

NEWSLETTER FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Serving the Newton Conover Area since 1858

Partners with Iglesia El Redentor, Guatemala

www.fpcnewton.org

August 2021

Dear Saints of First Church,

It almost feels as though the pandemic is a thing of the past, at least in our area. The churches are back, for the most part, and are open and active. We are worshiping more like we used to do, with more changes coming in the next few weeks. People who are vaccinated are feeling like they are safe, and we are glad to be able to be back.

Now, we come to a question: how has the pandemic changed the church? What will be different in the future? One thing is that we learned we can do this. We can survive a lockdown with no ill effects. We know we will survive. A second thing we learned is how to do online worship much better than in the past. We have our services live-streamed each week, which means you can be with us even if you are on vacation, or not feeling well. Some folks worship in person at 8:45 but tune in at 11:00 to see what the other sermon will say. A third thing we have learned is that we don't want to take physical gathering for granted. We continue to give thanks for the various ways we get together, and to enjoy one another's company. And perhaps a fourth thing is, we renew our commitment to mission.

The Presbyterian Church has the Matthew 25 Initiative that I mentioned in a sermon a few weeks ago. It consists of three broad areas: Revitalizing Congregational Ministry, Dismantling Structural Racism, and Eradicating Systemic Poverty. I believe one way to revitalize and rejuvenate the congregation's life is a continued commitment to mission. The other two initiatives fit into that quite well. They are hard ones. It is one thing to welcome and be kind to people of other races; it is another to remove structures that encourage racism. It is one thing to feed people; it is another to eradicate poverty that is systemic and continuing.

Let me ask you to think about these things. How can we do them? In our own lives and in our congregation's life, what would they look like? Perhaps you will think of a new idea, a new form of ministry that we could embrace which will make a difference in the lives of people and of the community. If you have a new idea, let me hear from you!

One thing that is under consideration is bringing back some form of mid-week educational and fellow-ship program for our young people and the people in the neighborhood. It won't look exactly like LOGOS did, but it will be similar. Again, if you have ideas about this program, let us hear from you.

I remember learning that in one town some church people were going to an apartment complex once a week, and sitting in a picnic shelter reading to the children. The children in turn were asking questions and learning to read better. It was easy, and it went on for several years. Something like that is pretty easy, if we have the motivation to get started.

We are back, and I am glad. We'd love to see you come back, find you favorite pew, and join us on Sundays! Will you do that?

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, John Holshouser



FRIENDS & FAMILY: Pam Bruner, Mike Waugh, Caitlan Reese, Lynne Watts, Elaine & Gordon Hall, Andrew Major, Kerry Hicks, Ann Hunsucker, George McClellan, Rev. Dr. David & Nan McAlpin, family of Patrick Gouge, Magnani family, Ann Moose, Tim Moose, Josh & Melissa Steelmon, 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 Kelly Ewalt, Kate Sharman, Ken McColley, Sherry Sigmon

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

Condolences:

To Richard Hedrick and family on the death of Sue Hedrick Hursey, Richard's sister, June 12th.

To David Horniman and Jemmetta Eckard on the death of Devon McDermott Horniman, their daughter-in-law, June 26th. To Tom & Linda Witherspoon on the death of Scott Jackson, their nephew, July 22nd.

Congratulations:

To Jim & Peggy Templeton on the birth of great-granddaughter, Eleanor Kelly Sharman, born July 7th.

To Emily Leagon on the birth of daughter, Emberlee Paige Hinson, born July 15th. Grandparents are Mark & Tina Leagon and great-grandmother is Johnnie Leagon.

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 Sthreshley 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.



Welcome Back!! In Person Live Worship Services 8:45 a.m. in the Chapel & 11:00 a.m. in the Sanctuary

Hallelujah! We are back inside worshiping together!

