



Song of Solomon
2:12, NRSV

The
flowers
appear
on the
earth;
the
time of
singing
has come.



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 6

June 2023

Mark Your Calendar

- 6-4 *Lemonade on the Lawn*
H.S. Montreat begins
- 6-19 *Vacation Bible School begins*
July Newsletter Deadline
- 7-16 *Ice Cream Social*
- 8-13 *Sunday School Kickoff & BLT Luncheon*
- 9-24 *All-Church Picnic*

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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A Choosing What is Essential

I invite you to sit with Martha and Mary. You may know the story too well. It is challenging because we often identify with the wrong person in the story. Martha always has her defenders. Let's give her the last name, Stewart. She invites Jesus to her home, which is a display of hospitality, an important practice in Christianity. She busies herself in meal preparations. We may not live by bread alone, but we do not live long without it. In that day, you would-n't host a person in your home and not feed them. It was expected. Now, to the crux of the matter: she does **it all by herself**. Her sister **Mary is no help**, choosing to be in the other room, ignoring the sound of clattering pans, sitting at Jesus' feet, listening to him while Martha slaves away in the kitchen. Not only does she get zero help from Mary, when Martha complains about it, Jesus tells her she should **be more like her sister**.

Why are you distracted with all of your tasks? Why are you doing so much? Mary has chosen the good portion.

It was an odd thing to say, particularly given his last speech. Prior to Martha inviting him for dinner, Jesus told a lawyer the parable of the Good Samaritan, who asked what he must do to have eternal life? The lawyer had all the right answers, but he was all talk. He didn't put faith into action. He is a thinker, but not a doer. Faith isn't just thought; it is lived. Poor **Martha is a doer**. That is what gets her into trouble. What does Jesus want? He says one thing but then he reverses himself. Which is it, Jesus, doing or being? You can't have it both ways. You are being impossible. Is Martha not supposed to provide dinner? No, she is doing a good thing. The **Greek word** Jesus used to describe her task is "**diakonios**" from which we get "**deacon**". We will miss his message if we take **their activities** and try to **make one good and the other bad**. His point is more profound: both activities are good. Why is **Martha called out**? Not for **what she's doing**, but for **being distracted**. Sometimes, the **good things in life** can distract us from greater things like relationships. That was his word to her:

Martha, you are distracted. Not from what—from whom?

She was consumed by the table; he was focused on the relationships around the table. Jesus essentially tells Martha...

Martha, it was a bad trade, dinner over time with me. Don't let dinner distract you. Your life is always about people.

Summer Sunday Worship

8:30 a.m.
Chapel

10:00 a.m.
Sanctuary



Celebrating OUR GRADUATES

Congratulations to our Graduating Seniors!

- ◆ Ella Miller
- ◆ Sarah Jane Adams
- ◆ Zion Dutro
- ◆ Owen Heindselman
- ◆ Sam Barbour
- ◆ Grant Wilkins (Clemson)
- ◆ Spencer Correll (Univ. of Tenn)

Pray for these young people as they take their next steps in life.



Remind 101

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

New Hours for Summer Worship

At the April Session Meeting, the Session voted to suspend organized Sunday School during the summer and adopt a worship schedule of 8:30 a.m. in the Chapel and 10 a.m. in the Sanctuary. We will begin this summer schedule on **June 4** and continue until Sunday School Kickoff on **Sunday, August 13**.

Summer Fun!

June 4

Lemonade on the Lawn
Homemade cookies too!

Come and join us on Sunday, June 4, after the first and second worship services for Lemonade on the Lawn. We will be providing lemonade and delicious homemade cookies. Hope to see you there!



July 16

Ice Cream Social

August 13

Sunday School Kickoff
& BLT Luncheon

September 24

All-Church Picnic



Session Highlights

* Russ Pearson was endorsed by the Session to move to the Candidacy phase of Ordination.

* A van has been purchased using funds from the Sam and DeLois Anderson memorial fund and another memorial gift.



