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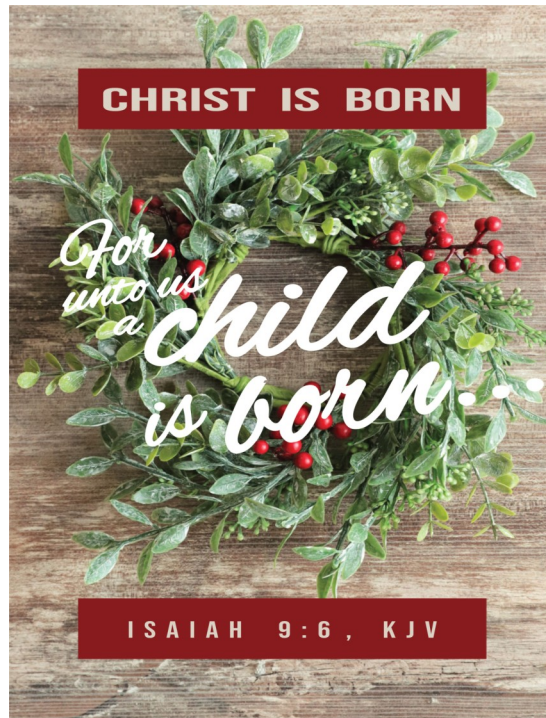
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ELDERS **CLASS OF**

David Deaton	2024
James Exline	2024
Bonnie Gray	2024
Eric Everett	2025
Lucie Nelson	2025
Jennifer Wilke-Deaton	2025
Philip Gump	2026
Paul Hager	2025
Bill Mitchell	2025

DEACONS **CLASS OF**

Linda Adams	2024
Donna Cox	2024
Lynn Shearon	2024
Sue Reeves	2025
Julie Stanley	2025
Gene Wolf	2025
Jennifer Brubaker	2026
Kathy Shew	2026



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

WITH
Gratitude



December 2023

MEDITATIONS ON THE APOSTLES' CREED
I BELIEVE IN JESUS CHRIST

“**Jesus**”—a name derived from the Latin *Iesus*, which comes from the Greek “Iesou̓s” (Ἰησοῦς). The Greek name is itself derived from the Aramaic “Yeshu,” (ܝܫܘܐ) a variation of the Hebrew name “Yeshua” [(יְהוֹשֻׁעַ i.e., “Joshua”]. The semitic root of Jesus’ name is **יָשַׁע** meaning “to rescue.” Matthew’s gospel alludes to this root in the nativity story, where an angel of the Lord appears to Joseph in a dream and says, “You are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins” (Matthew 1:21b).

Of course, the Apostles’ Creed affirms our faith in more than a name, it also affirms the title of the one in whom we believe—Christ. The creedal phrase “*Iesum Christum*” is often translated as “Jesus Christ;” but because Latin has no definite article, it is sometimes difficult to distinguish the name from the title. Indeed, “Christ” is all too often treated as though it is Jesus’ surname (i.e., “Mr. Christ). But, in fact, “Christ” is not Jesus’ last name; it is his office, it is his mission. If we were to supply the definite article that is missing in Latin, perhaps we would have a more accurate translation: “Jesus *the* Christ.”

“**Christ**” comes from “Christós” (Χριστός), the Greek translation of the Hebrew “Mashiach” [(מָשִׁיחַ i.e., “Messiah”]. Both “Christ” and “Messiah” are actually adjectives meaning “anointed,” the quality or state of being rubbed with oil. To anoint persons such as a king or a priest is to confer upon them a divine office or a holy purpose. When used as a substantive, the Christ (the Messiah) is the Anointed One, the one chosen by God who would come to inaugurate his kingdom and to usher in a new age of liberation and peace.

In the late sixth-century BC, while the people of Judah were exiled in Babylon, their hopes for God’s future anointed one ran high. Regrettably, that hoped-for future did not materialize. Despite returning home to their land of promise, the people of Judah remained an occupied and repressed nation, as a vassal state of the Persian Empire, then as a subjugated people of the Seleucid Greeks, and eventually as an occupied province of the Roman Empire. During this period, renewed hopes and new ideas of a long-expected Messiah emerged. Some Jews expected a political messiah, a Son of David, who would arise to establish God’s kingdom. Others expected an apocalyptic messiah, a Son of Man, who would descend from the heavens and bring his host of angels to defeat the armies of darkness and establish the kingdom of heaven on earth. It is in this environment of messianic expectation that Jesus begins his public ministry. While near the villages of Caesarea Philippi, Jesus asked his disciples, “Who do people say that I am?” They answered him, “John the Baptist; and others, Elijah; and still others, one of the prophets.” He asked them, “But who do you say that I am?” Peter answered him, “You are the Messiah” (Mark 8:27-29).

