

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN ACTION
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FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
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First
Presbyterian



October 2026 Vol. 199 No. 10



Cookout on the Lawn
October 4 following the worship service
Please bring a side dish and/or dessert to share.

Fall Festival
October 18 at 5:00 PM

Donations of candy and small prizes needed,
along with those willing to set up their vehicle for Trunk or Treat.



**WORSHIP
SCHEDULE**

October 4
10:00 - Sunday School
11:00 - Combined
Service (sanctuary)
12:00 - Cookout on the
Lawn

October 11, 18, 25
9:00 - Early Service
(fellowship hall)
10:00 - Sunday School
11:00 - Traditional
Service (sanctuary)

**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

Christian Education News

Fall Festival

Our Fall Festival will be October 18 at **5:00 PM**. First Presbyterian will oversee games. We are collecting candy and small prizes. These donations can be placed in the box in the lobby near the entrance to the office suite. You are also invited, along with our neighboring churches, to provide a “trunk” for Trunk or Treat. Please let Catie Johns know if you would like to help with games or provide a “trunk.”



School Supply Drive

Thank you to all who donated school supplies! A special thank you to Carol Beck for helping to sort and deliver the school supplies to Stoner-Thomas School and the Genesis House. Below is a list of school supplies delivered.

Stoner-Tomas School: Crayons, hand sanitizer, batteries, markers, glue sticks, Kleenex, Expo markers, erasers, pencils, pencil sharpener, Post-it notes, disinfectant wipes, bags, napkins, plates, sheet protectors, laminating pouches, paper towels

Genesis House: Pencil pouches, headphones, bookbags, colored pencils, scissors, 3 ring notebooks, folders, Expo markers, glue sticks, glue bottles, pencil

sharpener, erasers, sticky notes, gift tape, pencils, markers, Kleenex, notebook paper, crayons, spiral notebooks

Sunday School Kick-off

We had a great kick-off to Sunday School on September 13. Thank you to the Congregational Life/Fellowship Committee for starting a great day with breakfast.

Save the date!

Our next Christian Education meeting will be October 4 at 9:00 AM in the John Knox Classroom. Please join us if you would like to be a part of our committee!

Chicken Pie Sale Starts October 4!

Our fall sale to support our local missions will begin Sunday, October 4. This year, in addition to the traditional Moravian-style (all meat) chicken pies, baked spaghetti, and spring’s addition - chicken pot pies (with vegetables) - we will be selling Dutch apple pies.



Look for order forms on October 4. All proceeds go to benefit our local helping agencies. Thank you for supporting this sale by taking it beyond the walls of our church.

From the Pastor

When the summer ends and we go back to two services, I start wearing my robe again for the traditional service. The colorful stoles I wear with my robe were woven in Guatemala. Included in the design are eight Biblical symbols. At the midpoint of the stole and at each end is a cross. The other symbols are wheat, the Ark of the Covenant, the Chi-Rho, an anchor, a dove, a fish, and a church building. All of the symbols are important to our life together.



Wheat has been cultivated in the Middle East for thousands of years. In Genesis, the sons of Jacob went to Egypt to buy wheat when there was a famine in the land. Ruth met Boaz at a place where wheat was processed after it was harvested. Jesus said, “I am the bread of life.”

The Ark of the Covenant was the portable shrine constructed during the Exodus. It traveled with the Israelites from Sinai to the Land of Canaan. Eventually the Ark was moved in a great ceremony from tent to the Temple. It was probably destroyed, captured, or lost in 586BC when the Babylonians captured Jerusalem (or it’s in a government warehouse somewhere!)



The Chi-Rho is a symbol constructed of the Greek letters X and P. They are the first two letters of the Greek word *Christos* (not the restaurant) and an abbreviation for the word Christ.

The anchor is a symbol of confidence. The Book of Hebrews calls our hope in God as sure and steadfast anchor of the soul.



The dove connects with several biblical moments. Noah sent a dove to discover whether the waters had receded. Mary and Joseph offered doves in the Temple on the eighth day after Jesus’ birth. On the day of Jesus’ baptism, the

Holy Spirit descended on him like a dove from the sky.

The fish is symbolic of both the believer and Jesus. For the believer, recall Jesus’ words to the fishermen: follow me and I will make you fish



for people. For Jesus, the early church found meaning in the Greek word for fish: ICHTHUS. For them it was an acrostic that read “Jesus Christ Son of God Savior.”



The church building is depicted with three crosses on three steeples and an open door welcoming everyone into worship.

The cross on the stole is called a Greek cross because the arms are all equal length. Like the church building above there are three crosses on the stole.



Before about 1960, it would have been rare for a Presbyterian minister to wear a stole. I can tell you more about that if you want. So why do we wear them? They symbolize the towel Jesus used in John 13 to dry the disciples’ feet after he washed them in the upper room. He did that as an example of love and service and then commanded them to love one another. For me a stole is a reminder that I am called to a life of love and service to others.

All of the symbols of our faith are meant to point to the deep, spiritual truths about God who has come near to us in Jesus to stay.

In Christ,
Pastor Jon

Midweek Bible Study

Midweek Bible Study meets Wednesdays at noon in the fellowship hall. Through the life of Abraham and Sarah, we are studying the most important word in the Bible. Everyone is welcome.



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.

Thank you to the Race Unification Gathering for serving the meal on September 16.

Upcoming Meals:

Oct. 21 - Acts Alive

Nov. 18 - Troop 205

Dec. 16 - Robin and Katherine Team

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

November Birthdays

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



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.

