

The Amen Almanac — January 2016

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

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Dianna Moore, Interim Pastor

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

Within a Span of Time—A Prayer of Thanksgiving

Living God, you have created us to live within a span of time.

Each of our lives is a bright thread in the tapestry of life,
unfolding over centuries.

Because we live in time, we can learn from the past
and give to the future.

So we thank you for the light that shines from the past:
in the discoveries and achievements of countless people,
in heroic deeds and in unsung acts of love.

Most of all we thank you for making yourself known to us;
for taking the time

to reveal yourself to the world,
and for the long unfolding of your revelation.

Today we thank you above all
for the shining light of Jesus Christ.

You have known that light,
but to us it burst into history
like a new star in the night sky.

So we celebrate the epiphany of your love
and pray that the light of Christ
may shine on us, every day. Amen.

Brian Wren, *Advent, Christmas, and Epiphany—Liturgies and Prayers for Public Worship*
(Louisville: Westminster John Knox Press, 2008), pp.197-198.

From the Interim's Pastor's Desk...

At the turning of the year, we often look back on the past year and review things that happened. For some of us, we may say, "What a horrible year this was. I don't want another one like it." For others of us, we may say, "I had a great year. Lots of good things happened. I hope the next year will be just as good."

And then the New Year arrives. We look forward to the year with anticipation, with hopes for good things. We make resolutions. We promise to make changes in our lives. For many people, the top two resolutions for the New Year are: (1) Lose weight and (2) Exercise more (which, of course, we know go hand-in-hand. When you exercise, you are more likely to lose weight). And if past years are any indication, we know that these two resolutions are often broken before the month of January is over. We make excuses – "I don't have time to exercise" or "I'll just go through the drive-thru. I don't have time to cook." And those good intentions go by the wayside.

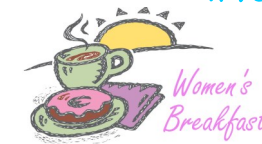
This year, I would like to encourage us to make a resolution that we can keep. In November, before Thanksgiving, as part of my sermon, I asked individuals to write down things they were thankful for/ blessings in their lives. The list was amazing. Some individuals listed specific people they were thankful for. Others listed family, friends, or church as general categories. Music, the beauty of creation, the colors of everything that surround us, pets – there were lots of things that are blessings in people's lives. The wonder of little children, the wisdom of those who are older, the love that surrounds us were all things particular individuals were thankful for.

In this New Year, I encourage us to focus on those things that we are thankful for, those blessings, in our lives. The media and the politicians have a tendency to focus on the negative. I challenge us to do the opposite. Let this year be a year of positivity, not of negativity. When you wake up in the morning, thank the Lord for the day. During the day, when someone does something nice for you, thank them. Tell someone that you are grateful for their service. Tell the Pastor Nominating Committee that you are grateful for their hard work. Leave a note for Heather to let her know that you are appreciative for everything she does for this congregation. If you are thankful for someone in your family, tell them. When the music stirs you on Sunday morning, let Angie and the choir know about it. When you notice the forsythia blooming in the church yard, tell someone so you can both appreciate the wonders of God's creation. Write someone a note telling them what they mean to you. Invite someone to lunch so that you can both share thankfulness for food and friends. Share some laughter. Before you go to sleep at night, think of things that you are thankful for. Be

grateful. Be thankful.

I will begin. I am thankful for this congregation of caring, committed Christians. I am thankful for Heather and Angie and Tiffany who do incredible work for this congregation. I am grateful for everyone who comes to worship with us. I am thankful for the committees who are concerned with education and worship and mission and fellowship. I am grateful for the committees who are concerned with the stewardship of our building and our finances. I am appreciative of all the leaders in this congregation, not just on the session but throughout our congregation. I am grateful for the opportunity to serve this church as it transitions to a new pastor. I am grateful to God for this life, to the amazing grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and for the Holy Spirit who continues to call us to the understanding of the movement of God in this time and place. God is continuing to move in this church, in this community, and in the world. Let us be thankful.

