

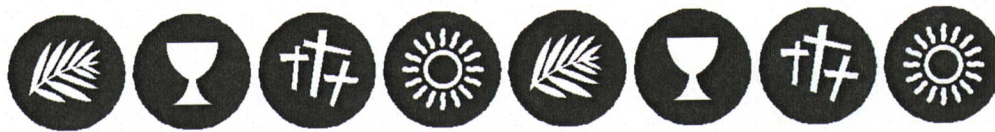
The Newsletter

*First Presbyterian Church
Tullahoma, Tennessee*

March 2024
Volume 52, Issue 2

The season of Lent: Ash Wednesday to Easter

Lent is a time to let God do “spring cleaning” within us. It is our opportunity to allow God to help us toss out the “stuff” that hinders us and then freshen up the “new creature” we are meant to be as followers of Christ.



Participate in the Great Bread Auction and the One Great Hour of Sharing Offering

Attention Bakers! The Mission Committee is pleased to present the annual Great Bread Auction. We invite everyone to bake your best breads, cakes, muffins, cookies and pastries and bring them to the Williams Family Center before the worship service on a date that is currently being decided. The silent auction will be held after the church service during Fellowship Time.

When dropping off your baked item that morning, please complete a bid sheet with the name of your baked item and your name, and place both the baked item and the bid sheet on a table. Bidders will have a chance to peruse the baked items in the morning before and after the Worship Service.

The highest bidder will take home the baked good, but more importantly, all money collected will support One Great Hour of Sharing, the single, largest way that Presbyterians come together every year to work for a better world. The One Great Hour of Sharing offering is collected throughout Lent (February 18-April 5). This Offering supports the causes of hunger and poverty alleviation, disaster relief, community development, climate change, immigration/migration and refugee advocacy. These vital areas of ministry — chosen by the General Assembly — go a long way to ensure that every person is able to live into the fullness of life that is God’s promise to all of us.

---From the Mission Committee, chaired by Brad Sturgill

Palm Walk on Palm Sunday, March 29

Palm Sunday is the first day of Holy Week and commemorates Jesus’ entry into Jerusalem. We will gather in our back parking lot at 9:00 for a **Palm Walk** to Caboose Park, where participants from the churches taking part will gather for a brief service about the events of Palm Sunday. After that, participants will return to their respective churches. Upon returning to FPC, we will gather in the Williams Family Center for **Fellowship Time** (hosted by the Worship Committee) and to assemble for a **palm procession** into the sanctuary for the Palm Sunday worship service.

In this Issue: Group Happenings Joys/Concerns, March Birthdays, p. 2; Pastor’s Message, p. 3; Minute with Mike, p. 4; Offering from the Office, p. 5; Around and About FPC, pp. 6,7; Session Committee Reports, pp. 8,9; Good Samaritan Report, p. 9; back page, p. 10

Here's what's happening!

Presbyterian Women

Mark your calendar: **PWP Spring Gathering** will be held in Tullahoma in the Fellowship Hall, Saturday, April 18, 2026. More information to follow.

Women's Circle will meet in the Fellowship Hall on

Wednesday, March 11, at 10:00 a.m. Our Horizon Bible study *Finding Resilience, Joy and Our Identity in Jesus Christ* by Rhashell D. Hunter, will focus on Finding Our Joy in Christ: "I will Say It Again, Rejoice." Scripture: Philippians 4:1-23. Main Idea: Christian joy emerges from a deep belief that God is good, and God reigns forever.

Fellowship and a light lunch will follow the Bible study. All women are invited to attend.

Men's Breakfast

The next Men's Breakfast will be March 8 Gathering time is 8:00 a.m. in Fellowship Hall. Breakfast is provided. All men are welcome.

DEADLINE FOR NEWSLETTER ARTICLES

The deadline for the **April** issue of *The Newsletter* is March 17.



