

First Press Weekly Update

March 2, 2025



Prayer List

CHRISTIAN SYMPATHY - The Congregation extends Christian Sympathy to the family of **Emily D. Childress** upon her death on February 26, 2025, in Kingsport, TN.

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM – Receiving the Sacrament of Baptism today in the 10:00 a.m. service is Oliver William Arrowsmith, Elisha Michael Arrowsmith and Maggie Dale Arrowsmith. Oliver, Eli and Maggie are the children of Tim and Jami Arrowsmith. Elder Natalie Robertson will present Oliver, Eli and Maggie for Baptism on behalf of Session.

PRAYER FAMILIES OF THE WEEK – Charlie Babb; Alex and Shannon Vanlandingham; Olin Babb and Frances Ussery.

MISSIONARIES – Eliane Menezes, Guatemala.

Sermon Series

This morning, Dr. Shelton will conclude 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.

Youth Group Today

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

Birthdays This Week

March 1: Spencer Correll, Maggie Arrowsmith

March 4: Ann Larkey

March 5: Carson Correll

March 7: Mark Davis, George Baugh, Rowan Good

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

Food City: Ham, whipped sweet potatoes, peas, rolls and dessert
(Property Committee Serving)

Ash Wednesday Service

6:30 p.m. in the Fellowship Center

To sign up for dinner, fill out the pew pad on Sunday morning, call the church office at 245-0104 or register online:
www.firstpreskingsport.org. Reservations are due noon Tuesday.

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.

What's So Great about the Great Commandment?

When Christianity loses it 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 commandment?". 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 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.

Looking Ahead to Summer Worship

A combined summer worship service at 10:00 a.m. will begin **Sunday, May 18** and conclude **Sunday, July 27**. Our regular schedule will resume Sunday, August 3. More information to come.



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

Waverly Road Food Pantry

For March please bring a **can of vegetables** 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)

Tammie Davis, *Interim Director of Music Ministries*

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*

First Presbyterian Church

100 West Church Circle

Kingsport, TN 37660

423-245-0104

www.firstpreskingsport.org

Email: office@firstpreskingsport.org

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