



The ladies of the chancel choir helped Amy celebrate her birthday at Chop House on January 20.



First Presbyterian Church

The First Press

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

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February 2026

Mark Your Calendar

2-8 Combined Worship
Annual Meeting & Lunch
2-18 Ash Wednesday
2-19 Newsletter Deadline
2-21 Knoxville Gospel Choir
3-6 Family Camp (March 6-8)

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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A Message from Brad

Well, hi there. Besides a couple of worship services this is my first time to address the whole congregation since I started serving as your Interim Pastor. Before I share a few thoughts with you, I want to let you know how much I appreciate the warm welcome that Lee and I have received since coming to First Presbyterian. We especially appreciate your patience as we work to match names and faces when we meet you.

I'd like to thank some individuals who have helped me as I seek to settle into the life of this congregation as much as an Interim Pastor should. First, my thanks to John McInturff and the Administration committee who are responsible for my being here and for hosting a nice reception for us last Sunday. Everyone on the staff – Annie, Vickie, Russ, Amy, Kim, Alan, Lexi, Becca and Dorothy – really deserve bonuses after putting up with so many questions from me. Thanks, as well, to all the committee chairpersons who have allowed me to join their meetings. Finally, thanks to Jenny Clemmer, your Clerk of Session, who is helping me to understand how the Session and its committees function. That will be helpful going forward during this time of pastoral transition.

So far, I've been busy getting my office space organized, visiting the chapel service for the day care, observing the clothes closet in action, testing out the new sound system in the sanctuary (Russ will get the first two Sundays on it), attending to various pastoral care needs, remembering how Microsoft Outlook works, meeting with Russ and Amy to plan and prepare worship services, ordaining and installing elders and deacons during a worship service, attending gatherings of two church groups for meals and fellowship (and receiving a rather strange gift at one gathering), enjoying Wednesday Night Suppers with chili fest, vespers, and being on Charlie Lively's winning Post-Christmas trivia team.

A second round of retinal surgery will keep me away from the church for a week or so, beginning on Jan 17. I will appreciate your prayers, but please just add me to the list of church members and friends for who you are already praying. And don't forget to pray for the PNC and yourselves as members and friends of the congregation as you take your first steps in discerning what God wants you to hear, see, and understand in this time.

Like our ancestors in the faith so often shared with those who received their letters, I also give thanks to God for you when I remember you in my prayers, giving thanks to God that I am here to serve you through this transition.

Grace and peace,

Brad

Sunday Worship

8:30 a.m.

Chapel

10:30 a.m.

Sanctuary



Vespers Service

Join us after Church Night Supper on Wednesdays at 6:20 p.m.

February 4
Vespers

February 11
Vespers

February 18
Ash Wednesday Service

February 25
Vespers

Family Camp March 6-8 *Holston Camp*



Signups begin
Sunday February 8th

Costs:
18 and under are free
Everyone else: \$100 per person

February at FPC

Church Night Supper

Come join us for delicious food and fellowship at our Church Night Suppers at 5:30 p.m. in the Fellowship Center:

February 4

Braeden's BBQ: barbecued pulled pork and turkey, macaroni and cheese, green beans, rolls, and dessert
Finance Committee serving

February 11

(Valentine Theme)

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

February 18

Spiral ham, sweet potatoes, peas, rolls, and dessert.
Christian Education Committee serving
(Ash Wednesday Service)

February 25

Panda Express - various entrees/sides, and dessert.
Outreach Committee serving
(The reservation deadline is Monday, February 23, at noon for this meal)

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: FirstPresbyterianChurch-Kingsport.org.

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

Church Potlucks

Congregational Fellowship & Nurture Committee Members are excited to announce the first two Potlucks of 2026 are the Sundays of **March 15** and **May 31** after the one 10:30 a.m. service on those days!

We will provide chicken tenders and church members are asked to supply the sides and desserts. There is no charge for this meal.

Please indicate your intentions of attending these potlucks on the sign-up sheets in the foyer, or call the church office so we will know how many people for which to prepare.



