

# FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Jefferson City, Tennessee

*Organized in 1867 as The Presbyterian Church at Mossy Creek*

May 2026 Newsletter

As the days warm and the world opens again in bloom, I find myself drawn to the redbud and the dogwood, and to the birds whose singing seems to rise without effort from morning into evening. This is a season that invites us to slow our pace, to notice what might otherwise be missed, and perhaps even to linger with the quiet wisdom of poetry. With that in mind, I share with you William Wordsworth's "I Wandered Lonely as a Cloud." May it keep gentle company with you and remind you of the beauty that is unfolding all around you. And may you find yourself, in your own way, walking a little more lightly through this unfolding season.

Spring Blessings,  
Dr. Glenda Hollingshead



I wandered lonely as a cloud  
That floats on high o'er vales and hills,  
When all at once I saw a crowd,  
A host, of golden daffodils;  
Beside the lake, beneath the trees,  
Fluttering and dancing in the breeze.

Continuous as the stars that shine  
And twinkle on the milky way,  
They stretched in never-ending line  
Along the margin of a bay:  
Ten thousand saw I at a glance,  
Tossing their heads in sprightly dance.

The waves beside them danced; but they  
Out-did the sparkling waves in glee:  
A poet could not but be gay,  
In such a jocund company:  
I gazed—and gazed—but little thought  
What wealth the show to me had brought:

For oft, when on my couch I lie  
In vacant or in pensive mood,  
They flash upon that inward eye  
Which is the bliss of solitude;  
And then my heart with pleasure fills,  
And dances with the daffodils.



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

Saturday, May 9th at 1:00 p.m.  
at 1907 Brewing Company.  
Let's gather around tables to  
share different brews and  
views.

# Men's Breakfast

Tuesday, May 12th  
at 8:00 a.m.

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Perkins in Dandridge





FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
721 CHURCH STREET  
JEFFERSON CITY, TN

## CHURCH STREET CAFE

May 12th 4:00-5:30 p.m.



@fpcjeffc.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, May 21st at 2:00 p.m.  
Church Parlor  
(Be sure to bring your own beverage.)

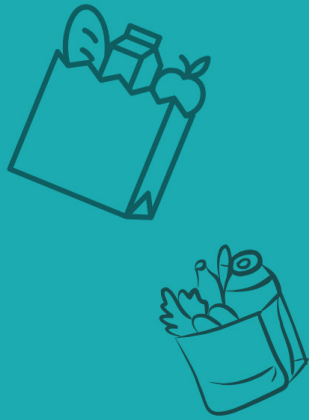
THIS IS WILL BE OUR LAST MEETING UNTIL  
SEPTEMBER



# Packing Bags for CSC



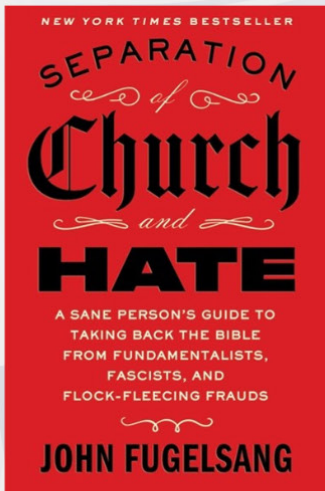
Those who are available and willing, please plan to stay about half an hour after the service Sunday, May 31st, to pack grocery bags for Church Street Café in the Fellowship Hall. Thank you!



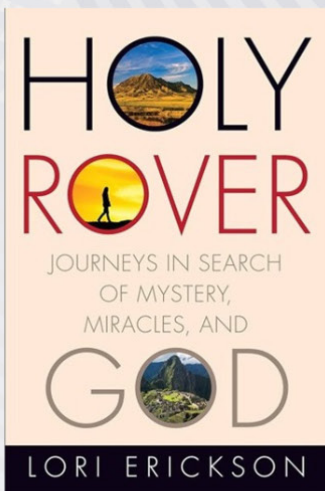
## *A Lessons & Hymns Service for the 250th Anniversary of the United States of America*

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.