For your safety, we ask that you do the following:

- Please wear a facemask if you are not vaccinated;
- Maintain a safe distance of six feet;
- Safe seats will be marked by the bulletins in the pews. Please stay in family groups if possible;
- Please fill the pews from the center first;
- Ink pens will be available in the pews. If you use one, please take it with you upon leaving the service;
- After the worship service please exit with the REAR PEWS leaving first and keep a proper distance until you are outside or in an open area;
- Please take all bulletins, papers, and communion cups with you as you exit.

Sunday School Meeting Times & Locations

Nursery

Nursery is provided during the 11:00 a.m. worship service. B.L.A.S.T. will begin on Sunday, June 6th.

Children & Youth

We will not have Sunday school for children and youth until after Labor Day. Rally Day is scheduled for Sunday, September 12th.

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.





August 22nd

11:00 a.m. - Blessing of the Backpacks

September 12th - Rally Day

9:00 a.m. - Congregational Continental Breakfast, fellowship hall 10:30 a.m. - Worship in Sanctuary

September 17th - 19th

Annual Church Retreat at Camp Grier

September 19th

No Worship Services on FPC Campus, we are working on securing transportation for those that do not want to drive up for morning worship, lunch and afternoon at Camp Grier.

Financial Stewardship Report

2021 Budget 452,000.00 Gifts/Tithes Budget through 6-30-2021 225,999.94 Gifts/Tithes Receipts through 6-30-2021 238,084.63



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. nbers If you are facing particular chal-

lenges 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 Carole Roddy Lottie Ethridge Barb Forshey Susan Roquemore Robin McGraw Penn Waldron David Roquemore

The Care Team will meet Tuesday, August 17th at 5:00 p.m. in the FPC Fellowship Hall.

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. Email 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 1st August 8th August 15th August 22nd FPC Staff August 29th

Catawba Valley Rotary **Trinity Baptist FPC Youth** 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.

Join in as your schedule permits. Please e-mail Becky McRee at raiamnc@gmail.com if

have questions about the Club.

Book Club will resume on Tuesday, September 28, 2021 at 10:00 a.m. in the parlor.

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/D14050B3GNG

Upcoming Events



August

15th 4:30 - 6:00 p.m. - Sunday Community Supper 22nd

Blessing of the Backpacks at the 11:00 a.m. service

10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. - Mini Mission Day 28th

(Bring a bag lunch)

Cedar Creek Recap

Nine youth and two adults traveled to eastern Tennessee to help refurbish homes for families in need. This was our 12th mission trip to Cedar Creek Presbyterian Mission Center.

The group stayed at the Cedar Creek Presbyterian Church Mission Center near Greeneville, TN. The team refinished a deck, painted a house, and began a carport project that would be completed by another mission team. This was an amazing week of food, fun, hard work, and fellowship. Thank you to everyone who supported this mission trip. We would love to have you travel with us next year!









Parade of Cans Food Drive

August 1 - 31, 2021

The Parade of Cans is an annual August event held in conjunction with the Old Soldiers' Reunion Week. During the month of August, our church will be collecting canned goods which will be donated to The Corner Table and the Backpack Program. Collection bins will be located in the Narthex throughout the month of August. Below is a list of foods that are most needed by The Corner Table and the Backpack Program.

Foods Most Needed by The Corner Table: Canned Potatoes (sliced, diced or whole), Sauerkraut, Carrots (sliced), Lima Beans, Crushed Tomatoes, Greens (turnip or collard), Sweet Peas, Rotel Green Chilis & Tomatoes, Mayonnaise, Mustard, Ketchup, Vienna Sausages or Potted Meat, Pasta (egg noodles, rotini, penne, elbow), Stove Top Stuffing, Dry Beans (great northern, black eyed peas), Mayonnaise packets, Mustard packets, Ketchup packets, Pickles (dill spears, dill chips, dill cubes, sweet cubes), BBQ sauce, Evaporated Milk, Biscuit Flour, Self-Rising Flour, Cream of Mushroom or Cream of Chicken Soup, Chicken Broth, Cornmeal, Pork n Beans, Grits (Bulk), Sugar

Foods Most Needed by the Backpack Program: Macaroni & Cheese (boxed or Easy Mac), Microwave Meals (unrefrigerated), Pop Top Canned Meals (such as Chef Boyardee), Canned Meat (tuna or chicken), Peanut Butter (plastic containers only), Jelly (plastic containers only), Canned Pasta, Rice (1 lb. bags or less), Cereal (Small boxes), Pop tarts, Kid friendly snacks (granola bars, fruit snacks, goldfish, popcorn, etc.)

