

# A Few Details about the Church Picnic

Deadline for reservations is **Sunday, September 14** at 5:00 p.m. \$10/person; children 6-10 is \$5, \$35 family maximum. *(When booking your reservations, please note that a family = parent(s) and dependent children 18 years of age and under.). Make reservations on the sign up sheet in the church foyer, on Realm, on the church Website (using Realm), or by calling the church at (423) 245-0104. Payment in advance is preferred by these methods: on Realm, on the church Website (using Realm), paying Vickie in the church office, or putting payment in the church offering plate, marked Church Picnic.*

The deadline for reservations is Sunday, September 14th, at 5 pm! Braeden’s needs the count on Monday morning, the 15th.  
\$10/person; children 6-10 is \$5, \$35 family maximum.(When booking your reservations, please note that a family = parent(s) and dependent children 18 years of age and under.). Make reservations on the sign-up sheet in the church foyer, on Realm, on the church Website (using Realm), or by calling the church at (423) 245-0104. Payment in advance is preferred by these methods: on Realm, on the church Website (using Realm), paying Vickie in the church office, or putting payment in the church offering plate noting Church Picnic in the memo section.

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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## Mark Your Calendar

- 9-3 Church Suppers Resume  
Vespers Services Begin
- 9-14 Combined Worship &  
Mike’s Farewell Reception
- 9-21 Church Picnic at Allandale
- 9-22 Newsletter Deadline

## Weekly

### Sunday Worship

8:30 a.m., Chapel  
10:30 a.m., Sanctuary

### Tuesday

Knuckleheads Men’s Bible Study  
12:15-1:15 p.m.  
History Room

### Thursday

Balance Class  
1:15 p.m.



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## What We Leave Behind

Some people live as if they are immortal, but we are all going to die. What we have done for ourselves dies with us; what we have done for others lives on. Naked we came into the world, wearing our **BIRTHDAY SUITS** and we will leave the same way. What will we **LEAVE BEHIND?** When I die, I don’t want any loving acts or sacrificial gifts to be lost. Many people leave nothing besides money behind because they miss their chances to make a difference. They die without having lived at all. The purpose of life isn’t just to be **HAPPY** but to make an impact, to bless other lives. We aren’t here to take up space; God has a higher purpose for us than to leave the world as we found it. We never know the impact we’ll make; that is **THE BEAUTY** of it. Christians should leave a distinctive mark: to bear resemblance to Jesus in how we live. I love the obscure verse in Revelations, written as a testimony to the saints...

**BLESSED ARE THEY WHO DIE IN THE LORD, THEY’LL REST FROM THEIR LABORS, AND THEIR WORKS WILL FOLLOW THEM.**

Our works follow us; our lives matter; the **GOOD WE DO** outlives us. The issue is: do we make the most of our moments or are they wasted? Will we seize opportunities or let them slip away? One day, when we come before God, may we have more to show than we did only what was expected. God won’t survey us for medals or awards. He won’t quiz us about what we owned but **WHAT WE’VE DONE BECAUSE WE LOVE HIM.** God won’t ask us why we didn’t live someone else’s life. We will be held accountable, not for what **WE DIDN’T DO WITH WHAT WE NEVER HAD** but for **NEGLECT-ING WHAT WE DID HAVE:**

**The potential we didn’t reach; the gifts we didn’t use; the impact on the world we might have made, but didn’t.**

We all have regrets. One of my mentors used to say, **“DO THE BEST WITH WHAT YOU HAVE, WHERE YOU ARE, WHILE YOU CAN.** I have strived to do my best, with what skills God has given, not only here but in the other churches that I served. I can’t begin to count the blessings I’ve known. I am a “marked man” I bear the marks of all those who’ve touched my life. How can I say “thank you” for the words of encouragement, the acts of love and kindness that I’ve received from God’s people for 40 years. I am who I am because many people helped me to get there. People prayed for me when I needed it; they loved me when I was down; they cared for me when I failed to meet all their needs. I’ll soon stand in the pulpit for the last time. I will have the same lump in my throat I had many years ago. Rest assured of this: you have been a blessing to me and my wife, Donna, and we will never forget you. We will forever hold you in our prayers.

