

# Under Our Roof

First Presbyterian Church, Covington, VA

March 2025

“...then the Lord God formed man from the dust of the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and the man became a living being.” (Genesis 2:7, NRSVue)

In just a few days we will observe Ash Wednesday which signals the beginning of the season of Lent. We will gather together here at First Presbyterian Church with folks from McAllister, Mallow, Low Moor, and Clifton Forge Presbyterian Churches to worship and share a meal.

At that service there will be the imposition of ashes upon the foreheads of anyone who so desires; accompanied by the words “From dust we have come and to dust we shall return”. These ashes are made by burning the palms from the previous Palm Sunday branches. Why ashes? In the Bible we find that ashes are a sign of repentance. It was a practice for those seeking God and repentance would cover themselves with ashes. Listen to the words recorded in Daniel 9:3, “Then I turned to the Lord God to seek an answer by prayer and supplication with fasting and sackcloth and ashes.” (NRSVue)

On that first Palm Sunday as Jesus entered Jerusalem the crowd celebrated with palm branches and so we today remember that in our worship with the use of palm branches. We know that a mere 5 days after Jesus entered Jerusalem to the shouts of people, he would be crucified and die.

By burning the palm branches and using the ashes from them, we connect both the Old Testament practice of repentance among the ashes with Jesus’ triumphal entry into Jerusalem as he journeyed to the cross where he would die for us and our eternal life.

Ash Wednesday and the receiving of ashes is a reminder of who we are and whose we are. It is a solemn reminder that we all are mortal beings and that at some time our physical life will end and our eternal life will begin. It is a reminder that we belong to God who does have a place for us in eternal life, a place that was sealed by Jesus’ death, resurrection, and ascension to sit with God and the Holy Spirit that place.

During the season of Lent, we are called to reflect upon who Jesus is for each of us. We reflect on how we follow Jesus, listening for God’s will through the Holy Spirit. Some of us take on particular additional practices such as additional times of devotion and study, to help us deepen our relationship with God. Some of us fast, or give up habits that may distract us from deepening our relationship with God.

As we begin the season of Lent, we are called to remember that God does love us, each and everyone. God loves us so much that there was a plan of salvation, Jesus Christ. Jesus came to teach the world about God’s love and about God’s Kingdom of grace, mercy, and love. A kingdom that exists now and eternally. A kingdom that exists in, through, and for all those who call upon God, Christ, and the Holy Spirit.

May you continue to experience the blessings of God, along with the presence of Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit.

*Pastor Susi*

Don't Forget to change your clocks  
On MARCH 9<sup>th</sup> 2025



**March**

- 1 Dotty Hanshew
- 10 Jim Irwin
- 15 Kaytie-Jo Carter
- 15 Frances Withrow
- 18 Susan Lindstrom
- 20 Helen Gaylor
- 23 Meredith Minter
- 30 Chet Swartz



***The Presbyterian Women will meet Thursday, March 13<sup>th</sup> at noon with a "bring your own lunch" fellowship and at 1:00 P. M. for the meeting and Bible study. We were unable to meet in February due to the inclement weather. We do hope everyone will be able to come out for this one. Reminder: we are currently collecting Cornbread mix for the food pantries.***

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**2025 Lenten Lunch Schedule**

- ◆ *March 12 – McAllister Memorial Presbyterian Church*
- ◆ *March 19 – First Christian Church*
- ◆ *March 26 – Good News Fellowship*
- ◆ *April 2 – TBA*
- ◆ *April 9 – Gospel Tabernacle*

*Lenten Lunches start at noon and include a light lunch with a short message to follow. This is a great time to see friends from all over our community and prepare our hearts for Easter. A donation is received for a local mission. Pastor Susi will speak on April 2<sup>nd</sup>. (Location TBA)*

# Minute 4 Mission

## SOUTH COVINGTON CARE PANTRY REPORT

	Families Served	# Of Family Members
December 2024	192	727
January 2025	188	741
Deposits	December 2024 – January 2025	
\$250.00	Lewis Gale-Alleghany Volunteers	
\$2,000.00	Alleghany Highlands Chamber of Commerce	
\$280.00	First Presbyterian Church	
\$350.00	United Methodist Churches	
\$100.00	Mt. Carmel Methodist Church	
\$200.00	Memorial – Cotton & Eleanor Hylton; In Honor of Nancy and Anthony Salyers	
\$1,685.00	Individuals	
\$4,865.00	TOTAL	

### ANNUAL REPORT

In 2024, a total of 1,796 households including 6,900 family members were served through our pantry. This equates to approximately 150 families per month and represents a 16% increase over the number of individuals served in 2023. We spent \$40,127.81 to purchase food items in 2024. Except for \$242.46 spent at Walmart for hot dogs and buns during a period when we could not get meat from Feeding Southwest Virginia, we purchased everything from them because that is the most economical way to stock our pantry. Even with that, the cost went up by 55.5%. We continue to provide generous portions of groceries because of donations of food and money from local churches, civic organizations, industry, and many big-hearted friends of the Care Pantry. We also recognize our partner agency status with FSWVA, which allows us to distribute USDA commodities at no cost to us. Hunters for the Hungry delivered 600 pounds of venison, and our team members pick up donations from Food Lion on the weekends. All of this is a testimony to God's work in our mission! GOD IS GOOD! Thank you, South Covington Church Family, for donating 344 food items. LET'S TRY TO DOUBLE THAT IN 2025! Also, we are extremely grateful for the \$570 you donated for memorials and honors during 2024!

