



# NEWSLETTER

## FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Serving the Newton Conover Area since 1858

Partners with Iglesia El Redentor, Guatemala

[www.fpcnewton.org](http://www.fpcnewton.org)

December 2020

Dear friends,

I have been in the ministry a very long time – thirty-seven years last week since I was ordained. I have done it all, seen it all, as they say. Nothing surprises me any more.

Except this.

I can't stand the ways we have to do ministry now. You can't see anyone, visit anyone, go to the hospital when folks are in need. You can't have relaxed meetings. You have to wear a mask if you do anything. It is just hard, weird, and uncomfortable. No one ever said in seminary, "oh, by the way, if a pandemic should erupt, this is what you'll need to do." No one ever mentioned this in all my years of working in congregations and with Presbyteries.

Some will say, "why can't we open the church up? Other congregations are doing it!" Well, the answer is, we are trying to keep everyone safe. We did have outdoor worship for six months, and now it is getting colder. It is hard for the musicians to sing and play in the cold. It is Advent, and we want to do some different things with the decorations and the music, that require us to be inside, so that we can record them for you. Above all, we want to keep everyone safe, especially our musicians and worship leaders. We want to keep it safe, even though that is very hard to do.

Yes, other congregations are opening up. I can't answer for them, but it seems less than safe, less than responsible. I pray that they don't get the coronavirus. I pray that their worship doesn't turn into spreader events, making more people sick. Our county has enough virus around already!

So, what can we do? All I can think of is to continue trying to provide ways for you to connect with people from the congregation, and also feed yourself with scriptures and prayer. To that end, we have recorded worship services, which will be posted on the website each Sunday morning. I plan to record some Advent devotionals, beginning Monday, November 30th, for three to five minutes each day. I will post them on Facebook and the FPC website. I will probably post them on my blog as well. Perhaps.

We have two Sunday school classes meeting by Zoom. If you haven't done Zoom, it really is easy. You download software from Zoom.us on your computer, or phone, and then you can participate in the meetings. Want more information? Call or email the church office! We can give you the names of the leaders, and make sure you get on the invite list for next week's meeting. Thursday morning Bible Study is going the same way; if you want an invitation, email me.

Those things help, but they are a poor substitute for actual face-to-face in person contact! I pray that we can get back to that in a few months, as the vaccines are made available to everyone. I pray we can conquer this challenge. Above all, I pray that we don't get sick! Stay well!

David Roquemore

## News of the Church Family



### **Prayers for those with Recent Health Concerns**

*CHURCH MEMBERS:* Robin Miller, Nancy Beers, Rachel Eneix, Frances Ennis, Frankie Sigmon, Lee Cranford, Julie Jones, Ed Carmichael, Sondra Phillips, Joan Inscoe, Nancy Gargis, Ron Valentini, Jim Teubner, Paula Haissig, Janet Drum, Mike Induni, Judy Fulton, Susan Roquemore, Clayton Brooks, Ralph Dell, Keith & Penny Stuart, Frankie Terry, Mason Cappelletty, Gretchen Bost, Dee Ledbetter

*FRIENDS & FAMILY:* Pam Bruner, Denis Hedrick, Mike Waugh, Caitlan Reese, Lynne Watts, Maverick Steelmon, Elaine & Gordon Hall, Sabryah Alghrary, Andrew Major, Kerry Hicks, Jackie Hettrick, Ann Hunsucker, George McClellan, Rev. Dr. David McAlpin, family of Patrick Gouge, Magnani family, Nancy Davis-Rasmussen, Gary Brady, Jim & Linda Lutz, Thad Crump family, Chap & Ann Ragland, Emory (Mac) McDougal, Tim McDonald, Jennifer, Gordon & Maya Cappelletty

### **Prayers for those in Assisted Living/Homebound:**

*CHURCH MEMBERS:* Virginia Coley, Dennis DeBalso, Betty Epps, Betty Fieselman, Dee Ledbetter, Charlie Major, Allen Myers, Johnsie Abernethy, Jenny Miller

