

JULY 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
Outside

Our casual worship service at 9:00 a.m. is in our church parking lot, a relaxed atmosphere with keyboard and guitars. Bring a lawn chair and join us. 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 the Country's Birthday and What We Celebrate

The 250th birthday of America on July 4 this year should be an even more pronounced opportunity to consider what the country was founded on and the principles that still guide us.

In the Declaration of Independence, the authors attest, “We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness.”

Ratified by the Continental Congress on July 4, 1776, the Declaration has many words, including those outlining the protests of the thirteen colonies against England's King George III. And yet, it's this famous statement about equality and rights of their citizens that has most famously endured two and a half centuries after its writing.

That the authors, including Thomas Jefferson, led with these “self-evident” truths speaks of the bedrock of what we as Americans should all embrace: we're all equal and we all have the right to freely pursue the best of what life has to offer.

Despite our imperfections as a country—then and now—America still holds as much, if not more, opportunity than any other for all humans to flourish. Even though we have differences, our shared humanity means we should all have the same chance to live a free and prosperous life.

Similarly, the apostle Paul famously wrote, “There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is no male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus.” Paul knew then what was embedded in our DNA—a shared humanity in which we are all made in the image of God.

We can debate how far as a country we have come over 250 years in ensuring the equality the Declaration and Constitution guarantee. Yet, this July 4th, we can similarly celebrate the ideals we strive to ensure for all Americans that were put into writing by our nation's founders: As Americans, we are all one; we are all equal.

Please join us for our annual Church Picnic!

The Church Life Committee will provide
BBQ / Desserts /Beverages

We invite you to bring your favorite picnic side dish!

Unsure what to bring or feeling adventurous?

Here's a link for some new recipes we found that sound delicious:

https://www.tasteofhome.com/collection/bbq-sides?_cmp=stf

Don't have time to make a dish?

Fresh Market, Ingles and Publix also have some wonderful options.

We look forward to seeing you!

Come to the
CHURCH PICNIC
Sunday, July 12th 11:00a.m.
after the single worship service at 10:00 a.m.

Church Life needs a headcount
to make sure we have enough food.
Please RSVP at
<https://tinyurl.com/ChurchPicnicRSVP>
or sign up on the narthex table.

Land of the Bible – Let's Go!

About thirty years ago, I took my first church group to Israel and Palestine. I didn't want to go! I thought it would be smaltzy and touristy and minimally helpful to the folk in our church. Now, I've lost track of how many times I've gone – each time being stretched and amazed in both mind and heart. Now, it is my hope that every Christian can go at least once – because I've watched the transformation and growth happen in everyone I've traveled with.

On February 7-17, 2027, we're going to go, and you're invited. Already, about 20 people have registered. This good number guarantees a lot of freedom and flexibility as to which sites we can see and how long we choose to stay at each site. Educational Opportunities, based in Lakeland, Florida, is the largest host of travelers to Israel and Palestine, and just as the name signals – the emphasis is on learning as much as possible during our days on the ground.

Is It Safe?

Yes, a lot has been aired about the unrest in the Middle East the past few months, but I've yet to see any direct impact with any of the sites our tour will go. In all my time in the Middle East, I've never felt unsafe, and wouldn't recommend our folks traveling there if I felt otherwise. Truth is, for thousands of years, this unique place where continents meet has been a pressure point – yet it is precisely because of this uniqueness that nothing short of being there quite measures up. Statistically, you will be safer on this tour than in the large cities of our own country. Also, travel insurance is available and recommended if there are any changes that make you uncomfortable.

Ten days of international travel - all inclusive (flights, transfers, guides, hotels, entrance fees and taxes, breakfast and dinner, etc.) for \$4,296 is very reasonable, and best of all, we get to experience it together. Relational bonds between those who go are permanently formed and strengthened. I look forward to experiencing this with you! Brochures are available in the Narthex, and I am always available to chat about your questions and needs.

Blessings,
John

Join our Quest Through the Wilderness! This fall, the Thursday evening Bible study group will begin an in-depth look at the Book of Exodus, from baby Moses to God descending in a cloud.

We meet from 7-8pm on Zoom almost every Thursday, but it's a come-when-you-can attendance policy, so don't let a busy schedule keep you away. If you'd like to know more, or to receive the Zoom link, please contact Elizabeth Wilson or the church office. Our first class, which will be orientation, introduction, and fellowship time, will be September 10. We'd love to have you join us.

