



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Jefferson City, Tennessee

Organized in 1867 as The Presbyterian Church at Mossy Creek

June/July 2026 Newsletter

A Response and A Question

As your pastor, I am often asked questions about faith, Scripture, and the church. Sometimes those questions lead to a response. Other times they lead to another question. This month, I have both.

First, a response. Over the years, I have heard many people say they have little use for the Old Testament. Some find it difficult to understand. Others struggle with its unfamiliar history, imagery, or relevance. My response is simple: all Scripture has something to teach us, and the Old Testament prophets may have more to say to our current moment than we realize. To help us consider the possibilities, this summer our worship life will be shaped by a new sermon series entitled “Holy Disruption: Ancient Prophets for Modern Times.” Together, we will listen to the voices of Isaiah, Amos, Hosea, Micah, and others. Along the way, we will consider how the prophets were truth-tellers who spoke God's word into the realities of their own day. They confronted injustice, challenged complacency, defended the vulnerable, questioned abuses of power, and called God's people back to lives of faithfulness. My hope is that this series will deepen our appreciation for a portion of Scripture that is too often overlooked and help us discover the wisdom these prophets offer for our own turbulent times.



Now, to the question. During my recent study leave at Mepkin Abbey, I listened to Brian McLaren's book, *Life After Doom: Wisdom and Courage for a World Falling Apart*. I found it one of the most compelling books I have encountered in years. What struck me most was McLaren's ability to lift the reader from the dance floor to the balcony—to step back from the daily headlines and gain a broader perspective on the complex challenges facing our world. Rather than focusing on a single issue, he invites readers to consider the interconnections of environmental concerns, social fragmentation, political instability, and cultural change. At the same time, the book is not simply about problems. It asks how people of faith might respond honestly, courageously, and compassionately in a time of uncertainty. It explores questions of hope and resilience, and what it means to live well when easy answers are no longer available.

This is the first book I have read in a long time that made me want to begin reading it again as soon as I finished. Which leads to my question: Would anyone like to read it with me? If there is sufficient interest, I would like to offer a four-week study of *Life After Doom* during July. We would meet on Zoom on Wednesdays at 5:00 p.m. beginning July 1st. The author provides excellent reflection questions at the end of each chapter, and we would use a selection of them to guide our conversation. Since we take a break from Sunday School during the summer months, this could be a meaningful opportunity to engage in a short-term study together and explore some of the most important questions facing our world and our faith. If you are interested, please contact me by June 14. If enough people express interest, we will begin making plans and advertising the study.

I trust many of you have plans for the summer—plans that include travel, work, rest, family gatherings, or quiet moments at home. However you choose to spend this season, I pray that you will find renewal and glimpses of God's presence wherever you go—whatever you do.

Grace & Peace,
Dr. Glenda Hollingshead

Men's Breakfast

Tuesday, June 9th and
Tuesday, July 14th
at 9:00 a.m.

Perkins in Dandridge



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
721 CHURCH STREET
JEFFERSON CITY, TN

CHURCH STREET CAFE

June 9th and July 14th 4:00-5:30 p.m.



@fpcjeffcity.org

A LESSONS & HYMNS SERVICE FOR THE 250TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

During worship on June 14, we will have a special Lessons & Hymns-style service marking 250 years since the birth of the United States. Predominately led by our choir and musicians, this celebration will weave together music, Scripture, and historic reflections that honor both the beauty and the complexity of our nation's story. With grateful hearts and thoughtful spirits, we will remember the journey that has brought us this far and listen for the call to shape a more just and hopeful future. Join us for this meaningful morning of song, story, and shared remembrance.

STINDAE SUNDAY

On Sunday, June 14 following worship, we will meet in the Fellowship Hall to enjoy an ice cream treat.





different brews  *different views*

PUB THEOLOGY

— BEER, CONVERSATION & GOD —

all perspectives welcome

Pub Theology will be on break until September.



Packing Bags for CSC



Those who are available and willing, please plan to stay about half an hour after the service Sunday, June 28 and Sunday, July 26, to pack grocery bags for Church Street Café in the Fellowship Hall. Thank you!





ESTATE SALE

to benefit Church Street Cafe

June 12-13
9 AM - 3 PM

1454 Royal Drive, Jefferson City

Items Available:
Books, Kitchen Items,
Clothes, Knick-Knacks,
Tools, etc.

A SignUpGenius email will
be sent by Sunday, June 7
for anyone interested in
helping with the sale.