### **Prayers for those in Military:**

- John Hardin, U.S. Army, Ft. Sill, OK  
(Cindy Baldwin's nephew)
- LCDR William G. Bickel, Jr., U.S. Navy, Norfolk, VA  
(Bruce & Cathy Murdock's son-in-law)
- Captain Joshua Smith, U.S. Marines, Camp Lejeune, NC  
(Brenda Smith's son)
- Captain Christopher Walker, U.S. Army, Fort Knox, KY  
(Tammy Walker's son)
- Logan Lewis, U.S. Air Force, Naval Air Station, Pensacola, FL  
(Dana Williams' nephew)
- 1st LT. Ian Oliver, U.S. Army, Fort Bliss, TX  
(Mike & Amy Oliver's son)
- LTJG Max Morrill, U.S. Navy, Washington, DC  
(Joan Inscoe's grandson)

### **Prayers for Missionaries and International Faith Partners**

- Lawrence & Inge Sthresley in Congo;
- Gary & Marlene Van Brocklin in Sri Lanka;
- Our partners at *Faith Ministry* in Reynosa, Mexico;
- Rev. Dr. John McCall in Taiwan;

### **Prayers for El Redentor, our Sister Church in Guatemala:**

- For the well being of all members of our sister church
- For all scholarship students
- For Dayana Rodas, who is studying nursing with a university scholarship
- Give thanks for safe and healthy delivery of a baby girl to Karina
- For Ana Lucia, a young child who will have surgery for hip dysplasia



Dear Friends,

Thank you so much for all your TLC and prayers! You are truly wonderful!

Love, Janet Drum

### Worship Update

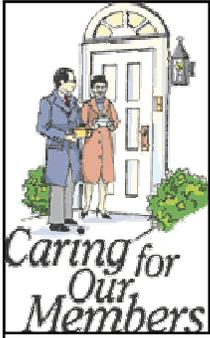
The Chrismon Tree is up and decorated for Advent and Christmas! Even though there will not be in-person services for the season due to the cold weather that is starting to settle in. We will continue to post our virtual service on the website and on the church Facebook page around 9:00 a.m. on Sunday mornings. The weekly announcement page will be on the website next to the online service Order of Worship.

There will be a recorded Lessons & Carols Service on Sunday, December 20th. And, on Christmas Eve, there will be a recorded Christmas Eve service at posted online at 4:00 p.m. with the Sacrament of Holy Communion. Please see the back page of this newsletter for December's worship schedule.



## Financial Stewardship Report

2020 Budget	554,000.00
Gifts/Tithes Budget through 10-31-2020	461,667.00
Gifts/Tithes Receipts through 10-31-2020	377,031.59



FPC Newton is blessed with an excellent and thorough program of congregational care. **The Care Team Ministry** is an active ministry and available to all members of our church family, in good times and bad. If you are facing particular challenges or difficulties, or you just feel like you need additional love and care, we are ready to care for you!

Care Team Members are:

<i>Sylvia Bajorek</i>	<i>Faye Morgan</i>
<i>Texie Doolittle</i>	<i>Sylvia Payne</i>
<i>Lottie Ethridge</i>	<i>Carole Roddy</i>
<i>Barb Forshey</i>	<i>Susan Roquemore</i>
<i>Robin McGraw</i>	<i>Penn Waldron</i>
<i>David Roquemore</i>	

**Tentatively - The next Care Team meeting will take place Tuesday, December 15th at 5:00 p.m. via Zoom**

The Care Team, though not meeting in person, has been active in prayer for all of you and your requests!

We've also been making phone calls on behalf of the church to make sure folks are okay! Even though we are not in the building, Christ's work is continuing! Please contact any of us if you have a request or need!

*"I know what it is to be in need, and I know what it is to have plenty. I have learned the secret of being content in any and every situation, whether well fed or hungry, whether living in plenty or in want. I can do all this through him who gives me strength."*

Philippians 4:12-13



### Newsletter Article Deadline

The newsletter is usually published *monthly* on the last Wednesday of the month. The deadline for articles is Wednesday noon prior to the Wednesday that it is published. This is a FIRM DEADLINE. E-mail articles are preferred. Send them to Kim at [kberry@fpcnewton.com](mailto:kberry@fpcnewton.com). However, handwritten articles are welcome.

**To Our Visitors . . . If you are receiving our newsletter for the first time**, perhaps it is because we just heard that you had moved into our neighborhood or you have visited FPC. We would like to extend to you a warm welcome to this community and most especially to any activity in our church. If there is any way we can help you, please let us know.

