

Under Our Roof

First Presbyterian Church, Covington, VA

February 2022

O give thanks to the LORD, for he is good, for his steadfast love endures forever.
(Psalm 136:1, NRSV)

February 14 is Valentine's Day. It is a day on which we think about love. When we walk into stores, we find shelves of heart shaped candy boxes, pink and red decorations, and all sorts of things that are to direct our thoughts to love.

As we consider what it is to love and be loved our thoughts ought to turn to God. In I John we read; "We love because [God] first loved us." (I John 4:19, NRSV) God is the author of love.

The Israelites recognized the power of God's love. As they were in the wilderness following the exodus from Egypt, Moses reminded the people; "It was because the Lord loved you and kept the oath that he swore to your ancestors, that the Lord has brought you out with a mighty hand, and redeemed you from the house of slavery, from the hand of Pharaoh king of Egypt." (Deuteronomy 7:8, NRSV)

In Psalm 136 not just the first verse, but all 26 verses tell us that "the steadfast love of God endures forever". It is that love of God that brought Jesus to us. God chooses each of us. We are chosen in love by a God who desires nothing but the best from us.

We are given the opportunity to respond in love to the God whose Son died on a cross that we would experience eternal life. Our response is to worship God, Jesus Christ, and the Holy Spirit as our source of life. However, our response is more than worship and praise. Our response is action.

When we recognize the redeeming love of God, we must show love. Jesus would remind us that our love is to be wider and broader than we can imagine. It is easy to love our friends and family but there is more. When asked about the greatest of the commandments Jesus said; "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind.' This is the greatest and first commandment. And a second is like it: 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' (Matthew 22:37-39, NRSV) Jesus also told us that we are to "love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you..." (Matthew 5:44, NRSV)

And this love is not just for Valentine's Day, it is for every day. Friends, let us show God's love every day and everywhere.

Pastor Susi



FEBRUARY

BIRTHDAYS

- 6 Terri Lee Slate
- 14 Mark Cheatham
- 14 Ed Patterson
- 14 Ruby Sharp
- 23 Lucy Pillow
- 25 Meade Snyder
- 28 Lee Snyder



PRESBYTERIAN
WOMEN

Our PW met in the sanctuary on December 9th with 13 women attending.

Our card chairman, Ruby, shared with us how she is managing our needs. Our treasurer, Barbara Fawley, reported a balance of \$659.97 in our account.

Pastor Susi began our 2-part study on Ruth and how this woman continued the line of Jesus through her travels to secure the family through her hard work of gleaning food from the fields.

We did not meet in January as is our custom but plan to be together on February 10, 2022. All are welcome to attend.

Pam Pace

We still have *These Days* devotionals available if you would like one mailed to you.

Please let the church office know!

Prayer Concerns

Prayer is an important practice of our faith. Throughout the Bible we hear God's people raise their prayers to God; prayers of praise and worship, prayers of confession, prayers of gratitude and thanksgiving, and prayers of intercession. We include these prayers in our worship services.

Part of our prayer life is asking each other to pray for family, friends, and ourselves. We include a prayer list in the bulletin each week. We are going to be making some changes to that printed prayer list. There are some reasons for this.

Some people wish for their prayer concerns to be kept private. If you ask me to mention someone during the worship service, please find out if a name should be used and how much information may be shared; especially since our worship service is on YouTube as public information. Likewise, when we print these names in the bulletin, the names are on the screen for YouTube.

There are people on our prayer lists whose health concerns might be long term or on-going. We will be removing people from the list whose conditions do not have an immediate need for prayer. I encourage you to keep these folks on your personal prayer lists. As we add names to our printed prayer list, those names will not stay on the list long term.

Sometimes people are added to the printed prayer list during a time of immediate need and then they recover. We might not get the news of God's work in their lives to bring about healing. When you ask for prayers, let us know when to change our intercessions for healing and wholeness to prayers of gratitude and thanksgiving.

Yes, prayer is an important practice of our faith. I am not asking that your prayer life be limited in any way. In my experience it seems that when we have the same names week after week, we can become complacent and it becomes a rote experience. I hope that by making these changes we will be able to pray in more meaningful ways for all of our families, friends, neighbors, and ourselves.

Pastor Susi

A Minute 4 Mission



Doing Good for All

November 2, 2021

A Letter from Nadia Ayoub, serving in Greece

"The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases; his mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness." Hillsong

Dear friends and families,

I greet you all with the peace of Jesus Christ, the Lord. I give thanks to God because God is faithful, and God delights to care for us and protect us in all situations and seasons of life. I pray you all are well and enjoying the Fall season and trust that God's faithfulness is keeping you safe and healthy.

Thank you all for your faithfulness in partnering with me, The Greek Evangelical Church in Katerini, Greece, and the Presbyterian Mission Agency to serve refugees in Greece. Thank you for your prayers, encouragements and financial support.

The last refugee family from the small group that I was in a close relationship with left Greece in June, and I wondered how I would get in touch with other refugees. I praise God that a new group of women came to Perichoresis' Peace Pastry program when it resumed in June.

