

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Jefferson City, Tennessee

Organized in 1867 as The Presbyterian Church at Mossy Creek

November 2026 Newsletter

This Advent, Enter God's Big Story

Advent is not merely a countdown to Christmas. It is an invitation to enter the great, unfolding story of God's love. So, this year, First Presbyterian Church will be using *The Advent Tree: Meeting Jesus in God's Big Story* by Kara Eidson for our Advent devotional. Inspired by the centuries-old Jesse Tree tradition, the writer invites us to explore the biblical stories, people, promises, and prophecies that lead us to Jesus. Through forty Scripture readings (from the 1st Sunday of Advent through Epiphany), we will journey through the ancient stories of God's people to the birth of Christ and beyond, discovering how Jesus' story is woven into the larger story of God—and how our own stories belong there, too.

We often begin the Christmas story with Mary and Joseph traveling to Bethlehem, angels singing, and shepherds hurrying to the manger. But Jesus' story began long before that holy night. It is rooted in the history of a people who wrestled with God, experienced hardship and hope, received promises, and learned again and again what it means to live as God's people. Their story helps us understand who Jesus is and the kind of world he came to proclaim. And the story is not finished. We are part of it!

The Advent Tree can be used in many ways—on your own, with a partner, or with children and grandchildren. For individual use, set aside a few quiet minutes each day to read the Scripture and devotional reflection. Enjoy it with your morning coffee or tea; or end the day with a moment of prayer. Let the reading settle into your heart, then reflect on the questions and prompts provided at the end of each reading.

If you are working through *The Advent Tree* as a couple or family, you might choose a regular time to gather—even if it's just ten minutes before dinner or bedtime. Read the day's Scripture and devotional aloud, then reflect together on the questions or prompts provided. Children may especially enjoy drawing the "symbol of the day." The interactive and creative activities in the "Family Devotions" section at the back of the book offer a wonderful way to engage younger family members and to help them discover their own place in God's big story.

In the midst of shopping, decorating, cooking, traveling, and celebrating, Advent invites us into a different kind of preparation: listening to the stories that shape our faith, noticing God's presence in our own lives, and remembering that the hope born in Bethlehem continues to take root in the world. May *The Advent Tree* help us slow down, deepen our appreciation for the story that leads us to Jesus, and remind us that we are not simply remembering something God did long ago. We are part of God's continuing story of love, mercy, justice, and new life.

The church is providing one devotional per household. If you would like to help offset the cost, a contribution of $17 is welcome and appreciated.

Happy Advent,

Dr. Glenda Hollingshead



ADVENT DEVOTIONALS

Our Advent Devotional for this year is, The Advent Tree. It will be available beginning Sunday, November 15.



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

All Saints Day Celebration

Sunday, November 1 at 10:45 a.m.



HANDBELL PRACTICE

Practice begins on Sunday, November 1 following worship.

MEN'S BREAKFAST

Tuesday, November 10th
at 9:00 a.m.

Owens Restaurant
in Dandridge



CHURCH STREET CAFE

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
721 CHURCH STREET
JEFFERSON CITY, TN

November 10th 4:00-5:30 p.m.



@fpcjeffcity.org



different brews *different views*

PUB THEOLOGY

BEER, CONVERSATION & GOD

all perspectives welcome

Saturday, November 14th at 1:00 p.m. at 1907 Brewing Company.

Let's gather around tables to share different brews and views.

