



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Jefferson City, Tennessee

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

August 2025 Newsletter

First Presbyterian Church is a Great Place to Be!

As summer winds down and we begin turning our hearts toward a new season, I want to pause and say with great joy: *First Presbyterian Church is a great place to be!* Simple? Yes. But true! Over the past year, and even during these quieter summer months, I have seen the Spirit moving in our community—in conversations after worship, in the joyful noise of children scampering through the halls, and in the quiet determination of leaders preparing for various programs or upcoming events. Even my recent study leave, while filled with reading and writing, was a time of holy reflection and hopeful planning for what's to come.

During my week away, I worked on several projects that I believe will strengthen our life together. First, I completed drafts of new policies now required by the Book of Order. These may not be flashy documents, but they are expressions of care—clear, thoughtful ways to safeguard the people and mission of our church. They represent our commitment to being a faithful, responsible, and welcoming congregation.

At the same time, I was dreaming of the days ahead, a new season of generosity and gratitude, as I designed our fall Stewardship Campaign. This year's theme is "Where Your Treasure Is." You'll be hearing more about this in the coming weeks.

I also had the chance to begin crafting a Christmas program, entitled "Calling All Angels." It is in the style of the Christmas program we did last year, led by two narrators, with opportunities for improvisation and participation. Designed to be a celebration of several angels throughout Scripture, it was inspired by an Advent devotional of the same name. It is my hope that we will use this particular devotional during the Season of Advent in a variety of ways.

And finally, I've begun shaping our upcoming World Communion Sunday service, which will be led in large part by our Sanctuary Choir and talented musicians. It will be a Sunday of beautiful music and global connection—a reminder that we are part of a wide, diverse, and Spirit-filled family of faith.

Friends, there is so much to look forward to. These projects—these seeds—build upon the faithful work already being done by so many in our church community. What God will grow through our efforts in the coming months depends on all of us—listening together for the voice of the Spirit, honoring the gifts of one another, and walking together in grace.

So, as we move into August, I want you to know how grateful I am to be your pastor. I believe in the work we are doing. I believe in the people God is calling us to become. And I believe, with all my heart, that *First Presbyterian Church is a great place to be!*

With peace and great expectations,
Dr. Glenda Hollingshead



Blessing of the Backpacks

We invite our children, teachers, and all school personnel to bring backpacks, bags, or briefcases to the front of the sanctuary for a special blessing during worship.

August 3 at 10:45 a.m.



1-Day VBS For All Ages

Saturday, August 9
10 a.m. to 2 P.m.

This year we will explore
The Great Smoky
Mountains. Join us for a
Book Walk, a Firefly
Experience, Bible Study,
Bingo, and much more.
Lunch is provided!



Centering Prayer

Tuesday, August 5
6:00 PM on Zoom



Join us for the annual church picnic
at the Drees' house on Cherokee Lake!

Sunday, August 10
2pm to 6pm
3031 Lee Ridge Road
Morristown, TN 37814

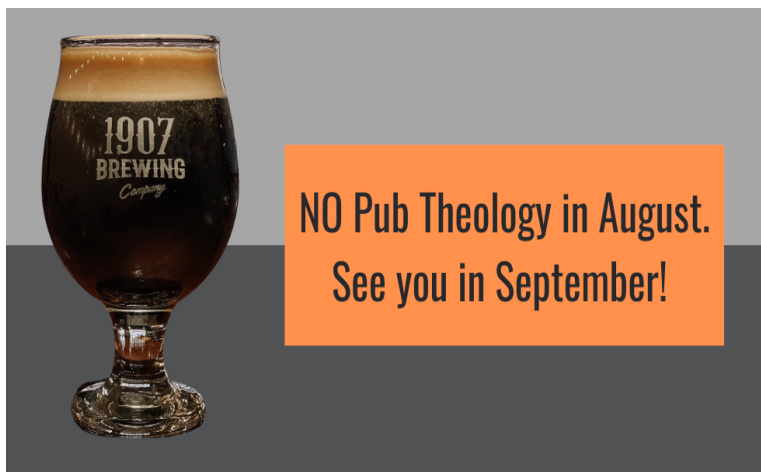
Bring a lawn chair and a dish to share!
(Church will provide bread and drinks)

Activities include:

Boating on the lake
Bounce house
Lawn games
Relaxing on the porch



**NO Pub Theology in August.
See you in September!**






Blessing of the Hands

In preparation for our Blessing of the Hands Service, we are creating a Communion table cover.

Between Sunday, August 10 and Sunday, August 24 we ask that you stop by the Fellowship Hall after worship to leave your handprint!



Adulting Together Ministry You're Invited!

For adults in their 20s, 30s, and 40s

Join us for our next Adulting Together Ministry event on Saturday, August 16th from 5-8:00 p.m. Parents, bring the kids! Drop them off at the Church Fellowship Hall for a fun evening with dinner and a movie while you head out for an evening of connection and conversation. Adults will gather at The Mad Ox House (or another spot of your choosing) for a casual night of dinner and fellowship.

