

Mark Johnson
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WITH
Gratitude 

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



Ash
Wednesday
Service

February 18
7:00 pm

My Christian friends, knowing this gives me hope. Indeed, there is so much in this world that lends reason to despair. But knowing that God has placed His faith in us, in humankind, through the Incarnation of Christ—this gives me all the hope I need. Christmas gives me enough divine hope to conquer all despair. Christmas gives me enough divine light to dispel a universe of darkness.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

I hope you and yours are having a happy and safe season.


Please find below the December 2025 Love Fund summary.

I would like to thank the congregation again for the wonderful food voucher donations....they were such a blessing and helped tremendously.

We were busy during the days open, and I owe a debt of gratitude to our volunteer, Shannon.

First Presbyterian continues to do great work for our community and I'm thankful to be able to do my part. May your new year be full of Love and Happiness.

Mark



December 2025 Love Fund Summary

<u>Category</u>	<u># of families served</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Utilities	25	\$2,685
Rent	26	\$3,959
Hotel	2	\$120
Save A Lot bill (food vouchers)	43	\$750.02
Gulf Bill (Gas Vouchers)	22	\$650
Love Fund Pantry Assistance	13	
Total		\$8,164.02

60 Unique Families served (51 children)

News Brief from Session

- We ended the year with a positive budget for 2025.
 - The elevator off the sanctuary is to be refurbished starting possibly sometime in March.
 - Dana Miller, our office manager, is retiring in May. Happy Retirement Dana. We will miss you!
 - The Education Committee will now meet after church on the 3rd Sunday of the month.
 - Consider getting involved with plans for our 200th Anniversary in 2027. Ideas and helping hands are needed. Contact Arleita Dirne.
 - Thanks for all of the cereal you brought in to help families with food needs for God's Outreach.
 - Congregational meeting rescheduled for after church on Sunday, February 8.
- Clerk of Session, Melody Mitchell



You're Invited to Help Shape Our 200-Year (2027) Celebration

As we prepare for a joyful year marking the 200th anniversary of our church, we're gathering a planning team to dream, brainstorm, and shape the celebrations ahead. If you have ideas—large or small—for events, service projects, worship moments, historical reflections, or ways we might honor this milestone, we would love for you to join us.

Planning Meeting: Sunday, Feb. 1st, following the Morning Worship Service in the Fellowship Hall

Your voice matters. 2027 - our anniversary year - belongs to the whole congregation, and your creativity, memories, and hopes can help make it meaningful for everyone.

If you're unable to attend the meeting, please share your ideas by emailing abdirne@gmail.com or by placing a note in Arleita Dirne's church mailbox.



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



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



**MARSHALL-MORETZ
DINNER 2025**

Evening Women's Circle Cancelled for February

March 10th Women's Evening Circle
6:30 pm in the Church Parlor. Arleita will
bring snacks. We will discuss the book:
The Mighty Red by
Louise Erdrich

Rebecca Esther Circle

Tuesday, Feb. 17
10:30 a.m.
in the parlor

*Dear Friends at First Presbyterian
Church—Richmond,*

*Once again we give our thanks
to you for the wonderful Christmas gifts
to our shelter families. They **LOVED**
every one of them! We ask God's bless-
ing upon you as you do HIS work in
2026.*

*Happy New Year!
Volunteers and Pat Ballard,
Community Coordinator*



The Marshall Moretz Christmas Eve dinner was a huge success. We served more than 180 visitors and served over 300 meals including the carry outs.

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. The piano music gave a festive addition to the celebration. The decorations for the Christian Life Center were beautiful and made the event so special.

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.

We were able to send carry outs home with extra food for many of our guests. We also were able to donate food that we had left over to Ethan Health and Liberty Place.

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

YOU'RE INVITED TO

Bridal Shower

FOR HONORING BRIDE-TO-BE

**LYDIA
COLEMAN**

ON SUNDAY,
FEBRUARY 8TH,
2026
1:00 PM - 3:00 PM
AT FIRST
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH PARLOR

REGISTRY:
THE KNOT
LYDIA
COLEMAN &
CHASE
MOHALLATEE

G.A.S Night (Game and Soup Night)

**STIR THE SOUP,
READY MIND AND BODY,
LET THE GAMES BEGIN!**

Date: Friday, February 13, 2026

Time: 6pm to ...

