

GOOD NEWS BANNER

FARRAGUT PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Reverend Matt Nieman

A message from our Pastor



Comfort and Discomfort

I was thinking recently about how life is about the dichotomy between the need to be comfortable and the call to be uncomfortable.

From the Heidelberg Catechism comes this famous question: What is your only comfort in life and in death? Answer: That I belong, body and soul, in life and in death, not to my myself but to my faithful Savior Jesus Christ.

That's our greatest comfort, and life is about living in that comfort—that we belong to God forever.

There's another statement, though, that is also popular: Jesus had two purposes—to comfort the afflicted and to afflict the comfortable. As much as we're comforted by the reality that Christ is Savior—and that Christ's mercy and love endure for us all—there is also this call time and time again to be uncomfortable.

We find this illustrated in Matthew's gospel, chapter 16, where Jesus says, "Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. For whoever wants to save their life will lose it, but whoever loses their life for me will find it."

What does losing our lives look like? It at times involves being made uncomfortable. It could mean sacrificing our own needs for the sake of others. It might be putting others' interests ahead of our own. That's true for us as individuals, and it's also true for the church.

We're called to this state of discomfort for the purpose of serving others. As much as we like our churches to be comfortable places of familiarity and predictability, we're called to do the things that might make us uncomfortable so that the Gospel might be proclaimed. This is so that others might grow deeper in their love for God and others and deeper in the faith we all claim to share.

This is part of our journey as disciples, to be made uncomfortable by the calling of Christ in our lives.

Take comfort that Christ loves you. And be open to hearing the call to lose our lives for the sake of others.

Join us for Worship

9:00 am

Casual Service

Parking Lot

Bring a chair

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.





MENU FOR SUMMER & FALL 2025

For Adults

Quest Sundays: Ongoing spiritual formation opportunities between worship services, meeting at 10:00am. Childcare is provided.

Pastor's Class Meeting in the Library, this class is led by Pastor Matt or, on occasion, others. You will find a great mix of Bible study and engagement on topical matters at the intersection of faith and culture.

Soul Café Meets Sundays at 10am in the new Narthex gathering space. John Sharp will facilitate a lively lesson to prepare. Come as you are!

Quest Groups: Building relationships and faith beyond Sunday mornings

Small Groups Typically meeting in homes, with an emphasis on relationships and growing together – so they are smaller by design. We are now starting a third group with new ones being formed on an as needed basis. Contact the church office or talk to John if you're interested in a small group or want to know more.

Presbyterian Women Currently three groups meeting monthly at 10:00 am (2nd Tuesday and 2nd Wednesday), all women are invited to be a part of these mid-week opportunities for Bible study, prayer and time spent together. This year's focus is: finding resilience, joy and our identity in Jesus Christ. Contact Janet Tinder if interested.

Men's Bible Study The 2nd & 4th Thursdays of the month at 8:00 am, in the Narthex. Great discussion, exploration of scripture, prayer, time together, and Chik-fil-a biscuits!

Questions Classes Spiritual formation should be practical, helping to address real questions, interests and needs that we encounter in life. These occasional gatherings meet at various times for a specific number of sessions.

Adventures in Narnia Join Elizabeth Wilson (online or in person) in a discovery of C.S. Lewis' *Chronicles of Narnia* along with Bible content and readings from Lewis' *Mere Christianity*. One part book club among friends and one part biblical and theological inquiry. Come discover Lewis' unique way of increasing our spiritual understanding. Contact the office or Elizabeth for more information. Starts September 18.

Conversations in Science and Faith Coming soon! A majority of Americans believe science and faith are in direct conflict, leading to mistrust and misunderstanding of one another. How can faith and science understand and inform each other? How can faith flourish in an age of science and technology? Bring a friend and join the conversation!