Announcements



WOMEN'S PRAYER BREAKFAST

The Women's Prayer Breakfast will meet on Saturday, January 9, from 9:00-11:00 a.m., at the home of Del Deaton (1167 Broughton Court, Morristown). We will be studying lesson four in our study books. Lesson books will be available if you don't have one or let Debby Rinehart know if you want one ahead of time. Call Del at 865-250-557 or Debby at 423-277-3420 if you have any questions. Bring your Bibles and join us.

MEN'S PRAYER BREAKFAST

The next breakfast for the men in our church family is scheduled for Saturday, January 9th, at 8:00 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall. We will continue to be viewing and discussing a series of videos by Professor Luke Timothy Johnson of Emory University entitled *The Apostle Paul*. If you enjoy biscuits, bacon, and the Bible, join us for a new year of study and fellowship.



SIT 'N KNIT

Sit 'n Knit will meet on Friday, January 15, at 7:00 p.m. at the home of Debby Rinehart (6980 Harmony Circle, Talbott). You may park in the back of her house if you have difficulty with steps. Call Debby at 423-277-3420 if you have questions.

FAMILY NIGHT SUPPER

Our January Family Night Supper is scheduled for Wednesday, January 20th, 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 GROUP

The Smoky Mountain Hiking Group will be meeting on Saturday, January 23rd, at 8:00 a.m. to hike to Old Sugarlands Trail. Once again, we will start with this trail, described as "an undiscovered treasure," and 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. Along the trail, we'll take the short detour to the Sugarlands Cemetery. Don't forget to pack a lunch and join us!

ALL COMMITTEES MEETING

On Wednesday, January 27th, at 6:30 p.m. ALL committees will be meeting in the Fellowship Hall. If you are on a committee for 2016, please plan on being at this initial meeting.



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!!
—Diana, Heather, Angie, and Tiffany

CHURCH FACEBOOK PAGE

Don't forget to check out our church Facebook page (www.facebook.com/fpcjefcity). For those who are Facebook users, this is yet another way to stay connected to the church. Announcements and reflections are frequently posted there, and the Facebook page also alerts you to updated announcements, audio sermons, and blog posts. By clicking on the "Like" button, the Facebook page will be integrated into your normal news feed to help you stay informed about what is happening in the life of your church.

FROM THE PASTOR NOMINATING COMMITTEE

We continue to move through the process that will lead to the call of our next pastor. On January 4th, we will mail a Congregational Survey to each church member or regular participant in our church life. Surveys will also be available at the church. This is an important opportunity for you to help the PNC to craft a description of the person who will lead our church. We ask that you approach this survey thoughtfully and prayerfully as together we seek God's will. Please return your survey to the church no later than Sunday, January 17th, so that we may begin to look at your responses.



**FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH ANNUAL FAMILY RETREAT & SKI WEEKEND
JANUARY 29-31, 2016**

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 worshipping the living God, resting in God's goodness, and finding time to experience recreation on the ski slopes, around the warm fire, working puzzles, and eating popcorn.

For more information, please call the church office at (865) 475-2761. Return this sign up sheet with payment by Sunday, January 17th.

Retreat cost includes 2 nights lodging and 4 meals. (Saturday breakfast, lunch, and dinner and Sunday breakfast) Childcare during group times and during ski times will be available.

OPTION A (Non-Skiing)

- 1ST PERSON: _____ \$100
- 2ND PERSON: _____ \$75
- 3RD PERSON: _____ \$45
- 4TH PERSON: _____ \$45

YOUR TOTAL \$ _____

OPTION B (Skiing Saturday Only)

- 1ST PERSON: _____ \$170
- 2ND PERSON: _____ \$145
- 3RD PERSON: _____ \$120

YOUR TOTAL \$ _____

OPTION C (Skiing Saturday & 1/2 day Sunday)

