

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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

A Year of Prayer for the Harvest

October 2023 Newsletter

The title for the sermon on Founder's Day is "A New Heritage." Together, on October 8th, we will reflect on where we have been, ponder where we are, and imagine where we are going. Surely, if we want to be a thriving church that continues our rich heritage of making a difference for Christ in the world, we will need to grow, adapt, even change.

The universal church, and our church at 721 Church Street, is at a critical juncture. Of course, there are "experts" who claim they have all the answers for how to "grow the church." But I have yet to see the Spirit show any interest in "cookie-cutter" churches. Instead, the Spirit uniquely equips each church to be a witness for Christ in whatever soil they are planted – in whatever way the Spirit chooses. Our job is to discern the path ahead and to follow the Spirit's lead.

When I dream of our future together, many questions come to mind. I want to know in what direction the Spirit is leading. Where do we put our energies first? Is God's Spirit calling us to do something new? Is the Spirit nudging us to bless some things and let them go? Is God inviting us to wait and listen? Yes, I have many questions. And if, by chance, you think that as your spiritual leader, I have all the answers, you will be sorely disappointed. I do not. But I do know where to go for answers and I do know how to get there – to God – through prayer.

In Luke 10:2, Jesus instructs his disciples: "The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; therefore ask the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest." *The Message* translates his words this way: "What a huge harvest! And how few the harvest hands. So on your knees; ask the God of the Harvest to send harvest hands."

So, as a church, over the next year, I encourage you to join me every day at 10:02 a.m. (taken from Luke 10:2) to pray for the harvest. Although you may offer your own petitions, here are a few suggestions:

- Pray for our church – that the Lord will send more laborers into our midst to prepare a great harvest in Jefferson City and beyond.
- Pray that the Lord of the harvest will provide all the resources that our laborers need to accomplish the harvest work to which we are called.
- Pray for God's will regarding your participation in the work and witness of FPC.
- Pray for your pastor, session, and church leaders – that we may be courageous and faithful.

To help us remember to pray, during worship wristbands will be distributed that include the following: "10:02 Pray for the Harvest." (If wearing a wristband isn't enough, consider setting an alarm on your smartphone or other device.) Then, as friends and family of FPC, let us lift our hearts toward heaven to pray to the Lord of the harvest.

It is my firm belief that our most important work as Christians is to worship God. Our second most important work is to pray. And finally, we are to listen. Worship. Pray. Listen. Over the next year, let us do this important work together. At every opportunity, let us worship together. Let us pray together. And let us listen together so that we may discern our next steps toward a new heritage – one that will make a difference for Christ and bless generations to come.

Grace & Peace,
Dr. Glenda Hollingshead





World Communion Sunday, celebrated on the first Sunday of October, began in the Presbyterian Church in 1936. After a few years, the idea spread beyond the Presbyterian Church and has become one of the "special" Sunday services of the year. On this day, as we share Communion together, we rejoice in our oneness in Christ, and we remember that we are God's children called to serve a broken world—a world ever more in need of God's message of grace, peace, and love. We hope to see you October 1st for World Communion Sunday.



Blessing of the Animals
Make plans to bring your pets to our first "Blessing of the Animals" October 1st at 5:30 p.m. If you have a pet that you are unable to bring, for whatever reason, simply bring a photograph (either a physical

photo or a photo on your phone). Since this is a wonderful opportunity for outreach, tell your animal loving friends and neighbors about the service, and be sure to "share" our social media posts. (You may wish to bring a lawn chair, too.)



We are collecting a love offering for Nicholas Moose. His last Sunday with us is October 15. Please give all donations to Ted Folsom or a member of Session. If you would like to make a check out to the

church, please note "love offering" in the memo line. We will collect donations through Sunday, October 7th.



Campaign for Fellowship Hall Carts

In case you haven't heard, we are in the midst of a campaign to raise money to purchase carts for the Fellowship Hall. The cost of the carts is \$2,273.22 and thanks to your generosity, we have already received \$1,760. Thank you!



Pub Theology

Pub Theology is growing by leaps and bounds. Last month, around 24 people attended. How incredible is that? 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

October 14th at 1:00 p.m. at 1907 Brewing Company. Come along and bring a friend!



On Founder's Day, October 8th, we will celebrate the Kirkin' of the Tartans to honor the Scottish heritage of the Presbyterian Church, and to honor our church and personal heritage. Many plaid/tartan patterns of our church family will be displayed, and you are encouraged to wear your "colors" – tartan cloths, scarves, ties, or even kilts. Additionally, you may choose to bring quilts or family heirlooms made of fabric to be blessed during the worship service. After worship, for the Potluck Luncheon, consider bringing a dish or two made from favorite family recipes. (Cards will be available so that you can share the significance of your dish/dishes.)



The Men's Breakfast is Tuesday, October 10th at 8:00 a.m., at Perkins Restaurant in Dandridge.



We need volunteers to assist with the next delivery of food from Midwest Food Bank on Wednesday, October 11th at 11:30 a.m.



Friday, October 20, at 7:00 p.m., "Sit 'n Knit" will gather at the home of Helen Jolley (731 W. Rhoten St., Jefferson City). A zoom link will be emailed on the day of, for those who need it.



