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First
Presbyterian

Action

Artwork By: Alyssa Huffman

June 4, 2025

Vol. 198 No. 6



Vacation Bible School

June 23 - 27, 9:00-11:30 AM

Ages preschool-middle school. More information on page 1.



SUMMER WORSHIP SCHEDULE

10:00 - Summer Worship

Lemonade in the Shade
Join us in the fellowship
hall following worship
on these Sundays:
June 8, June 22,
July 6, July 20,
August 3, August 17,
and August 31

MINISTRY OPPORTUNITIES

Men's Breakfast
Tuesdays at 7:15 AM
Cagney's Kitchen
(1244 Fairview Drive)

**Midweek Bible Study with
Pastor Jon**
Wednesdays at Noon
Fellowship Hall

Prayer Shawl Ministry
2nd and 4th Wednesdays
1:00 PM at Nancy Gilbert's
Contact: Emelie North

Thursday Prayer Group
Thursdays at 11:00 AM
The Chapel, 2d Floor
Contact: Emelie North

From Our DCE

Confirmation Service



We had a wonderful Confirmation Service on May 4 at 11:00 AM. Thirteen middle school youth professed their faith in front of the congregation.

Graduation/Youth Sunday

On May 18 during the 11:00 AM service we celebrated Graduation/Youth Sunday. Sunday worship was led by our high school youth. Five seniors testified to their love and appreciation of First Presbyterian Church and the support of the congregation.

Bible School Kick-Off



We had a Vacation Bible School pop up (sign up) event on May 31 from 4:00-5:00 PM. Kids ages preschool through middle

school were invited to come and register for Bible School on the church's front lawn. We had a cotton candy machine and lawn games. Second and third helpings of cotton candy were enjoyed by all ages.

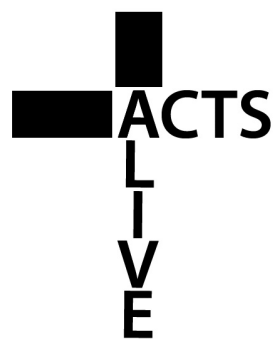


Vacation Bible School

Bible School week is June 23-27 from 9:00-11:30 AM. Participants and volunteers can register using the link myvbs.org/fpclexnc. Paper registration forms are also on the bulletin board outside of the fellowship hall.

We Are Growing!

We are searching for Sunday School teachers for our two Elementary classes (preschool-second grade and third-fifth grade). Please let Catie know if you would like to be a part of our rotating teacher schedule for next school year: dcecatie@fpclexnc.com.



Acts Alive Work Camp

June 22-28

*Please pray for our Acts Alivers and their advisors,
as well as those to whom they'll be ministering.*



Online Giving

Thank you for your gift!

From Pastor Jon

During my sermon on Memorial Day, I shared that my dad was in the Army. He was drafted at eighteen and, after basic training, was sent to Korea. As a kid, I enjoyed hearing stories about his time in the Army. He shared about being on a ship full of soldiers and crossing the Pacific. Everyone was seasick. When he arrived in Korea, he drove a truck that was full of equipment. It was his responsibility to take care of it. He also said Korea was the coldest place he had ever been. I didn't realize the significance of that claim until, as a Navy Chaplain, I was assigned to a Marine Corps unit.

Marines have a special bond with the cold weather of Korea, specifically, the cold weather late in 1950. From November 23 to December 13, 1950, Marines fought at a place called the Chosin Reservoir. (If you look on Google maps you can see that Chosin Reservoir is in modern-day North Korea.) It was the coldest temperatures on record for US forces in war. Just prior to the battle, a cold front moved south from Siberia (yes, that Siberia) and the temp dropped to 30 degrees below zero. In this bitterly cold weather, Marine Corps and Army units fought heroically against overwhelming Chinese Communist Forces to defend the reservoir and a nearby road which was the only supply route for UN forces in the region. The 1st Marine Division under the command of Maj. Gen. Smith (USMC) with units from the Army's 3rd and 7th Infantry Division successfully held the reservoir and the road until they were ordered to withdraw. When asked if the withdrawal was a retreat, Lt. Gen. Chesty Puller (USMC) said, "It was not a retreat, we're just attacking in a different direction!" There is much more to discover about the Battle of Chosin Reservoir if you want to learn more.

As a result of this battle, the Marine Corps established in 1951, the Mountain Warfare Training Center on the eastern side of the Sierra Nevada Mountain range at 6,700 feet of elevation. Marines call it one of their most remote and isolated posts. Each winter, Marines come to this base to train for cold weather combat. In the summers, of course, the base does not conduct cold weather training, but it has a program to train Marines in



mountain warfare including rock climbing, rope skills, and how to move through rough terrain.

