



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Rocky Mount

First Pres News

May 2021

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

DISCIPLESHIP

Dear Friends,

Jesus tells us to, "Go and make disciples."

For much of the recent past, that has meant, "Go and invite people to church."

What else can it mean? What else should it mean? What does it mean to be a disciple of Jesus Christ now?

Our discipleship is rooted in Jesus' teachings, miracles, death, and resurrection. It grows with discussion and debate. It strengthens as we wrestle with how to apply faith to our own lives and contemplate what it means for the world around us. Discipleship matures into a relationship with the Triune God through these encounters, conversations, meditations, and prayers.

As a church, we need to think about how to make disciples. Yes, we need to be the place where people can gather together to worship. We also need to be a place where people can gather together to disagree, learn, grow, and evolve. This is where discipleship takes hold. We need to sit down in small groups and talk about the intersections of faith and violence, love and guns, hope and racism. If the church isn't the place where these topics are discussed, then we leave the ultimate decisions bereft of serious engagement with the crucified and risen Christ. If the church is not the place that we seriously engage our faith, then what are we?

Jesus didn't call us to go out and make a group of tithing churchgoers. He called us to take our discipleship into the world to make disciples of others. To do this requires a daily devotion to looking at the world around us and asking where our faith intersects what we see. My prayer for myself, my family, and my church is that we would have eyes to see Jesus at work all around us and a discipleship honed enough to recognize and join him.

With love and gratitude,

Matt



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

A NOTE FROM OUR COMMUNITY PASTOR:...

As the weather turns warmer and sunnier and as the flowers pop open and bright spring colors burst forth, I have loved spending time in God's beautiful creation with some of you on afternoon walks. I've walked through neighborhoods, around City Like Park, through the paths at the sports complex, and down Tar River trail. And as we walked, I've heard stories from your lives. I've learned about your children and families, your faith journeys, your love of FPC, and your hopes for Rocky Mount. I've seen corners of God's creation that I would not have otherwise known existed. These moments of stories shared are sacred, and as we put feet to pavement and breathe in God's fresh spring, casting our eyes on the intricate beauties that are so easy to overlook in our day-to-day hustle, our walks together have become a sort of prayer ritual for me. Thank you.

If you would like to set up a time to walk—or a time to chat on the porch—please email me at hannah.trawick@fpcrm.org. I would love the opportunity to continue to know you, love you, and fellowship with you in God's good creation. Below are some pictures from some recent walks!

Hannah



WORSHIP UPDATE

9:45 A.M. NON-VACCINATED

11:00 A.M. FULLY VACCINATED

BEGINNING MAY 23, WE WILL
REVERT TO ONLY ONE SERVICE
AT 11:00 A.M. AND WILL REMAIN
AT 11:00 A.M. THROUGHOUT THE
SUMMER MONTHS AS WELL.

Children's Church

Moving forward, we will be
experimenting with
Children's Church at the
11am service in the Parent
Room off the Narthex for
children ages 2-6. Please
know this option is available
to you and your family.

If you have questions or
concerns, please reach out
to the church office.

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.

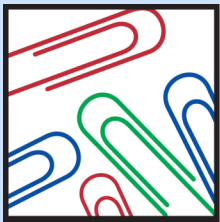
Pledges and Loose Offering through March 2021
 Month – to – date \$ 34,125.24
 Year – to – date \$190,084.19

Expenses through March 2021
 Month – to – date \$ 39,871.41
 Year – to – date \$137,892.54



Online donation update – we have changed our online giving from PayPal to an online service through the Presbyterian Foundation because their transaction fees are less. The link on our website has been updated so no changes there. We welcome and appreciate your gifts to First Presbyterian Church!

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.



Church Office Hours

*The church building is accessible to visitors
 Monday—Thursday from 9:00-4:00 p.m.*

We are so excited about all that is going on, but we are still realistic about the dangers still posed by the coronavirus. Please wear a mask when you are at the church. Please remain outside individual staff offices. Please keep 6 feet of distance whenever possible. Please use hand sanitizer. PLEASE refrain from coming if you are feeling sick or have been directly exposed.

Church officer meetings for May

- ⇒ Deacons meeting: May 11 at 5:30 p.m.
- ⇒ Session meeting: May 18 at 5:30 p.m.

**The church office will be closed on
 Monday, May 31, 2021 for the
 Memorial Day holiday.**

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION UPDATE

Pre-K Kids

Pastors Matt and Hannah are leading a Bible Stories and Coloring Zoom session for our littlest members on Wednesdays at 1:00 p.m. **(NEW TIME!)** The Pre-K families will receive their own link for this and do not need to pre-register like the Adult Zoom classes. VBS: June 14-16, 2021 (Ages 3-5th grade)

Elementary Age Kids

We have selected a new curriculum called "Celebrate Wonder" and each family received a notebook with a weekly lesson and a family activity book. A short video is available for the families to access and watch on their own schedule. **This curriculum ends on May 23, 2021.** VBS: June 14-16, 2021 (Ages 3-5th grade)

Middle School

Confirmation Sunday is May 23, 2021.

