



The Banner

First Presbyterian Church
Oak Ridge, Tennessee

March 2024

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Marching on to Easter Sunday

The month of March offers several opportunities for you to “embody Christ’s inclusive love through heart, mind, and service” in and through First Presbyterian Church. Take a look—and read carefully: lots of information!

Our book study on Don Postema’s *Space for God: Study and Practice of Spirituality and Prayer* continues on several Wednesday evenings this month—Mar. 6, 20, and 27. You’re welcome to join in, either in person (6:00 p.m. in room 6, adjacent to the sanctuary) or virtually (check the weekly eNews for the Zoom link).

“Soup’s On,” **our Lenten sermon series and soup lunches** after worship continues on Mar. 3 and 10. Mar. 3 will be of the potluck variety. You are invited to bring enough of your favorite soup to feed 4-6 people. If you prefer to bring bread, crackers, or another item, that’s fine, too. Mar. 10 will be a unique meal experience that you’ll not want to miss. Please bring a can or two of soup for our food pantry when you come to either or both lunches.

The spring **all-church workday** is Saturday, Mar. 23. There will be tasks for all ages that day, which will focus on making the FPCOR campus look spectacular for Easter Sunday.

Sunday, Mar. 24, is **Palm Sunday**, the start of Holy Week when we recall the events in the final days of Jesus’ earthly life. That morning’s worship service will begin with great fanfare, only to shift toward a more somber tone with a dramatic reading of the Passion Narrative. The service concludes with the stripping of the sanctuary, leaving it bare of Paraments and banners until Easter morning.

We will mark **Maundy Thursday**, Mar. 28, with a Communion service at 6:30 p.m. The service remembers Jesus’ Last Supper with the disciples.

Our observance of **Good Friday**, Mar. 29, will include self-guided prayer stations, including one at the new permanent labyrinth. The prayer stations will be available between noon and 2:00 p.m. that day.

The **Easter Sunday** worship service on Mar. 31 will begin with a brass

ensemble prelude at 10:20 a.m. Included in the service will be the Flowering of the Cross (please bring cut flowers if you have them), the receiving of the One Great Hour of Sharing (see pg. 5) special offering, and the congregation singing Handel’s “Hallelujah” chorus. After worship, children are invited to the soccer field for FPCOR’s annual Easter egg hunt (please bring your own basket).

Throw in our monthly Welcome Table community meal on Thursday, Mar. 14, a virtual baby shower for Meghan and Donovan Layton on Mar. 23, and a youth and parent lunch bunch gathering on Mar. 24, and you’ve got a plate full to overflowing. It’s a great month to invite a neighbor or friend to come and experience FPCOR!



The Piece for Peace Sisters at rest and at work during their recent quilting retreat at Bent Creek Lodge in Asheville, N.C.



The Banner

From your pastor



Sharon Youngs, pastor

A permanent labyrinth for FPCOR is a few steps away (no pun intended) from completion. The new structure, made possible by donations in memory of my mother Kay, a member of FPCOR who died in 2021, is located just to the west of our Memorial Garden.

Bruce Wade, owner of Wadescapes Landscaping in Clinton, agreed to provide all of the materials and install the labyrinth at a huge fraction of the cost of other landscapers who submitted bids for the project. "When Bruce heard about the labyrinth, he became very excited and wanted to make it become a reality," said FPCOR member Tina Buckles, who is spearheading the project.

The labyrinth has a diameter of 38 feet. In the center are 100-plus-year-old, handmade bricks from the Youngs' family property in Allardt, Tenn., where my great grandfather built the house my dad was born in and where I spent my early years. Surrounding the bricks are 6x9-inch Belgard pavers. Directly underneath the bricks and pavers are 22 tons of crushed stone and 6 tons of river sand, with another 3-inch layer of crush-and-run below that. The crush-and-run was donated, delivered, and laid by Denise and Tom Weston, who are members of New Providence Presbyterian Church in Maryville and owners of Weston Paving Company.

Using a design from my friend Elizabeth Perryman, Cole Judy, a Wadescapes employee, has built the labyrinth, laying by hand each brick and paver. Cole's creativity, attention to details, and easy-going manner have been evident in constructing his first labyrinth.

Cindy Reno (Reno Landscaping) donated her time and labor to do the original clearing and grade work for the structure.

