

More News from First Pres

Property Committee Update

The Property Committee has approved the replacement of the lock on the breezeway fellowship center door. Session voted and approved to alleviate the flooding location in the basement. Both of these projects are expected to begin shortly.

Congratulations

Karyn Adams, Bill and Marian Adams' youngest daughter, was elected to Knoxville's city government in the Tuesday, November 4, election. She represents District 1 -- South Knoxville and Fort Sanders.

PC USA Office of Public Witness

Since 1946, the Presbyterian Church has had a public policy ministry, applying biblically and theologically based insights to issues that impact the lives of people. Through the PC USA Office of Public Witness, you can connect with lawmakers to advocate for action to help people in need in the USA and around the world. Make your voice heard through our United States Senators and Representatives.

Young Adult Book Study

A few of our young adults met for our first book study at Pastor Russ' house. We are reading through "Velvet Elvis" by Rob Bell.

It was a good time of discussion, questions, and fellowship. We hope to continue and build this group!

FPC Library

As you know, FPC has a library on the first floor of the building. In working to keep rooms of the church tidy, it has come to our attention that books are being left on the library desk and on the tables in the room. While we appreciate your thoughtfulness in sharing your books, we no longer have anyone staffing the library to maintain keeping the room tidy. Going forward, we request you donate any books you may have to the Kingsport City library or any other organization that may accept books. We want to be able to use this nice room for meeting space or as a quiet place for prayer and meditation.

First Presbyterian Church

The First Press

Seeking to see the Face of Christ...Striving to be the Hands of Christ

Vol. 542, Issue 12

December 2025

Mark Your Calendar

12-7 Combined Worship & Care Ministry Dinner

12-15 Newsletter Deadline

12-24 Christmas Eve Services
Shadow Nativity & Carols at 4pm
Lessons & Carols at 5:30pm

12-28 Combined Worship at 10am

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.

A Language of the Soul

Hello, my brothers and sisters!

When we gather for worship, something beautiful happens — voices blend, hearts align, and the presence of God feels near. Music is more than just a part of our service; it's a language of the soul that speaks when words alone fall short.

Each hymn, chorus, and instrumental piece carries a story — of faith, of hope, of God's unchanging love. Whether it's the quiet reverence of a prayerful melody or the joyful energy of a praise song, music invites us to participate fully in worship, not just as listeners, but as active worshippers. Our choir and bells work hard each week in rehearsal, to prepare music with a message for the congregation.. They rehearse not just to get the notes right, but to prepare their hearts to lead us into God's presence. This month, as we enter Advent and Christmas, we invite you to engage with worship in a fresh way:

- **Sing boldly** — even if you think you can't carry a tune. God delights in your voice.
- **Listen deeply** — let the lyrics and harmonies draw you closer to Him.
- **Pray through the music** — allow each song to become a personal conversation with God.

As Psalm 100 reminds us, *"Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth! Serve the Lord with gladness! Come into His presence with singing!"* May our worship continue to be a place where heaven touches earth, and where music becomes a bridge between our hearts and God's.

If you would like to join our choir, or Westminster Ringers to play in December, please contact me at asmith@firstpreskingsport.org to find out more information on how you may participate in these two wonderful groups. If you would like to participate, but are unable to join until after the first of the year, that's ok too! There is always a seat for you in our groups.

Blessings,
Amy Smith



First Presbyterian Church

100 W. Church Circle

Kingsport, TN 37660

(423) 245-0104

office@firstpreskingsport.org



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
100 W. Church Circle
Kingsport, TN 37660
(423) 245-0104

Sunday Worship

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

Combined Worship

December 7
10:30 a.m.
*followed by our Care
Ministry Luncheon*

Combined Worship

December 28
10:30 a.m.

CNS & Vespers in December!

Please join us for Church Night Supper in December on Wednesdays at 5:30 p.m., followed by Vespers at 6:20 p.m.

December 3

Finance Committee serving
Braeden's BBQ: Orange-glazed pork loin, mashed potatoes, green beans and dessert.

