

First Presbyterian Church
721 Church St.
Jefferson City, TN 37760

LECTIONARY

Second Sunday after Christmas Day—January 5

Jeremiah 31:7–14 or Sirach 24:1–12
Psalm 147:12–20 or Wisdom of Solomon 10:15–21
Ephesians 1:3–14; John 1:[1–9] 10–18

Epiphany of the Lord—January 6

Isaiah 60:1–6; Psalm 72:1–7, 10–14
Ephesians 3:1–12; Matthew 2:1–12

Baptism of the Lord—January 12

Isaiah 42:1–9; Psalm 29
Acts 10:34–43; Matthew 3:13–17

Second Sunday after the Epiphany—January 19

Isaiah 49:1–7
Psalm 40:1–11
1 Corinthians 1:1–9
John 1:29–42

Third Sunday after the Epiphany—January 26

Isaiah 9:1–4
Psalm 27:1, 4–9
1 Corinthians 1:10–18
Matthew 4:12–23

Meetings This Month

Session Retreat—January 8th at 6:30 p.m.

Treasurer's Report December 2013

December 1	\$2,879.00
December 8	\$6,237.00
December 15	\$6,586.00
December 22	\$5,252.00
December 29	\$3,165.00

TOTAL 24,119.00

(We need \$18,309 to meet the monthly budget.)

JANUARY



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 OFFICE CLOSED	2	3	4
5 Communion Sunday School 9:30-10:30 a.m. Worship Service 10:45-11:45 a.m.	6	7	8 Session 6:30 p.m. Rachel Shockley Phil Williams	9	10 Danny Bates Gail Twine	11 Men's Breakfast 8:00 a.m. Women's Breakfast 9:00 a.m.
12 Sunday School 9:30-10:30 a.m. Worship Service 10:45-11:45 a.m. Youth Group 5:00-7:00 p.m.	13 Doug Moody	14	15 Family Night Supper/Annual Meeting of the Congregation and Corporation 6:30 p.m. Josh Adams Ellison Berryhill David & Melissa Needs	16	17 Sit 'n Knit Group 7 p.m. . Abby Reagan	18
19 Sunday School 9:30-10:30 a.m. Worship Service 10:45-11:45 a.m.	20 NEWSLETTER DEADLINE	21	22	23 Rebecca Whaley	24 Kay Rutherford Williams	25
26 Sunday School 9:30-10:30 a.m. Worship Service 10:45-11:45 a.m. Libby Gardner Jennifer Gowan Travis Folsom	27 Margy King	28	29 Lucille Tinsley	30 Dianne Reagan Carolyn Berryhill	31	

The Amen Almanac — January 2014

First Presbyterian Church, 721 Church St., Jefferson City, TN 37760

Phone/Fax: 865-475-2761 E-mail: fpcjctn@bellsouth.net

Andrew C. Whaley, Pastor

From the Pastor's Desk...

"Look! I'm doing a new thing; now it sprouts up; don't you recognize it? I'm making a way in the wilderness"
Isaiah 43:19.

We are in the season of new beginnings. As the new year starts, many of us are in the process of "resolving" to do certain things over the course of 2014 (many of which relate to weight loss, healthier eating, or stopping bad habits). I must admit that I am like most people and do not usually keep my resolutions. 2013 was the only time I have ever actually kept a resolution and that was to learn to drink black coffee. While I still prefer to add cream and sugar, I am now perfectly capable of downing a cup of black java.

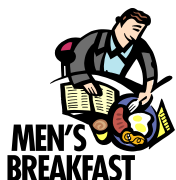
There is always a tension in our faith tradition between the desire to do "new" things and holding to the things that have brought us to our current place. Isaiah speaks with God's voice of the Lord doing *new* things, while at the same time the chorus to the old gospel hymn reminds us, "I love to tell the story/ T'will be my theme in glory/ To tell the *old, old* story/ of Jesus and his love."

I think we do well in the midst of our "resolving" in the new year not just to consider the typical vows we make, but to think what old song God continues to put on our lips and what new path God is making before us. Where are those places that we could grow in grace in the coming year? What are some ministries we might consider participating in more deeply that have shaped our life together for generations? What "wilderness" of job struggle, family discord, or lack of purpose might God be guiding us from?

