



May
2026

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 preminent.

—Colossians 1:18

Weekly Schedule

Sunday

9:30 am Morning Bible Study

10:45 am Morning Worship

Monday

2:00 pm Systematic Theology

Tuesday

9:30 am Women's Bible Study

Thursday

9:00 am Men's Bible Study

6:00 pm Women's "Essential Truths of the Faith" Study

Upcoming Events

5/7 PPS Banquet

5/17 Assoc Pastor
Candidate Visit &
Fellowship Meal

YAH Group – see Pat Duck

80+ Women, 1st Thursday

ON Group – see Bob Duck

80+ Men's Group

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

The Need for an Associate Pastor

by Pastor Andy

On Sunday April 12, the congregation of First Presbyterian Church of Crossville, TN elected a pulpit committee to bring forward a candidate for an Associate Pastor in our church. This process is outlined in that part of our church constitution called the Book of Church Order (BCO). The church's constitution is made up of three parts: the BCO, The Westminster Confession of Faith, and its Catechisms (a Larger and a Shorter). The BCO is the part of the constitution that prescribes the procedures we follow when doing this kind of work. The Confession and Catechisms explain our doctrine, which is what we believe. BCO chapter 20 paragraph 2 explains the procedure for calling a pastor, and that includes an Associate Pastor.

The candidate your pulpit committee wishes to introduce is someone many of you have gotten to know through the book *Living Stones* that we use for our New Members' Class. Peter Dietsch has been a pastor in the PCA for over 20 years and is well qualified to come and help us in our pursuit to be faithful to the Scriptures, true to the Reformed Faith, and obedient to the Great Commission. Most importantly, he is eager to support the mission and vision of First Presbyterian Church.

Nevertheless, some of you may be wondering why we need an Associate Pastor at this time. So, I would like to use this space to give you a few reasons this is important.

First, our church is growing generationally. Several years ago now, we began to pray that the Lord would give us growth among young families with children and youth. This is an important, healthy, and biblical desire in the life of any church. Reaching young families and their children is important to our obedience to the great commission. Our church and community need well disciplined young men and women to come behind us and carry on the work of Christ and his church.

Second, as a part of discipling families, the session has a desire to re-establish our Sunday evening service. The Sabbath day is given for God's children to worship and rest, and we long to use it well. The evening service has long been an integral part of the discipleship program of God's people. However, with my recent health issues, the Session has been cautious to re-start this service without some help.

Finally, this is a critical juncture in the life of First Presbyterian Church. In order to shepherd the families God is calling to be a part of this work, we need

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Our last Fellowship Dinner was a great success! It was a joy to see so many faces enjoying an abundance of food and conversation. The Hospitality Committee would like to thank everyone who participated; you all adjusted well to our new food preparation guidelines and the seating arrangements designed to encourage fellowship.

Our **next Fellowship Dinner** is scheduled for **Sunday, May 17th**.

Signup sheets are available now in the back hallway. Please sign up as early as possible so the committee can plan accordingly.

In the Lord's service,
The Hospitality
Committee

The Need for an Associate Pastor continued from pg 1

godly, well-trained, biblical help. We have experienced God-honoring growth that calls for a responsible move on our part to care for God's people. A solo pastor, with really good elders, can minister effectively to about 100 to 150 people. We crossed that threshold this past year. Our membership was at 161 in 2025 and our average Sunday morning attendance is 120, many Sundays exceeding that. We are in a position, Lord willing, in 2026 to reach more people with the good news of God's grace in Jesus. Your session believes for us to continue to be faithful in this endeavor that now is the time to grow our pastoral staff to meet the needs of the future.

I look forward to you meeting Peter and Stacie Dietsch later this month. They will be with us on May 17. Peter will be preaching, and we will have a fellowship dinner after the service. Please pray that the Lord will use this time to grant His wisdom for our next steps.

Session Notes

The session held its regular monthly meeting on Tuesday evening, March 17, at the church.

Pastor Andy led a devotional from Acts 6:4 on prayer and the Word, including our desire to promote a culture of prayer within FPC. He then opened the session meeting in prayer.

The following agenda items may be of interest:

1. **Family Ministry Pastor Proposal & Candidate:** See Pastor Andy's Article for this month.
2. **Building Committee:** the Session discussed the 10-Year Strategic Development Plan for FPC's Campus; and offered guidance for

the Building Committee's continued scrutiny of the plan.

3. **TVP Spring Stated Meeting:** the Session approved Ruling Elders Eric Larson & Rich Parks as commissioners to this meeting on May 2, 2026.
4. **Pastor's Vacation:** Pastor Andy will be on vacation from May 24-31.

