

Under Our Roof

First Presbyterian Church, Covington, VA

November 2022

It is November where we observe our national holiday that is about giving thanks. As Christians we know that our gratitude goes to God, Jesus Christ, and the Holy Spirit as we have been richly blessed.

As God's people we are blessed with life, love, grace, and mercy from the Creator. We are blessed with forgiveness of sins as sealed for us by Jesus' death and resurrection. We are blessed with guidance and wisdom with the Holy Spirit dwelling within us. Yes, we give thanks to God, Jesus Christ, and the Holy Spirit.

There are many places in the Bible where we are told to give thanks to God. Passages such as Psalm 106:1; *"Praise the LORD! O give thanks to the LORD, for he is good, for his steadfast love endures forever."* (NRSVue) and Psalm 100; *Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth. Serve the Lord with gladness; come into his presence with singing. Know that the Lord is God. It is he who made us, and we are his; we are his people and the sheep of his pasture. Enter his gates with thanksgiving and his courts with praise. Give thanks to him; bless his name."* (Psalm 100:1-4, NRSVue) help us see how God works in our lives.

After Jesus' death and resurrection, we added giving thanks for Jesus and for our redemption. Paul wrote about giving thanks to God in letters to the Philippians, the Galatians, and the Thessalonians. His letter to the church at Thessalonica includes these words; *"Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances, for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you."* (I Thessalonians 5:16-18, NRSVue). Paul says that we are to give thanks in all circumstances. All circumstances, not just when things are going well.

When David brought the Ark of the Covenant into Jerusalem, he opened his prayer in I Chronicles; *"O give thanks to the Lord, call on his name, make known his deeds among the peoples."* (I Chronicles 16:8, NRSVue). For David things had been successful. Thanks were easy.

However, when things are not going well; when we are struggling, we find it difficult to thank God in those circumstances. We feel alone, overwhelmed, angry, disappointed, sorrowful. We wonder what there is to be grateful about.

In those moments we give thanks to God for our very lives, for being our God, for loving us and caring for us, and for forgiveness, grace, and mercy. No matter where we are the God of Creation, who sent Jesus Christ that the world might be saved, is watching over us. That is something to be thankful for.

When things are not going well, think about Jonah. Jonah was in the belly of a large fish. As he prayed Jonah acknowledged to God how he had sinned which had landed him where he was, in the belly of a great fish. He ends the prayer, *"But I with the voice of thanksgiving will sacrifice to you; what I have vowed I will pay. Deliverance belongs to the Lord!"* (Jonah 2:9, NRSVue). In the midst of his dire circumstances, Jonah thanked God for his life as he longed for deliverance.

We give thanks to God every day, not just the 4th Thursday in November because we have a loving and caring God. In the words of Psalm 92:1-2; *"It is good to give thanks to the Lord, to sing praises to your name, O Most High, to declare your steadfast love in the morning and your faithfulness by night."* (NRSVue). Yes, give thanks to God and sing praises because God is faithful to care for us in everything.

Pastor Susi



NOVEMBER

BIRTHDAYS

- 7 Mary Baker
- 7 Becca Young
- 21 Lonnie Rider
- 24 Leah Pillow
- 29 Emily Amick



Happy Fall and so grateful for our PW Group to be able to get together for our October 13th meeting. 12 women were present in the sanctuary. Our Co-moderator, Jeanie Morrissette, gave a wonderful devotional to help remind us about caring for others.

The short business session gave an opportunity to vote for our Christmas project. We have decided to collect items for a Christmas stocking for the children at the Presbyterian Children's Home of the Highlands in Wytheville. Brenda Linkenhoker presented us with a Shower of Blessings list.

Here is the list from PCHH:

- Fast food gift cards to restaurants
- Gift cards to Wal-Mart for shopping
- Shampoo
- Conditioner
- Body Wash
- Deodorant
- Craft supplies
- Lots of prayers

A mention was made about putting these in a Christmas Stocking. If the group is interested in getting together and making Christmas stockings at the church, we could make a plan. Even if you don't want to sew there are opportunities for cutting, assembling, and pressing fabric in doing this project. We will discuss this at the November meeting.



A big thank you to Ann Marie, our church secretary, for the great job she did on our new directories. It is a big job to get all of our information done in such an expedient manner. I will have your directory if you were not able to be with us. I will bring the extra copies to the church office on Sunday.