Accordingly, Peter seemed to know *who* the Messiah is, but did he understand *what* the Messiah is? After Peter’s declaration, Jesus begins to teach his disciples about the mission of

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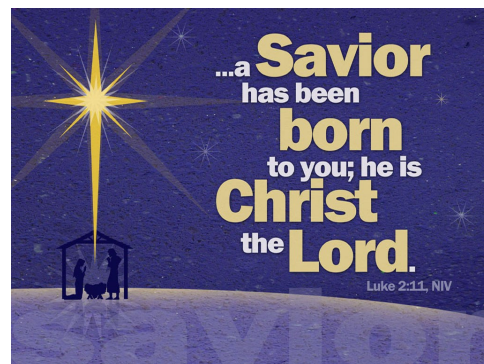
the Messiah, that he “must undergo great suffering and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests, and the scribes and be killed and after three days rise again” (Mark 8:31). Peter’s reaction to Jesus’ passion prediction betrays his misunderstanding; he rebukes Jesus. Peter is expecting a messiah who will conquer Israel’s enemies, a messiah who will bring about the suffering and destruction of God’s adversaries, not a messiah who will suffer and die himself.

In turn, Jesus rebukes Peter for setting his mind “not on divine things but on human things” (Mark 8:33). Of course, this mistaken expectation of the Messiah’s mission is not unique to Peter; apparently all of humanity would misunderstand the mission of God’s anointed one. This is implied in that Jesus “sternly ordered them not to tell anyone about him” (Mark 8:30) for fear that others might mistakenly presume a political or apocalyptic role for Jesus.

Jesus’ role as a suffering messiah was not only unexpected, it was incomprehensible. Yes, the Messiah’s mission was to bring peace to the people of God and to bring liberation from oppression and evil. But the enemy to be conquered was not the Greeks or the Romans or even the demons of darkness. No, the true enemy of both God and humanity is humanity itself, or, more specifically, humanity’s sinfulness. The sins that have resulted in humanity’s long injurious history of unjust suffering and death are the very sins from which God’s anointed one comes to set us free. The Messiah comes to suffer a sinner’s death in humanity’s stead. As the Apostle Paul writes, “For our sake God made the one who knew no sin to be sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God” (2 Corinthians 5:21). The reason that human beings cannot possibly comprehend a suffering messiah is that they cannot conceive of themselves as the enemy.

When we say, “I believe in Jesus the Christ,” we are doing more than affirming our faith in a name or a title; we are confessing an inconvenient truth about ourselves. To say that we believe in the Christ, is at the same time to confess that we are, of our own doing, enemies of God and of all that is righteous. To say that we believe in God’s Anointed One is at the same time to admit to our need of one beyond ourselves to liberate us from sin and from its power. To say that we believe in the Messiah is to recognize the holy one of God who suffers for our sake. It is to entrust ourselves to the one who “was wounded for our transgressions, crushed for our iniquities; upon him was the punishment that made us whole, and by his bruises we are healed” (Isaiah 53:5). To say that we believe in Jesus the Christ is to affirm our faith in the one whose very name (ʿῒῡ) implies our rescue.

Everyone who believes that Jesus is the Christ has been born of God. (1 John 5:1a)



- 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



- 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
- 20 George Civey
- 23 LeAnn Jones
- 24 Cindy Harter
- 25 Arevia Gump
- 29 Winnie Mitchell
- 30 Wendy Christian



A CHRISTMAS GARLAND

ON GREENSLEEVES

BY RICHARD SHEPHARD

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 3
11:00 A.M.

PRESENTED BY
THE CHANCEL CHOIR AND GUEST INSTRUMENTALISTS



Esther—Rebekah Circle

December 19
10:30 am
Church Parlor

The Women's Evening Circle will meet December 12 at 6:00 pm at Sue Reeves house. Bring your favorite appetizer to share for our Christmas get-together.

