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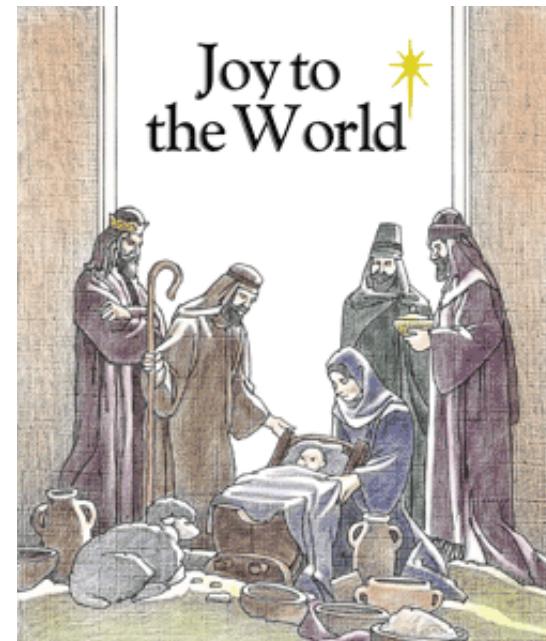
WITH
Gratitude 

ELDERS CLASS OF

Philip Gump	2026
Paul Hager	2026
Bill Mitchell	2026
Caroline Crump	2027
Jim Exline	2027
LeAnn Jones	2027
Arleita Dirne	2028
Eric Everett	2028
Mark Pitts	2028

DEACONS CLASS OF

Jennifer Brubaker	2026
Kathy Shew	2026
Rhonda Ortenburger	2026
Wayne Bowlin	2027
Donna Cox	2027
Denise Crump	2027
Marti Exline	2028
Sarah Gump	2028
Amanda Tipton	2028



HUMAN RIGHTS ARE DIVINE RIGHTS

For the past year or two, the dominant slogan, the prevailing mantra of the American ethos has been the phrase, “America First.” And this certainly seems like an intuitive rallying cry that all proud and patriotic Americans can get behind. It implies that the definitive values that characterize us as citizens of the United States will be the primary values that determine our ethical and political actions in the world. It implies that all other system of values will be subordinated to those that make us Americans. “America First” implies that even the values of the kingdom of God will yield to the American way of life. Now, even if American Christians were willing to concede their Christ-like values to the pseudo-supremacy of this “America First” ideology, I submit to you that not even proud, patriotic Americans are living up to the national values that they so dearly affirm to defend.

Those who claim to be placing “America First” ahead of all other nations’ interests are proposing that the general welfare of US citizens must take precedence over the needs of others. From this ideology, our nation’s administration now justifies using lethal military strikes on civilians at sea in international water. The justification given for these military strikes is that the people targeted are maritime drug-runners bringing cocaine and fentanyl in our country.

The problems with this justification are manifold. First, drug-running is not an act of war but is a felony and therefore does not warrant military action. Second, the administration has options other than lethal military strikes; options such as maritime interception by the US Coast Guard, which is part of the USCG mission. (Indeed, if we can track these drug-runners well enough for precision military strikes, we can certainly intercept them with CG ships.) Third, if they are merely drug-runners and not an invading military force, then the death penalty for drug-running is a punishment disproportionate to the crime (i.e., the Eighth Amendment of the US Constitution). Fourth, the administration claims that these maritime suspects are drug-runners without presenting any evidence of the alleged felony, thus denying them due process (a Fifth Amendment right afforded even non-citizens).

The international community, through the United Nations, has sharply criticized recent US military strikes on alleged maritime drug-runners, stating the actions violate international law and human rights law. The UN has thus demanded an immediate halt to these military strikes. Unfortunately, many who promote the so-called “America First” ideology do not heed the criticisms of other peoples and nations simply because they are not Americans. For them, “America First” does not mean “liberty and justice for all,” but “liberty and justice for only those whom we deem Americans.”

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As a Christian, who happens to be a US citizen, I have always believed that the US Constitution, even with its imperfections, is the core of what I assume are American values. I believe that the rights canonized in the Constitution are not just rights for Americans, they are rights that I would wish for all people. And, why wouldn't I want these rights to be universal? If I cherish these rights for myself, wouldn't I want them for everyone else? As a proud and patriotic American, I believe that American rights should be inalienable human rights. The compassion and justice that I would hope for others has nothing to do with their nationality, but everything to do with mine.

As a Christian, apart from my nationality, my ethnicity, my race, my gender, and my orientation; I believe in one God. And, believing in one God, I also believe in one humanity. I believe in Jesus Christ and his unconditional love for all, and as such, I believe that we are all beloved sisters and brothers (without regard to each one's faith). The compassion and justice that I would hope for others has nothing to do with their faith, but everything to do with mine.

