NOVEMBER 2026 | YEAR A

FARRAGUT
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
Love and Learn

GOOD NEWS BANNER

Monthly 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

Life Together

I've been marveling at the many ways our church family does life together: Sunday worship, small faith formation groups, fellowship meals, caring for each other in our moments of struggle, rallying to serve our community through events like Trunk or Treat.

And this all reminds me of the blessedness of being witnesses of Jesus Christ together.

In his book, Life Together, Dietrich Bonhoeffer writes of the ultimate blessing we find in having fellowship with one another:

"It is easily forgotten that the fellowship of Christian brethren is a gift of grace, a gift of the Kingdom of God that any day may be taken from us, that the time that still separates us from utter loneliness may be brief indeed.Therefore, let him who until now has had the privilege of living a common Christian life with other Christians praise God's grace from the bottom of his heart. Let him thank God on his knees and declare: It is grace, nothing but grace, that we are allowed to live in community with Christian brethren."

And later, Bonhoeffer would declare, "Communal life is again being recognized by Christians today as the grace that it is, as the extraordinary, the 'roses and lilies' of the Christian life."

The roses and the lilies of the Christian life—such an illustrious example of the beauty that is living our faith together. Indeed, it is a gift of grace.

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1 Peter 4:8-10



Next, Sunday, November 8
10am Worship with our annual Thanksgiving Meal to follow.
Let us know you're coming at:
https://tinyurl.com/FPCThanksgivingMeal
or
sign up in the Narthex

Stewardship of God's Grace

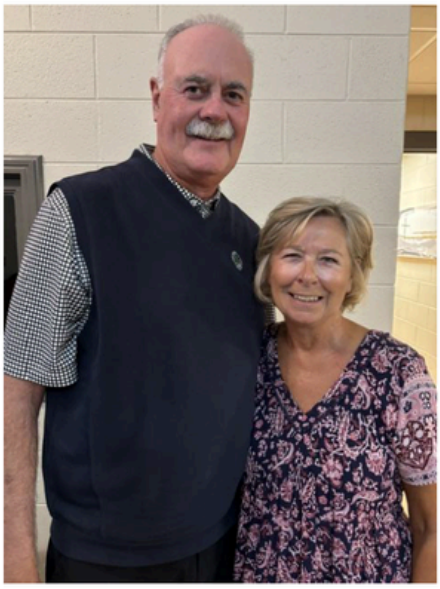
Meet our New Members



Barbara Langley

Barbara has been a billing agent for Behavioral Health providers since 1994. She is semi-retired and has only one client remaining. She is married to Claude Langley. Claude is a retired civil engineer and is now a truck driver for Monterey Mushrooms. Together they have 3 children: Stephanie Langley, Laura Nieman, and Christopher Langley. Barbara only has one remaining sibling alive. Claude has a twin brother, a younger set of siblings, and another brother. They have 5 grandchildren and 4 great grandchildren. Barbara made a profession of faith at 13 years old and was baptized. She has been a practicing Baptist for 60 years but is delighted to join the Presbyterians and finds so many shared similarities in our faith life. She is happy to be joining Farragut Presbyterian Church and appreciates the wonderful, sweet and delightful nature of members here.

Deb and Mike O'Brien



Deb and Mike were born and raised in Rochester, NY. Deb worked for Eastman Kodak Company. Mike graduated from the University of Rochester, played basketball, worked selling ultrasound imaging equipment and then joined a small start-up in 1986 called Nellcor, pioneering pulse oximetry.

They've been married for 46 years and have 2 children: Bridget and Kevin.

Mike's job moved them from Rochester to Golden, CO in 1988 where they lived on Lookout Mountain at 7,800 feet above sea level (and enjoyed skiing)! His job then brought them to Nashville in 1993, where they settled in Brentwood and raised their family.

They belonged to East Brentwood PC where Deb was ordained an Elder and eventually served on staff as Director of Christian Education. Mike was active in Christian Education also and their kids were quite active with the youth group. A highlight was a father-son trip to Northern Ireland to participate in a reconciliation ministry between Protestants and Catholics.

In 2003, Deb was called to serve at First Presbyterian Church Nashville as the Director of Ministry with Children & their Families, and so they transferred their membership there. She served there for 18 years, retiring in 2021 and Mike was active through teaching and mission work. One highlight for both of them was training to serve on the Living Waters for the World Clean Water Team and participating in the installation of a clean water system in a school in the Dominican Republic.