We know that the calendar we follow is an arbitrary marking of time, but these days, with their fresh feeling and "new year smell" give us the opportunity to look for God's path toward wholeness in our lives and in our community. It is a time to pick up the "old, old story" of Jesus and add our verse, looking for God's faithfulness throughout the year ahead.

Gratefully,
Andrew

Announcements



MEN'S PRAYER BREAKFAST

The next breakfast for the men in our church family is scheduled for Saturday, January 11th, at 8:00 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall. We will continue our study on the Book of Revelation, *Chapters 4-5*. If you enjoy biscuits, bacon, and the Bible, join us at 8:00 a.m. for a new year of study and fellowship. We hope to see you here!

WOMEN'S PRAYER BREAKFAST



The next Women's Breakfast is scheduled for Saturday, January 11th at 9:00 a.m. at the home of Eva Zirkle (1454 Royal Dr.). We will meet at 9:00 a.m. and our study will be lesson 3 "The Practice of Solitude". We hope to see you there.

YOUTH GROUP

The Youth will be meeting at the home church on Sunday, January 12th, from 5:00-7:00 p.m. to continue their monthly study on Questions of Faith. The question for this month is: "What is Predestination?" Dinner will be provided. If you have any questions, please Andrew in the church office (865-475-2761).



FAMILY NIGHT SUPPER



Our January Family Night Supper is scheduled for Wednesday, January 15th, beginning at 6:30 p.m., in the Fellowship Hall. This month's program will feature the Annual Meeting of the Congregation. We will hear reports on church programs and activities for the year just past, as well as plans for the new year. Bring a dish and join us!

SMOKY MOUNTAIN HIKING CLUB

The Smoky Mountain Hiking Club will meet on Saturday, January 18, 2014, to hike Old Sugarlands Trail. This trail, described as "an undiscovered treasure," is one we've done several times; we'll follow Old Sugarlands to the Two Mile Branch Trail and complete a 6.2 mile loop hike to the Sugarlands Visitors' Center. Elevation gain 1,000 feet over 2 miles. Don't forget to pack a lunch and some water, and plan to join us!



GOING-ON GROUP

The Going On Group will meet at the church on Tuesday, January 28th, at 11:30 a.m. to eat lunch and watch a movie. Please bring a sack lunch. Dessert and drink will be provided. For further information contact Helen Jolley (475-3227) or Alice Pryor (475-7158.)

HOW DO YOU USE THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER??

We are trying to determine the best use of our monthly newsletter. Please email Heather (fpcjctn@bellsouth.net) with the selections that best determine how you use the monthly newsletter.

- A. Pastor's Message
- B. Announcements
- C. Calendar
- D. Eldertorial
- E. Committee update/Thank you's

Please select all that apply. Thanks!

2014 COVENANT LEARNING GROUPS

Study One:
The Future of the Church
Facilitator:
 Andrew Whaley
Room: Sanctuary



What's happening in American Christianity? Is the church dying? How does a local congregation begin to reflect on the seismic cultural shift that seems to be occurring around us? Join the conversation as we dive into some of the major themes of the church of the future and reflect on how God calls us to continue being reformed. If you love the church, plan to be part of her future, and wish to engage with some of foremost thinkers in theology and ecclesiology (church thinking) be part of this study!

- Jan 5 The Great Emergence: Why Does It Feel Like the Sky is Falling?
- Jan 12 Sola Scriptura: Cultural Changes that Challenge Biblical Inerrancy
- Jan 19 Sola Scriptura: Change in the Study of Scripture
- Jan 26 Authority: Where Is It and Who Has It?
- Feb 2 Expected Changes: Qualities of Emergence Christians
- Feb 9 Evangelical vs. Mainline: The False Division
- Feb 16 Generational Theory: Does a Golden Age Await?



Study Two:
Lent and Easter through Art
Facilitator: Jama Seahorn and Kay Rutherford-Williams
Room: Fellowship Hall

Jama Seahorn and Kay Rutherford-Williams are facilitating a Covenant Learning Group from January 5 through February 23, 2013. Jama, a retired art teacher, is going to try to help those of us who would like to be able to sketch, draw or paint learn the basics. Andrew is providing us the scripture texts for Lent and Easter and Kay will present short devotionals on these. We hope that we can draw inspiration from the scriptures and produce artwork that can be used for bulletin covers during these seasons. No prior experience in art is required; just a desire to try. Please join us for this hands-on study!

