

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Jefferson City, Tennessee

Organized in 1867 as The Presbyterian Church at Mossy Creek

April 2026 Newsletter



There is a moment every year that happens so quietly you could miss it. One day the trees are bare—honestly, they’ve been bare so long you’ve stopped expecting anything else. The ground looks tired. The air carries a chill that lingers longer than you think it should. Winter, or the Season of the Sticks, as it is sometimes called, seems to have had the final word.

But then...something shifts. Not all at once. Not dramatically. Just a hint at first—a softness in the air, a greening at the edges, a stubborn crocus pushing up through soil that feels too cold for life, the tender blossoms on the redbud tree appearing, seemingly overnight. You have to pay attention to notice it. You have to be looking. But once you see it, you can’t unsee it. Resurrection is in the air.

Every year, the earth tells this story. Every year, the earth preaches resurrection long before we step into the sanctuary on Easter morn to proclaim, “Christ is risen. He is risen, indeed.” And notice the gentle rhythm of it all: The trees do not strain to come back to life. The flowers do not argue their way out of the ground. The earth simply nurtures what it has been holding onto—and, in time, new life bursts forth. Maybe that’s why Easter feels so powerfully connected to this time of year—for we are not asked to believe in resurrection as an abstract idea. We can stand in the middle of it. We can see it. We can touch it.

The truth is, most of us know what it feels like to live in a kind of winter—personally, spiritually, even collectively. We know what it is to look around and wonder if anything will change, if anything new can really come from what feels worn down or worn out. And yet, as the earth finds its way once more around the sun, it carries a quiet promise—whispering what the gospel proclaims: This is not the end of the story. It’s a new beginning.

Resurrection begins in hidden places. It stirs beneath the surface. It breaks open what appeared closed. It insists, gently but persistently, that life is stronger than death. So maybe this Easter, if we are looking for hope in the Resurrection, we don’t have to look very far. Maybe we merely pay attention—to the budding trees, to the lengthening days, to the small signs of life that refuse to be held back. Maybe we let the earth remind us that God is always at work, even when we cannot see it.

New life is emerging—within us and among us—for resurrection is closer than we think. The earth is already whispering it, and our hearts are beginning to remember. So we watch, we wait, and we trust the quiet work of God in our midst. Indeed, Alleluia is on its way.

In the Hope of Resurrection,
Dr. Glenda Hollingshead



different brews  *different views*

PUB THEOLOGY

— BEER, CONVERSATION & GOD —

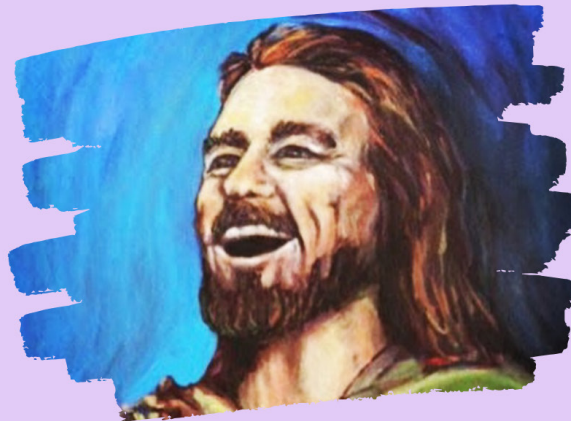
all perspectives welcome

Saturday, April 11th at 1:00 p.m.
at 1907 Brewing Company.
Let's gather around tables to
share different brews and
views.

HOLY HUMOR SUNDAY

April 12th at 10:45 a.m.

Come, celebrate the joy of resurrection with laughter, song, and a few surprises. Wear your brightest colors, and bring your best (church-friendly!) jokes.



First Presbyterian Church, Jefferson City, TN

Men's Breakfast

Tuesday, April 14th
at 8:00 a.m.

Perkins in Dandridge



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
721 CHURCH STREET
JEFFERSON CITY, TN

CHURCH STREET CAFE

April 14th 4:30-6:00 p.m.



@fpcjeffcity.org

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.

Thursday, April 16th at 2:00 p.m.
Church Parlor
(Be sure to bring your own beverage.)

CELEBRATE EARTH DAY WITH FPC!

SUNDAY, APRIL 19 AT 10:45 A.M.