Mike retired from corporate medical device sales in 2018 and currently has fun working very part-time with a business partner in a small medical device start-up called GSquared Medical.

In 2023, they moved to Lenoir City, settling in the WindRiver community. They found FPC a few months after relocating and are grateful to be active members now! They are excited to continue worshiping our Lord, learning His ways, trusting in Him more fully and serving others in and through the ministries of FPC!

They are grateful that their adult children live in the Nashville area. Bridget (a Florida Gator) is married to Bryce Keener (a McDaniel Green Terror) and they have 2 sons: Flyn, age 10 and Kieran, age 7. Kevin (a UT Vol/Vandy Commodore) is married to Annie (a UT Vol/Belmont Bruin) and they have 3 children: James, age 8, Grace, age 6, and Ellie, age 4.

Deb and Mike both love being LaLa and Bops to their grandkids and they spend a lot of time back in Nashville helping out and watching a variety of sports events and school programs! They also love boating, spending time with friends in the coves of Tellico Lake, and watching the Predators play hockey. Mike is an avid golfer and while Deb tries her best, she enjoys cooking and baking a little more than golf.



Alison and Brycen Rogers

Lincoln, 6 and Myla, 3

Alison and Brycen are high school sweethearts who graduated from Farragut High School in 2004. After spending many wonderful years in Denver, CO, they moved home in 2019 to raise their family close to grandparents and extended family. They are so grateful to be putting down roots in the community they love and creating special memories with their two children, Lincoln and Myla.

Lincoln and Myla both attend Episcopal School of Knoxville and keep life fun with soccer, dance, and plenty of adventures. Alison is an RN and serves as Director of Training and Development for Suncrest Hospice. Brycen works as a software developer and is AVP of Engineering at Constellation Software.

Alison and Brycen are excited to be part of the Young Adults Small Group at church and look forward to building meaningful friendships and growing in community with their new church family!

Vicky and Steve Wilkes



After being widowed in 2017, Vicky was blessed to meet and marry Steve in 2024. She recently retired after having a busy career as a biomedical engineer, most recently as VP of Sales for Renovo Solutions, a national company providing healthcare technology management services to hospitals.

Vicky spent most of her adult life in the Boston area, where she raised her family, prior to moving to Jefferson City, TN in 2021 to care for aging parents, now deceased. She has 3 adult children: Rachel, an interior designer in Portland, ME; Jacob, a financial CFA in Atlanta; and Joseph, a Captain in the US Space Force, serving to the Pentagon in Washington, D.C. Jake is married to Erika and they have 1 daughter, Josephine, born this past February. Joey is married to Jessica and they are newlyweds!

As a "PK," preacher's kid, Vicky grew up in the Baptist church and has been active in all areas of the church throughout her life.

She and Steve spend a good part of their summers at a family summer cottage on Lake George, NY in the Adirondack Mountains. Vicky serves as a Trustee at the Lakeside Chapel on Lake George, a summer only chapel with visiting summer preachers. Both her father and grandfather preached at this chapel for over 50 years each.

Steve has been in the Knoxville and Farragut area all his adult life. He has 2 daughters and both live nearby. He flew for a living for 40 years and 30 of those were with DHL Air Cargo.

Vicky and Steve have been married almost 2 years now, reside in Farragut in the Waverly Court Community, and are excited to make Farragut Presbyterian Church their home church.

OUTREACH

BUILDING COMMUNITY THROUGH GIVING



DO YOU HAVE COATS IN YOUR CLOSET YOU NO LONGER USE? CONSIDER DONATING TO KARMS "COATS FOR THE COLD"

"Coats for the Cold" is an annual coat drive to collect thousands of coats for those in our area who otherwise may not have a coat during the frigid winter months. Drop off gently-used men's, women's and children's coats at any KARM store or Prestige Cleaners from
Monday, October 19th – Friday, November 6th, 2026.
Each year in the fall, the community is invited to donate new or gently-used men's, women's, and children's coats at any KARM Stores or Prestige Cleaners location.
The need is always greater for children's coast and adult XL.
For individuals in need of a coat, they can get a coat ticket from local service agencies, participating churches and food pantries. Coat tickets can be used to shop at any KARM Store location any time during the distribution period following collection.

