



NEWSLETTER

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Serving the Newton Conover Area since 1858

Partners with Iglesia El Redentor, Guatemala

www.fpcnewton.org

August 2020

Dear Saints of First Presbyterian,

I think mostly I am tired. Not really physically tired, but psychically tired, spiritually tired. I tire of having to answer no every time someone wants to use the building. I tire of not being able to see people, to meet with people who need it. I tire of trying to talk with people, who are in great need, and having to wear a mask while doing it!

I dreamed last night that the Session met--in person. We have been having short meetings via Zoom, but we decided to meet in person. Only, more and more people kept coming, people I have never seen before. I had to shush them, and I finally said, "look, if you want to stay and listen that is your right, but you cannot sit here and talk!" A woman said, "Oh! We saw all the cars in the parking lot, and thought we come in and join you!" Shortly after that I woke up.

I bet you are tired as well. Tired of being cooped up inside, of not being able to go to restaurants. Tired of missing church, and wondering if you can risk coming to the outdoor service. I have to say, that group is really good about keeping their distance from one another and wearing masks, so if you want to come, you'd likely be pretty safe. This whole thing just makes us tired, doesn't it?

It is as though everything has been put on hold. We wait. We isolate. We hope for a time when things return to normal. I think we may have to change our thinking: this may be our new normal. Rather than waiting, we may have to see how we can adapt our ministry so that good things continue.

"The world has slowed so we can rediscover ourselves." Someone put that on social media the other day; I like it. We are all slowing down so that we can rediscover ourselves, what is important, what matters. We can reconnect with those we love. We can restore and deepen our relationship with God. All of that is a good thing, isn't it? I think so, but it sure feels weird – lonely, tiring. Doesn't it?

You will see in this newsletter that a number of our usual Fall things are canceled. September and October look a lot like August and July. There just isn't much we can do right now. I continue to hope that the pandemic will fade, and allow us to do some things again, but we must wait.

However, keep hoping! Keep the faith. Do not lose hope or heart. God is with you, with us, and always will be. There is nowhere you can go where God is not, someone said. Even in the midst of this terrible pandemic – and I am glad that we have not had the ravages of it that some have had – God has not abandoned us.

However you do it, whether in person at the outdoor worship, or online with the recorded version, continue to worship, read the Scripture, and hang on. A friend of mine is reading Moby Dick, for as he says, there is no reason to be "languishing in ignorance and sloth." Find something you have never had time for, and devote yourself to it. We will get through this!

David



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:

| | |
|-----------------|-----------------|
| Sylvia Bajorek | Faye Morgan |
| Texie Doolittle | Sylvia Payne |
| Lottie Ethridge | Carole Roddy |
| Barb Forshey | Susan Roquemore |
| Robin McGraw | Penn Waldron |
| David Roquemore | |

Tentatively - The next Care Team meeting will take place Tuesday, August 18th 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. 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.



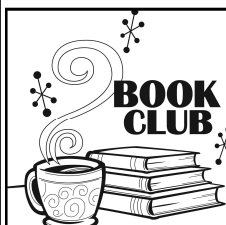
Community Sunday Suppers
Sundays - 5:30 p.m.
Fellowship Hall

Hosts

August 2nd
August 9th
August 16th
August 23rd
August 30th

Catawba Valley Rotary Club
Trinity Baptist
FPC Youth
FPC Newton—Circle #4
Sweetwater Presbyterian

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 if you have questions about the Club.

Due to the COVID-19 Virus, the Book Club will not meet until September.

