



THOUGHTS ON MEMORIAL DAY

On Memorial Day, we remember those who have made the ultimate sacrifice for the very lives we live this day; we remember how they have followed in the footsteps of Christ’s own sacrificial grace. May their sacrifice inspire us to hold our servicewomen and men in our prayers. May God enfold them in His sheltering grace and providential care as they stand in the gap for our protection. May the members of our armed forces be supplied with courage to face each day, and may they trust in God’s providence to accomplish each task. May our military brothers and sisters serve in the confidence of our love and support.

We pause on Memorial Day to remember our fallen troops, to mourn their loss, and to pray for their loved ones. Although the strength of our souls is diminished at their absence, we find a measure of solace in knowing that their legacy lives on in the families that our heroes left behind—the proud parents who instilled in their sons and daughters the values that led them to serve; the remarkable spouses who gave the nation the person they cherished most in the world; and the peerless children who will grow up with the knowledge that their mother or father embodied the true meaning of sacrificial love. To those who did not come home, we owe a profound debt that can never be fully repaid. But we can honor the fallen by caring for their loved ones and by keeping faith with our veterans and their fellow brothers and sisters in service. Let us pray that God will make us a nation worthy of their sacrifice. May we be a nation of justice; may we be a nation of compassion. May we never be a nation that dominates others, but graciously witnesses to truth, justice, and the love of God for all.

Jesus said, “No one has greater love than this, to lay down one’s life for one’s friends” (John 15:13). This is the reason we observe Memorial Day, to give tribute, respect, remembrance, and honor to the gallant men and women of our armed forces who laid down their lives for us and others who called upon their help. May their selfless service teach us the true meaning of love—that there is no love without compassion, and there is no compassion without sacrifice. May God bless their very souls and protect those who now stand in harm’s way.

Most especially, let us pray that God will hasten the day, when we can proclaim each and every one of our brave fallen heroes as a faithful step to the day when we shall beat our swords into plowshares, when we will learn war no more; when God’s peace shall reign on earth as in heaven; and we can love our enemies as Christ has commanded.

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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



ELDERS CLASS OF

Table with 2 columns: Name and Class of. Includes 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

Table with 2 columns: Name and Class of. Includes Chris Campbell (2023), Marti Exline (2023), Jill Hissom (2023), Linda Adams (2024), Donna Cox (2024), Lynn Shearon (2024), Sue Reeves (2025), Julie Stanley (2025), Gene Wolf (2025).

## News Brief from Session

- April pledges were up from last year. Stewardship planning is underway for fall.
- Over 65 members participated in the Needs Assessment. Results will be shared with the congregation.
- VBS will be August 6-8 in conjunction with First Christian and White Oak Pond.
- Church Picnic set for Sunday, July 9 at Sue Chenault's.
- Arts and Crafts for Missions planned for Saturday, November 18.
- Church sanctuary/ belltower roof to be replaced and front sidewalk bricks repaired.
- Summer camps at Burnamwood were canceled due to lack of participation.



Clerk of Session, Melody Mitchell



Your CE Committee and Session sends big thanks to our ENTIRE congregation! SO many of you came to our all-congregational needs assessment, participated, and shared your great ideas and vision for the future of our church!! Thank you so much for making this a very successful day! Stay tuned for Dr. Hinds' report, and plans to turn these ideas into actions.

With Deep Appreciation-

Your CE Committee &  
Session Elders

### Church Picnic July 9th at 1:00 pm!!!!

Sue Chenault has graciously offered her farm again for us to gather and enjoy a picnic. The Deacons will be providing burgers and hotdogs on the grill and beverages will be available. We will have games and activities to keep us busy, but this is a chance to rest and visit too!

□

**When:** Sunday, July 9th at 1PM □

**Where:** 880 Duncannon Lane (Farm entrance is directly across from Bu-cee's) □

**What:** Potluck...bring your favorite dish or dessert to pass

□

It will be a great day for fun and fellowship! □



Thank you to Carolyn and Eric Everett for helping out in the office while I was out with Covid. Also thank you to so many of you for the texts, food and cards during that week! I really appreciate this church family!



