Welcome to
First Presbyterian Church

Virtual Sunday Service

January 9, 2022

Sunday Worship Service 9:30 A.M.

Children and Adult Sunday School 10:30 A.M.

Youth Choir 5:00 P.M. Wednesday

Adult Choir 7:00 P.M. Wednesday

606-864-6789 fpclondon@windstream.net

Website - fpclondon.org

fpclondon.sermon.net

First Presbyterian Church January 9, 2022
Sunday Service

We Gather in God's Name

THE CHIMING OF THE HOUR
PRELUDE
WELCOME
PASSING OF THE PEACE
… May the peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you! **And also with you.**
INTROIT "All Who Hunger, Gather Gladly"

CALL TO WORSHIP

PASTOR: When we pass through the waters,
PEOPLE: God is there with us.
PASTOR: When we suffer and feel hopeless,
PEOPLE: God is there with us.
PASTOR: When we are joyful and celebratory,
PEOPLE: God is there with us.
PASTOR: Whether we are triumphant or defeated,
PEOPLE: God is always there with us.
PASTOR: God has called us by name,
PEOPLE: So come, let us worship God!

HYMN "We Gather Here in Jesus' Name" No. 510

We gather here in Jesus' name;
his love is burning in our hearts like living flame;
for through the loving Son the Father makes us one:
come, take the bread; come, drink the wine;
come, share the Lord.

No one is a stranger here;
everyone belongs.
Finding our forgiveness here,
we in turn forgive all wrongs.

He joins us here; he breaks the bread;
the Lord who pours the cup is risen from the dead;
the one we love the most is now our gracious host:
come, take the bread; come, drink the wine;
come, share the Lord.

We are now a family,
of which the Lord is head.
Though unseen, he meets us here
in the breaking of the bread.

We'll gather soon where angels sing;
we'll see the glory of our Lord and coming King;
now we anticipate the feast for which we wait:
come, take the bread; come drink the wine;
come, share the Lord.

© 1984 Fred Bock Music Co., Inc. CCLI License #3075885

CALL TO CONFESSION

UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God, you call us into loving community with you and each other. Yet we have behaved in unloving ways. We exclude and reject those we deem different. You claim us as beloved, but we turn against each other in anger and hate. You liberate us and lead us in Christ's path of peace, but we dismiss peace as impractical and unrealistic. Redeeming God, forgive our worldly ways. Turn us around. Help us to be people who not only recognize your light, but who will live in that light, so that we may help others to see. Call us and claim us once again for the work of building your beloved community. Amen.

SILENT CONFESSION

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

… In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven!
Thanks be to God!

GLORIA *"Glory Be to the Father"* No. 581

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost;
as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be,
world without end. Amen, amen.

CHILDREN'S SERMON

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION "Come to the Table of Grace"

FIRST SCRIPTURE READING: *Isaiah 43:1-7* (NRSV)

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

ANTHEM "Baptized in Water"

SECOND SCRIPTURE READING: *Luke 3:15-17, 21-22* (NRSV)

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

SERMON: *"Baptized in Love"*

HYMN "Down Galilee's Slow Roadways" No. 164

Down Galilee's slow roadways a stranger traveled on
from Nazareth to Jordan to be baptized by John.
He went down to the waters like soldier, scribe, and slave,
but there within the river the sign was birth and grave.

Arising from the river he saw the heavens torn;
it seemed the sky so open revealed the Spirit's form.
The holy dove descended amid a glorious voice:
"You are my own beloved, my child, my heart, my choice."

We too have found a roadway; it led us to this place.
We all have had to travel in search of hope and grace.
But now beside this water again a voice is heard.
"You are my own, my chosen, beloved of your Lord."
© 1991 GIA Publications, Inc. CCLI License #3075885

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH: *Apostles' Creed*
I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic Church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.

