

www.richmondfpc.com

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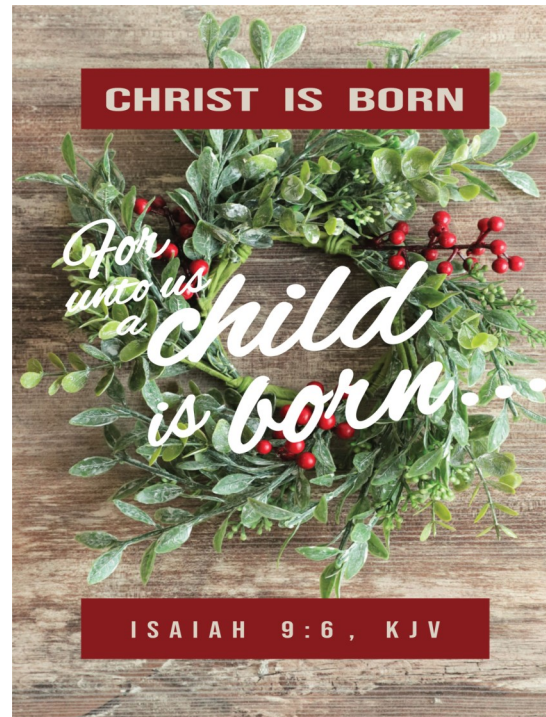
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ELDERS	CLASS OF
Bill Mitchell	2023
Courtney Lawrenz	2023
Beth Underwood	2023
David Deaton	2024
James Exline	2024
Bonnie Gray	2024
Eric Everett	2025
David Jett	2025
Jennifer Wilke-Deaton	2025
DEACONS	CLASS OF
Chris Campbell	2023
Marti Exline	2023
Jill Hissom	2023
Linda Adams	2024
Carter Lamb	2024
Lynn Shearon	2024
Sue Reeves	2025
Julie Stanley	2025
Gene Wolf	2025



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**

WITH
Gratitude



PRESBYTERIAN TIDINGS

WHY DO I FOLLOW JESUS CHRIST?

When asked, “Why do you follow Jesus Christ?” some might answer that they follow Him because He is the Son of God. And, while this answer might be reason enough to follow Christ, I must admit that it is not my reason for following Him. Indeed, being the Son of God is the reason that I worship Jesus, but it is not my reason for following Him.

No, I follow Jesus Christ because I find his teachings about the kingdom of God to be right and true—teachings in both word and deed. His teachings about the kingdom of God seem to run contrary to the values of humanity and worldly realms. Jesus taught that we are to welcome the stranger, to feed the hungry, to heal the broken, to comfort the dying, to redeem the lost, to serve with humility, to speak for the marginalized, to aid the poor, to give without measuring the cost, to forgive without recompense, to love God, to love one another, to love neighbor as self, to love our enemies, to love sacrificially. Jesus taught these kingdom values not just by saying it, but also by living it.

The world may give lip-service to these teachings of Christ as quaint and sophistic sentimentality. The world may regard such teachings as inspirational ideals, but hardly implementable and certainly not practical in the so-called “real world.” The world may even profess to worship Jesus Christ as the Son of God, but it will seldom follow Him as it’s leader. Many would rather follow leaders who promote personal prosperity, not aid for the poor; self-righteousness, not repentance and forgiveness; self-reliance, not care for the marginalized; self-preservation, not welcoming the stranger; loving and giving only when it is self-beneficial.

These age-old values, which are so characteristic of the world and its leaders, and which so many people live by, have a certain pragmatic logic. Indeed, these values have an intrinsic appeal to the innate avarice and pride that resides in all of us. And yet, there is something about the teachings of Jesus Christ, even as contrary as they are to my inherent selfish desires, that seem right, true, and correct. When I step aside from my own rational self-interest, I discover another reality at work within me. Perhaps it is an *a priori* ethical awareness, perhaps it is moral intuition, perhaps it is the Holy Spirit—call it what you will. I simply am convicted by the unsailable truth that the teachings and ministry of Christ are incontrovertible.

This is why I am not only a worshipper of Jesus Christ, the Son of God, but I am also a disciple of Jesus Christ, following His teachings and patterning my life after His. For, no matter how much I want to live by values of my own self-interest, the surpassing value of sacrificial love for others and for God has transformed my very being. I may be from the kingdoms of this world, but I must answer the inner call to the kingdom of God.

MISSION.....a body of people sent

***Christmas Joy Offering
December 18th***

Please give prayerful consideration for our Christmas Joy Offering which will be collected on December 18th. This offering supports our church leaders both past, present, and future by helping retired pastors and other church workers who now find themselves in serious financial need. And it also supports students of color in their time of promise as they attend schools and colleges as they pursue their education to prepare to bring their gifts in service to God's world.

