

A Farewell Message from Bev

I have to be honest. While I have been looking forward to this day for some time, now that it's here, I'm not sure how to proceed. How do you say goodbye to a group of people that have become like family?

Just under 13 years ago, I walked into this church, excited to continue working in a field that I loved. But what I didn't expect was the amazing amount of support and love I was given along the way. You all have been by my side and have seen me through so much joy, heartbreak, and chaos. Through countless medical issues with my family, marriages of some of my children and grandchildren, the glorious addition of my great grandchildren, the deaths of loved ones, graduations, and so many more of life's beautiful events. I cannot tell you how much all of your prayers, support and love have meant to me.

While I will miss seeing all of you, please know that I am passing the torch with a full and peaceful heart. Because of the kindness you have selflessly showered on me, I will always look back on my time here with gratitude and love. Thank you all, for making me a part of your family.

Peace,

Bev Johnson



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 6

June 2024

Mark Your Calendar

- 6-9 *Lemonade on the Lawn*
- 6-16 *Space for Grace Worship*
- 6-20 *Newsletter Deadline*
- 8-11 *Sunday School Kickoff & BLT Luncheon*
- 9-29 *Church Picnic at Allendale*

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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From the Cutting Room Floor

This summer I am preaching from Acts but there are good stories I had to leave on the cutting room floor. Today, I offer you one of the most bizarre. Let me set the stage with a question.

Would you like people to know your name, ask for your autograph, or scream in joy whenever they see you?

Neither would I! Neither would Paul! He/Barnabas were acclaimed as gods by a crowd for healing a man in Lystra. Yes, a healing brought them negative publicity. The town assumed that Paul must be the cure. They worked themselves into a frenzy. They thought of ways to welcome Gods in their midst. Outside the city, there was a **PAGAN TEMPLE**. Legend had it that when Zeus/Hermes first came to the area, people gave them an inhospitable reception, only one couple welcomed them. Gods flooded the town, destroyed everything but this couple. This time, the town spared no expense. Oxen were sacrificed. Garlands of flowers were draped on Paul/Barnabas and spread in their honor. It was time to party! At first, the two men stayed silent until it hit them: people had seen the sign, but not heard the Gospel. They became so obsessed by the **POWER OF THE APOSTLES** that they didn't listen to the **WORD OF THE APOSTLES**. Shocked, the Apostles tore their garments-a Hebrew form of protest-expressing their anger at the idolatry. They were no less mortal than the people. Paul tells them that he has the same human limitations as they do. The more he talked, the more they thought he was the God Hermes.

Many Gentiles were "**God-fearers**" but the majority worshiped pagan gods. Their worldview is called "**syncretism**" - in case you need a new word this summer-the view of having **more than one God**. Israel was tempted by idols and the pagan God of neighbors. They didn't listen to Paul; they wanted **God on their terms**. They wanted to throw a **GOD PARTY** for their **GUESTS OF HONOR** but who wants a **God** who won't accept their throne. The Lystra crowd became a mob. They spared Barnabas but stoned the "**God poser**", and left Paul on a garbage heap outside of town thinking he was dead. Idolatry, in whatever form it takes, is always adoration at a distance. It is the ultimate form of manipulation: we get **what we want** but avoid the changes God wants to make. Some people still whittle God down to **THEIR SIZE**. They deal with God to keep him from dealing with them. There is no better way to **DOMESTICATE GOD** than to reduce God down to level of our convictions: where the main role God plays is to confirm what we already think, making us feel better about who we are. Just some food for your thoughts!

Mike

Sunday Worship

8:45 a.m.
Chapel

11:00 a.m.
Sanctuary

Readings for Acts Sermon Series

Below are the readings for June for Mike's summer sermon series so that you will have time to ponder them before coming to worship.

June 2

"Meeting Jesus in Disguise" Acts 3

June 9

"Taking the High Road" Acts 4

June 16

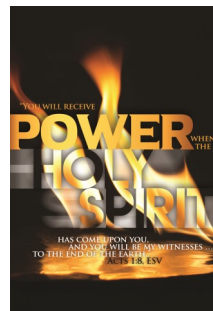
"Beyond Your Assignment" Acts 6

June 23

Russ Pearson to Preach

June 30

"Expanding the Family Room" Acts 8



Congratulations Ethan!

Congratulations to Ethan Walker who received his bachelor's degree from ETSU on May 4.



Welcome Jamie (Officially)!

For years we have seen the pleasant smile of the sister of Tammie, Jamie Davis, in our worship services, at Mike's lessons, at church night suppers, and serving with our CFN committee in the kitchen and helping the church in general. Perhaps many of us believed that this faithful sister in Christ was already a member of our church family. Well . . . as of the April 28th session meeting SHE IS! Jamie says that membership in the church is important, and it is always about your belief and faith, and what you can do for the Lord. She says that in this church, she feels at peace and at home. We are honored and delighted to have Jamie officially join our church family, and to worship and serve our Lord Jesus with us. Thank you and welcome Jamie!



Summer Fun!