- June 1: Gerry Mayberry
- June 2: Paula Scott
- June 4: Frances Dryden, Carolyn Kidwell
- June 5: Lois Carter, Andrew Hagan, Olivia Doran
- June 7: Richard Meyer
- June 9: Olin Babb, Mary Glenn Lively, Shannon Vanlandingham
- June 10: Scott Cooper
- June 11: Donna Quillen, Rhys Wilkins
- June 12: Precia Keel
- June 13: Donna Marchion
- June 15: Lou Ann Moore
- June 16: Meghan Heindselman, Al Crymble
- June 17: Linda Cradic, Check Garcia
- June 19: Lleyton Good, Jane Ward
- June 21: Ruby Rogers, Susan Davis, Mark Plemmons
- June 22: Elli Walker, Julie Raines
- June 23: Sylvia Wright
- June 24: Owen Allgood, Laura McConnell
- June 25: Tom Sellers, Quinn Raines
- June 26: Peggy Groseclose, Patty Pendleton, Mike Pendley, Debra Smith, Rachel Smith
- June 27: Louise Piazza, Betty Blass
- June 29: Naima Kincaid, Sakhile Banda

Happy Birthday!

Pledge Update Year to Date

(as of May 22, 2023)

Pledges Budgeted to Date:	\$311,833.35
Pledges Received to Date:	\$339,257.19
Difference:	\$ 27,423.84

<u>Loose Offerings</u>	
Budgeted to Date:	\$ 12,291.65
Received to Date:	\$ 20,298.58
Difference:	\$ 8,006.93

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

June 19
July Newsletter



Rekindling Update

It has been 6 months since we have updated the **Rekindling** Information on the church website. The **Rekindling** Information gives each FPC member an opportunity to state how they will share their time and talents with the church. This information is then available to our church leaders as they attempt to staff projects, committees etc. Many of you completed the surveys in 2019 right before the Pandemic shut us down! I update the information twice a year. If you are a new member, did not complete the survey, or can't remember! Pick up a survey in the main hallway during June and return it to Vickie Green or leave it in the same box in the main hallway. (Just be sure you note on the envelope it is completed with your name on the **outside** so someone else does not pick it up). Can't get to the church to pick one up? I can email or mail one to you. Let me know by calling (239-9477) or emailing jharris@chartertn.net) **Deadline for updates is June 18.**

This will be my fourth year in this role – I enjoyed it; but am looking for someone to work with me for the remainder of this year and take it over in 2024. Now that the process is established it takes 2-4 hours twice a year. You work through the CFN Committee. Skills needed are attention to detail, ability to use word and moderate computer skills. Vickie Green does the posting to the webpage. For more information call me, Jane Harris, at 239-9477.

Striving to be the Hands of Christ...

Summer Breakfast Bag Help

Our volunteer sign ups for the summer Breakfast Ministry schedule are VERY low so far. We know that this is a busy time for families, but we will be without Beta Club student help over the summer, and we need our church to step up more than ever. If you are willing and able to donate an hour of your time on a Saturday or Sunday morning, please reach out to Sarah Good (sar4680@gmail.com) or Becca Wright (abwright@chartertn.net) to sign up. We have served 300+ bags per day for the past few weeks, so we need your help to keep this ministry going!



Second Harvest Work Day
May 17, 2023

Waverly Road Food Pantry

Item of the Month: Canned Tuna

Please drop donations in the basket outside the chapel door or in front of the stained glass on Sunday mornings. Your donations mean so much to those who don't have enough to eat. Thank you!

“...and if you spend yourselves in behalf of the hungry and satisfy the needs of the oppressed, then your light will rise in the darkness, and your night will become like the noonday.”
~ Isaiah 58:10

Musical Winds and Worship

“The wind blows where it wishes, and you hear its sound, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit.” (Jn 3:8) We recognize these words of Jesus to Nicodemus. As I write this, it is the “eve” of Pentecost, and the first Sunday we will gather following Alice Sanders’ departure.

Pentecost is a challenge to us twenty-first century Christians. We’re comfortable wearing red and celebrating the “birthday of the Church”, but the more wild, unpredictable element of the Holy Spirit moving among us, and within us, can be a bit unsettling, to say the least. Perhaps we’re better at treasuring the many gifts of our faith that we can dwell in, order, hold onto, and count on. Because these beautiful blessings bring us security, it’s only natural that we don’t want to let go to the next “wind” of the Spirit – especially when it sweeps our beloved organist away to a new ministry in Blacksburg, VA! But of course, we recognize that it was the move of God’s Spirit that brought Alice here. As we give thanks for her years of ministry among us, we rejoice in the plans God has for her future.

Now comes the unsettling, but exciting part of being a people “born of the Spirit”. I invite you to stir up prayers of hope and anticipation of the new winds God is already sending into our midst! Thanks be to God, I have been able to secure five different guest pianists/organists to serve in rotation for the next twelve Sundays. I am excited to work closely with these artists to prepare and rehearse the music that will be woven into the fabric of our worship!

