



NEWSLETTER

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Serving the Newton Conover Area since 1858

Partners with Iglesia El Redentor, Guatemala

www.fpcnewton.org

June/July 2020

Dear Saints of First Presbyterian,

This whole situation reminds me of an old joke. A dog sees his master going to work, coming home from work, and his reaction is always, "Woof! There he goes! Woof! Woof! Here he comes." The cat meanwhile is keeping a diary: "Day 735 of my captivity. The captor again gave me a can of tasteless mush to eat. The stupid dog wags his tail at the activities of the captors, but I continue to plot my escape."

It begins to feel like captivity, doesn't it? Well, the Session has news! As you may have surmised, the Worship committee and a few others spent last month polling you. The results were that slightly more than half of you would come back to worship, if proper steps were taken to keep us all safe. The others want to wait a bit, and some of them are willing to wait until a cure is found to this virus! We are all in different places in this.

The Session determined that we would first wait a couple of weeks, just to be sure that this reopening doesn't lead to a change in the number of active virus cases. If that is not the case, we will have an outdoor worship service on June 21st and the Sundays thereafter. Outdoors means we will use the property where the Deal House once was, where Elliott Lewis created the prayer garden last year, as a location. You can come and sit in that lot, or park in the parking lot and listen from your car. We will enforce social distancing, and you must have a mask if you get out of your car. But we will be together, you can see each other, "blow a kiss if you want to" someone on Session said. Details of things like sound systems and things are being worked out.

So, the details: **worship on Sunday, June 21, outdoors, at 9:30 AM.** Sit in chairs, or park in the lot. If you come to sit, park away from the grass field, please. If it rains, we will start it the following week. Yes, we are starting pretty early, but that is to try and beat the heat.

Note: our taped video service will continue. So you will have choices. The sermon will be the same.

Your crusty old pastor is slowly losing his objections to some sort of "virtual communion." We will announce the how and when later, but expect us to do that in a few weeks as well. It won't be quite like the real in person sacrament, but it will be something to keep us together in the meantime. We will not, however, sanction the use of Diet Pepsi and Ritz crackers for the elements!

I know that some of you wish we had taken these steps weeks ago. Your Session is being careful and cautious, and your safety is the most important consideration for them. There is simply too much we don't know. Other Presbyterians in the area are also taking a very slow approach to reopening the church building for worship.

So, see you in the grass!

David



Prayers for those with Recent Health Concerns

CHURCH MEMBERS: Robin Miller, Nancy Beers, Rachel Eneix, Frances Ennis, Gile Sievers, Frankie Sigmon, Lee Cranford, Julie Jones, Heidi Jonas, Gary McDonald, David McCart, Barry Wilson, Ed & Peggy Carmichael, Sondra Phillips, Joan Inscoe, Nancy Gargis, Charlie Major

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, Norris McRee, Kerry Hicks, Jackie Hettrick, Ann Hunsucker, George McClellan, Rev. Dr. David McAlpin, Patrick Gouge

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

Prayers for Missionaries and International Faith Partners

- Lawrence & Inge Sthreshley 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
- For Karina, for a safe pregnancy & delivery
- For Ana Lucia, a young child who will have surgery for hip dysplasia
- For Margot, for physical & emotional healing after 4 month miscarriage
- For the family of Pastor Emilio Mazariegos, former pastor of El Redentor, who passed away the week of March 1st



Missions Update May, 2020

As in many other areas of our lives, the arrival of the Corona virus and its associated disease, COVID-19, has greatly impacted the plans of the Missions Committee here at FPC-Newton. Some events have been cancelled and others postponed, but with God's help and with support of the loving and generous members of our congregation, we will carry on!

For the past three years, one of the highlights of the spring has been a church-wide effort to assist in ending world hunger. Working with an organization known as Rise Against Hunger, we have packaged nearly 40,000 meals which have been shipped to various areas in need of food support, including countries in South America and Africa. This year's event was to have been held on March 28th and we would have included our friends from Beth Eden Lutheran. That effort will be held in the fall, with a tentative date of Saturday, September 12th.

