



MEDITATIONS ON THE APOSTLES' CREED
I BELIEVE IN GOD'S ONLY SON

“His only Son”—in the Latin, “*Filium Eius unicum.*” But what is the antecedent of the possessive pronoun “*eius*” (his)? Whose only Son is Jesus the Christ?

The Apostles’ Creed affirms our belief in God “and” in Jesus the Christ who is the only Son of God the Father. At least in human terms, a father is one who begets daughters and sons, so, it intuitively follows that Jesus is the Son of the Father. Admittedly, it seems incomprehensible that God could beget a Son in the way human fathers do. Indeed, the word “begotten” does not occur in the Apostles’ Creed. It does, however, occur in the creed’s ecumenical cousin, the Nicene Creed; where the Greek verb γεννάω (gennáō, “to beget, to give birth to”) appears twice. Of Jesus Christ, the Nicene Creed affirms that he is “*begotten* of the Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, true God of true God, *begotten*, not made; of the same Being with the Father.”

Here, the Nicene Creed is not making a biological statement, but a theological one. It is not asserting that the Son is a creation who would otherwise be subordinate to the Creator. Rather, the Nicene Creed chooses the biblical word “begotten” (γεννάω) to affirm that the Son as a co-eternal, co-equal being with God the Father.

When the New Testament was formally translated into English in 1611, the translators were predisposed to the theological orthodoxies of the church, including statements of faith proclaiming that Jesus is the Father’s begotten. They were so inclined to witness to Jesus’ relationship with God the Father that they were prone to find the word γεννάω (“to beget”) in places where it was not. Indeed, those who produced the King James Version of the Bible translated the Greek word μονογενής (*monogenés*) as “only begotten.” “For God so loved the world, that he gave his *only begotten* Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life” (John 3:16; KJV).

It is perhaps understandable why the King James Version chose to render μονογενής as “only begotten.” The translators assumed that this Greek word was a combination of two roots: μόνος (*mónos*), meaning “only;” and γεννάω, “to beget.” However, μονογενής is actually a compound of μόνος and γένος (*génos*), meaning “kind.” Thus, John 3:16 (and other New Testament verses that use this word) is not specifically saying that Jesus is God’s “only begotten,” but that more precisely he is God’s “one-of-a-kind” Son.

This New Testament assertion that Jesus is the “one-of-a-kind” Son of God is affirmed in the Apostles’ Creed with the Latin adjective *unicus*. Although commonly translated into English as “only,” its more specific meaning is “unique” (a word which itself originates from *unicus*). Hence, the creed is clearly identifying Jesus the Christ as God’s unique, one-of-a-kind Son.

But, what is it that makes Jesus’ sonship so unique? What sets his sonship apart from the rest of us who are children of God? Of course, we saw in chapter three that Jesus’ kinship to God is unique in that he is the begotten Son, whereas our kinship is through adoption. But Jesus’ uniqueness extends beyond a mere sharing of the same Being with God the Father.

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



Sunday,
February 11, 2024



Communion



BOY SCOUT SUNDAY

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	2026
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
Rhonda Orttenburger	2026

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Perhaps the book of Hebrews best summarizes how Christ is that one-of-a kind Son through whom God uniquely interacts with us.

Long ago God spoke to our ancestors in many and various ways by the prophets, but in these last days he has spoken to us by a Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, through whom he also created the worlds. He is the reflection of God's glory and the exact imprint of God's very being, and he sustains all things by his powerful word. When he had made purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high, having become as much superior to angels as the name he has inherited is more excellent than theirs. (Hebrews 1:1-4)

Hebrews highlights the one-of-a-kind nature of Christ the Son by describing him as “the reflection of God’s glory and the exact imprint of God’s very being.” Accordingly, Jesus is not a mere replica of divine glory; he is not just a facsimile of God’s resplendence. Rather, the very being of God is tangibly heard and seen uniquely in Jesus Christ, the Word made flesh (John 1:14). This incarnate Word reveals the immediate and unadulterated nature of God. Paradoxically, part of that divine nature revealed by Christ just so happens to be God’s very own humanity—a humanity which loves neighbors as self—a humanity of compassion for others—a humanity of sacrifice—the humanity of Jesus Christ. For, Christ was not just truly human; he is true humanity; he is the pure embodiment of what God created humanity to be.

Christ is humanity in a way that the rest of us human beings are not—broken and sinful as we are. Even though we had been created originally in the “image of God” (Genesis 1:27), we have willfully and rebelliously recreated ourselves in our own self-righteous image. We have so woefully tainted and tarnished the image of God within us that our humanity reflects God’s glory only faintly. The imprint of God’s very being upon us is worn so smooth as to be barely visible, if at all. This is why the author of Hebrews makes the assertion that Christ the Son, and none other, is in the unique position to make “purification for sins.” Christ alone is the true humanity that we were meant to be, that we ought to be. He is our true humanity in our stead. Among all of God’s children, Jesus Christ is unique in that he alone can reveal humanity as part of God’s nature and restore humanity as our original nature.

