

APRIL 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

Wait

1 Out of the depths I cry to you, O Lord.
2 Lord, hear my voice!
Let your ears be attentive
to the voice of my supplications!
3 If you, O Lord, should mark iniquities,
Lord, who could stand?
4 But there is forgiveness with you,
so that you may be revered.
5 I wait for the Lord; my soul waits,
and in his word I hope;
6 my soul waits for the Lord
more than those who watch for the morning,
more than those who watch for the morning.
7 O Israel, hope in the Lord!
For with the Lord there is steadfast love,
and with him is great power to redeem.
8 It is he who will redeem Israel
from all its iniquities.
--Psalm 130

As we began Holy Week and Easter, we have spent a good amount of time waiting. We've waited by praying and contemplating the good news of Jesus' ministry. And yet, the psalmist reminds us that waiting is difficult.

The personal transformation into greater holiness that takes place in our praying and studying of God's word doesn't come instantly. It takes time—too much time if we're being honest.

Much like the psalmist cried out to God ("Out of the depths I cry to you, O Lord"), we beg God for redemption. And we want it now!

Yet, the psalmist also tells us that things take time, and there is hope in waiting ("for with the Lord there is steadfast love").

So, we should not get in a hurry. Instead, we wait because waiting is evidently a significant part of the life of faith. It's a spiritual practice. We wait in anticipation of what God will do in our lives and in the world. And we're assured by the psalmist that our present days of grief and sorrow will not last.

There will be a day when God's reign over sin and death will be complete. And that is our hope once again this Easter. Life wins and death does not!

Sunday Morning Adult Classes at 10am

Soul Cafe now meets in Room A. John Sharp facilitates a lively, interactive experience around worship themes and content for the day.
No lesson to prepare - come as you are!

Pastor Matt's class meets in the Library. Starting April 12, Larry Byars will be teaching on the life of Joseph and the Old Testament.





Science, Faith & The Big Questions at FPC

New York Times opinion writer David French recently described our society as having reached “end-stage polarization.” Let’s not simplistically say that one dynamic, one group, or one person is the reason for this, but let us agree that French is not far off the mark.

A society that increasingly struggles to even be civil or engage in productive conversation isolates us into “thought tribes” that fail to even agree on reality among each other. I make it a point every day to read from a range of perspectives and have for many years. For a long time, it appeared that people of good will simply disagreed on solutions to societal problems. In recent years, however, it seems we don’t even agree on what the problems might be. Perhaps we reach “end-stage polarization” when we no longer “see” the same things. It was Senator Daniel Patrick Moynihan, known for reaching across the aisle and bridging difference and division to serve the common good, who famously said: “Everyone is entitled to their own opinion, but not their own facts.”

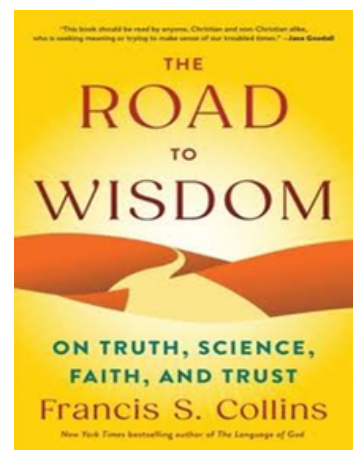
Since facts are (along with wisdom and understanding gleaned from lived experience and a robust faith tradition) the basis for truth itself, the stakes are high.

It seems that people of faith and goodwill gathering to consider the method and facts of science, and how those interact with ethics, faith and meaning is both rare and terribly important in this present moment. This is certainly what Francis Collins believes and compellingly offers in the rationale for his latest book, *In Search of Wisdom*: “I was inspired to write it after spending many years in the public eye and seeing just how badly divisiveness and politics have warped our thinking – including our ability to discern truth, our understanding of science, and our anchor to the fundamentals of faith represented in our churches. This is my attempt to “unwarp” us, and to help recover what matters most.”

On April 28th at 7:00 (Room A) there are a robust number of us who have committed to come and share the wisdom and perspective of Collins and his book – and we want to make sure to invite you too! As the Director of the National Institute for Health through three Presidential administrations, the co-director of the human genome project and a former atheist who is now a person of vibrant Christian faith – I can’t imagine a better guide to lead us away from the precipice of end-stage polarization and toward a more hopeful vision we can share with our society.

See you on the 28th!

Blessings,
John





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.

