



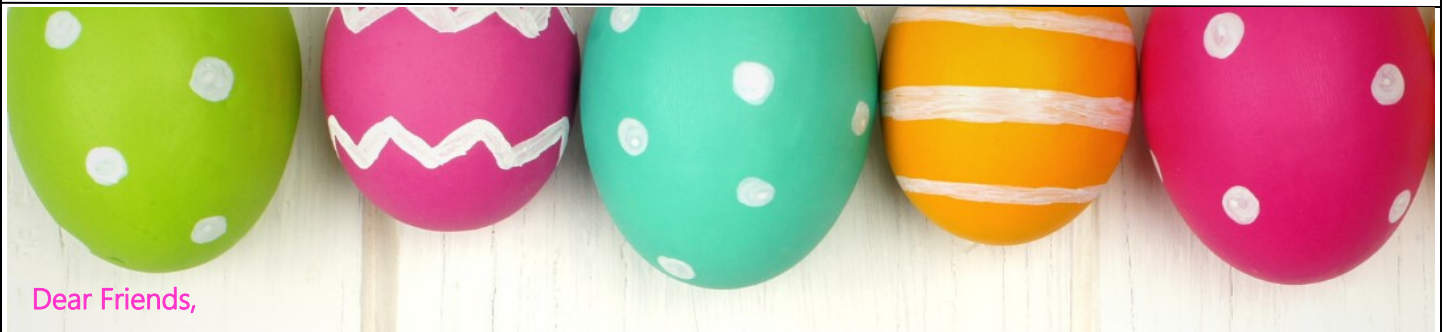
FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Rocky Mount

First Pres News

April 2023

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



Dear Friends,

It was such an amazing March around FPC!

- Our March 5th Evensong service had us all breathing deep breaths as we read scripture and poetry, heard and sang along with music, and spent time in quiet contemplation of God and God's love.
- Our Prayer Caravan had around 20 people praying at different points throughout our city. We lifted up prayers for shelters, first responders, schools, leaders, the imprisoned, healthcare workers and more. It was a sacred time of prayer and community.
- Our March Madness celebration filled the fellowship hall with laughter and cheer. We enjoyed some good food, fun games, and great company. While we weren't that attached to the game, the joy of carrying one another's burdens was manifest in worship and celebration.
- Our March 26th joint worship service with other Presbyterian siblings in Christ was a huge success. We had over 100 in worship representing four different local Presbyterian Churches. The booming thunder didn't dissuade folks from worship, and it added to the ambiance of the reading from Ezekiel.

We have more exciting things in the works for April: another possible demolition day with Building Shalom, Palm Sunday and Easter celebrations, Maundy Thursday worship, and more. We're also looking at how to round out the school year with Youth Sunday on Mother's Day and end of the school year gatherings in May.

This summer will be a little slower, but we plan to reemerge in the fall with more exciting opportunities for faith, fun, fellowship, and engagement.

God bless you all for your hard work to make FPC a place of welcome, worship, and service.

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

COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS

Dear Church Family,

I want to take a moment of personal privilege in this space to thank you all for the beautiful baby shower you collectively threw me this past Sunday. I felt so loved and so supported and entirely humbled by the village of folks that showed up to support me and my growing family. From the venue, to the food, to the cake, to the company--it was perfect. We may need a bigger house for all the goodies, though! Your generosity as a congregation, once again, astounded me. I am grateful beyond words for all the baby clothes, blankets, books, toys, and gear that you sent pouring in! Not only did receiving such a bounty help this pregnancy journey feel more real and more joyful, having so much taken care of is a huge help to Jake and me. We are breathing easier knowing that our child will have all he needs and will be born into a community that already loves him so much.



Thank you to the organizers, the hosts, the food bringers, the cake makers, the note takers, the gift organizers, the paper and bow collectors, the car loaders, and to all of you.

You yourselves are gifts, and I am ever so thankful.

With gratitude and a full, happy heart,
Hannah



MAKES CENTS\$

Happy New Year! 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 February, 2023

Month – to – date	\$ 54,676.69
Year – to – date	\$219,327.69



Expenses through February, 2023

Month – to – date	\$ 56,683.50
Year – to – date	\$109,113.79

We are grateful for your 2023 pledge!

Questions? Please contact Jeanne Shannon in the church office by phone at 252.446.9121 or by email at jeanne.shannon@fpcrm.org. Jeanne's office hours are Monday thru Thursday from 8:30 -2:30 PM.



