

The Amen Almanac

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Rev. Andrew C. Whaley, Pastor

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

From the Pastor's Desk...

Even though it was a secular children's television program, Mr. Rogers' Neighborhood taught many profound theological lessons. You may know already, but Fred Rogers was a minister in the Presbyterian Church, and so I cannot help but think that his pastoral training influenced his television program.

One lesson he taught so well was what was meant by the term "neighbor." It was the term by which Mr. Rogers referred to his viewers as well as guests on the program. His opening theme song posed the question each day, "Would you be mine? Could you be mine? Won't you be my neighbor?" Mr. Rogers taught us that to be a neighbor is to be hospitable, to be kind, to practice gentleness and generosity. A neighbor is someone to be honored, cared about, and seen as a partner in life.

On February 24, our church began a new venture to live out this same definition of neighbor. On a snowy Tuesday night the Church Street Café welcomed fifteen members of our surrounding neighborhood for a hot meal of homemade vegetable beef soup and cornbread. Church members served them at tables and sat and visited with them, learning names and hearing stories.

From the begin of the visioning process for this new ministry, we wanted to create an outreach experience that blurred the lines of "us" and "them" and instead break through barriers to encourage deeper mutuality and respect among the diverse people who live within walking distance of our facility.

Through the evening we saw several holy moments. They included deepening relationships between current church members who grew closer as they chopped onions and celery. It involved older married couples offering advice to newlyweds. It was an opportunity for toddlers to mop up wet feet and for teenagers to learn how to clear icy roads. And we had the opportunity to hear some marvelous stories from our neighbors, to make connections between their families and ours, and to play with new children who we had never met.

As this ministry continues to mature and grow, we hope this spirit of neighborliness persists, as we grow in deeper relationship with one another, with those who live so close by, and ultimately with God, who tells us that there will one day be a feast

of rich food and well-aged wine, when all people will gather on the holy mountain from every nation and the shroud that separates us from God will be torn down. Mourning and crying and pain will be obliterated, and God will wipe away our tears. It is a vision of this feast on the Lord's mountain that we keep before us as we strive to be good neighbors to those who live with us in our corner of Mossy Creek.

Gratefully,
Andrew

Announcements



WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY

On Thursday, March 5th, the Women's Bible Study group will meet at The Creek from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. On the first Thursday of each month, we grow in faith together through education, discussion, and companionship. If you have any questions, please see Linda Noonkesser.

YOUTH GROUP

On Sunday, March 8th the Youth will be meeting at the Church, from 5:00-7:00 p.m. to begin Youth Sunday Planning. Dinner will be provided. If you have any questions, please contact Andrew.



MEN'S PRAYER BREAKFAST

The Men's Prayer Breakfast will be on Saturday, March 14th, at 8:00 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall. If you enjoy biscuits, bacon, and the Bible, join us for a time of study and fellowship.



WOMEN'S PRAYER BREAKFAST



Will be held on Saturday, March 14th at 9:00 a.m. We will meet in the home of Alice Pryor, 1421 Laurel Hills. We take a look at Lesson Five, "Forgiveness". Come and join us. Look forward to seeing you there

ATTENTION COLLEGE STUDENTS!

The Christian Education (CE) committee would like to invite all college students in our congregation to consider applying for the Judy Sites Memorial Education Scholarship. Judy Sites was an educator in the Jefferson County School system and believed strongly in the value of education to shape and change young lives. Following her untimely death, Tom Sites established this scholarship fund to seek to reward applicants who are of good character, perform well academically, and are active in the community. Given the area of career specialization of Mrs. Sites, special consideration will be given to those with special needs, or those who are planning a course of study pertaining to the provision of education or other services to those with special needs. If you are interested in applying for this scholarship, simply write a letter by March 25 to Sandy Long, c/o the CE committee, expressing how you meet the criteria for the Judy Sites Memorial Education Scholarship summarized above. The committee will notify you of the award and set up a date this summer to present the scholarship to you in worship.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
COMMUNION 1 Sunday School 9:30-10:30 a.m. Worship Service 10:45-11:45 a.m. Grace Notes Flute Choir and Luncheon	2	3	4 Christian Education 4:30 p.m. Mission 6:30 p.m. Worship 6:30 p.m.	5 Women's Bible Study 7:00 p.m.	6	7 Deborah Scarlett
8 Sunday School 9:30-10:30 a.m. Worship Service 10:45-11:45 a.m. Fellowship/ Evangelism 12:30 p.m. Montreat Reg. and Deposit Due	9	10 Church Street Café 5:30 p.m. Matt Gowan	11 Session 6:30 p.m. Dian Wise Alice Pryor	12 Bonnie Young	13	14 Men's Breakfast 8:00 a.m. Women's Breakfast 9:00 a.m.
15 Sunday School 9:30-10:30 a.m. Worship Service 10:45-11:45 a.m. Darren Watson	16	17	18 Family Night Supper 6:30 p.m.	19 Arlene Peck	20 NEWSLETTER DEADLINE Sit 'n Knit Group 7 p.m.	21 Hike 8:00 a.m.
22 Sunday School 9:30-10:30 a.m. Worship Service 10:45-11:45 a.m. Doug & Carolyn Berryhill	23 Annabelle Tipton	24 Church Street Café 5:30 p.m. Doug & Julie Moody	25	26 Jim Forney	27	28
29 Sunday School 9:30-10:30 a.m. Worship Service 10:45-11:45 a.m. PALM SUNDAY EASTER EGG HUNT/ LUNCH Sherri Van Bruggen Martha Sanders Tom Sites Harold & Maureen Hicks	30	31 Roxanne Moser				

