



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Rocky Mount

First Pres News

August 2023

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

Dear Friends,

I pray that you are enjoying your summer. I know some of you have been able to travel; others have just tried to beat the heat in the air conditioning. The youth were hard at work with Gatekeepers, and the Senior High enjoyed a fun trip to Montreat after that. Our church is especially thankful for Christie and Dionne for chaperoning the trip to Montreat, driving through the mountains, and leading our youth.

The most common question I'm getting asked is, "How's Hannah?" Hannah is doing very well. Hannah, Jake, and Callum are figuring each other out and enjoying life. They are out and about most days, and Cal is one cute little guy! We are eagerly awaiting Hannah's return to church on Rally Day.

I want you to know that folks from around the Presbytery and country reached out to check on our church after the recent tornado. It made the national news, so people from all over called, texted, and emailed to see how we fared. I'm pointing people toward the fund set-up by the United Way if they want to help support the recovery effort.

August will be busy with planning, meetings and preparations for the upcoming season. We'll be working on Rally Day, Stewardship, Christian Education, and much more. We are all excited about discovering new ways to serve Christ in our church, community, and world. If you would like to be a part of the planning and preparations, please reach out to us.

Most importantly, I ask you to be in prayer for one another. There are needs—known and unknown. There are losses, sorrows, diagnoses, and so much more all around us. Please keep your church family in your prayers.

Thank you all for your kindness and support!

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

Rev. Hannah Trawick is currently out on maternity leave and is scheduled to return in early September!



*Hannah and Jake's son Cal made a surprise visit to the church on July 24!
The family is doing great and Cal is certainly thriving and loved!*



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 June 2023

Month – to – date \$ 49,426.00
Year – to – date \$ 371,516.11

Expenses through June 2023

Month – to – date \$ 46,872.69
Year – to – date \$ 322,127.30

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



DEACONS

August 8, 2023
5:30pm

SESSION

August 15, 2023
5:30pm

RIP
MEDICAL
DEBT

Presbyterian Church (USA) Congregations of Rocky Mount, NC
Medical Debt Fulfillment Report

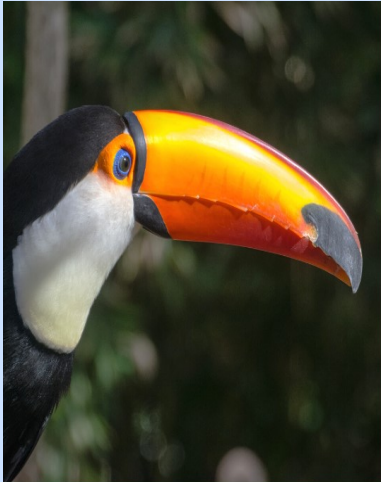
Purchase Cycle:
AC-0062

Total Donation:
\$12,604.60

State	County	Recipients	Amount abolished	Avg abolished
NC	Edgecombe County	30	\$24,817.81	\$827.26
NC	Nash County	655	\$956,170.39	\$1,459.80
NC	Wilson County	226	\$212,464.23	\$940.11
Total		911	\$1,193,452.43	\$1,310.05

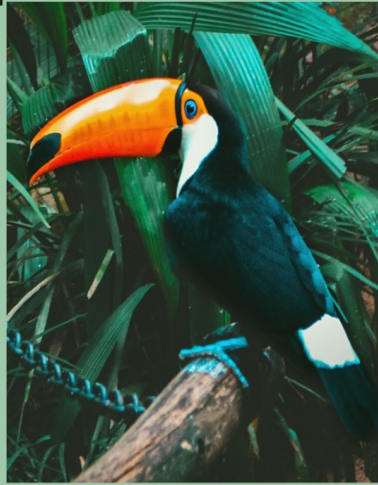
On March 26 and April 30, we hosted joint worship services with our area PC(USA) sister congregations to draw attention to RIP Medical Debt—a national nonprofit whose purpose is to strengthen communities by abolishing financially burdensome medical debt. Every \$100 donated relieves \$10,000 in medical debt! The offerings collected by our joint efforts helped erase \$1,193,452.43 in medical debt while aiding 911 recipients! Thank you!

ways to 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.