Yet to come are finishing touches, including sealing the stonework, and laying a pathway to the labyrinth from the Memorial Garden. The plan is for the completed labyrinth to be ready to walk by Good Friday, which is Mar. 29. A dedication will take place at a date yet to be determined.

With a grateful heart,
Sharon



The labyrinth in progress



Cole Judy at work

FPCOR Spotlight: Chuck and Dale Hadden

Chuck and Dale Hadden have been married almost 58 years and have been members of FPCOR for almost 50 years. Chuck was born and raised in Virginia, not far from Chesapeake Bay, and Dale was born in Los Angeles and grew up in Denver.

They met at the University of Chicago, where Chuck earned a B.S. degree in biochemistry and Dale majored in biology. They were married a day after graduation and pursued graduate studies at the University of Washington, where Chuck earned a Ph.D. in microbiology and Dale obtained a master's degree in physical anthropology. They moved to Oak Ridge in 1973 and ten years later Dale earned a master's degree in nursing from the University of Tennessee at Knoxville.

In Oak Ridge, Chuck worked as an associate professor in the UT-Oak Ridge Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences in the ORNL Biology Division and as a biochemist with the Oak Ridge Research Institute and then the Science Applications International Corporation, where he said he "parlayed my fairly extensive knowledge of mercury pollution in the Lower East Fork Poplar Creek floodplain into a position as an environmental risk assessor."

Dale worked for many years as a nurse practitioner and consultant. She will retire this month from the Free Medical Clinic of Oak Ridge, which she has served for 13 years. Previously, she worked for 12 years for the state's Morgan County Regional Prison and Brushy Mountain Correction Complex, Ridgeview Psychiatric Hospital in Oak Ridge, Women's Health Associates, B&G Pediatrics, UT Home Health and Hospice, Roane County Health Department, and Mountain People's Health Council.

The Haddens have four children and 10 grandchildren. Their children, who all grew up in our church, are Dvera, a Presbyterian minister in Marin County, Calif.; Bart, a cook at NHC HealthCare, Oak Ridge; Brennan, director of programs in the development office of Southern Methodist University in Dallas, and Lydia, associate professor of mathematics at Virginia Wesleyan University in Norfolk.

Both Chuck and Dale have served our church in multiple ways. Chuck has served three terms on Session during which he chaired the Worship, Christian Education, and Properties and Maintenance committees; taught Sunday school classes for all ages; served on two Pastor Nominating Committees and on Presbytery and Synod committees; sang as a tenor in the choir for 44 years; accompanied anthems and youth cantatas on flute and various percussion instruments, and helps with church repairs.

Like Chuck, Dale has participated in numerous water treatment and medical mission trips to Belize. In addition, she served three terms on Session, chaired the Social Concerns Committee, helped start the church's Hunger Fund, taught adult and children's Sunday school classes, and served on the committee that chose to make the first eight confessional banners that sometimes hang in the Sanctuary. She made two of them and several additional banners, including the Easter banner and the Pentecost flames.



Chuck and Dale Hadden on a visit to Iceland during a past winter.

FPCOR's Welcome Table

Thursday, Mar. 14, 5:00 to 6:00 p.m.

The next dinner of the Welcome Table, our monthly community meal ministry, will be served in the fellowship hall on Thursday, Mar. 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 or (865) 771-7178.

Children & Youth

Layton Baby Shower

<https://direct.me/meghanlayton#>

Saturday, March 23

Virtual 11 a.m. PT/ 2 p.m. ET

In-person 2:00 p.m. PT

Donovan and I are thrilled to share the announcement of our first baby, due May 11, 2024!

Baby Layton (the first Layton of its generation) is growing like crazy, I am adapting and enjoying the experience, and Donovan has been an expert in support and comfort.

We cannot wait to introduce this precious bundle of joy to our beloved FPCOR family!

If you're available on March 23, we would love to see you (virtually or in person) to celebrate our little one's pending arrival! —*Meghan Layton*



Scout Sunday at FPCOR

SUNDAY EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES THIS MONTH

Let's Talk About It

For adults and older youth, 8:45 a.m., in person (room 102, Activities building) and via Zoom

Mar 3: Aaron Stauffer, Vanderbilt Divinity, The Church and Community Organizing, Part II

Mar 10: Aaron Stauffer, Vanderbilt Divinity, The Church and Community Organizing, Part III

Mar 17: Anna Vlot, ORNL, The Ethical and Moral Implications of Chemical Risk Assessment

Mar 24: TBA

Mar 31: Easter Break

Early Birds

For adults and older youth, 9:00 a.m., in person (parlor) and via Zoom

Studying the letter of James.

