



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Rocky Mount

First Pres News

July 2021

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

The late June rain has brought new life to the centipede grass and flowers that color the earth. The fescue creeps along, and the birds declare the glory of God in flight and song. My beloved, it is a good season.

I humbly ask your most fervent prayers for our youth this month. They will be working with Gatekeepers and attending Montreat; others serve as camp counselors, leaders, and participants. One of our most valuable resources is on the road, working, and playing with all their might. Please, please, please say an extra prayer for the safety, joy, and love God extends to our youth.

Here at the church, we are tending to funerals, planning weddings, and meeting crises as they present themselves. We are also looking forward to an amazing Rally Day celebration on September 12th with big announcements, fun celebrations, food, and more. Much is in the works, which we are beyond excited to share with you in the coming months.

Over the summer, if you are local, come join us at 12:00 on Mondays for a Bible Study on Proverbs. You can also join us the second or fourth Wednesday at noon when we enjoy a meal and a movie or games. Or, just give us a call, and come by to sit and laugh with us as we ping pong through our days.

We're here, having fun, planning trips, leading worship, checking in on those who have expressed needs, and so much more. Come join the fun for a spell and give thanks for this season of laughter, youth, and possibility.

With Love and Gratitude,
Matt

Pastor: The Rev. Matthew Baker

Church Ministry Coordinator: Dionne Seale

Director of Music: Jim Smith

Sexton: Michael Smith

Community Pastor: The Rev. Hannah Trawick

Financial Secretary: Jeanne T. Shannon

Organist: Virginia Vance

Assistant Sexton & Nursery Attendant: Charity Lodge

A NOTE FROM OUR COMMUNITY PASTOR:...

I had the deep joy of helping with Vacation Bible School in June. We gathered, a smaller group than usual, outside in the hot sun at Lakeside for crafts, bible stories, music, and fun—and snacks, of course! During the closing session, we apologized to the kids that this year's VBS was so different. There wasn't a sprawling group of kids gathered in cool air-conditioning for a full week of learning and having fun. But in saying this out loud, almost immediately, one of the youngest participants jumped up without hesitation and shouted "WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?! THIS WAS AMAZING!"

Oh, too see the world as a child does. His exclamation was such a powerful reminder to me. I realized how accustomed I had become to noticing what was "wrong" instead of rejoicing in what was. I'd like to blame it on the pandemic, but I think, as we grow, we naturally look at what to improve, what to fix, what to make better—it's how the world trains us. We market ourselves to jobs and employers based on what we can make better. And don't get me wrong, in many ways, we need those eyes that look toward the future and ask what needs to change, else nothing ever does. And when life sucks, we need to be able to name that without being told to just be happier. But, at the same time, this child's exclamation made me pause and wonder: how often do we jump up and exclaim "THIS IS AMAZING?" Better yet, how often do we ask silently ask ourselves what can I see as amazing in this given moment?

When I graduated college, I decorated my graduation cap with the words from scripture "Hold on to what is good" (consequently, I was the only one surprised that I ended up in ministry). These little words are so strong, so powerful, so re-orienting. We can point to things that are bad or different or wrong or not what they used to be all day long in every single facet of our lives. But when we hold on to what is good, we develop eyes to see and appreciate; we develop words of encouragement and compassion, and we become able to hold gratitude and a need for change in tandem, and, in turn, transformation is birthed.

Another of my favorite verses comes from Mathew 21: "Out of the mouths of babes and infants you have prepared yourself for praise." Here, Matthew is telling us that the young among us, our babies and children and youth—they have it right, they know how to praise our God, and perhaps we can learn from them. After all, is shouting aloud our amazement not praise?

Hold on to what is good, my friends, and ask yourself what is amazing, because so much is, including you.

With love,
Hannah

Contact Hannah:
980-271-7851 (Call or Text)
hannah.trawick@fpcrm.org

- ♦ Deacons—no gathering in July
- ♦ Session meeting: July 20 at 5:30 p.m.