Among all other sons and daughters of God, whether they be mortals or angels, the only one—the only son—who is able to mend creation’s brokenness and restore it to a rightful relationship to its Creator is Jesus Christ. This is why the author of Hebrews acknowledges that Christ now holds the unique honor and responsibility of sitting “at the right hand of the Majesty on high.” And this is why the Apostles’ Creed affirms our faith in the one who inherited a name more excellent than that of any angel. And that name is “God’s only Son.”

For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life. (John 3:16)



**FEBRUARY 3 Meditation Fellowship Hike
Brushy Fork/Welch Mountain Trail (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 Brushy Fork Parking Area in Berea (driving directions to come later). Hiking boots or sturdy shoes, and a bottle of water are recommended. ALL ARE WELCOME!!! Invite a Friend!!! (9:00 am, weather permitting).

MARCH

Natural Bridge State Park (Powell County)

APRIL

Anglin Falls (Rockcastle County)

MAY

Cumberland Falls State Park (McCreary County)



- 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
- 19 Peggy Napier
- 20 Dan Florell
- 22 Caroline Crump
- Davis Crump
- 29 Jennifer Brubaker



**BLESSINGS
ON YOUR
BIRTHDAY**



**LENTEN LUNCH
Each Thursday
Feb. 15-21 noon**

David Coleman will be speaking on the Historical, Political, and Religious Dimensions of the Palestinian-Israeli Conflict, 1880s—Present.

- 2 Paula Guerra
- 4 Steven Gump
- 7 Grace Stanley
- 13 Kathy Shew
- 19 Sophie Stanley
- Randy Shew
- 20 Stephen Guerra
- 23 Lucas Glass

Did you know ? . . . that if you are a woman and a member of the Presbyterian Church you are a part of **Presbyterian Women?**

The members of the Women's Circle would like to invite all women of the church to our annual Transylvania Presbyterian Women's Spring Gathering on **Saturday, April 13 at 10:00 AM** at First Presbyterian Church Richmond. We are extremely excited to have our own local, energetic Jim Embry to speak about "Food Insecurity". Jim has worked with many organizations to redistribute fresh fruits and vegetables and grow food to help families throughout our area.

Please contact Becky or Melody if you are interested in attending, worshipping, and sharing a lunch with women from across our Presbytery. Men, you are also welcome!

Elizabeth Cluster leaders,
Becky Elam and Melody Mitchell

Upcoming events for the Preschool in February—**Valentine Parties** will be February 13th and 14th! If you would like to donate Valentine cards or candy we would greatly appreciate the help.

Closed February 19th—President's Day

In February we will be learning about:

God's Love
Feelings
Pets



Salvation Army Women's Auxiliary Tea

The Women's Auxiliary of the Salvation Army invites you to attend **"A Fairytale Tea"** on Saturday, April 20 at First Presbyterian Church at 2:00 pm. We are excited to once again have the Madison Central Choir under the direction of Lisa Jury for our entertainment. The choir will be performing excerpts from their spring performance of "Cinderella". You will have an opportunity to peruse the silent auction items, enjoy tea and appetizers, and be entertained by local talent. Don't forget to wear your hat or tiara!

Tickets will be available sometime in March. Contact Lynn Shearon or Melody Mitchell for more information.

Salvation Army
Women's Auxiliary



Evening Women's Circle

The Women's Evening Circle will not meet in February. We return in March for a Women's Evening Circle book club night:

Tuesday, March 12th 6:30 pm in the church parlor.

Book: **The Dollmaker** by Harriette Arnow

Sue Reeves will lead the discussion.

Cindy Harter will bring refreshments.

Rebecca Esther Circle

Tuesday, February 20

10:30 a.m.

in the parlor

David and I want to thank you for your support and kindness during the difficult time of losing Taylor. The food, cards and visits were most appreciated and your prayers were felt. We are grateful for such a loving and caring church family.

