



The Sovereign Lord
is my strength;
he makes my feet like
the feet of a deer,
he enables me to tread on the heights.

Habakkuk 3:19, NIV



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. 540, Issue 1

January 2023

Mark Your Calendar

- 1-15 *Ordination & Installation*
- 1-19 *Newsletter Deadline*
- 2-1 *Church Night Supper begins*

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



January

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Half Empty or Half Full

Life is, as one person described it, "10% what happens to us, and 90% how we choose to respond." Is life's cup half empty or half full? Don't answer that too quickly. You may have been labeled "half empty" by some obnoxious optimist and you now dislike hearing it. Like it or not, the only thing that sets you apart from the crowd is how you choose to react. Every morning when 10 people walk out their front door, five scan the skies for dark clouds, and the other five search for patches of blue. Give that group of 10 the same set of facts- a challenge that must be faced- some will focus on warning signs, or anything negative, while the others see opportunities, and accentuate the positive.

- A teenager challenging your parental authority...**
- A supervisor who makes your skin crawl, and takes away all your enthusiasm**
- A physical illness that requires long, painful rehabilitation**
- A divorce that leaves you feeling like a failure**
- A new change at church, within your family, or in your job that disrupts your routine.**

By now, you may place yourself, a spouse, or a friend in the half empty or half full group. Don't do it. That's not your job. Leave that person to God, and let's go to back you. When you look in the mirror, do you have a hard time facing that face? Be honest! You have spent time in both camps, haven't you? You have hung out with the optimists and the pessimists. You prefer one over the other. You may feel that one attitude suits your temperament. But the truth is, you move back and forth between the groups with equal ease. Do we have any real control in choosing how we react? Does it depend on how stressful the situation is or how long the test lasts? Does it depend on how we feel at the time or how much time or energy the challenge requires of us? Or, does it simply, mainly, or exclusively depend upon...me! I recall the quote of one man in a former church,

"If it's meant to be, then it's up to me."

Yes, but also with God's abiding help. Let me leave with a quote from Paul for the New Year:

"Whatever is true, right, honorable, or pure; if there is anything excellent, or worthy of praise, then dwell on these things... and the peace of Christ will be with you"

Mike

Sunday Worship

8:45 a.m.
Chapel

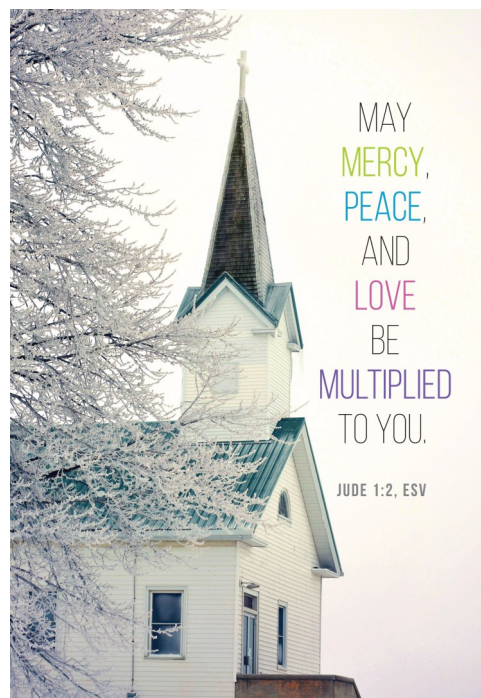
11:00 a.m.
Sanctuary



Flowers Needed for Church in 2023

March 5	May 28
March 12	July 9
April 23	July 16
April 30	October 1
May 21	

Please call Vickie in the church office (423-245-0104) to sign up for a date.



Winter Events

Coming soon...

We are excited to announce the return of Church Night Supper beginning February 1. The schedule is tentative and more details are coming soon. But some highlights are:

- **February 22** - Ash Wednesday Salad Bar
- **March 1** - Soup Fest
- **March 15** - Care Ministry Dinner
- **March 22** - Pancake Breakfast

We are also planning a special Super Bowl Sunday Gathering on February 12. We will give

All Church Retreat 2023

Holston Camp

Save the Date!

March 3rd-5th

\$100 per adult

Kids and youth are free!

\$35

Small Groups

Two new small groups are being launched in January, and it is not too late to join one! The purpose of small groups is to provide a **Connection** to the Church body – the people, the institution, and the body of Christ – that goes beyond your personal needs, which is why we are calling this initiative Connect FPC. This is not intended to replace any of the other gatherings of people at the church, but it is an intentional bonding to others outside your usual group of church friends. It is not strictly a bible study, but rather will contain elements of scripture, devotion, prayer and encouragement for each other. It is a way to grow in your faith and be the Church. If you are interested in participating, please contact either Jim Amstutz or Elizabeth Wilkins.