Whether you're single, married, with kids, or without - come connect, relax, and grow in community.



Men's BREAKFAST

Tuesday, August 12
at 8:00 a.m.

Perkins in Dandridge



Choir Mini-Retreat

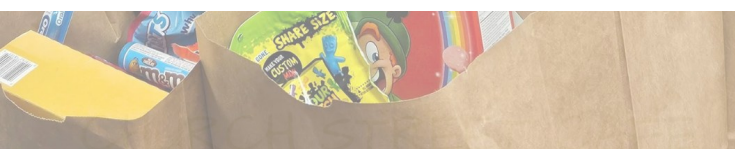
August 24th at 12:00 P.M.

Calling All Singers!

Join us for a Choir Mini-Retreat to prepare for World Communion Sunday. After worship on August 24th, the choir and their families will enjoy lunch in the Fellowship Hall. Afterward, we will practice a selection of Communion songs from the Glory to God hymnal, accompanied by several of our gifted musicians.

Whether you're a longtime choir member or new to singing, you are invited to come sing, worship, and connect as we prepare something truly special for this global day of faith.

One bread, one body!



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
721 CHURCH STREET
JEFFERSON CITY, TN

CHURCH STREET CAFE

August 12th 4:30-6:00 p.m.



HOLY CONVERSATIONS

Our next book is *The Road to Wisdom: On Truth, Science, Faith, and Trust* by Francis S. Collins. We encourage you to read the entire book before we meet via Zoom on September 23 at 5:30 p.m. Come, join the conversation.

Upcoming Events

SEPTEMBER

7

*Sunday School Kick Off
Blessing of the Hands*

SEPTEMBER

23

Holy Conversations

SEPTEMBER

28

*Blessing of the Animals
5:30 p.m.*

OCTOBER

5

*World Communion
Sunday*

OCTOBER

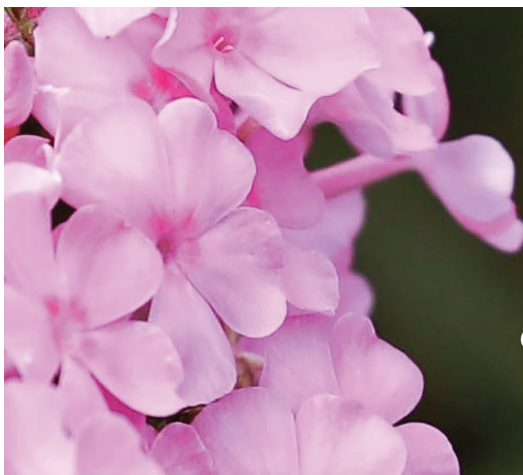
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*Founders' Day
Kirkin' of the Tartans*

OCTOBER

18

Fall Work Day



AND GOD SAID,
"Let there be lights"
in the expanse of the
heavens to separate the day
from the night. And let them be for signs
and for seasons, and for days and years."

Genesis 1:14

Missions

THANKS to everyone who helped in June with AMOS feeding week, and to everyone who contributed to the clothing drive for Isaiah 117 House during July. The August Mission focus is an animal products drive for the Jefferson County shelters.

Last year we had this drive during September, but we've moved it up a month, to August. These are the items most needed this year:

CARE

- Pedigree puppy or adult dry dog food
- Kitten or puppy wet food
- Any liquid laundry detergent

Humane Society of Jefferson County

- Pet beds, specifically kuranda beds (see <https://kuranda.com/>)
- Leashes
- Collars
- Large garbage bags (55 gallon or the contractor type bags)

Please pray for our mission partners Bruce and Deb Robinson in Haiti. In their grant request this spring they asked for these prayers:

- Due to ongoing gang activity in Haiti, it is more difficult to get in and out of Haiti to work at this time. Please pray for travel to and from Haiti. Under present security and financial constraints Bruce is going to Haiti and Deb is working by distance doing her Haiti (administrative and school child sponsorship) work from Florida.
- With the gang activity there is less help in Haiti at the moment but the needs of the people and churches are more than they ever were.
- Due to increases in costs to work in Haiti as well as losing some supporters Bruce and Deb are currently in need of additional monthly support to continue working in Haiti.
- We are praising God for 58 children who accepted Christ during a three day VBS camp over Easter holidays.
- We are asking God for funding to do a soccer camp and outreach with children this summer in one of the more spiritually needy areas.
- We are praising God that Bruce has been able to get in and out of Haiti this year to continue helping the men keep working on the projects including a well that is the only water for two miles in any direction.

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

"Now, discipline always seems painful rather than pleasant at the time, but later it yields the peaceful fruit of righteousness to those who have been trained by it." -Hebrews 12:11

Do you get tired of the extra work of making green choices? Of hanging your laundry to dry instead of tossing it into the dryer? Of cooking from scratch instead of buying individually packaged processed foods? Of having to wash cloth napkins, handkerchiefs, rags, and dishware instead of throwing away disposable ones? Then take heart at this passage from the Hebrews today. Pat yourself on the back for the good environmental disciplines you have adopted. They are bearing fruit. © The Pastoral Center / PastoralCenter.com. All rights reserved.

