



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Rocky Mount

First Pres News

June 2023

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

Dear Friends,

Happy June! When I was a little boy, my favorite Bible story was Daniel in the lion's den. I remember reading it in my junior Bible with the fun pictures. The thought of God being able to tame the mighty lion and protect poor Daniel was a comfort to me.

Later in life, my favorite story became Jesus' calming of the storm, after he fell asleep in the back of the boat. I loved the humanity of Jesus falling asleep—that he was so tired that the rocking waves lulled him to sleep. I loved his power to command the wind and the waves to be still. This story showed me how God is so very big, yet God in Christ is so very relatable.

Now, my favorite story is the end of Revelation, when God promises to make all things new. In a world of gun violence, war, chaos, and sorrow, I long for the day when all is made right and new. I also dream of being a part of making things better than they are.

All three of these stories have a common thread. God is present in the midst of peril. No matter what you're going through, no matter what storms are raining down on you, no matter the tears you've spilt—God is ever so present.

I pray that you feel the presence of the almighty in your life as you seek to live, work, and play in the midst of all the storms that rage around us. God bless you this summer!

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

News From Your Community Pastor

Dear Church,

As my due date approaches, I'm hearing several questions about my leave, the baby, and Jake's and my plans. While we will be figuring out many things on the fly, I'm sure, here are some answers to some frequently asked questions!

When does Hannah's leave start and how long will she be away? Barring unforeseen circumstances, I will be on a "staycation" with my feet up June 5-11. My 12 weeks of parental leave will be June 12-September 4, during which time I will be intentional about not checking email, responding to work-related texts or phone calls, conducting pastoral care visits, attending church events/functions, or officiating weddings/funerals. I will return to work and church activities after Labor Day on September 5 and look forward to celebrating Rally Day with you and the baby at the church Pig Pickin' on September 10!

When can we meet the baby? Jake and I will share baby news virtually via a congregational email as soon as we are able. Don't worry we will include pictures! When we are ready to introduce the baby to his church family and vice-versa, we will attend worship with him at some point over the summer. He will also be toted around to many-a-church-function in the fall!

Who should I contact about _____? I have been working with elders and ministry leaders for youth, children, education, and Community Partner ministries. If you aren't sure who to contact, the church office can direct you to the appropriate person to answer your questions.

Why isn't Hannah responding to my text/email/phone call/inquiry? I will be away from all work-related communications for the duration of my leave. I will catch up slowly in September **but I recommend re-sending any important notes I may have missed then.** In the meantime, the office will help you find answers to your work questions.

And finally, the most frequently asked question:

Does the baby have a name? He will, we promise!! We have a short list of names but do not plan to name him until we meet him, whenever he arrives!

Jake and I have felt so loved and supported by our church family these past several months. As we near the end of pregnancy and the beginning of parenthood, we are grateful for your prayers that our little one will arrive safe and healthy (and without too many problems for his momma!) We are excited, bewildered, beloved—and immensely grateful. Thanks for helping to stock his nursery and clothe his tiny body, and thank you for making sure Jake and I are fed in the weeks following his birth. You are our village—and his. We are blessed.

With love and gratitude,
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 April, 2023

Month – to – date \$ 41,632.06

Year – to – date \$284,800.11



Expenses through April, 2023

Month – to – date \$ 51,117.36

Year – to – date \$232,651.88

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
No June meeting

SESSION
June 20, 2023
5:30 p.m.

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.

ways to serve!

CONGREGATIONAL DAY OF SERVICE

**NEW
DATE!**

Building Shalom

June 10, 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.

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



MEET OUR TEAM



**EXECUTIVE
DIRECTOR**
Lemanuel Williams



**COHORT
DIRECTOR**
Morgan Mull



**ADMINISTRATIVE
COORDINATOR**
Crystal Wimes-Anderson



**COHORT
INSTRUCTOR**
Jamilah Bullock

Above, the staff of Building Shalom

With unanimous and excited support from the Session, we are pleased to announce that Building Shalom will be leasing space from FPC through the end of the year. Building Shalom is the group with whom we worked on the Lucas Project, and they are renovating more homes in south Rocky Mount. We will be helping them renovate their future office space and community center on June 10th. If you see anyone from Building Shalom around the building, be sure to introduce yourself and offer a friendly FPC welcome.



