



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Rocky Mount

First Pres News

August 2021

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

I am genuinely excited!

We are working toward: Rally Day, a new way of looking at stewardship, evolving ways of being the church, new study opportunities, engaging sermon series, and so very much more. On any given day around the church, you may see us writing scripts, sermons, or lessons; filming, editing, and story boarding; praying, crying with the broken, and laughing with the uplifted. The church is abuzz as we move into a VERY exciting fall 2021.

When things were about to get new, difficult, exciting, or otherwise different, Jesus and his disciples sat down and broke bread together. I'm excited that we are able to find new ways to reincorporate the sacrament of communion into our worship services. In the coming months, we will be nourished by God's unique gift of the Eucharist for the purpose of living our faith in wonderful and unexpected new ways.

Something I would like for you to think about is the idea of Worship+2. We are all called to participate in worship. Worship alone doesn't fully inform our spiritual life. We also need study and mission. As you think about what your life will look like this fall, think about what you can add to your faith that might be a blessing to the church and yourself. What study opportunity can you add? What committee, community partner, or facility need could use your help? Think about spending time in worship, time in study, and time in service. Should we all commit to this, we'll see the Spirit's work all around us.

WORSHIP+2

What an exciting time to be a part of FPC Rocky Mount. God bless each of you as you celebrate God's presence and look toward how to love and serve our God even more in the coming months.

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:...

I spent the last week with eleven of our youth and nearly a thousand high schoolers from all over the country at the Montreat Youth Conference talking about connection.

We spent five days thinking together about what it means to be interconnected with all creation, disconnected from each other, reconnected by grace and forgiveness, and bi-connected—meaning impossible to separate. The gist: we are all children of God, loved by God, and connected by God. So maybe, just maybe, how we treat one another and talk to one another should reflect that connection.

We are not strangers crossing in the grocery store or even surface-level acquaintances; we share a deep bond that informs how we see the world and how we see each other, and it's rooted in love.

Love of God and love of neighbor.

The love that connects us asks God what is breaking God's heart in the world. It looks for neighbors who are left out, forgotten, hurting, oppressed, and the love of connection makes sacrifices to make those relationships stronger and more authentic.

After a year and a half of pandemic solitude when many connections were broken; after the most gruesome election cycle in recent memory; after division and divisiveness have been defining factors of our identity, our common connection simply calls us to be better to each other. To speak kindly to each other, to assume the best of each other and give the benefit of doubt to each other. Our common connection calls us to remember always that God's vision of a new world where all are welcomed as they are and have what they need and are equal and healed and well—God's vision of a New Creation is our vision too. It is the ground on which we stand and the future for which we work.

May it be so, for we are truly Called to Connect.

Amen.

Hannah



- ♦ Deacons—August 10, 2021 at 5:30 p.m. home of Sylvia Phillips - discuss the book Shift
- ♦ Session—**NEW DATE** August 11, 2021 at 5:30 p.m. in the Session room

MAKES CENTS\$

The church income and expense data for the month shown is available for review. 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 2021

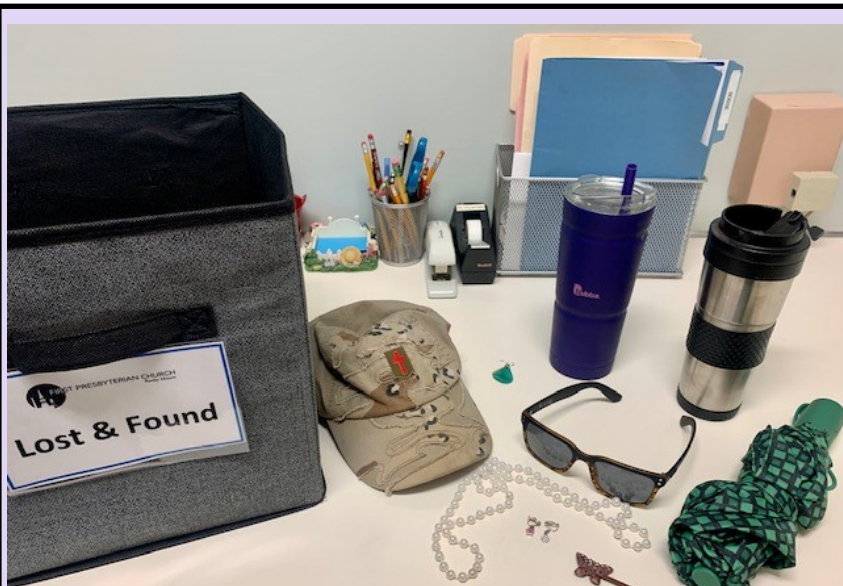
Month – to – date	\$ 45,641.90
Year – to – date	\$356,984.82

Expenses through June 2021

Month – to – date	\$ 40,364.06
Year – to – date	\$286,697.04



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.