Parish Joys/Concerns

Each of you should look not only to your own interests, but also to the interests of others. Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus. Philippians 2:4-5

Please keep the following in your prayers:

- Robin Gorman
- Mary Harmon
- Dori Henninger, Becky Behrendorff's mother
- Amy Hinds
- Sandy McKinney
- Vanessa McKinney
- Avery Scheider, a former Learning Place student
- Bethany Sterling
- Drew Sterling
- Don Stuck, Greg Sterling's father
- Jim Watts
- Robert Wright

Please remember in your prayers the following people who are unable to attend worship regularly:

- Elmo Birkhead (home)
- Jean Carter (home)
- Ted and Beverly Elsasser (home)
- Patra Escue (home)
- Dot Gilfillan (Morning Pointe)
- Sue Harvey (home)
- Hilde Joellenbeck (home)

Birth announcement –

Mia Kate Holt was born on February 11, 2026. Parents are Will and Katie Holt, who live in Nashville. Grandparents are Jim and Lesley Lawson, who "are over the moon in love with this little girl." Congratulations and best wishes to all.



- 4 – Scott Hagler
- 6 – Vida Sherwood
- 10 – Logan Sherrer
- 12 – Chloe Fletcher
- 14 – Sharon Steely
Mary Watson
- 15 – Travis Sherrer
- 16 – Paul Casteel
- 18 – Nick Nicodemus
- 22 – Lana Parker
- 23 – Greg Sterling
Patra Wheeler
- 28 – Robert Wright
- 30 – Martha Bradley

If you have a birthday in March and your name is not on the list, please call the church office and let us know. We would like to add your name to the birthday calendar.

Stewardship Corner

One of the traditional Lenten disciplines is that of "almsgiving"— an old-fashioned word with a timeless meaning. As God's people we are blessed to be a blessing, and an important way of doing that is helping those in need with our time, money, and talents. The days of Lent serve as an opportunity to remember our call to share our abundance with folks who know only scarcity; more importantly, it is an opportunity to **act** as we open our wallets and our hearts with a spirit of thanksgiving for the blessings we have been given.

First Presbyterian Church (PCUSA)
 P. O. Box 847
 Tullahoma, TN 37388

Vision statement: Worshipping God,
 growing together, serving others,
 welcoming all

Sunday school – 9:00 a.m.

Worship at 10:30 a.m.

Church Office: 204 E. Grundy Street
 Phone: 931 455-9328
 FAX: 931 455-9306

E-mail addresses

Jim: pastorjimmoran@gmail.com
 Martha: m2bradley@lighttube.net
 Katie: katherineprasser@gmail.com
 Bethany: bethanybsterling@gmail.com
 Robert: robertwright621@gmail.com
 Mike: michaelbradley@lighttube.net

Church Web site:

www.fpctullahoma.org

Youth Website:

www.pyc-tullahoma.com

Preschool Office: 931 455-1515

Preschool Email:

learningplace@lighttube.net

Preschool Website:

www.learningplacetullahoma.org

Church Staff

Interim Pastor: Jim Moran
 Minister to Children: Katie Prasser
 Minister to Youth: Bethany Sterling
 Secretary: Martha Bradley
 Choir Director: Robert Wright
 Parish Associate for Pastoral Care:
 Michael Bradley
 Learning Place Preschool Director:
 Bethany Sterling
 Custodian: Chrystal Estes

Members of Session

Murray Brown
 Charlotte Broyles
 Claudine Coile
 Alan Harris
 Charles Harvey
 Karla Haws
 Bob Huffines
 Karla Keough
 Shirley Levine
 Helen McClure
 Brad Sturgill
 Doug Thomas

Bethany Sterling, Clerk of Session



Pastor's Message

My Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

Do you ever sit down and watch one of those love stories on TV where a fiancé breaks up with his/her partner because of falling in love with another person totally different? Denise and I do. I am a sap for those stories and end up wiping away tears surreptitiously because I know the love I see in them in my relationship with my wife. This deep, abiding love is very much like the love God has for us and, in response to that love, our love for God.

