

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Jefferson City, Tennessee

Organized in 1867 as The Presbyterian Church at Mossy Creek

March 2026 Newsletter



March Madness in Faith: Finding Joy in Life's Chaos

A major American cultural sports event, March Madness, is just around the corner: the NCAA Division I men's basketball tournament featuring sixty-eight college teams competing in a single-elimination tournament. Played first in 1939, this event has become an American cultural phenomenon famous for its unpredictable upsets, and its "Cinderella" underdog stories.

The month of March has a way of reminding us that life is rarely neat. Daylight Saving Time begins and with it our calendars fill up all too quickly. March winds blow and the world seems to follow suit, spinning faster than we can keep up. In sports, March Madness celebrates unexpected victories, upsets, and the thrill of unpredictability. What if we saw our spiritual lives a little like that, too?

Faith often thrives amid a little chaos. Jesus' ministry was full of surprises, disruptions, and moments that shook social norms. He welcomed the unexpected, celebrated joy in the margins, and challenged systems that kept people feeling small. Like March Madness, the spiritual journey is rarely predictable—but it is always alive—always brimming with possibilities.

So, this month let's consider ways to embrace a little "madness" in our faith journey:

- Notice the unexpected. Look for moments of grace, laughter, or surprise, even in ordinary days.
- Step into gentle disruption. Speak a kind word where tension exists. Intentionally, listen deeply to others or try a new spiritual practice.
- Celebrate victories, however small. A generous gesture, or simply getting through the day with love counts.

March is a good time to remember that God is present not only in calm, orderly moments but also in the whirlwind—the "madness" of our lives. Maybe it is the perfect time to respond to the Spirit's invitation to notice, to participate, and even to delight in the chaos that often carries seeds of transformation.

Grace & Peace,
Dr. Glenda Hollingshead

CHILDREN'S WORSHIP ACTIVITIES

We are excited to introduce new children's activity clipboards beginning March! These clipboards, available in the sanctuary, will include engaging activities and a snack for children during worship. As part of this update, individual activity boxes will no longer be provided. We look forward to continuing to welcome and support our youngest members in worship.



HOLY CONVERSATIONS

Our next book is *Paper Girl* by Beth Macy. We encourage you to read the entire book before we meet via Zoom on Wednesday, March 4 at 5:30 p.m. Come, join the conversation.

@fpcjeffcity.org

TIME CHANGE COMING UP...

MARCH 8, 2026



Men's Breakfast

Tuesday, March 10
at 8:00 a.m.

Perkins in Dandridge





FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
721 CHURCH STREET
JEFFERSON CITY, TN

CHURCH STREET CAFE

March 10th 4:30-6:00 p.m.



@fpcjeffc.org



different brews  *different views*
PUB THEOLOGY
— BEER, CONVERSATION & GOD —
all perspectives welcome

Saturday, March 14th at 1:00
p.m. at 1907 Brewing
Company. Let's gather
around tables to share
different brews and views.

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, March 19th at 2:00 p.m.
Church Parlor
(Be sure to bring your own beverage.)

Packing Bags for CSC

Those who are available and willing, please plan to stay about half an hour after the service Sunday, March 22, to pack grocery bags for Church Street Café in the Fellowship Hall.

Thank you!



Adulting Together Ministry You're Invited!

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

Our next Adulting Together Ministry event is on Sunday, March 22nd after worship. Parents are invited to leave their children at church, where they will be fed and entertained, while the adults head to Knoxville to Maple Hall for lunch and bowling. Whether you're single, married, with kids, or without - come connect, relax, and grow in community.

Spring Work Day

Saturday, March 28
9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

WE ARE ASKING CHURCH FAMILY AND FRIENDS TO DONATE ONE HOUR TO ACCOMPLISH A VARIETY OF INSIDE AND OUTSIDE TASKS. MAKE PLANS TO JOIN THE FUN!



A Service of Prayer, Scripture, and Song for Holy Week



The beginning of Holy Week is Palm Sunday, March 29th. Again this year, during the worship service we will recognize Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday, and Good Friday. Guided by scripture and selected readings, we will recall important events of the last week of Jesus' earthly life. As part of worship, we will have Holy Communion, experience the Stations of the Cross, and prepare the sanctuary for the somber event of Christ's crucifixion.

ANNUAL EASTER EGG HUNT & LUNCH SUNDAY, MARCH 29TH

AFTER WORSHIP WE WILL ENJOY GRILLED HAMBURGERS AND HOTDOGS WITH ALL THE FIXINGS PLUS THE CHILDREN'S EASTER EGG HUNT ON THE LAWN.

(PLEASE BRING A DESSERT TO SHARE.)

