

www.richmondfpc.com

Curtis Christian
curtischristian@richmondfpc.com

Joel Stanley
Joel.christopher.stanley@gmail.com

Dana Miller
danamiller@richmondfpc.com

Joyce Wolf
jhwolfsong@gmail.com

Mark Johnson
markjohnson@richmondfpc.com

ONLINE GIVING 3 easy ways!

*Click the **GIVING** button on our church website
OR

*Text **fpcgift** to **73256** OR
Download the **Abundant Giving** app on your
phone. Locate our church name and select.

**Follow all prompts to give online. Of course
you can always sign up to give through your
bank site or by mailing a check to:**

**First Presbyterian Church
P O BOX 165
Richmond, KY 40476-0165**



PRESBYTERIAN TIDINGS

OBEDIENCE TO DIVINE AUTHORITY

In Romans 13:1-5, the Apostle Paul writes:

Let every person be subject to the governing authorities, for there is no authority except from God, and those authorities that exist have been instituted by God. Therefore, whoever resists authority resists what God has appointed, and those who resist will incur judgment. For rulers are not a terror to good conduct but to bad. Do you wish to have no fear of the authority? Then do what is good, and you will receive its approval, for it is God’s agent for your good. But if you do what is wrong, you should be afraid, for the authority does not bear the sword in vain! It is the agent of God to execute wrath on the wrongdoer. Therefore one must be subject, not only because of wrath but also because of conscience.

Many have read this passage from Paul as though he is commanding Christians of the State to conform with total obedience to governing authorities because the State derives its authority to govern from God Himself. After all, “whoever resists authority resists what God has appointed, and those who resist will incur judgment” (Romans 13:2). So, as the argument goes, if we Christians do not want to incur the righteous judgement of God, we must obey the State, no matter the order.

We should note that the Apostle Paul is here acknowledging that the State has no inherent authority of its own, but receives its authority from God by divine grace. Indeed, all earthly authority, even that of the State, is ultimately derived from the only one true authority; for, “there is no authority except from God” (Romans 13:1).

But what is a good Christian to do if the State should bring good and evil, truth and falsehood upon a level, and should represent what is good and true as of no consequence? What is a Christian to do when the State calls its unlawful orders “good”? What is a Christian to do when we “do what is good” (Romans 13:3), but in the stead of receiving approval, we receive wrath? We are called to be obedient “not only because of wrath but also because of conscience” (Romans 13:5). But what if we incur the State’s wrath for adhering to our conscience? Or, what if we abandon our conscience in order to avoid the State’s wrath?

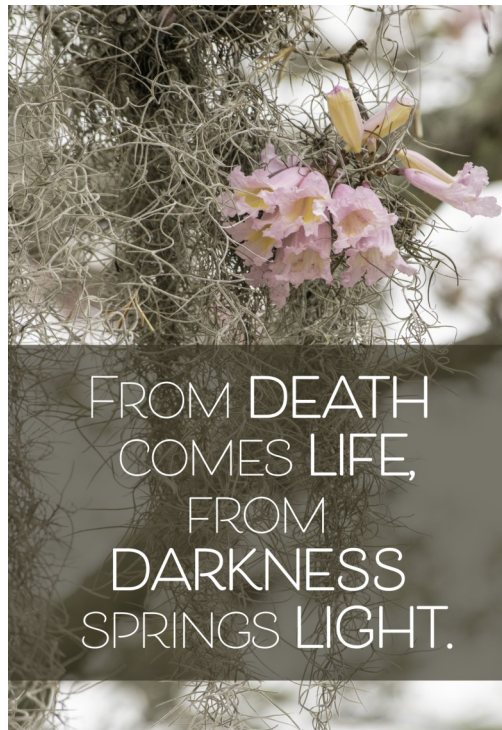
As noted, Paul acknowledges that the State has no inherent authority of its own, but receives its authority from God. So, the biblical injunction that “whoever resists authority resists what God has appointed” applies not only to the citizens under governing authorities, but also to the State under the authority of God. Indeed, according to Paul, the State is ordained as “God’s agent for good” (Romans 13:4). So, if the State conflates truth and falsehood, when it equates goodness with lawlessness, then its governing authorities no longer function under God’s authority, nor under God’s grace.