PIZZA, PAINT & PUMPKINS!

All the young and young at heart are invited! Join us Sunday, October 22nd, after worship for pizza and a pumpkin painting party outside on the west lawn! Pizza, art supplies, and pumpkins will be provided. Please let Whitney Drees (423-748-2811) know by Thursday, October 20th if you'll be able to attend!



**THE UPPER ROOM & LITTLE PRESBYTERIANS WILL NOT MEET
OCTOBER 22 & 29**



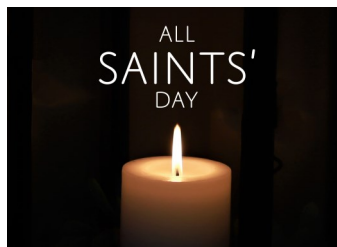
HEATHER OUT—OFFICE CLOSED

Heather will be on vacation from Sunday, October 8-Friday, October 13. During that time the Church Office will be **CLOSED**. *If you have information that needs to go into the bulletins, please note bulletins for both October 8 and 15 will be printed on Thursday, October 5th.*



1st Time Visitor's Bags

Did you know that when someone visits our church for the first time, they are given home-baked goods like cookies or bread? Now in addition to these tasty treats, 1st time visitors will receive a small bag filled with a brochure and other information about our church. The bags are



During our November 5th Worship Service we will celebrate All Saints' Day. It is a day when Christ's people remember those who have gone before them in faith and who now

dwell with God in heaven. It is a day to remember people who, while they walked the earth, strived to be faithful, and in their faithfulness, touched our lives in a special way.

Take a moment to consider those saints who shared your life, and who have died and entered the Church Triumphant in the **last year**. Please send those names to the church office by Monday, October 30th, if you wish for them to be recognized during the worship service.

TEAM PEANUT BUTTER VS. TEAM CANNED CHICKEN



October 15th through November 5th, please bring your contributions of peanut butter or canned chicken to support Church Street Cafe. The winning team will determine our dessert on November 12th. A win for Team Peanut Butter will get us brownies for dessert; a win for Team Canned Chicken will get us cupcakes by Whitney. Either way, everyone wins since our neighbors in need get additional protein options and we get a fun dessert fellowship after church. Go church!





As announced in the Minute for Mission on September 17, the next special offering of the PCUSA is the Peace and Global Witness Offering, to be collected on October 1, World Communion Sunday. We retain 25% of this offering for a local organization that works in this area. We have decided to make this donation to the Jefferson County Isaiah 117 House, which cares for children in the process of being placed in foster care. It is now officially open, as of March 5, 2023. For more info, see <https://linktr.ee/isaiah117housejeffcotn>.

A donation of \$300 would sponsor one child with new clothes, toys, shoes, and duffle bag to keep it all in, plus a meal or two.

Prayer request: We have been partnering with Bruce and Deb Robinson, missionaries with ODRINO in Haiti, for a number of years. They say: 'Haiti is a very difficult place right now with insecurity, the worst drought in decades, and high prices for food, fuel, and everything. Please pray that we can continue to make progress on drinking water and irrigation projects that are so desperately needed by the people right now. And praise God with us for all that has been done recently.'

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.



We now have Sunday school classes for all ages, and each class is using the PC(U.S.A.) curriculum, "Follow Me." The Parlor Class is taught by several of the class members who volunteer on a rotating schedule. Offered in person and on Zoom, a Reflection Guide is provided for each unit as a hardcopy and via email. The class begins at 9:30 a.m. in the Parlor.

The Upper Room Class is taught by the pastor, Dr. Glenda Hollingshead, with an emphasis on the video and audio options of the "Follow Me" curriculum. The class begins at 9:45 a.m. and meets on the 3rd floor, in the middle classroom.

The Youth Class, for middle and high school, is taught by Kay Gowan. Videos and music are part of the lesson – usually accessed by the student's on their phones. Off-site mission activities are sometimes incorporated into the day's lesson. The class begins at 9:45 a.m. in the Library.

Little Presbyterians is taught by Tiffany Wymer for Pre-K through 5th grade children. The lesson offers a variety of ways to explore Scripture and to see God's work in the world and in their lives, through games, art, music, and reading. The class starts at 9:45 a.m. on the 3rd floor in the classroom at the end of the hallway.

*Save
the
Date*

FPC FAMILY RETREAT JANUARY 26-28, 2024

Be sure to mark your calendars for our FPC Family Retreat at Holston Presbytery Camp and Retreat Center in Banner Elk, NC, January 26-28, 2024. More details to come!



FALL BACK

Don't forget to set your clocks back one hour the night before and then join us on Sunday, November 5th.



REDUCE



REUSE



RECYCLE

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

On Wednesday, October 11, 10am – noon, the shredding truck will be here, on our parking lot. If you can't bring your items that need professional shredding that day, we'll have a place where you can bring them beforehand, and we'll make sure they get shredded. Please contact Carol Antoniewicz (865-438-7524) for help with that.