September 22nd

"The Book Woman of Troublesome Creek"
by Kim Michele Richardson

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 & Peggy Carmichael, Sondra Phillips, Joan Inscoe, Nancy Gargis, Richard Hedrick, Ron Valentini, Jim Teubner, Paula Haissig

FRIENDS & FAMILY: Pam Bruner, Esperilla family, Denis Hedrick, the Ottenberg family, Mike Waugh, family of Bob Tallent, Nancy Whitford, Mervin McGee, Billy Ray Fox, the Harvle family, the Kiser family, Cheri Glaze, Carolyn Miller, Neal & Misty Ledbetter, Richard McGee, Caitlan Reese, Jese Shannon, the Drummond family, Lynne Watts, Maverick Steelmon, Stephen Westmoreland, Ed Job, Donna Wilkie, Elaine & Gordon Hall, Sabryah Alghrary, Dan McRee, Andrew Major, the families of Alice Deneault & Lee Greiner, Kerry Hicks, Jackie Hettrick, Ann Hunsucker, George McClellan, Rev. Dr. David McAlpin, family of Patrick Gouge, Magnani family, Sherry Lutz, Statha Osborne, Fred Denison

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

Condolences:

To Nancy Holloway and family on the death of her grandson, Matt Holloway, on July 3rd.

To Jean Nolley and family on the death of her husband, Ed Nolley, July 21st. Also to FPC church family members: Ray & Suzanne Rhinehart, Frank & Beth Nolley, Laura and Jason Sparks, Taylor & LeAnn Rhinehart, Payton & Mason Nolley & Lily Sparks.

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)
- Ensign 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;
- Madeline Roquemore YWAM Perth

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



| | | | | | |
|---|---|----|--|----|----------------------------|
| 2 | Patty Neill Bruce Deese Thomas Jones | 10 | Dick Yaussy Jeff Abernethy Laurie Joplin | 21 | Jean Nolley Ella Marlow |
| 3 | Ralph Dell | 12 | Texie Doolittle | 22 | Jim Smith Jim Ten Kate |
| 5 | Margaret Choate | 13 | Ed Carmichael Sara Edwards | 24 | Ken Hodges |
| 7 | Clark Strickland David Roquemore Grayson Lail | 14 | Tammy Wilson Greg Hinson Lori Ellis | 25 | Barb Forshey |
| 8 | Aidan Duncan | 16 | Clayton Brooks Courtney Saine | 27 | Ron Roscoe |
| | | 17 | Courtney Roquemore | 28 | Deb Wakefield |
| | | 18 | Chris Robinson | 29 | Karen McDougal |
| | | 19 | Emmy Krueger | | |

Looking Ahead - Fall 2020

The Covid-19 Virus has affected many of our annual fall events. Listed below is our revised fall schedule in order to maintain safety for everyone.

Rally Day

There will be no Rally Day congregational breakfast or activities on Sunday, September 13th.

Sunday School

The Fellowship & Discipleship Sunday School classes are currently meeting every Sunday morning at 11:00 a.m. via Zoom. If you would like to get involved in one of these classes, please contact Doug Michael or Sandra Teubner.

Youth & Children will receive digital Sunday School lessons beginning Sunday, Sept. 27th. Please contact Laura Sparks in the church office for additional information.

Rise Against Hunger

This event scheduled for Saturday, September 12th has been cancelled. The Missions Cmte. is hoping FPC can host this event in 2021.

Camp Grier Church Retreat

FPC's church retreat in September to Camp Grier has been cancelled this year. We are planning to return for this annual church outing September 17-19, 2021. Please mark your calendars!

Pig Pickin'

The annual FPC Pig Pickin' scheduled for October 11th has been cancelled. We plan to resume this event next fall.

Coffee!

We now have a full inventory of regular and decaf coffees, in bags of drip grind and in K-cups, cashews, and several kinds of dark and milk chocolate bars. We are still out of olive oil, which is currently back-ordered from Equal Exchange. All these items are available in the workroom next to Kim's office, and in the narthex.

If you are interested in purchasing any of them, please give Kim a call before you go to church just to be sure she is there. You can give her your checks or cash. If you have questions about any of these items, give Fran Whitaker (704-742-6057) or Karen McDougal (828-320-3717) a call and we'll see what we can do for you!

This project includes milk and dark chocolate bars (\$2.50 each), and dark and milk minis (5 for a dollar). We currently have a good supply of all types of chocolate in the narthex and in the workroom. We order extra during the winter because when the weather gets warm we have to pay extra for cool shipping—so now it's there waiting for you! You can pick up some during church office hours and pay by cash or check. Enjoy those antioxidants (in moderation of course) and support the farmers who are part of Equal Exchange.

