



For the
creation waits in
eager expectation
for the
children of God
to be revealed.

Romans 8:19, 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

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May 2023

A Word from the Brother

James was the brother of Jesus. If you're skeptical about Christianity or know someone who is, you need look no further than James. If anyone could raise a hand and say that Jesus is just a guy, and he is not who they crack him up to be, it would be his brother, right? But James becomes, not just his brother, but his Disciple. Why do I tell you this? Christianity began as a family: a family of brothers and sisters. That is why FPC exists: to be God's family. We are called to love each other which is often easier said than done. One of James' classic lines...

Every good and perfect gift comes down from God the Father.

Say that to yourselves 5 times a day: we depend upon God for every good thing. From the next breath you take, to the fact that gravity still works, all that we have comes from God. I had preached on the theme of how dependent we are on God, and a woman in my previous church put her finger in my face after worship, **"I don't owe anybody anything"** What a bitter and sad way to live.

Tim Keller, the best-selling author, says, **"Many of us live our lives like plagiarists."** In plagiarism, you present a paper or write a book and you claim that it is yours but you stole someone else's thoughts. The more we take credit for the good things in our lives, the more we plagiarize the truth. So let us be clear: all the good things in our lives are really gifts that come down from God. Repeat it to yourself,

"Every good and perfect gift comes down from God the Father" .

Beware not to credit God with the evil in your life or you will discredit his name. All that comes from his hand is good. God is good and does only good. Those who follow Jesus seriously trust that God is good; that all they have and all that they are, is a gift of God. Every single day we live is a gift; that's why it is called "the present". Those who live this way are quick to give credit where credit is due, and that credit belongs to God.

James wasn't finished. He made one last appeal to his readers that merits our attention:

"To be doers of God's word" and not merely "hearers" of it."

Knowing Jesus as more than a brother, he saw firsthand how Jesus lived out scripture and made it come alive. Being a Christian is more than just being nice. If we say we are Christians, we can't just opt out of it." We serve God faithfully, and not with mere lip service. Just some more food for your thoughts!

Miko

Mark Your Calendar

- 5-7 Legacy Luncheon
- 5-18 June Newsletter Deadline
- 5-21 Lemonade on the Lawn
- 6-4 Lemonade on the Lawn
- 7-16 Ice Cream Social
- 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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Sunday Worship

8:45 a.m.
Chapel

11:00 a.m.
Sanctuary

Bev's New Office Hours

Bev Johnson, Financial Administrator, has changed her hours. New hours, which will take effect immediately, are as follows: Monday - 9:30 a.m. - 12:00 noon and Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday - 8:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. She will be working from home in the afternoons. Please call and schedule a morning appointment if you need to see Bev; otherwise, you can contact her via email: bjohnson@firstpreskingsport.org.



Flowers Needed for Church in 2023 Only One Date Left!

Call Vickie in the church office to schedule this date (245-0104).

October 1

Remind 101

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

Legacy Sunday Luncheon

May 7

Will You Be There?

All members have received a letter announcing our church's first **Legacy Sunday** and luncheon on May 7. Legacy Sunday, encouraged by our denomination on the first Sunday in May, is an annual dedicated Sunday to recognize and thank those members who have indicated that they have named the church in their estate plans or will be doing so. It is also a time to remember those members who are no longer with us and their contributions through their estates to our church's endowment program (which supports both the external and internal ministries of First Presbyterian). The Endowment Committee warmly invites all members to attend our church's first ever **Legacy Sunday** luncheon on May 7 immediately following the 11:00 a.m. worship service. Please RSVP by Monday, May 1 to the church office by calling 245-0104 or emailing (vgreen@firstpreskingsport.org) or by signing via the church website.

Coming Soon...

Sunday, May 21 and June 4
Lemonade on the Lawn
Homemade cookies too!

July 16
Ice Cream Socia

Sept. 24
All-Church Picnic

From the History Committee

Spring and Summer are *prime time* for weddings and lots have taken place in our church over the years. In our archives we have photos from a number of these weddings. Do you have a photo of a wedding of current or past members that took place in our sanctuary or chapel? If so please scan and send by the end of May to firstpresbyterianarchives@gmail.com or leave hard copy photos in the History mailbox near Vickie's desk. If you leave hard copy photos; please include your name and the photo will be returned if you wish. Be sure to include names of bride and groom and date of wedding! This will be our summer display in the History Room.