COLLECTION DATES – October 19th – November 6th
DISTRIBUTION DATES – November 16- December 5th

Holiday Baskets for Shepherd of Hope Food Pantry . . .

It's that time of year to begin making plans for the special holiday food baskets distributed at our SHFP pantry. FPC has been asked to donate cake mixes and canned frosting to be distributed to guests in November and December. We anticipate 400 families will be served so we hope to collect 200 cake mixes and 200 cans of frosting for November and 200 of each for December.

Collection will begin Monday, October 19th and there will be a grocery cart in the Narthex. Your generosity in supporting the pantry is amazing! If you have any questions, please contact Betty Nicholls.

Thank you for all your wonderful donations to the CAM cabin!





Dear FPC Church Family,

The past few months have been a busy season for our Family Ministries here at FPC! Between the fun we had at our Water Day following the Tailgate Lunch in September and the always-eventful Trunk or Treat we hosted at the end of October, there has been no shortage of excitement! As we enter November, however, it is important for us to slow down and take some time to give thanks for the many ways God has blessed us throughout this year.

Over the past year, we have seen so much vibrant life throughout our programs. From a rootin'-tootin' good time this summer with Faith Frontier to the many times our kids have shared songs with the congregation, it is truly a blessing to see the life of the church in full force. One of the greatest lessons I have learned over my years in ministry is where the blessings truly come from. The greatest blessings in Family Ministry, and arguably the church as a whole, come not from the events that we put on, but instead the relationships we foster. After all, the true success of our programs is not found in how elaborate they are, but in the relationships they help build and the community they create. Time and time again, when people are asked why they joined the Farragut Presbyterian Church family, their response is rooted in relationships and community as opposed to the latest program we are offering.

This reminds me of the words we find in 1 John 4:12, “No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God abides in us, and his love is perfected in us.” This verse serves as such a powerful reminder of what it means to be the Church! God’s love is not something we are meant to keep to ourselves. It is a gift freely given to us through Jesus Christ, and we are called to share that love with others. When we welcome a new family into our church, when we make caring for one another a priority, or when we come together as a faith family to serve our neighbors, we are doing more than simply participating in another church activity. We are making God’s love visible to the world around us.

As I reflect on this past year, it is these moments of love and community for which I am most thankful. I am thankful for the children who bring so much joy and life into our congregation, for the families who entrust us with their care, and for the many volunteers and church members who help make FPC a place where people of all ages can experience God’s love and find a community to call their own. I am grateful for the moments where some of our youngest greet and hug some of our oldest. I am grateful for the joy that fills this place as God’s love flows through us and into the lives of those around us.

Throughout this month, I encourage you to take time to reflect on the many ways that God has been active in your lives this year, and the countless ways that God’s love has been shared with you, even in the darkest of times. As we approach the season of Advent, may we rejoice in the knowledge that God’s love is always with us, and may we continue to make that love visible through the ways we care for one another. May it be so.

Peace & Blessings,
Mason Warren
Director of Family Ministries



Music at FPC

Dr. Angela Batey, Director

Join us for

The 25th Annual Christmas Festival

Sunday, November 15
3:00 PM

The combined choirs of Farragut Presbyterian Church and UT Chamber Singers

Farragut Presbyterian Church
209 Jamestowne Blvd.
Knoxville, TN

Spiritual Formation

A Messiah and His Mountain

Everything, Everywhere, All at Once is a class meeting on Sunday mornings in September through November at 10:00 am (Room A). A children's class on the Sermon on the Mount is offered at the same time in their Sunday morning space. The goal of the class is to deepen understanding and confidence in living out this central message of Christianity. Whether you are a lifelong Christian with a lot of familiarity as to what it means to "practice" Christianity, someone new to faith, or simply wanting to ask questions – this class will engage you!

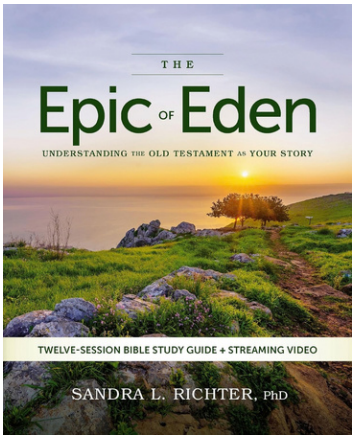
What is the Sermon on the Mount?



