



# FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Rocky Mount

## *First Pres News*

**May 2023**

153 N. Church Street  
Rocky Mount, NC 27804  
[www.fpcrm.org](http://www.fpcrm.org)  
252-446-9121

Dear Friends,

Thank you to everyone who helped make Easter a truly spectacular time of worship and praise. We had beautiful flowers, fantastic music, and a wonderful time together. Palm Sunday was also a celebration at the church with a packed house for worship. Thank you one and all!

Around the church all eyes are turning to the youth for the next little bit. We will have Youth Sunday on Mother's Day with the little one's singing, the youth leading worship, and seniors being celebrated. It is sure to be a special worship service!

Vacation Bible School, Gatekeepers, and Montreat are around the corner. While we are not hosting VBS this year, we are still responsible for sending volunteers to help make VBS the success that it always is. We have a bunch of youth signed up to work around town on Gatekeepers projects, and they will be in our prayers. We also have a great group of youth and leaders headed to Montreat this July to experience all that the mountains have to offer. Please keep our younger members in your prayers as they finish up the school year and prepare for busy summers here and elsewhere.

Personally, I am using May to prepare for a 12 week sermon series over the summer: "The Bible in 12 Chapters." We're going to look at the overarching story of scripture and place different stories on a timeline to see how all things fit together in this book that we read every week. I hope you're able to follow along in person or online.

My prayer for each of you is that you have a joyous spring, a wonderful May, and a blessed season of renewal.

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: Building Shalom

*We are the church in the community and the community in the church. This spot highlights a community initiative in Rocky Mount or a church mission at FPC 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!*



You may remember our work on the Lucas Project last spring where teams from our church helped to demolish, clean, and renovate a home for Thomas and Tamara Lucas to purchase. At the time we worked on it, the Lucas Project was a part of Peacemakers Housing Development Initiative. This program became so successful and the need it filled so vast, that it grew into its own organization: Building Shalom.

Shalom is Hebrew for Peace. As such, Building Shalom seeks to build peace in the neighborhood of South Rocky Mount by addressing systemic issues of blight and material poverty. The organization partners with residents of South Rocky Mount to pave a new way forward. Together, they are addressing a dismal home ownership rate in the neighborhood and unrelenting housing problems that too many of its neighbors face.

The work of Building Shalom is twofold: the organization equips new homeowners by walking through a homeownership program and it strives to renovate the homes in the neighborhood in partnership with contractors, volunteers, and those going through the home ownership program. In doing this work, Building Shalom ensures four main goals are prioritized:

1. Improve and expand the overall quality of housing in the neighborhood;
2. Increase the overall homeowner percentage in the neighborhood;
3. Increase, create, and cultivate civic engagement and cultural hubs in the neighborhood;
4. And do all of this with zero displacement in the neighborhood!

Once again, our congregation has the opportunity to join Building Shalom in this important work with a Congregational Day of Service. On May 6 from 9am-1:30pm, we will be helping transform a condemned and blighted house into a space that will serve as the Building Shalom office hub and a community center for the neighborhood. Plans for the community center are still unfolding, but we have been called in as a demolition crew to ensure progress can be made quickly and steadily for our neighbors in South Rocky Mount. If you are able to give a few hours on May 6, come lend a hand, serve with our church family, and learn about Building Shalom. Come see the neighborhood that bustles with life and energy and hope, and take part in living toward God's Kingdom here in Rocky Mount.

Affordable, quality housing is one of the key issues in Rocky Mount, by showing up and answering a call, we are helping to transform our city to ensure all can live in peace.

Hope to see you there!  
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 March, 2023

Month – to – date	\$ 23,840.36
Year – to – date	\$243,168.05



Expenses through March, 2023

Month – to – date	\$ 72,420.73
Year – to – date	\$181,534.52

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](mailto:jeanne.shannon@fpcrm.org). Jeanne's office hours are Monday thru Thursday from 8:30 -2:30 PM.



**DEACONS**  
May 9, 2023  
5:30 p.m.

**SESSION**  
May 16, 2023  
5:30 p.m.





## Community Blessings...

**ripe  
revival**

Volunteers are needed for each Mobile Market location. If you are interested and available, please contact Mike Avery at [mike@riperevival.com](mailto:mike@riperevival.com).

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

Once again Laura Dudley and her team have made "Blessing Blankets" for our graduating International Seniors at NCWU. They also made beautiful personalized cards for each of the 24 Seniors. These gifts are so kind and generous for our students to celebrate their accomplishments,

On behalf of the students and our department, we thank you all very much!

Sincerely,  
Suzanne Hening and ISS Team  
NC Wesleyan University



### 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.

## SNACK DRIVE

APPROXIMATELY 10,000 SNACKS NEEDED

### FREEDOM SCHOOL 2023

Peacemakers is asking local community partners to donate individually-wrapped:

Chips • Goldfish • Pretzels • Veggie Straws • Cheese Sticks  
Oatmeal Pies • Poptarts • Granola Bars • Nutri Grain Bars  
Cheeze Its • Snack Crackers • Fruit Cups • Pudding Cups •  
Applesauce Cups • Cookies • Juice Boxes • Water Bottles

For more information call us 252.212.5044  
[www.rockymountpeacemakers.org](http://www.rockymountpeacemakers.org)







**Community VBS**  
**June 12-16**  
**Lakeside Church**  
**1501 Sunset Avenue**  
**8:45 a.m. to Noon each day**

Children ages 3 through completed 5th grade

Register by May 1 at  
[www.lakesidechurchrmt.org](http://www.lakesidechurchrmt.org) or  
 by scanning the code below.  
 Suggested donation of \$15 per child  
 (max \$30 per family) to register.

