



www.fpcnewton.org

SEPTEMBER 2024 NEWSLETTER

Serving the Newton Conover Area since 1858

Partners with Iglesia El Redentor, Guatemala

Dear Friends and Family of FPC,

In the few weeks I've been here, an especially meaningful book has come to mind: Elizabeth O'Connor's book, "Journey Inward and Journey Outward". She was a part of the Church of the Pilgrims in Washington. In the book she reminds us that the well balanced Christian life and Church includes both the Journey Inward (nurture and spiritual growth) and the Journey Outward (serving and doing). I grew up knowing all about the journey outward and have always wanted congregations to focus on giving and serv-



ing. But over the years, I've learned it is just as important to focus on the journey inward... where we nurture and nourish our souls. Jesus said, "Come unto me all you who are weary and carrying heavy burdens and I will give you rest." The great theologian Augustine said, "O Lord, you have made us for yourself and our hearts are restless until they find rest in thee"

I'm thinking that while there is a lot of work to be done during the transition, this could also be an opportunity to "find rest" in God. During my time here, I'd like to give some focus to that inward journey. So, you will read about that in this newsletter. And I'm inviting you to join me on an inward journey. I ask your prayers for your leaders, for the staff, and for me. I am praying for you.

It's a joy to be with you and to share this transitional journey with you.

In faith, hope and love,

Jody

News of the Church Family

Prayers for those with Recent Health Concerns

CHURCH MEMBERS: Lee Cranford, Julie Jones, Sondra Phillips, Nancy Gargis, Kay Long, Jeannie Clark, Jo Todd, Judy Fulton, Terryl Anderson and family, David Roquemore, Rick Knowles, Ron Valentini, Dale Whitaker, Tom Witherspoon, Eric Ellis, Dennis DeBalso, Scott Cranford, Richard Hedrick, Heidi Jonas, Brian, Ericka & Emmy Krueger, Angela Mauney, Frances Ennis, Texie Doolittle, Donna (Dee) Kempainen, Judy Brown, Penn Waldron, Kay Long, Ann Gaither



FRIENDS & FAMILY: Zachary Ausel, Zak Kuhn, Luke Ohman, Michelle Nelson-Beers, Nanelle McAlpin, Robin Wood, Mary Williams, Bob Kupits, Bill Clark, Amanda McDonald-Miller, Spencer, Hailey & Archie Cloud, Sandy Bowlin, Rev. William Church, Nancy Hensley, Ruth Haun, Lynne Watts, Mac Witherspoon, Ray Combs

Prayers for those in Assisted Living/Homebound:

CHURCH MEMBERS: Dennis DeBalso, Betty Epps, Frances Inscoc, Frances Ennis, Wanda Hicks, Ann White, Peggy Templeton, Richard Hedrick

Prayers for those with Long-Term Health Concerns:

Pete Keel, Robin Miller, Frankie Sigmon, Jim Teubner

Prayers for those in Military:

- Major Christopher Walker, U.S. Army, Fort Knox, KY
(*Tammy Walker's son*)
- Captain Patrick Day, Chaplain, U.S. Army Multinational Force Observers, Egypt
(*Amy Yenderusiak's brother*)

Prayers for Missionaries and International Faith Partners

- Lawrence & Inge Sthresley in Congo;
- Our partners at *Faith Ministry* in Reynosa, Mexico;
- Rev. Dr. John McCall in Taiwan;
- Eliane Menezes, Guatemala

Prayers for El Redentor, our Sister Church in Guatemala:

- For the well being of all members of our sister church
- For all 21 scholarship students as they begin a new school year
- For Humberto Robles, Alber Rodas, and Marlon Soto who are studying theology at the seminary
- For Antonio de Leon who is receiving a university scholarship to study teaching
- For Arely Tot, leader of our partner presbytery in Guatemala. Home severely damaged during recent violent storm



To our dear Church Family

Our family gives thanks to all of you for the love and support shown to us after the death of my mother, Cora Compton, in late May. The cards and the kind words gave us a lot of comfort and strength in a difficult time. We are so blessed to be a part of this caring community of friends here at FPC.

