

MAY 2026 | YEAR A

GOOD NEWS BANNER

Newsletter of Farragut Presbyterian Church



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
Outside

Our casual worship service at 9:00 a.m. is in our church parking lot, a relaxed atmosphere with keyboard and guitars. 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

Preaching (and Relating) in Partisan Times

Lutheran pastor and editor of *The Christian Century* Rev. Peter Marty wrote a column in the May edition of the magazine titled “Preaching in Partisan Times.” In it, he lists eight proposals for us preachers to adopt in this divisive time. I found them helpful, and maybe they also can be helpful to all of us as we relate to our family members, co-workers, fellow church members, and neighbors in these politically-charged times.

Here are the eight. What do you think?

- Preaching deserves to be richer and more expansive than mere commentary on current events. The significance of God in our lives will always trump what’s happening in today’s news. Let’s talk more about hope and God’s grace.
- Don’t assume that every worshiper shares your feelings on a given topic. Whether we’re preaching from a pulpit or having a conversation with a neighbor in the backyard, we should take interest in knowing our audience. This will dictate how we share our political leanings—if we share them at all.
- In the heat of a political moment, remember to say what you’re for, not just what you’re against. What guides our overarching morality or spirituality? Talking about how that inspires us more than what really bothers us may go farther in building bridges.
- Humility is an asset when approaching complex social or political issues; overconfidence in your own reading of the times is not. The phrase “stay in your lane” comes to mind here. We have rights to our opinions, of course; but we must be humble enough to know when and where our expertise is exhausted.
- Detailed information about current events rarely makes for great preaching. There’s hardly a way for somebody to not know what’s in the news. Due to technology, we can’t avoid the stories that dominate the headlines. Congregants don’t want to hear a preacher, therefore, regurgitate the week’s news from the pulpit. They already know the stories. Our task, and I think the task of each brother and sister in faith, is to relate to each other in a way that helps us all better meet God.
- It can be helpful to come at certain subjects sideways. Preachers’ sermons and many of our conversations require nuance when making our cases on matters of right and wrong. Answers to complex problems aren’t always straightforward.
- Do your people know the depth of your love for them as well as they know your politics? In other words, what do we really want to convey about ourselves in a sermon or in a conversation? What’s most important?
- Finally, recognize that there’s a cost of speaking the truth to power and love to people uninterested in love. At the end of the day, some people don’t want their world views changed. They are not ready to open themselves to that possibility. But we should still be prepared to listen and willing to learn from them when they’re ready to share.



What's Next with Quest?

In the year of so since our church launched Quest, we've covered so much ground!

- Next steps in learning have taken us to Narnia with C.S. Lewis, to a deep exploration of the land of the Bible.
- We've journeyed to the microscopic world of the human genome and considered the cosmos as it relates to our faith.
- We've done a deep dive inside to discover our personalities, skills, gifts and experiences – and how all of that speaks to the fullness of life God desires for us.
- We began new small groups so that we can Quest together, and had fabulous conversations about what we've experienced in worship.
- We've had Lunch & Learn experiences with some fascinating spiritual mothers and fathers from the past two millennia, while catching up with friends.

And the Quest continues. Now and through the summer, we will be actively charting what's next for Quest – and you can help.

We know that there will continue to be compelling formation classes on Sundays between worship experiences, small groups and Bible studies that meet through the week, and special Quest opportunities that gather at various times. We'll continue the science and faith exploration through our Elemental initiative, and more. And there is still time to join a robust group of us who will actually be traveling to the land of the Bible in early 2027.

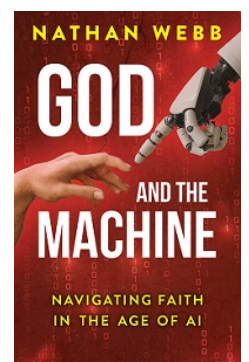
But we really want to hear from you. When it comes to taking next steps in faith formation – where would you like to go? Quest is for you, and for wherever you are on the journey. We're in the map room, charting the course for the next leg of the adventure. We'd welcome your input as to potential Quest offerings, and look forward to traveling together!

