



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Rocky Mount

First Pres News

November 2023

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

Dear Church,

When I came to you fresh out of seminary and in the middle of a global pandemic, you welcomed me with open arms. Some of you set up a tent in my front yard, and the rest of you came by my house to meet Jake and me and offer gifts for our pantry—the old southern tradition of “Pounding your Pastor” (like a pound of flour, a pound of sugar, etc.). I held office hours at Books and Beans and met you in the safety of the open air in the middle of the August heat. My first Sunday was recorded in the sanctuary where I preached only to Matt and a camera and you worshiped from home with a recorded service. On Rally Day that year, I met you all for my first in-person worship service on the front lawn of the church. We had a pre-packaged breakfast and released butterflies to the sounds of the bagpipe from folding chairs.

Not going to lie, it was a weird start to ministry. And I know it was weird for you too. None of us knew what to do with the pandemic nor what the next day would hold. It was a tiring time for us all, but we persevered, and my next years with you were filled with much joy and connection as we worked to reengage as a community. We resumed youth trips to Montreat and the ski slopes, we started small groups like Sip & Chat and Heretics. We planned Evensong services and service projects and trips around the community to listen and pray. We gathered for pancake dinners and March Madness parties, met in living rooms and coffee shops, breweries and fellowship halls. My hope has been that with every step, we become more and more a place of intentional belonging.

In 1 Corinthians, Paul writes “I planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the growth.” In my time with you I have done my best to sew seeds of care and connection, engagement and service throughout our shared life as a church. It is now time for another to come in and water those seeds with you, to tend them and help them become more than what they are now—or perhaps help them become something entirely different. But it is God that gives the growth—not your pastor. In each season of the church’s life and regardless of pastoral leadership, it is God’s vision that takes root and blooms. So in this time of transition that you enter, take comfort and trust that God is at work and that the seeds we’ve planted together these past 3-4 years have not fallen on bad soil.

In a relatively short amount of time, we’ve been through a lot. The world has changed drastically and the Church-at-large has too. You mean a lot to me, and I will miss you. I’m grateful for you and hopeful for your future—lean into hope, tell a good story of the church, and trust that God is growing the seeds of comfort, connection, service and care.

God knows what will bloom.

Peace,

Hannah



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



A transition team is being formed that is established by and who will report to our Session. The following people have been selected to serve on the transition team (two Elders, two Deacons and three members-at-large): Dan Crocker, Laura Durham, Jami Snow, Partha Daughtridge, Sylvia Phillips, Tom Steed and Katherine Fisher.

They will be voted upon at the upcoming November 5th Congregational Meeting. This team will ultimately be responsible for securing an interim pastor. We will continue to keep you updated on the Interim Search process via the monthly newsletter and/or weekly emails.

Their five basic functions are to:

1. Manage the transition process when a pastor departs
2. Facilitate a healthy ending to pastorate
3. Support the remaining staff
4. Develop a plan for the search for Interim/Transitional Pastor
5. Communication with Congregation as to how transition is being managed.

**DON'T
FORGET
TO FALL
BACK.**

DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME
ENDS NOV. 5TH SO BE
SURE TO ADJUST YOUR
CLOCKS BEFORE
GOING TO BED ON THE 4TH!



To all who served,



**WE ARE
THANKFUL
FOR YOUR
SERVICE**

Happy Veterans Day
November 11th

**The church office will be closed
on Thursday, November 9.**

MAKES CENTS

Pledges and Loose Offering through September, 2023

Month – to – date \$ 16,341.45

Year – to – date \$ 454,251.59

Expenses through September, 2023

Month – to – date \$ 50,207.70

Year – to – date \$ 483,344.28



The third quarter contributions statements were mailed in mid-October to those members with a pledge. Another statement will be sent in early December as an update. Please contact Jeanne if you need an update on your pledge balance.

Stewardship season is here! Each pledge is a blessing to the church as we seek to be faithful stewards of the resources God has entrusted to us. First Presbyterian Church offers the below options for making your contribution:

Sale of stock – The stock sale process should begin in early November to allow time for the process (2 weeks from initial trade date to receiving the check) and to make the 12/31 deadline due to holidays. Schwab online does not include the church member name in the trade details. If using this method, please contact Jeanne Shannon with the details or ask your broker contact Jeanne in the church office.

Bank draft – This is a safe and steady way to consistently support First Presbyterian Church. It can be selected on your pledge card and attaching a voided check. The monthly bank draft occurs on the 25th of each month. If the 25th falls on a weekend or holiday, it is drafted on the next business day. If you currently have a bank draft and want to continue, this can be indicated on your pledge card. The draft for your 2023 contribution would begin January 25th 2023. If you choose the bank draft, you can also stop it by contacting Jeanne Shannon in the church office 2 weeks before the 25th of any month.