MT. HOREB ELEMENTARY SCHOOL READING NIGHT

As part of FPC's ongoing partnership with Mt. Horeb, volunteers are invited to work the Book Giveaway Table at this year's event scheduled for March 31st from 5-6:30 p.m. Contact Samuel Hollingshead if you would like to help out.



COFFEE & CONVERSATION

Looking for a casual, offsite Sunday School option for adults? If so, you are invited to Coffee & Conversation at 60 Beans Coffee at 120 E Broadway Blvd in Jefferson City. Those with children may drop them off at the church at 9:30 a.m. Afterward, the adults will gather for coffee and fellowship. Each week, we'll also explore 2-3 questions or prompts inspired by the upcoming sermon-perfect for reflection, connection, and a fresh perspective on faith in everyday life. Grab a cup, join the chat, leave inspired!

2026 COMMITTEE ROSTERS

Class of 2026	Class of 2027	Class of 2028
*Peggy Hypes	Matt Gowan	Whitney Drees
Esther O'Hare	Samuel Hollingshead	*Linda Noonkesser
*Martha Sanders	*Janice Wintermute	

Clerk of Session: Beth Folsom

*indicates serving a 2nd term on Session

Generally, on the 3rd Sunday of the month immediately after worship or at a time that best meets the needs of the committee members, session and committee meetings alternate, with session occurring on even months of the year and committee meetings occurring on odd months. Ruling Elders serve as liaisons and/or committee chairs as needed. If you are not already serving on a committee, but wish to get involved, please reach out to one of the committee members.

WORSHIP, MEDIA & THE ARTS	PROPERTY
Kay Gowan, Chair	TBD, Chair
Connie Harlan	Peggy Hypes, Elder Liaison
Janice Wintermute, Elder Liaison	Libby Gardner
Sue Swilley	Troy Evans
Samuel Hollingshead, Elder Liaison	Rich Harlan
Jeff Drees	David Noonkesser
Jennifer Gowan	Ted Folsom
MISSION, EVANGELISM & CREATION CARE	FINANCE
Carol Antoniewicz, Chair	Matt Gowan, Chair
Linda Noonkesser, Elder Liaison	Jim Deaton
Del Deaton	Ted Folsom
Linda Raines	<i>Heather Hill, ex-officio</i>
EDUCATION, FELLOWSHIP & CONGREGATIONAL CARE	PERSONNEL (meets as needed)
Esther O'Hare, Co-Chair	Class of 2026: Martha Sanders
Martha Sanders, Co-Chair	Class of 2027: Janice Wintermute
Whitney Drees, Co-Chair	Class of 2028: Linda Noonkesser
Steve Wintermute	Member-at-Large: Claud Gowan



HANDCHIME CHOIR

If you are interested in joining the Handchime choir, please contact Sam O'Hare at 865-440-9630 by Sunday, March 8.

Friendly Reminders

1. Please be sure to turn off lights/fan in the bathrooms and classrooms when you leave on Sundays.
2. On the Office level outside door, please DO NOT lock the lock circled in red.



THIS SUMMER, APPALACHIAN MINISTRIES OF THE SMOKIES (AMOS) WILL NOT BE OFFERING THEIR HOME REPAIR PROGRAM.

AS A RESULT, FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH WILL NOT PARTICIPATE IN AMOS WEEK IN 2026.

Missions

THANK YOU to everyone who not only supplied soup for Church Street Café for the January Mission focus, but also everyone who then helped take all that soup downstairs to the Fellowship Hall. We declare Team Chicken Noodle the winner - there was a LOT more of that than the vegetable beef! About 145 cans were donated. Thanks, everyone!

Thanks also to everyone who brought in toiletries and other items for the Neighborhood Center for the February Mission focus. One delivery has been made, and the bin will remain in the back hallway for your donations. It won't be the focus the rest of the year, but is there for donations when you feel so moved. There is, of course, an ongoing need in our community for items that cannot be purchased with food stamps/EBT cards.

The March mission focus is back to food for Church Street Café: small jars of peanut butter (no larger than 16 ounces, please - bigger ones are too heavy for the grocery bags!) and saltine crackers. Donations can be left in Fellowship Hall, or on the pew in the Amen corner. Thank you!

We have received confirmation from AMOS that their home repair program will not be happening this summer, but that they hope to have it again next year. If you were saving June 15-18 this summer to help feed the AMOS volunteers, you need not. If you wish to put it on your calendar for 2027, our dates will be June 14-17.

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.

Rhythms of Life Day Retreat



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

"Rhythms of Life" is a day retreat open to all, featuring reflections on rhythms of farming, healing, and history, guided Quiet Day meditations, and a closing drum circle. Explore the patterns that shape our lives and reconnect with what gives us grounding, meaning, and hope. More information available soon.