Blessings,
John



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. Beginning May 10 we will start a study of the book *God and the Machine* by Nathan Webb. It's a study of artificial intelligence and how it relates to faith. As usual, you need not have read the book. However, if you'd like to read it, it can be found at Cokesbury.com or wherever books are sold.



OUTREACH

BUILDING COMMUNITY THROUGH GIVING



"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.

If you have any questions, please contact Betty Nicholls.

Now through May 11, there is a labeled shopping cart in the Narthex for these items. As always, the FPC support for these special requests is greatly appreciated.



SPRING has arrived, and we are organizing another trip to Townsend to take crafting supplies to CAM (Coalition of Appalachian Ministries) on May 20.

Much appreciated are all sewing supplies and fabric, yarn, and even costume jewelry, if it is the type that can be incorporated into hand-made items. Also crafters have mentioned some special "wished-for" items: hymnals, cotton for quilting and aprons, a great need for batting, denim, and yarn, especially cotton yarn. Used light bulbs are made into cute Snowmen and other Christmas decorations. Old and worn (even stained) tablecloths can be transformed into many useful items. Trims, such as ric rac and of course thread (black and white especially), and buttons are always on the wish list. The crafter who decorates glass jars is still doing it and uses even canning jars.

For more information or to arrange a pick-up, call Debbie Long or Mikie Lancaster. Anyone wanting to ride along is most welcome: we always enjoy our lunch out!



Sign up in the Narthex to serve at the Volunteer Ministry Center on May 19.

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

Linda & Jim Scothorn are coordinating the May 19 team.



Mason Warren
Director of Family
Ministries

Family Ministries @ FPC



Dear FPC Church Family,

As seems to always be the case around this time of year, I find myself in awe and wonder at how fast this school year has gone by. It feels as if it was just yesterday that we were kicking off the school year and sending our students back to school. Yet this year, this season weighs a bit heavier for me. As some of you may know, this past April marked seven years of my being on staff here at Farragut Presbyterian Church.

Over these seven years, I have been blessed to be a part of exciting growth in the life of this church. Even through the challenges that a global pandemic brought in 2020, I have witnessed the beauty of God's movement throughout the life of FPC. The opportunity to walk alongside you all has been a true blessing, and for that I am deeply thankful.

Even more, I am grateful for the opportunity to witness the children of this church grow into amazing young adults. This year's graduating seniors were young sixth graders when I began my time here, and so this season is one of deep joy and reflection.

The opportunity to witness a child grow physically, mentally, and spiritually is one of life's greatest joys, especially when you are invited to be part of that journey. As I reflect on my time with these students, I find myself smiling at the memories we have shared and feeling immense pride in who they have become.

At the same time, there is a bittersweetness to this season. While we celebrate all that these students have accomplished and the journeys ahead, we also recognize that this moment marks a transition. They are stepping into a new phase of life, one that will bring both challenges and growth. And yet, even in that transition, one thing remains the same: they do not go alone. The same God who has been present with them from the beginning continues to be with them now and always. As a church, we also continue to live into the vows made at their baptisms, walking with them through our prayers, encouragement, and support.

I encourage you this month to reflect on the joy these students have brought into our lives and to offer them your prayers and encouragement as they begin this new chapter.

Siblings in Christ, thank you for being a church family that shows up, invests in the lives of our young people, and sends them out with love. It is a gift to witness, and an even greater gift to be a part of.

Peace & Blessings,
Mason Warren
Director of Family Ministries

Join us every Sunday this Summer at 9am for a Wild Western Adventure on dusty trails, past tumbleweeds, and beyond the horizon and discover God's amazing creation and vast love for us.