Thank you for supporting these farmers in multiple countries!

August 2020 Church Calendar

Due to the COVID-19 Virus and the cancellation of church events and functions, we are not publishing an August 2020 FPC calendar. The office will publish a calendar as soon as church events resume on a regular basis.

If you have any questions about an already scheduled event, please contact Kim or Sarah in the church office at 464-0648 or email:
kberry@fpcnewton.com
receptionist@fpcnewton.com

Pastoral needs contact David Roquemore at
1-717-512-2779 (cell) or
Email: droquemore@fpcnewton.com



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
- 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.





Usually during the summer, our music ministry groups are on their vacation month in July. We have just returned from Montreat Worship and Music Conference, and our spirits are filled from what we have experienced in Montreat. Our heads are full of ideas about fall and the things we want to share of what we learned to inspire our worship at FPC. Yet, it will be a while before choir groups will

get to gather again for rehearsals. Those of us in choirs who maybe complained every now and then about having to go to rehearsal a night or two every week would now gladly go to practice. Our groups are diverse, and our relationships are close. We miss our practice times singing and ringing together; our times of sharing and praying together. We miss being together.

Despite our current circumstances, we have found ways to continue our church's worship and its song. Since late March, on Wednesday evenings, a group of 8 have come together to worship, to sing, to pray, all videotaped to provide virtual weekly worship services for our congregation and any others who happen to go to our church website. Our sanctuary has not been totally silent. Before, David's videotaped sermon only was on the site. Our team believed we must come up with ways to include music given how important the congregational song is in our worship of God. We have enjoyed the time together preparing and taping these services. We have enjoyed the opportunity to experience the service virtually on Sunday. We have been grateful to have been able to offer our talents to make these virtual services possible. We thank all of you for your kind words and notes telling us how much these services have meant to you and how they have given you hope and comfort.

Now that we have the outdoor worship services, it has been so good to see so many of you attending. It has been good to share in our congregational song together again, even in masks. It has been good to hear God's word together, to pray together, and to talk with each other, all socially distanced of course. We thank our session and worship committee for the work they did to make the outdoor service possible. Yes, we are still dealing with COVID, but COVID has not silenced the worship and song of First Presbyterian Church in Newton. We look forward to the continuation of our services, both outdoor and videotaped. May they lift your spirits from the week you have experienced and give you peace, hope, and strength for the days ahead. May our worship continue to be a reminder that God is walking with us now, in these times and always, as He promised. Thanks be to God.



Maintaining and Sanitizing FPC While Everyone is Away

While most of our congregation has been absent from the inside FPC, the Property Committee and Wednesday Workgroup has utilized this time to make repairs. Even though our work group has been small due to the Coronavirus, we are pleased with the accomplishments.

New electronic doors were installed in the Fellowship Hall and everyone seems very pleased with them, especially now that we are moving the equipment for outdoor worship in and out of the Fellowship Hall each Sunday morning.

With the addition of the new doors, it required some cosmetic repairs around the door opening to include sheetrock, painting, etc. The hallway in the fellowship hall has been scrubbed and painted, repaired areas that had received dents in the wall over time. The old rubber baseboard from 1986 was replaced due to its age and deterioration. The flooring in the entrance area was upgraded.

The kitchen has received an intense scrubbing followed by a new paint job by Ron Roscoe. The janitor's closet in the kitchen, which needed repairs, has been completed followed by painting. A special thanks to Ron Roscoe, Leo Yenderusiak, Mike Induni and Charles Moody for taking on this project.

Other activities around the church have included trimming of trees in the area where we are having outdoor worship on Sunday mornings and other trees with hanging limbs that needed attention. Our janitorial staff time as been reduced, and we thank the church staff and Wednesday Work Group for picking up the slack.

The Property Committee has been and continues to study the best way to make sure that our campus is safe once we return to having services and meetings inside. If you come to the office, you will find hand sanitizer at the door and a mask if you don't have one. Please use the sanitizer and mask when you come in and when you leave. Don't Forget Social Distancing. Please stay safe!

