

Love
never fails.

1 Corinthians 13:8



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. 541, Issue 2

February 2024

Mark Your Calendar

- 2-4 Annual Meeting & Lunch
- 2-11 Super Bowl Gathering
- 2-14 Ash Wednesday
- 2-21 CNS & Bible Study resume
- 2-22 Newsletter Deadline
- 3-13 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



FEBRUARY

First Presbyterian Church
100 W. Church Circle
Kingsport, TN 37660
(423) 245-0104
office@firstpreskingsport.org
www.firstpreskingsport.org

Jesus Wasn't a Nice Guy

I grew up seeing pictures of Jesus on a flannel bulletin board in my Sunday School room. He would be smiling, waving his hands, hugging kids, and being so meek and mild that it sent us the message, "Jesus was a nice guy". Was he really? Just listen to how he ends his sermon on the Mount in Matthew...

Not everyone who says to me, 'LORD, LORD,' will enter Heaven but only those who do the will of my father.

Add it to the things we wish Jesus hadn't said. Didn't he know how to win friends and influence people? Give them a happy send off, Jesus. If you don't, they will be through before you are through. There was no letup in him. He urged potential recruits to be willing to walk to the beat of a different drummer. Christians are people who let our actions and attitudes be shaped by Christ, not public opinion. It can be risky, if not to our health, then to our social standing. Jesus complicates life. It would be easier to be **PART-TIME CHRISTIANS** who attend church, do a few spiritual things, and not let him interfere in our lives. Following Jesus surely complicated his Disciples lives. He scared them witless, but they couldn't resist him. It was like **FALLING IN LOVE at FIRST SIGHT**. They came alive in his presence. They had all been half-dead, unaware that there was something precious missing in their lives. Had we been in the Early Church, enduring what they did, we might've bailed out on Jesus just to survive. They faced a far more hostile environment than we do. We aren't persecuted for faith; we just get ignored, dismissed, and written off as naïve. Yet look at the results: Christianity has lost its influence in the world, and it has been relegated to the sidelines.

Jesus was being practical. Standing on a hillside pulpit, he wanted their undivided loyalty. There were costs involved. They couldn't have it both ways. It was impossible to follow him while having their own agenda. He was warning that some would masquerade as his people but have no intention of doing God's will. Did those who first heard his sermon perceive that Jesus was so valuable that they would rearrange their lives, if necessary, to join his team? In the end, we must go from being **SPECTATORS to PARTICIPANTS**, from **part-time Disciples to full-time Christians**. Being a Christian isn't a one-time decision; it is a lifestyle. We let Jesus inspire us. We keep growing rather than getting complacent. Need incentive? How many Christians were there **in Jesus' time? A few hundred?** Look at what they did. What the world needs now, more than anything, is for us to be... **THE CHRISTIANS WE WERE MEANT TO BE.**

Miko

Sunday Worship

8:45 a.m.
Chapel

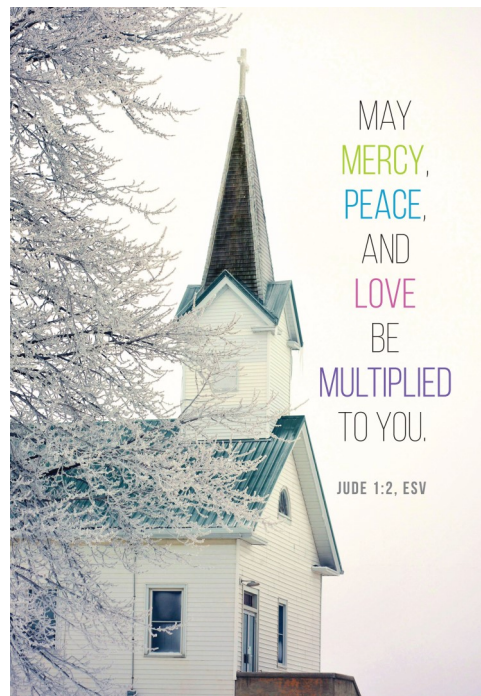
11:00 a.m.
Fellowship Center



All Church Retreat 2023

Holston Camp
Save the Date!
April 5-7

Look for details soon in
email, newsletters and
the bulletin.



