



# FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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

September 2025 Newsletter

This November and December, our church leadership is introducing a new opportunity for worship: a Contemplative Service held on the first Sunday of the month at 5:30 p.m. (We'll begin by offering the service these two months, take time to reflect on the response, and use that feedback to plan for 2026.)

In a world that often feels hurried and noisy, this style of worship will create space for prayer, silence, song, and the gentle rhythms of God's presence. Drawing on ancient and modern practices, we will gather to listen for God in quiet wonder.

The service will include:

- *Lectio Divina*—a meditative reading of Scripture that invites us to hear God's Word with both heart and mind
- Taizé and other songs of prayer—simple, repetitive melodies that open us to God's Spirit
- Holy Communion—a shared Table where all are welcome and nourished by grace
- Moments of silence for prayer and meditation—to rest in God's presence and listen for that still, small voice

Participants will also be provided an opportunity to visit three prayer stations, each offering a different way to engage with God in prayer:

- Lighting a candle as a visible prayer
- Receiving anointing oil and the laying on of hands by the pastor and a church elder
- Exploring various guided prayer or meditation practices

This Contemplative Service is not meant to replace our Sunday morning worship but to deepen and expand the ways we worship together. Come as you are—bring your longings, your hopes, your questions—and rest in the holy presence of God.

With joy and great expectations,  
Dr. Glenda Hollingshead





# FPC IN MOTION

Moving Together in Faith & Fellowship



Kayaking at Cherokee Dam  
Saturday, August 30<sup>th</sup> at 8 a.m.

We are excited to introduce a new ministry at First Presbyterian: FPC in Motion! This is an opportunity for members and friends of the church to gather for fun activities that get us moving and enjoying God's creation together. Whether it's hiking, biking, kayaking, walking, or other outdoor adventures, these gatherings will be a chance to connect with one another in body, mind, and spirit.

There won't be a set schedule-FPC in Motion will happen organically as opportunities arise. Keep an eye out for announcements in the bulletin, newsletter, and church social media, and feel free to suggest or host an activity yourself!

Come join us as we celebrate community, wellness, and the joy of God's good earth.

## Blessing of the Hands September 7<sup>th</sup>



As Presbyterians we believe in the priesthood of all believers. It's not just the pastor or the elders who "work" in the Body of Christ. It's all of us and it's all kinds of work. Whether you work as a gardener, musician, nurse, physician, educator, pharmacist, student, parent, grandparent, athlete, builder, caregiver, clerk, homemaker, mechanic, or are currently retired-no matter what your "job" happens to be, it can all be done in the spirit of God's purposes on earth. Believers symbolize God's presence. Wherever we go, whatever we do, we are the hands of Jesus. As a symbol of hands in service to Christ, at the end of worship on September 7<sup>th</sup>, worshipers will be invited to come down the center aisle to receive an anointing of oil on their hands. The anointing will serve as a symbol of God's grace poured out upon us, blessing us as we continue in God's Kingdom labor.



# SUNDAY SCHOOL KICKOFF

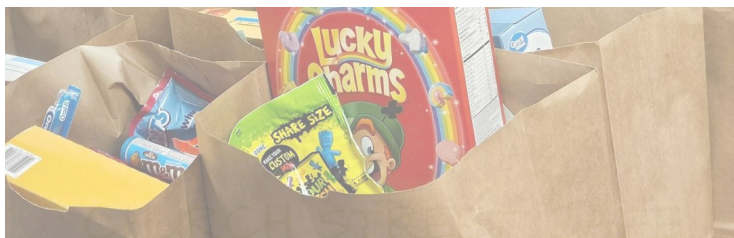
Sunday, September 7, 9:30-10:20 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall. Join us for breakfast and a review of our fall curriculum. All are welcome!

## Men's BREAKFAST



Tuesday,  
September 9  
at 8:00 a.m.

Perkins  
in Dandridge



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
721 CHURCH STREET  
JEFFERSON CITY, TN

## CHURCH STREET CAFE

September 9<sup>th</sup> 4:30-6:00 p.m.



@fpcjeffcity.org

different brews

different views



## PUB THEOLOGY

BEER, CONVERSATION & GOD

all perspectives welcome



Saturday, September 13<sup>th</sup>  
at 1:00 p.m. at 1907  
Brewing Company.  
Let's gather around  
tables to share different  
brews and views.

## Celebrating 150 YEARS

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 14<sup>TH</sup>  
AT 6:00 P.M., HEBRON  
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IS  
CELEBRATING THEIR  
150<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY, AND  
YOU ARE INVITED.

