

First Presbyterian Kingsport
Performing Arts Series 2022

Morningstar
Flute Ensemble
& Guest Artists

Sunday, August 21
3:00 p.m.

Cost: \$15
Students FREE

Audiences are entertained and delighted by Morningstar's music.



First Presbyterian Church

The First Press

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

Vol. 539, Issue 7

July 2022

Mark Your Calendar

7-10 Ice Cream Social

7-21 Newsletter Deadline

8-14 BLTs after church

Weekly

Tuesdays

Knuckleheads Men's Bible Study

12:15-1:15 p.m.

Room 103-104

Thursdays

Balance Class

1:15 p.m.

Fellowship Center

JULY



First Presbyterian Church

100 W. Church Circle

Kingsport, TN 37660

(423) 245-0104

office@firstpreskingsport.org

www.firstpreskingsport.org

Living a Guided Life

A Sunday school teacher wanted to illustrate what a miracle meant. She asked the class to imagine her standing on the roof of a tall building, losing her balance, and falling toward the ground. A sudden whirlwind swept up her and brought her safely to the ground. What word would describe that? A child said, "**LUCK.**" That was not the word that the teacher wanted. She reset the scene-the falling, a sudden wind rescuing her. What word describes it? Another child said, "**ACCIDENT.**" No, it wasn't an accident. She asked them to listen again, retold the story, and asked what word could account for it. A third child said, **PRACTICE.** The class didn't get her point. That last answer-**practice**-was wiser than the child knew.

The miracle isn't expecting a sudden wind to rescue us, but learning how, in a confusing, fear-filled world like ours, to **seek God's guidance** and be **led by His presence.** Spiritual growth has little to do with luck, and it is surely not an accident. It is the result of practice, daily living out our faith. God hasn't removed his presence; we've removed ours. We think we know **WHAT WE NEED** and so we ask God for **TOO LITTLE:** we pray asking for a **YES/NO ANSWER** to a puzzling problem, or some **CLEAR SIGN** to get us out of a dilemma we face. The God we seek to know and love must **BE SERVED,** not **USED.**

I want to live a **GUIDED LIFE.** I want to live by faith, not merely by sight. But faith comes by hearing and so we require **EARS** tuned to **GOD'S VOICE** and hearts and minds open to the promptings of the Holy Spirit. Are we listening? Are we interested in learning how to listen? God guides our lives for a distinct purpose: not to get us to **PERFORM RIGHT ACTIONS,** but to help us **BECOME THE RIGHT KIND OF PERSON.** His aim is to shape/mold us until, little by little, we start to resemble Jesus. The **GUIDED LIFE** isn't a **spiritual HIT-AND-RUN:** where we get what we need from God and leave. Guidance only makes sense in the **context of a committed life.** We seek first God's kingdom first; we are obedient to his word; we are open and ready to respond to his call. Don't seek God if all you want is **INFORMATION,** or to use God to make your life easier. You may desire God to change your circumstances; God desires to change you. You may ask God to solve your problems; God desires to use you as part of the solution to the problem. The life God intends for you is a **GUIDED LIFE,** a life open to the **leading of the Holy Spirit.** As you may know, the word "**disciple**" means "**one who is willing to be led.**" Are we ready and willing to be led by God? It will take more than our words to prove it.



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

Sunday Worship

8:45 a.m.
Chapel

11:00 a.m.
Sanctuary



New Display in History Room

A photographic and informational display illustrating the history and activities of First Pres at Holston Presbytery Camp will be in the History Room this summer. Beginning in the late 1950's our church worked with others in Northeast Tennessee to develop what is now Holston Presbytery Camp and Retreat Center. Since 1969 we have been hosting an all church retreat nearly every year. Other activities such as summer youth camps, men's retreats, officer retreats, and numerous other activities have drawn our members to the North Carolina mountains to rest, relax, refresh, and rejoice. Photos from many of these activities are on display on the bulletin board and in the History Room. We invite you to enjoy and remember – and if you know children, youth, or adults in the photos – please write names on sticky notes provided and leave near the photos. Much gratitude from your history committee for helping with the identification. Don't think you need to have been here in the 60's, 70's, 80's or 90's to be in the photos – many of the photos are very recent!