In June, my unit from Kansas City will travel to this training center for our annual training. Even though my Dad wasn't near the Chosin Reservoir, he was in the cold of Korea, so I appreciate that I will be training in a place built to equip Marines to fight in the cold if they are ever called upon to do that again. And it's always special for me to make a trip back to California. Unfortunately, I will not be near enough to my brothers to see them on this trip.

Last month, I gave each of the youth in the confirmation class an alpine quality carabiner. "When you clip into a rope with this carabiner, it's strong and will hold you. You are also clipping into a life of faith, and it is strong, too." I told them.

Marines will use the same carabiners in their training in the mountains that I gave the confirmands. Marine instructors will tell their students: trust the carabiner. It will hold you. As their Chaplain, I will share with them what I told the confirmands: remember that you are clipped into God by faith. Trust your faith; it will hold you.

I will be supporting Marines as they train. I will provide spiritual support and counseling, offer religious services, track their morale, and generally take care of them. I am grateful that there will also be three other Chaplains on site with their own units, and I am looking forward to working with them. Please pray for our work over the next couple of weeks.

Together in Christ,
Jon

Office Summer Schedule

During the summer, the office manager will be in the office Monday through Thursday. The office will be closed on Fridays.



FOOD PANTRY COLLECTIONS

(Please bring all items to the church lobby.)

Pastors' Pantry - Mixed Veg. and Plastic Bags

Monthly Goal = 125 cans of mixed vegetables

First Hope Ministries - Jelly & Peanut Butter

Monthly Goal = 125 jars of jelly & peanut butter

Loaves & Fishes - Pop-top MRE's

Easy-to-open, ready-to-eat foods for the homeless

DAVIDSON MEDICAL MINISTRIES

Items needed for Davidson Medical Ministries are: soap, shampoo, hand towels, combs, toilet paper, paper towels, ink pens, large paper clips, and tape.

SHELTER MEALS

Every third Wednesday of the month, First Presbyterian is committed to preparing and serving a meal to the residents of the Homeless Shelter. Many thanks to all who have volunteered for this outreach ministry.

May 21 - Troop 205

June 18 - Timberlakes & Turlingtons

July 16 - Stalveys, Clarks, Kennedys, and Ginger Briggs

August 20 - Craig & Cathy Koontz and Meredith Andrews

If you would like to volunteer to prepare and serve a meal to the homeless at the shelter, please Ashley Timberlake or Carol Beck.

Midweek Bible Study

Our Midweek Bible Study with Pastor Jon will continue Wednesday, June 18 at Noon in the fellowship hall. You are welcome to join in any week!

A Note About Our Cover Art

Over the next several months, we will be featuring artwork for our newsletter header created by the middle school youth of our church. We are excited to involve them in this aspect of our faith community and appreciate their willingness to share their talents with the church family.

July Birthdays

- 1 - Olivia Henderson
- 5 - Will White, Parson Via
- 6 - Nancy Wright, Amy McNeill
- 9 - Rev. Susanne Martin, Byron Oswald, Mary Stewart
- 10 - Patricia Rouse
- 14 - Bill Bryan
- 15 - Will Coltrane
- 16 - Cathy Fulp
- 18 - Ann McMurray, Mac Timberlake, Ariel Bratz, Kayleigh Briggs
- 19 - Rebecca Sullivan, Hayden Ayers, Chuck Graham
- 21 - Jonah Martin, Ben Cunningham
- 22 - Jeff Griffith
- 23 - Melissa Smith
- 25 - Katherine Team
- 26 - Skip Greathouse
- 27 - Christopher Briggs
- 28 - Celia Stalvey
- 29 - Cathy Koontz
- 30 - Rebecca Creekmore, Nic Ramirez

May and June birthdays were emailed in the digital edition of the *ACTION* that went out in April and May. Not on our email list? Let us know at office@fpclxnc.com.

Can you help us keep this list up-to-date? If we have left someone out, please let us know.

Prayer Concerns

Bobby Ver Halen (serving in the Army)
Dave & Anna Fulp (serving in the Navy)
Wilson Parson (serving in the Marines)
Jim McCutchen (brother of Ginger Briggs & Margie Clark) - Parkinson's disease
Gloria Bulluck & family
Phyllis Hedrick
MaryAnn Farthing
Keith & Debbie Rawls - cancer
Alex Nicely - end stage kidney failure

Richard Widener
Jean Marsh
The Fosters

Becky Griffith
The Hillers
Brianna Ver Halen

Christa-Maria Grier
Martha Briggs Winters

Margi Cole (mother of Terri Lamb) - stroke
Michael Knight - recovery from stroke
Jo Leonard
Randy Ver Halen
Travis Best (son-in-law of Tom & Ann Lackey) - diagnosed with cancer
Rick Benfield

Memorial Gifts

The church has received gifts in honor of the **middle school youth, their advisors, and their families** from Alma Carlton, designated to Young Disciples.