SAVE THE DATE

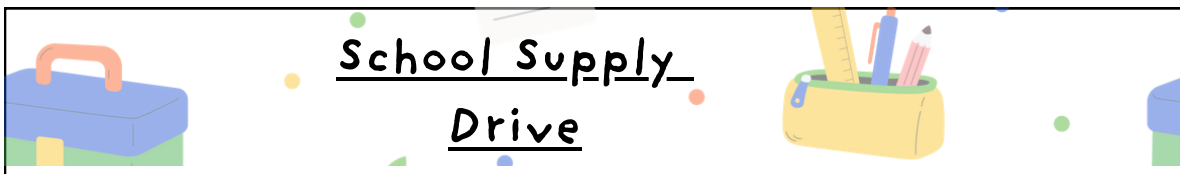
OUTREACH

BUILDING COMMUNITY THROUGH GIVING



Meals with a Mission *Thank you!*

Thank you for all your hard work last week to fill meal bags for the Shepherd of Hope Food Pantry and Sunset Gap. With so many helping hands we filled 150 bags in 20 minutes! Check out the TV in the Narthex for some fun pictures.



School Supply Drive

Presbyterian Women invite the congregation to join us in collecting school supplies for Special Area Teachers (art, music, PE, special education) in Cocke and Sevier Counties. Items most needed include: tissues, pencils, crayons, colored pencils, glue sticks, scissors, printer paper, ziplock bags, hand sanitizer, markers, construction paper, bottled glue, skin-toned crayons, sketchbooks. You may place your donations in the designated basket in the narthex. Deadline is July 26.

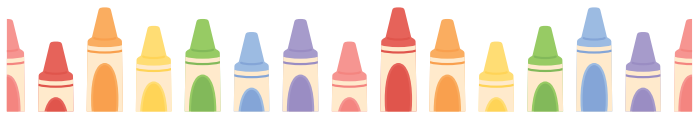
Questions? Contact Debbie Long.

Back to School at Sunset Gap

This year we are sponsoring 28 children in Cocke County. Each child will receive a backpack, grade appropriate school supplies, shirt, pants, a light jacket or sweater, socks and underwear, and athletic shoes. Please select an item, sign up on the list and return to church by July 26 (no gift wrapping please). All items will be delivered July 28 to Sunset Gap.

If you have questions please see Debbie Long.

Here is the link to the online sign up:
<https://tinyurl.com/SGback2school26>





Mason Warren
Director of Family
Ministries

Family Ministries @ FPC



Dear FPC Church Family,

It is incredibly hard to believe that the summer season is already beginning to wind down. In Family Ministry, summer is often our busiest time of the year. Between family vacations, youth conferences, and our summer KidsQuest program, the weeks seem to fly by. In the midst of all the planning, preparation, and activity, it can be easy to lose sight of just how meaningful this work truly is.

Reflecting on the past month, I find myself incredibly grateful for the opportunity to witness the many ways God is at work in the lives of our children and youth. Whether it was seeing the excitement on a child's face during Faith Frontier or watching our youth engage in thoughtful conversations at Montreat, I was reminded that faith is nurtured one moment, one relationship, and one experience at a time.