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



1st "Two-Can" delivery to UCM!



2nd "Two-Can" delivery to UCM!



Our community sustained an unexpected and devastating tornado on July 19, 2023 which left a trail of destruction across our two-county region of Nash and Edgecombe in northeastern North Carolina. To help those affected by this tornado, please support this fund that will assist our community members in recovering and rebuilding.

Priority Areas:

- **Debris & Residential Clean up Support:**

Large trees are down, much vegetation and other debris (roofs, wood, pieces of housing, etc.) are scattered around our community. We will respond with funds to help with clean up and proper disposal of these items.

- **Supporting Financial & Basic Needs:**

Funds will help affected citizens have, at minimum, their basic needs met. This could include helping with lost items such as food, clothing, home goods/appliances, etc.

- **Housing Supports-Short-term & Long-Term and House Repairs:**

Funds will help individuals have both their short-term and long-term housing needs met. It will also help with necessary house repairs and rebuilds.

If you would like to donate via check, please make payable to
 United Way Tar River Region with memo: Tornado Fund
 United Way Tar River Region
 2501 Sunset Avenue
 Rocky Mount, NC 27804

For online donations, go to:
<https://www.unitedwaytrr.org/tornadofund>



Volunteers are needed for each Mobile Market location. If you are interested and available, please contact Mike Avery at mike@riper revival.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—look right for donation ideas for the cart!



**We're now
 accepting
 donations
 for the
 cooking
 cart!**

We are accepting

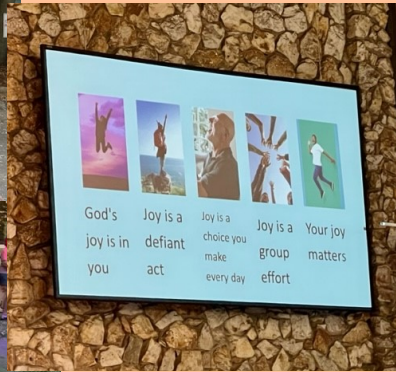
- Blenders and waffle makers
- Spatulas, tongs, whisks, and spoons
- Knives and cutting boards
- Mixing bowls, measuring cups/spoons
- Platters, bowls, and serving utensils

Ripe for Revival 501(c)(3) is a non-profit organization. All in-kind donations are tax deductible.

In·Joy

2023 MONTREAT YOUTH CONFERENCE

July 16-22, 2023





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
August 6	Dee Whitley, Sylvia Phillips, Diane Dixon, Andy Warner	Matt Baker
August 13	Joe Brown, Julia Brown, Sam Brown, Tom Steed	Matt Baker
August 20	Tricia Vestal, Jep Rose, Anne Mosley, Meredith Cooper	Matt Baker
August 27	Tommy Honey, Kate Honey, Mike Gaynor, Winnie Gaynor	Matt Baker



*At right is the
time line for
our
summer
sermon series*

TIMELINE



Presbyterian Women Update

Enjoying the lazy days of summer and working towards opportunities to widen our paths in the upcoming months. Let's start by sharing our resources, gifts, and time. Consider inviting others to join activities you enjoy and supporting the efforts of others as well. Think about what you can add to your faith that might be a blessing to the church and yourself.

