

Under Our Roof

First Presbyterian Church, Covington, VA

October 2022

The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want. He makes me lie down in green pastures; He leads me beside still waters; He restores my soul. (Psalm 23:1-3, NRSVue)

Have you memorized Psalm 23? Many of us know this Psalm because it is one that comforts us when we are facing difficult circumstances. We cling to the last sentence of verse 3, “He restores my soul.” particularly when our souls are in chaos.

The closing verse of this Psalm reads; “Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I shall dwell in the house of the Lord my whole life long.” (Psalm 23:6, NRSVue)

I recently read a commentary that spoke about the Hebrew in which this Psalm was originally written. The Hebrew word for the verb we translate as “follow” is *radaph*. The commentary writer said that in Hebrew this verb has the connotation of “chase after or pursue.”

Think about it, when we visualize goodness and mercy following us; it looks like a mother duck with her little ducklings following after her in a line. Or maybe you visualize how children follow after their parents.

Now visualize this, a NASCAR race. The cars are chasing after one another, drivers hungry for the win. They do not simply follow one another around in a circle. No, the drivers use all their skill to race around the track chasing one another until they can pass as they go for the lead.

God’s goodness and mercy are not little children following us waiting to jump in our laps. Goodness and mercy are relentlessly pursuing us. We are the lead car on the lead lap of the race with goodness and mercy hot on our heels trying to overtake us; trying to overtake us for God.

We all have those days when we have sinned and fallen short. We all have those days when the chaos of the day makes us lose sight of God. We all have those times when we doubt what God is doing, or even if God is doing something. When that happens, think about God’s goodness and mercy relentlessly chasing after you to bring you back into the arms of our Loving God. Our Loving God who sent Jesus Christ to show us what loving forgiveness looks like.

I thank God who loves me so much that Jesus Christ died for my sins. I thank God for sending goodness and mercy after me.

Pastor Susi



OCTOBER

BIRTHDAYS

- 4 Kathy Howard
- 4 Jim Oliver
- 15 Jim Slate
- 24 Susannah Cornelius
- 25 Pam Pace
- 30 Gary Pillow



First Presbyterian Church was the location of our first PW meeting for the 2022-2023 year. On September 8th we met in the sanctuary at 1 P. M. 15 women were in attendance. Jean Johnson shared a very meaningful devotion.

Brenda Linkenhoker shared information about the Presbyterian Children's Home of the Highlands that included ideas that are needed for their care, if we decide to do this for our service project at Christmas.

Here is the wish list from PCHH:

- Shampoo
- Conditioner
- Body Wash
- Deodorant
- Craft supplies
- Lots of prayers
- Gift Cards to Walmart and fast food eateries

Our group plans to continue the love offering until our resources are sufficient to pay any outstanding expenses. At present our balance on our treasurer's report given by Barbara Fawley is \$685.90. We are grateful she continues to serve as our treasurer. The other officers include:

- Moderator - Pam Pace
- Co-Moderator - Jeanie Morrissette
- Treasurer - Barbara Fawley
- Card Chairman - Ruby Sharp

Our group has set up a social Committee to make suggestions throughout the year. The members include Jean Johnson, Barbara Fawley and Emily Amick. We thank those who are willing to serve.

Discussion for other projects for the year included the food pantry, SafeHomes, and this year a donation for the flood victims in Kentucky.

We welcome 2 new members this year Emily Amick, and Sue Lacks. We are so grateful for their membership in our PW group. Welcome.

Pastor Susi began our new Bible Study this year that has lessons on honoring the Sabbath. Her background information about the history of honoring the Sabbath was meaningful and still applicable in today's time. She shared that she had the opportunity to meet the writer of our series, Carol Bechtel, on a zoom call for the Synod Presbyterian Women.

After our meeting we held a very Happy Birthday celebration for Mildred McCabe. We are so fortunate to share in her wonderful day of celebration. She continues to serve our church with her donations, love and caring. Thank you, Mildred.





In closing, we have such a great group of women representing several churches in attendance and we are grateful for their love and service to this group.

We find ways to share the members activities in other endeavors. Here is Frances Withrow achieving something on her "Bucket List" of flying in a helicopter.



Love to all! Next meeting is October 13
Pam Pace Moderator

Prayer Time



The sanctuary of First Presbyterian Church is open on Wednesdays twice a month from 1-2 pm for people to come here and pray. It is a time for quiet prayer. It will be the 1st and 3rd Wednesdays of the month.

