



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Rocky Mount

First Pres News

September 2023

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



Dear Friends,

I can't believe it's already September! Things around the church are springing back to life after the summer lull. We're getting Kiddos in the Kirk lined up, resuming Wednesday night choir and bell choir, preparing for Rally Day, preparing for stewardship season in October, planning youth events, and much more. We hope to see you at several of these wonderful opportunities and events.

Hannah returns to the office on September 5th and will help lead worship on Rally Day and thereafter. I am so pleased that our church afforded her the opportunity to be away and tend to Cal. It'll be great to have Hannah back around the office and out in the community as a representative of FPC. She's been missed.

I'd also like to welcome Zac Phelps to the staff. Zac is our Intern for Youth and Technology this school year. He is an ECU student who plans to attend seminary after graduation. Zac will help us with youth programming and planning as well as the live stream of our Sunday worship services. We are so grateful that he will be sharing his skills and experience with us this year.

Faithful members, elders, deacons, pastors, and staff have been keeping our flock in prayer this summer. There have been several surgeries, diagnoses, and recoveries. We are commanded to pray without ceasing. Please keep your church family in prayer as we reconnect with one another this month. Prayer makes a world of difference to our walk with the Lord.

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

Intern for Youth & Technology: Zac Phelps

News From Your Community Pastor

Rev. Hannah Trawick is currently out on maternity leave and we look forward to her return the week of September 5th!

Welcome Back



Hannah and Cal dropped by the August 23rd Staff Meeting to say hello!



Welcome to Zac Phelps!

Intern for Youth and Technology

We are pleased to welcome Zac Phelps to First Presbyterian as our new Intern for Youth and Technology. Zac will be assisting our pastors with youth planning & activities for the coming year as well as handling our livestream process during Sunday worship.

Zac is currently studying in the College of Business at ECU and plans to attend seminary after graduating. He has over three years of experience in Youth Ministry between working at his home church of St. Andrews Covenant Presbyterian Church in Wilmington, NC and at Myers Park Presbyterian Church in Charlotte, NC. Some of his favorite things are sports, music, traveling and Montreat.

MAKES CENTS

As the summer is winding down, we are grateful for the congregation support year-round.

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 2023

Month – to – date	\$ 35,779.00
Year – to – date	\$ 407,345.11

Expenses through July 2023

Month – to – date	\$ 48,053.17
Year – to – date	\$ 370,180.47



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



DEACONS
 September 12, 2023
 5:30pm

SESSION
 September 19, 2023
 5:30pm



Happy Labor Day

**The church office
 will be closed
 Monday, September 4.**

serving our neighbors!



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.

VOLUNTEER DRIVER PROGRAM

Do you have a desire to give back to your community?

The Mobile Market program is seeking
volunteer drivers!

3-5 hours week.

Program training and support provided.



Contact Mike Avery at mike@riper revival.com to learn more!



First Presbyterian Church of Rocky Mount wishes to extend congratulations to Dan Crocker as he turned over the reins as Chairman of the NC Wesleyan's Board of Trustees this past June. Our church is incredibly grateful for Dan and Brenda's commitment to NC Wesleyan University and throughout Rocky Mount.



Rock the Mount Event
August 15, 2023
Goody bags were
distributed to new
students!



As it nears time to do our civic duty by electing representatives and voting on other measures, note that a photo identification will be required. Please visit NCSBE.gov/voter-id for more information.

PICNIC FOR PEACEMAKERS



*Join us for an incredible evening of
celebration and hope!*

October 5, 2023 • 6:30 PM

@ Englewood Baptist Church

NEW DINNER CATERER:

Prime Barbeque of Knightdale

Casual Dress • Doors open at 6:00pm

Call for table and event sponsorships @ 252.212.5044

Presbyterian Women Update

Presbyterian Women is more than just a meeting....Presbyterian Women are **BOLD!**

Bible study..... with award-winning material
Organized..... from the heart of the local church
Leaderswho are critical to the life of the church
Denominationaland committed to mission

Join the Presbyterian Women — the **BOLD** organization that learns, gives, leads and supports the church and the world! You can start by attending our Bible study. Please join us this month when we introduce the 2023-2024 PW/Horizon Bible study: Sacred Encounters - The Power and Presence of Jesus Christ in Luke-Acts.