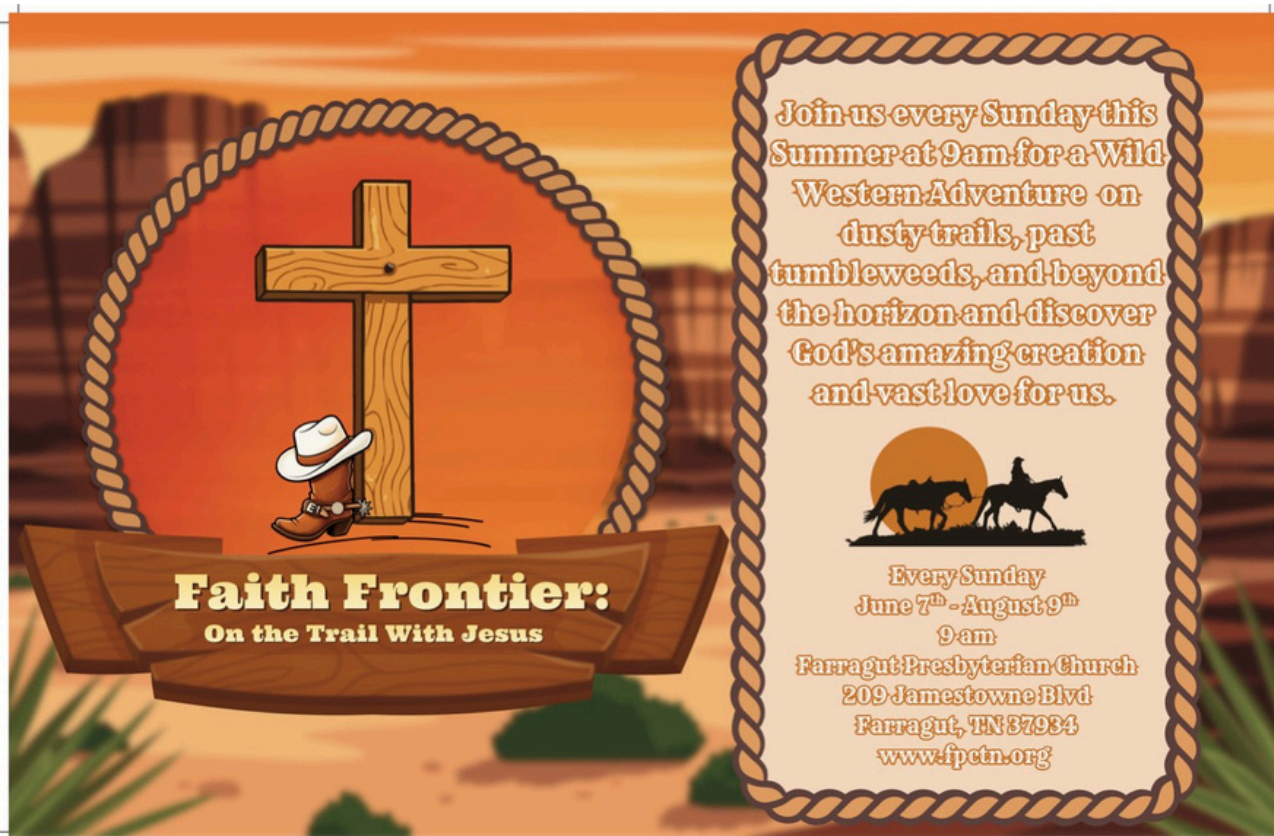
For those who may not know, Faith Frontier is our KidsQuest program this summer. Thanks to the hard work of Clay and Denise Griffin, as well as the team of volunteers that helped with set-up and donations, Room D was transformed into a Wild West Frontier, complete with a covered wagon, and actual working saloon doors! Throughout the summer, our kids have been learning through Scripture, song, and activities about God's constant presence among us all no matter how challenging life may get, with every two weeks presenting a new "trail truth" for us to reflect on. So far, we have learned that, "When life is wild like a stallion, Jesus is with us" and "When we feel alone in the desert, God is with us." As we progress throughout the Summer we will continue to dive deeper into God's word all while having a rootin'-tootin' good time!

Our youth also had the opportunity to experience an incredible week at the Montreat Youth Conference in the mountains of North Carolina. This year's theme, Wonder & Wander, invited students to embrace curiosity, ask honest questions, and remember that God is present with us even when life feels uncertain. Throughout the week, I watched our youth worship wholeheartedly, engage in meaningful conversations, build new friendships, and grow together in their faith. It was a joy to witness them return home with renewed confidence that they are deeply loved by God and surrounded by a community that walks alongside them.

As I reflect on these experiences and look ahead to the rest of the summer, I am reminded of how important it is for the Church to embrace our Baptismal vows and create spaces where children and youth can encounter God's love, ask questions, build relationships, and be continuously reminded that they belong. Thank you all for the countless ways you continue to support this important aspect of ministry here at FPC through your prayers, encouragement, generosity, and willingness to invest in the next generation.

Peace & Blessings,

Mason Warren
Director of Family Ministries



Our Summer KidsQuest program, Faith Frontier, is just around the corner, and we are currently seeking volunteers to help make this Summer's adventure possible! Whether you enjoy working directly with children, helping with activities, or supporting behind the scenes, we would love for you to join us "On the Trail with Jesus" this Summer.