In the Confirmation Class over the years and once in a previous newsletter article, I have told a story about the love of God not unlike the Prodigal Son story in Luke 15:11-32 (which surely focuses on the Father and can be better titled: “Loving Father and His Two Sons”). J. Wallace Hamilton tells this story in Horns and Halos in Human Nature, which I discovered recorded in Ginny Holderness’s excellent, classic book on youth work, The Exuberant Years:

A friend of mine, the late G. W. Rosenbery, told me a story out of his early ministry. He was in a railway coach speeding across the state to attend a conference. Few people rode on trains in those days, and one boy in his late teens, apparently very nervous, attracted the attention of his fellow passengers. The boy was fidgety and restless. He would sit in one seat for a few moments, then move down the car to another.

The minister began to watch him and study him; finally he sat down beside the boy and said, “What’s troubling you, son? Worried about something? Maybe I can help you. I am a minister, and if you feel like telling me, I should like nothing better than to help you if I can.” “Sure, sure,” the boy said, “I don’t mind telling you. Are you acquainted in a little town named Springvale?” “Well, not exactly. I know of it. It is the next stop, isn’t it?” “Yes,” said the boy. “We’ll be there in fifteen minutes. That’s my home. I used to live there. My father and mother live there still, just a mile on this side of the town. Three years ago I had a quarrel with my father. I said, ‘You’ll never see me again.’ I ran away from home. Three years, and they’ve been tough years. Sometimes I wrote to my mother. I wrote her last week and told her I would be on this train passing through. I told her if it was all right for me to stop, to hang something white outside the house so that I would know that father had agree to let me stop. I told her not to do it unless father wanted it. She would do it regardless, you know, but I had to know how Dad feels.”

The boy looked out the window, then started up excitedly. “Look, sir, my house is just around the bend, beyond the hill. Will you please look for me, see if there is something white? I can’t stand to look. If there isn’t anything white – you look, please!” The train lurched a bit as it made the slow curve, and the minister kept his eyes on the round of the hill. Then forgetting his dignity, he fairly shouted, “Look, son, look!” There stood a little farmhouse under the trees, but you could hardly see the house for white. It seems that father and mother had taken every bed sheet, bedspread, tablecloth, pillowcase, and even handkerchiefs, and hung them out on the clothes line and the trees. The boy’s face went white, his lips quivered. He

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Minute with Mike by Michael Bradley, Parish Associate for Pastoral Care

New Beginnings

One July, several summers ago, Martha went to South Carolina to visit her sister Harriet. Martha never returned from these visits without having a car overflowing with gifts Harriet was sending us. This particular year the gifts included six Lenten Rose plants. After being uprooted, housed in the trunk of a car for several hours in the heat, and then left in the garage overnight the plants were a rather sorry sight.

The next day, when I got around to doing something with them, I was sure I was wasting my time planting them. It was July, hot as blazes, soil like a brick, and me not at all enthusiastic about digging holes in the ground. But, they were a gift from Harriet, so I scraped some shallow depressions and stuck the things in the dirt.

They lived! Not only did they live, we now have several dozen Lenten Rose plants in flower beds all around the house. In fact, if I did not take the weed-eater to the edges of the beds, the Lenten Roses would cover the whole yard.

The botanical name for the Lenten Rose is hellebore, derived from *helle*(to injure) and *bore* (food). In other words, “Don’t eat this; it will hurt you.” Deer, rabbits, and other such plant chompers know this and leave the Lenten Rose plants alone.

The plant deserves its name of Lenten Rose because no matter when Lent comes, no matter how severe the weather has been, the Lenten Rose always blooms during Lent. This year is no exception.

Traditionally, flowers have meanings with each type of blossom having a symbolic meaning. For example, a begonia means “beware”; a red carnation means “I admire you,” while a white carnation means “good luck,” and a red rose symbolizes love.