Are you still bringing your newspapers? There is a bin in the back hallway for you to deposit them in, which will be delivered to the CARE animal shelter and/or Humane Society of Jefferson County when it is full. The shelters and our animal friends thank you.

And 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. IF your bin is getting full, and can't wait until October, please speak to Carol Antoniewicz. I'll probably be making a run that direction before then.

FINANCIAL REPORT

MONTHLY INCOME
JULY TOTAL: \$11,913

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

	ACTUAL	PRORATED	YTD BUDGET
INCOME	\$138,656	\$111,894*	\$117,945
EXPENSES	\$121,176		\$133,953

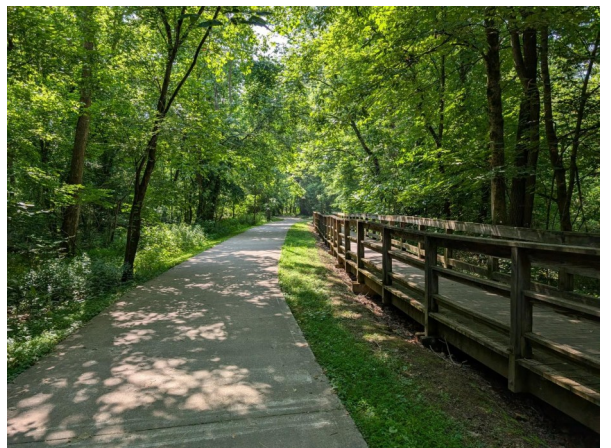
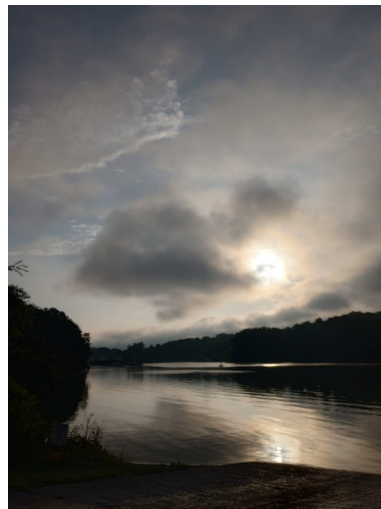
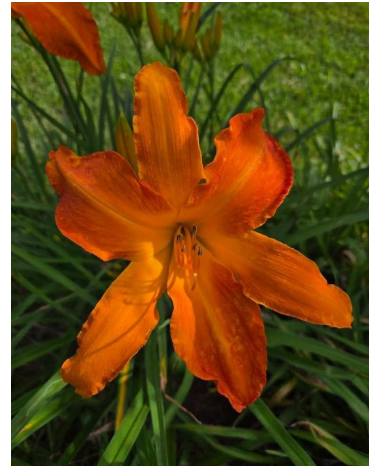
ACTUAL INCOME OVER EXPENSES: \$17,480
YTD PRORATED INCOME OVER EXPENSES: (\$10,285)

SOME MEMBERS PAY THEIR ENTIRE YEARLY PLEDGES IN JANUARY. THIS NUMBER HAS BEEN ADJUSTED TO REFLECT WHAT ACTUAL GIVING THROUGH JULY WOULD BE, IF COMPLETED YEARLY PLEDGES, WERE DIVIDED OUT MONTHLY.

SPECIAL DONATIONS RECEIVED FOR JUNE/JULY

PENTECOST OFFERING
MEMORIALS FOR ELSIE SOREY
FIVE CENTS A MEAL
WESTVIEW CEMETERY

GOD SIGHTINGS



August



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					1	2
3 Communion Sunday School 9:30 a.m. Worship Service 10:45 a.m. Blessing of the Backpacks Sue Swilley	4	5 Centering Prayer Zoom 6:00 p.m.	6	7	8	9 1-Day VBS 10:00 a.m.— 2:00 p.m.
10 Sunday School 9:30 a.m. Worship Service 10:45 a.m. Church Picnic 2:00-6:00 p.m.	11	12 Men's Breakfast 8:00 a.m. Church Street Café 4:00 p.m. Tom & Stacy Kirkpatrick	13 Jeff & Whitney Drees	14	15	16 Adulting Together 5:00-8:00 p.m. Sam O'Hare Doug Moses
17 Sunday School 9:30 a.m. Worship Service 10:45 a.m. Session Meeting Zoom 6:00 p.m.	18 Rod McCash	19	20 Newsletter Deadline	21	22	23 Wayne & Margy King
24 Sunday School 9:30 a.m. Worship Service 10:45 a.m. Choir Mini Retreat 12:00 p.m.	25	26 Lyle & Kathy Juroff	27	28	29	30
31 Sunday School 9:30 a.m. Worship Service 10:45 a.m. Five Cents a Meal Offering						

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

ILL AND RECOVERING:

Marjorie Helton, Libby Gardner's sister, who is undergoing chemotherapy
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

IN RESIDENTIAL FACILITIES:

LifeCare of Jefferson City: John Zirkle (# 101)

*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.

