



# NEWSLETTER

## FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Serving the Newton Conover Area since 1858

Partners with Iglesia El Redentor, Guatemala

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

September 2020

Dear Saints of First Presbyterian!

It continues! Some ask, will this ever end? Almost every week someone asks me when we will get back to worship inside – the honest truth is, I don't know. That depends on different factors, like the governor's next proclamation, due in a couple of weeks, and the course of the virus, the rate of spread, how we can work to make the inside safe enough. All of this is a floating, moving target. The Session has discussed these issues, is aware of the problems, and is working on the answer. We hope to get back inside the building this Fall, but no one can say for sure when. I wish we could; I wish we had a better answer for you than, wait.

Meanwhile we do the best we can. Several things are happening that you should be aware of:

- We have two Sunday school classes meeting each Sunday morning. Doug Michael and Karen McDougal lead one; Sandra Teubner and a variety of others lead the other. Email them for the invitation – they meet about 11:00 a.m.. via Zoom.
- I am leading a Bible study on Thursdays at 10:00 a.m. Email me for the invitation. Currently we are finishing up 2<sup>nd</sup> Corinthians.
- I have a blog of sorts, on which I post Bible study stuff, for you to read. My plan was to post every Tuesday and Friday. The reality is that I post every week or two. Just now I am working through the early chapters of Genesis on there. Go to <Davidroquemore.wordpress.com>
- Things for children: Laura has a lot of good stuff going on for children, youth, even college students. Most of it is online, and you can find them at:

Young Disciples: <https://sites>.

Youth: <https://sites.google>.

- The pandemic has not slowed down the Circle of Sisters Book Club for women: it is meeting once a month in socially-distanced person in the trees behind Susan Knowles' house, and online as well. E-mail Susan Roquemore for those details.

Our Missions Committee continues to feed people every Sunday night. A few people prepare take-out bags and give them away at 5:30 p.m. We are hearing that this is one way that is keeping the community fed – especially since the Corner Table is not operating on weekends. If you want to help with cooking, serving, or just to donate something, contact Bob Neill and you can get the information.

Of course, we have our worship service online each Sunday for those who can't get out. We want you to be enriched, and be a part of the congregation even from home. The recording is posted on YouTube, with a link on the church website as well as Facebook each Sunday at 9 a.m.

As we get into the Fall, we may have even more ways for you to connect and be enriched and taught. Keep watching for more news!

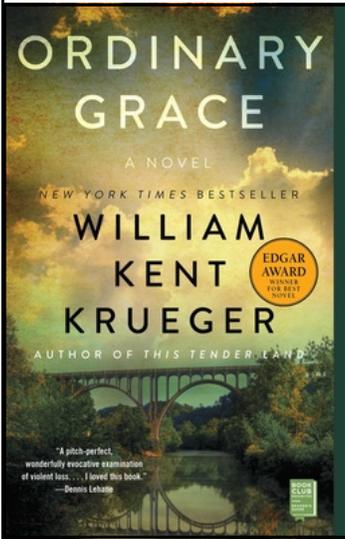
Stay safe, and wear your masks!

David



Dear church family,

On behalf of The Corner Table, we want to thank you for continued support of our mission — feeding the hungry in our community. Your generous church family makes it possible for our organization to put smiles on the faces of our guests by means of a warm meal. We are grateful for your care and concern of those who are less fortunate. — The Corner Table



The Circle of Sisters Book Club is extending an invitation to you all. We are having Jesus by the Creek on Tuesday, September 22nd at the park behind Susan Knowles' home at 6:00 p.m. Bring a chair and your mask and come hear Tina Annas lead us through our next book study, "Ordinary Grace" by William Kent Krueger. There is a lot of space to put our chairs safely apart and there is a lovely creek nearby. Please contact the church office for Susan's address.

In addition to our in-person meeting, we are offering a Zoom meeting on Thursday, September 24th at 7:00 p.m. Please let us know if you will joins us!

Love in Christ!  
Book Club Planners

### September 2020 Church Calendar

Due to the COVID-19 Virus and the cancellation of church events and functions, we are not publishing a September, 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](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.





As it has in so many other areas of our lives, the Corona virus has greatly impacted the activities of the Missions Committee at FPC-Newton. Some of our ministries have been cancelled or postponed...or postponed AND cancelled! We had planned to have another meal packing event with Rise Against Hunger in March. This was postponed to September 12th and due to the continuing presence of the virus, we have cancelled until next year. Our planned Red Cross Blood Drive has been cancelled due to the difficulty in securing volunteers during this time. The annual Hunger Walk, one of the largest fund raisers for The Corner Table and ECCCM

has cancelled as well. These are strange times indeed!

Still the committee, with the active participation of many FPC members and friends from the community, continues to strive to do God's good work. The Sunday Community Suppers are serving between 50 and 75 guests each Sunday evening. We have transitioned to a takeout system which has been working well. There is a great need for food support in our area.

