



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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

November 2025 Newsletter

Perhaps you heard the story about a Sunday school teacher who began her lesson with a question, “Boys and girls, what do we know about God?” A hand shot up in the air and a voice called out, “He is an artist!”

“Really? How do you know?” the teacher asked. “Because we say it every Sunday: Our Father, who does art in heaven...”

Or how about this one? While driving in Pennsylvania, a family caught up to an Amish carriage. The owner of the carriage obviously had a sense of humor, because attached to the back of the carriage was a hand-printed sign that read, “Energy efficient vehicle. Runs on grass and oats. Caution: Do not step in exhaust.”

Another one? A mother was preparing pancakes for her two sons; Kevin, the oldest, was five and Ryan, the youngest was three. The boys began to argue over who would get the first pancake. Their mother saw the opportunity for a moral lesson. “If Jesus was sitting here,” she said, “he would say, ‘Let your brother have the first pancake. I can wait.’” Without hesitation, Kevin turned to his younger brother and said, “Ryan, you be Jesus!”



Psalm 2:4 tells us that God laughs. And I am convinced—so did Jesus. Think about it: would people have been drawn to him if he’d been grumpy all the time? Of course not. Jesus radiated joy, warmth, and welcome. Surely that included a healthy sense of humor and delight in the simple things of life.

Which brings me to my point (and yes, I do have one): as I prepare for Thanksgiving, I find myself giving thanks for the usual blessings—my kind and fun-loving husband, our children and grandchildren, and the health and privilege of serving First Presbyterian Church as a Minister of Word and Sacrament. But lately, with all that is happening in the world, I am especially grateful for every small moment of joy that finds its way into my days—for laughter shared, for ordinary pleasures, for the sheer gift of fun that reminds me life is still good, and God is still near. This kind of holy happiness calls to mind the psalmist’s words in Psalm 126 (*The Message*):

*It seemed like a dream, too good to be true,
when God returned Zion’s exiles.
We laughed, we sang,
we couldn’t believe our good fortune.
We were the talk of the nations—
“God was wonderful to them!”
God was wonderful to us;
we are one happy people.*

Truly, God has been wonderful to us! And for this—and so much more—may our gratitude continue to rise long after the turkey is carved, and the last slice of pumpkin pie is gone.

Happy Thanksgiving,
Dr. Glenda Hollingshead



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

*All
Saints Day
Celebration*

Sunday, November 2 at 10:45 a.m.



CONTEMPLATIVE WORSHIP SERVICE
FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 2 AT 5:30 P.M.

different brews  *different views*

PUB THEOLOGY

BEER, CONVERSATION & GOD

all perspectives welcome



Saturday, November 8th at
1:00 p.m. at 1907 Brewing
Company. Let's gather
around tables to share
different brews and views.



ORDER YOUR POINSETTIAS

POINSETTIA ORDER FORMS WILL BE AVAILABLE IN THE NOVEMBER 2 AND 9 BULLETINS.

THE COST IS \$12 PER POINSETTIA. PLEASE SUBMIT ORDER AND PAYMENT BY NOVEMBER 9.

FORMS CAN BE PLACED IN OFFERING PLATE OR HEATHER HILL'S BOX.



HANDBELL PRACTICE

Rehearsals for the Christmas Season begin November 2nd immediately after worship.



A HUGE THANK YOU TO EVERYONE WHO HELPED WITH OUR FALL WORK DAY-AND TO THOSE WHO WORKED IN THE DAYS LEADING UP TO IT. SIXTEEN FOLKS PARTICIPATED ALTOGETHER, AND TOGETHER WE ACCOMPLISHED A GREAT DEAL: CLEANING BENCHES, TRIMMING THE CREPE MYRTLES, THINNING THE IRIS BED, RAKING LEAVES, CHANGING BATTERIES IN THE CLOCKS, CLEANING THE ICE MACHINE, ORGANIZING THE UPSTAIRS STORAGE ROOM, AND MORE. THANK YOU FOR CONTRIBUTING YOUR TIME AND ENERGY TO CARE FOR OUR CHURCH AND GROUNDS.



Calling All Angels

AN ADVENT STUDY OF FEARLESSNESS AND STRENGTH

ERIN WATHEN

ADVENT DEVOTIONALS

Our Advent Devotional for this year is, *Calling All Angels*. They will be available beginning Sunday, November 9. We request that you only take one per family. Donations to help cover the cost are welcome.

