

Friends in Faith Class Begins New Series on October 8 Exploring the “Book of Confessions”

The *Friends in Faith* Sunday School Class will begin a new 6-week series on October 8th entitled **Exploring the “Book of Confessions.”** The Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) has a collection of eleven creeds and confessions in our *Book of Confessions*. These documents, from the early church to the present time, convey the richness and depth of our theological tradition. They give us rich insights on what we believe and how we can live. Join our class as we explore the following 6 sessions (lesson #1 will be on October 8th):

The 6 sessions (discussions) are:

- The Nature and Function of Confessions
- The Ancient Creeds: Who is God?
- The Reformation Confessions: What Is the Church? (Part 1)
- The Reformation Confessions: What Is the Church? (Part 2)
- 20th Century Declarations: What Is the Church’s Mission in the World?
- Carrying Our Mission Into the 21st Century

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.



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 10

October 2023

Mark Your Calendar

- 10-18 *Care Ministry Dinner*
- 10-19 *Newsletter Deadline*
- 10-29 *Trunk or Treat*
- 11-15 *Thanksgiving Dinner*

Weekly

Tuesdays

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

Wednesdays

CNS
5:30-6:15 p.m.

Bible Study
6:15-7:00 p.m.

Choir Rehearsal
7:00 p.m.

Thursdays

Balance Class
1:15 p.m.



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In Odd Company

Let’s face it: Christians are an **odd group of people** and I mean that as a compliment. What must it be like for someone outside Christianity to come into worship;

Our music is different. We pray a confession, admit mistakes publicly, someone says “our sins are forgiven” We pray as if we have a direct audience with God, who is actually listening and interested. We read an old book. Someone gives a talk to make sense out of it. We ask people to give hard-earned money to keep it all going! We sing a hymn and then we go home. I rest my case: we are odd people!

We expect Christians to be people of faith. What does it mean to have faith? The writer of Hebrews took a shot at defining it:

Faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen. The Greek word, “assurance” means reality.

Faith isn’t mere human optimism or wishful thinking; it is reality.

Faith is like knowing where your house is. Faith is not, “I think I can, I think I can.” You know faith. How do you know that your mother loves you? You just know. How do you know if you are happy or sad? You know. Faith is trust, knowing without seeing. Some think that “seeing is believing” but if we only believe what we can see, we live narrow and limited lives. If **we could see** it, it wouldn’t be faith! Faith is a journey. The first step of faith always begins with a call to leave our **comfort zones**, the security of what we’ve known, and striking out into unknown, with only God to guide us. If we stay where we are, we’ll miss it. The next time someone tries to dismiss your faith as mere wishful thinking, just smile and say...

No! Faith is reality. We all have faith in something/someone. I just chose to place faith in a God above/beyond, whom I can’t control, whose ways are not my ways, yet who loves so much that he sent his son to earth to remind me how much I matter.

Hanging around Christians is an odd thing to do. People who live by faith don’t always see what other people see. Faith can **put you at odds** with other people. Folks have been persecuted because of their faith. Jesus once paused in the midst of what he was doing and asked...

When the Son of Man comes, will he find faith on earth?

That is deeper, more profound question than you may think and my hope is that you will take the time to answer it for yourself.

Sunday Worship

8:45 a.m.
Chapel

11:00 a.m.
Sanctuary

OCTOBER



Session Highlights

- ◆Bev Johnson submitted a letter of resignation effective December 31, 2023.
- ◆Process for Ordination for Russ Pearson will begin in the spring of 2024.
- ◆Presbytery Unified Giving for the 2024 budget will be \$24,000.
- ◆Grab-N-Go breakfast guests will be permitted to use the Fellowship Center during inclement weather beginning November 1.
- ◆A Called Congregational meeting for the purpose of electing Elders for the Class of 2026 and Deacons for the Class of 2025 was set for Sunday, October 15, 2023.
- ◆ A new lease agreement between FPC and the FPC Children's Center was approved.