You may donate money instead of food. Every dollar donated is equivalent to two (2) pounds. If you choose to donate money, we ask that you specify how to apply your donation. Make all checks payable to First Presbyterian Church, and specify on the memo line where your contribution should go (The Corner Table, Backpack Program, or both).





School Supplies Collection

Again this year, FPC Newton will collect school supplies for area students. If you notice any of the following items on sale during the summer, please keep in mind that there are families in our county that can't afford these supplies for their children.

Backpacks Erasers Pens

Three-ring binders Markers Highlighters Lined paper Crayons Note Cards

Spiral notebooks Pencils (Lead & Colored)

Grocery carts are in the narthex where school supplies can be placed. These items will be collected through the month of August. Please help give area students what they need to be equipped to learn.



Meals on Wheels needs an additional 10 volunteers to deliver meals that are picked up from First Presbyterian Church. As a volunteer, you commit to delivering one day per month. Each route takes approximately 60-90 minutes to deliver and the meals are picked up from the church at 10:30 a.m. Meals are delivered Mondays through Thursdays.

For more information (and to apply), please see their website: Mealsonwheelsofcatawbacounty.org or call the office at 828-695-5610.

Partnership Relief Program

Our congregation, working with other churches in the Presbytery of Western North Carolina, has a long and strong relationship with our brothers and sisters in Christ in developing countries. For the last 25 years we have been involved in a partnership with El Redentor Presbyterian Church, located in the small coastal community of Los Cerritos. They are a member church of Sur Occidente Presbytery and 33 other PWNC churches have partnered with churches in that presbytery as well as others in the presbytery of Suchitepequez. The essence of the partnership program is evident in its logo..."Juntos en Cristo/Together in Christ."

Around 15 years ago, the PWNC formed a relationship with Dr. Barbara Nagy, a Pediatrician from North Carolina who was serving in the African country of Malawi. Dr. Nagy was working at the Nkhoma Hospital and over the years, our presbytery has supported their work and helped to start the Ebenezer School which now has over 400 students in pre-kindergarten through middle school. The hospital has set up nine rural health clinics and operates a mobile health unit. Each year, prepandemic, mission teams have visited both of these countries, working hand in hand and side by side with our brothers and sisters.

As it has in every corner of the world, the pandemic caused by the Coronavirus has greatly impacted the citizens of Guatemala and Malawi. Shutdowns have led to lost employment and food insecurity. Congregations have been unable to support their pastors. A delay in providing adequate vaccines has worsened the conditions. As of July 9, the level of new cases of Covid infection was at an all time high in Guatemala and only 3% of the population had been vaccinated. The situation is similar in Malawi.

As a response, the Partnership Committee of the PWNC has formulated a plan of support that will send funds to Guatemala and Malawi. The Missions Committee of our church has decided to send \$3,000 from our budget to support the relief program. A portion of those funds will benefit El Redentor directly and the remainder will be used for the general relief fund. If individual members of the congregation would like to contribute, checks may be sent to the church with "Partnership Relief Program" in the memo line. If you would like more information, call the church office or Bob Neill at (828) 323-7806.





August Circle Meetings

Circle #2 Circle 2 will meet and have dinner on Tuesday, August 3rd at 4:00 p.m. at O'Charley's Restaurant.

