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FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
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First
Presbyterian

Action

Artwork By: Olivia Greer

July 2, 2025

Vol. 198 No. 7



Lemonade in the Shade

Light refreshment and fellowship
following worship

July 6, July 20, August 3, August 17, and August 31.



Midweek Bible Study with Pastor Jon

Wednesdays at Noon in the fellowship hall

Join in any week! All are welcome.

SUMMER WORSHIP SCHEDULE

10:00 - Summer Worship

Lemonade in the Shade
Join us in the fellowship
hall following worship
on these Sundays:
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 10:30 AM
The Chapel, 2d Floor
Contact: Emelie North

From Our DCE

Vacation Bible School

We had a wonderful week of Bible School (June 23-27) learning all about spiritual habits. Adults and kids of all ages were invited to *Step Right Up!* A huge thank you to all our Vacation Bible School volunteers. A special thank you to Ann Kiefer and all our Young Disciples. We are so grateful for your willingness to give your time, energy, and talents. Your support of First Presbyterian is what makes Vacation Bible School successful.

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@fpclenx.com.

Mark Your Calendars

Acts Alive Sunday - August 10

Backpack Blessing - August 17

Rally Day - September 7

Help Feed the Homeless



We're taking a cue from our kids and asking you to "Step Right Up" to assist Grace Episcopal Church in providing a free hot lunch every Sunday in August.

Those dates are: August 3, 10, 17, 24, and 31.

Three servers are needed each Sunday to help at 12:15 pm. Donations of additional plastic bags and wrapped plastic utensils would be appreciated.

Contact Carol Beck to volunteer or with questions.

Thank you for putting your faith in ACTION by serving others.



From Pastor Jon

Have you heard the story of Reverend John Witherspoon? He was a member of the New Jersey delegation to the Continental Congress in 1776, and a Presbyterian Minister. He had arrived in the colonies eight years earlier to become the president of the College of New Jersey. My information about Rev. Witherspoon comes from a book in my study. (It's one of those books that is a distraction for me from time to time.)



During the American Revolution, an English writer remarked that: *cousin America has eloped with a Presbyterian Parson*. He must have been talking about John Witherspoon.

John Witherspoon was born in 1723 in Gifford, Scotland. He was the eldest son of a Presbyterian minister and grew up in a Kirk whose church bells dated back to 1492. Witherspoon completed his studies at the University of Edinburgh.

He was ordained on April 11, 1745 (Aged 22) and became the pastor of the Beith Kirk. It is recorded that the new pastor of Beith Kirk spent long hours in sermon preparation. The number of candles he used surprised the townsfolk, who noticed lights in the manse late into the night. Twenty-three years after his ordination, he was invited to become the sixth president of a Presbyterian College in Princeton, New Jersey.

Once in America, he became more and more concerned with the cause of independence. Can you imagine the challenge of shifting from a loyal subject of King George III to an American Patriot? In 1774, he wrote an essay titled: *Thoughts on American Liberty*, in which he criticized the British and supported the efforts of the first Continental Congress.

In May 1776, Witherspoon preached a sermon in the Presbyterian Church in Princeton, New Jersey, in which he said: *the cause in which America is now in arms, is the cause of justice, of liberty, and of human nature...I am satisfied that the confederacy of the colonies has not been the effect of pride, resentment, or sedition, but of a deep and general conviction that our civil and religious liberties...depend on the issue.* (Within two months of

preaching these words, Witherspoon added his name to the Declaration of Independence.)

John Witherspoon is reflective of many American Presbyterians, who were completely committed to American independence and to the causes of justice, liberty, and human nature. Two hundred and forty-nine years later, how does God continue to call us to understand and work for those deeply faithful causes?

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.

PUZZLE

THE WONDER OF STARS

The heavens display evidence of God's great power.
What else does the Bible say about the sky?

Directions: Use the clues and Bible references (all NIV) to complete the crossword.

DOWN

- The sun, moon and stars do this to God. (Psalm 148:3)
- God made these as numerous as the stars. (Genesis 26:4)
- Don't do this to the stars and sky. (Deuteronomy 4:19)
- What do the heavens declare? (Psalm 19:1)
- The moon and the stars do this at night. (Psalm 136:9)
- When we're pure, we do this like the stars. (Philippians 2:15)

ACROSS

- The heavens are the work of these. (Psalm 8:3)
- On what day did God create the stars? (Genesis 1:14-19)
- God calls each star by this. (Isaiah 40:26)
- A star announced the arrival of him. (Matthew 2:2)

Answers: DOWN: 1. praise, 2. descendants, 3. worship, 4. fingers, 5. shine, 6. govern, 7. glory, 8. fourth, 9. name, 10. King



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.

July 16 - Stalveys, Clarks, Kennedys, and Ginger Briggs
August 20 - Craig & Cathy Koontz and Meredith Andrews
September 17 - Race Unification Committee

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

Midweek Bible Study

Our Midweek Bible Study with Pastor Jon will continue each Wednesday 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.

August Birthdays

- 2 - Minta Vander Schaaf, Caroline Dinges
- 4 - Jackson Greer
- 5 - Margaret King, Justin Wheeles
- 6 - Bob Lowe, Burr Sullivan,
Daniel Timberlake, Gail Coltrane,
Silas Kennedy
- 8 - Ryan Harman
- 9 - Will Henderson
- 10 - Chris Chesson
- 11 - Joel Wheeles
- 12 - Sandra Smith
- 13 - Owen Kiefer
- 14 - David Welborn,
Alison Joy Holden
- 16 - Hoy Bohannon
- 17 - Sheila Goff
- 19 - Ed Snider,
Harrison Gardner
- 25 - Sarah Andrews, Deborah Gray
- 26 - Misty Priddy
- 30 - Jan Kiefer, Carol Fortune
- 31 - Michael Holden, Katherine Martin



July birthdays were printed in the previous edition of the *ACTION*.

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

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
 Lynn Carlton (stepmom of Jeanna Carlton) - concussion

Richard Widener
 Jean Marsh
 The Fosters

Becky Griffith
 The Hillers
 Brianna Ver Halen

Christa-Maria Grier
 Martha Briggs Winters

Memorial Gifts

The church has received a gift in loving memory of **Virginia Norris Elder** from William "Chip" Norris and Nancy Fromkin, designated to the Music Fund.

The church has received gifts in loving memory of **Margot Walser** from Jim and JoAnn Hill and Calvin and Julee Cunningham, designated to the Memorial Fund.

The church has received a gift in loving memory of **Charlotte Graham Gingerelli** from Susan and Jim McMillan, designated to the Choir Fund.

The church has received a gift in loving memory of **Zeb and Winnie Green** from Susan and Jim McMillan, designated to the Handbell 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.



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.

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.

A Note About VBS

The church is still this Sunday evening. All the decorations from VBS are gone, all the t-shirted kids and adults are gone, all the energy-induced atmosphere is gone. But the memories will linger. The amount of work that went into this week, and then this morning is unimaginable. All the kids from other churches, friends of "our" kids, grandchildren from wherever, will have great experiences to add to their list of memories. When I was just up there, all of this really came to mind. A living church, one which offers things like this and so many other things, is fed by so much organization, energy, creativity, and heart. Made me happy. I love First Pres.

- Anonymous Member of FPC

