

First Press Weekly Update

February 16, 2025



Prayer List

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM – Receiving the Sacrament of Baptism today in the 10:00 a.m. service is **Henry Ellis Robertson**. Henry is the son of Daniel and Natalie Robertson and brother to Caleb. Elder Jami Arrowsmith will present Henry for Baptism on behalf of Session.

PRAYER FAMILIES OF THE WEEK – Tim, Jami, Oliver, Eli, Maggie and Beckett Arrowsmith; Elli Walker; Stephen Arthur; and Clayton Walker.

MISSIONARIES – Eliane Menezes, Guatemala.

Sermon Series

For the next few weeks, Dr. Shelton will continue his sermon series, "LESSONS FROM THE SCHOOL OF HARD KNOCKS" based on the premise that the only way most of us learn anything is the hard way...through trial and error.

Potluck Lunch & Annual Meeting Today

Following our combined worship service today we will have a potluck meal in the Fellowship Center, to be followed by our **Annual Congregational Meeting**. The purpose of the meeting will be to hear a report on the budget, a report from Session, a report from the pastor, and a report from the church staff. Please join us in the Fellowship Center after worship.

Youth Group Today

- 4-5 p.m. Middle School Youth Group
- 5-6 p.m. High School Youth Group

Birthdays This Week

February 16: Issac Conner, Aaron Pendleton

February 17: Mike Wilkins, Gary Collins

February 18: Henry Booher

February 19: Paul Banda

February 20: Greeley Wells

February 21: Burts Compton, Leon Doran

February 22: Mary Beggerow

February 23: Greta Robinette

Church Night Supper ~ February 19 ~ 5:30 p.m. ~ Fellowship Center

Food City: Potato bar, salad bar and dessert

Bible Study on the Psalms ~ *Psalm 34* ~ led by Rev. Russ Pearson

The cost of dinner: \$10.00, adults; \$5.00, children under 10; family maximum of \$25.00. Fill out the pew pad on Sunday mornings, call the church office at 245-0104 or register online: www.firstpreskingsport.org. Reservations are due noon Tuesday.

Winter Concert

The Paramount Chamber Players will present "A Winter Concert," featuring world-class Juilliard-trained violinist William Shaub, violinist Evie Chen, violist David Kovac, cellist Max Geissler, and pianist Katherine Benson, on **Saturday, February 22** at 7:30 p.m. in the First Presbyterian Church Sanctuary. Tickets are \$15 for adults, \$12 for seniors, and students free and will be available at the door. Or order online at www.firstpreskingsport.org by noon on **Wednesday, February 19**.

Handbell Showcase

The Kingsport Music Club will present "A Handbell Showcase" on **Sunday, March 9** at 3:00 p.m. in our Fellowship Center. The showcase will feature bell choirs from the Church Circle churches, including our own *Westminster Ringers*, under the direction of Tammie Davis. All are welcome. Free and open to the public. Doors open at 2:30 p.m.

Missing

Missing from the History Room is the most recent scrapbook of newspaper articles from 2023 and 2024. It is a large 12x12 scrapbook. If you have borrowed it please return or give Jane Harris (423-239-9477) or Laura Drayne (423-361-0960) a call.

What's So Great about the Great Commandment?

When Christianity loses its way, we forget to keep first things first. So did the Jews of Jesus' era. They had lost sight of the essentials. Jesus had an ongoing debate with Jewish leaders who accused him of veering off the truth. Four times they corner him in the Temple to catch him in error. In one case a scribe asks him "Which is the greatest command?" He was not seeking an answer but gathering evidence to entrap Jesus in his words. Jesus wouldn't quibble over which law was superior. He underwhelmed critics by quoting scriptures that all Jews would know: "*Hear, O Israel, the Lord our God is one Lord and you shall love him with all your heart, all your soul, and all your strength.*" The scribe knew the right answer; he just didn't live the right answer. Quoting what God expected and doing what he expected are not the same thing. Dr. Shelton will lead a study of this text, "What's so great about the Great Commandment?" on **Wednesdays March 12, 19 and 26** at 6:15 p.m. after Church Night Supper.



Second Harvest in February

First Presbyterian Church volunteers will gather at Second Harvest Food Bank of Northeast Tennessee on **Wednesday, February 19**. Please mark your calendars and join FPC members and friends for fun, fellowship and service at the Food Bank. Please email, call or text Bob Stoots at (423-782-6280) to sign up and register your time preference; morning (9:00 - 11:00 a.m.) or afternoon (1:00 - 3:00 p.m.)!

40th Anniversary Holston Habitat for Humanity-Faith Build

FPC's work week for Matt's Build will be **Wednesday, Friday and Saturday, April 9, 11 and 12** to paint interior walls, ceiling, trim, doors. How can you help? You can pray for the family and the construction workers; provide individual financial support; volunteer to help with construction; feed lunch to 15 workers including Holston Habitat "regulars" each day for three days; make something for the home; celebrate by attending the home dedication and open house. FPC youth can participate (16-17 and 14-15-year-olds) with adult supervision. Contact Gary Tucker to let him know how you will help with this Faith Build: 423-378-5419 or tuckersbigblue@chartertn.net

Update: Additional Habitat Volunteer Opportunities

(Sheathing, bracing, windows, exterior doors)

Week 2 of Matt's Build has not been reserved by any churches, so we have volunteer opportunities available for anyone interested on **February 18, 19, 21, and 22**. Thanks for your help!

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 front of the stained glass near the Sanctuary on Sunday mornings. Thank you for your donations.

Breakfast Ministry Needs

- VOLUNTEERS
- monetary donations
- blankets
- hats
- gloves (especially men's)
- thick socks
- backpacks or tote bags
- HotHands hand warmers
- dog biscuits and dog coats/sweaters
- travel size toiletries
- women's sanitary products.

If you would like to **donate items**, please drop them in the church breezeway (labeled "Breakfast Ministry") at your convenience or contact Sarah Good (423-967-3148) or Becca Wright (423-963-9617) and we will arrange to pick them up. If you would like to **volunteer**, please email Sarah Good at sar4680@gmail.com to be added to the current schedule. Thanks, as always, for helping us to be the hands and feet of Christ to our neighbors in need.

First Presbyterian Church Staff

423-245-0104

Mike Shelton, *Pastor* (ext. 204)

Russ Pearson, *Associate Pastor of Student Ministries* (ext. 208)

Bryan K. Underwood, *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)

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

Becca Wright, *Parish Nurse*

Alan Whitt, *Head of Maintenance/Custodial*

Lexy McConnell, *Maintenance/Custodial*

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