The Lenten Rose has several meanings, all of them related. In earlier times the plant was a favorite for flower beds around churches and in monasteries because it represented peace and serenity. Because it is a very hardy plant, it also reminded religious people of resilience and renewal. Comfort and reassurance were also associated with the Lenten Rose.

Because of its time of blooming, the plant reminds us of a gentle, but strong, spirit. But most of all, the flower named for Lent reminds us of new beginnings.

Spring is coming; we are doing “spring cleaning” in our spiritual lives; and Easter, the celebration of the Resurrection, reminds us of the new beginning God has made, and which God

continually renews, with those who persevere.

Those apparently delicate flowers carry a very strong message.



Lent

Lent is a time to take the time to
 let the power of our faith story
 take hold of us,
 a time to let the events get up and
 walk around in us,
 a time to intensify our living unto
 Christ,
 a time to hover over the thoughts
 of our hearts,
 a time to place our feet in the
 streets of Jerusalem or to walk
 along the sea and listen to his
 word,
 a time to touch his robe and feel
 the healing surge through us,
 a tie to ponder and a time to
 wonder . . .
 Lent is a time to allow a fresh new
 taste of God!

Ann Weems
 in *Kneeling in Jerusalem*

Offering from the Office by Martha Bradley, Church Secretary**Gems to Ponder**

I keep coming across sentences and paragraphs full of meaning that just won't turn me loose. The gist of them keeps coming to mind at appropriate times. The sources are varied – newspapers, magazines, books, even the internet – but there is power in them regardless of source. I have been going through this file as I look for ideas for my newsletter articles, one of the main reasons I keep such a file. I've decided some of the gleanings that I have had for a long time are not going to lead to a full-fledged article, so in this column I am sharing a number of these gems for your consideration. I hope they will be an inspiration to you, some things to ponder during Lent.

“The Jesus Way is always relational, personal, local and ordinary . . . The Jesus Way isn't about us; it is about God, and the ways and means must be appropriate to the ends. If we don't do things the Jesus Way, we mess up the Jesus Truth and subsequently miss out on the Jesus Life.” – from an article in *Presbyterian Outlook*, January 24, 2011, paraphrasing Eugene Peterson

“Suppose Eve had simply said, ‘nah, I'm good,’ instead of munching on a piece of shiny fruit. Suppose Mary, Martha's sister, had chosen to act as a hostess instead of sitting and listening to the words of Jesus. What if Pharaoh's daughter had let the basket float its way down the river? Suppose Mary Magdalene, holding her basket of anointing herbs, had simply backed away slowly from the open tomb rather than looking inside. The Bible encourages us to dream, to look beyond the mundane, to ‘Seek, and ye shall find.’ It would be harder to imagine the kingdom on earth if we didn't investigate practical ways to bring it about. It would be a challenge to reinvent our ministries

without contemplating our evolving world. It would be impossible to know our neighbors without sincere wonder. Without searching our hearts, we couldn't be the Christians we aspire to be. Searching isn't a guarantee that we will like what we find. But without searching, we will not find our way closer to each other, the will of God, or to God.” – from *The Presbyterian Outlook*, March 2025

“Some people have minds like buckets. They accept every idea anybody pours into them. Some have minds like funnels. Every idea that is poured in goes right out again. But have a mind like a sieve. Be open to new ideas, filter out the false, but hold onto the good ones. This is an echo of Paul: ‘Test everything; hold fast to what is good.’ ” (Thessalonians 5:21) – from *These Times (April/May/June 2006)*, by William Ramsay

“All of us need the experience of one-ness in our lives, one with ourselves, one with God and one with others. It is a part of our make-up. In fact, as one study has pointed out in its very title, we are *Hardwired to Connect*. God created us to be in relationship with God and with others.” – from *LOGOS Weekly Connection*, October 27, 2005

“We should all busy ourselves in being who we are, although many of us do not and spend so much time and energy being something else.” – from *The Dog Who Came In from the Cold* by Alexander McCall Smith

