

www.richmondipc.com

Curtis Christian
curtischristian@richmondipc.com

Joel Stanley
Joel.christopher.stanley@gmail.com

Dana Miller
danamiller@richmondipc.com

Joyce Wolf
jhwolfsong@gmail.com

Mark Johnson
markjohnson@richmondipc.com

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Download the **Abundant Giving** app on your
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First Presbyterian Church
P O BOX 165
Richmond, KY 40476-0165



WHAT'S IN A NAME?

My Christian Friends, I'm sure most of us are familiar with the passages in the Bible where God appoints humankind to give names to all of the beings of God's creation.

Out of the ground the Lord God formed every animal of the field and every bird of the air and brought them to the human to see what he would call them, and whatever the human called every living creature, that was its name. The human gave names to all cattle and to the birds of the air and to every animal of the field (Genesis 2:19-20a).

In Genesis, we see that God creates the universe by the power of uttering a word. God speaks, and in so doing, God brings order out of chaos, separating light from darkness, dry land from water (Genesis 1:1-2:4a). The book of Genesis affirms that human beings—created in the image of God—are also imbued with this ability to bring order to our chaos through the power of our words. God gave human beings the ability and power to name.

The God-given power to name things is more than a divine gift, it is a divine responsibility. As beings created in the image of God, we have a sacred responsibility to use our words wisely. We must use the divine gift of naming in a moral, appropriate, and thoughtful manner.

All this said, I wonder why we are far too casual in the way we name our churches. Indeed, we Presbyterians seem so unimaginative as we often give our churches numbers rather than names (e.g., First Presbyterian Church, Second, etc.). Giving our church numbers seems more like a worldly boast of status rather than a thoughtful proclamation of what Christ is doing through a particular congregation. Sometimes, we will give our churches geographic names (e.g., Main Street Presbyterian Church, or Springfield Presbyterian Church). While this certainly has the practical function of telling others where the church is, it still lacks witness to the mission and message of Christ through that particular congregation.

Perhaps we should consider bringing order out of worldly chaos by giving our churches biblical or theological names. An example might be "Perseverance Presbyterian Church," witnessing to the **perseverance** of the saints. [Let us run with **perseverance** the race that is set before us (Hebrews 12:1b)]. Perhaps another name might be "Opportunity Presbyterian Church," witnessing to the **opportunity** that Christ has given us to serve. [So then, whenever we have an **opportunity**, let us work for the good of all and especially for those of the family of faith (Galatians 6:10)]. Yet another name might be "Spirit Presbyterian Church," witnessing to our unity with God and one another through the Holy Spirit. [God is **spirit**, and those who worship God must worship in **spirit** and truth (John 4:24)]. Another name that I personally find meaningful is "Pathfinder Presbyterian Church," witnessing to the prophet's call to blaze a trail for the coming of our Lord. [The voice of one crying out in the wilderness: "Prepare the way of the Lord; make his **paths** straight" (Mark 1:3)]

Of course, I do realize that the names I have given as examples just happen to be names that NASA has given to Martian rovers. But what that tells us is that NASA seems to be more responsible and thoughtful about the names that they choose than we Christians are.

My Christian friends, I am not necessarily saying that we should go around changing the names of our long-standing, well-established, beloved churches. But I am challenging us to assume our holy responsibility as the image of God—a sacred responsibility to recognize the awesome and divine power that comes in giving a name to that which God has created. May the names that we give to anyone and anything be a witness to the love and justice of Jesus Christ.

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



Wednesday, February 22
7:00 pm

YOUTH GROUP!

Prayer Breakfast

Our youth group continues to meet at Purdy's at 6:45 in the morning for a time of fellowship, scripture and prayer. This is open to any and all middle or high school youth who want to attend. Transportation can be arranged if it's needed.



Spring and Summer Semester Save the Dates!

