



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Jefferson City, Tennessee
Organized in 1867 as The Presbyterian Church at Mossy Creek

KIDS SAY THE DARNEDEST THINGS

April 2024 Newsletter

One morning, several years ago, when Harper Grace, our granddaughter was visiting us in Virginia, we decided to go play at a nearby park. Although no one was there when we arrived, soon a little girl and boy showed up with their mom. As soon as Harper saw them, she started jumping and shouting, "Little children, little children!" When I tried to calm her down, she exclaimed, "But GG, these are my people." She cracked me up—as she often does! Truly, *KIDS SAY THE DARNED-EST THINGS*. With this in mind, I offer you the following interpretation of the Bible—from a child's point of view.

In the beginning, which occurred near the start, there was nothing but God, darkness, and some gas. The Bible says, 'The Lord thy God is one,' but I think He must be a lot older than that. Anyway, God said, 'Give me a light!' and someone did. Then God made the world. He split the Adam and made Eve. Adam and Eve were naked, but they weren't embarrassed because mirrors hadn't been invented yet. Adam and Eve disobeyed God by eating one bad apple, so they were driven from the Garden of Eden...Not sure what they were driven in though, because they didn't have cars. Adam and Eve had a son, Cain, who hated his brother as long as he was Abel. Pretty soon all of the early people died off, except for Methuselah, who lived to be like a million or something. One of the next important people was Noah, who was a good guy, but one of his kids was kind of a Ham. Noah built a large boat and put his family and some animals on it. He asked some other people to join him, but they said they would have to take a rain check. After Noah came Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. Jacob was more famous than his brother, Esau, because Esau sold Jacob his birthmark in exchange for some pot roast. Jacob had a son named Joseph who wore a really loud sports coat. Another important Bible guy is Moses, whose real name was Charlton Heston. Moses led the Israel Lights out of Egypt and away from the evil Pharaoh after God sent ten plagues on Pharaoh's people. These plagues included frogs, mice, lice, bowels, and no cable. God fed the Israel Lights every day with manicotti. Then he gave them His Top Ten Commandments. These include: don't lie, cheat, smoke, dance, or covet your neighbor's stuff. Oh, yeah, I just thought of one more: Humor thy father and thy mother. One of Moses' best helpers was Joshua who was the first Bible guy to use spies. Joshua fought the battle of Geritol and the fence fell over on the town. After Joshua came David. He got to be king by killing a giant with a slingshot. He had a son named Solomon who had about 300 wives and 500 porcupines. My teacher says he was wise, but that doesn't sound very wise to me. After Solomon there were a bunch of major league prophets. One of these was Jonah, who was swallowed by a big whale and then barfed up on the shore. There were also some minor league prophets, but I guess we don't have to worry about them. After the Old Testament came the New Testament.

Jesus is the star of The New Testament. He was born in Bethlehem in a barn. I wish I had been born in a barn! During His life, Jesus had many arguments with sinners like the Pharisees and he had twelve opossums. The worst one was Judas Asparagus. Judas was so evil that they named a terrible vegetable after him. Jesus was a great man. He healed many leopards and even preached to some Germans on the Mount. But the Pharisees and all those guys put Jesus on trial before Pontius the Pilot. Pilot didn't stick up for Jesus. He just washed his hands instead. Anyways, Jesus died for our sins, then came back to life again. He went up to Heaven but will be back at the end of the Aluminum. His return is foretold in the book of Revolution.

THE END.

This spring, may the Lord bless you with fresh, new insights—and a little extra joy and laughter!

Shalom,
Dr. Glenda (a.k.a. GG)





If you are looking for a place to enjoy a beverage, along with honest, relaxed conversation, Pub Theology may be just the thing for you. Our next gathering is Saturday, April 13th at 1 p.m. at 1907 Brewing Company. If you don't

care for beer, soft drinks and other non-alcoholic beverages are available, as well as free water. So, come along! Let's gather around tables to share different brews and different views. Everyone is welcome!