*With love and gratitude,
Karen & David Losson*



December 2023 Love Fund Summary

<i>Category</i>	<i># of families served</i>	<i>Amount</i>
<i>Utilities</i>	<i>31</i>	<i>\$3,479.62</i>
<i>Rent</i>	<i>18</i>	<i>\$2,850</i>
<i>Hotel</i>	<i>5</i>	<i>\$640</i>
<i>Save A Lot bill (food vouchers)</i>	<i>44</i>	<i>\$1,337.55</i>
<i>Gas</i>	<i>29</i>	<i>\$725</i>
<i>Storage</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>\$105</i>
<i>USPS/stamps</i>		<i>\$198</i>
<i>Love Cupboard Pantry assisted</i>	<i>11</i>	
<i>Total</i>		<i>\$9,335.17</i>

66 Unique Families served (includes 60 children)



News Brief from Session

- Administration reports that we ended 2023 financially in the black.
- Installation of the new security system in progress. Training on how to use it will be provided.
- Scaffolding is being erected for bell tower repair.
- Souper Bowl of Caring scheduled for Sunday, February 11.
- Square Dance is being rescheduled.
- Dana and Kent are relining the gym for pickle ball courts. Come join the fun!
- Lenten Lunches scheduled for Thursdays from February 15 - March 14. If you are interested in helping prepare the meals, please contact David Deaton or the church office.
- Scout Sunday planned for Sunday, February 11. Let's support our Boy and Cub Scouts.
- 2nd Town hall planned for after church Sunday, May 19, to celebrate our successes and share ideas.
- Worship Committee to work on plans for evangelistic outreach. Interested? Contact Lucie Nelson.
- Remember to let a session member know if you are interested in helping plan for celebrating the "200th Birthday" of Richmond FPC in 2027.

Melody Mitchell
Clerk of Session



Christmas at FPC!!

It was a busy and fulfilling Christmas season for our church! Here are some pictures from everything we did this Christmas from Parent's Day Out to the Christmas parade to our Christmas Pageant to The Marshall Moretz Dinner to our candlelight service. Thanks to everyone who made this Christmas season such a memorable one for our church family!



Teaching With Soul
By Joel

Somehow Facebook has decided that I enjoy watching videos of people doing home improvements incorrectly. The people making these videos call them hacks, but, if you spend any time thinking about them critically, more often than not, they are really just horrible ways to DIY things. I don't know how this has happened. I'm not a DIY kind of guy. It's likely because I always end up watching these things to the end when they show up on my feed and Facebook interprets that as me liking that kind of video, but I am usually watching with a healthy dose of disbelief and skepticism and straight up morbid curiosity. I don't watch them because I like them, I watch them because they drive me crazy.

So I find myself in a position where I can't scroll through my feed without seeing some misguided person demonstrating how to use a stack of old pizza boxes to repair a hole in drywall, or some other person fixing a dent in their car with several layers of tinfoil and a spot welder. Usually they make it so the finished product looks just fine, but there's no way these fixes are gonna hold up. Pizza box drywall will surely attract ants and smell after a while. Tinfoil car repair won't stand up to the first time it rains. They fix nothing in these videos and, I'd argue, they're actually just making things worse.

In the fourth chapter of Luke, we get the story of Christ's temptation. Christ is wandering in the wilderness when Satan approaches him. Satan tempts Christ with food, power and recognition. Christ doesn't give in to the temptation and Satan leaves, vowing to return.

The interesting part about this scripture to me, is that Satan tempts Christ with good things. Satan offers Christ solutions to very real problems he was facing. Christ was hungry so Satan offered him a way to get food. Christ was worried about the fate of humanity so Satan offered him the power to do something about it immediately. Christ wanted people to hear his message of love, so Satan offered him a way to be noticed. Satan was fixing problems for Christ, but he wasn't fixing them in the right way. He was offering up tinfoil and pizza boxes to problems that needed to be fixed legitimately. He was offering solutions that wouldn't hold up.

Lent begins this month. It's a time for self reflection and repentance. It's a time to be cognizant of what tempts us. It's a time to notice that we likely haven't been fixing things in our lives in the right way. Maybe we've been trying to fix our loneliness with food or trying to fix our sorrow with alcohol or trying to fix our fear with hatred. Or maybe it's one of a myriad of other temptations we've fallen into. Whatever temptation we find ourselves struggling with, the quick fixes available to us won't be any kind of real solution to the problem. It's time to follow Christ's example and start fixing things in the right way by quenching our temptations with the authentic love offered to us through Christ and by passing that love onto others. This is the heart of the Lenten journey. It's a fix that will surely last.

