

join us to celebrate love & ever-lasting friendship!

Galentine's Dinner

When? Tuesday, Feb. 10, 6 p.m.

Where? First Presbyterian Church
Bethesda Community Hall

Childcare provided

RSVP by 2/8 in the Narthex or
text Kelly 606.923.7826

Hosted by the Membership Team

Dress Code: Red or Pink

When?

Where?

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HEARTBEATS

A monthly publication of First Presbyterian Church

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Love is patient and kind.

1 Corinthians 13:4, ESV

P.O. Box 1
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Ashland, KY 41101
fpcaky.org
606.324.4122

Church Office Hours
Monday — Thursday
8 a.m. — Noon
office@fpcaky.org

STAFF

Rev. Bill Pollack
Minister
Max Jackson
Choirmaster/
Organist
Nanette Pollack
Administrative
Assistant
Glen Thomas
Facilities Manager
Kara Adkins
Nursery Attendant

SESSION MEMBERS

Mitch Hall
President of
Congregation
Kelly Hanni
Secretary of
Congregation/
Clerk of Session
Cathy Wilson
Treasurer
2026
Mitch Hall*
Jan Holbrook
Ryan Whitman*
2027
Lee McCloud*
J.T. Norris*
Jimmy Hall
2028
Teresa Cassidy
Kelly Hanni *
Donna Jones

*2nd term of service

"This is My commandment, that you love one another, just as I have loved you." John 15:12

I am a failure when it comes to love. I must confess that I do not get love right most times. I can show flashes of it from time to time; however, I can not say I have love down!

Jesus commands that we love one another. This is an action. It calls us to behave toward others as Christ behaved toward us. Not an easy thing for me to do for sure. When I think how Jesus loves me, I am overwhelmed with the reality that I have a lot to learn. So how does Jesus show His love to me (us)? Let us consider a few of these as we continue through 2026.

First, **He empties Himself into me**. He does not hold back anything that will be for my good. He offers His Word for instruction. He extends grace to me when I least deserve anything He has to offer. He fills me with His Spirit to enable me to press on in this life. He gifts me with love.

Next, **He shows by example the visible reality of what it means to love**. He reaches to the needy and distraught with compassion. He offers hope to the hopeless. He blesses with healing. There is little left to imagining what love is when I observe Him ministering as He does throughout the pages of Scripture.

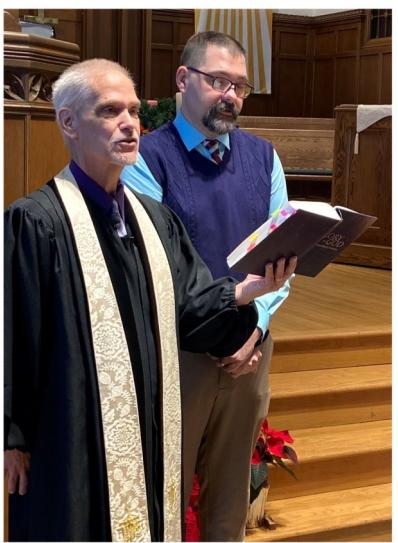
Finally, **love is a desire of the will**. I must choose love and commit to loving others as Christ has loved me. I am a failure at this. But, with God's help, I strive to be better!

Pastor Bill

Ultimately, **He was willing to go to a cross for me**. He offered Himself a sacrifice on my behalf so that I would have the opportunity to return to a right relationship with the Heavenly Father. His death on Calvary enables me to be right with Him! **"Amazing love, how can it be, that Thou, my God, should die for me."** (from *And Can It Be* – Charles Wesley)

If I need to know what it is to love, I only have to look to Jesus. And yet, to know love, authentic love, I can look to the scriptures. Paul in 1 Corinthians 13 (Love chapter) explains this real love – **"agape"** – so that I can know how to love. Please note that here in this scripture, love is a noun. It is the subject that gets the attention. Then Paul adds a few adjectives to get my attention. Love is – patient, kind, not jealous, does not brag, it is not arrogant, it is behaving at one's best, not selfish, forgives, does not applaud sin – among other things, it is hopeful and enduring. Then Paul ends with this truth – **"love never fails."**

Finally, **love is a desire of the will**. I must choose love and commit to loving others as Christ has loved me. I am a failure at this. But, with God's help, I strive to be better!

FPC Welcomes New Member

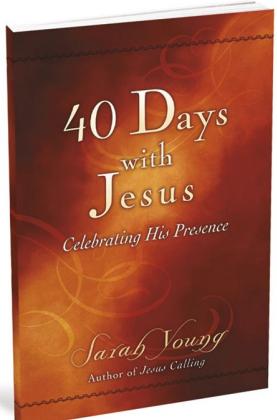
It is with great Christian joy that *Kenneth Robert McGill, II* joined the church family here at First Presbyterian Church, on Sunday, January 4, 2026! Kenny shared with Pastor Bill that this decision was 12 years in the making. Ready for this step of faith, Kenny professed Jesus as Lord and Savior and was baptized into the faith. Our congregation celebrates Kenny's decision to become a part of the church family. Let us continue to pray for him and his family as he continues this journey of faith. To God be the glory!