**THE ABOVE ITEMS ARE IN
THE CHURCH VOLUNTEER
OFFICE TO BE CLAIMED...**

**after August 29,
they will be donated.
Thanks!**



WORSHIP UPDATE

Those who are fully vaccinated (2 shots + 2 weeks or 1 J&J shot + 2 weeks) may gather unmasked. Those who are not fully vaccinated should continue to wear a mask and follow physical distancing norms. Those who are too young to be vaccinated should wear a mask if able, and those with other health concerns should be guided by their doctor's advice.

REMINDER

If you use the church tablecloths for an event, please be courteous and take them home to wash/dry/fold then return them in a timely manner. They are machine washable. Thanks!

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION UPDATE

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.



July 18-24, 2021





**Gatekeepers Work Camp
Celebrating 30 years!
July 12-16, 2021**



**NURSERY
VOLUNTEERS
NEEDED!**

One adult volunteer (who has previously completed Safe Sanctuary training or is willing to complete it) is needed at 11:00 a.m. each Sunday to assist Charity in the Toddler Nursery during worship. Please contact Dionne in the church office to have your name added to the schedule.

Community Partners

Covenant Homes

This month, residents enjoyed a painting class taught by Deborah Coffee. Bingo is played twice a month now and prizes are greatly appreciated. Matt, Hannah, Jack, Jay Janice and Nancy helped with a hot dog cookout on July 7th. Another luncheon will be held July 28th. Residents are excited about being a part of Braswell Library's Book Mobile. The exercise/activity room is now being bricked. See pictures on the next page!

Presbyterian Mission Agency—Larry and Inge Sthreshley's update from northwest Congo

Since 2015, an intense systematic malnutrition screening has been carried out by community health volunteers in the providence of Nord Ubangi. The data indicates there is a decrease from 14.1 to 4.6% over the past six years in the number of children who are malnourished. There is still plenty of work to do in Nord Ubangi. Based on the population, a proxy prevalence rate of 4.6% indicates an estimated 13,600 children still suffer from malnutrition. So, they all continue writing the next chapter—living into this story, bringing the message that malnutrition is preventable, treatable, and beatable.

NC Wesleyan College

NCWC International student Gad Aimable is enjoying attending First Presbyterian church services. After church, he learns about American foods by joining David and Laura Dudley for lunch outings and grocery store trips. Gad attended his first Wednesday luncheon and movie in the fellowship hall on July 14th.

Handcraft Ministry

Handcraft Ministry had a carload of fabric donated for fidget blankets. They are in the process of sorting through the material and enjoying sharing fellowship with the West Haven Presbyterian Shawl Ministry once a month!

Community Partners

August Focus: Peacemakers



Suggested supplies:
dry erase markers,
individual scotch tape
plastic dispensers, pla
dough individual
containers, masking tape,
construction paper,
Sharpies, Super sticky Easel
pad post-it charts, electric
pencil sharpeners

**Our friends at
Peacemakers are in
need of school
supplies for their
location to assist local
children. Donations
can be brought to the
sanctuary narthex or
the volunteer office.**



Presbyterian Women Update

As we enjoy the lazy days of summer, let's not miss opportunities to widen our paths. Presbyterian Women are wonderful nurturers. Let's build up the PW by sharing our resources, gifts, and time. Consider inviting others to join activities you enjoy and supporting the efforts of others as well. Among the caring community of women at FPC... it's easy to do!!

Kindly note.....