Leaders: Anne Backus, Gene and Rosalyn McKeown-Ice

Rise 'n' Shine

For adults, 9:00 a.m., in room 6 (with the comfy chairs just inside the main church entrance)

Studying 1 Corinthians. Refreshments provided.

Leaders: Sue Byrne, Cheryl Barr, Hannah Tippett

Making a difference in the world through One Great Hour of Sharing

Around the world, millions of people lack access to sustainable food sources, clean water, sanitation, education, and opportunity. The three programs supported by One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS)—Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, the Presbyterian Hunger Program, and Self-Development of People—all work in different ways to serve individuals and communities in need. From initial disaster response to ongoing community development, their work fits together to provide people with safety, sustenance, and hope.

One of four PC(USA) annual special offerings, each gift to OGHS helps to improve the lives of people

in these challenging situations. The offering provides us a way to share God’s love with our neighbors in need. In fact, OGHS is the single, largest way that Presbyterians come together every year to work for a better world.

Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA) receives 32% of offering proceeds. PDA works alongside communities as they recover and find hope after the devastation of natural or human-caused disasters, and it provides support for refugees.

Presbyterian Hunger Program (PHP) receives 36% of offering proceeds. PHP takes action to alleviate hunger, care for creation, and address the systemic

causes of poverty so that all may be fed.

Self-Development of People (SDOP) receives 32% of offering proceeds. SDOP invests in communities that are responding to experiences of oppression, poverty, and injustice, and it educates Presbyterians about the impact of these issues.

The OGHS special offering will be received on Easter Sunday, Mar. 31.



Lasagna is readied for the annual meeting.



Thank you First Presbyterian Church for your support! FPC Food Pantry at Roane State shattered previous records by serving almost 4000 students and family members with groceries during 2023. Pictured is the "Tuesday Team" including Sue Byrne, Carol Howard, Bill Kosanovich, and Lee McClure in front.

A PC(USA) goal: an equitable and sustainable food system



Andrew Kang Bartlett speaks to the LTAL class over Zoom from Minnesota.

The food issue has as many aspects as there are items in a typical restaurant’s menu. That’s the impression at least one member of FPCOR’s “Let’s Talk about It” class got from listening to Andrew Kang Bartlett, associate for national hunger concerns with the PC (USA)’s Presbyterian Hunger Program (PHP). He talked to the class about God’s food system, the American food system, the Farm Bill stalled in Congress, and shortages of fertile land for aspiring farmers. Andrew lives with his family in Louisville, Ky., but spoke to the class via Zoom from Finland, Minn.

Noting that the first human sin was an eating violation, Andrew emphasized the importance of food, sunshine, air, and water, which are critical to life and enable us to connect with God’s creation. In God’s food system, Andrew surmised, there would be plenty of food that is produced ecologically and that provides life-giving nutrition to everyone. The ideal system would be equitable and sustainable.

All eaters would enjoy the food, feel gratitude, and be sure that food producers and preparers are treated well. Farmers would receive a fair price. Food producers and distributors would respond to people suffering from shortages and famines and ensure food supplies for future generations.

The American food system, according to Andrew, consists of large subsidized corporate farms that burn petroleum fuels, take over vast tracts of fertile farmland, and grow

mostly corn and soybeans to feed livestock that are turned into meat products. Overconsumption of red meat and factory-processed food is causing diet-related diseases that cost the United States over \$300 billion. U.S. agricultural practices are responsible for overproduction of food, soil erosion leading to environmental damage, food waste that emits climate-altering methane gas, and emphasis on increasing global trade over meeting local food needs.

In worldwide and U.S. food production, Andrew noted, many workers are enslaved or otherwise exploited. Many receive low pay and are stuck in dead-end jobs in horrible conditions. But the good news, he added, is that many nonprofit organizations and churches (like FPCOR) provide for the needs of the food-insecure in their communities and make land available to others for growing vegetables.

The Farm Bill was expected to be passed by Congress last September but was put off until this coming September, Andrew said. One topic of debate is that 80% of the Farm Bill provides funding for the Department of Agriculture’s Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP).