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 May 2021

Month – to – date \$ 23,873.67

Year – to – date \$311,342.72

Expenses through May 2021

Month – to – date \$ 40,643.64

Year – to – date \$246,332.98

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.



WORSHIP UPDATE

Effective May 30, 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.

Name Tags Are Here!

It is our hope that having name tags will be a gesture of hospitality for all, including any visitors worshipping with us. Here's how it will work:

- Walk in and find your name tag in alphabetical order on one of the displays in the narthex. Wear your name tag with pride!
- After the service, please return your name tag to the basket by the table—**do not take them home with you!!**

Important Note: It is our hope and intention that every individual who is a member of FPC or who worships with us regularly has a name tag. If you cannot find your name tag or you find something wrong with your name tag, please let us know! We cannot fix mistakes we don't know about!

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.

MONTREAT YOUTH CONFERENCE

July 18—July 24, 2021

Prayers abound for our youth & chaperones to have a safe and meaningful week!

VBS 2021
June 14-16, 2021

Sponsored by: Lakeside Baptist,
First Presbyterian Church, Church of
the Good Shepherd, St. Andrew's
Episcopal Church, West Haven
Presbyterian Church



Splash Park Fun on June 10, 2021



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

Gatekeepers Workcamp will celebrate its 30th year this summer and adult volunteers are needed to help this wonderful youth-driven ministry through safe outdoor projects in the community. If available the week of July 11-16 to assist with either home improvements or serving lunch/snacks for the participants, please notify the church office.

July 11: 5:00 p.m. Crew Meetings at Lakeside Baptist Church

July 15: 1:00 p.m. Gatekeepers 30th Anniversary Luncheon at Lakeside Baptist Church

Community Partners

There will be no collection in July for Community Partners however be thinking of back to school supplies for Peacemakers in August!

Covenant Homes

Residents are happy to be back together again. June activities include Bingo, movie and popcorn Monday, June 14th to celebrate Flag Day, a Father's Day luncheon, June 21st with gift bags for the 16 male residents, and a covered dish luncheon for everyone June 23rd. Construction continues on the Exercise/Activity room. The building is framed and bricks have been delivered.

Tar River Academy

CP hosted an End- of- Year Teacher Appreciation Luncheon May 28, 2021 and was catered by Chew-N-Chat. Thirty-eight students graduated May 28 at the Rocky Mount Event Center. First Presbyterian Church was recognized for its continued support for teachers, staff and students. Summer school needs will be addressed if needed.

Peacemakers

Freedom School began June 14, 2021. FPC assisted two full days with parent interviews as students were tested for reading skills.

NC Wesleyan College

Two members of FPC are keeping in touch with two International students this summer while they are away from their families. These students are happy to have thinking of you cards, phone calls, texts and person-to-person conversations.

May 28, 2021: FPC hosted a luncheon for staff at Tar River Academy that was catered by Chew N' Chat Café.

June 9, 2021: West Haven Presbyterian Shawl Ministry and First Presbyterian Handcraft Ministry met together at FPC to share ideas and fellowship. They will meet together at FPC again on July 21 at 1:00 p.m.

June 30, 2021: Hannah attended a Luau Luncheon at Covenant Homes!

Presbyterian Women Update

Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom.

2 Corinthians 3:17

Between celebrating with family, friends, and fireworks.....take time to appreciate the freedom of our land. Wishing you all a peaceful and blessed Independence Day!

Kindly note.....

- The PWCT met in June for a planning session. They rolled up their sleeves and went to work putting together a great kick-off to the upcoming Bible study.
- The Fall Gathering will be August 26th at 10 AM in the fellowship hall where Hannah Trawick will introduce our new Bible study, "What My Grandmothers Taught Me." Look for details in the August newsletter.
- The new study books are available. Contact your Circle Leader if you would like to purchase a book prior to the fall meeting. Regardless of print size, the books are \$11.
- Lastly, the PWCT and Circles will not meet in July.