Myself: A User's Guide Finding Fulfillment by Understanding Yourself and Serving Others - How do your life experiences, personality and skills pair with what you love to do and your spiritual gifts? A lively and enjoyable experience of self-discovery that integrates biblical teaching with the social sciences and self-reflection. Meets September 15, 22, 29 & October 6 from 5:30 – 6:30 pm in the Narthex.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS



New member **Gerald Miller** and his wife Laurie Gagne moved to the Farragut area of Knoxville in 2023, and due to a long friendship with Jeff Thode, Gerald has been visiting FPC ever since.

Now retired, Gerald's work career involved moving many times to a multitude of states, but the kindness of Tennesseans and the changes of seasons influenced them to retire here. Gerald enjoys the active lifestyle our weather provides and loves walking/hiking, bike riding and golf. The couple also enjoy traveling. Gerald's grown son lives and works in the Washington, DC area.



Charles, Shannon and Woodes Needham moved to Farragut in January of 2024. Shortly thereafter, they met Hal and Jeanie Oakley before joining FPS. Both Charles and Shannon work with early-stage startups and play in the casual service worship band.

OUTREACH

BUILDING COMMUNITY THROUGH GIVING



Sunset Gap Executive Director Audrey Jones and summer interns Landon and Tyler delivered filled backpacks to Cosby Elementary School this morning. Such a privilege and blessing to share with these students.



Sunset Gap back to school

A big thank you to all who participated in this year's program!

Thank you to everyone who sponsored a tag, who helped sort and bag, to all those who helped deliver the items. You have made a big difference in the children's and family's lives for this school year.

Presbyterian Women's drive for school supplies for special area teachers.

A big thank you to all who donated items for special area teachers. The amount donated this year was amazing! It will make the school year so much easier for these teachers by providing these items. Thank you for your generosity.



Steve and Jan Darnell, Carol and Greg Kraft, Kimberly Platt and Debbie Long are pictured after bringing Sunset Gap donations to the Sunset Gap center on Wednesday, July 30.

This month the Outreach Committee is highlighting the following entities supported by FPC.

Sunset Gap Community Center \$4,800

Sunset Gap Community Center, established 1924, is located on the Cocke/Sevier County line serving both communities. They operate a food pantry, serving over 6000 families in 2024, a thrift store and mission camps. During the camps groups restore homes, free of charge, to people who are disabled, elderly or who do not have the income to make their homes livable. 2024 hosted 6 mission teams completing 7 off-campus and 12 on-campus projects

Helen Ross McNabb Center \$2,500

McNabb Center is a nonprofit provider for help of mental health, substance use and social and victim services for children and adults. Its work extends to 30 counties in East TN and provides services for more than 51,000 individuals each year.

Bridge Refugee Services \$2,000

Bridge Refugee Services assists refugees, humanitarian parolees, asylees, and entrants through orientation and case management to learn how to live in the US. Prior to a family's arrival, Case Managers and staff arrange for housing, household items, food, job interviews, etc. to help the family begin making Knoxville or Chattanooga their home. In the succeeding months, Case Managers work with clients to assess their goals, set them up with English classes, connect families to local schools and other educational opportunities and help them navigate their new communities. Bridge provides unique, personalized support that sets up clients to be successful and self-sufficient as soon as possible.



Family Ministries @ FPC



Mason Warren
Director of Family
Ministries

Dear FPC Church Family,

This Summer has been full of life and joy at Farragut Presbyterian Church. From celebrating our church's 40th birthday to the energy of our Summer KidZone program, it has been a season marked by reflection, renewal, and growth.

We've begun talking about spiritual formation in a new way this Summer. With guidance from Rev. John Sharp, our Director of Spiritual Formation, we've recommitted ourselves to the vision this church was founded on, albeit in a renewed way, one that acknowledges the lifelong journey of faith. Through the launch of Quest, we're reimagining how we support one another as we grow in Christ, one step at a time. As John shared in last month's newsletter, "Wherever people are in the process of being formed in the image of Christ, we want to help them take a next step in the lifelong quest of transformation."