Sue's address:
2061 Greentree Drive
Richmond

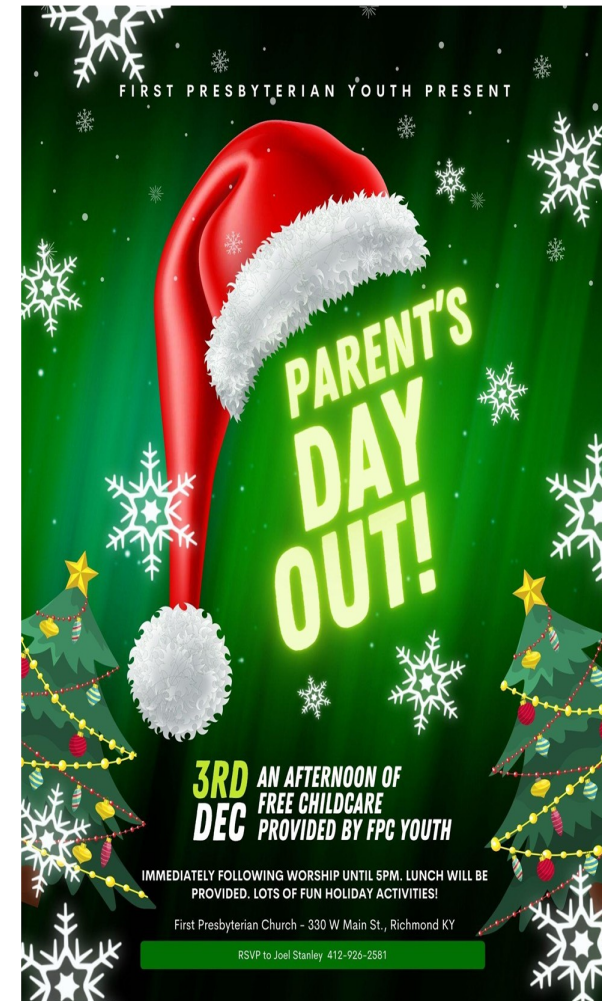


First Presbyterian Preschool
Highlights for December!

A child is born!

Merry Christmas from
the preschool!

- This month the students will learn about Jesus and his birth.
- December 15th is our preschool Christmas program.
- December 7th and the 8th students will go on the Polar Express dressed in their pajamas at the school!



Teaching with Soul by Joel

I love Christmas specials. I have loved them since I was a little kid and as I've gotten older, I've noticed that the Christmas specials I loved as a child have really only improved with age. Their messages and themes have stood up to the test of time and, more often than not, fall into line with our own Christian beliefs. So I thought I might take some time in this month's article to point out some of the Christian theology that can be found in the shared cultural heritage that is Christmas television programming. I am doing this because watching Christmas specials together as a family creates some fantastic teachable moments and my hope is that this article might lead to some meaningful discussion between parents and children while enjoying one of these classics together.

How the Grinch Stole Christmas

At its heart, this is a tale that speaks against the materialism that comes with Christmas. Its message is that Christmas is more than just gifts and stuff. Christmas has a deeper meaning that can't be bought in a store. The special doesn't come right out and say it, but this deeper meaning to the season can easily be interpreted to be Christ's love. That is why the Grinch failed at stealing Christmas. No one can steal Christ's love away from you. This is an important message for children at this time of year when the prospect of getting good gifts might lead to attitudes of greed and feelings of entitlement. Some good questions to ask might be: Why do you think the Whos sang when they woke up and saw that all of their stuff had been stolen? How do you think you might react if you woke up on Christmas morning and there were no presents? Why would you react that way? Do you think there might be people in the world who don't get presents at Christmas? What might we, as a family, be able to do to help those people? Some good scriptures to read might be: Matt. 6:19-21, 1 John 3:17, 1 Timothy 6:6-10.

A Christmas Carol

This story has been told and retold an almost countless number of times and in a countless number of ways. Mickey Mouse, the Muppets, Mr. Magoo and the Looney Toons all have their own version of this Dickens classic and the chances are good that you will watch some version of this tale together as a family before Christmas is over. The Christian theme in this story is the theme of redemption. Ebenezer Scrooge starts off as a cheapskate skinflint who is meaner than a hornet but by the story's end he has changed into a loving, gracious man. This speaks to the truth that none of us are beyond redemption and that there is nothing we can do in life which can't be forgiven. Some good questions to ask might be: Have you ever known someone who has changed into a better person like Scrooge? Who and how? In the show, three ghosts work to change Scrooge's heart. Who is it that works to change our hearts? What are some ways that Christ has helped you to be a better person? Do you think it is possible to do something unforgivable? Do you think you would be able to forgive Scrooge for acting the way he had? Some good scripture to read might be: Romans 8:38-39, Matthew 18:21-22, 1 John 1:8.

