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*Click the **GIVING** button on our church website
OR

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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
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
Donna Cox	2024
Lynn Shearon	2024
Sue Reeves	2025
Julie Stanley	2025
Gene Wolf	2025

THE GREAT ENDS OF THE CHURCH

My Christian Friends, many of you know that First Presbyterian Church of Richmond, Kentucky has a mission statement—a mission statement can be both theologically profound and simple. That mission statement is so simple that even young children could remember it easily, recite it plainly, and understand it clearly. That statement is:

“We exist . . .

not for ourselves, but to love Jesus Christ, and to make Christ’s love known.”

But how many of you are aware that The Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) also has a denominational mission statement? We know this mission statement as the Great Ends of the Church. They are:

The proclamation of the gospel for the salvation of humankind;

There is no room for glib, generalized references to the gospel. This Great End specifies that the gospel of Christ’s life, death, and resurrection is good news about the salvation of humankind. Furthermore, we are challenged to proclaim this gospel, not merely believe it.

The shelter, nurture, and spiritual fellowship of the children of God;

This goes beyond comfortable congregational life to encompass all of God’s children. Some need shelter from the dangers of violence or unemployment, most need nurture in the faith, and all need fellowship in the Spirit beyond Sunday coffee hours.

The maintenance of divine worship;

This takes us beyond debates over worship styles—“traditional” or “contemporary”—to the realization that worship is not about us, but about our praise of the one God—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit—and our obedience to God’s Word.

The preservation of the truth;

This means that we are not at liberty to believe whatever we wish to believe, but the truth about God and ourselves must be taught, believed, lived, and sustained.

The promotion of social righteousness;

This makes clear that engaging God’s justice in both church and society is not an optional feature of Christian faith and life, much less an unwelcome intrusion into “spiritual” religion.

The exhibition of the Kingdom of Heaven to the world.

We are compelled to examine the character of our individual and corporate Christian lives. When the world looks at us, what does it see? Do our lives reflect God’s new Way in the world, or do they simply mirror the way things already are in the world?

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

The Great Ends of the Church offer a needed corrective, a comprehensive check-up that provides us with a faithful way to examine our life together. The interconnectedness of the church's six foundational purposes become evident in an intriguing way when they are paired from the inside out.

The Maintenance of Divine Worship and The Preservation of the Truth.

There is no separation between devotion and integrity, drama and doctrine, beauty and truth. Worship that neglects the truth of the gospel—no matter how engaging, creative, and inspiring it may be—does not maintain the worship of God. Truth without praise and prayer is not truth about God. The Great Ends of the Church display their unity.

The Shelter, Nurture, and Spiritual Fellowship of the Children of God and The Promotion of Social Righteousness.

There should be no tension between the internal life and outward mission of the church. Focus on the inner life of a congregation or denomination without active engagement in the quest for social justice leads to self-seeking introversion, while focus on social action apart from attention to the internal life of the faith community leads to centrifugal exhaustion. The Great Ends of the Church display their unity.

The Proclamation of the Gospel for the Salvation of Humankind and The Exhibition of the Kingdom of Heaven to the World.

Senseless debates about verbal evangelism versus the witness of our lives are put aside when their mutuality becomes evident in the comprehensive design of the Great Ends. Speaking the gospel is oddly abstract without the witness of Christian life; the witness of Christian life without the gospel narrative is vague and ambiguous. Great Ends of the Church display their unity.

The Great Ends also present us with challenging paths toward these purposes:

- EXHIBIT!
- PROMOTE!
- PRESERVE!
- MAINTAIN!
- SHELTER and NURTURE!
- PROCLAIM!

The Great Ends spur us to action. They do not ask us to contemplate the nobility of their aims, but to commit ourselves to move toward their fulfillment.

Salvation Army Women's Auxiliary TEA

The Women's Auxiliary of the Salvation Army would like to invite you back to our annual spring tea "Fruit of the Spirits" Saturday, April 29, 2023 at First Presbyterian Church at 2:00 PM. Our entertainment will be the choral group Les Jongleurs. Wear your spring hat and enjoy browsing the Silent Auction items and gift baskets along with delicious food on a beautiful spring day.

