



First Pres News

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Rocky Mount

153 N. Church Street
Rocky Mount, NC 27804

www.fpcrm.org

252-446-9121

March 2020



Dear Friends,

We have entered the season of Lent. The music shifts to contemplation and longing. The scriptures challenge our understanding identity and our perpetual need for grace. The messages and prayers of confession step on toes and unnerve the soul. Worship continues to touch the spirit, but the impending shadow of the cross weighs heavily on the horizon.

While worship leads us up the mountain to the cross, the sun is reemerging from the winter haze, and dormant plants are springing forth with new life. Church is buzzing with ministries of immense beauty and hope. Families are planning their upcoming vacations, and the excitement of summer is beginning to peak around the corner.

I invite you to live in the mystery between the markers of the seasons and the markers of Lenten worship. Look for the places where sin, evil, and death seem prevalent. Discover the places where grace is springing forth. Let the longing for redemption and the joy of resurrection's promise sit in tension with one another.

If I can be of any help to you in this highly spiritual season of reflection- please do not hesitate to reach out or come by to sit and chat.

*Grace and Peace,
Matt*

Pastor: The Rev. Matthew Baker

Parish Associate: The Rev. Dr. Preston Smith

Church Ministry Coordinator: Dionne Seale

Financial Secretary: Jeanne T. Shannon

Director of Music: Jim Smith

Organist: Virginia Vance

Sexton: Michael Smith

Assistant Sexton & Nursery Attendant: Charity Lodge

Nursery Assistant: Mary Hilliard

Faith & Fellowship

...with First Presbyterian!

WEDNESDAY EVENING FELLOWSHIP

FAITH. FOOD. FUN.

All are welcome for a covered dish meal in the Fellowship Hall on Wednesday evenings at 6:00 p.m. followed by a program in the Session Room at 6:45 p.m.



BROWN BAG Bible Study

Brown Bag Bible Study meets on Mondays at noon in the Session room unless otherwise

noted. All are welcome to bring a lunch and join in for fellowship and thoughtful biblical discussions!



Monday, March 16, 2020 at noon Church Parlor

Join us for good food and fellowship as the Lunch Bunch gathers to break bread! We will enjoy BBQ, baked beans, slaw, hushpuppies, and dessert. If you are not already on the "permanent list", please notify the church office if you can attend. Faithful volunteers prepare and serve the food, and a basket is passed for contributions to offset the cost of the meal. A suggested donation of \$5 per meal is appreciated for this event. While geared towards retirement age folks, all are welcome!

BREAD AND THE CUP

FPC is reviving a program of taking Communion to those who are not able to partake during a regular worship service. We will be visiting folks in facilities as well as our homebound. If you are aware of members who might be interested in this, please contact Marianne Farris or a minister at First Presbyterian.

MAKES CENTS

Please review the below church income and expense data for the month shown. The prior month is not available as of the newsletter print date. Please call or email Jeanne Shannon in the church office with any questions.

Pledges and Loose Offering through January 2020

Month – to – date	\$ 140,208.82
Year – to – date	\$ 140,208.82

Expenses through January 2020

Month – to – date	\$ 66,269.17
Year – to – date	\$ 66,269.17



Need to get reimbursed for a church expense? Please complete the reimbursement form found in the office mail slots. If you don't know the expense code you need, explain what the expense is on the form. Be sure to attach receipts to the back of the form and leave in Jeanne Shannon's box. Questions? Contact Jeanne in the church office.

Church office phone	252.446.9121, option 5
Jeanne's email	jeanne.shannon@fpcrm.org
Jeanne's office hours are Monday thru Thursday from 8:30-2:30 p.m.	



Come join us on March 8, 2020 at 5:00 p.m. for our next evensong worship service. We will spend time in song, silence, communion and prayer with a focus on healing. Bring the concerns of body, mind, and soul as we ask for God's presence to be made known in a variety of ways. This unique worship service is the perfect response to our busy, chaotic world, so we look forward to sharing in a time of healing with you.

GATEKEEPERS WORKCAMP

Adult Volunteers Needed!

