

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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

June/July 2025 Newsletter

Dear Church Family,

This summer, I'm inviting you into a room that has long been a refuge and a classroom for me—a room filled with voices that have shaped my faith, challenged my assumptions, and comforted me when I needed it most. I'm calling this season's sermon series, "A Room Full of Friends," and the friends are not just any friends—they're Christian writers who have, in their own way, become spiritual companions on my journey.

While some of these writers may be new to you, others you may know quite well: Eugene Peterson, whose translation of Scripture and pastoral wisdom have helped us hear the Bible in a fresh, grounded voice. Anne Lamott, with her raw honesty, irreverent humor, and deep faith in grace that meets us exactly where we are (but doesn't leave us there). Frederick Buechner, whose poetic prose reminds us to pay attention to our lives — because it is there that God speaks. Kathleen Norris, who finds the sacred in laundry, deserts, and silence, teaching us that holiness often hides in the ordinary.

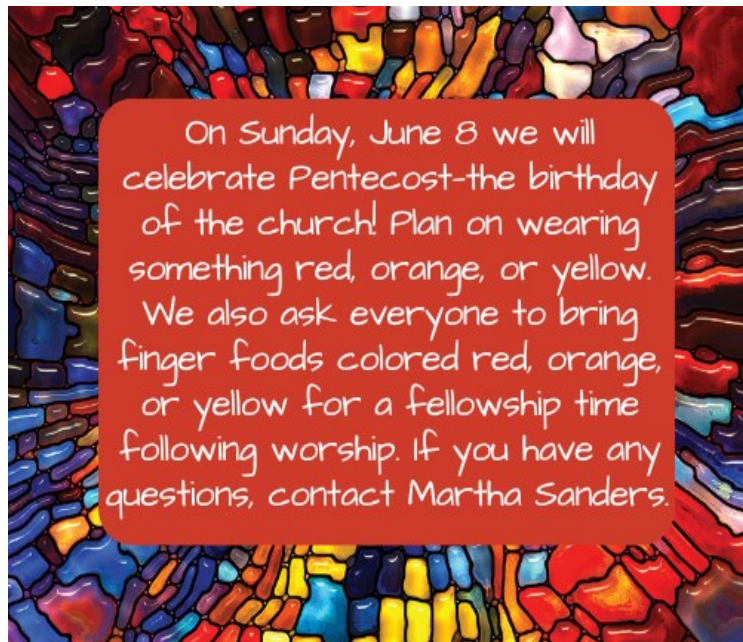
Each Sunday, we'll sit with one of these writers—alongside a passage of Scripture—and listen for what the Spirit might be saying to us today. We'll explore themes like grace, doubt, calling, suffering, joy, and the beauty of being human in God's image. My hope is that their stories, questions, and hard-won insights will inspire our own.

I also hope this series feels like a gathering. A room full of friends, yes — but also a reminder that we, too, are part of that circle; that our faith journey is never meant to be lived alone; and that God is always speaking—sometimes through ancient prophets, sometimes through messy memoirs, and often through each other.

So, come this summer. Bring your questions, your weariness, your hope. Pull up a chair in this room full of friends. There's a place for you here.

With gratitude and joy,
Dr. Glenda Hollingshead





On Sunday, June 8 we will celebrate Pentecost-the birthday of the church! Plan on wearing something red, orange, or yellow. We also ask everyone to bring finger foods colored red, orange, or yellow for a fellowship time following worship. If you have any questions, contact Martha Sanders.

different brews  different views

PUB THEOLOGY

BEER, CONVERSATION & GOD
all perspectives welcome



Saturday, June 14th and
Saturday, July 12th at 1 p.m.
at 1907 Brewing Company.
Let's gather around tables
to share different brews
& views.

Men's 
BREAKFAST



Tuesday, June 10 &
Tuesday, July 8
at 8:00 a.m.

