



# REPORT TO THE CONGREGATION

---

AUGUST 2016 - JULY 2017

First Presbyterian Church

# INTRODUCTION

In the coming year at First Pres, we will again focus on a theme from the prophet Micah, in particular, Micah 6:8. We will use the seemingly simple fundamentals of this verse to guide the ways in which we live out our call to be disciples of Jesus Christ.

Although the content is different from last year's Annual Report, this year's report is again organized by Micah's three-fold summary of God's expectations. Rather than attempting to enumerate everything we do at First Pres, this year's report highlights a few events that are representative of how we as a community walk the path Micah sets forth.

The Annual Report not only gives examples of how we have done justice, loved kindness, and walked humbly with God over the past year, but also serves to encourage us to continue our purpose and mission as a faith community in the coming year. Micah challenges us to keep questioning how will we work for fairness and equality for all, particularly the weak and powerless? How will we ensure love, loyalty, and faithfulness are the cornerstones of our relationships? How will we consider our life's journey with circumspect rather than with knee-jerk reactions? And how will we carefully put Christ first in all the moments of our lives?

“He has told you,  
O mortal,  
what is good;  
and what does the  
LORD require of you  
but to do justice,  
and to love kindness,  
and to walk humbly  
with your God?”

Micah 6:8



Do justice, Love kindness, Walk humbly with your God

# DO JUSTICE

Preparations begin weeks before; the meal is planned, volunteers solicited, and the call for food donations is made. Then, in many different capacities, First Pres members come together to host the Thanksgiving Meal, continuing this long-standing tradition of serving The Blue Ridge House, a rehabilitation center serving those recovering from the impact of mental illness.



Do justice, Love kindness, Walk humbly with your God

Strengthening and building upon our already long-standing relationship with Habitat for Humanity, First Pres youth proudly make a commitment to regular build days—the first church in the area to begin a lasting relationship between youth and Habitat’s service to the community.



Do justice, Love kindness, Walk humbly with your God



More than twenty First Pres members gather on the Sanctuary steps prior to the July KKK Rally. Together, they walk to the Justice/Jackson Park, praying that love is stronger than hate. The racial events in our area challenge us to explore what it means to “stand firm in our pursuit of justice and the honoring of all peoples...united in our common humanity as beloved people of God.”



Do justice, Love kindness, Walk humbly with your God

# LOVE KINDNESS



Twice a year, in a combined service at 10 o'clock, we welcome new members and confirmands into our congregation. Gathered on the lawn, we celebrate and eat together, learning about one another, becoming closer as a community, and building intergenerational relationships that can last a lifetime. This spring, we said goodbye and express our gratitude to Kendall Pearson after her long tenure with our youth.



Do justice, Love kindness, Walk humbly with your God



For four weeks, people of all ages join together for a unique intergenerational class, exploring Advent through self-guided stations using scripture, crafts, and activities. Each week, energy and happiness permeate the rooms as members and families enjoy the time to connect with one another and learn together. Concluding the series, St. Nicholas makes a memorable visit, teaching children of all ages the historical account of Christmas.



Do justice, Love kindness, Walk humbly with your God

## Loving Kindness Within the Church

Teach on Sunday morning

Host fellowship time

Lead the youth

Serve and prepare communion  
and extended communion

Host or provide food for  
funeral receptions

Serve as ushers and greeters

Deliver flowers

Knit prayer shawls

Bake or serve at soup kitchen

Provide 30 minutes of  
care assistance before worship

Lead the conversation with  
children

Work in the memorial garden

Help with property and  
maintenance projects

Help with children's activities

Serve on the chancel team

Assemble worship bags

Record weekly attendance

Make AGAPE visits

Serve as a Stephen minister



Do justice, Love kindness, Walk humbly with your God



# WALK HUMBLY WITH GOD



The congregation joins together in one combined service to celebrate the welcoming of new members and the ordination of Aram Bae. Aram's ordination and installation is the culmination of months of work by the Associate Pastor Nominating Committee.



Do justice, Love kindness, Walk humbly with your God

How can a worship service be reimagined and redeveloped to meet today's needs? The community is invited and new faces arrive through open doors for the entirety of Ash Wednesday. Pastors place ashes on foreheads and people linger at prayer stations, coloring in prayer, lighting a candle, silently reflecting, and reading.



Do justice, Love kindness, Walk humbly with your God

Each week, the members of First Presbyterian's music ministry come together and rehearse, preparing to help lead the congregation in worship. Music is a special offering of worship helping us all to walk humbly with God.



Do justice, Love kindness, Walk humbly with your God



Godly Play is introduced to children on Sunday mornings. Through powerful language and wondering, leaders invite children to enter into Bible stories and relate them to their personal experience. After listening and watching, children choose from multiple ways to recreate and respond to the story, be it drama, artwork, figure play, or reflection.