Envelopes – these can be ordered by marking this option on your pledge card

Loose checks in the Sunday collection or checks placed in Jeanne Shannon's mailbox - All checks will be applied to your pledge unless indicated otherwise in the 'memo' line.

Online giving – Sow the seeds for the future with online giving today! This is an easy and convenient way to give your tithes using a debit or credit card or electronic funds transfer. The service through PayPal is easily accessed through the church website. You can rest easy knowing that the transaction is safe and secure, and your gift will be available to our ministry immediately, with no waiting periods. Visit www.fpcrm.org using the 'Online Payment' link in the top right corner to see for yourself how easy it is to give online.

Questions? Please use the below to contact Jeanne:

Church office phone: 252.446.9121, option 5 for Jeanne

Jeanne's email: jeanne.shannon@fpcrm.org

Jeanne's office hours are Monday thru Thursday from 8:30-2:30



Upcoming dates!

- Sunday, November 5: Youth Group—upstairs in the youth suite; 5:30-7pm
- Sunday, November 12: Pack Thanksgiving meal bags for Tar River Academy families—at Daughtridge Sales Co. warehouse (600 S. Grace St. & enter on Nance St. side inside the gate) from 5:30-6:30pm & a meal will be served prior to packing the bags
- Sunday, November 19: Youth Group—upstairs in the youth suite; 5:30-7pm



KIDDOS IN THE KIRK

A time for kids 5th grade and younger to gather at the church, enjoy a snack, music with Mrs. Crocker, a bible story and FUN!

*November 6 and 20
3:30-5:00*

Contact Dionne Seale if any questions!

serving our neighbors!



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.

ripe revival VOLUNTEERS NEEDED



We are looking for volunteers for the Mobile Market program!
No experience needed.

SCAN THE QR CODE TO SIGN-UP

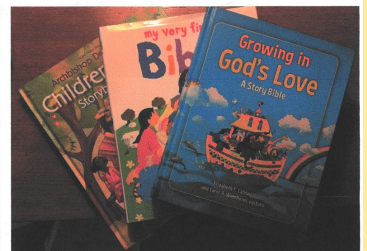
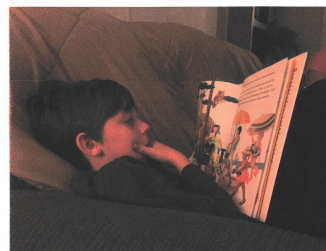
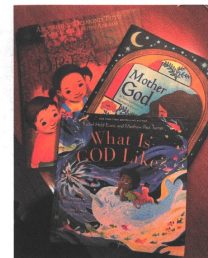
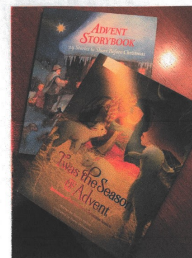


QUESTIONS?

ANNE PARKER CHAMBLESS
ANNEPARKER@RIPEREVIVAL.COM

Ripe for Revival 501(c)(3) is a non-profit organization.

Below, an invitation from Camp Albemarle to attend a special Service of Thanksgiving in honor of their 70th Anniversary.



Morton Presbyterian Church 2023 Young Disciples Book Fair



Sharing books nurtures faith!
Dates: November 6-19, 2023

Look through lists of books that nurture children's spirituality and general reading lists according to reading level, or search for books, with more than 200,000 titles available. Morton Church will receive 25% of every book purchased. Thank you for supporting our ministries with children and youth in the church and community!

Online at www.bookfair.org/morton-presbyterian-church

PEACEMAKERS CHRISTMAS TOY STORE



Lists of suggested toys grouped by ages can be found in the narthex or the sitting area outside of the church office!

A DIFFERENT APPROACH TO CHRISTMAS GIVING
BRING YOUR NEW, UNWRAPPED TOY TO
FPC BY NOV. 27!



The Fall Gathering of Presbyterian Women for Areas 4,5, and 6 met Saturday, October 14th at Spring Hill Presbyterian Church in Lucama. Moderator Roxann Porter called the meeting to order. Janice Smith (above), Parliamentarian, introduced speaker Brenda Brown who then introduced our Bible study, Sacred Encounters for 2023-24.

Below, the Circle of Joyful Friends collected school uniforms for Southside Academy as their October project.



Presbyterian Women Update

From pumpkin-spiced-everything to falling leaves and the start of the holiday season, there is much to love about autumn. Fall is about change and the oh-so-familiar all at the same time. Whatever the season stirs in you, it is our hope that this season fills your heart with gratitude for the many blessings in your life. Now more than ever, thank you for all that you are doing to engage within the life of our church.

And on that note, thanks to all who responded to the Presbyterian Women's annual contribution letter. Your support is greatly appreciated!

