



www.fpcnewton.org

AUGUST 2024 NEWSLETTER

Serving the Newton Conover Area since 1858

Partners with Iglesia El Redentor, Guatemala

Dear Family and Friends of FPC,

Before we know it, fall will be upon us! I'm looking forward to enjoying Fall with you and having another opportunity to enjoy the worship, ministries and programs that are a part of church life.

I've had my first Session meeting. This is a great Session with great leadership. You are blessed and I am blessed to work with them. They have much work to do, so please pray for them.

I've been busy catching up with what has happened over the past 20 years at FPC and in your lives. Still catching up! I have been meeting with leaders, with staff and making a few visits. I remind you that I would welcome an invitation for a visit. Kim can set that up. I'm glad to come to you or you can come to the church. I enjoy sharing a meal.

In addition to the normal pastoral work, here is my focus:

- a. Getting the pastoral search going. See the article on Calling a Pastor for the steps involved.
- b. I've learned that Interims offer fresh eyes about the life of the church. You will hear me making observations and suggestions. Ultimately the decisions lie with the Committees/Councils and the Session. I am a strong believer that the Session is the governing body of the church not pastors. That's why we call them "ruling elders" and I am called a "teaching elder".
- c. What stays foremost in my mind is this: "How can we have a congregation that is prepared, attractive and helpful to a new pastor?" Sort of a golden rule that says, "How would I like to find a church when I am new?"
- d. I see this as a season of experimentation for a congregation. Why not try some things out? It may be minor tweaks. Or a committee or leader might have some suggestions for the church that are not so minor. One of the marks of a healthy church is an openness to creativity.

Know that I love you all and want the church to be in the best position possible to call a new pastor. So much of that depends on the congregation being engaged in the life of the church.

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, Jim Teubner, 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 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

Condolences:

To Michael & Elizabeth Philhower & family on the death of Evon Hill, Michael's mother, July 8th.

Prayers for those in Assisted Living/Homebound:

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

Prayers for those with Long-Term Health Concerns:

Pete Keel, Robin Miller, Frankie Sigmon

Prayers for those in Military:

- Major Christopher Walker, U.S. Army, Fort Knox, KY
(*Tammy Walker's son*)
- LT Max Morrill, U.S. Navy, Washington, DC
(*Joan Inscoe's grandson*)
- 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



Congregational Meeting to Elect Church Nominating Committee

The Session has called a congregational meeting for Sunday, August 18th following the 10 a.m. Worship service. The purpose of this meeting is to elect the Church Nominating Committee. Those being recommended are: Charles Moody, Karen McDougal, Ray Rhinehart and Jay Bajorek.

This nominating committee will be receiving and considering names to recommend to the congregation:

- A) Elders to serve on the Session
- B) Members of the Pastoral Nominating Committee



2 Bruce Deese
Thomas Jones
Patty Neill

3 Ralph Dell

5 Margaret Choate

7 Grayson Lail
Clark Strickland

8 Aidan Duncan

10 Jeff Abernethy
Laurie Joplin

12 Texie Doolittle
Hope Anderson

13 Sara Edwards

14 Lori Ellis
Greg Hinson

16 Courtney Saine

17 Courtney Roquemore

18 Chris Robinson

19 Emmy Krueger

21 Ella Marlow

22 Jim Smith
Jim Ten Kate

24 Ken Hodges
Barbara Pounds
Sharon Smucker

25 Barb Forshey

27 Ron Roscoe

28 Deb Wakefield

29 Karen McDougal

SERMON SERIES

August Sermon Series

Since people love to spend summer vacations at the Mountains or the Oceans, I wanted to offer a sermon series called: Sermons from the Sea and Messages from the Mountains. Jesus' hometown was based at the Sea of Galilee and one of his most famous sermons came from a mountain. Here are the titles and the texts:

August 4 th :	Matthew 4:12-23	Sermons from the Sea: Let's Go Fishing!
August 11 th :	Matthew 14:22-33	Sermons from the Sea: Learning to Walk on Water
August 18 th :	Matthew 6:1-18	Messages from the Mountains: Practice, Practice, Practice...Your Piety
August 25 th :	Matthew 7:1-5	Messages from the Mountains: Judging Others

Jody's Schedule in August

A reminder that Jody's normal schedule is this:

Sunday - Wednesday in Newton and working from home on Thursday. There may be weeks when that schedule shifts. An example will be the week of August 11th due to the visit of Joe from Vermont. He is in town from August 9-13th. Jody will preach on the 11th, go home, return for meetings on Monday, then return home for a day or two. The plan is to be in the office Thursday and Friday of that week. You can always reach Jody by email or phone.



