

This service is being recorded by video and audio means.

\*We invite you to stand as able.



~ The Gathering ~

Greeting

Mason Warren, Director of Family Ministries

Prelude

*Still, Still, Still*  
Tami Newsom, organ

Manz

Call to Worship

In worship, we hear God's story and we ask,

**"What did God do long ago?"**

In worship, we hear God's story, so we ask,

**"What is God doing, here and now?"**

In worship, we hear God's story, then we ask,

**"What can I do to respond to it all?"**

Listen, God is speaking.

**Listen, it may be time to act.**

Let us worship our moving, inspiring, with-us God.

**Amen.**

\*Hymn #41

*O Come, All Ye Faithful*

Adeste Fideles

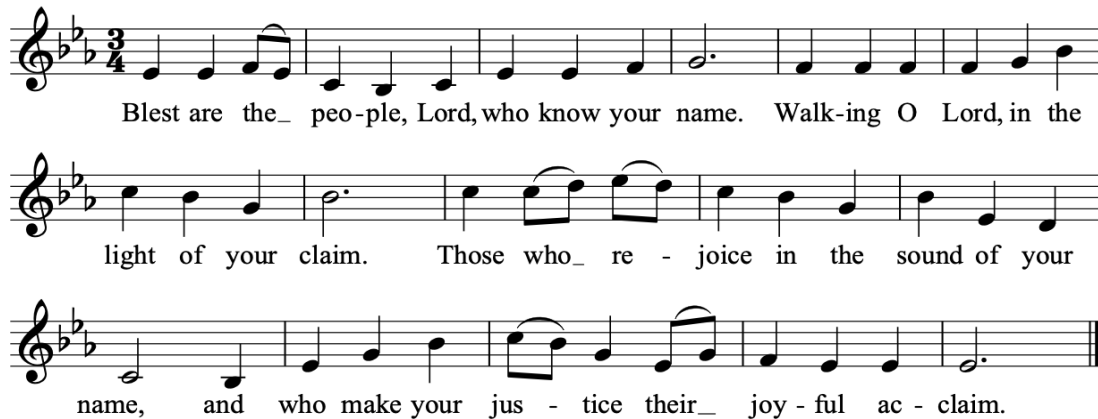
\*Call to Confession

\*Prayer of Confession

Emmanuel, God with us, scripture tells us that you were a refugee, but we love to forget that information. We love to forget every act of gun violence. We love to forget how many people go hungry, or how many students do not have access to good education. We love to forget the injustices in our world that feel too big for us to face. But you are a God who refuses to forget. So today we pray: make it impossible for us to overlook the stories of those in need. Make it impossible for us to sweep injustice under the rug. Open our eyes along with our hearts, so that the anger we feel around injustice might fuel a fire for action. With hope for a better tomorrow we pray.

*(please continue in silent prayer)*

\*Kyrie eleison



\*Declaration of Forgiveness

Church family, even when we fail to do justice, even when we fail to love kindness, even when we allow fear to override action, freezing us in place, God still loves us. So hear and believe the good news of the gospel:

**On our best days and on our worst days, we belong to God. We are invited into community. We are held in God's grace. We are forgiven. And we are sent to serve.**

Thanks be to God for a love like that.

**Amen.**

\*Gloria Patri

*Angels' We Have Heard On High*

Gloria

**Gloria in excelsis Deo;  
Gloria in excelsis Deo.**

- The Word -

Prayer for Illumination

Thomas Houlihan

**Thank you God for the Word. To those who seek your truth, may they hear your Word clearly. To those who hear your Word clearly, may they speak of love fervently. Thank you God for the Word. Amen.**

First Scripture Reading: Micah 6:6 ~ 8

[Pew Bible pg. 866]

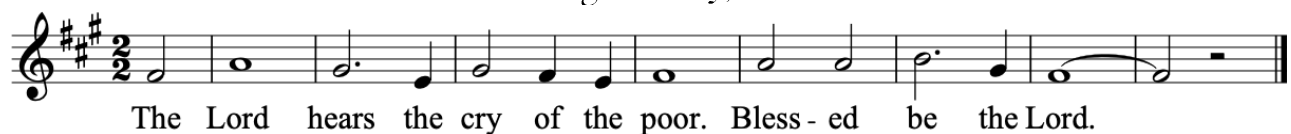
The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

