



**PRAISING GOD
SERVING OTHERS
GROWING IN FAITH**

Good News Banner

December 2022

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**

Worship

9:00 am

Casual Service

11:00 am

Traditional Service

Sanctuary

Subscribe to the FPC Youtube page to watch via the web live or at a later time

We are a diverse and welcoming community of believers, called by God, graced by Jesus Christ, and empowered by the Holy Spirit to serve God through worship in the Reformed tradition, compassionate service to all, and the nurturing of each other so as to grow in faith together.

Reverend Matt Nieman

A Message from our Pastor



Plans to Prosper You

For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.

Jeremiah 29:11

Amid a myriad of challenges and threats to our communities, the one reliable hope we have is the working of a hope-giving and future-giving God.

You've heard this over and over again from people like me. With every latest war, shooting, or health crisis, preachers circle back to what seems to be the only trick in our bags: the hope of God in Jesus Christ.

Sometimes we believe it's the only thing we have left. Wars don't seem to cease, mass shootings are never eradicated, and injury and disease continue to run rampant. We preach love for our neighbors, the right to lament our suffering, and our inability to comprehend such terrible things that happen. But this never seems good enough.

And so we fall back on hope and a future promised to us that Jeremiah voiced to the Babylonian exiles. Ultimately, it's all we have. But, it's all we need and the promise of their coming leaves us begging for their arrival.

Advent crystalizes what it means to longingly hope for this new reality. In the anticipation of Jesus' arrival, we are made familiar with the feelings that come with our quest for unity, peace, and prosperity for all. And we believe that Jesus is the one who will ultimately bring us these gifts.

Have you noticed our scriptural focus at the beginning of Advent is always on Jesus' second coming, rather than with the babe in the manger? Why do we begin at the end?

"Because," as Dr. Jennifer Lord of Austin Seminary writes, "the beginning already contains the end and the end reveals that the beginning, as humble as it is, is nonetheless full of fierce power and glory. Who is the defenseless, weak babe whom angels and magi laud and honor? It is the very One who will go to the cross and grave, thwarting the powers of evil and sin forevermore. Who is the little One whom we worship with songs, raising our lighted candles? It is the very One who consummates God's reign in heaven and on earth. We read about the end first to know what we celebrate at Christmas: the redemption of all creation."

The redemption of all creation: that is our hope and our future. It will be glorious, and that's why we, as best we can, wait.



Chrriistmas Eve

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 24
CANDLELIGHT WORSHIP SERVICE

5 pm Casual Worship or 7 pm Traditional Worship

We will celebrate the birth of Christ and worship on
Christmas Day, Sunday December 25 at 10am

Epiphany of our Lord, Sunday, January 1 at 10am

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS



It was walking with a friend that resulted in **Elaine Jackson** becoming a member here at Farragut Presbyterian. She joined Sandra Hipsher in daily walks that were beneficial for health and weight loss, but more importantly provided support as Elaine was caring for her ailing husband. She began worshipping with Sandra at the outside services, and found support following her husband's death in July of this year.

If you talk to Elaine for any length of time, you will realize she is a “beach person”, which rates highest among her interests,

although working in the yard is a love, along with tennis and hiking. Her three sons live in the area and she is very proud of her two granddaughters. Being a very active woman, Elaine is already involved in helping out at FPC, including driving to help take craft items to CAM in Townsend, and working a craft table at the Family Advent Gift-making event.



An energetic dynamo came to FPC, following Sarah and Tim Mashue, in the form of Sarah's mom, **Carol Gardiner**. She immediately became active in the Sunday School programs of our growing Kid Zone young children activities. She has the training: her college degree is in Child and Family Development, and she has taught Sunday School since she was in junior high school. She homeschooled her five children, and always was part of a kids' coordinating team in every church she has attended. She finally took time off to attend Matt's Inquirer

classes, and now is “official” and a vital part of the Christian Ed committee and projects. Somewhere in there she finds time to make cute outfits for her various grandkids, and Darcey, Kinsley, and Savannah show off theirs almost every Sunday.

