

FEBRUARY 2026 | YEAR A

# GOOD NEWS BANNER

Newsletter of Farragut Presbyterian Church



## *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. During the winter, or if the weather is questionable, this service will move indoors to our sanctuary.

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

### On Being Good

From his book *Mere Christianity*, C.S. Lewis gave his take on why we should strive to live lives of goodness. And as I told our Session this past week, his reasoning for why we should “be good” as leaders (or as followers) informs our knowledge of God’s nature and the relationship we have with God.

Lewis writes, “Even the best Christian that ever lived is not acting on his own steam—he is only nourishing or protecting a life he could never have acquired by his own efforts.”

Lewis calls this life the “Christ life,” one in which God has taken initiative to love and save us without regard for our ability to merit it. It has been implanted in us as purely a gift.

Therefore, our attempts to “be good” are then simply faithful responses to the “Christ life” that God has instilled in us.

“The Christian,” Lewis says, “thinks any good he has done comes from the Christ-life inside him. He does not think God will love us because we are good, but that God will make us good because He loves us.”

This thinking mirrors our Reformed understanding of God and how we relate to God. God is the one who acts first in this relationship—creating us and redeeming us. We simply respond to this goodness by doing our best to “be good.”

Takes the pressure off us, doesn’t it? And it frees us to live more good days than bad.



All are invited to a “Soul Café” session on Sunday, February 8 from 10 – 11 am in Room A. We will be brainstorming regarding visitor welcome and new member development at FPC. Jenny Trussell will lead a lively discussion about what works (and what doesn’t) when welcoming visitors to FPC, and how to engage guests who may be interested in becoming an active member of the FPC community. Come ready to discuss ideas!



We are looking for volunteers to assist on Sunday mornings. If you would like to serve as an usher, scripture reader, communion server or coffee crew, please click [HERE](#). If you have any questions, please contact Mikie Lancaster, Ken Ladrach, or the church office (865/966-9547).





## 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 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.

# OUTREACH

## BUILDING COMMUNITY THROUGH GIVING



Mobile Meals is in dire need of volunteers to cover one more regular delivery week plus we need additional folks to be subs periodically.

**Specifically we need a team of two people to cover Fridays Week 2 every month.**

This is a wonderful ministry to older adults who are unable to prepare meals and experience limited social contact. In addition to providing a home delivered meal, Mobile Meals volunteers offer

friendly social interactions and daily safety checks that help these precious folks continue living independently in their own homes.

If you can help or have questions please call Irene Rice at 865-675-4804.



Team FPC serving at the Volunteer Ministry Center. Thanks to FPC's kiddos for assembling treat bags for our neighbors.



**Corners Of Your Field** is a partnership opportunity between Knox Area Rescue Ministries and local churches and non-profit organizations. Corners Of Your Field encourages members of partner churches and organizations (FPC is a participant) to be

intentional about selecting their gently used household items for donation to KARM Stores. The stores then return a portion of the value of these donated items in the form of gift cards to your organization to help those in need. And, donors are still able to take advantage of the tax-deduction with every gift to KARM Stores. Next time you donate to KARM, be sure to mention Farragut Presbyterian Church with your donation.



The Kroger Community Rewards program is a free and easy way to support the ministry and outreach programs at Farragut Presbyterian Church: If you shop at Kroger, you can link your Kroger reward card to FPC. It won't affect your fuel rewards or cost anything to participate—it's essentially a vote on how Kroger should allocate their charitable donation budget. The amount donated is based on the total spent at Kroger by linked FPC members. We currently receive about \$150/quarter to apply to programs here at FPC. Be sure to sign up today! Visit <https://www.kroger.com/i/community/community-rewards> Our group is #YU915.





# *Music at FPC*

*Dr. Angela Batey, Director*

## Why We Do/Say What We Do/Say In 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.

Last month, in response to some questions from congregants, I began to write about the history of the origin of some of the elements we use in our worship. The element discussed last month was the Kyrie and its somber tone due to the text as a prayer of supplication to God for mercy and forgiveness.