OUT OF THE OFFICE

JUNE/JULY

HEATHER WILL NOT BE IN THE OFFICE ON
WEDNESDAYS IN JUNE AND JULY

JUNE 15-21 DR. GLENDA ON VACATION	JULY 13-17 HEATHER ON VACATION	JULY 13-19 DR. GLENDA ON VACATION
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FPC IN MOTION

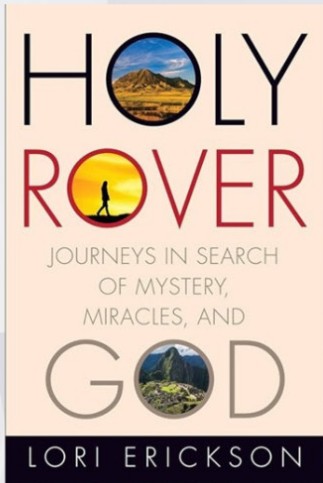
Moving Together in Faith & Fellowship



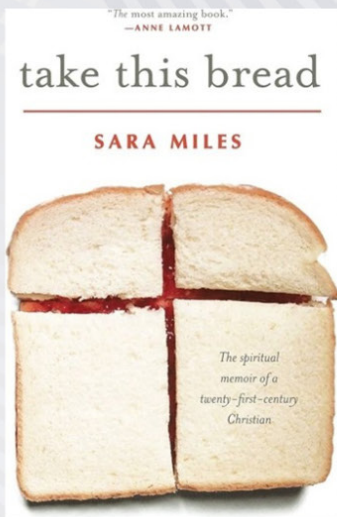
Plans are underway for Kayaking at Cherokee Dam and a Hike & Picnic at Panther Creek.

Details available soon.

Remaining Books for Holy Conversations in 2026



In *Holy Rover: Journeys in Search of Mystery, Miracles, and God*, travel writer Lori Erickson blends memoir and pilgrimage as she visits sacred sites around the world. Each journey—from Lourdes to Iona to Machu Picchu—becomes a lens for reflecting on faith, doubt, and the search for the holy in everyday life. Drawing on encounters with people from many spiritual traditions, Erickson provides a meaningful and often playful exploration of what it means to seek God across cultures and landscapes. The result is an engaging invitation to see travel itself as a spiritual journey. Mark your calendar for Wednesday, September 2 at 5:30 p.m., when we will gather on Zoom to discuss this book.



In *Take This Bread: A Radical Conversion*, Sara Miles tells the story of her unexpected journey from atheism to Christian faith after wandering into a church and receiving Holy Communion for the first time. The experience transforms her life and leads her to start a food pantry that feeds hundreds of people each week. Through vivid storytelling, Miles connects the sacrament of bread and wine with the real hunger of the world, showing how faith can take shape through acts of radical hospitality. The result is a moving memoir about conversion, community, and the power of sharing bread with strangers.

If you would like us to add your family Tartan to our Kirkin' of the Tartan's service in October please contact Heather in the church office by Sunday, August 16.

Lakeside Sweets Comes to FPE

Immediately after worship July 12th, stop by Whitney Drees' new treat truck for a sweet treat.



Missions

Our June Mission focus is the church-wide project of conducting the estate sale for Eva Zirkle, discussed elsewhere in this newsletter. All hands on deck! Thanks to everyone who already has or will participate in this mission benefiting Church Street Café.

Our July Mission focus has not yet been decided; please keep an eye on the weekly email updates as we approach July 1.

At our May meeting, your Mission Committee decided the grants that will be awarded from the Mission endowment to the organizations we invited to apply this year:

Boys & Girls Clubs, Dumplin Valley	\$500
Crossworld/ODRINO	\$2,000
The Gathering, a Respite Ministry	\$1,000
Girls Inc. Morristown	\$500
HOLA Lakeway	\$1,000
Rural Medical Services	\$400
Senior Citizens Centers - Strawberry Plains	\$300
Senior Citizens Centers - White Pine	\$300

TOTAL \$6,000

We will also send the final \$1,000 of the 2025 Five Cents a Meal grant to Renovatus. They will be supplying fresh vegetables for our CSC guests each month.

Good news! The Jefferson Neighborhood Service Center has found a new home and opened for service at the end of April. The Necessities Pantry is once again up and running. Please consider donating personal care and cleaning supplies, which may be left in the bin in the back hallway. We will deliver items about once a month, depending on the fullness of the bin (hint, hint!).

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



"He humbled you by letting you hunger, then by feeding you with manna, with which neither you nor your ancestors were acquainted." -Deuteronomy 8:3

We have access to more varieties of food than ever before in human history, but the processing, packaging, and transportation of many of them are unsustainable. This month, seek out a farmer's market to buy locally grown and in-season fruits, vegetables, and snacks. The "wrapper" that a peach or cherries come in (their skin) won't pollute the environment, and no energy was used to process them into something different than what they started as. Stock your snack shelf with any colorful, beautiful fruits, vegetables, or nuts that appeal to you instead of buying pre-packaged, processed snacks. © The Pastoral Center / PastoralCenter.com. All rights reserved.

Also, since this newsletter covers two months:

Plastic Free July® is a global movement to help people be part of the solution to plastic pollution. Check out [PlasticFreeJuly.org](https://www.plasticfreejuly.org) to get ideas to reduce your plastic use and to take part in the challenge to refuse single-use plastics. There are ideas for everyone, from beginners to those who have been working to reduce their use of plastics for years.

One way to reduce your plastic use would be to visit KnoxFill, a refillery located at 6204 Chapman Highway in Knoxville. There you can purchase sustainable, zero waste essentials for cleaning, personal care, and more. See <https://www.knoxfill.com/> for more info.