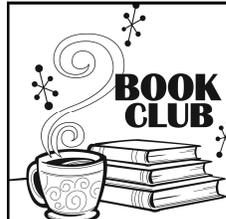


**Community Sunday Suppers**  
Sundays - 5:30 p.m.  
Fellowship Hall

#### Hosts

<u>December 6th</u>	Run Time Races
<u>December 13th</u>	Trinity Baptist
<u>December 20th</u>	FPC Missions Committee
<u>December 27th</u>	FPC Staff & Youth

**All Dinners Will be Carry-Out Only!**



The Book Club meets on the **fourth Tuesday** of each month at 10:00 a.m. in the conference room.

Join in as your schedule permits. Please e-mail Becky McRee at [raiamnc@gmail.com](mailto:raiamnc@gmail.com) if you have questions about the Club.

**Due to the COVID-19 Virus, the Book Club will not meet until the church campus re-opens.**

# CHRISTIAN EDUCATION NEWS

## Youth Connections

Make sure to check out the FPC websites below and sign up for upcoming events! These will serve as our one stop shop for everything you need for youth and children's ministries. From calendars, sign up forms, medical release forms, Sunday school lessons, and more.

Young Disciples Website: <http://ow.ly/40wd50B3Gx6>

Youth Website: <http://ow.ly/D14O50B3GNG>

### Upcoming Events

#### December

6th - 1:00 p.m.- 4:00 p.m. - Cookie Mission Project, Fellowship Hall Kitchen

13th - 5:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m. - Youth & Young Disciples trip to see Tanglewood Christmas Lights

20th - No Youth Fellowship

27th - 4:30 - 6:30 Community Sunday Supper with FPC Staff

#### Sunday Community Supper

The youth are still serving Sunday Community Supper the third Sunday of every month. If you would like to join us in helping service please contact Laura Sparks at [lsparks@fpcnewton.com](mailto:lsparks@fpcnewton.com) or 828-320-7717.

#### Christmas Wishes Tree

(formerly known as DSS Angel Tree)



Thank you to everyone who sponsored a child this Christmas, with your support we were able to help 30 children. This year has been difficult, and to be able to give a little help and joy to these children means the whole world to them. Thank you again for your support of our Young Disciples' Mission Project.

# CHRISTIAN EDUCATION NEWS

## Youth Connections

### Attention all Youth Mentors!

Thank you to all who are participating in our college and youth mentor program. If you have not reached out to your mentee, please try to do so. Spring semester is currently filled with unknowns for our students, they need all the support that we can give them. If you are unable to continue to be a mentor or have any questions, please do not hesitate to let Laura Sparks know.



Matthew's Market Alternative Marketplace is sponsored by the FPC Youth and is an opportunity to do some very alternative gift giving. Gifts purchased by Matthew's Market will benefit those in need in Malawi, Africa, our sister church in Guatemala, Rise Against Hunger, and our Presbyterian Missionaries located throughout the world.

You will receive a decorative gift card with an insert explaining the gift for each purchase made. Order forms will be available at the church office and online. You can find the forms online by going to the church website ([www.fpcnewton.org](http://www.fpcnewton.org)), click on 'Media' at the top of the screen and go down to the 'Forms' tab. You will be able to pay by mail, pay in person or pay online.

Matthew's Market will be open Sunday, Nov. 29th through Sunday, Dec. 20th.

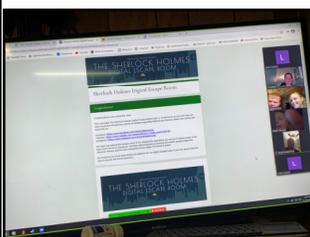
### November Youth Events

**November 1st** - The Youth met via Zoom to play the online game *Among Us* together. We had such a fun time trying to figure out who was the imposter among us.



**November 15th** - The Butterfields, Rob Inscoe, Laura Sparks, and guests Pete Simpson and Maddie Hetzel served our guests a pizza and salad dinner. Thanks to all youth and parents for helping keep the Community Sunday Supper going.

**November 21st** - Our college students met and enjoyed dinner and conversation...tailgate style. It was so good to see all of our students, and we look forward to having another get together in December.



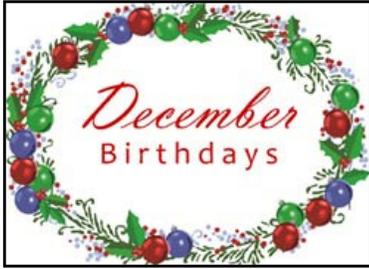
### November 22nd

The Youth met via Zoom to participate in a Sherlock Holmes themed Escape Room and to also discuss upcoming events.