Men's Breakfast is scheduled for Tuesday, April 9th at 8:00 a.m. at Perkins in Dandridge.



On Friday, April 19th, at 7:00 p.m., Sit 'n Knit will meet. A location will be determined closer to the date. Additionally, for those who wish to participate virtually, a Zoom link will be sent on the afternoon of the event.



We frequently encourage you to take your gently-used items to KARM, and tell them you are donating to benefit First Presbyterian Church, Jefferson City. The gift cards we receive based

on those donations are actively requested by our CSC guests. And you've been doing it – thank you! We recently received 14 gift cards, \$10 each, for the donations made during the last quarter of 2023. Keep it up!

Have you put this on your calendar? AMOS week will be June 17-20 this year, rather than the week of July 4. We will be feeding about 20 people from a church in Winston-Salem, NC, who are here for AMOS' home repair ministry. Whether or not you generally help with feeding AMOS volunteers breakfast and/or dinner, if you are interested and available this year, please contact Martha Sanders or Carol Antoniewicz.

Please contact chair Carol Antoniewicz (865-438-7524) or any other member of the committee (Del Deaton, Jessica Evans, Linda Noonkesser, and Eva Zirkle) with any ideas or comments you have on Mission or Creation Care.



Kari Novilla is an award-winning and multi-genre harpist. She has a Bachelors in Harp Performance from Indiana University and recently graduated with a Masters in Music from the Royal Academy of Music, in London, United Kingdom. Raised in Morristown, Tennessee, she is committed to promoting inclusivity and diversity in all her work, and she strives to reach under-served communities by producing her own charity concerts and educational programs. In addition to performing solo concerts and orchestral engagements internationally, Kari continues to perform for various events and worship services around America, her home state of Tennessee, and in Europe.

Make plans to join us April 28th and May 5th when Kari Novilla will provide music during worship. Also, please share this wonderful musical opportunity with your friends, family, and neighbors. Invitation cards will soon be available on the tables outside the sanctuary. Additionally, if you are on social media, make sure to "SHARE" our post about the event.

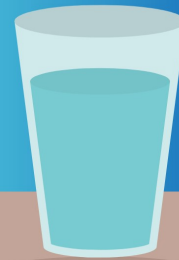
IN PERPETUAL SPRING

By Amy Gerstler

Gardens are also good places
to sulk. You pass beds of
spiky voodoo lilies
and trip over the roots
of a sweet gum tree,
in search of medieval
plants whose leaves,
when they drop off
turn into birds
if they fall on land,
and colored carp if they
plop into water.

Suddenly the archetypal
human desire for peace
with every other species
wells up in you. *The lion
and the lamb cuddling up.*
The snake and the snail, kissing.
Even the prick of the thistle,
queen of the weeds, revives
your secret belief
in perpetual spring,
your faith that for every hurt
there is a leaf to cure it.

The Spirituality of Self-Care



You can't pour from an empty cup.

The Spirituality of Self-Care Mini-Retreat Saturday, April 27, 2024, 10 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

For too many people, the idea of “self-care” is “selfish.” But the teachings of Jesus say otherwise. Jesus would have us care for ourselves so that we have the energy to care for others and do good in the world—in his name.

With this in mind, during our time together, we will examine Scripture through the ancient practice of *lectio divina*. We will learn several prayer songs. We will meditate on and journal our responses to paintings provided by folk-artist and spiritual director, Rara Schlitt. Also, through a fun skit written by Libby Moser, we will ponder the importance of setting healthy boundaries and respecting the boundaries of others.

The cost of the retreat (which includes lunch) is \$15, and childcare will be provided. Brochures with a registration form are available now in the Narthex and back hallway in the church.

A prayer to the God of my life.

PSALM 42:8



Bible Quiz



The “Christ hymn” in Philippians 2 proclaims that after Jesus humbled himself even to the point of death, God exalted him, and that eventually all will worship him. What two body parts are named as part of that worship?

- A. knee; tongue
- B. hands; feet
- C. arms; lips
- D. heart; mouth



Answer: A (See Philippians 2:10-11.)