Rudolph the Red Nosed Reindeer

The Christian theme in this program is the theme of acceptance and diversity of gifts. Rudolph is originally cast off because he is different from the other reindeer, but in the end it is this difference which comes to save the day. Some good questions to ask might be: Have you ever been kept out of a group? When? How did it feel? Do you think it is good or bad to be different? Why? What are some ways we can reach out to people we might consider to be different from ourselves? Rudolph's nose turned out to be a real gift from God, what are some gifts that God has given you? Some good scripture to read might be: 1 Corinthians 12:12-30, Romans 15:7, 1 Corinthians 1:10, Galatians 3:28.

*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 Richard Vance
THE VERY BEST
Given by His Loving Family*

*In loving memory of my husband, Mike
Given by Coy Weldon*

*In memory of my dad, Tom Burnam
Given by Coy Weldon*

*In memory of Garnett and Cleone Hagan
Given by Coy Weldon*

*In memory of Thompson and Dorothy Burnam
Given by Coy Weldon*

*In memory of Claude and Garnet Weldon
Given by Coy Weldon*

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

*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*

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

*In memory of Charles Reeves, Paul & Amy Jett, Stephen Jett, Genie & David 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*



The Christmas Eve Marshall-Moretz Dinner will be coming up soon!



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 box 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 should 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

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



Nursery Volunteers

As Advent and Christmas approach, the likelihood of visitors coming to our church for Sunday worship increases. CE is asking for volunteers to help keep our church nursery functioning while we look to fill our nursery position. Volunteers must be over 18 and pass a background check (FPC will cover the cost of the background check). Volunteers are asked to be on call to tend the nursery during Sunday school and worship on Sunday morning (normally 9:45 - 12:00). If you'd like to help in this way, there is a sign up sheet posted outside the new Nursery. If you'd like a little more information, call Joel at 412-926-2581.



*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 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
Given by John and Phyllis Schaffer Gump*

*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*





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 Winfred Campbell
Given by Curtis and Wendy Christian
and the Winfred Campbell Family*

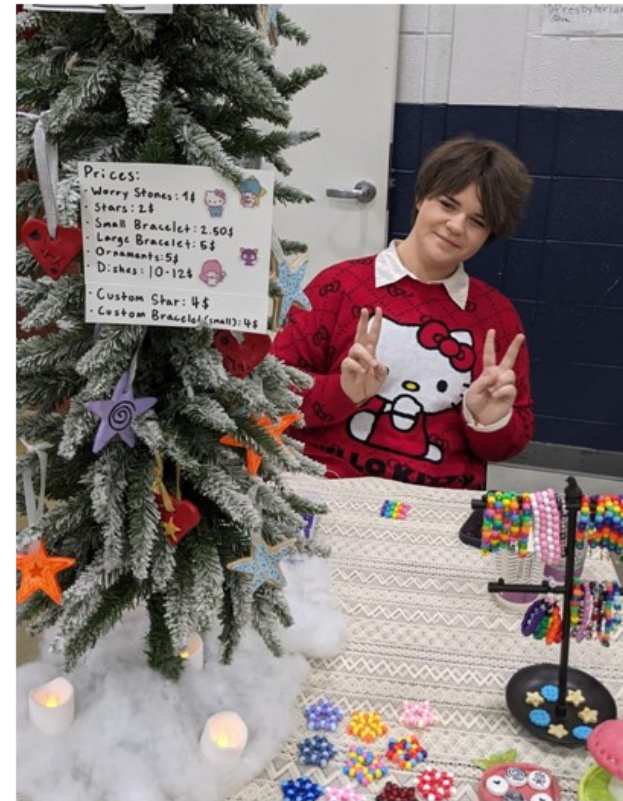
*In memory of Bill Coleman, Marcia Coleman and Richard Underwood
Given by David Coleman, Beth Underwood, Ian Walker,
Alison Underwood, and Lydia Coleman*

*In memory of loved ones
Given by Sandy Connor and family*

YOUTH GROUP!

Craft Fair

A big thank you to all our youth who came out to help assemble sandwiches and serve lunch to folks at this year's craft fair! Your hard work and dedication to helping out did not go unnoticed!



