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**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

**ONLINE GIVING** **3 easy ways!**

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

\*Text **fpcgift** to **73256** OR  
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**

WITH  
*Gratitude* 



**Lenten Lunches  
Tuesdays,  
March 10, 17, and 24  
Noon in the  
Fellowship Hall**



**WHY IS CHRISTMAS SO IMPORTANT**

We often look to Easter and the resurrection of Jesus Christ as the event that defines us as Christians. We often look to the resurrection of Christ as the time of divine atonement and of our redemption before God. Contrarily, we often think of Christmas and the nativity of Jesus Christ as a mere sentimental time when our redeeming Savior was born. We often consign the nativity of Christ to be merely that point in time when salvation history begins, when the life of Christ will inevitably lead to His salvific death and resurrection. But I submit to you that Christmas, the nativity is not just a secondary Christian observance. Christmas commemorates the moment of the Incarnation, the moment that God (the Creator) becomes a human (creation) in the person of Jesus Christ; and this incarnation of God in human vesture is just as meaningful as Easter.

So, what does Christmas mean? Why is the Incarnation so important? Here are just a few reasons.

First, because of the Incarnation, we can know our all-compassionate God; if we want to know God, we simply look to Jesus Christ.

Second, because of the Incarnation, we can know what it means to be fully human as God intended; if we want to know the meaning of humanity, we simply look to Jesus Christ.

Third, the Incarnation means that God must truly love us if He is willing to empty Himself of His Godhood in order to become one of us.

Fourth, the Incarnation means that God can truly understand us, sympathize with us, in that He lived as one of us, suffered as one of us, even died as one of us.

Fifth, the Incarnation means that the physical universe is good, in that God dares to bless it by living in it.

Yet, I believe that Christmas is meaningful, that the Incarnation of God in Christ is important, for one most hopeful truth beyond all the aforementioned. The Incarnation means that God has intentionally wrought His divine plan through us, that He has pinned His divine hopes on us—on you and me—on humankind. Frail and sinful though we be, the Incarnation of God in human vesture means that God has faith in humankind. Christmas, the Birth of Jesus Christ, means that God has faith in you and me. Maybe we have difficulty having faith in God; but God apparently has faith in us.

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	
<b>Total</b>		<b>\$8,164.02</b>

**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](mailto: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 Shackleford
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
20	Randy Shew
23	Stephen Guerra
	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 blessing 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 8<sup>TH</sup>,  
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.



FPC YOUTH

## SERVICE PROJECT

GOD'S OUTREACH FOOD PANTRY

An illustration of a brown paper bag and a pink cardboard box filled with various grocery items like bread, milk, and vegetables.

16 FEB | 9:00 AM - 01:00 PM

WE WILL MEET AT GOD'S OUTREACH  
1512 E MAIN ST.

RIDES ARE AVAILABLE IF SCHEDULED BEFOREHAND  
LUNCH SERVED FOLLOWING  
CONTACT JOEL WITH QUESTIONS (412-926-2581)

An illustration for a "Prayer Breakfast". It features a brown coffee cup with steam, a saucer, and a few coffee beans. The text "FPC Youth Prayer Breakfast" is written in a stylized, brown font. Below the title, it says "Thursdays at 6:45am on school days At Purdy's Coffee on Big Hill call 412-926-2581 to arrange rides, if needed". The background has a textured, warm-toned watercolor wash.

## 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

P O BOX 165      Richmond, KY 40476-0165  
 859/623-5323      (fax) 859/623-5329  
[www.richmondfpc.com](http://www.richmondfpc.com)

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 <b>200 Year Planning mtg. noon</b>	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> <i>Bridal Shower 1-3 for Lydia Coleman in parlor</i>	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 <b><i>Games and Soup Night! 6:00</i></b>	14 
15 <i>CE mtg. noon</i>  	16 <i>President's Day</i> <i>Office Closed</i>  <i>Youth Service Project 9-1</i>	17 <i>Tuesday Crew 9-11</i> <i>Presbyterian Women 10:30</i>	18  <b><i>Ash Wednesday Service 7:00 p.m.</i></b>	19	20	21
22 <i>Fellowship mtg. noon</i> <i>Madison Missions Offering</i> <i>Sunday Supper 6:00</i>	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