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ONLINE GIVING 3 easy ways!

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



This year, the first Sunday of this month (December 1) is the first day of the Christian calendar and the first Sunday in the season of Advent. During this season, Christians customarily prepare their souls for the “coming” of the Son of God. But, my Christian friends, which “coming” are we preparing for?



Because the word “advent” itself means “coming” or “arrival,” and because it precedes Christmas, many Christians have misunderstood Advent to be exclusively a time to get ready to celebrate the coming of a child at Bethlehem. But, the season of Advent is much broader in its significance. It is not just about the “coming” of Christ’s nativity; Advent is also (and perhaps more so) about the “second coming” of Christ. Advent concerns the future of the Risen One, who will judge wickedness and prevail over every evil. Advent is the celebration of the promise that Christ will bring an “end” to all which is contrary to the ways of God. The resurrection of Jesus Christ is the first step of this end of the powers of death—the inauguration and anticipation of what is yet to come in fullness.

Advent—as the beginning of the liturgical year in the life of the church—takes our thinking to the very end of things. Here, the word “end” does not refer to the “end of time.” Rather, it refers to the central “purpose” or “goal” of creation. We are not aimlessly wandering in a wilderness. Rather, history is headed somewhere by God’s direction. It is necessary that the liturgical year begin with Advent—with the focus on a central, holy intention. Without this focus, the story of Jesus (which is about to be rehearsed from conception and birth to death and resurrection) may seem less than what it is—the deliberate fulfilling of divine purpose, unfolding through the course of history. Advent’s focus on the central purpose of God in history can keep the story of Jesus Christ from falling into irrelevance.

Advent reminds us that the sacred story of God in Christ—to be understood aright—has to be read backward. Just as the birth and ministry of Jesus are meaningless until we know of the Lord’s death and resurrection, so too the whole of the past is muddled unless first we have a grasp on the nature of the future. It is Advent’s focus on the “end,” as well as the “beginning,” which makes our worship a joyful anticipation as well as a hopeful reminiscence.



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 Ortttenburger	2026
Wayne Bowlin	2028
Donna Cox	2028
Denise Crump	2028

END OF YEAR FINANCES:

- Please return your pledge cards.
- All contributions for 2024 **MUST** be post-marked or received by **Dec. 31** to show on this year’s tax statement.
- Any reimbursements or bills to be paid from the 2024 budget **MUST** be received in the office by **January 3, but the earlier the better please!**
- If you would like offering envelopes for 2025, please notify the office. (danamiller@richmondipc.com)



Lock In

Our youth had their annual lock-in this month. We went to the Lexington Rage Room and talked about the different emotions Christ exhibited here on earth. We had 7 youth attend and a fun time was had by all! Thanks to Chris and Jason Smart for serving as chaperones and everyone who came out and made this event the success that it was!



*In memory of Jane Richardson
Given by her husband, Kenneth*

*In memory of Forrest Shearon and Adrian Douglas Reece
Given by Lynn Britton Shearon*

*In memory of Calvin and Maxine Britton
Given by the Britton girls*

*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*

*In memory of Shelby Lawson
In honor of Iva Lawson
Given by the Shew's, Toutant's and Trinh's*

*In memory of Jack and Helen George
In memory of Winford and Dollie Vance
Given by the Vance Family*

*In memory of Richard Vance
THE VERY BEST
Given by His Loving Family*

*In memory of Joe and Betty Wolf
Given by the Wolf Family*

*In memory of George L. and Denita Joyce Hall
Given by the Wolf family*

*In honor of First Presbyterian Church Chancel Choir
Given by Joyce Hall Wolf*

*In memory of William R. Young Jr.
We are blessed with our wonderful memories.
Given by Judy, Steve, and Betsy*





*In memory of Joy Hager, my wife
Given by Paul Hager*

*In honor of my children:
Julie Love, Ed Hager, Rev. George Love
Given by Paul Hager*

*In honor of my grandchildren:
Cameron Paul and Eliza Kathryn Love
Given by Paul Hager*

*In memory of our parents, Jack and Lolly Hissom
Given by Jill Hissom and Jamie Hissom Kenny*

*In memory of our grandparents, Jack and Lolly Hissom
Given by Kendrick Kenny and Jessica Kenny Graham*