Anyone who helped with the Family Advent Gift Workshop held for the kids on Saturday, 11/19, can attest to her organizational skills: it was an incredibly well coordinated event enjoyed by all. Mark your calendar to attend the Casual Service on 12/11, when the kids will be putting on a Nativity pageant and choir program.

Carol's husband Brian has been working at the Naval Weapons Test Center in China Lake, CA for over 20 years. He plans to retire and join the family in East Tennessee.



Bob and Linda Bell are joining FPC from their former Presbyterian church in Aptos, CA. There is an interesting reason they pulled up stakes and moved across the country. Their grandson took a paramedic job offer from AMR Ambulance Service here in Knoxville and relocated. He has now graduated from the Fire Academy and is a certified fireman. Linda and Bob's daughter and her husband came to visit and liked the area so much that they

moved here. Then Linda and Bob came to visit both daughter and grandson, liked it so much – and the rest is history!! East Tennessee has that effect on people.

Unfortunately, since moving health issues have become major, and Bob and Linda can no longer enjoy singing in the choir as they once had (Bob for over 50 years), but do sit front and center to support our choir at the 11:00 service. Following a stroke and a hip fracture, Bob is rehabbing at Autumn Care in Karns. He is a retired Police Lieutenant from the San Jose Department, a retired reservist in the US Navy, and a fifth generation California resident.

Bob and Linda have been active leaders, both Session and Diaconate, in their former Presbyterian church. They have seven grandchildren spread out across the entire country. Born in Germany during the war to German parents, Linda moved with her mother to the United States when she was 6, after her mother married an American serviceman stationed in Germany. After her retirement, Linda discovered quilting, and actually loves any craft idea she comes across.



Louise Stevenson and her husband, Paul Matson, met in grad school in California at UC Santa Barbara. After jobs in Ohio they moved to Knoxville to work at ORNL. Louise's specialty is environmental toxicology, while Paul concentrates on the environmental impact of hydropower. They have two little girls, Roxy, aged almost 4 and Catie, almost 2. They were named for Louise's grandmother Roxanna and Paul's mother Catherine.

Louise has always been active in the various Presbyterian churches where they have lived, serving as Elder in both California and Ohio. Obviously, with a high-powered job and a family with two active little girls, Louise doesn't have much free time. She does enjoy reading and being in a book club.

Last summer she and Paul had the enjoyable experience of travelling to Ireland for a good friend's wedding, and celebrated a wonderful vacation while her parents took care of the two girls.

Outreach

BUILDING COMMUNITY THROUGH GIVING



The VMC lunch will take place on December 20, 2022. Carol Kraft is the coordinator, contact her if you have any questions. There is a sign-up sheet in the narthex if you are interested in volunteering to help prepare and serve the meal.

Outreach Opportunity VMC Meal Coordinator

Farragut Presbyterian Church has been a supporter of the Volunteer Ministry Center for several years. Our support has come in the form of providing a meal for their clients one day a month. Gloria Purjet has stepped down after several years of outstanding service as the coordinator and a replacement is needed effective January 1, 2023.

The position involves informing the membership of the need for monthly assistance via the normal channels of communication, i.e. Constant Contact and Good News Banner and scheduling volunteers each month to arrange for providing the meals. A number of the regular providers are already in place for next year. This is a very worthwhile and rewarding opportunity to serve those in need.

Any interested person may contact Kirk Morris or Jean Peretz for additional information.

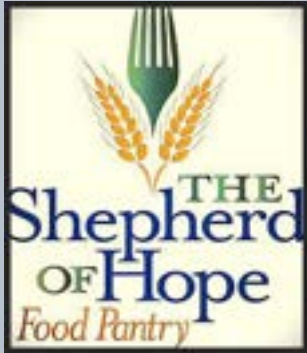




Thank you to the FPC volunteers who have donated gas/grocery and dinner cards for guest families this past year. Your generosity and compassion are a blessing to our guest families.