“You know, life is full of imperfect things – and imperfect people. I'm not the best at hardly anything, and I forget birthdays and anniversaries just like everyone else. What I've learned over the years is that learning to accept each other's faults – and choosing to celebrate each other's differences – is one of the most

important keys to creating a healthy, growing, lasting relationship.” – from *Burnt Biscuits* by anonymous

“. . . God loves you. God accepts you. God forgives you – without demanding that you be punished, without demanding that you torment and punish yourself, without demanding that you do anything to make up for what you have done or not done . . . It is not a matter of God pretending that we are something we really are not, but God's freeing us to become something we are not.” – from *Christian Doctrine* by Shirley Guthrie

“Problems and misunderstandings abound when the expectation is that all Christians will believe and practice faith in exactly the same ways. The clearest visionaries are not the ones who insist on conformity but who can say, ‘This is how I see it. Tell me what you see?’” – Allen Mosiman in the Parkway P. C. Newsletter, August 5, 2010

“I can't recall any moment when Jesus said to his disciples, ‘Believe the following five things about me,’ No. What Jesus said was ‘Follow me.’ We are to follow, to do what he did, to live in the world as he lived. It is more important to be a disciple, a follower of Jesus, even than to be a Christian. Christianity is not a set of beliefs, first principles, propositions. It is a matter of discipleship, following. Faith in Jesus is not beliefs about Jesus. It's a willingness to follow Jesus. The faith is in the following. . . . Faith in Jesus is not first of all a matter of having felt something, or having had an experience; it is a simple willingness to stumble along behind Jesus, a willingness to be behind him. The faith is in the following. – from a sermon by Dr. William H. Willimon

As we journey to Jerusalem during Lent, let us reflect on what it means for us to follow Jesus.

Around and About FPC

Candidate Headline: Pastor Nominating Committee Report

The Pastor Nominating Committee(PNC) conducted a kickoff meeting with Presbytery's Committee on Ministry(COM) liaison at which the overall process was reviewed and roles and responsibilities were discussed.

The committee is preparing the Ministry Discernment Profile(MDP) for submission to Session and Presbytery for approval. The profile provides a description of our ministry and our view about requirements our pastor should meet. Once the MDP is approved, the next steps in the process are

1. Interested pastors review the Ministry Discernment Profile and submit a Pastor Discernment Profile for PNC consideration,
2. The PNC conducts Zoom interviews with candidates and references are contacted,
3. The PNC conducts in-person interviews with leading candidates after some coordination with our Presbytery and the candidate's Presbytery,
4. The PNC identifies a nominee and a series of events to verify the suitability of the nominee occur locally and at Presbytery COM,
5. Upon COM approval of the candidate and the terms of call, the PNC arranges for a congregational meeting to approve the nominee and terms of call, and
6. The new pastor begins serving, with onboarding assistance from the PNC.

The total process is time consuming, usually taking more

than a year. Although most of the PNC's work is out of the view of the congregation per Presbytery guidelines, we expect to give a report in every newsletter.

Submitted by Keith Kushman

Salon: A Rave for the Soul

Thank you for your continued support of our newest worshiping experience. That said, please consider attending the once monthly Salon service, which is held at 6:00 p.m. on the first Wednesday of the month during the school year. We are typically finished around 6:30 p.m. Our service includes communion, hymns, and prayers. It is Presbyterian in nature but is a more relaxed service than what we experience on Sundays. Unlike Sundays, we do not follow the lectionary but instead have speakers who have discussed a variety of Old and New Testament passages.

How do we need your help? We really need more adult participants to attend. You may decide to participate in our discussion, you might help with our singing, or maybe you will simply be in attendance in support of our youth. Regardless of how much you participate in the service, by showing up you'll be fulfilling the vows we make at baptisms to guide and nurture by word and deed and to encourage the newly baptized to know and follow Christ and be faithful members of the church. I hope you will prayerfully consider attending an upcoming Salon service.

Learning Place Preschool

Our 2026-2027 registration has opened. Registration materials are available on our preschool

website, in the preschool office, or in the church office.