With much gratitude,
Bruce and Cathy Murdock

September Birthdays



- | | | |
|-------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 1 Wesley Butterfield | 12 Ryan Turner | 23 Parker Rhinehart |
| 3 Taylor Rhinehart | 13 Cheryl Ransier | 24 Wille Thompson |
| 4 Jay Bajorek
Doug Michael | 15 Brenda Jones | 25 Bruce Murdock
Kasey Gaddy |
| 5 Beverly McAlister | 17 Anna Kirby
Casey Clark
Darrell Cornwell | 26 Sandy Hodges |
| 9 Angela Cable | 19 Jerry Hodge | 27 Jaylin Stinson |
| | 20 Bill Inscoe | 28 Sophie Davis
Ashley Moose |
| | 22 Brenda Eckard | 30 Lynn Sample
Frances Inscoe |



The Steps to Calling a New Pastor

1. Hire Interim Pastor - done!
2. Session consultation with and the Presbytery Commission on Ministry (COM)- Jody is representing the COM
3. Mission Study: Session has appointed a Mission Study Task Force to lead the process. Members of the Task Force are: Eva Bonnema, Randy Miller, Lamarr Jefferson, Bob Neill and Elizabeth Philhower.
4. Electing a Pastoral Nominating Committee (PNC) The Church Nominating Committee is in the process of receiving suggestions from the congregation. They will present their recommendation for the PNC at a congregational meeting.
5. The PNC will receive training from the COM about the specific steps in the call process of calling an installed pastor. The PNC's work is confidential. Jody Welker will provide the training.
6. The PNC will prepare a Ministry Discernment Form (MDF) based on the findings of the Mission Study, which is used to advertise the position nationally.

Once drafted, the MDF must be approved by the Session and the COM.

Once the MDF is posted, the PNC chairperson will begin receiving PDFs (Personal Discernment Forms) of potential candidates. The PNC will determine a strategy for evaluating PIFs, interviewing, and selecting a candidate who will ultimately be presented to the congregation.



TRANSITIONAL MATTERS FOR SEPTEMBER

Here are the key activities taking place in September regarding the transition.

The **Church Nominating Committee** is off and running and looking for your suggestions for the Session and the Pastoral Nominating Committee. Please think about those who you think God is calling to serve in those roles. Share your suggestions. The hope is to have a congregational meeting early in October.

The **Mission Study Task Force** is also beginning their work. In September they will be joining the Session on an educational retreat that will lay the groundwork for the study that will be involving the congregation. We will learn insights about context and culture... take a look at something called “polarities” (a way of looking at finding balance in our life and ministries), along with some other matters that lay the groundwork for the study.

My transition work: In addition to the normal pastoral and preaching work, I’m learning that it will be very helpful to review many of the structural and organizational processes and procedures. Some seem to need some updating in order to prepare for the new pastor. I am in the diagnostic stage now!



Suggestions for the Session and for the Pastoral Nominating Committee

The Church Nominating Committee is requesting your suggestions to serve on either the Session and for the Pastoral Nominating Committee. Please consider these important traits. We believe these represent the spiritual, emotional and relational components that are part of being called to serve on the Session or the PNC.

1. They exhibit spiritual maturity and seek to prayerfully discern God’s will in prayerful decision-making.
2. They see the big picture of our church and community.
3. They are regular in worship attendance, support and participation in the life of the church.
4. They believe in our church and have a positive attitude as we look toward the future of the church.
5. They are humble and not seeking personal acclaim or status.
6. They are willing to work collaboratively with others.
7. They are able to speak for groups within the congregation, but committed to the larger mission of the church as their highest priority.
8. They are open to the ideas and opinions of others and are a good listener.
9. They are able to speak their mind while not being overpowering.
10. They are willing to participate in training as they prepare to fully contribute in the work of the Session or PNC.

