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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**



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 Orttensburger	2026
Wayne Bowlin	2027
Donna Cox	2027
Denise Crump	2027
Marti Exline	2028
Sarah Gump	2028
Amanda Tipton	2028



THE ESSENTIAL QUESTION

"If you were to die today, do you know whether you would go to heaven?" I have been asked this question many times by many well-meaning Christians. It is perhaps another way to ask whether I am saved. But this doesn't seem to be the right question that we Christians should be asking of ourselves. Sure, it's a question that is born of a hypothetical curiosity that naturally stems from our faith in God. But, in the end, it's really only an auxiliary question.

When asked, "If you were to die today, do you know whether you would go to heaven," I often answer that I don't "know," and I don't need to "know." But I trust that God will do for me what is loving, forgiving, compassionate, merciful, and righteous. My faith in Jesus Christ impels me to trust that, by the grace of God, heaven will take care of itself. I need not fret my sin, my mortality, my estrangement from others, my alienation from God, or my eternal destination. My faith in Christ frees me from anything that might otherwise separate me from the love of God, and it thus frees me to serve the kingdom of God with confidence and joy. For me and my faith, salvation is more than going to heaven.

My eternal destiny is not the essential question of my faith. No, the questions that define my Christian faith are, "How do I enact the Kingdom of God in my life?" "How do I do justice and love kindness?" "How do I walk humbly with God?" "How do I love my neighbor?" "How do I love my enemies?" "How do I feed the hungry, welcome the stranger, tend to the captives and the sick?" "How do I take up the cross as Christ commands?" My faith in Christ is not about where I will go when I die, but how I make Christ's love known before my life on this side of heaven is concluded.



Prayer Breakfast - Thursdays at 6:45 am

Our youth group continues to meet for breakfast at 6:45 at Purdy's for a time of scripture, prayer and fellowship! All middle and high school youth are welcome to attend!



Family Breakfast

Come join us at Sunday School, every Sunday morning at 9:45 for a lite breakfast of pastries and juice. Everyone is welcome!



2025 CHURCH PICNIC!

*Thank you Sue Chenault for allowing us to meet at your lovely home!
Thank you Deacons and others for all of your help in
setting up for this enjoyable day!*



Rebecca Esther Circle

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

**Sunday Supper
is cancelled
for October.**

**Evening Women's Circle
Tuesday, October 14
6:00 in the parlor**

We will watch the movie *Same Kind of Different as Me*. Cindy Harter will provide refreshments.

November 11th will be a book club circle meeting at 6:30 pm in the Church Parlor. The book is *Good Dirt* by Charmaine Wilkerson.



**Please leave parking spots
that are close to the church
for those with mobility
issues! Thank you!**

Fall Stewardship Kick-off Potluck Lunch

**Sunday, October 26
Following morning worship**

Please provide a side dish or dessert.

**Stewardship Dedication Sunday is
Sunday, November 16.**



Dear Church Family,

*Thank you for the prayers and
get well wishes. Cured of pneumonia,
but still struggling with high blood pres-
sure. Numbers are getting better.*

Nancy Brubaker

Dear Friends at First Presbyterian,

We again thank you for your support to the New Liberty Family Shelter. Your recent \$583 donation has been received. We promise to be good stewards of it. God's continued blessings to each of you in the congregation.

Rev. Robert R. Blythe,
Patricia Ballard

Teaching With Soul Joel

I've been involved with church youth groups in some capacity or another for over three decades now. That's been a lot of camps, retreats, lock-ins and mission trips and one thing that all of these events have had in common is the use of covenants. Every church small group I've been a part of has started out with some kind of covenant building or another. Just this summer, Triennium had a covenant, Montreat had a covenant, Burnamwood had a covenant and now, thanks to the hard work of our session, our church has its own covenant too. I'm attaching a copy of our covenant to this newsletter so that you can check it out first hand.

The concept of covenant building is a biblical one. God makes covenants with His people throughout the recorded history in scripture. These covenants are, essentially, promises God makes to us. They are promises that we can trust God to keep no matter what. Covenants are not the same as contracts that, when broken by either party, become null and void. Covenants are stronger than that. The commitment God has for us and that we have for God can withstand failure. We can fail to uphold our end of things (and often do) and God will still be true to the promises he has made to us and those promises are plenty.