Circle #4 Circle 4 will meet not meet in August. The next meeting will take place on Monday, September 13th at 3:30 p.m. in the parlor. Linda Witherspoon, hostess.

Circle #5 Circle 5 will meet Wednesday, August 11th at 11:30 a.m. in the High School Youth Room with each member bringing their own lunch. The Circle will continue to finish the PW Bible study.

Bingo Night!

Around 50 members and visitors had a blast at FPC Newton's Bingo Night! Thanks to the following people for donations for prizes: fresh blueberries - Amy Owensby and Heather Kelly; Duncan family (cool prizes); Amy Travis Loyer (baked goods); Ray Rhinehart (pickled beets and pickled okra); and Suzanne Nolley Rhinehart (crocheted dishcloths, house plants and jams). If you have items you wish to donate or re-gift for our next bingo night, please bring them to the church office.

Thanks to Laura Sparks and Lily Sparks for serving as bingo announcer.

Thanks to Congregational Ministries (Charles Davis, Johnnie Leagon, Sally Sigmon, Jan Clarke, Amy Loyer and Suzanne Rhinehart) for organizing this event. We hope to possibly have quarterly bingo nights. Be sure to look at the newsletter or the church Facebook for date. If anyone is wanting to help with planning a bingo night, please let Congregational Ministries know.









2 Bruce Deese Thomas Jones Patty Neill

3 Ralph Dell

5 Margaret Choate

7 Grayson Lail
Clark Strickland
David Roquemore

8 Aidan Duncan

10 Dick Yaussy Jeff Abernethy Laurie Joplin

12 Texie Doolittle

13 Ed Carmichael Sara Edwards

14 Lori Ellis Greg Hinson Tammy Wilson

16 Clayton Brooks Courtney Saine

17 Courtney Roquemore

18 Chris Robinson

19 Emmy Krueger

21 Jean Nolley Ella Marlow

22 Jim Smith Jim Ten Kate

24 Ken Hodges

25 Barb Forshey

27 Ron Roscoe

28 Deb Wakefield

29 Karen McDougal



We truly appreciated the expressions of care and concern after the death of our brother-in-law, Herman Dellinger. As always, we feel the love of our church family.

Bob and Patty Neill

Dear church family,

Thank you for your caring concern, calls, cards and words of encouragement upon the recent death of Devon Horniman, our daughter-in-law.

David Horniman & Jemmetta Eckard

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. We sure did miss spending the weekend at our favorite place in 2020. Come enjoy fishing, canoeing, zip lining into the lake, hiking, puzzling, 4 square, campfires and rocking chairs on the dining hall porch. Unfortunately this year horseback riding is not available due to a scheduling conflict.

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. Please Save the Date Now! 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.











Come join Circle of Sisters Book Club starting Sunday, August 1, 2021 at 4:00 p.m. down by the river as they begin their new book. We will be discussing "The Boy, the Mole, the Fox and the Horse" by Charles Mackesy. We will meet behind Susan Knowles house while Tracey Paul will lead our discussion! Please bring a chair, a snack to share and a drink! If it rains, we will meet in the church fellowship hall. Grab a book this summer! It's a quick read and will be a terrific discussion book! Please sign up at the church or contact Susan Roquemore.

Blessing Bags

This Blessing Bags ministry has been what it's called a blessing! We have been able to keep in touch with our members and check on folks monthly. I get reports from all of you about your visits and thank you for your donations! You have been a part

of a tremendous ministry.

We have been talking with so many members at church who have concerns and needs. We have a large prayer list and I think that we truly have a ministry to so many who have given so much to our church. Those of you who have been in this church family have seen these folks who have helped grow your children up or have taught bible classes and who have kept up with so many of us because we are family. We kept up with the children, the teachers, the doctors and nurses, essential workers, the lonely, the sick, the new members etc. You have been a team that has been an arm of God teaming with the staff, the Care Team, and the New Members team. Thank you for your continued support.