*In memory of David & Genie Jett, Stephen Jett, Amy & Paul Jett, Alden & Verda Hatch
Given by Ainsley, Wyatt & Lucy Waterbury*

*In memory of our parents
Given by Tracy Lawrenz Lamb and Brett Lawrenz*

*In loving memory of my son, Robert Lynn Mapel
Given by Craig Mapel*

*In memory of our daughter, Lindsay Marie Mitchell
Given by Melody and Mark Mitchell*

*In memory of our grandson, Palden Reinhart Mitchell
In memory of our parents,
Harold Clay Mitchell and Elizabeth C. Mitchell
Harry A. Kresge and Doris H. Kresge
Winnie's brother, John Kresge
Given by Bill and Winnie Mitchell*

*In memory of David Nunelley
Given by Ken and Lucie Nelson*

*In loving memory of Dale and Steven Patrick
Given by Kay Patrick*

*In memory of Charles Reeves, Paul & Amy Jett,
Stephen Jett, Genie Jett, and David Jett
Given by Sue Reeves*



Evening Women's Circle

Our Circle usually goes out to dinner for our December meeting. Instead, this year we are going to go see the movie *Wicked* at the Cinemark theater in Richmond at 2:20 pm, Monday, December 9th. We will go to a restaurant for dinner after the movie.

Wicked the movie is based on the Broadway musical about characters from the Wizard of Oz.

Rebecca Esther Circle

**Tuesday
December 17
10:30 am**

in the parlor

*Everyone is invited to a
reception celebrating
Jean Boley on her 100th birthday!*

*Sunday, December 8
following worship
in the fellowship hall.*



**Happy
100th Birthday!!**



It is time to go shopping for our annual **Giving Tree Program** for the six families living in the New Liberty Family Shelter here in Richmond. The two Giving Trees will be in their traditional locations in the Narthex and the old fellowship hall on Sunday, December 1st. For those of you who are not familiar with this project, here is how it works. There will be star ornaments on these two trees and each ornament will specify an item needed by a member of these families. There will be six colors of ornaments and each color is assigned to one family. This year there are nine children and eight adults living at New Liberty Place. The children range in age from one year to 15 years.

Please select an ornament (or two or three) and purchase the items listed. When you take an ornament off the tree, you will notice there are two duplicate ornaments attached to each string. Please take off one of the two ornaments, write your name on the back, and place it in the nearby box so that we will know which gifts you are shopping for. **Wrapped packages are due back to Dana's office by Monday, December 17th.** Please attach the other star ornament to the package so that we can identify who the item is for. This is a project for everyone to enjoy as it represents the true giving spirit of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

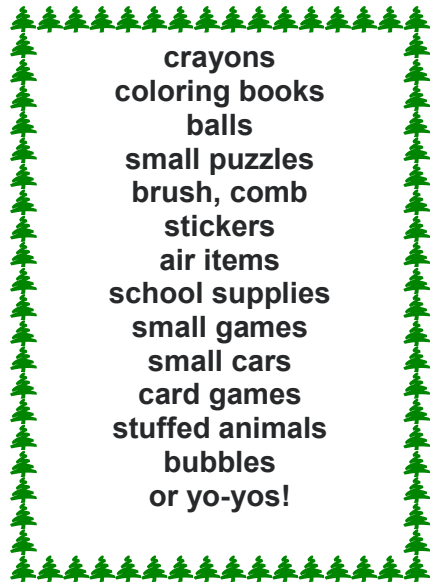
The Marshall-Moretz Christmas Eve Dinner is for those in our community who are less fortunate or lonely at this time of year. How can you help?

If you are out shopping, and come across small gifts such as: crayons, coloring books, balls, small puzzles, brushes, combs, stickers, hair items, school supplies, small games, small cars, card games, small stuffed animals, bubbles, yo-yos, etc—they will be greatly appreciated. There is a box designated for these items in the fellowship hall on a bench.

We will need baked goodies, especially sweet breads and cookies. They need to be wrapped in foil or Christmas wrap. We will need cooked turkeys and hams. Cupcakes are needed for dessert. All items need to be brought to the church by Dec. 24th at 2:00 PM.

We will also need volunteer drivers, kitchen help, servers, reception help, plus other helpers.