Sometimes we met inside, but when the weather was good, we met at the park. Because of COVID safety measures, we could not cook together, so instead, we drank coffee and ate some sweets. The women enjoyed talking, expressing their feelings, lifting up their needs and sharing insights on spiritual subjects like prayer. Some described prayer as a command of God, others talked about the ritual of praying at certain times, still others revealed that prayer had a cleansing aspect. They did not realize, however, that prayer is simply a time when we can talk with God, our heavenly Father. And we can come to talk to our Father about all we need anywhere and all times. With this understanding, a new light shone on them.

I also praise God that the Education Center, the newest program of Perichoresis, started in the middle of August and runs five days a week. The programs at the Education Center fulfill my heart's desire to meet with the refugees freely and serve them with love and respect. The

Education Center offers classes in Greek, English and computer. A social worker is on hand to do counseling and help the refugees prepare resumes, cover letters, locate jobs and find skills training opportunities such as hair styling courses. The social worker also offers some assistance in difficult situations by providing food and housing needs.

My role in the Education Center is translating whenever they need me. One day I was translating for a new student, and she said, with a smile on her face, "Now I understand very clear, this is my first time learning something. And with joy, she said, "I can learn!" And then she said, "I did not go to school back in my country, only boys from my house went to school, but girls were not allowed." Now she comes to the Education Center to take Greek and English classes. She told me that her two daughters were attending school and were progressing rapidly. One thing we need at the Education Center is a nursery for preschool children up to three years old. Some of these children have to stay with their parents during their classes, while others are so active that we try to babysit them. One of the refugees' prayer requests is for a daycare center for preschoolers.

I also meet with refugees at the church. Some refugees from Africa and other countries who are interested in learning about Christianity come to the church on Sundays. I keep in touch with them throughout the week. On Sundays, I save seats for them in church, sit next to them, explain what is happening in the worship service and talk about it with them afterward.

It has been six weeks since I submitted my application to extend my Greek residency permit. I was hoping to receive it by now but have not received any news. Please continue to pray that I will receive it so I can go to see my family and friends and have some medical checkups.

As we come to know more about God's faithfulness, we receive love and mercy from God's unending love that is new every morning. We receive more than we need for ourselves and are able to share so we can obey God's word in Galatians 6:10, "So then, whenever we have an opportunity, let us work for the good of all, and especially for those of the family of faith."

Thank you so much for your interest in reading about what God is doing among the refugees in Greece. I pray that the Lord will bless you and fill your hearts with gratitude during this season of harvest and thanksgiving.

Serving Christ together with joy!
Nadia

Prayers and Songs

Upcoming special services:

~Communion February 13th (seated)
~Ash Wednesday Service March 2nd
This service will be at 5:00 p. m. and it will last approximately 30 minutes.



~Communion March 6th (seated)

~The handbell workshop with McAllister has been rescheduled. It will be held after church Sunday, February 27th at 12:30 P. M. The workshop will be at McAllister Memorial in the Fellowship Hall. Lunch will be provided. Please consider coming. This is going to be a fun learning time. If you can hold a bell, you can play. Let us know if you would like to join the fellowship.

~I would like to Thank everyone who helped during the advent season in making our church beautiful and our services meaningful. Thank you also to the ladies and men for the cookies we took to the shut-ins. Everyone enjoyed that afternoon.

~Our Worship and Music committee is open to anyone - please think about joining with us. Let Susi know for a Zoom link.

Brenda Linkenhoker



A handbell workshop for interested individuals will be held on Sunday, February 27, beginning at 12:30 pm, with lunch for all participants. It will combine ringers from FPC and McAllister and be held in McAllister's Fellowship Hall, involving ringers from both churches, requiring one workshop instead of two.

This is a workshop for both churches because it is time for a workshop of new ringers at FPC and we are endeavoring to be a help to McAllister's bell choir at this time, when their director has relocated to Georgia.

The workshop will be about two hours in length. Its primary purpose is to give interested individuals an opportunity to learn about handbells and reading handbell music.

Handbells are a really fun way to make music together. It is also true that many experts on brain fitness consider learning a musical instrument or a foreign language two of the very best ways to maintain brain health. (It is just possible that handbells are easier and more fun than a foreign language.)

Though, for convenience, this is a combined workshop, the churches will remain two separate handbell choirs. Any combining of choirs would be only for special occasions or concerts, with the agreement of both groups.

No permanent commitment is implied by participation in this workshop. It is simply a chance to see if ringing bells might be an enjoyable way to offer your time and talents to your church and your God.

Sandra Minter, Minister of Music

PUZZLE

The heart of a friend

Big-hearted friendliness comes from generously serving others.

