

FEBRUARY 2024

Dear Kingston Family,

I'm writing to you today from Paducah, KY, where I am staying as I am heading back to the airport soon and will return to Conway tonight, February 1st. Paducah is located on the banks of the massive Ohio River and on the other side of the Ohio River is the state of Illinois. There is not much to southern Illinois. It is very rural, lots of rolling hills and farmland. About a 30 minute drive from Paducah, out of nowhere in the rolling farmland, is the Shawnee Correctional Center.

It is a state penitentiary for the state of Illinois. Prisons are intimidating places to visit. When you pull into the parking lot, there are signs designating where visitors can park and another sign indicating that visitors belongings, including vehicles can be searched at any time for any reason. After exiting the car you see miles of razor wire fencing, with a 3-4 story watchtower with armed guards overlooking the premises. When you approach the lobby, you have to be let in with the guard unlocking the door electronically. Every time a door is unlocked there is a loud buzzing sound letting you know to open the unlocked door.

When you approach the front desk you have to sign in, provide 2 forms of identification and. tell them the prisoner you are planning to visit. You are then let into a holding area where you must put all your belongings, including rings and watches into a locker and then a guard pats you down. You then walk through a metal detector, have a stamp placed on your hand and then you exit the building and walk outside to another building in the prison complex.

This second building is where visitation is allowed. You have to then walk through 3 more locked doors and then enter a cafeteria area where tables and chairs are set up. There is a guard that oversees the visitation area. There are strict rules while you visit.

There is a table assigned for us , and the prisoner must face the guard at all times, the visitor has their back to the guard. You must keep your hands on the table at all times and any touching must be limited to

(continued on page 2)



Rev. J. Robert Bannan, Jr.
Pastor

Holly Bannan
**Director of
Discipleship and
Communications**

Bradley Hardee
Music Director

Mary Alwine
**Administrative
Assistant**

David Moore
Sexton

Kira Hamilton
Emma Hamilton
Nursery

(continued) ...a brief hug when arriving and departing. Visitors are allowed to visit once a day in 4 hour blocks. There are vending machines in the area, so yesterday Kip and I were able to enjoy lunch together. We each had a sandwich and some chips, Kip also enjoyed having a soda. I am the only one allowed to get up and get the food—prisoners cannot leave their seats without permission or the visit is terminated, and usually the only reason they are allowed to get up is to use the bathroom.

I had a lovely time visiting Kip. We played several different card games. We talked about what his plans are when he gets home. He was asking about our Wednesday night supper schedule in November. He is eager to get home and misses Kingston Presbyterian very much.

This time with Kip reminds me of Jesus' words in Matthew 25:34-40, some Bibles refer to this section as the parable of the Sheep and the Goats. Many of you are familiar with these verses:

Then the king will say to those at his right hand, 'Come, you who are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world, for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me.' Then the righteous will answer him, 'Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry and gave you food or thirsty and gave you something to drink? And when was it that we saw you a stranger and welcomed you or naked and gave you clothing? And when was it that we saw you sick or in prison and visited you?' And the king will answer them, 'Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did it to me.'" (Emphasis mine)

These words are so impactful because Jesus tells us that when we help those who are in need: the hungry, the thirsty, those who need clothes, the sick and the prisoners, we literally are helping Jesus. I think this church does such a good job helping folks who are in need. Kip feels all the love from all of you. Every one of the cards, letters, phone calls, prayers, even those who simply ask how he is doing, that is a way of "visiting" Kip. He asked me during our visits, "Who all asks about me?" because he knows when you ask how he is doing you care. He feels that care.

As I was departing the prison on Tuesday, there was a guard who works on Kips block where his cell is located. He and Kip know each other on a first name basis, and they talk to each other a good deal. As I was heading through the locked doors to depart, the guard asked me, "So you are his pastor?" I said, "Yes, Kingston Presbyterian Church back in Conway, SC." The guard continued, "Man he has been talking my ear off for weeks about you coming to see him, like I mean he has been over the moon excited." I said, "Well I am glad that makes him happy." The guard finished by saying, "Thank you for coming to see him, I can tell what a positive difference it makes for him."

Thank you Kingston for being a Matthew 25 church.

