FIRST PRESBYTERIAN ACTION
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FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
PERMIT NO. 12

GRATEFUL
Thankful
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Veterans' Dinner

Sunday, November 8, 5:00 PM

Pizza Lunch & Advent Decorating

Sunday, November 22, 12:00 PM





Combined Advent Sunday School

Sunday, November 29, 10:00 AM

First Presbyterian ACTION

November 2026 Vol. 199 No. 11

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

November 8, 15, 22, 29
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

We had a wonderful Fall Festival on October 18th. Thank you to our Young Disciples for running our games this year! Thank you to Travis and Carol Fortune for providing a "trunk" for trunk-or-treating. A special thank you to everyone who donated candy and prizes to help make this event successful!



Letters for our College/ Military/ First Responders

Our Sunday School classes are working on sending cards and gift cards to our college, military, and first responders before the holiday season. Thank you to our Sunday School classes for making this outreach successful!

Advent Sunday School Class

Mark your calendars! We will have a combined Advent Sunday School class on November 29th at 10:00 AM in the Fellowship Hall led by Pastor Jon. We will have 12 Advent wreaths kits to take home this year. This will be a first come-first serve.

Advent and Christmas Celebrations

Add these to your calendar! **Christmas Together**, our church-wide Advent kick-off, will be Sunday, December 6 at Noon following the worship service. Our theme this year is Happy Birthday Jesus!

The **Lexington Christmas Parade** is December 7. More information to come soon!

Our **Christmas Pageant** will be December 13.



From the Pastor

Traditions are important. What are yours?
A picture on the first day of a new school year.
A family reunion week at the beach.
A visit to the columbarium with flowers.
Dinner out when someone has a birthday or anniversary.
A child's height in pencil with the date on a door frame.
Thanksgiving dinner in the dining room.

Traditions make memories and keep memories. They shape family identities, and over time new traditions are added and others come to an end. When the world is unsteady, traditions can be grounding.

The church has traditions, too. What else would you expect from a two-thousand-year-old institution? Some of them are terrific! Some we share with the church universal, and some are unique to local congregations. First Presbyterian Church has many of its own.

For example, last week we included our annual All Saints' liturgy in the worship service and read the names of people who died in the past year. This year we asked people to bring photos of family members who are now part of the great heavenly multitude. There were about one dozen photos in the window sills around the sanctuary. Thank you for sharing those. Maybe bringing photos will become part of our All Saints' tradition.

Like a family, churches add new traditions. And our traditions should also change and adapt over time. Our Reformation history is about challenging fixed and rigid traditions that don't help us deepen our faith. We protested that in the 1500s! And we should keep protesting any tradition that can't change with the faith-needs of a church family. Last month on Reformation Sunday, I shared that our Presbyterian slogan is *reformed and always being reformed according to the word of God*. So each generation has the freedom, with God's help, to steward traditions to keep them meaningful.

My experience is that we are kind stewards of our traditions. I see that in the trend to add more and preserve those that have been around a while. I am grateful we do that. As an intergenerational church, every voice matters. So… between now and the end of the year, keep a look out for some changes to at least one tradition around here. ☺

In the church, November marks the beginning of a rich season of traditions that include worship, food, music, sharing with others, and fellowship. Come share in all of that this month.

In Christ,
Pastor Jon



Midweek Bible Study

Midweek Bible Study meets Wednesdays at noon in the fellowship hall. Everyone is welcome.

Meals on Wheels Fundraiser

Dine out for a good cause! Christo's on South Main Street will hold a fundraiser for Meals on Wheels on Tuesday, November 17. On this day, 10% of all dine-in and take-out orders will be donated to Meals on Wheels of Lexington. Every cent helps, as it costs Meals on Wheels approximately $400 per day to feed the clients they serve. Please mark your calendars and plan to participate. Thank you for your support!

Local MISSIONS

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 Acts Alive for serving the meal on October 21.

Upcoming Meals:
Nov. 18 - Scout 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.

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, Beverly Black, or the church office (336-248-2140 or office@fpclexnc.com).

December Birthdays



1 - Walter Fulp
2 - Samuel Priddy, Calvin Cunningham
3 - Travis Fortune,
4 - Katherine Grier
6 - Will Hobbs
7 - Jim Black, Zoey Henderson
8 - Samantha Gardner
9 - Brooke Wheeles
10 - David Adams
15 - Mark White, Chandler Cunningham, Misael Ramirez
16 - Bonnie Graham, Rick Johnson
18 - Bob Koontz, Chuck McGirt
19 - Nancy Gilbert, Norma Byerly
21 - Glenda Leonard, Lynne Hobbs, Jed Orman
23 - Carol Sandifer, Cooper Holshouser
27 - Doreen Bohanon

November 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.