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

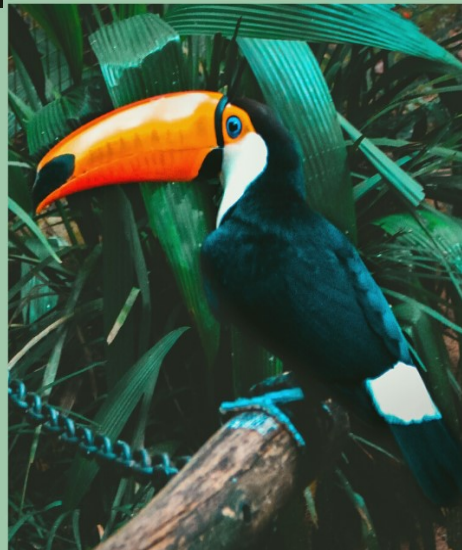
Usher Update

We are working on the usher schedule for the remainder of the year (July-December). If you would like to be added to or removed from the usher schedule; please notify Dionne Seale ASAP. Thank you to all who serve!



Two-Can
 Sundays
 (bring 2 cans to
 church)

The PW Circle of Joyful Friends is sponsoring a summer project to benefit the food pantry at United Community Ministries. Bring two cans of food to designated boxes in the church narthex or volunteer office June-August or make a monetary donation payable to PW with UCM food pantry noted on the memo line.



**ripe
 revival**

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

Congratulations!



Virginia Feagans graduates May 26, 2023 from Rocky Mount Academy and will enroll in the University of North Carolina - Chapel Hill this fall with plans to major in Environmental Science. This summer, she will travel and work as a lifeguard.



Carley Outlaw graduates May 26, 2023 from Rocky Mount Academy and will enroll in the University of North Carolina - Chapel Hill this fall with plans to major in Nursing. This summer, she will be shadowing in surgical practices, attending Montreat, and hoping to find some babysitting jobs!



Mari Robin Tharin graduates May 26, 2023 from Rocky Mount Academy and will enroll in the University of North Carolina - Chapel Hill this fall with plans to study in the School of Education. This summer, she will work as a counselor at Camp Albemarle.



*Youth Sunday
May 14, 2023*



More Graduate News...



- **Lillie Daughtridge** graduated from UNC-Wilmington with a degree in Communication Studies and a minor in Leadership Studies. She will be working in Durham at McKinney Creative & Media Agency.
- **Owen Sondergard** graduated from NC State University with a degree in Mechanical Engineering. He will be working for United Rentals in their Engineering Department in Greensboro, NC.
- **Haven Ross** graduated from UNC-Chapel Hill with a double major in Exercise Science and Psychology. She will be attending a pre-med program for three semesters at Meredith College.