- In 107 verses (Matthew 5,6 & 7), Jesus both surprises and gives clarity to the essential life of faith. Among other things, he teaches us how to pray (Lord's Prayer), how to relate to others, how to relate to money, how to live a life free of anxiety, and makes sharp distinctions between happiness (temporary) and joy (forever).
- Jesus models an amazing "third way" between the religious legalism still present in our own day, and moral relativism which was a big deal both then and now.
- Jesus turns conventional wisdom upside down, and teaches us about a life worth living.
- The Sermon on the Mount is a microcosm of Jesus' mission and teaching – it's all in there!
- Three months to get familiar with three chapters that have to do with everything, everywhere, and all at once with regards to your life. See you in Room A on Sunday mornings!

John

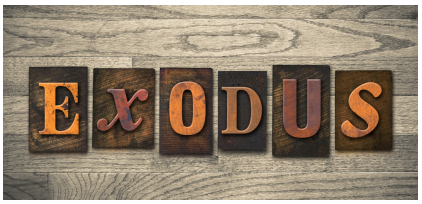
Pastor Matt's Class meets in the Library



Starting in October, Pastor Matt's Sunday School class began a new overview of the Old Testament titled, The Epic of Eden—Understanding the Old Testament as Your Story. Experience the real people, real places, and real faith of the Old Testament as the truth of your spiritual heritage comes alive in a whole new way.

The class will meet in the library at 10:00 and run through the fall.

Join our Quest Through the Wilderness!



This fall, the Thursday evening Bible study group has begun 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.

We'd love to have you join us.

Elemental

Science and Faith at FPC

Think of the great issues of the day:
• The rise of AI and its future impacts on humanity
• The ethics and methodology of conducting modern warfare
• Conventional and alternative fuel sources – why we need ever larger supplies of energy and their impacts on the environment
• Climate change – its reality and ramifications for the planet and all that is contained upon it
• Growing income inequality – its causes, effects and implications for the future

Whatever else can be said about these and many other realities in our world, they all have science and technology as drivers and carry profound questions for faith and an ethical framework for life that flows from them.

So, science, technology and faith need to talk to each other and learn from one another as never before – yet we find ourselves at a cultural moment when profound mistrust and misunderstanding exists with each towards each other. For instance, The Gallup Organization reports that a majority of Americans still don't think that climate change will pose a threat in their lifetime, and Pew Research finds more skepticism about climate change among devout Christian groups than in society at large.

Where can scientists and believers seek understanding and talk about these critical issues? As it turns out, they can talk about it at FPC. Elemental is our churches homegrown effort at science and faith engagement. With so many scientists in our church family, and the desire to grow in understanding that is embedded in the DNA of our church – we are uniquely positioned for this ongoing conversation.

On October 22, our own Louise Stevenson led us in a generous conversation on how science and faith connect rather than conflict with each other. As a Ph.D. scientist in the environmental sciences and a researcher at Oak Ridge National Lab – as well as a person of deep and vibrant faith – she was uniquely positioned to guide us in this shared experience.

