

Property Committee Building Updates and Subcommittee

Thank you for your support for the continuing repair and improvement of our church.

- **HVAC UPDATE - BOILERS** - All the new boilers in the **BASEMENT** have been installed.
- **AIR HANDLER ROOM** adjacent to the boiler room have also been installed but waiting on one piece of equipment on one of them due to it making noise.
- **SECOND FLOOR AIR HANDLER** - Waiting on a heating component.
- **ADDITIONAL 1941 AIR HANDLER IN BASEMENT** - Projected arrival date the end of April.
- **CHILLER** - Projected arrival date the end of May.

All of the sanctuary lights above the choir loft have been replaced with LED's. We also installed new switches to turn on the lights next to the breaker box in the chapel which is much easier and safer.

The Session recently approved establishing a Property subcommittee to investigate current and potential uses of the church so we can anticipate the best ways to invest in our future. The subcommittee will be meeting over the next few weeks to discuss the possibility of expanding our outreach efforts by attracting new mission-oriented rental or lease tenants to our church. There are areas of our church that will need to be identified for repair or renovation to best serve these tenants. They will be discussing security, flooding (basement), structure, and exterior concerns. This subcommittee is essential for determining the future needs of our church!

Please contact Gary Tucker, chair of this subcommittee, 423-378-5419 if you would like to participate in this important work!

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

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May 2025

Mark Your Calendar

- 5-11** *Lemonade on the Lawn*
- 5-18** *Potluck Luncheon*
- 5-19** *Newsletter Deadline*
- 5-23** *Chamber Players Concert*
- 6-15** *Lemonade on the Lawn*

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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At the End of the Day

What will **they say about us** when we are gone? I've sat with lots of families planning funerals. It is a time to laugh, weep, and mainly **TELL STORIES**. Memorial Day is a fitting time to reflect on our lives. At the end of the day, how would you like to be remembered? I have a **list of epitaphs** that I have read on tombstones which summarized the deceased's life.

HERE LIES ANNA WALLACE, WHEN THE CHILDREN OF ISRAEL WANTED BREAD, THE LORD SENT MANNA; WHEN CLERK WALLACE WANTED A SWEET WIFE, THE DEVIL SENT ANNA REMEMBER AS YOU WALK BY, AS YOU ARE NOW SO ONCE WAS I. AS I AM NOW, SO YOU SHALL BE. REMEMBER THIS AND FOLLOW ME... SOMEONE HAD LATER SCRIBBLED THE WORDS...TO FOLLOW YOU I AM NOT CONTENT UNTIL I KNOW WHICH WAY YOU WENT

Putting epitaphs on our graves isn't important; what is crucial is considering the legacy we leave behind. Rest assured, we leave marks behind, a trail of what we've done/left undone. There is no witty epitaph marking **Paul's grave**, but the mark he left behind was profound. The fragile, immature churches he founded were his legacy. Within days of his being executed by Nero, he writes to his apprentice Timothy, encouraging him in faith. It's almost as if he pauses in mid-sentence, writes his own epitaph.

"Time of my departure has come; I have fought the good fight; I've finished the race; and I have kept the Faith"

He not only **KEPT THE FAITH**; he expanded it, made it **come alive**, and he put Christianity on the map. There is no hint of regret, no sad musing about what **MIGHT'VE BEEN!** Just a man dying as He had lived: in total faith that God would complete what He had begun. Once Paul met Christ, there was no turning back, no sacrifice too great, no distance too far, to advance the cause of Christ. Any other person might have quit: his frequent bouts with fever, beatings/shipwrecks, delays in his plans, the fights with his enemies, and the more painful fights with his friends. He seized every opportunity God gave him. The one great sadness of his life was that he never got to **SPAIN** where he dreamed of taking the Gospel. He was a man on a mission, an instrument of God's grace. His life wasn't a **model of success** but a **statement about commitment**. Serving Jesus added **life to his years** and not **years to his life**. He lived out faith so fully that the world has never been the same. What higher compliment could any of us ever receive than that?

Miko

Sunday Worship

8:30 a.m.

Chapel

10:00 a.m.

Fellowship Center

11:00 a.m.

Sanctuary

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 on Sunday, August 3.



Online Giving Change

We have improved our online giving process. You will need to use the new online giving link: <https://onrealm.org/firstpreskingsport/give/now> This link can be found on our website under the Contribute Tab or by clicking the link <https://firstpreskingsport.org/contribute/online-giving/> and hitting the Give Online Button.

Remind 101

Sign up for our church texts! Text the number 81010 and include @fpc100 in the text to opt in.

Church Night Suppers

Here are the details about the last two Church Night Suppers before the summer break.

