



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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

January/February 2024 Newsletter

THE WORK OF CHRISTMAS

In case you have missed it, Christmas is over—at least that is what the calendar tells us. It is what the sanctuary proclaims as well—with the absence of all the red, green, and purple. Truly, the beauty and wonder of the season can make it difficult to let Christmas go. But then, do we really *have* to let Christmas go? Shouldn't the spirit of Christmas, the spirit of God's love, remain in our hearts and minds and lives—always?

If you attended our Candlelight & Communion Christmas Eve Service, you heard the poem, "The Work of Christmas" by Howard Thurman, an African American theologian, educator, and civil rights leader.

When the song of the angels is stilled,
when the star in the sky is gone,
when the kings and princes are home,
when the shepherds are back with their flocks,
the work of Christmas begins:
to find the lost,
to heal the broken,
to feed the hungry,
to release the prisoner,
to rebuild the nations,
to bring peace among the people,
to make music in the heart.



Traditionally, a new year invites us to reflect upon the year just past and to consider what might lie ahead. We tend to make plans and set goals or intentions for things we might do better, learn more about, etc. A good question for Christians to ask is: "In 2024, what does God expect of me?" Ouch! Now, that is getting a little personal, isn't it? But think about it. Isn't it something believers should consider before making plans and setting goals?

So here is your New Year's invitation: Set aside some time to ponder God's yearnings for you in this new year that is filled with possibilities. Might attending church regularly be an area in which you need to grow? Is the Spirit nudging you to deepen your faith through spiritual disciplines like prayer and silence? Perhaps God is leading you to spend more time studying Scripture and learning with other believers. It could be that serving others is something God has laid upon your heart. Take time to record how you are feeling led and then, make God's intentions for you a matter of daily focus.

As your pastor, I pray that throughout this New Year we have been gifted, each of us will continue the work of Christmas.

Happy New Year,
Dr. Glenda Hollingshead
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On Friday, January 19, at 7:00 p.m., we will have our Sit and Knit by **ZOOM ONLY**. The February gathering will be on Friday, February 16 at 7:00 p.m. at the home of Eva Zirkle (1454 Royal Dr., Jefferson City). A Zoom link will be sent on the afternoon of each event.



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, February 10th 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!

ANNUAL MEETING

On Souper Bowl Sunday, February 11th, we will have our Annual Meeting of the Congregation and Corporation, immediately following worship. Electronic copies of the 2023 Annual Report will be emailed out the week before the meeting; hard copies will be available at the time of meeting. A soup lunch will be provided.

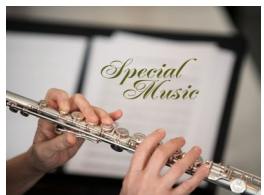


We need six (or more) volunteers to bring a crockpot of soup and four (or more) volunteers to bring bread (cornbread, loaf bread, etc.) for our Souper Bowl luncheon on Sunday, February 11th. Please contact Martha Sanders to sign up.



MEN'S PRAYER BREAKFAST

Men's Prayer Breakfast is scheduled for Tuesday, February 13th at 8:00 a.m., at Perkins in Dandridge.



Grace Notes Flute Choir will join us for Worship on Sunday, February 25th. Following the service, we will have a lunch of chicken strips, mac-n-cheese, a green vegetable, and slaw. Whitney is providing cookies for dessert. Drinks will also be provided by church. If there are any questions, please contact Martha Sanders. Donations are greatly appreciated.



THANK YOU FROM THE STAFF!!

We would like to express our gratitude to everyone in the congregation for the generous Christmas gift. We are touched by your thoughtfulness and extremely appreciative. Thank you!! We wish you all a Happy and Healthy New Year!!

— Glenda, Heather, Tiffany, and Janice



THE PROPERTY LINE

Happy New Year!!! As mentioned in the December Newsletter our Committee has Endowment funds available in 2024 and the funds are already burning a hole in our pockets (not literally). We are looking forward to the flexibility of working some projects in 2024. If you have any project suggestions please let us know.

In mid-December we received a request from a gentleman asking if he could do metal detecting on the church grounds. The gentleman does this for a hobby and historical interest. His statements indicate he is very respectful of the property and would share his findings with the church. Our Committee has approved him working on the church grounds for one day—and Session has agreed. The likelihood of finding anything of historical significance is small according to David Needs (City Historian), but you never know, he may find that elusive Easter egg missing from the Easter egg hunt many, many years ago.