ELDERS CLASS OF

Eric Everett	2025
Lucie Nelson	2025
Jennifer Wilke-Deaton	2025
Philip Gump	2026
Paul Hager	2026
Bill Mitchell	2026
Caroline Crump	2027
Jim Exline	2027
LeAnn Jones	2027

DEACONS CLASS OF

Sue Reeves	2025
Julie Stanley	2025
Gene Wolf	2025
Jennifer Brubaker	2026
Kathy Shew	2026
Rhonda Orttenger	2026
Wayne Bowlin	2028
Donna Cox	2028
Denise Crump	2028



Unfortunately, Paul does not say much about how Christians are to respond to a State that operates apart from divine authority and grace. The Apostle does not instruct us as to our response to a State that assumes authority for itself, an authority that properly belongs to God. (When the State assumes divine authority for itself, this is, by definition, idolatry.)

Although Paul does not offer us much counsel on this matter, our ecclesiastical ancestors of the Reformed Tradition do. Our ancestors' official statement on such matters is the Theological Declaration of Barmen, one of the Reformed documents in the Book of Confessions of the Presbyterian Church (USA). The Barmen Declaration remains a highly relevant document for Christians today, serving as a call to resist the encroachment of political ideologies that compromise the gospel and the Church's witness, as well as a reminder of the distinct roles of Church and State. It remains a pivotal statement of faith, responding to any political attempt to control and manipulate the Church. It affirms that the Church's mission is to proclaim the Gospel of Jesus Christ, and to resist any attempt to subordinate the Church to the State or to any other power.

Perhaps it is time for the church to re-familiarize itself with the Barmen Declaration.



News Brief from Session



- Please welcome our newest member **Ray Johnson** on transfer of letter to our Membership!
- Shelby Lamb approved to be in the pulpit on Mother's Day Sunday, May 11.
- Watch for details about the Square Dance on May 30!
- Money was sent to Ermin to purchase tools that will help with the Waters of the Living Lord installations maintenance.
- The sanctuary elevator update has been pushed to late 2025 and front hand rails are being refurbished.
- Sunrise Service scheduled for Easter Sunday in the Community Garden off Water Street.
- To make boundary training simpler and more current, session is moving towards a Covenant program.

Clerk of Session
Melody Mitchell



In memory of:

Shelby Lawson

In honor of:

Iva Lawson

Given by:

The Shew's, Toutant's, and Trinh's

In memory of:

My Best Friend and Loving Husband, Mike Weldon

Given by:

Coy Weldon

In memory of:

George and Joyce Hall

Given by:

The Wolf Family

In memory of:

Joe and Betty Wolf

Given by:

The Wolf Family

In memory of:

Aaron David Hall

Given by:

Joyce Hall Wolf

In memory of:

William R. Young, Jr.

Given by:

Judy, Steve, and Betsy





In memory of:
My sister, Lynn Ellis
Given by:
Kay, Bill, Jim, Diane, Doug, and Elana

In memory of:
Charles Reeves
Amy and Paul Jett
David Jett
Given by:
Sue Reeves and family

In memory of:
Jane Richardson
Given by:
Kenneth Richardson

In memory of:
My wife, Jean
and our parents
Edith Cross, Allie Roberts
Lawrence and Ermal Thompson
Given by:
John Roberts

In memory of:
Adrian Reece
Given by:
Lynn Shearon

In memory of:
Forrest Shearon
Given by:
Lynn Shearon

In memory of:
Calvin and Maxine Britton
Given by:
Lynn Shearon

In loving memory of:
Randall Shew
Given by:
His family

In honor of:
Kitty Shew (Mom, Grandma and Greatmommy)
Given by:
her children, grandchildren and her great-grandchildren



Evening Women's Circle

We will not have Women's Evening Circle in April. We will meet again, Tuesday May 13 at 6:30 pm in the church parlor. Sue Chennault will provide refreshments. It will be a book club night. The book is: *Becoming Madam Secretary* by Stephanie Dray

Rebecca Esther Circle

Tuesday, April 15
 10:30 a.m.
 in the parlor

SUNDAY SUPPER
April 27
4:30 pm

Join this potluck fellowship dinner on the last Sunday of each month at 4:30! This meal is open to the community.

Salvation Army Women's Auxiliary Tea
Horses and Hats,
Springtime in the Bluegrass

The Salvation Army Women's Auxiliary will hold their 29th annual Spring Tea "Horses and Hats, Springtime in the Bluegrass" on Saturday, April 12, 2025 in the Christian Life Center. Tickets are \$25.00 and can be purchased from Lucie Nelson, Lynn Shearon or Melody Mitchell. All proceeds go to help families in the 9 counties we now serve with food, utilities, etc.