OFFERING

DOXOLOGY *"Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow"* No. 606

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise him, all creatures here below;
Praise him above, ye heavenly host; praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

SACRAMENT OF COMMUNION

Invitation to the Table

Prayers of the People, Prayers of Thanksgiving & Lord's Prayer

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.
Lift up your hearts.
We lift them to the Lord.
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give our thanks and praise.
It is truly right to give our thanks and praise…

Breaking of the Bread & Pouring of the Cup

Communion of the People

Prayer after Communion

HYMN "There's a Sweet, Sweet Spirit" st. 1 No. 408

There's a sweet, sweet Spirit in this place,
and I know that it's the Spirit of the Lord;
there are sweet expressions on each face,
and I know they feel the presence of the Lord.

Refrain: Sweet Holy Spirit, sweet heavenly Dove,
stay right here with us, filling us with your love;
and for these blessings we lift our hearts in praise;
without a doubt we'll know that we have been revived
when we shall leave this place.

BENEDICTION RESPONSE "There's a Sweet, Sweet Spirit" st. 2 No. 408

There are blessings you cannot receive
till you know him in his fullness and believe;
you're the one to profit when you say,
"I am going to walk with Jesus all the way."

Refrain: Sweet Holy Spirit, sweet heavenly Dove,
stay right here with us, filling us with your love;
and for these blessings we lift our hearts in praise;
without a doubt we'll know that we have been revived
when we shall leave this place.

Prayer Requests

Please keep these on your prayer list. Hold them in your heart and pray for God's healing power and comfort in the days ahead. Give thanks for God's healing.

- **Wynona Brown:** As Wynona continues to feel better, continue to pray for healing of her foot and for her increased comfort. Pray that her upcoming doctor's appointment will provide her with information about the next steps to take.
- Jackson Brown: Please keep Jackson in your prayers. He fell the other day and broke his shoulder. He will be undergoing surgery in the coming days.
- **Caroline Robinson**— Please pray for continued healing, comfort and peace. She is grateful for the church's prayers.
- **Joan Grant**: Give thanks for continued good improvement. She has continued to be treated for post-chemotherapy circumstances and is doing well. Keep her healing in your prayers.
- **Rodney Spinks**: Joan Grant's grandson who recently had a heart attack and developed a virus, has now returned home for care. He is undergoing physical therapy and is on dialysis but is doing well. Please keep him in your prayers.
- **Sue Ryan**: Please pray for Sue as she continues to heal and for her husband during this time. Sue's oxygen levels are improving and although she still wears oxygen at night, most days she no longer finds it necessary.
- **Judy House**: Please keep Judy and her husband, neighbors and friends of Kay McCracken, in your prayers. Because of side effects, she had to stop her chemotherapy treatments. Please pray for other options and healing.
- **Tom Hagedorn**: Please continue to pray for Tom as he continues treatment.
- **Steve Gray**: Steve (brother of Larry and Barbara Gray) passed away in Alabama from Covid. Vickie, his wife, has been released from the hospital. Please keep the family in your prayers.
- **Penny Vaught:** Please pray for Penny, a friend of the church, whose brother recently and suddenly passed away from a heart attack this past week. Pray that she may find peace.
- **Randall Allen**: Please keep Randall, a friend of the church, in your prayers. He has been diagnosed with stage 4 cancer and had a port installed for chemotherapy. Those treatments will begin soon.
- **Donna Williams**: Both Donna and Allyse received positive Covid tests and are experiencing mild to moderate symptoms. Please pray for them and the family. They are grateful that Ellie tested negative and they are doing all they can to keep her safe.
- **Billy Farmer:** Please pray for Billy Farmer who was diagnosed with pneumonia in his right lung last week. He is improving at a good pace.
- **Barbara Plymire:** Please pray for healing and comfort for Barbara. She has had bronchitis for over 5 days.
- **Karen and Richard Webb:** Karen's father fell and her mother has been very worried. It turns out her dad broke his hip and will most likely need surgery. Keep George and Lou Calvert in your prayers, and pray for Karen and Richard during the time of upcoming decision.
- **Tornado survivors:** Please be sure to keep all those affected by the recent tornado outbreak in Western Kentucky as well as other states. There will be a long period of cleanup and recovery. Many lives were lost and many have been forever changed. There are multiple ways to help listed on the insert but we can certainly start with our prayers and continue that while we are offering other help, both financial and material.