DEACONS
April 18, 2023
5:30 p.m.

SESSION
April 25, 2023
5:30 p.m.

Happy
Easter!

The church
office will be
closed
Easter Monday,
April 10, 2023



ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING
SPECIAL OFFERINGS
HUNGER • DISASTER • DEVELOPMENT

02.22.23-
04.09.23

We are there

... with Presbyterians worldwide who are answering God's call.
This Lenten season, please give what you can.



The One Great Hour of Sharing Special Offering will be collected during worship on Easter Sunday, April 9, 2023.

Community Blessings...



**ANNUAL BENEFIT
GOLF TOURNAMENT**

04.28.2023

1:00pm Shotgun Start

\$400 per team, includes lunch

Register now:
www.rockymountpeacemakers.org

252.212.5044



SAVE THE DATE!



VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL
JUNE 12-16
LAKESIDE BAPTIST CHURCH

More details coming soon!

ripe revival

folks to greet the shoppers, help with the check-out process, or whip up a delicious taste test dish on the cooking cart!

Volunteers are needed for each Mobile Market location. If you are interested and available, please contact Mike Avery. They are looking for



PW shopping for Southside Academy snacks (left)



Types of Items Needed:



Meats & stews



Breakfast items



Packaged noodles



Canned fruits
and veggies



Snacks

Peacemakers After School Program

NOW ACCEPTING DONATIONS

BACKPACK BUDDIES FOOD DRIVE

**PEACE
MAKERS**
HOPE CHANGES EVERYTHING

- Please bring shelf stable items only

THE PEACEMAKERS AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAM SERVES 40 CHILDREN IN K-5TH GRADE. FOOD DONATED WILL BE PROVIDED TO OUR SCHOLARS AND THEIR FAMILIES.

PW circles donated snacks to Tar River Academy (left)

Congregational Blessings...

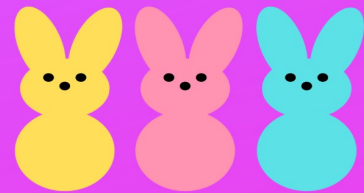
Red Cross
Blood Drive—
Feb. 28th



Prayer Caravan—
March 16th



Baby shower for Hannah
Trawick—March 26th! Thank you
to ALL who helped host and to
Anne Mosley for providing the
perfect location!

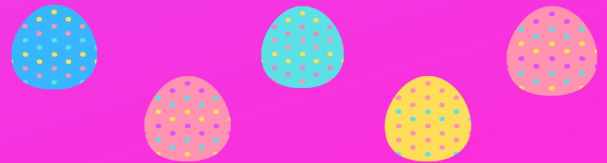


First Presbyterian
invites you to join some
fun peeps for an
Easter Egg Hunt!

Saturday, April 1, 2023
3:00 p.m.

West Haven Park - Shady Circle Drive
Kindly rsvp to Emily Watson

DON'T FORGET A BASKET & BRING A FRIEND!



March Madness/Bring a
Friend Lunch—March 19th



In & Out

A JOURNEY THROUGH LENT AT FPCRM



WHAT IS “LENT?”

Lent is a time of intentional discipleship—an annual reminder to take stock and ask ourselves: am I able to hear God speaking? Is my faith truly rooting in my life? Are my relationships what I want and need them to be? Lent gets a bad rap as being a time of sadness and abstinence. While it is certainly a time of contemplation and maybe a time we “give something up” or “take something on” to see how it affects our wholeness and flourishing, Lent is truly about relationships—Our relationship with God, our relationship with our neighbors, and our relationship with ourselves.

IN & OUT - WHAT'S IN A NAME?

Breathing is a powerful thing—understatement of the year, right? Not only is it the source of life, it is the single most effective thing we can do to heal and regulate our bodies in times of stress. In and Out. In and Out. In and Out. This Lenten Season, we will be focusing on breathing. What does restorative breath look like for you as an individual? What does it look like for us as a church? Just as breathing in and out heals our minds and bodies, moving in and out of the church walls heals and nourishes our church. So here is your challenge: over the next six weeks, as you focus on your own breath, help the church to breathe. Make an intentional effort to join us for worship on Sunday mornings, and pick a few of the Sunday afternoon offerings to be a part of the church's breath. In and Out. In and Out. In and Out.