June 9

Lemonade on the Lawn
Homemade cookies too!

Please join us for Lemonade on the Lawn on Sunday, June 9, after both services. We will serve the homemade cookies and lemonade in the hallway leading from the chapel after the first service, and after the 11:00 a.m. service we will serve the lemonade and cookies outside under the Porte-cochere. Come and join us for this delightful treat!



August 11

Sunday School Kickoff
& BLT Luncheon

September 29

All-Church Picnic



June 1: Gerry Mayberry

June 2: Paula Scott

June 4: Frances Dryden, Carolyn Kidwell

June 5: Lois Carter, Andrew Hagan, Olivia Doran

June 7: Richard Meyer

June 9: Olin Babb, Mary Glenn Lively,
Shannon Vanlandingham

June 10: Scott Cooper

June 11: Donna Quillen, Rhys Wilkins

June 12: Precia Keel

June 13: Donna Marchion

June 15: Lou Ann Moore

June 16: Meghan Heindselman, Al Crymble

June 17: Linda Cradic

June 19: Lleyton Good, Jane Ward

June 21: Mark Plemmons

June 22: Elli Walker

June 23: Sylvia Wright

June 24: Owen Allgood, Laura McConnell

June 25: Tom Sellers, Quinn Raines

June 26: Peggy Groseclose, Patty Pendleton,
Mike Pendley, Debra Smith, Rachel Smith

June 27: Louise Piazza, Betty Blass

June 29: Naima Kincaid, Sakhile Banda

Pledge Update ~ Year to Date

(as of May 28, 2024)

Pledges Budgeted to Date:	\$319,758.35
Pledges Received to Date:	\$342,738.58
Difference:	\$ 22,980.23

Loose Offerings	
Budgeted to Date:	\$ 18,324.15
Received to Date:	\$ 11,044.23
Difference:	(-\$ 7,279.92)

Special Offerings -

5 Cents a Meal - May (a portion went to Friends in Need)	\$498.00
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Pentecost Offering (a portion went to FPC Child Care)	\$475.00
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From the Finance Office

ONLINE GIVING INSTRUCTIONS

Online giving is available on the church website: www.firstpresningsport.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.

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.



Next First Press Newsletter Deadline

June 20
July Newsletter

Ways you can SERVE

Grab and Go Needs

- Volunteers!
- Monetary Donations
- Backpacks/Bags

If you are interested in serving with our Breakfast Ministry, please email Sarah Good at sar4680@gmail.com or call Becca Wright at 423-963-9617. Thank you for being the hands and feet of Christ!

(Bags can be new or used.)

Clothes Closet Needs

The Clothes Closet can always use men's and women's short sleeve shirts, shorts, women's crops and both men's and women's athletic shoes. And as always, we can use travel size soaps, shampoos, lotions, etc. Thank you for your continued support.

Salvation Army Lunch Serving

Several members of First Pres have volunteered to serve lunch to members of our community on the second Sunday of each month at the Kingsport Salvation Army. If you'd like to add your name to the list of volunteers, please contact Catherine Tucker. 423-782-7782. Thank you.

Waverly Road Food Pantry

For June please bring a **can of tuna** 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 for your donations. They mean so much to those who don't have enough to eat.



Second Harvest Work Day



The next First Presbyterian Church day of service at Second Harvest Food Bank will be on **June 19, 2024**.

Everyone is welcome: members, visitors,

family and friends! Summer months offer an opportunity for students (10yrs and up) to join in the fun! Please contact Bob Stoots by email, cell or text (423-782-6280) to register for either or both morning session (10am-Noon) or afternoon session (1pm-3pm). We would love to see you there!



"...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



Vacation Bible School June 17-20!

Get ready to pitch your tents of kindness and ignite the campfire of empathy as we explore the wilderness of compassion together! At "Camp Compassion: What every living thing needs," we'll be diving deep into the values of love, empathy, and understanding, while having a blast with fun-filled activities, heartwarming lessons, and unforgettable experiences. But wait, there's s'more! We need YOU to join our team of compassionate counselors, fearless leaders, canteen workers, and enthusiastic helpers to make this camp the best it can be! Whether you're a seasoned camper or new to the wilderness, your passion for spreading love and kindness is all you need to join our crew. Together, we'll create a welcoming and inclusive environment where every camper feels valued, loved, and accepted. So dust off your hiking boots, grab your compass, and join us at "Camp Compassion" as we journey together to spread love and kindness to all! Sign up today to be a part of this incredible adventure and let's make memories that will last a lifetime! See you at "Camp Compassion"! Contact Head Counselor, Russ, to discuss your role!

