

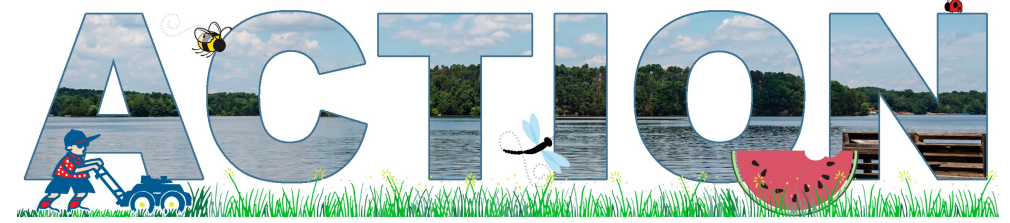
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First  
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June 2026

Vol. 199 No. 6



# Vacation Bible School

June 22-26

[myvbs.org/fpclexnc2026](http://myvbs.org/fpclexnc2026) to register

## SUMMER WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Sundays  
10:00 - 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**  
2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> 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

### Teacher Appreciation

On May 17th we honored the hard work and dedication of our Sunday School and Preschool teachers.

Our 2025/2026 Sunday School Teachers

- The John Knox Class: Bonnie and Jim Bell Graham
- The MOJO Class: Jennifer Turlington and Lynne Hobbs
- The Joyful Class: Jan Greer
- Middle School: Ann and Mike Kiefer
- High School: Matt Welborn, Amy and Birke McNeill, Ashley Timberlake, Adrienne Staten, Robin Team
- Elementary School: Karen Carrickhoff, Kim White, Jan Kiefer, Catie Johns

Our 2025/2026 Preschool Teachers

- Jane Blackerby – Director; Assistant in Pre-K Classroom
- Heather Barnes – Lead Teacher, Pre-K Classroom
- Renee Thomas – Lead Teacher, Two Year Old Classroom; Lead Teacher Three Year Old Classroom
- Lynn Brown – Assistant, Three Year Old Classroom
- Waverly Blackerby, Mattie Sill – Assistants in Two Year Old Classroom

## Vacation Bible School

Vacation Bible

School is June 22-26

from 9:00 AM to

11:30 AM. VBS

Sunday is 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!

[Myvbs.org/fpclexnc2026](http://Myvbs.org/fpclexnc2026)



## Traveling Jesus

*Traveling Jesus* is inspired by a national school project called *Flat Stanley*, based on a book written by Jeff Brown. *Traveling Jesus* helps children and adults remember that Jesus is always with them.

*Traveling Jesus* is an invitation to keep Him at the front of our mind and in our heart as we move through our days. When we seek Jesus, we find Him, and we want to share Him with our friends. This is more than a photo opportunity; this is a call to live out our faith no matter where we go in the world.

This summer, take a picture of you and *Traveling Jesus* enjoying an adventure or activity together and then email or text it to Catie ( ).

Let's keep Jesus at the front of our minds and remember that He is always with us!

A *Traveling Jesus* paper can be picked up in the Kid's Corner located by the sanctuary entrance from the lobby.

## From the Pastor's Desk

This bio was included in the bulletin for the benefit recital on May 31, and I wanted to share it in the newsletter. Regina Pozzi came to First Presbyterian Church late in 2021, and she has been a valuable part of the staff. She is dedicated to church music and the journey that brought her here is an interesting one, and in her words, "somewhat unusual."

Regina's career path is somewhat unusual. Becoming a church musician was not a professional future that her parents had in mind for her. Her father had hoped that she could one day take over his family practice while her mother persistently suggested that she should become a public school teacher with a secure salary and good benefits. To please her parents, she got her master's in music education, but she knew that was not her calling. Even before this four-year program she had started taking organ lessons secretly. She continued with private organ lessons in addition to her already rigorous schedule.

When she found a position as organist/music director in Frankfurt, Germany, she enrolled in sacred music at the Frankfurt Conservatory. Although Regina finished successfully with another master's degree, her desire to add a performance degree in organ hit a roadblock. The reason was that her early piano training had left her with some fundamental technical insufficiencies. Nagging thoughts about "not being good enough" and feeling very much discouraged led her to the conclusion that she must not have enough talent and that it was time for a different direction in her life.

Little did she know that her marriage would uproot her from everything she had known thus far. The move to Saskatchewan, Canada, and six years later to the US, brought many challenges. But she had no time to dwell on that since she had to take care of her growing family of five children. Homeschooling, gardening, raising tame chickens, ducks, and two pygmy goats - as well as rescuing unwanted and abused dogs - looked like an idyllic life until the family had to move again and again and again.

The fourteen-year gap of not having played the organ closed when Regina accepted the position of music director in a Methodist church in Asheville, NC. However, she quickly realized that things were done differently here than overseas. She decided to "brush up" on her skills

when she met her (later) organ teacher at the Conference for Music and Worship in Montreat, NC. For almost two years she commuted from Asheville to Salem College with her four sons in tow. During that time, it became clear that she was about to embark on a new phase in her life. The passion of her youth returned and, with the overwhelmingly kind support of the teachers at Salem College, she enrolled as a full-time student and consequently moved to Winston-Salem.

