

Under Our Roof

First Presbyterian Church, Covington, VA

July 2024

For freedom Christ has set us free. Stand firm, therefore, and do not submit again to a yoke of slavery. Galatians 5:1, NRSVue

It is July and our thoughts are upon the July 4th holiday. It is the day we celebrate freedom. We celebrate The Declaration of Independence. There are parades and picnics. Fireworks light up the skies after dark. Yet we are not the first nation to celebrate our independence from another nation.

The Israelites were led out of Egypt on a journey to the Promised Land. Over centuries the Israelites would be ruled by various other nations. By the time Jesus was born they were under the rule of the Roman Empire. Politically they were subject to oppressive laws and taxes. The Israelites, now called the Jews, had received a promise from God for a Messiah. This Messiah would bring in peace and freedom.

The Israelites believed the Messiah would come into their midst as a great warrior leader. This Messiah would organize an army that would overthrow the Roman Legions and bring them freedom.

When Jesus arrived as the Son of God, He began to proclaim the Kingdom of God. He spoke of the freedom that is available to those who believe in Almighty God as they followed Him. People were waiting for Jesus to start organizing the army to go against the Romans. They must have been disappointed when this didn't happen.

Jesus ushers in a different sense of freedom. In worship I often remind us that it is in Jesus Christ that we are forgiven and freed. From what are we freed?

In John's Gospel Jesus says "*everyone who commits sin is a slave to sin.*" (John 8:34). Evil is a very real force in the world. Evil is what entices us to sin. Sin is what fractures our relationship with God. Every day there are forces that come into our presence attempting to lure us away from God.

As Jesus continues, "*So if the Son makes you free, you will be free indeed.*" (John 8:36). Jesus is the Savior who sets us free from slavery to sin. We declare that Jesus died to save all those who trust in Him from our sins.

Jesus assures us that when we follow Him and trust Him as Savior, God hears our humble prayers of contrition. It is then we receive not only forgiveness, but grace and mercy. This is the freedom we find in Jesus Christ.

Later Paul would travel to towns and cities around the Mediterranean Sea to spread the word about Jesus and what is possible for those place their trust in Him. He wrote letters of encouragement to churches in Phillipi, Corinth, Thessalonica, Ephesus, Colossae, and the region of Galatia. Paul encouraged believers to remember that Jesus Christ frees us from the yoke of slavery to sin.

Friends, as we celebrate July 4th this year, please take time to thank God for what we have received. Thank God for the gift of freedom from the yoke of sin through Jesus Christ our Lord.

~ *Pastor Susí*



Birthdays This Month

JULY

- 8 Jean Johnson
- 17 Joe Wilson
- 18 Gail Nicely
- 23 Lon Rollinson
- 28 Anne Wright
- 28 Barbara Fawley
- 28 Chezley Pillow

Minute 4 Mission

SOUTH COVINGTON CARE PANTRY REPORT

STATISTICS:

<u>Families Served</u>	<u># Of Family Members</u>	
April 2024	160	643
May 2024	138	535

<u>Deposits</u>	<u>February – March 2024</u>
\$40.00	Memorial – Betty Anderson
\$670.00	Donations from Individuals
\$175.00	First Presbyterian Church
\$250.00	Granbery Memorial UMC
\$100.00	Mt. Carmel Methodist Church
<u>\$1,235.00</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>

We paid Feeding Southwest Virginia \$6,700.70 for food and meat during this 2-month period. We have been blessed to receive several cases of soup, fruits, and vegetables from them at no cost. Fortunately, the USDA allotments are increasing. We are especially grateful for the USDA meat. Otherwise, right now, we would have very little to give out. In May, we received 200 lbs. of meat from Food Lion, which helped out with the current shortage. We also appreciate the bread, pastries, and produce our team members pick up from Food Lion on Saturdays and Sundays.


BLESSINGS

- South Covington UMC donated 8 miscellaneous food items.
- Friends delivered and donated miscellaneous food items, 10 jars of peanut butter, 30 bags of sugar, 21 bags of flour, and 19 salt & peppers.
- Members of Granbery Memorial UMC delivered and donated 96 rolls of bathroom tissue, 26 rolls of paper towels, 3 boxes of tissues, and 18 food items. The paper products are part of a project by Highlands Methodist Missions to collect these items for our pantry.
- The Patterson Family donated and delivered 27 items (cereal and peanut butter).
- Unknown donors left 45 food items at the church.
- We can now accept adult clothing, but not in large quantities. Household items and children's clothing and toys are still needed.

HEBREWS 6:10 "For God is not unjust; he will not forget your work and the love you have shown Him as you have helped his people and continue to help them."

We are always happy to receive any donated food items! I'm suggesting the following items not currently available from Feeding Southwest Virginia: CANNED PEAS AND CORNBREAD MIX What a blessing to have a team of Christian friends who volunteer to serve others every week. We love working together, witnessing to others and each other, and having fun together as we do our work. Please continue to lift up in prayer the Pantry Team, the families who depend on our pantry, and the need for financial support in order to continue to help with the needs of so many families in our community. Also, remember to give thanks for the many ways the Lord has blessed us and provided for our needs! Wishing you God's abundant blessings! God bless America as we celebrate Independence Day!

Linda Black for Your Care Pantry Team



**PRESCHOOL ASSISTANT
TEACHER POSITION
AVAILABLE**

September 2024 through
May 2025 M, W, F
from 8:00AM to 1:00PM
Follows AHPS Calendar

First Presbyterian Church
185 N. Maple Ave.
Covington, VA 24426

For information, call 540-962-2195
or email fpccovingtonva@aol.com

**STUDENT SUMMER
ENRICHMENT PROGRAM**

Riley Spangler is hosting her 2nd Student Summer Enrichment Program (SSEP) at First Presbyterian Church. It will be held July 15th -19th from 8:30a-2:00p for rising 4th -6th Graders. Camp is free for all participants.