*Mike*

## Happening in September!

### Church Night Suppers

The CF&N Committee is excited to start back our CNSs this fall on **Wednesday, September 3**, at 5:30 p.m. The meal will be Italian from Olive Garden and will include salad and dessert. After dinner we will have a Vespers service at 6:20 p.m. in the Fellowship Center. The deadline for reservations for dinner is noon on **Tuesday, September 2**. The cost is \$10.00 for adults, \$5.00 for children under 10, with a family maximum of \$25.00. *Reservations may be made on the church pew pads, by calling Vickie at 423-245-0104, through the church Website, or through your REALM account. Reservations for each CNS opens at 8:00 a.m. the Saturday before the upcoming CNS date.*

#### **September 10**

Panda Express and dessert  
*Outreach Committee serving*

#### **September 17**

Food City: taco bar, Mexican rice, black beans and dessert  
*Congregational Fellowship & Nurture Committee serving*

#### **September 24**

Food City: meatloaf, mashed potatoes, green beans and dessert  
*Property Committee serving*

### Combined Worship

We will have one combined worship service on **Sunday, September 14** at 10:30 a.m. in the Sanctuary to be followed by Mike's farewell reception. A called congregational meeting will be held at the end of the 10:30 a.m. combined worship service. The purpose of the meeting is to approve the dissolution of Dr. Mike Shelton's call with FPC. Please join us for Mike's final Sunday at First Presbyterian.

### Church Picnic

The Church Picnic will be held on **Sunday, September 21**, at the Allandale Picnic Pavilion. Fellowship time begins at 5 pm and dinner will be served at 6. Braeden's Barbeque will be our caterer. Pulled pork, pulled turkey, grilled chicken, cowboy baked beans, coleslaw, tea, lemonade, water, banana pudding, brownies, and cookies are included in our delicious menu. This year we are bringing back bingo to the picnic with a twist. It will be a "white elephant" bingo and we need your help! We need donations from you for our prizes. If you have any small items that you have thought about getting rid of, now is your chance! There will be a collection box in the lobby. For more on the picnic, please see the back page.

### **Barter Trip**

Make plans to go to Barter with your Church friends to see a really fun musical mystery in September. Please let Barbara Foust know if you are interested so she can reserve tickets.

### **Fall Young Adult Bible Study**

Do you consider yourself a "young adult"? Then you are invited to join in a Fall Bible Study! We will gather at homes, restaurants, and at church to think about deep questions of our faith using the Bible and the book "Velvet Elvis" by Rob Bell to guide our discussions. Books will be provided for participants. More details to come, but if you have questions or you are just excited to join let Russ know.



**Sept. 1:** John Christopher Demuth, Lisa Good, Barbara Sanders

**Sept. 3:** Roger Goin, Charlie Compton, Sam Compton

**Sept. 4:** Jimmy Dickerson, Eleanor Combs, Claudia Mihovk

**Sept. 6:** Mark Barbour, Fred Martin

**Sept. 7:** Gray Stothart, Carol Dixon

**Sept. 8:** Jim Wright

**Sept. 9:** Sarah Tatchi, Lylah Combs

**Sept. 12:** Jane Harris, Martha Pendley, Heather Kunysz

**Sept. 13:** Mary Ruth

**Sept. 14:** Henry King

**Sept. 15:** Cynthia King, Alan Hobbs, Norie-Anne Watts

**Sept. 16:** Cooper Bunch

**Sept. 18:** Betty Nelle Duke

**Sept. 20:** Carl Eilers, Sam Stevens

**Sept. 22:** Bill Argabrite

**Sept. 25:** Donna Shelton

**Sept. 27:** Gail Cole

**Sept. 30:** Laura Drayne

## Happy Birthday!



### **Thank You**

To Our Family at First Presbyterian, Barbara and I thank you for your love, prayers and expressions of support during our battle with cancer. We have felt your kindness and offers to help in any way. We are blessed to have First Presbyterian as our Church Home, and through the continued love of the members at First Pres, we will succeed in winning our test.