Posies for the Pantry

Annual Fundraiser benefitting Shepherd of Hope Food Pantry

Our FPC committee is busy planning the 7th annual Posies for the Pantry Fundraiser to be held on Saturday, April 18th between 9am and 1pm, rain or shine, in our parking lot or fellowship hall. This is a community event so be sure to invite family, friends and neighbors to come and purchase spring flowers & plants and visit numerous craft vendors. There will be a "Bargain Shed" full of gently used garden tools and décor and free crafts for the kids. This is a major fundraiser for the pantry!



The Shepherd of Hope Food Pantry is located at Faith Lutheran Church, our next-door neighbor here on Jamestowne Blvd. The pantry is supported by four Farragut churches: Faith Lutheran, Concord United Methodist, Farragut Presbyterian and First Baptist Concord. We have been a partner in this ministry since the pantry opened 15+ years ago and the fundraiser provides much needed funds to run the pantry.



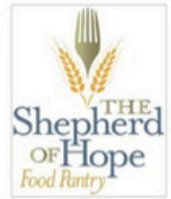
Through the generosity of the pantry partners, local businesses, church members and over 100 volunteers, the pantry served a total of 5,239 people experiencing food insecurity in our community during 2025 and the need continues to grow.



How can you help support the pantry? It's easy! Come purchase your spring plants at Posies for the Pantry, tell your family and friends about the event and encourage them to attend as well.

If you would like to volunteer at the pantry, please contact pantry director Reneé Stone

at shephoepantry@gmail.com or call 865-966-9626.



Sign up in the Narthex to serve at the Volunteer Ministry Center in 2026

FPC's day to serve is the third Tuesday of every month.

Our next date to serve is Tuesday, April 21.



Thank you to our March volunteers!

L to R: Catherine Manning, Margo Gregory, Sharon Koch, Beth Martin & Gayle Williams

"PACK A PACK" with SUMMER SNACKS

On May 14, Shepherd of Hope Food Pantry will host one of the three planned school voucher days. When school is out, kids don't always get enough food. If you'd like to help fill the Summer Snack Packs that will be distributed that day with shelf stable, individually wrapped items, here's some suggestions:

Fruit Cups, Peanut Butter and Cheese Crackers, Go Yogurt pouches, Protein Bars, Ramen Noodles, Microwave Mac & Cheese and Spaghetti cups, Juice/Lemonade packets to add to water, etc. etc. If you have any questions, please contact Betty Nicholls, bettynicholls@gmail.com

Beginning April 20-May 11, there will be a labeled shopping cart in the Narthex for these items. As always, the FPC support for these special requests is greatly appreciated.



The volunteers of Shepherd of Hope didn't let a little snow and rain get in their way of serving on Monday March 16th. They were still in full force, with gloves, thick coats, and easter bags for visitors who came to get food. Phil Trussell loaded bags into trunks of cars, Betty Nicholls greeted guests with a silly hat that kept the snow off. Karen Johnson and Jean Peretz stayed inside and filled Easter bags with extra food items which included cake mix and icing from FPC! Thank you for supporting this special request.





Music at FPC

Dr. Angela Batey, Director

The last several months, I have been writing about the history of some of the parts of our worship service. In many of today's churches sometimes the language of worship has become common and trivial, often even losing the historical names of the parts of 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 called the Ordinary of the Mass.

So far we have covered the Kyrie, Gloria, and Credo used in our FPC worship. Now we consider two elements – the Sanctus and Benedictus which are sung at FPC at each celebration of the Eucharist.

The Sanctus and Benedictus are sung together at the end of the prayers of thanksgiving as the continuation of the celebrant's words: Therefore with angels and archangels and the whole company of heaven, we worship and adore your glorious name, praising you forevermore:

*Sanctus, Sanctus, Sanctus
Dominus Deus Sabaoth.
Pleni sunt caeli et terra gloria tua.
Hosanna in excelsis.*

*Holy, Holy, Holy,
Lord, God of Hosts,
Heaven and earth are full of thy glory.
Hosanna in the highest.*

*Benedictus qui venit in nomine Domini.
Hosanna in excelsis.*

*Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.*

The Sanctus is also known as the Trisagon ("Thrice Holy"). The first part of the Sanctus is adapted from Isaiah 6:3, which describes Isaiah's vision of the throne of God surrounded by a six-winged seraphim. The same language is found in Revelation 4:8. The Trisagon is found in Hebrew liturgy as early as the 2nd century where it is said by the congregation before the opening of the ark:

Kadosh, Kadosh, Kadosh, Adonai
Tz'vaot Melo Kol Haaretz Kevodo.