Gatekeepers WorkCamp: July 12-16, 2021

High School

Gatekeepers WorkCamp: July 12-16, 2021

Montreat Youth Conference: July 18-24

Brown Bag Bible Study—

Brown Bag Bible Study participants meet Mondays at noon with a pastor for a time of biblical discussion. This group gathers (socially distanced) **in the Session room** at noon.

Tuesdays @2:00 Zoom Mindfulness Study—

Facilitated by Dionne Seale, this is a thirty minute reprieve from your week to learn tools to fight stress and explore the topic of being a mindful Christian. It's also a time to connect with one another and support each other from afar. Contact Dionne in the church office to sign up for the emailed Zoom link.

Latest VBS update:

VBS will be held in person at Lakeside Baptist Church from 10-12pm on June 14-16. A new registration link will be sent out with more details. Please register your child(ren) by May 11 so the team can plan accordingly.

MAY YOUTH SCHEDULE:

Confirmation Schedule

- May 2—Youth Sunday (practice May 1 at 3:30)
- May 9—no Confirmation class (Happy Mother's Day)
- May 16—4:30 Confirmation
- May 23—Confirmation Sunday 11:00 a.m.; Confirmation Celebration at the Barnhill farm at 4:30 p.m.

High School Youth Schedule

- May 2—Youth Sunday (practice May 1 at 3:30); Senior luncheon after worship in Fellowship Hall
- May 9—no youth group (Happy Mother's Day)
- May 16—End of Year celebration (TBA)





CONGRATS TO OUR HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES



Robert Edward Barnhill, IV

Edward graduates from Woodberry Forest School on May 29. After working in Wilmington this summer, his plan is to attend NC State this fall in Exploratory Studies. He is the son of Rob and Chrissy Barnhill.

Mary-Edith Lillie Cox

Mary-Edith graduates from Rocky Mount Academy on May 28. She plans to work at Atlantic Beach this summer and attend the University of Mississippi, majoring in Psychology. She is the daughter of Kevin Cox and Kara Cox.

Elijah Longstreet Daughtridge, IV

Ellis graduates from Rocky Mount Academy on May 28. He plans to work at Benvenue Country Club this summer as a cart boy and attend Montreat. This fall, Ellis will attend UNC-Wilmington and is undecided about his major. He is the son of Lige and Annie Daughtridge.

Hunter Leight Nealey

Hunter graduates from Rocky Mount Academy on May 28. He plans to visit Chicago this summer and in the fall, Hunter will attend Depaul University and hopes to major in film production. He is the son of Marty and Kim Nealey.

Emily Fuller Sondergard

Emily graduates May 27 from Faith Christian School and plans to work as a waitress at The Pointe restaurant at Lake Gaston this summer. She will be attending East Carolina University Honors College, with plans to major in Political Science in hopes of becoming a lawyer. She is the daughter of Brett and Christie Sondergard.

John Graham Turnage

Graham graduates May 28 from Rocky Mount Academy and plans to work this summer as a cart boy and lifeguard at Benvenue Country Club. Graham plans to attend the University of South Carolina this fall, and his major is undecided. He is the son of John and Beth Turnage.

Charles Arthur Warner, III

Charlie graduates on June 4 from Rocky Mount High School. This summer he will work at the Benvenue golf shop and lifeguard as well. He will also attend the Montreat Youth Conference. Charlie will be attending NC State this fall and his major is undecided. He is the son of Andy and Lynn Warner.

Community Partners

Above, Madison, an employee of Grandfather Mountain Home for Children associate and an associate of Lorie Fees with Children's Hope Alliance. Laura Dudley delivered Handcraft Ministry work and a \$500 check for Children's Hope Alliance. Handcraft Ministry sent 27 sets of bath towels, hand towels & knitted washcloths, 4 crocheted baby blankets/lap blankets, 1 crocheted head Tam, 2 fidget blankets. Madison's husband is a therapist who will also have child needs identification for comfort & stress reduction with the use of our newly shared creations.

Covenant Homes residents were given Easter lilies and surprises! Thanks to members of the Rocky Mount Garden Club and First Presbyterian Church for the donations!

Community Partners May Focus: Peacemakers

Any kind of individually packaged snack item such as:

granola bars, raisins, cereal bars, chips, pretzels, fresh or dried fruit, Pop Tarts, Goldfish, Rice Krispy treats, Slim-Jims, Fruit Roll-ups, Veggie Straws, Freeze pops, Applesauce, etc.

