



**PRAISING GOD
SERVING OTHERS
GROWING IN FAITH**

Good News Banner

February 2024

Farragut Presbyterian Church

209 Jamestowne Blvd.

Knoxville, TN 37934

865-966-9547

office@fpctn.org

www.fpctn.org

Office Hours

Monday - Thursday 9-3

Friday 9-1

Worship

9:00 am

Casual Service

Sanctuary

11:00 am

Traditional Service

Sanctuary

<https://tingurl.com/fpclivestream>

We are a diverse and welcoming community of believers, called by God to be disciples of Jesus Christ and empowered by the Holy Spirit to acknowledge God's gracious presence in the world. Our faithful response in praising God encompasses compassionate service to all, nurturing one another to grow in faith together and sending out disciples to share the Good News.

Reverend Matt Nieman

A Message from our Pastor



Resourcefulness

The winter snowstorm put us all in a position of having to surrender a bit of our independence. With all the snow and ice, we couldn't travel and were confined to our homes. (Many heroically had to weather treacherous conditions to make it into work.)

While grateful for the ability to be safe and comfortable indoors during the storm, it did force us to be resourceful in some cases: How do we get to that appointment? How do we get our groceries? How do we clear our driveways?

It may have been convenient and even risky in some cases, but we got it done. Our resourcefulness led us to endure and push through a difficult situation.

Resourcefulness is the ability to find creative ways to solve problems. When faced with challenges, we look outside the box for solutions. We confront adverse circumstances with ingenuity and passion. And we see what others do not and know how to connect the dots to embrace new opportunities.

Where does this ability come from? Not surprisingly, it comes from the God who made us and created us just for these situations.

In Ephesians 2:10, the apostle Paul writes, "We are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do."

When stretched to the limit, God has instilled ways for us to cope and overcome the challenges in front of us. These are our good works—the resourcefulness needed to manage our lives and improve the lives of others.

Within the context of faith and our faith community, we have challenges, too, of course. They range from being as welcoming and inviting as we can be to enhancing the ways we can reach out to our community in service. Yet, because of how God has made us, we can be confident that we have the resourcefulness to meet these challenges.

The Session looks forward this year to enhancing the good and successful parts of our ministry well underway. And it also anticipates putting our collective talents and skills to work to meet and overcome the challenges before us. We look forward to joining forces with each of you in this journey in this new year, trusting that the will and the talent to succeed has been granted to us by God.

Outreach

BUILDING COMMUNITY THROUGH GIVING



Volunteers are needed to serve lunch to the hungry at Volunteer Ministry Center on Tuesday, February 20. If you can help in this meaningful ministry, contact February coordinator Gayle Williams, or sign up in the narthex.

**Do you enjoy cooking?
Do you have the time to share the
fruit of your efforts with others?**



If so, please consider volunteering to provide an occasional meal (or part of a meal) with somebody in need within our congregation. For someone coming home after surgery, for someone who is temporarily unable to cook for himself/herself and family due to injury or continued treatment, or for someone grieving the loss of someone dear, a home-cooked meal is a comforting gesture of care and concern our church family can provide.

**If you're able to contribute to this care-giving ministry,
please email Gayle Williams:
gayle.elizabeth.williams@gmail.com.**

A big thank you for the generosity of everyone who participated in the Christmas drive for Sunset Gap. You have made Christmas a little merrier for 40 children. Their sponsorship this year is for 220 children in Cocke Co.

Thank you to those who donated hats, mittens and scarves for the community. These will be available to anyone who needs them through February.

Thank you also to those who donated food for the food pantry. They served 593 families in November, even though they took Thanksgiving week off.

Thank you, Debbie

**When the song of the angels is stilled,
When the star in the sky is gone,
When the kings and princes are home,
When the shepherds are back with their flock,
The work of Christmas begins:
To find the lost,
To heal the broken,
To feed the hungry,
To release the prisoner,
To rebuild the nations,
To bring peace among others,
To make music in the heart.**

Shepherd of Hope Food Pantry News

WATER into WINE, BIG KAHUNA WINGS, and GRAPHIC CREATIONS have donated a trailer complete with custom graphics to our food pantry. The trailer will simplify transporting food from Second Harvest and other food suppliers. This is great publicity for the pantry and the supporting churches. Look for our FPC logo and be sure to thank these generous community businesses for their donation!