If you would like to participate in this very special Christmas mission call or text—
Linda Adams 859-200-0762



crayons
coloring books
balls
small puzzles
brush, comb
stickers
air items
school supplies
small games
small cars
card games
stuffed animals
bubbles
or yo-yos!



Sweet breads
Cookies
Cupcakes
Turkeys
Hams!

Appetizers and Bingo 4:00
Dinner in CLC 5:00
Christmas Eve Service 7:00

Marshall-Moretz Dinner



If you have classic Christmas ornaments or Christmas decorations that you would like to donate for the Marshall-Moretz Christmas tree, please contact Linda Adams or Arleita Dirne. Or call or text [859-267-7060](tel:859-267-7060)



In memory of loved ones
Given by Sandy Connor and family

In memory of Robert Cox
In memory of Erma Pethtel
Given by Donna Cox

In honor of the Crump family
Given by Fred and Jeanie Crump

In memory of great friends, Jack & Lolly Hissom
Given by Fred and Jeanie Crump

In memory of Ruth Marie Hossman
Given by the Deaton family

In memory of Janice Jones
Given by the Deaton family

In memory of Matthew Arbuckle Hundley
In memory of William and Elizabeth Arbuckle
Given by Jim and Martha Exline

In memory of my grandmothers
May Gray and Margaret Truesdell
Given by Bonnie J. Gray

Given in memory of my son, Staff Sergeant Brenton Thomas Gray
Given by Randall Gray

In memory of
John O. and Opal Gump
Brothers Jerry and Franklin Gump
Sister Ruby Jo Gump Denbow
Clyde and Ethel Varner
Lawrence and Gertrude Schaffer
Baby Sister Schaffer
Sister Gladys Schaffer Smith
Sister Shirley Schaffer Quier
Brother Leland Schaffer
Given by John and Phyllis Schaffer Gump





**The poinsettias in our sanctuary have been
generously given by the following people:**

*In memory of Gilmer Boley
Given by wife, Jean and daughters, Becky and Marianne*

*In honor of our grandchildren
Given by Bruce and Sandee Bonar*

*In memory of John and Amanda Bowlin
Given By Jeanne and Wayne Bowlin*

*In memory of Richard and Rhoda Andersen
Given by Jeanne and Wayne Bowlin*

*In honor of our grandchildren Ella Jewell & John Brody Bowlin
Given by their grandparents, Wayne & Jeanne Bowlin*

*In memory of my husband, Donald Brubaker
Given by Nancy Brubaker*

*In memory of my son, Jeff Brubaker
Given by Nancy Brubaker*

*In memory of my husband, Bert
Given by Chris Campbell*

*In memory of our parents,
Harold & Dorothy Collier
William & Eleanor Campbell
Given by Chris Campbell*

*In honor of our children and grandchildren
Given by Bill and Nancy Carrico*

*In honor of Phyllis Deaton
Given by Bill and Nancy Carrico*

*In memory of Jean Roberts
Given by Bill and Nancy Carrico*

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

*In memory of Bill Coleman, Marcia Coleman, and Richard Underwood
Given by David Coleman, Beth Underwood, Ian Walker,
Alison Underwood, and Lydia Coleman*

For the past seven months, in this space we've been doing a series of articles on the 10 commandments. We have been looking at each commandment individually from a dual perspective that asks what behaviors the commandment specifically forbids as well as what behaviors the commandment encourages, because each commandment can be seen in both a positive and negative light. For this month's installment in this series of articles, we will turn our attention to the sixth commandment according to the reformed tradition. That commandment is thou shalt not kill.

Thou shalt not kill might seem like one of the more straightforward and easy to understand commandments of the 10, but it is deceptively complex in its brevity and comes to us with no small amount of controversy. For starters, different translations of the Bible and different faith traditions don't all render this commandment in the same way. There is debate about whether the correct translation is "thou shalt not kill" or "thou shalt not murder". The most significant difference in the two parsings being the intention and attitude of the act. You can kill someone remorsefully while Murder is devoid of remorse. The best and easiest example of this being war. Soldiers kill, but they don't murder. A soldier doesn't murder because they don't WANT to have to kill.