Peacemakers will have 105 children enrolled in their socially-distanced Freedom School program this summer. This will mark their 10th Freedom School summer and they are anticipating great results again this year! Items can be brought to the church volunteer office and monetary donations made out to FPC that specify Peacemakers Freedom School will also be accepted.

Be sure to check out their Amazon Wish List online as well! The link will be shared in the weekly emails.


**TUESDAY
MAY 4, 2021
2:00 - 6:00 P.M.**

**FIRST PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH**

REGISTER ONLINE AT
[REDCROSSBLOOD.ORG](https://redcrossblood.org)
(ENTER ZIP CODE 27804)

Red Cross Blood Drive

**153 N. CHURCH ST.
ROCKY MOUNT, NC**



On April 1st, work began on the exercise/activity room at **Covenant Homes**. Contributions from our church and two grants, one from the Rocky Mount Community Foundation and another from the Cannon Foundation, are making this possible. Thanks to Debbie Morris, Covenant Homes Administrator and Jack Perry for their hard work to achieve this goal for the residents.

One of the **NCWC International students**, Gad of Malawi, is a rising senior and was interested in learning more about FPC after a great conversation with Laura Dudley. He is pictured above with Suzanne Hening, Coordinator of International Students at NC Wesleyan College. Suzanne expressed her appreciation for all the efforts made by FPC members to show love and care to the Seniors and other international students.

Laura Dudley (at left) and the **Handcraft Ministry** made 25 Blessing Blankets for the **International Seniors** at NC Wesleyan College. Below are pictures of the Graduate goody bags with the blankets and a picture of all of the International Seniors wearing stoles representing their respective countries.

Presbyterian Women Update

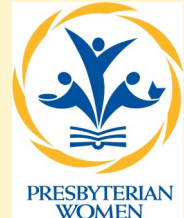
As our circles complete the Bible study, **Into The Light, Finding Hope Through Prayers of Lament**, we wish to thank everyone for participating - especially those who served as leaders. From the author of the study, P. Lynne Miller, we learned that most people associate lament with sadness and tears. Yet, wouldn't it be better to associate lament with hope? There is no perfect place where God is waiting for us. Trust that he is walking with us in our troubles today and hears us where we are.

Plan to attend our Annual Meeting in the fellowship hall immediately after the May Joint Circle Meeting. We will have the election, installation, and rededication of leaders. We will also honor one of our women with our Birthday Celebration. See the invitation in the newsletter and weekly emails for details.

- * The PWCT will meet May 3rd in the parlor at 10:00 am.
- * The Joint Circle Meeting is scheduled for May 11th in the sanctuary at 10:30am.
Lesson 9 and summary of Bible study
- * The Annual Meeting is May 11th in the fellowship hall immediately after Circle Meeting
Please RSVP on the PW Bulletin board by Thursday, May 6.

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN COORDINATING TEAM 2020-21

Gaye Moore, <i>Secretary</i>	Janice Smith, <i>Moderator</i>
Frances Guerry, <i>Historian</i>	Stephanie Hayworth, <i>Vice-Moderator</i>
Nancy Richardson, <i>Together in Service</i>	Julia Brown, <i>Treasurer</i>
Myra Richardson, <i>Circle of Friends Leader</i>	Laura Durham, <i>Spiritual Nurture</i>
	Martha Tesoro, <i>Together in Service</i>
	Tempie Fuller, <i>Circle of J.O.Y. Leader</i>



PW Annual Meeting & Birthday Luncheon

TUESDAY, MAY 11, 2021
FELLOWSHIP HALL
IMMEDIATELY AFTER
10:30AM JOINT CIRCLE
MEETING IN THE
SANCTUARY
RSVP ON PW BULLETIN BOARD BY
MAY 6!

PW teamed up with Community Partners to collect cleaning, laundry and personal care supplies for My Sister's House! Several boxes were filled and taken there thanks to your support!



IN-BETWEENS MEAL

Mark your calendars to gather outside with masks for a time of fellowship and good food!

Friday, May 21 at 5:30 p.m.

5288 Water Front Drive

Hosted by: Sarah Bailey, Roslyn Gragg, Sylvia Phillips, Bobbi Weeks

Respond to: Sarah Bailey (redacted) may leave message) by May 19 at noon.

Menu: Boxed meal - chicken salad croissant, pimiento cheese sandwich, chips, fruit cup, brownie/cookie) & bottled water/canned beverage.



Here are some worship dates to keep in mind:

May 2: Youth Sunday at 9:45 and 11:00 a.m.

May 6: Mother's Day; Worship at 9:45 and 11:00 a.m.

May 16: Worship at 9:45 and 11:00 a.m.

May 23: Pentecost & Confirmation Sunday; one service at 11:00 a.m.