Perkins in Dandridge



HOLY CONVERSATIONS

Our next book is *We survived the End of the World* by Steven Charleston. Make plans to read the entire book prior to our Zoom gathering June 17th at 5:30 p.m. Come along and join the fun!

@fpcjeffcity.org



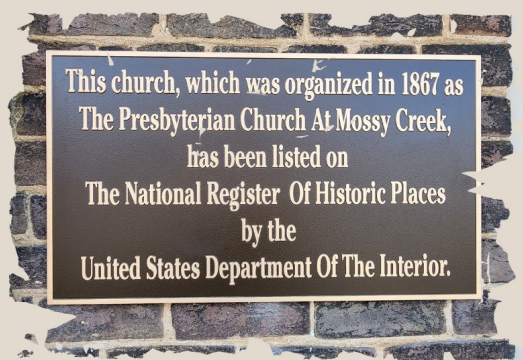
FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
721 CHURCH STREET
JEFFERSON CITY, TN

CHURCH STREET CAFE

June 10th and July 8th, 4:30-6:00 p.m.



HISTORIC RECOGNITION



This church, which was organized in 1867 as The Presbyterian Church At Mossy Creek, has been listed on The National Register Of Historic Places by the United States Department Of The Interior.

Our church has been added to the National Register of Historic Places. Join us June 29 to celebrate.

DONATIONS NEEDED FOR AMOS FEEDING WEEK

If you would like to donate one of the below items, a sign up sheet is up on the back bulletin board. Items need to be at the church by Sunday, June 22.

- 6 bags Restaurant Style Tortilla Chips
- 2 boxes Chips -- Variety Pack
- 2 bags apples
- 2 bags tangelos
- 1 family size box Honeynut Cheerios
- 1 family size box Cornflakes
- 1 package craisins
- 1 box raisins
- 1 squeezable grape jelly
- 2-16-oz peanut butter
- 2 Torani chocolate syrup
- 2 Torani caramel syrup
- 1 large Ranch dressing
- 1 large Honey Mustard dressing
- 4 jars mild salsa

OTHER FRESH ITEMS NEEDED:

- 6 batches of brownies (needed by 6/24 at noon)
- Cole Slaw (needed by 6/24 at noon)
- Potato Salad (needed by 6/26 at noon)

If you prefer to make a monetary donation, you may place a check in the offering plate or give online.





WESTVIEW CEMETERY:

UNIFIED IN SERVICE TO THE COMMUNITY

A vital service in our community needs YOUR help.

Westview Cemetery is a nonprofit organization serving Jefferson Countians during the worst times in their lives...times of crisis and grief. Our mission is to assist them by providing burial plots at a reasonable price, approximately one half the cost of a commercial cemetery.

The Westview Board of Directors is composed of representatives from Boyd's Chapel UMC, Martha Davis Baptist, First Baptist Jefferson City, First UMC Jefferson City, First Presbyterian churches and Carson-Newman University. The support of these churches and Carson-Newman University is an integral part of carrying out the cemetery's mission.

We are planning improvements to the property while continuing to cover the cost of maintenance. Although purchase of burial plots make up a portion of our budget, we depend on the generosity of neighbors such as you for donations to assist with costs. We appreciate your past generosity and invite you to continue to share in the mission of Westview Cemetery.

Get involved today! Donate through our church or send your tax-deductible gift to the address below:

**Westview Cemetery
c/o Robert Burts, Treasurue
1608 Pearl Ave.
Jefferson City, TN 37760**

Missions

The June Mission focus is AMOS feeding week, June 23 -26, discussed elsewhere in this newsletter. The July Mission focus will be specific food needs for Church Street Café, particularly for our guests with children home from school for the summer, so without subsidized meals at school. More info on that to come, via the weekly emails.

As announced in the weekly email, the Emergency Community Support Fund could use your help! This fund is used to help those in urgent need of assistance with utilities in our community. The fund balance is very low. Please contribute, as you are able. All funds are sent directly to the utility, not to individuals or families. Donations should be sent to Heather in the church office, or placed in the offering plate, marked ECSF. Thank you!

