



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
Sanctuary**

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

A New Thing

In Isaiah 43, God says in verses 18 and 19, “Behold, I am doing a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it? I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert.”

This chapter is a powerful message of comfort, identity, and future hope for Israel, assuring them that God will protect them through upcoming trials and perform a new, greater work.

It reminds us that God is a God of new things. No matter the time or place in history, God is always at work doing something new.

As the new year begins for us, it’s the perfect time to remind ourselves of God’s posture toward creating new things.

We find this most impactfully at the time of death. Whereas flowers go dormant in the heart of winter and simply regenerate in the spring, God does something extraordinary: When we die, God takes what was dead and brings new life. It’s the great mystery which only God can explain.

And, it is a gift of newness reserved for all of us. A glorious gift!

In 2026, let’s look for the newness instead of the destruction. Let’s celebrate what God might be up to—in the church and beyond. God is capable of more than we can imagine.

Lunch and Learn

We’re launching a new time of fellowship and learning on Thursday, January 15 (and continuing every third Thursday of the month). 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. You can sign up in the narthex on Sunday mornings.



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 will facilitate 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 5th Gospel**
People who live in Palestine and Israel often call the land of the Bible, "The 5th 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.

OUTREACH

BUILDING COMMUNITY THROUGH GIVING



Presbyterian Women invite the congregation to join us in a food drive to help stock the food pantry at Sunset Gap during this period of high unemployment. As many of the tourist attractions in Sevier County shut down for winter, many depend on the food pantry even more. Items most needed, in order of priority, include- peanut butter, breakfast items, canned meats, canned vegetables (no glass jars), Ramen noodle soup, and pasta and sauce (no glass). The deadline is February 8 for return to the church in the basket in the narthex.

Questions? contact Debbie Long



A big thank you to all who participated in this year's Christmas drive for 40 children in Cocke County. You have truly made a difference and will bring so much joy to them this year. This congregation's generosity is amazing! Thank you 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.



Here is the note from the Sunset Gap Christmas drive from the mother of a 6 y/o we sponsored:

My son attends Cosby Elementary school, and I believe you sponsored him this year for Christmas. I just wanted to reach out and say thank you for your generosity- he was a very excited and thankful six-year-old! Please know that we appreciate you and all that you do for the community. God bless and Merry Christmas!



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.



Mason Warren
Director of Family
Ministries

Family Ministries @ FPC



Dear FPC Church Family,

As we enter the new year, the month of January offers us an opportunity to reflect on where we have been and where God is leading us. It is a chance to reminisce about the many joys that 2025 brought, while also acknowledging and lamenting the hardships we may have faced along the way.

Within our Family Ministries, we are continually reminded that the work we do today is not only for the present, but for the future of the Church as well. Throughout this past year, we have had the joy of walking alongside our children, youth, and parents as they seek to live out what it means to Love & Learn.

We have watched our youngest members grow both emotionally and physically, and we have been blessed to welcome many new families into our faith community. We have also borne witness to the beautiful ways God continues to be at work—even in the smallest moments.

From our weekly opportunities such as KidsQuest and Waypoint Youth, to our monthly small groups and special events, we have seen God shaping lives through the relationships we are blessed to share with one another. The growth we experienced in Family Ministries during 2025 has been a true blessing from God, and for that I am deeply grateful.

As we begin 2026, our focus remains on creating safe, welcoming spaces where young people can encounter God and feel loved by their church family. We are also committed to walking alongside parents and caregivers as they navigate the sacred calling of nurturing faith in their children.

Many of you may not always see this ministry firsthand, but your prayers, encouragement, and faithfulness make a tremendous difference. Every lesson taught, every conversation shared, and every child welcomed into this gracious community is built upon the foundation laid by generations before them. Your ongoing support ensures that our church continues to be a place where God's love is shared and God's Word is lived out—allowing us to truly embody what it means to Love & Learn.

As we look ahead to the year before us, I invite you to keep our children, youth, and families in your prayers. I also encourage you to consider the ways God may be nudging you into new opportunities within the life of our church. My prayer for this new year is that we all continue to grow together, trusting that God will guide and sustain us as we move forward.