In 2018, a team of fifteen members traveled to Guatemala and had an opportunity to visit with members of our sister church, El Redentor. It was with much anticipation that we organized another trip which would have traveled in late July. Several team meetings were held, airline tickets were secured and then the virus changed these plans as well. To the best of our knowledge, our partners have not had any positive cases of COVID-19 but most are out of work and are facing impending food shortages and other financial difficulties. The Presbytery of Western North Carolina has organized an effort to assist our brothers and sisters in the country. Our committee has sent \$3,000 from our Missions budget as well as making a \$1,000 donation to the Guatemala Microloan Project. This is a joint project of Presbyterian Women from Suchitepequez and Sur Occidente Presbyteries, and the Presbytery of Western North Carolina. The goal is for the women of the three presbyteries to work together to provide Guatemalan women opportunities to grow in self-esteem, hope, freedom and to help them develop sources of economic income for themselves and their families. Mimi Michael has been very involved since the inception of this project and can provide more information on ways that we can assist. We have also had a long relationship with a Presbyterian school and hospital in the African country of Malawi. Through the generosity of your pledges, we have also donated \$1,000 to the Ebernezer School and the Nkhoma Hospital. The PWNC would welcome private donations to address these urgent needs and instructions for donating are found elsewhere in this newsletter.

There are other important matters that have been impacted by the pandemic. The "One Great Hour of Sharing" offering is collected on Easter Sunday and another PC-USA Special Offering is collected on Pentecost Sunday which falls on May 31st this year. Please consider whether you are able to support these efforts. Please be in prayer for all of our Mission Co-workers as they deal with the pandemic in their locales. Please remember those in our community who lack adequate food and housing. Pray for the assistance ministries such as The Corner Table, ECCCM, and Habitat for Humanity as they do their good work in these difficult times.

We look forward to the time that we can physically worship together... until then we will continue to do God's good work, both here and around the world. The best item I have seen on social media is this..."We are not all in the same boat, but we are all in the same storm!"

God Bless!
FPC Missions Committee

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 28655.

*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). If you would like the PWNC to acknowledge your tax-deductible gift, please provide your contact information rather than signing in as a guest.



Sunday Community Supper Update

Since March 15, 2020 the Sunday Community Suppers have continued in a “To-Go” format. Thank you to the following groups who have provided meals:

March

- 15 FPC Youth**
- 22 FPC Newton – Fellowship SS**
- 29 Sweetwater Presbyterian**

April

- 5 Liberty Hill Baptist**
- 12 Trinity Baptist**
- 19 FPC Youth**
- 26 FPC Newton – Circle #2**

May

- 3 Beth Eden Lutheran**
- 10 Trinity Baptist**
- 17 FPC Youth**
- 24 FPC Newton – Discipleship SS**
- 31 Friendship UMC**

Our guests have expressed much appreciation for these meals. Also, a **BIG thank you to Deb Wakefield** who sewed 45 masks to distribute to our guests, and to **Kay Long** who is supplying additional masks. Many commented on how well made they were and how grateful they were to have one since masks are very difficult to obtain.



Financial Stewardship Report

2020 Budget	554,000.00
Gifts/Tithes Budget through 4-30-2020	178,200.00
Gifts/Tithes Receipts through 4-30-2020	167,565.32
Actual Expenses through 4-30-2020	172,456.08
Bank Balance 3-31-20	74,903.10
April Income	32,570.00
April Expenditures	31,213.87
Bank Balance 4-30-2020	76,259.23



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, June 16th at 5:00 p.m.

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.



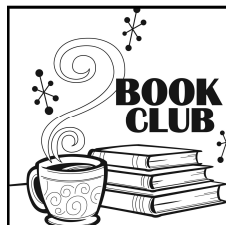
Community Sunday Suppers
Sundays - 5:30 p.m.
Fellowship Hall

Hosts

June 7th Newton Conover Schools Central Office
June 14th Trinity Baptist
June 21st Newton Conover Rotary
June 28th FPC Newton

July 5th Beth Eden Lutheran Church
July 12th FPC Youth
July 19th Trinity Baptist
July 26th Gabriel family

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



Music Ministry Notes

These last two months have been strange, concerning, and frustrating times to be endured. Not being able to be with our church family makes it even more difficult. But on a better note, there have been new ways of connecting with each other that help. Zoom Sunday School classes, devotionals and blogs by David, Laura's online activities for the children and youth and our virtual worship services have all been ways to help us stay connected as a church family to God and each other. Thank God for today's technology. Hopefully, you have been able to find a way to stay connected.

