



TO PRAISE GOD, WELCOME ALL, SERVE OTHERS,
GROW IN FAITH, BE DISCIPLES OF JESUS CHRIST
AND SHARE THE GOOD NEWS

Good News Banner

December 2024

Farragut Presbyterian Church

209 Jamestowne Blvd.

Knoxville, TN 37934

865-966-9547

office@fpctn.org

www.fpctn.org

Office Hours

Monday - Thursday 9-3

Friday 9-1

Worship

9:00 am

Casual Service

Sanctuary

11:00 am

Traditional Service

Sanctuary

<https://tingurl.com/fpclivestream>

We are a diverse and welcoming community of believers, called by God to be disciples of Jesus Christ and empowered by the Holy Spirit to acknowledge God's gracious presence in the world. Our faithful response in praising God encompasses compassionate service to all, nurturing one another to grow in faith together and sending out disciples to share the Good News.

WORDS FOR THE BEGINNING



Our Theme for Advent: “Words for the Beginning”

From the creators of the Words for the Beginning series, Sanctified Art

Advent is a season of endings and beginnings. As the calendar year comes to a close, a new church year begins. Christ’s birth ushers us into new ways of living and loving; and yet, the world as we know it spins madly on. In many ways, pregnant Mary was surrounded by endings—large and small, personal and political. But Mary proclaimed hope in a God who was and is making all things new. Christ’s birth offered a beautiful new beginning for shepherds and Magi alike—all the while, King Herod tried to bring Christ’s story to an end. When we ourselves navigate seasons filled with endings and beginnings, we need reminders. We need words that can feel like steady ground, like a path for our feet to find as we step forward into the unknown.

We have crafted an Advent series filled with blessings, with the words we need to hear again and again as we begin a new season. We imagined the words Mary would speak to her newborn son. What scriptures and stories would she impart to him? What lessons would she teach him as he grew? And so, our weekly themes may feel like the lessons we teach to children, but in reality, these are lessons we continue to learn and relearn as adults. They may sound like the messages we impart to loved ones during special ceremonies or sacred rituals. We intentionally selected scriptures that may be frequently used in weddings, ordination services, or baptisms. And so, we invite you to enter this Advent season as if you are entering a sacred new chapter, holding fast to the reminders that will bolster you for the journey ahead.

As you journey through this season, may you find words for belovedness and hope. May you find words for beginning again. For no matter what you are facing, no matter what this new day brings, love is your beginning.

Advent and Christmas Worship Schedule

December 1 – 9:00 and 11:00

Theme: You Are A Blessing

December 8 – One casual service at 10:00 (including our children’s Christmas program)

Theme: We Can’t Go Alone

December 15 – One traditional service at 10:00 (food and fellowship to follow)

Service of Lessons and Carols

December 22 – 9:00 and 11:00

Theme: Hope is Worth the Risk

Christmas Eve Worship – 3:00 (Casual) and 7:00 (Traditional)

Theme: Love Knows Your Name

December 29 - One Traditional Service at 10:00

Theme: Don’t Forget to Laugh

January 5 – 9:00 and 11:00

Theme: The Road Isn’t Straight



Dawn Zilles, our exceptional and delightful office administrator, is retiring at the end of December. Please plan to join us at a reception between the worship services on Sunday, January 12, to thank her and wish her the happiest retirement.

Dawn's retirement plans include a lot more time on the golf course. At the recent staff and session dinner, she was presented with a gift that we hope gets a lot of use.

Be sure to stop by the office before the end of the year to wish Dawn all the best.



Ever wonder how the church gets decorated for the season of Christmas? It takes a village to make it all happen. Thank you to the Men's Bible Study group who sprung into action after their meeting to put together the outside decorations.

Thank you to the Chancel Choir and the members of the Worship and Music Committee who worked to make our Sanctuary and Narthex look beautiful.