Annual Meeting & Lunch

Our Annual Congregational Meeting will be held in the Fellowship Center at the end of the 11:00 a.m. worship service on February 4. The purpose of the meeting will be to hear a report on the budget, to approve the changes in terms of call for our pastor, to hear a report from Session, a report from the pastor, a report from the church staff, and to elect an Associate Pastor Nominating Committee. A light lunch will be provided following the meeting.

Winter Events

Free Super Bowl Party Sunday, February 11, 6 p.m.

Everyone is invited to attend the Big Game which will be held in the Fellowship Center. We will project the entire game from kickoff, half-time, to the final score on the big screen with great sound. Bring the entire family along with your favorite game-day food/snack to share. Some suggestions would be: chili, wings, nachos, hors d'oeuvres, pigs in a blanket, etc. The church will provide ice tea and water. **Please sign-up by Thursday, February 8**, so that we know approximately how many will be attending. You may sign up in the attendance pads or by calling the Church office. Hope to see you there!

Wednesday Nights at FPC

We are excited to announce the return of Church Night Supper beginning February 14.

- ◆ **February 14** - Baked Potato and Salad Bar
Ash Wednesday Service
- ◆ **February 21** - Pizza and Salad
Mike's Bible Study
- ◆ **February 28** - Catered by Olive Garden
Mike's Bible Study
- ◆ **March 13** - Deacon Care Ministry Dinner

Chamber Players Concert February 29 ~ 7:30 p.m.

Don't miss this extraordinary concert of piano duos and more. **The Paramount Chamber Players** continue their 19th concert season with a special guest appearance by international concert pianist Margaret Kim. Hailing from Vienna, Austria, Margaret will join Artistic Director Katherine Benson at the piano, featuring music by Ravel, Faure, and many others.



2nd: John Porter, Jenny Clemmer
4th: Oliver Arrowsmith
5th: Peyton Lambton
6th: Marian Adams, Evie Heindselman, Daniel Robertson
7th: Olivia Collins
10th: Susan Jackson
11th: Sallie Oaks, Hagan Dietrich
12th: Helen Baylor
15th: Bob Hauk
16th: Issac Conner, Aaron Pendleton
17th: Mike Wilkins, Gary Collins
18th: Henry Booher
19th: Paul Banda
20th: Greeley Wells
21st: Burts Compton, Leon Doran, Alexis Jennings
22nd: Mary Beggerow
23rd: Greta Robinette
24th: Catherine Tucker
25th: Flint Gray, Don Thompson, Kim Thomidis, Briggs Mink
26th: Lynetta Johnson

Happy Birthday!

Pledge Update ~ Year to Date

(as of January 31, 2024)

| | |
|----------------------------------|----------------|
| Pledges Budgeted to Date: | \$63,951.67 |
| Pledges Received to Date: | \$64,702.98 |
| Difference: | (\$ 751.31) |
| Loose Offerings | |
| Budgeted to Date: | \$ 3,664.83 |
| Received to Date: | \$ 1,305.00 |
| Difference: | (-\$ 2,359.83) |

Special Offerings -

5 Cents a Meal - January \$1,070.25
(a portion went to the Breakfast Ministry)

Session Highlights

- ◆ Approved the 2024 balanced budget of \$806,950.
- ◆ Approved Cheryl Rice as the Commissioner and Allen Wright as Alternate to the February 3, 2024 Presbytery meeting.
- ◆ The first Space for Grace in 2024 was well received with 55 in attendance.
- ◆ Approved as Corporate Officers for 2024 will be President, Carol Dixon; Secretary, Jenny Clemmer; and Michael Bunch, Treasurer.

Waverly Road Food Pantry

For February please bring **canned meats and stews** for the Waverly Road Pantry. Baskets are located near the Chapel door and in the foyer of the Fellowship Center on Sunday mornings. Thanks!



Niches Available in the Columbarium

There are niches available in the First Presbyterian columbarium located in the Memorial Garden at the rear of the church. They are designed to accommodate two urns and feature an engraved cover for both decedents. They are reasonably priced and represent a cost-effective ecological approach and appropriate alternative to a traditional cemetery. Details are available through the church office.



