

I WAIT FOR THE
LORD,
MY
SOUL WAITS,
AND IN
HIS WORD
I HOPE.



PSALM 130:5



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
100 W. Church Circle
Kingsport, TN 37660
(423) 245-0104

First Presbyterian Church

The First Press

Seeking to see the Face of Christ...Striving to be the Hands of Christ

Vol. 539, Issue 3

March 2022

Mark Your Calendar

- 3-2 Ash Wednesday
- 3-11 Music Program: Alice Sanders and daughter Clara Sanders
- 3-17 Newsletter Deadline
- 3-30 Music for Meditation: Lent

Weekly

Tuesdays
Knuckleheads Men's Bible Study
12:15-1:15 p.m.
Room 103-104



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Do What We Can, While We Can

Following Jesus is an **HONOR** but it's also a **responsibility**. It involves a **CALL TO ACT**, to let **our lives begin** where **our prayers end**. The **harvest is plentiful**, Jesus said, but there is a rampant shortage of **LABORERS**. If trends continue, where will **Christianity be in 50 years?** Our task isn't just **KEEPING THE FAITH**; it is also **SPREADING THE FAITH**. Christianity began as a **MOVEMENT** and it still thrives in its **ORIGINAL FORM** as a mission, not as an **INSTITUTION**. Without a **sense of mission**, our lives are **intolerable**. My biggest worries about the future revolve around this issue:

Has Christianity reached the point where all we have to offer is moral opinions or a list of DO'S/DONT'S? Christians are now known not for who we are, but what we are against.

We have turned faith into a **NEGATIVE**. Some Christians have a **false view** of what **being a holy person** means. It gets **defined by doing nothing wrong**: if you **do this** or **don't do that**, you will be okay. What is a **holy person**? Is it the **words we use** or **do not use**? What **we do** or **fail to do**? Where **we go** or **don't go**? Is it **quoting the bible**, attending the **right church**, or saying the **right prayers**? Does being a Christ follower all come down to what we are not supposed to do? No! That **kind of faith** isn't large enough to **capture our hearts** or to **demand our lives**. God didn't create us **NOT TO DO SOMETHING**. The **first Christians** put **Christianity on the map**, not by protesting what they were against, but by **standing up** for what **they believed** and telling others **whom they served**. If we **talked less/did more**, we would have a **greater impact**.

Jesus wants to **awaken us** from **complacency**: to inspire us to be **daring enough** to be **different**, **humble enough** to **make mistakes**, and **real enough** to help others see **how imperfect we are**. We must **act now**: to do **what we can, while we can**, for as **long as we can**. Have you put **God on hold** and do not know **where to begin**? God doesn't like to be put on hold. There are things that God seeks to **do through us** and maybe only **through us**. There are **lives not being blessed**, **gifts not being shared**, and **relationships not being restored** because **we are not doing our part**. He made us **ON PURPOSE/FOR A PURPOSE**: to **glorify him**, to **make him smile**, and to **be a blessing**. The word of God to us is:

YOU CAN DO NOTHING WRONG AND STILL DO NOTHING RIGHT. BEING HOLY MEANS MORE THAN AVOIDING SIN AND DOING NO WRONG. IT'S ABOUT DOING SOMETHING RIGHT, PUTTING THE DREAMS GOD GIVES YOU INTO PRACTICE.

God promises us **ETERNITY**, but he **never promised anyone tomorrow**. We have **forever to enjoy the blessings** of what we do with our lives, but only so many hours before sundown to **make those memories**.

Sunday Worship

8:45 a.m.
Chapel

11:00 a.m.
Sanctuary



All Church Retreat

2022

“Back to Mayberry” March 4-6

\$100 per adult, \$40 for Saturday day trip. Youth and children free.

We will use a few episodes of the Andy Griffith show as jumping off points of larger Biblical themes.

You may ride the church bus for the day trip . People attending on that Saturday can also carpool together.

Ash Wednesday

Ash Wednesday Service
March 2 ~ 6:00 p.m.

The FPC Ash Wednesday service will take place at 6:00 p.m. in the sanctuary on **March 2** and will be broadcast on FPC's YouTube channel. Ashes will be available in the sanctuary for attendees to apply to themselves as part of the service.

We are all in this together:

2022 Lenten Carbon Calendar

The world, each fragment as well as the whole, is a window into the love of God. Every moment we are given provides an opportunity to appreciate the gift of the world that God so loves. As God's children we are entrusted with the responsibility to protect God's creation.