Publication Schedule

Items for December's *ACTION* are due by Sunday, November 29 for publication on November 30. Items for January's *ACTION* are due by Sunday, January 3 for publication on January 4.

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)
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)
Ryan Bor - Army
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
Martha Briggs Winters
The Hiller Family
Jean Marsh
Brianna Ver Halen
Beckey Griffith
Phyllis Hedrick
Alex Nicely - end-stage kidney failure
Randy Ver Halen
Michael Knight
Margi Cole (mother of Terri Lamb)
Lisa Dean
JoAnn Hill
Family of Christa-Maria Grier
Hobbs and Johns families - death of Lynne's father, Gene Grubbs
Family of Ken Gardner

In Memoriam

The congregation extends its sympathy to the family of Christa-Maria Grier, who died on October 11.

The congregation further extends its sympathy to Lynne (Roddie) Hobbs, Catie (Chris) Johns, Will Hobbs, and Ellie Gray and Ensley Johns due to the death of Lynne's biological father, Robert Eugene "Gene" Grubbs on October 20.

The congregation also extends its sympathy to Susan Gardner, Samantha Gardner, and Gray, Harrison, and Elle Gardner due to the death of Ken Gardner on October 31.

Please keep all of these families in your prayers.

Memorial Gifts

The church has received a gift in loving memory of **Christa-Maria Grier** from the staff of Central Services, designated to the Memorial Fund.

Sweet Potato Collection

We are 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. Our overall goal is 500 cans. 250 cans are needed by November 12 (we only have collected 130 as of this publication), and the remaining 250 cans are needed by December 3.

Bicentennial Apparel Available for Purchase

For a limited time, we are partnering with SE Logowear of Winston-Salem to sell First Presbyterian-branded Bicentennial Celebration shirts, sweatshirts, and hoodies. Each item features the church logo (see the back of the bulletin) in a smaller size on the front, with a full-size, full-color rendering of the bicentennial seal on the back. You may order by scanning the QR code above, or visit our website (fpclexnc.com) and look for the bicentennial seal at the top of the right-hand column for a direct, clickable link. A variety of styles and colors are available for purchase. **Don't wait! The store is only open until November 18.** Orders will be ready the week of December 7 – just in time for the holidays!

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.



A Note of Thanks

Dear FPC Family,

Over the last couple of years, I have experienced enormous outpourings of love from people, and at the center of nearly all of them was *you*! Thank you for being the people God created you to be, for walking in God's light and love and sharing that light and love so freely with others. I am grateful to be able to partner with you all to do the work of the Church, and I am beyond blessed to have been part of this staff for the last thirty years.

THANK YOU for your generous gifts celebrating that milestone together, and THANK YOU for all the ways you show your love, care, and appreciation. You are a blessing to me, and I am thankful to be part of this church family.

With much love,

Jeanna

Upcoming Events

- Saturday, November 7
  9:00am-12:00pm – Chicken pie pick-up, fellowship hall
- Sunday, November 8
  9:00am – Early Service, fellowship hall
  10:00am – Sunday School
  11:00am – Traditional Service, sanctuary
  5:00pm – Veterans' Dinner, fellowship hall
- Saturday, November 14
  12:00pm – Second Saturday Fellowship, homemade soup and crafting, fellowship hall
- Sunday, November 15
  9:00am – Early Service, fellowship hall
  10:00am – Sunday School
  11:00am – Traditional Service, sanctuary
  6:00pm – Session meeting, Session room
- Sunday, November 22
  Operation Christmas Child Shoeboxes Due!
  9:00am – Early Service, fellowship hall
  10:00am – Sunday School
  11:00am – Traditional Service, sanctuary
  12:00pm – Pizza lunch & Advent decorating party
- Thursday, November 26
  Happy Thanksgiving!
- Sunday, November 29
  9:00am – Early Service, fellowship hall
  10:00am – Combined Advent Sunday School, fellowship hall
  11:00am – Traditional Service, sanctuary

About the PhoneTree

If you have recently received a phonetree call from the church (answered live, not a voicemail recording) that cut off after only a few seconds, please let us know (office@fpclexnc.com or 336-248-2140). It has been brought to our attention that this has happened to several folks, and we are trying to pinpoint a cause. Thank you for your help!