



First Pres News

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH Rocky Mount

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

AUGUST 2020

Dear Friends,

In my engineering studies as a young adult, I learned a principle that continues to shape how I plan, lead, and implement ideas in other arenas of life. The more moving parts in a system, the greater the possibility for systematic failure. Said positively, the simpler a plan, the more likely it is to succeed.

August 2020 at First Presbyterian Church feels like it will have more moving parts than an automotive manufacturing plant. We will have a Montreat @ Home experience for the youth; we also will continue planning for Confirmation, Stewardship, and worship during a pandemic. We will be on-boarding our new Community Pastor, as Hannah and Jake are moving to Rocky Mount as soon as possible. This will be followed by an Ordination and Installation service in the near future. We have tough decisions to make about events like Rally Day and other events. There are roof and window repairs around the church alongside a switch for higher capacity internet service. Individual families will be working to make the wisest decisions for how their family will approach school, communal activities, and safety as we move into another academic year. There are enough pressure points and moving parts for the system to fall apart.

Thankfully, our church is not driven by the pastors, session, or even the membership. The moving parts that could cause failure are not ours to fully understand or control. Rather, we are led by the Holy Spirit, into whom we entrust our plans, our hopes, our dreams.

Our church is holding on to the breath of God and trusting in God's sustaining power in a very eventful, stressful, and ever-changing season. Help me and one another to remember that moving parts are not places where we can fail; rather, moving parts are places for the Spirit of God to do the most amazing work.

In Love and Gratitude,
Matt

Pastor: The Rev. Matthew Baker *Community Pastor:* The Rev. Hannah Trawick *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

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 June 2020

Month – to – date	\$ 29,549.33
Year – to – date	\$ 311,804.22

Expenses through June 2020

Month – to – date	\$ 34,822.83
Year – to – date	\$ 283,094.00

Church office phone	252.446.9121, option 5
Jeanne's email	jeanne.shannon@fpcrm.org



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.

Tuesdays@2

"Mindfulness is awareness, cultivated by paying attention in a sustained and particular way: on purpose, in the present moment, and non-judgmental."

Jon Kabat-Zinn

Join us to learn more about "Mindfulness for Beginners" on Zoom beginning August 4, 2020 at 2:00 p.m. Our goal is to reduce stress and become more self-aware so we can better serve God and one another.

August Zoom Small Group Opportunities



Tuesday (beginning August 4)

2:00– "Tuesdays@2:00" Ladies Zoom Gathering (45 minutes)

Join Dionne Seale as we explore the benefits of "Mindfulness for Beginners" in a DVD and audio form on Zoom.

Wednesday

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

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

Zoom Meeting ID: 875 561 2727

Zoom Password: FirstPres7

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 at FPC



It was wonderful to gather together Sunday, July 12 on the church grounds for worship. We prayed for our Gatekeepers volunteers and heard from Mari Robin Tharin & Anna Brooks Gaynor about the ways Camp Albemarle has impacted their lives. During the congregational meeting, we voted to approve the terms of call for our new Community Pastor, Hannah Trawick.

Due to the extreme heat, we are planning either an early morning or late evening Sunday worship service at a date to be determined in August—stay tuned for more information!



Montreat@Home

While we can't recreate the Montreat experience here in Rocky Mount, we can make space for the youth here at the church to have a small portion of the Montreat goodness together. All High School youth (including Class of 2020) are invited to gather August 3-7 at 6:00 p.m. in the fellowship hall for a meal, videos of Montreat keynote speakers, and a time for conversation with Matt and our new Community Pastor, Hannah, as well. Thank you to the church members who have volunteered to provide meals this week as well!

T-Shirts for Sale



Many of you may have noticed the awesome T-shirts our own Beth Turnage helped design for the youth. We have a **limited** number of extra adult sizes (L and XL) in stock available for purchase - \$20.00 each. If interested please message Dionne Seale, and she can hold a shirt for you to pick up at your convenience during office hours. (Monday-Thursday between 10:00-2:00 p.m.)