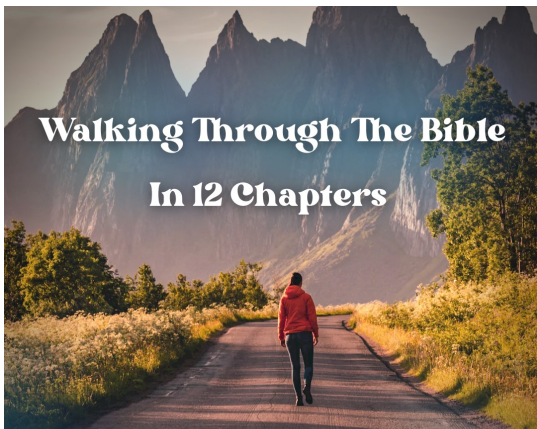




WORSHIP HELPERS

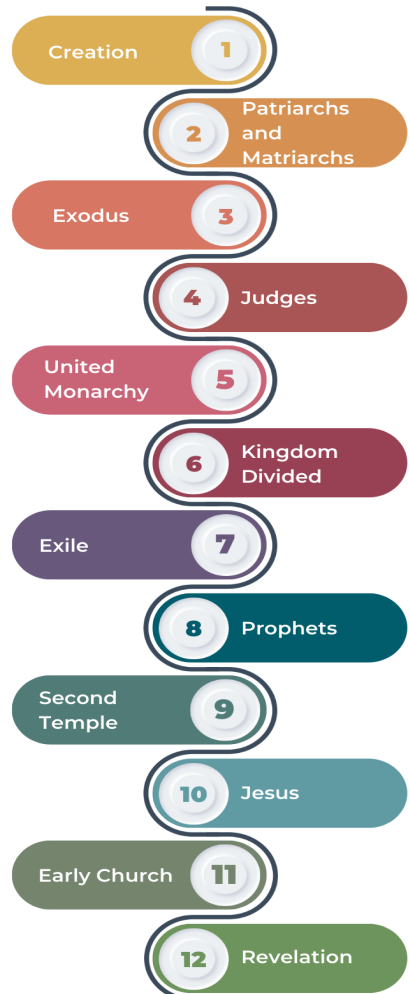
"Like good stewards of the manifold grace of God, serve one another with whatever gift each of you has received." 1 Peter 4:10

Date	Ushers	Time with Children
June 4	Tommy Honey, Kate Honey, Mike Gaynor, Winnie Gaynor	Matt Baker
June 11	Rob Barnhill, Chrissy Barnhill, James Tharin, Kate Tharin	Matt Baker
June 18	Tricia Vestal, Janice Smith, Linda Amerson, Ike Amerson	Matt Baker
June 25	Joe Brewer, Virginia Brewer, Dillon Rose, Wicky Thorpe	Matt Baker



At right is the time line for our upcoming sermon series

TIMELINE



Below, the Handcraft Ministry honored Frances Guerry for her dedicated service before she and Charles move to South Carolina—she will be greatly missed!



Presbyterian Women Update

In May, the PWCT hosted a garden-themed brunch following the final Circle meeting and Birthday Offering Program. It was a fun filled occasion with the traditional presentation of the Birthday Cake and the entertaining presentation of goodie bags to Circle members. After all, we are all winners!

And speaking of winners, congratulations to this year's recipients of the New Hope PW Scholarship: Virginia Feagans, Carley Outlaw, and Mari Robin Tharin. In addition, we are very proud to announce the recipients of the Littrell-Thorpe Scholarship: Virginia Feagans, Carley Outlaw, Mari Robin Tharin, Anna Brooks Gaynor, Walker Rose, Shelton Honey, and Megan Seale.

Please note, the PWCT and the Circle of Joyful Friends does not meet during the summer. However, the Circle is sponsoring a summer project called "Toucan Sunday" to benefit the food pantry of United Community Ministries. We are asking the congregation to bring in two cans of food each Sunday or whenever convenient. The canned food drive will run June through August. See details in the church newsletter and weekly emails.

****The PWCT will meet September 11th**

****The Fall Kickoff and Circle of Joyful Friends is scheduled for September 12th**

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN COORDINATING TEAM 2023-24

Nancy Richardson, Co-Moderator

Stephanie Hayworth, Co-Moderator

Gaye Moore, *Secretary*

Sarah Gooding, *Historian*

Laura Dudley, *Together in Service*

Julia Brown, *Treasurer*

Laura Durham, *Spiritual Nurture*

Linda Amerson, *Circle of Joyful Friends. Co-Leader*

Myra Richardson, *Circle of Joyful Friends, Co-Leader*



PW Honorary Life Membership Presentation on May 7, 2023

It is a joy and privilege to recognize a member of PW as an Honorary Life Member of PW in the Presbyterian Church (USA). She is being recognized because of her commitment to Christ and the mission of the church.

- Our recipient joined our church over 50 years ago (Half Century Member)
- She has faithfully served and continues to serve our congregation in many capacities: Deacon, active in youth activities, Meals on Wheels, In-Betweens; driver for those who can't; collection volunteer (35 years at Planters Bank qualified her for this!); Church Secretary under Dr. McChesney in the 1960's; She and her daughter Lezlie were baptized and joined our church after the death of her husband in 1972.



It is our pleasure to present an Honorary Life Membership to Bobbie Lambeth! We thank you Bobbie for all you have done and continue to do for First Presbyterian!

At left, Lezlie & Bobbie Lambeth and Nancy Richardson



PW Spring Gathering and Birthday Cake Presentation on May 9, 2023

She sets about her work vigorously; her arms are strong for her tasks." Proverbs 31:17

A very busy lady describes our Birthday Cake recipient. She enjoys many church and community activities and she is very dedicated to every task she undertakes. She enjoys spending time with her family when she is not involved in church or community activities.