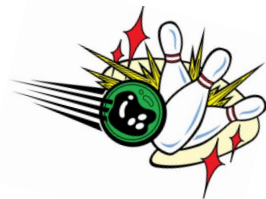
3/26/23 - Bowling

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



Dear Church Family,

Thank you all so much for all the care, support, prayers and love you've given us during my recent hospital stay and that you continue to give us as I go through the recovery process. I really am feeling a lot better and, despite some lingering issues with my voice, believe I am well on the way to being fully recovered. The overwhelming support from our congregation, as we dealt with my illness coupled with all the extra demands of the Christmas season, was truly a real life example of what Christ's love is like. We couldn't have gotten through it all without your support and generosity. Thanks so very much.

*Love,
Joel, Julie and the girls*



- 1 Cletis Noffsinger
- 4 Jeanie Crump
- 5 Thomas J. Smith
- 7 Becky Elam
- Howard Logue
- 8 John Lamb
- 9 Debbie Barkley
- Joseph Shackelford
- 11 David Losson
- 15 David Reimold
- 18 Lorilyn Howie-Kipphut
- 19 Peggy Napier
- 20 Dan Florell
- 22 Caroline Crump
- Davis Crump
- 29 Jennifer Brubaker



**BLESSINGS
ON YOUR
BIRTHDAY**

- 2 Paula Guerra
- 4 Steven Gump
- 7 Grace Stanley
- 13 Kathy Shew
- 14 Trae Carr
- 19 Sophie Stanley
- Randy Shew
- 20 Stephen Guerra
- 23 Lucas Glass
- 31 Mike Weldon

YOUR SESSION!



- Financial Review for 2021 completed by Sam Waninger CPA shows accurate accounting.
- WLL will financially support Ermine, our coordinator in Honduras with supplies for water installations.
- \$400 was sent from Missions from the Crisis Emergency Fund to purchase 2 heaters for flood victims in Eastern Kentucky.
- Old church bus has been transferred to Madison Home, Inc to transport the homeless.
- Manager needed to do updates on the church's website.



Rebecca Esther Circle

Tuesday, February 21
10:30 a.m.
in the parlor



Dear Church Family,

I want to thank you so much for the cards, calls, gift cards, and concern following my surgery. I'm still slow, but working hard in therapy. I appreciate all of you!

Fondly,
Kay Patrick

Evening Women's Circle

Tuesday, February 14
6:30 pm
In the Church Parlor

We will discuss Silas House's new book *Lark Ascending*.

Welcome,
New Members

Welcome Rob and Arleita Dirne
to First Pres!

A huge thank you to our wonderful church family for such a lovely send-off in December. We miss you all, even as we continue to settle into life in Virginia. We are thankful for your generosity, prayers and support in this transition. Looking forward to seeing you all again soon.

Love and prayers,
Brett, Courtney & Piper Lawrenz

Our new address:
214 Sexton Rd.
Jonesville, VA 24263



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN YOUTH PRESENT

SOUPERBOWL OF CARING



FEBRUARY 12TH

FOLLOWING WORSHIP
IN THE CHRISTIAN LIFE CENTER

SOUP LUNCHEON TO BENEFIT THE HUNGRY
VARIETY OF SOUPS, DESSERT AND HOMEMADE
BREAD TO BE SERVED
\$7 SUGGESTED DONATION

SUMMARY THOUGHTS ON THE 2022 GIVING TREE PROJECT AT THE NEW LIBERTY FAMILY SHELTER

Since this Giving Tree Project is really a project of our entire congregation, we thought you might want to know a few of the details of those we served. As usual, there are six families in residence at this shelter at any one time. The composition of these families is as follows:

- FAMILY #1: ornament color purple
Mother, Father, one child, a boy, age 10 months
- FAMILY #2: ornament color pink
Mother, one child, a girl, age 11 months
- FAMILY #3: ornament color yellow
Mother, Father, one child, a girl, age 12 months;
- FAMILY #4: ornament color blue
Mother, Father, one child, a boy, age 6 months;
- FAMILY #5: ornament color red
Mother, two boys, ages 14 and 16;
- FAMILY #6: ornament color green
Mother, Father, four children, boys ages 13 and 2; girls ages 7 and 5;