These new interactions bring rich opportunities to explore the creative dimensions that we in the Worship Committee have chosen to enact in our Sanctuary service. We seek to create a joyous atmosphere of gathering our community of all ages into the beauty of God’s presence. The opening sequence of two or three praise and worship songs will vibrate with the participation of all of God’s children. Centering around our piano, and welcoming contributions from our children and youth, I’m inviting all our members who play guitar, rhythm, wind and stringed instruments to share your gifts in this expression of our faith and fellowship in the Spirit! Please contact me to let me know of your interest.

May this Pentecost Sunday, and all those which follow, remind us of the reviving creative power of the Holy Spirit, and may we feel the wind and breathe the fresh air of what God is doing in our midst! Let us embrace with joy the plans God has for the future of First Presbyterian!

Yours in His Service,

Mark Davis

June Youth News

June 4-10 - High School Montreat.

Summer Sunday School

The Sunday school season for kids is over for the summer. A big thanks to all of our teachers for their dedication and leadership. We cannot do this without them!

Summer worship will begin June 4 with 8:30 a.m. and 10 a.m. services.

Russ will have a children’s church option during the 10 a.m. service beginning June 4. Youth can help lead!

First Presbyterian VBS 2023

Theme: Stellar

Monday, June 19 - Thursday June 22
9:00 a.m. - Noon



Come join us for another great time at Vacation Bible School! The kids will learn how to share their lights with the world as they hear important stories about Jesus. If you have any questions please, contact Russ at church. To sign up go on our website:

[Vacation Bible School - First Presbyterian Church-Kingsport \(fpckpt.org\)](http://Vacation Bible School - First Presbyterian Church-Kingsport (fpckpt.org))

Holston Habitat for Humanity Faith Build Spring/Summer 2023

Marquette's Build at 2215 Friendship Circle, Kingsport TN

Ground has been broken for Marquette's Build. Site preparation and foundation work are complete. Exterior & interior walls will be going up soon, and the roof will follow shortly thereafter.



This is a reminder that work days for First Presbyterian Church volunteers will be July 20, 21 and 22. The best we know at this point, our tasks will include putting in flooring, painting and installing doors and trim. Depending upon how well planned activities meet the schedule, our tasks could change by the time July rolls around. We will stay in touch with the Volunteer Construction Manager, so any changes can be shared as our assigned week nears!

The work plan for our week calls for 6 volunteers from FPC each day, and we are typically asked to provide around 15 lunches each day for FPC people, other Habitat volunteers and construction supervisors. Check your calendars to see if you might be available to join us on any of these days. More information about signing up will be shared in June.

Thank You from Beth

Dear church family,
Thank you for helping me grow and become the person I am today throughout my life at First Presbyterian Church. It felt strange to me to think about transferring my membership to a different church, since I've had so many great memories and experiences here. I didn't want to say goodbye and close out this chapter of my life without saying thank you to all of you. Thank you for always being my home church.

Sincerely,
Beth Compton

Have you seen the new addition to the FPC parking lot??

Recently, a 2020 model Ford Transit passenger van was purchased by our church. Funds that had been given as memorial gifts for Sam and DeLois Anderson were used to buy the van. We look forward to years of travel for all ages with this new addition!



A Message from Alice

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,
Four years ago I had moved halfway across the country and was looking for a church position. For several years I had been limited to playing service music on the piano. (My church had sold its large building and with it the beautiful organ.) It was my dream to find a job with a fine pipe organ and a strong music program. That dream was realized when I became your organist.

With the job came the wonderful Schantz/Colby organ and an exceptional piano, but also so much more: close working relationships with Mark Davis and other staff members, a gifted and congenial choir to accompany, the creative challenges occasioned by a pandemic and the joy of resuming worship afterwards, and, most especially, the acceptance, appreciation, and love shown to me by so many members of the congregation.

I now feel called to a new professional challenge as Director of Music/Organist for Blacksburg Presbyterian Church in Blacksburg, VA. The time I spent in ministry alongside you will always remain in my heart as a treasured time. I trust that God will continue to bless you, First Presbyterian Church Kingsport, as you move ahead in faith, ministering to each other and the community that surrounds you. "Blest be the tie that binds our hearts in Christian love."

As we go forward, now ministering in different places, I echo the words the Apostle Paul wrote in Philippians (1:3-4 CEV): "Every time I think of you, I thank my God. And whenever I mention you in my prayers, it makes me happy."

I will pray for your thriving and ask that you pray for mine.

May grace and peace be yours in abundance!

Your sister in the faith,
Alice Sanders