This month, we will learn about the **Gloria**. In contrast to the Kyrie, the Gloria Patri, coming as it does in our service immediately after the minister declares we have been forgiven, is a short acclamation of praise to the Trinity. "Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen." The term is from the opening words of the acclamation in Latin. The Gloria Patri (Glory Be To The Father) is also known as the Lesser Doxology. The Greater Doxology is the text from the Mass that begins "Gloria in excelsis Deo." The Gloria Patri was usually intoned after psalms, as first ordered by St. Benedict in 525. This tradition actually comes from the Jewish Synagogue, where ancient rites and hymns concluded with a similar 'closing'. The Gloria Patri text dates from the 3rd or 4th century!

As is the case with the Kyrie, the text of the Gloria has been set to music by composers throughout history. Composers absolutely cannot resist the contrast of the exultant Gloria text with that of the somber Kyrie. This text of praise is often in a major key, a faster tempo, sung forte (loudly), and accompanied by traditional instruments of praise – brass, strings, percussion and yes, the mighty organ. So, each Sunday, when we sing the Gloria Patri, you are joining with worshippers from nearly 2,000 years who have been singing this text of praise!

Next month: The next element of worship in our service – Credo in unum Deum!



## 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.

# 2026 PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN *Birthday Offering*

"May the God of hope fill you  
with all joy and peace in believing,  
so that you may *abound in hope*  
by the power of the Holy Spirit."

—Romans 15:13\*



Learn more about the Birthday Offering of Presbyterian Women  
by visiting [presbyterianwomen.org/birthday](https://presbyterianwomen.org/birthday).

\* New Revised Standard Version Updated Edition, Copyright © 2021 National Council of Churches of Christ  
in the United States of America. All rights reserved worldwide. Used by permission.



PWR26453

Presbyterian Women's Birthday Offering was born in 1922 when Hallie Paxson Winsborough challenged members of the Woman's Auxiliary of the Presbyterian Church in the United States to give a penny for each year of her life as a "birthday gift." Hallie encouraged the women to offer "a penny for every year you have lived, and if that is a secret, bring a dollar!"

As members of the Creative Ministries Offering Committee, we are happy to introduce you to the projects chosen for grants this year and we ask that you share this information far and wide. Thank you for your continued prayers, celebration of our recipients, and support for our long PW tradition of giving! <https://www.presbyterianwomen.org/giving-funding/give/>

"May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit." —Romans 15:13b

Support the Birthday Offering so that organizations like the ones selected for 2026 will continue to celebrate in God's abounding hope and power in the world. This year's recipients are:

City Mission of Findlay Women and Children's Crisis Shelter Findlay, Ohio. [findlaymission.org](https://findlaymission.org)  
\$125,000

Haywood Christian Ministry Rural Food Assistance Project Waynesville, North Carolina.  
[hcmnc.org](https://hcmnc.org) \$125,00

## FPC Presbyterian Women

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



# *Surprise Valentine's Brunch*

Sunday, February 15 at 10:00 a.m.

Join us for brunch together. Donuts, juice, and water will be provided. We would love for families to consider bringing a breakfast dish to share. If you are able to do so, please note this in your RSVP. We are so looking forward to this time of fellowship and celebration together, and we cannot wait to see you there!

RSVP: [https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSc8Q4umUbYFpgGb1L-vBdGfu9LZ1W1oBn4bXhLjpgYUd4o\\_iQ/viewform](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSc8Q4umUbYFpgGb1L-vBdGfu9LZ1W1oBn4bXhLjpgYUd4o_iQ/viewform)

# Mardi



# Gras

# *Bingo Night*

Saturday, February 21

5:00 pm

Let's wear our beads and eat cajun food together at a fun evening playing Bingo!

