way from table to table, obviously the maître d'. Craddock thought to himself, "I hope that man doesn't intrude himself into what we're doing. I'm peopled out. I don't need to be with anymore strangers."

But sure, enough in due time, the man made his way to their table, he introduced himself and asked where they were from. As Craddock recalled he said rather tersely, "We're from Ada, Oklahoma." The man persisted: "And what do you do?" Craddock thought he would send him off and answered: "I teach Homiletics," which is the technical term for teaching the art of preaching. He thought this mountaineer from Tennessee would not know what homiletics was. To his surprise, the old man said: "Oh, so you teach preaching, do you? I have a preacher story I need to tell you," And with that he pulled out a chair and sat down at the table with them! Craddock said to himself: "Oh, my God, not only has he intruded, but now he is going to sit here with us. I've heard all the preacher stories that I ever need for the rest of my life!"

But the old man continued, "I was born not far from here, just across these mountains, and my mother was not married when I was born and so the shame that fell on her fell on me as well. As early as I can remember, people looked at me with a critical eye. When I started to school, my schoolmates had an ugly word they called me that began with a 'B' that I had never heard before. But the worst thing was to go with my mother to town on Saturday afternoon. And though people would put their hands over their mouths, I could hear what they were saying. What were they saying was: 'I wonder who his daddy is? I wonder who that boy really belongs to?'"

"My family did not go to church because we were afraid that people would say. Something like 'What are trash like you doing in a holy place like this?'" "When I was fourteen, a new preacher came to our little mountain church, and I heard him speak one day in school chapel. He was kind, warm and wise, and, frankly, I was very taken with him. And so, I began to slip into his church after the service started. I

would sit down on the back row. I'd be careful to get out before the service was over because I didn't want anyone accusing me of being in the wrong place.

But one Sunday I got so enthralled by the sermon that the service ended before I realized we were dismissed, and some old ladies queued up in the back aisle, so it was impossible was me to get out! There I was an unclean person in a place of holiness. I was so anxious, standing on one foot and then on the other.

As I was standing there, I suddenly felt a hand on my shoulder. I turned around and who else but the old preacher himself, looking down at me with his piercing blue eyes. He asked, "Whose boy are you, son?" "Who is your daddy?" "That was the question that had haunted me all my life and I did not know what to say. Tears came to my eyes; my chin began to quiver. I felt like I was coming to the very end of everything.

But before I could say any words, a great smile came over the old preacher's face and he said, "Wait a minute! You don't have to tell me. Why, of course! I already know. You are the son of God. God is your Daddy. Boy, you have a great heritage. I want you to go out into the world and I want you to claim it for yourself!" The old man said to Fred Craddock "I don't mean to be overly dramatic, but those two phrases: 'You are the son of God. God is your Daddy,' were the most incredible things that had ever said to me and, very frankly, they changed the whole course of my life."

By this time, the burned out and needing time away from it all teacher and preacher Fred Craddock was enthralled, and he asked, "What did you say your name was?" The old man answered, "My name is Ben Hooper." And then Craddock remembered that years before his grandfather had told him that on two occasions the people of Tennessee had elected as their governor a man who was born out of wedlock, and one was named Ben Hooper! And Craddock concluded his story by saying "this claiming of the heritage that had been given to him, first by the grace of God and then by others, gave him a whole new sense of how he viewed himself and how he lived out his life."

Now that story illustrates a perfect act of kindness. The kind of kindness that comes straight from the heart of God. The beautiful thing about kindness is that everyone of us has the capacity to be kind to everybody that we meet. We may not be able to do heroic things. We may not be brilliant enough to answer every question. We may not have it in our capability to do all kinds of extraordinary feats. But everyone of us can choose to be kind to other people. Not to burdening others with our drama those who are already burdened.

We can always in all places be kind.
Grace and peace,
Pastor Robert

PRAYER CONCERNS

SPECIAL CONCERNS:
Steve & Arlene Peck Denny Pryor Sara Piper
Bill & JoAnne Vest Neal Beck Doug & Cindy Moses
Members of the military & their families, especially those stationed overseas.

ILL AND RECOVERING:
Ann Canfield, Debby Rineharts' cousin, whose cancer has returned
Inez Maddox, Arlene Peck's first cousin, who has been placed on hospice care
Chuck Hously, father of a friend of Arlene Peck's grandson, has been diagnosed with brain cancer
Yvette Werner, friend of Martha Sanders, who is undergoing chemotherapy
Jane Sorey, Linda Noonkesser's sister-in-law, who has Alzheimer's
Carolyn, Ted Folsom's cousin, who is restarting chemo
Randy Cook & family, family of John Zirkle; Randy has been placed on hospice
Lynne McCoy, friend of Peggy Hypes
Dennis, Ted Folsom's brother-in-law, who is dealing with COPD
Mike Carlevato, coworker of Beth Folsom, who is undergoing cancer treatments