Please remember to support the Giving Tree Mission project to benefit the six families who live at the Liberty Family Shelter in Richmond by taking a star ornament from one of the two trees at the church. Each ornament specifies an item needed by a member of these families. Wrapped packages are due back to Dana's office by Wednesday, December 14th. Please attach the star ornament to the package so that we can identify who the item is for.

Due December 14



October 2022 Love Fund Summary

<u>Category</u>	<u># of families served</u>	<u>Amount</u>
<i>Utilities</i>	<i>24</i>	<i>\$2,757.95</i>
<i>Rent</i>	<i>10</i>	<i>\$1,495</i>
<i>Hotel</i>	<i>6</i>	<i>\$1,110.45</i>
<i>Save A Lot bill (food vouchers)</i>		<i>\$395.24</i>
<i>Gas</i>	<i>13</i>	<i>\$325</i>
<i>Storage rental</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>\$100</i>
<i>Love Cupboard assistance</i>	<i>12</i>	
<i>Food Vouchers Distributed</i>	<i>17</i>	
<i>Total</i>		<i>\$6,183.64</i>



***The office will be closed
December 23 & 26
in
celebration of Christmas!***



**BLESSINGS
ON YOUR
BIRTHDAY**



1	Sue Reeves	3	Alice Brown
2	Denise Crump	4	Don Dickson
	Ashleigh Orttenger		Ava Stanley
3	Lincoln Ward	5	Ron Napier
7	Jean Boley	10	Bill Mitchell
8	Alicia Shackelford		Kristin Brubaker
10	Un Chol Shin	11	Mary Laird
11	Donna Albaugh		Mark Mitchell
	Fred Crump	12	Mary Civey
	Polly Seyfrit	13	Gene Forderhase
	Chris Toutant	18	Leah Crump
12	David Glass	19	Kitty Shew
	Wyatt Waterbury	20	George Civey
18	Will Gump	23	LeAnn Jones
21	Richard Elam	24	Cindy Harter
22	Beverly Moberly	25	Arevia Gump
	James Logue	29	Winnie Mitchell
25	Sandy Connor	30	Wendy Christian
27	Jill Hissom		
28	Melissa Shew Toutant		
	Marilyn Pace		



*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*



Buckhorn Children and Family Services

Our Buckhorn offering for 2022 was \$5,055.00. We have mailed Buckhorn a check for this amount. Thank you for your generosity!



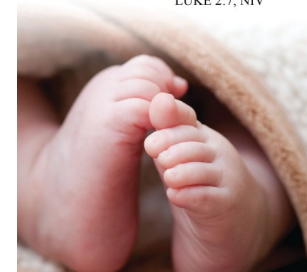
Esther—Rebekah Circle

Tuesday, December 20
10:30 a.m.

Curtis will lead the lesson.

*She wrapped him
in cloths and placed
him in a manger...*

LUKE 2:7, NIV



Evening Women's Circle Progressive Dinner! Friday, December 16

Women's Evening Circle will have a Progressive Dinner on Friday, December 16th starting at Cindy Harter's house for appetizers, progressing to Jen Deaton's house for dinner, and ending at Linda Adams' house for dessert.

We will meet at First Presbyterian back parking lot to take the church bus to each house and then back to the parking lot at the end of the evening. Kevin Crump has graciously offered to drive the bus which will leave at 5:15 pm.

Please RSVP to
Linda Adams at 859-
200-0762 text or call.



CHRISTMAS
Progressive Dinner



First Presbyterian Preschool Highlights for December!

- This month we will learn about the birth of Jesus!
- We are practicing very hard for our Christmas Pageant on December 16th at 10 am in the gym.



Teaching with Soul by Joel

As we've just begun a new church year with the season of Advent, I've decided to start a new series of newsletter articles on the spiritual disciplines. I'm doing this in an attempt to make the coming year a time of growth and renewal for our church and championing these practices is the best way I know how to do this. These disciplines have been tested over the centuries by the church and any Christian willing to put them into regular practice is going to see tangible spiritual growth. So over the course of the next year, I will devote this newsletter space to the subjects of solitude, silence, fasting, secrecy, sacrifice, study, worship, service, fellowship, confession, celebration and submission. We will begin in this month's article by looking at solitude.