Lenten Readers

During Advent and Lent, our congregation typically has seasonal litanies. Bethany Sterling is currently looking for individuals to lead the weekly Lenten litany. If you are willing to lead the congregation in one of these brief litanies, please speak with Bethany.

Souper Bowl of Caring

Thank you to everyone who supported the Souper Bowl of Caring collection, which was held on Super Bowl Sunday. This was First Presbyterian's 26th consecutive year participating.

You generously donated \$1,012 and 101.8 pounds of food, all of which were donated to Good Samaritan Ministries of Tullahoma.

Montreat Fundraiser

Thank you to everyone who participated in the youth's Montreat fundraiser on Sunday, February 22. Your continued support of our youth is greatly appreciated.

Children's Ministry

Our annual **Easter Celebration** for Children's Ministry will be held on **March 28, 2026, from 1:00–2:00 p.m.** We hope all children from **birth through 5th grade** will join us in the **Williams Family Center** for an afternoon of games, crafts, snacks, and an outdoor Easter egg hunt.

We are asking the congregation to help support this

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event by donating **candy or small party favors** to fill the Easter eggs. Donations may be dropped off in the **Children's Gathering Room** or given to **Katie Prasser**. The deadline for donations is **Sunday, March 22, 2026**.

We would love for you to join our celebration and spend time with the youngest members of our church family. We deeply appreciate the support you give — the children's program would not be successful without you!

Katie Prasser
Children's Minister

Session Committee Leadership for 2026

Session is organized for its work through standing committees. If you have ideas, suggestions, or questions about the work of committees of the church or if you are interested in serving on one, please talk to one of these Elders. The list below shows on which committee each Elder is serving.

Class of 2026

- Charlotte Broyles – Worship
- Charles Harvey – Stewardship
- Bob Huffines – Property
- Brad Sturgill – Mission

Class of 2027

- Karla Haws – Congregational Care
- Kayla Keough – Christian Education
- Shirley Levine – Family Activities and Outreach
- Helen McClure – Family Activities and Outreach

Class of 2028

- Murray Brown – Finance and Personnel
- Claudine Coile – Property
- Alan Harris – Mission
- Doug Thomas – Congregational Care
- Bethany Sterling, Clerk of Session



Easter lilies

We will celebrate the Resurrection on Easter Sunday, April 5. You are invited to participate in this joyous celebration by furnishing a lily to decorate the church.

The lilies can be designated in honor of a special person or as a memorial. An insert in the Easter bulletin will list the honorees and memorials along with the name of the person contributing the gift. Cost is being determined. If you would like to place an order, please call the church office (455-9328) or fill out the form in the Sunday bulletins and place it in the offering plate. When we get the price, Make your check to the church and mark it "lily".

Deadline for ordering is March 22.



Mission Sunday is the Sunday each month during which we bring items for the Good Sam Ministry. Please bring some of the following items with you to worship on **March 8**. There is a recurring list and special requests for particular months.

- Good Sam Requests for March**
Regular food request: canned fruits, canned vegetables, dry spaghetti, pasta sauce, soup, soda crackers, cereal, peanut butter, canned tuna, and canned chicken.
Special food needs: Soup, crackers
Dignity request: hand soap

Thank you to First Presbyterian!

We greatly appreciate your very generous efforts in supporting victims and their families in our community throughout the year. Your contributions allow us to provide food, clothing, personal care items, safety planning, education, as well as additional support services for those trying to rebuild their lives in a safe environment. We would not be able to continually serve them without friends and supporters like you. Thank you so much!

God Bless,
Jennifer Singleton
Program Director
The Haven of Hope

Pastor's Message

- continued from page 3

couldn't talk. His nervous fingers clutched the cheap suitcase, and he was out of the car before it had wholly stopped at the water tank. The minister said that the last he saw of him, he was running as fast as his legs could carry him, up the hill to the little house where the white sheets fluttered in the wind. (p. 147)

That is how much our Father God loves us. I teared up once again when I proofread this story. God has not hung out all the bed sheets and pillowcases, but God did hang on the cross all he had, the very Son of God Jesus. Lent leads to Holy Week, the rejection, suffering, death, and resurrection of Jesus, and it is all about the sappy love story of God and humanity. God's love for the whole world. May the love and joy of God revealed to us in Jesus fill your home!