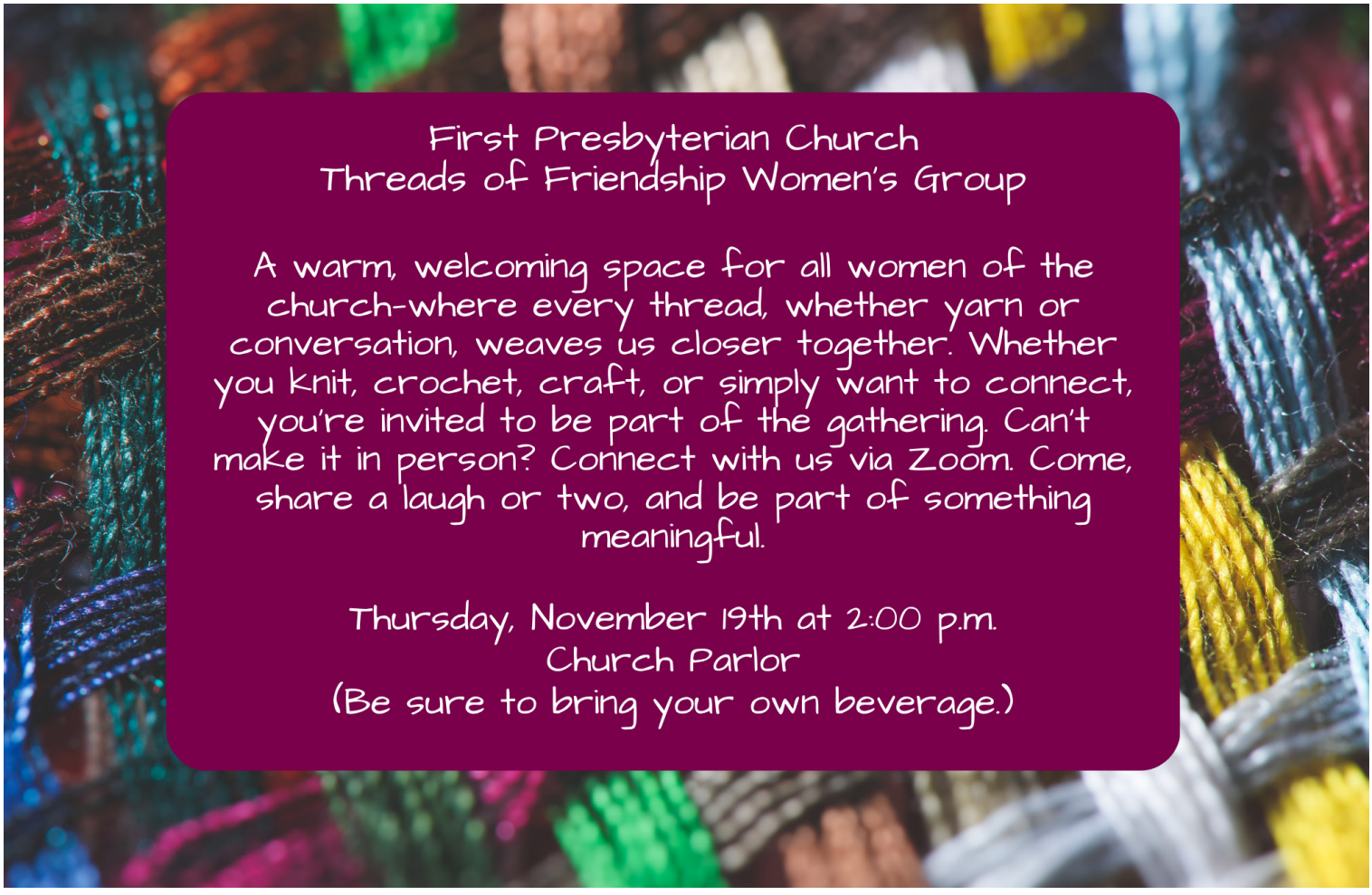


ORDER YOUR POINSETTIAS

POINSETTIA ORDER FORMS WILL BE AVAILABLE IN THE NARTHEX AND BACK HALLWAY.

THE COST IS $13 PER POINSETTIA. PLEASE SUBMIT ORDER AND PAYMENT BY NOVEMBER 15.

FORMS CAN BE PLACED IN THE OFFERING PLATE OR IN HEATHER HILL'S BOX.