Blessings,



**2024 KINGSTON
CHILI COOK-OFF**
Wednesday, January 31st - 6pm



**Our 2024 Chili
Cook-off Winners**

(pictured left to right):
PJ Brown (2ND),
Holly Bannan (3RD),
and Kathy Mauldin (1ST)

YOU'RE INVITED TO OUR KINGSTON
**COLLEGE
GATHERINGS**

4TH SUNDAY EVERY MONTH

6:00 - 8:00PM
DINNER + FELLOWSHIP + HANGOUT



In 2024, we are starting gatherings for all of our college age students. We will meet on the 4th Sunday of every month, at different church member's homes. Invite your friends and come for a free meal, fun, and fellowship!
Text Holly to RSVP or to answer any questions (864-497-8246).

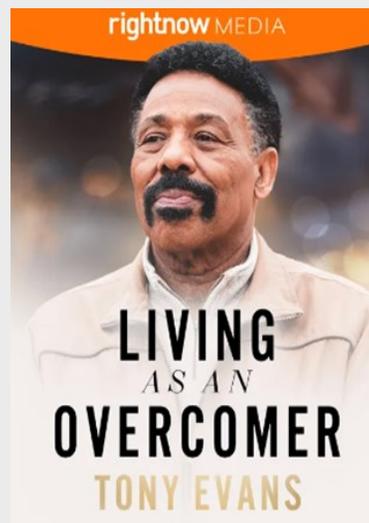
FIRST GATHERING : FEBRUARY 25

rightnow MEDIA

February RightNow Media Spotlight

Eternal Motivation for Earthly Success

The unique hardships of our modern lives can often feel insurmountable. But God's Word reveals to us that there is no obstacle, habit, or situation we face that Jesus hasn't already given us the power to conquer. In this eight-session study, bestselling author Dr. Tony Evans examines how Christ's message to the seven churches in Revelation can challenge, convict, and lead us toward emphatic victory over any difficulty in life. As we heed God's instructions to the early church, we will learn to reject lukewarm faith and start living as overcomers.



WALL LECTURE SERIES WEEKEND

Reading the Prophets

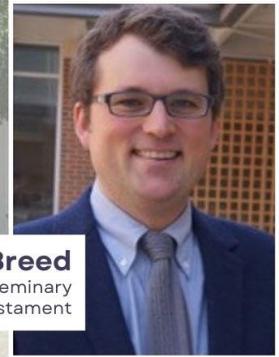
Friday: 6:30 - 8:30pm (dinner + lecture)
Saturday: 9:00 - 11:00am
Sunday: 9:00 - 10:15am, 10:30am worship

**Childcare provided

FEB.
2-4
2024

Dr. Brennan W. Breed

Columbia Theological Seminary
Associate Professor of Old Testament



Women's Ministry

MONTHLY BIBLE STUDY

Join us March 4th at 7pm in the KB to continue *Sacred Encounters: The Power and Presence of Jesus Christ in Luke-Acts*.

This study is open to all women!!

VALENTINE BOXES

Please bring 30 pre-packaged cookies or candy goodies to help pack Valentine Boxes for our Activity restricted and college students on Monday February 5th @ 7pm in the Kingston Building.

NEW MEMBER DINNER

Please join in helping welcome our new members that joined in 2023. Dinner will be served by our own Leslie Wilson, so come enjoy the food, fellowship and meet our newest members!

Weight Watchers Workshops

are reopening in our church starting the week of February 18, 2024!!!

The schedule will be the same; **Tuesdays at 6:00PM first Workshop on February 20,** and **Saturdays at 9:00AM, first Workshop February 24.** Workshops will be held at **the same location; The Kingston Education Center, 907 Third Avenue, Conway, SC 29526.**

Please share this info with your family members and friends that you think would be interested. Weight Watchers has been voted once again the number one Diet Program by US News & World Report, and the number one program doctors recommend to help manage your weight health.

Monica N. Galea





FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

- 4 Frances Dennis
- 9 Tasha Gaddy
Jacob Bannan
- 10 Gerry Wallace
- 15 Jeannie Abbott
- 19 Kitty Gillis
- 21 Dash Minford
- 24 Wayne Staton
- 25 Dennis Esandrio



WACCAMAW YOUTH CENTER BIRTHDAYS

If you would like to be part of this ministry, please contact Cathy Beverly.