February 1: Julianna King

February 2: John Porter, Jenny Clemmer

February 4: Oliver Arrowsmith

February 5: Peyton Lambton

February 6: Marian Adams, Evie Heindelman, Daniel Robertson

February 7: Olivia Martinez

February 10: Susan Jackson

February 11: Sallie Oaks, Hagan Dietrich

February 12: Helen Baylor

February 15: Bob Hauk

February 16: Issac Conner, Aaron Pendleton

February 17: Mike Wilkins, Gary Collins

February 18: Henry Booher

February 19: Paul Banda

February 20: Greeley Wells

February 21: Burts Compton, Leon Doran

February 22: Mary Beggerow

February 23: Greta Robinette

February 24: Catherine Tucker

February 25: Don Thompson, Kim Thomidis, Briggs Mink, Anne Pierce

New Habitat Build

Articia's Holston Habitat build will be June 10, 12 and 13. Articia has a special needs teenager, a middle school daughter, and she will also care for her sister's two children. This Holston Habitat house will be built on property across Charlemont and behind FPC's parking lot.

You can help with prayer; personal funding to Holston Habitat for Humanity, 100 Greenwood Ln., Kingsport, TN 37663; volunteering to help with bathroom fixtures, appliances, closets, landscaping; providing lunch for fifteen people each of the three days. Contact Gary Tucker to support Articia's build. FPC has helped build over twenty homes in this region.

The Mitten Tree ➔

Thanks to all who contributed to the Mitten Tree during December. This offering was received on January 4 by Don Thompson on behalf of the Clothes Closet and will also benefit the Breakfast Ministry.

Session Highlights

- Dee Dee Dietrich and Barbara McCary were approved as members of the Endowment Committee, Class of 2029.

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.



Ways you can SERVE

Second Harvest Food Bank

First Presbyterian Church members and friends began volunteering together at Second Harvest Food Bank in the summer of 2022! At that time, Outreach Committee was seeking an activity that would accommodate up to 25 people working together in fellowship and service. There was uncertainty regarding how many people would participate and how long could it be sustained. Those two questions have definitely been answered! We have more than 40 members volunteering at different times, and 2026 begins our fifth year of service. Everyone is welcome: members, visitors, family and friends! We would love to have you join our next event on **February 18, 2026!** Please contact Bob Stoots by email, cell or text to sign-up! (423-782-6280).



Serving the 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 a.m. - 1:15 p.m. Please contact Catherine Tucker if you'd like to help: 423-782-7782 or tuckersbigblue@gmail.com

Urgent Breakfast Bag Needs

We have almost no one signed up to help with our Breakfast Ministry this spring--a few members and families have filled spots, but most remain open. First Broad Street staffs the kitchen both weekend mornings, and it is FPC's responsibility to staff the serving areas--if we do not have hands-on help from our congregation, this ministry will not be able to continue. The time commitment is minimal (6:45-8:15am) compared with the benefits to our neighbors. If you are able to volunteer for a date (or several) this Spring, please email Sarah Good at sar4680@gmail.com for the signup schedule. Thank

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.

Office of Public Witness,

Get involved. Make your voice heard to lawmakers through the PCUSA OFFICE OF PUBLIC POLICY MINISTRY. 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 PCUSA 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 Representative. Search online: PCUSA Office of Public Witness.

Post-Christmas Trivia Night!

We enjoyed some post-Christmas trivia at Church night supper. Our teams for the night were The Golden Girls, The Raucous Reindeers, The Peerless Presbyterians, The Best Team, and The Roosters. "The Best Team" won and their prize was to wear some nativity costume accessories and pose for the newsletter! The hardest question appeared to be "What was the name of the rabbit in the magic hat in Frosty the Snowman?" Do you know the answer?



Rekindling Our Gifts Update

Thank you to our new church members, as well as the members who wanted to make changes to the areas where they want to be involved as a volunteer at First Presbyterian by completing the survey. The updated survey sheets are posted to the "Members Only" section of the church Website. Committee Chairs have hard copies of the survey to utilize for their needs.

