



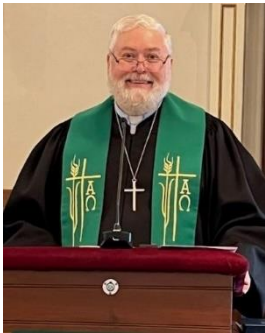
In the First Place!

A publication of First Presbyterian Church, Lancaster

Michael Denney, Pastor

Newsletter for February 2025

Volume 10 Number 2



Mike's Musings—

January was one for the books. Because of snow atop ice atop snow we were forced to cancel in-person worship on the first three Sundays. But what wonderful, joyful, exciting spirit prevailed when we were finally able to worship together on the 26th. The sanctuary was warm and the conversation, laughter, and greetings were pictures of a family gathering with love for one another. I love this place so!

January was the longest protracted absences from in-person worship we have had in almost five years. I am grateful for the foresight and the investment the Session made in providing equipment that allows the broadcasting of an abbreviated worship on the Sundays we cannot come to the sanctuary as a family of faith.

The weather notwithstanding, January was not without its difficult days in other ways. You will read on the next page of the passing of Bruce Blair and Pat Roney. Life is good but there are sad days that we encounter along the way. Some of our folks have hurt deeply during this time. May God give comfort in these times of loss.

As we look into February, we note that the gospel readings of the lectionary are from Luke while the companion Old Testament selections take us to Jeremiah, Isaiah, and Genesis. These writings, while thousands of years old, share ideas and ideals from which valuable lessons arise. I am working to approach these texts with both a fidelity to the writings and their contexts as well as a commitment to sharing lessons from them that speak to our modern age.

I will be out of the office on Tuesday, February 17, attending a Pastors' Retreat at Boone Tavern in Berea. The Presbytery's Leadership Development Ministry is sponsoring this event for the second year in a row. The theme of the day is 'How Are You, Really?' Last year's event was marked by open discussion, personal vulnerability, and positive engagement. I look forward to this event greatly.

Cheryl and I were saddened by the death of Pat Roney. Pat, and her late husband, Henry, were dear friends and were members of the first church I served back in the late 70's. Henry and Pat's middle child, Wayne, and I were close friends. I officiated his wedding to a young lady from another church named Cheryl on an early spring Friday evening. Wayne passed away on the following Monday morning and I officiated his funeral on Wednesday. His was the first funeral I had ever officiated. A long time later, I asked that young lady on a date and the rest is history. Pat and Henry were like second parents to both Cheryl and me. We loved them dearly. I officiated Henry's funeral in 1992 and will return with Session's gracious permission to officiate her memorial in March. I miss you, Pat.

I look forward to seeing you in worship as often as you are able. Your presence means much!

Grace and peace,

Mike

In Our Daily Prayers

- Family of Bruce Blair
- Family of Pat Roney
- Family of J. W. Tyree
- Family of Felix Reynolds
- Family of Bruce Springate
- Inez Dyehouse
- James Wiggins
- Read Baierlein
- Danielle Arnold

Special Needs

- Musician Search Committee

Walkers Trail—Danville

- Nancy Compton

McDowell Place—Danville

- Jeanette Aldridge
- Mary Lou White
- Mike Swaffar

Our Homebound

- Nancy Childers

Community Ministries We Support Financially

- Cooperative Parish
- Bluegrass Community Action
- CASA of Garrard County
- Garrard County Arts Council's Summer Arts Camp
- Garrard County Food Pantry
- Garrard County Homeless Coalition
- Garrard Ministerial Association
- Gideons International
- Habitat for Humanity
- Haven Care Pregnancy Center
- Manna Ministry
- Presbytery of Transylvania Unified Mission Program
- UP with Youth
- Urban Village

Church Elders, Deacons, Officers and Staff

Elders: Donna Powell, Joyce Bryant, Joy Fathergill, Kitty Barsotti, LeRoy Horn, Nick Marsee

Clerk of Session: LeRoy Horn

Deacons: Amanda Marsee, Cheryl Denney, Jo Marks, Karen Anderson, Karen Marsee

General Fund Treasurer: Joyce Bryant

Memorial Fund Treasurer: Bobby Powell

Custodian/Groundskeeper: Jim Bryant

Interim Organist: Jim Parrish

Pastor: The Reverend Michael Denney

February Birthdays and Anniversaries

Birthdays

- February 7—John Anderson
- February 12—Kitty Barsotti
- February 16—Joyce Bryant
- February 25—Matt Barsotti
- February 28—Joyce Andros
- February 28—Jim Parrish

Anniversaries

None

**February Sermons
From the Presbyterian Pulpit**

- February 2—“When the Sermon Goes Awry”
Jeremiah 1:4-10; Luke 4:21-30
- February 9—“As You Go”
Isaiah 6:1-8; Luke 5:1-11
- February 16—“In God We Trust”
Jeremiah 17:5-10; Luke 6:17-26
- February 23—“Lord, Have Mercy”
Genesis 45:3-11, 15; Luke 6:27-38

WONDERFUL WEDNESDAY

Wonderful Wednesday will be February 12 beginning with a light dinner at 5:30 p.m. followed by the programs at 6 p.m. We shall look forward to a great time of fellowship and learning.

First Presbyterian Church
 105 Danville Street—PO Box 606
 Lancaster, Kentucky 40444
 Tel (859) 792-2841
 Email: fpcl@windstream.net
 Website: fpclancaster.org



A meeting of the deacons has been scheduled on Sunday, February 9, following

worship at Mike and Cheryl’s home. A light lunch will be served. This will serve as both an orientation and organizational meeting for the 2025 year.



In the event of bad weather, the Session has the responsibility to cancel Sunday services. Every effort will be made via text, call, Facebook, and Lexington television station announcement to alert everyone to a cancellation of Sunday services. Wednesday Bible Study will be canceled on the days that Garrard County Schools are closed for inclement weather.

Our Deepest Sympathy



We extend our deepest sympathy to Karen and John Anderson in the passing of Karen’s nephew, Kenneth Bruce Blair II, on Thursday, January 9, 2025 in Portsmouth, Virginia. His funeral service was held on Saturday, January 18, 2025 in the chapel of Engle-Bowling Funeral Home in Hazard, Kentucky. May God bless all who mourn his passing.



We extend our deepest sympathy to Cheryl and Mike Denney in the passing of Cheryl’s former mother in law, Patricia Roney, on Friday, January 24, 2025 in Dallas, Texas. Her memorial service will be on Saturday, March 15, 2025 in Thonotosassa, Florida. Mike will be officiating the service. May God bless all who mourn her passing.



The first Stated Session meeting of the year will be on Monday evening, February 3, 2025 in the Middle Room of Fellowship Hall. This meet was previously scheduled for January 20, 2025. We will welcome new Session members Kitty Barsotti and Nick Marsee. We give thanks to Donna Arnold and Joe Leavell for their service, insight and commitment as they rotate off the Session. Please pray for the Session as they lead us in the days to come.



The Community Ash Wednesday service will be March 5, 2025.