Order of the Day: Session spent time in prayer for the Shepherding and other needs of the congregation. TE Aikens closed the meeting in prayer at 8:30pm.

Next Stated Session Meeting: Friday, Apr. 17, 2026, 8am.

Warmly in Christ,
Forrest

Missions Update

Plateau Pregnancy Services (PPS) is a local outreach ministry committed to providing abstinence, whole health instruction, counseling and support to women and men in crisis pregnancies and post abortion recovery. They are dedicated to helping men and women of all ages overcome life's circumstances and past choices so that they can provide life for their babies and children.

PPS was established in 1992 by Dr. Michael Perrigan who found a need to offer more extensive services to unwed mothers than his own OB/GYN practice could provide. It began as a crisis pregnancy hotline with First Presbyterian Church members and then moved to its present location, donated by Dr. and Mrs. Perrigan, in 1993.

Sheri Nichols, an enthusiastic and dedicated ambassador for Christ, became the Executive Director in 2010. She has a special heart for helping those struggling with drug abuse to get rehab, reclaim their lives and become the best person and/or parent that they can be.

The ministry has grown considerably since its humble beginnings and now provides a variety of services under the following three operating programs:

- Project CARE (Character, Advancement, Respect, Education): includes services directly related to pregnancy
- Project Hope: includes services to help facilitate healing and recovery from the hurts of bad choices and includes confidential support, bible study, and mentoring
- Project Truth: is a Whole Health Sex Education program, teaching abstinence, purity, healthy relationships and consequences of poor choices.

PPS is supported solely by donations from individuals, business partners, and area

Plateau Pregnancy Services

churches. This year's annual fundraiser is an **Open House from 10 to 4 on Saturday, May 3rd**. There will be food, music and tours of the new warehouse. We hope it is well attended by FPC. Sandy Reed is on the PPS Board of Directors.

Please pray for:

- abortion minded clients to choose life, especially those who are very young
- the success of PPS community and outreach
- emotional and spiritual strength for the volunteers and the leadership.
- for the Court cases concerning the mailing of the abortion pill in various States.
- for the FDA to reverse the approval of the abortion pill for mail order prescriptions



FPC's annual Baby Bottle fundraiser is this month.

You will be able to pick up baby bottles for the Plateau Pregnancy Services fundraiser on Mother's Day, May 10th. Please take your baby bottles home and fill them with your change and dollars (*checks should be made payable to Plateau Pregnancy Services*) until Father's Day, June 21st when you will return them to the table in the hall. We ask you to be generous with your giving in the baby bottles. Last year we raised \$3270.79 with the baby bottles. The Missions committee will also be giving our budgeted \$4500 donation in October. ***Remember Baby Bottles can change lives!***

Library Donations



Hello Church Family,

Some of you have been asking about donating books to the library. We appreciate your generosity but are not accepting donations to the main library **at this time**. On the other hand, if you have some current educational/curricular books for children or some good books for young folks to read that are in top condition, please feel free to speak to me or Hope about donating these materials.

Thank you,
Kathy Pipkin

First Presbyterian Church

Session:

Andy Aikens, Senior Pastor
Robert Berman
Eric Larson
Forrest Marion, Clerk
Richard Parks
Jim Sparks

Deacons:

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

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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YOU'RE INVITED!
From Rooted to Abounding



PLATEAU PREGNANCY SERVICES 2026 ANNUAL FUNDRAISING BANQUET

THURSDAY 7 MAY | 6 PM

REDEMPTION CHURCH | 75 COMMERCIAL DRIVE, CROSSVILLE
FREE TO ATTEND | OPPORTUNITY TO GIVE DURING EVENT

RSVP TO ANITA | CALL OR TEXT: 931-544-0317
OR

EMAIL: ANITA.NEAL.0609@GMAIL.COM

*"ROOTED AND BUILT UP IN HIM AND ESTABLISHED IN THE FAITH,
AS YOU HAVE BEEN TAUGHT, ABOUNDING IN IT WITH THANKSGIVING."
COLOSSIANS 2:7 NKJV*

Attendance is free, there is an opportunity to support PPS during the event.

A sign-up sheet is on the hallway table for this event.

We have two tables reserved for our church with room for more.

Please come and support the important service to our community.



Please join with Robyn, Cole and William as we all welcome Linda Anne Mayhugh, born on April 24 at 7lbs 20 oz!

*Lo, children are a heritage of the Lord;
and the fruit of the womb is His reward.
Psalm 127:3*