Sign up information can be found at: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/8050E4EAAAD2CA2F58-64097170-kidsquest>

FPC YOUTH SUMMER 2026

- JUNE 7 ————— YOUTH SUMMER KICKOFF CHALLENGE
- JUNE 13-20 ——— MONTREAT YOUTH CONFERENCE BOBS
- JUNE 28 ——— FPC YOUTH ● THE MOVIE: SUPERGIRL
- JULY 5 ————— NO YOUTH
- JULY 12 ————— ESCAPE ROOM
- JULY 14 ————— SMYG ● RIVER RAT TUBING
- JULY 19 ————— ONE KNOXVILLE SOCCER GAME
- JULY 21 ————— YOUTH SERVE ● VMC
- JULY 26 ————— WHITE WATER RAFTING
- AUGUST 2 ————— SOAKY MOUNTAIN WATERPARK
- AUGUST 9 ————— NO YOUTH

ALL EVENTS SUBJECT TO CHANGE
FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT
MASON WARREN, MASONWARREN@FPCTN.ORG



Our Summer youth activities are quickly approaching, and we are currently seeking adult volunteers and chaperones to help support our students throughout the Summer. If you are interested in helping with trips, events, and fellowship opportunities, please see the sign up information at

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/8050E4EAAAD2CA2F58-64116501-2026>





We're Hiring!



If you have a passion for nurturing children in a fun and faith-filled environment, we'd love to talk to you about joining our BFA family this August in either a FT or PT role!

POSITIONS AVAILABLE:

Toddler Classroom

2.5/3s Classroom

Afternoon Extended Care

FLOATER

For more information, please contact Mary Cales, BFA Director, at knoxacademy@campbigfish.org or (865) 292-1904.

Activities



foodies

Sign up in the Narthex for the Foodies Picnic at Mikie's Lake House!

Our next gathering will be
Saturday, July 25th starting at 3pm
The menu: Shrimp Boil (*we eat at 5pm*)



FPC NIGHT AT THE SMOKIES

Saturday, August 1 at 7pm
when the Knoxville Smokies take on
the Pensacola Blue Wahoos at
Covenant Health Park.

Seats are in section 106
Tickets are \$21 each
Parking at Langley Garage can be
purchased in advance for \$5 or
day of the game for \$7.

Things to note:

Stadium is cash free and has a clear
bag policy

*For more information and to reserve
your seats use the sign up sheets in
the Narthex*

Spiritual Formation

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

There will be no class through the month of July.

On August 2 we will begin a study of *Being Presbyterian in a Dysvangelical America* by Presbyterian ministers Ted Foote and Alex Thornburg.

"Dysvangelical names a theology that is distorted, dysfunctional, and dystopian, twisting the good news of God's grace into a message of fear, partisanship, and exclusion."

"In this new book, the authors speak directly to Presbyterians who are disillusioned and confused by how Christianity is being misused in American culture. So often, our beliefs as faithful Christians do not line up with the shouted chants and disturbing actions taken by those claiming to represent a true vision of Christianity. Twenty-five years after their best-selling book *Being Presbyterian in the Bible Belt*, the authors return with fresh urgency to affirm the heart of Reformed theology and what it means to be truly evangelical in a time of theological and cultural distortion. With clarity, compassion, and a touch of humor, *Being Presbyterian in a Dysvangelical America* equips readers to name what feels wrong, rediscover what is right, and live into a gospel that is still good news for all."



QUEST MENU JULY & AUGUST 2026

Adults

Quest Sundays: Ongoing spiritual formation opportunities situated between worship services, meeting at 10:00am with childcare provided:

- **Soul Café** Meeting in Room A each week, John Sharp facilitates a lively, interactive experience around worship themes and content for the day.
No lesson to prepare - come as you are!
- **Pastor's Class** Meeting in the Library, this class is led by Pastor Matt and will resume August 2, with a study of the book *Being Presbyterian in a Dysvangelical America* by Presbyterian ministers Ted Foote and Alex Thornburg. "Dysvangelical" names a theology that is distorted, dysfunctional, and dystopian, twisting the good news of God's grace into a message of fear, partisanship, and exclusion.

"In this new book, the authors speak directly to Presbyterians who are disillusioned and confused by how Christianity is being misused in American culture. So often, our beliefs as faithful Christians do not line up with the shouted chants and disturbing actions taken by those claiming to represent a true vision of Christianity. Twenty-five years after their best-selling book *Being Presbyterian in the Bible Belt*, the authors return with fresh urgency to affirm the heart of Reformed theology and what it means to be truly evangelical in a time of theological and cultural distortion. With clarity, compassion, and a touch of humor, *Being Presbyterian in a Dysvangelical America* equips readers to name what feels wrong, rediscover what is right, and live into a gospel that is still good news for all."

As always, you need not have read the book to attend the class. In fact, invite a friend who might have interest in this discussion about the direction of the church and faith in our country today.

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**

These groups are taking a break for the summer and will resume regular meetings in September. There are three groups that meet monthly at 10:00am (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.

- **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**

Returns August 20 at 11:30am. This group meets on the third Thursday of each month for food, fellowship and a time to find deeper faith connections.