The Mission & Creation Care Committee recently concluded our other major mission project, other than Church Street Café (which of course goes on all year): we awarded grants from the Mission Endowment Fund to five organizations. This fund was made possible by the sale of church manse, over 25 years ago; each year we spend \$6,000 of the earnings of the fund to award grants to local, regional, or international mission partners. Here are the awardees this year, and the projects for which they applied for funding:

1. Our friends Bruce and Deb Robinson, working in Northwest Haiti, towards moving and rebuilding a portion of an irrigation canal so that the families in that area can continue irrigating to grow food for their families.
2. Fourth Judicial District Recovery Services, towards maintenance or replacement of the driveway or AC unit or other needs at the Recovery Cabin.
3. Habitat for Humanity of Jefferson County, towards the Critical Home Repairs program.
4. Isaiah 117 House Jefferson County, towards replacing the deteriorating flooring.
5. Senior Citizens Home Assistance Service, Jefferson County, to provide up to 250 hours of in-home caregiving and case management services through their Equitable Access Financial Aid Program.

In addition to the financial award, all of these mission partners have requested our prayers. Please pray for all their endeavors; specific requests will be profiled in future newsletters this year. Thank you!

We chose to retain \$1,000 of the fund for other needs that might arise this calendar year, such as what happened last year with Hurricane Helene. We hope we will not need it for such a disaster, and are sure we will be able to find a worthy recipient!

Please contact chair Carol Antoniewicz 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.



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

Two challenges for you, for June and July:

Summer is a great time to eat out with your family. How do you choose the restaurant? When you decide on a restaurant, do you check to see if the restaurant uses locally-produced food instead of buying it from thousands of miles away? Your challenge this month is to check out the restaurants in your town and then support those which provide more healthy, local options which also care for God's creation. The more customers inquire about their food sources, the more demand it causes for locally grown and sustainably produced items.

"Remain in the same house, eating and drinking whatever they provide, for the laborer deserves to be paid." -Luke 10:7

Have you heard about Fair Trade products? Fair Trade allows farmers and farm workers to receive a fair salary-a just salary-not just the minimum that consumers are willing to pay which often is not enough to live on. When they enjoy better living conditions, farmers and farmworkers may avail themselves of health services and send their children to school (rather than keeping them on the farm to work from a very young age). The leading Fair Trade products are coffee and chocolate, but there are also teas, rice, spices, and bananas. Look for the "Fair Trade" logo and encourage a fair business in the name of the God who loves justice. © The Pastoral Center / PastoralCenter.com. All rights reserved.

We have decided to continue, at least for now, one of the 40 Days/New Ways items from Lent: there is still a bin in the back hallway for you to deposit your old newspapers in, which will be delivered to the CARE animal shelter and/or Humane Society of Jefferson County when it is full. Please keep this in mind, when throwing away old newspapers! The shelters and our animal friends thank you.

And a reminder: are you saving your clean glass bottles and jars? We will have another collection event, in conjunction with a shredding day, probably in October again this year. All colors of glass are accepted, but please remove caps and lids; you do NOT have to remove labels. No window glass, just bottles and jars, please. The glass will be delivered to the Blount County recycling center, where they crush it to use in their asphalt and road paint.



A SUMMER BLESSING

As the days grow long and
the sun warms the earth,
may your soul find room to breathe.

May the days find you in unexpected places-
in the rhythm of waves,
the laughter of children,
the quiet of morning coffee.

May you remember that rest is holy,
play is sacred,
and joy is a gift from God.

Whether you travel far or
stay close to home,
may you feel the Spirit moving with you-
in every breeze, every sunset,
every generous moment.

And may the peace of Christ
go before you, beside you, and within you,
this summer and always. Amen.