HEBRON PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
167 HEBRON CHURCH RD.  
JEFFERSON CITY, TN

## 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.







Beginning Sunday, September 14<sup>th</sup>, Sunday school classes which have taken a summer break will resume. The Parlor Class is taught by several of the class members who volunteer on a rotating schedule. Offered in person and on Zoom, the class starts at 9:30 a.m. in the Parlor. The Youth Class, for middle and high school, is taught by Kay Gowan. Class begins at 9:45 a.m. in the Library. Little Presbyterians is taught by Tiffany Wymer for Pre-K through 5th grade children. The class starts at 9:45 a.m. on the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor in the classroom at the end of the hallway. This year, the adult and youth classes are using the "Feasting on the Word," curriculum while the children's class will be using "Awesome Adventures."

## Sit 'n Knit



**A Ministry of  
First Presbyterian Church**

Friday, September 19 at 2:00 p.m.  
at Kathy's (1250 Groseclose Rd.)

### JUDY SITES SCHOLARSHIP 2025

Robbie Gowan is our 2025 Judy Sites Scholarship recipient. Robbie is a sophomore at The University of Alabama Huntsville majoring in Aerospace Engineering.





# SESSION HIGHLIGHTS

**AUGUST 17, 2025**

Three new policies are now required by the Book of Order: Anti-Harassment Policy, Anti-Racism Statement, and Sexual Misconduct Policy. All three policies were approved.

Approved switching from the NRSV to the New Revised Standard Version Updated Edition (NRSVue) for use in future bulletins.

Approved the addition of a Contemplative Worship Service for the first Sundays of the month at 5:30 p.m. We will start with November and December and then assess.

Holy Communion approved for the Choir Mini-Retreat and Contemplative Worship services.

Mission & Creation Care noted that prices for canned goods and other groceries are rapidly increasing, which may have an impact on Church Street Café in the future.

Approved “FPC in Motion” as an opportunity to gather for fun activities that get us moving and enjoying God’s creation together.



## BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS

ON GOOD DAYS AND BAD DAYS, OUR PETS BRING US JOY, LAUGHTER, COMFORT, AND FRIENDSHIP. SO, ON SEPTEMBER 28TH AT 5:30 P.M. IN THE PRAYER GARDEN BENEATH THE SHADE OF THE TREES, WE WILL HAVE A SERVICE TO BLESS THESE ANIMALS THAT ARE A GIFT FROM GOD. IF YOU HAVE A PET THAT YOU ARE UNABLE TO BRING, FOR WHATEVER REASON, SIMPLY BRING A PHOTOGRAPH OF YOUR PET TO BE BLESSED. BECAUSE THIS IS A WONDERFUL OPPORTUNITY FOR OUTREACH, TELL YOUR ANIMAL LOVING FRIENDS AND NEIGHBORS ABOUT THE SERVICE, AND BE SURE TO “SHARE” OUR SOCIAL MEDIA POSTS WITH YOUR FACEBOOK FRIENDS.

# Missions

THANKS to everyone who contributed products for the animal shelters during August. The September Mission focus is the PCUSA Peace and Global Witness offering, that we will collect on World Communion Sunday, October 5.

The Peace & Global Witness Offering enables the church to promote the Peace of Christ by addressing systems of conflict and injustice across the world. Through it, congregations are encouraged and equipped to find and address the anxiety and discord that is prevalent throughout this broken and sinful world. (<https://pcusa.org/special-offerings/peace-global-witness-offering>)

PCUSA has created a devotional for September 7 - October 5, offering each day a vignette of a Presbyterian who contributed to the civic and spiritual well-being of our church and world and made a significant impact on the common good here or abroad. If you wish to download and follow it, the URL is: <https://pcusa.org/resource/season-peace-daily-devotional-2025>.

Each congregation may retain 25% of the offering collected to support peacemaking efforts in their local communities. Your Mission and Creation Care Committee has not yet decided who the recipient will be. If you have any suggestions, please contact one of the committee members. Thanks!

Prayer request: 4th Judicial District Recovery Services asks for prayers that they continue to fulfill the mission to be good stewards of God's blessings. They ask for prayers for the individuals and families they serve to ensure that they provide the most beneficial support and education to help individuals heal from substance and mental health disorders. They pray for continued partnerships to provide economic opportunity and quality of life for individuals in our service area. They always covet our prayers for their wisdom in decision-making, generosity of spirit for the communities they serve, and strength as they assist girls whose families come from all different cultures, configurations, and income levels.

