



# The Banner

First Presbyterian Church  
Oak Ridge, Tennessee

September 2023

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## Indonesian pastor to deliver science-and-faith talk Sept. 24

Rev. Angie Wuysang of Indonesia will speak on the ethics of eating different foods, eco-theology, and environmental ethics during the current climate crisis from 1:30 to 3:30 p.m., Sunday, Sept. 24, in FPCOR's fellowship hall. She will be giving the sixth talk in the Science and Theology Lecture Series cosponsored by our church and First United Methodist Church of Oak Ridge.

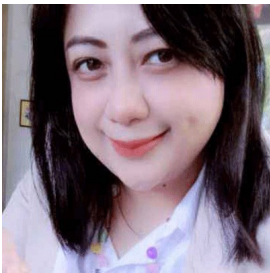
Wuysang (pronounced We-song) is this year's International Peacemaker invited by the Presbytery of East Tennessee Peacemaking Committee to speak to several Presbyterian groups in late September. She will shed light on some issues affecting her country, which

consists of 17,000 islands. At most churches she will speak on her success at using interreligious dialogue to overcome conflicts that arise between people of different faiths in Indonesia. At our church she will speak on food and environmental issues, as well as faith issues and use of dialogue to resolve conflicts.

Wuysang is an ordained minister of GMIM (Gereja Masehi Injili di Minahasa), the Christian Evangelical Church in Minahasa and a lecturer for the Indonesian Christian University of Tomohon. She also is a researcher and teacher of courses on eco-theology and environmental ethics, Islam, Hinduism, Buddhism, and

theology of religions. One concern that Wuysang will be raising is the exclusion and persecution of religious minorities, such as Christians and people who practice indigenous religions, in Indonesia.

"Members of the Presbytery Peacemaking Committee have met Angie at a Zoom meeting," said Ann Owens Brunger, moderator of the committee. "We found her to be a delightful young woman of deep faith and commitment to service. She is very excited about this trip to the United States—her first. She will be spending a week in four different presbyteries."



Rev. Angie Wuysang

## Church office move to sanctuary almost completed

On Aug. 23, our church staff moved to new offices in the Sanctuary building. Most of the books, furniture, file cabinets, computers, printers, and lamps from the five-room church office on the second floor of the Activities building have been relocated to five refurbished rooms off the transepts at the front of the sanctuary.

Some of the renovated rooms in the sanctuary area had previously been offices in the 1950s and 1960s

before the Activities building was constructed by 1969. The second-floor offices were in use for more than 50 years; an elevator was installed in the late 1990s but was rarely used and later removed because of high repair bills. The chief advantages of and reasons for the move are convenience and safety: church staff, congregational members, and visitors will no longer need to climb the stairs to access the church offices.

Pastor Sharon Youngs'

office is across from the choir room, which is the new office for Anna Thomas, music director. Office Manager Madison Hinkle's office is across from the Room 6 conference room, where staff meetings will be held. This room is also used by several groups for various meetings.

Madison's office is near the door, which will be marked as the main entrance to the church office.

**(continued on pg. 6)**



The access to the new church office. The door will have a "Church Office Entrance" sign.

# The Banner

## From your pastor



Sharon Youngs, pastor

Have you looked at your star word for this year lately?  
For newcomers, star words have become part of our celebration of Epiphany in early January. Folks are invited to randomly select a paper star (turned face-down in a basket) and put it in a spot where they will see it often. The invitation then is to reflect—through prayer or in conversation with others—how God might be speaking to them through that particular word in 2023. Maybe it’s something they need more or less of in their life. Maybe it’s a spiritual practice to help focus their energies. Maybe it’s a quality within them or in a relationship they have that needs attention. Maybe it’s something they need to wrestle with to gain insight and understanding. The point is to be open to see where God leads them.

Sometimes, the star word I have selected fits well with where I am and what’s going on. Other times, I’ve looked at the word and thought, “Hmmm. This one’s a stretch!” That was the case with my word for this year—until recently.

On Aug. 27, I was behind the wheel of my car when it collided head-on into a tree on a rural road in Loudon County. Wet road, tires on the thinner side, and a tough curve on a good day made for the perfect storm. The compassionate homeowners of the tree said it wasn’t the first time a wreck had happened in their yard.

