



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Rocky Mount

First Pres News

September 2022

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

United in Fellowship

Dear Friends,

Our Session met in August, and we talked about some of our hopes for the coming school year. Many of the responses revolved around the concept of fellowship and togetherness. We need one another. We need to see, break bread with, and worship alongside one another. We long for community and connection. To that end there are 3 events coming up in the next 2 months that will only work with your presence and participation.

First, we have our Rally Day worship and celebration on September 11th. Worship begins at 11am, and we'll celebrate the Lord's Supper along with a worship service focused on who we are, whose we are, and where we're going in the coming year. That afternoon, we'll gather in the Fellowship Hall and around the church from 5-7 to enjoy a casual cookout and a silent auction. The cookout, hosted by the hard working Deacons in the church, is a chance for us to reconnect after a long summer and share tales of our travels. The silent auction is an opportunity to bid on items and support the financial commitment that we made to the Lucas Project.

Second, immediately following worship on October 16th, we'll have our Stewardship Lunch and presentation. This is a chance for you to hear about the church's financial goals for 2023 along with opportunities and challenges facing the church of the future. Come enjoy a meal with your church family and hear how you can help support our mission and ministry in the coming year.

Third, it is time for a new church directory. Photography dates are October 27th, 28th, and 29th. We'll have online sign-up available for you to reserve a time to come and get your picture taken for our updated directory. This is an important tool for our ministry together, so I hope you'll be able to come out and help make this a reality.

Thank you for all the ways you serve our church, community, and world. I pray that you'll be able to experience the fellowship of FPC in the coming months as we: welcome, worship, and serve together.

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

Nursery Attendant: Mary Hilliard

A NOTE FROM OUR COMMUNITY PASTOR

Community Connections: Breaking Bread

We are the church in the community and the community in the church. Each month moving forward, this spot will highlight a community initiative in Rocky Mount that needs its story told. If you know of an organization, program, or person that our church should know about, please contact Pastor Hannah. And, know that this space is always an invitation. If you see something highlighted here that awakens your sense of call, reach out to Hannah—you never know how the spirit is moving!

When I was in college, I lived abroad for a season in Bethlehem. Far from home, I was placed with a family who occasionally offered me a home-cooked meal and a support system as I attempted to find my way in a culture I did not know. It was around their table over freshly broken bread that I learned little bits of Arabic (and got really good at charades), and it was around their table that I developed a great love of olives and Zatar seasoning, staples in Middle Eastern cooking. To this day, I am still in touch with that family, the Matars, because when I was homesick for mine, they were there for me.

North Carolina Wesleyan University is a home-away-from-home for over 160 international students representing 40 countries world-wide. While filled with much adventure and excitement and though the study-abroad experience is life-changing and thrilling, it can also be quite daunting. Moving miles and miles and miles away from one's home and support system takes a lot of courage, and in with the stress of college classes in a culture so different from one's own, the distance from home can feel even further.

Enter NCWU's "Breaking Bread" initiative. This program aims to connect Wesleyan's international students with local Rocky Mount families and individuals so that they have a familial care unit state-side and so that they have a cultural-guide as they adapt to life in America. The hope is that participating families and individuals will commit to hosting one or two students in their homes (or to taking them out to eat) at least once a semester. By sharing a relaxed meal together, students and hosts alike learn about each other and develop lasting relationships.

Signing on as Breaking Bread mentor may sound scary—what will you talk about? Will language be a barrier? What if you don't immediately hit it off and it's just really awkward? Here are some thoughts to pray over:

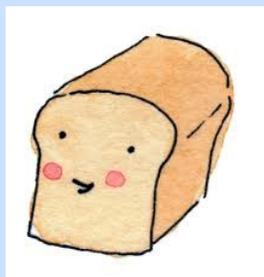
1. If you are a family unit, consider hosting two students at a time.
2. If you are single, consider partnering with one or two other people to host a student or two.
3. You and a friend could sign on to each host a student, but go out to dinner as a group.

While we certainly don't want to overwhelm our guests with an 8 to 1 scenario, meeting as a group can ease everyone's nerves and ensure conversation doesn't lull.

All of this said, every experience I've had with Wesleyan's International Students has been fruitful and fulfilling, eye-opening and joy-filled. Language has never been an issue, but in the end, the words we say out loud is only one way we communicate. If a student leaves with a full stomach and the knowledge he or she is loved and valued—not much else matters.

If you would be interested in being a family host—or if you're single and would be more comfortable partnering with a friend or two—please let me know and I will connect you with members of our church who are already participating in this program for more information, and then with Suzanne Henning at Wesleyan who will connect you with your student(s)!