For one of the boy's birthdays, you will need to bring a homemade cake, a tub of ice cream, 16 candles, 16 napkins, 16 plates and potato chips.



The following are immediate needs CAP has as they can't get from their main source (Lowcountry Food Bank) :

- Tomato Soup
- Canned Chicken
- Jelly (Plastic Jars)
- Grits
- Cereal
- Canned Pasta

FEBRUARY VOLUNTEERS

Head Usher:
Stewart Haskin

Ushers:
Susan Haskin
Ed Lawson
Paul Lawson

Counters:
Teresa Hardee
Cathy Beverly



We need volunteers to cook one Wednesday night! **Sign up today!** Please call the church office if you have any other questions.

FEBRUARY 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2 Youth Breakfast @ 7am&8:15 Wall Renewal Dinner/Lecture 6-8pm	3 Wall Renewal 10am -12pm
4 Wall Renewal 9:00am—10:15am Worship Service@10:30am Covered Dish	5 ASL class 6pm in Gore House KPW to Pack Valentine Bxs @ 7pm in KB YBS @ 7pm in GH	6	7 Wed Night Supper @ 6pm in FH Kingston Kids 6-7pm	8	9 Youth Breakfast @ 7am & 8:15	10
11 Sunday School 9:30am Worship Service @10:30am w/Communion	12 ASL class 6pm in Gore House YBS @ 7pm in GH	13 Diaconate Mtg @ 5pm in KB Pancake Supper @ 6pm in FH	14 ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE @ 6pm	15 Prayer Shawl Ministry @ 6pm in KB	16 Youth Breakfast @ 7am & 8:15	17 Hosting Presby- tery 8:30am- 3:30pm
18 Men's Breakfast @ 8:30 in FH Sunday School 9:30am Pray-n-Play @ 9:45am Worship Service@10:30am	19 ASL class 6pm in Gore House KIDS Mission Project 10am-2pm YBS @ 7pm in GH	20 Middle School Hangout 1-4pm Trustee Mtg @ 4pm in the Parlor Session Mtg @ 6pm in KB	21 New Member Dinner @ 6pm in FH Kingston Kids 6-7pm	22 Lenten Luncheon @ Noon at KPC	23 Youth Breakfast @ 7am & 8:15	24
25 Sunday School 9:30am Worship Service@10:30am College Gathering \6-8pm	26 ASL class 6pm in Gore House YBS @ 7pm in GH	27	28 Wed Night Supper @ 6pm in FH Kingston Kids 6-7pm	29 Lenten Luncheon @ Noon at First United Methodist		



Lenten Lunches

Thursdays | 12:00 - 1:00pm

February 22

Kingston Presbyterian Church
Speaker: Rev. Kyle Randle

March 14

St. James Catholic Church
Speaker: Rev. Emily Kirby

February 29

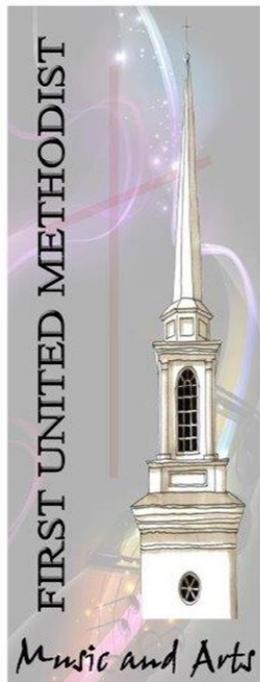
First United Methodist Church
Speaker: Rev. Bill McCown

March 21

Trinity United Methodist Church
Speaker: Father Oscar Borda

March 7

Saint Anne's Episcopal Church
Speaker: Rev. J. Robert Bannan, Jr.



Lenten Organ Meditations

Wednesdays during Lent
FREE CONCERTS @ Noon



First United Methodist Conway and Grand Strand Chapter of American Guild of Organists will co-sponsor Lenten Organ Meditations on Wednesdays at Noon during Lent in the Sanctuary.