We have collected a large amount of school supplies which will be distributed to two Middle Schools in the area and have participated in the Parade of Cans and collected a large amount of canned and packaged foods which will be used by The Corner Table and by the Backpack Program. Thanks to ALL of you who were able to help with these efforts!

The committee would like to recognize two FPC members who have taken an active role in the mission of our congregation.



Frances Ennis is a longtime member of FPC and an active member of Circle #4 of the Presbyterian Women. She learned about our cold weather shelter project, The Room in the Inn, and wanted to assist with this ministry. At her own expense, she purchased materials and packaged over fifty bags of personal hygiene supplies which can be distributed to the poor in our community. Thank You Frances!

One of the newer members of the Missions Committee is Lee Cranford. Lee worked as a public health nurse in Halifax County for many years before moving to our area and joining our congregation. She has a great interest in the work of Family Builders of Catawba Valley, the division of Catawba County Social Services which administers the Foster Care program in our county. Lee has acted as a liaison between our committee and the program and has personally coordinated several projects including providing needed supplies such as blankets, books and luggage for the children in the program and ensuring that the children were remembered with birthday cards during the month of their birth. This worthwhile program is in need of support, including funding, and are constantly searching for resource families willing to foster a child. For information on how you can help, please contact Megan Burns at (828)695-5600 or call the church office. Thank you Lee!

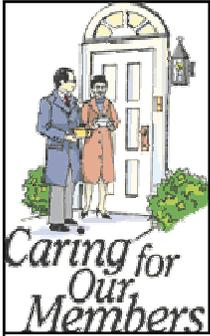


Hopefully the virus will be controlled in time and we will return to some degree of normalcy. Until then, Pastor David assures us...We will get through this! God Bless!

—Bob Neill, Missions Committee

## Financial Stewardship Report

2020 Budget	554,000.00
Gifts/Tithes Budget through 7-31-2020	311,500.00
Gifts/Tithes Receipts through 7-31-2020	275,810.71



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, September 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.

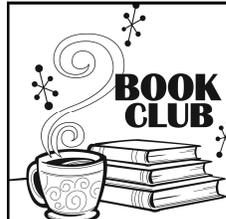


**Community Sunday Suppers**  
Sundays - 5:30 p.m.  
Fellowship Hall

#### Hosts

<b>September 6th</b>	Beth Eden
<b>September 13th</b>	FPC Youth
<b>September 20th</b>	Trinity Baptist
<b>September 27th</b>	FPC Newton - Session

**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

**Check out our new Youth and Young Disciples web pages. 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**

<https://sites.google.com/fpcnewton.com/fpc-newton-young-disciples>

### **Youth Website**

<https://sites.google.com/fpcnewton.com/fpcnewtonyouth/home>

### **Congratulations to our 2020 - 2021 Youth Council**

***Ellen Williams***

***Christian Kelly***

***Payton Nolley***

***Aidan Duncan***

***This group will meet via Zoom to plan our new Youth year!***

## A PRAYER FOR THE NEW SCHOOL YEAR

Dear Heavenly Father,

Please place your arm of protection on all heading back to school. Cover everyone with your grace and patience Lord.

Be with the students as they navigate a new way to learn. Help them to try their best to social distance and do their part to keep everyone safe.

Be with the teachers who are doing their job and then some. Give them patience and love Lord and help them to continue to be a beacon of light for their students in this scary and dark time.

Lord I pray for the administration who have tirelessly worked and had meetings, planned and replanned to ensure that kids can come back.

We pray for the custodians and bus drivers. Keep them safe as they bring kids to and from school. Cover them with your protection as they do their best to keep the school clean and safe.

Deliver everyone from the Coronavirus and let them have a safe and wonderful school year. In Jesus name we pray. Amen.



### **Sunday School Information**

Sunday School lessons will be sent out via e-mail and will be available on the Youth and Young Disciples Websites beginning September 27, 2020.

### **Sunday Community Supper**

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

On August 16th, Aidan Duncan, Payton Nolley, Margy Butterfield, Frank Nolley, Donald Duncan and Laura Sparks served guests a pizza and salad dinner. Thanks youth and parents for helping keep this ministry going.

### **New School Year Prayer**

As we begin a new school year, let us keep everyone in our prayers

## 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, Richard Hedrick, Ron Valentini, Jim Teubner, Paula Haissig, Janet Drum

*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, 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, 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 Ed Carmichael and family on the death of Peggy Carmichael, August 1st.

To Deward and Jeannie Clark and family on the death of Jeannie's mother, Carolyn Miller, August 9th.

### **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;
- 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



## September Circle Meetings

- Circle #2** Circle 2 will not meet in September, October, and November. Members will be contacted if there will be a December meeting.
- Circle #4** Circle 4 will not meet in September.
- Circle #5** Circle 5 will meet Wednesday, September 9th from 11:00 a.m. until 12:00 Noon in the Deal lot next door to the church. Please bring your chairs.