The church has received gifts in loving memory of **Tom Keesler** from Walt and Tricia Rouse (Race Unification Committee) and Bob and Emmy Floyd (Memorial Fund).

The church has received a gift in loving memory of **Harry Grier** from Lanier Hardward, designated to the Memorial Fund.

The church has received a gift in loving memory of **Neill Caldwell** from Beverly Bowyer Copley, designated to the Music Fund.

The church has received a gift in loving memory of **Patrick Young** from Jim Beall Graham, II, designated to the Memorial Fund.

The church has received a gift in loving memory of **the 4th Grade Student in Emmy Floyd's classroom** from Bob and Emmy Floyd, designated to the Memorial Fund.

Thursday Prayer Group

Each Thursday, a group meets at the church at 11:00 AM (please note time change) to pray for the needs of church members, friends and loved ones of the church family, and others in our community and around the world. All are welcome to participate. Prayers may be silent or spoken.

PW Honorary Life Membership

On May 5th at the Presbyterian Women's Spring Gathering, the Honorary Life Membership was presented to Celia Stalvey. Celia was honored especially for her service to Presbyterian Women as Morning Circle Leader and for her service to our church as Elder, Chancel Choir member, and faithful Thursday Prayer Group participant. It was a joy to present this honor to such a faithful servant of our Lord and Savior.

Congratulations, Graduate!

Sydney Paxton Gentry received the Juris Doctor degree on May 16, 2025 from Wake Forest University School of Law. Paxton is the daughter of Chris and Ashley Gentry and the granddaughter of Johnny and Sydney Beck.

If you have a recent graduate you would like recognized in the *ACTION*, please let us know by June 24.

Two Cents A Meal Offering

The Two Cents A Meal Offering is directed toward programs that address hunger in our region. Locally, Pastors' Pantry and First Hope Ministries have received Presbytery grants from this fund. Donations may be placed in the offering plate or mailed to the church. Please note "2 Cents a Meal" on the donation.

A Note of Thanks

Dear First Presbyterian Family,

I want to thank you all for all your love and support while I was hospitalized at the end of March and during my subsequent recovery during April. Your calls, texts, cards, and notes helped lift my spirits and keep me encouraged. You all showed your care and concern in a myriad of ways, and I appreciate it so very much. Thank you, too, for your prayers. I firmly believe things would have gone differently without them. My thanks also goes to those who filled in at the office and who helped keep my plants alive and well cared for while I was sidelined.

I am blessed to be able to partner with such a caring congregation to help accomplish God's mission here on earth, and I am grateful for all the ways you continue to show God's love, not only to me, but to each other, our community, and well beyond. Thank you from the bottom of my heart.

Jeanna

Bicentennial Planning Update

The Bicentennial Planning Committee wants to share plans for the next two years leading up to the celebration of our church's 200th anniversary on July 15, 2027. The newest project is the design and ordering of a historical marker for the front yard of our church. It will be placed on the corner of Third Avenue and South Main so that traffic from both directions can read it. The marker will include some of the earliest dates of our church, as well as early accomplishments. We will have a ceremony to celebrate its installment when it arrives.



Other plans include the collecting of the research being done for our church history book so that the stories can be formatted and pictures added in order to make it ready for the publisher. Our hope is to have the book complete in the spring of 2027.

You have noticed, we hope, pictures of our sanctuary before 1965 when renovations were made, now hanging in the Third Avenue hallway outside the fellowship hall. The committee plans to hang more pictures in the coming months. Help is needed to enhance some older pictures. If you can use AI and would like to try to improve some of our older pictures, please let Emmy Floyd know.

The Committee also has plans for the planting of a commemorative tree on the front lawn, some special Sunday events, and some mementoes that will be for sale.

As the date of our anniversary draws closer, the Committee welcomes your ideas of ways to celebrate this occasion. Please share them with Mike Albert, Beverly Black, Margie Clark, Bonnie Graham, Margaret King, Bill Keesler, Celia Stalvey or Emmy Floyd.

Helping Our Seniors

We want to help our Seniors! If you need help with a task around the house or a ride to church or a doctor appointment, please contact Donna Via or Beverly Black.

Lemonade in the Shade

Lemonade in the Shade returns this summer on Sunday, June 8! Join us for light refreshments in the fellowship hall following worship. If you would like to sign up to host, the sign up form is on Jeanna's windowsill, lobby side. Dates are: June 8, June 22, July 6, July 20, August 3, August 17, and August 31.

