

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. 540, Issue 3

March 2023

## Mark Your Calendar

- 3-1 Soup Fest/Mike's Study
- 3-3/5 All Church Retreat
- 3-15 Care Ministry Dinner
- 3-20 Newsletter Deadline

## 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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## A Bundle of Good Intentions

A young boy in a children's hospital was giving the nurses a fit. One day a visitor noticed it and she 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 stood. She asked him if he deserved a dime. He blushed, "**JUST GIVE ME A PENNY**"

What would we get for our faithfulness to God? Being obedient to Jesus is harder than we imagine, and he isn't interested in **ONE WEEK**, but a lifetime of faithful service. We would **obey God**, but we'd like to do it **on our terms**. We talk about loving God, but spend much of our lives ignoring him. You look at me, and I look at you, and guess what we both see: people who mean well, who are a **BUNDLE OF GOOD INTENTIONS**. We want to serve Jesus but we let other things get in our way. I don't like feeling that I let Jesus down. Do you? We could allow it to 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.**

The truth is that we don't find being obedient to God hard, it may be a sign that we haven't tried very hard to be obedient. Can we talk? I am not the person I'd like to be; I fall short of loving and serving Jesus on a daily basis. You've never met a person who wanted to please God more than I do but I get in God's way. I have grown so accustomed to my own excuses that I no longer see them as excuses.

If Jesus 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 sin, I would never have known God. I would never have discovered **JOY**, or the pleasure of knowing that I am accepted and acceptable. I am thankful for my sin, but I also hate what it does to me, how it leads me away my ideals. God keeps accepting us back. He loves us as we are but he won't let us stay where we are. Only those who know how much we are loved by God 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. Just some food for thought as we enter the season of Lent.



## Sunday Worship

8:45 a.m.  
Chapel

11:00 a.m.  
Sanctuary

## Church Night Supper Wednesdays, 5:30 p.m.

Cost is \$8.00 for adults; \$4.00 for children under 10; with a family maximum of \$20.00. Reservations must be received by noon on Tuesday.

To make reservations, fill out the pew pad on Sunday mornings, call the church office at (423) 245-0104 or register online:

[W.O.W - The Word on Wednesday's - First Presbyterian Church-Kingsport \(fpckpt.org\)](http://W.O.W - The Word on Wednesday's - First Presbyterian Church-Kingsport (fpckpt.org))

## Care Ministry Dinner

March 15, 5:30 p.m.

Your deacon will contact you for reservations. The deadline is noon on Tuesday, March 7. Cost is \$15 for adults; \$5 for children (age 6 and under); and \$40 maximum per family.

### Menu

(Catered by Delta Blues)

Choice of Smoked Pork Loin or Grilled Chicken Breast  
Green Beans, Mashed Potatoes, Roll, and a Dessert

## 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



## Dinners in March

- **March 1** - Soup Fest/Mike's Bible Study begins
- **March 8** - Tomato Soup and Grilled Cheese
- **March 15** - Care Ministry Dinner
- **March 22** - Braeden's Barbecue
- **March 29** - Panda Express

### Soup Fest 2023

Soup Fest will be held on **March 1** at 5:30 p.m. in the Fellowship Center. This annual crowd-pleaser is a friendly competition featuring a variety of soups from the many talented cooks in our congregation. Prizes will be awarded for the best soups in the following four categories: Best of the Bird (chicken), Soup on the Hoof (beef), Garden Variety (vegetable), and Wild Card (anything goes). With all of the entries in each of the categories, you're bound to either find an old stand-by or maybe even discover a new favorite or two. The winning recipes will also be published in a future newsletter, posted on the website and stored in the church's archives. Please bring your soup entry in an appropriate container or bring bread or cornbread. There will be tables reserved for each category and attendants at those tables will provide the entries with index cards to label each one. This is a fun-filled evening of food and fellowship. Make ready your favorite recipes and we'll see you at Soup Fest on March 1. Desserts will be provided. **Please let the church office know by noon on Tuesday, February 28**, if you are coming and whether or not you will be bringing soup for the competition or bread or cornbread.

## 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 four times, in conjunction with four 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 Ministry Dinner on March 15. This is not a book study but a class study guide will be provided.