Here's what's happening

- The PWCT and Circle will resume regular meetings in September
- The Fall Kickoff will follow the September Circle (9/12) - details to follow
- The new study books are available (\$11) and can be found in the History Room
- Please continue to support the "Two-Can Project"

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*

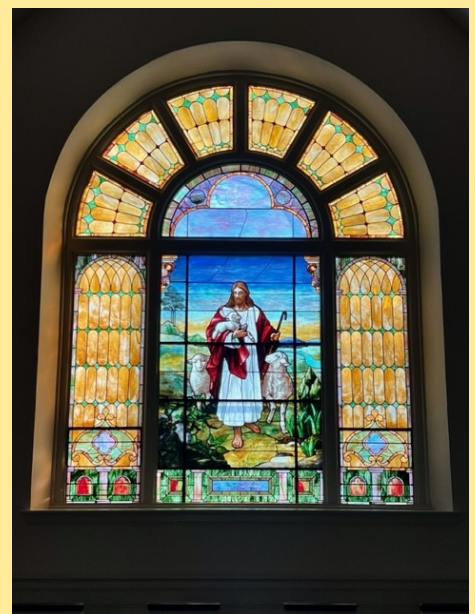
Laura Durham, *Spiritual Nurture*

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

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



We are thrilled with the return of the beautifully restored Shepherd stained glass window to the sanctuary that took place the week of July 10!





*For their
tireless
support
of our ministry, we dedicate
Gatekeepers Workcamp
2023
in loving memory of
Brenda Cotton
&
Diggs Wimberley.*

TRANSFORMED



*"And I will give you a new heart and put a new
spirit in you. I will take away your stubborn heart
and give you a heart that is tender and open."
Ezekiel 36:26*

GATEKEEPERS WORKCAMP 2023



Gatekeepers Work Week

July 10-14, 2023

Thank you to our FPC volunteers: Adult—Laura Durham, Youth- Elly Mae Baker, Mary Powell Chesnutt, Thomas Honey, Jack Powers, Ward Rose



Keeping in touch...

FOLLOW
US!

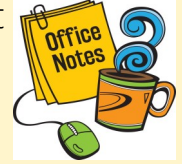


First Presbyterian Rocky Mount



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.



Linda Amerson came to see me yesterday and she brought just what I needed! I now have beautiful flowers dressing up my den! They make me happy. Thank you FPC for making this happen!

Bobbi Weeks

Terri and I just wanted to let FPC know that it was so nice for the church to remember Amelia upon her graduation. The study Bible is really very nice and Amelia seemed touched by the gesture. It is definitely something she will enjoy.

*Our best to you and all at FPC,
Lewis & Terri Lamar*



"Because he works from home. That's why we never see God in person."

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.



The love and sympathy of the congregation is extended to Meredith, Pell and Marelle Cooper upon the passing of Meredith's mother, Phyllis Garriss, of Raleigh, NC on July 16, 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

BREKENRIDGE—Rocky Mount

► Genevieve Batchelor

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)

Earl Goodwin

Sonny Foster

Beth High

Jeong Jin

Sandra Luther

Char Mather

Georgia Mixon

Phyllis Parker

Jack Perry

Evelyn Reese

Edie Reeves

Elizabeth Rose

Maida Sessoms

Phyllis Toler

Bobbi Weeks

Susan Yenney

SUMMER FUN, FOOD, AND FELLOWSHIP AUGUST

August 2: Lunch at Something Different in Wilson (11:30am); Board church van at 11am. RSVP by Sunday, July 30 to Sarah Bailey at

August 9: Lunch at Parker's in Wilson (11:30am); Board church van at 11am; CASH ONLY; RSVP by Friday, August 4 to Sarah at

August 16: Church covered-dish lunch (noon) in the Fellowship Hall BRING A BINGO PRIZE FOR BINGO

August 24: (Thursday event) Dinner out at Deadwood in Williamston (5pm); Board church van at 4pm; RSVP to Kay Wester by Sunday, August 20 at

August 30: Popcorn and movie at FPC Fellowship Hall (3-5pm); maybe dinner out after!

July 12th Fellowship meal at Pizza Inn & celebrating Sue Jackson's birthday!



LEMONADE ON THE LAWN
• EACH SUNDAY •
FOLLOWING WORSHIP

DEACON HELPERS:
AUGUST 6: MARTHA TESORO
AUGUST 13: LISA ROWE
AUGUST 20: JAMI SNOW
AUGUST 27: MEREDITH COOPER
SEPTEMBER 3: BOBBI WEEKS