Wednesday Work Group

The Wednesday Work Group consists of men and women of FPC that meet from 9:00 a.m. until Noon on Wednesdays to perform minor maintenance and repairs in and around the church. We clean different areas, repair a leaking commode, painting, trimming bushes, changing light bulbs, etc. Some of the same tasks you perform at home except you have the fellowship of one or more of your FPC members.

Some of current projects that we are performing is the painting of the outside metal handrail that is being spearheaded by Ron Roscoe. Another project is the power washing of the sidewalks around the church including the patio outside the Fellowship Hall.

Since it has been a while since some of our rooms have been used, there is attention needed to get them back in order.

Team members have their specialties that they enjoy and hope that one can be found for you.

If you would like to participate in the Wednesday Work Group, please call the church office and advise Kim or Sarah that you would like to be included, we will add your name to be notified on Tuesday what projects we will be working on Wednesday. If you cannot come on Wednesday but would like to work another day, just let the office know and we will team you up with a member of the group.

This group puts in over 1,000 hours a year which result in a significant savings to our church. Thanks for your consideration!

—Charles Moody, Property Chair & Leo Yenderrusiak, Wednesday Work Group Coordinator





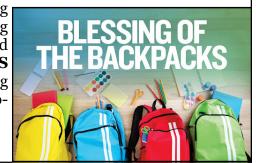
The Session has agreed to a plan worked out by the Property Committee to allow a local group of home school leaders use our building once a week. They had been hosted at another church, but that congregation's building needed work, so they were told to find a new home.

They will be using our facility on Tuesdays beginning August 17th and continuing until May. We are happy to be able to rent them these rooms, and are glad to be a resource for the community in this way.

Blessing of the Backpacks

We will have a **BLESSING OF THE BACKPACKS** during 11:00am worship on Sunday, August

22nd. All children & youth from pre-school through college, along with all teachers and school administrators, are invited to bring your backpacks, school bags, computer bags, etc. to worship, and participate in this year's **BLESSING OF THE BACKPACKS** event. So mark your calendars for Sunday, August 22nd, bring your bag or backpack to worship, and get ready to kick-off the upcoming school year with a blessing!





FPC Music Ministry Notes

It has been a great joy to be back together again for "in person" worship services in our chapel and sanctuary. The 11:00 service has been shared live over Facebook each week for those who continue to be at home and for anyone else who wants to watch the service. We may not know exactly all those we are reaching in sharing our service live each week.

For Easter, many from the Chancel Choir were able to come participate in the worship music. As the weeks and months have moved forward, you may have noticed our group is getting larger. Others will be returning to sing later in the summer or early fall. We have enjoyed being back together to practice each Wednesday evening and sing for worship each Sunday.

As we move into the fall season, we look forward to getting back to a more normal routine of choir rehearsals, worship participation and time reconnecting all of us together. The handbell group will resume their rehearsals this fall. The Chancel Choir will continue their rehearsal as well. There is much planning to be done and many services to look forward to sharing. We missed being together for weekly worship services, and we missed our special services of Kirk'n, Advent, Christmas, and others. Being able to continue to worship together "in person" this fall will be a wonderful blessing. Praise God! Alleluia!

Cathy Murdock - Director of Music

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

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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 1st

10th Sunday after Pentecost 8:45 & 11:00 a.m. Worship Sacrament of Holy Communion Rev. David Roquemore preaching

August 8th

11th Sunday after Pentecost 8:45 & 11:00 a.m. Worship 5¢-a-Meal Offering received Rev. David Roquemore preaching

August 15th

12th Sunday after Pentecost 8:45 & 11:00 a.m. Worship Rev. David Roquemore preaching

August 22nd

13th Sunday after Pentecost 8:45 & 11:00 a.m. Worship 11:00 a.m. - Blessing of the Backpacks Rev. David Roquemore preaching

August 29th

14h Sunday after Pentecost 8:45 & 11:00 a.m. Worship Rev. David Roquemore preaching