In November and December the pantry served over 400 families during the two regular open days and the school voucher day each of those months. Many thanks to FPC for all the donation of cake mix, canned icing and stuffing mix to include in the holidays bags along with additional special items donated by the other supporting churches. The guests received the regular pantry food, the special holiday items and a Walmart Gift card. The restrictive gift cards cannot be used for tobacco or alcohol but gave the family the ability to purchase items they prefer. This was a real treat!

The year-end 2023 data shows an increase in individuals served over 2022 and 2021.

	2023	2022	2021	2020
People Served	6,378	4,804	4,064	6,591

There were 2703 volunteer hours recorded in 2023 to keep the pantry running.

You'll notice that the 2023 numbers are almost as high as 2020 during COVID. With the increased cost of food, it is no surprise that there are people in need. The pantry purchases as much food as possible from Second Harvest at a discount and tax free from local retailers. SHFP runs on a tight budget and some months the income donations do not cover the expenses but thanks to the generosity of the partner churches and community, there's always enough to keep going. Shepherd of Hope Food Pantry will continue to need our monetary and volunteer support in 2024.

Thank you FPC! If you have any specific questions regarding the pantry or wish to volunteer, please do not hesitate to contact Betty Nicholls.

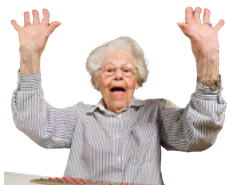


Chili Cookoff and Bingo Night!

Dust off your crockpots and find that favorite recipe for the Chili Cookoff & Bingo Night on Saturday, February 10 at 5:00 p.m.

We have multiple judges to award prizes for the best tasting chili! Of course, there will be prizes for our Bingo winners as well. Bring that favorite chili, cornbread or other bread item, a salad, or a small dessert for the potluck. Our Church Life committee will provide drinks, chili condiments and prizes.

Please register at <http://tinyurl.com/ChiliBingoNightatFPC>, or on the narthex table so we have an idea for set-up and supplies. We look forward to seeing you there!





Music at FPC

Dr. Angela Batey, Director

Symbolism of Colors in Worship

After Christmas, I took the Chancel Choir's stoles to be dry cleaned. As I collected them in the Robing Room, someone asked me about the different colors of stoles the choir wears on their robes and the history of wearing them. The choir's robes are styled traditionally, in a flax color, with stoles worn over the top, which are in the four liturgical colors: purple for Advent and Lent, green for Ordinary Time, white for Christmas and Easter, and red for Pentecost.

I read something several years ago about robes by the theologian Paul Westermeyer that gave me a new perspective on their purpose and use. Robes, he said, are not meant to dress us up, but rather to dress us down. They really serve to cover up who we are individually, while we are in the act of leading worship. They are, in a sense, uniforms, symbols of our role in worship, so that ministers and choir members may be recognized. But they are also uniforms in that they make us "one form;" we all become equal. No one has nicer clothes than anyone else, we all become the same shape and the same color. We become anonymous servants of God. Like everything else in traditional worship, the attention is not to be focused on us, but directed at God, the object and subject of true worship. It is not that we are not each unique individuals, all loved by God, which we are. It is just that, in worship, we wish not to receive the attention ourselves, but to offer the glory to God in thanks and praise in response to God's grace. I think that is very good for us to do.

Our Associate Director of Music, Tami Newsom has a slightly different robe. Her robe is an organist's cassock. This is mainly for functional reasons; the styling of the robe allows easier access to the organ pedals. Tami invites anyone who would like to see how her robe works differently to visit with her at the conclusion of the postlude after worship.

Now, back to the stoles. These stoles our choir wears are reversible and are in the four colors we use at different times during the liturgical season. When I was asked about the colors, and what they symbolize, I was reminded that even though we have used these colors in the paraments on our pulpit and lectern for years, the reasons why might be something we took for granted. I personally have found symbols and the liturgical year very educational; they have enriched my understanding and appreciation of the Christian story.