The Sanctus appeared in the Gallican rite by 529 and in the Roman rite by the 7th century. It is now found in nearly every Christian rite. The text of the second part, beginning with the word Benedictus (Latin for "Blessed"), is taken from the gospel of Matthew, describing Jesus' Palm Sunday entry into Jerusalem.

Both the Sanctus and Benedictus are found in hundreds of musical settings of the mass. One of my absolute favorite settings is that found in Bach's B Minor Mass. His magnificent setting, with its exultant fugue, was written originally for Christmas Day, 1724. The choir for this piece is divided into six parts. But a double (eight-part) chorus is required for the sprightly Osanna, based on the opening chorus of the secular Cantata No. 215 (1734) 'Preise dein Glucke, Gesegnetes Sachsen' ('Praised be your fortunes, ye most blessed Saxons'). There are MANY recordings of the Sanctus movement, but my current favorite is this recording session with an especially ebullient conductor:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rq6-wUsMpUM> Take my advice, click on the link, turn the volume up and experience a masterful and appropriate setting of the words, "Holy, Holy, Holy!"

Next month, the final worship element to be discussed – the Agnus Dei.

Annual Spring Pops Concert

Sunday, May 3 6:00 p.m.

UT Contemporary Acappella

The Sanctuary will be Rockin' on Sunday, May 03 at 6:00 p.m. with the annual free spring concert presented by the UT College of Music contemporary acappella groups for the benefit of our FPC community!

You'll hear such classics as: Seven Bridges Road (The Eagles), Good Vibrations (The Beach Boys), jazz standard Autumn in New York, Dreams (Fleetwood Mac), Orange Colored Sky (Nat King Cole), Perfect (Ed Sheeran), Skyfall (James Bond), Birds of a Feather (Billie Elish), Blame It on the Boogie (Jackson Five). There just may also be some UT songs you've heard a few times before!



Roane State Community College
presents



MEREDITH WILLSON'S
THE MUSIC MAN

April 16-18 @ 7:00 PM
April 19 @ 2:00 PM

O'Brien Theatre
Harriman, TN

<https://our.show/rsccmusicman>

Come see and hear
members Brenda Luggie,
Krista Belding and
Becky Thompson in
Roane State's performance
of The Music Man!

[https://www.onthestage.tickets/
show/roane-state-community-
college/6950746eadd4654ac80](https://www.onthestage.tickets/show/roane-state-community-college/6950746eadd4654ac80)

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April 9 and 23

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!



Prayer Shawl Ministry

April 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.



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 for more information.



CALLING ALL FPC GOLFERS

We will be starting our FPC golf group back up starting April 15 at the Avalon Golf and Country Club. We play 9 holes on Wednesday evenings starting at 4:30 followed by dinner at the club. The golf is \$30 including the green's fees and cart. Join us for fun and fellowship!

If you are interested in playing please RSVP to Wayne Walls.

Lunch and Learn

Please join us on the third Thursday of each month for a time of food, faith and fellowship. Our next gathering is Thursday, April 16, at 11:30am. The meal will be catered, and the cost is only \$10 per person at the event. You can sign up in the Narthex or at <https://tinyurl.com/FPCLunchandLearn>

2nd Annual Farragut Presbyterian Church



FAMILY TRIVIA NIGHT

and Potluck

Sunday, April 19

4:30-6:30 pm

All are invited to our **Family Trivia Night!**

Come enjoy an evening of trivia for all ages, with a special “kids question” each round so everyone can play along. We’ll also share a potluck meal together, so bring a favorite dish.

Be on the lookout for a sign-up link coming next week!



foodies

The Menu

Appetizer

Authentic Shrimp Cocktail

Salad

Mandarin Orange Salad

Entree

Million Dollar Chicken over rice
& Corn Souffle

Dessert

Strawberry Shortcake

The Foodies is a fun fellowship event that meets quarterly in small groups of 6-8 people.

Participants bring an assigned dish to pass from a designated menu.

We meet at the home of a designated host for a great dinner and fellowship.

The next gathering will be

May 2nd.

Sign up will be in the Narthex in the coming weeks

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.