Mark your calendars.....

- The PWCT meets Monday, September 11th in the History Room at 10:30.
- The PW Fall Kickoff and Circle Meeting is Tuesday, September 12th.
The Circle meets at 10:30 in the Session Room & lunch will be served afterwards.
Look for details in newsletter.



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*

3rd "Two-Can" delivery to UCM!





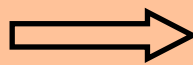
PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN FALL KICKOFF

Tuesday, September 12, 2023
10:30am
Session Room

RSVP by September 6th to
your circle leader.

Brief meeting & Bible Study
followed by a boxed lunch
and a fun time together!

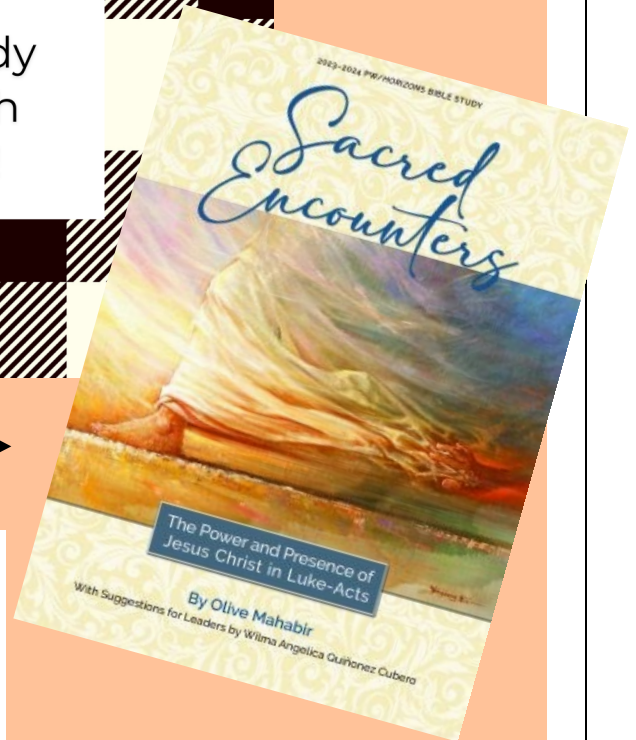
2023-24
PW Bible Study



PW of the Presbytery Update:

*Hooray, we are back to three PWP Fall Gatherings!
You are welcome to attend any or all gatherings, whether in your
own area or not; or which ever date and place fits your busy
schedule.*

September 16: areas 7, 8, & 9 will be at Greenville, First.
October 14: areas 4, 5, & 6 will be at Spring Hill, Lucama (we are
area 6)
October 21: areas 1, 2, & 3 will be at Covenant, Durham.





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 3	John Etheredge, Tricia Vestal, Linda Amerson, Ike Amerson	Matt Baker
September 10	Joe Brewer, Virginia Brewer, Dillon Rose, Wicky Thorpe	Matt Baker
September 17	Sally Adams, Randy Adams, Randy Evans, Linda Evans	Hannah Trawick
September 24	Ben Roberson, Valerie Roberson, Bridget Hathaway, Lige Daughtridge	Hannah Trawick

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

LOOKING FOR CHOIR MEMBERS

If you have a passion for singing or hand bells, or both, join us!

- CHANCEL CHOIR MEETS WEDNESDAYS AT 7:30PM
- HAND BELL CHOIR MEETS WEDNESDAYS AT 6:40PM STARTING SEPTEMBER 13



FALL Concert

Rocky Mount Chamber Choir
Sunday, September 24, 2023
4:00PM

First Presbyterian Church - Rocky Mount

The Rocky Mount Chamber Choir will present their Fall concert of sacred and secular selections in our sanctuary at 4:00 on Sunday afternoon, September 24th. The concert is free and open to the public. More than half of the group's 25 singers are active or recently retired teachers in the Rocky Mount, Nash County, and Wilson school systems, where many of them teach or taught music.

