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First
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July 2026

Vol. 199 No. 7

Christian Education News

Vacation Bible School 2026

We had a wonderful week of Bible School (June 22-26). We would like to say thank you to all parents for sharing your children this week.

We are so grateful for all our volunteers and their time, energy and talents given to Bible School. Thank you to Ann Kiefer and all our Middle Schoolers.

The week started on Monday learning about Gideon – with just a tiny army and some trumpets and pitchers, Gideon defeated the powerful force of the Midianites! We learned how God used Gideon’s faith and willingness to lead and stand up to the enemy. (Judges 7)

On Tuesday we learned about Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego. We discovered how the Hebrews followed God and escaped the fiery furnace. (Daniel 3)

On Wednesday we learned about Deborah. Barak was too afraid to do what God told him to do. Deborah’s faith helped Barak trust God. We discovered that sometimes we need someone else’s help. (Judges 4)

On Thursday we learned about Jesus. We discovered that Jesus was the ultimate outlaw! We learned that having the right attitude in our hearts is the most important part of following God. (John 2:13-25)

We wrapped up a fantastic week of Vacation Bible School on Friday with a petting zoo and a hot dog lunch.



On Sunday, June 28, the youth led us in worship sharing all the things they learned during the week!

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, use the included *Traveling Jesus*, and take a picture of you and *Traveling Jesus* enjoying an adventure or activity together and then email or text it to Catie (dcecatie@fpclxnc.com or 336.225.0014).



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
2nd and 4th Wednesdays
1:00 PM at Nancy Gilbert’s
Contact: Emelie North

Thursday Prayer Group
Thursdays at 11:00 AM
Prayer Room, 2d Floor
Contact: Emelie North



Acts Alive Sunday

August 2 at 10:00 AM

From the Pastor's Desk

Have you heard of the church musician William Billings? He wrote choral music in America in the late 1700s. He was born in Boston in 1746 and lived there his entire life. He did not have formal musical training, but his music was loved by the church.



His life was difficult, and he worked to survive from an early age. At 14, after the death of his father, he worked in a leather tannery. Can you picture a young Billings, singing to himself or wondering if there was something more for him beyond the difficult and smelly work of tanning leather? He found this in church music.

We have one of his songs in our hymnal, but I don't think I've ever sung it. It's called, *When Jesus Wept* (#312). It was published in a collection of hymns called, *The New England Psalm Singer* (1770).

On the two-hundred and fiftieth anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence, I want to share one of his hymns. It is also in the *New England Psalm Singer*. I recommend reading or singing it aloud.

America

1. To Thee the tune-full anthem soars,
to Thee, our father's God and ours.
This wilderness we chose our Seat;
To rights secured by equal laws,
From persecution's iron claws,
We here have sought our calm Retreat.

2. See! how the Flocks of Jesus rise!
See! how the Face of Paradise
Blooms thro' the Thickets of the Wild!
Here Liberty erects her Throne;
Here Plenty pours her Treasures down;
Peace smiles, as Heav'nly Cherubs mild.

3. Lord, guard thy Favours; Lord, extend
Where farther Western Suns descend;
Nor Southern Seas the Blessings bound;
'Till Freedom lift her cheerful Head,
'Till pure Religion onward spread,
And beaming, wrap the Globe around.

Can you hear in this hymn text a sense of a growing American identity and a connection to the continent? What about a prayer that liberty, equality and pure religion spread widely onward from America across the world?

Although the national songs in our hymnbook are beloved, all but *Lift Every Voice and Sing* come from the 1800s. By contrast, Billings's hymn *America* was contemporary to the founding of our country. If you want to sing Billings's hymn, I recommend a couple of hymn tunes. The first is the tune associated with *Eternal Father Strong to Save*. (#562) The second is the tune sung with the hymn, *Jesus, Thy Boundless Love to Me*. (#366). Give it a try and let me know how it goes.

May God keep us forever in the path, we pray.

Pastor 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.



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 May = 20 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.

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

August 19 - Craig & Cathy Koontz, Meredith

Andrews, Carol Beck

September 16 - 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.

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.

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.



August Birthdays

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



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.

Columbarium Flowers

As you place live flowers in the church columbarium, please remove them in a timely manner. The kindred spirit of this garden holds for us all the divine guidance of our sacred Lord.

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)
 Lisa Dean
 Chris, Dale-Manning, and Battle Chesson - death of William
 Fran Morton & Family - death of her sister Terri Wood
 Susan Foster, Scott Linder, and Family - death of Gloria Bulluck

Christa-Maria Grier
 Martha Briggs Winters

Memorial Gifts

The church has received a gift in loving memory of **William Chesson** from Sanders and Lane Dallas (Memorial Fund) and Bill Keesler and Barbara Presnell (Stoner-Thomas School).

In Memoriam

The church extends its sympathy to Fran and Lane Morton due to the death of Fran's sister, Teresa "Terri" Hay Wood of Charleston, South Carolina, on June 10. A celebration of life will take place on July 28, 2026 at 2:00 PM at Our Place on 17, 2129 N Highway 17 in Mt. Pleasant, SC.

The church also extends its sympathy to Susan Foster and Scott Linder due to the death of their mother and long-time FPC member, Gloria Bulluck, on June 29.

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



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!

Midweek Bible Study

Our Midweek Bible Study with Pastor Jon continues to meet at Noon in the fellowship hall each Wednesday. It will be on hiatus July 1 and 8 while Pastor Jon is on Navy assignment. It will resume on July 15. You are welcome to join in any week!

Thursday Prayer Group

Each Thursday, a group meets at the church at 11:00 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.

Volunteer Opportunity

We could use a few volunteers to help with our sound system, video system, and livestream. We can train you, and you'll be putting your faith to work to help spread the gospel through the community and into the world. Even if you want to just take a closer look, contact David Durrell or Pastor Jon.



AUDIO-VISUAL
---team---

Meals on Wheels Volunteers Needed

Two folks have "retired" from service with Meals on Wheels, and two people are needed to step up and take their places.

This rewarding service entails delivering meals to very deserving residents in town every other Friday, giving about an hour of your time each of those weeks. You will not only deliver much-needed meals, but you will also be able to give a warm smile and show some love to our neighbors in need.

If you would like to serve in this capacity or would like more information, please contact Celia Stalvey.



VBS SUNDAY 2026