1st: Parker Wilkins
2nd: Sharon Engel
3rd: George Cradic, Lorrie Cooper
5th: Dan Dietrich, Thomas Tatchi, Bill Richardson
6th: Nic Clemmer
8th: John McInturff
11th: Emily Smith, Jagger Lisa
12th: Claudia Byrd
13th: Frances Frongillo, Tommy Rice, Ashley Cooper, Amory Mott
14th: Chuck Bachelder
16th: Martha Owens
17th: Tammie Davis
18th: Emeline Hobbs
20th: Grace Ward
21st: Hudson Dietrich
23rd: Jami Arrowsmith
24th: Ann Asbury, Lesley Jones, Mike Shelton
25th: Celia Bachelder
26th: Stewart Baggett, DeeDee Dietrich
28th: Laura Taylor
30th: Barbara Foust
31st: Virginia Wooten

Pledge Update ~ Year to Date

(as of December 28, 2022)

Pledges Budgeted to Date:	\$755,288.00
Pledges Received to Date:	\$767,183.87
Difference:	\$ 11,895.87

Loose Offerings	
Budgeted to Date:	\$ 12,584.00
Received to Date:	\$ 29,211.23
Difference:	\$ 16,627.25

Special Offerings -

5 Cents a Meal - December (a portion went to Second Harvest Food Bank)	\$607.38
Christmas Joy Offering	\$427.00
White Gift Offering (a portion went to Waverly Road Food Pantry)	\$825.00
Christmas Eve Offering (went to KCS Homeless Education Program)	\$644.00

Reminder for Pledges

The new year is just around the corner. Here are just a few reminders as you consider your year-end contributions to the church.

- If possible, please consider fulfilling your **'2022' Pledge**. I will be mailing a contribution report, to those of you who currently pledge, on December 2.
- To those who have made your **2023 Pledge, thank you for supporting the church and its mission.**
- If you are planning on giving a contribution of **stock**, I must have a broker statement in my office no later than **Friday, December 30, 2022**, for the gift to be included as a '2022' contribution. Please let me know **in writing** if you are giving stock.
- All donations must be **delivered or post-marked** on or before December 31, 2022 in order to receive a charitable tax donation for '2022'. Checks that are placed in the church offering during the first worship service in 2023 **will not qualify** for a charitable tax contribution deduction in 2022. However, checks that are written, mailed and **postmarked** in '2022' will be deductible in 2022 even if not received by the church until '2023'.

Thank you for your generous gifts to this church.

Wishing you and your family a Very Blessed New Year!

Bev Johnson
Financial Administrator

Stock Contributions

The end of 2022 is rapidly approaching. If you are planning to give stock to the church, please notify Bev Johnson, Financial Administrator, in **writing** prior to your donation. Thanking you in advance.

LET YOUR BANK PAY YOUR PLEDGE

We now offer this feature where you can authorize your bank to send us your pledge via electronic funds transfer. Please contact Bev Johnson for more details at 245-0104, ext. 206.



White Gift Food Offering for Waverly Road Food Pantry



First Presbyterian Church donated fifty-two bags of food along with monetary gifts to the Waverly Road Food Pantry. Volunteer teams from Waverly Road Church distribute food bags to people in need every Friday morning from 10am to Noon. Clients may walk-up to a canopy outdoors for their food while maintaining social distancing and minimizing potential for individual health exposures. Clients are allowed to pick up bags for others who have transportation or mobility issues. Distribution on a typical Friday runs between 35-40 bags, so FPC White Gift contributions provide nearly two weeks of normal inventory. A sincere thank you to all who so generously donated food and/or money for this important cause. We also appreciate Waverly Road Food Pantry for getting this into the hands of those who need it most!

Fisk Jubilee Singers

Friday, February 17, 2023, 7:30pm



A dynamic experience of the power of the soul.

\$30 - Adults, \$25 - Seniors, \$10 - Students

Second Harvest Food Bank Workday



First Presbyterian Church volunteers will gather again on **Wednesday, January 18** at Second Harvest Food Bank of NET. Please join us for fun, fellowship and service. Friends and family members are also welcome. There will be two options for this date; morning between 10-noon, and afternoon between 1 and 3 p.m. Each session is limited to 15 people, so check your calendars and let Bob Stoots know if you would like to participate. (Call or text 423-782-6280)

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

DONATED 25% OF SEPTEMBER FIVE-CENTS-A-MEAL OFFERING TO "UKIRK - ETSU, HOLSTON PRESBYTERY CAMPUS MINISTRY"

Thank you for providing us for this past semester with such delicious, wonderful food! Food allows us to gather as a community before worship to slow down, reflect, and bond as a group. Many thanks from all of us here at Ukirk!

Christian
 Thankst. Koda
 Thank you! -Kaylie B.
 Thank you! -William
 Harvey
 Leo Myers
 Yay! -Yahik
 Thank you!! -Noel
 John Gildea

Children's Pageant

December 18, 2022