Study Three: Jesus and the Just Reign of God
Facilitator: Peggy Hypes
Room: Parlor



In this study students will engage in the book of Luke through January and James through February. Throughout January, in the book of Luke, we will study Honoring the Sabbath, How to Live as God's People, Jesus Teaches about Relationships, and Jesus Teaches Compassion for the Poor. In February, in the book of James, we will study Hear and Do the Word, Treat Everyone Equally, Show Your Faith by Your Works, and Control your speech.

January 2014 Ushers and Nursery Schedule

January 5 Ushers Martha Sanders Ruth Meadows Nursery Stacy Kirkpatrick	January 19 Ushers JoAnne Vest Rich Harlan Nursery Linda Eisenhour
January 12 Ushers Bob and Sue Rhein Nursery Sandy Paryne	January 26 Ushers Ted Folsom Kerry Antoniewicz Nursery Martha Sanders



Thank You!
THANK YOU FROM THE STAFF!!
 We would like to express our gratitude to everyone in the congregation for the generous Christmas gift. We are touched by your thoughtfulness and extremely appreciative. Thank you!! We wish you all a Happy and Healthy New Year!!
 —Andrew, Heather, Angie, Madison and Tiffany

PRAYER CONCERNS

SPECIAL CONCERNS:
 The unemployed

ILL AND RECOVERING:
 Jack and JoAnne Sepple, friend of Zirkles, both having health problems
 George Twine, who is recovering from blood clots
 Rae Lamon, friend of the Zirkles, who has a malignant tumor and is undergoing treatment
 Rhonda McClanahan, Donna Jenkins' daughter, who is undergoing chemotherapy
 Adyson Tilton, Annabelle Tilton's cousin, who has been diagnosed with leukemia
 Randy Housely, friend of JoAnne Vest, who is undergoing chemotherapy

THOSE UNABLE TO BE WITH US:
 Lucille Tinsley

IN RESIDENTIAL FACILITIES:
 JEFF. COUNTY NURSING HOME: Elizabeth Felknor
 DARBY HOUSE: Betty Wolfe
 CHANDLER HOUSE: Argie Saylor
 THE HERITAGE CENTER (Morristown): Bonnie Young

"HELP ME BE"

Lord, help me be your heart today,
 providing hope for those who stray.
 Lord, help me be your love today,
 displaying grace in every way.
 Lord, help me be your Word today,
 proclaiming good when all is gray.

ELDERTORIAL
Susan Moser

It is January! Have you made your New Year's resolution? What is a resolution anyway and why do we make them? This is what has challenged me to take a new approach to making resolutions.

Resolution may be defined as "a firm or serious decision to do something or behave in a certain manner." When one makes a resolution, it is often a personal gain that you have in mind or something that you physically can make a difference in, such as your looks. Most often, this is the case for New Year's resolutions; stop smoking, drinking, over eating, etc. and start chewing gum, drinking water, and eating right. The most popular resolutions seem to be to lose weight and get fit.

Resolutions are supposed to be "a firm or serious decision to do something" or "controlling your own behavior." How about, "resolute adherence to your own ideas or desires?" What if we turned that into "self control" or "taking possession of"- "the state of resolutely controlling your own behavior?"

I have read and believe that the greatest gift we can give to others is love, and love is most often expressed through acts of kindness. Kindness is a universal language that is recognized by all humans and most animals. We all have numerous opportunities to show love each and every day through our expressions of kindness. What a great resolution we all should make every new year, unconditionally. We all should be concerned about whether we are making a positive or negative impact on people in the world and nature. We can never diminish or deplete the amount of love we have by giving some of it away in random acts of kindness. Smile at the lady taking your money in the checkout lane at the grocery store or speak to a stranger walking down the sidewalk. Be friendly to people you do not normally talk to at church. You never know what a huge difference this could make in their lives as well as yours! Love is not like money- the more we spend the less we have for ourselves. Love never diminishes or depletes. William Penn once wrote, "I expect to pass through life but once. If therefore, there be any kindness I can show or any good thing I can do to my fellow being, let me do it now and not deter or neglect it; as I shall not pass this way again." We should be ever mindful of the fact that we only have one day at a time to make a difference by showing our love through kindness because we will not have the opportunity to ever return to that day again. This is making a resolution without any selfish gains. What if this would make you lose weight? There would probably be a lot more participants!

