



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Jefferson City, Tennessee

Organized in 1867 as The Presbyterian Church at Mossy Creek

December 2024 Newsletter



It was a Christmas gift from my grandmother. The outside of it was blue with black trim. To an outsider's eyes, the little radio was nothing special. Along with the actual AM/FM radio component, it also played 8-track tapes. Nothing special—this little radio. In time, it became a sad little radio when the antenna broke, and I had to tape it back into place. After that the reception was a little “iffy,” but that hardly mattered. What mattered was my grandmother gave me something to remind me of our shared love of music. Still, to this day, I can hear a certain Elvis song and immediately I am transported back into my grandmother's kitchen where she is singing along and swaying to the music.

The days leading up to Christmas invite us to reflect on things like gifts and music and joy. Unquestionably, there is no greater gift than the first gift of Christmas: Jesus, Emmanuel, God-with-Us. No wonder his birth was announced by a host of angels praising God—for to us, this child was born, a Savior for the world. Thanks be to God!

We are about to enter the busiest time of the year with more than enough hustle and bustle to go around. Maybe now would be a good time to pause and reflect on the true meaning of Christmas. Maybe now would be a good time to pause and make plans to share love, joy, peace, and hope with family, friends, neighbors, and strangers. Consider the following: spend time with someone who needs a listening ear; share a cup of tea or coffee with a neighbor; invite someone who is unchurched to one of our services—perhaps the Christmas Eve Candlelight & Communion Service; write a letter of thanks to someone who has shown you a kindness, make amends with someone with whom you are at odds, do something kind for a person who has lost a loved one...the list goes on and on. The point is to find a way to share the love of Jesus. That's what Christmas is all about. That's what our entire faith journey is all about.

My little blue radio is long gone but the memory of it remains in my heart. These days I have graduated to an iPhone that pipes music through AirPods or a Bose speaker—things my grandmother could never have imagined but would surely have loved. In large ways and in small ways, I pray this Christmas brings you a special measure of the things you love.

Merry Christmas,
Dr. Glenda Hollingshead





Men's Breakfast

**TUESDAY, DECEMBER 10TH AT 8:00 A.M.
AT PERKINS IN DANDRIDGE.**



Our next gathering is Saturday, December 14th at 1 p.m. at 1907 Brewing Company. If you don't care for beer, other non-alcoholic beverages are available. Let's gather around tables to share different brews and different views.



Friday, December 13th, at 2:00 p.m., "Sit 'n Knit" will meet at the home of Helen Jolley (731 W. Rhoten St., Jefferson City). A Zoom link will be emailed on the day of, for those who need it.



Join us Christmas Eve night for a celebration of Christ's birth through Scripture, music, Holy Communion, candlelight, and overflowing joy! The service starts at 6:30 p.m. Be sure to wear your Christmas pajamas but if you prefer not to, consider wearing something else festive for a fun photo op.



This month's prayer request is from Holston Camp and Retreat Center: 'You can pray for our campers, our summer staff and our

year round staff that we provide an experience of growth with our relationship with God, that we provide a safe space for our campers and guests and as a staff we continue to be reminded of why we are here and why we are called to this ministry.'

We will collect the PCUSA Christmas Joy offering during the month of December. The Offering distributes gifts equally to the Assistance Program of the Board of Pensions and to Presbyterian-related schools and colleges equipping communities of color. The Assistance Program provides critical financial support to church workers and their families. Presbyterian-related schools and colleges provide education and leadership development while nurturing racial and ethnic heritage. This has been a Presbyterian commitment for nearly 140 years. For more info, please see <https://specialofferings.pcusa.org/offering/christmas-joy/>. And please be generous! Offering envelopes will be in the pews.

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

"And what I say to you I say to all: Keep awake!" –Mark 13:37. How easy it is to forget or disregard our impact on the environment! This week, "stay awake" and reflect on specific ways to decrease your negative effects on the environment. Could you bike or walk somewhere instead of driving? Could you bring a reusable water bottle so you don't have to buy one? As uncomfortable as it may be, stay awake to the choices you make which hurt our common home. © The Pastoral Center / PastoralCenter.com. All rights reserved.

