

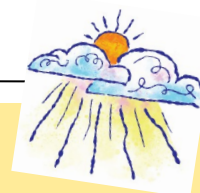


First Pres News

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH Rocky Mount

JUNE 2020

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



AN ABRIDGED JUNE NEWSLETTER

Dear Friends,

Your elected Session met on Tuesday, May 19th to discuss the past, present, and future of church plans related to the pandemic. We've come a long way in a few months in our recorded worship and creative connections. We still have a long way to go before we can safely resume regular Sunday worship in the sanctuary. Here is where church leadership currently stands.

First, we are reopening the church office for limited hours and with several restrictions. You should have received correspondence about this last week. The staff have been working diligently during this time, and I'm grateful for their help in taking a step toward normalcy.

Second, we are planning an outdoor worship service at Rocky Mount Academy ball field for June 14th at 10:00am. We are hopeful that this casual service can have prayer, modified communion, and fellowship with 6 feet of distance between family groups. Look for more information as we get closer to June 14th.

Third, we are continuing Zoom gatherings. We've ceased those that had no participation, and we are adding new options soon.

Fourth, we are looking into options for limited groups of people to gather for prayer in or around the sanctuary. There are a lot of wonderful ideas, and there are significant concerns about safety for all of our members and visitors.

Fifth, we are in continuing conversation about when we can return to communal worship in the sanctuary. While there are thoughts and opinions across the spectrum about what would allow us to safely return, the Session was unanimous that we cannot at this time determine a schedule for resuming congregational worship to the sanctuary.

I would like to highlight three areas of significant consideration.

One, singing is proven to transmit the virus more than other actions associated with worship. The professional associations related to the performance of music have requested that churches refrain from singing for the foreseeable future. Your music staff and I are spending time researching and learning about what this means and how we can adapt.

Two, staff and Session are both looking at every part of worship and how it would need to be adapted for people to gather together. We are listening to peers in other churches locally and around the United States. There are lingering issues to resolve for the safety of all.

Three, our recorded worship has reached across the globe, across denominational lines, and into the homes of those unable to join if we were meeting in person. We have learned much about recorded worship; we have much still to learn. We are seeing great results of this ministry, and we hope to continue it going forward.

You are the church at work in the world. You are the body of Christ serving in ways both large and small. You are bearers of the image of God and the ones to whom the image of God is revealed in others. Until we meet again on a ball field, grocery store aisle, or in our sanctuary, know that your life and work is in our prayers!

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

Worship with us from home!

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

OUTDOOR WORSHIP SERVICE

Mark your calendars!

Join us for an outdoor prayer service. We will celebrate communion as well.

Sunday, June 14, 2020
10:00 a.m.

Ballfield at Rocky Mount Academy
1313 Avondale Avenue

Bring a lawn chair, as well as your own bread and juice to be blessed as we gather outdoors together for worship. **Weather permitting**, we hope to see you! In the event of rain, we will reschedule this for a different Sunday!

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 April 2020	
Month – to – date	\$ 40,582.68
Year – to – date	\$ 244,914.23

Expenses through April 2020	
Month – to – date	\$ 68,294.59
Year – to – date	\$ 214,612.87



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

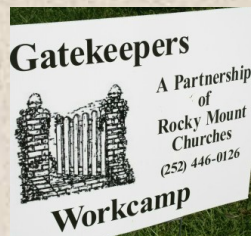
OFFICE HOURS



The church office and building is now open to church members/visitors Monday—Thursday between 10:00 a.m.—2:00 p.m. Hand sanitizer stations have been set up and we ask that folks wear a mask and not enter staff offices.



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.



July 13—17, 2020

Gatekeepers will be held this year with some modifications (half day schedule, no lunch provided, all outdoor projects) in order to keep volunteers as safe and healthy as possible. We have 15 youth and 3 adult volunteers participating!

Has your patience reached its limit?

*If so, join us for a
Ladies Zoom Bible Study for June!
Thursdays at noon*

We will explore "I'm Waiting, God—Finding Blessing in God's Delays" by Barb Roose. Email Dionne at dionne.seale@fpcrm.org for more information and "homework" before the class starts June 4, 2020! Book purchase not necessary but you can order on your own from Amazon if desired. Recorded sessions will be offered too if you have a conflict!

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.



June 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.

