

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

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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



First
Presbyterian



February 11, 2026

Vol. 199 No. 2



Easter Egg Hunt

Sunday, March 22

12 PM - Light lunch in the fellowship hall

12:45 PM - The hunt begins!

Hunters are invited to First UMC afterwards for a craft and snack.

Please register using card in Sunday bulletin.



WORSHIP SCHEDULE

March 8

10:00 - Sunday School

11:00 - Youth Sunday
Service

March 15, 22, 29

9:00 - Early Service

10:00 - Sunday School

11:00 - Traditional Service

Christian Education News

Easter Egg Hunt

Please join us for our Easter Egg Hunt on March 22 at 12:45 PM. After the egg hunt kids are invited to First United Methodist for a craft and snack. A light lunch will be provided following worship at 12 PM. Please RSVP to Catie () by March 15 if you will be attending. All are welcome. Egg hunters, don't forget to bring your basket!



Sunday or join us for the day on Saturday. Price will depend on overnight stay. Registration forms are in the Church office window. Please text or call Catie with any questions ().

Vacation Bible School

Save the date! Vacation Bible School will be June 22-26.

Youth Sunday

This Sunday, March 8, our high school youth will lead our worship service. Their theme is *Our Path to Faith*. Thank you for supporting our youth!

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



Church Retreat

Our church retreat will be April 17-19 at Camp Walter Johnson in Denton, NC. Register to attend Friday night through

In Memoriam

The church family extends its sympathy to Sam, Isabella, Zoey, and Wyatt Henderson, due to the death of the children's father, Will Henderson, in Maine on February 19. Please keep the Hendersons in your prayers.

The church family also extends its sympathy to Jennifer Welborn and her family due to the death of her mother, Jean Marie Walsh, on January 16 in Southport, NC. Please keep Jennifer and her family in your prayers also.



Now Registering – Church-wide Retreat

April 17-19 at Camp Walter Johnson

Registration forms are available from the church office window

From the Pastor's Desk

I am sharing with you a note that my Navy Reserve Chaplain colleagues are sending to Sailors and Marines in their units. This note is meant to help young men and women in the military think about how to process the news of a military action against Iran, and what that may mean for them as reservists. As you read it, listen for the deep care Chaplains bring to their work. I sent this note to my unit in Kansas City.



Good Morning Sailors and Marines, The U.S. military action against Iran is all over the news. Times like these can be difficult for reservists. We can feel a sense of apprehension. We may get phone calls or messages from family members asking what's happening. It's ok to tell them you don't know. I encourage you to take a deep breath. Pause. Pray.

Our job as reservists is not to know the what or why of global politics. Our job as reservists is to be in a state of readiness in case we are called upon. That is certainly about medical and dental readiness. It's also about administrative readiness, and making sure that we are physically, emotionally, socially, and spiritually ready to deploy if we are needed.

Keep doing the things you're already doing. Spend time with your family. Spend time practicing your faith. Practice those things that ground you. Recognize that those around you who love you are probably just as anxious, if not more. Be patient with them. Don't hesitate to reach out or communicate.

I would also encourage you to limit your news intake. Make sure that you're using reputable sources when you do. And make sure that you're bearing your news from a diversity of sources. But also, take the time to turn off the news and focus on the things that matter the most to you.

As your Chaplain, I will make sure that I leave my phone on with the ringer turned up. You can also call the 24-hour Reserve Duty Chaplain line (948-223-6490). If you or anyone experiences extreme distress, don't hesitate to call 988. Call me if you need to, Chaps.

I want to encourage you to listen for something in that note that might be helpful to you. You might be

apprehensive and worried. I think we all are. As people of faith, we must focus on the things that matter—spending time with family, joining with our church family for worship, pausing to pray, and staying grounded in God's goodness, trusting that faith, hope and love never end.

As we make this Lenten journey to Easter, we follow Jesus. He always leads the way, even through days of worry and distress. And we journey together. If you have any questions about any of this, my door is always open.

Praying for 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.



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

Collected for January = 21 cans

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.

Feb. 18 - McMurray Small Group

Mar. 18 - Amy McNeill and friends

Apr. 15 - Joyful Class (Jan Greer)

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

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.

April Birthdays

- 2 - Robin Team
- 3 - Ginger Mock, Jo Leonard
- 4 - Karen Carrickhoff
- 7 - Betty Tucker
- 8 - Christy Hiller, Barbara Presnell, Cliff North
- 9 - Jeff Koontz
- 10 - Birke McNeill, Anne Riley Harman
- 13 - Ginger Briggs, Alma Carlton, Ann Kiefer
- 14 - Pat Ulmer, Anna Gobble, Kelly Burkhart
- 19 - Chris Johns
- 20 - Tom Lamb
- 23 - Henry Duran
- 24 - JoAnn Hill, Emily Orman
- 26 - Billie Kerley, Craig Miller
- 29 - Adrienne Staten, Lilly Belle Priddy
- 30 - Nathan Varner



March 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.

Spring Sale for Local Missions

Our spring chicken pie and baked spaghetti sale is happening now! Choose from traditional Moravian chicken pie (all meat) or chicken pot pie (with vegetables), in large (9") or a 4 count pack of small (5") pies. Baked spaghetti with meat sauce or vegetarian-style are also available!

Orders are due March 15. Order forms are located in the lobby near the steps (look for the yellow poster).