December 10

Administration Committee serving
Panda Express: Assorted entrees, vegetables and dessert.
(The reservation deadline is Monday, December 8, at noon for this meal)

December 17

Christian Education Committee serving
Food City: Breakfast for Dinner.

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 through the church Website [First Presbyterian Church-Kingsport \(www.firstpreskingsport.org\)](http://www.firstpreskingsport.org) or through your REALM account.



1st: Linda Buckles, Mike Babb, John Kunysz
2nd: Frank Gibson, McClure Mink
4th: Gary Hallen, Margaret Callcott, Jasmine Pendley
5th: Gillian Brents, Camden Argabrite
6th: Aidan Smith, Cliff Marchion
8th: Chris Raines, Elizabeth Booher
9th: Orris Harker
10th: Rebecca Combs
11th: Karen Bunch, Ella Deakins
13th: Marcia Porter, Sam Barbour, Sue Wells
14th: Dottie Gray, Braylee Williams, Nafisa Banda
15th: Wes Combs, Lee McConnell, Mack Gale
17th: Liz Stothart
19th: Barbara Maston, Mike Bunch
23rd: Ruth Adams
27th: Carolyn Collins, Johnnie Stubblefield
28th: Judy Cox
29th: Mary Easley, Grace Plemmons
30th: Natalie Robertson
31st: Kim Plemmons, Anson Hagan, Charlie Lively

Flowers Needed for Church in 2026

January 18	May 31
January 25	June 7
February 22	June 21
March 1	August 2
March 8	September 6
March 15	September 13
April 12	September 20
April 26	October 4
May 17	November 8
May 24	November 22

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



Stock Contributions

The end of 2025 is rapidly approaching. If you are planning to give stock to the church, please notify the church in writing prior to your donation. Thanking you in advance.

Happy Birthday!

Advent & Christmas at First Presbyterian

Sunday, December 7

All youth Christmas Party at 6:00pm!

Shadow Nativity!

This year for the 4:00pm Christmas Eve service everyone is invited to come and watch our kids and youth participate in a shadow nativity. We will sing some Christmas songs and watch this holy story acted out in a new way!

Parents and Grandparents: Drop your kids and youth off on the dates below with Amy and Russ as we prepare and practice. You can go Christmas shopping or go home and take a nap! All are welcome!

Sunday, December 14

Shadow Nativity Practice (All youth and kids) 4:00-5:30pm Fellowship Center

Sunday, December 21

Shadow Nativity Practice (All youth and kids) 4:00-5:30pm Fellowship Center

Christmas Eve Worship Services

4:00pm ~ Shadow Nativity and Carols in the Fellowship Center

5:30pm ~ Lessons and Carols in the Sanctuary

Reminder for Pledges

The new year is just around the corner. Here are just a few reminders as you consider your year-end contributions to the church.

- If possible, please consider fulfilling your **'2025' Pledge**.
- To those who have made your **2026 Pledge, thank you for supporting the church and its mission.**
- If you are planning on making an **online donation** that you want posted in 2025 you need to make that donation **no later than Friday, December 26, 2025**. If you will be making any other type of donation please make them by **Sunday, December 28** to receive a charitable tax donation for '2025'. Checks that are placed in the church offering plates during the first worship service in 2026 **will not qualify** for a charitable tax contribution in 2025. However, checks that are written, mailed and **postmarked in 2025** will be deductible in 2025 even if not received by the church until 2026.

Thank you for your generous gifts to this church.

Ways you can SERVE

Clothes Closet Needs

The Clothes Closet is in need of jackets, coats, sweatshirts (hoodies), athletic shoes and socks, wool hats, gloves and toiletries. The Clothes Closet is also in need of volunteers to help on Monday and/or Tuesday mornings and for other duties. Call Don (423-967-1766). Thank you for your support.

Breakfast Ministry Needs!

The weather is getting colder, and our Breakfast Ministry needs your help to keep our neighbors warm! Please consider donating **fleece blankets** (small enough to be carried in a backpack--Walmart and Hamrick's always have them in stock) to the ministry this fall and winter--requests will increase as the temperatures fall, and want to be sure we are able to meet our neighbors' needs each week. Thank you for your continued support of this ministry!

