



Identity and Mission

We belong to the family of the Redeemed. Transformed by the grace of Jesus' death and resurrection, we are delighting in the supremacy of God in all things as we reach up to Him in worship, reach in to one another with biblical teaching and shepherding care, and reach out to the world with Christ.

So that in everything Christ might be preeminent.

—Colossians 1:18

Weekly Schedule

Sunday

9:30 am Morning Bible Study
10:45 am Morning Worship
Live Streaming also available

Monday

2:00 pm Women's Study
Systematic Theology

Thursday

9:00 am Men's Bible Study

Upcoming Events

Deacons' Meeting

Thursday, 1/15 10:30 am

Session Meeting

Tuesday, 1/20 8:00 am

ON Group

(Monthly Octogenarian /
Nonagenarian-see Bobby Duck)

Newsletter Purpose

to communicate:

- church events and activities
- community events of interest to our members
- life events of our members
- regarding missions and ministries
- and provide discipleship and teaching

Financial Stewardship and the Great Commission Pastor Andy

God has blessed our church. New families are regularly coming for worship and many of them are becoming members of our congregation. We give praise to God for His faithfulness to us. For us to be faithful to His Great Commission, given to us in Matthew 28:16-20, we must pray for the wisdom and energy for being good stewards of the resources God has given us.

First, this means being a good steward of the gospel. In Christ Jesus we have received much blessing. We have been given the forgiveness of sins through the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ. This forgiveness reconciles us to our creator and implants in our hearts the hope of eternal fellowship with Him in heaven. Life now has meaning, direction, and purpose. As receivers of this grace, we must also be givers. We give away the gospel (the good news of salvation in Jesus). I am thankful to see so many of you reaching out to one another and to your neighbors. Keep sharing your love of Christ with those around you. Pray that the Lord continues to use us to reach our community.

Second, this means being a good steward of the financial resources He has given. In the last several years, First Presbyterian Church has been blessed with expanding financial resources in keeping with the expanding of our congregation. We praise God and give him thanks for his faithfulness to us.

Our Deacons and Elders have sought to manage this blessing with great wisdom. In the last several years some major goals have been met. We purchased and remodeled the Geneva House and property. We purchased the grand piano for our sanctuary. The sanctuary was expanded to accommodate our growing congregation. Maintenance to our main building and property, including the replacement of a very old HVAC unit, has been accomplished. More recently, the Christian Education Center was remodeled and a new playground installed. It is a great joy to see our children playing on this new equipment. It has also been a great joy to see families from the community come with their children to play during the week. I always enjoy meeting them and hearing their stories. Most recently, we were able to launch the Fine Arts School of Music. All of this is only possible because of the joyful giving of God's people and the faithful stewardship by the Deacons and Elders.

Your faithful giving to the church is God's means for encouraging a robust vision for ministry. As we monitor and shepherd these resources, we have been making plans for expanded ministry. One example is how the session has been in the search for an assistant pastor to help with ministry to families, youth and children. We are praying that 2026 will be the season for such an addition to the life of our church. We are also continuing to evaluate and plan for a remodel of the fellowship hall and a second expansion of the sanctuary. If the Lord is pleased to tarry, these will all be important projects to aid us in being faithful to the Great Commission.

When God's people are faithful to tithe, the church is able to operate from a position of strength. It is very God honoring to be able to steward His resources well. So, when you see that our giving exceeds the budget, please know that this is an opportunity for our church to grow and expand our impact for the glory of Christ. I pray we will experience His grace to be faithful in giving so that Christ's Church can be faithful to the Great Commission in an ever-expanding direction, until we see His face.

Dick Gillen's 90th Birthday Surprise



Missions' Update

Successful Surgery

Thanks everyone so much for your prayers and many kind emails. Elliana had surgery on 11/12 and we arrived back home in Wisconsin that night.

The surgery went very well. She ended up having 3 wisdom teeth removed. Two came out very easily and the third troublesome one, the doctor sectioned in about 12 pieces in order to remove it without putting any force on the jaw to avoid fracturing it. The hole left behind was quite large which required a small piece of bone graft to help fill it in. She has been in a fair amount of pain, but we hope and expect this to improve quickly. Recovery should be fairly straightforward now, although she was on a soft diet for a month.

Team Transitions

One of the hardest parts about missionary life that we never anticipated was the continuous requirement of saying "hi" and "goodbye" again and again. Over these past 13 years on the field, ironically, the most constant thing in our lives has been change. Change in our location, change in our work, change in our team...Stability was a luxury we unknowingly had to surrender.

After much prayer and seeking counsel over these past several months, our newest team members, the Nieveen family, who have been with us for the last few years have decided to officially step down from our team. A large part of this decision-making process has surfaced due to the visa ban in Chad. They were the last of our teammates to remain in Chad but left about 2 weeks ago as they explore alternative long

Taste & See

– Brian & Becky Schrader

term ministry options. They are currently in another country in N. Africa visiting with other potential teams on their way back to the US for furlough. Although it is hard, we fully support their decision and bless them as they continue to pursue what God has next for them. Would you join us in praying for them as they seek wisdom and clarity for their next steps and for our team as we transition and process their departure?

Visa Ban Continues

Unfortunately, not only has there been no indication of change on the horizon in regard to the visa ban, recently, the US doubled down on their immigration restrictions against Chadian citizens placing even further limitations against them. It remains to be seen how Chad will respond to these policy changes, but thus far diplomacy seems to be moving in the wrong direction.

Would you pray for us as a team? While our hearts long to be in Chad, we are continuing to explore creative alternative ministry options elsewhere until Chad reopens. One current avenue we are exploring is partnering with some Sudanese Z believers in Kenya who are doing language development with Pioneer Bible Translators. We want to be wise and strategic in this time of uncertainty, not having any indication how long these restrictions may last.