Epiphany Star Words-Would you like one?

-You will be given **a word** from Griffin at the end of the service and you use that word as a guiding word throughout the year.
-I like to stress that your word chooses you!
-If you do not like your word, I encourage you to think about what it is that makes you not like the word before you choose a new one.
-I encourage you to place your star word somewhere you will see it regularly throughout the year to allow consistent reflection on how God has moved through, around, or in connection to that word.

-For those of you who think this is silly, I would like to give you some theological foundations for the practice:
1. The magi followed a star, which ultimately led them to Jesus. Therefore, we too use all the resources we have available to us—including creative prayer practices and intention words for the new year—to move closer to Jesus.
2. We trust that God uses multiple ways to guide us and speak to us. Star words are one such lens that might provide us a way to look for God in our midst, both actively and in hindsight.
3. We trust that it is often easy to miss God in our daily midst. Having an intention word to consider both in present days, as well as to reflect on at the end of the year, allows for us to see God in ways we may not have seen God before. This is the greatest gift.
4. We know that the most common prayer practice for many involves speaking to God as opposed to silence or contemplation. Star words invite a new prayer rhythm of reflection and review that can be a powerful new way to connect with God.
5. By not looking or sorting through the star words at our selection, we practice the spiritual task of receiving. It is not we who are in control in this moment. Instead, we trust that God is present, and we let go of our desire to cultivate control.
I would encourage you to take your word and spend some time with it. Think about it, sit with it, pray with it. Allow it to lead you in this new year to places that might need some starlight in them. The beginning of a new year is the perfect time to start something new. It is time to let go of the old and welcome the new!

Pastor Griffin

First Presbyterian Church January 9, 2022
Sunday Service

SUNDAY SCHOOL

Preschool and Elementary school classes are offered for our youth. Please see Karen Jewell with any questions!

Adult class: Richard Webb will be starting a new series "The Little Voice Inside your Head" on Jan. 9

Covid Protocol

With the on-going covid pandemic as well as the yearly flu season we would like to encourage our friends and members to continue to wear your mask and stay socially distant. It is hoped we will soon be able to greet each other with a warm and loving hug. While most are fully vaccinated we want everyone to feel safe to come, in person, to our worship service and enjoy the fellowship of God's children.

January Birthdays

1st Kerry Phelps
3rd Greg Weston
4th Lisa Burns
5th Hailey Burns
8th Katherine Gray
10th Laci Hackney
11th Thea Robinson
Brad Hackney
12th Karen Jewell
14th Erik Mills
21st Carlisle Howard
26th Bill Collins
27th Blakely Callahan

Jan. Anniversaries

17th Russ & Christina Bacon

https://wfpl.org/heres-how-you-can-help-tornado-victims/ This is a local TV station but they also list dozens of other agencies that can help.
https://pda.pcusa.org/ - Presbyterian Disaster Relief
https://pma.pcusa.org/donate/make-a-gift/gift-info/DR000015/ - Specific fund for tornado relief.
https://secure.kentucky.gov/formservices/Finance/WKYRelief. Set up by Gov. Beshear
https://www.wku.edu/emergency/tornado-response. For students and family of Western Kentucky University.
http://presbyteryofwesternkentucky.yolasite.com/ - this the site for the Mayfield Presbyterian Church – direct donations to the church can be mailed to: The Presbytery of Western Kentucky, P.O. Box 624 Hopkinsville, KY. 42242
https://www.kyagr.com/tornado/- Kentucky Department of Agriculture
https://www.redcross.org/ - for general donations but also to donate blood.