Our next support hosting is the week of 1/29/23-2/5/23. The families will be housed in the extended stay motel. We will continue to ask for card donations. We will post as soon as the signup is posted on the Westside site.

Thank you, Beth Loyless
bethloyless@hotmail.com



SHEPHERD OF HOPE FOOD PANTRY will be distributing December food bags again this holiday season to those less fortunate, and ask if we can contribute specific items for the meals. They need Boxed Potatoes (mashed or au gratin), Cake Mix & Icing and Stuffing Mix. Collection will run through December 10th. Donations should be placed on a table in Room A. Thank you for your support!

REMEMBERING OUR MISSION WORKERS

Mailing Christmas cards each year shows our mission workers in a small, but very real way, our interest and commitment to them. Cards need to be mailed as soon as possible. One USA Global Forever stamp (\$1.40) will cover the postage, or you can use 3 regular first class postage stamps and mark Air Mail on the envelope.

Addresses are:

Mark Hare & Jenny Bent
(Keila & Annika)
c/o Mauricio Chacon-UBL
APDO 901-1000
San Jose
Costa Rica

Cobbie and Dessa Palm
c/o Divinity House
14 Mack Street
Bantayan
Dumaguete City 6200
Philippines



CHRISTMAS JOY SPECIAL OFFERING

SUPPORTING PAST, PRESENT AND FUTURE LEADERS

When we gather with friends and family at Christmas, we celebrate the many gifts that we have both given and received. Looking toward the Star of Bethlehem, we give thanks for the blessings of the past year and anticipate a future filled with hope and possibility. We live in hope that the Christmas gift we offer is exactly what that special person has been hoping for. Yet for those of us celebrating Advent's expectation, we know that the only perfect gift ever given is the one we receive in Jesus Christ.

The perfect gift. Through the Christmas Joy Offering, we reflect God's perfect gift to us, with generous support of church leaders among us – past, present and future – who have pointed us to God.

The Christmas Joy Offering has been a cherished Presbyterian tradition since the 1930s. The Offering distributes gifts equally to the Assistance Program of the Board of Pensions and to Presbyterian-related schools and colleges equipping communities of color. The Assistance Program provides critical financial support to church workers and their families. Presbyterian-related schools and colleges provide education and leadership development while nurturing racial and ethnic heritage. This has been a Presbyterian commitment for nearly 140 years.

The final Special Offering for 2022 is the annual Christmas Joy Offering which will be collected between now and December 18.

To Donate:

Use an envelope provided at the church or send a check to FPC with Christmas Joy Special Offering on the memo line or submit a gift through e-giving at fpctn.org



Farragut
Presbyterian
Church



Kid
Zone



Join Us for KIDZONE WILD ENCOUNTERS!

Bring the kids to FPC KidZone at 9 am on Sundays for a wild time with animal friends! These engaging animals will guide the children through historical bible events.

Adult helpers and substitutes are always needed – please contact Mason Warren at masonwarren@fpctn.org for more information.

CHRISTMAS MOVIE NIGHT

MICKEY'S ONCE UPON A CHRISTMAS

Saturday, December 10

4-6 PM

We'll have a series of short films and wonderful Christmas activities for children ages preschool - 5th grade. We understand Santa will make an appearance with photo opportunities on the Polar Express! Please RSVP to Mason Warren at masonwarren@fpctn.org.





MEN'S BIBLE STUDY

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!

**Join us December 15
8 am in the Narthex**



Presbyterian Women

For most women, participation in Presbyterian Women starts just down the street in your local church.

Presbyterian Women in the Congregation (PWC) groups build community, affirm women's calls to leadership and spiritual growth, raise concerns and channel information to and from Presbyterian Women in the Presbytery. In terms of what this means to you, Presbyterian Women is a loving community that can challenge and nurture you, and be a vehicle for making the world a better place for all of God's children. Consider joining an FPC Circle.