During this time, a small group of people have come together and formed a virtual worship team. It became evident that, especially during this time, we needed to find a way to offer a more complete worship service inclusive of not only the scripture and sermon but also music, prayers, and liturgy. So, our team was born. Our team meets late on Wednesday afternoons to practice, then tape the worship service for the following Sunday. This group has been very dedicated in sharing their talents to make this possible. Those making up this team are:



Rev. David Roquemore



Bruce Deese – Audio tech and Jim Ten Kate – Video Tech



Sam Choate and Susan Albano have also been a part. We have enjoyed working with each other putting these services together. We have learned a lot through the process and continue to work to improve each week. Sound mixing, copyright laws to abide and adding words to the video for our viewers to see and sing with during the service are just a few items we have learned to do. Last week, we were able to tape the service from start to finish without stopping for the first time. That was a great accomplishment! We have received several emails and notes of thanks for the weekly virtual worship experiences.



We are thankful and grateful the Lord has helped us all to stay well so we can come together each week to share our talents to help our church family worship God while at home. We thank you for your support.

Until we can return to worship together again in our sanctuary, remember that God is with us, so do not fear. Keep washing your hands a lot, be faithful in wearing your masks when out around others, and worship with us each week by watching FPC virtual worship on our church website.

Hymn themes – Which hymns speak to you?

One of the virtual worship services we shared was a hymn service with the theme being hymns that give us comfort. This service seemed to speak to many in our congregation based on the wonderful words of thanks shared with us. We want to offer other services with similar theme focuses. Your participation is being requested in asking you to share with us favorite hymns that speak to these themes:

Hope – Peace – Love - Joy

We ask you to share with us by email your hymn choices for each of these themes. Some ideas are as follows:

Hope – “My Hope is Built on Nothing Less”; “Our God, Our Help in Ages Past”

Peace – “O For a World”; “May the God of Hope Go with Us”

Love – “For the Beauty of the Earth”; “More Love to Thee, O Christ”

Joy – “Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee”; “Come Sing, O Church, in Joy!”

Email Cathy at brucemurdock01@bellsouth.net, Susan and susanstrickland@charter.net or the church office. Share with us the hymns that speak to your hearts.

— Cathy Murdock, Director of Music

June / July 2020 Church Calendar

Due to the COVID-19 Virus and the cancellation of church events and functions, we are not publishing a June/July, 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

CHURCH
CALENDAR



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.



CHRISTIAN EDUCATION NEWS

Youth Connections

May Events

2020 Graduation Sunday was Sunday, May 17th. Twenty cars traveled from the church to our seniors homes to cheer and congratulate them. Thank you to everyone who participated in the parade. You made this parade a reality and such a fun afternoon of celebration.





CONGRATULATIONS

2020 GRADUATES

High School

Newton-Conover High School

Jon Joplin

Plans to attend Barton College majoring in Nursing

Maiden High School

Anna Kirby

Plans to attend University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

Lauren Holcomb

Plans to attend Western Carolina University

Tyler Inscoe

Plans to attend University of North Carolina at Charlotte majoring in Electrical Engineering

Hickory High School

Claire Stalnaker

Plans to attend Sweet Briar College majoring in Biology with a secondary teaching certificate

Bandys High School

Sam Owensby

Plans to attend Lenoir-Rhyne University majoring in Biology and Chemistry

College

Wingate University

Madison Loyer (May 2020)

Plans to attend University of Charleston, WV pursuing a Doctorate in Pharmacy

Pfeiffer University

Hayden McGraw (May 2020)

BS in Business Management and Leadership with a concentration in Entrepreneurship

East Carolina University

Wesley Paul (May 2020)

BS in Business Administration

Tufts University

Aaron Dell (March 2020)