Missions

Our April Mission focus is One Great Hour of Sharing, one of three special offerings of PCUSA each year. It is typically received during Lent, and we probably should've been talking about it since Ash Wednesday. We will collect it through Easter Sunday, April 5. Around the world, millions of people lack access to sustainable food sources, clean water, sanitation, education, and opportunity. The work done in support of the causes supported by One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS) - disaster, hunger, poverty, climate change, and immigration/migration and refugees - serves individuals and communities in need. This work provides people with safety, sustenance, and hope, and helps to improve the lives of people in these challenging situations.

And then, since the April focus is only through the first Sunday of April, please consider bringing in items for the Neighborhood Center through the rest of the month. Donations can be placed in the bin in the back hallway. There is an ongoing need for personal care items and cleaning supplies - items which aren't food so can't be purchased with EBT cards. I found out last Thursday that the office is being moved, and is temporarily in Morristown. So we'll collect items for a while until they are open again locally.

Your Mission and Creation Care Committee has been working on the grants process made possible by the Mission Endowment fund. We will invite six to eight local, regional, and international organizations to submit an application for a grant during the month of April, and will decide what grants will be awarded at our May meeting. If you would like to assist with this Mission project by reading the grant applications and participating in these decisions, please contact Carol Antoniewicz.

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

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



Celebrate new life this month by planting some seeds or seedlings, or plan your summer garden. Pot up some herbs on a windowsill or plant a dwarf tree in a container on a porch or deck. Eating food grown locally saves drastically on the carbon footprint from food grown at great distances. Check out Barbara Kingsolver's book *Animal, Vegetable, Miracle* for some great inspiration about growing and eating locally grown food. © The Pastoral Center/PastoralCenter.com. All rights reserved.

Earth Day is coming up! It is Wednesday, April 22, and is the 56th anniversary of the event. We will observe it with an Earth Day focus in our worship service on April 19. Stay tuned!

Carol Antoniewicz recently delivered a carload of glass to the Blount County Recycling Center - and has started a new collection for the next trip. Please let her know when you have brought in glass for her to take; you may leave boxes or bags of them in Fellowship Hall with her name on them, but do let her know to pick them up!

And please continue to bring in your old newspapers for the CARE animal shelter, and put them in the back hallway next to the bin for the Neighborhood Center.

THANK YOU!

Thank you to everyone who helped with our Spring Work Day!! It was a great success!



Rhythms of Life Day Retreat

First Presbyterian Church Jefferson City
April 18th, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.



Join us on Saturday, April 18 for a meaningful day of reflection as we explore rhythms that shape our lives. This retreat will include reflections on rhythms in farming, healing, and history presented by Libby Moser, Dr. Glenda Hollingshead, and David Noonkesser. We are also delighted to welcome back Spiritual Director and artist Rara Schlitt, who will share her art and guide our Quiet Day meditations.

We are especially excited to welcome Susan Crompton, who will be joining us for the first time, as our Drum Circle Leader. Susan is a mindfulness meditation guide and sound practitioner who creates spaces where rhythm becomes a pathway to presence, connection, and joy. She believes that rhythm is something we all carry within us, and through drumming she invites participants to rediscover that steady inner rhythm.

What to Bring

- A journal for reflection

Additional Information

- Nursery and lunch are provided.
- Cost: \$20 per person
- Registration deadline: Monday, April 13

Registration Form

Name: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Do you need nursery care? Yes No

Number attending: _____



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2	3	4
5 Communion Sunday School 9:30 a.m. Worship Service 10:45 a.m.	6 Office Closed Kathy Juoff	7	8 Stacy Kirkpatrick	9	10	11 Pub Theology 1:00 p.m.
12 Sunday School 9:30 a.m. Worship Service 10:45 a.m. Robert Gowan	13	14 Men's Breakfast 8:00 a.m. Church Street Café 4:30 p.m.	15	16 Threads of Friendship 2:00 p.m.	17	18 Rhythms of Life Day Retreat 10:00-2:00 p.m.
19 Sunday School 9:30 a.m. Worship Service 10:45 a.m. EARTH DAY Session on Zoom 6:00 p.m.	20 Newsletter Deadline JV Cline	21	22	23	24	25
26 Parlor Sunday School ONLY 9:30 a.m. Worship Service 10:45 a.m. Packing CSC Bags	27	28	29	30		

**NO COFFEE & CONVERSATIONS, LITTLE PRESBYTERIANS
OR YOUTH SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASSES ON APRIL 26.**

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:

Jim Hearn, who is having respiratory issues
Angelia Ramsey, wife of Jim Deaton's friend, James, who has been diagnosed
with cancer
Marjorie Helton, Libby Gardner's sister, who is undergoing radiation
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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or scan this QR code with your smartphone.