FINANCIAL REPORT



MONTHLY INCOME
MAY TOTAL
\$24,033

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

	ACTUAL	PRORATED	YTD BUDGET
INCOME	\$100,738	\$77,787*	\$84,319
EXPENSES	\$87,450		\$94,686

ACTUAL INCOME OVER EXPENSES: \$13,288
YTD PRORATED INCOME OVER EXPENSES: (\$9,567)

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.

GOD SIGHTINGS

Last year, throughout the summer, we stayed connected by sharing photos with "Traveling Jesus." This summer, as we scatter to vacations, camps, backyards, lakesides, hiking trails, beaches, and more, let's stay connected by sharing the ways we see God at work in the everyday. We're calling it "God Sightings." The idea is to snap a photo of a moment that speaks of God's presence: a brilliant sunset, a laughing child, a blooming flower, a quiet act of kindness, or even your pet being their joyful, beloved self. Then, send your photos to the church office (fpcjctn@gmail.com) and we'll share them on social media to inspire one another over the summer (through Labor Day). Some photos will even be featured on our Sunday bulletin covers! Let's take this opportunity to help each other "see" the sacred in the ordinary. Have a happy and blessed summer!



(Photo Credit: John Zirkle)

UPCOMING EVENTS

JULY 13

SUNDAE SUNDAY

AUG. 3

BLESSING OF THE
BACKPACKS

AUG. 9

ONE DAY VBS

AUG. 10

CHURCH PICNIC



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 Communion Sunday School 9:30 a.m. Worship Service 10:45 a.m. Esther O'Hare	2	3 Centering Prayer 6:00 p.m.	4	5 William Gowan	6	7
8 Pentecost Sunday School 9:30 a.m. Worship Service 10:45 a.m.	9	10 Matt & Jennifer Gowan	11 Men's Breakfast 8:00 a.m. Church Street Café 4:00 p.m.	12	13	14 Pub Theology 1:00 p.m. Del Deaton John & Eva Zirkle Rodney & Delynn McCash
15 Father's Day Sunday School 9:30 a.m. Worship Service 10:45 a.m. Glenda out	16 Carly Kirkpatrick	17 Holy Conversations 5:30 p.m.	18 Glenda Hollingshead	19 John Zirkle Troy Evans	20	21
22 Sunday School 9:30 a.m. Worship Service 10:45 a.m. Session Meeting 7:00 p.m.	23	24	25	26	27	28
29 Sunday School 9:30 a.m. Worship Service 10:45 a.m. Historic Recognition	30					



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 Centering Prayer on Zoom 6:00 p.m.	2	3 Janice Wintermute	4 Independence Day	5
6 Communion Sunday School 9:30 a.m. Worship Service 10:45 a.m.	7 OFFICE CLOSED	8 Men's Breakfast 8:00 a.m. Church Street Café 4:30 p.m.	9	10	11	12 Pub Theology 1:00 p.m.
13 Sunday School 9:30 a.m. Worship Service 10:45 a.m. Sundae Sunday	14	15 HEATHER OUT	16	17	18	19 Linda Noonkesser
20 Sunday School 9:30 a.m. Worship Service 10:45 a.m. Committee Meetings 12:00 p.m. Kay Gowan	21 Kerry & Carol Antoniewicz	22 Jeff Drees	23	24	25 NEWSLETTER DEADLINE	26
27 Sunday School 9:30 a.m. Worship Service 10:45 a.m. Peggy Hypes	28	29	30 Beth Folsom	31		

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

Those affected by Hurricane Helene

Members of the military & their families

Peace in Ukraine and The Holy Land

ILL AND RECOVERING:

Marjorie Helton, Libby Gardner's sister, who has been diagnosed with breast cancer

John Zirkle, who is recovering from spinal surgery

Margy King, who is having several health issues

Kris Ridyard, who is undergoing immunotherapy

Paul Sorey, Linda Noonkesser's brother

Jane Sorey, Linda Noonkesser's sister-in-law

*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.