- Join our Quest Through the Wilderness! This fall, the **Thursday evening Bible study** group will begin an in-depth look at the Book of Exodus, from baby Moses to God descending in a cloud. We meet from 7-8pm on Zoom almost every Thursday, but it's a come-when-you-can attendance policy, so don't let a busy schedule keep you away. If you'd like to know more, or to receive the Zoom link, please contact Elizabeth Wilson or the church office. Our first class, which will be orientation, introduction, and fellowship time, will be September 10. We'd love to have you join us.

SAVE THE DATE



JOIN US!
MEN'S BIBLE STUDY

July 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

No meeting in July

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.



July Birthdays

7/02 Sandra Feast
7/03 Graham Colloredo
7/05 David Gargan
7/06 Kirk Morris
7/06 Jacob Nieman
7/08 Catherine Manning
7/10 Annika Hare
7/10 Graham Morrell
7/10 Parker Morrell
7/11 Joanie Scheuer
7/12 Barbara Kivlin
7/15 Patti Davis
7/15 Louise Stevenson
7/16 Keila Hare
7/16 Van Heflin
7/16 Margaret Pillsbury
7/18 Judy Ireland
7/18 Mike Murphy
7/18 Edi Johnson
7/19 Kathi Damelio
7/21 Mary Anne Walls
7/22 Ron Grunke
7/24 Kirsten Maley
7/25 Reagan Corbett
7/25 Hilda Ingle
7/27 Maeven Marcum
7/28 Shirley Greaser
7/28 Mary Ellen Haig
7/29 Philip Jacobs
7/29 Olivia Marcum
7/30 Cheyanne Feldhausen
7/31 Karen Brown Gonzalez
7/31 Megan Figel

July Anniversaries

7/05 Philip and Becky Dangle
7/06 John and Jeannie Tabor
7/09 Steve Dehmlow and Judy Ireland
7/12 Nathan and Lois Burris
7/16 Eric and Betty Nicholls
7/24 Jim and Linda Scothorn
7/31 LisaKay and Henry Matchen

**Remember in
your prayers...**



Pat Dail, Jan Darnell, Dave & Megan Figel, Dean and Lucy Fleming, Frank Guess, Beth and Jimmy Loyless, Ann McAnally, Irma McGuffey, Maria Medina, Tami Newsom, Donna Phillips, John Thomason

Sandra Bohlken's brother, Bill Porter, his wife Emily, and their three young girls, Anna, Harper and Eltyn need our prayers. Bill has been diagnosed with an acute form of cancer that will require an intense 3-5 week treatment at a hospital in Charlotte, NC, where Bill must remain for the entirety of his treatment.

Bereaved

Prayers for the family of Bob Bowman, who died last week. A memorial service for Bob will be held at FPC on Saturday, August 1. Visitation will be at 10am and the service at 11am with a reception to follow in the narthex.

Prayers for former FPC member Dick Anders following the death of his wife, Bonnie, on Saturday, June 13. A memorial service will be held on Saturday, July 11, at 11 a.m. at St. Elizabeth's Episcopal Church in Farragut.

Prayers of Thanksgiving...

for the birth of John & Connie Begovich's new grandson, Griffin Charles Gordon, this past Saturday morning. Griffin is the son of Abby & Daniel.

for the birth of a new baby girl to parents John and Rachel Tabor. Congratulations to the new big brothers, Garrett and Ben Tabor and grandparents John and Jeannie Tabor.



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

Session Highlights

At its meeting on June 22, the Session:

·Agreed to pursue an agreement with the Knox County Sheriff's Office to provide a plain-clothes security officer (with a marked car) here on Sunday mornings. Our former security company, Solid Ground Security, is no longer able to provide this service.

·Approved the baptism of Marigold Fritz, daughter of Tucker and Meredith (Manning) Fritz, on July 12.

Approved the removal of six pews in the front of the sanctuary yet this summer. This will allow for more travel space for communion at the front of the sanctuary, along with extra space for the handbell choir and other musicians

Financial Report as of May 2026

	Actual for May	YTD May	YTD May Budget
Big Fish Academy Income	\$2,000	\$10,000	\$10,000
Total Income	\$63,706	\$322,030	\$324,837
Operating Expenses	\$59,392	\$295,252	\$308,047
Total Expenses	\$59,392	\$295,252	\$308,047
Total Income less Expenses	\$4,313	\$26,778	\$16,790



STAFF

Pastor

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Brett Eiffert

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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

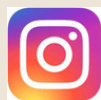
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Office Hours

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.