ALL CIRCLE MEETINGS ARE HELD AT THE CHURCH

Circle #1

2nd Tuesday, 10 am

Leaders: Janet Tinder, 865-556-8193

Kathy Emerson

Circle #2

2nd Tuesday, 10 am

Leaders: Becky Thomason, 865-607-0727

Linda Nunley

Circle #3

2nd Wednesday, 10 am

Leaders: Mikie Lancaster, 865-675-0360

Jo McElhaney, 865-966-5424

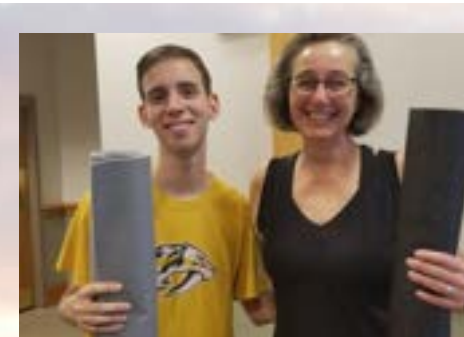


Presbyterian Women had a great time on Saturday November 5 for the Thank Offering Luncheon.

Our speaker was Rachel Penmore and two students from UKirk, the University of Tennessee Presbyterian sponsored center. They spoke about the many activities of UKirk and gave everyone attending a better understanding of what UKirk does and the many needs that are met there for the students.

We have two Tuesday morning circles which both meet at the church on the Second Tuesday of each month, and one circle on the Second Wednesday of each Month.

In December, the meetings will be held on the 13th and 14th of the month. If you have never attended a circle and would like to join one, or you have any questions, please contact Beth White at 865-966-1121 or bwhite6@msn.com.



Chair Yoga

**MONDAY AND FRIDAY
10 AM
30-MINUTE CLASS IN
THE NARTHEX**

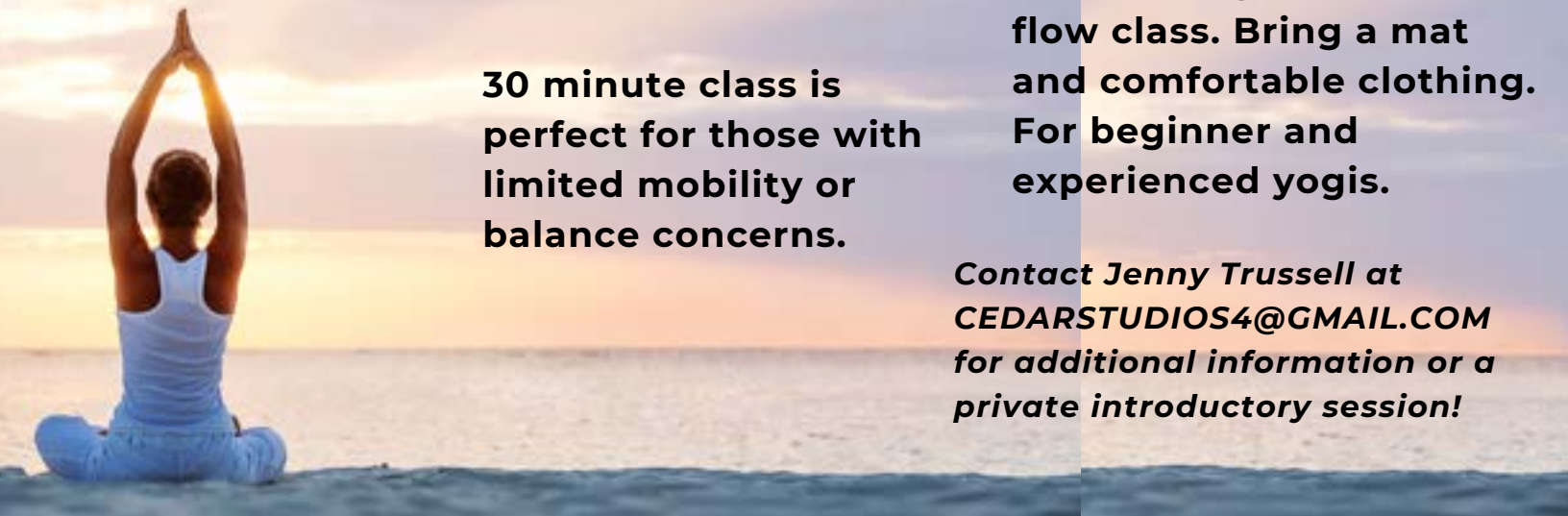
30 minute class is perfect for those with limited mobility or balance concerns.

