



June
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 preeminent.

—Colossians 1:18

Weekly Schedule

Sunday

9:30 am Morning Bible Study
9:30 am New member Class
10:45 am Morning Worship

Monday

2:00 pm Systematic Theology

Tuesday

9:30 am Women's Bible Study
on break until fall

Thursday

9:00 am Men's Bible Study
on break

Upcoming Events

6/7 Congregational Mtg
call of associate pastor
7/14-16 School of Music
Summer Music Camp
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

Ministry Plans

by Pastor Andy

Last month I highlighted the reasons your Session believes now is a strategic time to expand our pastoral staff. I repeated the core of these reasons on Sunday, May 17. We are growing. Our membership and attendance are at an all-time high in the history of the church. Ministries have expanded. We now offer more Bible studies and more service teams than ever. If you have not yet found a place to plug in, this is a good season to do so. All glory to God alone!

With growth comes change. Any living organism that is healthy changes, because it grows. If there is no change, there is no health. Now let's be clear, we are not talking about change for the sake of change. Some changes can be unhealthy. Our identity and Mission, values and vision all remain the same. As a church we long to remain constant in our passion for God in Worship, Discipleship, and Evangelism. We express this in our Identity and Mission statement: We belong to the family of the Redeemed. Transformed by the grace of Jesus' life, 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. We are engaged in such a path *so that in everything Christ might be preeminent. Colossians 1:18*

One of the changes that is on the horizon is our plan to renovate our main building for more effective ministry. Our building committee has been studying these needs and drafting a plan. In collaboration with the Elders, the building committee has approved a set of guidelines to shepherd these decisions. A sketch of future building plans has been handed over to an architect for preliminary design. We are hopeful to bring these plans to you very soon and unveil our next steps in this stewardship.

To introduce these plans, allow me to provide a brief overview. Phase 1 was the renovation of our CEC to provide office space and classroom space for long term ministry. Phase 2 and 3 needed to be conceived together so that we make cohesive decisions moving forward. The 10-year plan is to build an adequate sanctuary for worship and convert existing spaces in the main building to provide needed fellowship areas. To get from where we are in the present to where we want to be in the future, phase 2 building plans will be the intermediate steps to build in that direction. In phase 2 we are hopeful to provide better egress in the sanctuary, more space for fellowship, including an expanded kitchen and expanded bathrooms as well as improved spaces for our school of music.

Please pray for our building committee, elders, deacons, and architect as they shepherd this process of planning. We look forward to sharing with you soon the new design for this season of growing ministry and gospel effectiveness in Crossville, Tn.

New Member Spotlight – the Remillards

Andrew, Diane, and Kaleb Remillard moved from Downers Grove, IL (a suburb of Chicago) to Pikeville, TN in July 2022. They relocated to the south seeking lighter traffic and smaller crowds. They bought a 31-acre hay farm planning to build a homestead. When arriving, they found birds chirping and a night sky full of stars; peace and quiet along with fresh air. In May 2024, the Remillard's visited First Pres and have been attending ever since.

They have three children: Katie lives in Crossville with her husband Brandon, Kyle lives in Houston with his wife Anh and our new grandson Carson, Kaleb lives with us whom most of the church has met. Their life is summed up with these three words – God, Family, and Music.

Session Notes

The session held its regular monthly meeting on Friday morning, April 17, at the church.

Pastor Andy led a devotional from Galatians 6:1-5, following which he opened the session meeting in prayer. The following agenda items may be of interest:

1. Family Ministry Pastor

Candidate: the Session discussed plans for our Associate Pastor candidate's visit to Crossville and for him to preach for FPC on May 17; also tentatively set June 7 as the potential congregational meeting date assuming the Pulpit Committee desires to present the candidate's name to the congregation for a vote on calling him to FPC.

2. **Inactive Members:** following repeated attempts to communicate with or to encourage several non-attending members to return to worship, the Session removed their names from the church roll per the Book of Church Order (BCO 38-4).
3. **Commissions to Conduct Membership Interviews:** the Session reviewed the status of interviews with several candidates for membership.

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 10:30am.

Next Stated Session Meeting: Friday, May 22, 2026, 8am.

Warmly in Christ,
Forrest



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
FINE ARTS SCHOOL OF MUSIC
PRESENTS

SUMMER MUSIC CAMP

JULY 14 - 16
10 AM - 12 PM

- Intro to Music
- Ages 4-13
- For Beginners
- Group Performance
- Instrument Demo
- Learn Rhythm

REGISTRATION ENDS JULY 1ST
TO REGISTER CALL 931-337-6662
EMAIL US AT: FINEARTSSCHOOLOFMUSIC@FIRSTPRESCROSSVILLE.ORG
OR VISIT US ON FACEBOOK FOR MORE INFORMATION!

Missions Update

Lydia returned to Sofia in April after several months on home-assignment. Here she is with some of her nieces and nephews.



New Life Church in Sofia



The last \$180,000 is being raised by the end of June to receive matching funds to buy a space for the church. This new space will allow growth to plant another church, to prepare for a Bulgarian pastor, and to reach out more into the community.