Pick up will be in the fellowship hall Saturday, March 28, from 9am-12 pm and Sunday, March 29 until 1:30pm.

Prayer Concerns

Michael Davis (Army - basic training)
 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
 Phillip Hegler - Davidson County Sheriff
 Jim McCutchen (brother of Ginger Briggs & Margie Clark) - Parkinson's disease
 Gloria Bulluck & family
 Phyllis Hedrick
 Alex Nicely - end stage kidney failure

Richard Widener
 Jean Marsh
 The Fosters

Becky Griffith
 The Hillers
 Brianna Ver Halen

Randy Ver Halen
 Michael Knight
 Margi Cole (mother of Terri Lamb)
 Family & Friends of Tommy Wilson
 Family & Friends of Macie Anderson
 Jamelia Burch's granddaughter, Kalie
 Lisa Dean
 Ashley Timberlake & family, death of aunt, Nancy Nance
 Sam Henderson & family - death of Will
 Jennifer Welborn - death of mother, Jane Marie Walsh

Christa-Maria Grier
 Martha Briggs Winters

Bicentennial Committee Meets to Plan

Upcoming Celebrations

The Bicentennial Committee met on Tuesday, January 13 at the home of Emmy Floyd to continue planning for our church's upcoming bicentennial celebration. Those in attendance included Pastor Jon, Beverly Black, Bill Keesler, Margaret King, and Celia Stalvey. The meeting was filled with thoughtful discussion and exciting plans as the committee worked toward honoring our church's rich history while looking ahead with hope.



Several important topics were discussed and will be presented to the Session for approval. The topics included the following:

- Planting an oak tree in the front yard of the church this fall as a lasting symbol of strength, faith, and growth. High Rock Lake Nursery has been contacted for estimates for this project.
- Creating a time capsule designed by members of our Young Disciples and Acts Alive classes who will select items to include and determine its permanent location.
- Scheduling an Acts Alive Sunday in August 2027 and inviting members from past years to join us for worship followed by a luncheon.
- Inviting former pastors and associate pastors to assist

in leading worship services over the next two years.

- Providing commemorative items for display and purchase at our Rally Day Sunday celebration in September 2026 including note cards and prints featuring our church building.
- Planning a grand finale birthday celebration for our church in July 2027.
- Commissioning an artist to paint a beautiful tree illustration to be included in our church history book.
- Continuing to collect articles for our church historical book to be published in 2027. The committee is asking members and friends to submit any pictures of our church, past celebrations, former members, or any other important memorabilia to be included in this publication.

The Bicentennial Committee is excited about these plans and looks forward to sharing more updates as we journey together toward this historic milestone.



SESSION DIGEST

Mike Albert, Clerk

The Session held its monthly stated meeting on February 15, 2026 in the Session room. The following is a summary of the highlights of the meeting:

- The elevator is undergoing scheduled maintenance and inspection. Repairs are scheduled for the roof leaks in the fellowship hall (under warranty).
- An old-fashioned covered dish lunch is scheduled for March 1.
- The Church-wide Retreat will be held April 17-19 at Camp Walter Johnson. The early service on April 19 will also be held at Camp Walter Johnson.
- Youth Sunday in March 8.
- A donor has purchased a new Christmas tree for the sanctuary.

- A concert will be held at the church on May 31 benefitting Stoner-Thomas School.
- The Worship and Music Ministry Team is evaluating new hymnals.
- The Bicentennial Planning Committee proposed a list of activities for our 200th celebration and will submit a budget for the Session to review.
- Celia Stalvey and Chris Kennedy were elected as Session representatives for the 2026 Nominating Committee.
- Rev. Martin will be on vacation March 3-8.

Memorial Gifts

The church has received a gift in loving memory of **Neal Beck** from Charles and Jeri Bowyer (Garden Fund).

The church has received a gift in loving memory of **Neal Beck** from Rebecca Creekmore (Music Fund).

The church has received a gift in memory of **Nancy Wright** from Bill and Lee-Anne Distler (Memorial Fund).

The church has received a gift in loving memory of **Jane Walsh** from Cathie Alexander and Jay Welborn (Memorial Fund).

PW April Circle Meetings

Presbyterian Women Circles will meet Monday, April 13 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. Betty Knox will teach lessons 7 and 8 in our study, *Finding Resilience, Joy, and Our Identity in Jesus Christ*.



We will collect items for Dragonfly House: individual toiletries of shampoo, women's feminine products, Irish Spring soap, toothbrushes (adult and children), and toothpaste. Snacks, inexpensive toys, toddler and youth-colored t-shirts, and kitchen and heavy-duty trash bags are also needed. In addition, they are requesting \$10 gas

cards for clients (from Walmart, Shell, Sheets, etc.), and Domino's gift cards so staff can feed clients who are at the facility for extended hours during interviews.

All gift cards should be given to Emelie North. Other donations may be placed at the lobby steps as you enter through the Third Avenue door.

A Note of Thanks

Dear Church Family,

We want to thank you for your prayers and support that helped Jimmy get back on the road to recovery.

During this difficult time, our congregation and other volunteers provided transportation to Piedmont Crossing for Connie to visit every day during the months of October and November.

We are truly blessed to have such a loving and caring church. We thank every member very much.

Connie & Jimmy Holsbouser

