



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Rocky Mount

First Pres News

May 2024

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

The Merry Month of May!

I remember a Broadway musical named Camelot – a fantasy period piece about the time of King Arthur and his knights. Arthur was effectively, a wimp. Wondering whether his subjects loved him, how stern a leader he could be, and whether he could weather the battles, if or when they came, saving the kingdom. His fiancée, Guenevere, much the stronger personality puts up with him right up until she falls in love with his favorite knight, Lancelot. Among the famous songs are *I Wonder What the King is Doing Tonight?*, a thought process by the king, wondering if his subjects are wondering what he is doing! Others include the famous *Camelot*, and in particular *The Lusty Month of May*—a tongue-in-cheek song about the common folk. In high schools around the country, of course the song was retitled (and re-worded) to fit both the cast and their parents, who largely comprised the audience!

This became the mantra that surrounded John Kennedy's Presidency—news articles regularly referred to it as Camelot, and there was an aura that only grew after his assassination. But I often thought that if people really took time to learn the story line of the actual musical, they'd seek another mantra for the Kennedy administration.

Well here we are, folks in May, and what a jam-packed series of things that lie before us: we lead off with Youth Sunday – a great event – be sure to be here. Followed by Mother's Day, when we celebrate the joys and wonders of those who bore us, raised us, and carried us through life's little missteps. The next Sunday is Pentecost, where we'll celebrate the coming of the Holy Spirit and the birthday of the church. The last Sunday is Memorial Day and we'll have a guest preacher that day as I'll be off. This is not to say there aren't lots of other things going on—wrapping up the CAT, getting a reading on it, and lots of other activities in this vibrant, energetic church!

It will be a jam-packed and merry month of May!

Grace and peace,

John

Transitional Pastor: John Winings, CRE, ACC

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

Youth Director: Zac Phelps

May 5, 2024
at 11:00 AM

Youth Sunday



Youth Sunday will on May 5th followed by lunch for youth and their families immediately following worship in the fellowship hall. Parents should email Zac to RSVP the amount of people they will have from their family at lunch.

DONATE TODAY

FREEDOM SCHOOL SNACK DRIVE

**APPROXIMATELY 7,000 SNACKS
NEEDED FOR SUMMER 2024**

Peacemakers is asking for donations of 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



During May, the Community Partners Committee and Presbyterian Women are collecting snacks for the Peacemakers Freedom School. Items can be brought to the boxes in the narthex or the volunteer office.

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN 

See you at Church

We will switch to a **10:00a.m.** service for the summer - starting Sunday, May 26, 2024.

153 N. Church Street
www.fpcrm.org

MAKES CENT\$

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, 2024

Month – to – date	\$ 23,589.00
Year – to – date	\$ 215,599.01



Expenses through March, 2023

Month – to – date	\$ 49,210.17
Year – to – date	\$ 144,823.56

We are grateful for your 2024 pledge!

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 PM.

May 2024

Officer Meetings

Now meeting on Mondays!

May
13
2024

Deacons Meeting
5:30pm

Session Meeting
5:30pm

May
20
2024

All meetings held in the Session Room.



Serving our neighbors ...



Jerry Edmonds of Building Shalom spoke to the congregation on April 14th. The church presented Building Shalom with a check returning all of the rent money that they had paid thus far to FPC in order to further their mission in our community. We are grateful for their work and presence here at First Pres!

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
 EMBODIES SPIRIT OF COMMUNITY
 SUPPORT THROUGH PARTNERSHIP
 WITH BUILDING SHALOM

twincountymedia.com

Bingo prizes collected by PW were delivered to Covenant Homes on April 9th! Thanks to all who contributed!



On April 7, Community Partners hosted a graduation dinner for 12 NCWU International students. It was a joyous occasion—a time for reflecting, sharing, laughing, and celebrating.

Congratulations to these outstanding graduates. Each student received a personalized graduation card, a Handcraft Ministry love blanket, and a North Carolina coffee mug.



and each other!

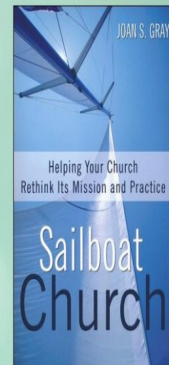


Sip & Chat

May 16, 2024
5:30PM

Larema Beverage Company
at Rocky Mount Mills

Contact Emily Watson at [redacted]
if you want to be added to the email list!



Join us on Wednesday nights for a covered dish meal at 6PM in the fellowship hall followed by a program at 6:45PM in the Session room.

We are discussing the book, Sailboat Church by Joan Gray, former moderator of the PCUSA.

The final Wednesday Night Meal and Program before breaking for the summer will be May 15, 2024.



Bible Study

Brown Bag Bible Study meets on Mondays at noon in the FPC Session Room with David Drumel. They will break for the summer starting May 27, 2024.

