



Articia's Build

Pray for Articia and her family and for Habitat workers and food providers. FPC volunteers will help complete the house in June. Contact Gary Tucker, 423-378-5419, tuckersbigblue@chartertn.net if you want to install appliances or do landscaping or provide food for volunteers. Thanks.



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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March 2026

Mark Your Calendar

- 3-6** Family Camp (March 6-8)
- 3-15** Combined Worship & Potluck Lunch
- 3-19** Newsletter Deadline
- 3-29** Palm Sunday
Easter Egg Hunt & Lunch

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

I can hardly believe that I've been serving as your Interim Pastor for two months. These weeks have been busy ones for me as I continue meeting people in the congregation, attend committee meetings and Wednesday Night Suppers, and work with staff members (who are capable and pleasant to work with, by the way). I am grateful for all of you and the opportunity to serve here during this transition.

Over the last couple of weeks, I have witnessed some healthy discussions regarding issues of importance to many of you in the life of this congregation. It will be wise for us to identify other concerns as well and take steps to address them. Some issues can be settled during this period while some may take longer. Then, as I have shared with you a couple of times, there are issues which really need to be tackled after your next pastor has been called. It will be in your best interest for that person to be walking beside you as you make decisions together for the future of FPC Kingsport.

The Season of Lent that we have entered is a time for personal and communal reflection. Russ shared with you during the congregational meeting that his word for this year is unity. That's a good word to consider during Lent when we can be so focused on our personal walk with Christ. We can ask "how are we committed to supporting one another during this season?" or "As a congregation in a time of transition, what needs to unite us as we prepare for our future ministry and mission and prepare to welcome the person who will walk with us into that future?"

In so many ways, the answers will be found when we walk side by side as faithful disciples of Jesus Christ who seek to follow the movement of the Holy Spirit in our individual lives and our ministry together. We cannot lag behind, but neither can we rush ahead in this journey. Our charge is to walk WITH the Spirit along the narrow way that leads to life for us and everyone who hears the call of Christ.

It might help to remember that we are salt, and we are light. We will need to be that for one another, for this congregation and our work during this time. We also need to be that for an anxious planet which suffers from so much violence, greed, and disunity these days. Let's remember that we can trust God to bring all things together in God's time to work for good – for us, for all people, and for all creation.

Blessings,

Brad

Sunday Worship

8:30 a.m.
Chapel

10:30 a.m.
Sanctuary

March 15

Combined Worship
10:30 a.m. ~ Sanctuary
(followed by a potluck lunch)

Vespers Services

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

March 4

Micah 6:8
"Loving Kindness"

March 11

Micah 6:8
"Walking Humbly with God"

March 18

Lent Vespers

Free Books!

The History Room has received duplicate copies of two interesting books. If anyone in the congregation wants one of them, please contact Jane Harris at archive@firstpreskingsport.org or call her at 423-239-9477. Free! First come, first served!

- ◇ *The Child Now Before Us – the story of Grandfather Home for Children 1914-1997* by Mary Dudley Gilmer
- ◇ *Memoirs of Holston Habitat for Humanity 1985 – 2024* by Ray Willis

Wednesdays in March

Church Night Supper & Vespers

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

March 4

Breakfast for Dinner
including
scrambled eggs, baked apples, bacon,
sausage, biscuits and gravy
CF&N Committee serving

March 11

Fried chicken, mashed potatoes with gravy,
green beans, rolls and dessert.
Property Committee serving

March 18

Baked potato and salad bars and dessert.
Worship Committee serving

March 25

Ground beef and chicken fajita soft-shell tacos with
toppings, salad and dessert.
Outreach 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.)

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.