Peace and hope,
Jim

Session Committee Reports

Property Committee – Bob Huffines, chair

The Property Committee, along with the Security Committee, developed a Security Plan for our membership. Below is the plan for your review. Please forward all responses to Bob Huffines.

Thank You!

Security Plan

Prepared By: Property Committee
Security Committee
Bob Huffines, Chairman

Date: February 01, 2026

Approved By: Session February 01, 2026

Purpose: To develop and install a security plan to ensure of the safety and protection of the occupants of the building.

1. Key Control:
 - Master key – Master key will be identified and kept in a lockable cabinet. Cabinet will be located in the Annex. Master list of keys will be located in the cabinet.
 - Keys will be numbered for traceability purposes. Keys will be distributed by the Property Committee. Distribution log will be maintained by the Property Committee.
 - Property Committee will produce duplicate keys as needed.
2. Emergency signage will be posted at Emergency Response locations within the building:
 - In case of emergency dial 911.
 - Surveillance camera posted.
 - Emergency Response information.
3. All entrance doors will remain locked when building is not occupied.
4. All entrance doors will remain locked when the building is occupied.
Exception: Doors will be unlocked for entry for Sunday morning service. Doors will be locked 15 minutes after the service begins with the exception of the front (Bell tower) doors which will remain unlocked.
5. For the Sunday morning service, Security personnel will roam the Narthex monitoring those incoming. Suspicious activity will be reported as needed.
6. The Annex will be secured by the use of the RING doorbell/video system.
7. One security camera will remain in effect located in the Lincoln Street parking lot.
8. Emergency Response/Emergency Evacuation:
 - Heart attack/Stroke – Dial 911 immediately for assistance. A member of our trained staff will secure a defibrillator and administer CPR.
 - Bomb threat – Immediately call 911. The threat will be announced. Exit the building through the nearest egress door. Enter when the all clear is established.
 - Fire – If the fire is small, extinguish with the nearest fire extinguisher. If the fire is large, pull the nearest fire alarm and evacuate the building through nearest egress door. The Pre-School will gather at the water fountain across the street.
 - Severe weather – Will be announced to take shelter. All will gather at the ramp leading to the Williams Center gymnasium. Return to activities when the all clear is given.
 - Intruders – In the case of an entry through front Washington Street doors after Sunday morning service begins, Security will alert the congregation. Security will also dial 911 and activate the Police Dept. alert.
9. The responsibility and documentation of the program will be by the direction of the Property Committee.

Bob Huffines
931 581-4959

Mission Committee – Brad Sturgill

Tullahoma Winter Shelter

First Presbyterian hosted the Tullahoma Winter Shelter during the week of February 1-7. We had 13-18 guests each night. The Winter Shelter is driven entirely by volunteers, and without the church members who stay the night and prepare meals, the shelter is not possible. Many thanks to all who gave so generously of time, money, food and sleep for this important project.

The Great Bread Auction and One Great Hour of Sharing

Attention Bakers! The Mission Committee is pleased to present the annual Great Bread Auction in March. A date has yet

to be determined, but be on the lookout for a bulletin insert. We invite everyone to bake your best breads, cakes, muffins, cookies and pastries and bring them to the Williams Family Center on the day of the auction.

When dropping off your baked item that morning, please complete a bid sheet with your name and the name of your baked item, and place both the baked item and the bid sheet on a table. Bidders will have a chance to peruse the baked items in the morning before and after the Worship Service.

The highest bidder will take home the baked good, but more importantly, all money collected

will support One Great Hour of Sharing, the single, largest way that Presbyterians come together every year to work for a better world.