The Hebrew word used in the command is "rasah" and there is linguistic evidence to suggest that the word could mean either kill or murder. If we render rasah as murder it limits the scope of the commandment. If we render the word as kill, it broadens the scope of the commandment and Christendom seems to be pretty evenly divided on which of these versions is intended in the original text. The distinction is an important one too as this commandment has direct implications to a myriad of hot button issues. Our understanding of this commandment can and should influence our stance on capital punishment, war, abortion, euthanasia and all manner of other things. I guess it's appropriate, in a way, that we have a not so black and white understanding of a commandment that touches so many not so black and white issues.

This is where looking at the commandment from a different viewpoint comes in handy. The command forbids us from either killing or murder but what is the positive frame for this commandment? What does it encourage in us rather than prohibit? I'd argue that the sixth commandment encourages us to see life as the miracle that it is and not to treat it lightly. It calls us to see that life is a sacred thing and that ending life is no small matter. In this way, the sixth commandment pairs nicely with the fifth which also affirms that life, even the lives of the very old and very young, has value and is innately something to be cherished and preserved (you can read more on this in my previous month's article, if you're interested). So, yes, do not kill or murder, but also cherish life. Cherish EVERY life. Cherish your own life and the lives of others and when we can do that, we'll truly be living into what the commandment is asking us to do.

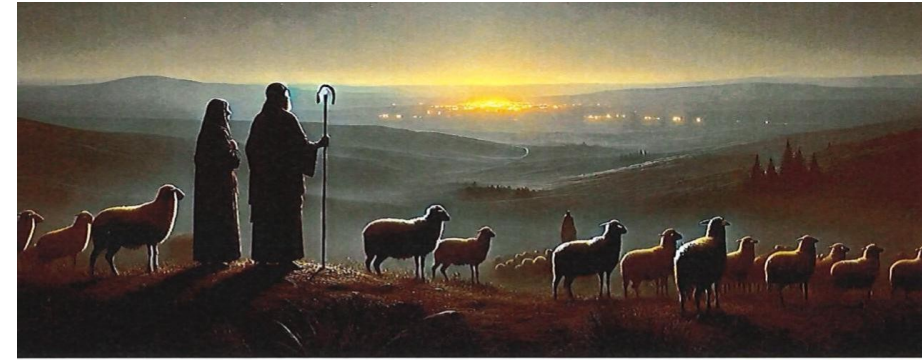
Arts and Crafts For Missions

Thanks to everyone who came out and helped us serve lunch at this month's craft fair! We had 5 youth show up to help serve (Lincoln somehow missed the official pic). You all worked hard and did a great job!



Prayer Breakfast

Our weekly youth prayer breakfast continues to meet on Thursday mornings at 6:45 at Purdy's. Prayer breakfast is open to all Middle and High School youth and is our main time for scripture, fellowship and prayer together as a group. It's a great way to start the day!



To Us a Child is Born

Johann Kuhnau

Sunday, December 8
11:00 a.m.

First Presbyterian Church Sanctuary

Presented by
The Chancel Choir and Guest instrumentalists

For to us a child is born, to us a son is given!
Isaiah 9:6



Annual Christmas Pageant
Sunday,
December 15 9:45 am

Pageant practice & costume fitting
December 8 following worship
Lunch will be provided.



News Brief from Session

- 2025 Proposed budget approved.
- Parents Day Out December 1 and Christmas Pageant December 15.
- Jean Boley 100th birthday celebration after church December 8.
- New video equipment is almost ready for use in the sanctuary.
- Giving Tree goes up after Thanksgiving.
- Property working on new phone service for the church.
- Advent Communion on Wednesday, December 11 at 7:00 pm.
- Congregational meeting set for after church on Sunday, January 26.

Melody Mitchell, clerk

October 2024 Love Fund Summary

<u>Category</u>	<u># of families served</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Utilities	15	\$1,862.77
Rent	10	\$1,575
Assistance with release from incarceration	1	\$200
Propane	1	\$100
Save A Lot bill (food vouchers)	17	\$748.72
Gulf Bill (Gas Vouchers)	13	\$325
Love Cupboard Pantry assisted	4	
Total		\$4,811.49

31 Unique Families served (includes 22 children)



- 1 Sue Reeves
- 2 Denise Crump
- Ashleigh Orttenger
- 3 Lincoln Ward
- 7 Jean Boley
- 8 Alicia Shackelford
- 10 Un Chol Shin
- 11 Donna Albaugh
- Fred Crump
- Polly Seyfrit
- Chris Toutant
- 12 David Glass
- Wyatt Waterbury
- 18 Will Gump
- 21 Richard Elam
- 22 Beverly Moberly
- James Logue
- 25 Sandy Connor
- 27 Jill Hissom
- 28 Melissa Shew Toutant
- Marilyn Pace