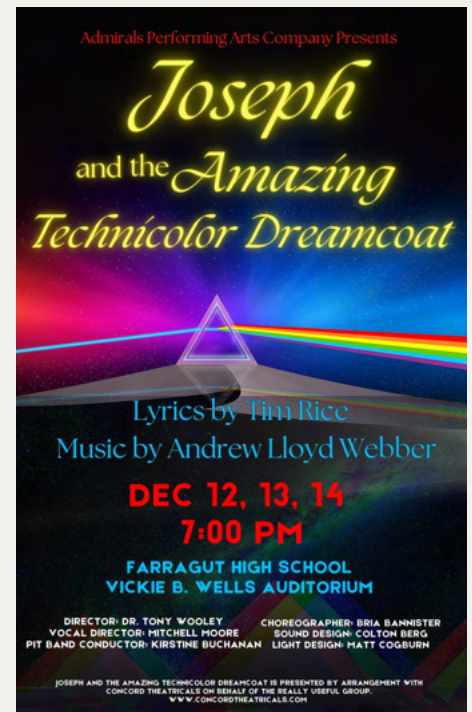
Congratulations to Joey Nieman who recently auditioned for, and participated in, the 2024 All-East Honor Choir. We are proud to announce Joey was the highest scoring Tenor 2 in the whole event. Joey is the son of our minister, Matt Nieman.

Joey Nieman is starring in Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat as none other than Joseph.

Presented by Farragut High School Admirals Performing Arts Company on December 12, 13, and 14 at 7:00pm in the Vickie B. Wells Auditorium.

Tickets are \$15 per show or all three performances for \$40. Mark your calendars and save time by buying your tickets now. Let's have a big FPC showing. You won't want to miss this show!

<http://app.givebacks.gives/josephfhs>



Outreach

BUILDING COMMUNITY THROUGH GIVING



Many thanks to all who donated cake mixes, brownie mixes and frosting for the Thanksgiving and Christmas meals provided by Shepherd of Hope Food Pantry. Almost 300 were distributed for Thanksgiving and probably at least that many will be provided at Christmas.

You get a glimpse of some of the holiday meal ingredients that were loaded into pantry guests' cars by volunteers like this familiar face.



SUNSET GAP SECRET SANTA

This Christmas we are sponsoring 40 children from Cosby Elementary for Christmas. Look for the signup sheets both on-site in the narthex and on-line at <https://tinyurl.com/SGChristmas2024>. Select a tag, sign up on the sheet with both your name and phone number. Be sure to note your tag's number. Please return gifts wrapped for Christmas, with the child's name and tag number on the package by Decemner 8. If you have any questions please contact Debbie Long.

SUNSET GAP HAT/MITTEN TREE

The congregation is invited to join Presbyterian Women as we collect for the hat, mitten/gloves, scarves tree that the center has available to anyone in the community needing these warm items. The need will be even bigger due to Hurricane Helene. Items may be handmade, or store bought. Items are needed for people of all ages and need to be new. Deadline is Decemner 8 as they will be delivered with the gifts for the children. Questions, please contact Debbie Long



KARM Corners of Your Field

Corners of Your Field is a partnership between Knox Area Rescue Ministries (KARM) and local churches and non-profit organizations, whereby members donate to KARM their gently used household items and clothing to be sold in the KARM stores. KARM returns back to the donating organization a portion of the value of each organizations donated items in the form of discount gift cards for use at KARM stores.

FPC participates in the program with many of our members making donations to the KARM stores. We receive the discounted gift cards, and then distribute them to local missions that benefit from receiving discounts on items purchased at KARM stores.

Coats for the Cold

KARM also sponsors Coats for the Cold program each year for the organizations that participate in the Corners of Your Field Program. Similar to the discount cards, KARM receives donations of gently used coats in November and December. KARM then provides coat vouchers to their member organizations for distribution to those in need, in this case at no charge for the coats.

Some of the missions that the FPC Outreach Committee provides with the discount cards and coat vouchers include Bridge Refugee Service, McNabb Center, Volunteer Ministry Center, Susannah's House, Restoration House and Safe Families.

In November, we distributed over \$500 in discount gift cards and 25 coat vouchers.



Christmas Joy Offering **December 22, 2024**

Where have you seen hope recently?