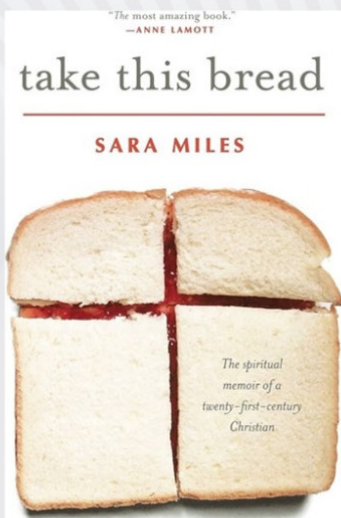
# Remaining Books for Holy Conversations in 2026



In *Separation of Church and Hate*, John Fugelsang blends humor, biblical knowledge, and cultural commentary to challenge the ways Christianity is sometimes used to justify exclusion or hostility. Drawing on Scripture and history, he argues that the teachings of Jesus point instead toward compassion, justice, and care for the marginalized. Fugelsang's tone is both sharp and engaging, inviting readers to think more deeply about the relationship between faith and public life. The result is a thought-provoking reflection on what it means to live out Christian values today. Mark your calendar for Wednesday, June 3 at 5:30 p.m., when we will gather on Zoom to discuss this book.



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.



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.

# SESSION HIGHLIGHTS

**APRIL 19, 2026**

Examined and welcomed Chelsea Hart and Linda Raines into active membership of FPC

Approved request for the baptism of Hugh J. Moser (son of Jarret and Carissa Moser) to be held on May 10

Granted approval to take part in the Corn & Bacon Festival on October 3rd, opening the doors of the church for guided tours. Care of the details will rest in the capable hands of Linda Noonkesser.

Received information that Threads of Friendship will take a summer break June through August

Dr. Hollingshead will be on study leave May 11-17 with Jeff Drees serving as pulpit supply.

Dr. Hollingshead will be on vacation June 15-21 with Whitney Drees serving as pulpit supply

# Summer Break

**For All Sunday School Classes including  
Coffee & Conversation**

**As the rhythm of summer begins to  
unfold, our Sunday School classes will  
take their seasonal break beginning  
May 31st.**

**We look forward to gathering again  
with fresh energy on August 30th for  
our Sunday School Kickoff Brunch—a  
morning to reconnect, share good food,  
and step into a new season of learning  
together.**



**Summertime**



# Missions

Our May Mission focus will be the Emergency Community Support Fund. This fund is used to help those in urgent need of assistance with utilities in our community. It is funded by your donations and as of the beginning of March had less than \$2,400 in it. Heather reported in last year's Annual Report that \$3,987 was spent during 2025 helping our neighbors: 54 families with electric bills, 10 families with water bills, and 5 more families with miscellaneous expenses. Please contribute, as you are able. All funds are sent directly to the utility, not to individuals or families. Donations should be sent to Heather in the church office, or placed in the offering plate, marked ECSEF. Thank you!

At our May meeting, your Mission Committee will be deciding the grants that will be awarded from the Mission endowment to the organizations we invited to apply this year. If anyone wishes to assist with this decision making, by reading the grant applications and making your recommendation, please let me know.

One of the organizations we invited to apply for a grant is HOLA Lakeway, which we supported last October with the local part of the Peace and Global Witness offering we collected that month. HOLA Lakeway is a nonprofit organization serving immigrant and multicultural families in rural East Tennessee, and provides programs that promote education, equity, and belonging, including youth tutoring and literacy support, adult ESL and workforce readiness, family engagement, and mental health initiatives like art therapy. The HOLA Lakeway Sankofa Center, opened in 2021, has become a hub for learning and community connection.

They are having an open house and art exhibition to celebrate their 12<sup>th</sup> anniversary, on Tuesday, May 12, at 6pm, at the Sankofa Center. Admission is free. If you're interested, please come see the flyer they sent for the event; it is on the bulletin board in the back hallway.

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

"All the earth worships you; they sing praises to you, sing praises to your name."  
-Psalm 66:4

Sometimes being intentional about helping the environment can feel heavy and depressing, and most of the news seems bad, yet our faith calls us to continue to have hope and praise God. This month, make time to join creation in praising God. Go for a hike and breathe in the fresh scents of the forest; sit on a beach and glory in the expanse of water; sit under a tree, close your eyes and listen to the birds chirping above you. Do whatever it is that will help you join your spirit to that of creation. © The Pastoral Center / PastoralCenter.com. All rights reserved.

If you want to then pay it forward, commit to some small act to beautify your small corner of the world: pick up trash in your neighborhood, sweep a neighbor's walkway, or give a gift of seeds or plants to a lonely friend or family member.

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.

# *Congratulations!*

## JACQUELINE DELGADO

Jacqueline graduated from the Tennessee Institute of Cosmetology with a State Cosmetology License.

She is currently working as a Stylist at Salon 2550 in Morristown.