*Dana*



- 1 Marjorie Noffsinger
- Lucas Brinegar
- 2 Amanda Adams
- 3 Jeri Allison
- 4 Paul Adams
- 7 Morgan Wolf
- 8 Courtney Lawrenz
- Ellen Mitchell
- 9 Jason Smart
- 11 Delores Harder
- Davy Shew
- 12 Judy Young
- Mason Crump
- 13 Nancy Johnson
- Jean Roberts
- Hays Schrader
- 17 Nancy Daniel
- Karen Milanesi
- 18 John Tucker Lamb
- 19 Levi Toutant
- 23 Grace Gutekunst
- 28 Ben Walker
- Marcia Florell
- 29 Lane Orttenger
- Isabelle White
- 30 Eric Calkin



BLESSINGS  
ON YOUR  
BIRTHDAY



- 2 John Roberts
- 7 Dana Miller
- 8 Sandy Dickson
- 9 Kyle Brubaker
- 11 Lydia Coleman
- 12 Lacey Wolf
- 15 David Deaton
- 19 Philip Gump
- 20 Dean Acker
- 24 Kay Patrick
- 25 Brett Lawrenz
- 27 Eric Everett

**Needle, Arts and Crafts Fellowship**

If you enjoy needle work, art activities or crafting, we invite you to join us for lunch and fellowship on Thursday, June 8 at 11:30. New faces are welcome!



Women's Circle's, both day and evening, will not meet this summer. We will start back in September.

- Preschool has ended for the school year
- We had a blast at our End of Year Celebration
- Registration for the 2023/2024 school year is open and you can register on our church website under the Preschool tab
- We will be posting end of June for an Assistant Teacher for our Tuesday/Thursday class



This is going to be the last article in our series of newsletter entries on the spiritual disciplines. I hope that you've enjoyed reading about some of the different types of disciplines available to us as Christians as much as I've enjoyed writing about them and I hope that you've been able to learn a little something through this process as well. The last discipline we'll be covering is the discipline of submission.

The spiritual discipline of submission is really made up of two, equally important components. These two components are submission to others and submission to God. Both of these practices can be difficult endeavors to take on and here is why: It's hard giving up control. For the most part, we value control and independence in our lives. It is a scary thing to hand that control over to another person or even to God, but that is exactly what the discipline of submission challenges us to do. We are to relinquish control, and the reason that we are to relinquish control is that the control we think we have is actually an illusion.

Paul discusses this notion in the book of Romans, and he sums up his thoughts on the matter by saying, "But thanks be to God that, though you used to be slaves to sin, you have come to obey from your heart the pattern of teaching that has now claimed your allegiance. You have been set free from sin and have become slaves to righteousness" (Rom. 6:17-18). Paul does not present us with an option where we are not slaves. There is no scenario in this life where we are in charge of what happens to us. We are always slaves to something. We are always submissive to something. In Paul's thinking, submission is inescapable. We are either submissive to God or we are submissive to sin and when we try to retain control of our own lives it is the latter master that we have chosen because we have decided that we know what is better for our lives than God, Himself.

While this explains why we should submit ourselves to God, why is it important that we also submit to others? After all, God is worthy of our trust while other people are not. Submitting to other people makes us seem weak and vulnerable. Also, people, in general, tend to be just the worst. Wouldn't this kind of submission open us up to being used and taken advantage of? I think that the answers to these questions are yes. Submission does make us vulnerable and submission can lead us to be used and taken advantage of, but that simply means that we need to be careful when practicing submission and not that we should avoid submission altogether. Sometimes it is spiritually important for us to submit to others, though it goes against our very nature to do so.

To illustrate this, I would be willing to wager that behind every church schism there are two factions of people unwilling to practice this discipline. By this way of thinking, the discipline of submission can be defined as the art of valuing the peace and unity of God's church over your own personal point of view. In other words, sometimes there is spiritual health in conceding the point in an argument and not being stubborn about things. Deciding when it is time to do this can be more of an art than a science though. Submission is knowing which hills are worth dying on and which are not and that takes practice..

So how about it, are you in control of your life? Have you chosen your master? Are your plans and opinions set or have you left a little room for flexibility? My prayer for you, in this month, is that you might know the peace that comes with turning your life over to God's control and submitting yourself to others.