### 2020 Drive Through Trunk or Treat - Big Success!!

We estimated 600 people came through for candy and a pizza dinner to go! The Christian Education Committee would like to thank all those who donated items and their time to keep this annual event going!





- |                                     |   |   |
|-------------------------------------|---|---|
| 1 Doris Sievers                     | 9 Jim Templeton<br>Randy Walters<br>Joey Jones    | 18 Jenny Miller                                 |
| 2 Dan Loyer                         | 10 Faye Morgan<br>Caleb Wilson                    | 19 Dale Whitaker<br>Lynn Murphy<br>Becca Bleich |
| 5 Joe Medlin                        | 11 Peggy Johnson<br>Nancy Gargis<br>Ron Valentini | 21 Georgia Ingle                                |
| 6 Ernestine Buff<br>Meg Yenderusiak | 13 Callie Inscoe<br>Joseph Inscoe                 | 22 RaeAnn Hennes<br>Jake Radke                  |
| 8 Madeleine Gaddy                   | 14 Judy Sigmon                                    | 23 Aaron Dell                                   |
|                                     | 15 Karen Boone                                    | 27 Mitchell Clark<br>Susan Jones                |
|                                     | 16 Joan Inscoe<br>Gary McDonald                   | 29 Scott Cranford                               |
|                                     |   | 31 Samantha Yaussy                              |

### **Website Sermon Instructions**

Please follow the instructions below to access the weekly sermons and Time for Young Disciples on the FPC Newton website.

- Go to [fpcnewton.org](http://fpcnewton.org)
- Go to "Media" on the bar at the top of the screen
- A drop down menu will appear with the media options. You can either click "Sermons" or "Time for Young Disciples"
- Once you click one of those, the YouTube videos will come up and you will be able to click it and it will start playing so you can watch it. If you would rather read the sermon, click on the "Sermon Text" button to the right of the video.



### **Christmas Joy Offering God's Grace in Action**

The Christmas Joy Offering is normally received Sunday, December 20th. This PCUSA special offering supports the development of the future racial ethnic leadership of our church and aids church workers and their families in times of need, answering a faithful call to enrich lives and ease burdens.

Due to the pandemic, envelopes for this offering are located in the church office or you may give online using the FPC website online giving tab. Please put your offering amount in the Special Offerings block, and write "Christmas Joy Offering" under special notes.



***Church Office Closed  
Friday, December 25th  
Monday, December 28th  
&  
Friday, January 1, 2021***



## Unique World Gifts

Unique World Gifts is a self-help program that provides a market for the products of artisans from third world countries. Purchasing these products provides a livelihood for artisans who would otherwise be unemployed or underemployed. UWG makes a difference in their lives, enabling them to buy basic food, pay for health care or housing or further their education, especially during this pandemic. Unique World Gifts still needs your help in fulfilling their mission of promoting global economic justice.

You can choose from a variety of products including home and garden décor, jewelry, scarves, purses and totes, baskets, table linens, greeting cards and journals, soaps, candies, incense, instruments and toys....and more.

For many years, our church has hosted a sale of Unique World Gifts during the Christmas season. Due to the pandemic, we will not be holding the event this year. The best way to stay up to date with Unique World Gifts is through their Facebook and Instagram pages—it's the quickest and easiest way to highlight a new arrival, special events, and sales that are taking place. The retail store is open Monday through Saturday from 10:00 a.m. until 5:00 p.m. and is located at 2751 N. Center Street, Hickory. UWG will have extended hours during December and be open on Sundays as well. Use this opportunity to do your Christmas shopping online while supporting this cause. Visit their website at [www.uniqueworldgifts.org](http://www.uniqueworldgifts.org).

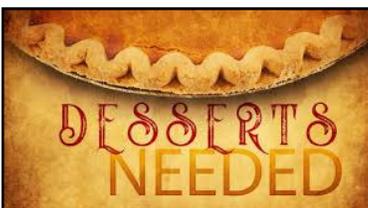


### Christmas Goody Bags

The Missions Committee wishes to say "Thanks" to everyone who helped fill over 40 Christmas Goody Bags for seniors in our community. The Presbyterian Women took the lead on the project and many others pitched in to complete the effort. Thirty of the bags were provided to individuals who have attended Senior's Morning Out in our Fellowship Hall and others will be distributed to members of FPC-Newton who are sticking close to home.