After the meeting, Terri Slate led us in a very meaningful lesson on how we keep the Sabbath by inspecting our own inner thoughts in preparation for the service. We discussed how busy our lives are and the difficulty in shutting out those distractions so we can tune in to the meaning of Sabbath. Thank you so very much for your lesson Terri.

The November meeting will be Thursday November 10th at 1:00 p.m. at the Church Sanctuary.

Pam Pace
Moderator

Tri-County Cloggers meet in the fellowship hall on Tuesday evenings from 5 to 6 P. M. Come join in on the fun. If you have any questions, please ask Doris Swartz.

Prayers and Songs



The Community Thanksgiving service is being planned to be held on Sunday, November 20th here at First Presbyterian Church with several other local churches participating. Watch your bulletin for more information.

Please share your ideas for worship with us.

- Worship & Music

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.

Prayer



Time

The sanctuary of First Presbyterian Church is open on Wednesdays twice a month from 1-2 P. M. for anyone to come here and pray. It is a time for quiet prayer. It will be the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays of the month. (11/9 & 11/23)

If needed, there are Biblical passages on cards for you to use in your time of prayer. During this time Pastor Susi will be available to pray with you for any particular needs or concerns.

A Note from Pastor Susi Adult Sunday School Class

The Adult Sunday School class is almost finished working through the Gospel of John. We are on target to finish up with the last chapter on November 27, 2022. Following our study of John's Gospel, Pastor Susi will lead an Advent Study that looks the beginning of Jesus' life and ministry as presented in Matthew, Mark, and Luke. The study is titled "A Season of Hope and Anticipation".

This will take us up to December 25, 2022, Christmas Day. There will be no class on Sunday December 25, Tuesday December 27, Sunday January 1, 2023, and Tuesday January 3, 2023. We will resume on Sunday January 8 and Tuesday January 10.

As we look forward to 2023, Pastor Susi is wondering what you might be interested in studying. There are a number of possibilities. We might undertake a particular topic such as we did with our look at prayer. We might undertake another book of the Bible that you may have been interested in studying more deeply. Please let Pastor Susi know any ideas that you may have.

Minute 4 Mission

October Mission Speakers

We were pleased to have two Mission Speakers join us during Sunday School in October, both organizations that First Presbyterian Church supports. Both speakers shared their story via Zoom and we have verbal recordings of each available per request to the office. A summary of each presentation is given below.

- *October 9th: Morgan McCown, M.A., Education & Outreach Coordinator of Safeshome Systems speaks regularly to civic groups and school groups about healthy relationships in a targeted way. This goes from being good friends (addressing bullying) for young ones to romantic relationships for older youths and then adults. She finds that she will often get calls to follow up privately after her talks, indicating her effectiveness in sharing what*

respectful relationships include (and effectively don't include). She also discussed some of the functions that support victims of domestic or sexual abuse, including establishing one's own bank account or taking classes (both often initial steps in domestic abuse), to steps to take to address abuse including court advocacy.

- October 16th: Chris Doyle, Executive Director Boys Home, brought six boys and a house parent to participate in the Sunday School time and also participated in the Church Minute for Mission (pictured below). Chris Doyle began his position mid-December 2021, having been a teacher and coach for 5 years before his 20 year corporate job. Having been influenced positively by teachers when he was 13/14 years old, he is committed to making a difference in the lives of the Boys Home boys. The Boys Home focus is on respect, integrity and Godly life, wrapped in good manners, increasingly uncommon these days. The boys have a very scheduled day of school, work, spiritual time, study hall and athletics. There are currently 43 boys and 15 teachers giving a 6:1 teaching ratio. The school is currently seeking accreditation as an independent school. Several of the boys were seniors, having only a year or so at Boys Home. The boys were of varied ages and duration at Boys Home; each was respectful, helpful and well behaved. Boys Home continues to support the boys as they transition into society after high school, be this at work, trade school, military or higher education.



