

AUGUST 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

Everything Happens...for a Reason?

With the litany of tragedies in the world—both near to us and far away, it's once again fitting that our brains struggle with the “why” of such things. Why do loved ones die? Why do we suffer disappointment at work? Why are we estranged from a family member? Why does war keep on occurring?

In search of an explanation, we've heard people perhaps say to us or someone we love, “Everything happens for a reason.” People have good intentions when they say that, but because we believe in a God who is loving and because we can't comprehend the ways of the world, it is fair to say that some things don't happen for a reason. Some things have no explanation, and because of God's benevolence and grace, God wouldn't intend for them to happen.

In Romans 8:29, Paul writes, “We know that God works all things together for good for the ones who love God.” That can sometimes mistakenly be interpreted to mean that God authors all the things—including the bad stuff. Instead, it's a reference to the reality that God, in the aftermath of events, can bring blessing out of them. In the aftermath of war, God can bring healing. In the aftermath of divorce, God can bring some sort of reconciliation. In the aftermath of death, God can bring the blessing of joyful memories and an easing of the pain.

While we don't understand why many events happen, it's clear that “everything happens.” But the reasons may never be clear. What is clear is that God is always at work—working for good. And God is always with us—in our joy and in our suffering.

OUTREACH

BUILDING COMMUNITY THROUGH GIVING



CCAHT | 2025 IMPACT REPORT

a message from our executive director

Dear Friends,

If there is one truth that continues to reveal itself in this work, it is this: ***no one is meant to navigate life alone.***

Human trafficking takes root in the absence of connection, when people are isolated, discarded, unseen, and unsupported. The vulnerabilities we often name: poverty, housing instability, violence, and substance use, are real and urgent. But beneath them is something even more fundamental: a lack of safe, consistent relationships. A lack of belonging.

At CCAHT, we believe that connection is not just important... It is protective. It is preventative. It is transformative. And in 2025, with your help, we saw that truth come to life in powerful ways.

As the need for services across East Tennessee continued to grow, we stayed grounded in a simple but critical commitment: ***to meet each person not just with services, but with relationship.*** Through our housing programs, mobile support, and partnerships across our 33-county region, last year we responded to 765 referrals, walking alongside 669 individuals in care, ensuring that no one who reached out to us had to navigate their circumstances alone.

In 2025, we were also honored to have both our emergency and transitional housing programs receive a prestigious **Gold Certification through the Safe House Project, becoming the first in Tennessee to achieve this distinction** in their categories. While this recognition reflects the strength and quality of our programs, what it represents most meaningfully is the environment we strive to create - spaces where individuals are met with care that is steady, relational, and unconditional. Spaces where safety is paired with connection, ***because it is within connection that change begins.***

This past year held both joy and heaviness. We witnessed milestones, new beginnings, renewed stability, steps toward independence, and we also walked alongside survivors through grief, loss, and complexity. Through it all, our team remained grounded in the understanding that growth often comes in small, hard-won steps and that showing up consistently matters more than getting it "right."

We also know that connection does not happen in isolation within our programs; it is something we build collectively, as a community. Our partners, supporters, and collaborators play a vital role in creating a network of care that extends far beyond any single organization. Together, we are working to close gaps, strengthen systems, and ensure that those at risk are met with support earlier, before vulnerabilities deepen into harm.

As we look ahead, we are committed to continuing this work with intention and clarity. Our focus is not only on expanding services, but on strengthening the connections that make those services meaningful and effective, creating the conditions where survivors can heal, grow, and thrive. ***We are building toward a future where belonging is not something people have to search for - but something they can count on.***

To our staff, Board, partners, and every individual who supports this work: thank you. You are part of what makes this possible. ***You are part of that critical connection that transforms lives and restores hope.***

Thank you for being part of this community.