The book, *The Symbols of the Church* by Maurice Dilasser includes this about liturgical colors in general: "In the present human condition in finite space and the limitation of time, the perception of the world is received through appearances. The colors combine in the splendor of natural light and reveal the uncreated light, the divine Word. Their liturgical symbolism follows from the language of colors." The most common liturgical colors are blue or purple for Advent and Lent, white for Christmas and Easter, green for Ordinary Time, and red for Pentecost Sunday. Much of what follows is taken from Dilasser's book.

PURPLE is the color of majesty for the coming of the King of Kings. It is also the color of Saturn, suited to the autumnal passage from life to death, to trials and ordeals. Purple replaced black in the 13th century, which was used for times of mourning and penance, vigils, Advent, and Lent. While purple has traditionally been the liturgical color for Advent and Lent, Blue is increasingly used for Advent, especially in Protestant churches, to distinguish it from Lent. Blue symbolizes the sky or heaven, where heralds proclaimed Jesus' birth. In some traditions, it symbolizes Mary, who is known as "the Queen of Heaven." It can also symbolize the waters of Genesis 1, the beginning of a new creation.

WHITE symbolizes purity, holiness, and virtue, as well as respect and reverence. The New Testament consistently uses white to describe angels and the risen Lord. In the ancient Church, people were given white robes as soon as they emerged from the waters of baptism. White is used for all high Holy Days and festival days of the Church Year, especially the seasons of Christmas and Easter, as well as for baptism, marriage, ordination, and dedications. It is also used for memorial services and funerals as a symbol of the resurrection.

GREEN is the color of Venus and contrary to purple, marks the return of life in spring and conveys hope. It is the color of plants and purifying waters which regenerate. Liturgical green is symbolic of the "Tree of Life." Green is the color of Ordinary Time as it also represents the last days and the expectation of the world to come.

RED is the color of Mars and the color of fire, blood, and passion. Since Vatican II, red represents the spilt blood of Christ, and can also be used on Passion Sunday and Good Friday. Red is also the color of the flames of love and the tongues of fire of Pentecost.

Of course, this is just a brief overview of the fascinating symbolism of colors used in the church. I encourage you to explore and learn more. Symbolism can make our worship and our spiritual journey more meaningful, especially if we understand their symbolic meaning.

Save the Dates for our Spring Concert Series!

Concert events take place within our sanctuary and are offered to our congregation and community at no cost. We hope many of you will invite your friends and neighbors to attend these events and experience the friendliness of Farragut Presbyterian Church!

**Sunday, March 03
Virginia Men's Glee Club**

**Sunday, April 07
Dr. Linda Stutzenberger, harp**

**Sunday, May 05
UT Contemporary Acappella Ensembles**

MINISTRIES



Prayer Shawl Ministry

February 27

11:00 am

Room D

Join this wonderful group of knitters and crocheters to make shawls for FPC members who need extra comfort during a difficult time.

Patterns and yarn are provided.

WHEN YOU NEED SOMEONE TO TALK TO



Call someone who cares

FPC STEPHEN MINISTER LEADERS

BETH MARTIN | MATT NIEMAN
JEANIE OAKLEY | ELIZABETH WILSON

865/966-9547

Presbyterian Women

All circle meetings are held at the church

Circle #1

2nd Tuesday, 10 am

Leaders: Janet Tinder

865-556-8193

Kathy Emmerson

Circle #2

2nd Tuesday, 10 am

Leaders: Becky Thomason

865-607-0727

Linda Nunley

Circle #3

2nd Wednesday, 10 am

Leaders: Mikie Lancaster

865-675-0360

Jo McElhaney

865-966-5424

Presbyterian Women in the Congregation (PWC) groups build community, affirm women's calls to leadership and spiritual growth, raise concerns and channel information to and from Presbyterian Women in the Presbytery. Presbyterian Women is a loving community that can challenge and nurture you, and be a vehicle for making the world a better place for all of God's children. Consider joining an FPC Circle.