Peace & Blessings,

Mason Warren
Director of Family Ministries



Music at FPC

Dr. Angela Batey, Director

What a wonderful Advent and Christmas season we have experienced! Our musicians have really out done themselves once again. We began the Advent season with our 24th annual Farragut Presbyterian Church Christmas Festival, which again featured the collaboration of our FPC Chancel Choir joined by the UT Chamber Singers, and a large, very appreciative audience as we presented a number of seasonal favorites and a very fun sing-along!

The second Sunday of Advent saw our children present their Christmas pageant. There were a number of highlights from the pageant, but the Wise Men arriving on blow up stick ponies may have been my favorite! Thanks to the many people who helped with the pageant.

Our third Sunday of Advent brought us to our Twenty-eighth Annual Service of Lessons and Carols, a particular favorite of many of our congregation. We gathered once again to hear in scripture and song the miraculous story of Christ's birth. It was so exciting to have nearly 300 people experience this wonderful traditional service. It was amazing to run out of both candles and bulletins for the service! Everyone enjoyed the fantastic reception by our Church Life committee after the service.

Our Christmas Eve services, as always, are carefully planned to be so wonderful and meaningful. There really is something sacred and magical when the sanctuary is lit only by candles and our voices join together singing the final verse: Silent night, holy night, wondrous star, lend thy light; with the angels let us sing, Alleluia to our King; Christ the Savior is born – all with the beautiful star high above the stained-glass window at the front of the sanctuary. Thank you, Ken Ladrach, for the years of climbing the very tall ladder to make sure the star is always there.

I want to thank all those associated with the Music Ministry of Farragut Presbyterian Church for all the wonderful work they put into our ministry day after day, week after week, month after month. Most of our congregation is not aware of the many hours many people volunteer to our ministry to make it so successful. We appreciate so much the support of our wonderful congregation. Thank you to all for all you do!

Why We Do/Say What We Do/Say In Worship?

A few weeks ago, someone asked me about some of the elements of worship in our service and their meaning. In many of today's churches sometimes the language of worship has become common, often even losing the historical names of the parts of worship such as Kyrie eleison, Sanctus, Agnus Dei and even, Doxology. Over the next few months, I will offer up to you a brief history on the origin of some of the terms we use in our worship. Our worship at Farragut Presbyterian is rooted in thousands of years of history and religious practice and largely based on the Roman Catholic form of worship called the Ordinary of the Mass. Some of the elements we derive in our own service from the Mass are Kyrie, Gloria, Credo, Sanctus, Benedictus and Agnus Dei.

This month, we will look at the **Kyrie**. The Kyrie eleison (Greek, Κύριε, ἐλέησον, for "Lord, have mercy") dates from pagan antiquity and is found in 4th century Jerusalem. In Rome, the Divine Liturgy was first celebrated in Greek. As Latin became the predominant language, Mass was celebrated in Latin, but the familiar and venerated Greek prayer Kýrie, eléison was preserved, as were Hebrew phrases such as "Alleluia". The Kyrie was modified by Pope Gelasius I (492-6) and moved to the position in the Mass that is still used today. Pope Gregory I (d. 604 and for which Gregorian Chant is named), added the second response of Christe eleison.

It is worthy to note the Kyrie is the only part of the Mass that is in Greek – the rest being in Latin. Many composers throughout history have composed music for this text, including Guillaume de Machaut, Guillaume Dufay, Johannes Ockeghem, Josquin des Prez, Giovanni Pierluigi da Palestrina, Johann Sebastian Bach, Joseph Haydn, Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart, Luigi Cherubini, Franz Schubert, Ludwig van Beethoven, Gabriel Fauré, Hector Berlioz, Charles Gounod, Giuseppe Verdi, Ralph Vaughan Williams, Igor Stravinsky, Leonard Bernstein, Benjamin Britten, and Arvo Pärt.

