

Upcoming Fall Events

Potluck, October 11

The next opportunity for members to share your special food dish with other members is at the potluck after our combined 10:30 a.m. worship service on **October 11**. Let's join together with other members for this wonderful time of food and fellowship! The church will provide chicken fingers and drinks. Please register your attendance on the sign-up sheets in the foyer, on the church Website or call Vickie in the church office. Please register by **October 6** so we'll know the number for which to prepare.

Fellowship Opportunities

- ♦ Fall Intergenerational Events, 4 p.m., Fellowship Center
 - * **October 25**, Pumpkin Carving and Pizza (*donations accepted*)
 - * **December 20**, Caroling and Chili
- ♦ **November 29**, Advent Coffee During Sunday School Hour
- ♦ **December 13**, Care Ministry Lunch



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

Vol. 543, Issue 9

September 2026

Mark Your Calendar

- 9-2** *CNS Resumes*
- 9-20** *Church Picnic at Allandale*
- 10-11** *Combined Worship & Potluck Lunch*
- 10-25** *Pumpkin Carving & Pizza*
- 10-28** *Trick or Treat and Halloween Hits*

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

After working on a recent sermon, it occurred to me that a particular set of verses provide fertile ground for some practical ways to grow in faith as we go about our daily lives. So, for this month's newsletter I decided to introduce (or reintroduce for some of you) everyone to a regular spiritual practice called Lectio Divina or Divine Reading. It's one of several ways that the Church has developed for Christians to have a deeper engagement with the Bible. This is not a new practice. It has been around for centuries, and its effectiveness may lie in its simplicity. Here's how it works.

Taking a Bible in hand, the reader decides on a passage of scripture that God might be wanting them to read. The section is typically a paragraph in length, and rarely more than a chapter. Then the reader offers a short prayer opening his/her heart to the Holy Spirit and asking God to illuminate the words of scripture that will speak most appropriately to the reader in this particular reading.

After that, the reader will read through the passage three times - S-L-O-W-L-Y - paying attention to a word or phrase that speak to the reader. The reader will reflect on the phrase for a few moments, while also aware that one or two other phrases seemed to be calling out as well. Then the reader will read through the passage a second time; again slowly, to discern which phrase (or word) seems most important to focus upon. The reader then slowly reads the passage a third time to settle on the phrase upon which he/she will reflect during a time of meditation. After the third reading, the reader spends as much time as desired meditating on that phrase and how God might be speaking to the Christian through it.

Questions to ask of the phrase might be: "What is God saying to me through this?" "What do I need to learn from this?" "How should these words be changing my attitudes, behaviors, or actions?" "How will this phrase empower me to be more Christ-like?"

The passage of scripture that I wanted to share with you is Romans 12:9-21 which offers an abundance of ways that we can live more fully into our Christian faith. Give it a try and let me know about your experience.

⁹Let love be genuine; hate what is evil, hold fast to what is good; ¹⁰love one another with mutual affection; outdo one another in showing honor. ¹¹Do not lag in zeal, be ardent in spirit, serve the Lord. ¹²Rejoice in hope, be patient in suffering, persevere in prayer. ¹³Contribute to the needs of the saints; extend hospitality to strangers. ¹⁴Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them. ¹⁵Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep. ¹⁶Live in harmony with one another; do not be haughty, but associate with the lowly; do not claim to be wiser than you are. ¹⁷Do not repay anyone evil for evil, but take thought for what is noble in the sight of all. ¹⁸If it is possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all. ¹⁹Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave room for the wrath of God; for it is written, "Vengeance is mine, I will repay, says the Lord." ²⁰No, "if your enemies are hungry, feed them; if they are thirsty, give them something to drink; for by doing this you will heap burning coals on their heads." ²¹Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

Blessings,

Brad

Sunday Worship

8:30 a.m.
Chapel

10:30 a.m.
*Sanctuary**

*Nursery available. Children 4th grade and under will stay through the children's message and be dismissed to Children's Church upstairs. Parents pick up kids at the end of worship.



Storage Containers Needed

We have a newly organized church storage closet and we need clear tubs for storage. If you could provide a tub, it would be greatly appreciated. Just drop them off in the breezeway hall. Thank you!

Wednesdays at FPC

Dinner at 5:30 p.m. ~ Program at 6:20 p.m.