With heartfelt gratitude,



Kate Trudell
Executive Director



Mason Warren
Director of Family
Ministries

Family Ministries @ FPC



Dear FPC Church Family,

The school year has officially arrived, and with it comes the end of another summer season for our Family Ministries here at FPC. For me, this time of year is always bittersweet. On one hand, after a summer full of trips, high-energy children's programming, and the ever-changing schedules that come with summer, it's nice to settle back into a more consistent routine. On the other hand, these busy summer months have been filled with so much joy as I've watched God work in the lives of our children and youth in incredible ways.

This summer, our children journeyed through Faith Frontier on Sunday mornings, where each week they discovered a new Bible story and a new reminder that Jesus is with us through every season of life. Whether we were learning about God's provision in the wilderness, Jesus welcoming Zacchaeus, the hope of the resurrection, or the gift of the Holy Spirit, every lesson pointed to the same truth that no matter where life takes us, we are never alone because God is with us.

As our children head back into classrooms, sports, and new routines, my prayer is that they carry those lessons with them. There will be exciting days, challenging days, and everything in between, but I hope they remember that the same God who walked with people throughout Scripture continues to walk with them today.

Our youth have also had a full and meaningful summer. In between their many responsibilities, they have gathered together for worship, service, fellowship, and fun through a variety of activities, including attending the Montreat Youth Conference back in June. Through these opportunities I have had the true blessing to witness these students grow in their faith and exemplify what it looks like to love as Christ taught us to love. Middle School and High School, and even into college, can be such hectic times, full of questions and unique challenges. However, these important stages of life also serve as wonderful opportunities to grow and live into who Christ has called them to be. As these students return to school, I pray that they will continuously seek to exemplify God's love in their communities and that they remember they are beloved children of God, uniquely created with gifts and purpose to serve Christ in the places God has called them.

While the summer is a busy season for our family ministries, I want to reiterate that none of these events and experiences happen by accident. They are made possible because of a church family that faithfully prays, volunteers, donates supplies, supports our ministries, and invests in the faith of our children and youth, recognizing that they are not simply the church of tomorrow, but an essential part of Christ's Church today. Whether you've helped set up the KidsQuest space, accompanied our youth on an outing, volunteered on Sunday mornings, donated supplies, or simply kept our children and youth in your prayers, thank you for helping make this summer such a meaningful season of growth. Your support is a reminder to our young people that they are surrounded by a church family that loves them and desires to see them grow in their faith.

As we begin a new school year, I look forward with great hope and excitement as we continue to witness God at work in the lives of our children, youth, and families. Thank you for the unbelievable privilege to walk alongside them in their faith journey.

Peace & Blessings,

Mason Warren

Director of Family Ministries



Music at FPC

Dr. Angela Batey, Director

TWENTY-EIGHT YEARS! It's absolutely incredible to me I have been called for 28 years in ministry with you at Farragut Presbyterian Church!!!

And what wonderful years have those been! It is very hard to believe how much our ministries and facilities have changed since my arrival on August 1, 1998. When I arrived, the Sanctuary was nothing but a grassy field, and now we are headed full steam to a refurbishment of the space. As I look back over my nearly fifty years of ministry, I cannot help but feel excited about the future at Farragut Presbyterian Church as we return to our full activities this fall.

Our church offers many opportunities to raise your voice in thanks and praise to God. There is a place for you, no matter what your age or ability. We are proud of our Music Ministry, and we are eager for you to join us!

We certainly do appreciate all the positive feedback about our Music Ministry! The Chancel Choir and I are also excited that you enjoy our music in worship. I hope you will prayerfully consider joining our Music Ministry. Our ministry IS for those who want to give of their gifts. It is NOT for the "most talented" or "most experienced". Try us! You will be welcomed into a warm and loving fellowship.