Check us out on Facebook: Presbyterian Women in the PC(USA) or on Instagram: PWPCUSA, Inc.
www.presbyterianwomen.org

Men's Bible Study

February 8 and 22

8 a.m. / Narthex

The men of FPC gather twice a month for fellowship and a time of bible study. The group meets the 2nd and 4th Thursdays of each month in the narthex at 8am. If you would like to join us, please contact John Neighbors or the church office to get on the contact list. Breakfast, coffee, and great fellowship provided!

Chair Yoga

MONDAY AND FRIDAY

10:00 - 10:30 AM

NARTHEX

Class designed for those with limited mobility or balance concerns.

TGIF Gentle Yoga

FRIDAY 7:00 - 8:00 PM

FELLOWSHIP HALL

Gentle, slow flow class. Bring a mat and comfortable clothing. For beginner and experienced yogis.

Contact Jenny Trussell at CEDARSTUDIOS4@GMAIL.COM for additional information or a private introductory session!

No childcare available, but both Yoga classes are free and open to the public.

EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES



Pastor Matt's Class

Library

Doubts are a common part of our faith. This six-week study will focus on some of the most popular doubts Christians and non-Christians face. And hopefully, we will be led to a greater trust in God that is not afraid of the hard questions. Based on Adam Hamilton's Wrestling with Doubt, Finding Faith.

Youth

Cafe (Parlor)

Led by Mason Warren

The youth Sunday School class meets to "DIVE IN to the Old Testament!" Each week throughout the school year, youth explore a specific book of the Old Testament utilizing videos and discussion.

ADULT BIBLE STUDY

Outdoors/Room D

Led by Elizabeth Wilson

This class will discuss the weekly Lectionary text. There's an optional lesson handout, but you can also join us for the conversation.



Thursday Evening Bible Study

Meetings on Zoom at 7pm

Led by Elizabeth Wilson

Having finished the longest book of the Bible last year, we're turning to the shortest Gospel this year. The Gospel of Mark is the second of the four canonical gospels and one of the three synoptic Gospels. It tells of the ministry of Jesus from his baptism by John the Baptist to his death, burial, and the discovery of his empty tomb. If you're interested in an in-depth look at the Gospel of Mark, we'd love to have you join us (even if you can't make every week). For more information contact Elizabeth Wilson, the church office, or any of the current members.

February Anniversaries

2/12 Bryan and Linda Nunley

2/17 Eric and Lori Corbett

2/29 John and Gale Montgomery



Candy Blake, Lis Burris, Denise Damelio, Kathy Emmerson, Billy Fain, Chuck Foriska, Frank Guess, Paul Hanson, Bron Lewis, Beth and Jimmy Loyless, Irma McGuffey, Maria Medina, Jim Meador, Tami Newsom, Steve Tinder, Helen Weaver

Military

Joshua Meador, David Sparks, Mark Wurth

To all at Farragut Presbyterian Church,

I would like to thank everyone at FPC for thoughts and prayers, cards, and words of support not only with Mom's final gift of death, but also her very long, slow decline period. I am looking forward to getting back to church!

I would also like to express great appreciation for Angie and Tami sharing their talents and time at the memorial service for Mom. The music chosen was just right and the anthem was especially beautiful. Thank you so much! I enclosed a check to FPC's music ministry in memory of my mother Ruth.
Sincerely, Linda Ewald

Kirby and Gloria Purjet will be moving to Georgia in March. Their new address will be 539 Hornbeam Drive, Griffin, GA 30223

If you have updated information about our prayer recipients you would like to share, please email office@fpctn.org or call the church office at 865-966-9547.

February Birthdays

2/01 Joyce Williams

2/02 Roxy Matson

2/07 Nancy Wilson

2/08 Joe Kszos

2/08 Evelyn Snelling

2/09 Maylee Warren

2/10 John Neighbors

2/10 Eva Lynch

2/11 Logan Henderson

2/12 Karen Johnson

2/12 Janet Murphy

2/12 Ron Pevey

2/12 Chris Sparks

2/12 Darcey Mashue

2/16 Betty Nicholls

2/17 Lisa Gary

2/19 Betsy Henderson

2/20 Pat Hickman

2/20 Jules Snelling-Brandon

2/21 Mary Hoagland

2/22 Dan Greaser

2/22 John Tabor

2/22 Linda Bell

2/23 Ashley Boone

2/24 Nathan Burris

2/25 Gracie Taylor

2/27 Mikie Lancaster

2/29 Debbie Schwartz

Congratulations to Reverend Jessica Lewis who was ordained to the Ministry of Word and Sacrament on Sunday, January 28 at 3pm. She will serve as the director of Maryville College's Maryville Adventures in Studying Theology (MAST) program. She was thrilled to see 15+ members of FPC at her ordination service. Best wishes Pastor Jess!