Bring your friends and your favorite soup, chili, jambalya or even shrimp etouffee to our Mardi Gras Bingo Night in Fellowship Hall. Our Church Life committee will provide drinks and chili condiments. We look forward to seeing you there! **RSVP HERE:**

[https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSc0o8ZzI-5wp5En6tQkCHxLgQQvENKP02QVwGP0tqj\\_bhI1Jw/viewform](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSc0o8ZzI-5wp5En6tQkCHxLgQQvENKP02QVwGP0tqj_bhI1Jw/viewform)



# From East TN Presbytery

Presbyterian hymn-writer pens

‘O God of Love, This Is a Time of Turning’

The Rev. Carolyn Winfrey Gillette, a prolific Presbyterian hymn-writer, this week published “O God of Love, This Is a Time of Turning,” set to FINLANDIA (“Be Still, My Soul.”)

“This new hymn is a prayer that we will choose God's way of love, justice, compassion, and kindness, in times of conflict and violence — with a special concern for our immigrant neighbors,” she said. “May we stand firm for truth and peace and justice; may we leave fear and hatred far behind.”

O God of Love, This is a Time of Turning  
FINLANDIA (“Be Still, My Soul”)

O God of love, this is a time of turning —  
a time of change, with conflict in the news.  
For in our land, some mighty winds are churning;  
There’s much at stake that we could gain or lose.  
Love sings out strong, yet fires of hate are burning;  
O God of all, you call us all to choose.

O God of peace, we hear your gracious promise:  
Your love can heal the hearts of humankind.  
May we stand firm for truth and peace and justice;  
May we leave fear and hatred far behind.  
May we sing out, and — singing— be a witness,  
and show resolve to work for what is kind.

O God of all, of immigrant and neighbor,  
of those in power — and of the refugee,  
You give us all our common life and labor —  
our common hope, the peace we long to see.  
God, may we turn and be made strong together.  
May we seek justice, love and unity.

O God of love, have mercy on your churches;  
Take from our hearts our paralyzing fear.  
Give us new faith! Make us courageous workers.  
Help us to labor on from year to year  
When other voices call out to distract us,  
May we choose well and seek your kingdom here.



PRESBYTERY  
OF EAST TENNESSEE



## Black History Worship Service

\*reception to follow

**02/22/26** | **FOURTH UNITED  
PRESBYTERIAN  
CHURCH**



1323 N BROADWAY, KNOXVILLE, TN



*February 27, 7:00pm*

### Musica Organi Presents

Organist, Kola Owolabi, Professor of Organ at the University of Notre Dame performing at Westminster Presbyterian Church.

This concert will feature works by Jan Pieterszoon Sweelinck, Francisco Correa de Arauxo, George Muffat, Arcangelo Corelli, J.S. Bach and Brenda Portman.



WESTMINSTER  
PRESBYTERIAN  
CHURCH

6500 S. Northshore Drive Knoxville TN 37919





**February 12 and 26**

**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!



**February 24**

**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.



## **Chair Yoga**

10 am most Mondays (taught by Jenny Trussell) and Fridays (taught by Collin Greaser) in the Narthex. The class is a 30 minute seated and standing class using the chair for balance. This is an excellent session for those with limited mobility or balance concerns.

## **Gentle Flow**

7 pm most Fridays in the Narthex  
This class is a 60 minute gentle/slow flow class for beginner and experienced yogis. Bring a mat and comfortable clothing.



Jenny also teaches community yoga classes at the Farragut Community Center (239 Jamestowne Blvd) at 8:15 am on Mondays, Wednesdays, and some Fridays. A minimal class fee may be charged by the community center.

All classes are taught by yoga teacher Jenny Trussell (RYT500/RCYT) and Collin Greaser (RYT-200), and offered at no cost. Contact Jenny Trussell at [cedarstudios4@gmail.com](mailto:cedarstudios4@gmail.com) for more information.