Help Others Through Global Missions

In an effort to help our brothers and sisters in Christ a group within our church collected \$240 and purchased the following from the **Presbyterian Giving Catalog**:

- Farming Tools...\$20 (2 sets at \$10 each)
- Family of Chickens...\$25
- Jerry Cans...\$25
- Supplies for Displaced Students...\$30
- Piglet...\$40
- Sewing Machine...\$50
- Water Filter...\$50

This group would like to challenge other groups (Sunday School classes, the youth group, the choir, the Session, the Diaconate, etc.) within the church to consider doing the same. This is a great and easy way to be involved in global missions.

Help Needed for Stations of the Cross

If you or your family would like to help set up the stations of the cross during Holy Week, please let a member of the Christian Ed committee know **by February 29**.



Thank you!

Elizabeth Wilkins, Jennifer Walker, Jim Amstutz, Cheryl Rice, Natalie Robertson

Second Harvest Food Bank Workday



Due to adverse weather conditions in January, FPC volunteers will be kicking off 2024 service at Second Harvest Food Bank on **February 21**. There will be both morning and afternoon sessions; from 10am to noon and 1 to 3pm. The rear warehouse entrance for volunteers will be closed due to construction, so please enter through the front reception area. Check your calendars and let Bob Stoots know if you'd like to help (call or text 423-782-6280)



New Class Coming Soon ~ Wednesdays During Lent

Get Your Life Back

There is a madness to this moment in time and we must name it for the lunacy it is. Apart from international conflict and an America divided almost as much as a country can be divided, daily stress is taking our lives hostage. The maddening pace of life, the demands on our time and energy, and global problems that go from bad to worse: it leaves us empty and ragged. People come home exhausted on our good days and fried on the bad ones! The world has gone mad; it is trying to take us with it. If only we had more of GOD, if we could draw more on his strength and wisdom, we'd could rise to meet this hour. This class is dedicated to equipping us to do just that. We need practical ways- what I call "graces"-to put ourselves in places to receive God's help. Together we will consider:

- Detachment/Letting Go
- Allow for Transitions
- Remember Who You Love
- Kindness Toward Ourselves
- Surrendering the Self Life

Space for Grace is Back!

For this upcoming season we will have Space for Grace once a month on the last Sunday of the month at 9:30 a.m. We will still have the 8:45 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. services and adult Sunday school on Space for Grace days.

Space for Grace dates are listed at bottom.

What is Space for Grace?

Space for Grace is a worship service that focuses on simplicity and creativity, with hopes of reaching out to anyone wanting to come. These worship services are designed to be 45 minutes with opportunity to pray, sing songs led by our youth, hear a relevant message, be inspired to live out your faith, and worship God in a new way.

This is NOT taking the place of the 8:45am or 11am service, nor is it offered to compete with those services. Our hope is that it compliments what we are already doing at FPC. We will have nursery workers in the Fellowship Center during these services.

Space for Grace ~ 9:30 a.m. in Fellowship Center:

- * February 25
- * March 31 (*Easter*)
- * April 28

If you have questions, please do not hesitate to contact Russ Pearson at rpearson@firstpreskingsport.org or call the church.



Ordination & Installation of Officers ~ January 14, 2024



Prayer Trees

Several Prayer Trees have been placed in the Fellowship Hall for Winter. Please write any prayer concerns or blessings on the prayer cards provided and hang them on the trees. You are welcome to choose a card from the trees, pray for that concern and return it the following week.



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 donations 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.



Sanctuary Stain Glass window is in memory of Wallace Hufford Sr. by the Hufford family – Mrs. Lockie Hufford, Mrs. Eleanor Hull, Mrs. Patsy Zeigler, and Wallace Hufford Jr. Wallace Hufford was a charter member of FPC and long-term clerk of session until his death in 1940. The window was not completed until 1945 when materials and labor were available after WW2.

First Presbyterian Kingsport *Performing Arts Series 2024 Season*



Paramount Chamber Players

Thursday, February 29

The Paramount Chamber Players is a select ensemble of regional artists whose virtuosity exudes a global level of professionalism.

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

Morningstar Flute Ensemble

Sunday, April 14, 2024

From classical to Celtic dance, to the original compositions by founder Charlotte Ellis, Morningstar's music captivates and delights its audiences.

\$15 - Adults, Students Free



For tickets or more information: (423) 383-7876