That commitment to growth includes our children, youth, and young adults. As our Family Ministries continue to grow, so do the opportunities to live into our baptismal promise as a church in meaningful and lasting ways. While some of our programs have new names to better align with this new season we are in as a church, the heart of our work remains the same: walking alongside families as they seek to love and learn.

As you read about the offerings below, we invite you to consider how you might be part of this journey, whether as a participant, a supporter, or someone called to serve.

Peace & Blessings,

Mason Warren

Director of Family Ministries

Family Ministries at FPC

We believe the journey of faith begins from the very start of life. In Baptism, the church makes a promise to guide and nurture each child, helping them grow in the knowledge and love of God. First Steps Children's Ministry is how we live out that promise — by supporting our youngest disciples as they take their first steps on the lifelong journey of faith. First Step Children's Ministry seeks to walk alongside children as they begin their journey of faith by providing a community that values and affirms them for who they are, honors their questions, and supports their growth as beloved children of God. Offered on Sunday mornings and through various other opportunities, First Steps helps students and young families establish a firm foundation upon which they can take those first steps.

● Baby Steps:

Formerly known as our nursery program, Baby Steps continues FPC's long-standing commitment to caring for our youngest children — from birth through age two — in a loving and developmentally appropriate environment. While the name has changed to reflect our church-wide Quest framework, the heart of the ministry remains the same: to provide a safe, nurturing space where infants and toddlers are welcomed as beloved members of Christ's family.

● KidsQuest (Formerly known as KidZone):

Formerly known as KidZone, KidsQuest is our 9am Sunday morning faith formation program for children from Pre-K through 5th grade. This ministry invites young disciples to explore God's love through Bible stories, songs, science, and more — all designed to engage their hearts and minds. KidsQuest encourages children to take meaningful next steps in their faith journey, nurturing curiosity, wonder, and a growing relationship with God.

● KidStart:

KidStart is a welcoming faith formation opportunity for children in Pre-K through 5th grade during the 10 am. Sunday hour. While it builds on themes explored in KidsQuest, participation in KidsQuest is not required to participate in KidStart. KidStart encourages students to kickstart their week through fellowship and active learning opportunities.

● Bridgepoint 345:

Bridgepoint 345 is our new faith formation opportunity for students in grades 3-5, occurring on the first Sunday of each month from 4–5 pm. Recognizing the importance of the later elementary years as a time when students begin to form their own sense of faith and identity, Bridgepoint 345 offers a welcoming and safe space where students can "bridge the gap" as they transition from childhood to youth. Through Bible study, fellowship, and shared meals, students learn to engage more deeply with Scripture and one another.

● Waypoint:

Youth Ministry invites students in grades 6 through 12 to be a part of a loving community where they can explore the big questions of identity, belonging, and purpose through the lens of faith. This stage of life is a formative one, where students are discovering who they are and discerning their place in God's story. Waypoint aims to serve as a spiritual waypoint—an encouraging stop on a student's faith journey—where they can wrestle with life's challenges and celebrate God's grace. We hope that Waypoint will be a beacon of God's love and hope in a complex world, helping students take meaningful next steps in their lifelong quest of transformation.

● YouthQuest:

YouthQuest is our faith formation program for middle and high school students on Sunday Mornings during the 10:00 am hour. In YouthQuest, students are given the opportunity to dive deeper into what the Bible means in our lives and how God can utilize the world around us to teach us more about ourselves and our relationship with God. While these courses are geared toward our middle and high school students, anyone is welcome to join.

● Waypoint Youth Collective:

Waypoint Youth Collective offers middle and high school students a welcoming and open space to gather on Sunday evenings at 5:30 pm. We seek to foster an authentic community where students can fully be themselves and grow in faith while being in fellowship with one another. Waypoint Youth Collective provides opportunities for Bible study, fellowship, service, and monthly collaborative events with other Presbyterian youth in East Tennessee.

● Midweek Meetups:

Midweek Meetups are informal, biweekly gatherings where middle and high school students can check in with Youth Collective leaders in relaxed community settings, such as local coffee/ice cream shops. These meetups provide a casual space for students to share how their week is going, connect with one another, and enjoy a tasty drink or treat together.

