



LOVE AND LEARN

Join us for Worship

We offer four ways to worship on Sunday mornings: a casual service, our traditional service, and live-streamed versions of both services posted online.

9:00 am

Casual Service

Outdoors, weather permitting

Our casual worship service at 9:00 a.m. is in our church parking lot in the warmer months, a relaxed atmosphere with keyboard and guitars. If the weather is questionable, this service will move indoors to our sanctuary. Bring your coffee and a lawn chair and join us!

11:00 am

Traditional Service

Sanctuary

Our traditional worship service is at 11:00 a.m. in the sanctuary featuring our Chancel Choir, FPC Ringers, traditional organ music and other talented guest musicians.

<https://tinyurl.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.



A MESSAGE FROM OUR PASTOR REVEREND MATT NIEMAN

Small Steps

Sometimes, being the followers that Christ calls us to be seems like trying to jump the Grand Canyon: the chasm between where we are and where we want to be is simply too great.

We want to pray everyday, but our minds wander instead. We want to read the Bible more intentionally, but we get distracted by the Internet or another good book. We want to practice compassion for our neighbor, but our selfish interests win out.

And after a while, despite our effort, we just don't think we can ever fulfill the call God has placed on our lives.

Author Parker Palmer, however, reminds us that another strategy is best employed. In a speech he delivered to writers and religious leaders at Calvin College, he talked about the struggles and frustrations he experienced over many years in his journey to become a successful writer.

It wasn't until he read a line from Hemingway one day that he was able to approach the challenge of writing with freshness and confidence. "A writer is distinguished by the fact that he writes."

The sentence unleashed in Palmer the understanding that it's the faithful doing of the thing, the willingness to work hard at the craft without worrying too much about outcomes, that makes you a writer.

"We can do things we don't think we can do if we don't think about doing them," says Palmer. For him, his ultimate goal of writing a book someday would never be accomplished unless he first wrote compelling sentences and then paragraphs and then essays. He had to focus on the basics first, without always worrying about not being able to achieve his ultimate dream.

There's a parallel here with the life of faith. Says Palmer, "The faith journey is less about making a big leap of faith than it is about putting one faithless foot in front of the other and doing it again and again."

It seems to me that this approach can calm us and keep us from being intimidated by the demands placed upon us as Christians. In essence, faith is putting "one faithless foot in front of the other," and taking baby steps without worrying about achieving perfection. The more steps we take, the more we will realize how much we gain by giving ourselves to God. Our confidence will rise, our steps will then become bigger, and our potential will be more fully reached.

Join others in your church family in taking small steps of faith. Join a Sunday morning class, or a weekly small group. Take part in one of several Presbyterian Women Bible studies each month or the twice-monthly men's Breakfast and Bible study.

In the small steps of faith, we find our place in the family of God.

Session Highlights

At its meeting on September 22, the Session heard about plans for upcoming church events. They include:

- Trunk or Treat on Sunday evening, Oct. 26
- A second church-wide mission project on Sunday morning, Nov. 2
- Stewardship Commitment Sunday on November 9

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.



● 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.

OUTREACH

BUILDING COMMUNITY THROUGH GIVING



The Presbyterian women invite the congregation to join us in helping to stock the food pantry at Sunset Gap.

Unemployment is beginning to increase as the kids are back in school. Items requested in order of priority are: peanut butter, spaghetti sauce and pasta (preferably canned, available at Walmart and Kroger) rice (brown or white), canned meats, canned vegetables, breakfast items, and saltines. Please place in the basket in the narthex. Deadline is Oct 15. Questions? Contact Debbie Long



The Shepherd of Hope Food Pantry is getting ready for the holidays! Holiday food baskets will be distributed to pantry guests in November and December. Last year over 500 families received holiday baskets, including many families from local schools that were especially invited to receive the baskets. The baskets typically include a turkey or ham, canned vegetables, stuffing mix, cooking oil, eggs, and dessert mixes.

From October 26 through November 9, Farragut Presbyterian will again collect cake mixes and canned frosting (any flavors) and/or brownie mixes for the holiday baskets. As you shop, please consider adding these dessert items to your list and drop them off in the cart in the narthex. Contact Becky Thomason if you have questions.



When leaves begin to fall, the weather gets pleasant, and days get shorter, it is time for a trip to Townsend to take donated items to the CAM Craft Shop (Coalition of Appalachian Ministries). We are going on Wednesday, November 5. Of course, there will be a stop at Elvira's Cafe for lunch on our way in. Anyone with craft and sewing items to donate can bring them to the church or call Debbie Long or Mikie Lancaster for a pick-up. Several folks have mentioned wanting to ride along, and all are welcome.

Besides the fabric, batting, yarn, thread, buttons – especially white and black nickel-size, zippers, and other sewing notions the crafters always love to get, there have been some special requests for insul-brite needed for hot pads, old license plates for bird house roofs, and any size or shape of glass jars. Old blue jeans can be turned into many cute items, so go through your closet and donate the ones no longer worn. Don't forget to save your burned-out light bulbs, as several styles of cute ornaments are created from them.



