

The Amen Almanac

First Presbyterian Church, 721 Church St., Jefferson City, TN 37760
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 Rev. Diana Moore, Interim Pastor

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ANNOUNCING THE PRESBYTERIAN PLATE!

Submit Your Recipes



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.

From the Pastor's Desk...

Last month, part of my newsletter article inadvertently got left off. Because February includes Valentine's Day, I had written about love and included some thoughts from kids about love. This is what was left out.

"Children often have clearer vision on what love is than adults do. Recently, I re-discovered a list entitled "What Kids Say About Love." A group of professional people posed this question to a group of 4 to 8 year-olds, "What does love mean?" The answers they got were broader and deeper than anyone could have imagined. I love these responses.

"When someone loves you, the way they say your name is different. You just know that your name is safe in their mouth." (from Billy, age 4).

"Love is what makes you smile when you're tired." (from Terri, age 4).

"When you love somebody, your eyelashes go up and down and little stars come out of you." (I love this image.) (from Karen, age 7).

"If you want to learn to love better, you should start with a friend who you hate." (from Nikka, age 6).

"Love is what's in the room with you at Christmas if you stop opening presents and listen." (from Bobby, age 7).

How clearly those children know what love is. How clearly they see love in the actions around them. How clearly they know what they should do to demonstrate what love is. May we become like those children and love truly in word and action. Make love your aim in all you do."

I think March is an appropriate month for us to think about love again because in this month, we truly get the meaning of love. This month we celebrate God's love in the life, in the death, and in the resurrection of his son Jesus Christ. This month we celebrate Easter - after we go from the excitement of Palm Sunday to the devastation of Good Friday. If we just go from Palm Sunday to Easter and never ponder what happened during that week we call Holy Week, if we skip the foot washing and communion on Thursday, the time in prayer in the Garden of Gethsemane, the time before Pilate and then finally the brutal crucifixion on Friday, we miss the reality of

what the love of God in Christ really means. "God so loved the world that he sent his only son into the world, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but have eternal life. God did not send his son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him." John 3: 16-17. This is truly the month when Love is demonstrated and celebrated. God loves us! Love has triumphed over the powers of sin and death! Happy Easter! The Lord of Love is risen! Hallelujah! Amen.

Announcements

MEN'S PRAYER BREAKFAST

The Men's Prayer Breakfast will be on Saturday, March 12th, 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



The Women's Prayer Breakfast will be held on Saturday, March 12th, at 9:00 a.m. We will be meeting at the home of Kathy Juroff (1250 Groseclose Rd.). We will be continuing our study from our book titled "Living each day in Jesus' name". Bring your Bible and join us for our study. Contact Debby Rinehart (423-581-3135) for more information.

DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME

Daylight Savings Time begins on Sunday, March 13th. Don't forget to set your clocks ahead!!



SIT 'N KNIT GROUP

On Friday, March 18th at 7:00 p.m. we will be having the Sit 'n Knit gathering at the home of Mary Ellen Patton (7472 Circle Pointe Dr., Talbott). If you are interested in learning how to knit or crochet, please join us; we would love to teach you. If you are unable to join us, but would still like to learn, please contact Gail Twine (475-3323), Mary Ellen Patton (423-581-0822) or Debby Rinehart (423-581-3135).



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2	3	4	5
MARCH						
			Mission 6:30 p.m. Worship 6:30 p.m.			Presbytery Meeting
				Gary & Jennifer Bates		
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
COMMUNION Sunday School 9:30-10:30 a.m. Worship Service 10:45-11:45 a.m.		Church Street Café 5:00 p.m.	Session 6:30 p.m.			Men's Breakfast 8:00 a.m. Women's Breakfast 9:00 a.m.
	Deborah Scarlett			Matt Gowan	Dian Wise Alice Pryor	Bonnie Young
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
Sunday School 9:30-10:30 a.m. Worship Service 10:45-11:45 a.m. Fellowship & Evangelism 12:00 p.m.		Stewardship & Finance 2:00 p.m.			Sit 'n Knit Group 7 p.m.	Spring Work Day 9:00 a.m.
			Darren Watson			Arlene Peck
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
Sunday School 9:30-10:30 a.m. Worship Service 10:45-11:45 a.m. PALM SUNDAY EASTER EGG HUNT/ LUNCH NEWSLETTER DEADLINE		Church Street Café 5:00 p.m.	Christian Education 4:30 p.m.	Family Night Supper 6:30 p.m. Maundy Thursday Service 7:30 p.m.	Good Friday Service 7:00 p.m.	Hike 8:00 a.m.
			Annabelle Tipton	Doug & Julie Moody		Jim Forney
27	28	29	30	31		
Sunday School 9:30-10:30 a.m. Worship Service 10:45-11:45 a.m. EASTER			Sherri Van Bruggen Martha Sanders Tom Sites	Roxanne Moser		