Long story short, and thanks to a seat belt and airbag, I was *incredibly* lucky. Splitting my sternum in two was the worst injury; fortunately, it is mending on its own without surgery. Good drugs, great medical attention, required rest, and your remarkable care and prayers have been an effective treatment plan. It will take several weeks to fully recover, and each new day gets me closer to that mark.

Back to my star word for this year, which is front-and-center in my home study. It has taken on a whole new meaning now. My word is *Alive*.

Thanks be to God.

With a grateful heart,  
Sharon



Young Adults breakfast club



Work has begun on the permanent labyrinth.



## FPCOR Spotlight: Linda Lipinski

Linda Lipinski, who was recognized as a new member of our congregation on Sunday, Aug. 20, is the mother of two married daughters, who live in Texas. She has nine grandchildren, ranging in ages from 8 to 24 years old. A native of Oak Ridge, she grew up here and returned to live here twice, most recently in 2018. She had an interesting, varied work life. She was married twice and became a widow earlier this year.

"In January Dick Lipinski and I took a winter vacation to Florida," she said. "The third day there, Dick caught Covid, which developed into pneumonia and many complications. After 26 days, he passed away. Becoming a widow has been the most difficult time for me." She remembers with joy the 34 cruises they took together, saying "we would never have seen the world otherwise."

In Oak Ridge she attended Woodland Elementary School, Robertsville Middle School, and Oak Ridge High School, from which she graduated in 1967. She attended the University of Tennessee for a year and then married a "guy from Long Island, New York, who I had met at UT." They moved to Long Island, Atlanta, Oak Ridge, and Farragut. While in Tennessee, their daughters Karen and Stephanie were born. They were divorced after 22 years of marriage.

While Linda was working at ORNL in October 1989, she met Dick Lipinski, who was her "manager's counterpart at the Hanford Site in Richland, Washington." In September 1992, Linda and Dick were married by Judd Shaw, minister at Farragut Presbyterian Church. She and Dick moved to Washington, where she completed her B.S. degree in business administration. Dick took a position at the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant in Carlsbad, N.M., where they lived for seven years.

Then they moved to Aiken, S.C., where Dick worked at the Savannah River Site until he retired in 2012. They moved to Sarasota, Fla. and then almost six years later to the Oak Ridge house where Linda still lives. "I call the years of living around the country my continuing education," she said.

She has worked as an executive secretary, technical specialist, company administrator, writer of a technical report on the lessons learned from near accidents in the nuclear industry, and administrator of the Hanford database containing information on more than 2,000 nuclear waste sites.

After relating her experience of flying in an airplane on September 11, 2001, her Presbyterian minister encouraged her to write her 9-11 story. The rights to it were bought by *Chicken Soup to Inspire a Woman's Soul*.

"While in Carlsbad, I was hired to teach the corporate certification program classes at New Mexico State University," she said. "I created *A Legacy To Remember*® genealogy and ethical will product, which was sold internationally by the company I started."

Considered a subject matter expert on the ethical will—a personal document for communicating your values, experiences, and life lessons to your family—she spoke about it on the Charles Osgood Show on CBS Radio. After selling her company in 2011 to a physician she knew in St. Paul, Minn., she retired.

Looking back on her life, she said, "I see how God's hand has always been over my life. I give thanks every day for all my blessings."



Linda & Dick Lipinski

## FPCOR's Welcome Table

**Thursday, Sept. 14, 5:00 to 6:00 p.m.**

The Welcome Table, our monthly community meal ministry, will be served in the fellowship hall on Thursday, Sept. 14, beginning at 5:00 p.m. To-go dinners will be available between 5:45 and 6:00 p.m., when the meal concludes. All are invited to come, eat, and enjoy the fellowship. Groceries will also be available through FPCOR's food pantry.

If you would like to help, tasks include setting up, cooking, serving meals, and cleaning up. Please let Sharon know if you're interested: [fpcpastor@live.com](mailto:fpcpastor@live.com) or (865) 771-7178.