Every Sunday
June 7th - August 9th
9am
Farragut Presbyterian Church
209 Jamestowne Blvd
Farragut, TN 37934
www.fpcfn.org

Faith Frontier:
On the Trail With Jesus

LIFE AT UKIRK

AT THE HEART OF IT

I realized I want a community where the invitation is always open. No matter what you believe, how you're doing that day, I want a community that never stops wanting you to be there. Cultivating community takes effort and being vulnerable, it takes showing up to spaces you're really, really unsure about, and inviting people into your own life too.

Because of UKirk, I had the courage to do so many things I would have never tried otherwise out of fear of failure

And now, I move through the world with less fear. Less concern about how I'm perceived. More willingness to try, to fail, to connect. And that's all because of this place, the people in it, and making an effort to come back again and again.

Hannah Bowman
Class of 2026



Contact
(865) 394-9242
ukirk@ukirkutk.org
1831 Melrose Avenue
Knoxville, TN 37916

Please Consider Donating \$75 for Our 75th!

Our ministry and what you see in this newsletter exists because of your support and your impact on this space! We hope you will consider becoming a UKirk donor!

Your gift helps students grow in faith and community. Please consider giving once or setting up a recurring donation.



Music at FPC

Dr. Angela Batey, Director

Since January's Banner, 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, Credo, Sanctus, and Benedictus used in our FPC worship. Now we consider the final element in our worship which is sung at FPC at each celebration of the Eucharist, the Agnus Dei.

Agnus Dei ('Lamb of God') is the Latin name under which Jesus is honored within Christian liturgies descending from the historic Latin liturgical tradition. It is the name given to a specific prayer that occurs in these liturgies, and is the name given to the music pieces that accompany the text of this prayer. The use of the title "Lamb of God" in liturgy is based on John 1:29, in which John the Baptist, upon seeing Jesus, proclaims "Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!" The chant addressed to the Lamb of God was introduced into the Roman Rite Mass by Pope Sergius I (687–701) it was used while the celebrant prepares the host and wine for communion.

Latin:

Agnus Dei, qui tollis peccata mundi, miserere nobis.

Agnus Dei, qui tollis peccata mundi, miserere nobis.

Agnus Dei, qui tollis peccata mundi, dona nobis pacem.

Translation:

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world, grant us peace.

We sing the Agnus Dei at Farragut Presbyterian every time we have communion, as the last thing sung before we come forward to receive the bread and cup. I hope you have enjoyed reading and learning some things about our worship at Farragut Presbyterian and how we are connected by thousands of years of worship form and practice!



May 14 and 28

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!



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.



Prayer Shawl Ministry

May 26

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.



