



NEWSLETTER

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Serving the Newton Conover Area since 1858

Partners with Iglesia El Redentor, Guatemala

www.fpcnewton.org

September 2021

Dear First Presbyterian Saints,

In the middle of the Session meeting, the fire alarm went off, which was disruptive to say the least! Despite that, we did good work, and we have come to a conclusion:

We are asking everyone to wear a mask when at the church.

This will not surprise you, for the pandemic is not over, and the hospital is getting full. Today, there are sixty-four covid patients at the hospital, which have filled the available beds. We don't want anyone to get sick from coming to church, especially our children. I know there are a lot of opinions out there, but unless you have a medical condition that prevents it, get the shot! It really is that simple.

We will continue to worship as we have been, with social distancing and masks, but now we are asking everyone to wear a mask while in the building. We will continue to hold our gathering after worship outside, rather than in the pews or the narthex, so that we are in the open air, a decidedly less dangerous place. We don't want to move worship back outside, nor do we want to cancel it altogether, and so we take this step in an effort to prevent all of that. Some other large churches in our area have taken several weeks off, in a sort of quarantine move, hoping to defeat the virus. We are not there yet, and I hope we won't be!

Some will argue that this is about individual rights, and they don't have to wear a mask if they don't want to. I will simply reply that Jesus calls us to take care of the people around us, to take care of the "least of these" among us, to love our neighbor. And wearing a mask is a simple way to do that.

Other topics: we are working on rebooting the LOGOS midweek children's program that was canceled several years ago. The idea is to gather the children for games, lessons, a simple meal, and prayer. We are polling our children, and recruiting those from other congregations, and schools, that may want to participate. We will need volunteers to make this happen; if you want a fun way to connect with others and help the children, let Laura Sparks know!

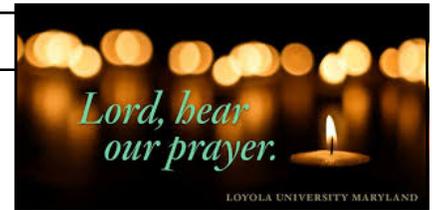
When I came here, on the very first Sunday night, Susan and I met with the youth group. They asked some very good, very perceptive questions. Clearly they had been taught well and understood the faith well. That group had grown up in the former LOGOS program. These kinds of programs teach the faith; really, they inculcate the faith into children over the years, so that by the time they are teenagers and young adults, they have a good knowledge of what Jesus taught. That was evident to us that first night.

I am also planning to teach Sunday school in October - November. This was offered when one of the teachers said she needed to take a leave of absence. Then the other class decided to join in. So, we will have adult Sunday school October 3 - 17, 31 and November 7 and 14. We will do this live, and via Zoom at the same time, so you can "zoom in" if you want to stay home. The topic will be a look at church history, from the beginning until now. I hope you will join us!

Stay safe — these are strange times indeed!

David

News of the Church Family



Prayers for those with Recent Health Concerns

CHURCH MEMBERS: Frances Ennis, Frankie Sigmon, Lee Cranford, Julie Jones, Sondra Phillips, Joan Inscoe, Nancy Gargis, Judy Fulton, Jan Clarke, Laurie Joplin, Ernestine Buff, Wanda Hicks, Ron Valentini, Ann White, Paula Haissig, Clayton Brooks, Jim Teubner, the Foley family, Charles & Mitzi Moody, Barry Wilson, Kay Long, Peggy Templeton

FRIENDS & FAMILY: Pam Bruner, Caitlan Reese, Lynne Watts, Elaine & Gordon Hall, Kerry Hicks, Ann Hunsucker, George McClellan, Rev. Dr. David & Nan McAlpin, family of Patrick Gouge, Magnani family, Ann Moose, Tim Moose, Katie Cloninger, Jose & Marie Palacios, George Lindstrom, Melissa Burns, Calvin Jenkins, Randy Roper, Billy Ray Fox, Kim Elliott, Tiffany Locke, Shana Wolf, Charles Moretz, Kirsten Kerr, Kate Sharman, Ken McColley, Sherry Sigmon, Mike Beard, Roger Taylor, Horatio Johnson, Vonda Krueger & Danny Barkley, Eloise Hall