## Middle School Montreat

There is still time to sign up to go with our Middle School youth to Montreat this year! Contact Joel to register ASAP if you want to attend.



## Prayer Breakfast

Our prayer breakfast program has come to a close for the school year. Thanks to everyone who woke up VERY early each Tuesday and made this time together as special as it was. The Youth Group will continue to meet together on a weekly basis over the summer but the time and place is yet to be decided and our normal prayer breakfast will start back up again in August with the new school year. Thanks for a GREAT year!



We have successfully installed our vertical gardening, and have planted potatoes, onions, garlic, peppers, tomatoes, cabbage, cucumbers, zucchini, and cantaloupe. Our strawberries have been producing overtime, and our lettuce is showing itself in our front beds. A big thanks to our volunteer crew that came out to the mission garden and worked hard to build, pull up the plastic seed sheathing, and plant. Please stop by to say a prayer over our crops and already producing orchard trees! We are going to help so many people this year!



## YOUTH GROUP!

### *Youth Sunday!*

A big Thank you to everyone who helped put on our annual Youth Sunday this year! The service was phenomenal and all the hard work and dedication that was put into it really came through! Our youth did a FANTASTIC job! The service is up on the Facebook page and the YouTube channel, so if you missed it, it's definitely worth seeking out and watching.





**VBS 2023**  
 First Christian Church  
 First Presbyterian Church  
 White Oak Pond Church  
 present...  
**Quenched! Come & See  
 Jesus & The Woman at the  
 Well- A Marketplace  
 Adventure**

**Where:** 412 W. Main St. @ First  
 Christian Church, Richmond, KY  
**When:** August 6:  
 August 7 & 8:  
**Who:** All ages, intergenerational  
 family groups!

**Register:**  
[www.fccrichmond.com/ubs](http://www.fccrichmond.com/ubs)



April 2023 Love Fund Summary

<i>Category</i>	<i># of families served</i>	<i>Amount</i>
<i>Utilities</i>	24	\$2,813.57
<i>Rent</i>	7	\$1,050
<i>Hotel</i>	5	\$741.95
<i>Save A Lot bill (food vouchers)</i>	15	\$858.95
<i>Gas</i>	10	\$250
<i>Love Cupboard Pantry assisted</i>	9	
<b>Total</b>		\$5,714.47

**36 Unique Families served (includes 23 children)**

**MISSION.....a body of people sent**

***Welcome Wednesday/PotLuck Merger!  
 Last Wednesday evening of each month!  
 6:00 pm***

You spoke and your Missions Committee listened. For the summer months (and maybe even longer) we will have just ONE Wednesday night meal gathering a month and it will include the best of both worlds: your potluck creations/selections and the opportunity to welcome others to sup with us. The LAST Wednesday of the month (June 28th, July 26th, and August 30th) we look forward to gathering for food and fellowship! Bring a dish to share and invite your friends and neighbors.

Bonnie and Beth

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# 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	2	3
4 	5 <i>Bible Study 10:30 am</i>	6 <i>Tuesday Crew 9-11</i> <i>Mission mtg. 7:00</i>	7 <i>Bible Study 6:30</i>	8 <i>Needle Arts Fellowship 11:30</i>	9	10 <i>Mike Weldon Funeral 11:00</i>
11 <i>Deacon's Mtg. noon</i>	12 <i>Bible Study 10:30 am</i>	13 <i>Tuesday Crew 9-11</i> <i>Session mtg. 7:00</i>	14 <i>Bible Study 6:30</i>	15	16	17
18 	19 <i>Office Closed</i>	20 <i>Tuesday Crew 9-11</i> <i>Preschool/CE mtg. 4:30</i>	21 <i>Bible Study cancelled</i>	22	23	24
			<b>CURTIS AND JOEL ON VACATION</b>			
25 <i>5 Cents Per Meal Offering</i>	26 <i>Bible Study cancelled</i>	27 <i>Tuesday Crew 9-11</i>	28 <i>Welcome Wednesday/Potluck</i> <b>6:00</b>	29	30	
		<b>CURTIS ON VACATION ALL WEEK</b>		<b>DANA ON VACATION 29 AND 30TH</b>		