—FPC Property Committee





August Circle Meetings

- Circle #2** Circle 2 will not meet in August. They plan to tentatively meet in December.
- Circle #4** Circle 4 will meet in August via telephone. Your circle leader will be in touch with date and time.
- Circle #5** Circle 5 will not meet in August. There may be a Zoom meeting online, but your Circle leader will let you know.

Presbyterian Women Coordinating Team

The PW Coordinating Team will not meet in August. Plans are uncertain at this time for date of next meeting.



On August 11th and 13th, the Circle of Sisters Book Club is hosting two different meetings covering the book "The Gift of Forgiveness" by Katherine Schwarzenegger Pratt. You are invited to come to Susan Knowles house on August 11th at 6 pm for an in person discussion in her backyard. We will wear masks and social distance! Amy Loyer will lead our discussion! Please bring a chair and your own drinks or food if you chose the eat during the discussion! Any questions? Please call Susan Roquemore at 717-645-1220.

On August 13th we will offer a Zoom meeting for those who would like to participate from home! Our Zoom meeting will begin at 7 pm. Please sign up through the church office or call Susan Roquemore at 717-645-1220 so that we can get your email to send the Zoom link to you! We are excited about these events.

Youth Connections

July 12-17, 6 youth and 3 adults traveled to Cedar Creek Mission Center. The group stayed at the Cedar Creek Presbyterian Church Mission Center near Greeneville and worked to add pickets to a retired ministers handicap ramp, replaced boards on another handicap ramp for a grandmother and her handicapped grandchild. Other projects included building a deck, removing and replacing old boards on the front of the Cedar Creek Store, pressure washing a church members home, replaced boards on a church members deck that we will replace next year, and landscaped at a historic African American cemetery. Team members also enjoyed meals, making their tie dye mission team shirts, and free time together.



Members From Left to Right:

Taylor Job, Laura Sparks, Christian Kelly, Preston Inscoe, Tyler Inscoe, Mason Nolley, Beth Nolley, Frank Nolley, and Payton Nolley.



School Supplies

Although we don't know how or when, school will be in session soon. We don't know if there will be virtual or face-to-face instruction. It all depends on

us...our numbers.



Whatever the circumstance, children will need school supplies. Since there are so many folks who are out of work presently, or have lost their jobs permanently, there is little money for school supplies.

If you are able, please bring your donation of school supplies to the FPC outdoor service. There will be a grocery cart close to "the table" labeled for this collection. Place your donation in the cart and the Mission Committee will see that area schools receive these supplies.

If students don't have the supplies they need, the school secretary will be the person they call, most likely. Let's help these folks out with a donation to the "School Supply Collection."

Stay safe – **wash** (your hands often), **wait** (at least 6 feet, if not more to socially distance), and **wear** (a mask when in public, to protect others from germs). Our numbers will improve, if we do these 3 things.

These 3 W's are different from the 3 W's we learned in school, but just as important!

Urgent Support Needed

These are particularly tough days for us all. COVID-19 has impacted churches and communities of faith both here and around the world. The PWNC Guatemala Partnership Committee has been in contact with leaders of our sister churches in that country and have learned that their needs are great and increasing each week. Thankfully, there have been no known cases of COVID-19 in our partner's churches, but a strict government lock-down has limited their members' opportunities to work and many congregations report that they are facing critical food shortages, as well as the inability to meet utility expenses and many are unable to pay their pastor's salary. Many members of our congregation faithfully write pen pal letters to members of our sister church, El Redentor, and have developed personal relationship with these brothers and sisters. Another group of fellow Christians facing dire circumstances during the pandemic are our brothers and sisters in Malawi. For many years, we have had a relationship with the Nkhoma Hospital and the Ebenezer School community and until recently, a PWNC physician, Dr. Barbara Nagy, served in the country. Like the churches in Guatemala, many of our congregation have generously supported these organizations in the annual Matthew's Market campaign, organized by our Youth and collected each Christmas season. The PWNC plans to send financial relief to both sister presbyteries in Guatemala and to the leadership of the school and Nkhoma hospital in Malawi, and have announced a campaign to invite members of our local churches to participate.