Prayers for those in Assisted Living/Homebound:

CHURCH MEMBERS: Virginia Coley, Dennis DeBalso, Betty Epps, Betty Fieselman, Charlie Major, Johnsie Abernethy, Jenny Miller

Prayers for those with Long-Term Health Concerns:

Ed Carmichael, Janet Drum, Richard Foley, Pete Keel, Robin Miller

Congratulations:

To Kortney (Mahoney) and Will Burns on their marriage on July 30th. Kortney is Jim & Linda Ten Kate's granddaughter.

Condolences:

To David & Tracey Paul & family on the death of Brenda Davis, Tracey's mother, August 10th

To the Holshouser family on the death of John Holshouser, August 20th

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)
- LTJG Max Morrill, U.S. Navy, Washington, DC
(Joan Inscoe's grandson)

Prayers for Missionaries and International Faith Partners

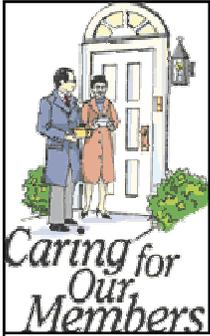
- Lawrence & Inge Sthresley in Congo;
- Our partners at *Faith Ministry* in Reynosa, Mexico;
- Rev. Dr. John McCall in Taiwan;
- Eliane Menezes, Guatemala

Prayers for El Redentor, our Sister Church in Guatemala:

- For the well being of all members of our sister church
- For all scholarship students as they begin a new school year
- For students receiving university scholarships: Dayana Rodas, who is in her last year of nursing & Uzias Rodas, who is in his 2nd year studying to be a teacher
- For Humberto Robles, an elder of the church, who will begin theological studies this year.

Financial Stewardship Report

2021 Pledge Budget	430,000.00
Pledge Budget through 7-31-2021	250,833.31
Pledge Receipts through 7-31-2021	261,135.55



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>	

The Care Team will meet Tuesday, September 21st at 5:00 p.m. in the FPC Fellowship Hall.

We've been making phone calls on behalf of the church to make sure folks are okay! 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.

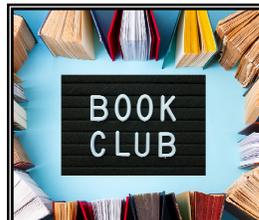


Community Sunday Suppers
Sundays - 5:30 p.m.
Fellowship Hall

Hosts

September 5th	Beth Eden Lutheran
September 12th	FPC Missions Committee
September 19th	Trinity Baptist
September 26th	FPC Circle #5

All Dinners Will be Carry-Out Only!



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

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

September 28th

"While Justice Sleeps"
by Stacy Abrams

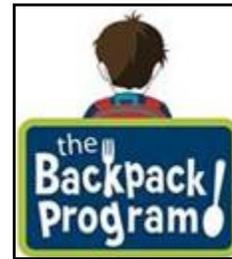


Eastern Catawba County Hunger Walk - 2021

This year's Hunger Walk will be held on Sunday, October 17th in Downtown Newton. Registration begins at 2:00 p.m. with the Hunger Walk beginning at 3:00 p.m. Awards and refreshments will be given at 4:00 p.m. You can participate in multiple ways: join our First Presbyterian Church Team, donate and/or sponsor a FPC Team member, and spread the word about the event. To join our FPC team online, visit <https://ecchungerwalk.com> and join the team through the drop down menu. Traditional "walker" packets/envelopes will also be available in the narthex

for pick-up. As an incentive, any registered walker who raises or donates \$25 or more will receive a 2021 Hunger Walk t-shirt at the walk!

The Eastern Catawba County Hunger Walk is a community event benefiting the Eastern Catawba Cooperative Christian Ministry, Inc. and The Corner Table Soup Kitchen. In 2020, ECCCM distributed 1.6 million pounds of food to 7,343 individuals. During that same time, The Corner Table served 55,550 meals to an average of 128 guests per day. The goals of this three-mile walk are to raise funds for hunger relief efforts in eastern Catawba County and to raise awareness of the hunger issue in our community. Your participation will ensure ECCCM and The Corner Table can keep feeding the 20% of families living with food insecurity in eastern Catawba County.