We hope to have an electronics recycling company here at that time as well, so please be gathering up any of those items you'd like to have responsibly recycled. We have used Scott Recycling (<https://scottrecycling.com/>) in the past and hope to, again.

And, please be saving your clean (at least rinsed!) glass jars and bottles (no lids). We'll be collecting those as well on October 11, and hauling them to the Blount County recycling center in Maryville, where they have a great big machine that grinds such glass; they put the resulting product into their asphalt and an even finer grind into their road paint, which makes it shiny. They are willing to take glass from Jefferson County, if we can deliver it there. Please join us in NOT putting glass jars and bottles into the Jeff County landfill!



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

HOSTING

**HOLSTON PRESBYTERY
MEETING**

TUESDAY NOVEMBER 7TH AT 10 A.M.

Mark your calendar for the upcoming Presbytery meeting in November to be hosted by our church. Since serving in this capacity comes with a lot of responsibility, there will be numerous tasks to accomplish beforehand like tidying up several classrooms in which small groups can meet. Then, on the day of the event, we will need parking attendants, greeters, ushers, elders to serve communion, and people to help set up and serve lunch, as well as to help clean up afterward. Please reach out to the pastor or a session member if you can help out in any way. In advance, thank you for your willingness to offer hospitality to our brothers and sisters in Holston Presbytery.



PARTNERING WITH MT. HOREB ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Thursday, November 9th from 5 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.

This summer we enjoyed our first 1-Day VBS for All Ages using materials provided by Mt. Horeb Elementary School – materials they used for a reading night focused on the life of the honeybee. After the success of our VBS, the Education, Fellowship & Congregational Care Committee agreed that we would partner with MHES on their next reading night so that we might use their materials for our next VBS, which we hope to host in June 2024. So, here is our opportunity! MHES is hosting a reading night on

Thursday, November 9 from 5:00 pm-6:30 pm. The book walk is all about monarch butterflies: their migration, how scientists discovered where monarchs go in the winter, and what we can do to help the endangered monarchs. MHES is thrilled to partner with FPC to run activity tables throughout the book walk. Volunteers will serve alongside faculty to create crafts, study migration, and learn about ways to save the monarchs. If you would like to help us partner with MHES (and get a preview of the theme for our next VBS), please contact Dr. Glenda.



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 Communion Sunday School 9:30 a.m. Worship Service 10:45 a.m. Blessings of the Animals 5:30 p.m.	2	3 Jackson Drees Ted & Beth Folsom	4 Choir Practice 6:30 p.m.	5	6	7
8 Sunday School 9:30 a.m. Worship Service 10:45 a.m. Founder's Day Kirkin' of the Tartans Luncheon 12:00 P.M.	9 Troy & Jessica Evans	10 Men's Breakfast 8:00 a.m. Church Street Café 4:00 p.m. Kent Clouser	11 CSC Delivery 11:30 a.m. Choir Practice 6:30 p.m. Heather Out/Office Closed	12	13	14 Pub Theology 1:00 p.m.
15 Sunday School 9:30 a.m. Worship Service 10:45 a.m. Zoom Session Meeting 7:00 p.m.	16 Dr. Glenda out	17 Whitney Drees Carol Antoniewicz	18	19	20 Sit 'n Knit 7:00 p.m. Host Helen Jolley Abby Reagan	21 David Noonkesser
22 Sunday School 9:30 a.m. Worship Service 10:45 a.m. Pizza, Paint, & Pumpkins 12:00 p.m.	23 Newsletter Deadline	24 Church Street Café 4:00 p.m. Jessica Evans	25 Dr. Glenda out	26	27	28
29 Sunday School 9:30 a.m. Worship Service 10:45 a.m. —Dr. Glenda out—	30	31 Kylie Drees				

PRAYER CONCERNS

SPECIAL CONCERNS:

Neal Beck Steve and Arlene Peck Bill and JoAnne Vest Doug and Cindy Moses
Members of the military & their families, especially those overseas.

ILL AND RECOVERING:

JoAnne Vest
Esther O'Hare
Ina Hoxha and her mother, Hafsa Hoxha
David Skeen
Frank McGhee, Beth Folsom's brother
Jane Sorey, Linda Noonkesser's sister-in-law



IN RESIDENTIAL FACILITIES:

LIFECARE MORRISTOWN: Elsie Sorey (# 208) MORNING POINTE: Denny Pryor
SIGNATURE LIFESTYLES HEALTHCARE: Paulette Bozeman

MONTHLY INCOME SEPTEMBER TOTAL

\$9,440.00

(\$16,141 is needed monthly to meet budget)

YTD ACTUAL INCOME YEAR-TO-DATE (YTD) INCOME/EXPENSES

	ACTUAL	PRORATED	YTD BUDGET
INCOME	\$148,936.56	\$132,069.56*	\$146,145.00
EXPENSES	\$160,963.65		\$162,943.25

ACTUAL INCOME OVER EXPENSES: (\$12,027.09)

YTD PRORATED INCOME OVER EXPENSES: (\$28,894.09)

Some members pay their entire yearly pledges in January. This number has been adjusted to reflect what actual giving through September would be, if completed yearly pledges, were divided out monthly.

*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.