We served a total of 18 individuals with a variety of gifts. Of course, the four babies and the toddler needed diapers and wipes, warm clothes, and age appropriate learning toys and books. The three teenage boys needed pants, shirts, and shoes for school, hygiene items and cologne (probably a want). Their wants were for craftsman tools, headphones, wallet, art set, legos, board games, and a deck of cards. Likewise the two little girls needed warm clothes, and books and learning activities for their age. Their wants were for baby dolls and accessories, a kid's table and chair set, and hair accessories. Our one toddler boy wanted jumbo building blocks, play balls, and a riding toy. The parents also needed warm clothes, shoes, socks, robes and pjs, slippers and hygiene items. However, the mothers mostly asked for household items like silverware, cooking sets, dishes, bowls, toasters, and bath towels and wash clothes. Their wants included hygiene items, wallets and watches for the men, and hair brushes and accessories for the women.

Special gifts for every adult and child included hand sewn pillow cases with appropriate themes, and hand made full sized blankets for the beds of the children. These items were very special and made with lots of love and care by our women's sewing group. Thanks be to God for giving us the opportunity and resources to provide for these families.

A BIG THANK YOU to all members of our congregation for your enthusiastic participation in this important community project.

From the Missions Committee:
Beth Underwood and Bonnie Gray, Co-chairs



November 2022 Love Fund Summary

<u>Category</u>	<u># of families served</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Utilities	14	\$1,541.18
Rent	12	\$1,825
Hotel	4	\$540
Save A Lot bill (food vouchers)	20	\$672.36
Gas	5	\$125
Insurance	1	\$112.04
Spectrum	1	\$150
S & S Tire	1	\$150
Love Cupboard	7	
Total		\$5115.58

**32 Unique Families served
(includes 21 children)**

December 2022 Love Fund Summary

<u>Category</u>	<u># of families served</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Utilities	14	\$1,367.89
Rent	14	\$2,432
Hotel	4	\$715
Save A Lot bill (food vouchers)	21	\$798.29
Gas	8	\$200
Phone bill	1	\$100
USPS (stamps)		\$120
Family Dollar for Love Cupboard		\$170.25
Love Cupboard	11	
Total		\$5,903.43

**37 Unique Families served
(includes 28 children)**

For last month’s newsletter, I wrote the first in what will be a series of articles on the spiritual disciplines. Last month we looked at the discipline of solitude and this month we will spend some time looking into the discipline of silence. It’s appropriate that we move from solitude to silence as these two disciplines are closely related.

Indeed you might even go so far as to say that silence is contingent on solitude, but I’m not certain that is entirely true. Funerals are an example of this. For example, when my Grandfather passed away and our family had the opportunity to travel to Pennsylvania to be with loved ones and mourn his passing. This wasn’t really a time of solitude, as we were surrounded by family and friends, but more often than not it was a time of silence. As we sat together waiting for the service to start we were silent. As we left the church to drive to the grave side we were silent. At the viewing and during the service itself there were extended periods of silence. The same was true of Martha’s funeral and most funerals I’ve been a part of. Grief and mourning tend to invite the discipline of silence. This is because silence allows us to reflect. This is because silence gives us time to look to God for answers to tough questions. This is because silence slows us down and gives us the opportunity to listen to what God might be trying to say to us.


In Psalm 46:10, the psalmist tells us to “be still and know that I am God”. This spiritual stillness is the goal of the discipline of silence. It is the delicate act of making yourself receptive to the “still small voice” of God. It is the discernment of what is your own random, noisy, chaotic thinking and what is the voice of God guiding you, comforting you, nudging you. It is a silence that goes beyond just being quiet to incorporating a calmness or serenity and doing this correctly takes a lot of practice as well as a lot of patience.

I have to admit that the discipline of silence is one of the more difficult disciplines for me (and not just because I have 4 children at home). When I try to spend time listening to God, my mind races and I get distracted. It is hard for me to stay focused. I lose my stillness in the tumult of all the things I have to do and all the worries I might have. I don’t use my silence as a time to listen to God so much as I use it as a time to try to solve my own problems. But on those rare occasions when I do get it right and I can make out what God has to say over the din of my own thoughts it is an exciting experience. So I would encourage you to find time this month for silence. I would encourage you to exercise your ability to be still and I would encourage you to know God better through listening to the things that God might have to say.