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

FALL WORK DAY

Saturday, November 21
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!



CHRIST THE KING SUNDAY
November 22

Before Advent begins, the Christian year comes to a close with a day of joyful thanksgiving-Christ the King Sunday. During worship, we will celebrate the lordship of Christ by looking back across the seasons of the church year: remembering his birth and ministry, his death and resurrection, and his ascension into glory. We'll also look forward in hope to the promised day when Christ will reign over all creation in peace and love. Like a Christmas Eve Lessons & Carols service, The Story will unfold through Scripture and song. Come, lift your voice and your heart in praise to the One who reigns now and forever!

(Art by Irene Thomas, Catholic World Art; used by permission)

The church office will be closed on November 25 and 26 for Thanksgiving.



SESSION HIGHLIGHTS
OCTOBER 25, 2026

Accepted into membership Josh Hart and Ken & Diana Armstrong

Approved the Sacrament of Baptism for Josh Hart and Diana Armstrong—November 8th

Approved a Congregational Meeting on November 15 for the purpose of electing the 2029 Class of Ruling Elders: Troy Evans and Esther O'Hare

Set Session & Staff Christmas Dinner for Wednesday, December 9th at 6 p.m. to be catered by Taste of Dandridge

Elected Beth Folsom as the 2027 Clerk of Session

Approved the Annual Congregational Meeting to be held January 31, 2027 after worship along with a Chili Luncheon



Reiki as a Sacred Pause

- A gentle spiritual practice for rest and renewal
- A time to pause, breathe, and simply receive

Reiki with Dr. Glenda Hollingshead

Sessions last approximately 45 minutes long and are offered by appointment on Tuesdays in the pastor's office. Sessions are free of charge for our First Presbyterian Church Family. Others are invited to make a donation of $45 to FPC's Retreat & Spiritual Practices Fund.

Contact Information * revdrglenda@gmail.com * 865-548-5659

1st Sunday of Advent

HANGING OF THE GREEN

November 29th
at 10:45 a.m.

Packing Bags for CSC

Those who are available and willing, please plan to stay about half an hour after the service Sunday, November 29th, to pack grocery bags for Church Street Café in the Fellowship Hall. Thank you!



Sunday School

TWO WAYS TO CONNECT

SUNDAYS AT 9:30 A.M.



GENERATIONS OF FAITH

For children, youth & adults

Fellowship Hall (and Zoom)

Class begins with a light breakfast, prayer, and an introduction to the lesson. Then children and youth enjoy age-appropriate activities while adults continue the conversation.



COFFEE & CONVERSATION

An offsite option for adults

60 Beans Coffee

120 E. Broadway Blvd., Jefferson City

Good coffee, fellowship, and thoughtful conversation about faith and the upcoming sermon. Parents can drop children off in the Fellowship Hall or Nursery at 9:30 a.m. before joining the fun.

Something for every generation

CHOOSE THE SUNDAY SCHOOL SETTING THAT'S RIGHT FOR YOU!

HOLY CONVERSATIONS

Our next book is *Take This Bread* by Sara Miles. Join us on Zoom December 1st at 5:30 p.m. to discuss the book. All are welcome!



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



"Keep awake therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour." —Matthew 25:13

[*An Inconvenient Truth* is a 2006 American documentary film about former U.S. Vice President Al Gore's campaign to educate the public about global warming.] As the title suggests, it's an inconvenient truth how many signs point to a dramatically changing climate. It would be much easier to stay asleep to the scientific studies because the predictions are frightening. But Jesus continually called his followers to stay awake to the signs of the times and to keep working to usher in the Kingdom of Heaven on earth. This month, keep alert for how God is inviting you to be a partner in renewing the world. © The Pastoral Center / PastoralCenter.com. All rights reserved.

Please continue to collect your clean glass bottles and jars, no lids, and let Carol know when you bring some to church for her to collect to take to the Blount County recycling center. Thanks!