The first of God's covenants comes to us in the Noah story when God sets a rainbow in the sky and promises never to destroy the world with water again. God also covenants with Abraham to give him many descendants and Jesus Christ, himself, is known as God's new covenant. This is because God makes a promise through Christ of a new way to handle the stain of sin upon creation. There is nothing we can do to cause God to break these promises, though the covenant does come with expectations. The covenant is not broken by our failure to adhere to those expectations. If that were the case, I'm positive there would have been a second flood by now.

At youth events, when we build a covenant to guide our time together, we are creating a set of mutual agreements that help us respect each other and honor the sacred space we share. These covenants are an outline of how we can best live out our faith in the time we have together. Our church covenant is no less than that. It's an agreement on how we will live, worship, and serve together as a community and like the covenants God makes with us, this promise is stronger than our failures. When we look at our covenant, we are reminded of the high standard we are called to, and also of the grace we are called to offer one another when we fall short.

Ultimately, our commitment to this church covenant is an act of gratitude for the unbreakable covenant God has already made with us through Christ. It's a way of saying: because God has promised us unfailing love and faithfulness, we will do our best to extend that same love and faithfulness to our neighbor...here's how...





First Presbyterian Covenant

As followers of Christ, we at First Presbyterian Church are committed to creating an atmosphere of LOVE and SAFETY. To manifest this, we will...

- Be considerate to others and the church, by respecting the church building and surrounding property.
- Abide by state law, which prohibits the possession of/use of illegal drugs and refrain from using alcohol on church property, or smoking tobacco/e-cigarettes inside or near doorways.
- Honor ALL people as children of God.
- Touch others only with consent. Churches need HUGS and CONSENT, and we can have BOTH.
- Practice responsible, thoughtful, and respectful social media use. Don't post without consent
- Refrain from all forms of harassment: ALL people are welcome regardless of gender, orientation, race, ethnicity, ability, socioeconomic status, age or creed.
- Be responsible for how we communicate:
 - THINK. BEFORE speaking, is what you're saying...
 - TRUE
 - HELPFUL
 - INSPIRING
 - NECESSARY
 - KIND
- Have fun! Joy IS a Christian virtue.

MISSION.....a body of people sent

August 2025 Love Fund Summary

Category	# of families served	Amount
Utilities	20	\$2,029.15
Rent	19	\$2,235
Hotel	0	0
Save A Lot bill (food vouchers)	10	\$517.97
Gulf Bill (Gas Vouchers)	3	\$125
Love Fund Pantry Assistance	5	
Total		\$4,907.12

39 Unique Families served (includes 33 children)



September 2025 Love Fund Summary

41 Unique Families served (includes 28 children)

Category	# of families served	Amount
Utilities	16	\$1,552
Rent	21	\$2,405
Hotel	0	0
Save A Lot bill (food vouchers)	12	\$519.12
Gulf Bill (Gas Vouchers)	11	\$415
Love Fund Pantry Assistance	7	
Total		\$4,891.12

SPECIAL OFFERINGS

Peace and Global Witness Offering Oct. 5
10 Cents Per Meal Offering November 16
Christmas Joy Offering December 21

News Brief from Session

- 2024 financial review was good.
- Telford Grant received for about \$256,000 for use with 2026 budget.
- Stewardship Kick Off and potluck set for **October 26** and Dedication Sunday is set for **November 16**.
- Eric and Carolyn Everett are moving to Frankfort. We will miss him on the Property Committee.
- Check out the new pew Bibles.
- World Communion Sunday is **October 5**. Let the church know of anyone wanting communion taken to their home.

