

Memorial Gifts Given

Gifts were given in memory of:

† **Martha Gesling** by Jan Winans; Ellen McCullough



- ▶ **EASTER FLOWERS:** You may order Easter flowers online at fpcaky.org or pick up an order form at the church. The cost is \$15 each. Tulips, Lilies and Hyacinths are available.
- ▶ **EASTER JAM:** All children birth thru grade 5 and their families are invited to join us for our annual Easter Jam on **Sunday, March 24** following morning worship . We will have pizzas and chicken nuggets for lunch, followed by crafts, games and an Easter egg hunt. If you have any questions, please contact Jane Justice or Kelly Hanni.
- ▶ **MAUNDY THURSDAY:** We will observe Maundy Thursday **March 28, at 7 p.m.** This service combines the Lord’s Supper with a Service of Darkness leading us from the upper room to the burial of Jesus following His crucifixion and death. It is a solemn service that touches our souls. Please make plans to join us as we prepare for the joy of Easter morning!

College Students Finals Boxes

The Empty Nesters are inviting us to help fill the college finals boxes **March 10—24**. Boxes will be located in the Narthex. We are asking for treats or office supplies. Cards to write to our collegiates and young adults will also be offered. We have 6 boxes to fill. The Empty Nesters will mail these boxes and notes at the end of March. Thank you for your kindnesses and prayers for our young adults! The Photo to the right is from a recent meeting of the Empty Nesters: Lisa Stevens, Luanne Conley, Donna Jones, Pam Potter, Bettie George Frye and Kelly Hanni (behind the camera).



Food Pantry Drive

We continue to collect food for the Ashland Youth Service Center Pantry. The food drive will end on **Sunday, March 24**. A list of needed items is located in the Narthex.

One Great Hour of Sharing Offering

This offering provides relief from natural disasters, food for the hungry, and support for the poor and oppressed. We will receive this offering through March. Please note on the memo line of your check or a pew envelope: *One Great Hour of Sharing*.

Children/Youth Membership Class

Pastor Bill will conduct a membership class for our children/youth who desire to become members of First Presbyterian Church. These classes will meet **April 7, 14, 28** immediately following morning worship in the Bethesda Community Hall. A lunch will be provided for participants. If interested, contact Pastor Bill (email: pastor@fpcaky.org or cell: 606.547.1802).



Backpack Ministry

The Hunger Grant check was presented to Mike and Linda VanHoose at Cornerstone Methodist Church while packing bags for the Weekend Backpack Snack bag program. They serve nearly 200 children per week in the Ashland school system. Thank you First Presbyterian Church and Transylvania Presbytery for all that you do in providing assistance to families in this way.

Photo (left to right): Mary Patterson, Linda VanHoose, Cathy Wilson and Mike VanHoose.



- Sunday Morning Study:** Sundays, 9:18 a.m.
- Armchair Theologians:** 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
- Winchester Bells:** Wednesdays, 5:45 p.m.
- Chancel Choir Rehearsal:** Wednesdays, 6:45 p.m.
- Horizons Bible Study:** Monday, March 4, 6 p.m.
- Mid Week Lent Worship:** Wednesday, March 6, Noon/ Holy Family Catholic Church
- Open Sanctuary:** Wednesday, March 6, 5:30—8 p.m.
- Paper Angels:** Thursday, March 7, 1 p.m.
- Ladies Clothing Swap:** Saturday, March 9, 2 p.m.
- Ministry Teams Meeting:** Monday, March 11, 5:30 p.m.
- 205th Celebration Mtg:** Monday, March 11, 6:30 p.m.
- Mid Week Lent Worship:** Wednesday, March 13, Noon/ Cornerstone Church
- Men’s Lunch Bunch:** Thursday, March 14, 11:30 a.m.
- Spring Concert:** Saturday, March 16, 3 p.m.
- Sew Blessed:** Monday, March 18, 6 p.m.
- Finance Ministry Team:** Tuesday, March 19, 5:30 p.m.
- Mid Week Lent Worship:** Wednesday, March 20, Noon/ Calvary Episcopal Church
- Paper Angels:** Thursday, March 21, 1 p.m.
- Dames & Dinner:** Thursday, March 21, 5:30 p.m.
- Kids’ Easter Jam:** Sunday, March 24, following worship
- Empty Nest Angels:** Monday, March 25, 5:30 p.m.
- Session Meeting:** Tuesday, March 26, 5:30 p.m.
- Men’s Lunch Bunch:** Thursday, March 28, 11:30 a.m.
- Maundy Thursday Service:** Thursday, March 28, 7 p.m.

Ladies Clothing Swap

Ladies, you don’t want to miss the fun on **Saturday, March 9 from 2—4 p.m.** Barb Payne does an excellent job organizing this fun event. Please bring in your donated items as soon as possible. If you need anything picked up or have questions, please contact Barb (606.922.6617). And it goes without saying, who doesn’t enjoy finding amazing new (and free) items to add to your wardrobe!