Thursday

Noon—Ladies Bible Study on "I'm Waiting, God—Finding Blessing in God's Delay" by Barb Roose (45 minutes) starting June 4, 2020; Facilitated by Dionne Seale

Youth Zoom every other week starting June 4, 2020:

4pm- Middle School Youth Group (45 minutes)

5pm- High School Youth Group (45 minutes)

Sunday

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

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

Zoom Meeting ID: 875 561 2727

Zoom Password: FirstPres7



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: They are very grateful for the \$300 donation for food to fill food boxes that are delivered to the doorsteps of over 80 families each week. Laura Dudley has helped organize and pack these boxes. 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.). School or food donations can be dropped off either at their locations (2221 W. Raleigh Rd) or here at the church in the volunteer office during office hours. You can access their Amazon Smiles Charity List link for school supplies by visiting the Peacemakers Facebook page.

Meals on Wheels: Frozen meals will still be delivered by a dedicated group of MOW volunteers once a week during the month of June. They hope to resume daily meal delivery the week after July 4th and will notify volunteers in advance.

Handcraft Ministry: Over 1000 face masks have been made and shared with our community. Frances Guerry and Laura Dudley are using scraps from the face masks to create beautiful designs for fidget blankets. Ten fleece blankets were given as graduation gifts to NCWC international students.

Tar River Academy: 29 face masks from Handcraft Ministry were given to teachers along with a homemade blueberry pound cake. Prom dresses were donated by Kate Tharin for safekeeping until 2021. FPC (Tempie Fuller and Laura Dudley) treated the staff during teacher appreciation week with a BBQ luncheon, teacher gifts, cards, flower centerpiece and cake. FPC also gave TRA a graduation banner for their drive-thru graduation celebration that can be used for future graduations as well.

Agape Village: The Bailey's update on Agape Village has been rescheduled for October 18, 2020. We will enjoy a luncheon after church and presentation on the orphanage and new school.

NC Wesleyan International Students: FPC congratulated ten NCWC international graduating students by sending them personalized graduation cards. These cards were designed by Linda Creekmore and sent by Laura Dudley. FPC received a nice thank you card from them as well.

Covenant Homes:

FPC has been busy helping residents feel loved and less isolated in May. Members continue to check in with phone calls and cards. Their hot meal program provided by Nash County was canceled due to coronavirus, and FPC members came to the rescue with a spaghetti lunch on April 27, boxed lunches provided by Benvenue Country Club on May 13, and a bag lunch on May 18. Church donations provided a Mother's Day BBQ chicken luncheon on May 7, along with Hannah Diedrick's delicious cookies and cupcakes. Each woman received a gift bag while the men received cups donated by Southern Bank. Covenant Homes has been notified that they received a grant from the Cannon Foundation. This will provide them with enough funds to complete the building of the project on the Covenant Homes property. Jack Perry will soon report the status of the grant.



—STAYING—
CONNECTED



Several church members were treated to yard signs decorated and delivered by the children and youth of First Presbyterian Church to let them know that even though we are apart, we are still connected as a church family!

Keeping in touch...

FOLLOW
US!

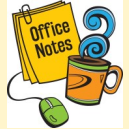


First Presbyterian Rocky Mount



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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.



Dear Church Friends,

Getting old is a good thing if you are a member of First Presbyterian Church. It makes birthdays a lot of fun.

Hannah, the birthday cake was absolutely beautiful and delicious. We are so fortunate to have you and all of your talents. Thanks to Beth for her thoughtful service in delivering the cake.

Thanks to all of you who called and sent lovely cards. It made the best birthday ever. May God bless all of you.

*Love,
Genevieve Batchelor*

Many thanks to my Presbyterian Church family for the calls and cards during the illness and death of my sister. Special thanks to Hannah Diedrick this past weekend for the adorable cake (basket of Lily of the Valley) on my birthday. Even though you don't see me in church often since I stay with an older friend on weekends, I do appreciate your thoughts and prayers.

*Sincerely,
Pat Judge*

Thank you so much to First Presbyterian Church for all things done for me and my children. It was appreciated. The world needs more great people like you. It's great to have crossed paths. We love you and thank you so much.

*With love,
Shameka Whitehead and family*

Dear Pastor and All,

I thank you and all involved in "feeding the flocks at Covenant Homes." First, you put our buildings up, good living here (25 years), then your bestow other acts of kindness.

May our Lord bless you all and keep you!

