

Friends in Faith Class Begins New Series on February 5

“The Spirituality of Dietrich Bonhoeffer”

The *Friends in Faith* Sunday School Class will begin a new 6-week series on February 5th entitled “**The Spirituality of Dietrich Bonhoeffer.**” The sessions look at the life and teachings of Dietrich Bonhoeffer (1906-1945). An important 20th century theologian and martyr who was involved in the plot to assassinate Adolf Hitler was hanged before the end of World War II. Bonhoeffer wrote extensively on what it means to be a follower of Jesus Christ...a disciple. Join our class as we explore the following 6 sessions (February 5th's lesson will be **The Way of Jesus Christ**):

The 6 sessions (discussions) are:

- The Way of Jesus Christ**
- A Spirituality of the Word**
- The Longing for Community**
- The Cost of Discipleship**
- The Spiritual Life in a Religionless World**
- Spirituality and Political Responsibility**

Each session (6-8 pages) is a stand-alone discussion so do not worry if you have to miss a Sunday. Books may be picked up in room #103.

So, whether you attend the 8:45 service or the 11:00 service the Friends in Faith class encourages and invites you to join us in room #103 at 9:45 a.m.



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

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February 2023

Mark Your Calendar

- 2-12** Super Bowl Gathering
- 2-16** Newsletter Deadline
- 2-22** Church Night Supper begins
- 2-22** Ash Wednesday Service
- 3-1** Soup Fest/Mike's Study
- 3-15** Care Ministry Dinner

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



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Simple Obedience

A young boy in a children's hospital was giving the nurses a fit. One day a visitor noticed it and made the boy a deal: if he could be good for an entire week, she would give him a dime when she returned. A week later, there she was, "I won't ask the nurses how you did. You must tell me. Do you deserve a dime" He grinned, "Just give me a penny"

How much would we get for our faithfulness to God? I can only speak for myself: being obedient to Christ is harder than I thought. He isn't interested in one week but a lifetime of service. We would obey God, but we'd like to do it on our terms. We talk about loving God, but we spend too much time ignoring him. We are a **BUNDLE OF GOOD INTENTIONS**. We want to serve God, but we let other things get in our way. We could let that fact drive us crazy, or we could face the truth God wants us to see...

JESUS EXPECTS MORE FAILURE IN US THAN WE EXPECT OF OURSELVES HE ACCEPTS OUR FAILINGS MORE FREELY THAN WE DO.

If we don't find being obedient to God difficult, it may be a sign that we haven't tried hard to be obedient. I am not the person I would like to be. I fall short of loving/serving Jesus every day. But you've never met a person who wanted to please God more than I do. I just keep getting in God's way and I have grown so numb to my own excuses that I no longer see them as excuses.

SIGN ON POST OFFICE BOX...

**NEITHER RAIN, NOR SNOW, NOR GLOOM OF NIGHT SHALL
STAY US FROM DELIVERING THE MAIL ACROSS THE
STREET...WEATHER PERMITTING, PROVIDING THERE IS
ENOUGH MAIL TO MAKE THE TRIP WORTHWHILE**

If Jesus had just made being a Christian more convenient, then maybe we wouldn't keep missing the mark. Are you thankful for your sin? I am! If it weren't for my sin, I would never have known God, never have found joy of knowing that I am accepted and acceptable. I am thankful for my sin, but I also hate it. I hate what it does to me and how it leads me from my ideals. God keeps accepting us back. He loves us **as we are**, but he won't let us **stay as we are**. Only those who know how much God love us can ever face their sin. They receive the one gift God wants us to have: **HONESTY**. Honesty about who we are makes us better than we are. The bad news: there is no way to hide from God. The good news: there is no need to hide from him.

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 16
April 23	October 1
May 21	

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



Remind 101

Sign up for our church texts! Text the number 81010 and include @fpc100 in the text to opt in.

Winter Events

Coming soon...

