



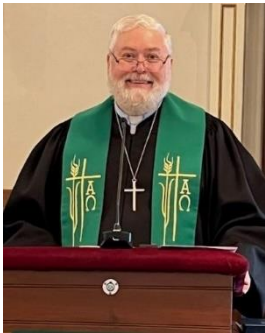
In the First Place!

A publication of First Presbyterian Church, Lancaster

Michael Denney, Pastor

Newsletter for December 2024

Volume 9 Number 10



Mike's Musings—

I pen these words on Monday morning, October 28. It is a quiet morning here at the office, only the noise of the constant flow of traffic can be heard. October is almost a memory and November lies ahead like the bud of a flower. The First Presbyterian family enjoyed a delightful 'Soup and Sandwich' luncheon yesterday. The sounds of conversation, peppered with much laughter, filled Fellowship Hall to the brim. As Psalm 133 says, 'How good and pleasant it is when kindred live together in unity!' May it ever be so at this place.

As you scan the next page you will find a host of things occurring in November. Among them are 'All Saints Sunday', 'Wonderful Wednesday', 'Christ the King' Sunday, the celebration of the Sacrament of Communion, a Called Congregational meeting, the bi-monthly Stated Session meeting, and my vacation. My dear friend, The Reverend Mike Ward, will be speaking in my absence on Sunday, November 17. Mike is no stranger here and I know you will enjoy his sermon as he leads you in worship.

Cheryl and I are looking forward to this week away. We will be visiting our favorite haunt, Hilton Head Island in South Carolina. Rest, relaxation, our favorite seafood restaurant in the entire world, and some of our favorite antique/junk stores are in the offing. I am taking a new book about President McKinley and doing a bit of reading for the sheer pleasure of doing so. Please pray for our safety during this week.

The three sermons I will be sharing in November focus on our final look in Mark's gospel for a bit of time. The stories include Jesus' encounter with a scribe about the first (level of importance) commandment; Jesus sitting in the Temple area watching people contribute to the treasury, and Jesus comments about coming of God's kingdom. On Sunday, November 3, we will remember those who have passed away during the past year and on Sunday, November 10, we will dedicate some time to talk about this year's 'star words'. And, lest we forget, the Thanksgiving holiday will round out the month. Our annual 'Holiday Meal' (representing both Thanksgiving and Christmas) has been scheduled for Sunday, December 8. Otherwise, November is shaping up to be a wonderful time as we journey together. I do so enjoy this time of year. I know you do as well.

I must offer one final note as I close this column. The elephant (or donkey, as the case may be) in the room is the pending election. Most folks I know have already decided for whom they will cast their vote. But, there is much more on the ballot than just the presidential election. I urge you to see who is on the ballot and give due consideration to the 'down ballot races'. Also, please give due diligence to the two constitutional amendments as well. You are a thinking people. Be sure to go to polls and cast your vote for your choices. Being an engaged citizen of our nation is reflective of responsible people. So, please vote.

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 Andrew Napier
- Inez Dyehouse
- Mackenzie Craig Rogers
- James Wiggins
- Robin Karppe
- Betty Wampler
- Calvin Denham
- 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 Arnold, Donna Powell, Joyce Bryant, Joy Fathergill, LeRoy Horn, Joe Leavell

Clerk of Session: LeRoy Horn

Deacons: Judy Adams, Karen Anderson, Jo Marks, Amanda Marsee, 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

December Birthdays and Anniversaries

Birthdays

- December 3—Abby Fathergill
- December 9—Mike Bush
- December 9—Mike Swaffar
- December 18—Nick Marsee
- December 30—Cheryl Denney

Anniversaries

- December 19—Lita and Joe Leavell

**December Sermons
From the Presbyterian Pulpit**

December 1—*“The Sound of Silence”*
First Sunday in Advent
Luke 1:5-25

December 8—*“”*
Second Sunday in Advent
Mark 12:38-44

December 15—Guest Minister
Third Sunday in Advent

December 22—*“The End is Still to Come”*
Fourth Sunday in Advent
Mark 13:1-8

December 24—*“”*
Christmas Eve Candlelight Communion

December 29—*“”*
First Sunday of Christmas

First Presbyterian Church

The Reverend Michael Denney, Pastor
Ruling Elder LeRoy Horn, Clerk of Session

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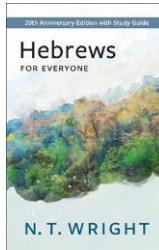
WONDERFUL WEDNESDAY

Wonderful Wednesday will be on the evening of December 13. Our guest that night will be Jenny Lynn Whitaker who will share about the Garrard County Family Ministry (Cooperative Parish) while Mike’s class will be discussing the story of Boy Jesus on page 32 of the study guide. We hope you can attend.



The annual Holiday fellowship dinner will be held after worship on Sunday, December 8. Everyone is invited

but be sure to bring your appetite!!



The Wednesday Bible Study participants have completed their current study and will begin a series of lessons on the Hebrews on December 4. Over the course of the next few weeks, we will delve into one of the most complex portions of the New Testament. Tom Wright’s book will provide the basis of our study but we will explore other writers as well. Please come join the fun as we explore.



We shall gather on Tuesday, December 24, at 5 p.m. for a Candlelight Communion worship. Mike will be sharing a brief reflection on the birth of Jesus and we will celebrate the Sacrament of the Lord’s Supper as well. The service will be brief yet poignant. Come, let us worship the LORD together.

CLASS OF 2027

Sunday, December 8, we will have the installation service of the Class of 2027 Ruling Elders and Deacons. These women and men are faithful Christians who will serve with honor.



You are invited to join the festivities on Thursday, December 5, as we decorate the Sanctuary for the holiday season. We need lots of help so we are counting on you. If you have any spare time on that day, come and join in the fun as we bring the holiday decorations to the Sanctuary. See you there!!!