And you can 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 continue to bring donations for the Necessities Pantry at the Neighborhood Center as well. There is always need among our neighbors for personal care and cleaning items.

Missions

Thanks to everyone who contributed to the Emergency Community Support Fund during October, and any other time throughout the year.

The November Mission focus is donations to Christmas in Jefferson County. As we have done for the past few years, they are asking for monetary donations rather than the boxes of mac & cheese we used to provide. This program is run by the Jefferson County Chamber of Commerce for residents of the County that need food assistance at the holidays, and also provides toys for the children in those families. Please make your donations via the offering plate on Sundays, marked for Christmas in Jefferson County, to Heather in the office, or via our online giving portal. Thank you!

Prayers for our Mission partners: We always ask, as part of the Mission grant process, how we may pray for them. Here is the request from Rural Medical Services: 'We would appreciate prayer in all areas. First and foremost, prayer for the leadership of the company to always seek God's guidance in every decision that is made for the good of our patients and staff. Our purpose is to reach out to those in need who may not think they can afford to have the quality care that someone with insurance can. To show love and compassion while providing education on the importance of overall well-being includes mental and oral health.'

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.

UPCOMING

DECEMBER EVENTS

1 DECEMBER 13

A Sunday of Christmas Cheer

Join us at 10:45 a.m. for our Annual Christmas Program, followed by a festive reception with Sweet and Savory Christmas Treats and a Hot Cocoa Bar.

2 DECEMBER 20

4th Sunday of Advent with Special Music

Harpist Kari Novilla will be with us during worship.

3 DECEMBER 21

Blue Christmas: A Longest Night Service

At 5:30 p.m. A sacred pause for anyone who needs space for quiet, comfort, and hope amid the joys and challenges of the Christmas season.

4 DECEMBER 24

Christmas Eve Service

Christmas Eve Candlelight & Communion Worship Service at 6:30 p.m. For a touch of fun, wear your Christmas pajamas or other festive attire and pause for a photo by the tree!

NOVEMBER

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 Sunday School 9:30 a.m. Worship Service 10:45 a.m. All Saints' Day	**2**	**3**	**4**	**5**	**6**	**7**
8 Sunday School 9:30 a.m. Worship Service 10:45 a.m.	**9**	**10** Men's Breakfast 8:00 a.m. Church Street Café 4:00 p.m. Addie Foster	**11**	**12**	**13** Kerry Antoniewicz	**14** Pub Theology 1:00 p.m. Presbytery Meeting
15 Sunday School 9:30 a.m. Worship Service 10:45 a.m. Committee Meetings	**16**	**17**	**18** Shane Hollingshead	**19** Threads of Friendship 2:00 p.m.	**20**	**21** Fall Workday 9:00 a.m.- 12:00p.m.
22 Sunday School 9:30 a.m. Worship Service 10:45 a.m. Chirst The King Newsletter Deadline	**23** Tom Kirkpatrick	**24**	**25** OFFICE CLOSED	**26**  OFFICE CLOSED Happy Thanksgiving	**27**	**28**
29 Sunday School 9:30 a.m. Worship Service 10:45 a.m. Hanging of the Green Jim and Del Deaton	**30**					

Prayer Concerns

SPECIAL CONCERNS:

Arlene Peck Bill Vest Doug Moses Jama Seahorn

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, and other war-torn nations

ILL AND RECOVERING:

Billy Morgan, father of Jamie Turley (Kathy Juroff's friend), who has been hospitalized

Jeffrey Cox, Ivy Cox's grandfather, who is awaiting a double lung transplant

Kent Clouser, who is having serious health issues

Wayne Hershberger, Jessica Evans' uncle, who has aggressive lung cancer

Terri, Ted Folsom's cousin, who is undergoing chemotherapy

Wayne King, who is having health issues

Angelia Ramsey, wife of Jim Deaton's friend, James, who has cancer

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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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.

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