Have you ever noticed in the gospels how often Christ was trying to get away from the crowd? Jesus tries to seclude himself just before he walks on the water (Matt. 14:23), just before he feeds the five thousand (Mark 6:31) and just before his arrest in the garden of Gethsemane (Matt. 26:36). Why do you suppose Christ was always trying to get away from everyone? Maybe it's because Christ knew that there was a connection between solitude and closeness with God. Christ's actions suggest that there's something to be said for being alone with God. Now I'll admit that there's also something to be said for enjoying God in the company of others. That's why fellowship is also one of the spiritual disciplines, but there is an intimacy that comes when you make it a point to spend time with God and cut everyone else out, that you just don't get otherwise. That's the reason why so many spiritual retreats and monasteries are set in secluded areas. Being alone is spiritually beneficial because it helps you to concentrate and focus your attention where it is needed. In seclusion, you are making God your highest priority by putting a physical distance between yourself and every other person or thing that might be a competing priority.

Unfortunately true seclusion is getting harder and harder to come by these days. Even as we quarantined during the height of the pandemic, I doubt you were truly as secluded as it might have seemed. As a society, we've taken precautions against ever having to be alone. These precautions come in the form of cell phones and laptops and iPads and televisions. We are constantly just a few pushes of a button away from being able to reach just about anyone in the world. We are continuously in contact and rarely unreachable. A whole world of distractions makes this one of the more difficult disciplines to achieve on a regular basis. It seems like even Jesus had a little bit of difficulty with this one because, if you look at those scripture references in the first paragraph, while Jesus was constantly TRYING to get away, he wasn't always successful at it. But the benefits of a few precious moments alone with God certainly make the trying worthwhile and it doesn't have to be some long stretch of time either. Just five minutes of solitude in quiet contemplation can make a difference and is worth the effort. So in the coming year, I'd encourage you to give true solitude a chance, if you can, and see what benefits spring forth from it.

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

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

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

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

*In memory of Jean's Brother, Dr. Larry Thompson,
Her sister and brother-in-law, Shirley and Bud Lawrence
Given by John and Jean Roberts*

*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 and still missed*

*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 and Toutant's*

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





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

*In honor of my grandchildren, Carter, Shelby, & Tucker Lamb, and Piper Lawrenz
Given by Dale Lawrenz*

*In memory of my parents
Given by Dale Lawrenz*

*In honor of our Gramps, Dale Lawrenz
And in memory of our Grams, Pam Lawrenz
Given by Carter, Shelby and Tucker Lamb, and Piper Lawrenz*

*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 honor of our grandchildren
Given by Ken and Lucie Nelson*



The Christmas Eve Marshall-Moretz Dinner will be back this year! To celebrate our return after two years, we are having a Cowboy Christmas theme.

The Marshall-Moretz Dinner is for those in our community who are less fortunate or lonely at this time of year.

How can you help? We need gifts for children such as crayons, coloring books, balls, small puzzles, brush, comb, stickers, hair items, school supplies, small games, small cars, card games, stuffed animals, bubbles, or yo-yos. Place these items in the coat alcove in the fellowship hall.

We need baked goodies, especially sweet breads and cookies. They need to be wrapped in foil or Christmas wrap. These are given as gifts to our adult guests. We will need cooked turkeys and hams. Cupcakes will be 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, cleanup help, servers, reception help, plus other helpers.

If you would like to participate in this very special Christmas mission contact:

Linda Adams
call or text 859-200-0762
email LADAMS49940@att.net

Sweet breads
Cookies
Cupcakes
Turkeys
Hams!

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!

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





**Spring and Summer Semester
Save the Dates!**

2/12/23 - Souper Bowl of Caring

3/26/23 - Bowling!

4/2/23 - Easter Egg Hunt

5/14/23 - Youth Sunday

6/4 - 6/10 - High School Montreat

7/19 - 7/23 - Middle School Montreat



Progressive Dinner

Progressive Dinner December 18th!

Our youth Christmas party this year is going to be a multi-course dinner on December 18th where each course is hosted at a different house. We will meet at the church at 5 and take the church bus from home to home. If you'd like to open your home to the youth group progressive dinner, please let Joel know.



**Marshall-Moretz
Service Opportunity**

Our church's Marshall Moretz dinner is being revived after a two year hiatus due to the pandemic. Traditionally our youth group had the important job of helping set things up for the dinner beforehand and we're stepping back into that role now that things are starting back up. We're asking our youth to come to the church gym Dec. 22nd at 6pm to help set up tables and chairs and place settings and tablecloths, so that things can be ready for the dinner on Christmas eve. Dinner will be provided for those who attend. We hope to see you there!

*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 a great friend, Jack 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
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 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 Winfred Campbell
Given by Curtis and Wendy Christian
and the Winfred Campbell Family*

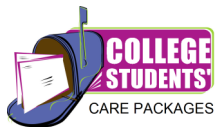
*In memory of Bill and Marcia Coleman
Given by David Coleman, Beth Underwood, Ian Walker,
Alison Underwood, and Lydia Coleman*

YOUTH GROUP!

