

# *First Press Weekly Update*

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December 17, 2023



## Prayer List

**PRAYER FAMILIES OF THE WEEK** – Bob and Carolyn Hauk; Raymond and Carolyn Kidwell; Tom and Chris Haynes, London Williams, and Sydney Williams; Precia Keel; Sandra Heard; and Lesley Jones.

**MISSIONARIES** – Eliane Menezes, Guatemala.

## Christmas Schedule

- ◆ December 24 ~ Chapel Worship, 8:45 a.m.; Children's Pageant, 11:00 a.m., Fellowship Center
- ◆ December 24 ~ Candlelight Communion Service, 5:00 p.m., Fellowship Center
- ◆ December 31 ~ Combined Worship, 10:00 a.m., Fellowship Center

## Reception for Bev Today

A reception for our beloved financial administrator, Bev Johnson, who is retiring at the end of the year, will be held in the foyer following the 11:00 a.m. worship service today. Please join us in showing our appreciation to Bev for more than 12 years of faithful service.

## Youth Group Today

*Youth Christmas Parties!*

- 3-4 p.m. Middle School youth group
- 4:15-5:15 p.m. High School youth group

## Five Cents-A-Meal Offering

The Five Cents-A-Meal offering will be received today. We are honored to have Ms. **Rhonda Chafin**, Executive Director, to speak on behalf of Second Harvest Food Bank of Northeast Tennessee for the Minute-for-Mission during the 11:00 a.m. service today. Second Harvest Food Bank of Northeast Tennessee will receive 25% of today's Five-Cents-A-Meal collection.

## Christmas Joy Offering

The Christmas Joy offering will be received this morning. This offering supports our past and present church leaders and prepares the way for future church leaders. Envelopes are included in the bulletin for your convenience.

## Clothes Closet Urgent Needs

Our Clothes Closet is in desperate need of extra large coats and jackets for both men and women.

## Second Harvest Work Day ~ December 20

FPC volunteers will gather at Second Harvest Food Bank on **December 20**. Again there will be two options: 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).

## Mitten Tree

The 3-5-year-old Sunday School Class invites you to donate to our Mitten Tree. Help us help other children by donating mittens, gloves, hats, scarves, and socks to keep little hands, heads and feet warm this winter! Please decorate the tree located in the Fellowship Center with your donations. Items will be accepted through December. The children will gift the items to the Clothes Closet on **Sunday, January 7, 2024**. Thank you!

## Birthdays This Week

**Dec. 17:** Liz Stothart

**Dec. 19:** Barbara Maston, Mike Bunch

**Dec. 21:** Julia West

**Dec. 23:** Ruth Adams

## Holiday Schedule

The church office will be closed on **December 25 and 26** for Christmas and **January 1** for New Year's Day. The Clothes Closet will be closed on **Tuesday, December 26 and Tuesday, January 2**.

## **Offering Envelopes**

The 2024 Offering Envelopes are available in the fellowship center for you to pick up.

## **Mystery Pledges**

We have received two pledges in the amount of \$3,000.00 each with no signature on the pledge card for 2024. If you pledged that amount, please contact Bev Johnson and let her know. Thank you very much. We appreciate each and every pledge we have received.

**Flowers Needed for Church in 2024 ~ Just One Date Left**  
July 14 ~ Call Vickie in the church office at (423) 245-0104 to schedule this date.

## **New Display History Room**

Many of you know 10 individuals have served as Senior Pastors in our past bringing our total number of individuals serving as Senior Pastor to 11 including our current pastor, Mike Shelton. One of these men served two pastorates. Not many when you consider we are 106 years old! You probably pass by their photos every Sunday as you enter the Sanctuary.

But did you know we have had 24 individuals serving in an assistant role? Associate Pastor, Intern, Assistant to the Pastor, Associate for Counseling, Interim Associate ... these individuals have had a variety of titles but have all provided significant leadership and service to our congregation. Some served one year as an intern during their seminary training; one served 18 years. The two Janes – Boyd and Harris – have researched and gathered current and past information and photos for your review over the next few months in the History Room. You will discover -

- Who was at the Martin Luther King March on Washington
- Who became a Presbyterian Missionary in Japan
- Who became a Dean at Austin Seminary
- Which two died as the result of automobile accidents
- Which two became pastors for two of our own Chapels – Bethel and Waverly Road
- A QR Code linking to an assistant pastor who became a storyteller
- Which couple served together as Associate Pastor and Counseling Pastor

And much, much, more...

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## **First Presbyterian Church Staff**

423-245-0104

Mike Shelton, *Pastor* (ext. 204)

Russ Pearson, *Director of Christian Education and Youth Ministries* (ext. 208)

Mark Owen Davis, *Director of Music Ministries* (ext. 210)

Annie Hill, *Church Business Administrator/Executive Assistant to the Pastor* (ext. 203)

Vickie Green, *Membership & Website Specialist/Church Administrative Assistant* (ext. 202)

Beverly Johnson, *Financial Administrator* (ext. 206)

Kim Alvis, *Media Specialist* (ext. 209)

Becca Wright, *Parish Nurse*

Mike Weiss, *Custodian*

Alan Whitt, *Custodian*

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## **First Presbyterian Church**

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