July 13—17, 2020

Gatekeepers Workcamp is a ministry of a consortium of churches in Rocky Mount, NC with work "headquartered" at Lakeside Baptist. The Mission of Gatekeepers Workcamp is to provide hands-on, Christian mission experience for youth in grades 6-12 in an ecumenical setting and to provide free home repairs for homeowners who are unable to maintain their homes because of financial or physical limitations. **Adult volunteers are needed** to assist with this mission. If able to commit to all or even part of this week as an adult volunteer, please contact Jeanne Shannon at jeanne.shannon@fpcrm.org or 252-446-9121, option 5 by March 15. Volunteers are needed to help with the daily lunches provided at Church of the Good Shepherd as well as skilled labor in the homes while supervising the youth.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION UPDATE



DATES FOR MARCH :

- ♦ **Sunday, March 1:** 9:45 a.m. Sr. High Youth Group—Biscuits with Baker & Middle School—Sunday School; 12:15 Middle School Youth Group—Panera Bread with Preacher
- ♦ **Sunday, March 8:** 5:00 p.m. Evensong Service with Youth Participation; meal after the service in Fellowship Hall (meal provided by Seale Family)
- ♦ **Friday, March 13:** 6:15 a.m. Sr. High Breakfast with Lee Proctor at Highway Diner
- ♦ **Sunday, March 15:** 9:45 a.m. Sr. High Youth Group—Biscuits with Baker & Middle School—Sunday School; 12:15 Middle School Youth Group —Panera with Preacher
- ♦ **Sunday, March 22:** Focus on Fellowship—4:30 Middle School YG @Tharin's home; 5:30 Joint Meal @Tharin's home; 6:00 High School YG @Tharin's home
- ♦ **Sunday, March 29:** 5:30 Youth Group Spring Tournament Night @FPC; meal provided by Warner family



Monday,
March 9, 2020
4:30 p.m.

*Snacks, music, crafts and
FUN with Pastor Matt for
ages Pre-K through 5th
Grade!*



Vacation Bible School

June 1-5, 2020

Lakeside Baptist Church

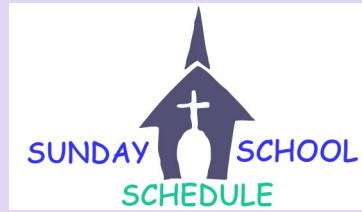
8:45 a.m. to 12:00 noon daily

Ages 3- completed Grade 5

A suggested donation of \$15 per child is requested, with a maximum of \$30 per family. Scholarships are available.

Early-bird registration for members of Church of the Good Shepherd, First Presbyterian, Lakeside Baptist, St. Andrews Episcopal, and West Haven Presbyterian until April 15. After that date, registration will open to the community.

Register online at www.fpcrm.org/ministries/childrens-education/



P. E. P. (Presbyterians Educating Presbyterians) Class meets in the church parlor—currently studying “More Presbyterian Questions, More Presbyterian Answers”.

Present Word Class meets downstairs in the History Room and uses “The Present Word” Bible Study.

	ELEMENTARY (Grades 2-5; Room 203)	MIDDLE SCHOOL Youth Suite	HIGH SCHOOL Youth Suite
3/1/2020	Dill	Sondergard	Biscuits with Baker
3/8/2020	Tharin	No Sunday School	No Sunday School
3/15/2020	Gaynor	Seale	Biscuits with Baker
3/22/2020	Tharin	No Sunday School	No Sunday School
3/29/2020	Tharin	No Sunday School	No Sunday School

Biscuit Providers: March 1—Tharin; March 15—Seale

First Presbyterian Happenings



Above, Handcraft Ministry “elves” hard at work organizing their space!

At right, Charity and her precious friends!



At left, Friday Friends gathered for lunch to celebrate February birthdays!



Community Partners

The Community Partners Committee wants to be more intentional about collecting for special causes. Rather than having multiple ongoing collections, we will focus on one special collection per month.



Our Community Partners Collection focus for March is collecting bingo prizes for Covenant Homes. Items such as large print crossword puzzle book, word search books, paper towels, kitchen gadgets, note pads, etc.



Thank you for supporting our February 18th blood drive for the American Red Cross! Our goal was reached by collecting 19 units!



The Handcraft Ministry will meet on March 18, 2020 at 1:30 p.m. in the former computer lab room upstairs next to the Craft Room

here at the church. This wonderful ministry provides prayer shawls, blankets, etc. to those in need of God's warmth.



GIRL SCOUT TROOPS 434 AND 55 NEWS

We appreciate the church purchasing cookies for the cookies and hot chocolate reception and also the opportunity to sell cookies after Scout Sunday. We enjoyed being a part of the service!