IN RESIDENTIAL FACILITIES:
LIFECARE MORRISTOWN: Elsie Sorey (# 208)
SIGNATURE HEALTHCARE: Paulette Bozeman
JEFFERSON PARK: John Moser

FINANCE REPORT — MARCH 2022			
TOTAL MARCH		\$6,515.00	
(\$16,650 is needed monthly to meet budget)			
YEAR-TO-DATE (YTD) INCOME/EXPENSES			
	Actual	YTD Prorated	YTD Budget
INCOME	\$73,704.75	\$36,529.40**	\$46,267.50
EXPENSES	\$31,511.60		\$64,099.91
YTD ACTUAL INCOME OVER EXPENSES: \$42,193.15			
YTD PRORATED INCOME OVER EXPENSES: \$5,017.80			
<i>This number has been adjusted to reflect what actual giving through March would be, if completed yearly pledges, were divided out monthly. If you have questions, please see Heather.</i>			

MISSION CORNER

The EMERGENCY COMMUNITY SUPPORT FUND was established to provide the church a means of immediately helping our neighbors who are unable to pay their utility bills. The pastor or church administrator is responsible for distributing these funds. After a person or family in need of assistance is screened by the Jefferson County Neighborhood Center, the Center contacts the church administrator with a request for funds, either a partial or full amount. If the church has funds in this restricted account, the bill, or a portion of the bill, is paid directly to the company and not the requesting individual. With the continued need in our community, the ECSF is almost empty. Please contribute, as you are able, so our church can continue to help our neighbors in need of assistance. Thank you for your continued support.

CHURCH STREET CAFÉ

The mission of Church Street Café continues to serve those in our community in need of food. Five evenings of CSC, January 12 – March 8, have provided 233 bags of groceries to grateful individuals and families with children.

Thank you for your continued support with monetary donations and food items brought to the church. You and your family are welcome to volunteer on any 2nd and 4th Tuesday (4-5:30 p.m.) as we hand out bags and greet our guests.

The monthly Midwest delivery dates on a Wednesday morning are publicized in the newsletter and in the church email. Help stock shelves, pack bags, unload or repackage these donated items. Questions? Contact Linda Noonkesser or Del Deaton.


GRATITUDE, ALL YEAR LONG

It's not Thanksgiving time. But what if we made a point to practice gratitude all year long? In her book *Grateful*, theologian Diana Butler Bass writes: "As human beings, we possess an intuitive awareness that we depend on others to survive. We are safer and happier when we care for each other in community, when we do things for each other. How we live together in and with gratitude makes all the difference in the world. Indeed, living gratefully makes the world different."

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
APRIL						
					1	2 Church Work Day 9:00 a.m.
3 Sunday School 9:15-10:15 a.m. Worship Service 10:45-11:45 a.m.	4	5 Building and Grounds 6:30 p.m.	6 Virtual Fellowship and Bible Study 7:30 p.m. Kathy Juroff	7 Alex Carmack	8 Stacy Kirkpatrick	9 Dail Meadows
10 Sunday School 9:15-10:15 a.m. Worship Service 10:45-11:45 a.m. PALM SUNDAY Egg Hunt and Lunch Cynthia Moses	11 Rick & Sandy Pinkerton-Long	12 Men's Breakfast 8:00 a.m. Church Street Café 4:00 p.m. Robert Gowan John Neal Scarlett	13 Virtual Fellowship and Bible Study 6:30 p.m. Session 7:30p.m.	14 Fellowship Dinner 6:00 p.m. Maundy Thursday Service 7:00 p.m. Ruth Meadows	15 Good Friday Service 7:00 p.m. Ineke Koppier	16
17 Sunday School 9:15-10:15 a.m. Worship Service 10:45-11:45 a.m. EASTER SUNDAY	18	19	20 Virtual Fellowship and Bible Study 7:30 p.m. NEWSLETTER DEADLINE JV Cline	21	22	23
24 Sunday School 9:15-10:15 a.m. Worship Service 10:45-11:45 a.m.	25 Kate Pinkerton-Long	26 Church Street Café 4:00 p.m.	27 Virtual Fellowship and Bible Study 7:30 p.m.	28	29	30 Dallas McCash

MARCH 9, 2022 SESSION HIGHLIGHTS

- Approved the minutes from the February meeting of Session and the Congregational meeting of March 6, 2022.
- Approved the Calendar for April.
- Re-opening task force will be asked to offer guidance on how to serve communion with Covid-19 apparently improving.
- Received the commissioner's report from March meeting of Presbytery.
- Received committee report from Building and Grounds.

 SPECIAL OFFERINGS
ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING

On Easter Sunday, April 17th, we will take up the One Great Hour Sharing (OGHS) offering. Started in 1949, OGHS is a long-standing ecumenical effort aimed at raising the funds necessary to provide relief and reconstruction for communities in the aftermath of disaster. The three programs supported by OGHS (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.