

5th Annual JUNETEENTH in Ashland

AFRICAN-AMERICAN FREEDOM DAY

6 - 9 p.m.

Saturday, June 21st

Broadway Square
Downtown Ashland



- Live Band
- Live Choir Performance
- Food Trucks
- T-Shirts
- Face Painting

Ashland for Change • C.B. Nuckolls Community Center & Black History Museum
New Hope Missionary Baptist Church • Christ Temple Church
Christ Center Ministries • Boyd and Greenup County Branch of the NAACP
Ashland Community & Technical College • United Way of Northeast Kentucky



HEARTBEATS

A monthly publication of First Presbyterian Church

Volume 7 | Issue 6 | June 2025

P.O. Box 1
1600 Winchester Ave.
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 Cassity
Kelly Hanni*
Donna Jones

*2nd term of service



"Blessed be the God of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, who has sent his angel and delivered his servants who trusted in him. They disobeyed the king's command and yielded up their bodies rather than serve and worship any god except their own God. ²⁹ Therefore I make a decree...for there is no other god who is able to deliver in this way." (Daniel 3:28-29)

It is summer! It is time to enjoy the outdoors, travel, experience new things. It is time to . . .

It began with a challenge – worship the golden statue of the king. It continued with an accusation. It resulted in a witness and deliverance that caused the king to issue a proclamation.

I hope you will read and re-read Daniel 3. It is an incredulous account of bravery in the midst of a challenge to faith. The three friends Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego are standing firm in their worship of the one true God. When offered a reprieve or a fiery furnace; they put their faith and trust in God. This faith and trust comes with the affirmation that regardless of God's intervention, they will not yield to the demands of the king! So, into the furnace they go! As the king watches, he is astonished that there are now four persons in the furnace. And even though several of the king's soldiers were incinerated when the door

to the furnace was opened; the three friends are untouched by the heat and flames! Wow!!

The king calls them out of the furnace. They are examined and found to be unaffected by the flames. No hairs singed, clothes intact and the absence of the smell of fire were enough to change the heart of a king. An edict was announced! The God of the three friends is elevated above all other gods. And, they were promoted within the king's administration.

I apologize for the retelling of this story. But it demonstrates a word that I believe will make a positive difference in the lives of people we will meet in these days of warmth. The word is **WITNESS**. The three friends witnessed to a king and it made a difference in his life (and the kingdom's life as well).

What difference will we make as we go about our daily routines? Whether it is at work or play; we have an opportunity to speak a word of faith and conviction on behalf of God who promises to be with us in all our activities. Maybe the word will catch the attention of those near us. Maybe our response to the challenges of life before us will speak volumes about faith! Let us desire to be like Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego and **WITNESS** to our faith.

It is summer and it is time to **WITNESS!** Let's start today.

Pastor Bill



Backpack Ministry

On Thursday, May 1, Cathy Wilson presented Mike VanHoose with a check for \$5,000 to benefit the Backpack Ministry. This generous contribution was made possible through a gift from the Transylvania Presbytery, stemming from the sale of Normal Presbyterian Church.

Incoming and Outgoing Elders

We extend a warm welcome to Donna Jones and Teresa Cassity, who are joining the session as members of the Class of 2028. We would also like to express our sincere gratitude to Geri Willis and Kim Whitman for their dedicated leadership during their time on the session. Their service is deeply appreciated.



Just a reminder regarding our recent Baby Bottle Blessings fundraiser in support of *Two Hearts Pregnancy Care Centers*. We sincerely appreciate everyone who took a bottle and filled it with contributions to help this wonderful cause. We kindly ask that you return your filled baby bottles by Father's Day (Sunday, June 15). You can drop off the bottles in the church office or the container in the narthex.

Let's Celebrate Our Pastor's Birthday!

Pastor Bill's birthday is June 12. We will celebrate his birthday in the narthex immediately following morning worship on **Sunday, June 15**. A basket will be available for cards and/or other expressions of appreciation. (No candy please.)



Note of Gratitude

Thank you so very much for your extremely generous donation to Cornerstone's Backpack Blessings Ministry. You have always been a blessing to our church. We pray for blessings upon your church as you continue to fulfill The Great Commission!
(Mike and Linda VanHoose)



On Sunday, June 1, during our morning worship service, we will be observing our graduating high school senior, Andrew Smithson. Andrew, the son of Robert and Kim Smithson, is graduating from Boyd County High School. We are excited to celebrate this milestone with him as he prepares for his next chapter at Ashland Community Technical College. Please join us in acknowledging Andrew's achievement and offering our support for his future endeavors.

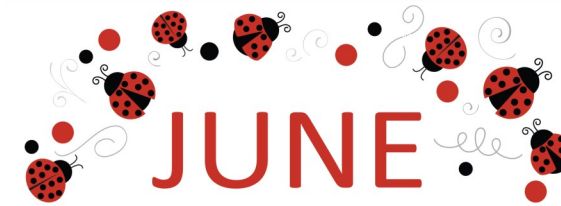
End of Year Celebration

You are invited to join in a celebration of our children's ministry, **Sunday, June 1**, following our worship service. We will gather in the Bethesda Community Hall for a luncheon and fellowship as we recognize the faithfulness of our kid's and their hard work this past school year. A special time of sharing will be provided as well. Everyone is invited. We hope to see you then!



Important Announcement!

Beginning on Sunday, July 6, the church will start airing worship services live only on the church YouTube page. We will no longer be live streaming to Facebook. Please subscribe to the church YouTube channel by going to youtube.com/@FirstPresbyterianAshlandKY.



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

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

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

Sunday Morning Worship: 10:50 a.m.

Genesis Bible Study: Sundays, 5:30 p.m.

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

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

Zumba Classes: Wednesdays, 5 p.m. and Saturdays, 9:30 a.m.

End of Year Celebration: Sunday, June 1, Noon

High School Graduation Recognition: Sunday, June 1

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

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

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

Horizons Bible Study: Thursday, June 12, 5:15 p.m.

Father's Day: Sunday, June 15

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

Finance Ministry Team: Tuesday, June 17, 5:30 p.m.

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

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

Men's Lunch Bunch: Thursday, June 26, 11:30 a.m.

Festival of Trees 2025



The Christian Education Ministry Team is planning to display a Christmas tree in the Paramount's annual Festival of Trees this year (2025). The theme of our tree will be "Earth Care." The ornaments will be made by our youth from recycled materials, and this is where we need your help. We would like to have these items donated: newspapers, puzzle pieces, old

Christmas cards, empty thread spools, blue, green or white yarn, and bottles of Elmer's glue by June 29. All contributions are greatly appreciated. We plan to start making these ornaments at Parent's Night Out (July 25). All are welcome to help. Thank you in advance for your help! Please see Jane Justice or Heather Shay if you have any questions.



Pastor Bill—June 12

Summer Blair—June 15

Christopher Conley—June 21

Pat Sharp—June 21

Andrew Potter—June 22

Kim Smithson—June 24

Richard Isaacs—June 25

Bettie George Frye—June 27

LillyGrace Wheeler—June 27

Wedding Anniversaries

Geri & Greg Willis—June 2

Rev. Jennifer Johnson & Mark Riggs—June 10

Trish & Roger Hall—June 17

Kim & Mike Whitman—June 28

Special Dates

► Pentecost, June 8

► Flag Day, June 14

► Trinity Sunday, June 15

► Father's Day, June 15

► Juneteenth, June 19

► First day of Summer, June 20



Wednesdays - 5-6 p.m.

Saturdays: 9:30-10:30 a.m.

Instructor: Karen Coburn | Questions, see Bettie George