September 2

Olive Garden: Pastas and sauces, salad and dessert
(Administration Committee serving)
Vespers at 6:20 p.m.,

September 9

Food City: Taco bar, salad and dessert
(Christian Education Committee serving)
Bible Study: *Living Hope - A Study of 1 Peter, Chapter 1*

September 16

Italiano's: Pizza, salad, and dessert
(Outreach Committee serving)
Bible Study: *Living Hope - A Study of 1 Peter, Chapter 2*

September 23

Panda Express: Party packs of various entrees/sides and dessert (**Deadline is Monday, September 21**).
(CF&N Committee serving)
Bible Study: *Living Hope - A Study of 1 Peter, Chapter 3*

September 30

Food City: Meatloaf, mashed potatoes, green beans, and dessert
(Property Committee serving)
Bible Study: *Living Hope - A Study of 1 Peter, Chapter 4*

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](http://www.firstpreskingsport.org)
(www.firstpreskingsport.org).

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

Wednesday Night Programs

This Fall on Wednesdays all are invited to Church Night Supper and Bible study in the Fellowship Center! The suppers begin at 5:30pm and we do need reservations. Bible study will begin at 6:20pm. Our first supper will be on **Wednesday, September 2**.

You can bring your own Bible, or just come as you are. Most Wednesdays we will offer a time of study and discussion after we eat, and occasionally we will have a brief Vespers worship service with music and prayer. A couple of times this next season we will have a game night. The schedule of supper and events will be publicized closer to time, and we will remind you weekly of what is happening. Church night suppers are a great time to get to know your church family better. Families are always welcome and there is plenty of space for kids to be present and belong (Russ always can use kids and youth to read!). All of us are looking forward to another great Fall of Wednesday fellowship!



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. 20: Carl Eilers, Sam Stevens

Sept. 22: Bill Argabrite

Sept. 25: Donna Shelton

Sept. 26: Scott Cleek

Sept. 27: Gail Cole

Sept. 30: Laura Drayne

Happy Birthday!

FPC Library

As you know, FPC has a library on the first floor of the building, but it is no longer staffed. We appreciate your thoughtfulness in wanting to share your books, but without it being staffed we don't have a way to manage your donations. We would like to request you donate any books you may have to the Kingsport City library or any other organization that may accept books.

Labor Day Holiday Schedule

The church office will be closed **Monday, September 7** for the Labor Day holiday. The Clothes Closet will be closed **Tuesday, September 8**.

Session Highlights

♦ Pop-Up activities are being planned for Sunday afternoons with focus on families

♦ The 2027 Stewardship Campaign will be based on Exodus 16 emphasizing God's provision during a transitory period of his people.



Waverly Road Food Pantry Item of the Month

Canned
Soups



Newsletter Deadline

September 17
September Newsletter

Ways you can SERVE

Second Harvest Food Bank in September

First Presbyterian Church - Kingsport volunteers will be packing food at Second Harvest Food Bank on **September 16**. Please join us and bring a friend along with you! We always have a fun time of fellowship and service. Contact Bob Stoots by email, cell 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.).



Workday at FPC

The Property Committee would like to invite you to a workday for the church to get some needed work done by members and friends of the church. The work would entail inside and outside jobs. The date is **Saturday, October 10** starting at 9:00 a.m. The jobs and information will be posted in the next newsletter and church bulletin.

Breakfast Ministry—Does it Have a Future?

It's time to ask a question of our congregation--do we want to continue our Breakfast Ministry? Based on the number of volunteers from our church, it seems that support for the ministry is dwindling--almost all of our volunteer shifts for the fall remain unfilled, a small number of members are carrying the entire volunteer load, and we are often relying on members of FBSUMC to cover FPC roles in the ministry. Lives are busy, and weekends are a time for rest, but we need to decide as a congregation whether or not we want to continue this outreach effort. We are called to be the hands and feet of Christ, and our church does this in so many beautiful ways, but relying on 8-10 church members to consistently staff our part of the Breakfast Ministry is unsustainable, at best.

Please prayerfully consider the future of this Ministry and your role in it. If you are willing and able to volunteer, reach out to Sarah Good (sar4680@gmail.com) to sign up. If you have ideas for a better use of our time and resources, please share those as well--there are many worthy food ministries that we can support if ours is no longer viable.

Volunteers Needed in our Clothes Closet

Please prayerfully consider helping out in our Clothes Closet ministry on Monday or Tuesday mornings. Please contact Don Thompson if you would like to learn more. Your help would be greatly appreciated!