About the Newsletter Header

This month’s newsletter header was colored by Emma, a student in the Fantastic Foxes class (pre-K) of the Preschool.

Publication Schedule

Items for November’s *ACTION* are due by Sunday, November 1 for publication on November 2. Items for December’s *ACTION* are due by Sunday, November 29 for publication on November 30.

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 Nancy Check or Beverly Black.

Prayer Concerns

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. Please pray with us for these people.

Micheal Davis (Army)	Christa-Maria Grier
Bobby Ver Halen (serving in the Army)	Martha Briggs Winters
Dave & Anna Fulp (serving in the Navy)	The Hiller Family
Wilson Parson (serving in the Marines)	Jean Marsh
Luke Dellinger (Air National Guard)	Brianna Ver Halen
Henry Weaver (Navy)	Beckey Griffith
Monica Weber (Navy Reservist)	Phyllis Hedrick
Zach Resech (Army National Guard)	Alex Nicely - end-stage kidney failure
Ryan Bor - Army	Randy Ver Halen
Tobias Ludwig - NC State Trooper	Michael Knight
Brandi Pope - Denton EMT	Margi Cole (mother of Terri Lamb)
Phillip Hegler - Davidson County Sheriff	Lisa Dean
Jim McCutchen (brother of Ginger Briggs & Margie Clark) - Parkinson’s disease	

Memorial Gifts

The church has received gifts in loving memory of **Neal Beck** from Susan and Jim McMillan and Gorman and Carol Loman, designated to the Garden Fund.

The church has received a gifts in honor of **Carol Beck** from Gorman and Carol Loman, designated to the Garden Fund.

The church has received a gift in honor of **Regina Pozzi** from Phyllis McGee, designated to the Organ Fund.

The church has received a gift in honor of **JoAnn Hill** from Phyllis McGee, designated to the Organ Fund.

The church has received a gift in honor of **Shelley Jennings** from Phyllis McGee, designated to the Organ Fund.

Sweet Potato Collection

We will again be helping Pastor’s Pantry fill holiday meal boxes for hungry seniors in our community by collecting cans of sweet potatoes (yams). Please place your gifts of sweet potatoes in the lobby where mixed vegetables would normally be collected. We will be

receiving cams of sweet potatoes through November 10.

GriefShare

Maynard Edwards is leading a GriefShare group at First Presbyterian on Tuesdays, 6:30-8:30 PM, in the parlor. The group will meet each Tuesday evening until November 13.



If you need help and encouragement following the death of a spouse, child, family member, or friend, you can find it here. Videos will be shown addressing topics such as “Guilt and Anger,” “Heaven,” and “What Do I Do Now?” Participants will be given the opportunity to share their experiences if they wish.

Hospice Donations

Thank you, FPC, for gifting your faith in giving donations to Liberty Hospice last year. Once again, they are asking for our help with several needed items: shampoo, body wash, and chapstick. Please drop off your items in the labeled box in the church lobby.

Circle Meetings

Presbyterian Women’s Circles will meet Monday, October 5 at the church. Morning Circle meets at 10:30 AM in the parlor. Anna Gobble will lead the devotion. Evening Circle meets at 7:00 PM in the Joyful classroom. Celia Stalvey will lead the study lesson for both Circles.



This month, we will collect donations for Dragonfly House: individually-packaged snacks, chips, cookies, and Pringles (no fruit snacks, please); 100% juice boxes, Capri-Suns, play-doh, small socks and underwear (sizes 2T to size 4-6), and small toys (dolls, Matchbox/Hot Wheels type cars, etc.).

Preschool News

Welcome to the 2026-2027 school year at the Preschool! We were so excited to open our doors on Tuesday, September 8. There are so many awesome activities planned for the upcoming year, and we look forward to accomplishing them all.

Our enrollment increased this year – so much, in fact, that we had to open a new classroom upstairs. This is exciting because we have not opened an additional classroom upstairs since 2020!

Our new class is a second pre-K classroom that caters primarily to children who have late summer birthdates, which means they miss the kindergarten cut-off date. We have named the new upstairs classroom the Fantastic Foxes. The classroom at the end of the hall that had primarily been used for storage got a major refresh, and it is now known affectionately as the “Fox Den.” Be sure to check out this clever room and all of their current art work and activities when you find yourself upstairs.



We are probably the most excited about our theme for the year – the Fruit of the Spirit. Please check out the big tree in the Preschool hall, as well as our online

school store (fp-preschool.printify.me), for special Fruit of the Spirit merch! By purchasing items from our online store, the school receives a little bit of profit, which is used for additional classroom supplies and needs from our wish list. It is also a fun way to show your support and Preschool spirit by wearing a piece of our apparel.



In addition, we have introduced a chapel time each month to help enhance our theme and allow our students to meet some of the church staff and church family in a different setting. The first fruit we introduced was Goodness (represented by an apple) on Thursday, September 24. Pastor Jon led our first chapel time, and the children thoroughly enjoyed it. He played his guitar and helped the children sing a few songs in which everyone happily participated! He brought an apple for the students to see and used it as an example as he talked about goodness.

We look forward to exploring a new fruit, or those good traits that grow inside our hearts when God’s Holy Spirit helps us, each month. In October, the children will meet the church Office Manager, Jeanna, who will talk with them about Faithfulness (pear). We are super excited to have this monthly chapel time and explore these nine personality traits through the eyes of our children.

As always, the Preschool staff is very appreciative of the support and love from our church friends. We all hope to be good stewards of the church. We are indebted to all of you for your love, support and prayers as we continue this school year.