# NEW ADDRESS

HERB AND KRIS RIDYARD  
65 FIELDSORE DR.  
STORRS, CT 06268

## Calling All Singers

As we prepare for our celebration of the 250th anniversary of the USA on June 14, the choir is hoping to welcome new voices for this special program. Whether your voice is well-practiced or a little dusty from rest, you are warmly invited to join us-no long-term commitment, only a few weeks of shared song. We will gather for brief rehearsals on Sundays before worship in the Parlor at 10:20 a.m. Please reach out to Dr. Glenda if you are interested.

## PENTECOST SUNDAY

On Sunday, May 24 we will celebrate Pentecost-the birthday of the church! Plan on wearing something red, orange, or yellow. We also ask everyone to bring finger food to share for a fellowship time following worship. Please watch your email; a SignupGenius will be sent out soon.



## FRIENDLY REMINDERS!

1. On Sundays after worship, please be sure to place your bulletins in one of the recycle baskets in either the Narthex or the back hall.
2. Place children activity boards/boxes back in the front pew. Thank you!



JUNE/JULY NEWSLETTER WILL  
BE EMAILED THE FIRST WEEK  
OF JUNE.

DEADLINE IS MAY 27.



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 Kinney Hollingshead	2 Hazel Evans
3 <b>Communion</b> Sunday School 9:30 a.m. Worship Service 10:45 a.m.  Claud & Kay Gowan	4	5	6 Office Closed	7 Rich Harlan	8	9 Pub Theology 1:00 p.m.
10 Sunday School 9:30 a.m. Worship Service 10:45 a.m. Mother's Day	11	12 Men's Breakfast 8:00 a.m.  Church Street Café 4:00 p.m.	13	14	15	16
17 Sunday School 9:30 a.m. Worship Service 10:45 a.m. Committee Meetings Connor Hypes	18	19 Connie Harlan	20	21 Threads of Friendship 2:00 p.m.	22 Jama Seahorn	23
24 Sunday School 9:30 a.m. Worship Service 10:45 a.m.	25 <b>OFFICE CLOSED</b>  <b>MEMORIAL DAY</b>	26	27 Newsletter Deadline  Jack O'Hare	28	29	30
31 Sunday School 9:30 a.m. Worship Service 10:45 a.m. Packing CSC Bags						



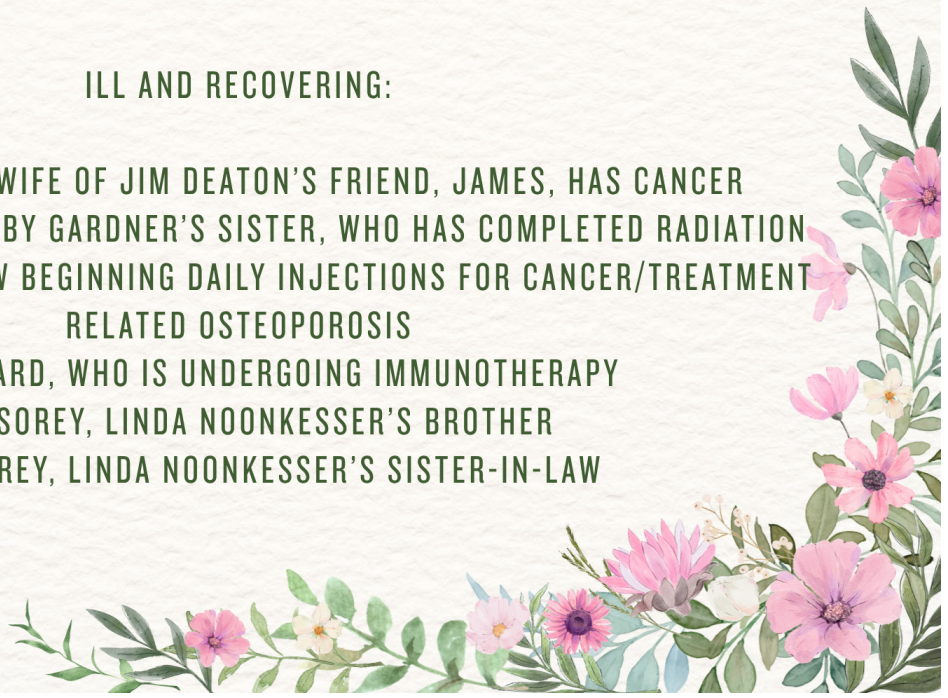
# Prayer Concerns

## 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:

ANGELIA RAMSEY, WIFE OF JIM DEATON'S FRIEND, JAMES, HAS CANCER  
MARJORIE HELTON, LIBBY GARDNER'S SISTER, WHO HAS COMPLETED RADIATION  
TREATMENT AND IS NOW BEGINNING DAILY 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.*

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