First Press Weekly Update

August 11, 2024

Prayer List

CHRISTIAN SYMPATHY - The Congregation extends Christian Sympathy to the family of **James Allison "Al" Asbury** upon his death on August 1, 2024, in Kingsport, TN.

CHRISTIAN SYMPATHY - The Congregation extends Christian Sympathy to the family of **Anna D. Gamble** upon her death on August 4, 2024, in Kingsport, TN.

PRAYER FAMILIES OF THE WEEK – Ella Deakins; Mark, Kim and Grace Plemmons; Maranda, Shelby and John Christopher Demuth; and Anna Claire Pierce.

MISSIONARIES – Eliane Menezes, Guatemala.

Sunday School Kickoff Today!

We kick off another Sunday school season this morning**.** All children and youth will meet in the Old Fellowship Hall downstairs for their program. Russ will lead the program with our youth. All adult classes plan to meet in your regular classroom.

Congregational Meeting Today

A congregational meeting will be held this morning **during the 11:00 a.m. service** for the purpose of calling Russ Pearson to the associate pastor position. Later today, the Ordination and Installation service for Russ will be held at 3:00 p.m. with a reception to follow in the Fellowship Center.

BLT Luncheon Today

Please join us for a BLT Luncheon on **Sunday, August 11,** for the Back to School Kick Off. Claudia Byrd will be making her delicious BLT's, so come for the food and fellowship! Hope to see you there!

Storytelling Trip

Those who have not paid for Storytelling trip to Jonesborough on Tuesday (August 13), please **find Barbara Foust today** to pay. Please be at the church at 12:50 p.m. on Tuesday to leave for this trip.

Upcoming Fun Possibilities

- If anyone is interested in going to Barter Theatre on Sept. 20 to see "A Trip to Bountiful," please let Barbara Foust know as soon as possible so we can get tickets.
- If enough are interested, we will go to Brights Zoo sometime during the first couple of weeks in October. Please let Barbara know as soon as possible so we can plan this trip.

Call Barbara Foust at 423-306-6514 or email: barbara.foust@gmail.com.

New in the History Room

A new display in the History Room includes numerous photos showing past and current choirs, music programs, and the staff leadership over the years. Children's choirs, chancel choirs, alto express, bell ringers, organ in "little white church" and in current sanctuary before the current organ was installed. You can see all this and much more by visiting the history room over the next seven weeks. Thanks to Florence Godat for her work to make this display inclusive of our musical history.

Rekindling Our Gifts Survey

First Presbyterian Church has a rich history of members being involved in the life of the church as well as being involved in our community. Our committee is giving you the opportunity to update how you want to serve in our church by completing a "Rekindling Our Gifts Survey." You are welcome to complete the survey if you have never done one before, or complete one if there are changes in how you have already indicated you want to serve. A box containing envelopes which include the survey is located in the lobby of the church for you to pick up. Please complete and return it to that box **by Sunday, August 18.** Please put your name on the outside of the envelope when you return it. You may also mail the envelope to the church or drop the envelope in the black, locked box outside the breezeway entrance. Whichever way you choose, please return it by August 18. Thank you for your willingness to serve your church.

Friends in Faith Class Begins New Series on August 18

Reading the Bible for Understanding

The *Friends in Faith* Sunday School Class will begin a new 6-week series on August 18 entitled ***Reading the Bible for Understanding.*** How do we as Christians and Presbyterians interpret the Bible? ***Reading the Bible for Understanding*** introduces important means to consider when interpreting different parts of the Bible: narratives, poetry and wisdom, and letters. It also reviews what Reformed and Presbyterian Christians believe about the nature of the Bible and the texts and translations that are available to us. Join our class as we explore the following six sessions (lesson #1 will be on August 18):

- Do You Understand What You Are Reading?
- Texts and Translations
- Interpreting Narrative Passages
- Interpreting the Gospels
- Interpreting Poetry and Wisdom Literature
- Interpreting Letters

Each session (6-8 pages) is a stand-alone discussion so do not worry if you have to miss a Sunday. Books may be picked up in room #103. So, whether you attend the 8:45 service or the 11:00 service the *Friends in Faith* class encourages and invites you to join us in room #103 at 9:45 a.m.

Birthdays This Week

August 11: Inez McBee
August 12: Tony Cole
August 13: Joyce Brown, Cathy Mooney
August 14: Mary Beth Hallen
August 15: Nancy Bovender, Laura Addleburg
August 16: Peter Gale, Gemma Robinette, Paul Smith
August 17: Bob Stoots
August 18: Lindsey McInturff

First Presbyterian Church Staff

423-245-0104

Mike Shelton, *Pastor* (ext. 204)

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

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

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

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

Becca Wright, *Parish Nurse*

Alan Whitt, *Custodian*

First Presbyterian Church

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