



August
2026

Focus on First

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

Monday

2:00 pm Systematic Theology
2:00 pm Pilgrim's Progress
Starts 9/21

Tuesday

9:30 am Women's Bible Study
Colossians starts 9/15

Thursday

9:00 am Men's Bible Study

Upcoming Events

8/30 12:30 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

A History of Building and Growth

by Pastor Andy

God has been good to First Presbyterian Church Crossville. Her beginning was small, but God has done and continues to do great things through this ministry.

In March of 1988 a notice went out in our local newspaper for anyone interested in a Reformed and Presbyterian work (PCA) to gather for a Bible study and discussion about starting a new church. For several Monday nights this group of about 12 people met together at the old Shoney's restaurant.

Lou Crowder, who is now a member of FPC, arranged for this group to meet at the Fellowship Christian Church. The potential First Presbyterian Church would meet there till the end of the year. In December of 1988 this small group that was meeting for worship, petitioned the Tennessee Valley Presbytery to become a Mission Church.

In January of 1989, two important events occurred, FPC moved to the Medical Arts Building for Bible Study and Worship and also purchased the property at 15 Rock Quarry Rd. By March, the house which sat on that property had been remodeled for the small congregation to meet for worship, complete with steeple, and the first service on the property was held that Easter at sunrise. By April the property was paid for.

Sanders Campbell, a Baptist minister, served the church as pastor from July 1989 to July 1990. At the conclusion of his ministry, a PCA pastor, Steve Simmons was called to Crossville FPC. By January of 1991 our current sanctuary building was started and within just a few months was brought to completion. The building was dedicated to the glory of God April 18, 1991.

Under Steve's leadership, Grace Presbyterian in Cookeville was planted, a crisis pregnancy center started, a new Christian School was launched and an addition to the building for more fellowship space and offices was completed in 1996.

What a tremendous start. Those first ten years of our history laid a foundation that we are seeking to build on. With Christ at the center and the gospel as our message, the Lord continues to grow our congregation so that in 2019 we expanded our sanctuary by renovating the back area for the addition of about 50 seats. In 2024 we began a three-phase building program to improve our offices, classrooms, fellowship areas and worship space. Phase 1 was the remodel of the Christian Education Center. Phase 2 will be an expansion of our Fellowship Hall, kitchen, bathrooms, and some aspects of the sanctuary to create better egress. This is being done in a way to prepare for phase 3, which will be a new sanctuary and more classrooms to the east of the main building.

Buildings are a tool. The Church is God's people. As our numbers have increased so has our need for more room to be hospitable. We pray for God's leadership in all this work so that Christ is honored at every step, his people are discipled, and those who need to hear the gospel are reached. I am so grateful to God for our legacy of faithfulness to this vision. I look forward to all that is in our future.

Please Join Us for a Fellowship Luncheon on Sunday August 30, 2026

The Church will be providing pulled chicken, bread, and beverages. Please sign up in the hallway indicating what you are bringing: **tossed green salad, cole slaw, pasta salad, potato salad, fruit salad or dessert.**

Your dish needs to serve **8-10 people**. Please ensure your dish is fully prepared before bringing it to the kitchen; you're welcome to put dressing on a salad, just be mindful that there's limited space in the kitchen.

Fine Arts School of Music Summer Camp

The Fine Arts School of Music recently hosted a successful 3-day Summer Music Camp with the theme "An Introduction to Music."

Our young participants spent the week developing a love for music through interactive games that focused on basic rhythms, note reading, tempo, and listening.

Our students were split into two age groups to tailor their learning:

- Older Students: Led by Diane Remillard and assisted by Lizzy Stewart, this group learned how to play the recorder, bucket drums, and bells.
- Younger Students: Taught by Ellen Tuuk and Olivia Lee, with

help from Annalise Aikens and Eden Tuuk, enjoyed music-themed crafts, games, and storytelling.

The absolute highlight of the week was Demonstration Day. Students experienced live, short performances on 15 different instruments played by teachers and friends of the School of Music.

These 3 days of musical fellowship were enjoyed by everyone involved. Please continue praying for these families and their children. We are incredibly grateful to our dedicated teachers and helpers, and we are already looking forward to next year's camp!

Blessings!
April Stewart



Missions Update

Rural Church Development

Thank you for your interest and kind support of the ministry the Lord is doing through Rural Church Development!

March saw our first Central Appalachian Rural Pastor's Retreat in Virginia. Twelve men gathered for three nights to share their joys and struggles, pray, and encourage one another. I am confident it will become an annual gathering.

Likewise, July 27-30 will make our third annual Tennessee Valley Presbytery Rural Pastor's Retreat. It is a privilege to organize and participate with these men.

July 4-9 I had the privilege of preaching at First Presbyterian Church in Charleston, MS followed by a three-night revival.

Locally we just finished our second annual Camp Meeting for Copperhill, TN. We host a mission team from

Louisiana to cook for the two-night outreach event. This year we had a bluegrass band play. The first evening Will Davis preached on How to Know God. The second evening I preached How to Grow in God. Lord willing this will serve as a precursor to a Bible study I'll be leading in August and September.