It's Gonna Be Some Summer!

Ice Cream Social

Sunday, July 10
right after the 11:00 a.m.
Worship Service



BLTs after Church!
Sunday, August 14
right after the
11:00 a.m. Worship
Service

Youth News

Summer 2022

Saturday, July 23

High School Youth Overnight.
Hosting Kemper's Church as they travel from
Ohio to Montreat.

Tuesday, July 26

All Youth Overnight Service Blitz:
8:00 a.m. - 8:00 a.m.

Morning Work:

Clothes Closet Back-to-School
Workday

Afternoon Work:

Second Harvest Food Bank



1st: Phoebe Newell
2nd: Larry Long, Koleta Tilson, Jeff Quillen, Jane Richardson
3rd: Kim Alvis, MaryGail Py
4th: Dan Lisa, Kevin Heindselman
5th: Troy Aguilar
6th: Charles Beggerow, Kathy Ruffel
7th: Jane Scott
10th: Lew Huettel
11th: Sarah King
13th: Dorothy Lightfoot, Kay McBee
15th: Carolyn Doerfert
16th: Eva Pearson, London Williams
17th: Jordan Harker
18th: Pepper McCary, Lauren McInturff, Carson Bethany, Bill Fortenberry
19th: Emily Gaude
20th: Ashley Hobbs, Mason King
21st: Beckett Arrowsmith
22nd: Karen Thompson, Charlie Babb, Caroline Pearson
23rd: Katrinka Quillen
24th: Greg Francisco
25th: Steve Arthur, Jennie Benton, Diana Johnson-Martin
26th: William Thomidis
27th: Hannah Adams
28th: Elizabeth Wilkins
30th: Audra Moore

Happy Birthday!

Pledge Update ~ Year to Date

(as of June 21, 2022)

Pledges Budgeted to Date:	\$377,644.02
Pledges Received to Date:	\$352,412.91
Difference:	(-\$25,231.11)

Loose Offerings

Budgeted to Date:	\$ 6,292.02
Received to Date:	\$ 9,454.25
Difference:	\$ 3,162.23

Special Offerings -

Pentecost Offering	\$534.00
<i>(A portion went to First Pres Day Care)</i>	

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

July 21
August Newsletter

Ways you can SERVE

Breakfast Ministry

We continue to serve 50-75 breakfasts to our neighbors in need each Saturday and Sunday morning, and are so grateful for the continued support of FPC. As the summer travel season begins, please consider donating any travel toiletries you may accumulate to our ministry--they are often asked for and much appreciated. If anyone would like to join the list of volunteers for the Breakfast Ministry, please email Sarah Good at sar4680@gmail.com. Thank you!

Faith in Action at the Salvation Army

Church members are invited to volunteer to help prepare and serve lunch on the 2nd Sunday of each month at the Kingsport Salvation Army. Sixteen members indicated their interest in doing this through the "Rekindling Our Gifts Survey," and this opportunity is open to all who want to help. Two members are needed each Sunday, and the time commitment is from 10:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. First Presbyterian sponsors this 2nd Sunday meal that serves approximately 100 people in our community. The Salvation Army serves a free lunch meal to anyone who wants one 365 days a year as one of their social service missions of helping those in need. Catherine Tucker is the contact person to volunteer at 423-782-7782.

