



This service is being recorded by video and audio means.

*We invite you to stand as able.

~ The Gathering ~

Prelude

Song of Gentleness
Collin Kasefang, baritone
Tami Newsom, piano

D.S. Wagner

Greeting

Rev. Matt Nieman

Call to Worship

O taste and see:
God is good.

*Hymn #422

God, Whose Giving Knows No Ending

Beach Spring

*Call to Confession

***Prayer of Confession**

Holy God, we confess we have not been obedient to your will for us. We have sought justice for ourselves but neglected justice for others. We have insisted on our rights but have not lived rightly in our relationships. We have desired mercy for our sins, but we have not offered mercy to those who have sinned against us. By the power of your Holy Spirit free us from the prison of our disobedience. Help us to love as you have loved us that our lives may testify to your abounding grace through Jesus Christ.

(please continue in silent prayer)

***Kyrie eleison #574**

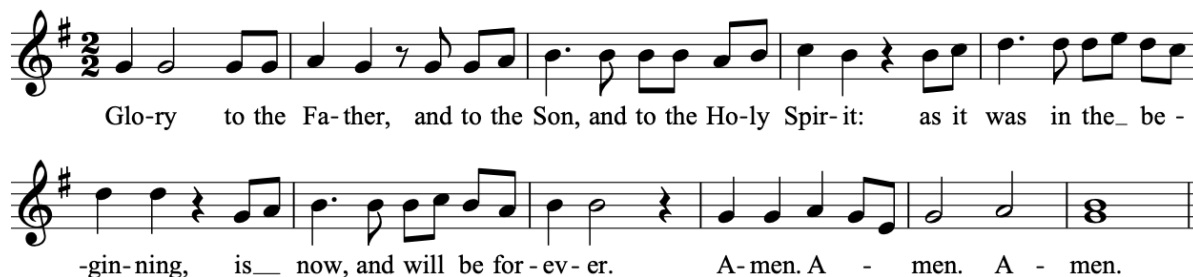
Johnson



***Declaration of Forgiveness**

***Gloria Patri #567**

Weaver



***The Peace**

The Peace of Christ be with you.
And also with you.

~ The Word ~

Prayer for Illumination

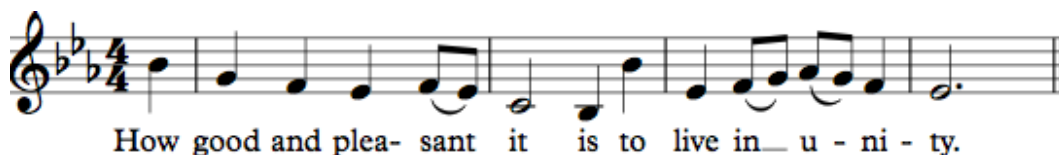
Thom Haig

Lord, by the power of your Spirit give us your words of life that our faith may increase and our hearts be made whole. Amen.

First Scripture Reading: Matthew 15:21-28

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to You, O Christ.



Oh, how good and pleasant it is, when brethren live together in unity!
It is like fine oil upon the head that runs down upon the beard,
Upon the beard of Aaron, and runs down upon the collar of his robe. (R)

It is like the dew of Hermon that falls upon the hills of Zion.
For there the Lord has ordained the blessing: life for evermore. (R)

Second Scripture Reading: Romans 11:1-2a, 29-32

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Sermon

“Irrevocable”

Rev. Matt Nieman

~ The Response ~

Affirmation of Faith (from the *Confession of '67*)

We believe that God’s love is a mystery beyond the reach of our minds. Human thought gives to God superlatives of power, wisdom, and goodness. But God reveals his love in Jesus Christ by showing power in the form of a servant, wisdom in the folly of the cross, and goodness in receiving sinful people. The power of God’s love in Christ to transform the world discloses that the Redeemer is the Lord and Creator who made all things to serve the purpose of his love.

Anthem

His Eye is on the Sparrow
Collin Kasefang, baritone
Tami Newsom, piano

arr. Murdock

In the Life of the Church

Call for the Offering



You can use the QR code to give online or place your offering in the baskets located at the Sanctuary doors. Thank you for your gifts.

Prayers of Thanksgiving and Intercession

The Lord's Prayer

**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name.
Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our debts,
as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.**

~ The Sending ~

*Hymn (see insert) *When God Restored Our Common Life* Resignation

*Benediction

*Response #369 *I'm Gonna Live So God Can Use Me* I'm Gonna Live

**I'm gonna live so God can use me anywhere, Lord, anytime!
I'm gonna live so God can use me anywhere, Lord, anytime!**

*Postlude *Trumpet March in D* William Rowan
Tami Newsom, organ

A/V Team ~ Ken Ladrach, David Long, Mason Warren, and Kat Wilson

If you would like to sign up to be an usher, communion server or to read scripture please go to:
<http://tinyurl.com/FPCVolunteerSignUp>

Please use one of the methods below to record your attendance with us today:



Scan this QR code and click on the generated google doc link, or

- Go to <https://tinyurl.com/record-FPC-attendance>, or
- Email the office at office@fpctn.org, or
- Sign the pew attendance pad.