Fellowship Dinner Groups

As we endeavor to come together as a congregation this is a request for determining which members would be interested in being part of a Fellowship Dinner Group. Interested members are assigned to be part of a Fellowship Dinner Group for a period of six months. Every six months there is a new group. The groups meet monthly for fellowship and dinner. In the past there has been a group that chose to go out to eat. It is a great way to visit with and get to know each other in a relaxed setting.

Please contact Claudia Byrd at (423) 963-4754 or claudia@BristolMotorSpeedway.com with questions or to indicate your interest.

One of many



Betty Blass

Betty came to First Pres about 4 years ago and in that short time has made herself an integral part of our church family. Betty was born in the Fordtown area near Kingsport, grew up in a Presbyterian church in Bristol and then spent much of her life in Knoxville. About 5 years ago she moved to Kingsport to be near her two sons who live in the area. She also moved to Kingsport because she wanted to live in a community that had a strong community volunteer spirit. Having always been active in a church she was searching for a local church home.

It is always interesting to hear what brings people to our church. Betty attended one of our Community Musical Concerts with a friend. She said as soon as she stepped into our Sanctuary, she immediately knew it was where she wanted to worship. Then the friendly First Pres members she met sealed the deal!

Betty is involved with the Grab and Go Breakfasts, the Clothes Closet, Meals on Wheels (cooking), the CFN Committee, the Outreach

Committee, Choir, Friends in Faith Sunday School Class, a Fellowship Group, and served as a Deacon.

Betty loves history and is active with the Kingsport Historical Society, the Netherland Inn, and the Civil War Roundtable. She will begin volunteering in our First Pres History Room. It is obvious speaking with Betty that she enjoys people. She truly enjoys meeting and working with the clients in the Clothes Closet and at the Grab and Go Breakfast Ministry. She says treating these individuals with respect and helping them is very meaningful to her and one of the things that keeps her involved in activities at First Pres. We are very glad that Betty found us and has jumped in and quickly become such an active church member! And when you speak with her, you will know immediately that she is happy to be here too!

FEBRUARY
2026

The History of Our Church

History Repeats Itself

First Presbyterian Kingsport has brought potable water and purification to villages in Guatemala and Sneedville, Tennessee, and a school fountain in Guatemala. The Friends in Faith Class is carrying on the tradition with its gift this January.

In 1994 Barbara McCary's mother, a Peace Corps volunteer in Nepal, summoned son-in-law Pepper, an engineer, to Nepal to dig a well for the village where she was teaching. Pepper and the villagers hand dug a well!



In 2025, the Presbyterian Giving Catalog listed a drill for \$115 and a water pump for \$250. At its Epiphany party at the home of Allen and Becca Wright, the Friends in Faith class collected a "cover" charge, a donation for mission. The donations came close to the \$365 dollars for a drill and a pump.

Your History Committee Needs Your Help!

One of our most popular displays included photographs of many WEDDINGS that were submitted by YOU the congregation. We would like to prepare a display later this year of photographs of BAPTISMS that have taken place in our sanctuary (or elsewhere if current members). Please email photo and details - names, date and location if not FPC) to archive@firstpreskingsport.org. If you do not have a digital photograph, you can leave the hard copy photograph in the History Room mail basket near Vickie's desk or call Jane Harris at 423-239-9477 to discuss. Be sure to include name, details of baptism and your contact information. Your photograph will be returned to you.

The Madrigal Dinner Display will remain in the history room until the middle of February; so, if you missed it during the Holidays check it out soon. Thanks again to Agnese and Roger Goin for their work on this display. These dinners were the culmination of dedicated work by practically all members of our congregation in the 1980's.

Thank You!

Huge thank you to John Porter who has shared files with our History Room regarding Living Waters Trips to Guatemala, a Gary Bullard sermon, Purchase of 130 Charlemont St, and our Estate Recommendation Committee. All information we did not have.