There is no limit to how much good an individual can do if he or she does not care who gets the credit for it. If our motive for engaging in acts of kindness is to build a good reputation, rather than lend a helping hand wherever we can regardless of whether or not we get any credit or recognition for our actions. This is "resolute adherence to your own ideas or desires."

It is almost impossible for most of us to permanently hide what is in our hearts. If our hearts are filled with love, it will automatically show because we find ourselves expressing that love in the form of good deeds and acts

of kindness toward others. On the other hand, a heart filled with selfishness almost always reveals hatred and mistreatment of others, no matter how hard we try to hide it. Are you making the best resolution for the coming year? Is your resolution going to be a selfish gain or a kind, loving decision that does not cost anything to give and it never diminishes? Make this the year that each day you are allowed to be here another day by God's grace: that you truly make a difference showing your love through acts of kindness to everyone. Take responsibility and make a "serious or firm decision" to behave in a positive way. Let this be permanent in your heart and not another year to year resolution that ends in a few months. Make a difference in someone else's life. It will certainly make a difference in your heart! It does not cost anything to be nice! (This is a favorite saying taken from a friend.) Make a serious decision to take responsibility of your own behavior and actions and not display "resolute adherence to your own ideas or desires."

It is January! What is your New Year's resolution going to be?

Happy New Year!

Family Retreat and Ski Weekend—February 7-9, 2014
The Joy of the Lord: Rejoice, Rest, Re-Create



One of the marks of life in covenant with God is the honoring of the Sabbath. Sabbath, though, is so much more than ceasing our work. Sabbath is to be a time when we delight in God! Traditionally in Jewish communities Sabbath includes worship, visiting with family and friends, and taking part in activities that bring us joy! We offer you this opportunity to experience a Sabbath-filled weekend.

In the cold and dark of winter, step into the light of God's love with your family of faith for our annual congregational retreat. From Friday evening through Sunday morning, we will spend time worshiping the living God, resting in God's goodness, and finding time to experience re-creation on the ski slopes, around the warm fire, working puzzles, and eating popcorn. On Saturday, Martha Sanders will be hosting a beginner's card making class in the morning and an advanced class in the afternoon.

"Go, eat rich food, and drink something sweet.. and send portions of this to any who have nothing ready! This day is holy to our Lord. Don't be sad, because the joy from the Lord is your strength!" - Nehemiah 8:10

For more information, please call the church office at (865) 475-2761. Sign-up sheets, with cost break down, can be found in the weekly bulletins and in the church office. Sign-up sheets and payment are due no later than Sunday, January 26th. Return before January 5th, for a reduced rate!!



2014 HIKE SCHEDULE SMOKY MOUNTAIN HIKING GROUP

We hope you can join us for all or some of our hikes this year. All of our hikes will leave from behind First Presbyterian Church (Deborah Street side) at 8:00 a.m. Be sure to pack water, a lunch, rain gear, and, if you wish, a camera, and wear good hiking footwear. This year we have included some hikes which are new to the group, along with some old favorites. In hopes of attracting some new hikers, we have included several hikes which are rated *easy*.

January 18: Old Sugarlands Trail. This trail, described as “an undiscovered treasure,” is one we’ve done several times; we’ll follow Old Sugarlands to the Two Mile Branch Trail and complete a 6.2 mile loop hike to the Sugarlands Visitors’ Center. Elevation gain 1,000 feet over 2 miles. *Moderate*

February 15: Hen Wallow Falls: Another favorite in the Cosby area. We’ll do a 4.2 mile round trip to the falls on the Gabes Mountain Trail, constructed by the CCC, which passes several home sites. Elevation gain 1,000 feet over 2 miles. *Moderate*

March 1: Kephart Prong: This is a 4 mile round trip from the trailhead (8.8 miles from Newfound Gap) to the shelter near the junction with Sweat Heifer Creek Trail, past an old CCC camp and portions of an old narrow gauge railway; it’s described as “a riverine stroll.” Elevation gain 830 feet over 2 miles. *Easy*

April 19: Porters Creek: Another favorite in the Greenbrier area, and a great spring wildflower hike, this is a 3.6 – 7.2 mile roundtrip, depending on whether you stop at the falls or proceed to Campsite 31 before returning. Elevation gain 500 feet over 1.5 miles to the falls, or 1,500 feet over 3.6 miles to the campsite. *Moderate*.