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

Meals on Wheels: Meals on Wheels resumed daily food deliveries in July. FPC needs more 4th Tuesday volunteers! Please contact Kate Tharin at 904-6123 if you have interest or questions.



Handcraft Ministry: Crocheted washcloths were made for Gatekeepers children's gift bags and 1 baby blanket was delivered. Mary Watson donated 10 baby blankets to this ministry. They are still making masks upon request with modifications from the first masks they made.

Tar River Academy: Donations in July included nursery bedding for parents and notepads for teachers. Teachers are preparing for the fall school year and will contact FPC when needs are determined.



NC Wesleyan International Students: Rock the Mount will not be held this year due to Covid-19. In lieu of this event, "Welcome" bags with goodies from community organizations, businesses and churches will be given to incoming freshmen in August. FPC is donating 350 whistle/flashlights with our logo for these goody bags.

Covenant Homes: Calls, cards, and goody bags continue to cheer the residents. We continue to transport and/or run errands for the residents as needed. Goody bags and a cold plate lunch was served to the residents on July 1st. On Wednesday, July 15, a fish lunch served from Hunter Hill Catering was enjoyed by the residents.



Peacemakers: One of our youth, Walker Rose, has expressed an interest in spearheading a food donation drive to benefit Peacemakers during the month of August. Please consider dropping off some of these items to the bin in the volunteer office between now and August 31: any food is acceptable as long as it is not in an open container because everything must be sealed due to Covid-19. Nonperishable food items such as canned food, pasta, peanut butter, rice, cereal, microwaveables, etc. would be greatly appreciate.

FPC had 15 youth and 3 adult volunteers sweat it out the week of July 13-17 with Gatekeepers Work Camp! Our playground was the recipient of some of their hard work! Thank you to all the volunteers who gave of their time and talent!



Another successful Red Cross Blood Drive was held July 14, 2020 at FPC! We collected 21 units of blood, surpassing our goal of 19 units. Thank you for your support!



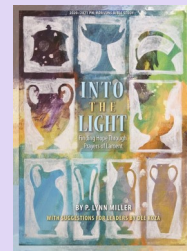
Presbyterian Women Update

It is uncertain at this time how Covid-19 will affect our PW Circle year. The PW Coordinating team has made tentative plans which look very different from "We have always done it this way!"

As you are well aware, we missed our Annual Birthday meeting in May and will miss our Fall Annual Kick Off luncheon and Bible Study Introduction in August.

Hopefully we will be able to have the combined circles meet September 15 at the church (10:30 a.m.) in order to elect and install our Coordinating Team new leaders at that time.

The Circle of Friends which usually meets on the second Monday night in our homes is on hold at the present time.



Into the Light—Finding Hope Through Prayers of Lament

Author: P. Lynn Miller

Suggestions for Leaders: Karen Dee Koza
PW Bible Study for 2020-2021

"In the Bible, lament is a type of writing that expresses great grief or sorrow; it is sometimes accompanied by anger and a clear sense that injustice has been done. Lament is directed toward God because God is the one who has the power to change situations and God is the one we ultimately trust. Exploring laments from biblical sources will demonstrate both the purpose and the power of being completely honest with God, as we also claim, through our faith, that God knows and loves us as we are. As we examine contemporary laments and take the opportunity to practice lament for our own lives and communities, we will discover that lament is rooted in, and draws us toward hope. God, in Jesus Christ, is to be trusted, and is worthy of our praise!"

Keeping in touch...

FOLLOW
US!

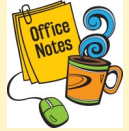


First Presbyterian Rocky Mount



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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.