Blessings,
John



Lunching and Learning… Together

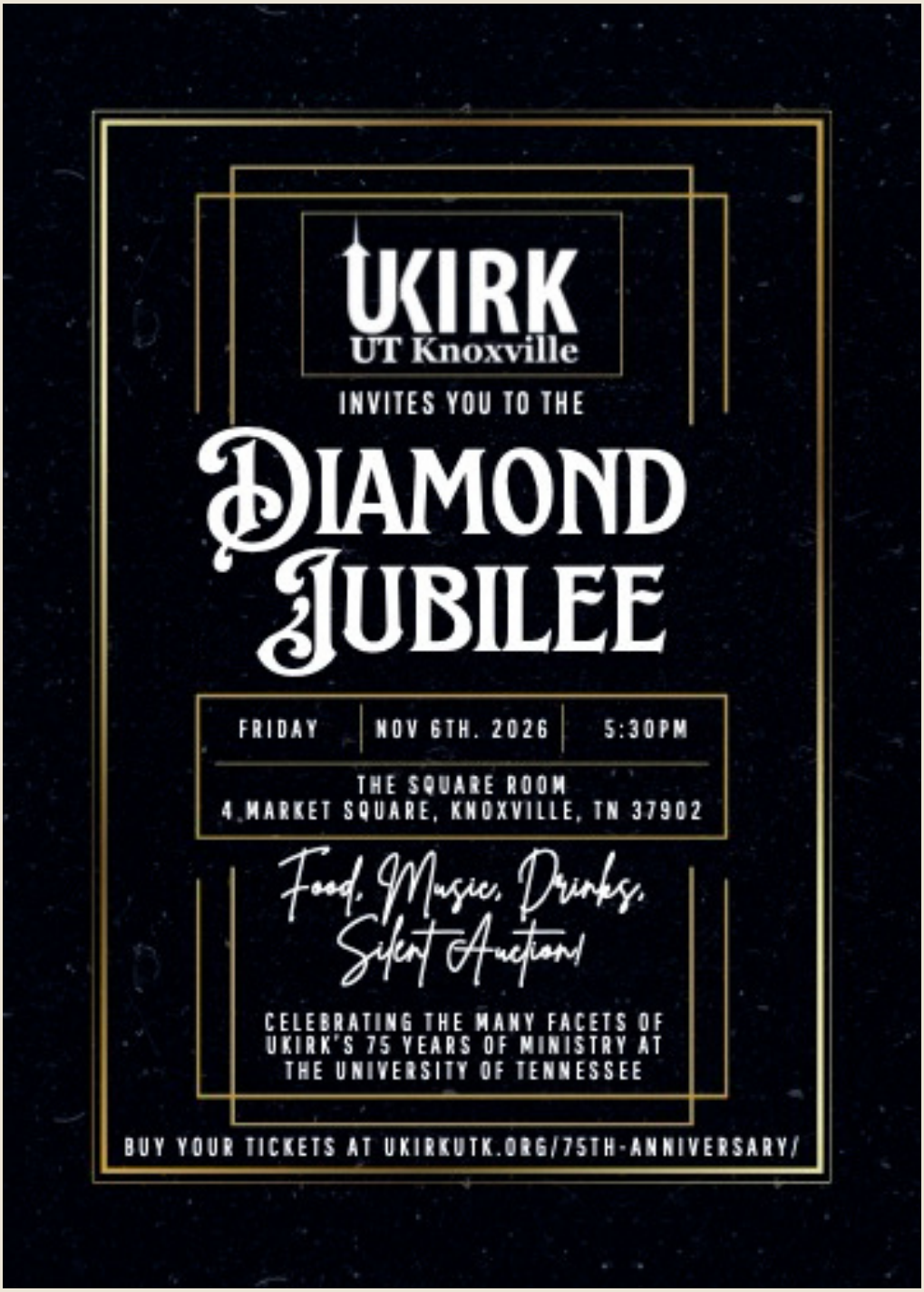
In the spirit of "instant classic" and "new tradition," Lunch & Learn has become a treasured part of the rhythm of cherished community practices in the life of our church.

Meeting the third Thursday of each month (at 11:30), we gather in Room A for a tasty bite and some focused conversation on a topic of interest. Recent gatherings have included engaging with some giants who have shaped Christianity (Dietrich Bonhoeffer, Augustine, Calvin, etc.), contemplating Emperor Constantine and his mother in relation to church and state matters in this election season, cyber security and much more. How's that for variety?!

November's Lunch & Learn promises to be a lighthearted and celebratory preparation for the season of Thanksgiving. We'll look at the practice of thanksgiving in participatory, historical and biblical ways. You can sign up online or in the Narthex for our time on November 19th. Join us and discover how gratitude is not only good for your health, it can be a fun time together!

Blessings,
John

Activities


UKIRK
UT Knoxville
INVITES YOU TO THE
DIAMOND JUBILEE
FRIDAY | NOV 6TH. 2026 | 5:30PM
THE SQUARE ROOM
4 MARKET SQUARE, KNOXVILLE, TN 37902
Food, Music, Drinks, Silent Auctions
CELEBRATING THE MANY FACETS OF UKIRK'S 75 YEARS OF MINISTRY AT THE UNIVERSITY OF TENNESSEE
BUY YOUR TICKETS AT UKIRKUTK.ORG/75TH-ANNIVERSARY/


UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH
9TH ARTISAN
CRAFT FAIR
APPLE BUTTER
SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 14
9:00 AM–2:00 PM
CONCORD UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
LOCAL CRAFTERS • ARTISANS
JEWELRY • WOOD CRAFTS • CROCHET • CERAMICS
BAKE SALE • APPLE BUTTER



November 5 and 19 at
8 a.m. in the Narthex

The men of FPC gather twice a month for fellowship and a time of bible study. 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, November 24
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.