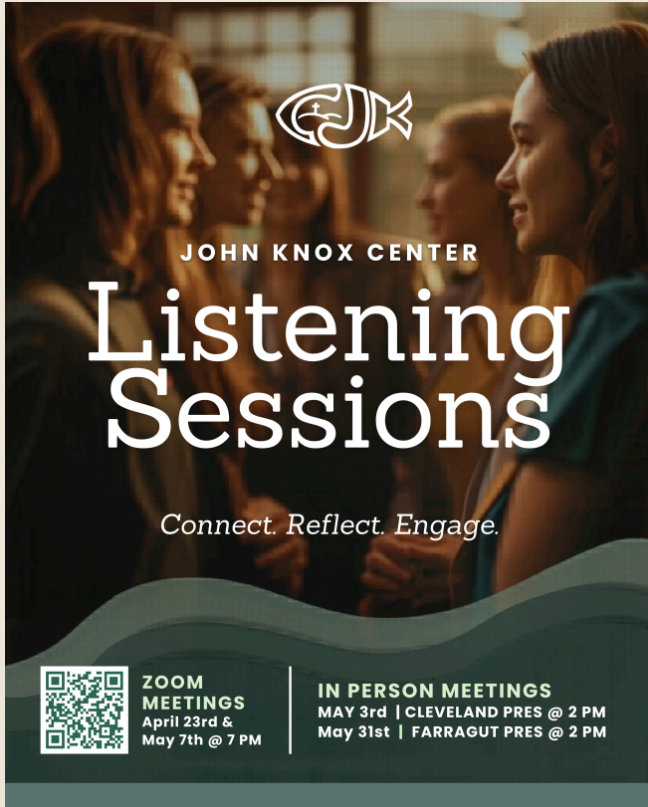
CALLING ALL FPC GOLFERS

Our FPC golf group is back up and running as of 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, May 21, 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>



JOHN KNOX CENTER

Listening Sessions

Connect. Reflect. Engage.

ZOOM MEETINGS
April 23rd & May 7th @ 7 PM

IN PERSON MEETINGS
MAY 3rd | CLEVELAND PRES @ 2 PM
May 31st | FARRAGUT PRES @ 2 PM



Board of Church Visitors
2026 Fundraising Campaign

The Board of Church Visitors is a group of dedicated church leaders and laity that have supported students, special projects, and campus ministry initiatives throughout the years. During the 2026 Annual Gathering of the Board of Church Visitors on April 21st and 22nd, the Board set an impressive goal of raising \$25,000 collectively toward two avenues that have direct student contact and impact. Their goal is to raise \$12,500 for Faith-related Scholarships and \$12,500 for the MAST Program.

The campaign ends on Friday, May 15th, so donate TODAY!
You can give online at: <http://maryville.link/bcv>
Or you can send a check to the Maryville College Center for Campus Ministry with it earmarked for the Board of Church Visitors campaign.
If you have questions please contact FPC's Director of Family Ministries, Mason Warren.



A prayer for Mother's Day
from *The Presbyterian Outlook*

Tracey Davenport offers a prayer for Mother's Day that honors the many forms of motherhood, names its joys and burdens, and entrusts every longing — from gratitude to grief — to the tender care of a loving, mothering God.

Loving God, on this Mother's Day, we are mindful of the tremendous calling of being a mother, and we thank you for our mothers: biological, adoptive, and in community, who have nurtured and cared for us, fed us and led us, selflessly served us and rooted us on. What a gift they have been, and we thank you for those faithful women you have placed in our lives. For those whose mothers have passed from this life, we ask your compassion and comfort and look forward to that glad reunion to come.

We pray for mothers who are struggling right now with all the demands of motherhood: on sleepless nights with uncomforted newborns, with exploring toddlers and shy preschoolers, with curious elementary students and youth wrestling with identity and independence. Give these mothers wisdom and patience, perseverance and strength, along with much-needed rest. We pray for mothers of adult children that they will know how to best share experience without being bossy, how to support and encourage without inhibiting growth.

We pray for those women who wanted children but did not or could not bear them, that you would remind them of their great value and purpose when judged by the world. We pray for women undergoing infertility treatments, that you would make procedures successful and bless their homes with the laughter of children, as is their great hope.

And lastly, mothering God, we pray for all those who did not have a great relationship with their own mother and for all needing tender, loving care this morning: the sick, the outcast, the dying, and the grieving. Remind us of your unconditional love for us, your desire to gather us as a mother hen gathers her chicks, and your stubborn refusal, like any nursing mother, to forget her own.

We ask these blessings in the name of Jesus, who cared for his mother and whose mother stayed with him to the very end on the cross. Amen.



May Birthdays

5/01 Janet Tinder
5/01 Helen Nalley
5/01 Mike Houlihan
5/05 Bruce Wilson
5/05 Pat Dail
5/06 Holly Morrell
5/06 Brenda Selecman
5/08 Wayne Davis
5/09 David Long
5/10 Rachel Hopson
5/11 Ann McAnally
5/17 Ginger Grunke
5/18 Jenny Trussell
5/20 Angie Batey
5/21 Dennis Starr
5/21 Bill Nelson
5/24 Jeff Gary
5/25 Matt Marcum
5/26 Tim Schult
5/27 Jaci Marks

**Remember in
your prayers...**



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

Prayers for **Jerry and Jan Seiler** who will be moving to Indiana, near their daughter, on May 19. Their new address will be available soon. Prayers for them as they transition.