For their first project, the Circle supported a uniform drive for Southside Academy. In addition, the Circle supported My Sister's House with cleaning supplies. Monetary contributions were made by the PWCT to Communities in Schools, Southside Academy, and Tar River Academy.

Upcoming events:

The Thank Offering will be promoted to Circle on 11/14 & to the Congregation on 11/19. The Toy Drive for Peacemakers starts NOW- look for donation box near office

- **PWCT** will meet Monday Nov 6th at 10:30 in History Room
- **Circle of Joyful Friends** will meet Nov 14th at 10:30 in Session Room; Lessons 2 & 3 with Mary Lou Fountain

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN COORDINATING TEAM 2023-24

Nancy Richardson, Co-Moderator

Stephanie Hayworth, Co-Moderator

Gaye Moore, *Secretary*

Sarah Gooding, *Historian*

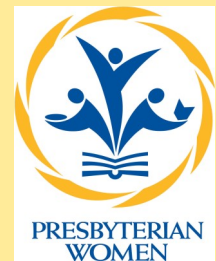
Laura Dudley, *Together in Service*

Julia Brown, *Treasurer*

Laura Durham, *Spiritual Nurture*

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

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



Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in the one body. And be thankful.

Colossians 3:14-15

Thank you for your prayers, your love and support of Presbyterian Women. We hope you are able to give generously as we collect the Thank Offering during worship on November 19, 2023 or send in a check made payable to Presbyterian Women (Memo line: Thank Offering).



Serving each other!

Lunch Bunch is back!

ALL ARE WELCOME FOR GOOD FOOD
AND FELLOWSHIP IN THE CHURCH PARLOR!

NOON ON MONDAY, NOVEMBER 13, 2023

So we can prepare enough food, please notify the
church office by November 8th if able to come.
A love offering will be collected to assist with meal expenses.

Save the date!

IN-BETWEENS

*Christmas
party!*

TUESDAY

5

AT 5:00 PM

DECEMBER

TAVERN 19 - BELMONT LAKE GOLF
CLUB

MORE DETAILS TO COME!

PLEASE JOIN US FOR A PRIVATE WINE TASTING

Sarah Hicks, wine
enthusiast, is putting
together a wine tasting
exclusively for First
Presbyterian members

BIN & BARREL
WEDNESDAY,
NOVEMBER 1, 2023
5:30-7:30

\$20 per person

Please send your money to reserve
your spot by October 27 to:





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
November 5 <i>Dedication Sunday/ Congregational Meeting</i>	Dee Whitley, Sylvia Phillips, Diane Dixon, Andy Warner	Hannah Trawick
November 12 <i>Reception after worship</i>	Joe Brown, Julia Brown, Sam Brown, Tom Steed	Hannah Trawick
November 19 <i>PW Thank Offering</i>	Jean Kitchin, Jep Rose, Anne Mosley, Meredith Cooper	TBD
November 26 <i>Communion</i>	Tommy Honey, Kate Honey, Mike Gaynor, Winnie Gaynor	TBD

Join us for another special round of
presentations about the stained glass at
First Presbyterian!

Schedule Nov 5 and 19

10:00am and 12:15pm:

Live Presentations and Q/A in the Fellowship Hall

Presentations will be posted on the Church

YouTube channel (Links will be sent out)

Printed book will be available to order

Nov 5

Memorial Light Boxes - Learn how 4 windows from the 1907 church were restored, fabricated into memorial light boxes, and installed in the Narthex and Thorpe Chapel.

Nov 19 (New Date!)

Restoration of the Good Shepherd Window - Watch the restoration of the Good Shepherd window after having been on display in the same place in the church for 114 years!



The earth

is the Lord's

and all that is in it.

Psalm 24:1

STEWARDSHIP UPDATE:

**2024 PLEDGE PACKETS HAVE BEEN
MAILED OUT - PLEASE CONTACT
JEANNE SHANNON IF YOU DID NOT
RECEIVE ONE - EXTRAS ARE AVAILABLE
AT THE CHURCH. DEDICATION SUNDAY
IS NOVEMBER 5, 2023**

First Presbyterian Church
Class of 2026
Welcome to our newly elected Officers!

Elders



Rob Barnhill



Diane Dixon



Richard Hunt

Deacons



Ann Dill



Anne Kinnaird



Ben Roberson



COMMUNITY PARTNERS

November 6 at 1:00pm

DEACONS

November 7, 2023 at 5:30pm

ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE

November 14, 2023 at 8:30am

SESSION

November 14, 2023 at 5:30pm

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

November 16, 2023 at 4:00pm

Congregational Meeting

The Session has called a Congregational Meeting to be held at the end of worship on Sunday, November 5, 2023 for the purpose of 1) dissolution of call for Rev. Hannah Trawick and 2) election of a transition team

Keeping in touch...