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

"We had to celebrate and rejoice, because this brother of yours was dead and has come to life; he was lost and has been found." -Luke 15:32

Despite all the grave news of how our earth's environment is suffering, there are still reasons to celebrate. With changes in legislation and communities coming together for good causes, there are stories of restoration and new life. Some bodies of water that used to be terribly polluted have been restored so that fish and other water life have returned and humans can safely swim in them again. Some abandoned lots formerly full of trash are thriving as vegetable gardens. Some endangered animals are making a comeback. This week, treat yourself to some good news of the earth coming back to life. You might check out good news articles from YES! magazine, The Nature Conservancy, or the Sierra Club to name just a few. © The Pastoral Center / PastoralCenter.com. All rights reserved.

Reminder: Glass collection event coming up in October! Date still to be determined. Please save your clean bottles and jars!

World Communion Sunday  
October 5th at 10:45 a.m.



In honor of World Communion Sunday, we are having a Lessons & Carols-style service led by FPC's Sanctuary Choir & Musicians. Together, we'll celebrate the Bread of Heaven through Scripture, song, and Holy Communion, uniting with Christians around the globe at Christ's Table. Afterward, we will enjoy "Breads & Spreads" in the Fellowship Hall.

Soon, you may notice a slight change in the way Scripture is printed in our worship bulletins. We will be shifting from the New Revised Standard Version (NRSV) to the New Revised Standard Version Updated Edition (NRSVue). There are two main reasons for this change. First, the NRSVue represents the most up-to-date scholarship available. It builds on the trusted foundation of the NRSV while incorporating decades of new research in biblical studies, archaeology, and language. It also offers clearer and more inclusive wording in many passages, making it a reliable resource for both study and worship. Second, the original NRSV is no longer in print and is becoming increasingly difficult to access online for use in our bulletins. Rest assured, you may notice small changes in wording, but the message of God's love and grace remains the same. And by moving to the NRSVue, we will ensure that our printed and digital materials remain accurate, accessible, and consistent with the latest Presbyterian resources.



## PIZZA & PUMPKIN PAINTING PARTY



SUNDAY, OCTOBER 19TH AFTER WORSHIP

[WWW.FPCJEFFCITY.ORG](http://WWW.FPCJEFFCITY.ORG)

The theme for FPC's 2025 Stewardship Campaign is "Where Your Treasure Is." Beginning September 14<sup>th</sup>, join us for a three-week journey into Jesus' teaching on treasure, vision, and faithful living. Together we'll explore how generosity is not only about money, but about aligning our hearts with God's love and living with eyes open to grace. Come ready to be inspired, challenged, and encouraged. Early in the campaign, you will receive a stewardship letter and pledge card in the mail. Then, on September 28<sup>th</sup>, Stewardship Dedication Sunday, you will be invited to bring your completed pledge card to the Lord's Table. In advance, thank you for investing your time, talents, and treasures in the life, ministry, and mission of FPC.



# Annual Church Picnic





# ONE-DAY VBS







Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 OFFICE CLOSED  Lyle Juroff	2 Centering Prayer Zoom 6:00 p.m.	3	4  Susan Clouser Steve & Janice Wintermute	5	6
7 Communion Sunday School Kickoff Worship Service 10:45 a.m. Blessings of the Hands	8	9 Men's Breakfast 8:00 a.m.  Church Street Café 4:30 p.m.	10	11	12	13 Pub Theology 1:00 p.m.
14 Sunday School 9:30 a.m. Worship Service 10:45 a.m.  Claud Gowan	15	16	17	18	19 Sit 'n Knit 2:00 p.m.	20
21 Sunday School 9:30 a.m. Worship Service 10:45 a.m. Committee Meetings 12:00 p.m.	22	23 Holy Conversations Zoom 5:30 p.m.  Newsletter Deadline	24	25	26	27
28 Sunday School 9:30 a.m. Worship Service 10:45 a.m. Five Cent a Meal Offering Stewardship Sunday Blessings of the Animal 5:30 p.m.	29  Delynn McCash	30				

# 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  
Peace in Ukraine, The Holy Land, and other war-torn nations

## ILL AND RECOVERING:

Angelia Ramsey, wife of Jim Deaton's friend, James, who has been diagnosed with cancer  
Sue Swilley, who is recovering from a surgical procedure  
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](http://www.fpcjeffcity.org) or scan this QR code with your smartphone.



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