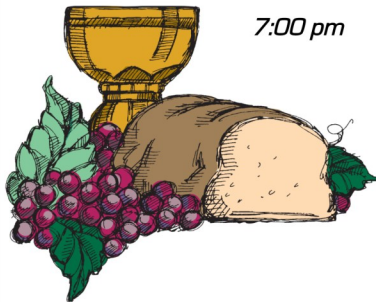
BLESSINGS ON YOUR BIRTHDAY

JANUARY Birthdays

- 4 Don Dickson
- Ava Stanley
- 10 Bill Mitchell
- Kristin Brubaker
- 11 Mary Laird
- Mark Mitchell
- Rob Dirne
- 12 Mary Civey
- 13 Gene Forderhase
- 18 Leah Crump
- 19 Kitty Shew
- 23 LeAnn Jones
- 24 Cindy Harter
- 25 Arevia Gump
- 29 Winnie Mitchell
- 30 Wendy Christian

ADVENT COMMUNION SERVICE

7:00 pm



**Wednesday
December 11**

FPC YOUTH PRESENTS
PARENT'S DAY OUT!
1st OF DECEMBER
NOON-5PM
LUNCH WILL BE SERVED
CALL 859-623-5323 OR
FOLLOW LINK BELOW TO REGISTER

Salvation Army Women's Auxiliary

The Salvation Army Women's Auxiliary would like to thank you for your donation of a food bag or monetary donation to help support the Angel Tree Food project again this year. It is thanks to churches like yours that allow us to help over 600 children and their families have a special Christmas.

Auxiliary members,
Lynn Shearon & Melody Mitchell

Donations are being accepted for gift cards for our college students during their exam times! Please give by Sunday, December 1.



Thank you!

A BIG "thank you" to Jennifer Ward and David Deaton and their spouses for their leadership of the Arts and Crafts for Missions over the past 3 years. Your congregation appreciates your time and talents that made this event a great success.

Thank you to the Madison County Veterans for donating a wheelchair to the church for use by anyone who needs it!



**FIRST PRESBYTERIAN
Christmas Cookie Hospitality Tent**

PLEASE PROVIDE COOKIES FOR RICHMOND CHRISTMAS PARADE!

December 6th, 6pm

Front Lawn - First Presbyterian Church

Volunteers needed for Set up, Passing out Cookies and Hot Cocoa and clean up! Please contact Denise Crump - (859) 200- 5756 if available. Thank you!

Bring your best cookies!



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

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 <i>Parent's Day Out!</i>	2 <i>Bible Study 10:30</i>	3 <i>Tuesday crew 9-11</i> <i>Mission mtg. 7:00</i>	4 <i>PBS video 6:30</i> <i>Choir practice 7:30</i>	5	6 6:00 pm Christmas Parade	7
8 CANTATA <i>Pageant practice noon</i> <i>Jean Boley 100th Birthday</i> <i>Reception following worship!</i>	9 <i>Bible Study 10:30</i>	10 <i>Tuesday crew 9-11</i>	11 <i>Advent Communion</i> 7:00 pm	12 <i>Needle Arts Fellowship 11:30</i>	13	14
15 <i>Pageant during Sunday School</i> <small>Children's Pageant</small>	16 <i>Bible Study 10:30</i>	17 <i>Tuesday crew 9-11</i> <i>Presbyterian Women 10:30</i> <i>CE mtg. 4:30</i> <i>Joint Elders/Deacons 6:30</i>	18 <i>PBS video 6:30</i> <i>Choir practice 7:30</i>	19	20	21
22 <i>Joy Offering</i>	23 <i>Bible Study cancelled</i>	24 <i>Marshall Moretz dinner</i> 5:00 <small>Christmas Eve Service 7:00 p.m.</small>	25 	26	27	28
29	30 <i>Bible Study 10:30</i>	31 <i>Tuesday crew 9-11</i>	1 <i>Office Closed</i>	OFFICE CLOSED IN CELEBRATION OF CHRISTMAS!		
				 <i>Wise Men and Women Still Seek Him</i>		