● Crossroads Young Adult Ministry:

In a season of life full of change, young adults, ages 18-23, often find themselves at a "crossroads" in life, wrestling with all kinds of questions regarding their future. Crossroads Young Adult Ministry seeks to meet them where they are and walk alongside them as they discern that next step. Through monthly casual fellowship opportunities, Crossroads provides a supportive community where we can journey alongside one another with grace and encouragement.



Music at FPC

Dr. Angela Batey, Director



FPC was well represented in England singing services of Choral Evensong in several cathedrals.

After their return to the States, we embarked on a continued journey to see all the cathedrals in England. We were able to finish 9 of them in the last week.



Ministries

Men's Bible Study

August 14 and 28

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!



Looking for ways to be involved in Worship?

Sunday worship depends on more than the pastor and the music directors. Volunteer worship assistants, such as ushers, greeters, readers and communion servers are just as important to making worship happen.

All ages are invited to sign up.

Please go to:

<http://tinyurl.com/FPCvolunteerSignUp>. Sign up in the appropriate available time slot. If you have any questions, contact Mikie Lancaster, Ken Ladrach, or the church office (865/966-9547).

Presbyterian Women

**PW Circles will not meet
in July and August.**

All circle meetings are held at the church

Circle #1

2nd Tuesday, 10 am

Leaders: Joyce Williams

865-719-2610

Kathy Emerson

312-286-1676

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

865-705-6518

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

FARRAGUT PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH PRAYER PARTNER PROGRAM

2025-2026

STARTING AUGUST 17, 2025

The FPC Prayer Partner Program is back for the 2025-2026 School Year! Please consider signing up to be in prayer for one of our students throughout the school year! To sign up, please either fill out the form located on the Family Ministry Bulletin Board or contact Mason Warren, masonwarren@fpcn.org.

Activities

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

NARTHEX

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!

Both Yoga classes are free
and open to the public.

No childcare available

August Birthdays

8/02 Ken Ladrach
8/03 Donna Phillips
8/05 Merle Andrew
8/06 Karen Ellis
8/09 Krista Belding
8/12 Frank Guess
8/15 Linda Wert
8/19 Gary Marks
8/20 Brian Davison
8/24 Jennifer Johnson
8/24 Gail Wallace
8/25 Henry Cardwell
8/26 Micah Bohlken
8/27 Kris Van Allen
8/27 Leigh Ann Neely
8/28 Scott McKinney
8/28 Sandi Keagy
8/29 Turner Neely
8/30 Fred Peretz
8/30 Jerry Martin
8/30 Henry Matchen

August Anniversaries

8/02 Wayne and Mary Anne Walls
8/03 Leonard and Emily Loveday
8/08 Jimmy and Beth Loyless
8/09 Paul and Karen Johnson
8/10 Steve and Jan Darnell
8/12 Jack and Patricia Watson
8/12 Chuck and Norma Foriska
8/13 Jerry and Jan Seiler
8/18 Steven and Dawn Zilles
8/19 Dale and Kathy Emmerson
8/20 Darrell and Chris Sparks
8/21 David and Debbie Long
8/23 Howard and Pat Hickman
8/24 Robert and Terry Olberding
8/26 Henry and Cheryl Cardwell
8/26 Mike and Janet Murphy
8/28 Larry and Jane Byars
8/29 David and Linda Stutzenberger