Members

Pat Dail, Jan Darnell, Brian Davison, Frank Dorman,
Dave & Megan Figel, Dean & Lucy Fleming, Frank Guess,
Beth & Jimmy Loyless, Beth Martin, Ann McAnally,
Irma McGuffey, Maria Medina, Tami Newsom, Linda Nunley,
Donna Phillips, Kimberly Platt, Alan White

Bereaved

Becky Thomason and family following John's sudden death. A memorial service for John will be held at FPC on Saturday, August 22; 10am receiving of friends and 11am service with reception to follow.

When God Restored Our Common Life



1. When God re - stored our com - mon life, our hope, our lib - er -
2. We went forth weep - ing, sow - ing seeds in hard, un - yield - ing
3. Great lib - er - at - ing God, we pray for all who are op -



ty, at first it seemed a pass - ing dream, a
soil; with laugh - ing hearts we car - ry home the
pressed. May those who long for what is right with



wak - ing fan - ta - sy. A shock of joy swept
fruit of all our toil. We praise the One who
jus - tice now be blest. We pray for those who



o - ver us, for we had wept so long; the
gave the growth, with voic - es full and strong. The
mourn this day, and all who suf - fer wrong; may



seeds we wa - tered once with tears sprang up in - to a song.
seeds we wa - tered once with tears sprang up in - to a song.
seeds they wa - ter now with tears spring up in - to a song.

Text: Ruth Duck (Ps. 126) © 1992 Damean Music. Used by permission of GIA Publications, Inc.

Music: USA folk melody, Walker's Southern Harmony

From *Sing the Faith Pew Edition* © 2003 Geneva Press, Louisville, KY

What's Happening at FPC

AUGUST 16, 2026



BLESSING OF THE BACKPACKS TODAY AT 9AM SERVICE

Students are invited to bring your backpacks to worship for a special blessing for the start of the new school year!



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 Minister (SM) class will start October, 2026 through the beginning of December and start again February, 2027 through March with a SM 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 need to hear from you by August 16 so we can plan our Fall schedule.

All our love and prayers in Christ!

Your FPC Stephen Ministry Team: Beth Martin, Jeanie Oakley, Joanie Scheuer



Lunch and Learn

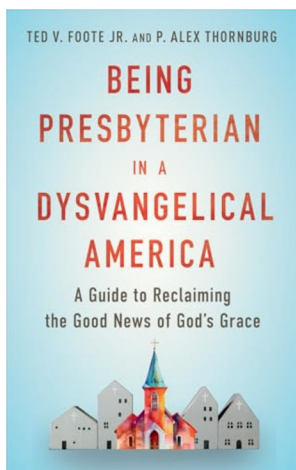
"Protect Yourself: Common Sense Anti-Fraud Measures"

Presented by Lori & Eric Corbett

Please join us on the third Thursday of each month for a time of food, faith and fellowship. Our next gathering is Thursday, Aug 20, 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>



Pastor Matt's Class meets in the library at 10am on Sundays, and has begun 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.

"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.



SOUL CAFE BEGINS A NEW STUDY

Beginning on August 23, and continuing Sundays until Advent, we will gather at 10:00 am in Room A to experience Jesus' message and understand a pattern of life that is fresh and surprising (even shocking at times). The goal is for everyone to hear, understand, discuss and confidently live the new life that Jesus intends for his people.

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.

Understand the Sermon on the Mount, and you understand Christ, his mission and his claim on our lives – every facet, every moment.

Mason will also be offering a version of this for our children during the 10 o'clock hour.



Hands Only CPR training will be led by Jenny Trussell and take place on Sunday, August 30 at 10am in Room A. More details to come!

This Week at FPC

- Sun, Aug 16**
 9am Casual Worship/Front Parking Lot
 10am Soul Cafe/Room A
 Pastor Matt's Class/Library
 11am Traditional Worship/Sanctuary
 12pm Nibbles in the Narthex
- Mon, Aug 17**
 10am Chair Yoga/Narthex
 5pm Church Life Committee/Library
- Tues, Aug 18**
 10:30am Feed the Hungry/VMC
 10:30am BFA Music/Room D
 1:10pm BFA Music/Room D
 6pm Admin/Library
 7pm BS #444/FH, Room A, Narthex
- Wed, Aug 19**
 10:30am BFA Music/Room D
 12pm Mah Jong/Narthex
 12pm Parlor Reserved
 1:10pm BFA Music/Room D
 6pm Casual Worship Music Rehearsal/Room A
- Thurs, Aug 20**
 11:30am Lunch & Learn/Room A
 1:10pm BFA Chapel/Sanctuary
 6:30pm Cub Scouts/FH, Narthex, Room A, Room D, Parlor
- Fri, Aug 21**
 10am Chair Yoga/Narthex
 1:10pm BFA Chapel/Sanctuary
- Sat, Aug 22**
 John Thomason Memorial/Sanctuary, Narthex
 10am Receiving of Friends
 11am Memorial Service with reception to follow

**Rooted
in Hope**

Equipping Leaders for
Ministry with Older Adults



Older Adult Ministry Conference
September 15-18, 2026

Location
First Presbyterian Church, Knoxville

Featuring
Informative workshops
Inspiring Worship
Warm fellowship

To learn more and to register visit
poamn.org/conference
or scan the QR code



POAMN
Presbyterian Older Adult Ministries Network