Our fabulous September volunteers. Become a VMC volunteer.

Ministries

Men's Bible Study

October 9 and 23

8 a.m. / Narthex

Presbyterian Women

All circle meetings are held at the church

Circle #1

2nd Tuesday, 10 am

Leaders: Joyce Williams

865-719-2610

Kathy Emmerson

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

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!

Financial Report as of August 2025

	Actual for August	YTD August	YTD August Budget
Operating Income	\$76,933	\$510,025	\$495,639
Big Fish Academy Income	\$2,000	\$16,000	\$16,000
Total Income	\$78,933	\$526,025	\$511,639
Operating Expenses	\$54,876	\$495,874	\$504,003
Total Expenses	\$54,876	\$495,874	\$504,003
Total Income less Expenses	\$24,057	\$30,151	\$7,636

2025–2026 Presbyterian Women/*Horizons* Bible Study

Finding Resilience, Joy, and Our Identity in Jesus Christ

Lesson	Title	Scripture	Main Idea
PART I—Finding Our <i>Resilience</i>			
1	Mary Magdalene, the Tower	John 20:11–18 John 11:17–27	Our faith is strengthened by learning more about Mary Magdalene, a towering witness to the resurrection.
2	Mary “of a Certain Village”	Luke 10:38–42	Mary’s story teaches us that spending time listening to and learning from Jesus is the better part.
3	Jesus Is Tested	Luke 4:1–13	Christ’s wilderness experience shows us that when our lives are dangerous and frightening, we are not alone.
PART II—Finding Our <i>Joy</i>			
4	The Prodigal Child, the Eldest Child, and the Devoted Parent	Luke 15:11–32	God offers grace and love, not because of what we do, but because of who we are—beloved children of God.
5	The Gift of the Woman Who Was Poor	Mark 12:41–44	Joy in Christ is more than happiness; it can change challenging circumstances into faith-filled, even joyous, times.
6	Finding Our Joy in Christ: “I Will Say It Again, Rejoice”	Philippians 4:1–23	Christian joy emerges from a deep belief that God is good, and God reigns forever.
PART III—Finding Our <i>Identity</i>			
7	The Woman Who Was Bent Over	Luke 13:10–17	As followers of Christ, we are to serve with a compassionate and healing spirit and be part of setting people free.
8	Remembering Jesus’ Baptism	Luke 3:1–22 Matthew 3:1–17 Mark 1:1–11 John 1:19–34	In baptism we are identified as God’s own children charged to serve faithfully, justly, and lovingly.
9	When You Are Walking With Jesus: The Road to Emmaus	Luke 24:13–35	Jesus did not abandon his followers; we are not alone, for the Spirit of God is with us.

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

October Anniversaries

10/03 Louise Stevenson & Paul Matson
10/07 Dave & Megan Figel
10/14 Tom & Cheyanne Feldhausen
10/17 Lynn & Joe Kszos
10/23 Meredith & Tucker* Fritz
10/24 Jeff & Kelly Thode
10/30 Madelyn & Tim Schult

October Birthdays

10/02 Pam Heidinger
10/02 Jeff Thode
10/02 Brooklyn Eiffert
10/02 Madison Eiffert
10/02 Peyton Houlihan
10/3 Shannon Needham
10/4 Hadley Collins
10/09 Betsy Hopson
10/09 Lewis Ransdell
10/09 John Begovich
10/10 Gwen Mitchell
10/12 Mark Allen
10/13 Bert Robinson
10/14 Sharon Koch
10/14 Ruth Jacobs
10/14 Jeannie Tabor
10/18 John Thomason
10/18 Jack Watson
10/19 Lori Corbett
10/19 Christine Britt
10/20 Cully Gargan
10/20 Donny Matchen
10/22 Libby Matlock
10/23 Liz Gargan
10/24 Ronny Lomax
10/25 Lauren Gentry
10/26 Deacon Manning
10/26 Judy Alexander
10/26 Kelly Thode
10/28 Stuart Phillips
10/28 Marie Shear
10/30 Howard Hickman
10/30 Linda Scothorn
10/30 Allen Lutz
10/31 Chuck Foriska



**Remember in
your prayers...**

Amy Begovich, Pat Dail, Dean & Lucy Fleming,
Meredith (Manning), Tucker, and baby Marigold Fritz
Frank Guess, Mindy Houlihan, Beth and Jimmy
Loyless, Ann McAnally, Maria Medina, Irma
McGuffey, Tami Newsom, Donna Phillips, Linda
Wert, Gayle Williams

Bereaved
The family of Beth Hallman
The family of Eric Olberding



**Our Stephen Ministry Leaders
can help:**

Beth Martin Matt Nieman
(865) 776-3132 (865) 966-9547

Jeanie Oakley Joanie Scheuer
(256) 468-4501 (865) 705-1571



**October 28
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.



STAFF

Pastor

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

Reverend Dr. John Sharp
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SESSION

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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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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.