Our Missions Committee has decided to donate \$5,000 to the Guatemala relief efforts and \$1,000 from our budget to the organizations in Malawi. Individual donations are also welcomed and instructions for donating are found below.

God calls us even in times of hardship to remember our neighbors and this is a special opportunity to offer what help we can to those with whom we share Presbyterian ties in our mission connections.

TO DONATE: Please mail a check made payable to the "Presbytery of Western NC" to the PWNC Office located at 114 Silver Creek Rd. Morganton, NC. *Note in the memo line if your gift is for Guatemala or Malawi Emergency Funds.

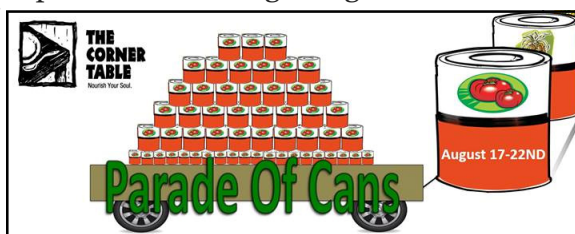
To make a secure contribution on the Presbytery's web page, go to the home menu and click on the "GIVE" tab or use this link: [GIVE NOW](#). *Select either the Guatemala or Malawi EMERGENCY Fund (Not Building Hope).



For the past five years, our church has participated in the Parade of Cans, the annual food drive to benefit The Corner Table Soup Kitchen during the month of August. There have been a few changes in this year's event. The Greater Hickory Jaycees will sponsor the drive and the items received will also benefit The Corner Table's newest program, The Backpack Program of Catawba County. The Backpack Program provides children in our local school systems

with weekend food bags. This year, The Corner Table and its programs have already dealt with adversity as they navigate through the Covid-19 pandemic. Fundraisers have been cancelled, yet the numbers of individuals they are serving through their meal programs are increasing. Parade of Cans is a great opportunity to replenish the soup kitchen's stockroom and the Backpack Program's warehouse. Our support will allow The Corner Table to continue meeting the needs of hungry individuals in our community.

As in past years, this drive is in the form of a competition. The organization that collects the most food by weight is declared the Parade of Cans "Can"pion. FPC-Newton is a perennial contender, second only to a local furniture concern and the occasional Baptist congregation! There are lists available of the most needed foods. In the past, we have bumped up the weight by buying large (HUGE!) bags of sugar and flour and cases of bottled water. The soup kitchen requests that we refrain from this practice as the larger bags are difficult for their volunteers to handle. Also, please note the special types of food needed for the backpack program. Collection bins will be available at Sunday morning services in the green space and also, bins will be placed in the office area for drop offs during the week.



Monetary donations are welcome as well.



Dear FPC family,
Thank you so much for all of the cards and phone calls that I have received following the death of my grandson, Matt. Your messages have been so sweet and helpful to me during this time. I am truly blessed to be a part of such a wonderful and caring congregation. -Nancy Holloway

Dear FPC Congregation,
Thank you to everyone for your prayers, cards, calls and support during Ed's illness and passing.
-Jean Nolley and the entire Nolley Family



Outdoor Worship
Bring your chair and mask, and come join us for outdoor worship Sunday mornings at 9:30 a.m.



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

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Editor: Kim Berry (kberry@fpcnewton.com)

Church Office Hours:

9 a.m. - 5 p.m. Monday-Friday

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

August 2nd

9th Sunday after Pentecost

9:30 a.m. Worship Service

Outside on the grounds of FPC Newton

August 9th

10th Sunday after Pentecost

9:30 a.m. Worship Service

Outside on the grounds of FPC Newton

August 16th

11th Sunday after Pentecost

9:30 a.m. Worship Service

**Outside on the grounds of FPC
Newton**

August 23rd

12th Sunday after Pentecost

9:30 a.m. Worship Service

Outside on the grounds of FPC Newton

August 30th

13th Sunday after Pentecost

9:30 a.m. Worship Service

Outside on the grounds of FPC Newton