We are excited to announce the return of Church Night Supper beginning February 22. The schedule is tentative and more details are coming soon. But some highlights are:

- **Feb. 22** - Salad Bar/Ash Wednesday Service
- **March 1** - Soup Fest/Mike's Bible Study begins
- **March 8** - Tomato Soup and Grilled Cheese
- **March 15** - Care Ministry Dinner

Free Super Bowl Party Sunday, Feb. 12 at 6:00 p.m.

Everyone is invited to attend the Big Game which will be held in the Fellowship Center. We will project the entire game from kickoff, half-time, to the final score on the big screen with great sound. Bring the entire family along with your favorite game-day food/snack to share. Some suggestions would be: chili, wings, nachos, hors d'oeuvres, pigs in a blanket, etc. The church will provide ice tea and water.

Please sign-up by Thursday, Feb. 9, so that we know approximately how many will be attending. You may sign up in the attendance pads or by calling the Church office. Hope to see you there!

Souper Bowl of Giving Offering Sunday, February 12

All Church Retreat 2023

Holston Camp

Save the Date!

March 3-5

\$100 per adult

Kids 18 and under are free!

\$35 - Day Trip



2nd: John Porter, Jenny Clemmer
4th: Oliver Arrowsmith
5th: Peyton Lambton
6th: Marian Adams, Evie Heindselman, Daniel Robertson
7th: Olivia Collins
10th: Susan Jackson
11th: Sallie Oaks, Hagan Dietrich
12th: Helen Baylor
15th: Bob Hauk
16th: Issac Conner, Aaron Pendleton
17th: Mike Wilkins, Gary Collins
18th: Henry Booher
19th: Paul Banda
20th: Greeley Wells
21st: Burts Compton, Leon Doran, Alexis Jennings
22nd: Mary Beggerow
23rd: Greta Robinette
24th: Catherine Tucker
25th: Flint Gray, Don Thompson, Kim Thomidis, Briggs Mink
26th: Lynetta Johnson

Happy Birthday!

Pledge Update ~ Year to Date

(as of January 25, 2023)

Pledges Budgeted to Date:	\$ 62,366.67
Pledges Received to Date:	\$ 59,660.00
Difference:	(\$ -2,706.67)

Loose Offerings	
Budgeted to Date:	\$ 2,458.33
Received to Date:	\$ 485.00
Difference:	(\$ -1,973.33)

Special Offerings -

5 Cents a Meal - January	\$1,279.98
(a portion went to the Breakfast Ministry)	

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.



Answers to our mystery childhood photos

From left to right:
Larry Long, Jo Ann Phlegar and Betsy Boyd

Second Harvest Food Bank Workday



First Presbyterian Church volunteers will gather again on **Wednesday, February 15** 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)

New Horizons Class Studies

The New Horizons class has two studies planned for Winter and Spring. The class has just begun a study of the book of James through the lens of Union Presbyterian seminary professor Frances Taylor Gench, who notes that “The letter of James is one of the more useful and practical books in the New Testament.” Books are not required for this class but bible passages will be assigned each week. If you are interested, reach out to Sarah Barbour (barbour5@charter.net) or Margaret Callcott (magsintn@gmail.com) to get on the email list.

On March 19 (or thereabouts) we will begin a study of Pope Francis’ encyclical Laudato Si: On Care for our Common Home, published in 2015. In his second encyclical, Pope Francis draws all Christians into a dialog with every person on our planet about our common home. The class will use a study guide prepared by Presbyterian Peace Fellowship. Books will be ordered for this series so let Margaret or Sarah know if you would like one.

Women’s Connection Conference at Montreat

Friday, August 11-Sunday, August 13

\$247-\$272

*Lodging, Registration, and Food Included
Transportation available*

All women of the Church are invited for an inspiring weekend in the mountains of Montreat. Our church has reserved Reynold’s Lodge and we would love to fill it up!

The cost is \$247 before June 27 and goes up to \$272 after.

You will register on your own through Montreat and pay the commuter fee. Go to:

<https://montreat.org/events/wc-2023> beginning February 1 to register.