Join us for a week of Bible stories, music, crafts, games  
 as we learn and grow in our faith.



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



**Adult and Youth  
 VBS Volunteers  
 are needed!**  
**See the Lakeside  
 website and click  
 on Ministries to  
 access either the  
 Adult or Youth  
 VBS Volunteer  
 registration!**  
**Contact Pastor  
 Hannah if any  
 questions.**

**CONGREGATIONAL DAY  
 OF SERVICE**

**Building Shalom**  
**May 6, 2023**

2175 West Raleigh Blvd., Rocky Mount

Shift 1: 9:00-11:00 a.m.

Shift 2: 11:30-1:30 p.m.

Come on out for some demolition, refurbishment, and  
 fellowship at a home we are working on similar to the  
 Lucas Project - through Building Shalom. Sign up on  
 weekly emails or contact the church office for  
 assistance to sign up for a shift. All ages welcome.

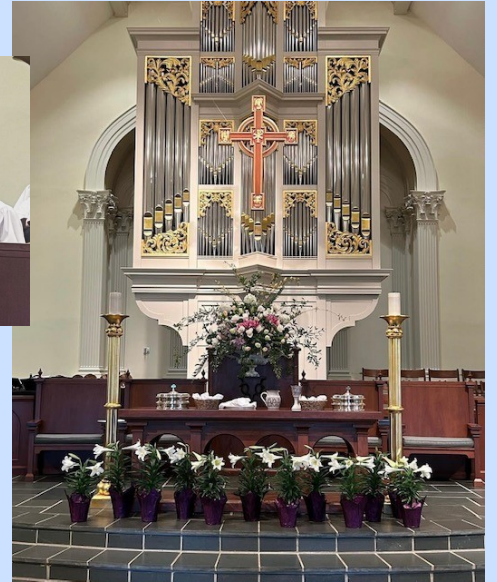


## Congregational Blessings...

*April 9—A beautiful Easter!*



*Handbell rehearsal  
prior to worship (above)*



*April 2—  
Youth trip  
to  
Frankie's  
Fun Park  
in Raleigh  
(at right)*



*April 17—  
Kiddos in the  
Kirk surprise  
baby shower  
for Pastor  
Hannah  
above*



*April 1—  
Community  
Easter Egg Hunt  
(at left)*





*congratulations!*

CLASS OF 2023 -

COLLEGE & HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES

WE WANT TO FEATURE YOUR ACCOMPLISHMENTS IN THE JUNE  
NEWSLETTER! PLEASE LET DIONNE SEALE IN THE CHURCH OFFICE KNOW  
THE LATEST IN YOUR WORLD BY MAY 12!



# 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](mailto:Matthew.baker@fpcrm.org) if you are interested.

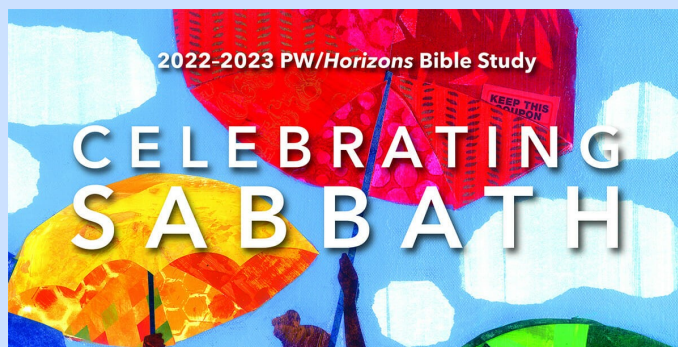


## Presbyterian Women Update

***Keep your eyes wide open, your hands willing, your hearts generous, your feet light, your hope alive, and your faith on fire.....from the PW Birthday Offering Charge.***

Through the annual PW Birthday Offering, we receive and act upon this charge by supporting communities near and far. The call is to persevere for the good of all, to look beyond self, to see another, and to recognize our home together in the family of faith.

Won't you please join us on Tuesday, May 9th when the PWCT hosts a year end luncheon to celebrate each other, recognize the PW Birthday Offering, and present the Birthday Cake. See the invitation in the newsletter and weekly emails for details.



Also, this month the Circle of Joyful Friends completes their Bible study, Celebrating Sabbath. We wish to thank everyone for participating—especially those who graciously served as leaders.