We might even call her a "Has Been". She has been a Deacon, an Elder, and a leader in many other church activities. At the present time, she is a member of Circle of Joyful Friends and a wonderful devotion leader. She is very active with the In-Betweens Fellowship and Wednesday Night Fellowship groups. A true enjoyment for her is the Handcraft Ministry. Along with her husband, she is an usher, she delivers flowers and is a Meals On Wheels volunteer.

Also keeping her busy is her involvement with Peacemakers, Tar River Academy, Covenant Homes, and North Carolina Wesleyan University's International Students. Her special interests are caring for family and friends and gardening flowers and vegetables.

Our recipient attended Catholic school from Kindergarten through 8th grade, and graduated from Page Senior High School in Greensboro, NC. She then entered UNC-Chapel Hill and earned a BS in Physical Therapy. She is now a retired Licensed Physical Therapist.

Married to David Martin Dudley, the Dudleys have two children and two grandchildren. Their daughter Anna Lauren gives them reasons to go to the mountains. Their son Harrison, daughter-in-law Leigh Ann, and grandsons Mason and Caden give them reasons to go to Kinston.

I would like to give you the 2023 Birthday Cake recipient, **Laura Harrison Dudley**.

She selects wool and flax and works with eager hands. Proverbs 31:13



At left, David & Laura Dudley after the presentation by Tempie Fuller



Above, the beautiful cake made by the talented Hannah Diedrick



Keeping in touch...

FOLLOW
US!

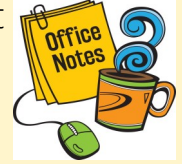


First Presbyterian Rocky Mount



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.



⇒

Thank you for sharing a bit of God's beauty with us on the occasion of the birth of our granddaughter, Eleanor Peyton Hastings. The flowers were beautiful! Peyton & Lee and Joe & I appreciate FPC's continuing love for our family.

Julia Brown

Peyton was delighted when I presented the gorgeous blue and green baby blanket made by one of you. She and Lee send their thanks for your remembrance of the birth of their daughter, Eleanor Peyton. Our family feels fortunate to have the continuing love of the FPC Family.

Julia Brown

**YOU MAKE THE WORLD
A BETTER PLACE...**

Dear Laura & FPC team,

We want to thank you again for blessing the students with the "Blessing Blankets" and the personalized cards. This means so much to the students & our department!

*Love,
Suzanne Hening & ISS
NC Wesleyan
University*

*Dear Laura & Handcraft
Ministry,*

Thank you so much for the beautiful blanket for Will. As you may know, the first blanket you made for him is his most cherished possession and he was very excited to receive the new one! He now sleeps with both and often has trouble deciding which one to pull out of his crib first! We so appreciate your love, support, and kindness (and your excellent blanket making skills)!

*Love,
Chris, Andrea, and Will Ruggero*

*First Presbyterian Church
Moms,*

It was extremely thoughtful of you to send me an exams care package. I have enjoyed the sweets during long study sessions and have been reminded of home. Thank you for thinking of me and I look forward to being back in Rocky Mount to see everyone soon.

*Sincerely,
Thomas Griffin*

*Dear First Presbyterian Church Family,
Thank you so much for the beautiful flowers you brought to my house for my birthday. I had commented on Sunday how lovely the flowers were in the sanctuary and then some of them came to me. What a nice surprise. It has brightened my room for several days and I thank you for your thoughtfulness.*

*Fondly,
Hannah Diedrick*

Thank you dear First Presbyterian friends for the much needed and appreciated arrangement of flowers! They are beautiful!

Bobbi Weeks

To My Church Family,

Many thank you's for the beautiful and delicious cake delivered to me at Brookdale as I arrived back from my birthday celebration with Benjy.

*Love to you all,
Cora Lee Gold*

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.



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.



Our love and sympathy is extended
to Lindsey, Haven, and Charlotte
Ross upon the death of their father,
Doug Ross, on May 20, 2023.



*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

► Genevieve Batchelor

► 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

Jeong Jin

Sandra Luther

Char Mather

Georgia Mixon

Phyllis Parker

Jack Perry

Evelyn Reese

Edie Reeves

Maida Sessoms

Phyllis Toler

Bobbi Weeks

Susan Yenney