### BLESSINGS

- Friends delivered and donated 238 miscellaneous food items, including canned veggies, sugar, and flour.
- South Covington UMC donated 116 miscellaneous food items.
- Members of Granbery Memorial UMC delivered and donated 65 food items.
- The Patterson Family donated and delivered 34 items, mostly boxes of cereal.
- A member of First Presbyterian Church delivered 7 items for our pantry
- Hunters for the Hungry representatives delivered 600 lbs. of venison for us to distribute.
- Our neighbors in need were grateful for the Christmas gift of laundry detergent, Christmas card, and a 2025 calendar.
- Nearly 60 thank-you letters have been sent to those who generously donated to our pantry during 2024.
- We are still accepting adult clothing, household items, and children's clothing and toys.

GALATIANS 5:13-14 (ESV) "For you were called to freedom, brothers. Only do not use your freedom as an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another. For the whole law is fulfilled in one word: 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.'" We are always happy to receive any donated food items! We continue to ask for the following item not available from Feeding Southwest Virginia: CORNBREAD MIX. We have brown beans to go with the cornbread! May God bless each of you for all you do to support this mission of love. Don't forget to pick up items for us when you grocery shop. This is a good expression of love for our neighbors who ask us for help feeding themselves and their families. Please continue to pray for all those who work so hard in our Pantry on Tuesdays and Wednesdays, as well as picking up from Food Lion on the weekends.

Wishing each of you a Happy Valentine's Day and Happy St. Patrick's Day!

Linda Black for Your Care Pantry Team



**First Presbyterian Church**  
185 North Maple Avenue  
Covington, VA

**11AM - 2PM**

**Friday, March 7**

**The Presbyterian Children's Home  
of the Highlands,  
will be distributing FREE CLOTHING  
from their new  
FOSTER'S CLOSET MINISTRY  
to ANYONE in NEED!**

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Please share this flyer with anyone in our community!

The Foster Closet Mission of the Presbyterian Children's Home of the Highlands (PCHH) is coming to Covington on March 7, 2025. The Home is located in Wytheville and the Foster Closet is a mobile clothes closet offering free clothes to anyone in need. The clothes received by the Home are washed, sorted, and sized, and can easily be located by those visiting the mobile closet.

Billy Rice is the Director of the PCHH and is a native of Covington, having attended local schools and is a graduate of Covington High School. Prior to taking the position in Wytheville, Billy was on the staff at the Covington Boy's Home.

Brenda Linkenhoker is on the board of the PCHH and is a member of the First Presbyterian Church in Covington. She worked with Mr. Rice and the staff of the PCHH to make this visit possible. The Foster Closet Mission is dedicated to serve all of those in need throughout Virginia and recently offered assistance to those in Southwest Virginia impacted by Hurricane Helene.

*First Presbyterian Church  
Cordially invites you to Worship with us*

*Joint Presbyterian  
Ash Wednesday Service  
4:30 PM  
March 5, 2025*

*The service will be followed with  
a soup and sandwich dinner.*

*Please come and fellowship together.*



# First Presbyterian Church

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

## March 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2 Social Time, 9:30a Sunday School 9:45a Worship, 11:00a <b>COMMUNION</b>	3	4 Coffee & Convo 8:30-10:30a TUESDAY NITE BIBLE STUDY 6:45 p	5 Joint Ash Wednesday Service 4:30 p @FPC Soup/Sandwich Dinner to follow No Choir Rehearsal	6 PRESBYTERY IN-PERSON @ Quaker Mem. Pres. Church Lynchburg	7 PCHH FOSTER CLOSET 11a-2p in Chapel	8
9 Social Time, 9:30a Sunday School 9:45a Worship, 11:00a Daylight savings time begins	10	11 Coffee & Convo 8:30-10:30a <b>VOUCHERS                      DUE, 10a</b> TUESDAY NITE BIBLE STUDY 6:45 p	12 Lenten Lunch McAllister 12p Choirs Chancel, 4:30p Handbell, 5:30p	13 PW Meeting 1p ("Bring your own lunch" fellowship at noon!)	14	15
16 Social Time, 9:30a, Sunday School 9:45a Worship, 11:00a <b>SESSION</b>	17	18 Coffee & Convo 8:30-10:30a TUESDAY NITE BIBLE STUDY 6:45 p	19 Lenten Lunch First Christian 12p Choirs Chancel, 4:30p Handbell, 5:30p	20	21	22
23 Social Time, 9:30a, Sunday School 9:45a Worship, 11:00a	24	25 Coffee & Convo 8:30-10:30a TUESDAY NITE BIBLE STUDY 6:45 p <b>VOUCHERS                      DUE, 10a</b>	26 Lenten Lunch Good News 12p Newsletter Items Due 10a Choirs Chancel, 4:30p Handbell, 5:30p	27	28	29
30 Social Time, 9:30a, Sunday School 9:45a Worship, 11:00a	31					