FPC 205th Celebration Fundraiser

We have beautiful Easter towels for sale. The congregational Life Ministry Team will receive 50% of the total sales to help cover the cost of the celebration luncheon. These were created by Sew Blessed member, and our friend, Toni Gabbert. Delivery is within 2 weeks of order; each towel is \$15. Order forms are in the Narthex. The final day to order is **Sunday, March 24**. Please direct questions to Kelly Hanni, 606.923.7826.



- Kathy Hermansdorfer**—March 6
- Joe Frye**—March 9
- Carol Sanderson**—March 11
- Steve Jackson**—March 15
- Kim Whitman**—March 21
- Benjamin Weston**—March 25
- Adrianna Riggs**—March 25
- Jennifer Dillon**—March 27
- Liza Jackson**—March 29
- Will Frye**—March 29
- JT Norris**—March 29
- Ryan Whitman**—March 30

Special Dates

- World Day of Prayer—*March 1*
- Daylight Saving Time Begins—*March 10*
- First Day of Spring—*March 19*
- Holy Week—*March 24–31*
- Palm/Passion Sunday—*March 24*
- Maundy Thursday—*March 28*
- Good Friday—*March 29*
- Easter Sunday—*March 31*



Ladies Clothing Swap

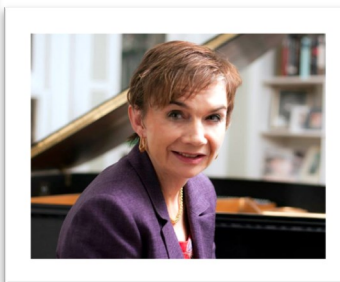


Please join us for a Spring Concert!

Saturday, March 16 | 3 p.m.
First Presbyterian Church,
1600 Winchester Avenue, Ashland, Kentucky
Hosted by the First Presbyterian Church Women

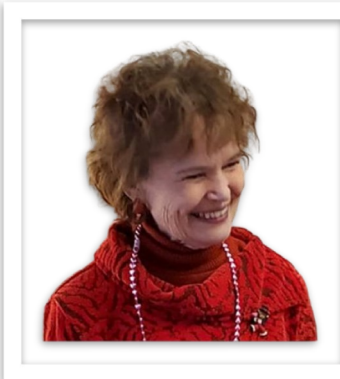
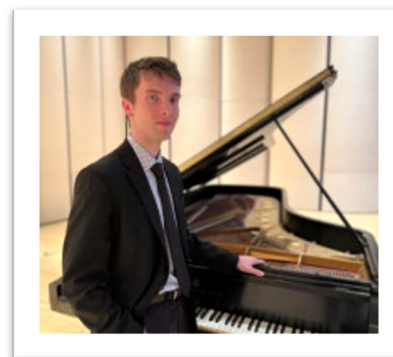
Max Jackson, organ
Denine LeBlanc, piano
Calvin Riggs, piano
Kim Whitman, flute

Max Jackson, organ, a native of Ashland. He graduated from Ashland High School. He has degrees from Georgetown College (KY) – BA in Music with a concentration in organ – University of Kentucky, BM and MMus, with a concentration in organ, and Southern Methodist University, MMus, with a concentration in choral conducting. He taught music at Ashland Community College for 31 years. He conducted choral ensembles there and was music director for the College Theatre. In addition, he has also taught at The University of Kentucky, and Georgetown College. He has served as organist and/or choir director at churches in Harrodsburg, Lexington, and Ashland, also in Havelock NC and Ironton, OH. He is presently Organist/Choirmaster here at First Presbyterian. He has performed recitals in Ashland, Lexington, Harrodsburg and Georgetown KY, Havelock and New Bern, NC and Ironton, OH.



Denine LeBlanc, piano, holds a D.M.A from the College-Conservatory of Music, University of Cincinnati, a M.M. from the University of Louisville, and a B.M. from the Cleveland Institute of Music. She has played both traditional and contemporary concerts throughout the United States and in Croatia, France, Germany, Hungary, Italy, and Poland.

Calvin Riggs, piano, a senior piano performance major at Marshall University and the organist at First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in Ashland. Calvin has given many public performances both locally and at international festivals. He is very interested in helping people cultivate their passion for music.



Kim Willis Whitman, flute, as a Marshall undergraduate in the College of Education, Kim Whitman played the flute in the Community Symphonic Band. She also has a Master's degree from the College of Education. Kim has played for fun and to worship God since 1964. She and her band friends from high school are still recalling good times.