Join Us For Brunch!

Join us for "Shrove Tuesday Brunch" on **Sunday, February 15** following morning worship. The menu is: pancakes, sausage, breakfast casseroles, yogurt, fruit, and donuts. The church fair will also take place. This is an opportunity for you to discover the various ministries provided through FPC. You also can sign up for a ministry in which you would like to take part.

Ash Wednesday Service

Join us **Wednesday, February 18** for an Ash Wednesday Service beginning at **7 p.m.** The Imposition of Ashes will be offered. This service prepares us as we begin our Lenten reflection on a journey to a garden, a cross, and an empty tomb.

Lent Devotional

Spend 40 days with Jesus, exploring promises found in Scripture—promises of life abundant, life to the fullest, and life brimming with joy! Select devotions from #1 bestselling author Sarah Young's *Jesus Always*, you'll experience a closeness with the Savior that invites you into a new way of living—embracing a joy-filled life.

You may pick one up in the Narthex beginning Sunday, February 15.



SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 15



**Please join us for the
4th Annual Spring Concert!**

Date: Saturday, February 21, 2026

Time: 2:00 p.m.

Location: First Presbyterian Church,

1600 Winchester Ave, Ashland, KY.

Reception following in the Narthex.

Max Jackson, organ

Dr. Denine LeBlanc, piano

Beth Davenport, piano

Seth Skiles, piano

Dr. Joe Mastracci, autoharp

Calvin Riggs, piano

Mya Sarver, oboe



Sunday Morning Study: Sundays, 9:28 a.m.

Armchair Theologians: Sundays, 9:30 a.m.

Children's Sunday School (K-4th): Sundays, 9:30 a.m.

Harmony of the Gospels: Sundays, 9:30 a.m.

Youth Group (5th – 12th): Sundays, 9:30 a.m.

Sunday Morning Worship: 10:50 a.m.

Handbell Rehearsal: Wednesdays, 5:45 p.m.

Chancel Choir Rehearsal: Wednesdays, 6:45 p.m.

Men's Bible Study: Wednesdays, 7 a.m., Bob Evans

Tai Chi Classes: Tuesdays, 5p.m. & Saturdays, 11 a.m.

Nanette's Birthday Celebration: Sunday, Feb. 1, Noon

Session Meeting Rescheduled: Tuesday, Feb. 3, 5:30 p.m.

Paper Angels: Thursday, Feb. 5, 1 p.m.

Ministry Teams Meeting: Monday, Feb. 9, 5:30 p.m.

Galentine's Dinner: Tuesday, Feb., 10, 6 p.m.

Men's Lunch Bunch: Thursday, Feb. 12, 11:30 a.m.

Horizon's Bible Study: Thursday, Feb. 12, 5:15 p.m.

Shrove Tuesday Brunch: Sunday, Feb. 15, 12:15 p.m.

Sew Blessed: Monday, Feb. 16, 6 p.m.

Finance Meeting: Tuesday, Feb. 17, 5:30 p.m.

Ash Wednesday Service: Feb. 18, 7 p.m.

Paper Angels: Thursday, Feb. 19, 1 p.m.

Dames + Dinner: Thursday, Feb. 19, 5:30 p.m.

Spring Concert: Saturday, Feb. 21, 2 p.m.

Empty Nesters: Monday, Feb. 23, 5:30 p.m.

Session Meeting: Tuesday, Feb. 24, 5:30 p.m.

Lunch Bunch: Thursday Feb. 26, 11:30 a.m.

Aspen Gehringer—February 1

Oaklee Gehringer—February 1

Paxton Koenig—February 4

Jane Justice—February 8

Riley Shay—February 9

Kathleen Filkins—February 12

Evan Jones—February 14

Fred Yost—February 16

Bill Gesling—February 27

Matt Dillon—February 27

Special Dates for February 2026

→Black History Month, **February 1-28**

→Groundhog Day, **February 2**

→Valentine's Day, **February 14**

→Transfiguration Sunday, **February 15**

→Presidents Day, **February 16**

→Ash Wednesday, **February 18**

**Spring Break Food Drive**

The Ashland Youth Service Center Food Pantry Drive will begin on **Sunday, February 15**. We will be collecting donations through **Sunday, March 15**, to support those in our community. Your contributions make a significant difference, and we appreciate your continued support. To help stock the pantry effectively, we are specifically looking for the following items:

Pop Tarts	Granola Bars	Chef Boy R Dee	Packaged Cookies
Instant Oatmeal	Mac n Cheese	Canned Tuna	Ramen Noodles
Cereal Bars	Knorr's Fiesta Sides Rice	Gripz	Trail Mix
Spaghetti Noodles	Peanut Butter	Peanut Butter or Cheese Sandwich Crackers	Canned Chicken
Canned Pasta Sauce	Cheez-Its	Soup (w/beef, chicken, or potatoes)	