

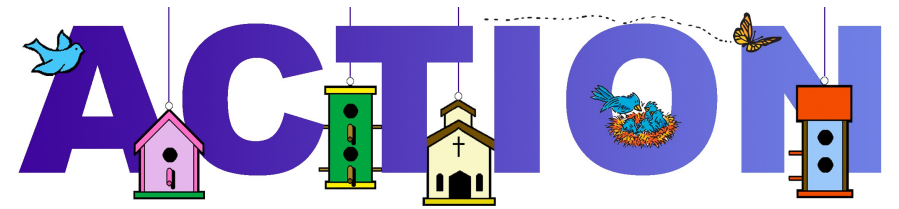
FIRST PRESBYTERIAN ACTION
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First
Presbyterian



May 1, 2026

Vol. 199 No. 5



WORSHIP SCHEDULE

May 3

10:00 - Sunday School
11:00 AM - Blended
Worship
12:00 - Taco Bar Lunch

May 10, 17

9:00 - Early Service
10:00 - Sunday School
11:00 - Traditional Service

May 24, 31

10:00 - Summer Worship



Summer Worship Schedule Begins

Sunday, May 24



Piano & Organ Recital

Sunday, May 31, 5:00 PM

Vacation Bible School

June 22-26



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

Christian Education News

Church Retreat

We had a wonderful church retreat April 17-19 at Camp Walter Johnson in Denton, NC. We had forty-eight participants on Saturday. We had wonderful fellowship, break-out sessions, music, food, and activities. A special thank you goes to Pastor Jon for leading our three break-out sessions. Thank you to our musicians – Ed Kiefer, Ed Snider, and Chuck Carper – for doing an outstanding job in providing our music! Thank you to Ann Kiefer for taking a group of our middle schoolers on the retreat! Dalton Collins did a great job being our guest speaker during our break-out sessions for our middle schoolers.

Pictures from the retreat are sprinkled throughout this edition of the *ACTION*.

Vacation Bible School

Save the date! Vacation Bible School will

be June 22-26 from 9:00 AM to 11:30 AM. VBS Sunday will be June 28. The theme this year is *Outlaws for God: An Adventure in the Wild West and the World*.

Registration is now open for participants and volunteers! Go to: Myvbs.org/fpclexnc 2026



Last Day of Sunday School

The last day of Sunday School will be May 17. We are looking forward to honoring all of our Sunday School teachers and Preschool teachers in the bulletin on this day.

In Memoriam

The church family extends its sympathy to Clay and Carol McCorkle due to the death of Carol's father, Max Grant, on April 9. Please the family in your prayers.

From the Pastor's Desk

Our yard here doesn't have a good spot for a small garden, and I miss that. We had a simple, raised bed garden in Virginia, and I think about the advice the farmers would give me: "Don't plant anything outside until after Mother's Day."



One year, we planted radishes, and they did well. I think a ground hog ate some of them, (another farmer said it was good to plant enough to feed the animals and the humans) but we had enough to add to salads. The word *radish* comes from the Latin word, radix, which means: *root*. Isn't that a perfect name for this vegetable?

Roots are not just good for salads, they are good for theology. And Presbyterians care about roots.

Our seminaries teach Greek and Hebrew so we can get to the roots.

Sunday school classes study the Bible because we want to get to the roots.

Churches are called to practice what Jesus teaches because we want to get to the roots.

So let me go a little deeper with this root language. People who care about roots are called radicals. That might need some explanation...while *radical* can mean an extremist, there is a second definition, which is more fitting for Presbyterians. A second definition of radical means *arising from, or going to a root*. So, in that second sense, Presbyterians are all radicals. We want to go to the root of the church. We want to go to the resurrected Jesus who stirred the first disciples to announce with boldness the great work of God in the world. We want to go to that first Pentecost, where radish-red tongues of fire appeared over the disciples. Pentecost is on Sunday, May 24, which is also our first Summer Sunday with worship at 10am.

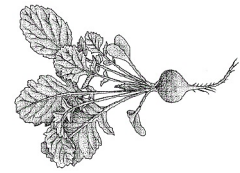
We are radicals because we go to the root of things. When we face a question in the church, we go to the root. When we listen for where God is calling us, we go to the root. We study God's Word together and try to discern the way forward. Does that mean we always agree on what we discover at the root? (You already know the answer to that question.)

Like a radish, sometimes the answers we are looking

for are not on the surface, so we have to dig for them. Surface answers might work for a while, but they aren't the root, and going deeper is worth it. Let's dig together as we answer how God is calling us to be the church this summer.

