

## Here's What's Happening This Week

	<b>Sunday, February 8</b>
7:00-8:00 am	Breakfast Ministry
9:15-10:15 am	Adult Sunday School
10:30-11:30 am	Combined Worship (Sanctuary) followed by Annual Congregational Meeting and Lunch
	<b>Tuesday, February 10</b>
12:15-1:15 pm	Knuckleheads Men's Bible Study
	<b>Wednesday, February 11</b>
5:30 pm	Church Night Supper Program
6:20 pm	
	<b>Thursday, February 12</b>
1:15-2:15 pm	Balance Class
	<b>Saturday, February 15</b>
7:00-8:00 am	Breakfast Ministry

## **Family Camp 2026** **March 6-8** **Holston Camp**



**Signups begin Sunday, February 8**

Costs:

18 and under are free

Everyone else: \$100 per person

First Presbyterian Church  
100 West Church Circle, Kingsport, TN 37660  
423-245-0104 \* [www.firstpreskingsport.org](http://www.firstpreskingsport.org)

## ***The First Press*** ***Weekly Update***

**February 8, 2026**



**Seeking to see the face of Christ...Striving to be the hands of Christ**

### **Combined Worship on February 8**

We will have a combined worship service at 10:30 a.m. on February 8  
followed by lunch and our Annual Congregation Meeting  
in the Fellowship Center.

### **The Chancel Flowers are Dedicated to the Glory of God**

and are presented by Barbara Foust  
in loving memory of family that have passed on.

### **Flowers Needed for Church in 2026**

March 8	August 2
March 15	September 6
April 12	September 13
April 26	September 20
May 31	October 4
June 7	

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

### **Opportunities for Connection**

Interested in baptism, becoming a member of First Presbyterian Church,  
or have a pastoral concern? Please let us know.

### **Offering Invitation**

Tithes and Offerings can be given online, placed in the offering plate  
as you leave, or mailed to the church.

**Sanctuary Ushers**  
Jeanne Cox and Judy Cox

**Sanctuary Sound**  
Olin Babb

# Knoxville Opera Gospel Choir

Saturday, February 21, 7:30 pm

## Mission and Vision

The Knoxville Opera Gospel Choir exists to uplift and inspire through gospel music. As part of Knoxville Opera's community engagement efforts, the Choir brings together singers and musicians from a variety of backgrounds to share meaningful performances that celebrate faith, culture, and unity. The Choir is committed to presenting high-quality music that honors the gospel tradition while incorporating a diverse range of repertoire.

Their vision is to build strong community connections through music, expand the reach of gospel and operatic traditions, and create inclusive, artistically excellent performances that engage and inspire audiences throughout East Tennessee. Through a wide-ranging repertoire—including gospel, spirituals, opera, and Broadway—the Choir strives to reflect the richness of the community it serves.

## History

Founded in 2008 by Jeanie Turner Melton, the Knoxville Opera Gospel Choir began as a single concert and has since grown into one of Knoxville Opera's most visible and impactful community programs. Today, the Choir features more than 40 singers and instrumentalists from over 20 churches across Knoxville, Blount County, and surrounding areas. Its members come from a wide range of backgrounds—including military veterans (one a Purple Heart recipient), opera and jazz singers, gastroenterologists, educators, and long-time church musicians—united by a shared love for gospel music and service.

The Choir's signature event is the annual *Knoxville Opera Goes to Church* concert, a free community performance that brings together a blend of gospel, spirituals, opera, and Broadway music. In addition to this event, the Choir performs year-round at festivals, civic celebrations, and with partner organizations. They have had the honor of singing at notable events presented by the NAACP, the Beck Cultural Exchange Center, the United Methodist Church General Conference, and Big Ears Festival. With a strong sense of community, a commitment to excellence, and a passion for diverse musical expression, the Knoxville Opera Gospel Choir continues to grow in both presence and purpose.

Tickets available on the church website at [www.firstpreskingsport.org](http://www.firstpreskingsport.org) or at the door: \$25 adults / \$20 seniors / students free



## On the Menu This Week

### **Wednesday, February 11**

**5:30 p.m. ~ Fellowship Center**

Meatloaf, mashed potatoes, glazed carrots, rolls, and dessert.  
*Administration Committee serving*

(After dinner please stay for a Valentine's Program)

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://First Presbyterian Church-Kingsport (www.firstpreskingsport.org).)

## Second Harvest Workday in February

Please join your First Presbyterian Church friends and volunteer at Second Harvest Food Bank of Northeast Tennessee on **Wednesday, February 18**. It is a fun time of fellowship and service! Guests are always welcome! Call or text Bob Stoots at (423-782-6280) to sign up and indicate your time preference: morning (9:00-11:00 a.m.), afternoon (1:00-3:00 p.m.) or both!

## 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!

**The next newsletter deadline is February 19.**

## Birthdays & Prayers of the Week

**February 10:** Susan Jackson

**February 11:** Sallie Oaks, Hagan Dietrich

**February 12:** Helen Baylor

**February 15:** Bob Hauk

**February 16:** Issac Conner, Aaron Pendleton