Psalms 82

Dr. Angela Batey, cantor

Hopson



God stands to charge the divine council assembled,  
giving judgment in the mist of the gods;  
"How long will you judge unjustly, and show favor to the wicked?  
Save the weak and the orphan; defend the humble and needy;  
rescue the weak and the poor; deliver them from the power of the wicked.  
They do not know, neither do they understand;  
they wander about in darkness; all the foundations of the earth are shaken. (R)  
Now I say to you, 'You are gods, and all of you children of the Most High;  
Nevertheless, you shall die like mortals, and fall like any prince.' "  
Arise, O God, and rule the earth, for you shall take all nations for your own. (R)

Second Scripture Reading: Matthew 2:13 ~ 15, 19 ~ 23

[Pew Bible pg. 2]

The Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to You, O Christ.**

Sermon

“Let Fear Fuel a Fire For Justice”

Mason Warren

## ~ The Response ~

### Affirmation of Faith

We have seen the valley. We have seen a sky without stars. We have seen the longest night, and *still* we believe. We believe in a with-us God. We believe in the hope of tomorrow. We believe that good news is louder than fear. We believe this good news is for all people. So even when our knees shake, even when our voice trembles, even when fear is all around us, we will hold onto that good news. We will reach for each other. We will look for God in our midst. We will sing songs of joy. We will proclaim: *Unto us, love is born*. We have seen the longest night, and we have seen unimaginable love. So *still*, we believe. Amen.

### The Anthem

#### *Offertory*

John Ness Beck

Dr. Angela Batey, soprano

With what shall I come before the Lord, and bow myself before God on High?

Shall I come before Him with burnt offerings,

Shall I come before Him with yearling calves?

Will the Lord be pleased with thousands of rams,

with ten thousand rivers of oil?

Shall I give my firstborn for my transgressions,

the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul?

He has shown you, O man; He has shown you what is good.

And what does the Lord require of you but to do justice and

to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?

### Call for the Offering



You can use the QR code to give online or place your offering in the baskets located at the Sanctuary doors. Thank you for your gifts.

### Prayers of Thanksgiving and Intercession

#### The Lord's Prayer

**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name.**

**Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.**

**Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our debts,**

**as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil.**

**For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.**

~ The Sending ~

\*Hymn #40

*Joy to the World*

Antioch

\*Benediction

\*Congregational Response #29

*Go, Tell It on the Mountain*

Go Tell It

**Go, tell it on the mountain Over the hills and everywhere;  
Go, tell it on the mountain That Jesus Christ is born!**

\*Postlude

*Ding Dong! Merrily On High!*

Tami Newsom, organ

Hames

*Prayers and liturgy by Rev. Sarah (Are) Speed | A Sanctified Art LLC | sanctifiedart.org.*

Ushers ~ Margo Gregory and Gary Heidinger

A/V Team ~ Ken Ladrach & David Long

Please use one of the methods below to record your attendance with us today:



Scan this QR code and click on the generated google doc link, or

- Go to <https://tinyurl.com/record-FPC-attendance>, or
- Email the office at [office@fpctn.org](mailto:office@fpctn.org), or
- Sign the pew attendance pad.



### Members

Pat Dail, Marilyn Felts, Dean & Lucy Fleming, Frank Guess, Beth & Jimmy Loyless, Ann McAnally, Debby McKinney, Maria Medina, Irma McGuffey, Tami Newsom, Donna Phillips, Jan Seiler

### Bereaved

The Family of Bob Alexander as they celebrate Bob's life on January 2<sup>nd</sup> at 12:00pm with visitation at 11:00am here at FPC.

The Family of John Huntley as they celebrate John's life on January 3<sup>rd</sup> at 11:00am here at FPC.

*Join us for a special time of Fellowship after  
worship.*





# WHAT'S HAPPENING...

AT

Farragut  
Presbyterian  
Church

Our Advent and Christmas theme this year is provided by



**What do you fear?**  
INSISTING ON HOPE THIS ADVENT

*A Sanctified Art*

Join us Sundays as we travel through this season of hope together.