- 1ST PERSON: _____ \$220
- 2ND PERSON: _____ \$195
- 3RD PERSON: _____ \$170

YOUR TOTAL \$ _____

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 OFFICE CLOSED	2
3 Communion Sunday School 9:30-10:30 a.m. Worship Service 10:45-11:45 a.m.	4	5	6 PNC MEETING 6:30 P.M.	7	8 Rachel Shockley Phil Williams	9 MEN'S BREAKFAST 8:00 A.M. WOMEN'S BREAKFAST 9:00 A.M.
10 Sunday School 9:30-10:30 a.m. Worship Service 10:45-11:45 a.m. Danny Bates Gail Twine	11	12 CHURCH STREET CAFÉ 5:00-6:30 P.M. Heather Hill	13 SESSION 6:30 P.M. PNC MEETING 6:30 P.M. Doug Moody	14	15 SIT 'N KNIT GROUP 7:00 P.M. Ellison Berryhill David & Melissa Needs	16
17 Sunday School 9:30-10:30 a.m. Worship Service 10:45-11:45 a.m. Abby Reagan	18	19	20 NEWSLETTER DEADLINE FAMILY NIGHT SUPPER/ANNUAL MEETING OF THE CONGREGATION AND CORPORATION 6:30 P.M.	21	22	23
24 Sunday School 9:30-10:30 a.m. Worship Service 10:45-11:45 a.m. Kay Rutherford-Williams	25	26 CHURCH STREET CAFÉ 5:00-6:30 P.M. Libby Gardner Jennifer Gowan Travis Folsom	27 ALL COMMITTEE'S NIGHT 6:30 P.M. Margy King	28	29 FAMILY RETREAT Lucille Tinsley	30 Dianne Reagan Carolyn Berryhill
31 Sunday School 9:30-10:30 a.m. Worship Service 10:45-11:45 a.m. FAMILY RETREAT						

JOYS AND PRAYER CONCERNS

JOYS:

Congratulations to Mike and Lea Akers on the birth of their granddaughter, Rosie Trudon.

FAMILY & FRIENDS OF:

Deborah Hulett, Melissa Needs' mother, who passed away

SPECIAL CONCERNS:

Seth Beck, Neal's grandson

Bob and Irene Shurden

The Pastor Nominating Committee

Carly Kirkpatrick

Skylar McMillan, Diana's great-niece

Angela Hart

Ruth Brown, PCUSA missionary in Congo

Terry Jaros

Those who are struggling with addictions

The unemployed

All members of the military and their families, especially those stationed overseas

ILL AND RECOVERING:

Linda Raines, friend of the Folsom's and Clouser's, who is recovering from surgery

Marva Beck, Neal's daughter, who is recovering from surgery

Allen Elderidge's mother-in-law, friend of Glen Gerber, who is hospitalized with a broken hip & wrist

Nathan, Sierra, and Tucker Finley, Harry Finley's grandson and family, whose home was destroyed in a fire

Craig Belton, Mary Ellen Patton's son, recovering from back and neck surgery

Savannah Helton, Libby Gardner's great-niece, hospitalized for seizures and undergoing testing

Larry and Esther Soto, friends of Arlene Peck, for healing

Minda Travis, friend of Martha Sanders

Eli, Annabelle Tilton's uncle

Lily Atema, related by marriage to Debby and John Rinehart

Joelene Yannatter, a neighbor who comes to Church Street Cafe

Mary Hodges' mother, Charlie May Bozeman

Adyson Tilton, Annabelle Tilton's cousin

Jim Patterson, friend of Mike and Pam Kustermann

Pat Poitier, friend of Arlene Peck, who has a rare tumor

Shawn O'Hare, who had an atypical stroke

Marion Clark, friend of Gail Twine, who has been diagnosed with liver cancer

Michael Lamberton, Gail Twine's brother, who has been diagnosed with prostate cancer

Rick Upman, friend of Matt LeClercq

Brent McLean, Heather Hill's brother, who is undergoing chemotherapy treatments

Tracy Davis, Joanne Vest's niece, who is awaiting an intestine transplant

IN RESIDENTIAL FACILITIES:

CHANDLER HOUSE: Argie Saylor, C.R. Vest

HERITAGE CENTER: Bonnie Young

JEFFERSON COUNTY NURSING HOME: Celeste Reneau, Lucille Tinsley



ANNOUNCING THE PRESBYTERIAN PLATE!