We see hope in the faces of each of us gathered in worship. We feel hope through signs of mercy and grace shown to those in our communities during this busy season. We show hope through acts of loving kindness. We know of hope in the face of a child or an elder whom we love and trust. We trust in the hope of the Christ Child, for whom we prepare a way so he can prepare a way for us to know the fullness of God's love. There is hope all around us while we wait during this season of Advent.

Every year, the Christmas Joy Offering, one of the four churchwide Special Offerings of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), combines thousands of congregations' gifts to bring hope through education and emergency assistance. Three Presbyterian-related schools that equip communities of color — Menaul School in Albuquerque, New Mexico; Presbyterian Pan American School in Kingsville, Texas; and Stillman College in Tuscaloosa, Alabama — provide a transformative education for students all around the globe. These jewels in the Presbyterian crown prepare the way for students from every walk of life to be active, compassionate and informed citizens of the world. Beyond their schoolwork, these students live together in a supportive intentional community where they prepare the way for one another through acts of generosity, mission and service. In their lives together, students experience the love of Christ that we all meet anew at Christmas.

Like the schools and colleges that equip communities of color, the Assistance Program of the Board of Pensions prepares a way of peace and flourishing for church workers in times of financial crisis. This program provides life-giving and critical assistance in the most tender moments of church workers' lives, like health or housing instability. The prophet Isaiah tells us that God is a bringer of comfort as we make the paths straight by offering food to the hungry and satisfying the needs of the afflicted. Jesus, the Light of the World, brings hope, so we can do just that through our receipt of the Christmas Joy Offering to support this vital assistance program. Our gifts to the Christmas Joy Offering make all of this preparation possible. These gifts will combine with others from congregations throughout our denomination to do our part to repair the world and ensure that every person — whether they be a high schooler, college student or church worker — has the tools they need to flourish. Your gifts prepare the way for the God we know in Jesus Christ, the child whose birth we will celebrate soon. Thank you for all the ways that you give.

SPECIAL THANKS to FPC volunteers, Gale Montgomery, Margo Gregory, Sharon Koch, November meal coordinator Carol Kraft, and Lori Patterson for organizing, purchasing, preparing, and serving a meal to the homeless at VOLUNTEER MINISTRY CENTER. Thank you also to Beth Honey, Jean Peretz, and others who help our FPC children decorate “take home” bags for the guests to leave with after eating, and for purchasing the items to fill those bags. If you would like to help with future monthly meals, check the table in the narthex to sign up, or contact Jean Peretz. Men's Bible Study will be supplying the meal in December, so signups will begin again in January 2025.





Music at FPC

Dr. Angela Batey, Director

Advent is a time when we return to our roots as Christians. It is the first season of the liturgical year when we wait earnestly for Christ. Jesus was of humble beginnings, born in a stable in Bethlehem. The Advent candle lighting liturgies during our worship in Advent invite us to consider the humble beginnings of Jesus Christ, God's chosen ruler of peace and the light of the world, who brings God's hope.

For many centuries, the church has identified the beginning of the Christmas celebration with a time of reflection and expectation called Advent. The word Advent means "coming" or "arrival" and, when used in conjunction with Christmas, reminds us of the anticipation and expectation held over hundreds of years by the people of Israel for their Messiah and promised King. Today, one of the ways in which we mark Advent is with the display of a wreath - its circle reminds us of God himself, eternal and endlessly merciful. It is evergreen - reminding us of the hope of eternal life.

The four outer candles incorporated into the display represent the time of waiting and preparation for the Messiah during the four Sundays of Advent. The candles represent hope, peace, joy, and love. The light of the candles reminds us of the Light of world, and the prophetic promise of His coming. The white central candle of the Advent wreath, lit on Christmas Eve, reminds us of the fulfillment of His first Advent and the pure, humble means by which He came. The first Advent was the glorious manifestation of incarnation - the uniting of God and man in the person of Jesus of Nazareth, born of a virgin in a lowly stable in obscure Bethlehem Ephrata. This indeed was a magnificent and redeeming event without comparison!