A Community Blood Drive will be held at FPC Newton on Tuesday, Sept. 28th, from 2:30 until 7:00 p.m. in the fellowship hall.

The need for blood is ongoing. Please make an appointment to give, visit redcross-blood.org and enter: Newton First Presby to schedule an appointment.

Volunteers are also needed to work the drive, assisting with donor registration and refreshments. Dessert donations will also be appreciated!

Contact the church office or Bob Neill (828-323-7806).



Congregational Meeting Sunday, September 12th

There will be a Congregational Meeting following the 10:30 a.m. Worship Service on Sunday, September 12th for the purpose of electing a member of the congregation to serve on the Nominating Committee.

The Nominating Committee will then begin its work on meeting, praying, and discerning whom God is calling to be active Elders on our Session for the next three years!





- 1 Wesley Butterfield
- 3 Virginia Coley
Taylor Rhinehart
- 4 Jay Bajorek
Doug Michael
- 5 Beverly McAlister
- 6 Elizabeth Benefield

- 9 Taylor Job
Angela Cable
- 12 Ryan Turner
- 13 Cheryl Ransier
- 15 Brenda Jones
- 17 Anna Kirby
Casey Clark
Johnsie Abernethy
- 19 Jerry Hodge
Brad Saine
- 20 Bill Inscoe
- 22 Brenda Eckard

- 23 Parker Rhinehart
- 24 Wille Thompson
- 25 Betty Brown
Bruce Murdock
Kasey Gaddy
- 26 Sandy Hodges
- 27 Mason Nolley
- 28 Sophie Davis
Ashley Moose
- 30 Lynn Sample
Frances Inscoe



Dear David, Elders, Missions Committee and Members of FPC,

Thank you so much for your ongoing support of the mission work in Taiwan. In these uncertain times, your partnership in mission means a lot! For much of the pandemic, many countries in Asia had few Covid cases, but this changed in May when case numbers spiked. I have been encouraging the Taiwanese pastors to be creative as they seek to find new ways to share the love of God and stay connected. One Aboriginal pastor has been using the large speaker on her church's steeple to broadcast the Sunday worship to all folks in her village.

With thanks,
John McCall

Camp Grier Annual Church Retreat Old Fort, NC - September 17-19th

The annual FPC Newton Camp Grier Church Retreat will be September 17-19, 2021. Come enjoy fishing, canoeing, zip lining into the lake, hiking, puzzling, 4 square, campfires and rocking chairs on the dining hall porch.

You can bring your tent or camper, stay in a cabin which has been renovated or rent a cabin for your family. All ages are invited. Come up for the day on Saturday or for worship on Sunday morning. Invite your children and grandchildren for the weekend.

Brochures are available in the church office for you to sign up with. Signing up helps the planning committee to know who in your family plans on attending so we can ensure there are enough sleeping areas for family groups.

Please call or text Suzanne Rhinehart at 828.320.8013 or email Suzanne_Rhinehart@ncsu.edu.





***FPC Church Picnic
Sunday, October 3, 2021
Noon - 2:30 p.m.***

Location: FPC Newton Fellowship Hall

Food, Fellowship and Fun!!! This year instead of a Pig Pickin', we are going to have a Church Picnic on the grounds of the FPC campus.

The meal will take place in the fellowship hall. The menu will include BBQ and all the fixing's and will be provided by Tommy Styers' Handyman Ministries. Lunch will be followed by going outside for music provided by the FPC A.W.E. group, games and an Ice Cream Truck will be on site for dessert. Please bring your lawn chair for outdoor seating comfort.

And of course . . . We are "Calling All Volunteers". The Congregational Ministries committee would appreciate your help in preparing for this event. Please fill out the sign up sheet enclosed in this newsletter indicating if you plan or call the church office if you plan to attend. Forms should be returned to the church office by Monday, September 27th.