--Mission & Service Committee

SOUTH COVINGTON CARE PANTRY REPORT

STATISTICS

	<u>Families Served</u>	<u>Family Members</u>
August 2022	107	417
September 2022	90	324
Deposits	August-September 2022	
\$594.04	Local UMCs	
<u>\$10,455.00</u>	Donations from Individuals	
\$11,049.04	TOTAL	

The monthly bills from FSWVA for food totaled \$3,308.49 for August and September. This represents an 88% increase over the previous two months. Although we are receiving reduced quantities of USDA items at no cost, as well as some fresh fruits and vegetables, we no longer receive any canned goods or staples except for those purchased. Also, it is unfortunate that FSWVA has not had any frozen meats available for purchase for several weeks due to a driver shortage. Many applicants would rather receive the meat than other items.

BLESSINGS

- A Callaghan Charge UMC member delivered 30 food items and some adult diapers.
- South Covington UMC donated 48 boxes of cornbread mix plus some tomatoes.
- The Patterson Grandchildren donated 20 boxes of cereal.
- An Alleghany Retired Teachers Association member delivered 21 donated food items.
- Aspen Hill Farms donated 4 dozen eggs.
- Friends donated 11 canned items, protein drinks, individual cereals, and adult diapers, as well as some fresh squash.
- A friend delivered boxes of fresh vegetables (potatoes, zucchini, onions, tomatoes, and corn) to us to bring to the Pantry.
- A member of Christ UMC delivered 4 boxes of stuffing mix to begin our campaign to collect that item to give out in November and December.
- Several donations of very nice clothing were received, and many grateful individuals have shopped the clothing racks on the sidewalk.
- This service is well received.

GALATIANS 6:9 "And let us not grow weary of doing good, for in due season we will reap, if we do not give up."

THE OCTOBER AND NOVEMBER ITEM OF THE MONTH IS STUFFING MIX. It will be our goal to give each family stuffing mix for Thanksgiving meals. We hope to continue this campaign into December for Christmas as well. Please purchase and donate this item as one way of counting blessings and thanking God by sharing abundance with our neighbors. Your prayers, your money, and your purchases can and do make a difference in the lives of so many of our less fortunate neighbors. May God bless each of you for all you do to support this mission of love.

Happy Thanksgiving!

Linda Black for Your Care Pantry Team
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**A Letter from Nadia Ayoub,  
serving in Greece  
Fall 2022**

*Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse. Rejoice with those who rejoice; mourn with those who mourn. Live in harmony with one another. Do not be proud, but be willing to associate with people of low position. Do not be conceited. Romans 12:14-16 All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation.*

2 Corinthians 5:18

Dear friends and families,  
I greet you with the peace of Christ our Lord and Savior. With all my heart I continue to praise the Lord for he is the only good God who desires to reconcile us to himself through Christ and gave us the message of reconciliation to share with others so that in Jesus Christ we all might become the righteousness of God. I thank you so much for your partnership with your prayers, encouragement and financial support which enables me to participate in the reconciliation ministry among the refugees in Katerini, Greece.

On August 24, 1991, Ukraine declared its independence from the Soviet Union. This August 24, Russian authorities warned the Ukrainian

people in Ukraine not to celebrate their Independence Day and not to leave their homes to celebrate. In response, many Ukrainian refugees in other countries promise to celebrate Independence Day. In Katerini, the Ukrainian refugees invited me to come out in solidarity to support them and we celebrated peacefully in front of the city council of Katerini. The mayor of Katerini greeted them and assured them of Greece's support for Ukraine's struggle.

The ministry among the refugees becoming more challenging. Since the Ukrainian refugees arrived, I have begun to translate for them, and care for them, be attentive to hear their stories, understand their needs, and advocate for them. Their needs are different from the needs of the Syrian refugees who are seeking asylum. Ukrainians are in Greece under temporary protection status. The Ukrainians hope, that with the help of the international community, that the war will be over soon, and they can return home.

Irina is a grandmother (baboca) who came to Greece in April 2022 with her two granddaughters. Her daughter-in-law arrived later with her daughter. All six live in an apartment provided by Perichoresis and they receive food, household necessities and medical assistance. With the help of Perichoresis, the children were enrolled in the Greek school system. Irina enjoys the Friday coffee time, especially the games. After winning the musical chairs game she sat and laughed until she cried. She said, "I do not remember when I ever had the chance to play before." And when one Greek family friend of hers invited her with the granddaughters to spend a week on the beach, she said it is the first time she was able to take a real summer vacation. She is very grateful to God that she was able to come to Greece and receive care through Perichoresis as Perichoresis continues to follow God's command in Matthew 25.