May 30: Worship at 11:00 a.m.

HAPPY

retirement!

Ted Churn, Executive Presbyter and Stated Clerk of the Presbytery of New Hope (and former interim minister here at First Presbyterian) is retiring. The Presbytery is accepting love offerings to present to Ted at a "Hats Off to Ted" send off on Saturday, June 12. If you would like to contribute towards this gift, please send checks to the attention of Jeanne Shannon (payable to FPC; memo line – Churn love offering) no later than May 13.

PW Coordinating Team hard at work!

Keeping in touch...

FOLLOW
US!



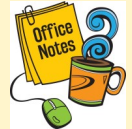
First Presbyterian Rocky Mount



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.

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To FPC Church Family,
These past 2 months have reaffirmed the meaning of having a faith family. It is with deep gratitude I thank you for the overwhelming support you have given to us during my kidney transplant surgery and challenging recovery. You lifted me up on the wings of your prayers when my prayers were inadequate. My "thank you" isn't sufficient but it's the best words I can think of. Your generous love offering, prayer chain during surgery, food, the many cards and phone calls and continues prayers are beyond my comprehension. I give thanks everyday for the opportunity to have served you and to be accepted in this faith family. Peace and blessings be with you.
Preston Smith

To My First Presbyterian Family,
Thank you for your prayers and concerns. I completed my surgery and am on my way to healing. If all goes well, I plan to return back to Ghana. I hope to see you before I go back. God has really blessed me on this mission.
John Etheredge

Dear First Presbyterian,
Thank you for the flowers that were left at our door after my recent surgery. It was a nice surprise to come home to. Thanks for thinking of me.
Charlie Warner

Below and right—thank you note from Lorie Fees of Children's Hope Alliance.

Life is crazy right now,

& it is hard to see a

happy ending...

This card was created by one of our teens & she appreciates the love you have shown her.

Thank you so very much for all you do for TRA. Mrs. Chapman Pearson

Your kindness will be remembered forever. Thanks Mrs. Peete

Thank you so much for your support and your prayers. Love, JoAnn

Words cannot begin to express my gratitude for all that you do. May our Lord continue to bless you and your congregation. Thank you! @Dee

Thank you so very much for all that you do! Vicki

Thanks a bunch! LeAnn

Thank you for all that you all do for TRA. Mrs. Smith

Thank you! Sonia Wingate

Thank you!! Allen Reynolds

Thank you for all you do. Jacquelin Low

Thank you for everything Brenda Sinner

Thank you for your kindness Anthony Baker

Above—note of thanks from Tar River Academy staff members

Families, we otherwise could not afford to cover. You all are God's hands and feet here on earth. Hope you have a glorious Easter too! Huge Hugs Lorie

Dear Ladies and members

Thank you
for all you do to bring
Hope, Health, and Healing
for generations
in North Carolina.

Wow! THANKS. so much for the gift cards & the amazing gift of \$50.00. Because of you all we will provide extra therapy so desperately needed to children and



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.

Donations are also accepted to the flower fund so the church can provide flowers on dates that are not assigned.

These upcoming dates are currently available for flowers to be placed in the sanctuary: May 16, 23, 30

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.



our thoughts and prayers are with...

THE FOUNTAINS AT THE ALBEMARLE—Tarboro

► Tom Dill

CARDINAL AT NORTH HILLS—Raleigh

► Dick Fountain

BROOKDALE—Rocky Mount

► Betsy Boddie

► Mike Braswell

ADDITIONAL CONCERNS

L.M. and Margaret Barnes

Augusta Daniel

Mary Kathleen Duncan

Geraldine Donnell (sister of Janice Smith)

Herman Ferguson

Phyllis Garriss (mother of Meredith Cooper)

Earl and Phyllis Goodwin

Emily Kicklighter (friend of the church)

Nancy Liipfert

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

Alice Watson (daughter-in-law of Mary Watson)

Willette Williams

Susan Yenney

Good news! Our friends and Community Partner, Meals on Wheels, recently received funding to purchase additional much needed equipment to allow them to increase serving our community. Some of the FPC items used for meals and gatherings have been moved in the kitchen to fit the new equipment. FPC will continue to use the left side of the double fridge and the left side of the double freezer and those areas are marked.

As we are re-opening our church with services, meals and fellowship, please review the below to easily locate items that have been moved. All bins or cabinet doors are labeled to easily locate items.



Plastic utensils, cups, coffee machine and coffee supplies are in the cabinet with the sliding doors under the pass thru to Lacy Hall near the ice machine



Napkins, plates, bowls and soup bowls/lids are in bins in the dishwasher area



Hand towels and pot holders are in a bin under the main prep table with the food wraps and gloves

INDOOR AND OUTDOOR FUN WITH FIRST PRESBYTERIAN!