SESSION HIGHLIGHTS

At its meeting on January 22, the Session:

- Welcomed new elders Cheryl Cardwell, Cheyanne Feldhausen, Thom Haig and Maryanne Walls (in addition to returning elder Jeff Thode, who is starting a full term after filling an unexpired term last year).
- Heard great news that the church finished 2023 with a surplus of \$149,000! \$50,000 will be placed in the capital reserve fund for future expenses, and the remainder will be placed in a Fresh Look Phase 2 fund for any possible campaign to refresh the sanctuary/narthex areas of the building.
- The working group established last fall to garner feedback from the congregation for a possible Fresh Look-Phase 2 will be preparing an online survey for the congregation to take in February. In addition, focus groups will be held in February and March to gather in-person thoughts and suggestions.
- Created a subcommittee to identify and recommend new tables and chairs to replace the current supply in the fellowship hall. The new purchase will be paid for with funds from two existing accounts.
- Re-elected Tom Koch as church financial secretary and John Begovich as treasurer for 2024.
- Reviewed and amended the church's Purpose and Mission Statements:

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE:

We are a diverse and welcoming community of believers, called by God to be disciples of Jesus Christ and empowered by the Holy Spirit to acknowledge God's gracious presence in the world. Our faithful response in praising God encompasses compassionate service to all, nurturing one another to grow in faith together and sending out disciples to share the Good News.

MISSION STATEMENT:

To praise God, welcome all, serve others, grow in faith, be disciples of Jesus Christ, and share the Good News.

Financial Report as of December 2023			
	Actual for December	YTD December	YTD December Budget
Operating Income	\$109,303	\$792,048	\$670,986
Big Fish Academy Income	\$2,000	\$20,500	\$21,000
Total Income	\$111,303	\$812,548	\$691,986
Operating Expenses	\$78,503	\$662,824	\$691,986
Total Expenses	\$78,503	\$662,824	\$691,986
Total Income less Expenses	\$32,800	\$149,724	\$0

STAFF

Pastor

Reverend Matt Nieman
matt@fpctn.org
402-660-2451 (call or text)

Dawn Zilles
Office Administrator
office@fpctn.org
865-966-9547

Lori Corbett
Bookkeeper
bookkeeperfpc@gmail.com

Mason Warren
Director of Family Ministry
masonwarren@fpctn.org

Dr. Angela Batey
Director of Music
abatey@utk.edu

Tami Newsom
Associate Director of Music
tnewsom3@utk.edu

Sandra Porter Bohlken
Music Director, Casual Service
singsandrab@gmail.com

SESSION

Administration
Kathy Emerson
Cheryl Cardwell

Christian Education
Beth Honey
Cheyanne Feldhausen

Church Life
Jeff Thode
Gayle Williams

Outreach
Kirk Morris
Scott McKinney

Property
Darrell Sparks
Thom Haig

Worship and Music
Catherine Manning
MaryAnne Walls

Clerk of Session
Lisa Gary



Get Social!

Farragut Presbyterian is live on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter.

Have something to post?

Send to our social media coordinator, Emily Sweetland,
at social@fpctn.org or text 865-567-7636



<https://www.instagram.com/farrgutpesbyterian>



@FarrPres



<https://www.facebook.com/FPCKnox>



KARM STORES
The Thrift Store with a Mission

When donating used items to KARM tell the employee the name of the church. The church will receive gift cards to KARM Stores that can be given to someone in need.



Support FPC Christian Ed with Kroger Community Rewards Program. Link your Kroger reward card to FPC.

Sign up at: Visit
<https://www.kroger.com/account/enroll>
CommunityRewardsNow/
Our organization number is YU915.