My Christian friends, my fellow Americans, my brothers and sisters of the world; we do not have to break the laws in order to welcome the stranger, to minister to the sojourner, and to promote compassion and justice for everyone. If there is indeed one God, then there is only one humanity. Thus, American rights are human rights; and human rights are divine rights.



As we head into advent it is time once more to extend Christmas Joy to the families living at New Liberty Family Shelter right here in Richmond. We are committed to preparing and delivering gifts for **six families**, which include thirteen children aged one to sixteen and their parents. Their wish lists will be divided up and placed on paper ornaments on the Christmas Tree in the Narthex. Each ornament will have a duplicate – one for you to put your name on and place in the box near the tree and one for you to take with you. The second tag needs to be carefully attached to the outside of your wrapped package using the ribbon. Please leave the gifts in Dana's office by **December 18**, so that the committee will have time to deliver them to the families by Christmas. Should you have any questions, please contact Beth Underwood 859 248-1113.



*In memory of Calvin and Maxine Britton
Given by the Britton girls*

*In loving memory of Randall Shew
Given by his family*

*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, Toutant's and Trinh's*

*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 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*

*In memory of our grandparents, Jack and Lolly Hissom
Given by Kendrick Kenny and Jessica Kenny Graham*

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

*In memory of our parents
Given by Tracy Lawrenz Lamb and Brett Lawrenz*

*In loving memory of my son, Robert Lynn Mapel
Given by Craig Mapel*

*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 Jett, and David Jett
Given by Sue Reeves*

*In memory of Jane Richardson
Given by her husband, Kenneth*

*In memory of Forrest Shearon and Adrian Douglas Reece
Given by Lynn Britton Shearon*



**Evening Women's Circle Gathering
December 9 at 6:30 PM**

Where:

La Parrilla Mexican Grill
433 Professional Dr.
Richmond



Christmas Parade

**Christmas Parade Hospitality Tent!
December 5 7:00 pm**

Volunteers are needed to help set-up, clean-up, and serve. Please be at the church before 6:00. Cookies, both homemade and store bought are needed for the tent.

**CHRISTMAS JOY
OFFERING
DECEMBER 21**

The **Marshall-Moretz Christmas Eve Dinner** is for those in our community who are less fortunate or lonely at this time of year. How can you help?

If you are out shopping, and come across small gifts such as: crayons, coloring books, balls, small puzzles, brushes, combs, stickers, hair items, school supplies, small games, small cars, card games, small stuffed animals, bubbles, yo-yos, etc—they will be greatly appreciated.

We will need baked goodies, especially sweet breads and cookies. They need to be wrapped in foil or Christmas wrap. We will need cooked turkeys and hams. Cupcakes are needed for dessert. All items need to be brought to the church by Dec. 24th at 2:00 PM.

We will also need volunteer drivers, kitchen help, servers, reception help, plus other helpers.

If you would like to participate in this very special Christmas mission call or text—
Linda Adams 859-200-0762





Our Sunday School kids
doing a lesson on gratitude.



*In memory of Robert Cox
In memory of Erma Pethel
Given by Donna Cox*

*In honor of the Crump family
Given by Fred and Jeanie Crump*

*In memory of 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
Sister Shirley Schaffer Quier
Brother Leland Schaffer
Given by John and Phyllis Schaffer Gump*

*In memory of Joy Hager, my wife
Given by Paul Hager*



*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 our grandson, Blake Bonar
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 Paul and Linda Adams
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 Sandy Connor, Bobby Harville and Leigh Ann Griswold
Given by Mike and Becca Harville, Darryl and Ginny Harville Baker,
Doug Griswold and their families*

**Teaching With Soul
With 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 should they find themselves enjoying one of these classics together.

How the Grinch Stole Christmas

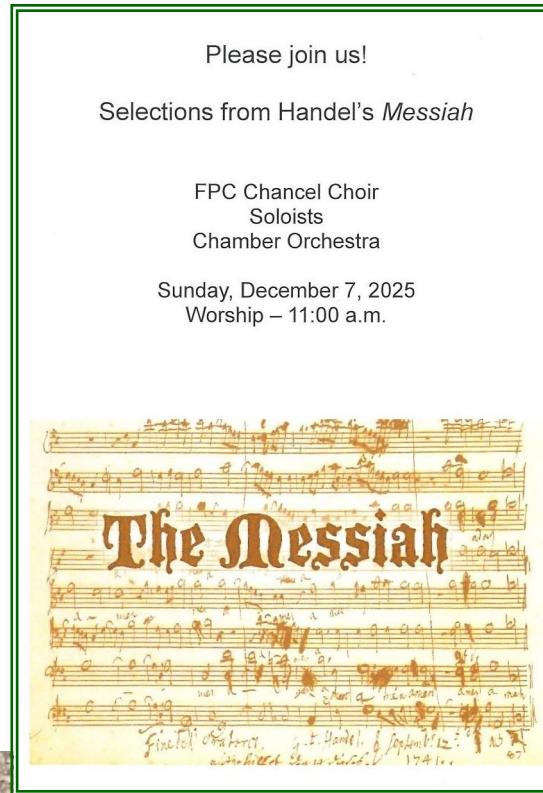
At its heart, this is a tale that speaks against the materialism that comes with Christmas. Its message is that Christmas is more than just gifts and stuff. Christmas has a deeper meaning that can't be bought in a store. The special doesn't come right out and say it, but this deeper meaning to the season 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. Ebeneezer 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.