“The Republican lawmakers are trying to cut SNAP funding and shift that money to farm programs that make direct payments to the large corporate producers of food and farming equipment,” Andrew said, noting that 90% of the Farm Bill subsidies go to

the 3% of the farms that are run by huge corporations. “The Democrat lawmakers are fighting to preserve SNAP and put in the Farm Bill budget \$18 billion for climate-friendly farming practices.” (See *Eater’s Guide to the Farm Bill* at the Presbyterian Mission website www.presbyterianmission.org/food-faith/farmbill/.)

Andrew also talked about land justice—the need to make more fertile land available for farming by immigrants, refugees, and those wanting to grow produce to sell locally. The Presbyterian Hunger Program is an active player in an international coalition calling on the Teachers Insurance and Annuity Association (TIAA pension fund), one of the world’s largest purchasers of farmland, to end its land market deals to prevent further human rights abuses, farmer land loss, and environmental destruction.

Andrew recommended that church members interested in the relationship of faith communities to land should download *The Faithlands Toolkit: A Guide to Transformative Land Use* at the www.presbyterianmission.org/food-faith/faithlands-toolkit/ website.

—Carolyn Krause

“For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink.” Matthew 12: 35, 36 NIV



The Faithlands Toolkit: A Guide to Transformative Land Use cover

Radical action needed to sustain life on Earth—Keith Akers

If you read the recent book *Embracing Limits: A Radical and Necessary Approach to the Environment Crisis* by Keith Akers (FPCOR member Paul Akers' brother), you will learn that Keith has a beef about the overgrazing of vast land areas by cattle (750 million acres in the United States). He suggests that land uses, as well as fossil fuel burning for heat and power, have damaging impacts on climate (cattle emit the greenhouse gas methane and the cattle industry burns fossil fuels). He states that reforesting land freed up from livestock agriculture, especially if many people switch to plant-based diets, could prevent an imminent ecological collapse and the sixth extinction (of many wild animal and plant species, as happened 66 million years ago when dinosaurs died off).

Keith, who graduated from Oak Ridge High School in 1967, spoke virtually from Denver recently to FPC's "Let's Talk about It" class, and several class members (including me) have read his book. It gives us plenty to worry about. He is concerned not only about the effects of oil burning on climate but even more so about the likelihood that the world's oil supplies will run out by mid-century. Other limits to growth of the U.S. economy are such environmental threats as deforestation, soil erosion, and desertification, all partly

caused by the growing cattle industry.

In addition, because of the depletion of soil and groundwater (needed to irrigate U.S. crops, only 20% of which are used for human food), we can expect more food and water shortages worldwide this century. And humans will continue to battle emerging infectious diseases (e.g., AIDS and COVID) and the health effects of pollution (plastics, acid rain, heavy metals, industrial and wildfire emissions, radioactive waste, and nitrogen fertilizers that are contaminating soil, air, rivers, streams, and oceans).

To pursue global environmental sustainability by delaying the depletion of natural resources to maintain an ecological balance, Keith argues through references to several experts that the world's population of 8 billion should be reduced to around 2 billion people by the end of the century. In addition, a smaller economy and degrowth strategies are needed.

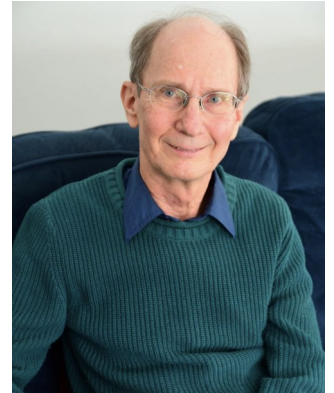
Here are some of his recommendations for individuals, many of which freedom-loving citizens of capitalist democracies will likely resist. Adopt a plant-based diet. Limit the number of children you have (preferably no more than one child). Reduce consumption of widely advertised merchandise, especially products you don't really need. Live simply. Be aware

that there are limits to growth and that the U.S. and other growth economies are driving worldwide environmental destruction. Support educating women worldwide (to reduce childbirths) and teaching nutrition science to all students in medical and public schools (e.g., eating plant-based foods is much healthier than eating beef, sugar, and processed food). Recognize that personal sacrifices must be made in a time of crisis for the sake of the common good.