Presbyterian Women Coordinating Team - No September meeting

## 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, Sept. 13th

**Rise Against Hunger** - This event scheduled for Saturday, September 12th has been cancelled.

**Camp Grier** - 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.

**Pig Pickin'** - The annual FPC Pig Pickin' scheduled for October 11th has been cancelled.



- |                                      |   |                                  |
|--------------------------------------|---|----------------------------------|
| 1 Wesley Butterfield                 | 13 Cheryl Ransier                                 | 28 Ashley Moose<br>Sophie Davis  |
| 3 Virginia Coley<br>Taylor Rhinehart | 15 Brenda Jones                                   | 30 Frances Inscoe<br>Lynn Sample |
| 4 Jay Bajorek<br>Doug Michael        | 17 Johnsie Abernethy<br>Casey Clark<br>Anna Kirby |                                  |
| 5 Beverly McAlister                  | 19 Jerry Hodge<br>Brad Saine                      |                                  |
| 6 Elizabeth Benefield                | 20 Bill Inscoe                                    |                                  |
| 9 Angela Cable<br>Taylor Job         | 22 Brenda Eckard                                  |                                  |
| 12 Ryan Turner                       | 24 Wille Thompson                                 |                                  |
|                                      | 25 Betty Brown<br>Bruce Murdock<br>Kasey Gaddy    |                                  |
|                                      | 26 Sandy Hodges                                   |                                  |
|                                      | 27 Mason Nolley                                   |                                  |



## Music Ministry Notes

As we continue to move through this COVID pandemic time, we in the music ministry of First Presbyterian keep striving to find ways to keep our song alive and well. The lyrics of the hymn “How Can I Keep from Singing?” reminds us that in clinging to our “Rock” and believing in Him, we can still have our songs in our hearts to help us remember God and Jesus are with us, and we need to trust in them.

*My life flows on in endless song, above earth's lamentation.  
I hear the clear, though far-off hymn that hails a new creation.  
No storm can shake my inmost calm while to that Rock I'm clinging.  
Since Christ is Lord of heaven and earth, how can I keep from singing?*

*Through all the tumult and the strife, I hear that music ringing.  
It finds an echo in my soul, how can I keep from singing?  
No storm can shake my inmost calm while to that Rock I'm clinging.  
Since Christ is Lord of heaven and earth, how can I keep from singing?*

*The peace of Christ makes fresh my heart, a fountain ever springing!  
All things are mine since I am his! How can I keep from singing?  
No storm can shake my inmost calm while to that Rock I'm clinging.  
Since Christ is Lord of heaven and earth, how can I keep from singing?*

So, each week, along with the spoken word, we keep singing. In both videotaped services and in our live worship time outdoors together, our songs still live. We are thankful. The last Sunday of September, September 27<sup>th</sup>, was to have been our music dedication service. We are planning another hymn service for this day where we will share hymns of Praise, Thanksgiving, Hope and Joy. We plan to share this service during our videotaped and our live worship services. Please put this service on your calendars so you will not miss it. With two forms of worship for your participation, we hope you will be able to experience this service of word and music sharing messages of hope and joy.

### Handbell Quartet to play soon

Last week, a group of 4 handbell ringers came together to work on music to play for some worship services. By practicing social distancing, having one ringer per table with tables spread apart and all wearing mask, we were able to rehearse music for an hour. This rehearsal was the first time we have played handbells since March 15, 2020, our last worship service together in the sanctuary when the pandemic started. It was wonderful to ring bells with this group again. We have all missed each other, ringing handbells and just being together. This group plans to meet weekly to learn pieces to share in worship. Here is a photo from our first rehearsal.



*Pictured  
Front left - Tina Annas  
Back left - Robin Miller  
Front right - Kay Long  
Back right - Bill Long*

This group will participate in our videotaped services only. I will announce when this group will play for worship as soon as we have decided some dates. As we move into the fall, our choir rehearsals will not be able to resume. We will continue using small groups and individuals to offer music for our worship services. Someone said at worship this morning that they caught themselves singing with our group as we sang an anthem during our live worship. They were almost apologizing. Let me say, we invite you to sing along. We want you to sing along. Let your songs fill the air, above earth's lamentation!! Sing and sing some more! Do not let your voice go silent. Social distance during our outdoor worship, and sing!

Singing with all of you, Cathy Murdock

**THE NEWSLETTER** is published monthly by:  
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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 6th**

*14th Sunday after Pentecost*  
*9:30 a.m. Worship Service*  
*Outside on the grounds of FPC Newton*

**September 20th**

*16th Sunday after Pentecost*  
*9:30 a.m. Worship Service*  
*Outside on the grounds of FPC Newton*

**September 13th**

*15th Sunday after Pentecost*  
*9:30 a.m. Worship Service with*  
*Sacrament of Holy Communion*  
*Outside on the grounds of FPC Newton*

**September 27th**

*17th Sunday after Pentecost*  
*9:30 a.m. Worship Service*  
*Outside on the grounds of FPC Newton*

**The church office will be closed  
on Monday, September 7th for  
Labor Day.**