One of the many wonderful things we always enjoy during the Advent and Christmas season is the music that enhances our celebration. Our Music Ministry is very proud to offer several opportunities to worship and celebrate together during the upcoming season. On Sunday, December 15 at 10:00 a.m. we will participate in our twenty-seventh annual Service of Lessons and Carols in the sanctuary. The Service of Lessons and Carols is a traditional seasonal service of scripture and music. It is a very special service celebrating the true meaning of the season. Come and sing the carols you love to sing, then be treated to a sumptuous reception!

On Christmas Eve, we will offer two 'evening' services. Our Casual Service will take place at 3:00 p.m. At 7:00 p.m., we will enjoy a beautifully-candlelit Traditional Service with a special prelude beginning at 6:50 p.m. by Dr. Linda Stutzenberger on her harp. If you love singing familiar carols during the season, come and join us in preparation for these special services.

Our music ministry here at FPC is for everyone who wishes to share their time and talents. Come make a joyful noise!!

FROM THE DIRECTOR OF



Family
MINISTRY



Greetings FPC Family,

As the Advent Season rapidly approaches, we have very exciting news to share with our FPC Family! In August of this year, the Christian Education Committee began a search for an intern to assist with our children's and family ministry events throughout the year. After consulting with Rev. Jessica Lewis from Maryville College, we were able to bring on not one but two new college age interns to assist us in our endeavors to foster a "family of families" here at FPC!

With that being said, I am happy to announce that as of Sunday, October 31, we have hired Maryville College students, Marilyn Bean and Kat Wilson as interns for the remainder of the school year. Marilyn will be assisting primarily with our children's ministry program, KidZone, as well as any other family ministry events we have going on throughout the year. Meanwhile, Kat will be using her experience in theater tech to assist our Audio/Visual Team as they continue to strive to provide the best audio and visual experience possible for those in attendance and online.

Given that both of these wonderful students will be assisting in running two integral aspects of worship on Sunday mornings, you may not see them out and about as often but please feel free to introduce yourself to them when you get the chance and welcome them to FPC! See below to learn more about them!

Peace & Blessings,

Mason Warren
Director of Family Ministries
Farragut Presbyterian Church



SAVE THE DATE

**FPC CHILDREN'S
CHRISTMAS PROGRAM
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 8**

10:00 AM

**FOLLOWED BY A
CHRISTMAS COOKIE RECEPTION!**

MINISTRIES



Prayer Shawl Ministry

No meeting
in December

Join this wonderful group of knitters and crocheters to make shawls for FPC members who need extra comfort during a difficult time. Patterns and yarn are provided.

WHEN YOU NEED SOMEONE TO TALK TO



*Call someone
who cares*

FPC STEPHEN MINISTER LEADERS

BETH MARTIN | MATT NIEMAN
JEANIE OAKLEY | ELIZABETH WILSON

865/966-9547

Our Stephen Ministry Leaders can help:

Beth Martin
(865) 776-3132

Matt Nieman
(865) 966-9547

Jeanie Oakley
(256) 468-4501

Elizabeth Wilson
(865) 382-6786

Presbyterian Women

All circle meetings are held at the church

Circle #1

2nd Tuesday, 10 am
Leaders: Megan Fidel
240-319-6768
Kathy Emmerson
312-286-1676

Circle #2

2nd Tuesday, 10 am
Leaders: Becky Thomason
865-607-0727
Linda Nunley

Circle #3

2nd Wednesday, 10 am
Leaders: Mikie Lancaster
865-675-0360
Jo McElhaney
865-705-6518

Presbyterian Women in the Congregation (PWC) groups build community, affirm women's calls to leadership and spiritual growth, raise concerns and channel information to and from Presbyterian Women in the Presbytery. Presbyterian Women is a loving community that can challenge and nurture you, and be a vehicle for making the world a better place for all of God's children. Consider joining an FPC Circle.

Check us out on Facebook: Presbyterian Women in the PC(USA) or on Instagram: PWPCUSA, Inc.
www.presbyterianwomen.org

Men's Bible Study

December 5 and 19
8 a.m. / Narthex

The men of FPC gather twice a month for fellowship and a time of bible study. The group meets the 2nd and 4th Thursdays of each month in the narthex at 8am. If you would like to join us, please contact John Neighbors or the church office to get on the contact list. Breakfast, coffee, and great fellowship provided!