REMEMBER
THE CHILD



Your generous donations of snacks enabled us to fill to overflowing goodie bags for our ten college students.

Also helping with this outreach were Bonnie Gray, Sue Reeves, John Florell and Joel Stanley.

Thanks to everyone! We are blessed to be a blessing.

Marcia Florell



END OF YEAR FINANCES:

- Please return your pledge cards.
- All contributions for 2023 **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 2023 budget **MUST** be received in the office by **January 3, but the earlier the better please!**
- If you would like offering envelopes for 2024, please notify the office. (danamiller@richmondipc.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.

December 3

The candle of Hope will be lit by Randy Gray.

December 10

The candle of Peace will be lit by Tom Long.

December 17

The candle of Joy will be lit by Sarah, Philip, and Arevia Gump.

December 24

The candle of Love will be lit by Joel, Julie, Ava, Eden, Grace, and Sophie Stanley.



Continued from page 12

vegetables to give away to those in need of fresh produce. Many thanks too to the faithful caretakers of the garden over the last months and a special cheer for Jennifer Brubaker and the men from Ethan Health who worked and worked to show those weeds who was really in charge. The garden has now been put to rest for the winter, but we look forward to springtime again when new seeds will be planted and vegetables will sprout forth in the annual renewal from the earth.

7. **Welcome Wednesdays** continue on the last Wednesday of every month and we are thankful to all of the groups who have hosted this meal so far. Many thanks to the Women's groups who provided the yummy pizza in October. On Wednesday, November 29 this meal will be hosted by Joel, Julie, and the youth as they will be cooking delicious soup and homemade bread. Come out and join the food insecure folks in our community as we break this delicious bread together.

8. Be sure to see the information from Linda Adams on page 5! She is once again organizing the **Marshall/Moretz dinner on Christmas Eve**. This is a huge undertaking and Linda will need the help of everyone in our congregation. This is another opportunity to serve our Lord by serving others. Thank you, Linda for your long and faithful service in organizing this event.

WHEW!! I know you are all glad that we are stopping here with our list of events and projects which the Missions Committee is busy organizing. We thank you, the members of our congregation, who make these events happen. You are God's true disciples. And many thanks to Dana, our dedicated Office Manager who works behind the scenes in ways that no one even realizes.



Wise Men and Women Still Seek Him



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 3rd. 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 10 children and eight adults living at New Liberty Place. The children range in age from two months to 10 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 18th**. Please attach the other star ornament to the package so that we can identify who the item is for. Packages may also be delivered to Bonnie Gray's home at 101 Brookview Drive, or Bonnie will arrange for the gifts to be picked up at your home. Just call her at 859-200-3464. If you cannot get out to shop, just call Bonnie and she will arrange for a member of the Missions Committee (like Philip Gump) to do that for you. I know from experience that he is a very good shopper for items for the Giving Tree Project. This is a project for everyone to enjoy as it represents the true giving spirit of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

MISSION.....a body of people sent

1. We are thankful for David Deaton and Jennifer Ward who co-chaired our very successful Arts and Crafts for Missions event held on November 18th. The final total is not available yet but we will have a substantial amount to give to several charities we have traditionally supported. More detailed information will be available in the next Newsletter. We are also thankful for everyone from our congregation who helped with this event and this includes many members of our congregation, as well as our young people and our Boy Scout Troop. Thank you one and all.

2. We have just completed our fourth special offering for the 5 Cents a Meal Program and we are thankful to everyone who gave to these offerings. The total for the November offering was \$1171, and the total for the four offerings together is \$3933. Twenty percent of this total or \$786.60 was given to Grace Now, a food bank in Richmond, and the rest was sent to the Presbyterian Hunger Program. While there are still so many hungry people in Madison County and in our world, we are making an effort to help with this challenge. We did make a difference in the lives of hungry people and we will continue our efforts as we begin our special offerings for 2024.