If you have any questions or concerns about this activity please contact members of the Property Committee.

MISSION, EVANGELISM, CREATION CARE CORNER

DIAPER DRIVE

Diaper drive! We have not done a diaper drive in honor of the birth of child into a church member's family for several years, but now we can: Welcome to the World **Everett James Vogel**, Martha Sanders' first great-nephew. Everett was born on Friday, December 15th weighing in at 7 lbs, 9 ounces and measuring almost 21 inches long. His proud parents are Katie and Matt Vogel of Lexington, KY. Everett is the first "grand" of John and Lynda Sanders also of Lexington KY. Ask the proud Great Aunt to see a photo. In accordance with Katie's request, all the diapers collected to honor Everett's birth will be provided to local charities in this area, such as SafeSpace and Samaritan House. All sizes of diapers are welcome, and may be placed in the second pew of the Amen corner of the sanctuary any time before March 1. Thank you for your generosity!



When you're shopping, how about picking up some soup? The Souper Bowl of Caring is coming up. Please bring cans of chicken noodle and tomato soup, which will go to Church Street Café, any time between now and Super Bowl Sunday, February 11. Soup can be placed on the two tables in the front of the sanctuary. We collected about 300 cans last year, which was very helpful to CSC. Can we beat that total this year?

Donate Hygiene Items



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.



A "SAVE THE PLANET" MOMENT

brought to you by Creation Care

Did you know that Tennessee is still in a drought, despite recent rains? Here are some tips for conserving water. How many of these do you do already? What more could you do?

- ◆ Wash dishes in your dishwasher (especially if it's Energy STAR-rated): washing by hand uses an average of 27 gallons of water, and the dishwasher only 3 gallons!
- ◆ Install a water-saving showerhead and take quick showers. An average shower uses 10 gallons of water.
- ◆ This one is easy: do you turn off the faucet when brushing your teeth? Or washing your face? Don't let the water run except when you actually need it to rinse.
- ◆ Install low-flush toilets, which can reduce the amount of water used by up to 30%.
- ◆ Make sure your clothes washer is full before you run it.
- ◆ Plant a native garden to save up to 1/3 of the water used to maintain your lawn. Native flowers, bushes, and grass not only require less water but also attract pollinators and enhance biodiversity.

2024 COMMITTEE ROSTERS

Class of 2024

Jeff Drees
Janice Wintermute
Eva Zirkle

Class of 2025

Connie Harlan
Linda Noonkesser
Jessica Evans

Class of 2026

Peggy Hypes
Esther O'Hare
Martha Sanders

Clerk of Session: Beth Folsom

Generally, on the 3rd Sunday of the month, Session and Committee meetings alternate, with Session occurring on even months of the year and Committee meetings occurring on odd months. Session meets on Zoom at 7:00 p.m. Two to three Ruling Elders serve as Liaisons and/or Committee Chairs on each of the Committees listed below, except for the Personnel Committee. The Clerk of Session is not expected to serve on a Committee.

If you are not currently serving on a committee but have an interest in a particular area of the work of the church, please reach out to the committee chair or the pastor.

WORSHIP, MEDIA & THE ARTS

Janice Wintermute, Elder Liaison
Connie Harlan, Elder Liaison
Kay Gowan, Chair
Sue Swilley
Lyle Juroff

EDUCATION, FELLOWSHIP & CONGREGATIONAL CARE

Esther O'Hare, Co-Chair
Martha Sanders, Co-Chair
Whitney Drees
Kinney Hollingshead

MISSION, EVANGELISM & CREATION CARE

Eva Zirkle, Elder Liaison
Linda Noonkesser, Elder Liaison
Jessica Evans, Elder Liaison
Carol Antoniewicz, Chair
Del Deaton