Chair Yoga

MONDAY AND FRIDAY
10:00 - 10:30 AM
NARTHEX

Class designed for those with limited mobility or balance concerns.

TGIF Gentle Yoga

FRIDAY 7:00 - 8:00 PM
FELLOWSHIP HALL

Gentle, slow flow class. Bring a mat and comfortable clothing. For beginner and experienced yogis.

Contact Jenny Trussell at CEDARSTUDIOS4@GMAIL.COM for additional information or a private introductory session!

No childcare available, but both Yoga classes are free and open to the public.



PASTOR MATT'S CLASS LIBRARY

“The After Party.” It’s an examination of a growing movement that believes how we engage in politics — how we show up for the conversation, if you will — should be anchored in the clear teaching of Jesus. It’s more about “the how” than “the what” – how we interact with each other more than what the “what” is. Join us in the library at 10:00.

ADULT BIBLE STUDY OUTDOORS/ROOM D LED BY ELIZABETH WILSON

This class will discuss the weekly Lectionary text. There’s an optional lesson handout, but you can also join us for the conversation.

YOUTH CLASS CAFE/PARLOR LED BY MASON WARREN

The Youth Sunday School Class meets to DIVE IN to the Old Testament! Each week throughout the school year, youth explore a specific book of the Old Testament utilizing videos and discussion.

KIDS ZONE!

We invite any little adventurers aged 3-9 to come aboard for a Sunday morning full of fun at 9:00am in our Fellowship Hall!

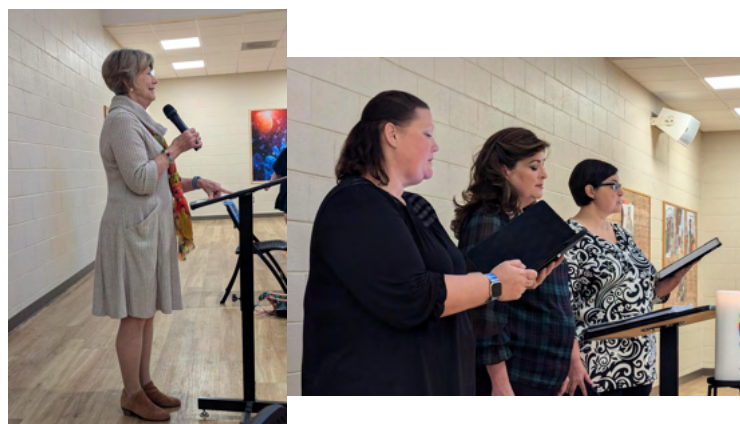
Kids will dive into the magical world of God's love with Bible tales, catchy tunes, cool videos, and loads of giggles, while grown-up helpers guide them through arts, science, food and jam sessions.

Let's make Sundays a fun day!

The Farragut Presbyterian Ladies' Fall Thank Offering Luncheon was held Saturday, November 16, 2024, in the fellowship hall with 42 ladies in attendance. We enjoyed delicious boxed lunches prepared by Jason's Deli.

Our sincere thanks to Brenda Luggie and her trio who stepped in at the last moment to provide beautiful vocal selections for us. We were delightfully entertained and most appreciative!

Our next scheduled luncheon will be March 29, 2025, with Shelly Binder being our speaker. Shelley was unable to do the program Saturday due to testing positive for Covid. We look forward to having her then.