PEP Sunday School

The PEP Sunday School Class that meets in the parlor at 9:45 a.m. has begun a new study: "100 Things Every Child Should Know before Confirmation - A Guide for Parents and Youth Leaders". This is a "chapter" book, so we encourage people to come as they are able! Each week will be a new lesson and books are available in class. They will break for the summer starting May 26.

Tuesdays@2

Join us at 2:00pm via Zoom for a time of Christian reflection, mindfulness and meditation.

Contact Dionne Seale if interested in being added to the email list.



Presbyterian Women Update

Be cheerful with joyous celebration in every season of life. Let your joy overflow!
And let gentleness be seen in every relationship, for our Lord is ever near. Don't be
pulled in different directions or worried about a thing. Philippians 4:4-7

Let's Celebrate! Plan to attend the Birthday Celebration immediately following the upcoming circle meeting in the session room. The PWCT will host a luncheon, present the Birthday Offering, honor a member with the traditional PW Birthday Cake and most importantly.....celebrate each other! See the invitation in the newsletter below and weekly emails for details.

Circle News: The May project is to donate snacks to Peacemakers Freedom School. As the Circle completes the Bible study **Sacred Encounters**, we wish to thank everyone for participating - especially those who served as leaders.

PWCT will meet Monday, May 6th in History Room; 10:30 a.m.

Circle of Joyful Friends will meet Tuesday, May 14th in Session Room; 10:30 a.m. - Lesson 9

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 Birthday Celebration

Tuesday, May 14, 2024 in the
Session Room

Immediately following 10:30 AM
Circle Meeting; lunch will be
served; Birthday Offering will be
presented, and the PW Birthday
Cake will honor a special person!

RSVP to Circle Leaders



Blessings to share ...

2024 Presbyterian Honorary Life Membership Recognition for Chris Feno on April 7, 2024



It is with great joy that the PW of First Presbyterian Church-Rocky Mount honors one of our own with the Presbyterian Women Honorary Life Membership. This recognition honors the recipient's commitment to Christ and the mission of the Church.

Her service to this church has been exemplary including serving as an Elder—twice!, Sunday School teacher, choir member, Stephen Minister and Circle member. She participates in Wednesday Night Fellowship and In-Betweens. She delivers Meals on Wheels.

She holds a Masters degree in Social Work. Her career as a licensed clinical social worker and adult therapist with the Department of Social Services equipped her to serve on committees to lower domestic violence and develop patient assistance programs.

She studied at Union Theological Seminary in NY and Richmond and received her lay pastor degree. She has

stood in our pulpit and led vespers at the Albemarle in Tarboro.

She and her husband raised their son and daughter in this church and they are now proud grandparents of six granddaughters.

It is my privilege and joy to present this Honorary Life Membership to **Chris Feno**.

Submitted by Laura Durham



May 19, 2024
at 3:00 PM
at First
Presbyterian
Rocky Mount

Presbytery of New Hope Outstanding Older Adult Award Service



As announced during worship on April 21, 2024, Bobbie Lambeth has been selected as our church's nominee for the Outstanding Older Adult Award recognition for the Presbytery of New Hope. Bobbie will be recognized along with all the Presbytery nominees at the service held here on May 19, 2024 at 3:00 p.m.



The Senior High Youth have thoroughly enjoyed their monthly "Devo at Dunkin" with Sara Castellino throughout the year and on April 11th enjoyed a "baby" breakfast to celebrate her and her pending arrival. Thank you Sara for lovingly serving our youth!



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	Liturgist
May 5, 2024 <i>6th Sunday of Easter</i> <i>Youth Sunday</i>	John Feagans, Youth of FPC	Youth of FPC
May 12, 2024 <i>7th Sunday of Easter</i> <i>Mother's Day</i>	Ann Dill, Laura Dudley, David Dudley, Betsy McLean	Dee Whitley
May 19, 2024 <i>Day of Pentecost</i>	David Snow, Jami Snow, Gene Prince, Patty Prince	Anne Mosley
May 26, 2024 <i>Trinity Sunday</i>	Randy Evans, Linda Evans, Sylvia Phillips, Laura Durham	TBD

LEMONADE ON THE LAWN

We look forward to serving lemonade and cookies after worship starting May 12, 2024. Stay tuned for the list of servers!

ROCKY MOUNT CHAMBER CHOIR

Spring Concert

Sacred and Secular Works

Sunday, May 5, 2024 at 4:00 p.m.

First Presbyterian Church
153 N. Church Street
Rocky Mount, NC

Free Admission

WWW.ROCKYMOUNTCHAMBERCHOIR.COM

25th Anniversary Concert of the Tar River Swing Band

Preconcert video in the concert auditorium starting at 7:00pm - paying tribute to its founder, John Collins "J. C." Sykes and postconcert reception in the foyer of the Dunn Center featuring a "walk down memory lane" with JC Sykes & the Tar River Orchestra and Chorus.

