

Worship With Us This Easter



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 4

April 2022

Mark Your Calendar

- 4-10 Easter Egg Hunt
- 4-14 Maundy Thursday Service
- 4-15 Good Friday Service
- 4-17 Easter Sunday
- 4-21 Newsletter Deadline
- 4-22 Blue Highway Concert

Weekly

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



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Don't Make Light of Temptation

A temptation is a temptation because it is a possibility that we might yield to it. There is something powerful at stake to lose or gain. The spiritually mature are just as vulnerable as nominal Christians. Jesus, God's own Son, was tempted in every way as we are, yet without sin. He wasn't ABOVE TEMPTATION. His encounter with Satan marks the start of Lent and it with was a REAL TEST. Jesus might've failed it had he not known WHO HE WAS and WHO HE WAS NOT. He had an ENEMY. Many view Devil as an outdated relic but the Devil they deny is so obvious that he would pose no threat. If evil were obvious, we'd dodge it every time. Evil is far more pervasive and destructive than we know. It is unwise to define it too narrowly, or to locate evil in other people/other religions. We have an enemy. His goal is to neutralize our faith, rob us of joy, to ruin our witness. He wants to take us down and take us out. Our main temptation has never changed: to doubt God. At the root of all evil there is CONFUSION: we doubt who we are and whose we are. Some people love to think, "God won't put on us more than we can bear" but that is not in the bible! What Paul said was...

"No testing has overtaken us that isn't common to all; God won't let us be tested beyond our strength but give us a way out."

I wished that Paul said, "A WAY AROUND" and not "A WAY OUT" God gave us free will. God won't resist temptation for us. The "only way out" is the step of faith that we must take. Temptations like fingerprints: they are unique. What tempts one person may have no allure to another. We all have "original sins" and yet we are more predictable than we would like to admit. We repeat sins, nurture habits, think in harmful ways, and yet we are still shocked that life never gets better. We bury painful memories, listen to the wrong voices, hide feelings of shame, and succumb to fears that prompt us to say and do things that bring harm to us/others. Many people don't want God to DELIVER THEM FROM TEMPTATION but only to lessen the PAIN OF THEIR BAD CHOICES. To flee temptation, it's best not to leave a forwarding address or return to the scene of the crime by repeating destructive patterns. Whenever we are tempted, our focus determines our reality. If we trust in GOD, we are never out of hope. We will win more battles with temptation by making fewer excuses and taking responsibility for what we can do. Overcoming temptation is a key part of spiritual growth. Some food for thought:

God may be using what we'd most like to avoid so that he might teach us things WE CAN'T LEARN ANY OTHER WAY.

Mike

Sunday Worship

8:45 a.m.
Chapel

11:00 a.m.
Sanctuary



The Paramount Chamber Players

Thursday, April 28
7:30pm



Welcoming back guest artist
Craig Combs to perform the joyous
Trout Quintet of Schubert.

\$15 - Adults
\$10 - Seniors
Students Free

Please call Lynetta Johnson at
(423) 383-7876 or order online:
www.firstpresningsport.org

Holy Week

April 10-17



Holy Week and Easter Services

- ◆ **Sunday, April 10** ~ Palm Sunday Services
8:45 in the Chapel and 11:00 a.m. in the Sanctuary
- ◆ **Thursday, April 14** ~ Maundy Thursday Service
7:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary
- ◆ **Friday, April 15** ~ Good Friday Service ~
Rutter Requiem ~ 7:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary
- ◆ **Sunday, April 17** ~ Easter Sunday Services
8:45 in the Chapel and 11:00 a.m. in the Sanctuary

Easter Egg Hunt

Palm Sunday ~ April 10 at 12:00 p.m.

All children and their families are invited to come for a Pizza Lunch and Easter Egg Hunt. Look for a signup at the beginning of April for food. Bring an Easter Basket and help us spread the word!

Stations of the Cross

Monday, April 11-Thursday, April 14

Stations of the Cross will be open from 9:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.

Good Friday, April 15

Stations of the Cross will be open 12:00-3:00 p.m. Enter through Breezeway door and follow the signs.

This Holy Practice invites you to walk through the life of Jesus' last days through different prayer stations. All are invited to come as we walk through Holy Week together.

Holy Saturday Online Prayer Vigil

Signup for a 30-minute time slot for our Holy Saturday Prayer Vigil. A separate email with a link to sign up for a spot will be sent at the beginning of April. If you need help signing up after the email is sent, please contact Russ and he will be happy to help you.

Flowers for the Cross

Again this year, we will decorate the wooden cross (outside our back entrance) on Easter morning with fresh flowers. Please bring your flowers, place them on the cross, and make family photos.



2nd: David Oaks
3rd: Barbara Necessary
4th: Jeanne McClure, Laura Quillen
5th: Chad Correll, Tengone Vengchiem
6th: Marjorie Watford, Sarah Good
8th: Stacey Doran
10th: Maranda Demuth, Will Lively
11th: Lainie Pearson
12th: Florence Godat, Jeremy Lively
13th: Betty Dickson
15th: Everett Bond
16th: Hugh Pierce
17th: Ivey Redmon
18th: Ron Dixon, Cheryl Rice
19th: Leslie Heindselman
20th: Mark Ward
21st: Ansel Scott, Baxter Scott
23rd: Sara Lou Ring, Cotton Fortner, Debra Jennings
24th: Vaughan Valentine, Shelby Demuth, Sandra Heard
25th: Hayden Correll, Cis Taylor
26th: Ethan Walker, Mac Hobbs
27th: Madelyn Baggett, Russ Pearson, Delaney Young
29th: Brandy King, Braden Pendleton
30th: Albert Tatchi

Happy Birthday!