Space for Grace Summer Schedule

9:45am in the Fellowship Center
3rd Sunday of the month

June 16

July 21

August 18

Be on the lookout for the Fall schedule later!
Text @fpcs4g to 81010 to be on the text list for this worship service

Youth Montreat Dates:

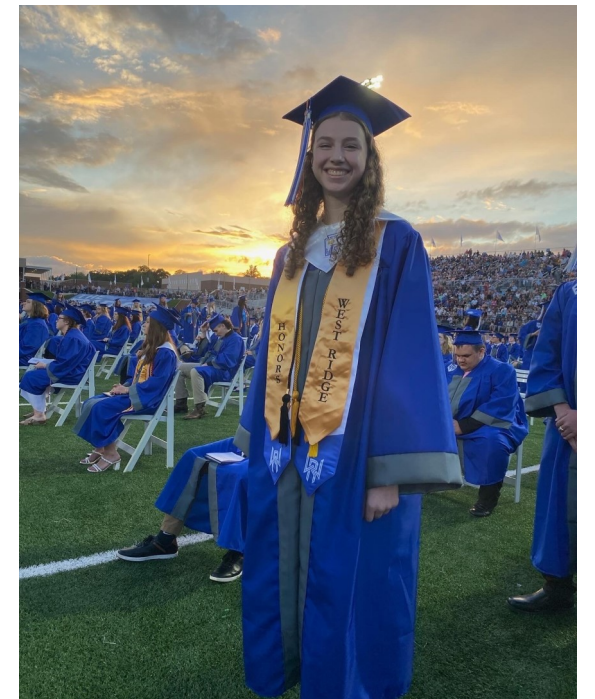
June 2-8

Rising 9th-Graduated 12th
\$150 per youth/ Max \$200.
Contact Russ Pearson.



Congratulations Meghan!

Congratulations to Meghan Heindselman and her family as she graduated from West Ridge High School! She will attend the University of Tennessee in Knoxville in the Fall.



Pictorial Directory Update

It has been almost 6 months since we released the 2024 Pictorial Directory. There have been several changes to addresses and other information in the directory and we have received some new members into the FPC Family. If you did not get your picture into the first directory or you would like to update the photo that is currently in the publication, you can submit a digital photo to Vickie at vgreen@firstpreskingsport.org by **June 30, 2024**. The updated version will be available sometime in July in the Members Only section of the website and printed copies can be requested.

Commissioned Lay Pastor

What do Cheryl Rice, Tom Wilson, Martin Christian, Dan Moore, and John Baber have in common? All are current or past members of FPC. They are also Commissioned Lay Pastors with Martin Christian going the next step into seminary and becoming an ordained teaching elder.

What is a Commissioned Lay Pastor? CLPs are trained ruling elders who are authorized only within the bounds of the presbytery which trained them and sometimes for a single congregation. They may preach, moderate Session meetings, and lead worship including the sacraments. CLPs date to 1984 when a need had arisen for pastoral leadership in geographically remote areas. The General Assembly created a lay role to fulfill this need. The role is vital today as many smaller congregations are unable to support full time clergy.

Our centennial history disclosed that this church under the leadership of Dr. M. O. Sommers created pulpit supply teams, a precursor to CLPs, to lead worship in our chapels and other local churches in the 1950s. Dr. Sommers, Rev. T. W. Buchanan, and Rev. John R. MacKinnon held training sessions in November 1950.



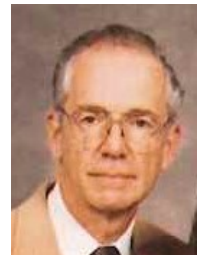
Cheryl Rice



Tom Wilson



Martin Christian



Dan Moore



John Baber

New Exhibit in the History Room

Since the earliest days First Pres has supported the work of foreign missionaries - now known as mission co-workers. Our first was Ruth Bracken, actually a member of FPC, who began work in China in 1925. Our current mission co-worker is **Eliane Menezes** who is assigned in Guatemala. Come browse through the photos and learn about two of our youth who spent 2 years in Africa, how some of the Bee Rigby mission designated funds were spent, why 72 members of FPC attended a commissioning service in Montreat in 1962 and much, much more. It is amazing to see how far and wide our mission dollars have spread the word of God. Thanks to Mary Ruth for her help with this exhibit.



To First Presbyterian Women Members:

Call, text, or email Mary C. Ruth if you are interested in discussing the possibility of a daytime Bible Study for our women, time and day to be chosen. Contact Mary Ruth at 423-530-4310 or Maryruth10@yahoo.com.

Our Knitters Need Your Yarn!

Cleaning closets? Do you have left-over yarn? De-cluttering? FPC Knitters are making knitted scarves for Fall & Winter 2024 for the Breakfast Ministry & Clothes Closet! We want your left-over yarn! It doesn't take a full skein & we can even put 2 strands of different colors together to make warm & colorful scarves.



Put your un-needed yarn on the shelf in the foyer coat closet & we will pick it up.

You can help be the hands & feet of Christ, & keep necks warm! Thanks!



A Place for Our Children!

A big thank you to the worship committee and our Session for approving some space for our kids to be in worship in our Sanctuary. During our time in the Fellowship Center, we intentionally included a space for children to color breakfast ministry bags, work on worship bulletins, and most importantly, be in worship the entire service. This worked great and our kids really benefitted from their own space. They participated in songs and liturgy more intentionally and we hope that continues with this new worship space for them.