FINANCE

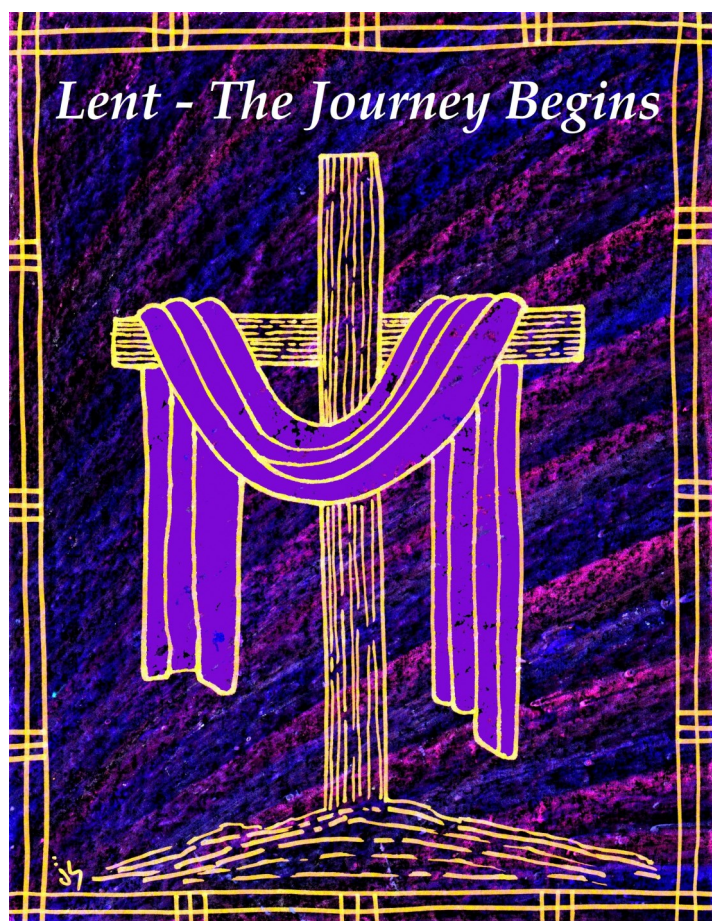
Peggy Hypes, Chair
Jim Deaton
John Zirkle
Matt Gowan
Heather Hill, ex-officio

PERSONNEL (meets as needed)

Class of 2024: Jeff Drees (Chair)
Class of 2025: Linda Noonkesser
Class of 2026: Martha Sanders
Member-at-Large: Claud Gowan

PROPERTY

Jeff Drees, Elder Liaison
Kerry Antoniewicz, Chair
Libby Gardner
Troy Evans



Ash Wednesday and the Season of Lent provide believers an opportunity to meditate on mortality, sinfulness, and need of a Savior; to renew a commitment for repentance in all of life; and to remember with confidence and gratitude that Christ has conquered death and sin.

Ash Wednesday is the first day of Lent. By the fourth century the Western church determined that the Lenten period of fasting and renewal should correspond to Christ's forty-day fast (Matt. 4:2), and, by counting forty days back from Easter (excluding Sundays, which remain "feast" days), arrived at the Wednesday seven weeks before Easter. At one time Lent was primarily viewed as a period during which converts prepared for baptism on Easter Sunday, but later the season became a general time of penitence and renewal for all Christians. Thus, Ash Wednesday became the day that marked the beginning of the Lenten renewal.

The imposition of ashes has a long history in biblical and church traditions. In Scripture ashes or dust symbolize frailty or death (Gen.18:27), sadness or mourning (Esther 4:3), judgment (Lam. 3:16), and repentance (Jon.3:6). Some traditions have also considered ash a purifying or cleansing agent. All these images are caught up in the church's use of ashes as a symbol appropriate for Lent. At an Ash Wednesday service, when our foreheads are marked with ashes in a cross-shaped sign, we hear the words, "From dust you came. To dust you shall return." The ashes remind us of the brevity of life and our need for confession and pardon. The sign of the cross reminds us of our baptism.

Although we traditionally offer the Ash Wednesday Service in the evening, the Worship Committee has decided to offer the service at noon, instead. So, make plans to join us on Ash Wednesday, February 14th at 12:00 p.m. Together, may we begin our Lenten journey toward Resurrection morn.