TGIF Gentle Yoga

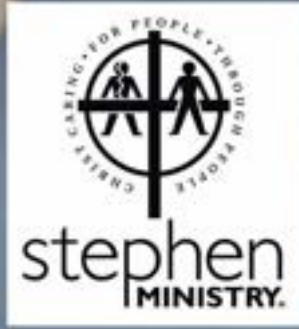
**FRIDAY AT 7 PM
FELLOWSHIP HALL**

60 minute gentle/slow flow class. Bring a mat and comfortable clothing. For beginner and experienced yogis.

Contact Jenny Trussell at CEDARSTUDIOS4@GMAIL.COM for additional information or a private introductory session!



WHEN YOU NEED SOMEONE TO TALK TO



*Call someone
who cares*

FPC STEPHEN MINISTER LEADERS:

BETH MARTIN | MATT NIEMAN
JEANIE OAKLEY | ELIZABETH WILSON

865/966-9547

Remember in your prayers...

Prayers for Our Church Family

Candice Blake, Pat Dail, Chuck Foriska, Susan Harbin, Sandi Keagy, Gloria Lay, Bron Lewis, Mike and Janet Murphy, Tami Newsom, Larry Roberts, Nancy Signer, Steve Tinder, Helen Weaver, George White, Kent Williams

Military

Joshua Meador, David Sparks, Mark Wurth

Bereaved

The family of Tyrone Gregory

The family of Allen Lay, Gloria Purjet's brother



Prayer Shawl Ministry

December 27, 11 am

NOTE NEW TIME

Join this wonderful group of knitters and crocheters to make shawls for FPC members who need extra comfort during a difficult time.

Patterns and yarn are provided.

December Anniversaries

- 12/07 Bob and Judy Alexander
- 12/07 Gary and Pam Heidinger
- 12/07 Allen and Mary Lutz
- 12/14 Gary and Jaci Marks
- 12/16 John and Connie Begovich
- 12/17 David and Leah Key
- 112/21 Ron and Ginger Grunke
- 12/26 Dean and Lucy Fleming
- 12/27 Michael and Liza Wright
- 12/29 David and Jane Bolus
- 12/31 Elijah and Helena MacCarthy

December Birthdays

- 12/01 June Zachary
- 12/01 Zetty Bell
- 12/01 Beth White
- 12/02 Bev Lomax
- 12/03 Heather Robinson
- 12/03 Susan Harbin
- 12/04 Darrell Sparks
- 12/05 Liz Preston
- 12/06 Andy Andrew
- 12/06 Lois Burris
- 12/06 Karen Jones
- 12/07 Carl Farwell
- 12/08 Dana Dobson
- 12/09 Lori Patterson
- 12/09 Mark Hare
- 12/12 Martha Edington
- 12/12 Melody White
- 12/12 Jim Brannon
- 12/14 Betsy Starr
- 12/14 Warren Fox
- 12/16 Bob Alexander
- 12/17 Linda Ewald
- 12/18 Peggy Stange
- 12/20 Wayne Walls
- 12/21 Matt Nieman
- 12/21 Miki Vanderbilt
- 12/21 Dean Honey
- 12/26 Denise Damelio
- 12/26 LisaKay Matchen
- 12/28 Landon Eiffert
- 12/28 Elijah MacCarthy
- 12/29 Carolyn Neighbors
- 12/30 Emily Loveday
- 12/31 Audrey Richards
- 12/31 Janet Upchurch
- 12/31 Beth Allen