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 will be establishing a Mission Study Task Force to lead the process. Eva Bonnema represents the Session and will be coordinating the establishment of the Task Force. If you are interested in serving, let Eva or Jody know. Or you can contact Kim at the church office with names.
4. Electing a Pastoral Nominating Committee (PNC) Before this can happen, we need to elect the regular Nominating Committee. This Nominating committee will nominate both candidates to serve as elders on the Session and members of the PNC. The Church Nominating Committee begins to seek candidates from the congregation to serve on the Pastor Nominating Committee (PNC). Charles Moody represents the Session and will be contacting people to be on the Nominating Committee using our by-laws as the guide. The by-laws state that the Nominating committee include someone from the Presbyterian Women, another from the Men of the Church and one "at-large".
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.



Ashure Ministry formerly known as ECCCM is seeking volunteers. Our scheduled church workday is usually on the third Thursday of each month; however, volunteering is not limited to that specific day.

Ashure Ministry would love to have you volunteer for whatever time you have available. No previous experience or skills are needed.

If you are interested and would like more information please contact:

Bruce Deese brucedee1@gmail.com or (828)-446-4946

Allen Sherrill at a.sherrill@ashureministry.org
(828)-612-1861.

The FPC Shower Ministry is in need of spring and summer clothing and shoes, especially for adults.

We are also in need of washcloths, and toiletry items such as shampoo, conditioner, toothpaste, deodorant and travel size bars of soap.

These items go as soon as they are available. Thanks for anything you can do!





The 9th Annual Parade of Cans Food Drive



Parade of Cans is an annual food collection campaign benefiting the Community Kitchen and Backpack Programs of The Corner Table. We will be competing with other area churches and business organizations to see who can collect the most non-perishable items/money.

Donations are measured by weight. Each dollar donated counts as 2 pounds. The organization that collects the most weight will be crowned as the Parade of Cans 2024 “Can”Pion.

During the summer months at the Community Kitchen, guests increase, and the donation of non-perishable items slows down. August is also the time the Backpack Program starts gearing up for the school year. The Backpack Program provides children in our local school systems with weekend food bags. This August will mark the 9th year of the food drive competition. Parade of Cans is a great opportunity to replenish the Community Kitchen’s stockroom and the Backpack Program’s warehouse. Your support will allow The Corner Table to continue meeting the needs of hungry individuals in our community through various food programs. There will be a designated area in the narthex for donations and checks may be made to the church and designated “Backpack Program” or “The Corner Table.” Below are some suggestions for needed items:

Community Kitchen

If canned items can be purchased in #10 cans they do prefer that, but it is not required!

Green Beans, Sweet Peas, Cream of Chicken Soup, Cream of Mushroom Soup, Crushed Tomatoes, Canned Yams, Canned Apples (not pie-filling), Rotel Tomatoes, Salsa, Mayonnaise, Vienna Sausages or Potted Meat, Mustard, Mayo, Ketchup Packets, Barbeque Sauce, Chicken Broth, Pork-n-Beans, Sugar, Baked Canned Apples, Ranch, Peanut Butter Crackers, Pudding Cups, Dill Pickle Relish, Baked Beans, Egg Noodles, Instant Potatoes, Mixed Vegetables, Grated Parmesan Cheese.

Backpack Program

Kid-Friendly Individual Snacks - Granola Bars, Peanut Butter Cracker, Peanuts, Popcorn Sleeves, Goldfish, Cheese-Its.

Breakfast Items - Cereal Bars, Oatmeal Packets, Cereal Cups, Muffin Mix Packets.



School Supplies Collection

Again this year, FPC Newton will collect school supplies for area students. If you notice any of the following items on sale during the summer, please keep in mind that there are families in our county that can’t afford these supplies for their children.

Backpacks	Erasers	Pens
Three-ring binders	Markers	Highlighters
Lined paper	Crayons	Note Cards
Spiral notebooks	Pencils (Lead & Colored)	

A grocery cart will be located in the narthex where school supplies can be placed. **These items will be collected through the month of August.** Please help give area students what they need to be equipped to learn.



Awesome News, FPC Newton Congregation!

The meals packaged at our Rise Against Hunger Experience on April 20th have shipped!

At this moment, healthy meals are on their way to a community in urgent need of nutrition. The meals that we packaged are headed to Burundi!

Located in the Rift Valley in East Africa, Burundi faces poverty and high levels of food insecurity. Since the country gained independence, internal conflict has impacted agricultural production, an important source of livelihood for many. Refugees and returning displaced Burundians depend on food assistance, yet available resources have become scarce. The Global Hunger Index, which assesses food insecurity based on indicators that measure undernourishment and undernutrition, estimates that Burundi has an “alarming” level of hunger.

To address some of the food security challenges that children, families, and communities in Burundi face, Rise Against Hunger partners with organizations that support educational programs by providing meals to children at schools and early child development centers. This is a key part of Rise Against Hunger’s Nourishing Lives pathway. In some cases, the food children receive at school will be the majority of food they eat in a day. The meals our group packaged will help ensure that children have access to the consistent nourishment they need to live healthy lives and successfully pursue their education.

Thank you again for volunteering your time.