With love,
Hannah



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 July 2022
 Month – to – date \$ 51,345.67
 Year – to – date \$ 411,370.56

Expenses through July 2022
 Month – to – date \$ 57,868.21
 Year – to – date \$ 368,471.38



Church office phone: 252.446.9121, press 5 for Financial Secretary
 Jeanne's email: jeanne.shannon@fpcrm.org
 Jeanne's office hours are Monday thru Thursday from 8:30-2:30

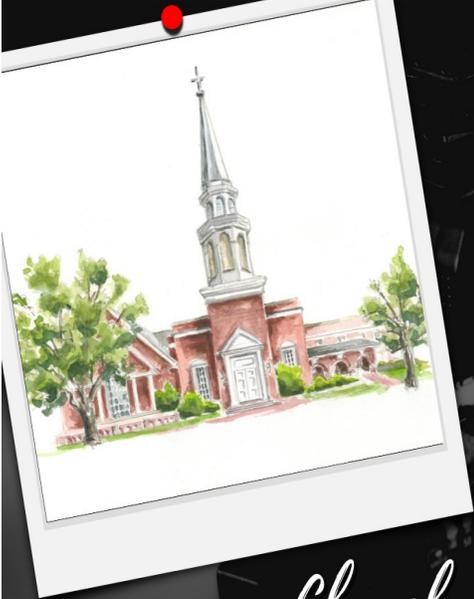
Hooray for Labor Day!

The church office will be closed on Monday, September 5, 2022 for the Labor Day Holiday.



DEACONS
 September 13, 2022
 5:30 p.m.

SESSION
 September 20, 2022
 5:30 p.m.



Church Directory
SAVE THE DATES!

OCTOBER 27 & 28 (2:00-8:30 PM), AND 29TH (10:30-4:00)
 SIGN UP INFORMATION TO COME!

Don't Miss the **DEADLINE!**

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 afternoons. The weekly email deadline is noon on Wednesday.

COMMUNITY PARTNERS

BINGO					
2	21	32	46	66	
15	30	44	58	70	
5	29	FREE	48	74	
6	16	33	52	68	
10	26	45	53	63	



Covenant Homes is in need of bingo prizes! The following would be helpful: paper towels, toilet paper, kleenex, cookies, chips, candy, household cleansers, dish towels or household items. They **DO NOT NEED** more word search or crossword puzzle books at this time. Items can be dropped off either in the volunteer office during the week or in a box labeled Covenant Homes Bingo Prizes in the narthex vestibule on Sundays.

ROCK THE MOUNT

**TUESDAY,
AUGUST 23**

Back & Better Than Ever!

Join us in welcoming
NCWU's Class of 2026!



Jay Quinan, John Etheredge, Janice Smith, Laura and David Dudley helped represent FPC at the annual Rock the Mount event at NC Wesleyan University. Cups from the church saying "You Are Enough" were well received by the students!

The Fidget Blanket and a Hospice Patient

Special thanks to the Handcraft Ministry of First Presbyterian Church of Rocky Mount & West Haven Presbyterian Church for your loving hands and beautiful hearts.



PruittHealth Hospice of Rocky Mount provides volunteer services to our clients. Recently the Volunteer Coordinator, Mary Ann Avery, reached out to her friend Laura Dudley asking if her Handcraft Ministry would donate some blankets to our hospice blankets. Laura jumped right into action inviting Mary Ann to come and pick out some blankets for her hospice patients.

Not only did I pick out some blankets but Frances Guerry and Laura offered fidget lap quilts too! The fidget quilts were perfect for memory care patients and fit perfectly on a patient's lap. The best part about these special blankets and fidget quilts is the group says this prayer over each and every one: **Prayer of Blessings**—*May God's Grace be upon these items...warming, comforting, enfolding & embracing. May these items be a safe haven...a sacred place of embracing in good times as well as difficult ones. May each one who receives one of these items be cradled in hope, kept in joy, grace with peace, and wrapped in love. AMEN.*

These blankets and fidget quilts are given to a patient upon their arrival into hospice services by the Volunteer Coordinator. One day, while making my rounds, I popped into a patient's room who doesn't have many visitors but is a Godly woman. I gave her a fidget quilt and watched as her whole body smiled. She asked me if I made it for her, I said no and explained how the Handcraft Ministry made it just for her and how they prayed over the fidget quilt. She read the tag on the quilt and tears filled her eyes. The gratitude she expressed brought tears to my eyes. I watched her touch every little piece of that fidget quilt with such joy and excitement.

The blankets and fidget quilts don't stop comforting, warming, enfolding and embracing after the patient passes. They keep on giving far beyond that to the patient's family and loved ones. This small gesture leaves such a huge, lasting impression.

The love of Christ is given through these blankets and fidget quilts, and we are grateful to the Handcraft Ministry for their time, passion and love given to our hospice patients and our communities.

CONGREGATIONAL BLESSINGS



Lemonade on the Lawn has been such a blessing after worship! On August 28th, folks enjoyed a Back to School cake!