Keith supports recommendations for governments suggested by ecological economist Herman Daly and others. They include ending subsidies for the livestock industry, launching a cap-and-trade system for greenhouse gas emissions, levying taxes on meat and carbon (e.g., coal mining and burning gasoline in cars), putting natural resources in public trusts and regulating their use, protecting and expanding wilderness areas, and redistributing wealth through progressive income taxes and a basic income for the less fortunate.

The growth that Keith seeks is increased activism by folks who agree with his book's thesis: "humanity needs to take radical action to protect the biosphere."

—Carolyn Krause



Keith Akers, author, is the brother of FPCOR's Paul Akers.

"Personal sacrifices must be made in a time of crisis for the sake of the common good."

Last but not least...



Weekly gatherings

Sundays:

8:45 a.m. Let's Talk About It
 9:00 a.m. Early Birds;
 Rise 'n' Shine;
 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, 11:50 a.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.)

Session news

At its stated meetings on Jan. 18 and Feb. 15, respectively, the Session:

- heard an update from the task force on furnishing the sanctuary transepts and approved up to \$500 to furnish the two areas. FPCOR member Linda Lipinski has donated two sofas for the transepts in memory of her husband Dick, who died in February 2023.
- approved the 2024 schedule for special offerings and for celebrating the Sacrament of Communion.
- heard a report from Barbara Reeve and Peggy Terpstra, FPCOR's commissioners to the Feb. 10 quarterly meeting of the Presbytery of East Tennessee (PET). Through its SERVE Committee, the PET approved FPCOR's request that our recent letter-writing campaign to Tennessee state legislators about Medicaid expansion be sent to every congregation in the presbytery, so that they may follow suit.
- began considering a restructure of how Session does its work, e.g., from committees to teams. More work is forthcoming.

March birthdays

3/3 Ben Terpstra
 3/10 Herb Krause
 3/12 Jack Cantrell
 3/13 Richard Metcalf
 3/14 Donald Spong
 3/15 Rosalyn McKeown-Ice
 3/17 Carolyn Krause
 3/21 Nanette King
 3/22 Avery Myers
 3/22 River Tilley
 3/22 Hannah Tippett
 3/25 Gail King
 3/26 Hawthorne Jarnigan
 3/28 Anna Robinson
 3/30 Olivia Wood

Happy birthday!

March Anniversaries

3/14 Matthew & Jenny Lindsey
 3/19 Mary & Carl Lyster

Congratulations!

Session members brainstorm at their February meeting.



March 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3 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	4 12:00 p.m. Men's Zoom lunch	5 9:30 a.m. Piece for Peace Sisters 1:00 p.m. Staff meeting	6 11:30 a.m. Al Anon 6:00 p.m. Lenten book study 7:00 p.m. Choir rehearsal	7 7:00 p.m. Brewing Questions	8	9 9:00 a.m. CLP Meeting
10 9:00 a.m. Sun. school 9:45 a.m. Choir 10:30 a.m. Worship 11:30 a.m. Fellowship	11 12:00 p.m. Men's Zoom lunch	12 1:00 p.m. Staff meeting	13 11:30 a.m. Al Anon 6:30 p.m. Choir rehearsal	14 5:00 p.m. Welcome Table	15	16 9:00 a.m. CLP Meeting
17 9:00 a.m. Sun. school 9:45 a.m. Choir 10:30 a.m. Worships 11:30 a.m. Fellowship	18 12:00 p.m. Men's Zoom lunch	19 10:00 a.m. Anna's Book Group 1:00 p.m. Staff meeting	20 11:30 a.m. Al Anon 6:00 p.m. Lenten book study 7:00 p.m. Choir rehearsal	21 6:30 p.m. Session Meeting	22	23 9:00 a.m. CLP Meeting
24 Palm Sunday 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	25 9:30 a.m. Coffee Chat	26 1:00 p.m. Staff meeting	27 11:30 a.m. Al Anon 6:00 p.m. Lenten book study 7:00 p.m. Choir rehearsal	28 Maundy Thursday	29 Good Friday	30
31 Easter Sunday 9:00 a.m. Sun. school 9:45 a.m. Choir 10:30 a.m. Worship 11:30 a.m. Fellowship						

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Oak Ridge, Tennessee

March 2024

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**FIRST
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH**
Oak Ridge, Tennessee

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



give
today