Much love to each of you and may God continue to bless us all.

*Warren and Barbara Sanders*



### **Labor Day Holiday Schedule**

The church office will be closed **Monday, September 1** for the Labor Day holiday. The Clothes Closet will be closed **Tuesday, September 2**.

### **Next First Press Newsletter Deadline**

**September 22**  
October Newsletter





### Thanks Don!

THANK YOU to Don Sharitt for pressure washing the concrete and the benches outside the entrance to our church. It is greatly appreciated and much hard work. Looks absolutely beautiful!!

### Waverly Road Food Pantry Item of the Month

Canned Soups



### Clothes Closet Needs

The Clothes Closet will be changing from summer to fall/winter clothing shortly. We are in need of blankets/throws, jackets, coats, sweat shirts (hoodies), athletic shoes and socks, wool hats, gloves and toiletries. Thank you for your continued support.

### Grab & Go Breakfast Ministry

The **Grab & Go Breakfast Ministry** is an outreach opportunity where members from First Presbyterian and our friends from First Broad Street United Methodist work together to help meet the nutritional needs of the homeless and hungry in our community. We provide bagged breakfast meals and water to our guests on Saturday and Sunday mornings from 7:00 AM – 8:00 AM. The Methodist volunteers prepare sausage and biscuits so we are able to provide a hot food item in each bag. First Pres volunteers prepare the bags which include a fruit cup, crackers, a pastry or snack, the hot biscuit and a bottle of water; and then distribute the bags along with hot coffee to our guests. Travel size toiletries (shampoo, conditioner, soap/body wash, lotion, toothbrushes, toothpaste, deodorant, washcloths) and cold weather items (blankets, gloves, socks, toboggans, Hot Hands) are frequently requested items and we try to provide these when available. **Volunteers are needed** and there are several opportunities to help during the week and weekends. We will meet in the Fellowship Center immediately following the 10:30 worship service on Sunday, September 7th for a brief informational meeting about the Grab & Go Breakfast Ministry. Anyone interested in learning more about the program and associated volunteer opportunities are encouraged to attend! Questions: contact Sarah Good (423-967-3148) or Becca Wright (423-963-9617)

### Second Harvest in September

First Presbyterian Church - Kingsport volunteers will be packing food at Second Harvest Food Bank on **September 17**. We would love to have you join us! This is always a fun time of fellowship and service for a very worthy cause. Contact Bob Stoots by email or call or text (423-782-6280) to register for the session of your choice: morning (9:00-11:00 a.m.) or afternoon (1:00-3:00 p.m.).



### Wednesday Vespers ~ Fall 2025

Vespers Services and other events will begin at **6:20pm** in the Fellowship Center.

*Why 6:20pm? Great question!*

1. It got your attention
2. We will use parts of Psalm 62 each Vespers service to gather ourselves and remind us of our hope in God

*What are Vespers? Another great question!*

Vespers are evening prayer services with a little music, a little prayer, and a little reflection and are open to all ages and faith journeys.