Parent's Day Out

A big thank you to all the youth who came out to lead this year's Parent's Day Out program! Things went very smoothly and all the kids had a great time. I'm certain their parents did as well. Thanks for all your hard work and enthusiasm. I know it was appreciated!





A huge thank you to everyone who contributed to the College Goody Bags/Boxes for our college students. I know our students appreciate knowing that their church family is holding good thoughts for them at a very stressful time.

Thanks to Marcia Florell and Joel Stanley for helping put them together. If you would enjoy taking over this project, please contact Joel.

Sandy Dickson



END OF YEAR FINANCES:

- Please return your pledge cards on Stewardship Sunday, December 18.
- All contributions for 2022 **MUST** be postmarked or received by **Dec. 31** to show on this year's tax statement.
- Any reimbursements or bills to be paid from the 2022 budget **MUST** be received in the office by **January 3**, but the earlier the better please!
- If you would like offering envelopes for 2023, please notify the office. (danamiller@richmondpc.com)

Lighting the Advent Candle will be based on meditations from the Scriptures.
These will help us prepare for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

November 27

The candle of St. Mark will be lit by Don and Sandy Dickson.

December 4

The candle of St. John will be lit by Paul Hager.

December 11

The candle of St. Luke will be lit by Curtis and Wendy Christian.

December 18

The candle of St. Matthew will be lit by the Gump family.



Sunday, December 4, 11:00 a.m.

We invite you to a special Advent presentation.

Your First Presbyterian Music Program

Invite friends!



Annual Christmas Pageant
Sunday, December 18
9:45 am

Pageant practice & costume fitting
December 11
Following worship

Our CE committee will present our annual Christmas Pageant during the Sunday School hour on Dec. 18th.

We will have a pageant practice and costume fitting immediately following worship on Dec. 11 for anyone who wants to participate. Lunch will be provided.



Children's Pageant



Angel Paul!



Tuesday Crew busy!



**Parent's
Day Out!**



**Church-wide Potluck
Wednesday, December 7
6:00 pm**

Please join us for this potluck dinner prior to the Advent Communion Service!



***GOING AWAY RECEPTION!
December 18th!***

Brett, Courtney and Piper Lawrenz will be moving soon as Brett has started a job in Virginia. We will honor them with a reception after church in the Fellowship Hall on December 18th to let them know how much they mean to their church family and to wish them well!

Salvation Army Christmas Angel Tree Food

The Salvation Army Women's Auxiliary is once again asking for your support to help provide a Christmas meal for families who qualify for Angel Tree gifts. We ask that you consider making a \$25.00 contribution towards a gift card for perishable items that will go along with food staples these families receive from the Corps. Donations due by December 9.

The Auxiliary thanks you in advance for helping the Angel Tree families from the 9 counties served by the Salvation Army. I thank you for the consistent support you have given over the years to the Women's Auxiliary. You are the best!

Melody Mitchell
Women's Auxiliary member

Please make checks payable to:

The Salvation Army
Attn: Angel Tree Food






Please send donations to:
P. O. Box 1865
Richmond, KY 40476





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	2  Christmas Parade 7:00 pm	3
4 <i>2nd Sunday of Advent</i>	5 Bible Study 10:30	6 <i>Tuesday crew 9-11</i> Mission mtg. 7:00	7  Communion 7:00 pm Church-wide potluck 6:00	8 Needle Arts Fellowship 11:30	9	10
11 <i>3rd Sunday of Advent</i>	12 Bible Study 10:30	13 <i>Tuesday crew 9-11</i>	14 Bible Study 6:30	15	16 <i>Preschool Christmas Pageant 10:00</i> <i>Evening Circle Progressive Dinner 5:15</i>	17
18 <i>4th Sunday of Advent</i> <i>Christmas Pageant</i> <i>Christmas Joy Offering</i> <i>Youth Progressive Dinner 5</i>	19 Bible Study 10:30	20 <i>Tuesday crew 9-11</i> Circle 10:30 Preschool mtg. 3:45 CE mtg. 4:45 Session mtg. 7:00	21 Bible Study 6:30	22 Youth set-up for Marshall-Moretz 6:00 (dinner provided)	23 <i>Office Closed</i> 	24 Marshall-Moretz Dinner 4:00 Bingo, 5:00 Dinner <i>Christmas Eve Service 7:00</i>
25 <i>Christmas Day!</i> 	26 <i>Office closed</i> <i>Merry CHRISTMAS</i>	27 <i>Tuesday crew 9-11</i>	28	29  Wise Men and Women Still Seek Him	30	31 