



Walk
in the way
of the good
and keep
to the paths
of the righteous.
Proverbs 2:20

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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September 2023

Mark Your Calendar

- 9-10 "At the River" Event
- 9-20 CNS & Bible Study resume
- 9-21 Newsletter Deadline
- 9-24 All-Church Picnic
- 10-18 Care Ministry Dinner

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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Even Though

The day my ministry changed wasn't while preaching or teaching, but when I was talking with a recovering drug addict. He'd been in and out of treatment, and only recently come to church. I think that I'd given him too much advice, but he sighed, **I'M TIRED OF TRYING. WHAT IF I AM AS GOOD AS I WILL EVER GET?** Ever feel like the harder you try, the worse it gets? Paul tried hard but he was weary. What did him in was religion. It did not make him holy; it made him bitter. He did the right things but for the wrong reasons. He tried to be a good Jew, but he hated himself. It wore him out, left him empty, but empty was where God wanted him. Empty is where we all must be when we come honestly before God. Paul writes:

I am grateful to Jesus who has strengthened me, because he judged me faithful, appointed me to his service, even though I was formerly a blasphemer, a persecutor, a man of violence.

What words strike you? I'd suggest the two little words: **EVEN THOUGH.** We are "even-though people", and that is how **God uses us.**

God uses me even though I'm not perfect. Even though I am broken. Even though I have a past. Even though I am arrogant, and overly proud

We got involved even though we didn't know what we were doing. We taught Sunday School even though we didn't know the Bible. We helped a friend in need even though we had needs; we forgave a person even though we needed to be forgiven. For Paul, even though wasn't a **figure of speech** but a **symbol of his life.** Even though he tried hard to practice faith, it was just making him rigid and judgmental. It took Paul half his life, trying so hard to please God that he made himself and others miserable. Spiritual growth isn't found in **TRYING HARDER** but **TRUSTING MORE.** Without the Spirit, all we have is **religion.**

Ever disappointed yourself? I have. I wasn't by doing bad things but getting stuck in my quest to become **what I am meant to be.** I should be **MORE HOLY** than I am; I refuse to change; I settle for old excuses; I love God too little and sin too much. There is a **feeling of discontent.** I've fallen **short of my potential.** Being a Christian isn't a **do-it-yourself project.** The life God intends for us involves maturity, putting faith into practice. God sees our lives in "**even-though mode**"

Even though you forget me, I won't forget you. Even you ignore what I say, I don't forsake you. Even though you've wasted many seasons of your life doing your own thing, I am still waiting to do my thing in your life.

Mike

Sunday Worship

8:45 a.m.
Chapel

11:00 a.m.
Sanctuary



Session Highlights

◆ Russ Pearson reported he will be beginning his last requirement to complete his Candidacy for ministry. He will begin the Clinical Pastoral Education this fall with completion in March 2024.

◆ A request of \$20,000 from the Property Committee for engineering services for plans and specifications for HVAC improvements to the sanctuary and old fellowship hall was approved.

◆ A request of \$15,540 from the Property Committee for a drain replacement around the perimeter of the sanctuary with funds taken from the Reserve Fund was approved.

◆ A Called Meeting of the Congregation will be Sunday, September 17, 2023 during the 11:00 worship service for the purpose of electing our new officers.

Remind 101

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

Wednesdays at FPC

Our Wednesday Night dinners will resume on **September 20**, and Mike Shelton's series will begin that evening. The cost for dinner 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) [Church Night Supper - First Presbyterian Church-Kingsport \(fpckpt.org\)](http://fpckpt.org) We're looking forward to another wonderful season of lessons, food and fellowship!

Wednesday, September 20

Pizza
Salad
Dessert

Wednesday, September 27

Olive Garden
Pasta
Salad
Breadsticks
Dessert

Wednesday Night Class

"Forgiven People Forgive"

Starting Wednesday night **September 20**, Mike Shelton will offer a six-week class on forgiveness and his lessons include the following: *What Forgiveness Is, What It Is Not, and Who Needs It? How God Views Forgiveness, The Journey from Being Forgiven to Forgiving, When it is Hard to Forgive, The Stages of Forgiveness, and Learning How to Forgive.* Check your email and bulletin for more information.

September Youth News

For September our youth will have a chance to participate in some local missions. We will help the clothes closet with children's consignment clothes and play some softball with the Miracle League. Dates and times will be communicated to parents, but if you have any questions please contact Russ.



Sept. 1: John Christopher Demuth, Lisa Good

Sept. 3: Roger Goin, Charlie Compton, Sam Compton

Sept. 4: Jimmy Dickerson, Eleanor Combs, Claudia Mihovk

Sept. 6: Mark Barbour, Fred Martin

Sept. 7: Gray Stothart, Carol Dixon

Sept. 8: Jim Wright

Sept. 9: Sarah Tatchi, Lylah Combs

Sept. 12: Jane Harris, Martha Pendley, Heather Kunysz

Sept. 13: Mary Ruth

Sept. 14: Henry King

Sept. 15: Cynthia King, Alan Hobbs, Norie-Anne Watts

Sept. 16: Cooper Bunch

Sept. 18: Betty Nelle Duke

Sept. 20: Carl Eilers, Sam Stevens

Sept. 22: Bill Argabrite

Sept. 25: Donna Shelton

Sept. 27: Gail Cole

Sept. 30: Laura Drayne

Happy Birthday!