Nursery and lunch are provided. The cost of the event is \$20.

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

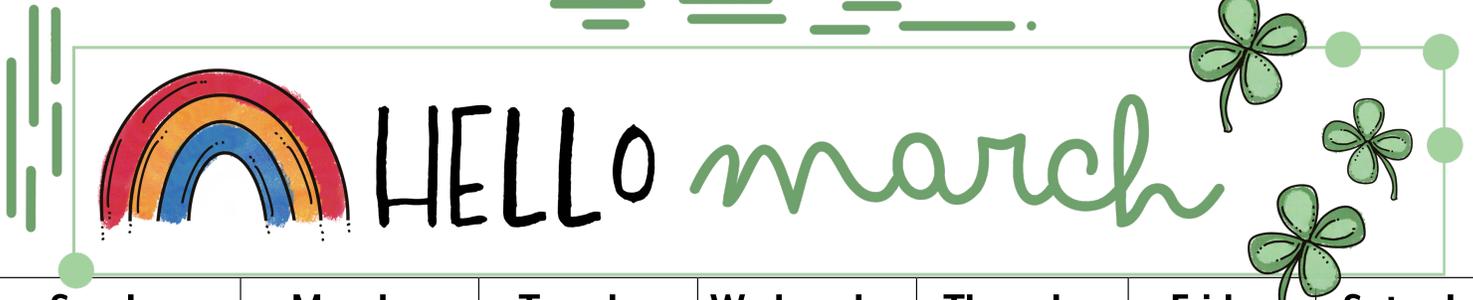
"Before each person are life and death, and whichever one chooses will be given."
-Sirach 15:17



"We are now beginning to reap what we have sown regarding environmental degradation. In our insatiable appetite for paper, plastic, gasoline, red meat, fish, food flown in from around the world, precious minerals, and irrigated green lawns, our society has been choosing diminishment and death for the natural world. God isn't cursing us with droughts, floods, melting glaciers, and global warming; they are the outcome of choices we have collectively made for decades now. Individual choices for conservation won't be enough now to reverse the consequences we have set into motion as a collective. This month, find a way to add your voice and efforts to a communal movement that chooses life over death in our environment. © The Pastoral Center / PastoralCenter.com. All rights reserved.

Thanks to everyone who has brought in glass jars and bottles to be taken to the Blount County Recycling Center rather than sending them to our landfill. Carol Antoniewicz will make several trips through the year; please speak to her when you have brought in glass for her to take.

Please note that we are still collecting newspapers for the CARE animal shelter, in the back hallway next to the bin for the Neighborhood Center. They are delivered when the bin fills up.



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 Communion Sunday School 9:30 a.m. Worship Service 10:45 a.m.	2	3	4 Holy Conversations Zoom 5:30 p.m.	5	6	7
8 Sunday School 9:30 a.m. Worship Service 10:45 a.m. Daylight Savings Time Begins	9	10 Men's Breakfast 8:00 a.m. Church Street Café 4:30 p.m. Matt Gowan	11	12 Samuel Hollingshead	13	14 Pub Theology 1:00 p.m.
15 Sunday School 9:30 a.m. Worship Service 10:45 a.m. Committee Meetings	16 Kinney & Glenda Hollingshead	17	18 Dr. Glenda out	19 Threads of Friendship 2:00 p.m. Arlene Peck	20	21
22 Sunday School 9:30 a.m. Worship Service 10:45 a.m. Dr. Glenda out Packing CSC Bags Adulting Together	23 Newsletter Deadline	24 Doug & Julie Moody	25 Heather out	26	27	28 Spring Workday 9:00-12:00p.m.
29 Communion Sunday School 9:30 a.m. HOLY WEEK Worship Service 10:45 a.m. Easter Egg Hunt and Lunch	30 Martha Sanders Tom Sites	31 Mt. Horeb Reading Night 5:00 p.m.				



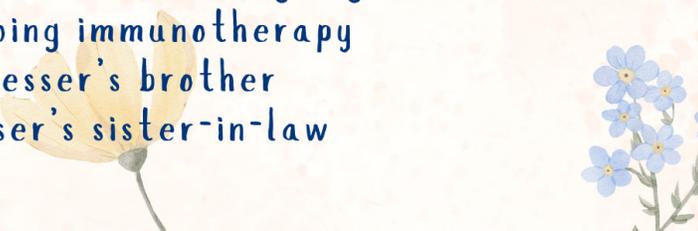
Prayer Concerns

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:

Deana Russell, friend of Janice Wintermute, who is recovering from surgery
Angelia Ramsey, wife of Jim Deaton's friend, 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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