Tickets are \$25.00 and can be purchased from any Auxiliary member or Doris at 859-625-4474.



Melody Mitchell
Auxiliary member



- | | | | |
|----|----------------|----|-----------------------|
| 2 | Paula Guerra | 3 | Austin Adkins |
| 4 | Steven Gump | 4 | Matthew Guerra |
| 7 | Grace Stanley | 7 | Melody Mitchell |
| 13 | Kathy Shew | 11 | Phyllis Deaton |
| 19 | Sophie Stanley | | Ralph Thompson |
| | Randy Shew | 15 | Betsy Ney Shackelford |
| 20 | Stephen Guerra | 19 | Helen Martin |
| 23 | Lucas Glass | 20 | Lindsay Baechtold |
| 31 | Mike Weldon | | Chris Campbell |
| | | 22 | Elliot Ortteneburger |
| | | 24 | Cindy Glass |
| | | 26 | Ainsley Waterbury |
| | | 29 | Serena Florell |
| | | 30 | Donna Cox |

The Marshall Moretz Christmas Eve dinner was a huge success in spite of extremely cold temperatures and snow and ice. We served approximately 90 visitors. A big thank you to our Church Family and Friends for covering all the many jobs which make our Christmas Eve Mission possible.



All of our guests had plenty to eat and all of them received gifts to take home. Thank you to our kitchen crew, servers, and clean up crew. Thank you to those who came in and helped set up tables in the days before the event. Thank you drivers for transportation for guests. The games and appetizers before dinner were enjoyable for our guests thanks to the youth and adult volunteers.

We thank you for all the donations of food, hams and turkeys, drinks, sweet breads and cookies, gifts for the adults, toys for the children, and monetary gifts. Thank you to our anonymous donor for the Cowboy Christmas decorations. We gave away over 100 cowboy hats and bandannas and it made for a very festive and fun evening.

We were able to send carry outs home with extra food for many of our guests. We also were able to donate food to Madison Home that we had left over.

We are so thankful for all those who serve with such love and compassion.

Presbyterian Association of Musicians Music and Worship Conference

This intergenerational conference offers excellent programming for children and adults. Highlights include:

- Choral ensembles
- Instrumental ensembles
- 22 class and 16 topical interest session offerings
- Daily worship
- Hymn festival, organ recital, choral concerts

The conference is held in beautiful Montreat, North Carolina with a choice of two dates: June 18-23 or June 25-30.

Our church is offering financial assistance for participants! For information and reviews of previous conferences, you may contact Sue Reeves @859-779-5111.



Rebecca Esther Circle

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

Evening Women's Circle

Tuesday, March 14
6:30 pm
in the church parlor.

We will continue our book: **I See You: How Love Opens Our Eyes to Invisible People**

We will discuss Chapter 4 How Much is Enough?
Chapter 5 Ignorance Can Be Hurtful

Cindy Harter will provide refreshments.



March 12



Dear First Presbyterian Church,

Madison Home is very grateful for you sharing the proceeds from your Arts and Crafts event. Helping our un-housed friends is truly a community effort and your donation will greatly contribute to the ongoing mission of Madison Home.

Warm regards,
Melissa Slone
Executive Director

What a blessing to arrive home after my hip surgery to cards, texts, emails and wonderful messages of encouragement. Your support and offers of support fill my heart and soul with such appreciation for my wonderful church family.

*Love to you all!
Melody ♪ & Mark Mitchell*





Holy Week Services
First United Methodist Church
April 3—April 7 at noon

EASTER LILIES

If you would like to donate an Easter Lily in memory or honor of a loved one, please notify the office by **Thursday, March 16.**

danamiller@richmondfpc.com
623-5323 ext. 0

Cost of each lily
is \$10.00.



Palm Sunday April 2
Maundy Thursday April 6
Easter Sunday April 9

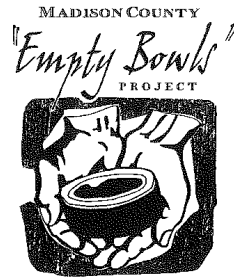
Lenten Lunches

Tuesdays at noon February 28—March 28

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**





24th Madison County Empty Bowls Project

Friday, March 31, 2023

First Baptist Church

425 Eastern By-Pass

11 a.m. – 3 p.m.

