

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. 539, Issue 4

April 2023

Mark Your Calendar

- 4-2 Palm Sunday
Easter Egg Hunt
- 4-6 Stations of the Cross &
Maundy Thursday Service
- 4-7 Stations of the Cross
- 4-9 Easter Sunday Services
- 4-20 May Newsletter Deadline
- 4-27 Chamber Players Concert

Weekly

Tuesdays

Knuckleheads Men's Bible Study
12:15-1:15 p.m.
History Room

Thursdays

Balance Class
1:15 p.m.
Fellowship Center



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Your Good News

There is old custom among Greek Christians: on the day after Easter, they spend time **telling jokes**-to imitate the **cosmic joke** that God pulled on Satan who thought he'd won the battle. When God raised Jesus, God had the last word. In honor of the Greeks, hear this one:

A retired Pastor traveled rural areas to do funerals where there were no churches. He traveled with an undertaker in a hearse. Driving back from one funeral, the Pastor was tired. He laid down in the back of hearse for a nap. The guy driving the hearse pulled into a gas station. As the attendant pumped gas, he saw a body stretched out in the back. The Pastor woke up, opened his eyes, knocked on the window and waved at the attendant who started to run fast enough to qualify for Olympic 100 yard dash.

Christianity is a laughing matter. Before there is **joy**, there is **sorrow**: Mary weeps outside Jesus' tomb. Text says, "**while it was still dark**", not just a reference to the pre-dawn hour, but the darkness in Mary's heart. Her mind drifts to early days in Galilee: when Jesus was popular, she had expectations of him, called him "**Rabbi**", teacher. Like Mary, you had expectations of what Jesus would do for you, but your hopes got crucified. What you most needed to happen didn't; what you most feared would happen did happen. Like the others, she had seen lives made new, bodies healed, and sinners welcomed. She saw how crowds adored him and how rulers hated him. She was there as a crowd waved palms, anticipating that he'd soon sit on David's throne. She was there as he drove charlatans out of the Temple for turning God's house into a den of thieves. She was there when he confounded religious leaders and when he was betrayed by a man he loved. She was there as Pilate waffled, and people screamed for innocent blood. She was there as he lugged a heavy cross through tiny streets. She was surely there at Calvary as the life drained out of him! All she now sees is the vague shape of a stone that guarded the tomb. It was the last insult: **his body had been stolen**. In her bewilderment she doesn't recognize Jesus. She just stands there. He stares at her. Grief-stricken, focused on who had taken the body, then the impossible happens: **THE MAN SPEAKS**. The one certified as dead now speaks to her.

Mary! That voice! Calling her name as he had many times! Mary! Hearing her name, her grief turns to joy. This moment conveys everything: their history, all that passed between them, their friendship, the brokenness in her life. Mary! He knows her.

Easter is good news, but it must be **your good news**. Easter must belong to you.

Sunday Worship

8:45 a.m.
Chapel

11:00 a.m.
Sanctuary

The Paramount Chamber Players

Thursday, April 27
7:30pm



Esteemed Bass-baritone Mark Owen Davis joins pianist Katherine Benson to reprise the lauded performance of Ralph Vaughan Williams' "Songs of Travel" featuring the poetry of Robert Louis Stevenson

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

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

Flowers Needed for Church in 2023

May 21 July 16
May 28 October 1

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

Holy Week & Easter

April 2-9



Holy Week and Easter Services

Sunday, April 2

Palm Sunday Services
8:45 in the Chapel and 11:00 a.m. in the Sanctuary

Thursday, April 6

Maundy Thursday Service
6:30 p.m. in the Sanctuary

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

Sunday, April 9

Worship Services at 8:45 & 11:00 a.m.

- ◆ Weather permitting, our 8:45am worship service will be outside around the cross. In the event of inclement weather, this service will be held in the chapel.
- ◆ Both services will include a "flowering of the cross" as a part of worship so bring your own cut flowers to worship.

Easter Egg Hunt

Palm Sunday ~ April 2, 10 a.m.

Stations of the Cross

Thursday, April 6

Stations of the Cross will be open at 10:00 a.m.

Friday, April 7

Stations of the Cross will be open until 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.

One Great Hour of Sharing

The One Great Hour of Sharing offering will be received on Easter morning, April 9. 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.