Family Easter Egg Hunt!
Sunday, April 13
2:00 pm at
Irvine McDowell Park!



April 14—18 at noon
Grace Covenant Church of God
136 Aspen Avenue

Triennium

Our Presbytery is assembling a delegation to attend this year's Presbyterian Youth Triennium! This is an event where Presbyterian youth from across the world come together to worship, fellowship and study in creative and exciting ways. This event is open to any High School youth in the congregation (graduated 8th graders - graduated seniors) and only happens once every three years (so it's kind of a big deal). Joel is on the Presbytery planning team for this, so if you have questions or would like to sign up, let him know!



In honor of my grandchildren:

Cameron and Eliza Love

Given by:
Paul Hager

In memory of:

Our parents, Jack and Lolly Hissom

Given by:
Jill Hissom and Jamie Kenny

In memory of:

our grandparents, Jack and Lolly Hissom

Given by:
Kendrick Kenny and Jessica Kenny Graham

In memory of:

*Amy and Paul Jett, Stephen Jett,
Genie & Paul David Jett, and Mary Carr Smith*

Given by:
Lucy, Wyatt and Ainsley Waterbury

In memory of:

our Mom/Gramps, Pam Lawrenz

our Dad/Gramps, Dale Lawrenz

Given by:
*Tracy, Mike, Carter, Shelby and Tucker Lamb and
Brett, Courtney and Piper Lawrenz*

In memory of:

our parents

Given by:
Bill and Winnie Mitchell

In memory of:

Our daughter, Lindsay Mitchell

Given by:
Mark and Melody Mitchell

In memory of:

*Dale Patrick
Steven R. Patrick*

Given by:
Kay Patrick

Youth Sunday

As has been tradition, our children and youth group will take over leading the worship service on Mother's Day. The majority of the planning for this will happen during the Sunday school hour with a full run through on the Saturday before the service. There are parts for any youth who'd like to participate. Contact Joel to be a part of things.



Prayer Breakfast—Thursdays—6:45 am—Purdys

Our final youth prayer breakfast for the year is scheduled for May 22nd. Thanks to all the kids who came out to make this such an important part of the week! And thanks to David Deaton as well for helping out with transportation each morning! We'll start the program back up again once school is back in session in the fall.





In memory of :
Ruth Marie Hossman and Janice Jones

Given by:
The Deaton family

In memory of:
William and Elizabeth Arbuckle
Matthew Arbuckle Hundley

Given by:
Jim and Martha Exline

In memory of my sister:
Carol Chapman

Given by:
Marcia Florell

In memory of:
James and Charlotte Gorman

Given by:
Carol and Dave Woolverton

In loving memory of:
My parents, Jerry and Mary Gray

Given by:
Bonnie Gray

In memory of my son:
Staff Sergeant Brenton Thomas Gray

Given by:
Randall Gray

In honor of our three Gump granddaughters
Arevia and twins Catherine and Natalie

Given by:
Grandparents John and Phyllis Gump

In loving memory of:
My wife, Joy Hager

Given by:
Paul Hager

In honor of my children:
Julie Love and Ed Hager

Given by:
Paul Hager



This will be the next to last installment of our continuing series of newsletter articles covering the 10 commandments. This article brings us up to the 9th commandment: Thou shalt not bear false witness against thy neighbor. Of the final six commandments, which govern interactions between people as opposed to the interactions between people and God, this commandment begins a shift in focus away from the concrete and towards the abstract moving from actions (care for others, don't kill, don't cheat, don't steal) to words (don't lie) and finally even to thoughts (don't covet). As has been our method in these articles, we will spend some time looking into the true meaning of this commandment using a two-fold approach by asking both what does the commandment forbid as well as what does the commandment encourage.

To fully understand the 9th commandment, we have to spend some time setting the original context of the command. The ninth commandment seems to have been originally an injunction against giving false testimony in legal cases. Further context for the motive behind the command can be found in Deuteronomy 19:15-21 where safeguards against false testimony are established by requiring two witnesses to convict someone of a crime instead of just one. In an ancient world where criminal forensics would be, at best, a very primitive field, the reliance on eyewitness testimony to determine truth would be of paramount importance. The consequences of lying in such a setting, would be quite severe.

But the scope of this command extends far beyond the courtroom. It has come to mean more than just don't lie under oath when witnessing in court, though that setting is used to adequately establish the severity of the consequences for this command. The command calls us to treat all of our words as if they were a part of courtroom testimony. We are to use the highest level of care and scrutiny with everything we say, as if we were saying them in a court of law. We are to treat our words as if they were important and have consequences. This is something worth remembering in a day and age where technology has made the creating and sharing of words so effortless and frequent. The truth matters very much.