I'll be heading to Chicago July 21-22 for an Exponential Conference where rural church planting will be a theme.

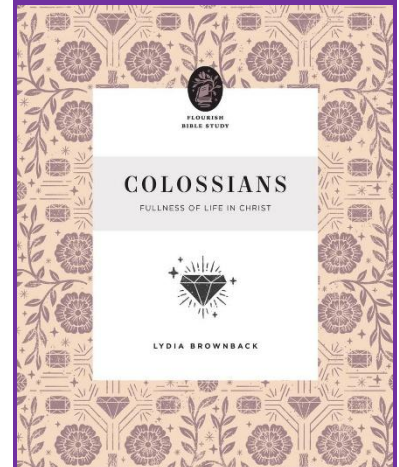
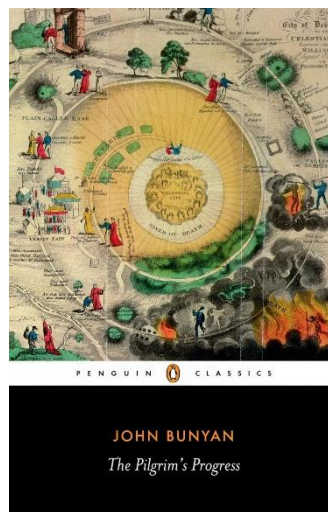
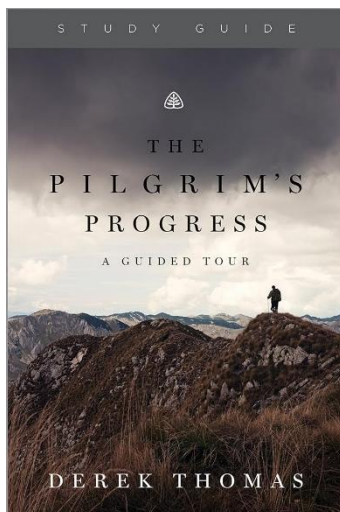
There are so many opportunities to encourage rural churches, presbyteries, networks and pastors. It is a privilege to be called to this ministry. Thank you for your prayers and support!

Kindest Regards,
Corey Pelton

www.ruralchurchdevelopment.com
cpelton@pcanet.org

Women's Book Study – The Pilgrim's Progress

With the completion of Systematic Theology, the Monday afternoon study will continue with both parts of John Bunyan's *The Pilgrim's Progress*. The study will be **September 21** through December 14 at 2:00 in the fellowship hall. We will be using the Penguin Classics version and Derek Thomas' study guide. Please sign up and contact Lory Wood with any questions.



Women's Fall Bible Study is using Lydia Brownback's *Colossians: Fullness of Life in Christ* book. It will be an 11-week study beginning on Tuesday, **September 15** at 9:30 and ending the week before Thanksgiving. Our first meeting will be an introduction and a buffet breakfast. Please sign up in the hallway.

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.
Koos & Bhless Hagg, MTW,
Southeast Asia.
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 – Meet the Sells

Dan and Robbie Sell are not strangers to Crossville and First Presbyterian Church. We landed in Crossville the first time in 2004. A road trip from Tampa, Florida to Knoxville for our daughter's wedding included a planned side visit to Crossville. The move from Tampa, Florida came soon after and Crossville was our new home until 2011. In 2011 Dan retired from Edward Jones Investments and we moved to Titusville, FL to oversee the care of Robbie's aging parents.

We returned to Crossville in 2015 making Fairfield Glade our home. It was then we joined Dick Gillen, Ron Fitch and two other non-PCA couples to serve at the Good Samaritan Society facility in FFG on Sunday mornings. First Presbyterian Church developed a weekly worship service at GSS and we wanted to be a part of that work. This was not new territory for us as we had been PCA church planter missionaries with Mission to the World to Chile, SA from 1990-1996.

It was natural and a joy to assist residents to a God centered service. Good hymns, sound preaching from God's word and fellowship!

We took a short detour and attended the PCA church in Cookeville for a few years with some dear friends. But now we are overjoyed to be back in Crossville.

The Lord has blessed us with two children, a son and a daughter. Our son



Our photo shows our visit to the Edinburgh Royal Mile. We meet these "tall visitors" from Norway in the waiting line to enter the Edinburgh Castle. 2024

and his wife live in Philadelphia. They have a crew of 12 children with 4 being adopted children. Our daughter and her husband live here in Crossville. They and their 5 children live just across the field from us here in South Cumberland County.

Besides enjoying all the creative stories that can come from so many grandchildren, we love to travel.

It can be by plane, ship or car. The road is always calling us for a good adventure. We never know how the Lord will bless us on our trips or how He might use us to share His love. When not traveling you can find Dan in the "barn" or on a piece of equipment required to take care of the property. You would find Robbie sewing or creating something in her well stocked craft room. No matter the day or place serving and growing in Christ is our goal.