## Children and youth

### Calling all youth in grades 6, 7, and 8!

Presbytery of East Tennessee  
**Middle School Retreat**  
Sept. 22-24, 2023  
John Knox Center

*How do we care for ourselves in a world that is go, go, go? What fills our spiritual tanks, and how do we know what is worth pouring into? Come with us as we explore these questions through Scripture, song, play, and being out in God's creation.*

Registration: \$100 per participant  
(includes meals, lodging, John Knox Center programming, retreat t-shirt)

Scholarships are available upon request:  
Call Madison (865-483-1318)

Registration link: <https://form.jotform.com/232315571952052>



Children, youth, and their parents met on Aug. 20 for a fall kickoff.

## Register Sept. 17–Oct. 15 for “Celebration of the Arts” Oct. 29

What is your artistic talent? Photography? Pottery? Painting pictures using various media? Some people are talented at decorative baking, needlework, woodworking, or writing poems or books. First Presbyterian Church leaders wish to celebrate your creativity.

On Sunday, Oct. 29, FPC is hosting a “Celebration of the Arts” show at which church members, guests, and staff may display their creations, from 11:30 a.m. (after the worship service) until 12:30 p.m. Exhibited items will be for display only and will not be for sale.

Adults and children are encouraged to submit their works of art to share with the congregation. But first you must fill out a registration form that will be available starting on Sunday, Sept. 17, and on four successive Sundays. Completed forms must be returned by Sunday, Oct. 15.

“We will have the registration forms in the narthex on the nametag table starting on Sunday, Sept. 17,” said Patty Barlow, chair of Session’s Congregational Care and Welcome Committee. “We ask that you return your form by Sunday, Oct. 15, by placing it in the ‘Completed Forms’ box on the nametag table.”

Folks exhibiting their art works should bring them to the Sanctuary building’s fellowship hall between 9 and 10 a.m. on Sunday, Oct. 29. A committee member will assist you in finding spaces on a table to display your works of art, which should be taken home after 12:30 p.m.

If you have questions, please contact Patty Barlow ([lovemysolara@hotmail.com](mailto:lovemysolara@hotmail.com)), Jo Kendrick ([jokendrick10@gmail.com](mailto:jokendrick10@gmail.com)), Darlene Sanders ([dsand46@aol.com](mailto:dsand46@aol.com)), or Elaine Wilson ([edw1955@aol.com](mailto:edw1955@aol.com)).



### *A Flower and a Furry Feline*

*A daffodil kissed the Calico Cat.*

*I had to take a pic of that.*

*Maybe we'll see in a little bitly.*

*A Cat-o-dil or Daff-o-kitty!*

PHO-ETRY: Take a photo, write a poem about it & call the product a pho-em!

For the “Celebration of Arts” event on Oct. 29, Carolyn Krause is submitting on canvas two examples of her “pho-etry,” a new form of art in which you take a photo with your phone and write a poem about it. The final product is a “pho-em.”

### SUNDAY CLASSES SCHEDULE THIS MONTH

#### Early Birds

Studying women in the Bible (meets in the parlor and via Zoom)

#### Rise ‘n’ Shine

The group, which is studying John Bunyan’s classic book *The Pilgrim’s Progress*, gathers in the room (with the comfy chairs!) just inside the main church entrance at 9:00 a.m. every Sunday morning. Coffee, tea, and tasty snacks are provided. Contact Sue Byrne at (865) 318-8856 with questions or to request a copy of the book. See you there!

#### Let’s Talk About It

After a summer break, the Let’s Talk About It Sunday School class will resume on Sept. 10 with a change in time from 9:00 a.m. to 8:45 a.m. to better accommodate our choir members. Meet in person in Room 102 in the Activities building or over Zoom. Here’s the upcoming schedule:

**Sept. 10:** Climate Summer: The End of Normal, Project Drawdown Solutions, and Al Gore’s outrage

**Sept. 17:** Rob Cahill, retired Mennonite pastor and director of Community Cloud Forest Conservation in Guatemala, will talk to us about “Forests, Fossil Fuels, and the Medieval Mind.”

**Sept. 24:** B. Fulkerson, National Lead Organizer for Third Act, will speak on their gender journey and current role in ThirdAct.org.

## FPCOR office move

*(continued from pg 1)*

The sidewalk access from the parking lot to the new church office door passes the flower garden on one side and a bench on the other.

The room behind the office manager's office will be available for use by volunteers and/or an additional staff member, such as a coordinator for children's and youth ministries. The room between the office manager's room and the chancel will accommodate the copier, tables, mailboxes, file cabinets, and other items (along with the amplifier and other electronics to support the audio-visual system).