So the 9th commandment forbids us from being careless with our words, but what does it encourage? I'd say that the answer to that is that the commandment encourages us to tap into the positive power of the words we use. Words can curse, but they can also bless. Words can spread deceit, but they can also champion truth. Words can tear down, but they can also build up. The ninth commandment, ultimately, calls us to use our words with care and with awareness of the power behind them.

MISSION.....a body of people sent

March 2025 LOVE FUND REPORT

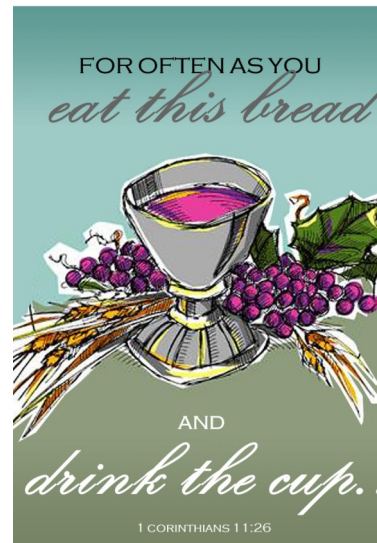
Total families 73 (including 40 children)
 Love Fund Pantry- 12 families

Rent - assisted 16 families \$1,925
 Utilities- assisted 41 families \$3,100
 Hotel - assisted 9 families \$799
 Storage - 1 family- \$125
 Funeral - 1 family- \$150
 Insurance- 1 family- \$115
 Medicine - 1 family- \$30
 Save a lot Bill - \$1,488.01 (42 food vouchers
 Gulf gas Bill - \$400 (29 gas vouchers)
 Total - \$8,132.01



The Christian Church traditionally recognizes the seven days before Easter Sunday as Holy Week. During this week, Christians remember the passion of Christ and the events which led to His crucifixion and death. Thursday of Holy Week is known as “Maundy Thursday,” the day when Christians traditionally participate in the last supper that Jesus shared with His disciples as a sign of the new covenant. Christians also lament and meditate in Tenebrae (from Latin meaning "darkness") to commemorate the sacrificial death of our Lord upon the cross. Christians usually strip the church of its colorful paraments as an act of mourning for our crucified Lord. Lamentations be to God for the crucifixion of our Lord and for the great sacrifice that He had come to make on our behalf.

Tenebrae Service
Thursday, April 17
7:00 pm



In memory of:
Winfred Campbell
Given by:
Curtis and Wendy Christian
and the Winfred Campbell Family

In loving memory of our parents:
Everette and Martha Carrico
Edward and Louise Hays
Given by:
Bill and Nancy Carrico

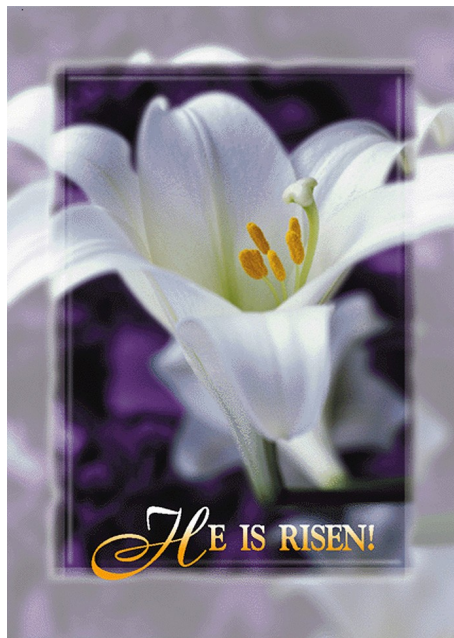
In memory of:
William & Marcia Coleman and Richard Underwood
Given by:
David Coleman, Beth Underwood, Ian Walker
Alison Underwood and Lydia Coleman

In memory of:
Loved Ones
Given by:
Sandy Connor and family

In memory of:
Bert Cox
Given by:
Donna Cox

In honor of our grandchildren and great-grandchildren:
Bre and Leah Crump
Abby, Chris, and Ira Freeman
Mason, Davis, and Caroline Crump
Turner, Emma, and Olivia Crump
Thomas and Olive Crump
Given by:
Fred and Jeanie Crump