It is difficult for the children to adjust to the school system in Greece since they have to continue their Ukrainian education online as well. Many of the Ukrainians came with their own cars and now some of them, who have been in Greece for more than six months, face a difficult situation. If they want to keep their cars, they have to pay a fine. The law states that even if they have a one-year temporary protection residence card, foreign cars are only allowed to be in the country temporarily for six months. After that, the car must either pay import duties and taxes or leave the country with the car and return after a specified period of time.

The Iraqi Kurdish asylum seekers continue to receive rejections for their asylum cases and most of them use the service of smugglers to leave Greece for other countries. Smuggling people is a thriving business that costs a huge amount of money. It is cheaper for families if they can travel with false documents by plane or ship than traveling by road. One family explained to me that their parents talked to the "smuggler agency" in Iraq and then they will only pay the smugglers when the family arrives at their destination. One family tried to leave for Italy with false documents five times and the airport security would not allow them to pass. They then tried to travel to Italy overland on foot, by bus or by taxi. This way takes some days or some weeks. Some border guards will allow them to cross the borders, but other border guards will detain them and put them in refugee detention camps until they process their registration cards. When they are allowed to leave the camp, they can continue their travel to the next border until they arrive at their desired country. Every time a family leaves I become very concerned until I know that they arrived at the place they wanted to reach.

Please remember in your prayers all the asylum seekers who are still waiting for the decision of acceptance as refugees.

Please pray for the Ukrainians who came to Greece to have peace and become adjusted to the system in Greece.

Thank you so much and I pray the Lord encourages you to know that your partnership is encouraging others even far as those refugees in Greece.

I pray God gives you a blessed Thanksgiving celebration.

Serving Christ together,

Nadia Ayoub



## NEWS ABOUT BECCA YOUNG

*The following excerpt is an update from a letter received by a Mission and Service member from Becca Young. Please continue to keep Becca in your prayers.*

...In March of this year, I lost my mother, not to covid but to dementia and "failure to thrive". It is a blessing for her to be at rest with God, although I have had a hard time adjusting to her loss.

Meanwhile, the mission agency I was working for had a major change in leadership. I decided to take the opportunity to retire from mission work in an official capacity.

Instead, I have moved to Morocco and am beginning work on a project for literacy among women artisans, especially carpet weavers. I really am just beginning this work so it will take a little time to see what their specific needs for funding are. If you would be interested in hearing more about this project, I could send you an update on the financial situation in a couple of weeks.

The Moroccan economy mostly relies on tourism which is entirely operated by men. For several decades, male tour guides have sold carpets at very high prices to European and North American tourists, from which the women weavers only receive 4%. For example, men (who have done no work except take a tourist to a carpet shop), will sell a carpet to a tourist for \$500. The woman who spent several months making the carpet will get \$20.

If I can help teach the women to speak English, they can sell to tourists directly and also learn what the going price for carpets is and demand their fair share.

Here is the website for the cooperative where I will be volunteering: <https://www.theanou.com/>

Thanks for continuing to think of me and keep in contact! It makes a huge difference.

Love,  
Becca

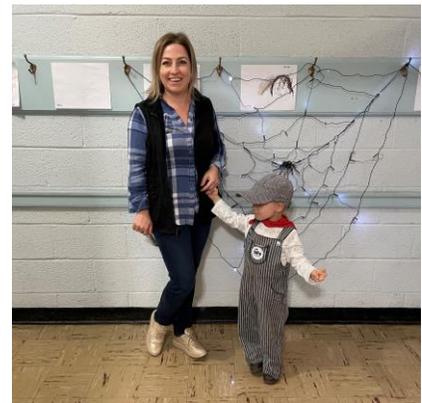
REMINDER FOR REFORMATION SUNDAY  
OCTOBER 30<sup>TH</sup> SERVICE AT CLIFTON  
FORGE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH AT 11 AM

# PRESCHOOL NEWS 2022





## FALL FESTIVAL



We are so thankful for the new playground gym replacement and a huge thank you to Mr. Mike and Mrs. AnnMarie for putting it together!! ~ Preschool Crew