Thank you from your Church Nominating Cmte: Jay Bajorek, Charles Moody, Karen McDougal, & Ray Rhinehart.

You may submit your suggestions in one of four ways:

You can submit your suggestions online by following this link

or using this QR code

You may submit your suggestions in one of three ways:



1. Use this online link: <https://forms.gle/n2ViXQaHhkAXis9W7>
2. Use the forms available in the Narthex
3. Have Kim mail or email a printed form to you. Call the church office 828-464-9648.



MISSION STUDY BEGINS

Congregational Participation Needed

The Mission Study Task Force has a busy fall planned and there are some very important events that need your participation in order for this to be a thorough study:

- 1) Please **complete the Congregational Survey by September 29th**. This will be available in print (in the narthex or call the church office) and online. We will send the information to you in a separate mail.
- 2) There are **two different Congregational Conversations after the 10am Worship**. We will have these conversations over lunch. They will last about 1.5 hours each. It is a mixture of presentation and discussion.
 - a. **September 29th**- Key questions:
 - i. Where are we as a Church? Looking at our history, demographics, financials, core values, etc...
 - ii. What kind of community has God called us to serve? Looking at the demographics, projections and nature of our larger community
 - b. **October 20th**- Key Questions
 - i. Who are we in this particular time? Strengths, Passions, where we Christ at work amongst us
 - ii. Where do we want to go? Present and Future goals
 - iii. How do we get there? A look at options and priorities

Nominating *Committee*

Every year at FPC Newton we elect a new class of elders as the senior class of elders rotates off the Session. This year we are also selecting a Pastoral Nominating Committee who will be tasked with discerning God's will for a new pastor for our church.

The Nominating Committee is accepting names for both of these groups from the congregation until September 22nd. There are details on the FPC website at:

<https://www.fpcnewton.org/nominatingcommittee>

or by using this QR code. There are also paper copies of the information form available in the church office and in the narthex.



Church Year Kick-Off

Informed, Fed and Inspired!
Sunday, September 15, 2024
Congregational Lunch!

Following the 10:00 a.m. worship service there will be a congregational lunch in the fellowship hall. *"Informed, Fed and Inspired!"* This will be an opportunity to fellowship with your church family, enjoy great food and to get excited about the upcoming events and opportunities we have to serve God in our community.

The Council on Caring team will be providing the meat for the meal. We ask that members of the congregation to please bring a side dish or dessert to go with the main course. Note: Due to allergies, if your dish has nuts, please label it. We will have carry-out containers available so you may take a plate to church members and shut-ins that are unable to attend.

Reports will be provided from each Council/Committee that will include the past year's events as well as goals for the future. More in depth information will be provided with Moment for Missions in Worship services during the upcoming Stewardship season. So, make plans to come worship, have lunch and learn more! This event is co-hosted by the Council on Caring and the Council on Discipleship groups.

To sign up for lunch online, simply scan this QR Code.



FPC Music Ministry Notes

Chancel Choir rehearsal: Wednesday evenings 7:00 p.m. beginning Sept. 4th

Place – Choir room, bottom level below the narthex

Handbell rehearsal: Wednesday evenings 6:00 p.m. beginning Sept. 4th

Place – Choir room, bottom level below the narthex

A few special services are planned for the fall season.
Please put these on your calendars so you will not miss them.

September 29th – Music and Sacred Arts Dedication

October 27th – Reformation and Kirkin' 'o the Tartans
Celebrating our reformed faith and Presbyterian Heritage



YOUTH & YOUNG DISCIPLES

September Events

- 6th-8th Camp Grier Church Retreat
- 15th 11am - Noon - "Informed, Fed, and Inspired" Congregational Lunch
- 22nd 4:30 - 6:00pm - Youth and Young Disciples - Sunday Community Supper, f hall
- 28th 1:00 - 3:30pm - "Rise Against Hunger" event at Beth Eden Lutheran

August Recap

The Youth gathered at the home of Lee and Cindy Combs on August 9th for a pool and calendar planning party! Our schedule is full and ready for the upcoming year and so are our hearts from the fellowship! Thank you Lee & Cindy for opening your home to us.