(eat in or to go)

3 p.m. – 4 p.m.

(to go only)

Minimum Donation: \$15

Cash or Check (payable to "Empty Bowls")

Donation includes a handmade pottery bowl, vegetable soup, hoecake & drink

Also Available:

Quart container of Vegetable Soup to go – \$8

Help fight hunger in Madison County!

100% of proceeds go to:

God's Outreach Madison Co. Food Bank

New Liberty Family Shelter and Food Bank

Home Meals Delivery

Salvation Army of Madison County

To volunteer, make a donation, or to request more information, contact Lora Danley (859) 200-9361

For this month's article, we will continue to explore the various spiritual disciplines available to us as Christians. Specifically, we will be looking into the discipline of secrecy. Keeping secrets seems to have a bit of a negative connotation associated with it. For the most part, we see secrets as the things which we would rather other people not know about us. They are the acts and feelings that we keep hidden from the world and we usually hide these things because they are deplorable or embarrassing or will make others think poorly of us. Given this understanding of what secrets are, how is it possible that secrecy could be a spiritual discipline? Isn't secrecy just the covering up of our own sinfulness? Isn't it the opposite of confession? Isn't there something intrinsically dishonest about it?

To address these questions, let me start by sharing something that was a bit of a revelation for me. That revelation was that not all secrets are bad. Secrets can be good and the difference between a bad and a good secret all depends on what exactly you are trying to keep hidden. Christ actually gives us a perfect example of what a good secret looks like in Matthew 6:5-6 when he says,

"And whenever you pray, do not be like the hypocrites; for they love to stand and pray in the synagogues and at the street corners, so that they may be seen by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. But whenever you pray, go into your room and shut the door and pray to your Father who is in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you".

In those verses, we get a glimpse of what spiritual secrecy is. Spiritual secrecy is the act of keeping our righteous deeds to ourselves. It is the act of doing the right thing and doing it quietly. This type of secrecy is really an offshoot of humility more than it is an attempt to cover up our shortcomings.

It is important to practice the discipline of secrecy because it keeps our motives pure. It is nice to be recognized for the good things we do, but we must always keep in mind that we do those good things for the glory of God and not for the praises of the world. If we ever get those two motives confused, our witness and our relationship with God ultimately suffers.

So I would invite you to practice secrecy in the coming month. Serve without expecting praise. Give without expecting recognition and pray without expecting others to notice. Be humble in what you do and see what great things it leads to!



Bowling!

The next big thing for our youth group is an afternoon of fellowship and fun on the bowling lanes. We will meet after church on March 26th and take the church bus to Steak and Shake where we will share a meal together and then hit the lanes for a couple of games. Best bowler will win official bragging rights for the year. This event is open to anyone in Middle or High School and youth are encouraged to invite their friends to join us!

January 2023 Love Fund Summary

36 Unique Families served (includes 31 children)

<i>Category</i>	<i># of families served</i>	<i>Amount</i>
<i>Utilities</i>	<i>18</i>	<i>\$2,107.30</i>
<i>Rent</i>	<i>12</i>	<i>\$2,297.74</i>
<i>Hotel</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>\$100</i>
<i>Save A Lot bill (food vouchers)</i>		<i>\$705.15</i>
<i>Gas</i>	<i>19</i>	<i>\$475</i>
<i>Pain and Spine medical bill</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>\$174.55</i>
<i>Love Cupboard Pantry assisted</i>	<i>12</i>	
<i>Food Vouchers Distributed</i>	<i>24</i>	
Total		\$5,859.74

*You shall be called
Repairers of the breach*

— ISAIAH 58




SPECIAL OFFERINGS
HUNGER • DISASTER • DEVELOPMENT 02.22.23 - 04.9.23

MISSIONS—A BODY OF PEOPLE SENT

SPECIAL OFFERINGS FOR MARCH AND APRIL

We have two special offerings coming up on **March 12th (MADISON MISSIONS)** and **April 2nd (ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING)**. While both of these offerings deal with addressing the basic needs of people like food, water, shelter, and safety, they differ in where the money we donate is sent. Madison Missions is the one special offering where the money raised stays in Madison County. It is divided among three ministries: Madison Home, Hope’s Wings, and our Love Fund.