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 Church Night Supper and Bible Study continue in October. 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 \(fpckpt.org\)](https://www.fpckpt.org). Mike Shelton will continue his Wednesday night class on forgiveness throughout October, except for a small break on October 18 for our Fall Care Ministry Dinner. Check your email and bulletin for more information.

Wednesday, October 4

Braeden's BBQ Restaurant
Burgers and homemade chips

Wednesday, October 11

Panda Express

Wednesday, October 25

Jersey Mike's

Fall Care Ministry Dinner

Wednesday, October 18

5:45 p.m. ~ Fellowship Center

Menu: Smoked Pork Loin, Grilled Chicken Breast, Salad, Creamed Corn, Roll, Dessert

Cost: \$15; \$5 for children age 6 and under: \$40 maximum per family. Reservations are due to your deacon by noon on **Tuesday, October 10, 2023**

Trunk or Treat

Sunday, October 29

4:00-5:00pm

Church Parking Lot

We need cars to help make this happen. Feel free to decorate your car or just bring a bag of candy. If you can help, contact Russ. Also we'll begin taking candy donations. Drop them off at church in our foyer.



October 3: Allen Wright

October 4: John Newell, Pat Bryan, Rebecca Quillen

October 5: Don Osborne, Tal Francisco

October 6: Leola Campbell, Matt King

October 7: Ellen Sims, Taylor Bunch

October 9: Ian Ward

October 10: Morris Hadden

October 11: Marthe Kincaid

October 12: Neely Mink

October 13: Beth Amstutz

October 14: Arlee Mott

October 15: David McBee, Pamela Babb, Steve Miller

October 16: Don Good

October 17: Jim Amstutz

October 18: Duncan Harker, Owen Heindselman, Jack Addleburg

October 19: Cheryl Ann Hess

October 21: Bo Grover, Al Asbury

October 22: Michael Holt, Alyson Argabrite, Anna Hagan

October 24: Laura Jane Yantz

October 26: John Alan Smith, Jacqueline Buckles, Leslie Light, Will Jennings

October 31: Betsy Boyd, Tonya McInturff, Wes Argabrite, Sharon Amstutz

Happy Birthday!

Pledge Update - Year to Date

(as of Sept. 26, 2023)

Pledges Budgeted to Date:	\$561,300.03
Pledges Received to Date:	\$525,169.35
Difference:	(\$ -36,130.68)

Loose Offerings

Budgeted to Date:	\$ 22,124.97
Received to Date:	\$ 29,364.19
Difference:	\$ 7,239.22

Special Offerings -

5 Cents a Meal - September	\$1,331.22
(a portion went to Grace House)	

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.

Thank You!

Thanks to the generosity of First Presbyterian, I was able to enjoy the 2023 Women's Connection at Montreat. I appreciate being able to spend time with delightful women at Reynolds Lodge. Thank you for making this possible.

Carol Secord
Chattanooga, TN



Next First Press Newsletter Deadline

October 19
November Newsletter



A Message from Debbie Welch

We're meeting with your kiddos this week! There will be more pictures but I couldn't wait to send you this one of Tony. Rebecca missed a couple weeks of school with Dengue but she's doing well now and we look forward to seeing her soon. We already delivered 134 books from you all to the new school Futuro Vivo. Wednesday we get to visit the school and take pictures there. Sunday we head back to the states. Wow the time has gone so fast!

Blessings,
Debbie

Note:
Tony is one of our scholarship students in Guatemala.

Our church members recently had the opportunity to promote literacy in Guatemala by supporting the *Libros Abiertos*, or *Open Books*, program run by our retired mission co-workers, Debbie and Richard Welch. Debbie continues the project she started when they lived in Guatemala to give kids in the Coban region access to books. Public schools in the region receive very limited funding, and many schools and classrooms cannot afford books or a library for students. *Open Books* currently provides children's books for three schools with a request for a fourth, and an idea for a mobile library that could support multiple schools.



Church Circle Nativity Celebration

Sunday, December 3, 2023
12:30 p.m.
Church Circle

Join the Downtown Churches for the Rededication and 57th Anniversary Celebration of the recently restored church circle nativity!