So, be sure and mark **Sunday, October 3rd** on your calendar, bring the family out and enjoy the afternoon! Please contact Suzanne Rhinehart at 828-320-8013 or the church office with any questions.



Pictured above:
A.W.E.
Group

Pictures from the
2019 Pig
Pickin'



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

SEPTEMBER 2021

Saturday, September 11th

Youth Kick-Off

4:00 - 6:00 pm - Outing to Xscape Escape Room in Hudson.

Sunday, September 12th

9:00 am - Rally Day

Worship - 10:30 a.m., sanctuary

Friday, September 17th - Sunday September 19th

Annual FPC Church Retreat at Camp Grier

Sunday, September 19th

No Youth Fellowship

Sunday, September 26th

4:00 - 6:00 pm

Church Mission Project

Rally Day! Congregational Continental Breakfast

Join us for **Rally Day** on **Sunday, September 12th** from **9:00 a.m. until 10:15 a.m.** on the Deal lot (vacant lot adjacent to the fellowship hall) as we celebrate our Sunday school kick-off.

Breakfast will be various breakfast biscuits and doughnuts. Each family is asked to bring their own coffee or breakfast beverage and chair. Morning worship will begin at 10:30 a.m. in the sanctuary following the Rally Day breakfast. To help with planning the breakfast please fill out the form in this newsletter and return to the offering plate.

Sunday Community Supper

Margy & Sarah Butterfield and Jason & Laura Sparks served pizza, salad and dessert at the Community Sunday Supper on August 15th.

If you would like to be a part of this ministry with our youth, please let Laura know.

The youth will be serving again on Sunday, October 10th.



LOGOS HELP WANTED

During September we are going to be calling people to help fill the positions for our LOGOS program that will begin in January, 2022!

Please see Laura Sparks for more information or to sign up! We cannot have this program without your help! Thank you so much!

Volunteer Positions

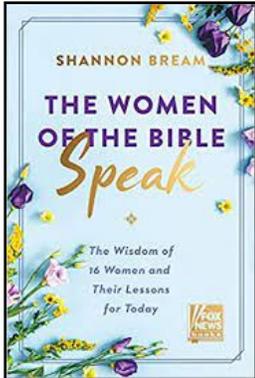
Peacemaker
Dinner Dean
Check in Crew
Flex Time Crew
Drivers

Leadership Team

Worship Skills Coord.
Bible Study Coord.
Activity Coord.
Food / Décor Coord.



Women's Ministry Events



Come join the Circle of Sisters Book Club as we read "The Women of the Bible Speak" by Shannon Bream. We will meet in person at the church in the fellowship hall at 6:00 p.m. on the second Tuesday of each month beginning on September 14th.

We will have a light dinner followed by some discussion with Susan Knowles leading. Meetings will also be available via Zoom at 6:00 p.m. on the Sunday prior to each meeting.

We will be reading three chapters at a time and discussing them each month at our meeting, starting with chapters 1-3 in September.

Dates To Look Forward To:



September 26th

Ice Cream Social at 4:00 p.m. in fountain area outside of the Narthex. Look for a sign up sheet in the narthex to sign up for Ice Cream or toppings. This event is hosted by the Women's Ministry group.

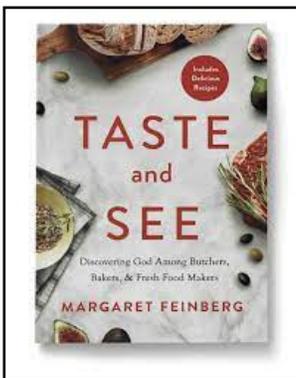
October 2nd

Riverbend Park Hiking Trip at 10:00 a.m. Please join us for a hike led by Mimi Michael. Pack a picnic lunch to enjoy with your church sisters.



October 7th

Taste and See Bible Study at 6:00 p.m. via Zoom.



September Circle Meetings

Circle #2

Circle 2 members will be notified by Margie Pulliam with their next meeting date and time.

Circle #4

Circle 4 will meet on Monday, September 13th at 3:30 p.m. in the parlor. Linda Witherspoon, hostess.