If needed there will be some Biblical passages for you to use in your time of prayer. During this time Pastor Susi will be available to pray with you for any particular concerns.



Prayers and Songs

Good Morning to all!
What a beautiful day the Lord has given us.

The Worship and Music Committee is working diligently to make worship a special time for each of you.

Hallelujah and Amen to our Worship in the Chapel! It was an awesome time. The lesson was perfect. The music was inspirational and the singing of Sunday School song brought back lots of memories. Everyone enjoyed the fellowship. The new Audio-Visual equipment has been installed. We are waiting on our instructional session to begin using the equipment hopefully by the first of October For World Wide Communion Sunday.

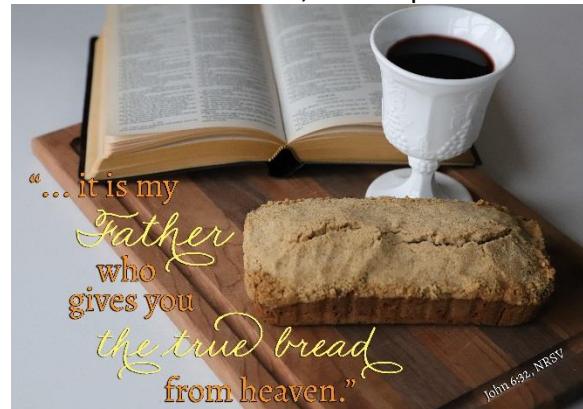
The session has dropped all restrictions for church worship and use that were instituted during COVID. So, it is back to as normal as we can be in this day and time.

The session has also decided not to put up the Chrismon Tree this year. Part of the tree lighting does not work and it is difficult to assemble the tree. We are asking for ideas about using the Chrismons in the church. If you have a suggestion, please, let us know.

Reformation Sunday service will be held at Clifton Forge Presbyterian Church. Pastor Susi will be the speaker. This service is October 30 at 11:00am. No decision has been made about a community Thanksgiving service.

Please, please share your ideas for worship with us.

-Brenda Linkenhoker, Worship & Music



Minute 4 Mission

Peace & Global Witness Offering October 2nd

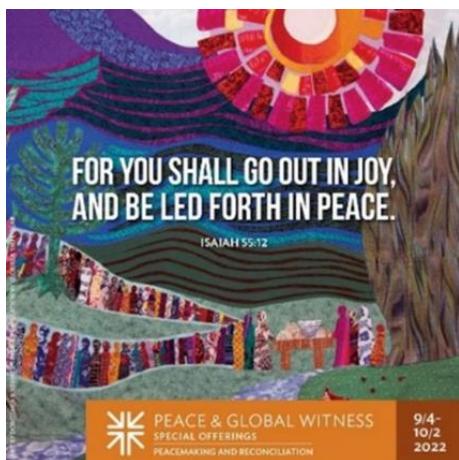
Equipping Peacemakers in Congregations and Around the World.

The Peace & Global Witness Denominational Collection will occur on October 2nd. A gift to the Peace & Global Witness Offering enables the church to promote the Peace of Christ by addressing systems of conflict and injustice across the world. Individual congregations are encouraged to utilize up to 25% of this Offering to connect with the global witness of Christ's peace. Mid councils retain an additional 25% for ministries of peace and reconciliation. The remaining 50% is used by the Presbyterian Mission Agency to advocate for peace and justice in cultures of violence, including our own, through collaborative projects of education and Christian witness. At First Presbyterian Church we give our local portion to the support of Safehome Systems. A special envelope should be found in your donation box for this collection.

The Peace & Global Witness Offering encourages the church to cast off anxiety and fear, discord and division, and embrace our God's mission of reconciliation to those around the corner and around the world and empowers congregations and individuals to become peacemakers themselves.

Many thanks for your generous and thoughtful gifts.

-- Mission & Service Committee



Save the Date – October Mission Speakers

Mission Speakers will join us during Sunday School on two dates in October. Please join these sessions to learn more about these missions that First Presbyterian Church supports. As normal, we will begin these Zoom meetings at 9:30am with 15 minutes of social time then turn to a discussion lead by our speaker with an overview on the organization, concluding at 10:30am. As each of these executive directors are new in their role, they will also tell us about their priorities going forward.

- October 9th: Heather Wood, Executive Director of Safehome Systems, began her job July 1st.
- October 16th: Chris Doyle, Executive Director Boys Home, began his role December 2021.