Be sure to designate **Tornado Relief Fund** on any monetary donations

God is our refuge and strength

Mayfield, Ky., Dec. 12, 2021. Courtesy of State Farm (CC BY 2.0)

As night fell on December 10, powerful tornadoes ripped across several states, ending the lives of more than 100 people and wreaking devastation across many communities by morning. In the wake of these catastrophic storms, it is the role of people of faith to shine as light in this bleakest of winters. We are called to be the hands and feet of God to help to rebuild the lives of those who have experienced significant loss. We are invited to stand with them — and to stand together — bearing witness by our gifts and prayers that God is indeed incarnate among us.

GIVE: Gifts can be made online at **pcusa.org/DT21**, by phone at (800) 872-3283, or by check using the below reply device. Text PDA to 41444 to donate.

ACT:
- Gift of the Heart Kits are a hands-on way to help others this Advent season (**pcusa.info/heart**).
- To register your interest in future rebuilding efforts, email **PDA.CallCenter@pcusa.org**. You will be notified when volunteer opportunities are available.

Stay informed and like us on Facebook (**facebook.com/PDAcares**), download resources at **pda.pcusa.org/pda/resources** and share updates with your congregation.

PRAY: *As we learn of another natural disaster, we pray. For those experiencing loss, may they feel comfort only your Holy Spirit can bring. We pray for wisdom and strength as they work to restore and repair their communities. May we heed your call, o God, to be co-creators with you in the caring of creation. May the hope, peace and love of the Christ child comfort and keep us all.*

-Rev. Dr. Diane Moffett, President and Executive Director, Presbyterian Mission Agency

❍ $500 ❍ $125 ❍ $50 ❍ $25 ❍ Other $ _____

Name _____ Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____ Congregation/PIN _____

Please detach the reply form and return it with your gift to your church; or enclose it in an envelope with your check and mail it to Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), P.O. Box 643700, Pittsburgh, PA 15264-3700.

PRESBYTERIAN DISASTER ASSISTANCE
OUT OF CHAOS, HOPE

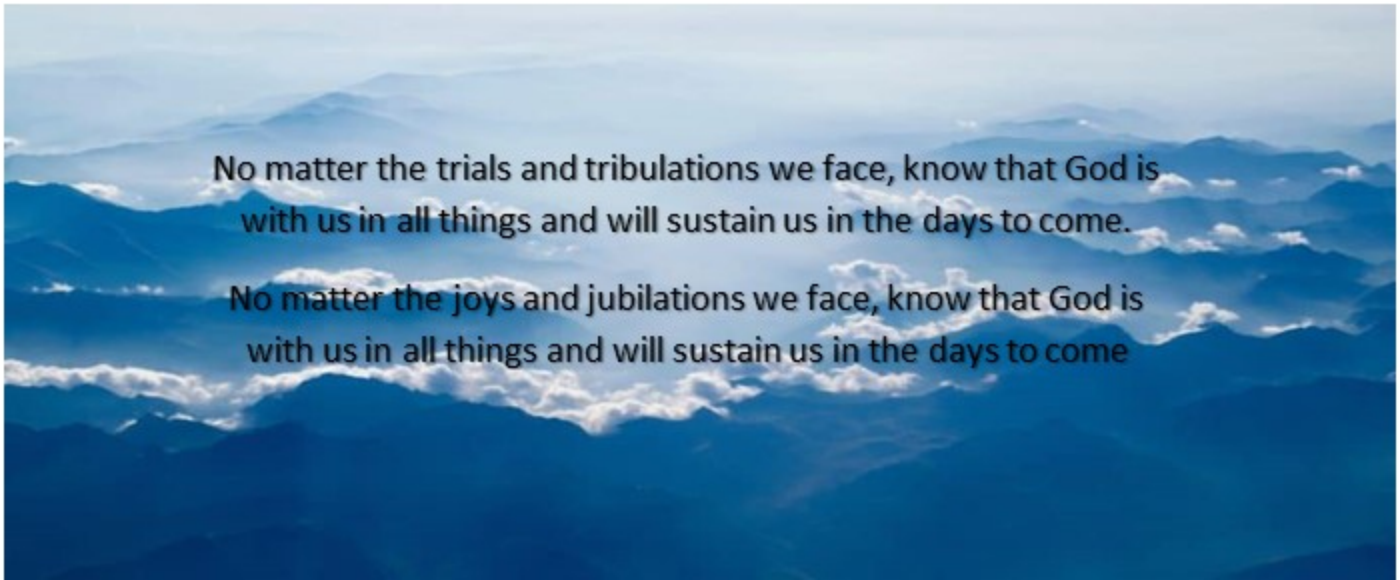
Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)
Presbyterian Mission