If you've not finished your Christmas shopping yet, please consider shopping for fair trade items through SERRV (<https://www.serrv.org/>) for handmade and nonprofit gifts, or at Ten Thousand Villages (<https://www.tenthousandvillages.com/>) for ethical gifts that celebrate their recipient, the maker and fair trade values, or at Unicef Market (<https://unicefmarket.org/>), for beautiful hand-crafted artisanal gifts that give back and send life-saving supplies to children in the name of your friends and family.

Or, consider sponsoring a child or family with an animal, or school supplies, or other need, through World Vision (<https://donate.worldvision.org/giftcatalog>), Heifer International (<https://www.heifer.org/gift-catalog/index.html>), or our own Presbyterian Giving Catalog (<https://presbyteriangifts.pcusa.org/>) - with acknowledgement to your recipient, and nothing to wrap!



FPC ANNUAL CHURCH RETREAT January 24-26, 2025

FPC's Annual Church Retreat will be January 24-26, 2025 at Holston Meadows Cabin. The cabin is Holston Camp & Retreat Center's new facility which sleeps 24 people. The theme for the retreat is "Dining with Jesus." In addition to having lots of options for fellowship and fun, during our time together, we will share wholesome meals that will be prepared on site, explore Scripture, and partake of Holy Communion. The cost for the weekend is \$75 per adult and \$30 per child (under the age of 14). Deadline for registration is January 12th. Sign up sheets are available on the tables outside the sanctuary.



Green Plate Delights #9

Colorful Roasted Sheet-Pan Vegetables, by Katie Webster

Ingredients

- | | |
|---|---|
| 3 cups cubed butternut squash (1 inch) | 3 tablespoons extra-virgin olive oil, divided |
| 4 cups broccoli florets | 2 red bell peppers, cut into squares |
| 2 teaspoons Italian seasoning or herbes de Provence | 1 teaspoon coarse kosher salt |
| ¼ teaspoon pepper | 1 tablespoon best-quality balsamic vinegar |

Instructions

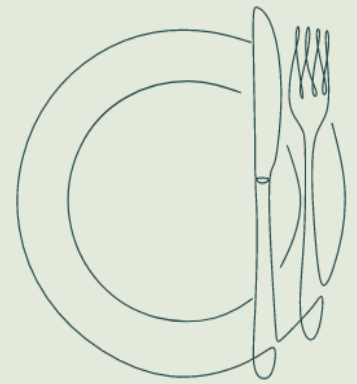
1. Preheat oven to 425°F.
2. Toss squash and 1 tablespoon oil in a large bowl. Spread out on a large rimmed baking sheet. Roast for 10 minutes.
3. Meanwhile, toss broccoli, bell peppers, onion, Italian seasoning (or herbes de Provence), salt and pepper in the bowl with the remaining 2 tablespoons olive oil until the vegetables are evenly coated.
4. Add the squash to the vegetables in the bowl. Toss to combine. Spread the vegetables out on 2 large rimmed baking sheets, dividing evenly. Roast, stirring once or twice, until the vegetables are tender and browned in spots, 17 to 20 minutes. Drizzle with vinegar.

Notes: This recipe makes 8 servings. When roasting vegetables, they should be in a single layer with some space around each. This allows air to circulate around them so that they brown and crisp evenly. Overcrowding the vegetables will steam them instead of roasting them. For the best results, use two large rimmed baking sheets for roasting.

Store in an airtight container and refrigerate for up to 3 days.

Recipe from EatingWell. Find it online: <https://www.eatingwell.com/recipe/262078/colorful-roasted-sheet-pan-vegetables/>

GREEN PLATE DELIGHTS



THE PROPERTY LINE

After several years of bureaucracy, delays and perseverance our church has been added to the National Register Of Historic Places. The Committee is working with Morristown Signs to create a bronze plaque in commemoration of our special place. The plaque will be added to the left side of the exterior Sanctuary doors along Church Street. And while we are at it, we will be replacing the church hours sign on the right side since its frame is starting to deteriorate.

There is a possibility of a very noticeable landscaping change to the Prayer Garden side of the grounds. For a few years now the Committee has discussed tree health (e.g. cherry, hackberry, holly, crape myrtle ...) and the various tree's relationship with the utility wires.

