



IN ALL
 THY WAYS
 ACKNOWLEDGE
 HIM, AND HE
 SHALL DIRECT
 THY PATHS.

PROVERBS 3:6, KJV



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
 100 W. Church Circle
 Kingsport, TN 37660
 (423) 245-0104



Mark Your Calendar

- 11-15 Thanksgiving Dinner
- 11-19 Community Thanksgiving
- 11-20 Newsletter Deadline
- 12-3 Advent Coffee
- 12-3 Church Circle Nativity and Advent Service

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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Giving God Thanks

When times get tough, some people **GET NOISY**. We hear lots of noisy people making noise: impatient, negative people fretting over what is wrong and what is missing. They whine even louder when things don't go their way. Ingratitude is a **sign of our times**; fewer people take the time to say **"thank you"** to anyone for anything. Give negative people credit: there are many legitimate things about which to be upset. Paul had every right to complain. He'd been beaten, shipwrecked, and imprisoned. He suffered from ill health and stress dealing with the churches and their problems. He got separated from the people he loved the most. Yet Paul **refused to be a victim**. He once wrote:

I don't complain. I've learned the secret of being content in all situations. I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.

There was no secret to his secret: it was **JESUS**. One thought of Jesus, it took the **bitterness** out of his heart. The **OLD PAUL** found things that angered him wherever he looked; the **NEW PAUL** was gracious. He gave encouragement, not criticism. Put him in prison, he ministered to the guards. His message to us:

GIVE THANKS TO GOD IN ALL CIRCUMSTANCES. THIS IS GOD'S WILL IN CHRIST.

His little word **"in"** makes a big difference. We give thanks **"in all things,"** not **"for all things."** We give thanks in whatever situation we find ourselves. Why? Because gratitude is **THE SOIL** in which **JOY** grows. Gratitude is about **WHO WE ARE**, not **WHERE WE ARE**. It lifts our eyes off the **THINGS WE LACK** so we can see the **BLESSINGS WE HAVE**. We give God thanks because **HE IS GOOD** even when **LIFE ISN'T**. We stop fussing about **HOW BAD THINGS ARE**, and start celebrating how **GOOD GOD IS**. Ingratitude is a sign of our times, but **gratitude** is a **mark of Christianity**, a tell-tale sign of being a **Disciple**. Gratitude is the first-born child of grace, the proper perspective of living before God. We are called to live **GRACIOUS LIVES** and act like people who've been blessed beyond our deserving.

Some people count their blessings only if they have **"material stuff"** to count. When Paul counted his blessings, he listed nothing that can be purchased, or possessed. The best things in life aren't things. This Thanksgiving, count all your blessings, especially those that are most essential. Count the privilege of knowing and serving Christ. Count the challenges that you have overcome only by faith. Count insights that you've gained from His word. Count the love that fellow Christians have offered you. Count the opportunities that God has set before you to help someone in need. When we start counting our blessings this way, we never stop counting.

Miko

Sunday Worship

8:45 a.m.
Chapel

11:00 a.m.
Sanctuary

Cold Weather Worship

The Sanctuary worship services will move to the Fellowship Center beginning **Sunday, December 3**, continuing through February, due to heating issues.



Youth News

All Youth
Presbytery Retreat
November 10-12

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



Remind 101

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

Wednesdays in November

November 1

Wednesday Dinner will be catered by Chef's Restaurant. We will have pizza, salad and dessert. The cost for the 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 Wednesdays - First Presbyterian church-Kingsport (fpckpt.org) Church Night Supper - First Presbyterian Church-Kingsport (fpckpt.org) Come and hear Dr. Shelton's last message on Forgiveness--you don't want to miss it!

November 15

Wednesday Thanksgiving Meal will be catered by Golden Corral featuring turkey, dressing, rolls, green beans, mashed potatoes, mac and cheese and pumpkin pie for dessert. The cost for dinner will be \$10.00 for adults, \$5.00 for children under 10, with a family max of \$25.00. Please sign-up no later than noon on MONDAY, NOV. 6. To sign-up you may fill out the pew pad on Sunday morning, or call the church office at (423)-245-0104. We hope to see you there to enjoy this fabulous feast!

Thank You from the History Committee!

Thank you to Dorothy Lightfoot for photographs from First Ladies Sunday School Class and several years of Vacation Bible Schools.

If you have files, photos, or other items from current or past years please leave for us in the History Room Mail Basket near Vickie's desk. If we get duplicates we can dispose of them unless you want them back. Please date and identify individuals or groups if you can.

Session Highlights

- ◆ Lewis and Johnnie Stubblefield were received into membership by Transfer of Letter.
- ◆ The Sanctuary worship services will move to the Fellowship Center beginning Sunday, December 3.
- ◆ Greeley Wells (Commissioner) and Bob Stoots (Alternate) were approved to attend the November 7, 2023 Presbytery meeting in Jefferson City, TN.