### Disaster Relief Donation

The 2020 hurricane season has been record setting, with 30 named storms, 12 of which made landfall in the Continental United States. Several of these storms have come ashore on the Gulf Coast, greatly impacting that area. The Missions Committee has made a \$500 donation to The Presbytery of South Louisiana from our Domestic Disaster budget line item. Rev. Connie Button, our recent Interim pastor, was a longtime member of that Presbytery.



### Sunday Community Supper Christmas Party Desserts Needed

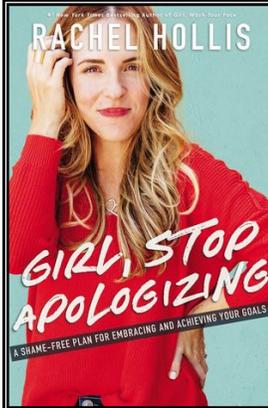
Our Sunday Community Suppers continue to be well attended with approximately 80 guests being served each Sunday evening. We will be hosting our Annual SCS Christmas Party on December 20th. We will offer a special holiday menu and include a gift card with each meal. The Missions Committee would appreciate donations of dessert items from the congregation. Last year, a dozen members brought their favorite sweets and our guests were especially grateful. If you can help, please contact the church office and let them know. Merry Christmas!



## December Circle Meetings

- Circle #2** Circle 2 will not meet until further notice.
- Circle #4** Circle 4 will not meet in December.
- Circle #5** Circle 5 will meet Wednesday, December 9th at 11:00 a.m. via Zoom.

### Presbyterian Women Coordinating Team - No December meeting

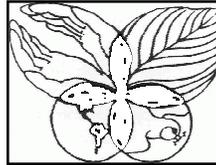


In December, we will be reading "Girl, Stop Apologizing" by Rachel Hollis. We planned on having this one at our last in person meeting last year but bad weather cancelled it! Now we are bringing it back and Tracey Paul will lead our discussion.

Join us on Monday, December 28th at 7:00 p.m. on Zoom. We will send out more information and the

Zoom invite as the date gets closer.

We have books available for \$10 each through the church office. Please contact the church office to get your copy!



### **Presbyterian Women Honorary Life Membership Award**

Each year Presbyterian Women give thanks to God for ALL women who faithfully serve Him in so many ways. Each year at this time we recognize one of these women of faith with the Presbyterian Women's Honorary Life Membership. This woman will receive a certificate and commemorative pin. And, her name will be added to the list of other women who have been recognized over the years. Applications are due to the church office by Thursday, December 31st. Application forms are available in the church office.

### **Scholarships Available - Presbyterian Women Presbytery of WNC Scholarship**

Young people who are members of a Presbyterian Church in Western North Carolina and are either applying to OR currently enrolled in an accredited four year degree program are eligible to apply for need based assistance through Presbyterian Women of Western North Carolina of \$1,500. To view scholarship information & application go to:

<https://presbytery-wnc.s3.amazonaws.com/files/1/2020/Scholarship%20application%202020%20-%2020200708.pdf>

**Application deadline: Monday, February 14, 2021**

### **Mary Brooks Speight, Geneva Isenhour and Bruce & Clara Wingate Scholarship**

Also available through Presbyterian Women at FPC Newton is the First Presbyterian Church Scholarship. The scholarship is a one-time award of \$500 to high school seniors who are actively involved in the life of the church.

**Application deadline: March 31, 2021**

Application forms for both scholarships are available in the church office.

**THE NEWSLETTER** is published monthly by:  
**First Presbyterian Church, Newton, NC**

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Sunday School: 9:45 a.m. Sunday Worship: 8:45 and 11:00 a.m.

**FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**  
701 North Main Avenue  
Newton, NC 28658

**RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED**

Place Address Label Here

**December 6th**  
*2nd Sunday of Advent*  
**Recorded Worship Service**  
**Sacrament of Holy Communion**

**December 13th**  
*3rd Sunday of Advent*  
**Recorded Worship Service**

**December 20th**  
*4th Sunday of Advent*  
**Recorded Lessons & Carols Service**  
**Joy Offering received**

**December 24th**  
**4:00 p.m. Recorded Christmas Eve Service**  
**Sacrament of Holy Communion**

**December 27th**  
*1st Sunday of Christmas*  
**Recorded Worship Service**