May 24: Jakes Creek Falls: This is a 3.2 mile round trip to the falls, or a 5.2 mile round trip if we proceed to Campsite 27. This is in the Elkmont area, near the old cabins, and it follows an old logging rail bed. The lower part is familiar as the terminus of a loop hike we have done many times. Elevation gain is 1,000 feet over two miles or 1,500 feet over 2.6 miles. *Moderate*.

June 21: Big Fork Ridge: We’ll be going back to Cataloochee for this hike, a 6.4 mile round trip to the junction with Caldwell Fork Trail. The top of the trail offers good views of the Caldwell Fork Valley. Elevation gain 800 feet over 1.6 miles, and approximately the same on the return. *Moderate*.

July 19: Mingus Mill Trail: We will pay a pre-hike visit to the Pioneer Farmstead at Ocunalfuttee, then proceed to Mingus Mill and begin our hike, a 4 mile round trip

past an old slave cemetery and an old CCC camp. Elevation gain 730 feet over two miles. *Easy*.

August 16: Baskins Creek Falls: This is a 3 mile round trip to the falls, with an optional side trip to an old cemetery. This is a less traveled trail in the Roaring Fork area. Elevation gain 900 feet over 1.5 miles. “*Fairly Easy*.”

September 20: Middle Prong Trail to Indian Flats Falls: An 8 mile round trip to a scenic waterfall, this hike from the Tremont area should afford views of early fall colors, as well as a trek past an old CCC camp, complete with a rusting old Cadillac left by the CCC supervisor when it quit running. Elevation gain 1,400 feet over 4 miles. *Moderate*. (Those wishing an easier hike may leave from Tremont and do a 2 mile round trip to Spruce Flats Falls, another pretty waterfall, on a trail that starts out steep but soon moderates.)

October 18: Deep Creek: Again, the fall colors on this trail should be striking. We will actually go first up a moderate 0.3 mile trail to Juney Whank Falls, then on to a trail junction which affords a short downhill to Deep Creek Trail and about a 0.7 mile loop back to the trailhead, or a 2.4 mile loop if a longer hike is preferred. The elevation gain on the trail to Juney Whank Falls is 100 feet over 0.3 miles. Those who prefer an easy hike may skip the Juney Whank Falls trail altogether and just walk up the wide, easy road beside Deep Creek as far as you wish, which will take you past Tom Branch Falls and Indian Creek Falls. Elevation gain on Deep Creek Trail is 200 feet over 2 miles. *Easy*.

November 1: Mount Sterling Trail: This hike is by request, for fall colors, which should still be pretty at this time. It is a 5.4 mile round trip up a steep trail to Mount Sterling Ridge and on to a 60 foot Fire Tower, built by the CCC, which affords excellent views to those who are willing to climb it. Elevation gain is 2,800 feet over 2.5 miles. *Moderately strenuous*.

December 31: Sutton Ridge: Once again, we will end the year with a easy trail. We will leave the Cosby Campground and make a 3 mile round trip on the Lower Mount Cammerer Trail to the Sutton Ridge Lookout. Elevation gain is 370 feet over 1.5 miles. *Easy*.

HUMOR TO BREAK UP THE WINTER BLAHS

- Don’t let your worries get the best of you; remember, Moses started out as a basket case.
- Some people are kind, polite and sweet-spirited ... until you try to sit in their pew.
- People are funny: They want the front of the bus, the middle of the road and the back of the church.
- Quit griping about your church; if it was perfect, you couldn’t belong.
- Forbidden fruits create many jams.
- Working for God on earth doesn’t pay much, but his

“I have decided to stick with love. Hate is too great a burden to bear.”

—Martin Luther King Jr.