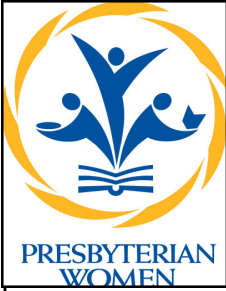
The 11th Annual Trunk or Treat will take place Tuesday, October 31st from 5:30 until 7:00 p.m.! Come join your church family and friends for great fun "trunk or treating" in the fellowship hall parking lot, with food and games inside the fellowship hall.

We need at least 15-20 VOLUNTEER "trunkers" who can participate in the "trunk or treat" fun by bringing your cars and handing out pre-wrapped candy from your trunks. Decorating your trunk is encouraged (but optional).

We also need candy donations along with a team to prep and serve food. Sign up by speaking to Laura or register online at

<https://forms.gle/U6oyhkiCFJ7n9QxMA>

or by scanning the QR code provided above.



September Circle Meetings

- Circle #4** Tuesday, September 9th at 2:00 p.m. in the parlor for Refreshments, meeting will begin at 2:30.
- Lydia Circle** Tuesday, September 3rd at 2:00 p.m. at the home of Sandra Teubner.
- Circle #5** Wednesday, September 11th at 11:30 a.m. at Palermos Restaurant, Conover.



Come join us for the next Adult Fellowship Dinner on Thursday, September 19th, beginning at 5:45 pm in the fellowship hall.

“Thursday Night Football”!! Yes, Football is our theme! And related Trivia is our Game!

Come and show off your favorite football attire. And after dinner, we'll test our basic football knowledge, high school / college / NFL, and football fanatic questions.

Each person is asked to bring one of the following: an appetizer, main dish or dessert. Please contact Barb or Alan Forshey by Monday, September 16, to let them know what you plan on bringing. Cell/text: 828.244.1200 or email cleefor@yahoo.

5:45 p.m. - Appetizers

6:00 p.m. - Dinner

6:40 p.m. - 7:30 p.m. - TRIVIA

Join the Fun, Food and Great Fellowship!!

Women's Ministry Event September 17, 2023



If you are interested in joining us, please contact Margie Pulliam at 464-1390, Sally Sigmon at 850-9331 or the church office.



Invitation to A Spiritual Practice - From Jody Welker

In August, I gave a sermon about developing our spiritual practice with the goal of developing the inner life of the spirit and a closer connection with God. Over time, I will share some of the devotions, etc... that have been meaningful to me. And I want to share an invitation.

Recommendations:

- 1) Online: I have found this devotion very meaningful: www.pray-as-you-go.org. It is 10-15 minute devotion that includes a wide variety of music, a scripture passage with guided meditation and an opportunity for prayer. It is my favorite these days.
- 2) Paperback: I have just begun using a classic, "Disciplines for the Inner Life" by Michael Benson. It comes highly recommended from one of my friends who has used it in several churches for a weekly discussion. The format offers readings from 176 books, prayers and 141 different writers who are both modern and ancient spiritual giants. The goal is to develop one's inner life with God.

Now the Invitation to Gather:

I am very interested in gathering with a group of people to discuss their insights from readings the "Disciplines for the Inner Life". We would talk about what readings were most meaningful to you. We would also have a time for prayer. If you are interested in pursuing this, please email me at jwelker@fpcnewton.com or call the church office. If there is interest, I will organize the group. We can even offer a hybrid of in person and online if that helps. I think the interim is a good time to pause and focus on the journey inward. **Please respond by Sunday, September 8th.**

[COPY OF THE PRAYER USED ON AUGUST 11TH](#)

As requested, here is the prayer I used at the end of a sermon on August 11th. It comes from a devotional resource called: Forward Movement

For Today

O God:

Give me strength to live another day;

Let me not turn coward before its difficulties or prove recreant to its duties;

Let me not lose faith in other people;

Keep me sweet and sound of heart, in spite of ingratitude, treachery, or meanness;

Preserve me from minding little stings or giving them;

Help me to keep my heart clean, and to live so honestly and fearlessly that no outward failure can dishearten me or take away the joy of conscious integrity;

Open wide the eyes of my soul that I may see good in all things;

Grant me this day some new vision of thy truth;

Inspire me with the spirit of joy and gladness;

and make me the cup of strength to suffering souls;

in the name of the strong Deliverer, our only Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

Amen.