Carol Antoniewicz recently delivered another 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.

Please let your Mission and Creation Care committee know if you have any ideas or suggestions about activities we as a church should or could undertake to show our care for our Earth.

UPCOMING EVENTS

AUG. 2

BLESSING OF THE
BACKPACKS

AUG. 8

ONE DAY VBS

AUG. 9

CHURCH PICNIC

AUG. 30

SUNDAY SCHOOL
KICKOFF



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 Esther O'Hare	2	3	4	5	6
7 Communion Worship Service 10:45 a.m.	8	9 Men's Breakfast 9:00 a.m. Church Street Café 4:00 p.m.	10 Matt & Jennifer Gowan	11	12 Sale at Zirkle's 9:00-3:00 p.m.	13 Sale at Zirkle's 9:00-3:00 p.m.
14 Worship Service 10:45 a.m. 250th Celebration Sunday Sundaes Del Deaton Rodney & Delynn McCash	15	16 Carly Kirkpatrick	17 Dr. Glenda Out	18 Glenda Holligshead	19 Troy Evans	20
21 Worship Service 10:45 a.m. Father's Day Dr. Glenda Out	22	23	24	25	26	27
28 Worship Service 10:45 a.m. Packing CSC Bags Session Meeting 6:00 p.m.	29	30				



JULY

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2	3	4
5 Communion Worship Service 10:45 a.m.	6	7	8	9	10	11
12 Worship Service 10:45 a.m. Lakeside Sweets	13	14 Men's Breakfast 9:00 a.m. Church Street Café 4:00 p.m.	15 OFFICE CLOSED	16	17	18
19 Worship Service 10:45 a.m. Committee Meetings	20	21	22	23 Newsletter Deadline	24	25
26 Worship Service 10:45 a.m. Packing CSC Bags	27	28	29	30	31	



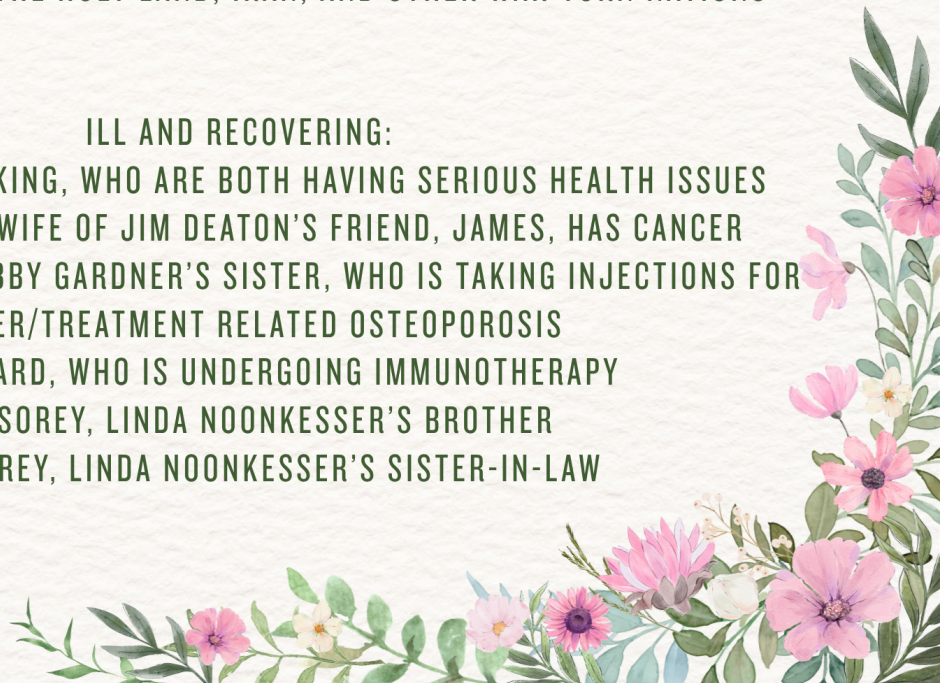
Prayer Concerns

SPECIAL CONCERNS:

ARLENE PECK BILL VEST DOUG MOSES JAMA SEAHORN NEAL BECK
THE HEALTH & WELLBEING OF OUR COUNTRY AND THOSE WHO LIVE WITHIN ITS BORDERS
MEMBERS OF THE MILITARY & THEIR FAMILIES
PEACE IN UKRAINE, THE HOLY LAND, IRAN, AND OTHER WAR-TORN NATIONS

ILL AND RECOVERING:

WAYNE AND MARGY KING, WHO ARE BOTH HAVING SERIOUS HEALTH ISSUES
ANGELIA RAMSEY, WIFE OF JIM DEATON'S FRIEND, JAMES, HAS CANCER
MARJORIE HELTON, LIBBY GARDNER'S SISTER, WHO IS TAKING INJECTIONS FOR
CANCER/TREATMENT RELATED OSTEOPOROSIS
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.*

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

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