

The Amen Almanac

First Presbyterian Church, 721 Church St., Jefferson City, TN 37760
Phone/Fax: 865-475-2761 E-mail: fpcjctn@bellsouth.net Website: www.fpcjeffcity.org
Rev. Andrew C. Whaley, Pastor

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

From the Pastor's Desk...

The mission of First Presbyterian Church is to form disciples who are invested in reflecting the love of Christ Jesus to the world.

Our mission statement, adopted by the Session last year, expresses a desire that everything we do as a church be about transforming lives. This strong desire led the Session to approve an evaluation of our children and youth ministries with Ministry Architects and their senior consultant Stephanie Caro. Ms. Caro specializes in working among smaller membership churches and helping congregations think holistically about how they minister to the children they have promised to raise in the faith.

Are we doing this evaluation because we are failing in these ministry areas? Absolutely not. We have a congregation who deeply loves our young people. Many of you who are not even related to these children and youth take an interest in their lives, welcome their input on committees, encourage them to lead in worship, and check in with them week to week. That is a gift.

We have committed Sunday school teachers and other servants who make sure activities and programs are carried out within the life of our congregation. We are incredibly grateful for those who spend time outside of Sunday mornings preparing lessons, making phone calls, collecting forms, and completing so many other unnoticed tasks.

What we do recognize, however, is that our way of doing children and youth ministry is largely modeled off of what other congregations do. Are our practices most faithful to the culture of our community? Are there particular gifts about having a more intimate children and youth program that we could foster that we are currently missing? What kind of larger structure around a children and youth ministry is necessary so that it can thrive in the long run?

Out of our listening sessions last year, we heard that a growing area in our congregation could be a staff position for children and youth ministry. I know there are some among us who think that we should have put our increased giving in 2015 immediately to use and hired a part-time person to take the program and run. What we recognize, however, is that any kind of church activity built around the charisma of one individual is not sustainable in the long run. This consulting relationship with Stephanie Caro will help us develop a strategy, a volunteer base, a calendar structure to the year, and particular educational and spiritual goals in these ministry areas so

that a staff person who may eventually be hired has a clear job description with clear expectations and the support necessary for these ministries to take the next step in maturity.

Ms. Caro will be with us the weekend of May 16 and 17. On that Saturday there will be specific times designated for certain constituent groups in the congregation to meet with her. The more people we have participate the clearer picture she will have and the more accurate evaluation we will receive. I hope you will join us as we continue to work to form disciples together.

Gratefully,
Andrew

Announcements

MAUNDY THURSDAY SERVICE/FAMILY NIGHT SUPPER



Our April Family Night Supper will be on Thursday, April 2nd, at 6:30 p.m. We will follow dinner with our **Maundy Thursday Service at 7:30 p.m.** The Maundy Thursday service is one of meditation & partaking of the Lord's Supper. It is a time to remember Jesus as he humbly washed the feet of his disciples & ate a final meal with them before he was arrested. Please plan on joining us for this special service.

GOOD FRIDAY WORSHIP SERVICE



Please join us for our Good Friday service on Friday, April 3rd, at 7:00 p.m. The Tenebrae Service is presented by our choir and features a series of Scripture readings, narrations, and music which focus on the final hours of Jesus' life. The service ends in darkness and silence, symbolizing the death of Jesus as well as the hopelessness of the world without God.

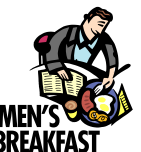


WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY

On Thursday, April 9th, the Women's Bible Study group will meet at 6:30 p.m. at The Creek. If you have any questions, please see Rebecca Whaley.

MEN'S PRAYER BREAKFAST

The Men's Prayer Breakfast will be on Saturday, April 11th, at 8:00 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall



| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|--|--|---|---|--|--|--|
|  | | | 1 Christian Education 4:30 p.m. Mission 6:30 p.m. | 2 Family Night Supper 6:30 p.m. Maundy Thursday Service 7:30 p.m. | 3 Good Friday Service 7:00 p.m. Nancy Romine | 4 |
| 5 Sunday School 9:30-10:30 a.m. Worship Service 10:45-11:45 a.m. EASTER | 6 Kathy Juroff | 7 Building & Grounds 6:30 p.m. | 8 Session 6:30 p.m. Stacy Kirkpatrick | 9 Women's Bible Study 6:30 p.m. | 10 Yoga 7:00-8:15 p.m. | 11 Men's Breakfast 8:00 a.m. Women's Breakfast 9:00 a.m. Rick & Sandy Pinkerton-Long |
| 12 Sunday School 9:30-10:30 a.m. Worship Service 10:45-11:45 a.m. Fellowship & Evangelism 12:30 p.m. Youth Sunday Planning 5:00-7:00 p.m. Robert Gowan John Neal Scarlett | 13 | 14 Stewardship & Finance 3:00 p.m. Church Street Café 5:00 p.m. | 15 | 16 Mary Winslow | 17 Sit 'n Knit Group 7:00 p.m. Yoga 7:00-8:15 p.m. | 18 Church Work Day 9:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. |
| 19 Sunday School 9:30-10:30 a.m. Worship Service 10:45-11:45 a.m. Youth Montreat Payment Due | 20 NEWSLETTER DEADLINE JV Cline | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 Yoga 7:00-8:15 p.m. | 25 Hiking Club 8:00 a.m. Youth Sunday Rehearsal 10:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. |
| 26 Sunday School 9:30-10:30 a.m. Worship Service 10:45-11:45 a.m. YOUTH SUNDAY Youth Mission Trip Registration Due | 27 | 28 Church Street Café 5:00 p.m. | 29 Pat Patton | 30 Dallas McCash | | |

WOMEN'S PRAYER BREAKFAST

Women's Prayer Breakfast will be held on Saturday, April 11th, at 9:00 a.m. This month we will be at the home of Eva Zirkle (1454 Royal Drive). The study this month is Session Six: "Building a passionately Inclusive Church". Look forward to seeing you there.



YOUTH GROUP—YOUTH SUNDAY PLANNING

On Sunday, April 12th, the Youth will be meeting at the church from 5:00-7:00 p.m., to continue Youth Sunday Planning. Dinner will be provided. Additionally, there will be a Youth Sunday dress rehearsal on Saturday, April 25th, from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

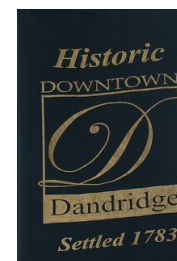
CHURCH WORK DAY

On Saturday, April 18th, from 9:00 a.m.–1:00 p.m., we will be having a Church Work Day. Some of the tasks for the day will include: Clearing of the classrooms or other rooms, spray the annoying ferns coming through the brick on the north side of the church, Clean rain gutters, start capturing information about the electrical panels and labeling, and miscellaneous small job. If you have any questions, please see Kerry Antoniewicz.



GOING-ON GROUP

Tuesday, April 21st the Going-On Group is planning a tour of downtown Historic Dandridge. Bob Jarnigan, the county Historian, will be our guide. He is sure to be informational, entertaining and will answer our history questions about the area. For lunch, we will be served soup, sandwiches, and a dessert, coffee or tea for the cost of \$15.50 per person, which includes tax and gratuities. Mr. Jarnigan is not charging for his services, but would gladly accept donations to the Historic Society. If you wish to car pool, we will need to leave the church at 9:30 a.m. or you can meet us at The Shepherd's Inn at 10:00 a.m. A sign-up sheet is located on the table next to the church office, in the back hallway. Please sign-up for the luncheon by **Tuesday, April 14th**, or call the King's at 397-1749.



SMOKY MOUNTAIN HIKING GROUP

The Smoky Mountain Hiking Group will meet on Saturday, April 25th, at 8:00 a.m. and hike to Porters Creek.



SIT 'N KNIT GROUP

On Friday, April 24th, at 7:00 p.m. we will be having the Sit 'n Knit gathering at Libby Moser's house (217 Fieldcrest Dr.).

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:

Holly Ann Sanders, Martha Sanders' niece, who will be traveling to Spain for a semester abroad
 Deb & Dave Stanridge, friends of Martha Sanders', Dave just received a diagnosis of Parkinson's Disease
 JoEllen Moore, friend of Martha Sanders, who is undergoing medical tests for bewildering symptoms
 Scott Trudon, Lea & Mike Akers son-in-law, who is recovering from hip replacement surgery
 Eugene Smith, friend of Ed and Sandy Payne, who is moving into Heritage Center 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
 Jane Hagwood, friend of Ted & Beth Folsom, who has been hospitalized with kidney and breathing issues
 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 awaiting an intestine transplant
 Judy Simpson, friend of Joanne Vest, who has kidney cancer
 Judy Hegarty, friend of Allen and Susan Evans, who has terminal cancer
 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



YOUR MOM IS SO SWEET,
WOULDN'T IT BE NEAT?
TO SURPRISE HER WITH A TREAT,
YOU KNOW, SOMETHING DELICIOUS TO EAT?
THIS MOTHER'S DAY GIFT CAN'T BE BEAT!