FPC Care Team

The FPC Care Team will now meet four times per year on Mondays, rather than monthly.

The next meeting will take place on Monday, October 14, 2024 at 5:00 p.m.

Care Team Members are:

<i>Sylvia Bajorek</i>	<i>Robin McGraw</i>
<i>Mark Bonnema</i>	<i>Mimi Michael</i>
<i>Texie Doolittle</i>	<i>Faye Morgan</i>
<i>Lottie Ethridge</i>	<i>Sylvia Payne</i>
<i>Barb Forshey</i>	<i>Debbie Reynolds</i>
<i>Mimi Michael</i>	

The church office will send you emails keeping you apprised of pastoral care developments in the congregation, and we hope you will continue to call and send cards to folks. That is a very important part of what we do, and of the overall pastoral care of the congregation.



Newsletter Article Deadline

The newsletter is usually published *monthly* on the last Wednesday of the month. The deadline for articles is Wednesday noon prior to the Wednesday that it is published. This is a FIRM DEADLINE. E-mail articles are preferred. Send them to Kim at kberry@fpnewton.com. However, handwritten articles are welcome. **Our Visitors . . . If you are receiving our newsletter for the first time**, perhaps it is because we just heard that you had moved into our neighborhood or you have visited FPC. We would like to extend to you a warm welcome to this community and most especially to any activity in our church. If there is any way we can help you, please let us know.

Community Sunday Suppers Sundays - 5:30 p.m. Fellowship Hall

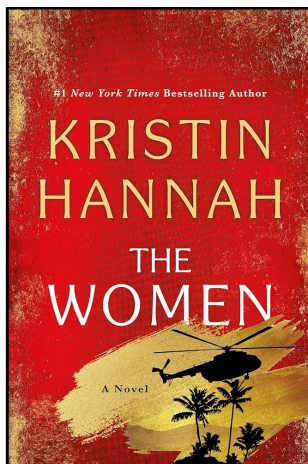
Hosts

<u>September 1st</u>	Beth Eden Lutheran
<u>September 8th</u>	Trinity Baptist
<u>September 15th</u>	Sweetwater Presbyterian
<u>September 22nd</u>	FPC Youth
<u>September 29th</u>	FPC Lydia Circle



The Book Club meets on the **fourth Tuesday** of each month at 10:00 a.m. Join in as your schedule permits. Please e-mail Becky McRee at raiamnc@gmail.com if you have questions about the Club.

The Book Club will meet on Tuesday, September 24, 2024 at 10:00 a.m. in the parlor.



It's Time!

**Camp Grier
Annual Church
Retreat**

Old Fort, NC

Sept. 6-8, 2024

Contact Laura Sparks for more information or to sign up.

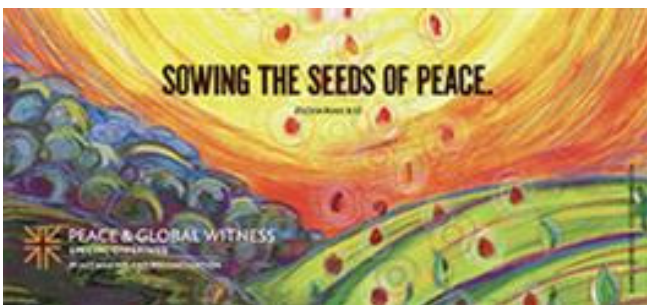


Peace & Global Witness Offering

Each year our denomination sponsors four Special Offerings and on October 6th, World Communion Sunday, we will collect the Peace and Global Witness Offering.