**Bolded events below take the place of Vespers services**

All are welcome to come any week you can!  
Come early and sign up for dinner at 5:30pm

September 3      *Vespers @ 6:20pm*  
September 10     *Vespers @ 6:20pm*  
September 17     *Vespers @ 6:20pm*  
September 24     *Vespers @ 6:20pm*  
October 1          *Vespers @ 6:20pm*

**October 8**            **To be determined**  
October 15          *Vespers @ 6:20pm*  
October 22          *Vespers @ 6:20pm*  
**October 29**          **Trunk or Treat (Church parking lot)**

November 5        *Vespers @ 6:20pm*  
November 12       *Vespers @ 6:20pm*  
**November 19**       **Thanksgiving Dinner. Vespers @ 6:20pm**  
**November 26**       **No Dinner or Vespers (Thanksgiving Week)**

*(For December Wednesday programs look for Christmas trivia, Christmas Songs, and a special Advent Vespers. More info in later newsletters.)*

### Study the New Testament



Let's read through the New Testament together beginning **October 1!** We will meet for a discussion group in person on Sundays from 4-5pm at FPC. We will meet on Monday, September 29th at 4pm for an information session and to help you get set up for success. You can read along in print or in digital format! If you want to read along in print, just let us know by September 22 so we can order books and get them here in time. Visit [thebiblerecap.com/start](http://thebiblerecap.com/start) for more information and details about the reading program!



# The History of Our Church

During the 1990's First Presbyterian seniors enjoyed outings and activities through a program known as "VIP" – Very Important Presbyterians. Some of their activities are highlighted in these photos.



Above: Craig Bell and Glen Stanley cooking for a VIP luncheon.



Right: Ken McDonald and Carolyn McConnell enjoying some square dancing at a VIP event.



Above: Glenna French, Mary Chalker, Ruth Ann Wiseman, and Leroy Chalker enjoy a VIP picnic



Tommy and Johnnie Wray on VIP outing to Natural Tunnel.

## One of many Frances Dryden



*A current project is adding Mike Shelton to our "wall of fame" - all our senior ministers.*

Sixty-four years ago, Frances and Al Dryden were married at First Presbyterian; she found she had also married into a church congregation. She relates the Sunday they returned from their honeymoon- they entered the church and were greeted by a group of church leaders. "Al and Frances, you have been "chosen" to teach our 12<sup>th</sup> grade Sunday School class and serve as adult advisors for the youth group." They found it impossible to decline such an invitation and were attending a youth overnight retreat the next week! Years later they discovered other couples had also been greeted when they joined the church with similar "you have been chosen" greetings! Interesting recruitment method.

Frances crafts the "Prayer Squares" that are given to members experiencing a difficult time. She continues this project because members appreciate the token gift and thought from the congregation.

In 1995, right after Mission Possible II (major renovation adding the Fellowship Center, new entrance, and new church offices) Frances became a member of

the FF&E Committee (short for Fixtures, Furnishings, and Equipment). We had lots of new space to furnish. The Property Committee handles everything related to our Church building; the FF&E committee was charged with identifying and prioritizing the physical essentials for an efficient functioning church. Church school classes need a room but also chairs and other equipment to function. FF&E assessed what we had and what we needed; prioritized needs and developed a long-term plan to fulfill them. Occasionally unexpected needs like remediation of a leaking long-forgotten oil tank behind the church ate into budget plans. Gradually over the years Frances, who now chairs the group, and dedicated members work to meet the many needs of our church. Examples are the handicap ramp in the downstairs fellowship hall; repair of broken stain glass in the foyer; chairs for new Fellowship Center; signage for the inside and outside of the church; benches and large pots outside our main entry; furnishings for the History Room and many more projects than space allows. A 4-inch binder recently placed in the history room details them all. Their work is not always noticed; but, would be noticed if not handled – toilet seats, window blinds, cabinet doors that work, fresh paint, etc. As FF&E Chair she now serves on the Property Committee to coordinate the work of the two groups.

Frances says the philosophy for the work of FF&E has been "First Impressions Matter" Our church does not have to be fancy; but it needs to be warm, inviting, comfortable, neat, clean, and welcoming to encourage our members and visitors to stay. Thanks to a generous loving congregation most of our needs have been met with contributions of funds, connections to resources and personal time and energy painting, cleaning, etc. Many thanks to Frances and all the members who have worked diligently on FF&E over the past 30 years!