~ Jim Antal

The New Horizons Sunday school class has been studying climate change using the book *Climate Church, Climate World: How People of Faith Must Work for Change* by Jim Antal.

The book explores many important themes:

- Our role as stewards of God's creation
- How global warming intensifies all forms of injustice
- The need to transition from personal to communal salvation
- The Golden Rule 2.0: Future generations are also our neighbor

Many of us are anxious about the impact of climate change. As individuals, and as a church community, we don't like change, inconvenience or feeling bad about our Western lifestyles. And as the realities of climate change become clear, the problem can feel so overwhelming that it's hard to know what to do first, or if the small things we do will make a difference. Therefore, one of the goals of this study is to produce concrete ideas for action, both as individuals and as a church. We are exploring several options, including PCUSA's certification for Earth Care Congregations and a recycling center to help with hard-to-recycle items. The youth will explore this theme on Youth Sunday this year, and our class is working on a resource list to share. To start with, all of us can reflect on what it means to be stewards of God's creation during Lent with a 2022 Lenten Carbon Calendar which will be available for pick up at the church.



MARCH Birthdays

1st: Spencer Correll, Zoe Kline, Maggie Arrowsmith
3rd: Susie Seiler
5th: Carson Correll
6th: Ann Bingham
7th: Mark Davis, George Baugh, Rowan Good
9th: Charleen Seale
10th: Cindy Gale, Beth Correll
11th: Becca Wright, Owen Barbour, Kellan Good, Don Sharitt
14th: Candi Harker
15th: Caleb Robertson
18th: Judy Grover
19th: Mary Kate Lively
20th: Gerry Morie, Carolyn Hauk, John Demuth, Lillian King
22nd: Joe Garlock
23rd: Kathy Singleton, Bowen Scott
24th: Drew Amstutz
26th: Debbie Waggoner
27th: Lucie Hagen, Linda Lisa
28th: Robin Dickerson
29th: Will Wray
30th: Jane Andersen
31st: Katy Mink

Happy Birthday!

Pledge Update ~ Year to Date

(as of February 23, 2022)

Pledges Budgeted to Date:	\$125,881.34
Pledges Received to Date:	\$ 94,815.04
Difference:	(-\$31,066.30)

Loose Offerings	
Budgeted to Date:	\$ 2,097.34
Received to Date:	\$ 2,469.00
Difference:	\$ 371.66

Special Offerings -	
Souper Bowl	\$490.00
(Goes to Second Harvest Food Bank)	

From the Finance Office

ONLINE GIVING INSTRUCTIONS

Online giving is available on the church website: www.firstpreskingsport.org. Scroll down to the "Give Online" bubble. Follow the instructions on that page. If you have any questions, please contact the church office at 245-0104.

QR CODE GIVING INSTRUCTIONS



Before you begin you will need to have a QR app installed on your mobile device. For an Apple device go to the App Store and choose a QR scanning app. For an android device go to the

Google Play store and choose a QR scanning app. For Apple, staff has tested QR Code Reader and for Android they have tested QR Scanner. If you have any questions, please contact the church office at 245-0104.

Make Your Offering Automatic!

An automatic payment of money from your credit union or bank account to First Presbyterian Church-Kingsport will be convenient for you, especially when traveling, and ensure your offering is received in a timely manner by FPC. Beverly Johnson at FPC would be happy to assist you in setting up automatic payment of your offering.



Next First Press Newsletter Deadline

March 17
April Newsletter



Lunch & Learn
Thursday, March 10, 2022
12:30 PM - 2:00 PM
Fellowship Center

Fall Prevention and Better Balance

Our Session has given us approval to resume our Balance classes! Many of our members enjoyed this class prior to COVID and there have been numerous requests to resume the class. On Thursday, March 10th, Scott Held, an Exercise Physiologist from the GBC Wellness Center will be here to talk with us about fall prevention and how to maintain better balance. Whether you are interested in learning more about the fall prevention and how our balance impacts our quality of life, or you have been a part of the Balance class in the past, I feel that you will find the information beneficial and hope you will join us! This is a **free** seminar and will include a light lunch. (Reservation requested by March 6, 2022!)