The ‘flavor’ of the Kyrie music is very much tied to the textual meaning. As it comes in our service immediately following our Confession, it is truly a prayer of supplication to God for mercy and forgiveness: "Lord, have mercy; Christ, have mercy; Lord, have mercy." You will not find this text set to ‘happy clappy’ music. More often than not, the music is in a minor key and a slow tempo – reflecting the heavy weight of this text from a musical perspective.

Next month: The next element of worship in our service – the Gloria!



START THE NEW YEAR RIGHT!
JOIN THE CHANCEL CHOIR!!!

The Advantages of Choir Membership:

1. You never have to worry about what to wear.
2. You have excellent seats and are assured a reserved seat for Christmas and Easter.
3. From your advantageous seat, you can gawk at, smile at, ignore and otherwise enjoy the rest of the people in the congregation.
4. The minister is nearly always looking the other way.
5. You're in a wonderful spot to see new members.
6. The cost of all these benefits? Just one evening a week.
7. One final reason you'll want to be in the choir: You are a leader in our worship experience.

ALL ARE WELCOME IN THE
MUSIC MINISTRY OF FARRAGUT PRESBYTERIAN!



We Are Looking For A Few Ding-a-Lings!

Our FPC Ringers Handbell Ensemble needs a few more folks into our regular rotation.

If you are interested, please contact Angie Batey for more information.
We rehearse September – Easter on the second and fourth Wednesdays of the month.

Ministries

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

Prayer Shawl Ministry



January 27

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.

Men's Bible Study

January 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!

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

January Birthdays

1/06 Irma McGuffee – 103 years old!
1/06 Tom Feldhausen
1/07 Jimmy Loyless
1/08 Brenda Luggie
1/09 Marlene Woodard
1/14 Kathy Ransdell
1/15 Patricia Watson
1/17 Jim Rich
1/17 Nathan Mathis
1/20 Cheryl Cardwell
1/20 Brenda Moore
1/21 Leonard Loveda
1/25 Emily Sweetland
1/26 Laura McFee-Adams
1/26 Jan Darnell
1/30 David Sweetland
1/30 Sandy Latimer

January Anniversaries

1/01 Mark and Joanie Scheuer

1/01 David and Zettie Bell

1/22 Ron and Nancy Pevey

Remember in your prayers...



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

Bereaved

Prayers for Nancy Huntley and family on the death of husband and father, John Huntley, who passed away November 1.

Prayers for the family of Bob Alexander who died on December 22.

Prayers for Scott McKinney whose father, Gilbert Vance McKinney, passed away on December 18.



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

At its meeting on December 9, the Session:

- Adopted the 2026 operating budget. It is a balanced budget totaling \$768,450 and is roughly equal to the 2025 budget. Thanks to the congregation for its generosity in committing to the church's work in the new year and to the Session's tightening of committee budgets in order to make it come into balance. The budget will be presented to the congregation at the annual congregational meeting on January 25.
- Approved the purchase of a large-screen television for the wall in Room A. It will be used to assist in teaching and other presentations throughout the year. The TV was funded from remaining parts of an anonymous gift given in 2025.
- Heard of the substantial progress made in the Horizon 2035 initiative since its beginning last May—new small groups formed, additional classes added, and relationships strengthened because of these new connections. A similar report will be made during the upcoming congregational meeting.
- Thanked outgoing elders Scott McKinney, Kathy Emmerson, Beth Honey, and Gayle Williams for their terms of service. New elders Dawn Zilles, Brett Eiffert, Joanie Scheuer, and Margo Gregory will be ordained/installed on January 18.

Financial Report as of November 2025			
	Actual for November	YTD November	YTD November Budget
Operating Income	\$64,926	\$684,676	\$681,500
Big Fish Academy Income	\$2,000	\$22,000	\$22,000
Total Income	\$66,926	\$706,676	\$703,500
Operating Expenses	\$55,567	\$684,383	\$693,554
Total Expenses	\$55,567	\$684,383	\$693,554
Total Income less Expenses	\$11,359	\$22,293	\$9,946



STAFF

Pastor

Reverend Matt Nieman
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 402-660-2451 (call or text)

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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

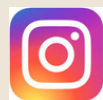
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Office Hours

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.