MAY 14 | 7:30PM

**DUNN CENTER
NC WESLEYAN UNIVERSITY**



Mrs. Crocker makes singing and bell ringing fun at Kiddos in the Kirk on April 22! Stay tuned for kiddo opportunities from the Christian Education Committee during the summer months and thank you to all who volunteered!

Keeping in touch...

FOLLOW
US!

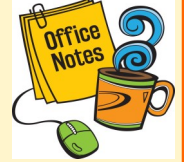


First Presbyterian Rocky Mount



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.



We are no longer including a link to the contact directory in the weekly emails due to privacy concerns with hackers, but if you would like a printed copy, please stop by the church office!

Thank you all so much for the flowers. I enjoyed them so much. So thoughtful of you.

*Love,
Bobbie Lambeth*

Thank you so much for the Easter Lily. It is beautiful and I am enjoying it so much. When it stops blooming I will plant it and hopefully enjoy it next year too.
Hannah Diedrick

*Dear First Prez Family,
Thank you so much for the delivery of the beautiful flowers after the passing of Andy's mother. Undine was an avid gardener and we know she would've enjoyed them. We feel so blessed to be members of such a warm and caring church.*

*Fondly,
Andy and Lynn Warner*

Thank you all so much for your support of my project. I was able to deliver even more care packages than I had hoped to the children at the UNC hospital. I always appreciate the encouragement of my church family!

*Love,
Mari Robin Tharin*

I am writing on behalf of DKG (Delta Kappa Gamma), Mu Chapter, to express our thanks to First Presbyterian Church for so graciously allowing us to use the church facilities for our chapter meetings. We greatly appreciate the generosity, and we have been impressed by the ease with which Diane Dixon, our member and church contact person, has facilitated access for us throughout the year. Our meetings will resume either in late August or early fall, and I imagine that Diane will coordinate our calendar with all the events scheduled at the church. We look forward to a continued partnership...the officers and members of Mu Chapter send their heartfelt thanks.

*Sincerely,
Ann H. Davis
Treasurer, Mu Chapter*

I'm enjoying the beautiful Easter Lily that was brought to me with love from the church. I also want to thank the Wednesday nighters for all the tasty food brought to me by Diane Dixon. It is always enjoyable and enough to last for 2 meals. I am still unable to go shopping so again I feel the love and compassion from First Presbyterian Church. Thank you all for your support, prayers and love you continue to send my way.

*Blessings to you all.
Bobbi Weeks*



THE 2024 SANCTUARY FLOWER CALENDAR IS NOW AVAILABLE IF YOU WANT TO EITHER SIGN UP WITH DIONNE IN THE CHURCH OFFICE OR VIA THE WEBSITE FOR A SUNDAY TO HONOR/REMEMBER SOMEONE AND SUPPORT THE FLOWER MINISTRY OF FPC.



To Janice Smith and family upon the passing of her brother, W.B. Bullock of Rocky Mount on April 24, 2024.

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.



*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

THE LANDING—Wilson

- ▶ Mary Watson

HARMONY OF FALLS RUN— Fredricksburg, VA

- ▶ Sue Jackson

ADDITIONAL MEMBER CONCERNS

Logan Barnes
LM Barnes
Tucker Carrier (U.S. Army)
Earl Goodwin
Jeong Jin
Sandra Luther
Georgia Mixon
Pat & Carol Patterson
Phyllis Parker
Jack Perry
John Perry
Evelyn Reese
Maida Sessoms
Judy & Preston Smith
Bobbi Weeks

In-Betweens Fellowship **DINNER**

Friday, May 17, 2024
5:00PM

**Home of
Tempie Fuller**

Please RSVP to Marie Kem (call or text)
Meat provided, please bring an appetizer, side dish
or dessert to share.



WEDNESDAY
MAY 22

*Ladies
Luncheon*

11:30 AM

HOME OF SYLVIA PHILLIPS;
ROCKY MOUNT; RESPOND
BY SUNDAY, MAY 19TH TO EITHER
; INVITE A
FRIEND AND BRING A COVERED DISH!
HOSTED BY DIANE DIXON, SYLVIA PHILLIPS AND
PATTY PRINCE

May 29
at 5PM

CHURCHWIDE SPRING PICNIC

RSVP to the church
office at 252-446-9121,
press 2 or
dionne.seale@fpcrm.org
by May 24!



Food, Fellowship and Fun

All ages are welcome!
Meet at the home of Dan and Brenda Crocker
and let's gather as a church family
before summer plans see us scatter! Fried chicken will
be provided so plan to bring a side dish or dessert to
share! There will be plenty of room for the kids to run
and play as well! Plan to eat at 5:30pm!

Thank you to Dan & Brenda Crocker for providing this bucolic setting!