



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Jefferson City, Tennessee

Organized in 1867 as The Presbyterian Church at Mossy Creek

November 2023 Newsletter

When I think of the Thanksgiving holiday, I imagine family and friends gathered around tables loaded with delicious foods. It is a time of remembering, sharing, laughter, and making new memories. Even though Christians practice “giving thanks” every day, still it is wonderful to set aside a day for praise and thanksgiving. With this in mind, I offer you the following poem, *A List of Praises*, written by Anne Porter. May it bless you and those with whom you feast.

*Give praise with psalms that tell the trees to sing,
Give praise with Gospel choirs in storefront churches, mad with the joy of the Sabbath,
Give praise with the babble of infants, who wake with the sun,
Give praise with children chanting their skip-rope rhymes,
A poetry not in books, a vagrant mischievous poetry living wild on the streets through generations of children.*

*Give praise with the sound of the milk-train far away with its mutter of wheels and long-drawn-out sweet whistle
As it speeds through the fields of sleep at three in the morning,
Give praise with the immense and peaceful sigh of the wind in the pinewoods,
At night give praise with starry silences.*

*Give praise with the skirling of seagulls and the rattle and flap of sails
And gongs of buoys rocked by the sea-swell out in the shipping-lanes beyond the harbor.
Give praise with the humpback whales, huge in the ocean they sing to one another.*

*Give praise with the rasp and sizzle of crickets, katydids and cicadas,
Give praise with hum of bees, give praise with the little peepers who live near water.
When they fill the marsh with a shimmer of bell-like cries
We know that the winter is over.*

*Give praise with mockingbirds, day's nightingales.
Hour by hour they sing in the crepe myrtle and glossy tulip trees
On quiet side streets in southern towns.*

*Give praise with the rippling speech of the eider-duck and her ducklings
As they paddle their way downstream in the red-gold morning
On Restigouche, their cold river, Salmon river, Wilderness river.*

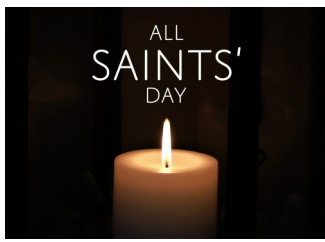
*Give praise with the whitethroat sparrow. Far, far from the cities,
Far even from the towns, with piercing innocence
He sings in the spruce-tree tops, always four notes and four notes only.*

*Give praise with water, with storms of rain and thunder and the small rains that sparkle as they dry,
And the faint floating ocean roar that fills the seaside villages, and the clear brooks that travel down the mountains*

*And with this poem, a leaf on the vast flood,
And with the angels in that other country.*

Happy Thanksgiving!
Dr. Glenda Hollingshead





During our November 5th Worship Service we will celebrate All Saints' Day. It is a day when Christ's people remember those who have gone before

them in faith and who now dwell with God in heaven. It is a day to remember people who, while they walked the earth, strived to be faithful, and in their faithfulness, touched our lives in a special way.



We need volunteers to assist with the next delivery of food from Midwest Food Bank on Wednesday, November 8th at 11:30 a.m.



The Men's Prayer Breakfast is scheduled for Tuesday, November 14th at 8:00 a.m., at Perkins in Dandridge.



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, November 11th 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!



CHRISTMAS IN JEFFERSON COUNTY

This year Christmas in Jefferson County ***will only be collecting monetary donations.*** If you wish to give monetarily to this mission, checks can be placed in the offering plate or sent to the church and noted Christmas in Jefferson County or donate from the church website. If you have any questions, please call the church office. We will collect donations through Sunday, December 3rd.



PARTNERING WITH MT. HOREB ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

November 9th from 5:00 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.

This summer we enjoyed our first 1-Day VBS for All Ages using materials provided by Mt. Horeb Elementary School – materials they used for a reading night focused on the life of the honeybee. After the success of our VBS, the Education, Fellowship & Congregational Care Committee agreed that we would partner with MHES on their next reading night so that we might use their materials for our next VBS, which we hope to host in June 2024. So, here is our opportunity! MHES is hosting a reading night on Thursday, November 9 from 5:00 pm-6:30 pm. The book walk is all about monarch butterflies: their migration, how scientists discovered where monarchs go in the winter, and what we can do to help the endangered monarchs. MHES is thrilled to partner with FPC to run activity tables throughout the book walk. Volunteers will serve alongside faculty to create crafts, study migration, and learn about ways to save the monarchs. If you would like to help us partner with MHES (and get a preview of the theme for our next VBS), please contact Dr. Glenda.