Please mark your calendars and be sure to join us on these dates. If you do not regularly get the Sunday School email, please contact Pastor Susi at pastor.susi.ennis@gmail.com
--Mission & Service Committee

Hunger Action Congregation

First Presbyterian Church is again certified for the next three years as a Hunger Action Congregation. Our initial certification was in 2019-2022. We updated our information and again are doing an activity in each of six areas that enable us to be a Certified Hunger Action Congregation.

The six areas to Ending Hunger and Its Causes are:

- **Hunger Alleviation:** providing and/or sharing food in a dignified way with an eye to long-term structural solutions
- **Development Assistance:** addressing the root causes of hunger and poverty through equitable and sustainable development
- **Hunger Education:** learning about systemic causes of hunger, leading towards faithful action that is informed and guided by directly affected people and partner groups
- **Lifestyle Integrity:** adopting sustainable personal and corporate lifestyles to restore justice and protect all of God's creation
- **Corporate and Public Policy Witness:** advocating and campaigning for changes in policies and practices to end hunger and its causes, promote self-development, and care for creation

- **Worship:** incorporating prayer, education, and preaching about ending hunger and its causes into worship



Thank you each for your continued support of our Church's efforts in all of our activities.

--Mission & Service Committee

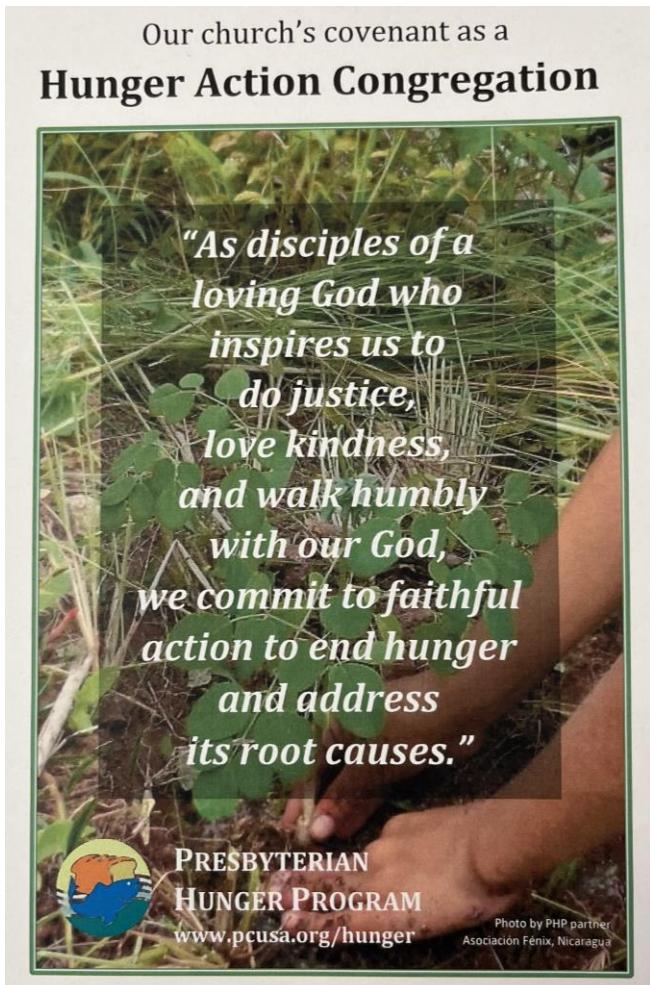
PRESCHOOL PICS



A high five, anyone?



Preparing tea and cucumber sandwiches for our friends!



Not two by two but three getting closer to the playroom!



This little light of mine, I'm going to let it shine! Worship with Pastor Susi.



Sensory bin excitement! I need to get on the table. I'm tired of standing!



Busy making suncatchers using beads!



A little alfresco painting!



Our fall sensory bin is a hit!

New Member Class

Would you like to become a member of First Presbyterian Church? Pastor Susi will be holding a new member class for those interested on November 6 and 13 following worship. Those who wish to join will then meet with the session at the November session meeting on the 20th. If you are interested in being a part of this class, please let Pastor Susi know.

A Note from Pastor Susi about Reformation Sunday

According to the Presbyterian Historical Society's website, "Presbyterians celebrate the tradition that grounds their faith on Reformation Sunday. It is always the last Sunday in October, marking the occasion in 1517 when Martin Luther posted his 95 theses on the church door in Wittenberg, Germany."

There has been a long-standing practice for the local Presbyterian churches to gather together for worship on Reformation Sunday. This is another one of our practices that was disrupted by COVID.

