

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN ACTION
POSTMASTER: Please send address changes to:
First Presbyterian Church
PO BOX 586
Lexington, NC 27293-0586

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



Fall Festival
Sunday, October 19
Candy & small prizes needed.



Historical Marker Dedication
Sunday, October 5 following worship

NONPROFIT
PRSRM MKTG
US POSTAGE & FEES PAID
FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
PERMIT NO. 12



**WORSHIP
SCHEDULE**

October 5
10:00 - Sunday School
11:00 - Blended Worship
with Communion
12:00 - Historical
Marker Dedication
12:15 - First Sunday
Fellowship Lunch

October 12, 19, 26
9:00 - Contemporary
Worship
10:00 - Sunday School
11:00 - Traditional
Worship

**MINISTRY
OPPORTUNITIES**

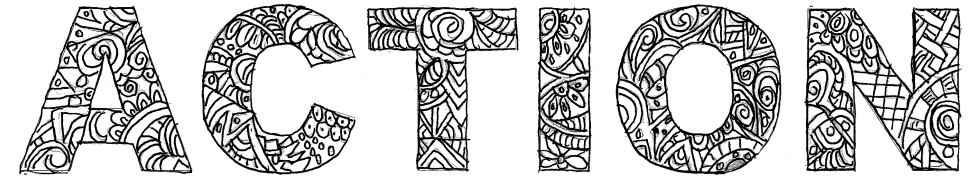
Men's Breakfast
Tuesdays at 7:15 AM
Cagney's Kitchen
(1244 Fairview Drive)

**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
Prayer Room, 2d Floor
Contact: Emelie North

First
Presbyterian



October 1, 2025

Vol. 198 No. 10

Christian Education News

Sunday School

Sunday School is off to a GREAT start! We have classes for all ages. Please join us Sunday mornings at 10!

Fall Festival

This year's Fall Festival with Trunk-or-Treat will be held Sunday, October 19. Donations of candy and small prizes are needed. You may place your donations in the designated box in the lobby.



Sign Dedication October 5



After worship on Sunday, October 5, we will dedicate a historical marker in the church yard. This will be the official launch of our bicentennial celebration, which will continue through July 2027.

Presbyterian Women Circles

Presbyterian Women Circles will meet Monday, October 6 at the church. The Morning Circle meets at 10:30 AM in the parlor. The Evening Circle meets at 7:00 PM in the Joyful Classroom. We will discuss lesson two, *Mary "of a Certain Village."* Karen Koontz will lead the lesson for both Circles, with Karen Carrickhoff and Carol Beck providing a devotional.

We will also be collecting donations for

Dragonfly House: *individual toiletries (shampoo, tampons, pads, Irish Spring soap, toothbrushes (adult and child sizes), toothpaste, snacks (no Yoo-Hoo), inexpensive toys, toddler and youth colored t-shirts, and kitchen and heavy duty trash bags.* Please drop your donations off as you enter through the Third Avenue entrance.

Fall Fundraiser for Local Missions

Our Moravian-style chicken pie and baked spaghetti sale begins Sunday, October 5!

Large chicken pies (serves 6-8) are \$15.00 each. Baked Spaghetti with Meat Sauce and Vegetarian Baked Spaghetti are both \$15.00 per pan. Purchasing any three of these items costs \$42, a cost reduction of \$1.00 per item. Small chicken pies (serves 1-2) are \$17 for a pack of four pies (must be purchased as whole packs).

Order forms will be available at the church or may be downloaded from our website (fpclexnc.com) beginning Sunday. All orders must be paid for and submitted by Sunday, November 2.

Payment is due at the time orders are placed. Checks should be made payable to First Presbyterian Church.

Orders may be picked up Saturday, November 8 from 11:00 am-2:00 pm and Sunday, November 9, in the fellowship hall following each worship service (10:00-11:00 and 12:00-1:30).