**Join the Presbyterian Women
on Saturday, April 11 at 11:30am in the
Fellowship Hall.**

**Please sign up in the Narthex
Lunch is \$15**

**The speaker is from Beardsley Community
Farm in downtown Knoxville**



**CAC BEARDSLEY
COMMUNITY FARM**

April Birthdays

4/01 Bryan Nunley
4/02 Jean Peretz
4/02 Mitchell Adams
4/04 Greg Kraft
4/04 Tami Newsom
4/04 Lisa Bradney
4/05 Larry Byars
4/05 Marilyn Felts
4/06 Bob Bowman
4/06 Thom Haig
4/08 Tom Koch
4/09 Lucy Fleming
4/09 Connie Begovich
4/09 Elaine Jackson
4/10 Alan White
4/10 Chuck Gonzalez
4/11 Sandra Hipsher
4/11 Jane Byars
4/12 Jack Rightmyer
4/16 Buck Jones
4/16 Dave Greaser
4/16 Thomas Maley
4/18 Chuck Gentry
4/20 Denise Griffin
4/20 Gayle Williams
4/21 David Manning
4/21 Nancy Huntley
4/22 Reece Foster
4/26 Dawn Zilles
4/27 Wesson Schult
4/27 Thomas Houlihan

April Anniversaries

04/13 Greg and Carol Kraft
04/16 Joel and Leigh Ann Neely
04/19 Jeff and Lisa Gary
04/24 Bob and Gwen Mitchell
04/26 Dennis and Betsy Starr
04/26 Ronny and Bev Lomax



Pat Dail, Marilyn Felts, Dave & Megan Figel, Dean and Lucy Fleming, Frank Guess, Beth and Jimmy Loyless, Ann McAnally, Irma McGuffey, Maria Medina, Tami Newsom, Donna Phillips, Lewis Ransdell, Dawson Sweetland, John Thomason, Bruce Wilson

Bereaved

Prayers for Laura McFee-Adams and family as she mourns the loss of her brother, Robert "Jeff" Jefferson McFee.



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



PRESBYTERY OF EAST TENNESSEE

Lunch & Learn

UNITED NATIONS
Commission on the Status of Women
with Rev. Lyn Oakley
April 30 | 11am to 1pm
Location TBD



PLEASE JOIN US TO DEDICATE UKIRK'S NEW BACKYARD

THE SULLIVAN SPACE
NAMED IN HONOR OF MILLER SULLIVAN

APRIL 11, 2026
10:00AM-12:00PM

UKIRK AT UTK
1831 MELROSE AVE,
KNOXVILLE, TN 37916

75 YEARS FOR UKIRK UTK

Donate \$75 for 75 Years!
75 YEARS! Help us celebrate!

UKirk @ UTK has been showing up for University of Tennessee students for 75 years — and we're celebrating in the best way we know how: by investing in the impact of this inclusive and affirming faith community, where justice is central, faith is alive, and questions are encouraged—so that students know they are beloved by God.

We're launching the 75 for 75 Campaign, and we need 75 people to each give \$75 to make it happen.

If UKirk has ever meant something to you — or to someone you love — this is your moment. Will you be one of our anniversary supporters?

GO TO THIS URL: <https://secure.qgiv.com/for/ukirkatutk>

At its meeting on March 23, the Session:

- Entered into an agreement with Marshanda Pinchok Interiors for design work on the refresh to the narthex. Improvements will center on new flooring, colors, and furniture in the narthex and new decorating the narthex bathrooms.
- Reviewed upcoming events for the Fresh Look 2 fundraising campaign. Information sessions will be held following worship on April 12 and 26, a leadership dinner will be held the evening of April 26, and Commitment Sunday is May 3. The campaign leadership team consists of John Begovich, Kathy Emmerson, Jeff Gary, Mindy Houlihan, Mikie Lancaster, and Brenda Luggie.
- Heard that Solid Ground Security, the company providing security to the church on Sunday mornings, is ending its contract with us effective the end of March. Solid Ground is no longer able to staff our needs (just four hours on Sunday mornings) as their business grows. Other security options will be explored.

Financial Report as of February 2026

	Actual for February	YTD February	YTD February Budget
Operating Income	\$53,361	\$99,977	\$114,782
Big Fish Academy Income	\$2,000	\$4,000	\$4,000
Total Income	\$55,361	\$103,977	\$118,782
Operating Expenses	\$51,934	\$107,622	\$113,221
Total Expenses	\$51,934	\$107,622	\$113,221
Total Income less Expenses	\$3,427	(\$3,645)	\$5,561



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Brett Eiffert

Christian Education
Cheyanne Feldhausen
Joanie Scheuer

Church Life
Jeff Thode
Margo Gregory

Outreach
Jan Darnell
Dawn Zilles

Property
Thom Haig
Rick Van Allen

Worship and Music
MaryAnne Walls
Eva Quinley Lynch

Clerk of Session
Lisa Gary

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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.