1st: Spencer Correll, Maggie Arrowsmith, Abigail Pierce
3rd: Leif Pendley
4th: Ann Larkey
5th: Carson Correll
7th: Mark Davis, George Baugh, Rowan Good
10th: Cindy Gale, Beth Correll
11th: Becca Wright, Owen Barbour, Kellan Good, Don Sharitt
14th: Candi Harker
15th: Caleb Robertson
18th: Judy Grover
19th: Mary Kate Lively
20th: Gerry Morie, Carolyn Hauk, Lillian King
23rd: Bowen Scott
24th: Drew Amstutz
26th: Debbie Waggoner
27th: Lucie Hagen, Linda Lisa
28th: Robin Dickerson
30th: Jane Andersen
31st: Katy Mink

*Happy
Birthday!*

Flowers Needed for Church in 2026

April 26
May 31
June 7
September 6

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

February Session Highlights

- ◆ Approved a congregational Love Offering benefitting Oksana Lypska and family.
- ◆ The February Presbytery Meeting report by Commissioner Wes Combs can be found in "Members Only" of our FPC website.
- ◆ To date approximately 1/3 of the Congregation had turned in the PNC questionnaire.

Niches Available in the Columbarium

There are niches available in the First Presbyterian columbarium located in the Memorial Garden at the rear of the church. They are designed to accommodate two urns and feature an engraved cover for both decedents. They are reasonably priced and represent a cost-effective ecological approach and appropriate alternative to a traditional cemetery. Details are available through the church office.



**Next First Press
Newsletter Deadline
March 19
April Newsletter**

Ways you can **SERVE**

Second Harvest Food Bank in March!

Volunteers from First Presbyterian Church - Kingsport will be having lots of fun, sharing great fellowship and doing valuable service while packing food at Second Harvest Food Bank on **March 18**. We would love to have you join us and bring a friend if you would like! Contact Bob Stoots by email, cell or text (423-782-6280) to get more information or register for the session of your choice: morning (9:00-11:00 a.m.) or afternoon (1:00-3:00 p.m.).



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 (6:45-8:15 a.m.) 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 you in advance for your help in being the hands and feet of Christ to our neighbors in need.

Waverly Road Food Pantry

For March, 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!

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 15 people each of the three days. Contact Gary Tucker to support Articia's build. FPC has helped build over 20 homes in this region.

A Note from our Music Director

Hello my brothers and sisters,

As we are in the midst of our Lenten season, I find myself reflecting a lot these days, on various things. I'm sure that many of you do the same thing, particularly when thinking of such a meaningful season as this. Recently, I found myself reflecting on both my faith journey and the journey as your Music Director. I will never forget the day I started my first music director position. It was November of 2021, I had just celebrated 25 years as a church musician, having served as organist/pianist for different congregations. But one day I sat across from an Episcopal Priest, who extended me the offer, and explained what my job would entail. When I left her office, I had this overwhelming sense that she just gave me a very precious gift. She gave me charge over all music at the parish where I would spend three and almost four years. When I think back at those memories, I compare that "gift" I received to a garden. This proverbial garden, like any garden, needed to be tended, and the way to tend it, was to grow and cultivate it by forming bonds with the choir, creating and programming the music, and growing relationships with the parishioners.

Fast forward to Spring of 2025... It was time to tend a new garden. Once again I found myself with this rare, precious gift, another ministry in music. This new garden came with things that many churches have - there are the music groups like choir, bells, small ensembles, etc., and then there are the people who make up those groups. Recently, thoughts on these groups took me to a much larger picture. I realized that I can't really compare music ministry to a garden, because our music department is only a part of a much bigger garden, our church. Our church community needs tending just like any garden, and how do we do that? By serving, by forming bonds and relationships, by approaching our faith as an everyday lifestyle, and not just something weekly - the list goes on. I'm sure many of you have wonderful ideas to add to this list. I see these wonderful qualities in each of you, the way that you lift each other up, support each other, and worship together.

These are just a few of my thoughts that I have been reflecting on, and I'd like to thank you all for allowing me and my family to be a part of our big, beautiful garden. You are such great examples to us, and we consider ourselves blessed to have "put down roots" at FPC.

Your sister in Christ,

Amy

The Church Bus is Going to Family Camp on Saturday March 7!

Do you want to go to **Family Camp** but you can't spend Friday or Saturday night? Well...read below for a WONDERFUL opportunity and deal.