Wednesday, May 7:

Panda Express with dessert
(Finance Committee Serving)

Wednesday, May 14:

Braeden's BBQ: sandwiches, baked beans, coleslaw and dessert
(Administration Committee Serving)

The cost for dinner is \$10.00 for adults, \$5.00 for children under 10, with a family maximum of \$25.00.

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 \(www.firstpreskingsport.org\)](http://www.firstpreskingsport.org).

(When booking your reservations, please note that a family = parent(s) and dependent children 18 years of age and under.)

Summer Fun!

Lemonade on the Lawn

The first one will be held after the 8:30 a.m. service on **May 11** in the hallway outside of the chapel and after the 11:00 a.m. service outside under the portico. Home-baked cookies will be served with the lemonade. The second one will be held on **June 15** after the 10:00 a.m. service outside under the portico. This will be a wonderful time to socialize and catch up with friends.



Potluck Lunch

A potluck lunch will be held after the 10:00 a.m. service on **May 18** in the Fellowship Center. Remember to bring anything of your choosing, except meat, to the Fellowship Center kitchen as early as 9:30 a.m. You'll need to indicate your intentions of attending the lunch by the Tuesday prior the date so the CF&N Committee will provide enough chicken fingers. You may call or e-mail Vickie at the church office with your reservation. We're looking forward to having a large crowd for this time of great home-cooked food as well as time for fellowship with each other! "Amen, Let's Eat!"

Church Picnic
Sunday, September 21
(Details to come!)



May 1: Ben Harris

May 4: Chuck Mooney, Clayton Walker

May 5: Bill Adams

May 9: Hunter Wright, Celia Osborne, Peyton King

May 13: Larry Maston

May 14: Christine Baugh, Randell Drayne

May 15: Sally Crawford, Frances Ussery

May 17: Jennifer Walker

May 18: Leslie Pope, John Bovender, Grayson Mott, Valerie Joh

May 20: Bette Patton, Stewart Taylor, Autumn Hagan

May 21: Kinsley Argabrite

May 25: Dave Hafele

May 27: Tricia Argabrite, Colin Pendleton

May 31: Kathy Redwine

Happy Birthday!

Flowers Needed for Church in 2025

Just one date left:
November 9

Please call Vickie in the church office (423-245-0104) to sign up for a date.

Nominating Committee

It has been said that a church is no stronger, no more energetic, no more faithful, no more creative, no more courageous, and no more committed than those who provide its leadership. Your Nominating Committee needs your prayerful support and suggestions to identify those whom God is calling to lead us at this time when we are searching for God's will in all aspects of our church life.

The 2025 Nominating Committee members are Gail Cole, chair; Cheryl Rice, chair elect; deacon, Betty Blass. Elected on March 23 were Tim Arrowsmith, Karen Bunch and Norie Anne Watts. (Please see insert.)

Waverly Road Food Pantry



For May 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. They mean so much to those who don't have enough to eat.

FPC Prayer Chain

For those of you who are unaware, FPC has a prayer chain comprised of members who will pray for any prayer requests you have. You can also ask that they pray for an "unspoken request." You can be sure that your requests will be kept confidential. Madelyn Baggett leads this loving ministry. Please contact her at 423.288.3972 if you have a prayer request, or if you'd like to join with other Prayer Chain members that include: Helen Baylor, Laura Drayne, Donna Marchion, Claudia Mihovk, Emily Pridemore and Cheryl Rice. Thanks to these ladies for their service to our members.

Ways you can SERVE

Salvation Army

First Presbyterian has a long history of serving a Sunday meal each month at the Salvation Army. We currently serve a meal on the second Sunday. Volunteers are needed from 11:30 am-1:15 pm. Please contact Catherine Tucker if you'd like to help. 423-782-7782 or tuckersbigblue@gmail.com.

Second Harvest Workday in May



Volunteers from First Presbyterian - Kingsport have been donating time and talents at Second Harvest Food Bank for nearly three years now. Despite this length of service, we are still surprised at times by the different tasks that need to be done. We have packed for the Food-For-Kids backpack program, for distribution to other food banks and pantries, for adults suffering from food shortages, for storm victims in flood stricken areas, and most recently milk for children's summer food distribution. No matter what the job, it is always fun working together for a wonderful local service!

Please join us this month on **Wednesday, May 21**. Contact Bob Stoots by email, cell or text (423-782-6280) to register for the session of your choice: (9:00-11:00 a.m.) or (1:00-3:00 p.m.).

Breakfast Bag Needs

A new sign up sheet for summer (May-August) Breakfast Bag volunteers is available! If you would like to receive the spreadsheet to sign up, please reach out to Sarah Good (sar4680@gmail.com). Also, our toiletry kits have been much appreciated--during the warmer months, please consider making a donation of travel-size/small toiletry items such as shampoo, conditioner, body wash, toothpaste and toothbrushes, deodorant, lotion, etc. New or gently used washcloths are also needed. We will assemble the bags for distribution. Thank you for being the hands and feet of Christ to our neighbors!