Men's BREAKFAST



Tuesday, November 11
at 8:00 a.m.

Perkins in Dandridge



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
721 CHURCH STREET
JEFFERSON CITY, TN

CHURCH STREET CAFE

November 11th 4:30-6:00 p.m.



First Presbyterian Church Threads of Friendship Women's Group

A warm, welcoming space for all women of the church-where every thread, whether yarn or conversation, weaves us closer together. Whether you knit, crochet, craft, or simply want to connect, you're invited to be part of the gathering. Can't make it in person? Connect with us via Zoom. Come, share a laugh or two, and be part of something meaningful.

Friday, November 14th at 2:00 p.m.
Church Parlor
(Be sure to bring your own beverage.)



CHRIST THE KING SUNDAY November 23

Before Advent begins, the Christian year comes to a close with a day of joyful thanksgiving- Christ the King Sunday. During worship, we will celebrate the lordship of Christ by looking back across the seasons of the church year: remembering his birth and ministry, his death and resurrection, and his ascension into glory.

The church office
will be closed on
November 26 and 27
for Thanksgiving.



Happy
THANKSGIVING
THANKFUL - GRATEFUL - BLESSED



1st Sunday of Advent

Hanging of the Green

November 30th at 10:45 a.m.

Adulting Together Ministry You're Invited!

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

Our next Adulting Together Ministry event is on Sunday, November 30th. Parents are invited to leave their children at church, where they will be fed and entertained, while the adults head to Knoxville for lunch and a little fun of their own. Whether you're single, married, with kids, or without - come connect, relax, and grow in community.

HOLY CONVERSATIONS

Our next book is *How We Learn to be Brave* by Mariann Edgar Budde. Join us on Zoom December 2 at 5:30 p.m. to discuss the book. All are welcome!



BRUNCH & CHRISTMAS PROGRAM

On Sunday, December 14 beginning at 9:30 a.m. we will have brunch in the Fellowship Hall, followed by our Christmas Program during the Worship Service. (Be on the lookout for a SignupGenius email as we get closer to the date!) This Advent, our church family will bring to life the messengers of God in "Calling All Angels"-a joyful, interactive, improv Christmas play for all ages (inspired by our Advent devotional of the same name). From the angel who fed Elijah, to the one who shut the lions' mouths for Daniel, to Jacob's midnight wrestling match, and finally to Gabriel's wondrous announcement to Mary-these stories remind us that God's messengers move among us in surprising ways. With laughter, movement, music, and room for everyone to join in, "Calling All Angels" celebrates the mystery and joy of God's presence-then and now. Come see the story unfold, and maybe even take part yourself!



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

"For you love all things that exist, and detest none of the things that you have made, for you would not have made anything if you had hated it." -Wisdom 11:24

Take some time this month to look around you, whether you are outside or simply looking out the window, and thank God for every living thing you can see, whether it is something you have appreciated in your life (the redwood tree in your neighbors' yard) or something you've given little to no thought to previously (the unidentified insect crawling across the windowsill). You will be amazed how many things God created that you don't normally think to give praise for. © The Pastoral Center / PastoralCenter.com. All rights reserved.

Our apologies for the mix-up on the glass collection in conjunction with paper shredding on October 24. We are planning a make-up date for glass collection: please plan to bring your clean glass bottles and jars to Fellowship Hall on Saturday, November 8, from 10am-noon. If you cannot come that morning, feel free to drop your glass off in Fellowship Hall before then. All colors of glass are accepted, without lids, please. You do not need to remove labels. The glass will be taken to the Blount County recycling center, where they will crush it to put into their asphalt and road paint. Better than putting the glass into the landfill!

SESSION HIGHLIGHTS

OCTOBER 19, 2025

Examined Whitney Drees to be ordained as a Ruling Elder upon congregational approval.

Approved an updated Session Manual.

Approved continuing our 1-Day VBS—Mt. Horeb Elementary School partnership by contributing to a meal for teachers at an upcoming Parent-Teacher Conference, not to exceed \$250.

Voted to reduce the number of Session members from nine to six, with two elders serving in each class.