December Anniversaries

12/07 Bob and Judy Alexander
12/07 Gary and Pam Heidinger
12/07 Allen and Mary Lutz
12/14 Gary and Laci Marks
12/16 John and Connie Begovich
12/17 David and Leah Key
12/21 Ron and Ginger Grunke
12/26 Dean and Lucy Fleming
12/27 Michael and Liza Wright

**Remember in
your prayers...**



**Marilyn Felts, Chuck Foriska, Frank Guess,
Mike Houlihan, Paul Johnson, Ronny Lomax,
Beth and Jimmy Loyless, Ann McAnally, Irma
McGuffey, Maria Medina, LaQuita Misner,
Tami Newsom, Irene Rice, Gail Wallace**

Bereaved

The family of Billie Fain

December Birthdays

12/01 Zetty Bell
12/01 Beth White
12/02 Bev Lomax
12/02 Earl Platt
12/03 Heather Robinson
12/03 Susan Harbin
12/04 Darrell Sparks
12/05 Liz Preston
12/06 Andy Andrew
12/06 Lois Burris
12/06 Karen Jones
12/07 Carl Farwell
12/09 Lori Patterson
12/09 Mark Hare
12/09 Sandra Bohlken
12/12 Melody White
12/14 Betsy Starr
12/16 Bob Alexander
12/17 Linda Ewald
12/18 Peggy Stange
12/19 Isaiah Bohlken
12/20 Wayne Walls
12/21 Matt Nieman
12/21 Miki Vanderbilt
12/21 Dean Honey
12/22 Evie Taylor
12/25 Laura Hash
12/26 Lisa Kay Matchen
12/28 Charlotte Maley
12/28 Landon Eiffert
12/29 Carolyn Neighbors
12/30 Emily Loveday
12/31 Janet Upchurch
12/31 Beth Allen

FROM THE BOOKKEEPER AND FINANCIAL SECRETARY

To be counted as a 2024 contribution:

- Checks or cash must be received at FPC or mailed items postmarked by 12/31/24.
- Donations by credit card are deductible in the year the donor makes the charge (transaction posting date).
- ACH, EFT, stock transfers or other online donations are deductible in the year the bank transfers the stock or funds to FPC. Please make sure your online giving is initiated by Friday, December 27 in time for the transaction to post on Tuesday, December 31, 2024.
- The donation confirmation page on our website will confirm the date your account is debited for online giving transactions.

SESSION HIGHLIGHTS

Financial Report as of October 2024

	October	YTD October	YTD October Budget
Operating Income	\$50,938	\$627,872	\$579,450
Big Fish Academy Income	\$2,000	\$20,000	\$20,000
Total Income	\$52,938	\$647,872	\$599,450
Operating Expenses	\$52,050	\$558,890	\$595,596
Total Expenses	\$52,050	\$558,890	\$595,596
Total Income less Expenses	\$888	\$88,982	\$3,854

STAFF

Pastor

Reverend Matt Nieman
matt@fpctn.org
402-660-2451 (call or text)

Dawn Zilles
Office Administrator
office@fpctn.org
865-966-9547

Lori Corbett
Bookkeeper
bookkeeperfpc@gmail.com

Mason Warren
Director of Family Ministry
masonwarren@fpctn.org

Dr. Angela Batey
Director of Music
abatey@utk.edu

Tami Newsom
Associate Director of Music
tnewsom3@utk.edu

Sandra Porter Bohlken
Music Director, Casual Service
singsandrab@gmail.com

SESSION

Administration

Kathy Emerson
Cheryl Cardwell

Christian Education

Beth Honey
Cheyanne Feldhausen

Church Life

Jeff Thode
Gayle Williams

Outreach

Kirk Morris
Scott McKinney

Property

Darrell Sparks
Thom Haig

Worship and Music

Catherine Manning
MaryAnne Walls

Clerk of Session

Lisa Gary



Get Social!

Farragut Presbyterian is live on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter.

Have something to post?

Send to our social media coordinator, Emily Sweetland,
at social@fpctn.org or text 865-567-7636



<https://www.instagram.com/farrgutpesbyterian>



@FarrPres



<https://www.facebook.com/FPCKnox>



Farragut Presbyterian Church



KARM STORES
The Thrift Store with a Mission

When donating used items to KARM tell the employee the name of the church. The church will receive gift cards to KARM Stores that can be given to someone in need.

Support FPC Christian Ed with Kroger Community Rewards Program. Link your Kroger reward card to FPC.

Sign up at: Visit

<https://www.kroger.com/account/enrollCommunityRewardsNow/>

Our organization number is YU915.