The Purpose of Music in Worship

1. To praise and worship the Lord - This should be the highest purpose for music.
2. To teach the Word - We often know more scripture because of the hymns we sing than we do through rote memorization. There is something about putting music with the words that makes them much easier for us to remember.
3. To release the power of God through music - It is not uncommon to experience wonder and awe as we worship the Lord through music in worship.
4. To tell the great works of our God - Through music we may constantly be reminded of the greatness of our God.
5. Music also helps bring a unity within our services - As we gather together we each come from varied backgrounds and experiences, music is able to help us focus our heart and thoughts on worship. It draws us together into a corporate unity more quickly than anything else can.
6. Music prepares the heart of people to hear the Word - As we are led in musical praise and worship, we are, in effect making ready the hearts of people to receive the Word. Music in our worship at FPC is NOT a performance – it IS an integral part of the fabric of our worship.

Spiritual Formation

The Sermon on the Mount is not only the most impactful presentation in history, but its two thousand or so words have shaped Western civilization more than any other source – written or oral. Matthew's record contains a microcosm of Jesus' entire mission and message for transforming every area of life.

Even people who would claim no biblical knowledge or faith are likely aware of and certainly shaped by the wisdom, values and language straight out of Jesus' sermon, including:

- The salt of the earth
- The light of the world
- Blessed are the peacemakers
- Don't swear
- Turn the other cheek
- Go the second mile
- Love your enemies
- Don't let your left hand know what your right hand is doing
- The Lord's Prayer
- No one can serve two masters
- Don't worry about your life, what you will eat or drink...consider the lilies of the field
- Don't judge



Never has the power and potential of the Sermon on the Mount been more needed or relevant! Those who track movements in our culture note a real shifting occurring: Rather than the old question about whether Christianity is true, people are now hungry to know whether Christianity can be helpful. Enter the Sermon on the Mount. Jesus' sermon is nothing short of a very practical and revolutionary pattern for every area of life – a life that is truly worth living.

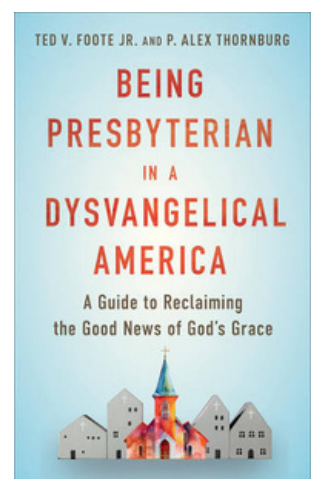
Beginning on **August 23**, and continuing Sundays until Advent, we will gather at 10:00 am in Room A to walk through Jesus' message and understand this pattern that is fresh and surprising (even shocking at times). Mason will also be offering a version of this for our children during the 10 o'clock hour. The goal is for everyone to hear, understand and discuss and confidently live this new life that Jesus intends for his people.

Pastor Matt's Class meets in the Library

On August 2 we began 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



August 13 and 27

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!



Tuesday, August 25

11:00 am

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.





EXCITING NEWS! A NEW STEPHEN MINISTRY CLASS IS BEGINNING THIS FALL!

What is Stephen Ministry?

Stephen Ministry equips lay people to provide confidential, one-to-one Christian care to individuals in our congregation and community who are experiencing difficulties in their lives.

Who is a Stephen Minister?

A caring, Christian friend who listens, cares, prays, supports, and encourages.

As a Stephen minister, you will be very well trained and supported so that you are able to provide a high level of emotional and spiritual care.

A 2 hour weekly training Stephen Ministry class will start October 2026 through the beginning of December and start again February 2027 through March with a Stephen Ministry commissioning worship service in April. We will then combine the current Stephen Ministry team with our newly trained team for monthly supervision and continuing education.

Please let us know if you are interested or have any questions as we would love to talk with you! We would need to hear from you if possible by **August 16** so we can plan our Fall schedule!

All our love and prayers in Christ!

Beth Martin
Jeanie Oakley
Joanie Scheuer

These beautiful flower arrangements were given on Sunday, July 26, to the glory of God and in thanksgiving for the FPC community and in honor of Les Shear with this note:



Thanks to the congregation for all your support. I greatly appreciate receiving Matt's printed sermons, and I sit to read each one as soon as it is delivered.