PhD in English, American Literature



5 Cindy Baldwin
Kent Holcomb
Michael Philhower

6 Nancy Holloway
Frances Ervin
David Boone
Stephen Lewis

8 Roger Keel
Patty Valentini

9 Fran Whitaker
Candi Jongetjes
Eric Ellis

11 Yancey Moose
12 Mary Elizabeth Baugh

13 Dee Ledbetter
Frankie Terry
Laura Sparks

14 Amy Owensby
Amy Loyer

16 Frank Nolley
Scott Edwards

17 Eileen Santman
Ellen Medlin
Bill Long

18 Ian Thompson
Lawson Radke

19 Wanda Hicks
Joe Jones
Elizabeth Philhower

22 Tom Witherspoon

23 Sarah Davis
Ellie Page Moose

24 Sondra Phillips

25 Kelly Tate
Margy Butterfield
Ericka Krueger
Andrew Butterfield

26 David Paul

29 Olivia Ellis
Sophie Job



1 Charles Major

4 Linette Foley

6 Bill Sigmon

7 Jan Clarke'

9 Dorcas Wooten
Ashley Lail

10 Lily Sparks

12 Bud Beers
Cole McGraw

14 Becky McRee
Leo Yenderusiak
Julie Jones

21 Margot Moose

22 Barry Wilson
Wes Ingle

23 Lottie Ethridge
Jim Ledford
Tom McAllister

24 Marlu Smith

25 Rick Knowles

26 Cathy Pernell

31 David Murdock



June & July Circle Meetings

- Circle #2** Circle 2 will not meet during June, July and August. They plan to resume on Tuesday, September 1st at 6:30 p.m. Location to be determined
- Circle #4** Circle 4 will not meet during June and July. They hope to resume meeting on Monday, August 3rd at 3:30 p.m. at the church.
- Circle #5** Circle 5 will not meet during June, July. They hope to resume meeting on Wednesday, August 12th at 11:30 a.m. at the church.

Presbyterian Women Coordinating Team

There will be no Coordinating Team meeting in June or July.



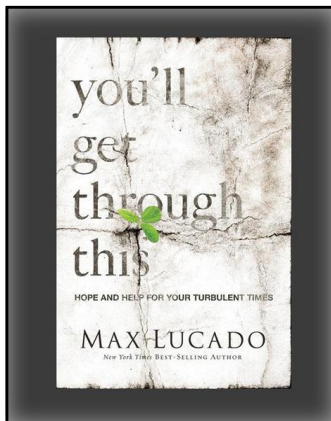
Everyone needs to know they are remembered, thought of and loved. The Women's Ministry Team is doing a ministry we call Bags of Love. The bags have a scripture card, individually wrapped crackers, candies & snack bags of cookies, along with a note that tells the recipient FPC Newton is thinking of them.

The first group of bags are being assembled and delivered to all church members at Abernethy Laurels and other facilities. Carole Roddy has assembled them and is delivering them! Thank you Carole!

The next round will be going to church members who live alone. If you would like to help fund the bags, deliver bags, or suggest people who might enjoy receiving a bag, we would love to hear from you! Please make checks payable to FPC Newton and note on the memo line: Women's Ministry.

In God's Love,

Susan Roquemore, Carole Roddy, Lynn Sample, Mimi Michael, Fran Whitaker, Laura Sparks, Mitzi Moody & Linda Witherspoon



The Women's Ministry has been busy with the Circle of Sisters Book Club on Facebook. Since the pandemic the Book Club became an online Book Club studying the book *You'll Get Through This* by Max Lucado.

There are 160 members in this group from the USA and also some ladies internationally joining us. Susan Roquemore and Laura Sparks are moderating the discussions with support from Tina Annas as well.

Anyone can join! Just let Susan Roquemore know you'd like to join !

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

Summer Worship Schedule

June 7th

Trinity Sunday

No Worship Service

June 14th

2nd Sunday after Pentecost

No Worship Service

June 21st

3rd Sunday after Pentecost

9:30 a.m. Worship Service

Outside on the grounds of FPC Newton

June 28th

4th Sunday after Pentecost

9:30 a.m. Worship Service

Outside on the grounds of FPC Newton

July 5th

5th Sunday after Pentecost

9:30 a.m. Worship Service

Outside on the grounds of FPC Newton

July 12th

6th Sunday after Pentecost

9:30 a.m. Worship Service

Outside on the grounds of FPC Newton

July 19th

7th Sunday after Pentecost

9:30 a.m. Worship Service

Outside on the grounds of FPC Newton

July 26th

8th Sunday after Pentecost

9:30 a.m. Worship Service

Outside on the grounds of FPC Newton