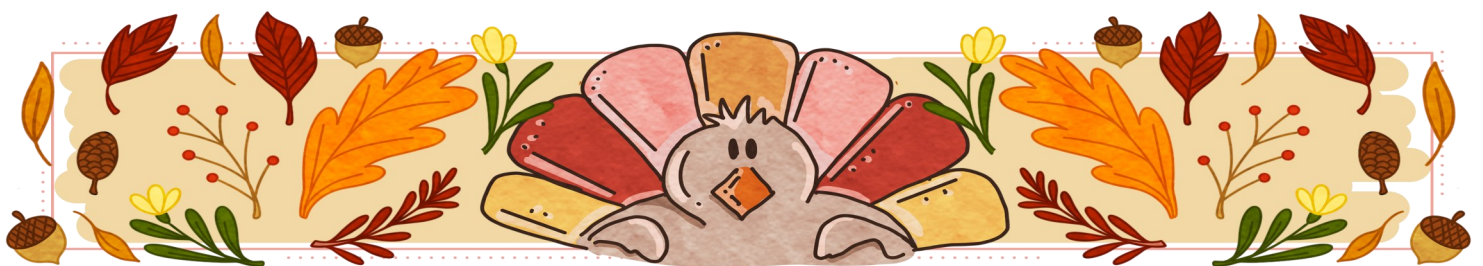
Church Street Café continues once a month distributions and has thus far given out 613 bags to a total of 385 households.

Ted Folsom has agreed to serve on the Finance Committee .

Beth Folsom was elected as the Clerk of Session for 2026.

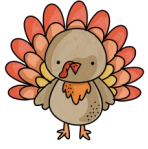
The Staff & Session Christmas Dinner will be held at the church December 10th at 5:30 p.m.

Dr. Hollingshead will be on vacation November 10-16 with Jeff Drees serving as pulpit supply.





NOVEMBER

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
						1
2 Communion Sunday School 9:30 a.m. Worship Service 10:45 a.m. ALL SAINTS' DAY	3	4	5	6	7	8 Pub Theology 1:00 p.m.
9 Sunday School 9:30 a.m. Worship Service 10:45 a.m.	10 Glenda Out Addie Foster	11 Men's Breakfast 8:00 a.m. Church Street Café 4:30-6:00 p.m.	12	13 Kerry Antoniewicz	14 Threads of Friendship 2:00 p.m.	15
16 Sunday School 9:30 a.m. Worship Service 10:45 a.m. Comm. Meetings 12:00 p.m. Glenda Out	17	18 Shane Hollingshead	19	20	21	22
23 Sunday School 9:30 a.m. Worship Service 10:45 a.m. Christ the King Sunday Tom Kirkpatrick	24	25	26 Office Closed	27  Happy Thanksgiving Office Closed	28	29 Jim & Del Deaton
30 Sunday School 9:30 a.m. Hanging of the Green Worship Service 10:45 a.m. 20s/30s/40s Adulting Together Ministry 12:00 p.m.						

Missions

The Mission Focus for November is Christmas in Jefferson County. Once again, they are asking for monetary donations rather than the boxes of mac and cheese we used to collect for them. This is a program of the Jefferson County Chamber of Commerce, and benefits families, children, and senior citizens in Jefferson County. If you wish to give 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, November 23. Thank you!

Prayer request this month is from Isaiah 117 House. Earlier this year, via their grant application, they asked for prayers:

- For our volunteers and staff as they navigate the emotional toll of secondhand trauma.
- For more volunteers to help sustain our efforts, particularly for fundraising, events, and direct support with the children.
- For the financial resources needed to continue running the house effectively and the wisdom to raise these funds.
- For the children in our care, and the healing from the trauma they have endured and will continue to face.
- For the biological families, that they may experience healing; strong families are the foundation of preventing the need for foster care.
- For the foster families as they adjust to the challenges of welcoming a new child and helping them heal from their past trauma.

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. Please continue to do this as you clean out your closets! Thank you.

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

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
An end to the government shutdown

ILL AND RECOVERING:

Theo Allen Coppock, great grandson of the Harlans, who was born prematurely
Angelia Ramsey, wife of Jim Deaton's friend, James, who has cancer
Marjorie Helton, Libby Gardner's sister, who is undergoing chemotherapy
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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