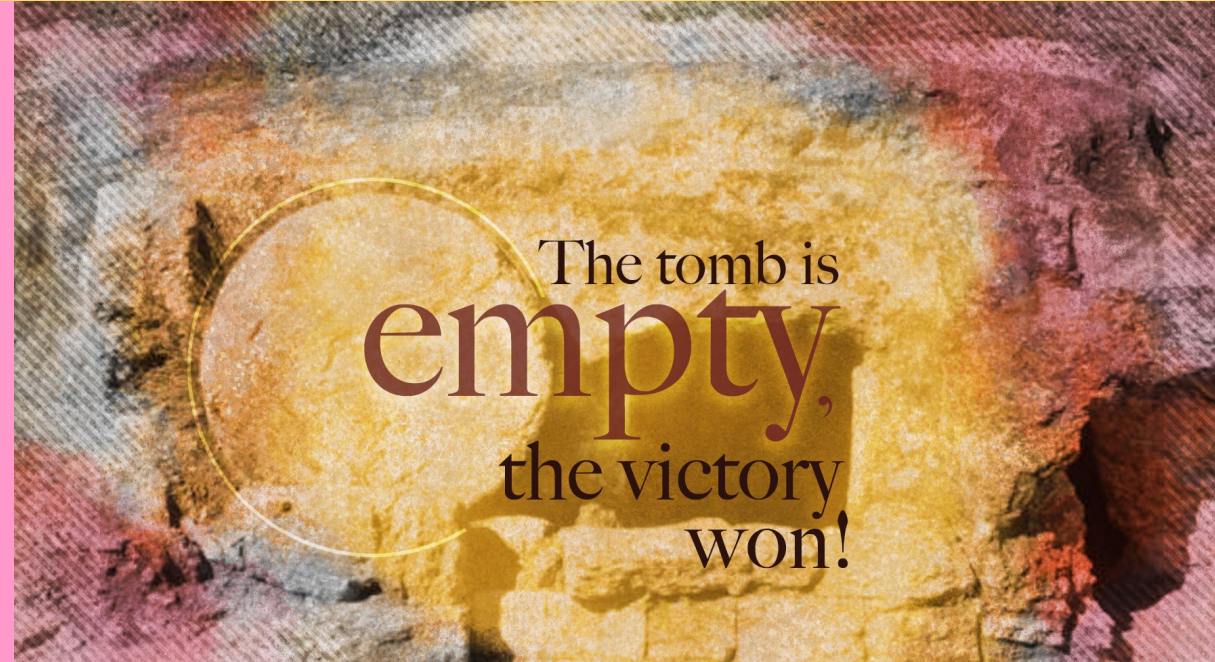
Please join us following the concert for a reception located in the Narthex.



HEARTBEATS

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 Organist

Nanette Pollack
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Glen Thomas
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SESSION MEMBERS

Mitch Hall
 President of
 Congregation

Kelly Hanni
 Secretary of
 Congregation/
 Clerk of Session

Cathy Wilson
 Treasurer

2024

Lee McCloud
J.T. Norris
Cathy Wilson*

2025

Kelly Hanni
Kim Whitman
Geri Willis

2026

Mitch Hall*
Jan Holbrook
Ryan Whitman*

*2nd term of service

*Now if Christ is proclaimed as raised from the dead, how can some of you say there is no resurrection of the dead? If there is no resurrection of the dead, then Christ has not been raised, and if Christ has not been raised, then our proclamation is in vain and your faith is in vain. **But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead...**" (1 Corinthians 15:12-14, 20)*

A lot lies in the balance when it comes to the resurrection of Jesus. Paul addressing the concerns of the Church at Corinth considers the vastness of the effect of an empty tomb. What difference did the resurrection make in the lives of those who hoped that Jesus was indeed the coming Messiah? Does it matter if we believe or not? Paul says it does!

We live in a world that denies the resurrection. More than most of the population of the world lives and behaves as if it never happened. There are those who teach resurrection as a myth; a story with no validation, a hoax made up for the benefit of the disciples. As such, the reality of the resurrection is disregarded by the masses. But, what if it is true? What if the scriptures that share the experience of an empty tomb are true? How does it make a difference in our lives today?

Paul gives us the answer. If the resurrection is not true, we have been deceived. Our faith is invalid. We have believed a lie. Life just goes on with no purpose or meaning. Then with the confidence gained through experience, he proclaims: Jesus is **"in fact been raised from the dead."**

But his words of affirmation are just a smaller part of his life. Paul, a persecutor of the early Christian movement (the Way) experiences the reality of a risen Lord on the road to Damascus. (see Acts 9) And from that moment, Paul dedicates his life to telling everyone that the resurrection gives life purpose. Ultimately, he is killed for his faith. The very proof that he understood the reality and validity of an empty tomb.

What about you and me? Do we believe in the empty tomb? Do we hold fast to Jesus, risen and alive? Does the resurrection help direct our lives daily in the living out of our faith? I can tell you that I affirm each of these queries. I have lived, and will continue to live, the truth of the Scriptures. I am convinced **in fact Christ has been raised from the dead...**

I truly hope you do too!

Pastor Bill