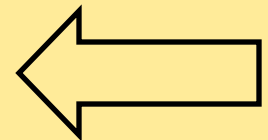
- The PW Fall Gathering & Bible Study Brunch is August 26th. See the invitation below for details!
- The new study books will be available for purchase at the Fall Gathering (\$11). Contact your Circle Leader if you would like to purchase a book prior to the event.
- Lastly, the PWCT and Circles will resume regular meetings in September

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN COORDINATING TEAM 2021-22

Nancy Richardson, Co-Moderator
Stephanie Hayworth, Co-Moderator

Gaye Moore, *Secretary*
Sarah Gooding, *Historian*
Laura Dudley, *Together in Service*
Myra Richardson, *Circle of Friends Leader*

Julia Brown, *Treasurer*
Laura Durham, *Spiritual Nurture*
Martha Tesoro, *Together in Service*
Tempie Fuller, *Circle of J.O.Y. Leader*



Be sure to
RSVP to your
Circle Leader
for this event!



Date	Usher	Usher	Nursery
August 1	Jean Kitchin	Tempie Fuller	TBA
August 8	Katherine Fisher	Russell Proctor	Kate Tharin
August 15	Stephen Chesnutt	Dillon Rose	TBA
August 22	Sylvia Phillips	Tommy Honey	Annie Daughtridge
August 29	John Feagans	Bridget Hathaway	Diane Dixon

Lemonade on the Lawn



Join us in the courtyard for cookies
and lemonade immediately following
worship.

New Members Welcome!

Chancel Choir

Wednesdays at 7:30 pm
beginning August 25, 2021

Handbell Choir

Wednesdays at 6:40 pm
beginning September 15, 2021

Keeping in touch...

FOLLOW
US!

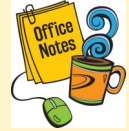


First Presbyterian Rocky Mount



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.



Covenant Homes was established, I think, in the early 80's. Being active in P. W., I was aware of the many happy seniors that live there and the many good things that go on there. I have always been a "fan and supporter". I have spoken many times in the past saying that I plan to retire to Covenant Homes. March 2020 I had a round table discussion with my family and then submitted my application, saying that I was in no hurry, but was ready to let the process begin. February 2021, I moved into my new home at Covenant Homes. Thanks to each of you who support Covenant Homes with your bingo gifts, art classes, delicious lunches, financial support and many gifts of love and acts of kindness you show to all the residents. I am very pleased with my new abode! Thank you to the FPC/ Covenant Board members for the privilege of calling Covenant Homes my home.

Janice Smith

*Dear Friends,
Thank you so much for your prayers. They and God are slowly healing my ankle. The church flowers were so pretty, and I felt inspired by their beauty and peace.
Thank you!
Lots of love,
Patsy Manning*

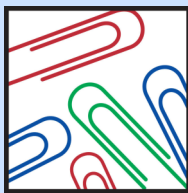
*Dear First Presbyterian Church Family,
What a nice surprise I found awaiting me upon answering my doorbell on Monday morning June 28th! There was Laura Durham with a beautiful bouquet of flowers. They were part of the beautiful arrangement that had been in church on Sunday June 27th, given by Bobbi Weeks in memory of Hassell's birthday. I enjoyed them for two weeks.*

Thank you Flower Committee and Deliverers for remembering me.

*Much love,
Tempie Fuller*

*Dear First Presbyterian Family,
Hodge and I are so grateful for the lovely flowers from Sunday's service! The loss of our dear young nephew has been difficult, as it was so unexpected and tragic. To have a loving, kind church family means so much!*

*Warmly,
Jean Kitchin*



Church Office
Hours

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

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.



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:

August 1, 8, 15
September 5, 12, 19, 26



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

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 (staying with son in Winston-Salem)

Patsy Manning

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 (daughter of Charity Lodge)

Susan Yenney



Rally Day 2021!

Sunday, September 12, 2021

MARK YOUR CALENDARS & MORE INFO TO COME!

- 10:45 a.m. Listen for the bagpiper!
- 11:00 a.m. Join us for worship!
- 12:05 p.m. Butterfly release in courtyard!
- 12:15 p.m. Lunch served in the fellowship hall
- 12:45 p.m. Games/Prizes
- 1:00 p.m. Special Presentation
- 1:30 p.m. Worship+2 Challenge & Sign-ups
- 1:45 p.m. Survey Announcement, Hymn, Benediction



Wednesday Lunch Fellowship

FELLOWSHIP HALL AT NOON
2ND & 4TH WEDNESDAYS

AUGUST 11, 2021
LUNCH FOLLOWED BY A MOVIE

AUGUST 25, 2021
LUNCH FOLLOW BY GAMES