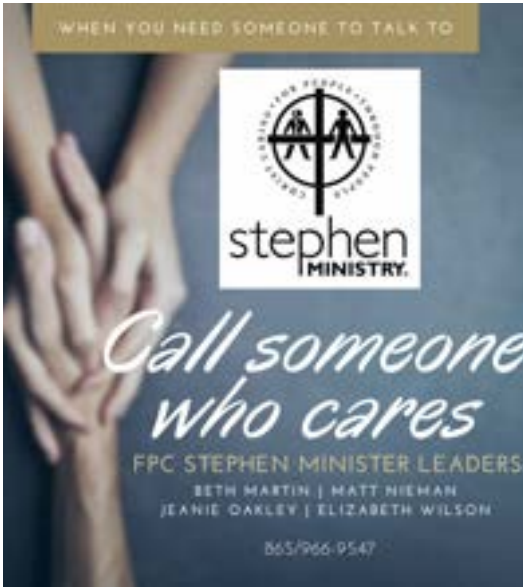


**Remember in
your prayers...**

Lisa Bradney, Nathan Burris, Pat Dail, Dean & Lucy Fleming, Chuck Foriska, Frank Guess, Beth and Jimmy Loyless, Ann McAnally, Jim Meador, Maria Medina, Irma McGuffey, Tami Newsom, Donna Phillips, Jack Rightmyer, Gayle Williams

Births
Darrell and Chris' Sparks welcome their first granddaughter, Sophia, 7 lb,15 oz and 20.5 in.

Bereaved
The family of David Countiss



Our Stephen Ministry Leaders
can help:

Beth Martin (865) 776-3132	Matt Nieman (865) 966-9547
Jeanie Oakley (256) 468-4501	Joanie Scheuer (865) 705-1571



Prayer Shawl Ministry

August 26
11:00 am in the Parlor

Can you touch a prayer? Can you pull it close and feel its comfort? You can if it comes in the form of a Prayer Shawl. Prayer Shawls are simple gifts of grace from God that are prayerfully and lovingly stitched by us as a reminder that God's promise is always with us.

Every day in our own individual lives, we encounter people for whom a special prayer would be of great comfort and support. This ministry would welcome your participation.

If you have ever knit or crocheted it will come back to you quickly. The patterns are simple repeats. Basic instructions and yarn are available.

Dear FPC family,
Thank you for your support during this difficult time. It is comforting to know that Dad was so loved by his church family. Thank you to the ladies for organizing such a lovely reception following the service. So appreciated!
Blessings,
The family of David Countiss

SESSION HIGHLIGHTS

No Session meeting in July

MARK YOUR CALENDAR!



September 28 Bluegrass Service (lunch to follow in the FH, bring your favorite tailgate food)
November 9 Blended service, Stewardship Sunday (Thanksgiving meal to follow worship)
December 7 Casual service, Children's Christmas Program
December 14 Traditional service, Lessons and Carols (reception to follow worship)
December 28 Traditional service

Financial Report as of June 2025			
	Actual for June	YTD June	YTD June Budget
Operating Income	\$91,517	\$376,683	\$371,722
Big Fish Academy Income	\$2,000	\$12,000	\$12,000
Total Income	\$93,517	\$388,683	\$383,722
Operating Expenses	\$90,345	\$378,285	\$392,538
Total Expenses	\$90,345	\$378,285	\$392,538
Total Income less Expenses	\$3,172	\$10,397	(\$8,816)



STAFF

Pastor

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

Reverend Dr. John Sharp
 Director of Spiritual Formation
johnsharpsemail@gmail.com
 239-227-3999

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 865-966-9547

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abatey@utk.edu

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tnewsom3@utk.edu

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

SESSION

Administration
 Kathy Emmerson
 Cheryl Cardwell

Christian Education
 Beth Honey
 Cheyanne Feldhausen

Church Life
 Gayle Williams
 Jeff Thode

Outreach
 Scott McKinney
 Jan Darnell

Property
 Thom Haig
 Rick Van Allen

Worship and Music
 MaryAnne Walls
 Eva Quinley Lynch

Clerk of Session
 Lisa Gary

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 209 Jamestowne Blvd.
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 865-966-9547
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www.fpctn.org

Office Hours

Monday - Thursday 9-3
 Friday 9-1

Get Social!

Farragut Presbyterian is live on Facebook, Instagram, and X.
 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>



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



@FarrPres



Farragut Presbyterian Church



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/enrollCommunityRewardsNow/> Our organization number is YU915.