Pledge Update - Year to Date

(as of August 28, 2023)

Pledges Budgeted to Date:	\$498,933.36
Pledges Received to Date:	\$493,714.06
Difference:	(\$ -5,219.30)

Loose Offerings

Budgeted to Date:	\$ 19,666.64
Received to Date:	\$ 27,676.19
Difference:	\$ 8,009.55

Special Offerings -

5 Cents a Meal - August	\$1,264.89
(a portion went to The Oasis)	

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

September 21
October Newsletter

Striving to be the Hands of Christ...

Thank you from our partners
at Holston Habitat:



*Aimee Jones
Business Manager*
*Steve Clark
Construction Mgr*
*Dorothy Edwards
KPT Restore*
*Johna Kelly
Executive Director*
*Alanna Leathers
Homeowner Services
& Outreach*
*Johna Thomas
SC Restore*
*Mandy Perry
Volunteer Mgr*
*Melva Atchley
Homeowner
Support Specialist*

Second Harvest Food Bank in September

FPC volunteers will gather for another day of service at Second Harvest Food Bank on **September 20**. There will be two options for this date: morning between 10 and noon and afternoon between 1 and 3 p.m. Check your calendars and let Bob Stoots know if you'd like to help at either or both of these times (call or text 423-782-6280).



Pastor Shelton,
Thanks to you and the congregation of First Presbyterian for volunteering on Marquette's Build! We hope everyone enjoyed their time and that you all will volunteer with us again!
*Many blessings,
the Holston
Habitat Staff*

Breakfast Ministry

If you are interested in serving with our Breakfast Ministry, please email Sarah Good at sar4680@gmail.com or call Becca Wright at 423-963-9617. We still have many available volunteer shifts this fall and would love your help! Monetary donations are also very much appreciated--the rising cost of food has made funding our ministry a challenge. Thank you for being the hands and feet of Christ!

Waverly Road Food Pantry Item of the Month

Canned Soups

For September, please bring a **can of soup**. 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**



All-Church Picnic at Allandale Pavilion Sunday, September 24

Fellowship at 5 p.m. ~
Dinner served at 6 p.m.

Cost: \$10; Children ages 6-10 - \$5
Free for children under 6
\$35 family max

(When booking your reservations, please note that a family = parent(s) and dependent children 18 years of age and under.)

Make reservations and pay online at
www.firstpreskingsport.org or

Call the church office at (243) 245-0104

Sign up at church on Sunday, Sept. 10 and 17

(Menu will be announced soon.)

Labor Day Holiday Schedule

The church office will be closed **Monday, September 4** for the Labor Day holiday. The Clothes Closet will be closed **Monday, September 4** and **Tuesday, September 5**.

Rekindling Our Gifts

Notice to all committee chairs and others who need FPC members for volunteer positions. The Rekindling Our Gifts lists on the church members only section of website have been updated to include our new members. Please check when you need help.



New Church Directory

The church will be doing an updated photo directory for 2023. Photos will be taken by our own Don Thompson on several Sunday mornings. Don will take photos before and after each worship service on: **September 10, September 17, September 24 and October 1.** The directory will be in digital format and available in the members only section of the

church's website or a printed copy can be requested. Additionally, you may submit your own photo to be included in the directory if you are unable to pose for one.

The History of Our Church

Over the next several months the History Committee is sharing a bit of information about various furnishings and features of our church. You probably walk by or see them often; but don't know how they came to be a part of FPC. In the earlier days of FPC, families made memorial contributions to provide things we needed. We no longer encourage donation of things to the church; but do encourage donations to the Memorial Fund or the Legacy Program when you want to remember someone or provide funds for future church needs. These funds enable the church to direct resources where they are most needed.

Chapel Stain Glass window – The Good Shepherd - was donated by Felix Guenther in memory of wife Nancy Guenther. Completed in 1945 as it was delayed by limited labor and materials during WW2.



Employment Opportunities at the Children's Center

The Children's Center is in need of an Infant room assistant teacher, a toddler assistant teacher, a part-time assistant and they could always use dependable substitute teachers. Applicants can send a resume to fpcc@fpckpt.org or come by and fill out an application.

First Presbyterian Church and the Performing Arts

*"For the common things of everyday, God gave us speech in the common way;
For the deeper things we think and feel, God gave poets words to reveal;
But for the heights and depths no words can reach, God gave us music ~
the soul's own speech."*

This little poem expresses well why we, a community of faith at First Presbyterian Church, find it meaningful to engage with the performing arts, offered as a gift of love to our surrounding community. We believe Drama and Music can express the human condition in all its dimensions of pain and pleasure, tragedy and triumph. Our faith calls us to share with authenticity as we seek to integrate mind, body, soul, and spirit.

The Arts, greatly inspired and presented, can help us to know ourselves better, to break down barriers, and to be transformed by the redeeming power of love and beauty. The performers chosen for this series have distinguished themselves with excellence on the professional level. More significantly, they are known to evoke a powerful experience on the personal level.

*Mark Owen Davis
Director of Music Ministries*

First Presbyterian Kingsport *Performing Arts Series 2023 Season*

Paramount Chamber Players
Friday, October 20, 7:30 p.m.

Dreams and Drama
The area's premiere professional chamber ensemble offers the piano quartets of Johannes Brahms and Frank Bridge.



Adults \$15; Seniors \$10;
Students, Free



Adults \$25; Seniors \$20;
Students, \$10

Laura Ann Singh

presents An Evening of Song -
American Songbook, Bossa Nova
and Popular Song

Friday, November 3, 7:30 p.m.

The acclaimed multilingual singer, in trio with keyboard and bass, offers an exciting and spicy tapestry of American and Brazilian song.

For tickets or more information: (423) 383-7876 • www.firstpreskingsport.org