Troop 7 News



February is always our time to serve. We begin the month by "Scouting for Food" for our local food banks. Both Troop 7 and Pack 7 participated by manning stations at the Piggly Wiggly in Downtown Rocky Mount and the other store in Nashville. Between the two groups, we collected over 1,800 pounds of can goods, pasta,

rice and beans. This food was distributed to the Salvation Army and to United Community Ministries Kitchen. Also, in February our Scouts serve by cooking, serving and cleaning for our Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper. It is a small way for us to thank the church for allowing us to use the building and get a little mud on the van from time to time.

Presbyterian Women Update

The Presbyterian Women take tremendous pride in its mission to build a community of women that strengthens the church. The love and support we received in response to our letter of intent is truly appreciated. Whether attending a circle, assisting with seasonal projects, participating in outreach programs, or contributing financially, your support is vital in enabling your sisters to continue to make a difference locally and within the FPC congregation. Your contributions to the PW are a beautiful expression of love.....and we thank you!

Upcoming events : The PW will be selling Easter lilies to support the Littrell-Thorpe Scholarship Fund. And, the Women's Day Service is scheduled for April 19th.

- PWCT will meet March 2 in the History room at 10:00 a.m. (bring auction item)
- Circle of Friends will meet March 9 at 7:00 p.m. with hostess Cora Lee Gold, and Mary Watson will lead the Bible Study lesson.
- Circle of J.O.Y. will meet on March 10 in the Session Room at 10:30 a.m. and the Rev. Bettie Kirkpatrick will lead the Bible Study lesson.



2019-20 PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN COORDINATING TEAM

Janice Smith, Moderator

Stephanie Hayworth, Vice-Moderator

Tempie Fuller, Secretary

Frances Guerry, Historian

Sylvia Phillips, Together in Service

Myra Richardson, Circle of Friends Leader

Becky Parks, Treasurer

Laura Durham, Spiritual Nurture

Edie Reeves, Together in Service

Nancy Richardson & Martha Tesoro, Circle of J.O.Y Co-Leaders



EASTER
Lilies

Donate towards a lily to celebrate a special loved one and/or special people in your life. The Presbyterian Women will place Easter lilies in our sanctuary on Easter Sunday, April 12. Beginning March 1, 2020, donation envelopes can be found on the welcome

table in the narthex or the church office. All proceeds will go to the Littrell/Thorpe Scholarship Fund which provides college financial assistance for youth in our church. A donation of \$18.00 or more per lily is appreciated. Checks should be made out to Presbyterian Women with "Easter Lily" in the memo line. Completed envelopes with checks/cash enclosed can either be placed in the offering plate or in Dionne Seale's church box no later than April 5, 2020.

Presbyterian Women enjoyed working with the ladies at Covenant Homes as they made pine cone bird feeders and used pen and ink to decorate Valentine wine glasses!





Sunday Volunteer Schedule

"As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another as good stewards of God's varied grace."

1 Peter 4:10



March 1, 2020

Head Usher: Steve Rowe

Ushers: Lisa Rowe, Andy Warner, Lynn Warner, Laura Rogers

Greeter: Laura Rogers

Liturgist: Dee Whitley

Children's Sermon: Matt Baker

Communion Preparer: Marianne Farris

Communion Servers: Marianne Farris, David Farris, Julian Parks, Becky Parks

Acolytes: Mary Powell Chesnutt and Frances Tharin

March 8, 2020

Head Usher: Greg Hutchins

Ushers: Carol Hutchins, Andy Warner, Lynn Warner, Winslow Rogers

Greeter: Laura Rogers

Liturgist: Russell Proctor

Children's Sermon: Mary Scott

Acolytes: Jack Powers and Ward Rose

March 15, 2020

Head Usher: Greg Hutchins

Ushers: Carol Hutchins, Randy Adams, Sally Adams, Jim Woodard

Greeter: Liz Woodard

Liturgist: Jean Kitchin

Children's Sermon: Randy Adams

Acolytes: Ann Cleveland Fisher and Walt Fisher

March 22, 2020

Head Usher: Sonny Foster

Ushers: Pell Foster, Michael Mosley, Anne Mosley, Stephen Chesnutt

Greeters: Gene and Sue Jackson

Liturgist: David Farris

Children's Sermon: Jim Lilley

Acolytes: Ellen Feagans and Thomas Honey

March 29, 2020

Head Usher: Sonny Foster

Ushers: Pell Foster, Michael Mosley, Anne Mosley, Stephen Chesnutt

Greeters: Gene and Sue Jackson

Liturgist: Randy Adams

Children's Sermon: Jim Lilley

Acolytes: Britt Gaynor and Nan Barnhill

Keeping in touch...

