



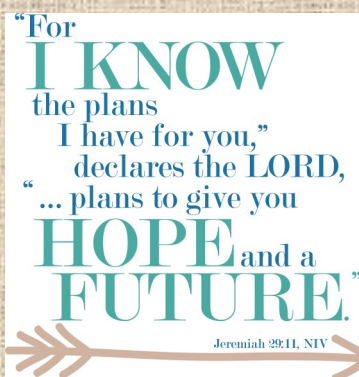
FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Rocky Mount

May 2020

153 N. Church Street
Rocky Mount, NC 27804
www.fpcrm.org
252-446-9121

AN ABRIDGED MAY NEWSLETTER



Friends,

You have been more than gracious as we all struggle through a season without a discernable end point. Thank you for your kind words about the staff's dedication. Thank you for your thoughtful emails and texts about the worship service. Thank you for choosing *hope* as your attitude regarding church this year.

I know that we have members who have lost loved ones, jobs, time, and resources to this pandemic. We have members in the medical and first responder fields who put the needs of the community above their own. We have families abiding by the recommendations of the CDC and living with social-distance induced anxiety and depression for the sake of communal health. As a church, we must all pray for one another and the battles before each and every one of us.

Your church leadership will continue to produce worship services for home participation. We are investing time and resources to increase the quality, so that your home worship time can be as meaningful as possible. Again, thank you for your grace as we've moved from a Sunday devotional on week 1 to hymns with lyrics and other participatory elements in our more recent services.

In very exciting news, the APNC is moving forward with *hope* as they interview candidates and prepare for on-site visits as soon as possible. I'm thrilled with their commitment to the process and their thoughtful conversations on behalf of the church. It is possible that we could have someone in place before the autumn.

Together, we will continue to work, experiment, learn, and grow in order to love God and neighbor. God bless each of you!

With love and gratitude,
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

STAY INFORMED

Nash County Health Department
COVID-19 Hotline
252-462-2079

Call if you have symptoms!

- Coughing
- Fever > 100.4 degrees
- Shortness of breath

Call if you have questions!

Call if you need testing!

CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19) WHEN TO SEEK CARE



STAY HOME

If you are experiencing symptoms similar to COVID-19 and think you have been exposed, **please stay home.**

Going to a hospital or doctor's office could potentially spread illness to others.



CALL FOR ADVICE

At home, call your health care provider or the State Health Department 24/7 hotline to discuss your symptoms. From there, medical experts will determine appropriate next steps.

1-866-462-3821



If you are sick and feel you have an emergency, call your health care provider or seek emergency medical care. **Please call your provider's office or the hospital before you go,** especially if you are experiencing COVID-19 symptoms and believe you have been exposed.

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.

The church office is temporarily closed. However, Jeanne is still processing mail including contributions and paying church bills. If you normally put your check or tithe envelope in the offering plate, please consider mailing to the church until we can gather together again.

Pledges and Loose Offering through March 2020
 Month – to – date \$ 37,587.40
 Year – to – date \$ 204,331.55

Expenses through March 2020
 Month – to – date \$ 40,060.67
 Year – to – date \$ 146,318.28



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

Gatekeepers



A Partnership
of
Rocky Mount
Churches
(252) 446-0126

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. 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. **A final decision as to whether Gatekeepers can occur this year will happen in mid-May, however plans still have to be made. June 1 is still the deadline to register.**

**PLEASE NOTE—ALL DATES
ON THIS PAGE ARE
SUBJECT TO CHANGE**



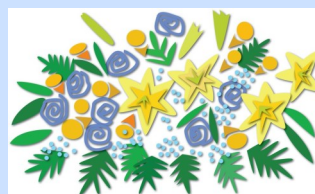
Vacation Bible School the week of June 1-5, 2020 has been cancelled. The VBS planning team is looking into alternative plans to gather and will communicate those plans as soon as able.

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.



As of this printing, we are still waiting a final word as to whether the Montreat Youth Conference will be able to be held this summer. Our youth are scheduled to attend July 19-25, 2020. Please keep them in your prayers as they always look forward to this special tradition.



Flowers for the Sanctuary

The following dates are available for flowers to be placed in the sanctuary:

June 7, 28



Community Partners

The Community Partners Committee has been hard at work! Please take a look and how God's love is being spread by First Presbyterian...



Peacemakers: The facility is closed to the public during this time, but they still need food or money donations to fill food boxes for neighborhood families or snacks for Freedom School (individually packaged snack items such as granola bars, fruit cups, juice boxes, etc.). Food donations can be dropped off Monday - Thursday between 9-5:00 p.m. at their location, 2221 W. Raleigh Blvd. Rocky Mount, NC.



As of this printing, **Meals on Wheels** is still planning to deliver frozen meals to recipients once a week in May. Volunteers will be notified of any changes to this plan.

The residents of **Covenant Homes** have been so appreciative of the phone calls and meals that have brightened their days! They have had food donations from Chick fil A, Pizza Inn, Jersey Mikes, Bojangles and Benvenue Country Club. If you would like to contribute towards providing 105 lunches, please call Debbie Morris at Covenant Homes (443-2323) in order to find available dates and a time for food to be delivered there for distribution by their staff. You can also check out their Facebook page to see happenings there: Covenant Homes Independent Living Community.