## February Birthdays

2/01 Joyce Williams  
2/02 Roxie Matson  
2/02 Mindy Houlihan  
2/08 Joe Kszos  
2/08 Evelyn Snelling  
2/09 Maylee Warren  
2/10 John Neighbors  
2/10 Eva Quinley Lynch  
2/12 Karen Johnson  
2/12 Janet Murphy  
2/12 Ron Pevey  
2/12 Chris Sparks  
2/16 Betty Nicholls  
2/17 Lisa Gary  
2/20 Pat Hickman  
2/20 Jules Snelling-Brandon  
2/21 Mary Hoagland  
2/22 Dan Greaser  
2/22 John Tabor  
2/23 Ashley Boone  
2/24 Nathan Burris  
2/27 Mikie Lancaster  
2/29 Debbie Schwartz

## February Anniversaries

2/12 Bryan and Linda Nunley  
2/17 Eric and Lori Corbett

Are you a Stephen Ministry with FPC but are currently inactive, or have you been a Stephen Minister in a previous church? If you are interested in serving again within our congregation, please let us know! We would love for you to be a part of our ministry team!

Beth Martin 865-776-3132,  
Jeanie Oakley 256-468-4501,  
Joanie Scheuer 865-705-1571

## Remember in your prayers...



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

### Bereaved

Prayers for Marie Shear at the death of her husband, Rev. Les Shear, in Illinois last week.

Kirk Morris' father , Dr. Richard H. Morris, died last week in Ohio. Prayers for Kirk and his brothers as they mourn.

Maria Medina as she mourns the loss of her younger brother, Jose, who passed away on January 2.

Prayers for Debbie Long whose mother, Margaret Knapp, died in December.



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 January 27, the Session:

- With appreciation, approved Lisa Gary as clerk of Session, Tom Koch as financial secretary, and John Begovich as church treasurer for 2026.
- Considered needed repairs to exterior doors in the education wing.
- Approved a Fresh Look II building campaign for the spring. Details of the campaign will start being revealed to the congregation in February.
- Heard of the Church Life fellowship events planned for this year. They include a Mardi Gras-themed bingo night on February 21 and the annual Palm Sunday lunch on March 29.

Financial Report as of December 2025

	Actual for December	YTD December	YTD December Budget
Operating Income	\$63,203	\$748,119	\$743,450
Big Fish Academy Income	\$2,000	\$24,000	\$24,000
Total Income	\$65,203	\$772,119	\$767,450
Operating Expenses	\$80,522	\$764,905	\$767,450
Total Expenses	\$80,522	\$764,905	\$767,450
Total Income less Expenses	(\$15,319)	\$7,214	\$0





## STAFF

### Pastor

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

Reverend Dr. John Sharp  
 Director of Spiritual Formation  
[johnsharpsemail@gmail.com](mailto:johnsharpsemail@gmail.com)  
 239-227-3999

Sandra Porter Bohlken  
 Office Administrator  
[office@fpctn.org](mailto:office@fpctn.org)  
 865-966-9547

Lori Corbett  
 Bookkeeper  
[bookkeeperfpc@gmail.com](mailto:bookkeeperfpc@gmail.com)

Mason Warren  
 Director of Family Ministry  
[masonwarren@fpctn.org](mailto:masonwarren@fpctn.org)

Dr. Angela Batey  
 Director of Music  
[abatey@utk.edu](mailto:abatey@utk.edu)

Tami Newsom  
 Associate Director of Music  
[tnewsom3@utk.edu](mailto:tnewsom3@utk.edu)

Sandra Porter Bohlken  
 Music Director, Casual Service  
[singsandrab@gmail.com](mailto: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

Farragut Presbyterian Church  
 209 Jamestowne Blvd.  
 Knoxville, TN 37934  
 865-966-9547  
[office@fpctn.org](mailto:office@fpctn.org)  
[www.fpctn.org](http://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](mailto: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.