



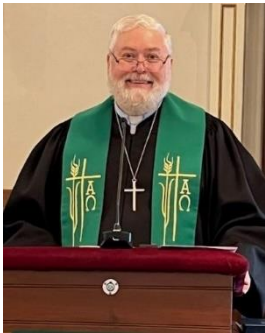
# *In the First Place!*

A publication of First Presbyterian Church, Lancaster

Michael Denney, Pastor

Newsletter for April 2026

Volume 11 Number 4



## **Mike's Musings—**

Can you believe it is April already? Neither can I! When I announced my retirement in late November it seemed a long time away and yet here it is. This is my last article for the newsletter and I scarcely know where to begin.

First of all, thank you. Serving as pastor here has been a joy beyond expression. You have lovingly allowed me to adopt Lancaster as a parish and extend ministry and pastoral work far beyond the walls of our sanctuary. You have graciously given of your time and energy to support the ministry of the church in ways beyond description. It has been the honor of my life to have served here.

But there is still days ahead with work yet to be done. We had a glorious Easter and welcomed Cecile and Christa into the membership of the church. On Sunday, April 12, we will have a Called Congregational meeting for the purpose electing a deacon to fill Cheryl's remaining term as well as petitioning the Presbytery to dissolve the pastoral covenant between First Presbyterian and me. I am hopeful that we can schedule the installation of the new deacon on April 19 and then April 26 will bring us to the conclusion of my tenure here. On the 26<sup>th</sup>, we will celebrate the sacrament of Holy Communion together one last time and then have the reception in the afternoon.

As an update, Mike Burnside, the chair of the Pastoral Transitions Commission of the Presbytery, met with the Session on April 7 to share the work that lies ahead as we close out my tenure and then move on with the process of searching for a new pastor. Mike will be our official liaison who will guide us through the process. I encourage you not to grow weary with the process—the calling of a new pastor takes time. Sometimes it takes a long time. Your faithfulness to Christ and his church is imperative as you walk through this time of transition.

You will notice a definite pattern in these final sermons in April. I have worked with a great degree of intentionality as I have been preparing them. I pray that they will find a good hearing and strengthen the church as these final days of my tenure comes to an end. These sermons, with the exception of the 26<sup>th</sup>, all follow the texts of the lectionary. Yet, they have much to say to us at this pivotal juncture. Pray as I continue to prepare.

I have been asked what Cheryl and I will be doing after my retirement. We are intent on traveling a bit the remainder of this year. We have trips planned to Pigeon Forge, Branson, Missouri, Cape Cod, Hilton Head and a December trip to New York City. Otherwise, we will be at home a great deal and, as usual, always on the lookout for a new junk store to browse through. We have come to love this town and our neighborhood and have no plans to relocate at all. Over the course of the summer and fall we will be visiting a number of churches as we seek a new place of worship. As we pray for you in the months ahead so we ask that you pray for us. This will be a huge transition for us all. But, rest assured, through the grace of the Almighty, we shall all survive!

Grace and peace,

*Mike*

## ***In Our Daily Prayers***

- Family of Judy Jeffries
- Family of John Erwin
- The Session
- Mike and Cheryl Denney
- Christine Moyer
- James Wiggins
- Read Baierlein
- Danielle Arnold
- Our Nation

### ***The Willows at Harrodsburg***

- Inez Dyehouse

### ***Walkers Trail—Danville***

- Nancy Compton

### ***McDowell Place—Danville***

- Judy Adams
- 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 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:** Kitty Barsotti, Donna Powell, Joy  
Fathergill, Jim Bryant, LeRoy Horn, Nick  
Marsee

**Clerk of Session:** LeRoy Horn

**Deacons:** Amanda Marsee, Cheryl Denney,  
Ellen Baran, Jo Marks, Karen Anderson,  
Karen Marsee

**General Fund Treasurer:** Joyce Bryant

**Memorial Fund Treasurer:** Bobby Powell

**Custodian/Groundskeeper:** Jim Bryant

**Organist:** Jim Parrish

**Pastor:** The Reverend Michael Denney

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**April Birthdays and  
Anniversaries**

Birthdays

April 16—Ellen Baran

April 18—Bobby Powell

April 23—LeRoy Horn

April 28—Michael Denney

Anniversaries

None

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*April Sermons*

*From the Presbyterian Pulpit*

April 5—“The Message You Have”  
Colossians 3:1-4 / Matthew 28:1-10

April 12—“The Power You Possess”  
John 20:19-31

April 19—“The Word You Hold”  
Luke 24:13-35

April 26—“Thoughts at the End”  
Philippians 1:3-11

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Wonderful Wednesday will be scheduled for this month. We will meet on Wednesday, April 15, one week later than normal due to spring break week. We will meet at 5:30 p.m. for a light dinner and the program will begin at 6. We will conclude at 6:30 p.m.

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**Gifts to Our Church**

**Carillion Maintenance Fund** by the Metcalf Family in honor of their mother Donna Castle Metcalf and in memory of their father, Robert Caywood Metcalf.

**Timothy Shea Metcalf Fund** by the Metcalf family.

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The Session has set a Called Congregational Meeting for Sunday, April 12, following morning worship. There are two items on the docket. We will consider a report from the Nominating Committee on filling the vacancy caused by Cheryl Denney’s resignation from the Diaconate and will hear a motion to request the Pastoral Transitions Commission to dissolve the pastoral covenant between First Presbyterian and Reverend Denney.

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**Welcome New Members!!**

On Sunday, March 29, Christa Stiner and Cecile Stiner met with Session and were received into membership by reaffirmation of faith. On Easter Sunday, they stood before the congregation and were officially welcomed as new members. How delighted we are that they have come to join in the ministry of First Presbyterian. Welcome, ladies! We are glad you are here!

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A drop in reception has been planned in honor of Mike’s retirement. It has been scheduled for Sunday afternoon, April 26, from 2 to 5 p.m. in Fellowship Hall. Everyone is invited to enjoy some light refreshments and swap a few stories of the past twelve years of Mike’s tenure here at First. Everyone is invited to attend.

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