FOLLOW
US!

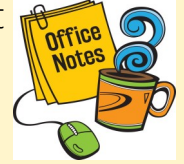


First Presbyterian Rocky Mount



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.



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Dear Barnhill Family and First Presbyterian Church,

I wanted to thank you for inviting me to your church event at your beautiful property and for the hospitality you all have shown towards me. I really enjoyed being a part of your community.

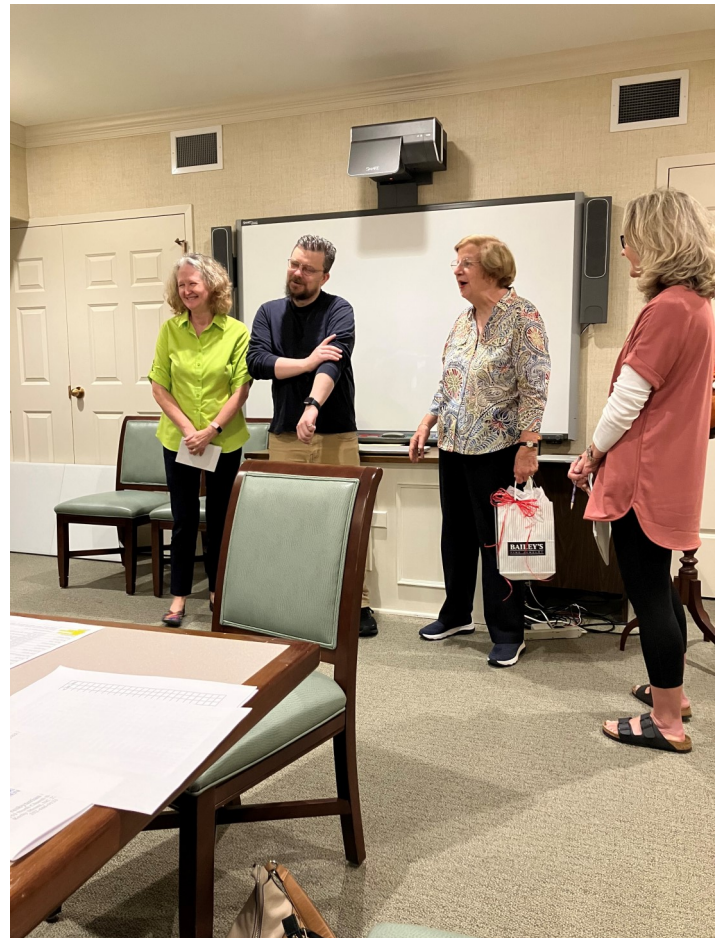
*Thank you and kind regards,
Louis from Germany*

(son of former exchange student that lived with Pell & Sonny Foster)

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.



Above, the Circle of Joyful Friends showed our appreciation to Matt for the many things he did for us!



HONOR SOMEONE WITH A POINSETTIA

WE DECORATE OUR SANCTUARY BEGINNING DECEMBER 3 WITH BEAUTIFUL POINSETTIAS WHICH ARE MADE AVAILABLE BY YOUR DONATIONS TO HONOR AND REMEMBER SPECIAL FRIENDS/LOVED ONES. DONATION ENVELOPES WILL BE AVAILABLE IN THE NARTHEX OR CHURCH OFFICE BEGINNING NOVEMBER 12. A DONATION OF \$20 PER POINSETTIA IS APPRECIATED. ENVELOPES ARE DUE BY DECEMBER 15 AND CAN EITHER BE PLACED IN THE OFFERING PLATE ON SUNDAYS OR RETURNED TO DIONNE SEALE IN THE CHURCH OFFICE. A SPECIAL BULLETIN REMEMBERS THE HONOREES ON CHRISTMAS EVE.



- *Our love and sympathy is extended to the family of Tom Dill upon his passing on September 29, 2023.*
- *Our love and sympathy is also extended to Janice Smith upon the death of her sister, Geraldine Donnell on Oct. 23, 2023 in Thomasville, NC.*



Our thoughts and prayers are with...

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



JOIN US AS WE HONOR REV. HANNAH TRAWICK

ON HER LAST DAY AT FIRST PRESBYTERIAN

NOVEMBER 12, 2023

A RECEPTION WILL BE HELD AFTER
WORSHIP EITHER IN THE
COURTYARD
(WEATHER PERMITTING) OR
FELLOWSHIP HALL IF NEEDED.



Glimpses of life at
FPC in the past
month...



Above, FPC volunteers at the Presbytery
of New Hope Older Adult Award Service
on October 1, 2023



Above, Kiddos in the Kirk singing with Mrs.
Crocker on October 2, 2023



Stewardship Sunday
Luncheon on
October 8, 2023



Cider Sendoff for Matt Baker & family
on October 22, 2023