CHURCH WORKDAY

The Building and Grounds Committee will be hosting a spring Workday on Saturday, March 19th, from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. (or later if needed). This is the Saturday before Palm Sunday and the weekend before Easter Sunday. This is perfect timing to spruce up the church inside and out in preparation for the upcoming Easter activities. One special task for the day is to photograph the church's antiques and, if possible, document the story associated with the antique. Other tasks include cleaning up the grounds (e.g. weeding, picking up sticks, adding bricks to the Memorial Garden), cleaning the classrooms, spot painting, changing batteries, cleaning dehumidifier filters and more. So please make plans to join us!

EASTER CANDY NEEDED

We will be having our annual Easter Egg Hunt on Palm Sunday, March 20th, and we are in need of candy to fill up plastic eggs. If you would like to bring candy to donate, please bring it to the church by Sunday, March 13th, or if you would like to make a monetary donation please make a check out to First Presbyterian Church and put egg hunt or candy in memo line. You can drop the candy off on the table in the library or put your check in the offering plate. If you have any questions, please contact the church office (865-475-2761).



ANNUAL EASTER EGG HUNT & LUNCH

On Sunday, March 20th, we will have our Annual Easter Egg Hunt and lunch. Following worship, everyone is invited downstairs to the Fellowship Hall to enjoy lunch with the children, 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!**



MAUNDY THURSDAY SERVICE/FAMILY NIGHT SUPPER
Our March Family Night Supper will be on Thursday, March 24th, at 6:30 p.m. Please bring a dish to share and plan on joining us. 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, March 25th, 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.



SMOKY MOUNTAIN HIKING CLUB



The Smoky Mountain Hiking Club will meet on Saturday, March 26th, at 8:00 a.m., to hike to **Elkmont Loop**: We'll do a loop trail: Little River to Cucumber Gap to Jakes Creek, a 4.9 mile loop which takes us past the old Elkmont cabins. Don't forget to pack a lunch and some water, and plan to join us!



SPECIAL OFFERINGS ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING

On Easter Sunday, March 27th, we will take up the One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS) offering. Started in 1949, OGHS is a long-standing ecumenical effort aimed at raising the funds necessary to provide relief and reconstruction for communities in the aftermath of disaster. What started as an hour-long radio appeal has evolved over the years, varying from eight to 29 participating denominations, and has become the most participated-offering in the PC(USA).

The three programs supported by OGHS (Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, the Presbyterian Hunger Program, and Self-Development of People) all work in different ways to serve individuals and communities in need. From initial disaster response to ongoing community development, their work fits together to provide people with safety, sustenance, and hope. Today, projects supported by OGHS are underway in more than 100 countries and throughout the United States.

UPCOMING YOUTH EVENTS



We have several events coming up throughout March. Please be sure to check your bulletins and emails for more information as the dates approach.

Sunday, March 13th –Easter Egg Hunt Prep

Saturday, March 19th –“The Adams Family” at Jefferson County High School (\$10.00 per person) –Meet at 5:30 p.m. at the High School

Sunday, March 20th –Palm Sunday and Easter Egg Hunt

Sunday, March 27th –Deposit of \$75 due for all those interested in going on the Youth Mission Trip.

STATEMENTS OF FAITH FROM OUR NEW ELDERS

CLAUD GOWAN

In my early years, the most influential people, outside of my parents, in my faith journey were my first Sunday School teacher and the lady ministers of the Mountain Mission of Madison and Haywood Counties in North Carolina. My first Sunday School teacher was a kind, patient lady who enjoyed teaching children stories about Jesus. She always started class by asking each of us to recite a Bible verse. The boys would almost always recite, "Jesus wept", followed by a lot of quiet laughter (remember, I said that she was patient!) I am not saying that I never recited "Jesus wept", but under her kind guidance I began to recite "For God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life." I do not have any recollection of the first sermon I heard, but I will never forget my first Sunday School teacher who taught me about Jesus.

The Mountain Mission was a series of churches staffed by a group of remarkable lady officers of the Salvation Army (two of these ladies signed my first Bible School certificate). The ladies of the Mountain Mission were influential during my middle school years. They conducted one of the few Christian youth groups in my neighborhood. This ministry was intense and fast-paced. They had the gift of teaching the importance of accepting Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior which we all did. To not do so was not an option. Their style of ministry was not without criticism, but I will always appreciate them. (For more information on the Mountain Mission, read Frank Duracher's Smoky Mountain High the Consuming Passion of Cecil Brown).