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

"Little children, let us love, not in word or speech, but in truth and action." –1 John 3:18. Put your care for creation into action this week. This week, replace your old lightbulbs with energy efficient ones. Replace store-bought cleaners (which contain harsh chemicals that can be destructive to the environment) with homemade and/or natural cleaners such as vinegar, lemon juice, baking soda, or biodegradable cleaners. Search online for easy-to-make recipes for common house-cleaning solutions. © The Pastoral Center / PastoralCenter.com. All rights reserved.

And please keep an eye on the weekly email announcements for Earth Day celebration plans in April!

Green Plate Delights #2

One-Pot Vegetable Pasta: This recipe serves four. If you want a larger or smaller amount, please access the recipe here: https://www.karissasvegankitchen.com/wprm_print/2021321/.

Ingredients

1 pound linguine or pasta of choice	6 cups vegetable stock or water
4 cloves garlic minced	1 teaspoon dried basil
¼ teaspoon black pepper	½ teaspoon salt
10 ounces cherry tomatoes	2 cups spinach packed
1 tablespoon olive oil	2 teaspoons lemon juice
¼ cup vegan parmesan plus more for topping	

Instructions

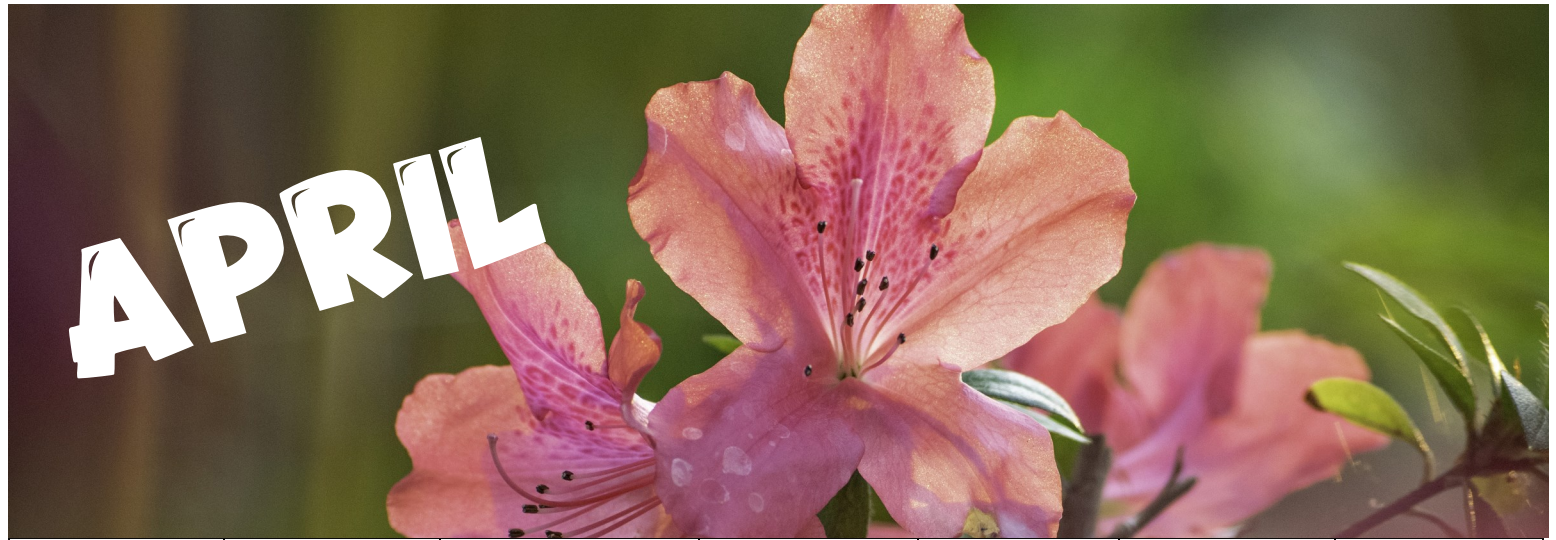
1. Add pasta, vegetable stock, garlic, basil, pepper, and salt to a large pan (preferably one wide enough that the pasta can lay flat in. If not, make sure to move and flip the pasta around frequently at the beginning until the pasta becomes pliable.)
2. Bring to a boil on high heat. Boil for 9-10 minutes, or until the pasta is tender. This time will vary depending on what type of pasta you use. With about 3 minutes left, add the tomatoes. About halfway through, you may need to turn the heat down to medium if the liquid is sputtering a lot. Add more water or vegetable stock as needed.
3. Turn off the heat. Stir in the spinach until wilted. Stir in the olive oil, lemon juice, and vegan parmesan. Serve warm.