The studies were exhilarating. They proved to her that she had the talent after all. While she pursued her degrees in organ performance, she also embraced a radical retraining of her piano playing. That opened the way to further professional development. After finishing her Bachelor and Master in Organ Performance (Salem College, UNCSA), Regina focused on piano. The new technique allowed her to play virtuosic literature she had always wanted to play, but never could.

First, she became a certified teacher for "Injury-Preventive Keyboard Technique." Nothing could stop her now from reaching for the final goal, the Master in Piano Performance and Piano Pedagogy. She presented her master's recital in her former church because the pandemic did not allow performances in public places.

While the studies in organ and piano allowed her to reach her full potential, Regina was shocked to hear from the professor of composition at Salem College that she also had a talent in composition which had not been developed. Several years prior, out of the blue, she had started writing a few songs for her children and a few short choral pieces for the church choir. The idea never occurred to her that that was composition. She just called it "writing music." Once the unexpected news had sunk in, she started composing organ and piano pieces which, to this day, is an ongoing process.

## 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.



## 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.

June 17 - Timberlakes & Turlingtons

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

August 19 - Craig & Cathy Koontz, Meredith

Andrews, Carol Beck

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

## July Birthdays

- 1 - Olivia Henderson
- 5 - Will White,  
Parson Via
- 6 - Amy McNeill
- 9 - Susanne Martin,  
Mary Stewart
- 10 - Patricia Rouse
- 14 - Bill Bryan
- 15 - Will Coltrane
- 16 - Cathy Fulp
- 18 - Ann McMurray,  
Mac Timberlake,  
Ariel Bratz
- 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



June 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.

## 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

Richard Widener  
 Jean Marsh  
 The Fosters

Becky Griffith  
 The Hillers  
 Brianna Ver Halen

Phyllis Hedrick  
 Alex Nicely - end-stage kidney failure  
 Randy Ver Halen  
 Michael Knight  
 Margi Cole (mother of Terri Lamb)  
 Jamelia Burch's granddaughter, Kallie  
 Lisa Dean  
 Carol & Clay McCorkle & Family - death of Carol's father, Max Grant  
 Chris Johns - death of Brandon Lowstetter

Christa-Maria Grier  
 Martha Briggs Winters

## Memorial Gifts

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

## Presbyterian Women News

On May 4 at the Presbyterian Women Spring Gathering, the Honorary Life Membership was presented to Emmy Floyd. Emmy was honored especially for 50 years of service at our church. She has been a Deacon, served on Session, and was the first female Clerk of Session. She has been a Sunday School teacher, VBS leader, and serves regularly as a PW Bible Study teacher. She helped to reorganize the Church Library and served as chair of Meals on Wheels for over 20 years. Currently she is heading the committee planning the Bicentennial Celebration for our church in 2027. It was a joy to present this honor to such a faithful servant of our Lord and Savior.



## Mixed Vegetables Offering

First Presbyterian Church collects cans of mixed vegetables, which are taken monthly to Pastor's Pantry and distributed to hungry senior citizens in our community. By partnering with Pastor's Pantry, we are working to fight hunger among our senior (age 60+) population right here in Davidson County.



According to Pastor's Pantry's website, they provide 7 to 8 plastic grocery bags of food to seniors each month, which lasts approximately 10 days. They distribute an average of 5000 bags of groceries total each month, in addition to emergency food.

Our monthly commitment to Pastor's Pantry is 125 cans of mixed vegetables. In May, we only collected 20 cans. While our offering of mixed vegetables is only a portion of what they distribute, it is, nonetheless, important.

Please remember to pick up a couple cans of mixed vegetables whenever you stop by the grocery store. Your gifts can be dropped off at the designated area in the church lobby Monday-Friday during business hours, or on Sunday morning when you come to worship. Thank you for all you do to help fight hunger in our community!

## SESSION DIGEST

*Mike Albert, Clerk*

The Session held its monthly stated meeting on May 17, 2026 in the Session room. The following is a summary of the highlights of the meeting:

- Pastor Jon opened the meeting with scripture and prayer. He also shared that Dave Fulp has returned to his base in Norfolk, Virginia after a long deployment aboard the *USS Bainbridge*.
- Discussed organizing a Planning Team to discuss possible changes to the Blended Worship Service. Also discussed the possibility of including choral music in the summer.
- Vacation Bible School is scheduled for June 22-26 with Vacation Bible School Sunday on June 28. Also, announced "The Traveling Jesus Project" as a summer church activity. More information on this activity will be shared in bulletins and newsletters.

- The church's financials remain strong and total expenses are currently within budget.
- Applications for the Winnie Green Higher Education Scholarship have been distributed and are due June 1.
- Our property insurance is up for renewal, and conversations are beginning on the renewal.
- A Congregational Meeting was approved for May 31 to hear and act on a report from the Nominating Committee.
- Commissioner Nancy Check reported the highlights of the recent Presbytery meeting at Westminster Presbyterian Church in Greensboro.
- Approved receiving Sam Becker into the membership of First Presbyterian by Reaffirmation of Faith.

## In Memoriam

The church extends its sympathy to Chris and Dale-Manning Chesson due to the death of their oldest son, William Chesson, on May 29, 2026. Please keep the Chris, Dale-Manning, Battle, and all the Chesson family in your prayers.



## 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!

## 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.

## 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.