This offering “encourages the church to cast off anxiety and fear, discord and division, and embrace our God's mission of reconciliation to those around the corner and around the world.”

Of the funds collected, 25% stays with local congregations and the Missions Ministry Team have decided to donate our portion to the local organization, OutRight Youth of Catawba Valley which offers a safe space and support for LGBTQ youth and their allies.



Our friends at Beth Eden Lutheran are sponsoring a “Rise Against Hunger” event in their fellowship hall on:

**Saturday, September 30th
from 1-3 p.m. in their fellowship hall**

Please click on the link below to sign up or make a donation.

events.riseagainsthunger.org



**THE TIME TO
GIVE BLOOD
IS NOW**

Our church will host a Red Cross blood drive in the Fellowship Hall on Tuesday, September 19th during the hours of 2:30 to 7:00 p.m. There is

a critical need for blood at this time and as an incentive, the Red Cross will be offering a cool T-Shirt to those who donate. In order to schedule an appointment, visit RedCrossBlood.org and enter: Newton First Presby. You can also streamline your donation experience by visiting RedCrossBlood.org/RapidPass and answering your health history questions on the day of your appointment.

The Committee on Sharing would like to invite volunteers to assist with registration and operation of the snack table on that day. We generally work a two hour shift. Call Bob Neill (828-323-7806) if you would be interested in assisting with this valuable ministry.

The Shower Ministry is in need of backpacks and/or duffle bags. [Toiletry items are no longer needed.](#) Deodorant, toothbrushes and underwear for men and women (all sizes) are a constant need. These items go as soon as they are available. With Fall approaching, warmer clothing will soon be needed. Thanks for anything you can do!





Granny's Closet

Are your Grandchildren or Great-Grandchildren coming for a visit? Check out Granny's Closet on the 2nd floor of the church offices for items that you may need.

Items include stroller, crib mattresses, high chairs, baby gates, play seats, bathing tub, etc. and they vary due to usage and donations. If you have any items that you'd like to donate to Granny's Closet or if you have questions about borrowing

something, please contact Margie Pulliam (828-469-8059, margiepulliam@hotmail.com), or Kim Berry in the church office.

- Congregational Ministries



Medical Supply Room

Do you, family member or friend need a medical aid device to help you transition to recuperating at home? If so, please check out the Medical Supply Room on the 2nd floor of the church offices to see if the items you need are available.

Some examples of items include wheelchairs, knee scooters, toilet seats / commode chairs, shower chairs, crutches, walkers, ankle braces, walking boots, etc.

We hope you never have to use any of these items, but just be aware that they are available if needed. Contact Patty Neill (828-244-1928, pneill1956@gmail.com) for more information or Kim Berry in the church office.

- Missions Cmte.



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9 a.m. - 1 p.m. Friday
Sunday School: 11:15 a.m. Sunday Worship: 10:00 a.m.

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
701 North Main Avenue
Newton, NC 28658

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Place Address Label Here

September 1st

15th Sunday after Pentecost

10:00 a.m. Worship Service, Chapel
Rev. Jody Welker preaching

September 8th

16th Sunday after Pentecost

10:00 a.m. Worship with Sacrament of Holy
Communion, Sanctuary
Daily Change Offering received
Rev. Jody Welker preaching

10:30 a.m. Worship Service at Camp Grier
Laura Sparks preaching

September 15th

17th Sunday after Pentecost

10:00 a.m. Worship, Sanctuary
Congregational Lunch following Worship
Rev. Jody Welker preaching

September 22nd

18th Sunday after Pentecost

10 :00 a.m. Worship, Chapel
Rev. Jody Welker preaching

September 29th

Sacred Arts & Music Sunday

10 :00 a.m. Worship, Sanctuary
Congregational Lunch following Worship
Rev. Jody Welker preaching