Classes offered are:

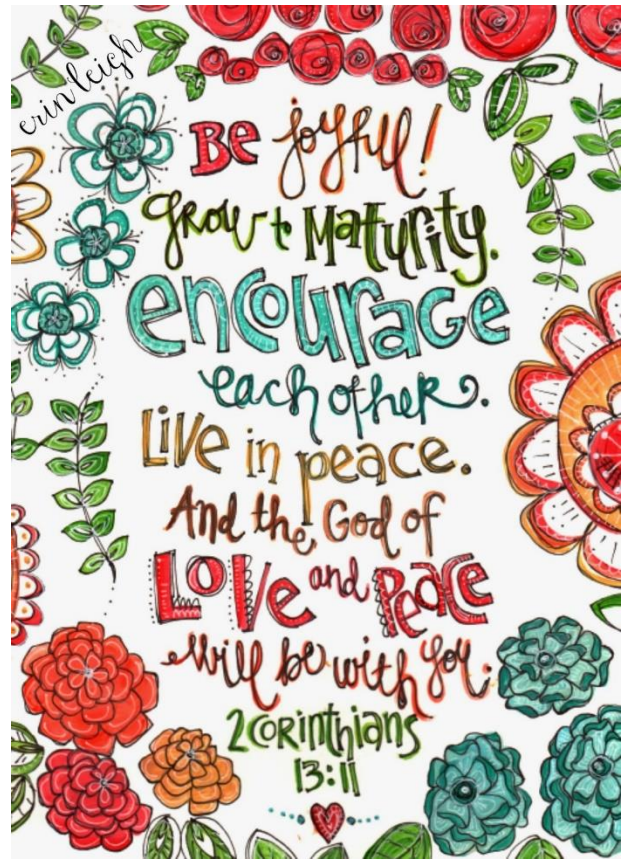
- Kitchen Science
- Snap Circuit Robotics
- Writing Workshop
- Arts & Crafts
- Theater
- CSI

Riley has lined up many helpers for this exciting week and her parents, Glenn & Tracey Spangler, will be here to help as well. Registration concluded on June 15th and Riley is ready for a great week here at FPC.

Friday, July 19th will be the EXPO Day and the parents are invited to come by the Chapel at noon so the students can share what all they have learned throughout the previous week.

ANNUAL CHURCH PICNIC

Wednesday, July 10th at noon at the Polecat Inn. Come in cars, trucks, SUVs or boats and plan to come swimming. Food and drink will be provided! Call the church if you need directions. All are welcome and encouraged to come. Please sign-up on the sheet in the Narthex!



****THERE WILL BE NO STREAMING
OF CHURCH SERVICES
UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE****

*Please Mark Your Calendars!
You are cordially invited to the
205th Anniversary of First
Presbyterian Church on
Sunday, August 18th at 11 A. M.
Luncheon to follow service at
noon. Watch for more info. in
the August newsletter and in
your upcoming bulletins. Please
respond by August 6th by email
fpccovingtonva@aol.com or call
the church office (540)962-2195
We look forward to a grand
celebration with you here!*

First Presbyterian Church

185 North Maple Avenue, Covington, Virginia 24426 ~ (540) 962-2195 ~ Website: FirstPresCovingtonVA.org



July 2024



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 Devotions w/ Daniel, 8a	2 Devotions w/ Daniel, 8a	3 Devotions w/ Daniel, 8a	4 Devotions w/ Daniel, 8a  Independence Day Church Offices Closed	5 Devotions w/ Daniel, 8a	6 Devotions w/ Daniel, 8a
7 Devotions w/ Daniel, 8a Social Time, 9:30a Bible Study 9:45a Worship, 11:00a COMMUNION	8 Devotions w/ Daniel, 8a	9 Devotions w/ Daniel, 8a Coffee & Convo 8:30-10:30a Mission & Service 1p TUESDAY NITE BIBLE STUDY 6:45 p	10 Devotions w/ Daniel, 8a VOUCHERS DUE, 10a CHURCH PICNIC at Noon @ the Polecat Inn	11 Devotions w/ Daniel, 8a	12 Devotions w/ Daniel, 8a	13 Devotions w/ Daniel, 8a
14 Devotions w/ Daniel, 8a Social Time, 9:30a Bible Study 9:45a Worship, 11:00a SSEP Open House 6 PM	15 Devotions w/ Daniel, 8a Student Summer Enrichment Program 8:30-2:00 July 15th through July 19th	16 Devotions w/ Daniel, 8a Coffee & Convo 8:30-10:30a NO BIBLE STUDY BOP Presby Dinner Chapel 6:00 PM	17 Devotions w/ Daniel, 8a	18 Devotions w/ Daniel, 8a	19 Devotions w/ Daniel, 8a EXPO DAY for SSEP 12 Noon	20 Devotions w/ Daniel, 8a
21 Devotions w/ Daniel, 8a No Bible Study Worship, 11:00a	22 Devotions w/ Daniel, 8a	23 Devotions w/ Daniel, 8a No C & C NO BIBLE STUDY	24 Devotions w/ Daniel, 8a	25 Devotions w/ Daniel, 8a VOUCHERS DUE, 10a Newsletter Items Due 10a	26 Devotions w/ Daniel, 8a	27 Devotions w/ Daniel, 8a
28 Devotions w/ Daniel, 8a No Bible Study Worship, 11:00a PULPIT SUPPLY	29 Devotions w/ Daniel, 8a	30 Devotions w/ Daniel, 8a Coffee & Convo 8:30-10:30a TUESDAY NITE BIBLE STUDY 6:45 p	31 Devotions w/ Daniel, 8a			