- The PWCT will meet Monday, May 1st at 10am in the Session Room
- The Circle of Joyful Friends will meet Tuesday, May 9th at 10:30am - Lesson 9



### **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 Joyful Friends, Co-Leader*

Julia Brown, *Treasurer*

Laura Durham, *Spiritual Nurture*

Martha Tesoro, *Together in Service*

Linda Amerson, *Circle of Joyful Friends. 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	Time with Children
May 7	Katherine Fisher, Paul Outlaw, Chris Watson, Tricia Vestal	Matt Baker
May 14	Dee Whitley, Sylvia Phillips, Diane Dixon, Andy Warner	Hannah Trawick
May 21	Joe Brown, Julia Brown, Sam Brown, Tom Steed	Randy Adams
May 28	Jean Kitchin, Vince Durham, Anne Mosley, Meredith Cooper	Matt Baker



ROCKY MOUNT  
CHAMBER CHOIR

# SPRING CONCERT

**SUNDAY • MAY 7TH  
4:00 P.M.**

**Sacred and Secular Works**

– FREE ADMISSION –

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
153 NORTH CHURCH STREET • ROCKY MOUNT, NC  
[WWW.ROCKYMOUNTCHAMBERCHOIR.COM](http://WWW.ROCKYMOUNTCHAMBERCHOIR.COM)



# Keeping in touch...

FOLLOW  
US!

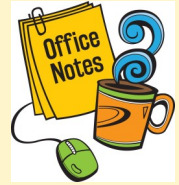


First Presbyterian Rocky Mount



fpc\_rockymount

**Contact Information Updates:** Kindly notify Dionne Seale in the church office at 252-446-9121, ext. 21 or [dionne.seale@fpcrm.org](mailto: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.



**On behalf of the  
Presbyterian Women, thank you  
to all who donated towards an  
Easter lily to support the  
Littrell-Thorpe Scholarship Fund!**

## 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.

Thank you for your kind donation to the Duke Cancer Patient Support Program. Your generosity will be extended to those we serve at Duke Cancer Institute Boutique locations.

The Boutiques are a place where those journeying through the cancer experience can be uplifted and encouraged. Without donations like yours, we would not be able to offer items in our complimentary section.

Thank you for making a difference.

Sincerely,

Self-Image Consultant  
Duke Cancer Patient Support Program



**Thank you to  
the Handcraft  
Ministry**



Our love and sympathy is extended to Nancy and Russell Proctor upon the passing of Nancy's father, Charles David Ward, on April 23, 2023.





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.



Congratulations to Joe and Julia Brown on the birth of their first grandchild! Eleanor Peyton Hastings was born on April 2, 2023 to Peyton and Lee Hastings of Richmond, VA.



*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

Genevieve Batchelor

Tucker Carrier (U.S. Army)

Deborah Coffee

David Drumel

Earl Goodwin

Larry & Beth High

Jeong Jin

Sandra Luther

Char Mather

Georgia Mixon

Phyllis Parker

Jack Perry

Evelyn Reese

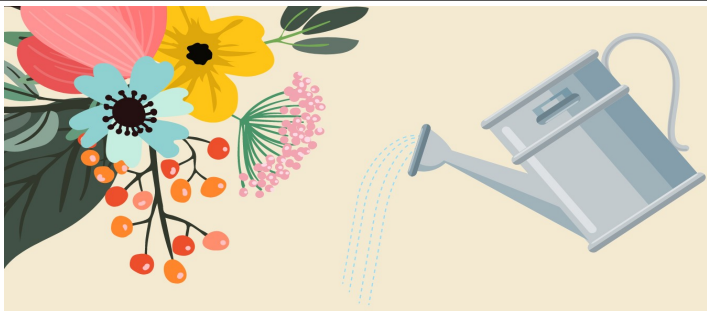
Edie Reeves

Maida Sessoms

Phyllis Toler

Bobbi Weeks

Susan Yenney



All Presbyterian Women are invited to a

## SPRING GATHERING

to celebrate each other...and recognize the Birthday Offering.

GATHER IN THE LADIES PARLOR IMMEDIATELY  
AFTER THE 10:30 AM CIRCLE MEETING

**MAY 9, 2023**



## YOUTH SUNDAY

**MAY 14, 2023**

MARK YOUR  
CALENDARS FOR THIS  
SPECIAL TIME OF  
WORSHIP AT FIRST  
PRESBYTERIAN!  
OUR YOUTH WILL  
LEAD WORSHIP AND  
OUR GRADUATING  
SENIORS WILL BE  
RECOGNIZED.

See what is blooming this May!

## In-Betweens Fellowship

FRIDAY, MAY 19, 2023  
5:00 PM  
HOSTED BY TEMPIE FULLER  
5553 BRAKE ROAD  
ROCKY MOUNT

MEAT & DRINKS PROVIDED,  
PLEASE BRING AN APPETIZER  
OR SIDE DISH TO SHARE

RSVP TO MARIE KEM AT

## Wednesday Meals in May

**May 24 - 11:30AM**

Ladies Covered Dish Luncheon  
Home of Sylvia Phillips  
5283 Water Front Drive  
Respond to Sylvia Phillips by  
Friday, May 19 at 252-212-5589  
May bring a friend!

**May 31 - 5:00PM**

Dinner out at Olive Garden  
Respond to Sylvia Phillips by  
Friday, May 26