Clerk of Session
Melody Mitchell



Give thanks to the Lord, for He is good;
His love endures forever. Psalm 107:1



- | | |
|----|---------------------|
| 1 | Betty Park Adams |
| 11 | Rhonda Orttenburger |
| | Julie Stanley |
| | Eden Stanley |
| 15 | Paul Hager |
| 17 | Beth Underwood |
| 18 | Curtis Christian |
| 20 | Sonny Trinh |
| 23 | Nancy Crider |
| 25 | Abigail Adkins |
| 26 | Phillip Seyfrit |
| 29 | Shelby Dale Lamb |
| 30 | Arleita Dirne |



BLESSINGS
ON YOUR
BIRTHDAY

- | | |
|----|-----------------|
| 1 | Kevin Crump |
| 3 | John Harter |
| 4 | David Coleman |
| 8 | Chris Smart |
| 11 | Nancy Brubaker |
| | John Florell |
| 13 | Dwight Barkley |
| 15 | Ed Sigmon |
| 17 | Lindsey Glass |
| 20 | Praveena Salins |
| 21 | Hee-Young Shin |
| 21 | Abby Toutant |
| | Ella Deaton |
| 22 | Suzanne Leung |
| | Nancy Carrico |
| 28 | Linda Adams |
| | John Gump |
| 29 | Chris Laird |





Sunday School Field Trip to Devine's Corn Maze!

Get ready for a day of faith, fun, and fall festivities! Join us for an exciting outing to Devine's Corn Maze in Harrodsburg!

When: Saturday, October 19th, following worship service

Where: Devine's Corn Maze & Pumpkin Patch, Harrodsburg

Who Can Come?

Everyone is welcome! We encourage all ages to join.

Children attending will need to be accompanied by an adult.

Cost:

- Adults: \$14
- Ages 3-22: \$12
- Children 2 & Under: FREE!

Scholarships are available through the church if money is a concern – please don't hesitate to ask!

Lunch & Snacks:

We'll provide snacks for the drive down. Please bring a sack lunch, or you can purchase food at the snack bar when we arrive.

Need a Ride?

Transportation is available if arranged ahead of time!

Questions or to Sign Up?

Please contact Joel at **412-926-2581**

Come make some amazing memories with us! We can't wait to see you there!



COFFEE, COCOA AND DONUTS ON THE LAWN

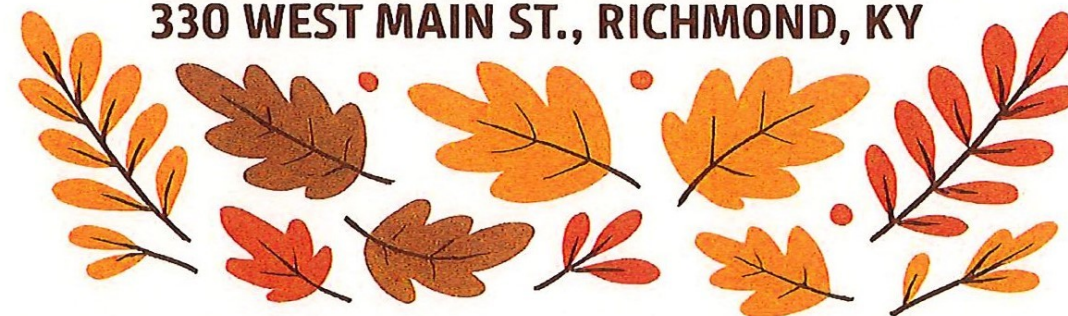


SUNDAY, OCTOBER 19, 2025

9:30 AM – 11:00 AM

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

330 WEST MAIN ST., RICHMOND, KY





FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
P O BOX 165 Richmond, KY 40476-0165
859/623-5323 (fax) 859/623-5329
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Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 Bible Study 6:30	2	3	4
5 World Communion Sunday Peace & Global Witness Offering	6 Bible Study cancelled	7	8 Bible Study cancelled	9 Needle Arts Fellowship 11:30	10	11
		CURTIS ON VACATION				
12 Deacon mtg. noon	13 Office Closed	14 Mission mtg 6:00 Evening Circle 6:00	15 Bible Study 6:30	16	17	18
19 Coffee & Cocoa on the Lawn 9:30—11:00 am	20 Bible Study 10:30 am	21 Presbyterian Women 10:30	22 Bible Study 6:30	23	24	25
26 Stewardship Potluck noon	27 Bible Study 10:30 am Newsletter deadline noon	28 Session mtg. 6:00	29 Bible Study 6:30	30	31  Happy Halloween!	1  Set Your Clocks Back! TONIGHT!!