MISSION.....a body of people sent

One of the most obvious goals of the programs and events sponsored by our Missions Committee is to help people to have access to the basic needs of life: food, water, shelter, and clothing. Members of the Missions Committee appear on the pulpit often during church to promote special offerings to raise money to help people to meet these needs. Did you ever wonder how much money we collected for the special offerings we promote almost every month? And after we collect it, what do we do with it? The Missions Committee is committed to doing a better job of providing the members of our congregation with the answers to these questions. Let's start with the matter of the Special Offerings which we promote during 10 months of the year. No special offering is taken up in January or July. Here is the schedule of the 10 special offerings for 2023 and the schedule for 2024 is very similar. Four of these offerings are the ones recommended by the Presbyterian Church USA (noted by an * below) and six are ones our church has added. Our congregation gave to these offerings as follows:

Feb., June, August, and Nov.: these are the 5 Cents per Meal offerings which totaled \$4033; they count as four of the six added by the church. 20% of this total was given to Grace Now, a food bank here in Richmond and the other 80% was sent to the Presbyterian Hunger Program.

March: Moment for Madison Missions: \$2650 was collected and this money stayed in Madison County. 45% was distributed to Madison Home; 45% to Hope's Wings; 10% to our Love Fund. Last year the Love Fund had a budget of \$84,000 provided by the Telford Foundation and by memorial donations from individuals. Hope's Wings is the Domestic Violence Shelter here in Richmond. Madison Home is now providing a shelter for the homeless during the winter months.

April: One Great Hour of Sharing*: \$3094.33 all of which goes to our Presbytery to distribute for disaster assistance and the hunger program. They congratulated us on the fact that our church submitted more money than any other in our Presbytery.

May: Pentecost*: 1380; 40% went to the New Liberty Family Shelter in Richmond; 60% went to PCUSA in support of youth organizations.

Sept.: Buckhorn Children's Home: \$3043; Buckhorn is still rebuilding after the flooding in July 2022. Our church has a long history of support for the Buckhorn ministry.

Oct.: Peace and Global Witness*: \$1575; 75% went to PCUSA to work on peacemaking and justice initiatives; 25% went to Hope's Wings.

Dec.: Christmas Joy Offering: \$3094 went to PCUSA to support past and present leaders of our denomination and to support young people to further their education at Presbyterian related colleges and schools.

GRAND TOTAL OF THESE 10 SPECIAL OFFERINGS WAS: \$18,325.33.

Many thanks to our generous congregation for its support of these important causes.

Photo Scavenger Hunt!

Congratulations to the Gump family who won this year's Christmas Photo Scavenger hunt! They have bragging rights for the year until next Christmas' competition!



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN YOUTH PRESENT

SOUPERBOWL OF CARING



FEBRUARY 11TH

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



2024

Summer Camps

CAMP RISE UP



www.burnamwood.net

COUNSELOR-IN-TRAINING

June 7 - 9, 2024
Cost: \$250 / Early Bird: \$230
(register by May 1)

3RD - 5TH GRADE WEEK

June 10-12, 2024
Cost: \$250 / Early Bird: \$230
(register by May 1)

MIDDLE SCHOOL CAMP

June 13-15, 2024
Cost: \$250 / Early Bird: \$230
(register by May 1)

HIGH SCHOOL CAMP

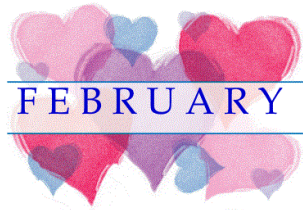
June 17-22, 2024
Cost: \$400 / Early Bird: \$380
(register by May 1)

WE NEED COUNSELORS!

Rising High School Seniors and Enrolled College Students are invited to apply to Camp Counselors for 3rd-5th Grade. Enrolled College Students are invited to apply to be Camp Counselors for Middle and High School Camp.

APPLY TODAY joel.christopher.stanley@gmail.com





2024

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	3
4 <i>5 Cents Per Meal Offering</i>	5 <i>Bible Study 10:30 am</i>	6 <i>Tuesday Crew 9-11</i>	7 <i>Bible Study 6:30 pm</i>	8 <i>Needle Arts Fellowship 11:30</i>	9	10
11 <i>Communion</i> <i>Transfiguration Sunday</i> <i>Boy Scout Sunday</i> <i>Souper Bowl Sunday</i> <i>Deacon mtg.</i>	12 <i>Bible Study 10:30 am</i>	13 <i>Tuesday Crew 9-11</i>	14 <i>7:00 pm</i>  <i>Ash Wednesday Service</i>	15 <i>Lenten Lunch noon</i>	16	17
18	19 <i>President's Day</i> <i>Office Closed</i>	20 <i>Tuesday Crew 9-11</i> <i>Presbyterian Women 10:30 am</i>	21 <i>Bible Study 6:30 pm</i>	22 <i>Lenten Lunch noon</i>	23	24
25	26 <i>Bible Study 10:30 am</i>	27 <i>Tuesday Crew 9-11</i> <i>Session mtg. 7:00</i>	28 <i>Welcome Wednesday 6:00</i>	29 <i>Lenten Lunch noon</i>		