AMOS COATS FOR THE COLD DRIVE

Items needed include coats (children's and adults), blankets, mittens, hats, scarves or a financial gift of \$30 will purchase a heater. If you would like to make a monetary donation, please make the check payable to First Presbyterian Church and note that it is for Coats for the Cold. Please leave your items on the table in the library by Sunday, November 26th. Items can be brought on Sundays or during office hours (Monday-Thursday 8:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.). If you have any questions, please call Heather in the Church Office. We will also need a volunteer to take the donations to AMOS by Thursday, November 30th.

Items needed include coats (children's and adults), blankets, mittens, hats, scarves or a financial gift of \$30 will purchase a heater. If you would like to make a monetary donation, please make the check payable to First Presbyterian Church and note that it is for Coats for the Cold. Please leave your items on the table in the library by Sunday, November 26th. Items can be brought on Sundays or during office hours (Monday-Thursday 8:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.). If you have any questions, please call Heather in the Church Office. We will also need a volunteer to take the donations to AMOS by Thursday, November 30th.



There are lots of Mission activities going on – for *your* participation, as well as the Committee's! Please see the separate announcements in this newsletter about AMOS Coats

for the Cold and Christmas in Jefferson County. Church Street Café is gearing up for a double distribution on December 12, of a regular grocery bag and a holiday bag, as we do only one distribution in December. All contributions to CSC are welcome – including your time, on December 12, 4-6pm, if you could help out! Please let Carol Antoniewicz know if you can. Thank you!

Prayer requests: In their Mission grant application earlier this year, the Fourth Judicial District Recovery Cabin program asked us to 'Pray for our organization and programs to continue to strive to help individuals heal and serve as shepherds for the service of God. We have been extremely blessed since our beginnings and we pray for those blessings to continue so that we may serve more folks in need.' Additionally, a number of our Church Street Café guests have had surgery recently, or other health issues, and ask for your prayers.

As always, we are still collecting personal care and cleaning items for the Neighborhood Center, and 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.

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, Evangelism, or Creation Care.



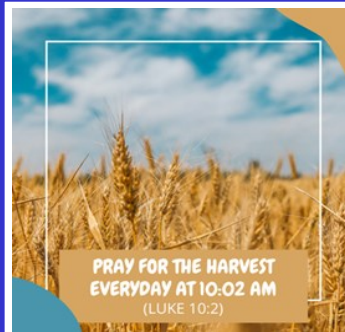
COMMUNITY THANKSGIVING SERVICE

There will be a Community Thanksgiving Service on Sunday, November 19 at 7:00 p.m. at First UMC on Branner Avenue. This year's mission opportunities: canned food for AMOS and love offerings for both AMOS and Habitat for Humanity.



POINSETTIAS FOR ADVENT

One of our cherished traditions is to decorate the sanctuary with poinsettias during Advent. These beautiful flowers are placed in front of the church in honor or in memory of friends and loved ones. We will only order a specific number of the flowers, so please be sure to check the box on the order form if you would like to take yours home after the Christmas Eve service. Look for the order forms in the Narthex and back hallway of the church. The cost is \$11 per plant. ***The last day to order poinsettia's, is Sunday, November 12th.***



In Luke 10:2, Jesus instructs his disciples: "The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; therefore ask the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest." Over the next year, as a church,

you are encouraged to pray for the harvest, everyday at 10:02 a.m. (taken from Luke 10:2). Although you may add other petitions, please pray for our church – that the Lord will send more laborers into our midst to prepare a great harvest in Jefferson City and beyond; pray that the Lord of the harvest will provide all the resources that our laborers need to accomplish the harvest work to which we are called; pray for God's will regarding your participation in the work and witness of FPC; and pray for your pastor, session, and church leaders – that we may be courageous and faithful. To help us remember to pray, wristbands were distributed during worship last month. If you did not get one, extras are available at the pulpit.

As a family of faith, our work is to worship, pray, and listen. In the coming months, let us do this important work together. At every opportunity, let us worship together. Let us pray together. And let us listen together so that we may discern our next steps toward a new heritage – one that will make a difference for Christ and bless generations to come.



A "SAVE THE PLANET" MOMENT brought to you by Creation Care

While the fundraising program at SERRV has ended (the church no longer receives a portion of your purchase price), we encourage you to consider shopping at SERRV (<http://www.serrv.org>) for your Christmas gifts – and anything else you might need! For 70 years, SERRV has made it a priority to ensure that artisans and farmers living in poverty are treated with respect and dignity, and are paid fairly for their work. SERRV has a mission to create a more sustainable world for both their current artisan and farmer partners and future generations. On the Sustainability page on the SERRV website: 'Fair trade, by definition, is more sustainable than conventional business. Items are made on a small scale and by hand, which employs people rather than machines and reduces electricity use. Artisans and farmers use their income to improve their housing, educate their children, feed their families, and invest in their communities--creating and sustaining lifestyles with low carbon footprints. With fair trade, decisions are made at the local level so community values and needs are reflected in the process rather than distant profit-making decisions, which too often cause negative environmental impacts.'