Do justice, Love kindness, Walk humbly with your God



## Adult Sunday Morning Classes

- Book of the Month Club
- Art in Action
- Resourcing You for a Spiritual Summer
- New Members
- Scripture of the Day
- Biblical Historical
- Lenten Studies—Forgiveness
- Faith Engaging Politics
- Faith Through the Lens of Jewish Writings
- Parenting in the Pew
- Preparing the Way
- Advent Intergenerational Class
- The Bible and the Challenge of Defining a Religious Identity
- Issues and Opportunities in Aging
- Addiction and Grace
- Ask a Jew
- Faith-Full Parenting
- Walking Together Through Grief
- The Elements of Worship

### Active Members

1,071

### Average Worship Attendance

354

### Services with Communion

63

### New Members

45

### Baptisms

7

### Music on Park Street Concerts

7

### Youth Attending Montreat

29

### Confirmands

9



Do justice, Love kindness, Walk humbly with your God

## Yearly Outreach Contributions

# \$140,000



### Financially Serving Our Neighbors

- Alliance for Interfaith Ministries
- Blue Ridge House
- Blue Ridge Area Food Bank
- Building Goodness Foundation
- Charlottesville Abundant Life Ministries
- Emergency Food Network
- Foothills Child Advocacy
- Habitat for Humanity
- IMPACT
- International Neighbors
- International Response to Improve Sight (IRIS)
- International Rescue Committee
- Love, INC
- Meals on Wheels
- PACEM
- Presbyterian Education Board
- Shelter for Help in Emergency (SHE)
- Soup Kitchen
- The Haven
- Union Theological Seminary



## Our Building Supports...

- Alcoholics Anonymous meetings
- American Needlepoint Guild meetings
- Arc of the Piedmont meetings and events
- Boy Scout leaders meetings
- Brownie Troop meetings
- Charlottesville Bar Association lunches
- Charlottesville Music Teachers' Association
- Charlottesville Special Needs Support Group meetings
- Charlottesville Symphony performances
- Fire concerts
- Homeschooled Teens dances
- Hospice of the Piedmont events
- Kiwanis Club pancake breakfasts
- Music by the Bedside performances
- Narcotics Anonymous meetings
- Oratorio Society performances
- Piedmont Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) training sessions
- Region 10 Strengthening Families meetings
- Ready Kids events and meetings
- Virginia Consort performances
- Virginia Glee Club performances
- Wednesday Music Club performances



### Monthly Events Held at First Pres by Outside Groups

# 30



Do justice, Love kindness, Walk humbly with your God

# STAFF



Rev. Dr. David G. Forney

Pastor

Rev. Liz Forney

Covenant Pastor for  
Congregational Care

Rev. Dr. Aram Bae

Associate Pastor for Youth & Mission

Rev. Kendall Pearson

Covenant Pastor for Mid High Youth  
& Their Families

Dr. Jeremy Thompson

Director of Music

Kathy Doby

Director of Ministry with Children  
& Their Families

Member Involvement Coordinator

Kathy Freer

Parish Nurse

Judy Blair

Business Manager

Susannah Fuller

Communications Director

Susan Lawson

Office Administrator/Receptionist

Michael Joyce

Facilities Maintenance Manager

Donna Buchanan

Preschool Director

Cathy Dalton

Assistant Preschool Director

# LEADERSHIP

## Class of 2017

### Elders of the Session

Ashley Schauer  
Bethany Farris  
Chris Kennedy  
Derik Rice  
John Meaney  
Kendall Cox  
Robin Halsey

### Board of Deacons

Elias Awad  
Jeanne Busse  
Michael Kidd  
Liza Sackson  
Julie Sparks  
Richard Stairhime  
Jocelyn Thach  
Joseph Warden

## Class of 2018

### Elders of the Session

Betsy Critzer  
Caitlin Dean  
David Hamer  
Bill Henderson  
Jocelyn Kelley  
Eleanor Maloney  
Kirk Pilkington

### Board of Deacons

Elizabeth Best  
Leigh Critzer  
Sam Haas  
Jeannette Halpin  
Joyce Katstra  
Richard Lutz  
Donna Nunley  
Katherine Warren

## Class of 2019

### Elders of the Session

Jessica Ammons  
Downing Miller  
Deborah Rexrode  
Nancy Roche  
Jim Snead  
Mac Walker  
Bill vonReichbauer

### Board of Deacons

Charlie Chadwick  
John Dillery  
Elaine Knight  
Diane Schmidt  
Wanda Towberman  
Polly Wehmann



Do justice, Love kindness, Walk humbly with your God

# IN MEMORY

George Grattan

Lee Vandenberg

Margaret Fowler

Maggie Potts

Margaret Carter

Ralph Stoudt

Jim Garnett

Sally Carpenter

Vernon McMinimy

Bill Isaacs

Luther Morris

Joyce Locke

Jean Carswell

Eleanor Blattmann

Todd Pullen

Ginny Paul

Tait Livingood



Do justice, Love kindness, Walk humbly with your God



"You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul,  
and with all your strength, and with all your mind; and your neighbor as yourself."

As brothers and sisters in Christ, we are called to:

**WORSHIP** God faithfully and joyfully, prayerfully seeking God's direction for our lives;

**NURTURE** our faith in Jesus Christ through education and fellowship, growing in wisdom,  
and deepening our relationship with God and one another;

**SERVE** one another, our community, and the world with humility and love,  
relying on the empowerment of the Holy Spirit to lead us in witnessing  
to the love of God in Jesus Christ.



Do justice, Love kindness, Walk humbly with your God