Second Harvest Food Bank

First Presbyterian Church - Kingsport volunteers will be packing food at Second Harvest Food Bank on **December 17**. We would love to have you join us! We always have a fun time of fellowship and service. 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.).



A Season of Giving

- ◆ **Presbyterian Giving Catalog** "Give with a Purpose" will be on a table in foyer during the month of December.
- ◆ **Annual White Gifts of Food for Waverly Road PC Food Pantry** ~ Bags with a grocery shopping list attached for White Gift will be distributed on **Sunday, December 7**. Return food bags and/or donations between Sunday, December 14 and Sunday, December 21
- ◆ **Christmas Joy Offering** will be received **Sunday, December 21** (100% PCUSA: 50% Presbyterian Program of the Board of Pensions and 50% Leadership and education at Presbyterian-related schools and colleges equipping communities of color.)
- ◆ **Christmas Eve Offering** will be received on December 24, 2025 for the *KCS Homeless Education Program*.

The History of Our Church

December is always a busy time at First Presbyterian Church; but from 1980-1985 it was truly a beehive of activity. The congregation planned and presented magnificent Madrigal Dinners for the community. Tickets were "sold out" weeks in advance. FPC choir members led the entire church in carrying out the events. Members played a variety of roles – planning, servers, guides, minstrels, musicians, sound systems, decorations and costumes – there was a job for everyone! The old fellowship hall in the basement was turned into a fantastic "Great Hall." One of the major players in the events, Agnese Goin, has spent time recalling her activities and developed a display in the History Room during December. Come visit – you will enjoy!



Above: Old Fellowship Hall and Servers ready for our guests

Left: Larry Long and Champe Bachelder enter the Great Hall with the "Beast"



Above: Ann Bacon and Jack Raulston as King and Queen

Nativity Sets for the Care Ministry Luncheon

Our next Care Ministry Luncheon will be coming up before long. It is set for **Sunday, December 7**. If you would like to contribute to the occasion, the Diaconate is looking for help in decorating the tables with centerpieces. If you have a small nativity set for the table and would like to display it for our luncheon, it would be appreciated.

You can drop off your set in Room F102 during church office hours (Monday-Thursday, 9:00 a.m.-3:30 p.m.) by the Thursday before the luncheon (December 4) in a container with your name on it.

New Exhibit in the History Room

It is Christmas 1981-85 in the History Room at First Pres. We are celebrating the Madrigal Dinners held during that time. We have a coat of armor, a maid's cap and apron, costumes, programs, photographs, and many memories of this community event sponsored by our Church and involving almost every member of our church in some way. Come by and enjoy the exhibit until January. Special thanks to Agnese and Roger Goin for their creativity in developing the exhibit.

One of many

Decorating for Advent

Many groups work throughout the year on FPC projects. We especially recognize and appreciate during the holidays those who spend hours reaching, unpacking, sorting and using their expertise to decorate First Presbyterian highlighting it's finest features for the season. Many hands make light work and that is true again this year. For this humongous undertaking our custodial staff (Alan and Lexy) pitch in too. They roll out the massive holders that have stored the wreaths and other decorations since last Christmas. The wreaths and ribbons must be fluffed and freshened and then hung high and low as the basis for our decorations. The group keeps photos from past years and use their creativity to make each year special. Sue Redmon was the leader for many years; and Mark Plemmons has taken the lead during the last several years. Judy Grover is the chair for 2025. In January a group will take it all down and store it away for 11 months! This year many have joined in the decorating fun. We sincerely hope we have not missed any names! Thanks to all! Tricia Argabrite, Betty Blass, Gail Cole, Carol Dixon, Dee Dee Dietrich, Mary Easley, Agnese Goin, Roger Goin, Judy Grover, Claudia Mihovk, Lexy McConnell, MaryGail Py, Cheryl Rice, Gary Tucker, Alan Whitt, and Allen Wright.