The first area to be renovated was the "crypt," the storage area behind and under the chancel. The cost of the renovation of the crypt and rooms off the transepts was about \$78,312, said Joe Everitt, an FPCOR member, home inspector, and former owner of a construction company for 16 years in New York City, where he and his twin brother specialized in office, restaurant, and loft renovations.

The first two estimates for the renovation of the sanctuary offices came in around \$198,000 and just under \$400,000. Joe greatly lowered the cost by substituting more affordable items for high-end, custom-made cabinetry, designer light fixtures, furniture, and doors while still making the new offices aesthetically pleasing. He also designed a less complicated construction plan, achieving the same results.

"I hired a smaller construction company that has very little overhead to do the work and I acted as the project manager," Joe said. "Local high school students were hired to help with the manual labor, and volunteers from FPCOR were enlisted, keeping costs down." The volunteers were Jason Goodman, Matt Lindsey, Dave Mullins, and Dan Terpstra.

The renovation included demolition and replacement of doors, walls, floors, and ceilings; updating electrical outlets, switches, lights, and wiring; installing new internet wiring for computers and phones, as well as plastering and painting walls. Church pews and wood from the demolition of the existing cabinetry were recycled to build new shelving for the new offices and choir room. The next phase of the project will be to install a heating-and-air unit for the parlor and for the pastor's office.

The plan to consider moving the offices originated in 2019 when Sharon asked Anne Backus, then co-chair of Session's Property & Maintenance Committee, to chair an ad hoc committee to study the matter. The committee extensively investigated the issues involved in relocating the offices. Committee members, including Peter Bancroft, Priscilla Campbell, Fred Haywood, Gene Ice, and Dan Terpstra, determined that the crypt and rooms off the transepts were spacious enough to accommodate the contents of the upstairs offices.

Anne engaged and interacted with architects from BarberMcMurry Architects (the Knoxville firm that designed the Sanctuary building in 1950) and made the initial recommendations to Session.

On Aug. 23, the crew carrying boxes and moving furniture and other heavy items using a dolly included Sharon, Priscilla and Jim Campbell, Chuck Hadden, Madison Hinkle, Steve Layendecker, Dave Mullins, and Roger Ryburn. Cleaning and dusting the pastor's furniture and bookshelves and transferring her books from boxes to the shelves in her new office were Mary Mullins and Carolyn Krause. Cleaning and dusting the pastor's furniture and bookshelves and transferring her books from boxes to the shelves in her new office were Mary Mullins and Carolyn Krause, who also took photos to document the whole operation. —Carolyn Krause



*Madison watches as Dave and Roger carefully bring a file cabinet on a dolly down the steps.*



*Sharon and Priscilla carry boxes of books to the new office.*

# FPCOR office move photo gallery



Chuck Hadden found more items to remove from the old office.



Steve wheels another piece of furniture into the new copier room off the transept.



Mary cleans and dusts bookshelves moved from the old office to Sharon's new office.



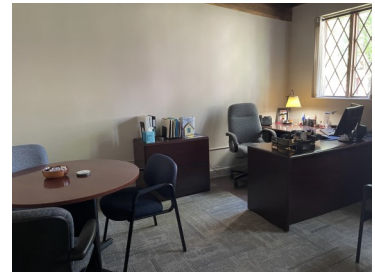
Dave carries a piece of office furniture.



While Jim and Steve stand by, Sharon determines if she is comfortable with the location of one desk in her new office.



Mary and Carolyn finish placing books on the shelves of the pastor's office.



Sharon's new office, with all the furniture in place, is ready for visitors.



Anna is on the phone in her new office, the choir rehearsal room. Her iPad is magnetically affixed to her temporary desk, a music stand.



Office Manager Madison Hinkle's office is open for business.



The pastor's old office is almost empty.



Roger helps to empty out the office manager's old office.



The mice had made a home for themselves under one of Sharon's bookcases in her old office.



Roger and Dave rest after bringing more heavy items to the volunteer's office behind the office manager's room.

Last but not least...