APRIL Birthdays

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

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 27, 2023)

Pledges Budgeted to Date:	\$187,100.01
Pledges Received to Date:	\$222,435.58
Difference:	\$ 35,335.57

Loose Offerings	
Budgeted to Date:	\$ 7,374.99
Received to Date:	\$ 3,809.23
Difference:	(\$ -3,565.76)

Special Offerings -	
5 Cents a Meal - February	\$1,407.22
(a portion went to Meals on Wheels)	
5 Cents a Meal - March	\$471.00
(a portion went to the Waverly Road Food Pantry)	

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

April 20
May 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> 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.

Holston Helpers

On May 5 and 6 Holston Center will be hosting the second annual Holston Helpers. Friday the 5th is all about fellowship. Friday's events will start with dinner at 6:00 and then will be a time of worship and campfire with smores and camp songs. Saturday the 6th is all about getting camp ready for the summer. There will be projects of all skill levels posted so all are welcome.

Second Harvest Workday in April

First Presbyterian Church volunteer "helpers" will pack bags and boxes of food at Second Harvest Food Bank on **Wednesday, April 19**. 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 and noon, and afternoon between one 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. (Please call or text 423-782-6280)

History Room News

The History Committee thanks Jimmy Wright for donating a copy of "Foundations of Faith in Sullivan County" to the First Presbyterian Church Archives. The book published in 1986 provides a fascinating glimpse into the history of the earliest churches in our county. The Presbyterian Church histories will be printed - photos taken of the current locations - and displayed for all to review. The Chapels founded by our church between 1917 and 1960's are not included in the book but we know their history and will include that history as well.

Session Highlights

- * Mary Glen Lively and Mike Wilkins were appointed to the Endowment Committee Class of 2025.
- * An Endowment Fund disbursement of \$100,000 for 2023 was approved by the Session.
- * Mark Plemmons was elected Rising Chair for the Nominating Committee.
- * A new heat pump for the classroom portion of the Fellowship Center will be installed for approximately \$12,400.

Holston Habitat Announces Marquette's Build

Holston Habitat for Humanity announced plans for the next Kingsport Faith Build. First Presbyterian Church will be one of seven area churches providing financial assistance and volunteer labor for "Marquette's Build". Marquette is a single mother with three children under 10 years old. Of course, she is thrilled with the prospect of having a safe and affordable home through the generosity of Holston Habitat, its donors and volunteers. This project will be located at 2215 Friendship Circle, Kingsport and is scheduled for groundbreaking in early April. Construction will run from May through August. FPC volunteers will be working July 20-22. More information will be available as construction gets underway. It would not be too early to offer a prayer for everyone involved in this project to provide the blessing of a new home for Marquette and her children!

Waverly Road Food Pantry

Item of the Month: Canned Fruit

Church Night Supper in April

Wednesdays, 5:30 p.m.

- **April 5** - Spring Break - No Dinner
- **April 12** - Pizza, Salad & Ice Cream Sandwiches
- **April 19** - Barberitos & Cookies
- **April 26** - Braeden's Barbecue Chicken breast, green beans, tater tots, salad and cheesecake

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))

Mission Speakers

This month there 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.

Wednesday night dinners will be served as usual and presentations will follow. These presentations will begin at 6:15 p.m., allowing a few minutes for each with questions to follow if time allows.

April 12

Hope Haven Ministries

James Reese and Jim Bare

The Oasis of Kingsport

Shantell Bogle, Executive Director

April 19

PCUSA Guatemala Mission ~ Eliane Menezes,

Mission Co-Worker (online)

Holston Habitat for Humanity

Laura Kelly, Executive Director

April 26

Kingsport Homeless Ministry - Grace House

Don Royston or Bobby Flowers

Providence Medical Clinic ~ Kimberly Hart, Chief Clinical Director (w/ Loyce Ardemagni, Board Chair)



Friends in Faith Class Begins New Series April 2

The *Friends in Faith* Sunday School Class will begin a new 6-week series on April 2nd entitled "**Covenant.**" Covenants are central throughout the Bible and Christianity (including today). God established covenants with his people, in the promising of a Messiah, and through Jesus Christ. Our Reformed and Presbyterian tradition recognizes the importance of covenants through baptism and the Lord's Supper (sometimes known as "Covenant Theology"). We are even known as God's covenant people! Join our class as we explore the following 6 sessions (lesson #1 will be on April 2nd):

The 6 sessions (discussions) are:

- God's Covenant with Noah and Creation
- God's Covenant with Abraham
- God's Covenant with Israel
- God's Covenant with David
- The New Covenant in Christ
- Israel, Church, and Covenant

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

April Youth Group

April 2 and 9

No youth group. Spring break and Easter—come worship with us! 8:45am "Sonrise" outside/11am Sanctuary.