FOLLOW
US!

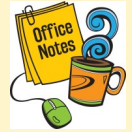


First Presbyterian Rocky Mount



fpc_rockymount

Contact Information Updates: Kindly notify Dionne Seale in the church office at 252-446-9121, ext. 21 or dionne.seale@fpcrm.org of any email, address, or phone number changes so we can keep our database up to date.



Regular church office hours are Monday—Thursday from 8:30-4:30 p.m. Please contact the church in advance should you need access to the building during non-office hours.

Dear Girls,
(Yes, I did say “girls”.)
You have young hearts and great spirits! What you give is consistently warm and heartwarming to so many of us.
After Easter, you brought me a beautiful lily plant.
After Christmas, you delivered a poinsettia plant.
For Thanksgiving, Janice and Myra delivered a yummy dinner from K & W.
Do you realize just much love you’ve shared?
The cards from Janice and others meant so much!
In Christ,
Sandra Luther
Covenant Homes



Thank you for your service to NC Wesleyan college by supporting our international students.

Evan Duff
President of NC Wesleyan College

Diane, Jay, Pastor Matt, etc.
Dawn and I wanted to thank you all again for hosting our Senior dinner for those graduating in December! It was lovely and special. It took a lot of organizing on your part. The students loved meeting you all and seeing the church. Thank you for all your love and involvement with our NCWC international students!

With deepest gratitude,
Dawn Turner and Suzanne Hening

Judy and I would like to thank everyone for the cards, words of encouragement and prayers during my challenge with end stage kidney disease. In April, I will be evaluated for a possible kidney transplant. We feel blessed for this option and for being a part of this church family.

Peace and blessings,
Preston and Judy Smith



Flowers for the Sanctuary

Honor someone or mark a special occasion in the coming year by signing up by the date you prefer on the flower chart that is posted on the bulletin board outside the church office. Dionne Seale

can place the order on your behalf at a cost of \$75 that will be billed to you or contact her for names of approved floral arrangers that you can contact and pay directly. Not only do we enjoy these flowers during worship, but they are made into smaller arrangements and delivered to those in need of cheer the following day. The following dates are available for flowers to be placed in the sanctuary:

March 1, 22

April 12, 26



Our love and sympathy is extended to Pat Judge upon the death of her sister, Peggy Whittingham, of San Marcos, California on 1/28/2020.

Communications Deadlines

- We publish the "First Pres" newsletter monthly. The newsletter is either emailed or a hard copy can be mailed to those without email. The deadline to submit information is the third Thursday of each month.
- The weekly email update is sent out via Constant Contact on Wednesday afternoon. The deadline for information is noon on Wednesday.
- The church bulletin is printed on Thursday afternoon. The deadline for information is noon on Thursday.



our thoughts and prayers are with...

THE FOUNTAINS AT THE ALBEMARLE—Tarboro

- ▶ Tom Dill
- ▶ Jim and Pat Blanchard

CARDINAL AT NORTH HILLS—Raleigh

- ▶ Dick Fountain

HOMESTEAD HILL—Winston-Salem

- ▶ Nancy Liipfert

BROOKDALE—Rocky Mount

- ▶ Betsy Boddie

ADDITIONAL CONCERNS

Margaret Barnes

Jim Blanchard

Mayo & Jean Boddie

Mike Braswell

Janet Cooper (mother of Elizabeth Rose)

Geraldine Donnell (sister of Janice Smith)

Herman Ferguson

Earl and Phyllis Goodwin

John McInnis (Jack Perry's brother-in-law)

Char Mather

Georgia Mixon

Ruth Munro (mother of Lynn Warner)

Gerry Niece (friend of the church)

Phyllis Parker

Anne Wilgus Podesta

Evelyn Reese

Robin Reeves (daughter of Edie and Ron Reeves)

Blanche Robinson

Dr. Harding Rogers (father of Winslow Rogers)

Peggy Rogers (mother of Winslow Rogers)

Cora Rowe (granddaughter of Jean Kitchin)

Jean Rowe (Steve Rowe's mother)

Polly Rowlett (Leigh Skeen's mother)

Maida Sessoms

Preston Smith

Bobbi Weeks

Susan Yenney

SHROVE TUESDAY

February 25, 2020—Pancakes, bacon, egg casseroles, and fruit—the "feast before the fast" was delicious!



THANK YOU TO ALL WHO
VOLUNTEERED TO ASSIST WITH
THIS SPECIAL EVENT!