Pledge Update ~ Year to Date

(as of March 22, 2022)

Pledges Budgeted to Date:	\$188,822.01
Pledges Received to Date:	\$174,540.04
Difference:	(-\$14,281.97)

Loose Offerings	
Budgeted to Date:	\$ 3,146.01
Received to Date:	\$ 4,824.25
Difference:	\$ 1,678.24

Special Offerings -	
Five Cents a Meal	\$513.00
<i>(Goes to Shades of Grace)</i>	

From the Finance Office

ONLINE GIVING INSTRUCTIONS

Online giving is available on the church website: www.firstpresningsport.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

Members Only Update

An updated listing of FPC members interests and opportunities has been added to the *Members Only Section* of the church website. About 10 additional members completed their surveys and they have been added. Members unable to participate any longer have been removed. If you are looking for volunteers to fill roles in the church please use these updated documents.

If you still have your survey forms and would like to be included in the next update (late summer/early fall) you can leave your forms with Vickie in the church office. If you want to make changes to your information or want to be removed – contact Jane Harris at 239-9744 or jharris@chartertn.net



Rekindling Our Gifts

Thank you

Dear First Presbyterian Church Family, Thank you for lifting up our family with your prayers, love, and sympathy following the passing of Gordon Travis, our beloved husband and father. Your calls, cards, visits, prayers and much more gave us great comfort and strength.

Thank you again for showing us God's abundant love.

Betty Travis, Beth Felvey and Tricia Kenny

Session Highlights

- Tim Arrowsmith was elected Rising Chair for the Nominating Committee
- Approved returning to pre-pandemic worship protocols regarding Communion, Passing the Peace and Offering.
- A recommendation to establish a legacy group named "The 1917 Society" was approved.
- Endowment requests for \$38,816.00 were approved for 2022: Christian Education \$10,816; Membership and Evangelism \$7,000; Stewardship Replenishment \$1,000; and Holston Presbyterian Camp \$20,000.

Malcolm Guite Lectures

The King Institute for Faith and Culture will present **Malcolm Guite**, English poet, song-writer, Anglican priest and college chaplain, in two lectures: Thursday evening, April 7 at 7:00 p.m. at Emmanuel Episcopal Church in Bristol, and again Friday morning, April 10 at 9:00 a.m. in the chapel on the campus of King University. It will be well worth your time to hear his engaging, thoughtful, and insightful presentations!

1943

Kingsport: From Humble Beginnings to National Significance
The Story of Holston Army Ammunition Plant

presented by
Hunter Wright

5:30 pm
Thursday, May 12, 2022
Chamber of Commerce
400 Clinchfield Street
First Floor - Fully Accessible

FRIENDS OF THE KINGSFORT ARCHIVES
WHERE HISTORY LIVES

Gail Hale Memorial Lecture Series
Public Welcome & Encouraged



Fall Prevention and Balance Class

After a long interruption due to COVID, we are happy to announce that Balance Class will resume meeting on **Thursday, March 31** at 1:15 p.m. in the Fellowship Center! The cost will be \$6.00 (cash only) per class. Scott Held, an exercise physiologist with The Great Body Company, will again be our instructor. Each week Scott teaches the group exercises that strengthen foundation or "core muscles" while sharing techniques that can help diminish the possibility of a fall occurring. A fall can be a life changing experience. If you have fallen, stumbled, or can tell your balance has diminished you will most likely find this class beneficial. This class is open to the community. Invite a friend and come join the fun!

Maundy Thursday & Good Friday Services

Please join us for two meaningful Worship services as we experience the life-changing mystery of Holy Week:

Maundy Thursday

April 14, 7:00 p.m.

A meditative service commemorating the Last Supper by celebrating Holy Communion, with readings, prayers, and hymns and a special message from Pastor Mike.

Good Friday

April 15, 7:00 p.m.

A dramatic encounter with our Lord's Passion in Liturgy and

The Rutter Requiem

featuring the combined 70-voice choirs of First Broad Street United Methodist and First Presbyterian churches with orchestra and Alice Brooks Sanders, organ. The reverends Randy Frye and Mike Shelton presiding.

One Great Hour of Sharing

The One Great Hour of Sharing offering will be received on Easter morning, April 17. A gift to One Great Hour of Sharing enables the church to share God's love with our neighbors-in-need around the world by providing relief to those affected by natural disasters, providing food to the hungry, and helping to empower the poor and oppressed. Please make checks payable to First Presbyterian Church and note on the memo line: For One Great Hour of Sharing. If you are unable to attend worship and would like to contribute, please feel free to send a check to our church, drop it off in the black mailbox by the breezeway door, or go to our website: <https://firstpreskingsport.org/contribute/online-giving/> to give online. Thank you.



Youth News

Sunday Youth Group

April 3

Pizza Party

April 10

All youth gathering at Pearson house (*weather dependent*)
5:00-6:30pm. Snacks and drinks

April 17

Easter

No Youth Group

April 24

Oasis of Kingsport Service Project.
All youth.

Space for Grace

Sunday, May 15

in our Fellowship Center

All are welcome to come to a contemporary worship service led by our Youth and Children with a message from Russ Pearson. (Times TBA).

Youth Sunday

Sunday, May 8

Summer 2022

High School Montreat

June 5-11

Calling All Helpers!

Vacation Bible School will be June 20-June 23 from 9 a.m. - 12 p.m. We need station leaders, shepherds, and registration desk help. If you are available and feel called to help with this important ministry please contact Russ at church.

- Station Leaders will help teach a particular station daily. (need 2 per station)
- Shepherds help bring the kids to their stations. (need 2-3 per group)
- Registration desk helpers greet the kids daily, provide name tags, and check in with parents. (need 3-4)

All roles are important and vital to a successful VBS! Sign up today!

ALL-CHURCH RETREAT 2022