Sundays and Beyond

You are invited to join these activities to feed your soul!

PEP Sunday School (Adults): Sundays at 9:45am (Church parlor)

Brown Bag Bible Study: Mondays at noon (Session room) with Matt Baker

Tuesdays@2:00: Weekly mindfulness gathering via Zoom; Contact Dionne Seale in the church office to sign up

Wednesday Night Covered Dish Meal & Program: Resumes Sept. 6 at 6:00pm with a meal in the fellowship hall followed by a program at 6:45pm in the Session room.

Chancel Choir: Wednesdays at 7:30pm (Choir room)

Heretics Small Group: Sept. 7 at 5:30pm (Koi Pond) with Matt Baker

PW Circle of Joyful Friends: September 12 at 10:30am (Session Room)

Hand Bell Choir: resumes Sept. 13 at 6:40pm

Sip & Chat Ladies Small Group: Sept. 14 at 5:30pm (home of Elizabeth Rose); contact Hannah Trawick to sign up

Kiddos in the Kirk (Kids 5th grade & younger): September 18; 3:30-5pm; time of fellowship and fun with the pastors

Men's Breakfast Fellowship: September 21 at 7:30am (Hardee's on Sunset)

Youth Group (Youth 6th-12th grade): Casual Drop-in Pizza Fellowship on September 17 at 5:30pm (Topsy Tomato); Youth Group Kick-off September 24 (Time TBA-More info to come!)

Keeping in touch...

FOLLOW
US!

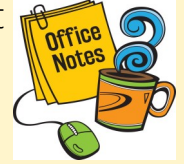


First Presbyterian Rocky Mount



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.



On behalf of the Circle of Joyful Friends, we would like to thank the Presbyterian Women's Coordinating Team, Presbyterian Women, and our congregation for all the contributions to the "Two Can Sunday Project." Four deliveries were made to the United Community Ministries. The director and residents were delighted and appreciative of your generosity. Thank you!

*In Christ,
The Circle of Joyful Friends*

Lunch and Bingo!
August 16, 2023



Fellowship outing to Deadwood in Williamston
August 24, 2023

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 the family of Miley "Mike" Braswell who passed away on August 26, 2023.



our thoughts and prayers are with...

THE JANE—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

▶ 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

Beth High

Jeong Jin

Sandra Luther

Char Mather

Georgia Mixon

Phyllis Parker

Jack Perry

John Perry

Evelyn Reese

Edie Reeves

Elizabeth Rose

Maida Sessoms

Phyllis Toler

Bobbi Weeks

Susan Yenney



GET READY FOR FOOD, FUN & FELLOWSHIP!

RALLY DAY AT THE FARM

Bring your appetites & a chair to the
Barnhill Farm on Sunday, September 10, 2023
The Barnhill Farm is located at 1455 Gay Road in
Rocky Mount, NC

4:30pm Games and Fellowship
5:30pm Dinner served (Pig Pickin' & Fixings)

**IF YOU DID NOT RSVP BY AUGUST 31ST,
PLEASE NOTIFY THE CHURCH OFFICE AT
EITHER 252.446.9121, OPTION 2 OR EMAIL
DIONNE.SEALE@FPCRM.ORG ASAP!**

If riding the church van—we will have two departure times—one at 4:15pm and one at 5:00pm; meet behind the church near the kitchen entrance.

Directions to the Barnhill Farm (1455 Gay Road)

From Rocky Mount: Take Exit 472 from Hwy 64 Bypass. Turn left and travel east on 64 Alt. 1.6 miles. Turn left on Gay Road. Continue .9 of a mile. The entrance will be on the right, marked by stone columns.