Grace & Peace,
Dr. Glenda

Adapted from "Ash Wednesday," *The Worship Sourcebook*, 2nd Edition, Calvin Institute of Christian Worship, 2013.
Image: StushieArt, used by subscription





Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 OFFICE CLOSED	2	3 GLEND A OUT	4	5	6
7 Sunday School 9:30 a.m. Worship Service 10:45 a.m. GLEND A OUT	8 Steve Wintermute	9 Men's Breakfast 8:00 a.m. Church Street Café 4:30-6:00 p.m.	10 Jim Hearn	11	12 Heather Hill	13 Memorial Service for Cindy Moses Visitation 10:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. Service at 12:00 p.m. Doug Moody
14 Sunday School 9:30 a.m. Worship Service 10:45 a.m. Ordination and Installation of Elders All Committee Meetings	15	16	17 Abby Reagan	18	19 Sit 'n Knit Zoom Only 7:00 p.m.	20
21 Sunday School 9:30 a.m. Worship Service 10:45 a.m.	22	23 Church Street Café 4:30-6:00 p.m.	24	25	26 Church Retreat Libby Gardner Jennifer Gowan	27 Church Retreat Margy King
28 Sunday School 9:30 a.m. Worship Service 10:45 a.m. Church Retreat	29	30 Dianne Wice Carolyn Hearn	31			



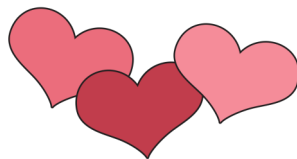
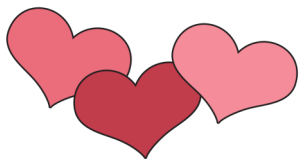
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				1 Eva Zirkle	2	3
4 Sunday School 9:30 a.m. Worship Service 10:45 a.m.	5	6	7	8	9	10 Pub Theology 1:00 p.m.
11 Sunday School 9:30 a.m. Worship Service 10:45 a.m. Souper Bowl of Caring Annual Meeting of the Congregation and Corporation Luncheon	12	13 Men's Breakfast 8:00 a.m. Church Street Café 4:30-6:00 p.m.	14 Ash Wednesday Service 12:00 p.m.	15	16 Sit 'n Knit 7:00 p.m.	17 Liano Evans
18 Sunday School 9:30 a.m. Worship Service 10:45 a.m.	19	20 Wayne King	21 Helen Jolley	22	23 Newsletter Deadline	24 Bill & JoAnne Vest
25 Sunday School 9:30 a.m. Worship Service 10:45 a.m. Grace Notes Flute Choir & Luncheon	26	27 Church Street Café 4:30-6:00 p.m.	28	29		

Friendly Reminders

January 26-28, 2024 is the Annual Church Retreat. For those attending, you are able to check in as early as 2:00 p.m. (For those who will be attending FPC for Sunday Worship, Rev. Karen Russell will be our guest preacher).

Please remember to close the swinging doors at the front of the sanctuary during worship.

Office Hours are Monday-Thursday from 8:00 a.m.—4:00 p.m. If hours need to change for weather, etc. an email will be sent out.



SPECIAL CONCERNS:

Neal Beck Steve and Arlene Peck Bill and JoAnne Vest
Doug Moses Jama Seahorn Members of the military & their families

ILL AND RECOVERING:

Carolyn Hearn
Esther O'Hare
David Skeen
Frank McGhee, Beth Folsom's brother
Jane Sorey, Linda Noonkesser's sister-in-law

PRAYER
list

IN RESIDENTIAL FACILITIES: LIFECARE JEFFERSON CITY: Elsie Sorey (# 101)
MORNING POINTE: Denny Pryor



Make this heartfelt craft as a decoration or gift.

What you need:

- Yarn
- Scissors
- Parchment paper
- Baking sheet
- Heart-shaped cookie cutters
- ¼ cup cornstarch
- ½ cup water
- Adult help



What you do:

1. Cut yarn into 12-inch pieces.
2. Place cookie cutters atop a baking sheet lined with parchment paper.
3. Combine cornstarch and water in a saucepan. Heat mixture over medium heat, stirring until thick and smooth. Remove from heat and cool to form a "glue."
4. Dip each piece of yarn into the mixture to coat completely. Squeeze off any excess.
5. Place yarn in the cookie cutters, allowing pieces to cross and loop within the heart. Add more until the cookie cutter is filled and the yarn looks like a heart.
6. Remove cookie cutters and bake the sheet for two hours at 150°F, or until hearts are dry and hard.

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 or scan this QR code with your smartphone.