Radicals together,

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 continues to meet at Noon in the fellowship hall each Wednesday. We are currently studying the book of James. 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

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 20 - Boy Scout Troop 205

June 17 - Timberlakes & Turlingtons

July 15 - Stalveys, Clarks, Kennedys, & Ginger Briggs

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

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.

June Birthdays

- 4 - Catie Johns, Brady Coltrane
- 6 - Ron Leonard
- 7 - Karen Koontz, Katherine White
- 8 - Joy Harman, Terri Henderson
- 10 - Nancy Check
- 13 - Faith Albert, Lisa Lucas, Stephanie Kiefer
- 14 - Phillip McGirt, Zac Huntley
- 16 - Mike Kiefer, Wyatt Henderson
- 17 - Emma Coltrane
- 19 - Regina Harris, Beth White, Jack Hiller
- 20 - Suzanne Miller, Margie Clark, Rob Greer, Michael Holshouser
- 21 - Amber Manzella
- 22 - Darcee Neal, Linda Rowe, William Chesson
- 24 - Kyle Briggs, Brinley Kiefer
- 25 - Hoke Ayers, Sloane Huntley
- 26 - Susan McMillan, Lucy McNeill
- 29 - Phyllis Hedrick



May 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.

A Note of Thanks

Dear Church Family,

Cliff & I want to thank everyone for all the prayers, visits, cards, and meals during my sudden illness. I felt your prayers, and God blessed me mightily. I am still working on getting my strength back and hope to see you soon.



Emelie North

Prayer Concerns

Micheal Davis (Army - basic training)
 Bobby Ver Halen (serving in the Army)
 Dave & Anna Fulp (serving in the Navy)
 Wilson Parson (serving in the Marines)
 Luke Dellinger (Air National Guard)
 Henry Weaver (Navy)
 Monica Weber (Navy Reservist)
 Zach Resech (Army National Guard)
 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
 Phyllis Hedrick
 Alex Nicely - end-stage kidney failure

Richard Widener
 Jean Marsh
 The Fosters

Becky Griffith
 The Hillers
 Brianna Ver Halen

Memorial Gifts

The church has received a gift in loving memory of **Nancy Wright** from Charles and Jeri Bowyer, designated to the Garden Fund.

The church has received a gift in loving memory of **Mikilene Quesenberry** from Jim Beall and Bonnie Graham, designated to the Memorial Fund.

The church has received a gift in loving memory of **Len McNeill** from Gilbert McNeill, designated to the Memorial Fund.

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

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

Randy Ver Halen
 Michael Knight
 Margi Cole (mother of Terri Lamb)
 Jamelia Burch's granddaughter, Kallie
 Lisa Dean
 Dottie McGirt & family - death of sister, Carol May
 Gloria Bulluck - death of cousin, Dorothy Grosset
 Scott & Heather Quesenberry - death of Scott's sister, Mikilene Quesenberry
 Carol & Clay McCorkle & Family - death of Carol's father, Max Grant
 Chris Johns - death of Brandon Lowstetter

Christa-Maria Grier
 Martha Briggs Winters



SESSION DIGEST

Mike Albert, Clerk

The Session held its monthly stated meeting on April 19, 2026 in the Session room. The following is a summary of the highlights of the meeting:

- The church received a bequest from the estate of Patrick Young. The funds were deposited in the Session Discretionary Fund at this time.
- The Session is evaluating a maintenance contract for the current AED defibrillator.
- Upcoming activities: May 3 - Taco bar luncheon; April 23 - Presbyterian Table; and May 31 - recital by Regina Pozzi to benefit Stoner-Thomas School.
- Plans for an updated pictorial directory are being discussed.
- Bible School is scheduled for June 22-26. Also, discussion was held regarding the worship service, Sunday School and music programs during the summer. This matter was referred to the Worship and Music Ministry Team and Educational Ministries Ministry Team for further discussion and recommendations to the Session.
- The Faith in Action team shared thank you notes from the various ministries we support.
- The Finance Committee opened a money market account to improve the church's interest income.

- Discussion was continued regarding the policies governing flowers in the Columbarium.
- The Nominating Committee is continuing to meet. The next meeting is in process of being scheduled.
- Nancy Check was elected to serve as a commissioner at the upcoming Presbytery meeting, which will be held at Westminster Presbyterian Church in Greensboro on May 12.