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*Dear Frances,
Many thanks to you and the Handcraft Ministry for the sweet baby blanket you made for our dear baby Harper. Her parents, Robbie & Britnee Reid, join me in appreciation of your thoughtfulness. Harper has been a blessing to all of us especially during this time. She was named for my mother and me and reminds us of God's love and grace. Your ministry means so much to our church.*

*Fondly,
Beth High*

*To our church family,
We were so uplifted by the beautifully made sign we found in our yard brought by the Fishers! It is a reminder of the connection with our caring church family as we look out each morning. We are so appreciative of the prayers, texts, cards and food received from church members. We are truly blessed by you.*

*With love in Christ,
Sarah and Lloyd Bailey*

*Dearest Ladies,
Thank you for all you do to bring hope, health, and healing for generations in North Carolina. So very much appreciate your love, prayers, and financial support! We had the children make Thank you cards so we could get new ones to send out.*

*Love you all,
Lorie Fees
Children's Hope Alliance*

*Dear Women of First Presbyterian,
Thank you for all the special cards, prayers and love. I've enjoyed each card and messages. I'm so glad God sent me to Rocky Mount where he knew I would be welcome. I feel so loved and very much a part of First Presbyterian Church. The cards, prayers, phone calls are all so special. Thank you.*

*Love,
Char Mather*



The love and sympathy of the congregation is extended to the family of Blanche Robinson who died on June 30, 2020.

We also send our love and sympathy to Amine Edwards on the cancer related death of her great-granddaughter, Addison Edwards Morgan, of Lynchburg, VA on July 11, 2020. Addison's parents are John and Laura Morgan and her grandparents are Amine and John Morgan.



Congratulations to Chris and Jerry Feno on the birth of their granddaughter, Kellan James Feno, on July 2, 2020 in McMinnville, Tennessee. Her parents are Matt and Kimberly Feno and she joins big sisters, Millie and Piper.



The church office and building is currently 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.



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)
 Augusta Daniel
 Geraldine Donnell (sister of Janice Smith)
 Herman Ferguson
 Warren Gold
 Earl and Phyllis Goodwin
 Nancy Liipfert (now home in RMT)
 John McInnis (Jack Perry's brother-in-law)
 Char Mather
 Georgia Mixon
 Gerry Niece (friend of the church)
 Phyllis Parker
 Jack Perry
 Anne Wilgus Podesta
 Evelyn Reese
 Edie Reeves
 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
 Scott Solether
 Bobbi Weeks
 Susan Yenney



WELCOME,
Our New Community Pastor!

Hannah Trawick is a small-town native, hailing from North Wilkesboro, NC. She is the daughter of a PCUSA pastor and an adult literacy educator, the sister of a burgeoning opera singer (so she thinks), and the wife of an environmental graphic designer. Hannah grew up very active in her church, serving as an elder, youth leader, and young adult advisory delegate to General Assembly. She was a member of her congregation's puppet ministry team and can even claim the title of "Master Level Puppeteer"! She spent her high school summers attending Montreat Youth Conferences and working as a camp counselor at Massanetta Springs Camp and Conference Center, where she met her now husband, Jake Coltrane. Hannah attended Queens University of Charlotte for college. She majored in Religious Studies and minored in Peace and Conflict Transformation. She was extremely active in the school's Chaplaincy Department, and was hired upon graduation to serve as Assistant Chaplain to the university. In this role, Hannah managed and expanded the school's homeless ministry program and built a team of student leaders across faith traditions who were eager to learn and serve together. After a few years working at Queens, Hannah discerned a call to ordained ministry. She and Jake packed their apartment and moved to Atlanta, GA, where Hannah completed her Master of Divinity degree at Columbia Theological Seminary. During her time there, Hannah worked in refugee resettlement with a local nonprofit, served as a hospital chaplain at a Level One Trauma Center in downtown Atlanta, and completed a pastoral internship at Central Presbyterian Church. Through these experiences, Hannah discerned a clear call to relational ministry. As she began her search process, Hannah was hopeful to find a congregation equally committed to each other and to the community it serves. First Presbyterian Church's Community Pastor opening was the first position to catch her eye, and after coming to know the APNC and staff, she is confident that she is called to join the vibrant and committed energy of FPCRM and is eager to come to know and love its members. Hannah and Jake have been married for (almost) four years and have a spunky and feisty cat named Hank. They enjoy walking together, cooking (and eating!), good fellowship, and good TV. They are eager to learn to kayak on the Tar River, explore the Mills, and make Rocky Mount their new home.