Second Harvest Food Bank FPC Member Volunteer Opportunity

Please join the Outreach Committee and other FPC volunteers on July 20, 2022 at Second Harvest Food Bank of Northeast Tennessee located at 1020 Jericho Drive, Kingsport, TN 37663. This is near Westridge High School and is the former location of Kingsport Sam's Club. We will be standing in assembly lines to place food items into bags and boxes for "Food for Kids Backpack" or "Summer Food Service" Programs. We have two options for volunteer hours: morning between 9:30am & noon, and afternoon between 1:00 and 3:30pm. You are welcome to select either or both sessions and volunteer whatever amount of time you wish. Volunteers age 10 and older are welcome and encouraged to participate. The more the merrier! This will be a nice way to enjoy Christian fellowship and do community service at the same time. Please call Bob Stoots at 423-782-6280 right away with questions and to sign-up!

Second Harvest Food Bank of Northeast Tennessee collects and distributes food throughout our community using a variety of programs and services. First Presbyterian Church provides "last mile" delivery service each month during the school year from the Church parking lot to nine Kingsport Elementary Schools that participate in Food for Kids Backpack Program®. Also through the Outreach Committee, FPC provides financial support directly to Second Harvest Food Bank. This is a particularly hard time for Second Harvest to meet increased demand brought about in part by increasing inflation. Please prayerfully consider making personal donations to Second Harvest Food Bank of Northeast Tennessee directly or through designated gifts to First Presbyterian Church which will be combined and forwarded.

The Food for Kids Backpack Program® provides a bag full of healthy snacks and easily prepared meal items for children in need to take home and eat after school and on weekends. 4,300 children in the eight county service area are now being served. Sponsors are secured every year so that every child in need of the Food for Kids program may be served



Q & A's Related to Ukrainian Refugee Family

Where did Oksana, Max and Alisa live in Ukraine? They lived on the 10th floor of a high rise residential building in Sumy, Ukraine about 30 miles from the Russian border.

How did they get from Sumy, Ukraine to Mount Carmel, Tennessee? Soon after the Russian Army began bombing Sumy, their home was damaged by those attacks. Oksana knew she and her children needed to go to a safer place. She took a minivan ride to a location closer to the Romanian border. After three days of travel with only one backpack of clothes and personal items each, they made it to a shelter further away from Russia that was not under attack. With much help from her dear friend Yulia Wright here in Mt Carmel, they flew from Europe to Tijuana, Mexico. Yulia took money from her savings to purchase airline tickets for them. A trip that took four days without being able to speak local languages. From Tijuana, they walked to the US border. They were assisted at the border by volunteers from a Russian church in Sacramento who were arranging transportation, food and overnight accommodations for Ukrainian refugees. There were also Russian speaking attorney's there counseling refugees and helping with their immigration process. The next two months were spent in California with Yulia's sister, then on May 29 they arrived at Tri-Cities Airport to begin their new life in East Tennessee!



Did they have to leave a husband/father behind to help defend their country? No, Oksana is widowed unrelated to the war. What a strong women to undertake such a mission on blind faith to safety!

What do they think about this area so far? Upon arrival, they were instantly impressed with how much cooler and greener it is than where they were in California. They are surprised and most grateful for the kindness and generosity of people here. Oksana thinks it is unbelievable that so many people could be so helpful to complete strangers! Oksana sends a sincere thank you for all of the prayers and nice things that people have done to help them feel important again.



What have they done since arriving here? Their first family outing was an enjoyable outdoor visit to Bays Mountain Park to see all the animals and natural beauty there. Yulia's son built a computer for Max to continue his Ukrainian on-line studies and of course play some computer games! He also joined a local gym to help "stay healthy," and he assembled a rocking chair for his little sister. Alisa has spent a lot of time playing with her baby dolls and "reading" books! Oksana is reportedly working on getting her nail station set up at home, and enjoying lots of family time!



How can we help? Please keep Oksana, Max, Alisa and the Wright family in our prayers! Monetary donations for general support may be made to First Presbyterian Church with note "For Oksana, Max & Alisa". As they maneuver their transition to East Tennessee and additional needs are recognized, more information will be provided as to how FPC members can assist them including patronizing Oksana's budding nail salon business!

JUNE 2022

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

