

THE MESSENGER

NOVEMBER 2025

Recently, I noticed a color change around town. Very quickly, decorations that had previously been orange and black changed to red and green (though orange is, of course, pervasive on Saturdays). This color change reflects the arrival of the familiar cultural and religious holiday seasons.



These overlapping seasons will give opportunity for many gatherings with family and friends, special worship services, work parties, themed dinners, gift exchanges, and tender memories. Some folks will receive more invitations than they can possibly accommodate, some folks will long for invitations that may never come. If we're not careful, the expectations of these overlapping seasons can deflate the joy they promise.

An antidote to expectations is the spiritual practice of gratitude. (Gratitude also happens to be the central theme of one of those upcoming holidays.) Gratitude shows up throughout the Bible – the people of God giving thanks for good things and hard things (I Thessalonians 5:16-18), for one another (I Corinthians 1:4) and for the goodness and faithfulness of God (I Chronicles 16:34).

Perhaps, during this holiday season, the holidays being celebrated commercially, in Hallmark movies, on ESPN, and the holidays being celebrated in this faith community, a good way to begin and end each day is with gratitude - giving thanks to God for the joys of the day, for the people in our lives, for that which sustains us, for having survived something hard, or accomplishing something great, or even just for the gift of one more day.

May the practice of gratitude open our eyes to the blessings of God around us each day, throughout these seasons, and beyond them.

HYMN HIGHLIGHT

By Nenette Measels, Minister of Music and Worship

As we approach Thanksgiving, here's a contemporary hymn sung to a familiar hymn tune for your reflection during this season and every day:

God, Your Blessings Overflow

God, your blessings overflow!
What can we begin to say?
How can we begin to show
All our gratitude this day?
God, we join to worship you,
Giving thanks for all you do.

Thank you for the life you give,
For each friend and family,
For the land in which we live,
For your love that sets us free.
Thank you, God, for daily bread,
And for feasts of joy you spread.

Yet at tables where we share,
Sometimes there is also pain.
There may be an empty chair:
When will we feel whole again?
When our days of grief are long,
Thank you that your love is strong.

So we join in thanks this day,
And your gifts we freely share,
So we follow Christ the Way,
Loving, serving everywhere.
Spirit, may our lives express
All our daily thankfulness.

TUNE: *For the Beauty of the Earth*,

C. Kocher and W.H. Monk

TEXT: Used by permission,

Carolyn Winfrey Gillette, *Gifts of Love*:

New Hymns for Today's Worship.

THE COMBINED CHURCHES
OF JEFFERSON CITY
invite you to worship together at the annual

*Community
Thanksgiving Service*

Sunday, November 16, 2025
6:00 PM

MARTHA DAVIS BAPTIST CHURCH
1913 Black Oak St., Jefferson City

Message offered by:
Tom Stanton, pastor of George Street UMC

We will collect canned goods & financial gifts for:
Appalachian Ministry Of the Smokies (AMOS) & Habitat for Humanity

FINANCIAL UPDATE

Summary of Operational Budget Income & Expense through October 2025

Items of Interest

- **Online Giving** is simple and convenient, and you do not have to set up a Realm account to give online. Visit: <https://onrealm.org/fbcjeff/give/now> to initiate an online gift today!
- **Designated Benevolence Fund total** (as of 10/31/2025) = 406.14

	July	August	September	October
Income	\$30,071.78	\$31,611.78	\$23,162.03	\$42,232.87
Expenses	\$38,650.21	\$29,197.57	\$25,745.53	\$32,709.54
Net	(\$8,578.43)	\$2,414.21	(\$2,583.50)	\$9,523.33
YTD	\$256.94	\$2,671.15	\$87.65	\$9,610.98

ATTENDANCE

SUNDAY	BIBLE STUDY	IN-PERSON WORSHIP
October 5	45	93
October 12	39	83
October 19	34	115
October 26	33	86

DEACONS & MINISTER OF THE WEEK

- November 2:** Leon Shoemaker/Karen S. Smith/Chad Hartsock
November 9: Betty Watkins/Peggy Dalton/Nenette Measels
November 16: Leon Shoemaker/Susan Garber/Major Treadway
November 23: Carolyn Blevins/Jim Wilson/Chad Hartsock
November 30: Karen S. Smith/Betty Watkins/Nenette Measels

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

By Bethany Davenport, Chair, Children and Youth Committee

Join First Jeff Kids as we Celebrate...