July 31st Wednesday Lunch and Bingo fun!



August 24th Wednesday Lunch and Bingo fun!



August 15th—In-Betweens Supper fellowship at the Dudley home. (at right)

August 17th— Wednesday Lunch Fellowship at The Hen & The Hog



August 18th—Hot Dog Block Party



STAYING CONNECTED



RALLY DAY SEPTEMBER 11, 2022

- 9:45AM** Sunday School (All Ages)
11:00AM Worship with communion, plus a bagpiper, Blessing of the Backpacks, and butterflies!
5:00PM Cookout and Silent Auction to benefit The Lucas House Project (Fellowship Hall)

See the included "Fall into FPC" handout for a complete listing of fall Christian Ed, Music and Fellowship Opportunities!



Four beautiful decoupage and varnished oyster shells donated by Nancy Proctor.

Don't forget to RSVP for the cookout by September 7 at dionne.seale@fpcrm.org or call 252-446-9121, press 2.

Here are more sneak peek auction items!



Take in our state's fantastic Blue Ridge Mountains! Enjoy a 4 night stay in a 5 bedroom, 5 bath home inside the Blowing Rock city limits. Time to be mutually agreed upon, excludes holidays. Given by Pat Mauldin and Beth Turnage.



This stained glass Cape Hatteras lighthouse panel was fabricated by Pam Gragg using the copper foil method. The panel is displayed in a plate stand (included) and looks best when displayed in front of a window. Pam can add hangers if you would like to hang the panel in a window.



Up your curb appeal with a gorgeous stand of grass! Paul Outlaw will aerate and seed your lawn adding beauty and value to your home!



Ten dozen delicious cheese straws made by Cindy Feagans in one take-home container that the buyer can take home that night!



Bid on one beautiful flower arrangement to be placed in the FPC sanctuary on a pre-approved Sunday by Anne Kinnaird.



Show your school pride with this great gift idea! Bid on a fully customized hand-painted denim jacket by Lauren Seale to showcase the team/school of your choice.



Get swim lessons for your child or grandchild. Betsy McLean is a master swim teacher and has taught for years. She has dozens of proficient swimmers all over the Rocky Mount area. Four 30 minute lessons Monday-Thursday on a mutually agreed upon week.



Custom Fishing Rod made by David Gooding - A rod that YOU design. You first pick out a rod blank in the color, length, power and action you want. Then you choose the components to create your rod...the grip, reel seat, guides, colors, decals, etc.

Enjoy a sneak peek at auction items:



Ripe Revival selectively curated box filled with locally-raised, high-quality meats. This box includes local chicken, pork and beef products from North Carolina family farms and businesses with a total value of \$100! Donated by Will Kornegay



Lovely 6 x 8 oil on canvas framed of A Single Zinnia, painted and donated by Beth Steed.

And many, many more items to bid on!

Any questions? Please contact a member of The Lucas Project Fundraising and Event Committee: Beth Turnage, Stephanie Hayworth, Kate Honey, Anne Mosley, Lucy Rose, Beth Steed, and Kate Tharin.

Presbyterian Women Update

🎵 One, two, three, four, five, six.....and they chatted away at the ladybugs' picnic 🐞

Sesame Street

WELCOME BACK LADIESThe PWCT hosted the annual Fall Kick-Off meeting on August 30th in the Fellowship Hall with a delicious picnic lunch that featured ladybugs and lots and lots of ants . We had a wonderful time. Just like the ladybugs on Sesame Street, we played games, exchanged hugs, shared funny stories, and talked about the high price of EVERYTHING ...what fun being together again!

All women are invited to participate in this year's Bible Study, Celebrating Sabbath. Study books will be available at the first circle meeting (\$11). The Circles begin the SECOND week of September. Kindly note changes due to Labor Day Holiday.....

*PWCT will meet Monday, September 12th at 10:00am

*Circle of Friends will meet Monday, September 12th at 5:30 with Janice Smith hosting: 101 Covenant Court - Covenant Homes; Bible Study Lesson One

*Circle of JOY will meet Tuesday, September 13th at 10:30 in Session Room; Bible Study Lesson One

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN COORDINATING TEAM 2022-23

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*

Linda Amerson, *Circle of J.O.Y. Leader*



PW Fall Kick-Off

Luncheon

August 30, 2022





WORSHIP HELPERS

*"Like good stewards of the manifold grace of God, serve one another with whatever gift each of you has received."
1 Peter 4:10*

Date	Ushers	Time with Children
September 4	Lige Daughtridge, Annie Daughtridge, Sally Adams, Randy Adams	Matt
September 11	Ben Roberson, Valerie Roberson, Diane Dixon, Bridget Hathaway	Hannah
September 18	Laura Durham, John Turnage, John Feagans, Virginia Feagans	Matt
September 25	Pat Mauldin, Sylvia Phillips, Randy Evans, Linda Evans	Hannah

MUSIC NOTES

The Chancel Choir and the Handbell Choir are always looking for new singers and ringers. If you can't read music, don't worry, we'll teach you!