FAMILY NIGHT SUPPER

On Wednesday, March 18th, at 6:30 p.m., we will be having our March Family Night. In keeping with our Church Street Cafe theme of getting to know our neighbors, the Fellowship and Evangelism Committee has decided that our March family night supper will include our own "who are you?" activity so that we might get to know each other a little better. We will all have the opportunity of asking fun and interesting questions to different members of our church family (something akin to speed dating). Please join us for a fun evening of food and fellowship.



SIT 'N KNIT GROUP

On Friday, March 20th at 7:00 p.m. we will be having the Sit 'n Knit gathering at Libby Moser's house (217 Fieldcrest Dr.). If you have any questions, please see Libby.



SMOKY MOUNTAIN HIKING CLUB

The Smoky Mountain Hiking Club will meet on Saturday, March 21st, at 8:00 a.m., to hike to Twin Creeks Trail. This is a 4 mile round trip, beginning at the Bud Ogle Nature Trail. It's a good children's nature hike. Don't forget to pack a lunch and some water, and plan to join us!



ANNUAL EASTER EGG HUNT & LUNCH

On Sunday, March 29th we will have our Annual Easter Egg Hunt and lunch. Following worship, everyone is invited downstairs to the Fellowship Hall for a special hot dog lunch with the kids, followed by the egg hunt. All the children (5th grade and under) are invited to participate in the hunt. Don't forget to bring your Easter baskets!



THANK YOU

In Matthew 25:36 it says "...I was sick and you cared for me..."

Thank You Church Family for your thoughts, prayers, concerns, visits, cards, notes and for the wonderful food you brought to us. We are truly overwhelmed with the outpouring of your love and encouraging words. God has truly blessed us with a wonderful church family.

—Bob and Sue Rhein

WE'RE GOING TO A
MONTREAT
 YOUTH CONFERENCE!

YOUTH MONTREAT
 REMINDER
 Montreat Youth Conference
 Registration Forms and
 \$75 deposit is due on Sunday, March 22nd. Additional payments of \$100 are due on Sunday, April 19th and Sunday, May 10th. If you have any questions, please contact Andrew.

PRAYER CONCERNS

SPECIAL CONCERNS:

Those who are struggling with addictions
 All members of the military and their families, especially those stationed overseas
 The unemployed

ILL AND RECOVERING:

Eugene Smith, friend of Ed & Sandy Payne, moving into nursing home and going on dialysis
 Charlotte Spencer, Sandy Payne's Aunt, who has been moved to hospice care
 Nita Jean Randle, Rebecca Whaley's Grandmother, who has been moved to hospice care
 Jan Hagwood, friend of Ted and Beth Folsom, who has been moved to the rehab unit at Heritage Center
 Marcia Oder, friend of Denny & Alice Pryor, who was in a car accident and is hospitalized in ICU
 Tracy Davis, Joanne Vest's niece, who is traveling to Georgetown for an evaluation for an intestine transplant
 Judy Simpson, friend of Joanne Vest, who has kidney cancer
 Carolyn Armstrong, Arlene Peck's sister, who is hospitalized with pneumonia
 Judy Hegarty, friend of Allen and Susan Evans, who has terminal cancer and experiencing difficulties with chemotherapy
 Jenny Quarles, Libby Gardner's aunt, who has been diagnosed with progressive neck cancer
 Rhonda McClanahan, Donna Jenkins' daughter, as she undergoes chemotherapy
 Mark Knisley, Former Pastor of Hopewell Presbyterian Church, who is recovering from a liver transplant

THOSE UNABLE TO BE WITH US: Lucille Tinsley

IN RESIDENTIAL FACILITIES:

JEFFERSON COUNTY NURSING HOME: Celeste Reneau
 CHANDLER HOUSE: Argie Saylor
 HERITAGE CENTER: Bonnie Young