April 16

5th-7th grades: 3:45-4:45 p.m.

8th-12th grades: 5:00-6:15 p.m. at Becca Wright's house for dinner and an Easter Egg hunt

April 23

ALL youth (5th and up) Presbytery Event Skating and pizza in Johnson City. Free!

Meet at church at 4:45 p.m.

Return around 8:15 p.m.

April 30

No youth group

Soup Fest 2023

Thanks to all who took part in our 2023 Soup Fest. We had fabulous soups in the competition, exceptional judges (everyone got to vote), great fun, and no one left hungry! Prizes were awarded in four categories. Congratulations to all of the winners!

- **Best of the Bird** - Nantucket Turkey Chowder (Carolyn Doerfert)
- **Soup of the Hoof (Beef)** - Presbyterian Soup (Elizabeth Wilkins)
- **Garden Variety (Vegetable)** - Mexican Corn Soup (Allen Wright)
- **Wild Card** - Sea Island Gumbo (Kim and Mark Plemmons)

We are delighted to be able to provide you with the winning recipes.



Presbyterian Soup

1 lb. ground round
 1/2 onion, chopped
 2 cans Veg-All without salt, use entire contents of each can
 2 cans 14 oz. Italian stewed tomatoes
 2 cans beef broth
 1/2 teaspoon oregano
 1 package beef Ramen noodles broken up, use flavor packet also

Brown ground round and chopped onions, drain grease. Add everything else together, bring to a boil and then reduce to a simmer and cook 30-45 minutes. After about 10 minutes, cut up tomatoes into smaller pieces while in the pot. Add water if further liquid is needed.

Elizabeth Wilkins

Nantucket Turkey Chowder

12 oz. lean bacon, diced
 3 large sweet onions, diced
 3 carrots, diced
 4 ribs celery, diced
 Scant 1/2 c. flour
 12 oz. red potatoes, small, diced
 2 tsp. thyme
 1 tsp. pepper
 1 tsp. salt
 2 bay leaves
 6-8 cups chicken or turkey broth
 3 cups cooked turkey, diced
 2 cups heavy cream

Brown bacon, remove; sauté onions, carrots and celery until slightly soft; add flour, cook two minutes; add potatoes. Remove from heat, add thyme, salt and pepper, bay leaf and broth. Cook over low heat 45 minutes - stir occasionally. Add turkey and bacon, turn heat down and add cream. DO NOT BOIL, add 1 cup sweetened dried cranberries. All proportions are a tad flexible.

Enjoy!

Carolyn Doerfert

Mexican Potato Soup

1 box AuGratin potato mix (regular flavor)
 1 can mexicorn
 1 can diced tomatoes with green chilies
 2 cups of water
 2 cups of whole milk
 2 cups of soft processed American cheese (Velveeta)

Cook potatoes in water until tender. Add mexicorn, tomatoes with chilies, and simmer 20 minutes. Add cheese and milk. Slowly increase heat while stirring until it gentle boils and soup has thickened.

Allen Wright

Sea Island Gumbo

Serves 8

2 lbs. large shrimp, peeled and deveined
 16 oz bag frozen okra
 1/2 c butter
 1 c water
 1 c tomato sauce
 2 14.5 oz cans diced tomatoes
 2 bay leaves
 4 cloves garlic, chopped
 1/2 tsp pepper - or to taste
 1 tsp salt - or to taste
 1 c green onions, sliced
 1/2 - 1 tsp Crystal or your favorite hot sauce (more if you like spicy)

4 cups cooked rice

- Sautee okra in butter till tender.
- Add water, tomato sauce, tomatoes, bay leaf and garlic. Season with salt and pepper. Simmer covered for 20 mins.
- Remove bay leaves and add hot sauce and shrimp. Cook until shrimp are pink and hot (about 2 mins). Add green onions and serve over rice.

Base can be made ahead then warmed to bubbling and shrimp added just before serving.

Kim and Mark Plemmons