We are so grateful for you all!

Until all have heard,
Brian and Becky Schrader

Session Notes

The session held its regular monthly meeting on Tuesday morning, November 18, at the church.

Pastor Andy led a devotional from Ephesians 4, following which he opened the session meeting in prayer.

The following agenda items may be of interest:

1. Session discussed the upcoming baptisms of Kaleb Remillard (profession of faith) and John Bitner (child of Samuel & Yasha Bitner, covenant baptism) (both were accomplished 11/23/25).
2. Session approved our response to Tennessee Valley Presbytery's Committee on Review of Session Records to resolve several discrepancies from our 2024 minutes.
3. Session approved the transfer of Josh Willems to Trinity Grace Church in Athens, Tenn. (this is the same church that his parents, Tim & Erica, joined last year).
4. Session approved the exam of Ruling Elder candidate Eric Larson. Deacons Greg Wood and Dave Miser will stand

Notary Public Services Available

FPC now offers **free** Notary Public services. When you have a need, please contact the church office.

Memorial Garden Price Increase 1/1/26

The session approved the increase of a Memorial Garden plot to **\$700** if pre-paid and **\$850** if not pre-paid. The price increase is effective as of 1/1/2026.

If you are a member and wish to purchase, please see Darlene Gendjar.

for re-election (during Congregational Meeting, 12/7/25).

5. Session approved Elder Emeritus status for RE Eston Norris effective 11/18/25 & RE Bobby Duck effective 1/1/26.
6. Session approved the 2026 General Fund budget, as amended, with expenses totaling \$471,195. (N.B. Due to national increases in health insurance costs, once the numbers for healthcare for staff came in - after the congregational meeting - this number increased to 487,603.)

Upon completion of the agenda, the elders spent a season of prayer for the Shepherding and other needs of the congregation. Pastor Andy closed the meeting in prayer at 10:20.

Next Stated Session Meeting: Tuesday, Jan. 20, 2026, 8am.

Warmly in Christ,
Forrest Marion, clerk

Rejoice in the Baptisms of:

- Kaleb **Remillard**
- John **Bitner**

Welcome New Members!

- Jay, April, *Joseph, Lizzy, Stephen, & David **Stewart**
- Samuel, Yasha, & John **Bitner**
- Charlie **Dick** & Marla **Moriarty**
- Andrew, Diane, & *Kaleb **Remillard**
- Cole, Robyn, & William **Mayhugh**

WinGs Christmas Luncheon



First Presbyterian Church

Session:

Andy Aikens, Senior Pastor
Robert Berman
Bobby Duck
Forrest Marion, Clerk
Richard Parks
Jim Sparks

Deacons:

Dave Miser-Chair,
John Reed-Secretary,
Mike Tuuk

Staff:

Music/Sound Director: Matt Bundy
Finance / Admin: Holly Kisly
School of Music Dir.: April Stewart

Ministry Support:

Treasurer: Bill Allbright
Newsletter: Darlene Gendjar
Library: Kathy Pipkin
Children's Ministry: Hope Aikens

Missions -- International

Julian and Rachel Bacon, MTW
Brussels, Belgium.
Lydia Goeglein, MTW
Sofia, Bulgaria.
Brian & Becky Schrader,
Pioneers in Africa.
Lee Leadbetter,
RUF-International at UT.

Missions -- North America

Plateau Pregnancy Services
Good Samaritans
RUF Tennessee Tech, Ryan Angel
Rural Church Dev., Corey Pelton
Myers Park Initiative, Greg Salazar
Mercy Presbyterian, Rob Herron
Occom Ministries, Native American Initiative

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New Member Spotlight

Terri Fleck

I was born and raised in Madison, WI, one of 8 children. I am a single mom of my adult, differently-abled son, Matthew, who lives with me, along with two cats, PJ and Lady.

You may have seen Matthew waiting for me in our car in the parking lot on Sundays. He has sensory sensitivities that make it uncomfortable for him to attend the service, so he stays in the car and watches the live stream on his phone.

I am relatively new to the PCA; I started going to the PCA in Madison in October 2023, after my father had passed away. My mom had died in 2020, so there was nothing keeping me from making this change in my life. (I was the only one taking my parents to church so I felt I needed to wait until they were gone.) In talking with my younger brother about feeling the need to make a change, he told me about the PCA. He also suggested I read a book that had been recommended to them, On Being Presbyterian: Our Beliefs, Practices, and Stories, by Sean Michael Lucas. In reading the book and watching the live streams of the Madison PCA's services, I felt my beliefs aligned with the PCA and it was the church for me. I began attending the PCA church in Madison, informing the Pastor and the members that I was only going to be temporary as I was planning to move out of state.

I had been looking at Tennessee as my destination for several years as well, for many reasons. Good friends of ours moved to Crossville a few years before. When I came to visit, I liked the look of the place and when I saw that there was a PCA church in town, it all but sealed the deal. I found First Pres' website and started listening to some of Pastor Andy's sermons, and liked the message he was sharing. At the end of May 2024, we packed everything up, threw the cats in the car, and moved to Crossville. I started



Terri and Matthew



PJ and Lady



Matthew, Terri, sister-in-law Nancy, and brother Drew

attending First Pres that following July. The warm welcome I received and friendliness of everyone I met confirmed for me that I had found the place I needed to be. I became a member in November 2024.

We are so blessed to be here in Crossville, and be part of First Pres. We have made such wonderful friends here already, I feel like it's been longer than just a year and a half since we moved here. And to increase the blessings we've received, my brother and sister-in-law recently moved here to Baxter, TN. As my friends who moved here before us said, it feels like we've finally come home.