I was introduced to Presbyterianism while attending Warren Wilson College from 1968-1972. Courses in Old and New Testament and weekly attendance at Warren Wilson Presbyterian Chapel were some of the requirements to attend Warren Wilson College at this time. These requirements were administered by Frederick Ohler and Patrick Hardy, the college ministers and theologians. Rev. Ohler and Rev. Hardy introduced Biblical Scholarship and the Reformed faith into my life. By the end of my stay at WWC, I became fond of the faith that strives to do all things with decency and in good order. In my final semester, I was baptized and joined the Presbyterian Church. The Presbyterian Church has been my church home in one location or another ever since.

SUSAN NOWELL

As a first grader, I witnessed my father's deacon ordination in the Baptist church, and I heard his and mother's conversations for weeks beforehand as they discussed the importance of the role and the lifetime of responsibility that lay ahead if he accepted that role. His choice made a strong impression on me and, with an almost overwhelming sense of calling, I accepted the trust of this congregation and agreed to be ordained as an elder. Serving as an elder is more than taking up the offering or passing out the Lord's Supper. Sometimes it involves meeting physical needs of a congregation—ministry that is often unseen but nonetheless critical in its importance. Other times it means doing what is right even when it isn't easy or well-received. I've watched my father prayerfully shepherd churches through times of crisis and disunity, always faithfully pointing them to the Father who wants so much to heal wounded spirits and restore friendship and kindness among believers. May I be faithful to follow in his servant footsteps even as I seek first to follow the example of my Lord. May God use me to bless each of you.

MADISON MEADOWS

Growing up I was sick a lot but through my illness my Faith grew strong in trusting God and the plans he has for me. I was raised in a Baptist church all the way through High School. The beginning of my spiritual journey started with going to church regularly with my family and, close to the end of high school, it became something I did solo. I was brought to First Presbyterian Church, Jefferson City, by a prayer shawl following the death of my grandfather. He passed away 4 days before my December college graduation and Melissa Needs brought me the prayer shawl. I started going to Dr. Zirkle's Sunday school class and shortly after, through Gary Bates, I was offered the youth director position at the church. I was blessed to have the opportunity to grow in faith with the youth. In my time as the youth director, I learned a lot about the church, got to know such a wonderful group of people, became a member, and held my position for 3 1/2 years. Following my time as youth director, I got married to John by Andrew Whaley and was so thankful for our church family who came to share the day with us. Now that I have been at the church for a little over 5 years it was only 3 1/2 years ago Dr. Zirkle asked me if I wanted to be an elder and at the time I was not in a place in my life where I could accept the commitment that came with that offer. Close to the end of last year, I remember sitting in a service and a warm feeling came over me. Later that day, I thought that if I were called to serve on the session I would do it. Sure enough, Ted Folsom called me on Tuesday the following week and asked me. I prayed about it and told him yes I would serve the following day. My roots are deep here at this church. I am beyond thrilled for what is ahead and look forward to all that I will learn along the way.

FINANCE REPORT

MONTHLY INCOME		YEAR-TO-DATE (YTD) INCOME/EXPENSES	
		YTD ACTUAL	YTD BUDGET
FEBRUARY 7	\$4,405.00	INCOME	\$36,747.75
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FEBRUARY 21	\$1,879.75		
FEBRUARY 28	N/A		
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TOTAL	\$10,470.25		

ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL

We invite all parents/adults to join us in the Fellowship Hall with a cup of coffee for a relaxed, sit-around-the-table discussion-oriented Sunday School lesson. The downstairs class uses the same texts that the children and youth are using. The lessons will be attached to the weekly email announcements. For March and April Kay Williams and David Needs will be teaching. There is also a class in the parlor for adults. We would love to have you join us!

Easter

Just when I thought
there would be no more light
in the Jerusalem sky,
the Bright and Morning Star
appeared
and the darkness has not overcome it.

Ann Weems, *Kneeling in Jerusalem* (Louisville, KY: Westminster John Knox Press, 1993), p. 98.

The Time for Kneeling

The Lamb has been slain,
and the sheep have been scattered.
Now is the time for kneeling,
the time for believers
to kneel and call upon his name,
to kneel
and to rise again:
the community of resurrection.

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FEBRUARY SESSION HIGHLIGHTS

- Heather Hill was present and gave an in depth explanation of the church budget
- The 2015 Statistical Report was approved and sent to PCUSA.
- It was approved that a full length mirror will be donated and installed in the downstairs bathroom.
- Approved 2 Building & Grounds requests of carpeting the remaining upstairs classrooms and working on the landscaping on the West lawn.

"It is finished."

John 19:30, ESV



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