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

HOSTING

**HOLSTON PRESBYTERY
MEETING**

TUESDAY NOVEMBER 7TH AT 10 A.M.

We are hosting the Holston Presbytery meeting Tuesday, November 7th at 10 a.m. Please remember that registration begins at 9:15 a.m. During the event, we will need parking attendants, greeters, ushers, elders to serve communion, and people to help set up and serve lunch, as well as to help clean up afterward. If you have not already done so, please reach out to the pastor or a session member if you can help out in any way. In advance, thank you for your willingness to offer hospitality to our brothers and sisters in Holston Presbytery.



Our Sunday school classes uses the PC(USA) curriculum, *Follow Me*, which is based on practices Jesus modeled. Written for people of all ages who wish to live out their faith, this curriculum examines where these practices are found in the Bible, and how they have been used in Christian faith – then and now.

Currently, we have 4 Sunday school classes. There are 2 adult classes. *The Parlor Class* meets in the parlor and starts at 9:30 a.m. It is a hybrid class offered in person and on Zoom, that utilizes a reflection guide for each unit. *The Upper Room Class* meets on the 2nd floor, starts at 9:45 a.m., and examines biblical practices through video and audio options of the curriculum. *The Youth Class* meets in the library, starts at 9:45 a.m., and incorporates videos, music, and occasional off-site mission activities as part of the morning's lesson. *Little Presbyterians* meets on the 2nd floor, starts at 9:45 a.m., and explores Scripture through games, art, music, and reading. If you do not currently participate in Sunday school, now would be a great time to join other believers – of all ages – as we learn to live out our faith together.



FPC ANNUAL CHURCH RETREAT JANUARY 26-28, 2024

In the cold and dark of winter, step into the light of God's love with your family of faith for our annual congregational retreat. From Friday evening through Sunday morning, we will explore various spiritual practices and spend time worshipping the living God. There will also be ample opportunities to rest in God's goodness, work puzzles, eat popcorn, and enjoy the warm fire. *For more information, sign up sheets are available in the Narthex and in the back hall of the church. Return sign up sheet with payment by Sunday, December 17th. **WE NEED 20 PEOPLE SIGNED UP BY DECEMBER 17th OR WE WILL NEED TO INCREASE THE PRICE PER ADULT.***

SESSION HIGHLIGHTS (OCTOBER 15, 2023)

- Session held Elder Training using the book “Canoeing the Mountains”, parts 1-3.
- Approved the minutes for August 20 Stated Session Meeting, Called Congregational Meeting of September 10, email voting meeting of August 21 concerning purchasing CSC carts and email voting meeting of September 20 concerning pay for an interim pianist.
- Approved a Called Congregational Meeting for November 12th to approve the Ruling Elder Class 2026. Proposed members include Peggy Hypes, Esther O'Hare and Martha Sanders.
- Received Standing Committee reports. Worship is planning All Saints Day on November 5, December 24 Christmas Eve Pajama Party in evening worship and a visit from Grace Notes on February 25, 2024. Recent activities of the committee were Blessing of the Animals and Founders Day, which included a bagpiper and presenting 11 clan tartan banners.
- Fellowship is in the final stages of completing its calendar of fellowship opportunities. A fellowship event was held after the service on Founders Day.
- Mission reported impending changes to the CSC program. Midwest Foods will no longer be able to use warehouse space in Morristown as a distribution point. As of now, an alternative location is arranged for October but less food can be handled and no frozen foods. This means no meat goods to be received. Big changes may be required in this program. Two Hunger Grants have been submitted to Holston Presbytery, for ODRINO/Haiti and CSC. Other recent activities include PCUSA Peace and Global Witness offering, Creation Care providing items for two local animal shelters and a shredding/recycling day.
- Finance reported an encouraging response to the Stewardship Campaign. A few pledge cards are still pending. Monthly income is still below budget requirements, \$9,400 versus a needed \$16,100. Cash flow is still manageable.
- The property committee reported several accomplishments. The Audio-Video cameras have been replaced, at no cost, and seem to be performing better. The committee did considerable cleanup on a work-day. Benches were cleaned and repairs were made as needed. Trees and ground cover were trimmed and cleaned up as needed.
- Received the Pastors Report as information. Dr. Hollingshead will be out of the office for two weeks in October for knee surgery, vacation from December 25-31, and study leave January 1-7. She has many projects underway to include planning for a Confirmation Class in December, working on worship music options until an interim pianist is found, and special services like All Saint's and Blue Christmas.
- The Book of Order requires an annual review of the membership roll to determine the status of members who have lost contact with the church. This review was completed, and a letter was approved to be sent to these members asking how they desired session to categorize their relationship going forward.
- With Dr. Hollingshead out of the office through Sunday, January 7, the Session voted not to have communion on January 7.
- Reviewed the church calendars for November and December. A few additions were made, and the calendars approved.
- Annual church retreat is scheduled for January 26-28, 2024. Registration deadline is December 17, 2023. More information will be coming soon.
- Session elected Beth Folsom as 2024 Clerk of Session.

BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS



KIRKIN' OF THE TARTANS



PIZZA, PAINT & PUMPKINS!





SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<div> DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME Please remember to set your clocks back on Sunday, November 5th. </div>			1	2	3	4
5 Communion Sunday School 9:30 a.m. Worship Service 10:45 a.m. ALL SAINTS' DAY	6	7 Holston Presbytery Meeting 10:00 a.m.	8 CSC Delivery 11:30 a.m.	9 Mt. Horeb Reading Night 5:00-6:30 p.m.	10	11 Pub Theology 1:00 p.m.
12 Sunday School 9:30 a.m. Worship Service 10:45 a.m. Congregational Meeting Dessert Fellowship	13 Kerry Antoniewicz	14 Men's Breakfast 8:00 a.m. Church Street Café 4:30-6:00 p.m.	15	16	17 Sit 'n Knit 7:00 p.m.	18 Shane Hollingshead
19 Sunday School 9:30 a.m. Worship Service 10:45 a.m. Committee Meetings 12:00 p.m.	20	21	22 OFFICE CLOSED Tom Kirkpatrick Larry & Mev Musick	23	24	25
26 Sunday School 9:30 a.m. Worship Service 10:45 a.m. Christ the King Sunday	27	28 Church Street Café 4:30-6:00 p.m.	29 Jim & Del Deaton	30		



TEAM PEANUT BUTTER VS. TEAM CANNED CHICKEN

October 15th through November 5th, please bring your contributions of peanut butter or canned chicken to support Church Street Cafe. The winning team will determine our dessert on November 12th. A win for Team Peanut Butter will get us brownies for dessert; a win for Team Canned Chicken will get us cupcakes by



Whitney. Either way, everyone wins since our neighbors in need get additional protein options and we get a fun dessert fellowship after church. Go church!

PRAYER CONCERNS

FAMILY AND FRIENDS OF:

Hazel Gowan, Claud's mother who passed away

SPECIAL CONCERNS:

Neal Beck Steve and Arlene Peck

Bill and JoAnne Vest Doug and Cindy Moses

Jama Seahorn

Members of the military & their families.

ILL AND RECOVERING:

Carolyn Hearn, who has been diagnosed with lung cancer

Cindy Moses, who has been hospitalized with kidney issues

JoAnne Vest

Esther O'Hare

Ina Hoxha and her mother, Hafsa Hoxha

David Skeen

Frank McGhee, Beth Folsom's brother

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

IN RESIDENTIAL FACILITIES:

LIFECARE MORRISTOWN: Elsie Sorey (# 208)

MORNING POINTE: Denny Pryor

SIGNATURE LIFESTYLES HEALTHCARE: Paulette Bozeman



THE PROPERTY LINE

Well it has been an unsettling few weeks with all the health concerns, but I think we will be ready for that all important next season, you know, "Leaf Season". Other parts of the grounds got cleaned up just in time for us to put all of our attention to dealing with leaves. You can expect to see a large pile by the Deborah Street curb as the month progresses. In the meantime we will try to keep the sidewalks clear at least for a little while.

We had a successful shredding, e-recycling and glass recycling event in October. We managed to recycle four of the old big TVs from the Education level as well as other components folks brought in. In addition, it was also nice to be able to find a relatively close glass recycler instead of just throwing the glass away. Thanks again for your support.

MONTHLY INCOME OCTOBER TOTAL

\$12,493.31

(\$16,141 is needed monthly to meet budget)

INCOME
EXPENSES

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

ACTUAL	PRORATED	YTD BUDGET
\$166,936.56	\$156,069.56*	\$161,860.00
\$183,893.00		\$182,943.25

ACTUAL INCOME OVER EXPENSES: (\$16,956.44)

YTD PRORATED INCOME OVER EXPENSES: (\$27,823.09)

Some members pay their entire yearly pledges in January. This number has been adjusted to reflect what actual giving through October 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.*

721 Church St., Jefferson City, TN 37760; Telephone: (865) 475-2761; E-Mail Address: fpcjctn@gmail.com

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.