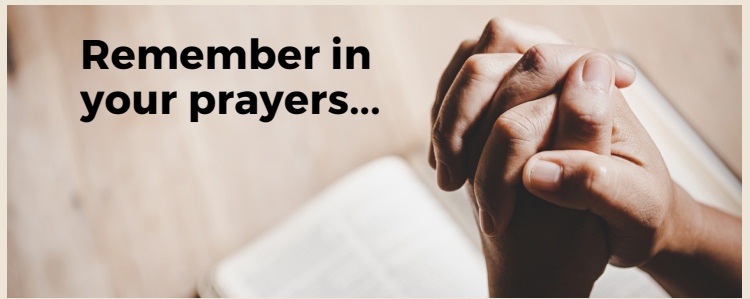
We buried Les at a graveside service last week in the town where he grew up, Argyle, New York. Thank you for being such a blessing in our lives and in my life. ~ Marie Shear



August Birthdays

8/02 Ken Ladrach
8/03 Donna Phillips
8/05 Merle Andrew
8/06 Karen Ellis
8/09 Krista Belding
8/12 Frank Guess
8/15 Linda Wert
8/19 Gary Marks
8/20 Brian Davison
8/24 Jennifer Johnson
8/24 Gail Wallace
8/25 Henry Cardwell
8/26/17 Micah Bohlken
8/27 Kris Van Allen
8/27 Leigh Ann Neely
8/28 Scott McKinney
8/28 Sandi Keagy
8/29 Turner Neely
8/30 Fred Peretz
8/30 Jerry Martin
8/30 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, Liunda Nunley, Donna Phillips, Kimberly Platt, John Thomason

Prayers for Sandra Bohlken's brother, Bill Porter, his wife Emily, and their three young girls, Anna, Harper and Eltyn. Bill has been diagnosed with an acute form of leukemia and has been receiving treatment in Charlotte, NC. He has been in and out of the hospital due to allergic reactions but is currently stable.

Bereaved

Continued prayers for Patricia Watson following the death of her husband, Jack. A memorial service was held here on July 16.

Prayers of Thanksgiving

Bev and Ronny Lomax joyfully announce the birth of their fourth grandchild Reese Katherine Malinowski born to their daughter Shelly and son-in-law Jack on July 16, 2026. Thanks given that all are doing well!

August Anniversaries

8/02 Wayne and Mary Anne Walls
8/03 Leonard and Emily Loveday
8/08 Jimmy and Beth Loyless
8/09 Paul and Karen Johnson
8/10 Steve and Jan Darnell
8/18 Steven and Dawn Zilles
8/19 Dale and Kathy Emmerson
8/20 Darrell and Chris Sparks
8/21 David and Debbie Long
8/23 Howard and Pat Hickman
8/24 Robert and Terry Olberding
8/26 Henry and Cheryl Cardwell
8/26 Mike and Janet Murphy
8/28 Larry and Jane Byars
8/29 David and Linda Stutzenberger



**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 July 27, the Session:

- Voted to hire a Knox County deputy to provide security on Sunday mornings from 8:30-12:30. The officer will be in plain clothes and will drive a marked vehicle, much like the previous officers we had here through our former security provider.
- Heard of progress being made with the Fresh Look 2 project. The installation of the new audio system in the sanctuary will happen this fall, and plans for the redecorating of the narthex are almost complete. These improvements will also be made this fall.
- Heard from the Property Committee of the need to start planning for a new roof for the church in the next five years due the current roof's age and occasional leaks we've experienced.

Financial Report as of June 2026			
	Actual for June	YTD June	YTD June Budget
Operating Income	\$73,593	\$385,622	\$372,228
Big Fish Academy Income	\$2,000	\$12,000	\$12,000
Total Income	\$75,593	\$397,622	\$384,228
Operating Expenses	\$67,817	\$362,964	\$383,616
Total Expenses	\$67,817	\$362,964	\$383,616
Total Income less Expenses	\$7,776	\$34,659	\$612



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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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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.