You may also use the Advent & Christmas devotional link.

Graphic design by Rev. Lauren Wright Pittman | Photography by Rev. Lisle Gwynn Garrity | A Sanctified Art LLC | sanctifiedart.org

## ADVENT & CHRISTMAS DEVOTIONAL

Our friends at A Sanctified Art have provided a special e-reader version of this year's Advent devotional, which you can access on your computer and mobile devices:

[online.flippingbook.com/view/361593675/](https://online.flippingbook.com/view/361593675/)

In order to protect their work, please refrain from sharing this link or posting it on social media.

If you prefer a printed copy, please let the church office know, and we can print one for you.

**MERRY CHRISTMAS**

*We return to our regular Worship and Spiritual Formation Class schedule next Sunday, January 4.*

## JOIN US IN THE NEW YEAR

### CHILDREN, YOUTH & FAMILIES

#### Resuming January 4

Join us Sundays for **KidsQuest** during the 9am Worship Service

**Youth Group** -Sundays at 5:30pm

#### January 11

**Bridgepoint 345**-- grades 3, 4 & 5 meet on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of every month for faith and fellowship

#### Small & Mighty

Once a month we join other youth groups from our Presbytery to form the Small & Mighty Youth Group. Our next gathering is **January 18 4-6:30pm** for Faith & Fellowship Night

#### Looking Ahead

#### **Easter Egg Hunt on April 5,**

Easter Sunday, at 10am (between worship services)



#### **Vacation Bible School (VBS)**

This summer we'll travel to the Wild West on the "Faith Frontier," Sundays at 9am beginning June 7

#### **Camp John Knox**

Sign up to go to camp with friends or be on staff this summer--see Mason Warren for more details



#### **Montreat (June 13-20)**

Montreat Youth Conference is a unique gathering of young people from all over the country for a week of study, worship, and recreation.



### ADULTS

#### SAVE THE DATE

#### "Lunch and Learn"

We're launching a new time of fellowship and learning on Thursday, January 15.

We're calling it "Lunch and Learn." We'll gather for lunch together at 11:30 at the church (in Room A or the narthex) and follow our meal and fellowship with a short study of some of the giants of our faith. St. Augustine, C.S. Lewis, Thomas Merton, Henri Nouwen, and so many other famous scholars, pastors, and writers have so much to say about faith and God's place in the world. Matt Nieman and John Sharp will lead these brief discussions on these well-known figures and their ideas that have shaped our faith. We'll limit our time to around an hour to make room for the other activities of our day, but hope you'll be able to join other members of our community in a time of relationship-strengthening and learning. The meal will be catered, and the cost is only \$10 per person at the event. You can sign up at this link: <https://tinyurl.com/FPCLunchandLearn> or, you can sign up in the narthex on Sunday mornings.



**See the Quest Menu on the next page for more Adult Spiritual Formation Opportunities**





# MENU FOR WINTER & SPRING 2026: For Adults

**Quest Sundays:** Ongoing spiritual formation opportunities situated between worship services, meeting at 10:00am with childcare 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** Meeting in the new Narthex gathering space. John Sharp facilitates a lively, interactive experience around worship themes and content for the day. No 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 have multiple groups, 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**

Meets the 2nd & 4th Thursdays of the month at 8:00 am, in the Narthex. Great discussion, exploration of scripture, prayer, time together, and Chick-fil-a biscuits!

- **Lunch & Learn**

Starting January 15 and thereafter on the third Thursday of the month at 11:30am. Come for the food, fellowship and finding deeper faith connections.

**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.

- **The 5<sup>th</sup> Gospel**

People who live in Palestine and Israel often call the land of the Bible, "The 5<sup>th</sup> Gospel," as it tells the story of our faith in unique and unforgettable ways. Want fresh perspective and deeper understanding of a faith rooted in another place, time, language and culture? John Sharp has spent time in the Middle East, and wants to share a very experiential approach to Christianity's birthplace. This will be a pilgrimage for the mind and heart that provides vivid, lasting images and understanding that permanently enriches faith. Starting February 9, the class meets on Mondays from 5:30-6:30pm until Holy Week.