The church bus will go to Camp and back on Saturday, March 7. The details are:

- Meet at the church on Saturday, March 7 at 7:15 a.m. (leave at 7:30)
- Arrive at Holston Camp by 8:45 a.m.
- Enjoy the program and activities through dinner.
- Leave after dinner and return to the church by 8:30 p.m.
- Cost: \$30 (includes lunch and dinner)

Sign-Up: call or email the church office.
Let's Fill the Bus!

One of many

Emily Gaude

One member of our church impacts everyone, from young children to those over 90. That member is Emily Gaude.

Emily joined First Presbyterian in 2013 when she chose to relocate here to be near her son. Emily grew up in Presbyterian churches and came here from Knoxville. She recalls it was a little daunting entering our sanctuary from the front; but immediately several women sitting nearby greeted her. She knew she had found her new church home. She recalls Marilyn Davis, Lois Carter, and Arlene Kuhfuss among others.

During her career as a teacher, Emily taught all grades from early elementary through middle school. This enabled her to help students relate their learning from one year to the next. Emily has three children and five grandchildren living in Kingsport, Chattanooga, and Atlanta. She is creating a scrapbook for each of the grandchildren. Emily is usually a very busy lady. An accidental fall last December meant Emily had to take a break to recover from a broken femur. She is currently at The Waters Skilled Nursing Facility and hopes to go home as soon as she is able.

For several years Emily was a member of the FPC Choir and enjoyed this experience very much. Kim Alvis asked Emily to join a few other members in preparing the newsletter for mailing. Then after learning of Emily's creativity, Kim asked her to fill the main bulletin board in the hallway near the main entrance. After she prays for guidance, Emily crafts beautiful and meaningful bulletin boards that give inspiration to all of us. And it may be even more amazing when we realize she has done this for eight years!

Many years ago, a FPC member, Pauline Breeding (mother of Cheryl Rice), sent Birthday Cards to all members. Katherine Redwine wanted to begin this again and enlisted Emily to help. There was a small amount of money in the church budget; so, the process began. Emily reviews the church membership list, determines months, members, ages, etc. and creates and selects cards that suit each person. These are not purchased cards – they are individually created by Emily with each member in mind. She says scripture always leads her when she creates cards. Katherine Redwine and others then address the cards. Emily estimates she creates about 35 cards a month x 12 months x 8 years – that is over 3,000 cards! All of you remember receiving a beautiful, hand-crafted card on your birthday – now you know the rest of the story!

Thank you, Emily, for your thoughtful, caring concern for each of us. And GET WELL SOON!



The History of Our Church

Hannah's Gift

What was Hannah's gift? It was three families getting safe, clean drinking water. It all began when Hannah Plemmons asked her father Mark that to celebrate the true meaning of Christmas instead of gifts for themselves their family give gifts to others. Mark presented to Session a video on the Advent Conspiracy. Session encouraged him to pursue the plan. A team consisting of Barbara Gipe, Hannah Plemmons, Kevin Heindselman, and Steven Clark was formed within the Outreach Committee.



In the spring of 2013 Living Waters paired First Presbyterian with a family in Rose Hill, near Sneedville, Tennessee. The need for clean water for the family became critical when one of the children became seriously ill. A team comprised of members of the Breakfast Club and Friends in Faith Sunday School classes (Tim Arrowsmith, John Good, Wesley Combs, Kevin Heindselman, Steve Miller and Steven Clark) built and installed the system. In approximately 18 hours from start to finish an extended family (three different houses) had safe, clean drinking water. Hannah's request in Christmas 2011 inspired First

Presbyterians to renew their focus on the gifts of a Savior who loves and redeems.

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.

Thank You!

A huge thank you to Becca Wright, Gary Tucker, and John Porter for donations of treasures of the past at FPC to the History Room. John Porter shared files regarding Living Waters Trips to Guatemala, a Gary Bullard sermon, purchase of 130 Charlemont Street, and our Estate Recommendation Committee. All information we did not have.