WORSHIP AT A GLANCE

February 26- A Breath of Fresh Air- Gen. 2:4-9
 March 5- Songs and Praises- Colossians 3:12-17
 March 12- Join the Caravan- Exodus 17:1-7
 March 19- Carry Each Other's Burdens- Galatians 6:1-10
 March 26- Finding New Life- Ezekiel 37:1-14
 April 2- Palm Sunday- Matthew 21: 1-11
 April 9- Easter Sunday- Matthew 28:1-10

HOLY WEEK

April 1-April 9

EASTER EGG HUNT- APRIL 1

Come out to Shady Circle Park in the West Haven Neighborhood for a community Easter Egg Hunt for our youngest members and their friends. Grandchildren, nieces, and nephews are welcome! Adults can enjoy casual fellowship while the kiddos hunt for eggs, play on the playground, and snack together. Stay tuned for details on timing.



*Praying
with our
legs and
feet.*

*Hosanna!
Hosanna!
Hosanna In
the Highest!*



PALM SUNDAY-APRIL 2

We kick off Holy Week, Jesus's journey to the cross, with a worshipful Palm Sunday celebration. Come wave palms in worship and hear anew the story of Jesus's Triumphal Entry into Jerusalem. How do we go from "Hosanna in the Highest!" To "CRUCIFY HIM" in four days? The story starts here.

NEIGHBORHOOD PRAYER WALK- APRIL 2

Take the Palm Sunday Celebration home with you for a triumphal journey through your own neighborhood. Gather in your Neighborhood Lead's front yard for a scripture reading and prayer before walking your neighborhood as a church family—chatting with one another, supporting one another, and praying for the community we live in.



*Praying
with our
legs and
feet.*

*"My God!
My God!
Why have
you
forsaken
me?"*



MAUNDY THURSDAY TENEBRE SERVICE

Maundy Thursday is a powerful retelling of the Passion Narrative as we remember the dramatic story of Jesus's crucifixion. Without the story told on Maundy Thursday, we cannot comprehend the true miracle and joy of Easter Sunday. Come hear the story, listen to beautiful music, and let Jesus's life and death change your understanding of his resurrection this year.

Presbyterian Women Update

Don't Grow Weary in Doing Good to All— as we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, especially those who belong to the family of believers. Galatians 6:9-10

Since 1953 the Presbyterian Women have had the privilege of administering the Littrell-Thorpe Scholarship. Each year our selection committee works hard to award funds to our deserving high school seniors as well as qualified returning college students. Thank you for your continued support of the scholarship over the years. See details in the newsletter and weekly updates about how you can help support the scholarship.

Circle News: The Circles voted to unite the Circle of JOY and the Circle of Friends into one circle. The circle for Presbyterian Women is now **The Circle of Joyful Friends**. The April project is donations for Back Pack Buddies for Southside Academy.

Upcoming events:

- 1) We will celebrate the Birthday Offering and Present the Birthday Cake at the Annual Spring Social on May 9th. See details in the newsletter and weekly updates.
- 2) The PWs of New Hope Presbytery Spring Gathering is April 15th, hosted by West Raleigh Presbyterian Church 9am-1pm.

- ♦ PWCT meets Monday, April 3rd, 10am; Session Room
- ♦ The Circle of Joyful Friends meets Tuesday April 11th 10:30 Session Room

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*



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	Acolyte	Time with Children
April 2	Laura Durham, Laura Dudley, Marie Kem, Bridget Hathaway	Elizabeth Chesnutt	Matt Baker
April 9	Laura Durham, Laura Dudley, David Dudley, Bobbie Lambeth	Elly Mae Baker	Matt Baker
April 16	Betsy McLean, Sarah Bailey, James Tharin, Kate Tharin	N/A	Hannah Trawick
April 23	Linda Evans, Randy Evans, Jim Woodard, Laura Durham	N/A	Matt Baker
April 30	Vince Durham, John Turnage, Russell Proctor, Nancy Proctor	N/A	Matt Baker

We're Hiring!

Church Media Specialist

First Presbyterian Church, Rocky Mount

The Church Media Specialist will be responsible for running the livestream video feed and in-house audio for our Sunday morning 11am worship service. The candidate should be familiar with or willing to learn basic mixer controls, Microsoft Office, OBS, Facebook Live, Restream, and YouTube. They will be responsible for the following tasks every week:

1. Create and upload slides for our livestream participants to follow along at home.
2. Create the presentation that displays the media using OBS.
3. Configure the livestream parameters and update the web site to link to the stream as needed.
4. Turn on equipment, make sure microphones have freshly charged batteries, etc.
5. Mix house sound.
6. Mix livestream sound.
7. Operate cameras.
8. Operate slides.
9. Watch comments for quality control or other needs.