Circle #5

Circle 5 will meet Wednesday, September 8th at 11:00 a.m. via Zoom.





FPC member Becky McRee would like to announce the release of her new book, "As the Story Goes" (A Small Town Journalist Shares her Love of Storytelling).

"This book is really a "newspaper" book in that it includes human interest and feature stories from several of the papers I've worked for in my 25 years as a news reporter. I went with a new printing company in Illinois and they have done a superb job. The pages are a nice satiny texture and the 40+ color pictures are clear and beautiful."

There are stories of Becky's love of nature: gardens, flowers, plants, trees, birds, mountains, etc. Readers can take an imaginative trip through many of America's beautiful national parks. There's also a remembrance of Hurricane Hugo and how devastating it was to Charlotte where Becky lived at the time.

Historical stories and searches for ancestors are included as well as a number of stories of growing up in Newton, remembering special town characters and memories of how things were here in older days.

"I have written some entirely new stories for this book – some that have never been published or read. One of these is "A Tree's Life" and is focused on the lovely Norway spruce trees in our front yard, and all that trees go through in their life cycle. The story ends with an old folktale – "The Legend of the Trees."

If you are interested in a book, just let Becky know at (828) 461-0440 or by email: raiamnc@gmail.com

Sunday School Meeting Times & Locations

Nursery

Nursery is provided during the 11:00 a.m. worship service.

Children & Youth

We will not have Sunday school for children and youth until after Labor Day. Rally Day is scheduled for Sunday, September 12th. Details for Fall Sunday school classes will be announced during Rally Day breakfast.

Adults

- The Fellowship Class, led by Sandra Teubner will meet on Sunday mornings at 9:45 a.m. in the fellowship hall.
- The Discipleship Class, led by Karen McDougal and Doug Michael, will meet at 9:30 a.m. on Sunday mornings in person at the church, just bring your laptop for the in-person class. They will also meet via Zoom during this same time as well.
- The Crowell-Warlick class is not meeting at this time.



September 12th - Rally Day

9:00 a.m. - Congregational Continental Breakfast, outside in the vacant lot adjacent to the fellowship hall. Various breakfast biscuits and doughnuts will be served. Please bring your own coffee and chairs. Breakfast will be followed with 10:30 a.m. worship service in the sanctuary.

September 17th - 19th

Annual Church Retreat at Camp Grier

September 19th

No Worship Services on FPC Campus. There will be a recorded service available if you don't want to go to Camp Grier. We are working on securing transportation for those that do not want to drive up for morning worship, lunch and afternoon at Camp Grier.

Rally Day - Breakfast
Sunday, September 12, 2021
9:00 a.m. - 10:15 a.m. - Deal lot (adjacent to fellowship hall)

Name: _____

Adults attending: _____ Children attending: _____

Please return to church office by Tuesday, September 5th.



2021 FPC Church Picnic
Sunday, October 3, 2021
Noon - 2:30 p.m.

Yes! I/we plan to attend.

Adults _____ #Children _____

Name: _____ Phone: _____

E-mail: _____

Please return to the church office by Monday, September 27th

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

Website: www.fpcnewton.org
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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

September 5th

15th Sunday after Pentecost
8:45 & 11:00 a.m. Worship
Sacrament of Holy Communion
Rev. David Roquemore preaching

September 12th

16th Sunday after Pentecost
Rally Day
9:00 a.m. - Congregational Continental
Breakfast, outside on vacant lot adjacent to
fellowship hall.
Breakfast biscuits and doughnuts will be
served. Please bring your own coffee /
beverage & chair
10:30 a.m. Worship, sanctuary
5¢-a-Meal Offering received
Rev. David Roquemore preaching



September 19th

17th Sunday after Pentecost
10:30 a.m. Worship Service at Camp Grier
No morning worship on FPC Campus, but
there will be a recorded service posted at
9:00 a.m. on Facebook, YouTube and the
FPC website.
Rev. David Roquemore preaching

September 26th

18th Sunday after Pentecost
8:45 & 11:00 a.m. Worship
Rev. David Roquemore preaching