Advent

November 30
Hanging of the Green
10:45 am
Sanctuary

November 30
Advent Wreath
Make & Take
12:00 pm
Fellowship Hall

December 5
White Elephant Party
6:00 pm
Home of the
Treadways

December 14
Family Christmas
Service
6:00 pm
Sanctuary

December 17
Carol Sing
6:00 pm
Music Suite



LET'S CELEBRATE
THE SEASON!

Make Your Own Advent Wreath

JOIN FIRST JEFF KIDS FOR A
SEASONAL MAKE-AND-TAKE EVENT

FBC JEFFERSON CITY
FELLOWSHIP HALL

NOVEMBER 30, NOON

Lunch & Supplies
Provided

RSVP at fbcjeff.org!
All are welcome!



Hanging of the Green Service

**SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 30, 2025
FBC JEFFERSON CITY**



Advent at First Baptist



November 30—First Sunday of Advent
Theme: Sensing Advent—Smelling HOPE
Hanging of the Green Service, 10:45am
Isaiah 2:1-5

December 7—Second Sunday of Advent
Theme: Sensing Advent—Tasting PEACE
Isaiah 11:1-10; Romans 15:4-13

December 14—Third Sunday of Advent
Theme: Sensing Advent—Hearing JOY
Isaiah 35:1-10; Matthew 11:2-11

December 21—Fourth Sunday of Advent
Theme: Sensing Advent—Seeing LOVE
Isaiah 7:10-16; Matthew 1:19-25

December 24—Christmas Eve Service
5:00pm

December 28—First Sunday after
Christmas

Theme: Sensing Advent—Touching Jesus
John 1:1-14

APPALACHIAN MINISTRIES OF THE SMOKIES

COATS *for the* COLD

DECEMBER 4, 2025 | 9 A.M. - 3 P.M.

The Ministry Center located at 511 Municipal Drive, Jefferson City, TN, 37760
Deadline for donations is November 25, 2025

Items Needed



Toboggans, Scarves, Gloves, Blankets, Coats
For Children and Adults

- Contact Karrie Foust at 865-475-5611 or kfoust@icn.edu for additional information or to volunteer
- Give a financial gift of \$40.00 to purchase a heater
- Drop Off items or mail financial gift to 511 Municipal Drive, Jefferson City, TN 37760
- Event is open to all families in Jefferson, Grainger, and Cocke Counties
- Please bring a piece of mail with your current address and a photo ID.



A celebratory graphic for Robert's 90th birthday. It features a large silver number '90' on the left and a circular portrait of an elderly man with glasses and a plaid shirt on the right. The background is black with several blue stars. Below the portrait, the text reads 'Years Of ROBERT' in a white serif font. At the bottom, it says 'STOP BY TO HELP US CELEBRATE!' followed by the event details: 'DATE: SUNDAY, 12/21/25', 'TIME: 2-5 PM EST', 'LOCATION: 1339 CLINCH VIEW CIRCLE', and 'JEFFERSON CITY, TN 37760'.

SUNDAY WORSHIP TIMES

9:30am Sunday Bible Studies

10:45am Worship Service

CONTACT INFO

(865) 475-3826; (865) 262-9026 (Fax)

Church Office Hours:

Monday-Thursday, 8:30am to 4:30pm

Find us at www.fbcjeff.org or follow us online on *Facebook* and *YouTube*

STAFF

Angie France

Cyndi Harrell (charrell@fbcjeff.org)

Chad Hartsock (chartsock@fbcjeff.org)

Nenette Measels (nmeasels@fbcjeff.org)

Cameron Rowlett

Melanie Simpson

Karen Treadway (ktreadway@fbcjeff.org)

Major Treadway (major@fbcjeff.org)

Organist

Ministry Assistant

Minister for Students

Minister of Music and Worship

Video Editor

Pianist

Administrative Coordinator

Senior Pastor

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