## MARCH Birthdays

**1st:** Spencer Correll, Maggie Arrowsmith  
**5th:** Carson Correll  
**7th:** Mark Davis, George Baugh, Rowan Good  
**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  
**23rd:** 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 25, 2023)

<b>Pledges Budgeted to Date:</b>	\$124,733.34
<b>Pledges Received to Date:</b>	\$165,425.29
<b>Difference:</b>	\$ 40,691.95

<b>Loose Offerings</b>	
<b>Budgeted to Date:</b>	\$ 4,916.66
<b>Received to Date:</b>	\$ 1,916.51
<b>Difference:</b>	(\$ -3,000.15)

<b>Special Offerings -</b>	
Souper Bowl (Went to Second Harvest)	\$531.00

## From the Finance Office

### ONLINE GIVING INSTRUCTIONS

Online giving is available on the church website: [www.firstpresningsport.org](http://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 20**  
April Newsletter

## 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.

### History Room Help

The History Room Committee is looking for a volunteer for a **very** important part time job. We keep a simple scrapbook of newspaper clippings about church activities and members community activities. An individual who is willing to clip the articles (or use the ones Vickie clips for the bulletin board). All the supplies are furnished. You can do the work at home or in the History Room. An hour once or twice a month should do it plus clipping them. Nothing fancy expected unless you want to be creative. Call Jane Harris (239-9477) for more details.

### Fellowship Dinner Groups

As we endeavor to come together as a congregation this is a request for determining which members would be interested in being part of a Fellowship Dinner Group. Interested members are assigned to be part of a Fellowship Dinner Group for a period of six months. Every six months there is a new group. The groups meet monthly for fellowship and dinner. In the past there has been a group that chose to go out to eat. It is a great way to visit with and get to know each other in a relaxed setting. Please call Vickie Green at 245-0104 to indicate your interest.

### New Horizons Class Study

The New Horizons class has a new study planned for Spring. 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. If you are interested, reach out to Sarah Barbour ([barbour5@charter.net](mailto:barbour5@charter.net)) or Margaret Callcott ([magsintn@gmail.com](mailto:magsintn@gmail.com)) to get on the email list.



## Striving to be the Hands of Christ

### Family Promise

Family Promise of Greater Kingsport provides shelter and food to homeless families with minor children. During the time when COVID-19 had its highest transmission rates, shelter was provided for these families at motels. However, within the last few months, program participants have begun to stay in the Sunday School rooms of various churches as they did prior to the outbreak of the pandemic.

First Presbyterian Church has had a longtime partnership with St. Dominic Catholic Church when hosting homeless families. From **Sunday, March 12 through Saturday, March 18**, families will be spending each night at St. Dominic Catholic Church and members of our church will serve as evening hosts, overnight hosts, and food preparers. If you are interested in participating in this extremely important ministry, or if you would simply like more information, please contact Gray Stothart at 423-276-3828 or [gstothart@embarqmail.com](mailto:gstothart@embarqmail.com).

### Breakfast Ministry NEEDS YOU!

We still have many available volunteer spots for the Breakfast Ministry this spring. We need ONE more volunteer on **March 4, March 5, March 12, March 19, April 16, and April 29**. We need TWO OR THREE more volunteers on **April 1, April 2, and April 30**. If you are able to help on one (or more) of these dates, please email Sarah Good at [sar4680@gmail.com](mailto:sar4680@gmail.com) to sign up. Thank you!

### Mission Speakers

Coming in April will be a special opportunity for us to receive speakers from several of the charitable organizations that are supported by First Presbyterian through the Outreach Committee. Representatives from six of those organizations will highlight their missions, scope of services, target populations they serve, description of any new projects, and how they depend upon support from donors like First Presbyterian Church.

Please mark your calendars and plan to attend all of these very informative sessions on Wednesday evenings April 12, 19 and 26. Wednesday night dinners will be served as usual and presentations will follow. Remember to mark the Friendship Pads or call the church office to make dinner reservations. We look forward to seeing you there.

*Outreach Committee*

### 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

### Bridge, Anyone?

Men and Women Bridge Players, we are still gathering names for those who would like to play bridge on Mondays from 1:00-3:30 p.m. in Room 103 in the main church building. It would be a sign-up for which Mondays you would like to play. Some may want to be on the substitute list. We will play with one or two tables on the Mondays of February 27, March 6, 13, 20, and 27. Please call, email, or text Mary C. Ruth at 423-530-4310 or email [maryruth10@yahoo.com](mailto:maryruth10@yahoo.com) to be on the list.



# Second Harvest Workday February 15, 2023

A big thank you to everyone for volunteering at Second Harvest Food Bank in February. Special thanks to Nancy Knisley, Barbara Foust, Peppy McCary and Bob Miller for joining us!

First Presbyterian Church volunteers will gather again on **Wednesday, March 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 a.m. - 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)