MORE LOCK IN FUN!

News Brief from Session

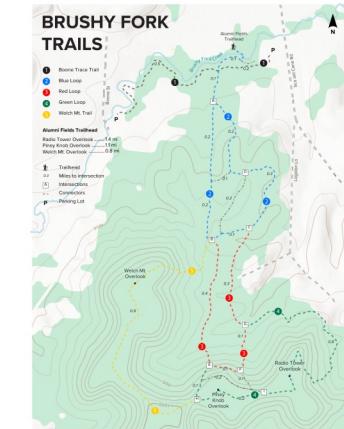
- *Parents Day Out Sunday, December 4 after church.*
- *Christmas Pageant during Sunday School Hour December 14.*
- *Children's Sunday School classes returning to Godly Play lessons.*
- *Check out the Fellowship Hall's new look.*
- *New banners will be displayed with the "I Am" statement for 2026 liturgical year.*
- *Love Fund is seeing a higher need for assistance to help with utilities, rent, food, etc.*

Clerk of Session, Melody Mitchell



FELLOWSHIP HIKE—December 5, 2025

Friday Morning Meditation Fellowship Hike on the Brushy Fork Trails in Berea: This will be an intergenerational hike. We will hike, read scripture, and pray. All who wish to participate in the hike are to meet at 9:00 am at the Brushy Fork Parking area. If you are coming from the four-way stop by Boone Tavern, go down Scaffold Cane Rd. (runs between Union Church on the left and the Alumni Building on the right). The road crosses a small bridge then there is a parking lot in Brushy Fork Park on your right. Hiking boots or sturdy shoes, and a bottle of water are recommended. ALL ARE WELCOME!!! Invite a Friend!!! (9:00 am, weather permitting).



1	Sue Reeves
2	Denise Crump
	Ashleigh Ortenburger
3	Lincoln Ward
7	Jean Boley
8	Alicia Shackleford
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
27	Jill Hissom
28	Melissa Shew Toutant



4	Don Dickson
	Ava Stanley
	Bill Mitchell
	Kristin Brubaker
	Mary Laird
	Mark Mitchell
	Rob Dirne
	Mary Civey
	Gene Forderhase
	Leah Crump
	Kitty Shew
	LeAnn Jones
	Cindy Harter
	Arevia Gump
	Winnie Mitchell
	Wendy Christian





November 2025 Love Fund Summary

57 Unique Families served (49 children)

<u>Category</u>	<u># of families served</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Utilities	16	\$1,605
Rent	33	\$3,928
Save A Lot bill (food vouchers)	34	\$750.02
Gulf Bill (Gas Vouchers)	10	\$330
Love Fund Pantry	11	
Total		\$6,613.02

Fall Lock In

Our fall youth Lock-In was a big success! We talked about bringing the scriptures into focus through love, we did a cookie baking service project, we did an escape room at Breakout games, we had a late night scavenger hunt at Buccee's and we worshiped together on Sunday morning! Thanks to all the youth and to our chaperones LeAnn Jones and Amanda Tipton for making this event the success that it was!!





FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

P O BOX 165 Richmond, KY 40476-0165
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www.richmondfpc.com

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
30 PARENT'S DAY OUT! Noon—5:00 pm	1 Bible Study 10:30	2 Tuesday Crew 9-11 Mission mtg. 6:00	3 Bible Study 6:30	4	5 Hike 9:00 am Christmas Parade Tent 6:00	6
7 CANTATA <i>Children's Pageant practice noon</i>	8 Bible Study 10:30	9 Tuesday Crew 9-11 Evening Circle dinner 6:30	10 7:00 pm 	11 Needle Arts Fellowship 11:30	12	13
14 Children's Pageant 9:45 am Deacon mtg. noon	15 Bible Study 10:30	16 Tuesday Crew 9-11 CE 4:30 Session 6:00	17 Bible Study 6:30	18	19	20
21 Christmas Joy Offering	22 Bible Study cancelled	23	24 Marshall Moretz 4:00 Christmas Eve Dinner 7:00	25 	26 Office closed	27
28	29 Bible Study 10:30	30 Tuesday Crew 9-11	31			