For more information:
Debbie Waggoner 423-676-2419

Clothes Closet in Need of Winter Clothing

With cold weather approaching in the next few weeks, we have a need for the following items:

Hooded sweatshirts, warm jackets and winter coats, beanie (toboggan) type wool hats, winter grade gloves, long underwear, blankets and large throws. Anything that is clean and in good repair will be greatly appreciated. You can place your donation in the drop box at the church or bring it on Monday mornings when we are working at the church. Thank you.

Waverly Road Food Pantry Item of the Month

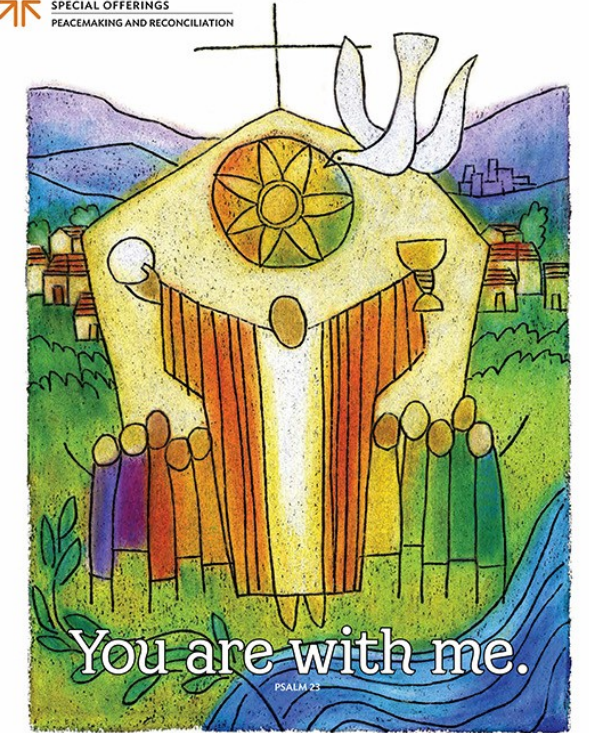
Pasta & Canned Sauce or Mac & Cheese

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!

Peace & Global Witness Offering

On World Communion Sunday, we celebrate that Christ's peace extends throughout all creation. Whenever the church gathers for worship, we are assured of Christ's peace. We celebrate that we are connected, we are loved and we are not alone. We worship together and are fed from Scripture and at Christ's table of peace. Extending the peace of Christ is part of an active, engaged faith—a witness to what it means for us to be the Church, together. Through participation in the **Peace & Global Witness Offering**, our church is extending Christ's peace throughout our community and our world. We begin at the communion table, with our siblings in every time and place, and we celebrate the peace we find there and commit to building a more just and peaceful world. God's peace, empowered by God's joy, reminds us that we are connected to each other. Twenty-five percent of today's Peace and Global Witness Offering will go to our Ukrainian friends, Oksana, Max and Alisa Lypka, who escaped an active war zone in Ukraine and traveled through unfamiliar places without being able to speak any of the local languages. Having been in Tennessee over a year now they are much more settled. Oksana is working full time at The Blake. Max and Alisa are in school and pre-school at Cedar View Christian School. Despite these advances, they have a long way to go to be comfortable with life here that is so different from Ukraine before the Russian invasion. May our loving and gracious God continue to bless them and keep them in his care!

PEACE & GLOBAL WITNESS
SPECIAL OFFERINGS
PEACEMAKING AND RECONCILIATION



Flowers Needed for Church in 2024

January 7	May 26
January 21	June 2
January 28	June 16
February 4	June 30
February 25	July 14
March 3	July 21
March 10	August 11
March 17	September 13
April 14	September 15
April 28	September 29
May 19	November 17

Youth News

Upcoming retreat:
All youth Presbytery Retreat
November 10-12

For more information at contact Russ at
rpearson@firstpreskingsport.org.

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.