Training is available.

Hours: Sunday morning 9:30am-12:30pm

Pay: \$50 per Sunday

Please contact Rev. Matthew Baker at 252-446-9121 or email at Matthew.baker@fpcrm.org if you are interested.



DONATE TOWARDS A LILY TO CELEBRATE A SPECIAL LOVED ONE AND/OR SPECIAL PEOPLE IN YOUR LIFE! THE PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN WILL PLACE EASTER LILIES IN OUR SANCTUARY ON EASTER, SUNDAY, APRIL 9. DEADLINE IS APRIL 2! A DONATION OF \$20 OR MORE PER LILY IS APPRECIATED AND ENVELOPES CAN BE FOUND IN THE NARTHEX OR CHURCH OFFICE.

Keeping in touch...

FOLLOW
US!

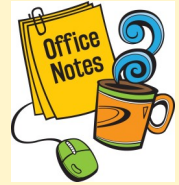


First Presbyterian Rocky Mount



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 FPC family,

Thank you for the beautiful vase of flowers delivered by Laura Durham. The love and sympathy following the passing of David's mother is greatly appreciated.

*Love,
Sarah and David Gooding*

Dear First Presbyterian,

Arrington and I cannot begin to express our thanks to our church family for the support and prayers you provide us during this very sad time. Your outpouring of kindnesses from flower deliveries, handcrafted blankets (in our favorite colors) and cards from the Presbyterian Women and the delicious meal Laura Durham delivered of fried chicken and homemade sides was all extremely appreciated.

A very special thank you to Matt for his timely visits and being right by our side as we navigated through this fast and difficult journey. The homily he delivered at the scattering of Wayne's ashes was not only uplifting but very much befitting of Wayne and the man that he was.

*Much love to you all,
Gaye Moore*

Dear Church Friends,

What a loving and thoughtful church we have! The Steed family has been so blessed by your kindness. We have thoroughly enjoyed our newest member of the family—Sydney Shepherd.

A member of the handcraft ministry in our church knitted the most beautiful little blanket for her. It has been put to good use on the cold days and nights we have had as well as being a pretty prop in several pictures. And the lovely flowers delivered by sweet Linda Amerson brightened our living room for days. Thank you so much for being the hands and feet of Jesus. We love you all!

Beth and Tom Steed

Dear Church Friends,

Thanks so much for remembering me in such a beautiful way. The roses are gorgeous and I'm still enjoying them every day. I can't let them go because they are so lovely.

I enjoyed Beth Turnage's visit so much. We had such a good time talking about the golden years. She is still too young to know all this.

Thanks again for being so special in so many ways.

*Love,
Genevieve Batchelor*



THE 2023 SANCTUARY FLOWER CALENDAR IS AVAILABLE IF YOU WANT TO EITHER SIGN UP WITH DIONNE IN THE CHURCH OFFICE OR VIA THE CHURCH WEBSITE FOR A SUNDAY TO HONOR/REMEMBER SOMEONE AND SUPPORT THE FLOWER MINISTRY OF FPC.



The love and sympathy of the congregation is extended to Charity Lodge upon the passing of her granddaughter Christina Smith Pomeroy on March 14, 2023 in Roanoke Rapids.

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.



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

THE LANDING—Wilson

- ▶ Mary Watson

ADDITIONAL MEMBER CONCERNS

Logan Barnes

Tucker Carrier (U.S. Army)

Deborah Coffee

David Drumel

Earl Goodwin

Larry & Beth High

Sandra Luther

Char Mather

Georgia Mixon

Phyllis Parker

Jack Perry

Evelyn Reese

Edie Reeves

Maida Sessoms

Mark Stuart

Phyllis Toler

Bobbi Weeks

Susan Yenney

EASTER SUNDAY!

HE IS RISEN, INDEED!



EASTER FELLOWSHIP BREAKFAST



Bring some flowers for our cross, and join us at 10:20 for some Easter fellowship over muffins and coffee in the courtyard.

EASTER WORSHIP, 11AM



MATTHEW 28:1-10