**2025
Easter Lily
Memorials
And
Honorariums**

In memory of:
Gilmer Boley
Given by:
Jean Boley, Becky Elam & Marianne Airhart

In memory of our parents:
Dorothy and Bill Church
Mary Lou and Glenn Bonar
Given by:
Bruce and Sandee Bonar

In memory of a loving husband, father, and son

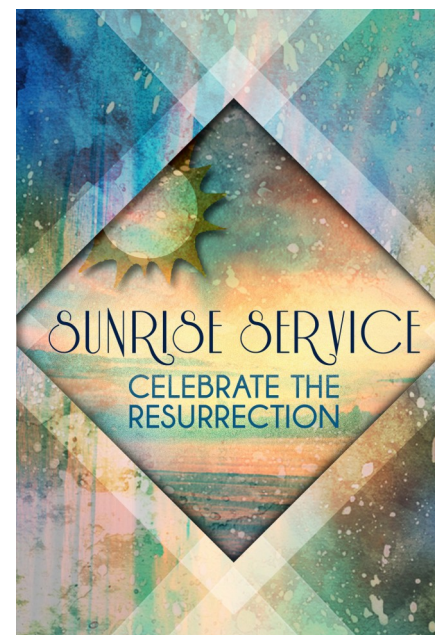
Jeffrey Brubaker
Given by:
The Brubaker Family

In memory of:
My husband, Donald
Given by:
Nancy Brubaker

In memory of:
My son, Jeff
Given by:
Nancy Brubaker

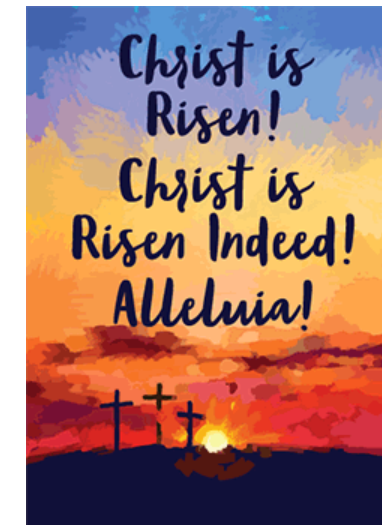
In memory of:
My husband, Bert
Given by:
Chris Campbell

In memory of our parents:
Harold and Dorothy Collier
Andy and Eleanor Campbell
Given by:
Chris Campbell



**Easter Sunrise Service
6:30 am on April 20
in the community garden.**

Chairs will be provided.



- 3 Austin Adkins
- 4 Matthew Guerra
- 7 Melody Mitchell
- 11 Phyllis Deaton
- 15 Betsy Ney Shackelford
- 19 Helen Martin
- 20 Chris Campbell
- 22 Elliot Orttenburger
- 24 Cindy Glass
- 26 Ainsley Waterbury
- Gannon Orttenburger
- 29 Serena Florell
- 30 Donna Cox



- 1 Piper Lawrenz
- 10 Alison Underwood
- 15 Wayne Bowlin
- 18 Joyce Wolf
- 22 Sandee Bonar
- 23 Olivia Florell
- 24 Thomas Crump
- 29 Jeanie Logue



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
 P O BOX 165 Richmond, KY 40476-0165
 859/623-5323 (fax) 859/623-5329
 www.richmondipc.com

Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

		1 Tuesday Crew 9-11 Lenten Lunch noon Mission mtg. 7:00	2 Bible Study 6:30	3 Youth prayer b'fast 6:45 am	4	5
6	7 Bible Study 10:30 am	8 Tuesday Crew 9-11 Lenten Lunch noon	9 Bible Study 6:30	10 Needle Arts Fellowship 11:30	11	12
13 <i>One Great Hour of Sharing Offering</i> 2:00 pm  Easter Egg Hunt Deacon mtg. noon	14 Bible Study 10:30 am	15 Tuesday Crew 9-11 CE mtg. 4:30	16 Bible Study 6:30	17 Youth prayer b'fast 6:45 am  Communion Service 7:00 pm	18	19
HOLY WEEK SERVICES AT GRACE COVENANT CHURCH OF GOD AT NOON EACH DAY						
20 <i>Sunrise Svc. 6:30 am</i> 	21 Bible Study 10:30 am	22 Tuesday Crew 9-11 Session mtg. 6:00 pm	23 Bible Study 6:30	24 Youth prayer b'fast 6:45 am	25	26
27 Sunday Supper Potluck 4:30	28 Bible Study 10:30 am	29 Tuesday Crew 9-11	30 Bible Study 6:30			