Location: Christian Life Center

First Presbyterian Church,
Richmond KY

WHAT TO EXPECT:

- Games that spark friendly rivalries
- Games where the real winners are those who laugh the loudest!
- Warm and Delicious Soups
- Grilled Cheese Sandwiches
- BROWNIES!!
- Great Company and Good Times!

**What to bring: A friend, family member, date, neighbor and
your most playful self!**

**Come for the soup, stay for the games you love
(or the ones you've never tried)!**

**All ages are encouraged to take part, cheer on,
or simply enjoy the evening.**

Stay for a little while or linger until the last game winds down.

Christmas Pageant 2025



Montreat

It's time to sign up for our annual summer youth trip to Montreat! This is always a great week with lots of fun, music, spiritual growth and fellowship. This trip is open to any of our High School youth and scholarships are available to any of our youth interested in attending. The conference is scheduled for 6/7-6/13 and is always a highlight of the summer for our High Schoolers. Contact Joel to sign up.



Teaching With Soul With Joel

“But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.” Matthew 6:33

In my personal devotional life, I recently came across a historical church concept which was new to me. This concept was the sin of acedia. The term, Acedia, has its roots in the monks of the early church and Acedia, as a concept, has come to be known by many names over the years. Some refer to this sin as the “Noonday Devil”. Others call it “The Forgotten Sin” and still others call it “The 8th deadly sin”. It is essentially the sin of spiritual malaise or apathy.

Acedia is characterized by a joylessness or distraction for that which is spiritually important. It is the sin of misplaced priorities, where the spiritual nurture needed in life is put off for other pursuits mistakenly deemed more pressing. In this way, it is different from the sin of sloth or laziness. It is the spiritual equivalent of having an important term paper due and choosing instead to do laundry, clean the house, organize closets or do literally anything else besides the one thing that you should be doing. You're not being lazy by doing this, but you are also not focusing on what should be your top priority. You are letting yourself be distracted and our world is full of plentiful distractions that seem worthy enough.

Acedia is a sin quite common to the pastorate and other church leaders. The thought that planning and organizing ways for others to grow spiritually is the same thing as nurturing your own spiritual growth is an easy trap to fall into. The church worker who proudly claims to be a workaholic is also most likely struggling with acedia whether they recognize it or not.

This I think is my problem more often than not. I keep busy working in the kingdom of the Lord, but I work in such a way that my own personal devotional life takes a back seat to many other things. When this happens I lose sight of the joy I have for the work I'm called to do and things become perfunctory. My work becomes motivated out of obligation instead of love and my ministry suffers because of it. When I feel this happening, I know it's a warning that it's time to refocus on what is most important. If I can manage to do that, then things seem to fall back into place.




So my prayer for you all this month is that you would be able to stay focused on what is most important. I pray discernment for recognizing the distractions of this life for what they are and I pray that you would be able to overcome those distractions and be drawn closer to God.



FEBRUARY 2026



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
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Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 200 Year Planning mtg. noon	2 <i>Bible Study 10:30 am</i>	3 <i>Tuesday Crew 9-11</i> <i>Mission mtg. 6:00</i>	4 <i>Video Series 6:30</i>	5	6	7
8 <i>Annual Congregational Mtg. noon</i> <i>Deacon mtg. noon</i> Bridal Shower 1-3 for Lydia Coleman in parlor	9 <i>Bible Study 10:30 am</i>	10 <i>Tuesday Crew 9-11</i>	11 <i>Video Series 6:30</i>	12 <i>Needle Arts Fellowship 11:00</i>	13 Games and Soup Night! 6:00	14 
15 <i>CE mtg. noon</i> 	16 President's Day Office Closed Youth Service Project 9-1	17 <i>Tuesday Crew 9-11</i> <i>Presbyterian Women 10:30</i>	18 	19	20	21
22 <i>Fellowship mtg. noon</i> <i>Madison Missions Offering</i> Sunday Supper 6:00	23 <i>Bible Study 10:30 am</i>	24 <i>Tuesday Crew 9-11</i> <i>Session mtg. 6:00</i>	25 <i>Video Series 6:30</i>	26	27	28