1st: Sue Adrian, Anna Gamble, Emily Pridemore
3rd: Maggie Booher
4th: Jennie Compton, Eli Arrowsmith
5th: Kraemer Scott, Henry King
8th: Ted Hagen, Mitch Robinette, Joe Dickson
9th: Nancy Meyer
14th: Bob Patton, Dallyda Banda
19th: Megan Smith, Lyla Lambton
20th: Raymond Kidwell
21st: Tim Arrowsmith, Larry Pendleton, Greg Easley, Henry Robertson
22nd: Gary Tucker, Harris Cantrell
23rd: Wendy Smith
24th: Kathy Stoots, Vivian Crymble, Oliver Raines
25th: Andy Dietrich
26th: Sheila Taylor
27th: Nancy Knisley
28th: Tom Haynes
29th: Barbara McCary, Wes Mink
30th: Jerry Holmes, Anna Claire Pierce

*Happy
Birthday!*

Pledge Update - Year to Date

(as of October 30, 2023)

Pledges Budgeted to Date: \$623,666.70
Pledges Received to Date: \$597,918.64
Difference: (\$ -25,748.06)

Loose Offerings

Budgeted to Date: \$ 24,583.30
Received to Date: \$ 31,551.19
Difference: \$ 6,967.89

Special Offerings -

Peace & Global Witness offering \$345
(a portion went to PCUSA, Presbytery and Ukrainian family)

5 Cents a Meal - October \$2,737.94
(a portion went to Cora Cox Academy)

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.

New Church Directory Photos

There is still time to get a photo into the upcoming pictorial directory. You may submit a digital photo to Vickie at vgreen@firstpreskingsport.org by **November 15, 2023**. The new pictorial directory will be published after the first of the year. It will be updated periodically throughout the year if there are changes within the membership. When the directory is published online there will be directions on how members can access it from the church website. You may also request a printed copy of the directory by letting Vickie know.



Next First Press Newsletter Deadline

November 20
December Newsletter

Holiday Craft Fair and Bake Sale

Fundraiser for The Oasis of Kingsport

Saturday, November 18, 2023

9:00 AM – 1:00 PM

Holy Trinity Lutheran Church

800 Broad St. Kingsport

Handmade crafts & gifts, homemade baked
goodies, kids' crafts & lots more!

Cash only



Ms. Gail Preslar, Board Chair - Family Promise of Greater Kingsport, will present the Minute for Mission on November 26, 2023.

Day of Service at Second Harvest Food Bank ~ November 15, 2023

November is a busy time at Second Harvest Food Bank. For 15 years, Project Thanksgiving has been providing Thanksgiving meals to thousands of people in our region who struggle with food insecurity. This year's goal is to provide 37,000 meals to Northeast Tennesseans in need. The loyal band of First Presbyterian Church volunteers will do our part to help meet this goal by packing food boxes on November 15, 2023. If you would like to join in the fun, fellowship and service to help make this holiday season brighter for everyone, please text or call Bob Stoots at 423-782-6280.

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.

Prayer List Assistance

Please review the prayer list and let us know if there are any names that can be removed from the list or any names that need to be added to the list. There are many people that have been on the list for years and it would be nice to get the list more up to date. If you have updates please email them to vgreen@firstpreskingsport.org.

Waverly Road Food Pantry Item of the Month

Canned Meats & Fish

Please drop donations in the basket outside the chapel door or in front of the stained glass on Sundays mornings.

Thank you!

Community Thanksgiving Service

will be held at
5 p.m. on Sunday,
November 19
at St. Paul's Episcopal Church.

There will be a traditional pie reception afterwards in the Parish Hall.



Flowers Needed for Church in 2024

| | |
|-------------|--------------|
| January 7 | May 19 |
| January 28 | June 16 |
| February 4 | June 30 |
| February 25 | July 14 |
| March 10 | August 11 |
| March 17 | September 13 |
| April 14 | September 15 |
| April 28 | |

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



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

Thank You

Jennie and the Benton family want to express their love and appreciation to the members and staff of First Presbyterian Church. Doug loved the church and the many wonderful people who make it up. Those of us who loved Doug were amazed and inspired by your love and caring. Thank you for the cards, calls, visits, and most especially for all your prayers. We truly could feel the presence of Christ in your love and care.

Jennie Benton and family

“...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

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.

Schantz Organ was purchased in 1974 when James C. White provided a bequest in his will to purchase the organ in memory of his wife Vera White. Photos show the chancel before and after the installation.



First Presbyterian Kingsport *Performing Arts Series 2023 Season*



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

Second Harvest in October

Thanks to everyone who volunteered at Second Harvest on October 18. We had another great day of fun, fellowship and service! Collectively from both sessions, we unwrapped nearly three pallets of milk boxes and prepared them for repack, and we packed 120 boxes, with six food bags each, for the Food for Kids backpack program. Included in the bags today were 1 can of soup, 1 can of noodles with tomato sauce, 2 boxes of macaroni and cheese, 2 boxes of chocolate milk, 2 juice boxes, 2 bags of oatmeal and 2 snack size breakfast bars.



We were happy to have Kim Harvey, from Bristol, join us again this month. He can pack and tape a box with the best of them!

Our next day of service will be **Wednesday, November 15**. So mark your calendars!