# 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

## November 2022

| Sun                                                                                                                                                                         | Mon                                                              | Tue                                                                                                                       | Wed                                                                                                                               | Thu                                                                                                 | Fri                                  | Sat                                  |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Daylight Savings<br>Time Ends<br><b>November 6th</b><br><br><i>Fall Back</i>                |                                                                  | <b>1</b> Devotions<br>w/ Daniel, 8a<br><br>TUESDAY NITE<br>SUNDAY SCHOOL<br>6:45 p<br><br>All Saints<br>Day               | <b>2</b> Devotions<br>w/ Daniel, 8a<br><br>Choirs<br>Chancel, 4:30p<br>Handbell, 5:30p                                            | <b>3</b> Devotions<br>w/ Daniel, 8a                                                                 | <b>4</b> Devotions<br>w/ Daniel, 8a  | <b>5</b> Devotions<br>w/ Daniel, 8a  |
| <b>6</b> Devotions<br>w/ Daniel, 8a<br>Social Time,<br>9:30a<br>Sunday School,<br>9:45a<br>Worship, 11:00a<br><br>New Member<br>Class                                       | <b>7</b> Devotions<br>w/ Daniel, 8a                              | <b>8</b> Devotions<br>w/ Daniel, 8a<br><br>TUESDAY NITE<br>SUNDAY SCHOOL<br>6:45 p                                        | <b>9</b> Devotions<br>w/ Daniel, 8a<br><br>Choirs<br>Chancel, 4:30p<br>Handbell, 5:30p<br><br>Open Sanctuary<br>Prayer Time 1-2p  | <b>10</b> Devotions<br>w/ Daniel, 8a<br><br>Presbyterian<br>Women<br>1p<br><br>VOUCHERS<br>DUE, 10a | <b>11</b> Devotions<br>w/ Daniel, 8a | <b>12</b> Devotions<br>w/ Daniel, 8a |
| <b>13</b> Devotions<br>w/ Daniel, 8a<br>Social Time,<br>9:30a<br>Sunday School<br>9:45a<br>Worship, 11:00a<br><br>New Member<br>Class                                       | <b>14</b> Devotions<br>w/ Daniel, 8a                             | <b>15</b> Devotions<br>w/ Daniel, 8a<br><br>TUESDAY NITE<br>SUNDAY SCHOOL<br>6:45 p                                       | <b>16</b> Devotions<br>w/ Daniel, 8a<br><br>Choirs<br>Chancel, 4:30p<br>Handbell, 5:30p                                           | <b>17</b> Devotions<br>w/ Daniel, 8a<br><br>PRESBYTERY                                              | <b>18</b> Devotions<br>w/ Daniel, 8a | <b>19</b> Devotions<br>w/ Daniel, 8a |
| <b>20</b> Devotions<br>w/ Daniel, 8a<br>Social Time,<br>9:30a,<br>Sunday School<br>9:45a<br>Worship, 11:00a<br>COMMUNION<br>SESSION<br>Community<br>Thanksgiving<br>Service | <b>21</b> Devotions<br>w/ Daniel, 8a<br><br>VOUCHERS<br>DUE, 10a | <b>22</b> Devotions<br>w/ Daniel, 8a<br><br>TUESDAY NITE<br>SUNDAY SCHOOL<br>6:45 p<br><br>Newsletter<br>Items<br>Due 10a | <b>23</b> Devotions<br>w/ Daniel, 8a<br><br>Choirs<br>Chancel, 4:30p<br>Handbell, 5:30p<br><br>Open Sanctuary<br>Prayer Time 1-2p | <b>24</b> Devotions<br>w/ Daniel, 8a<br><br>HAPPY<br>THANKSGIVING!<br><br>Offices closed            | <b>25</b> Devotions<br>w/ Daniel, 8a | <b>26</b> Devotions<br>w/ Daniel, 8a |
| <b>27</b> Devotions<br>w/ Daniel, 8a<br>Social Time,<br>9:30a,<br>Sunday School<br>9:45a<br>Worship, 11:00a                                                                 | <b>28</b> Devotions<br>w/ Daniel, 8a                             | <b>29</b> Devotions<br>w/ Daniel, 8a<br><br>TUESDAY NITE<br>SUNDAY SCHOOL<br>6:45 p<br><br>Giving<br>Tuesday              | <b>30</b> Devotions<br>w/ Daniel, 8a<br><br>Choirs<br>Chancel, 4:30p<br>Handbell, 5:30p                                           |                                                                                                     |                                      |                                      |