



I WAIT FOR THE
LORD,
MY
SOUL WAITS,
AND IN
HIS WORD
I HOPE.

PSALM 130:5

First Presbyterian Church

The First Press

Seeking to see the Face of Christ...Striving to be the Hands of Christ

Vol. 541, Issue 4

April 2024

Mark Your Calendar

- 4-3 Chili Fest
- 4-14 Flute Concert
- 4-18 Newsletter Deadline
- 4-18 Chamber Players Concert
- 4-21 Handbell Festival

Weekly

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

Thursdays
Balance Class
1:15 p.m.
Fellowship Center

The Word and the Living Word

The Bible not only **tells a story**; it **has a story**. It didn't drop out of the sky, signed by God, written in English. It was first "oral". Jews told old stories in their native tongues. Over time they compiled them in written form: the **Old Testament in Hebrew**, the **New Testament in Greek**. It isn't **one book** but **66 books**, consisting of different types of writings. They range from war stories, love stories, poems, maxims, laws, epistles, and apocalyptic writings. God tells one rollicking good story. Composed over time, it was collected first by the Jewish community, then later by Early Christians. The Old Testament unfolds with a long history of heroes/heroines; a set of poems/songs Jews used in worship known as the Psalms. We get the masterpiece on human suffering, Job, proverbs, the musings of major/minor Prophets. We dive into New Testament where we find four Gospels-all unique accounts of Jesus' life-not to mention the other Gospels that didn't make the cut. We move to Luke's account of the Early Church in Acts, then Paul's letters, the writings of other apostles, a Christian sermon called Hebrews, and end with John's apocalypse. The Church debated which books to include/exclude. Different communities collected writings that they viewed as "authentic". One church might have the Gospel of Mark, a letter from Paul; another might have Luke and James. God's hand was involved but so were many **human hands and minds**. By the **4th century**, they sorted out what was **ORTHO-DOX** from what was **BORDERLINE**; they formed a **CANON**, the **official list** of what they deemed as God's word. It is wise to recall: we don't worship the bible; we worship Christ through it. The bible is **God's written word**, pointing to **Jesus**, God's **living word**. Jesus was the **MAIN STORY GOD WANTED TO TELL**. Many people treat it like a **GOOD LUCK CHARM**, a good **OLD BOOK** they **use** in tough times.

QUOTE...one woman
I feel like I drift in a fog of confusion when I open the bible.

We've all been in that "fog on confusion", lost in odd phrases weird names, bizarre stories. We read pages but we don't know what we just read. Don't give up. We revere scripture as God's word, but it has odd parts that require interpretation. We don't have to check our minds at the door as we read it. To study it well, we must devote time. Something crucial starts to occur: we change and our spiritual IQ grows. We become well-grounded in faith. We become more like Jesus. If we neglect the bible, then the price we pay is lethargy. The choice is ours.



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



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Kingsport, TN 37660
(423) 245-0104
office@firstpreskingsport.org
www.firstpreskingsport.org

Sunday Worship

8:45 a.m.
Chapel

11:00 a.m.
Sanctuary



Come Join Us: for the Second Annual HANDBELL FESTIVAL

Featuring the Bell Choirs of

- First Baptist Church
- First Broad St. United Methodist
- Colonial Heights U. Methodist
- And host First Presbyterian Church

Sunday, April 21, 3:00 p.m.

First Presbyterian Church
Fellowship Center

Free and open to the public



Your Input is Needed

We would like to know if you would be interested in participating in any church organized events outside of the church such as movies, plays, zoos, etc. You may let Barbara Foust know of your interest in these or any other events. Thank you!

Wednesday Nights in April

Everyone is invited to join us for dinner on each Wednesday in April at 5:30 p.m. There will be no programs, but there will be delicious dinners, and we can all enjoy fellowship with our church family.

Wednesday, April 3

Chili Fest (No contest). You can make your Chili recipe or you can bring corn bread or rolls.
(No charge for this dinner)

Wednesday, April 10

Golden Corral

Wednesday, April 17

Debbie Waggoner will make Grilled Cheese Sandwiches and Tomato Soup

Wednesday, April 24

To Be Announced

Hope you can join us for some great food and wonderful fellowship!

The cost for dinner is \$8 for adults; \$4 for children under 10; with a family maximum of \$20. 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:
[First Presbyterian Church-Kingsport](#)

First Presbyterian Church Scrapbooks

– You can help us!

For much of our past the Women of the Church maintained annual scrapbooks of their activities, the programs of the church, as well as articles from local papers and other publications that documented activities of our church members in the community. When the Women of the Church ceased to exist; this part of our church history was not being maintained. The History Committee has been filling this gap in a less elaborate format. (Some of the past WOC Scrapbooks are works of art!).

We want to say a huge thank you to **Jane Boyd** who has maintained the scrapbooks over the past several years. The Scrapbooks now are primarily articles from local publications about our church activities and articles about our members. **Laura Drayne** is now maintaining the Scrapbook. **Jane Scott** is clipping articles from the Times News. If you see an article about our church or any church members in another publication please clip it (along with the date) and give it to Vickie in the church office. She will post it on the bulletin board and it will then make it to our scrapbook. Recently there was a great article in the Second Harvest Food Bank Annual Report on our church members who are working in their facility every month – in fact they won an award!