- The Chancel Choir has returned to their regular Wednesday rehearsals, meeting from 7:30-8:45 p.m.
- The Handbell Choir will resume rehearsals on Wednesday, September 14th, from 6:40-7:30 p.m.

If interested, give Jim Smith a call or simply show up for the next rehearsal.

Lost & FOUND

As activities increase around the church, please be sure to check out the lost & found box in the volunteer office to see if any items turned in the past year belong to you! Please also check in the kitchen for any serving dishes, etc. you may have accidentally left behind as well.

Keeping in touch...

FOLLOW
US!

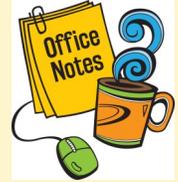


First Presbyterian Rocky Mount



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. Church office hours are 9:00-4:00 PM Monday-Thursday.



⇒

Dear First Presbyterian Church Family,

We were in church last Sunday and enjoyed the beautiful flowers but had no idea that many of them would spend the week with us! A home delivery of flowers from our sanctuary is a wonderful gift.

As Hodge continues to improve from his heart procedure, it is such a blessing to have the love and friendship of our church family.

*Blessings,
Jean Kitchin*

Dear Friends,

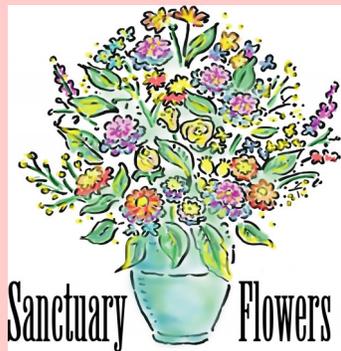
Words cannot express my gratitude for all the acts of kindness shown to me following the death of my son, Warren. The cards, calls, visits, and flowers have helped me beyond measure. I truly have felt the love and support of my church family. My spirits are lifted when I think of First Presbyterian Church.

*Love,
Cora Lee Gold*



⇒ *Our love and sympathy is extended to Mary Lou Fountain and Elizabeth Fountain upon the death of their respective sister-in-law and aunt, Jane Fountain Blocker on August 17, 2022.*

⇒ *Our love and sympathy is also extended to Valerie, Ben, Olivia and Ann Claire Roberson upon the death of Valerie's dad, Thomas Frederick "Fred" Winslow of Hobbsville, NC on August 26, 2022.*



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 or celebration 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:

September 4, 18

October 2, 16, 30

November 13, 20



Our thoughts and prayers are with...

THE FOUNTAINS AT THE ALBEMARLE—Tarboro

▶ Tom Dill

CARDINAL AT NORTH HILLS—Raleigh

▶ Dick Fountain

ROCKY MOUNT REHABILITATION CENTER

▶ Phyllis Goodwin

BROOKDALE—Rocky Mount

▶ Betsy Boddie

▶ Mike Braswell

▶ Cora Lee Gold

TRINITY ELMS ASSISTED LIVING—Clemmons

▶ Nancy Liipfert

ADDITIONAL CONCERNS

Logan Barnes

Margaret Barnes

Mary Kathleen Duncan

Geraldine Donnell (sister of Janice Smith)

Herman Ferguson

Sonny Foster

Earl Goodwin

David Jones (friend of the church)

Emily Kicklighter (friend of the church)

Hodge Kitchin

Char Mather

Georgia Mixon

Phyllis Parker

Jack Perry

Mary Frank Poe (sister-in-law of Roz Gragg)

Evelyn Reese

Edie Reeves

Cora Rowe (granddaughter of Jean Kitchin)

Jean Rowe (Steve Rowe's mother)

Maida Sessoms

Preston Smith

Scott Solether

Mark Stuart

Phyllis Toler

Mary Watson

Willette Williams (daughter of Charity Lodge)

Susan Yenney

United in Fellowship

*Please mark your calendars
for the following 3 events:*

September 11*

5-7 pm

Rally Day Celebration
& Silent Auction

October 16*

noon

Stewardship Lunch

October 27, 28, 29

Directory Photo
Shoots
(more info to come)

*RSVP to the
church office

252-446-9121, press 2



Kids (of all ages!) are invited to bring your school backpack to worship on Sunday, September 11 for a special "Blessing of the Backpacks" during the Time with Children.

BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS



Sunday, September 25

5:00 PM

RM Mills



Bring your animal friends (or a picture if easier) to meet with Pastors Matt and Hannah at Rocky Mount Mills for a special Blessing of the Animals. Feel free to stay afterwards to eat at one of the restaurants on site!