From Pastor Jon

In Virginia, I got to sit in the driver's seat of a Ford *Model A* once. It wasn't moving, the engine wasn't running, and it was tucked away



in a barn. But with my hands firmly gripping the steering wheel at ten and two, for a moment I could picture myself bouncing down a dirt road in that old beauty. It felt less like sitting in a car (in a barn) and more like traveling back in time.

Ford produced the *Model A* between 1927 and 1931. Even a hundred years later, cars really haven't changed all that much. And even though today's cars have touch screens, GPS, backup cameras, heated seats, rear wipers, cup holders, cruise control, sound systems, floor liners and much more, they still have the basics: four wheels, air-filled tires, an engine (whether it's gas or electric), seats, lights, a horn, and—wait for it—the glove box (does anybody else still call it that?).

Isn't the church a little like that? For two thousand years the church has had the same "basic design." From the earliest days, the church is made up of people who follow Jesus and meet as a resurrection community. Just like those first disciples, we have continued to worship, pray, study, share life together, and share the gospel in mission. We welcome others into the community through baptism, and we meet around the table.

Like cars, the church has picked up some upgrades along the way. The early Christians met in homes; we meet in a beautiful, climate-controlled building with rooms for worship, fellowship, learning, and more. We have added livestream, screens, pew cushions, and communion cup holders! But even with all the extras, like an old *Model A*, the essentials are still the same.

This month we celebrate the Protestant Reformation, which began on October 31, 1517. One of the great gifts of the Reformation is the reminder not to let the "add-ons/upgrades" cover up the "basics." Buildings, programs, committees, and traditions can all be good—but none of them should ever get in the way of our living relationship with God and with each other.

So as we get ready to celebrate the Reformation later this month, I want to give thanks for all the blessings of our life together, old and new, the basics and the extras. And in good Reformation style celebrate that Jesus is in the driver's seat!

Peace,
Jon



Prayer Shawl Ministry

Our Prayer Shawl Ministry meets the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays of each month at 1:00 PM at the home of Nancy Gilbert. Anyone who is interested in being part of this ministry is invited to join in. If you do not know how to knit or crochet, they will be happy to help you learn. If you have questions or know of anyone who could use a prayer shawl, please contact Emelie North.



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!

Thursday Prayer Group

Each Thursday, a group meets at the church at 10:30 AM in the Prayer Room 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.

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.



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

For August - 48 cans

First Hope Ministries - Jelly & Peanut Butter

Monthly Goal = 125 jars of jelly & peanut butter

For July - 38 peanut butter; 15 jelly

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.

October 15 - Acts Alive

November 19 - Troop 205

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

Coming Soon!

We will be helping Pastor's Pantry with the collection of sweet potatoes (yams) again this year for their holiday meal boxes. Pastor's Pantry assists our Senior population in need. More information coming soon!

November Birthdays

- 1 - Sherry Weiser
- 2 - Grace Turlington
- 3 - Max Holshouser
- 4 - Eugene Hedrick,
Wynn Orman
- 14 - Walt Rouse,
Olivia Greer
- 17 - David Durrell
- 20 - Jimmy Holshouser,
John Knox,
Dustin Jennings
- 21 - Dave Hiller
- 22 - Bob Floyd,
Eli Staten
- 23 - Steven Via
- 24 - Adelaide Gerstenbacher
- 26 - Dillon Lucas
- 29 - Debbie Butler



October 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.

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.

About Our Cover Art

Many thanks to Sarah Andrews for creating this month's *ACTION* header.