*With Christian love,
Carolyn D. Parker*

P.S. If I wasn't a Baptist, I'd be a Presbyterian!

*Nancy (Richardson),
Thank you sounds so small for all you do for us at Covenant Homes. It is very much appreciated. When you don't have family nearby and do not drive, it makes you feel like someone cares. Thank you again.*

*Joyce Bottoms
Covenant Homes*

*Dear First Presbyterian Church
(Frances Guerry),*

On behalf of the Nash UNC Health Care Foundation thank you for your recent in kind donation of homemade masks. Your philanthropic gift, in support of Nash UNC Health Care Staff during the Covid-19 pandemic, makes a significant difference in the lives of our staff.

We appreciate your generosity and support. Please stay home and healthy, your health is important to us.

*With gratitude,
Kathleen Fleming,
Development Officer
Nash UNC Health Care Foundation*

I was so surprised to see Ellen and Virginia Feagans at my front door Sunday afternoon, bringing me a beautiful sign that said "You are loved."

It is wonderful to be a part of such a loving church family. You made my day and thank you so very much.

*Love you,
Kay Wester*

What a pleasant surprise!! I answered a call to my front door and there stood Cameron and Philip Dixon with a "Have a Happy Bright Sun Shiny Day" yard poster. I am so happy to be a part of a church that has such a thoughtful youth group. Thank you Cameron and Philip. You really brightened my day.

Sylvia Phillips



Our love and sympathy is extended to Roslyn Gragg and family upon the death of Larry Gragg on May 17, 2020.

Congratulations!



Congratulations to Clif and Stephanie Hayworth on the birth of their first grandchild! Ada McCreigh Hayworth was born April 21, 2020 to Rachel and Creighton Hayworth. Everyone is happy and healthy!



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

Lloyd Bailey

L.M. and 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

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

Jack Perry

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)

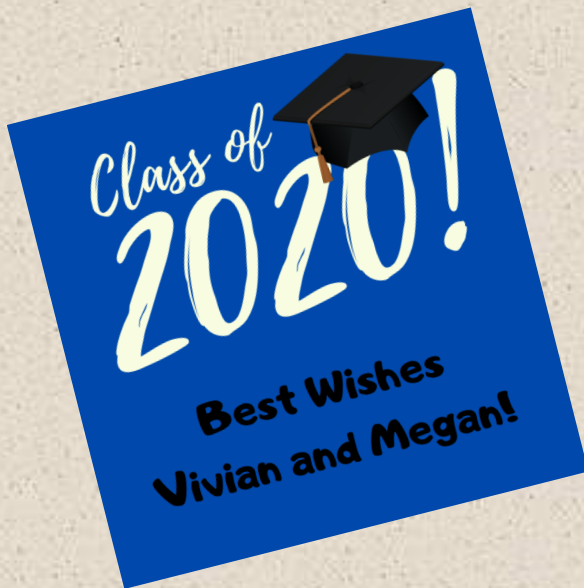
Polly Rowlett (Leigh Skeen's mother)

Maida Sessoms

Preston Smith

Bobbi Weeks

Susan Yenney



Thank you to the Junior Class parents for treating our Seniors to a breakfast home delivery since we could not have our annual Senior Breakfast at the church!



Catherine Vivian Rogers

Vivian graduated from Rocky Mount Academy and will be attending Appalachian State University (Hayes School of Music) this fall. Her college focus will be a Music in Industry concentration in Marketing and Promotion with a minor in Business. In addition to her love of music, Vivian enjoys SCUBA diving, clay shooting, cooking and physical exercise. While the pandemic has affected a planned family cycling trip around the Tuscany area of Italy and also a beach trip this summer, Vivian is looking forward to her virtual college orientation, a postponed RMA graduation ceremony & prom (hopefully), and best of all the Montreat Youth conference (hopefully too)!



Megan Hadley Seale

Megan graduated from Rocky Mount Academy and will be attending High Point University as a Presidential Fellowship Scholarship recipient this fall. She plans to major in Psychology and enroll in the accelerated Masters in Business and Communications program being offered to the HPU Class of 2024. Megan enjoys the outdoors, cooking/baking, and especially ceramics/pottery! Even though a family trip celebrating her graduation this summer has been postponed due to the pandemic, Megan is planning to spend the summer working at Clair De Lune boutique, attending Montreat in July (hopefully) and visiting the beach as much as possible!