In the month of February the preschool will be learning about:

Numbers
Feelings
Pets

We will have our Valentine parties the 13th and 14th!
School will be closed the 16th.
Evaluations will be done this month also.



Lenten Lunch
Tuesdays, February 28-March 28
Noon



If you would like to help by preparing soup, dessert,
or by setting or cleaning up,
please contact David Deaton 859.200.4099 or banjosamples@gmail.com.



BEING REFORMED:
Faith Seeking Understanding

- 28 FEB** **The Great Ends of the Church**
- 07 MAR** **Reading the Bible for Understanding**
- 14 MAR** **Who Is God?: The Nicene and Apostles' Creed**
- 21 MAR** **The Lord's Prayer**
- 28 MAR** **Following Jesus Today: The Costly Commitment to Love**

A Year of Giving

2022 was a busy year of giving by you, the congregation and community of First Presbyterian Church. We, the missions committee, come to you almost every month with a request for a *special offering* – that is – an offering over and above your normal pledge giving. These offerings serve the needs of individuals and groups near and far and along with our budgeted missions projects represent our commitment to be Christ in the world.

Here is what you gave through Special Offerings in 2022:

- 5 Cents a Meal (Cents-ability)** – \$2,895.28 to address issues of food insecurity (\$579.06 to Grace Now and \$2,316.22 to Presbytery).
 - Madison Missions** - \$3,065 split between Hope’s Wings, Madison Home, and the Love Fund.
 - One Great Hour of Sharing** - \$2,320 to address disaster, hunger, and oppression through Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, Presbyterian Hunger Program, and Self-Development of People.
 - Pentecost** - \$1,010 to nurture the faith of the church to come - (\$404 locally to New Liberty Family Shelter, and \$606 through Presbytery for youth programs such as Triennium).
 - Buckhorn Children’s Home** - \$5,055.
 - Peacemaking Offering** - \$445.00 - (\$111.25 to Kentucky Council of Churches, and \$333.75 to broader initiatives distributed through Presbytery).
- And the **Joy Offering** – \$3,304 – which addresses the support needed by some of our leaders and church workers, including supporting leadership development for communities of color.

In addition, in 2022 we received a total of \$5, 945 to help those suffering from tornados and flooding in our commonwealth.

This comes to a total of \$24,039.28 – all in addition to what we at First Presbyterian Church do locally and throughout the world within our normal budget and your regular giving. And, of course, there is more: You gave through Arts and Crafts for Missions, Welcome Wednesdays, the Marshall-Moretz dinner, the Giving Tree, and sheltering the homeless. Truly, you are the hands and feet of Christ, and your giving is evidence of that. Thank you.

From the Missions Committee: Beth Underwood and Bonnie Gray, Co-chairs

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February 2023

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 Bible Study 6:30 pm	2	3	4
5 Sunday School 9:45 am Worship 11:00 am 5 Cents Per Meal Offering Scout Sunday 	6 Bible Study 10:30 am	7 Tuesday Crew 9-12 Mission mtg. 7:00	8 Bible Study 6:30 pm	9 Needle Arts Fellowship 11:30-1:30	10	11 Youth cooking soup
12 Sunday School 9:45 am Worship 11:00 am Souper Bowl of Caring	13 Bible Study 10:30 am	14 Tuesday Crew 9-12 Evening Circle 6:30 pm  Valentine's Day	15 Church wide Potluck 6:00 pm	16	17	18
19 Sunday School 9:45 am Worship 11:00 am 	20 Office Closed  President's Day	21 Tuesday Crew 9-12 Presbyterian Women 10:30 am Preschool/CE mtg. 4:30 Budget/finance mtg. 7:00	22 Welcome Wednesday 6:00 pm  Ash Wednesday Service 7:00 p.m.	23	24	25
26 Sunday School 9:45 am Worship 11:00 am	27 Bible Study 10:30 am	28 Tuesday Crew 9-12 Session mtg. 7:00 Lenten Lunch noon		