Substitutions/Variations:

- Use regular parmesan if not avoiding dairy, use nutritional yeast, or just omit this ingredient.
- Use kale or bok choy instead of spinach.
- If you don't have basil, use any Italian seasoning, such as oregano or thyme.
- Just about any vegetable will work in this pasta: cauliflower, carrots, zucchini, peas, broccoli, or asparagus. For veggies that take longer to cook, like carrots or broccoli, add them at the beginning.
- For pasta with a kick, add some red chili flakes or cayenne pepper to taste.
- For more protein, add white beans or chickpeas, or baked tofu.
- Store leftover pasta in the fridge for up to 3 days. To reheat, you can warm it up in the microwave or on the stove. Add the pasta to a pan along with some vegetable stock so it doesn't dry out or stick.



APRIL



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1	2	3	4	5	6 Kathy Juroff
7 Sunday School 9:30 a.m. Worship Service 10:45 a.m. Holy Humor Sunday	8 Stacy Kirkpatrick	9 Men's Breakfast 8:00 a.m. Church Street Café 4:00 p.m	10	11	12 Robert Gowan	13 Pub Theology 1:00 p.m.
14 Sunday School 9:30 a.m. Worship Service 10:45 a.m.	15 Ineke Koppier	16	17	18	19 Sit 'n Knit Group 7:00 p.m.	20 NEWSLETTER DEADLINE JV Cline
21 Sunday School 9:30 a.m. Worship Service 10:45 a.m. ———GLEND OUT———	22	23	24	25	26	27 The Spirituality of Self-Care Retreat 10:00-1:30 p.m.
28 Sunday School 9:30 a.m. Worship Service 10:45 a.m. Session on Zoom 7:00 p.m.	29	30 Dallas McCash				

PRAYER CONCERNS

SPECIAL CONCERNS:

Neal Beck Steve and Arlene Peck Bill and JoAnne Vest Doug Moses Jama Seahorn
Members of the military & their families

ILL AND RECOVERING:

JoAnne Vest
Margie King, who fell, injuring her right arm and leg
John Zirkle, who is undergoing cancer treatments
Paul Sorey, Linda Noonkesser's brother, who is undergoing cancer treatments
David Skeen
Frank McGhee, Beth Folsom's brother
Jane Sorey, Linda Noonkesser's sister-in-law

IN RESIDENTIAL FACILITIES:

LIFECARE JEFFERSON CITY: Elsie Sorey (#101)
LIFECARE JEFFERSON CITY: Carolyn Hearn (#224)
(If you wish to visit, please text Jim beforehand.)
MORNING POINTE: Denny Pryor



YTD ACTUAL INCOME YEAR-TO-DATE (YTD) INCOME/EXPENSES

MONTHLY INCOME
MARCH 2024 TOTAL
\$9,386.00

	ACTUAL	PRORATED	YTD BUDGET
INCOME	\$75,515.00	\$33,847.00*	\$48,000.00
EXPENSES	\$36,462.00		\$52,000.00

ACTUAL INCOME OVER EXPENSES: \$39,053.00

YTD PRORATED INCOME OVER EXPENSES: (\$2,615.00)

Some members pay their entire yearly pledges in January. This number has been adjusted to reflect what actual giving through March would be, if completed yearly pledges, were divided out monthly.

*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 or scan this QR code with your smartphone.