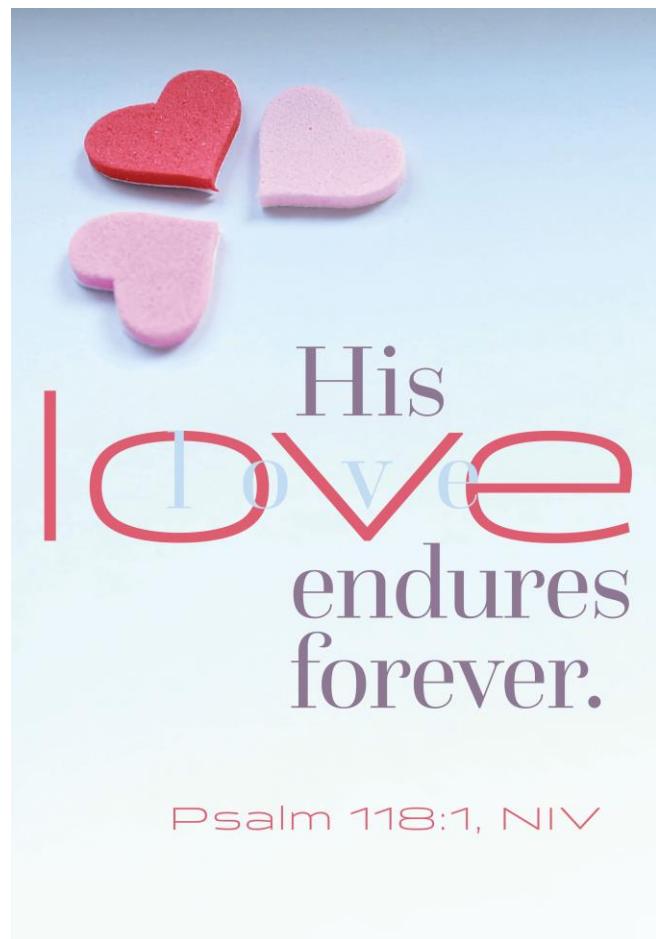
Directions: Start with the first D and move according to the arrows beneath the blanks. Then fill in the letters to complete 1 Peter 4:8-10.

I	D	P	L	Y	G	D	G	W	B
R	E	E	B	C	E	N	G	F	T
S	S	S	V	O	K	H	L	E	S
N	Y	R	E	A	L	N	B	R	V
S	H	O	H	T	I	O	M	G	E
L	M	S	P	Y	G	R	P	R	A
O	Q	B	C	Q	K	V	O	E	C

Above all, love each other , because love over a multitude of . Offer to one another without . Each of you should use whatever . You have received to . others, as faithful stewards of God's . in its various forms.

1 PETER 4:8-10, NIV

Answer: deeply, covers, sins, hospitality, gumballing, gift, serve, grace



Love
ONE ANOTHER

Love is patient; love is kind; love is not envious or boastful or arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice in wrongdoing, but rejoices in the truth. It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.

- 1 Cor. 13:4-7

First Presbyterian Church

**Sunday Worship Will Be Held In-Person and on Our YouTube Channel
 Devotions with Daniel Continue to Be Streamed on Our YouTube Channel
 Sunday School via Zoom – Contact Pastor Susi for an Invitation pastor.susi.ennis@gmail.com**

February 2022

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
God is Love 		1 Devotions w/ Daniel, 8a TUESDAY NITE SUNDAY SCHOOL 6:45 p	2 Devotions w/ Daniel, 8a  GROUNDHOG DAY Choirs Handbell, 5:30p Chancel, 7:30p	3 Devotions w/ Daniel, 8a	4 Devotions w/ Daniel, 8a	5 Devotions w/ Daniel, 8a
6 Devotions w/ Daniel, 8a Social Time, 9:30a Sunday School, 9:45a Worship, 11:00a	7 Devotions w/ Daniel, 8a W&M @10aZoom	8 Devotions w/ Daniel, 8a TUESDAY NITE SUNDAY SCHOOL 6:45 p	9 Devotions w/ Daniel, 8a Choirs Handbell, 5:30p Chancel, 7:30p VOUCHERS DUE, 10a	10 Devotions w/ Daniel, 8a PWs meet 1 pm	11 Devotions w/ Daniel, 8a	12 Devotions w/ Daniel, 8a
13 Devotions w/ Daniel, 8a Social Time, 9:30a Sunday School 9:45a Worship, 11:00a Communion	14 Devotions w/ Daniel, 8a 	15 Devotions w/ Daniel, 8a M&S @ 4p Zoom	16 Devotions w/ Daniel, 8a Choirs Handbell, 5:30p Chancel, 7:30p	17 Devotions w/ Daniel, 8a PRESBYTERY	18 Devotions w/ Daniel, 8a	19 Devotions w/ Daniel, 8a
20 Devotions w/ Daniel, 8a Social Time, 9:30a, Sunday School 9:45a Worship, 11:00a	21 Devotions w/ Daniel, 8a	22 Devotions w/ Daniel, 8a TUESDAY NITE SUNDAY SCHOOL 6:45 p VOUCHERS DUE, 10a	23 Devotions w/ Daniel, 8a Choirs Handbell, 5:30p Chancel, 7:30p	24 Devotions w/ Daniel, 8a Newsletter Items Due 10a	25 Devotions w/ Daniel, 8a	26 Devotions w/ Daniel, 8a
27 Devotions w/ Daniel, 8a Social Time, 9:30a, Sunday School 9:45a Worship, 11:00a Handbell Workshop 12:30p @ McAllister	28 Devotions w/ Daniel, 8a	L	O	V	E	