If you are interested and want to learn more, contact Russ Pearson or Cindy Sharitt.

The Church does need a count of people registering to make sure we have enough room in Reynold’s Lodge.

Rekindling Our Gifts Updates

Rekindling Reports have been updated to include any changes through the end of 2022. If you lead a committee, are looking for someone to help with a project, or someone with a special skill to help with a church assignments – check out the most recent lists. They reside on the *Members Only* section of the FPC Webpage. If you do not know how to access this section of the webpage check with Vickie. If you wish to make changes in your skills, interests, or volunteer interest let Jane Harris (423-239-9477) know and she can make the changes next time the lists are updated.



The Ultimate Question: Why

From the Cross of Jesus, to national disasters, to the horrors in the headlines, and to the pain of personal tragedies we endure: there is a question waiting to be voiced. WHY? It is not just a question; it is the question, the ultimate question, and whether it is voiced aloud or kept inside, it cannot be ignored. In March, Dr. Shelton won’t ignore it. In fact, he will voice it 4 times, in conjunction with 4 distinct questions:

- Why Do the Innocent Suffer?
- Why Do My Prayers Seem to Go Unanswered?
- Why Can’t I See God’s Will in My Life?
- Why Does God’s Will Ultimately Prevail?

The class will begin on **Wednesday, March 1**, taking one week off for our Deacons Care Dinner on March 15. This is not a book study but a class study guide will be provided.

A Message from Wayne

Dear First Presbyterian Church Members,
I first want to say thank you to God for the honor of working at the church for 40+ years. I also want to thank the congregation for the wonderful opportunity and privilege to have worked with such great people.

I have enjoyed the time I spent working at the church and have many wonderful memories to take with me as well. Through the years I have been blessed with many friendships. These friendships are not only with church members, but also with the office staff, Clothes Closet volunteers, Children’s Center employees, Meals on Wheels volunteers, and many other outside groups who used the facility over the years.

I would like to say thank you very much for the retirement gift. Your generosity toward me is a true testament to the love found throughout the church. Your kindness and thoughtfulness are very much appreciated, and I will carry this blessing with me for all the years to come.

My journey has ended at First Presbyterian Church and a new one has begun. I will miss all of you, and I know all of you will miss me just as much (or more, haha). I will try not to be a stranger and look forward to seeing some of you from time to time and catching up on all the goings on around the church.

So again, thank you for allowing me to be part of your family all these years. Thank you for the love, kindness, and friendship that each of you has brought into my life, and the lives of my family.

With much love and blessings to all,
Wayne

Looking Ahead

High School Montreat

Sunday, June 4-10

Sign-ups to open soon

Vacation Bible School

Monday, June 19-Thursday, June 22

9am-12pm

Session Highlights

*Approved the 2023 balanced church budget of \$775,275.

*Elected Carol Dixon as Commissioner and Allen Wright as Alternate to the February 4 Presbytery meeting at Tusculum University.

*Elected the 2023 Corporate officers: Tony Cole, President; Jenny Clemmer, Secretary and Michael Bunch, Treasurer.

Little Hands of Christ



The Robertson family helped distribute breakfast bags and Christmas cheer early Christmas morning at the Grab & Go Breakfast. The boys shared God's love by greeting each recipient with a bright "Merry Christmas" and gave them a gift bag they had prepared!

Breakfast Ministry Update

Our weekend numbers remain steady at 180-220 bags served each day. We still receive many requests for blankets, hats, gloves, and toiletries each week. Donations of these items can be dropped off at the history room. We would love to see some new faces volunteering for the ministry--if you are able, please email Sarah Good at sar4680@gmail.com to find out about available dates and opportunities to serve our neighbors in need!



The Gift of Warmth

The Preschool - Kindergarten Sunday School class would like to thank members of our congregation for supporting our "Mitten Tree" project. The class had fun delivering the donated items to Don Thompson in the Clothes Closet. The children learned that the cold weather items will help keep other less fortunate children in our community warm this winter.