As you know, a fall could be a life changing experience. Scott plans to teach us some techniques that can help diminish the possibility of a fall occurring. Scott will share with us the most common ways people fall and how it may be prevented. He will also perform several exercises to strengthen our foundation or "core muscles" If you have fallen, stumbled or can tell your balance has diminished, this class will be beneficial to you and your family. Hind sight is always 20/20 so make it a priority to be here and learn some valuable information to keep you from falling.

This presentation is open to anyone interested in attending so spread the word and invite your friends to join you! To make a reservation or for more information, call or text Becca Wright at (423) 963-9617 or e-mail at abwright@chartertn.net.



Wednesday Night Class

You are invited to join our Wednesday Night Class at 6:15 p.m. in the Fellowship Center. Dr. Shelton will lead a discussion of the "Apostles' Creed," based on author Adam Hamilton's book, "Creed: What Christians Believe." You can attend either in person or watch it online. Like our Fall season, there will be no dinner provided, but you may bring your food to the class.

CREED: WHAT CHRISTIANS BELIEVE READING SCHEDULE

March 2...Ash Wednesday	(no class)
March 9...Chapter Two	"Jesus, Died, Raised, Ascended"
March 16...Chapter Three	"The Holy Spirit"
March 23...Chapter Four	"The Church/Communion of Saints"
March 30...Chapter Five	"The Forgiveness of Sins"
April 6...Chapter Six	"Resurrection of Body, Life Everlasting"

Thank you from the History Room

A huge thank you to Sharon Amstutz for the wonderful collection of photos she donated to the History Room. Many of youth activities in past years. Check before tossing things at your house - some things might be of interest to our church history.

Sunday Youth Group

March 4-6
 All Church Retreat (No youth group on the 6th)

March 13
 No youth group Spring break KCS

March 20
 Regular youth group

March 25-27
 All youth retreat at Holston Camp.

Flowers Needed for Church in 2022

July 17
 July 31
 August 14
 September 4
 October 2
 November 6
 November 20

Please call Vickie in the church office
 (423-245-0104)

Homeownership Applications Available

The application period for Holston Habitat for Humanity's homeownership program is now open. Applications are available for homes to be built in Kingsport, Elizabethton, and Bristol, Virginia in spring 2023. You may contact the Holston Habitat administrative office at 423-239-7689, ext. 800 to request an application packet to be sent to you through the mail.

Thank You



For more information about the KCS Homeless Education Program or to make a referral, please contact:
Michele Wilder, Coordinator of Homeless Education
400 Clinchfield St, Ste. 200
Kingsport, Tennessee 37660
423-378-2424
mwilder@k12k.com



Assisting Families in Transition

**In America, more than one million children fall asleep each night dreaming of a home.
Thank you for joining us in the fight to end homelessness.**

Dear First Presbyterian Church,

Thank you so much for your generous donation of \$998 that you gave to the KCS Homeless Education Program. Monetary donations allow our program to buy items for my students that cannot be purchased using program funds (such as hygiene items, clothing, and food). Your church has been a tremendous blessing to my program over the past several years., and your continued support means the world to me and the students I serve.

Thank you again from the bottom of my heart!

Sincerely,

Michele Wilder, Coordinator,
KCS Homeless Education Program

To First Presbyterian Church - Kingsport

Thank you for supporting Grace House project in 2021.

Kingsport Homeless Ministry

Jan. 19, 2022

On a cold, dark winter night I am hoping that your heart will be warmed with the thought that your kindness and generosity will make it possible for a homeless neighbor to be sheltered and safe. Thank you for your gift of love.

Jo Morrison

Welcome to our Newest Members!

Bill and Jane Richardson join us by transfer from First Presbyterian Church in Ft. Myers, Florida where they lived and worshipped for about 4 years. According to Jane, the summers there last about 10 months, so they decided to come back to this area and get out of the heat. Prior to Florida, they used to live in North Carolina and were active members of the Banner Elk Presbyterian Church, where Jane served multiple terms as an Elder. They live in Johnson City now and have been here only about 3 ½ months. They said they have visited most every Presbyterian Church in the JC/Kingsport area, before choosing Kingsport FPC.

We are very much grateful for their choice, and we welcome them with open arms and look forward to serving the Lord with them!



First Presbyterian Church Kingsport

presents in recital

Alice Brooks Sanders

and

Clara Elisabeth Sanders



Music of Spirit and Solidarity Selections



for piano, organ, and voice

March 11, 2022

7:30 pm

Free admission