Celebrate each other



EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

Intergenerational Advent Study for Adults and Youth

Library

Led by Mason Warren

Thru Sunday 12/18 youth and adults are invited to join together to study *The Heart That Grew Three Sizes: Finding Faith in the Story of The Grinch*. *We don't know why the Grinch hated Christmas. We just know he did. In this new Advent study, Matt Rawle explores the faith themes in the Christmas classic, How the Grinch Stole Christmas! including, how did the Grinch's heart grow three sizes come Christmas morning? How did Christmas save the Grinch? Could it be that the very thing we think we hate is the one thing that changes our lives? This Advent and Christmas season, look at a familiar classic through the lens of faith and see how Christ speaks to us through our culture.* Contact Mason Warren for more information at

Thursday Evening Bible Study

Meets on Zoom led by Elizabeth Wilson

Join us for the finish line! The Thursday evening Bible study is discussing Book V of the Psalms this year. This is the part of the Psalter that has the longest psalm, the shortest psalm, the angriest psalm, and the highest percentage of praise psalms. We have great conversations and many laughs at our weekly Zoom meetings, and even more at our occasional parties.

Monday Connection

Led by David Long

Room A

Everything Happens for a Reason:

And Other Lies I've Loved

Kate Bowler

Kate Bowler is a professor at Duke Divinity School with a modest Christian upbringing, but she specializes in the study of the prosperity gospel, a creed that sees fortune as a blessing from God and misfortune as a mark of God's disapproval. At thirty-five, everything in her life seems to point toward "blessing." She is thriving in her job, married to her high school sweetheart, and loves life with her newborn son.

Then she is diagnosed with stage IV colon cancer. Frank and funny, dark and wise, Kate Bowler pulls the reader deeply into her life in an account she populates affectionately with a colorful, often hilarious retinue of friends, mega-church preachers, relatives, and doctors. *Everything Happens for a Reason* tells her story, offering up her irreverent, hard-won observations on dying and the ways it has taught her to live.

ADULT BIBLE STUDY

Led by Elizabeth Wilson

This class will discuss the weekly Lectionary text. There's an optional lesson handout, but you can also join us for the conversation. In nice weather we meet outside under the trees, in bad weather we meet in the parlor.

SESSION HIGHLIGHTS

No report this month

Financial Report as of October 2022

	Actual for October	YTD October	YTD October Budget
Operating Income	\$50,132	\$581,255	\$555,118
CEP Income	\$0	\$61,713	\$61,575
Total Income	\$50,132	\$642,968	\$616,693
Operating Expenses	\$55,420	\$520,676	\$553,869
CEP Expenses	\$0	\$50,995	\$56,781
Total Expenses	\$55,420	\$571,672	\$610,650
Total Income less Expenses	(\$5,288)	\$71,297	\$6,043

Get Social!

*Farragut Presbyterian is live on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter.
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>



@FarrPres



<https://www.facebook.com/FPCKnox>



KARM STORES
The Thrift Store with a Mission

When donating used items to KARM tell the employee the name of the church. Quarterly, 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.

amazonsmile
You shop. Amazon gives.

Support Farragut Presbyterian Church
Go to smile.amazon.com
When you shop, Amazon donates.

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402-660-2451 (call or text)



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Session

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Kirby Purjet
Jack Rightmyer

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Denise Griffin
Jenny Trussell

Church Life

Gary Heidinger
Jane Bolus

Outreach

Buck Jones
Kirk Morris

Property

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Darrell Sparks

Worship and Music

Sharon Koch
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