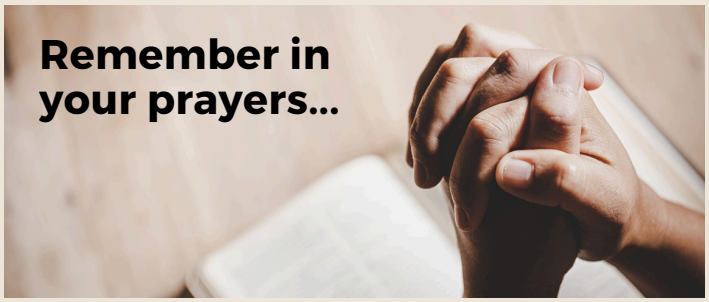
Jenny also teaches community yoga classes at the Farragut Community Center (239 Jamestowne Blvd) at 8:15 am on Mondays, Wednesdays, and some Fridays. A minimal class fee may be charged by the community center.

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.



November Birthdays

11/01 Becky Thomason
11/02 Debbie Long
11/02 LaQuita Misner
11/06 Sue Burton
11/06 Christy Fitzgerald
11/07/21 Mia Feldhausen
11/13 Nancy Pevey
11/16 Margo Gregory
11/16 John Sharp
11/17 Collin Greaser
11/21 Colin Fitzgerald
11/21 Gale Montgomery
11/25 Robert Olberding
11/25 Beth Honey
11/28 Rick Van Allen
11/30 Helen Agee
11/30 Kathy Emmerson



Andy Andrew, Pat Dail, Jan Darnell, Frank Dorman, Dale Emmerson, Dean & Lucy Fleming, Shaler Gentry, Frank Guess, Beth and Jimmy Loyless, Ann McAnally, Irma McGuffey, Maria Medina, Kirk Morris, Tami Newsom, Linda Nunley, Donna Phillips, Lewis Ransdell

Bereaved
The family of Dave Figel
The Sharp family following the death of Whitney's mother, Betty Kirkland

There will be a visitation for Jim Rich at FPC on Saturday, November 7 from 2-4pm.

November Anniversaries

11/01 Hal and Jeanie Oakley

11/07 David and Liz Gargan

11/14 Kent and Joyce Williams

11/20 Earl and Kimberly Platt

11/29 Andy and Merle Andrew



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 October 26, the Session:

· Heard an update on the Fresh Look 2 schedule of work being done in the narthex and sanctuary:

- o Week of Oct. 26 – New audio system installed
- o Week of Nov. 9 – Repair of narthex walls and repainting
- o Weeks of Nov. 16 and 23 – Hanging of wallpaper in narthex
- o Week of Nov. 30 – Painting of vestibules
- o Weeks of Dec. 7 and 14 – Painting of narthex restrooms, kitchen and parlor
- o To be determined – Delivering and Installing of new narthex furniture.

· Received a report from the Nominating Committee. The following will be presented for election as new elders on Session at a congregational meeting on November 15:

- o LisaKay Machen (Worship and Music)
- o Earl Platt (Property)
- o Alison Rogers (Christian Formation)
- o Larry Byars (Administration)

Financial Report as of September 2026

	Actual for September	YTD September	YTD September Budget
Operating Income	$48,682	$566,226	$558,342
Big Fish Academy Income	$2,000	$18,000	$18,000
Total Income	$50,682	$584,226	$576,342
Operating Expenses	$75,928	$550,362	$578,620
Total Expenses	$75,928	$550,362	$578,620
Total Income less Expenses	($25,245)	$33,864	($2,278)



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

Farragut Presbyterian Church

KARM STORES
The Thrift Store with a Mission

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.

Kroger FRESH FOR EVERYONE

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.

STAFF

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Reverend Dr. John Sharp
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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