<https://mtw.org/projects/details/new-life-church-building>

Spring of Hope - SoH has taken on Bulgaria's **emergency anti-trafficking hotline** which costs **\$150 a day** to keep running (this includes taxes and organizational costs).

<https://mtw.org/projects/details/spring-of-hope>

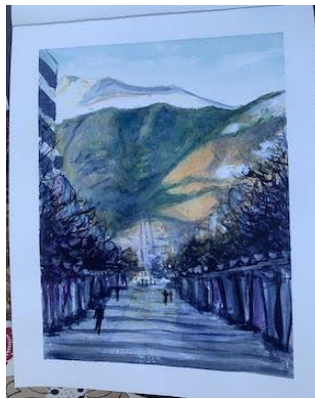
Sofia Christian Academy - Lydia teaches literature and writing classes to SCA high schoolers. She will continue helping with English clubs to give assistance in learning English.

Lydia Goeglein – Sofia Bulgaria

Prayer Continues for Viktor and his family

Viktor is a 7-year-old Bulgarian student at Sofia Christian Academy. A large mass was discovered in his stomach. Burkitt lymphoma is an aggressive but highly treatable cancer. Viktor has begun treatment, and Lydia will send periodic updates.

While in America, Lydia enjoyed having time to paint. This painting is of Vitoshka, the walking street, with a view toward Vitoshka Mountain in downtown Sofia.



BIG Thank You!

Our thanks to **Brett Bottoms** and **Bottoms Landscaping** for donating mulch and labor to make the **Memorial Garden** a lovelier place to sit or stroll while we contemplate God's goodness and remember our departed loved ones.

"Be still and know that I am God."
-- Psalm 46:10

Summer Music Camp

We are excited to bring you....

🎵 **Summer Music Camp: Introduction to Music** 🎵

Dates: **July 14 – 16, 2026**

Time: 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM (arrival 9:45)

Ages: 4 – 13 (Beginners welcome!)

Registration Deadline: July 1st, 2026

Cost: \$45 (\$5 discount for additional children)

About the Camp:

Give your child a head start on their musical journey! Each day, your child will experience, explore, and enjoy music through hands-on instrument exploration, rhythmic games, and creative activities designed to spark a lifelong love for sound and melody. On the final day of camp, children will hear demonstrations of over a dozen different instruments from teachers and local musicians. The camp finale will be a group performance!

If you have any questions or would like to register your child, please call 931-337-6662 or email us at fineartsschoolofmusic@firstprescrossville.org.

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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Fine Arts School of Music at FPC in the News

The following is an excerpt from the May, 2026 byFaith magazine. To view the complete article online, go to [PCA Churches with Fine Arts Ministries - byFaith](#)

Within the PCA, churches of different sizes and in different settings are using their space, resources, and skilled teachers to train the next generation of musicians and artists. These ministries vary in style and scale, but they share a conviction that artistic excellence glorifies God and that the church is a fitting place to shape young artists who will honor him through their craft.

And while designed to serve and strengthen the church, these programs often become touchpoints with families who have little prior exposure to the gospel. Parents drop off children for lessons and find themselves in a church building for the first time, welcomed by teachers who care about their students' flourishing, not merely their technique.

The following profiles offer a window into how three PCA churches are pursuing this work and what they're learning along the way.

Fine Arts School of Music at First Presbyterian Church of Crossville, Tennessee

When First Presbyterian Church in Crossville, Tennessee, launched its [Fine Arts School of Music](#) in September 2025, the new ministry was the fruit of nearly a decade of prayer and planning. Pastor Andy Aikens said the school grew out of the session's vision to "develop the beauty of our worship for the glory of God."

The school's reach, though, quickly extended beyond the congregation.

Crossville sits on Tennessee's Cumberland Plateau, roughly halfway between Nashville and Knoxville. In a town of about 13,000, quality music education options are limited. The Fine Arts School is meeting a real need: of the program's approximately 20 enrolled families, 17 are not currently members of First Presbyterian.

Director April Stewart, who also teaches piano at the school, oversees five other teachers, with two more preparing to join. Teachers are required to be members of a local congregation and to affirm a statement of faith. One of the school's teachers serves as minister of music at another local church. The school offers private lessons in piano, woodwinds, guitar, ukulele, and violin. Its curriculum draws from sacred music as well as Appalachian folk and bluegrass, reflecting the deep musical heritage of the Plateau.

While the school can accommodate up to 120 students, Aikens is careful not to let growth metrics define the ministry.

"We're not pressing for it to be a large school as much as we want it to be a faithful school," he said. "Faithful to Christ and faithful to the gospel."

That faithfulness plays out in ways beyond music education. Stewart said the school has become a first point of connection for families with no church background. Parents linger on the grounds while their children take lessons, building relationships with staff. Some have shared significant personal struggles with Stewart during those unhurried visits.

The ministry is already bearing fruit across Crossville's wider church community. A nearby congregation recently called to ask whether the school could recommend a violinist for its Christmas service. In late March, teachers and students performed an outreach concert at the public library that drew more than 80 spectators.

"This is us in real time, showing our congregation and our community what the chief end of man is: to glorify God and enjoy him forever," Stewart said. "That's truly our heart here."