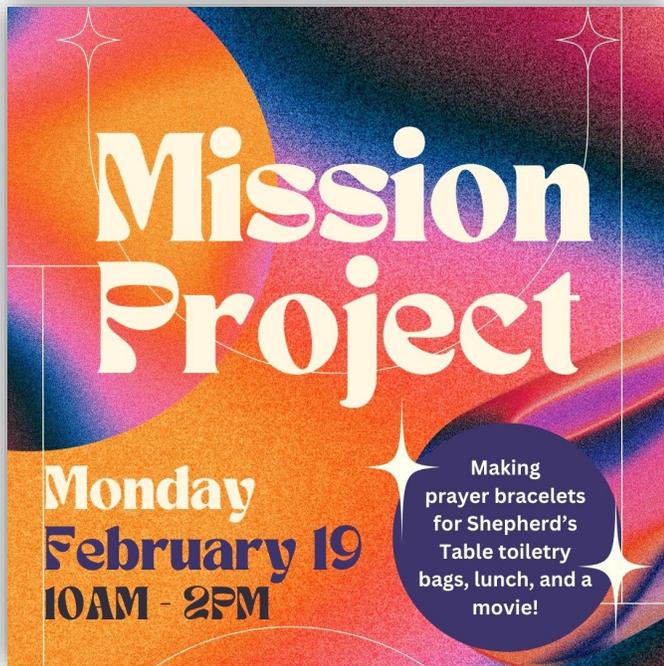
The Organists are:

- | | |
|-------------|----------------|
| February 21 | Billy Fallaw, |
| February 28 | Jessica Eaton |
| March 6 | Kevin Uppercue |
| March 13 | Jim Hepler |
| March 20 | Billy Fallaw |

A free event.

Kingston Kids + Youth

February is a busy month for our children and students! We've added an additional breakfast time on Friday mornings, we have mission projects for all ages, and our middle schoolers are starting some fun outings around town! Our Youth Bible study moves back to Monday night, and our Kingston Kids resumes on Wednesday, February 7th. Contact Holly with any questions you have.



Mission Project

**Monday
February 19
10AM - 2PM**

Making prayer bracelets for Shepherd's Table toiletry bags, lunch, and a movie!



RSVP!

MIDDLE SCHOOL HANGOUTS

Calling all Middle School students! Once a month, invite all your friends and join us for an outing + fellowship.

February's activity:
Bowling @ Stars & Strikes

**Tuesday, 2/20
(teacher workday)
1-4pm**

#kingstonyouth



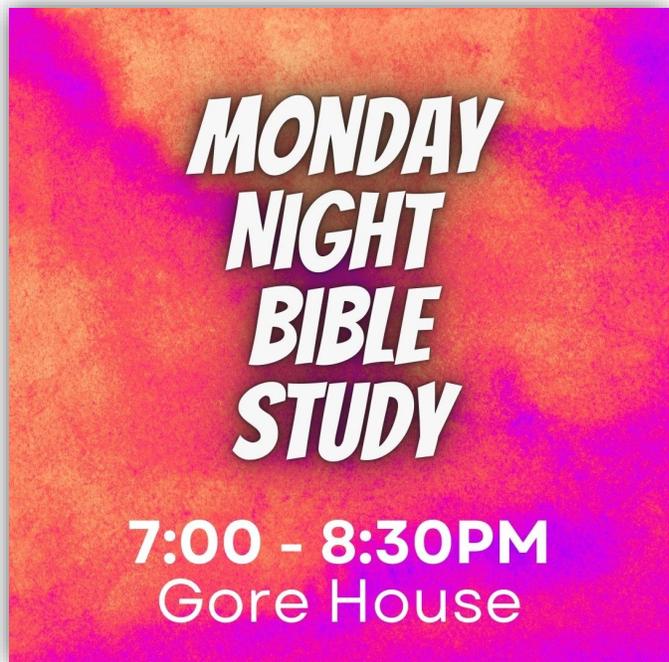
YOUTH

friday morning
breakfast - NEW schedule

7:00AM
MIDDLE + HIGH
(ANYONE WITH 8:15 TARDY BELL)



8:15AM
JUNIORS + SENIORS
(ANYONE WITH LATE ARRIVAL)



MONDAY NIGHT BIBLE STUDY

7:00 - 8:30PM
Gore House