DT21-BI

Volunteers are needed immediately to assist with calling individuals who have offered to volunteer or make donations to Kentuckians impacted by recent tornadoes. Presbyterians are the first group of church volunteers being asked to do this important service. The call center is located at the Commonwealth Emergency Operations Center, 100 Minuteman Parkway, at the Boone National Guard Center in Frankfort. Volunteers can serve as you have time available, but it is preferred that hours be between 10 am to 8pm. Calling will start on December 27. If you can offer time in the coming days please be in touch with Jim Garrett at **jim.garrett3806@gmail.com or 502-330-2871.**

If you know people that have been affected by the storms, whether directly or indirectly, they may need help in areas that you may not feel comfortable. These storms can cause long term trauma to adults and children. Here are places that may be able to help.

https://www.nctsn.org/ - the National Child Traumatic Stress Network…. Their goal is to improve access to services for traumatized children, their families and communities throughout the United States.
NAMI.org – The National Alliance on Mental Illness…. NAMI HelpLine allows us to respond personally to hundreds of thousands of requests each year, providing free information and support—a much-needed lifeline for many.
National Suicide Prevention Lifeline - 800-273-8255



First Presbyterian Church January 9, 2022
Sunday Service

Please join us in prayers for all those affected by the recent storms. Pray for the safety of all those that survived and the restoration of their community and the volunteers helping to rebuild. Pray for those that have lost family and friends that they may feel the love of God in their lives. We pray that God will wrap loving arms around each family during what should be a time of celebration and re-birth. Through the pain, we have the assurance that God loves us and will restore us in our hour of need. Pray for faith and endurance. It will be weeks before we know the extent of damage these storms have caused, but we call on everyone to make this a true season of giving and support efforts to help those impacted by this tragedy.

There are so many people and so many needs it can be overwhelming. Listed below are some of those needs. Right now there is so much being sent into the affected areas that there are logistical problems. While we want to send help immediately there will still be need in a month or 6 months. So let us remember now and later.

The most important need right now are money, blood, and people to work.

Money – direct cash donations to the various agencies will go far to help, however gift cards are also helpful and can be sent to various churches or other agencies that can pass them out for emergencies such as food or fuel.

Blood – Donate blood to the American Red Cross or other agencies that can be used for those injured that may need care for weeks or months.

People – If you have certain skills and can travel to affected areas on short notice please pass along your name to our pastor. A roster is being made up for quick response.

Areas needed: Construction-if you can build walls, drywall, other areas.
Clean up-if you can use a chain saw to clear debris.
Transportation-if you are able to help transport people.
Organizational skills-logistical organization of supplies and people.

Name _____Skills: Carpentry ___Painting ____Dry wall___
Organizational____ Outdoor work/equipment____
Phone number _____ Electrician ____Cooking___ general cleanup_____
What tools do you have that are willing to take and use?

_____

When are you available? _____

How much notice do you need before going? _____How long can you stay?_____