### Weekly gatherings

**Sundays:**

9:00 a.m. Early Birds;  
Rise 'n' Shine;  
Let's Talk About It  
10:30 a.m. Worship  
11:30 a.m. Refreshments

**Mondays:**

Noon Men's Zoom lunch

**Wednesdays:**

6:30 p.m. Choir rehearsal



### Monthly gatherings

- **Piece for Peace Sisters**, first Tuesdays, 9:30 a.m., room 102, Activities building
- **Brewing Questions**, first Thursdays, 7:00 p.m., via Zoom
- **Conversation on Loss**, fourth Sundays, 1:00 p.m., parlor, Sanctuary building
- **Coffee Chat**, last Mondays, 9:30 a.m., room 6 and via Zoom
- **Young Adult Breakfast Club**, last Saturdays, 9:00 a.m., room 102 kitchen, Activities building

*(See weekly emails or call the church office for Zoom links and details.)*

### September birthdays

- 9/1 Colin Colverson
- 9/13 Ashley Dimmer
- 9/16 Peggy Hinkle
- 9/16 Walter Porter
- 9/18 Bill Bostick
- 9/22 Bob Cantrell
- 9/24 Mike Dimmer
- 9/24 Martina Ward
- 9/27 Jim Campbell

***Happy birthday!***

### September anniversaries

- 9/2 Wesley & Ryan Tilley
- 9/18 John A. Drake  
& Patty Barlow
- 9/22 Ashley & Mike Dimmer
- 9/26 Brian & Gretchen Drane

***Congratulations!***

Many thanks to FPC Welcome Garden for sharing the bounty all summer long with the Roane State Community College Food Pantry, managed by FPCOR. Each week a box load of fresh produce is picked by Ann Frome on Sunday mornings and delivered to the pantry to the students on Monday. The students love this delicious fresh produce! Thank you! —Sue Byrne





# September 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<b>Sept 3</b> 9:00 a.m. Sun. school 9:45 a.m. Choir 10:30 a.m. Worship 11:30 a.m. Fellowship	<b>4</b> <b>Office closed</b>	<b>5</b> <b>Office Closed</b> 9:30 a.m. Piece for Peace Sisters	<b>6</b> 11:30 a.m. Al Anon 6:30 p.m. Choir rehearsal	<b>7</b> 7:00 p.m. Brewing Questions	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>10</b> 9:00 a.m. Sun. school 9:45 a.m. Choir 10:30 a.m. Worship 11:30 a.m. Fellowship 11:45 a.m. Church Life & Witness Team	<b>11</b> 12:00 p.m. Men's Zoom lunch	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b> 11:30 a.m. Al Anon 6:30 p.m. Choir rehearsal	<b>14</b> 5:00 p.m. Welcome Table	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>
<b>17</b> 9:00 a.m. Sun. school 9:45 a.m. Choir 10:30 a.m. Worship 11:30 a.m. Fellowship	<b>18</b> 12:00 p.m. Men's Zoom lunch	<b>19</b> 10:00 a.m. Anna's Book Group	<b>20</b> 11:30 a.m. Al Anon 6:30 p.m. Choir rehearsal	<b>21</b> 6:30 p.m. Session Meeting	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>
<b>24</b> 9:00 a.m. Sun. school 9:45 a.m. Choir 10:30 a.m. Worship 11:30 a.m. Fellowship 1:30 Science & faith talk by Angie Wuysang	<b>25</b> 12:00 p.m. Men's Zoom lunch	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b> 11:30 a.m. Al Anon 6:30 p.m. Choir rehearsal	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b> 9:00 a.m. Young Adult Breakfast Club
<b>Oct 1</b> 9:00 a.m. Sun. school 9:45 a.m. Choir 10:30 a.m. Worship 11:30 a.m. Fellowship 11:50 a.m. Conversation on Loss	<b>2</b> 9:30 a.m. Coffee Chat 12:00 p.m. Men's Zoom lunch	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b> 11:30 a.m. Al Anon 6:30 p.m. Choir rehearsal	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>

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# *The Banner*

First Presbyterian Church  
Oak Ridge, Tennessee

**September 2023**

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*The Banner* team: Carolyn Krause,  
Madison Hinkle & Sharon Youngs



**FIRST  
PRESBYTERIAN  
CHURCH**  
Oak Ridge, Tennessee

***Embodying Christ's inclusive love through heart, mind, and service***



give  
today