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*



Volunteers are the
HEART
of our church



Date	Usher	Usher	Nursery
July 4	Laura Dudley	David Dudley	Linda Amerson
July 11	Joe Brown	Julia Brown	TBA
July 18	Andy Warner	Lynn Warner	TBA
July 25	Tom Steed	Sarah Bailey	TBA

Lemonade on the Lawn



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

In-Betweens Gathering!

July 29, 2021

5:30 p.m.

Home of Gene
and Sue Jackson
(3545 Windbriar Court)

**RSVP to Kay Wester at 903-8543
or 231-1798 by July 27**

Please bring a side or dessert to share

MUSIC MINISTRY NOTES

Midweek rehearsals for
choir and handbells will
resume in August.

If you have a gift for music
please consider joining
one or both!

Christmas in



We want to have a little extra fun this month, so we're going to celebrate "Christmas in July" during worship on July 25th. We'll sing some familiar carols, hear some unexpected music, and make it a unique day of joy in the midst of a hot and humid summer. Be sure to bring any kiddos, and we'll celebrate together!

Keeping in touch...

FOLLOW
US!

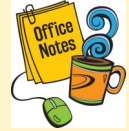


First Presbyterian Rocky Mount



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.



⇒ Address update: Chris and Emily Watson, 1509 Jeremy Lane, Rocky Mount, NC 27803

Dear First Presbyterian Church Family,

Zach and I want to thank you all so much for all your support, love, thoughts, prayers, texts, calls and visits these past few weeks during Gordon's illness and passing. As a family we have been greatly blessed by our church community. Gordon loved this church and thank you so much for helping us celebrate Gordon's life and for providing our family a chance to share a very special meal together after his service and burial. Our deepest thanks to each of you.

Our love,

Tricia and Zach Vestal

Dear Church Family,

Thanks to my church family at First Presbyterian church for the beautiful flowers delivered by Kay Wester. I am now feeling fine. What a loving and caring Church family we have.

Sylvia Phillips

Dear Handcraft Ministries,

Thank you so much for the beautiful crocheted blankets given to me celebrating the birth of my grandson. The love that belongs to each stitch will be with me always.

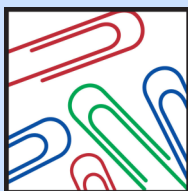
Diane Dixon

Dear Church Family,

I enjoyed the flowers sent in celebration of the birth of my grandson. Also thank you for sharing the sanctuary flowers honoring Genevieve Batchelor and in memory of Bill Batchelor. These two people are dear to my heart.

Your caring thoughts bring much joy!

Diane Dixon



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.



Congratulations to Lee and Katy Proctor on the birth of their daughter, Mary Kathryn Proctor, on June 14, 2021. "Mary Kate" weighed 8 lbs. 8 oz. and was 21 3/4 inches long at birth. Her proud grandparents are Russell and Nancy Proctor.



Our love and sympathy is extended to Jean and Hodge Kitchin upon the death of

Jean's nephew, Drew Jackson Roberts, of Siloam, NC on June 12, 2021.



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: July 11 and July 18



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

Wednesday Lunch Fellowship

FELLOWSHIP HALL AT NOON
2ND & 4TH WEDNESDAYS

JULY 14, 2021

LUNCH (BBQ, BRUNSWICK STEW, HUSHPUPIES, SLAW, DESSERT)
FOLLOWED BY MOVIE
RSVP TO SYLVIA PHILLIPS (266-3282) OR LAURA DUDLEY
(904-8956) BY NOON ON JULY 13

JULY 28, 2021

LUNCH FOLLOWED BY GAMES

All are welcome and donations are
accepted to offset cost of meal

June 9, 2021: Folks enjoyed
a delicious lunch and time
of fellowship...

...followed by a movie in the
Fellowship Hall!