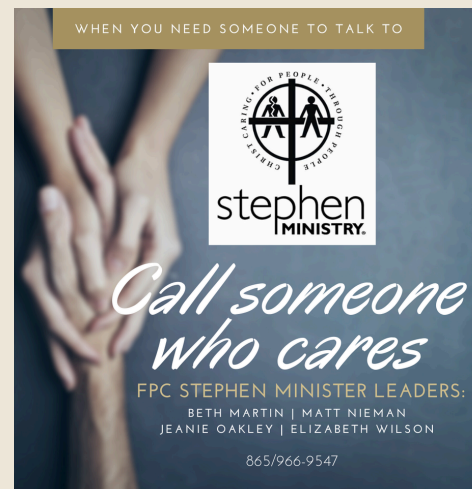
FPC Shepherds Gathering

Our FPC Shepherds will gather for a meeting and check-in on Monday, May 18 from 6-7pm in Room A with the FPC Shepherds coordinators.



May Anniversaries

5/04 Chuck and Karen Brown Gonzalez
5/04 Liam and Margo McClish
5/18 Mitchell Adams and Laura McFee-Adams
5/10 Tom and Sharon Koch
5/11 Chuck and Mitzi Gentry
5/15 Jim and Jessy Rich
5/19 Fred and Jean Peretz
5/21 Christopher and Lori Patterson
5/25 John and Whitney Sharp
5/28 Alan and Melody White
5/31 Philip and Ruth Jacobs



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 April 27 , the Session:

- Heard of the success of this year’s Posies for the Pantry sale to benefit the Shepherd of Hope Food Pantry. Nearly \$6,700 was raised! Thanks to Betty Nicholls and her team of volunteers, as well as all shoppers who purchased plants and flowers.
- Learned that, in advance of Commitment Sunday on May 3 for the Fresh Look 2 Campaign, \$471,280 in commitments have already been secured from church leaders! This is a fantastic start toward meeting our goal of \$600,000.
- Heard of work being done to secure a new vendor for security on Sunday mornings. Jenny Trussell continues to contact potential providers. No good fits have been revealed yet in these conversations.

Financial Report as of March 2026

	Actual for March	YTD March	YTD March Budget
Operating Income	\$83,412	\$183,389	\$186,114
Big Fish Academy Income	\$2,000	\$6,000	\$6,000
Total Income	\$85,412	\$189,389	\$192,114
Operating Expenses	\$72,043	\$179,665	\$190,844
Total Expenses	\$72,043	\$179,665	\$190,844
Total Income less Expenses	\$13,369	\$9,724	\$1,270



STAFF

Pastor

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

Reverend Dr. John Sharp
Director of Spiritual Formation
johnsharpsemail@gmail.com
239-227-3999

Sandra Porter Bohlken
Office Administrator
office@fpctn.org
865-966-9547

Lori Corbett
Bookkeeper
bookkeeperfpc@gmail.com

Mason Warren
Director of Family Ministry
masonwarren@fpctn.org

Dr. Angela Batey
Director of Music
abatey@utk.edu

Tami Newsom
Associate Director of Music
tnewsom3@utk.edu

Sandra Porter Bohlken
Music Director, Casual Service
singsandrab@gmail.com

SESSION

Administration
Cheryl Cardwell
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

Farragut Presbyterian Church

209 Jamestowne Blvd.
Knoxville, TN 37934
865-966-9547
office@fpctn.org
www.fpctn.org

Office Hours

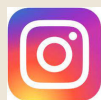
Monday - Thursday 9-3
Friday 9-1

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.