Announcing The Presbyterian Plate, the sequel! Ten years ago we published our first church cookbook, and it was a huge success! We would like to begin gathering your favorite, most requested, tried and true recipes for our next edition! Recipe categories will include, but are not limited to: appetizers, beverage, soups, salads, breads, main dishes, desserts and a miscellaneous category that can include jam, jellies, and marinades. Set aside your favorite crowd pleaser recipes for the cookbook! Or when you bake a birthday cake for that special someone, set aside the recipe! Or when you're preparing a dish for a potluck (or Family Night Supper), set that recipe aside! Don't leave out your easy week night suppers, weekend breakfasts, holiday traditions, or family favorites!

Please help us to fill our book with lots of delicious recipes! We are asking for a minimum of 5 recipe submissions per family. Recipes must be submitted on the recipe form provided, which are placed in several locations around the church (pink half sheet in Narthex, back hall, and kitchen of the church). If you would like a form emailed to you, please contact Heather in the Church Office. There will also be recipe request forms if you would like to request a specific recipe from someone in the church. Please text or call Roxanne at 865-696-4004 with any questions.

ACOLYTES/CHURCH BELL RINGERS

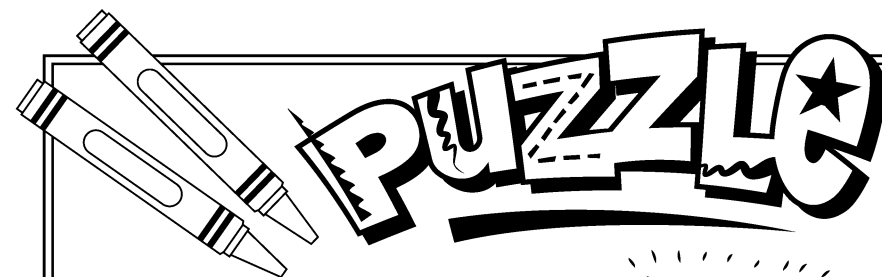
If you have a 2nd grader through high school student, who is interested in being an acolyte or Church bell ringer on Sundays, please contact Heather or Diana in the Church Office (865-475-2761).



LITURGIST



If you or your child is interested in being a liturgist on Sunday mornings, please contact Heather or Diana in the Church Office (865-475-2761).



LET THERE BE LIGHT

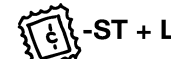
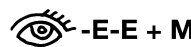
In a world of darkness, God guides us so we can walk in his ways.

Directions: Write the name of each picture, subtracting and adding letters as indicated. Then fill in the blanks to complete 2 Samuel 22:29, NIV.

“ Y O U , _____ , A R E



_____ ; T H E



_____ M Y



_____ D + _____ + _____ - T + S

I N T O _____ .”



2 SAMUEL 22:29, NIV

Answer: "You, LORD, are my lamp; the LORD turns my darkness into light." 2 Samuel 22:29, NIV

GUIDING LIGHT

Make this flashlight to remember that God, our light, always shows us the way.



What you need:

- Flashlight with handle strap
- Yarn (6 to 8 inches)
- Colorful pony beads
- Stickers (including foam letters)
- Batteries

What you do:

1. Tie the yarn through the flashlight's handle strap so two equal lengths hang down.
2. String the pony beads onto the two yarn lengths, and secure the ends with knots.
3. Decorate the flashlight with stickers. Use letters to spell "God is light."
4. Keep the flashlight by your bedside as a reminder of God's guidance. Use the flashlight to read a Bible verse before bed each night!

FINANCE REPORT

MONTHLY INCOME	
DECEMBER 6	\$11,159.84
DECEMBER 13	\$3,006.00
DECEMBER 20	\$3,351.00
DECEMBER 27	\$3,768.00
TOTAL	\$21,284.84

YEAR-TO-DATE (YTD) INCOME/EXPENSES		
	YTD ACTUAL	YTD BUDGET
INCOME	\$230,800.43	\$257,140.00
EXPENSES	\$212,792.58	\$255,601.04
YTD INCOME OVER EXPENSES: \$18,007.85		