I am happy to announce that we are resuming this practice. On October 30, 2022 we will join together in worship at Clifton Forge Presbyterian Church. I (Pastor Susi) will be preaching that morning. Mark your calendars as we join together in worship with our sisters and brothers from Clifton Forge, Low Moor, Mallow, and McAllister Presbyterian churches.

Holy Communion will be observed on World Communion Sunday, October 2, 2022



Linda Trumbo and Pastor Susi with the car loaded with 6 'Coolers of Love' full of non-perishable food to be taken to Buckhorn, Kentucky in a U-Haul very soon to help those close to Linda's heart that have been affected by flooding in the last few months.

PUZZLE 

SEEING CLEARLY 

God's character is evident through what he made.

Directions: Hold up the puzzle to a mirror. Then write the backward words correctly to complete Romans 1:20, NIV.

FOR SINCE THE CREATION OF THE WORLD

ETERNAL HIS INVISIBLE GOD'S

POWER AND DIVINE NATURE — HAVE BEEN

WHAT HAS BEEN MADE, SO THAT PEOPLE THAT ARE

WITHOUT EXCUSE. ROMANS 1:20, NIV

First Presbyterian Church

Sunday services are In-Person and streamed on YouTube. Devotions with Daniel are streamed on YouTube.
 Sunday School via Zoom – Email Pastor Susi for a Zoom link at pastor.susi.ennis@gmail.com

October 2022

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1 Devotions w/ Daniel, 8a
2 Devotions w/ Daniel, 8a Social Time, 9:30a Sunday School, 9:45a Worship, 11:00a WORLD COMMUNION Peace & Global Witness Offering	3 Devotions w/ Daniel, 8a M & S Zoom 10a TUESDAY NITE SUNDAY SCHOOL 6:45 p	4 Devotions w/ Daniel, 8a M & S Zoom 10a TUESDAY NITE SUNDAY SCHOOL 6:45 p	5 Devotions w/ Daniel, 8a <u>Choirs</u> Chancel, 4:30p Handbell, 5:30p Open Sanctuary Prayer Time 1-2p	6 Devotions w/ Daniel, 8a W & M Zoom 10a	7 Devotions w/ Daniel, 8a	8 Devotions w/ Daniel, 8a
9 Devotions w/ Daniel, 8a Social Time, 9:30a Sunday School 9:45a Heather Wood-SafeHome Systems Worship, 11:00a Rev. Terri Slate	10 Devotions w/ Daniel, 8a NO TUESDAY NITE SUNDAY SCHOOL VOUCHERS DUE, 10a	11 Devotions w/ Daniel, 8a NO TUESDAY NITE SUNDAY SCHOOL VOUCHERS DUE, 10a	12 Devotions w/ Daniel, 8a <u>Choirs</u> Chancel, 4:30p Handbell, 5:30p	13 Devotions w/ Daniel, 8a Presbyterian Women 1p	14 Devotions w/ Daniel, 8a	15 Devotions w/ Daniel, 8a
16 Devotions w/ Daniel, 8a Social Time, 9:30a, Sunday School 9:45a Chris Doyle-Boy's Home Worship, 11:00a Rev. Terri Slate	17 Devotions w/ Daniel, 8a NO TUESDAY NITE SUNDAY SCHOOL	18 Devotions w/ Daniel, 8a NO TUESDAY NITE SUNDAY SCHOOL	19 Devotions w/ Daniel, 8a <u>Choirs</u> Chancel, 4:30p Handbell, 5:30p Open Sanctuary Prayer Time 1-2p	20 Devotions w/ Daniel, 8a	21 Devotions w/ Daniel, 8a	22 Devotions w/ Daniel, 8a
23 Devotions w/ Daniel, 8a Social Time, 9:30a, Sunday School 9:45a Worship, 11:00a	24 Devotions w/ Daniel, 8a TUESDAY NITE SUNDAY SCHOOL 6:45 p	25 Devotions w/ Daniel, 8a TUESDAY NITE SUNDAY SCHOOL 6:45 p	26 Devotions w/ Daniel, 8a <u>Choirs</u> Chancel, 4:30p Handbell, 5:30p	27 Devotions w/ Daniel, 8a Newsletter Items Due 10a	28 Devotions w/ Daniel, 8a	29 Devotions w/ Daniel, 8a
30 Devotions w/ Daniel, 8a Reformation Sunday@CFPC	31 Devotions w/ Daniel, 8a VOUCHERS DUE, 10a					