Pizza Inn delivered 105 personal pan pizzas to the residents of Covenant Homes on April 16th! Look who got one! The pizzas were delivered by a member of First Presbyterian Church.



Evelyn Reese received a bag lunch on Thursday, April 21st. The lunches included a Jersey Mikes turkey sub, chips and cookies. Thank you to Jersey Mikes for donating 50 sandwiches and to a church family who donated 55!



At left, eleven fleece blankets were delivered to graduating International students at NC Wesleyan College.



Close to **1000 masks** have been made by our Handcraft Ministry for Nash UNC Health Care, Boice-Willis Clinic, home health care workers and utility workers.

Keeping in touch...

FOLLOW
US!

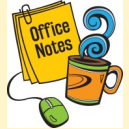


First Presbyterian Rocky Mount



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.



Thanks to all who contributed to the young family that Mary Hilliard brought to our attention. The outpouring of love was overwhelming, even residents of Covenant Homes contributed to this project. Special thanks to Presbyterian Women who bought 2 frames and mattress sets for the boys, ages 5 and 10, and to our Community Partner Committee (Outreach) who purchased the frame and mattress set for the little girl, age 11.



Carol and I are so thankful to all of our church brothers and sisters for the Easter lily delivered on Easter morning by Laura and David Dudley in honor of our new granddaughter, Ella Taylor. It has been so special. Every time that we look at it, we are reminded of the great gift that God gave us so long ago and the great gift that we received on April 2nd. We are so blessed and humbled. Thank you.

Greg and Carol Hutchins

What a church family and blessing! Larry's illness and hospital stay have been followed by being homebound with home health care and also the Coronavirus shelter in place. You have blessed us with church flowers, an Easter lily, visits, cards, food, calls, texts, and love. The services on Sunday have kept us connected and started our weeks on a very positive note. We have missed our usual activities at FPC, but so has everyone else. When we get to our new normal, we hope to be among you in fellowship again. Thank you all.

Larry and Roslyn Gragg

Dear Pastor and Church Members, As a resident of Covenant Homes, I would like to thank and express my appreciation to your church and its members for the meals and phone calls to check on the residents. You have helped to brighten our days during this time of staying in. We all love our homes here and again we thank you for helping make this community one we can all be proud of. It is my prayer that you and all your families are doing well and stay safe.

*In Christian Love,
Brenda Worrell*

What an unexpected pleasant surprise to find a beautiful Easter Lily from the church on our front porch. Thanks so much for making our day special.

Sue and Gene Jackson

Dear Friends, In the midst of chaos, it was a ray of sunshine to see David and Mari Robin delivering a beautiful Easter lily. Jim and I are grateful to be remembered by our beloved congregation. I don't know how people survive without such friends as we have in First Presbyterian.

*In God's love,
Jim and Pat Blanchard*

*To all the Friends from the First
Presbyterian Church,*

*Just a note to say thank you all for the
nice things you do for us at Covenant
Homes. It means so much to know
someone cares.*

*Love to you all,
Myra Stallings*

*p.s. thanks to Judy Smith for the phone
visits!*

*Feeling grateful for your faith in God...and
wishing you every blessing He can give to
lift your spirits, as you have lifted my
spirits... You have been very kind. Our
community appreciates the lunches you
supplied. It is a privilege to live at
Covenant Homes.*

*In Christian Love,
Jean Campbell*



**Weekly Zoom Church Staff
meetings—we miss you and we
miss each other!**



*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

BROOKDALE—Rocky Mount

- ▶ Betsy Boddie

ADDITIONAL CONCERNS

Margaret Barnes

Jim Blanchard

Jean Boddie

Mike Braswell

Janet Cooper (mother of Elizabeth Rose)

Geraldine Donnell (sister of Janice Smith)

Herman Ferguson

Earl and Phyllis Goodwin

Larry Gragg

Nancy Liipfert (now home in RMT)

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 (back home in RMT)

Susan Yenney



Sunday Worship Recordings are uploaded Saturday evenings, so you can always access the Vimeo link on Sunday morning. The link is <https://vimeo.com/showcase/fpcrm> or you can access the link from the church website: (www.fpcrm.org).



Zoom Small Group Opportunities

Wednesday

Noon- Tech Savvy Seniors (45 minutes) (Older Adults)

Our most seasoned members are invited for some social time and prayer.

4pm- Coloring with Matt (15 minutes) (Toddler thru 5th grade w/ parent help)

Our youngest members are invited to hear a Bible story and color with Matt.

6pm- Psalm and Prayer (20 minutes) (Anyone!)

This is a gentle mid-week reminder that we belong to a loving God.

Thursday

4pm- Middle School Youth Group (45 minutes)

5pm- High School Youth Group (45 minutes)

Sunday

2pm- De-stress Sunday (30 minutes) (Anyone with burdens to lay down)

If you have a tough week behind or ahead of you- bring it here for prayer.

5pm- Bible and Beverage (45 minutes) (21 and Older)

Enjoy a beverage of your choosing as we discuss a theological idea.

Contact Church Ministry Coordinator for Zoom Meeting ID and password