- **Elemental: Conversations in Science and Faith**

Launches Thursday, February 12 at 7:00pm. 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 better understand and inform each other? How can faith flourish in an age of science and technology? Bring a friend and join the conversation!

- **Coming in 2027:** Trip to Israel and Palestine - February 8-17, 2027. Cost will be approximately \$4,300 per person, all-inclusive. See John Sharp for more details.



# A LOOK BACK AT 2025



## VMC

Thank you to all who served at the Volunteer Ministry Center throughout 2025! Pictured are our December volunteers from the Men's Bible Study.

L to R: Scott McKinney, Matt Nieman, Wayne Walls, Thom Haig, Kirk Morris

## Sunset Gap

Delivery crew pictured from L to R:

Steve & Jan Darnell, Carol & Greg Kraft, Kathy Emmerson, Kimberly & Earl Platt, MaryAnne Walls, David & Debbie Long, Kelly Schueler

Thank you to all who joined in Presbyterian women's drive for warm hats, mittens, and scarves for the residents in the Sunset Gap community. Your generosity will be appreciated in the gift of warmth this winter.

A big thank you to all who participated in this year's Christmas drive for 40 children in Cocke Co. You have truly made a difference and will bring so much joy to them this year. This congregation's generosity is amazing! Thank you also to all of the volunteers who have helped in the drive, sorting/bagging and delivering to Sunset Gap. The gift of your time is truly appreciated.



Wrapping gifts for Santa Elves are Denise Griffin, Margo Gregory, Sharon Koch, co-founder Sarah Booher, Joanie Scheuer, Jeanie Oakley. A big thank you to our church family who gave contributions to support The Santa Elves gift giving to over 50 children from Holston Children's Home.





## 2025 Year-End Giving Reminders

### 1. To be counted as a 2025 contribution:

- Checks or cash must be received at FPC or mailed items postmarked by 12/31/25.
- Donations by credit card are deductible in the year the donor makes the charge (transaction posting date).
- ACH, EFT, stock transfers or other online donations are deductible in the year the bank transfers the stock or funds to FPC. Please make sure your online giving is initiated by Friday, Dec. 26<sup>th</sup> in time for the transaction to post on Wed., Dec. 31, 2025. The donation confirmation page on our website will confirm the date your account is debited for online giving transactions.

2. Don't file your 2025 tax return before receiving your FPC 2025 year-end giving statement, so that you have IRS-compliant documentation of any gifts of cash or checks to FPC that are \$250 or more.

3. Year-end donation statements will be mailed and emailed by Jan 31<sup>st</sup>, 2026.

## Join us in the New Year.

### Sunday Worship

**9am Casual Worship Service** with KidsQuest program during worship and Nursery available

**10am Spiritual Formation Classes** for all ages

**11am Traditional Worship Service**  
with Nursery available

### Ash Wednesday

**February 18 at 7pm**

### Palm Sunday

**10am Blended Worship Service**

**11am Palm Sunday Brunch**

### Holy Week

***Maundy Thursday***

**Worship at 7pm**

### Good Friday

**Noon worship**

### Easter Sunday

**9am Casual Worship Service with Communion**

**11am Traditional Worship Service**  
with Brass and Communion

## This Week at FPC.

Sun, Dec 28

**10am Traditional Worship Service/Sanctuary**  
**11am Nibbles in the Narthex**

Wed, Dec 31

**OFFICE CLOSSES AT NOON**  
**12pm Parlor Reserved**

Thurs, Jan 1

**HAPPY NEW YEAR!**  
**OFFICE CLOSED**

Fri, Jan 2

**10am Chair Yoga/Room A**  
**11am Bob Alexander Visitation/Sanctuary**  
**12pm Bob Alexander Memorial Service/Sanctuary**

Sat, Jan 3

**11am John Huntley Memorial Service/Sanctuary**

Sun, Jan 4

**9am Casual Worship Service/Sanctuary**  
**10am Soul Cafe/Narthex**  
**Pastor Matt's Class/Library**  
**KidStart/Room D**  
**YouthQuest/Youth Rm**  
**11am Traditional Worship Service/Sanctuary**  
**12pm Nibbles in the Narthex**