May 1: Ben Harris
May 4: Chuck Mooney, Clayton Walker
May 5: Bill Adams
May 9: Hunter Wright, Celia Osborne
May 13: Larry Maston
May 14: Christine Baugh, Randell Drayne
May 15th: Sally Crawford
May 17: Jennifer Walker
May 18: Leslie Pope, John Bovender, Grayson Mott
May 20: Bette Patton, Stewart Taylor, Autumn Hagan
May 21: Kinsley Argabrite
May 25: Dave Hafele
May 27: Tricia Argabrite, Colin Pendleton
May 29: Doug Benton
May 31: Kathy Redwine

Happy Birthday!

Pledge Update

Year to Date

(as of April 25, 2023)

Pledges Budgeted to Date:	\$249,466.68
Pledges Received to Date:	\$278,637.07
Difference:	\$ 29,170.39

Loose Offerings	
Budgeted to Date:	\$ 9,833.32
Received to Date:	\$ 6,879.23
Difference:	(\$ -2,954.09)

Special Offerings -
5 Cents a Meal - April \$1,000
(a portion went to UKirk @ETSU)

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

May 18
June 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.

Thank You

Thank you to Barbara Maston, Barbara Foust, and Helen Baylor for helping prepare and distribute 14 palm arrangements throughout our church for Palm Sunday. We also had extra palm fronds that the children gloriously waved as they processed into the church on that special morning. Then on Easter Sunday, our church was beautifully adorned with over 90 red geraniums, thanks to the help of Cheryl Rice, Barbara Foust and our donors.

I think you would agree that one of the joys of Easter morning is arriving at our church and seeing the big round table adorned with a beautiful display of Life and our Risen Savior—all thanks to Patty Pendleton & Judy Grover. Thank you, Ladies!

Our church is truly blessed to have those who volunteer their time, talents, and love to "the rest of us" so that we might be more blessed during the Easter (& Christmas) seasons. Please thank those who so generously share their gifts!

On another note, I would like to thank everyone who has served over the years with Christmas and Easter preparation in our church—so many! And, a special "thank you" for allowing and assisting me for over 15 years in decorating, organizing, and preparing our church for these two special seasons. It has been a blessing that I will miss!

Thank you,
Sue Redmon

Waverly Road Food Pantry
Item of the Month: Canned Vegetables

Session Highlights

* Serving FPC for the May 2, 2023 Presbytery meeting at Holston Presbytery Camp will be Richard Meyer as Commissioner and Mark Plemmons as Alternate.

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!

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 in May

A recent publication from Second Harvest Food Bank of Northeast Tennessee stated that approximately 45,000 children, families, seniors, and veteran's are served each month in our region! This is up 5,000 from just a couple years ago. Getting food to this population involves many steps and requires a lot of people. Food is acquired from direct purchases, and donations from food producers, distributors, grocers and other retailers. Once collected, those food items must be converted from bulk packages into individual items ready for personal consumption. Then a menu of single items is put together in a deliverable bag or box that can be efficiently delivered to its target recipients. That could be for school children, senior centers, churches and other community food pantries!

First Presbyterian volunteers are pitching in to pack bags and boxes at Second Harvest and to deliver Food for Kids packages to nine Kingsport City Schools. These are essential parts of the process in support of Second Harvest's vision of a hunger-free Northeast Tennessee.



Each time we do these things, we walk away saying to each other "That was so much fun, and it gives such a good feeling of helping others in need." If you would like to join in, please call or text Bob Stoots at 423-782-6280. Our next Day of Service at Second Harvest Food Bank will be May 17.



First Presbyterian VBS 2023 Theme: Stellar from Group Publishing

When:

Monday, June 19 - Thursday June 22

Times:

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 or use this link:

<https://forms.gle/gZkCh4jUmkmLSUsH7>

May Youth News

Our last regular youth group of the season will be May 7

4:00-5:30 p.m. - Middle School
5:00-5:30 p.m. - ALL YOUTH PIZZA
5:00-6:15 p.m. - High School



Looking Ahead

June 4-10 - High School Montreat.

Easter Sunday

April
2023