Help us send our youth on their yearly mission trip! This summer, from May 31-June 5, they will be participating in the D.O.O.R. (Discovering Opportunities for Outreach and Reflection) ministry of Atlanta. We are hoping to raise funds by offering a variety of home baked sweets for moms (or any special lady in your life) on Mother's Day. The goodies will be beautifully arranged in a white bakery box, tied with a bow, and finished with a homemade gift tag. Boxes may be ordered through the month of April for \$20 each, and all monies must be turned in with the order form. The Youth will distribute the boxes after worship on Mother's Day. Contact Roxanne Moser at 865-696-4004 for more information. The number of boxes will be limited, so order yours today!

Name & Phone Number:

Gift Tag Info:

To:

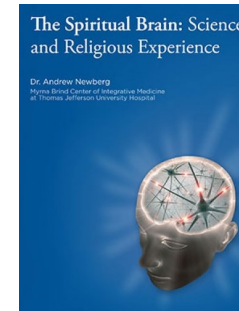
From:

Short Message:

Please fill out one order form per box. Checks should be made to First Presbyterian Church and designated to Youth Fundraiser. Order forms can be turned in to the church office or to Roxanne Moser. Thank you for your continued support of our youth!

COVENANT LEARNING GROUPS

APRIL 12-MAY 31



STUDY 1: The Spiritual Brain and Science: Religious Experience

Facilitator: John Zirkle and Joc Collins

Room: Fellowship Hall

"Human beings appear to have spiritual brains...that can develop intense beliefs about religion and God...{These} lectures examine the fascinating relationship between the human brain and spirituality...Each lecture...addresses provocative questions about human spirituality." Joc Collins and John Zirkle will present selected lectures from the series, and we'll see where our discussion leads.

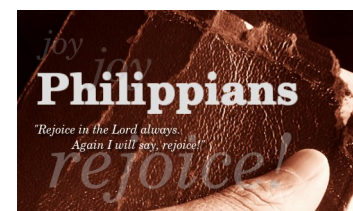
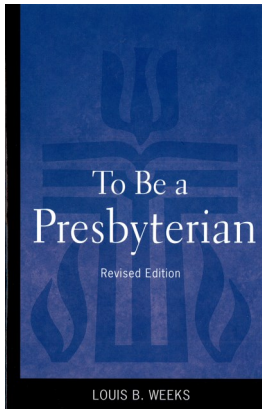
STUDY 2: To Be a Presbyterian

Facilitator: Andrew Whaley

Room: Andrew's Office

A shift has happened in Christianity in the last thirty years, as people join churches less out of a denominational loyalty and more out of a sense of connection to a particular congregation. This shift poses a challenge to pastors and church members who value their theological heritage in a particular tradition. How do we introduce our tradition to new people without sounding like we are offering a prescription for Christian faith to which they must subscribe or without sounding as if the tradition in which we stand really has no meaning to how to live out our faith in Jesus Christ?

This course is designed to introduce individuals to the Reformed theological tradition in the Presbyterian form. We will explore major themes and trajectories through the book *To Be a Presbyterian* by Louis B. Weeks. Students will have the opportunity to find where their own faith journeys converge with historical trends in Presbyterian theology and polity. If you are new to our church or considering joining with us in membership, this would be a fantastic study for you!



STUDY 3: Philippians: Interpretation Bible Studies...

Facilitator: Kay Rutherford-Williams

Room: Upstairs Classroom.

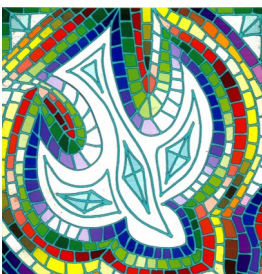
We will be leading an expository study of the book of Philippians in the upstairs class. The letter to the Philippian congregation is possibly the warmest letter written by Paul. It affirms the already close relationship between the Philippians and Paul with the language of partnership, joy and humility. We will be looking for ways to use these passages in our passion for the gospel and relationships with each other and those around us.

STUDY 4: The Community of the Beloved Disciple and Woven Together in Love.

Facilitator: Peggy Hypes

Room: Parlor

"The Community of the Beloved Disciple", is a five-session study (April 5-May 3) for the Easter season. We will look at the scriptures from John, Chapters 1, 2, and 3. Within these letter provide a window into the work of the Holy Spirit in the community of faith. "Woven Together in Love" is a four-session study (May 12-May 31) of 1 Corinthians. This is a careful study of the final chapters of Paul's letter to the church in Corinth. These sessions will allow us to see the connection between loving one another and living Christ's witness in the world.



Coffee Fellowship will be from 9:30—9:45a.m. each Sunday. The church will provide a light breakfast and coffee before Sunday School begins.