Prayer Concerns

Bobby Ver Halen (serving in the Army)
Dave & Anna Fulp (serving in the Navy)
Wilson Parson (serving in the Marines)
Tobias Ludwig - NC State Trooper
Brandi Pope - Denton EMT
Jim McCutchen (brother of Ginger Briggs & Margie Clark) - Parkinson's disease
Gloria Bulluck & family
Phyllis Hedrick
Keith & Debbie Rawls - cancer
Alex Nicely - end stage kidney failure
Tommy Wilson
Jo Leonard
Randy Ver Halen

Richard Widener
Jean Marsh
The Fosters

Becky Griffith
The Hillers
Brianna Ver Halen

Race Unification Committee Book Study

Deepen your journey towards racial healing. First Presbyterian's Race Unification Committee invites you to participate in a powerful 8-week book study, delving into Dr. Catherine Meeks' insightful work, *The Night is Long but Light Comes in the Morning: Meditations for Racial Healing*. We are joining a group from Grace Episcopal led by Gail Rogers and will meet both virtually via Zoom and in person at Grace weekly on Mondays from 5:30 to 7:00 PM, beginning Monday, September 8, and continuing for 8 weeks. Each section of the book can stand on its own, so don't let your inability to make all sessions prevent you from joining any of the sessions.

The Night is Long but Light Comes in the Morning is available in hardback from Amazon.com or locally at Pig City Books. For more information, contact the church office.

Preschool Butter Braid Sale

The Preschool will kick-off its annual Butter Braid fundraiser on Monday, October 13. Orders will be taken through October 30. More information will be made available soon. Thank you for your support of our Preschool.

Margi Cole (mother of Terri Lamb)
Michael Knight
Travis Best (son-in-law of Tom & Ann Lackey) - diagnosed with cancer
Mark White and Family - death of his father, Rodgers White
Steve Lindsley and Family - death of his wife, Lorie
Family and Friends of MaryAnn Farthing
Becky & Jeff Griffith & family - death of Becky's brother, Rick Benfield
Bill Atkinson & Family - death of his wife, Barbara
Emelie North & Marie Muskovin & Family - death of their Aunt Ruth Collins

Christa-Maria Grier
Martha Briggs Winters

Memorial Gifts

The church has received gifts in loving memory of **Dr. MaryAnn Farthing** from Burr and Rebecca Sullivan, designated to Presbyterian Women, and from Mike and Faith Albert, designated to the Memorial Fund.

In Memoriam

The congregation extends its sympathy to Becky (Jeff) Griffith and their family due to the death of her brother, Rick Benfield, on September 2, 2025.

The congregation also extends its sympathy to Emelie North and Marie Muskovin, due to the death of their Aunt Runt on September 28 at the age of 100.

The congregation further extends its sympathy to Bill Atkinson and his family, due to the death of his wife, Barbara, on September 29,

Please keep all of these families in your prayers during this difficult time.



WITH SYMPATHY

Caring for Our Columbarium

The columbarium is a prayerful and serene part of the Third Ave. courtyard. If you've visited the columbarium, you have seen how the sun and the weather have taken a toll on many of the bronze plaques. To address the severe weathering of the plaques, we have consulted with the plaque manufacturer to work out a process that includes cleaning, refinishing, and applying a protective UV coating.

Over the next few weeks, we will be removing two or three plaques at a time for restoration. If you notice a plaque missing, please know it is simply being cared for, restored, and will be returned soon. Several plaques have already been restored and are back in the columbarium so you can see the quality and results of the process.

If you have any questions about the project, please send them my way.

Peace, Pastor Jon



All Saints' Liturgy for November 2

The worship service on November 2 will include an All Saints' Liturgy during which we recognize people connected to our church family who have died in the past year. If you would like to include someone on that list, please submit their name, date of death, and their relationship with you to the church office by Sunday, October 26. Because this is an annual event, we would like to include people who have died in the past twelve months or who were not included last year. If you have any questions, check with Pastor Jon or our office manager, Jeanna (336-248-2140 or office@fpclcxnc.com).



Operation Christmas Child is On the Horizon!

Operation Christmas Child season is almost upon us! Within the next few weeks, you should see information about OCC popping up at the church. We hope that you will consider participating in this outreach opportunity that shares the love of Christ with children around the world through gift-filled shoeboxes and the good news of the gospel.



LET US NOT
BECOME WEARY
in doing good.
FOR AT THE
PROPER TIME
WE WILL REAP
A HARVEST IF
WE DO NOT GIVE UP.

GALATIANS 6:9