Church Picnic

Our annual Church Picnic will be held at the Allandale Picnic Pavilion on **Sunday, September 20**. Social time will begin at 5 p.m. with fun games of bingo (prizes awarded to winners). Dinner from Braeden's Barbecue is at 6 p.m., with the menu including: barbecue sandwiches, cowboy beans, coleslaw, potato salad, cookies and iced tea, lemonade and water.

As was done last year, our committee would love to take White Elephant Donations for prizes for bingo winners. Please place any items you no longer want in the large box located in the church foyer. We will be happy to take them off your hands. Thank you.

The deadline for reservations is Sunday, September 13, at 5 pm! Braeden's needs the count on Monday morning, the 14th.

Cost: \$15/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. Payment for this meal to the church office by Tuesday, September 15, is appreciated.



Thank You

Dear Church Family,

You have made me feel deeply blessed by your expressions of love and care during my recent surgery. Gary and I loved receiving delicious Meal Train meals and restaurant gift cards from the chefs, and also getting to "visit" with each of you. Thank you for the many "get well" cards I received. Your notes and kind words were uplifting and encouraging. Thanks to the First Presbyterian Knitters for my beautiful prayer shawl. I felt your loving arms surrounding me as I snuggled beneath it. I will never forget your love and generosity.

Catherine Tucker



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

Sylvia and Hunter Wright

Energetic and enduring characterize Hunter and Sylvia Wright. Hunter may be our longest serving member as he was baptized by Dr. William Hart McCorkle December 1, 1935.

Hunter and Sylvia continue their service today by packing bags for distribution at the Breakfast Ministry as illustrated in the picture (along with Jennie Benton), a dedicated effort to serve the homeless in Kingsport.

Hunter returned to Kingsport after graduating from UT bringing his bride of two years to his beloved Kingsport and First Presbyterian. Sylvia plunged into the young mothers circle of Women of the Church and developed solid, enduring friendships within the group.

Both Hunter and Sylvia have served as deacons and elders. Sylvia has taught Sunday School, Vacation Bible School, served as a choir mom and accompanied our touring youth choir to New York. Hunter was superintendent of Sunday school. Together they have helped with Habitat projects locally and in Kansas and Maryland with our youth, the Childresses, and the Hollands.



Hunter has been Mayor of Kingsport. At one Habitat project, the child of a homeowner was wide-eyed with awe that the Mayor of Kingsport was working on the Habitat house.

Hunter and Sylvia at the 1997 Family Camp at Banner Elk – beginning work on a jig-saw puzzle.

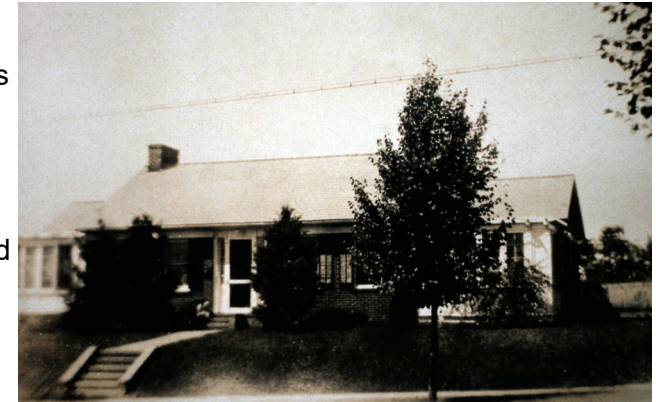


The History of Our Church

First Presbyterian Manse History

In past years churches usually provided some housing or a housing allowance for their Senior Minister – it was usually called the manse.

Our first Manse, located at 712 Broad Street, was purchased for \$5,000 in 1919 for the King family. This home at the corner of Watauga and Ravine served for many years as the Kingsport Speech and Hearing Center and has since been razed.



Our second minister T. P. Johnston moved into a two-story home at 122 W. Charlemont near the church. Early in his term Dr. Johnston chose to build his own home on Watauga St. He lived there during his first term and when he returned for his second term also lived in this home. Judy and Bo Grover now live in the home at 1240 Watauga. Becca Wright's parents were married in the living room of the home. Lots of history there!

Our third manse for the William McCorkle family was located at 913 Broad Street. It is no longer in existence.



Our fourth and final manse was built during the tenure of M.O. Sommers at 1317 Linville Street. This home was built by the church on property donated to by the J. Fred Johnson family. It served as home for the Sommers, Allen, Thomas and Wood families. On the 5th anniversary of Dr. Wood's tenure, our session voted to sell the manse on Linville St. Since that time the church has provided a housing allowance to the senior ministers and not maintained a manse.