The One Great Hour of Sharing offering is collected throughout out Lent (February 18-April 5). This Offering supports the causes of hunger and poverty alleviation, disaster relief, community development, climate change, immigration/migration and refugee advocacy. These vital areas of ministry — chosen by the General Assembly — go a long way to ensure that every person is able to live into the fullness of life that is God’s promise to all of us.

Family Activities and Outreach Committee – Helen McClure, Shirley Levine

Fellowship Time - We continue to encourage members and committees to provide light snacks/food for fellowship time following Sunday worship. Sign-up sheet is on the lectern in the narthex. The committee supplies all the necessary items and beverages for Fellowship Time. Remember that it doesn't have to

be elaborate. This is a great time to mingle and get to know more about each other.

Chair yoga continues. Class meets on Tuesday afternoon at 1:00 p.m. in Williams Fellowship Gym. Shirley Levine leads the class in gentle stretches and exercises.

Fellowship Dinner - Our next dinner out will be Thursday,

March 19, at Gondola, 6:00 p.m. There will be inserts in the worship bulletin on March 8 and 15. Please sign up if you plan to attend.

Men’s Breakfast continues to meet the 2nd Sunday each month. Next meeting is March 8, at 8:00 a.m. Fellowship Hall. All men of the church are invited.

Good Samaritan Ministry – Cindy Kinney, Director

Ministry Office was open 18 days in January.

(Code: F-families; A-adults, C-children)

Utilities – 23F, 26A, 20C

Project Help – 3F, 03, 1C

TUA “SF” – 0F, 0A, 0C

Rent - 0F, 0A, 8C

Medication – 1F, 2A, 0C

Food - 84F, 130A, 67C

Dignity - 84F, 130A, 67C

All clients are given two dignity items per month, and they may choose 3 extra items from our bookcase in the ministry office. These items may be lotions, candles, candy, spices, protein drinks, hand sanitizer, or over the counter medications

Baby Boom - 4F, 4A, 2C

Gifts/Giveaways - 7F, 7A, 3C (Clothing & Shoes)

Homeless - 7F, 7A, 0C

Pet Food - 41F

We are very thankful for your support!

Blessings to all,
Cindy

Good Sam requests for March

Regular food request: canned fruits, canned vegetables, dry spaghetti, pasta sauce, soup, soda crackers, cereal, peanut butter, canned tuna, and canned chicken.

Special food needs: soup, crackers
Dignity request: hand soap

The Love God Desires

God's love is never meant to stop with us; it's meant to flow through us. When we love others, we reflect his very heart. As 1 John 4:12 (NIV) reminds us, "If we love one another, God lives in us and his love is made complete in us."

This is the true mark of a Christian — love that reaches beyond comfort zones, opinions and differences. Jesus said in John 13:35 (NIV), "By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another."

The world is watching, not to see how loudly we profess our faith but how deeply we practice it. Every act of compassion, every gentle word and every moment of grace reveals something divine — God's love at work in us. The more we give that love away, the more it grows within us, mirroring the heart of Christ, who gave Himself for all.

So ask yourself: Does the world recognize you as his disciple by the way you love?

Special days in March

Daylight Saving Time Begins! Don't forget to "spring forward" on **March 7** before you go to bed. As we adjust our clocks, let's also reset our hearts—ready to embrace the new mercies God gives each morning. "*The path of the righteous is like the morning sun, shining ever brighter till the full light of day.*" Proverbs 4:18 (NIV)

Happy St. Patrick's Day! March 17 We remember the missionary heart of St. Patrick, who shared Christ's light with courage and compassion. "*Let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.*" Matthew 5:16 (NIV) Wherever you go today, let your faith shine bright!

First Day of Spring, March 20 - Spring is here! Creation sings of new beginnings, fresh growth, and God's renewing power. "*See! The winter is past; the rains are over and gone. Flowers appear on the earth...*" Song of Solomon 2:11–12 (NIV) May this new season remind you of the hope that blossoms in Christ!