Well, the Committee has approved a proposal to address our concerns. The quick version looks like this: the four cherry trees at the Branner & Deborah Street corner will be removed and their stumps ground; trees along the Deborah Street utility wires will be trimmed; the hackberry and crape myrtles near the building will be trimmed; and the two cherry trees on the Church and Branner Street corner will be trimmed.

This is not an inexpensive proposition. Moreover, Session will need to approve the work outlined in the proposal. So be on the lookout throughout this month for an update on this project.



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1 Christmas Brunch 9:30 a.m. Christmas Program Hanging of the Green Worship Service 10:45 a.m.	2	3 Centering Prayer Zoom 7:00 p.m.	4	5	6	7
8 Sunday School 9:30 a.m. Worship Service 10:45 a.m.	9	10 Men's Breakfast 8:00 a.m. Church Street Café 4:30-6:00 p.m.	11 Session/Staff Christmas Dinner 5:30 p.m.	12	13 Sit 'n Knit 2:00 p.m.	14 Pub Theology 1:00 p.m. Bill Vest, Sr.
15 Sunday School 9:30 a.m. Worship Service 10:45 a.m. Zoom Session 7:00 p.m.	16	17	18 Libby Moser	19	20	21 Rich & Connie Harlan
22 Sunday School 9:30 a.m. Worship Service 10:45 a.m.	23	24 Christmas Eve Communion and Candlelight Service 6:30 p.m.	25  OFFICE CLOSED	26	27	28
29 Sunday School 9:30 a.m. Worship Service 10:45 a.m. Debby Rinehart	30	31 GLEENDA OUT				



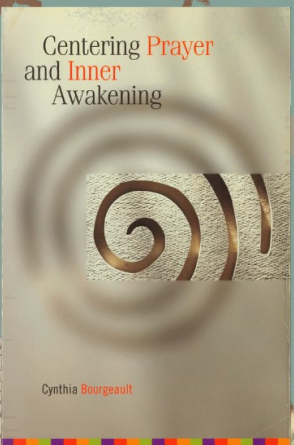
UPCOMING

Winter Events



Christmas Season Hymn Sing & Epiphany

The 12 Days of Christmas ends on January 5th, followed by Epiphany on January 6th. To celebrate these important dates on the liturgical calendar, on Sunday, January 5th, worship will begin with a Christmas Hymn Sing. Then, we will turn our attention to Epiphany, which is the day the church celebrates the arrival of the magi, who were led to Jesus by a star. Because the image of the star is so significant, many churches have started a new spiritual practice to mark the New Year. It is the practice of handing out "star words," and we are going to join the fun. The idea is that a list of intention words, or guiding words, are printed on small cards that are decorated with a star. The star words are then distributed randomly. You will be invited to take the star home and place it where you will see it regularly. Use the word as a focal point of prayer and allow it to accompany you throughout the year. To learn more about this spiritual practice, make plans to be in worship January 5th.



CENTERING PRAYER BOOK STUDY

Jan 7th at 7 p.m. on Zoom, prior to 20 minutes of silent meditation, we will reflect on chapters 4-5 of Bourgeault's book on Centering Prayer. Join us!

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@fpcjeffcity.org

JANUARY/FEBRUARY
NEWSLETTER WILL BE
EMAILED IN MID-
JANUARY.



DEADLINE IS
JANUARY 6.

Ordination & Installation of Elders

First Presbyterian Church
January 12 at 10:45 a.m.



In Our Prayers

SPECIAL CONCERNS:

Steve and Arlene Peck

Bill Vest

Doug Moses

Jama Seahorn

Neal Beck

Those affected by Hurricane Helene
Members of the military & their families
Peace in Ukraine and The Holy Land

ILL AND RECOVERING:

Claud Gowan, who is experiencing health issues

John Zirkle, whose tumor has recurred

Paul Sorey, Linda Noonkesser's brother

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

IN RESIDENTIAL FACILITIES:

LifeCare of Jefferson City: Elsie Sorey (# 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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Presbyterian Church you may visit our website at
www.fpcjeffcity.org or scan this QR code with your smartphone.



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