The One Great Hour of Sharing offering will be collected on Palm Sunday (April 2nd) and requires some preparation and participation by all of us during Lent. This is an offering which enables Presbyterians to improve the lives of people around the world who are in challenging situations such as lacking food, clean water, sanitation, and shelter. The entire offering we collect on April 2nd will be sent to Presbytery for distribution to three programs: Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA), Presbyterian Hunger Program (PHP), and Self-Development of People (SDP).

PDA works alongside communities as they recover from the devastation of natural disasters. In Kentucky we have the tornado victims in Western Kentucky and the flood victims in Eastern Kentucky. Internationally we have the recent earthquakes in Turkey and Syria, and the ongoing results of the war in Ukraine. There is no shortage of desperate people of all ages both locally and world-wide.

Presbyterian Church USA has sent us some resources to use as we focus on making a difference for people in the face of these disasters. In the Bible you will recall several references to the use of fish by our Lord to feed and take care of people. Familiar references can be found in Matthew 14:17, Mark 1:17, and Luke 5:6. So we have been provided with cardboard banks in the shape of fish and the children will be helping to distribute these banks on Sunday, February 26th. It is suggested that we use these banks in our homes during Lent, perhaps by placing them in a central location such as on the table where your family enjoys healthy meals. You will be able to add coins to these banks whenever you are moved to do so as you pray for the millions of people who need our help just to have a basic meal of rice and water, or to be wrapped in a warm blanket.

Our children will be helping us with this matter by passing out the banks on Sunday, February 26th and collecting them during the service on Palm Sunday (April 2nd) which is the date designated to receive the One Great Hour of Sharing Offering. The Missions Committee is confident our congregation will be enthusiastic participants in filling these banks while praying for our brothers and sisters around the world and in our local communities who desperately need our help. The Missions Committee thanks you for all you do to support our efforts to be a Christ-like example of loving our neighbor.



YOUTH GROUP!

Souper Bowl


A big thank you to everyone who came out to support this year's Souperbowl of caring. The food was delicious, the company was engaging and we were able to raise over \$640 to benefit Madison Home and our Love fund. A special thanks to all the youth and parents who made soup, bread and desserts, who helped set up and clean up, who helped collect money and who helped serve. You guys are the best!





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	2	3	4
5 Sunday School 9:45 Worship 11:00 Going Away Reception for Don & Sandy Dickson	6 Bible Study 10:30	7 Tuesday crew 9:00-11:00 Mission mtg. 7:00 Lenten Lunch noon	8 Bible Study 6:30	9 Needle Arts Fellowship 11:30	10	11
12 Sunday School 9:45 Worship 11:00 Madison Missions Offering 	13 Bible Study 10:30	14 Tuesday crew 9:00-11:00 Evening Circle 6:30 Lenten Lunch noon	15 Potluck 6:00	16 Deadline for Lilies	17	18
19 Sunday School 9:45 Worship 11:00 <div style="border: 1px solid green; padding: 2px;">Curtis on vacation</div>	20 Bible Study 10:30	21 Tuesday crew 9:00-11:00 PW 10:30 Lenten Lunch noon Budget/finance 7:00 NEWSLETTER DEADLINE	22 Bible Study 6:30	23	24	25
26 Sunday School 9:45 Worship 11:00 Youth bowling noon	27 Bible Study 10:30	28 Tuesday crew 9:00-11:00 Session mtg. 7:00 Lenten Lunch noon	29 Welcome Wednesday 6:00 <div style="border: 1px solid pink; height: 20px; width: 100%;"></div>	30 <div style="border: 1px solid pink; padding: 2px;">Dana out of office</div>	31 Empty Bowls at First Baptist 11-3 and 3-4 (to go)	

Curtis & Wendy on vacation celebrating 19th wedding anniversary!