The History of Our Church

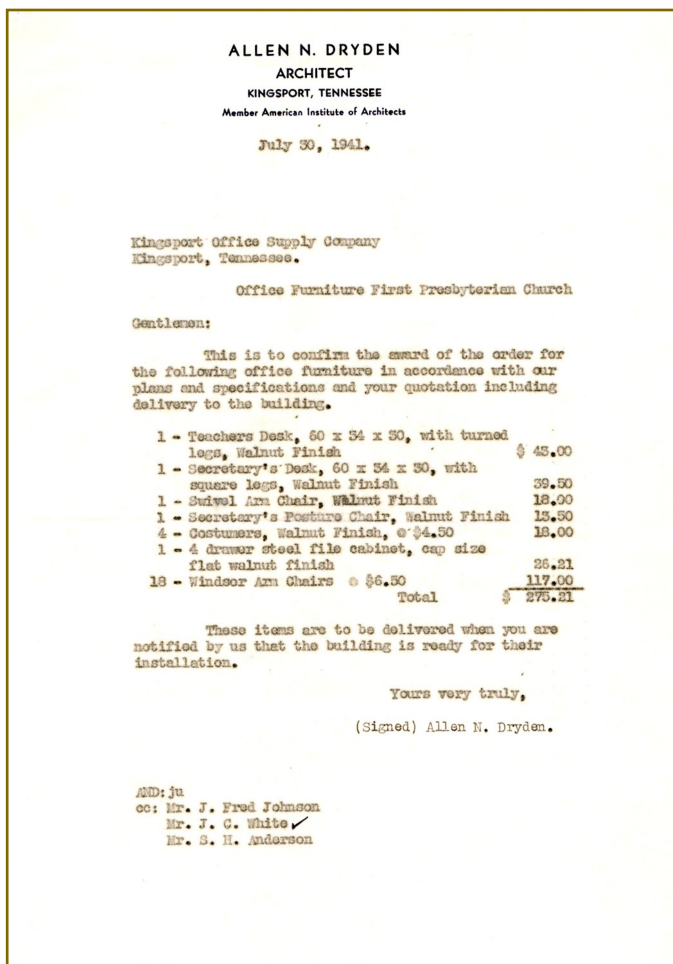
Over the next several months the History Committee is sharing a bit of information about various furnishings and features of our church. You probably walk by or see them often; but don't know how they came to be a part of FPC. In the earlier days of FPC, families made memorial contributions to provide 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.

Original Session Chairs were purchased by church in 1941 for \$6.50 each. You will find several around the church – in the History Room and in the hallway near the chapel.



Preparing for Death of a Spouse or Loved One

Please set aside some time on **October 17** to discuss a topic you hope to never deal with - BUT - in reality, know you will have to deal with someday - losing your spouse or another loved one. The CFN committee is offering you lunch and a panel discussion with time for questions at 11:45 in the Fellowship Center on **Tuesday, October 17**. Church members Chad Correll and Linda D. Buckles will join Dr. Mike Shelton in sharing their personal experiences to help you begin planning for this eventuality in your life. Lunch will be provided at no cost but we need a number to prepare so call or email Vickie in the church office by Wednesday, October 11 to reserve your spot. We plan to finish by 1:00 if you need to return to work.



**A note from:
Rev. Karen Russell
Transitional Executive Presbyter,
Holston Presbytery**

We still need volunteers to help fill spots in our committee rosters for 2024. I'm asking each congregation to recruit one additional person to serve on a committee. We also have spots available on our Permanent Judicial Commission (which meets only as needed), as well as a spot on the Synod Permanent Judicial Commission. We also need commissioners to the Synod of Living Waters, commissioners to this year's General Assembly - including Young Adult Advisory Delegate - and Ordination Exam readers. In short, if someone has an interest or gift in a specific area, whether that be numbers, money, mission outreach, church discipline, church polity, Christian Education, stewardship, campus ministry, youth work, young adult formation, confirmation materials, collecting resources for congregations, communications and technology, and/or generally finding out how to make Holston Presbytery a value - add for your congregation, please send me their contact information. It will take all of us to be us.

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

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.

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

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