Oasis Anniversary Fundraiser

Oasis of Kingsport 11th Annual Anniversary Fundraiser is proudly sponsored this year by First Presbyterian Church Of Kingsport. "Moving on Up" will be held **Friday, June 13** at 6:00 p.m., at Celebration Church in Blountville, with formal catered dining, Silent Auction, and music by local known artist: "Lightnin' Charlie". Tickets of \$50 each can be purchased through "Eventbrite", Oasis of Kingsport, 423-392-1137, www.oasiskpt.org, or contact Martha Pendley, 423-429-1340, marthapendley@hotmail.com. Please plan to come support the Oasis and represent FPC.



Furniture Needed at Matt's Habitat House

Once Matt's Habitat House is completed, furniture will be needed, especially a bed and mattress for Kyra and Kaylee. Contact Gary Tucker and he will coordinate with the future homeowner (423-378-5419). Thank you!

(See more photos in an insert to this newsletter.)

Thanks to FPC Habitat Volunteers and Food Providers

God provides! Thanks to Jim Amstutz also a "Habitat Regular," Aleasha Stanley, Gary Hallen, Claudia Mihovk, Larry Maston, Richard Meyer, Allen and Becca Wright, Mark and Grace Ward, and Catherine Tucker. Thanks for food to keep us going from Dan and Dee Dee Dietrich, Carolyn Doerfert, Jane Scott and Mary Ruth. Also, Judy Grover is painting a mural for the granddaughter's bedroom.

You have made a positive difference in the lives of Matt, Kyra and Kaylee Willis. Thanks be to God!



One of many

Allen Wright

When asked how he became a member of First Pres – Allen said, “I married into it”. For the few members who may not know Allen is married to Becca Wright – a life-long member of First Pres. He joined in 1993 during the pastorate of Danny Massie who married Allen and Becca.

Allen is one of those individuals who can be either an “Indian” or a “Chief” and has filled both roles at our church. You may have come across him in one of his many roles. He and Becca monitor and maintain the Rose Garden near the Chapel entrance to First Pres. The Rose Garden has been maintained lovingly by their family in memory of Becca’s parents Ben and Katty Brown. Any members out there interested in learning about care of roses? - Allen and Becca are willing to train someone to help with the future care of the Rose Garden.

Allen chaired the Outreach committee a couple years ago and has remained as a volunteer in several of the church outreach programs. He cooks for Meals on Wheels. Since he is familiar with the kitchen, he is often called upon to help with other events in the kitchen. He staffs the weekend “Grab and Go” ministry and often makes the “Sam’s” run to pick up food for distribution. While he is not a regular in the Clothes Closet; he helps on days when there is heavy lifting work to be done. Once a year he and Becca take part in the consignment sale “Twice Upon a Child” – why? – so our clothes closet can get the children’s clothing that is not sold. It is a wonderful source of excellent used children’s clothing for our Clothes Closet. Allen has taken part in building many of the recent Habitat homes including the just completed Matt’s Build. Allen also teaches the *Friends in Faith Sunday School Class* on a rotating basis with several other members. He also attends numerous services and is a regular at the Knuckle-heads Bible Study on Tuesdays.

Another job that he began as a way to get in all his “steps” is picking up the trash that sadly accumulates around our grounds.

When asked what keeps him motivated to be involved in the life of the church; he says the declining interest in religion and faith in today’s culture bothers him. The loss of traditions and sacraments seems too prevalent to him. FPC activities that indicate our caring and beliefs show the public and those we serve that our faith matters. It is obvious he is pleased to be the “hands of Christ” when he is serving in his many roles. Aren’t we lucky Allen “married into” our FPC church family almost 30 years ago!



New Exhibit in the History Room

A new exhibit in the History Room follows the history of First Pres’ association with Habitat for Humanity. As you know we finished our most recent build – Matt’s Build. Our history goes back to 1985 when our youth went on a mission trip. Two women involved in the beginning of Habitat in Kingsport were connected to our church. We have been involved in 22 builds since 1989. Habitat counts full builds – we have done 20 full builds and 2 rehabs. Come by the History Room to learn more about our history with this great organization.

The History of Our Church

“Noyes Fludde”

In May of 1988 PFC members and community guests enjoyed a musical production planned and directed by Bruton Bumgarner. “Noyes Fludde” cast included church members and the children’s choirs of First Presbyterian and Holy Trinity Lutheran as the animals. Some of you will recall Martin Karant from his WKPT days. He was the “voice of God” in the production.



Congratulations to our Seniors!

First Presbyterian has five seniors graduating this year: Kellan Good, Will Lively, Aaron Pendleton, Anna Claire Pierce and Delaney Young. Congratulations to our graduates. Look for more about them in the June newsletter.