2nd: David Oaks
3rd: Barbara Necessary
4th: Jeanne McClure, Laura Quillen
5th: Chad Correll, Tengone Vengchiem
6th: Marjorie Watford, Sarah Good
8th: Stacey Doran
10th: Maranda Demuth, Will Lively
11th: Lainie Pearson
12th: Florence Godat, Jeremy Lively
13th: Betty Dickson
15th: Everett Bond
17th: Ivey Redmon
18th: Ron Dixon, Cheryl Rice
19th: Leslie Heindselman, Lewis Stubblefield
20th: Mark Ward
21st: Ansel Scott, Baxter Scott
23rd: Sara Lou Ring, Cotton Fortner
24th: Shelby Demuth, Sandra Heard
25th: Hayden Correll, Cis Taylor
26th: Ethan Walker, Mac Hobbs
27th: Madelyn Baggett, Russ Pearson, Delaney Young
29th: Brandy King, Braden Pendleton
30th: Albert Tatchi

Happy Birthday!

Pledge Update ~ Year to Date

(as of March 27, 2024)

Pledges Budgeted to Date:	\$191,855.01
Pledges Received to Date:	<u>\$228,107.56</u>
Difference:	(\$ 36,252.55)

Loose Offerings	
Budgeted to Date:	\$ 10,994.49
Received to Date:	<u>\$ 4,487.83</u>
Difference:	(-\$ 6,506.66)

Special Offerings -

5 Cents a Meal - March	\$1,091.00
<i>(a portion went to Neighborhood Service Center)</i>	

Session Highlights

- ◆ Approved \$20,000 from the Endowment disbursement for Holston Presbytery Camp
- ◆ The Administration Committee approved outsourcing the payroll responsibilities to EPAY ROLL effective April 1, 2024 at a cost of \$1,770 annually.
- ◆ Approved \$21,500 for the Playground project be disbursed from the Reserve Fund.
- ◆ Approved Claudia Mihovk as Commissioner and Martha Pendley as Alternate for the Tuesday, May 7, 2024 Presbytery meeting in Jonesborough.
- ◆ Approved Congregational meeting for Sunday, April 14 for the purpose of electing members to the Nominating committee.

Waverly Road Food Pantry



For April please bring a **can of fruit** for the Waverly Road Pantry. Baskets are located near the Chapel door and in front of the stained glass near the Sanctuary on Sunday mornings. Thank you!

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.



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.

The Rose Garden including a bench and bird bath is located outside the chapel and is a memorial to Katty and Ben Brown. This garden was given by their children Katie, Ben III, and Becca in 2002. Becca Brown Wright continues to maintain the garden.



Welcome New Members!



Our longtime friend, former member, and loyal member of the choir has returned home! We are so pleased to announce that **Ann Larkey** rejoined our church on Sunday, February 18, during the called session meeting. Ann is transferring her membership by letter from Hilton Memorial UMC, Hilton VA. Ann lives in Hilton VA with her son David. We are so very happy to hear her singing and we are so glad to say, "Welcome Home, Ann!"

Barbara and Warren Sanders have joined our church by affirmation of faith during the February 18, called session meeting. Barbara and Warren are long-time residents of Kingsport and also long-time attendees of Waverly Road Presbyterian Church. They love living Kingsport and they love their home on Orchard Pl. in Fair Acres. Both say that they find our congregation most welcoming and friendly, and that they enjoy our worship services. We are honored and very grateful to have you join our church family, and to serve and worship the Lord with us. Welcome Barbara and Warren!



Second Harvest Work Day in April

Rhonda Chafin, Executive Director of Second Harvest Food Bank of Northeast Tennessee, recently shared this message with volunteers.

"Your dedication and work has a significant impact on our mission to serve neighbors in need by providing healthy, nutritious food to our community. Your effort directly supports those who rely on our food bank, ensuring they have nourishing meals during challenging times. We hope you understand that your kindness extends beyond the physical gift. You're not just feeding people but also filling hearts with hope. You remind us that compassion and empathy are powerful forces for positive change."

Including three new additions, we now have 35 FPC members on our volunteers list and would welcome others if you would like to give it a try! This month we will have two work sessions, 10:00 a.m. to noon and 1:00-3:00 p.m., on **Wednesday April 17**. Please let me know if you would like to participate in either or both of these sessions. I will add your names to the sign-up list!

This is a very worthwhile project that has a broad impact on people in our region. Please join us for a couple of hours of fun, fellowship and service together!



Confirmation Sunday

On Sunday, March 10, 2024, the session welcomed into the fellowship of our church **Mary Kate Lively, Neely Mink and Lainie Pearson** by Profession of Faith.

Pictured: Beth Correll, Mary Kate Lively, Lainie Pearson, Neely Mink, and Russ Pearson.



Palm Sunday 2024