We selected dates and recipients of the monthly **2024 Special Offerings**:

January	<i>no offering</i>
February 4	5-cents a Meal (first quarter) 20% Grace Now
March 24	One Great Hour of Sharing (Palm Sunday) 100% Presbytery
April 21	Moment for Madison Missions 100% FPC (45% God's Outreach, 45% Ethan Health, 10% Love Fund)
May 19	Pentecost Offering (Pentecost Sunday) (40% New Liberty Family Shelter)
June 9	5-cents a Meal (second quarter) 20% Grace Now
July	<i>no offering</i>
August 11	5-cents a Meal (third quarter) 20% Grace Now
September 8	Buckhorn Children's Center Offering (100% Buckhorn)
October 6	Peace and Global Witness Offering (25% Hope's Wings)
November 17	5-cents a Meal (fourth quarter) 20% Grace Now
December 22	Christmas Joy Offering (Sunday before Christmas) 100% Presbytery

3. We are thankful for the work of Gene Wolf, our liaison with our Boy Scout Troop 406. They have been busy setting up our hospitality tent for recent parades, including the Christmas parade coming up on Friday, December 1st. Many thanks to our Scouts for working with Gene, and to Gene for working with the Scouts. It seems to be a productive relationship.

4. It is time to go shopping for our annual **Giving Tree Program!** Look for information on **page 13!**

5. Please give prayerful consideration for our **Christmas Joy Offering** which will be collected on December 24th. 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 to pursue their education as they prepare to bring their gifts in service to God's world.

6. We are thankful for the compassionate leadership of Jen Deaton as she has harvested many nutritious

Continued on page 13

Spiritual Hikes



MEDITATION FELLOWSHIP HIKE!

**Saturday, December 2
8:30 am**

(weather permitting)

Eagles' Nest (Indian Fort, Berea)

This will be an intergenerational hike. We will hike, read scripture, pray, and afterward eat at a local restaurant. All who wish to participate in the hike are to meet at the Indian Fort Mountain Parking Lot (also known as the Berea College Forestry Outreach Center Parking Lot). Hiking boots or sturdy shoes, and a bottle of water are recommended. ALL ARE WELCOME!!! Invite a Friend!!!



★ Children's ★
Christmas Pageant

**Annual Christmas Pageant
Sunday,
December 17
9:45 am**

**Pageant practice & costume fitting
December 10 Following worship**

Our CE committee will present our annual Christmas Pageant during the Sunday School hour on Dec. 17th.

We will have a pageant practice and costume fitting immediately following worship on Dec. 10 for anyone who wants to participate. Lunch will be provided.



News Brief from Session

- October pledges were down. Thanks to those who have faithfully given throughout the year.
- Scaffolding will be going up around the front and sides of the church to allow workers to repair the masonry and bell tower. Work may take up to 4 months to complete.
- New security system to be installed mid-January. Training sessions on how to use the system will be available.
- Thanks to everyone who helped and donated to make the Arts & Crafts for Missions a success.
- Please consider taking a child's or parent's request from the Giving Tree.
- The church pipes connected to the water heater will be flushed.
- Early next year the new kitchen will be inspected by the health department. We need a kitchen manager and helpers who have food handler certifications to oversee the kitchen. Let property know.
- Annual Congregational meeting set for after church on Sunday, January 21.
- If you would be interested in helping plan for our church's 200th birthday in 2027, let an elder know.

Melody Mitchell, Clerk of Session



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>Christmas Parade 7:00</i>	2 <i>Fellowship Hike 8:30</i>
3 <i>Parent's Day Out noon</i> <i>Choir Cantata during worship</i>	4 <i>Bible Study 10:30 am</i>	5 Tuesday Crew 9-11:00 <i>Mission mtg. 7:00 pm</i>	6 <i>Bible Study 6:30 pm</i>	7	8	9
10 <i>Pageant practice noon</i> <i>Deacon's mtg. noon</i>	11 <i>Bible Study 10:30 am</i>	12 Tuesday Crew 9-11:00 <i>Evening Circle 6:00 at Sue Reeves home</i>	13 <i>Advent Communion 7:00</i>	14 <i>Needle Arts Fellowship 11:30</i>	15 <i>Preschool Christmas Program</i>	16
17 <i>Children's Pageant 9:45 am</i>	18 <i>Bible Study 10:30 am</i>	19 Tuesday Crew 9-11:00 <i>Presbyterian Women 10:30</i> <i>CE mtg. 4:30</i> <i>Session mtg. 7:00</i>	20 <i>Bible Study 6:30 pm</i>	21	22	23
24 Joy Offering <i>Marshall Moretz Dinner 5:00</i> <i>Christmas Eve Service 7:00</i>	25 	26 Office Closed	27 Office Closed <i>Welcome Wednesday 6:00 pm</i>	28	29	30
31	January 1 Office Closed					