Dear FPC Congregation,

It’s hard to believe that summer is almost gone! The choir and handbell ensemble have been enjoying a much needed break, and it’s been a pleasure seeing what various talents individuals from our congregation have blessed us with. It is my hope that all vocalists and instrumentalists will feel compelled to continue sharing with us in the fall.

For the month of August, the choir will skip Wednesday rehearsals, and instead practice at 9:15 each Sunday morning. This “Pick-up Choir” period is open to all — anyone who thinks they might be interested in joining us should feel welcome to come by and give it a try!

In September, the choir will be back to rehearsing on Wednesdays. Handbells will resume in late August, time and date TBD.

Please contact me at bwinbush@fpcnewton.com if you feel led by the spirit to join our music ministry — we’d love to have you!

Brandon Winbush Director of Music, FPC Newton





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.

Adult Sunday School classes will resume on Sunday, August 4th at 11:15 a.m. in the Library/Discipleship Classroom on the upper level.

During the month of August we will be using lessons from *The Wired Word*, which take current events of all kinds and relate them to biblical principles. This is a discussion class, and we welcome your input.



My dear saints of First Presbyterian,

What a day it was! My last sermon was pretty self-serving, I admit, but your reaction to it was what I have come to expect from you all. The meal, the celebration, having so many of you there, having most of our children there, — it was a great day all around! The meal was wonderful — thank you to those who cooked it, who served it, who did all the prep work and set up the room.

The pies! I have long said I only like two kinds of pie — hot and cold! Well, you outdid yourself on variety! We took a lot of the leftovers home, and enjoyed them for days. If ever I have to put on a similar meal (highly unlikely), I know where to go to get the desserts! Thank you all!

Almost fifty years ago (can you believe it?) the band Fleetwood Mac sang, "don't stop thinking about tomorrow!" Yes! Focus on the future. Cherish the past, yes, but keep your eyes focused on what God is doing next, who he will bring you as the next pastor.

Thanks for all you did a few weeks ago and over the last six years. I am very aware of how good you were to me.

Thank you!

- David Roquemore



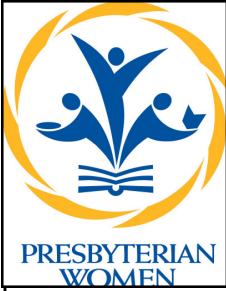
Valle Crucis Mission Trip Recap

The week of June 16th our youth participated in a mission trip to Valle Crucis, NC. Our group, filled with enthusiasm and a spirit of service, had the privilege of working with several impactful organizations. This year's team was made up of: Sarah Butterfield, Margy Butterfield, Joaquin Jefferson, Julian Jefferson, Jennifer Jefferson, James Philhower, Madelyn Philhower, Elizabeth Philhower, Cruz Stinson, Jailyn Stinson, and Laura Sparks.



Our first stop was the Children's Workshop, where we helped spread mulch and hang shade tarps on their playground. At the Health and Hunger Coalition, we tackled issues of food insecurity and healthcare access. Our youth sorted and packed food donations and prepared meals. Next, we partnered with Wine to Water, an organization dedicated to providing clean water to communities in need. Our team participated in assembling water filters and learning about global water crises. Finally, we worked with Reaching Avery Ministries, providing assistance to low-income families and individuals in Avery County. Our group organized diaper donations by size and stacked grocery bags for thrift store purchases. Throughout the trip, our youth displayed remarkable dedication, empathy, and teamwork. We are immensely proud of our youth and grateful to the organizations that welcomed us. Their efforts have made a lasting impact on both the communities served and our own congregation.





August Circle Meetings

- Circle #4** Will not meet in August. They will resume in September. Date and location to be announced.
- Lydia Circle** Will not meet in August. They will resume on Tuesday, Sept. 3rd at 2:00 p.m. in the parlor.
- Circle #5** Will not meet in August. They will resume on Wednesday, September 11th at 11:30 a.m. Location to be announced.



Creative Hands

Monday, June 10th, our FPC Creative Hands Chrismon group hosted ladies from Trinity Baptist Church and New Jerusalem Lutheran Church for a time of fellowship where they shared their gift of making Chrismons with one another.

Pictured are: Sandra Bollinger, Carolyn Robinson, Betty Scipione, Kathe Canupp, Julie Harris, Brenda Powell, Jan Houser, Robin Waldron, Linda Witherspoon, Sherrie McCart, Frances Ervin, Kay Long, Mitzi Moody & Laura Sparks.



On Sunday, May 19th - the Chrismon group presented each of the 2024 Confirmands with a Chrismon ornament for their dedication to the church.

(Pictured from left to right: James Philhower, Julian Jefferson & Joaquin Jefferson.)





FPC Care Team

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

The 2024 meetings will be held on the following Mondays at 5:30 p.m. in the conference room:

July 8th and October 14th.
Please mark your calendars!

The next meeting will take place on Monday, October 14, 2024 at 5:30 p.m.

Care Team Members are:

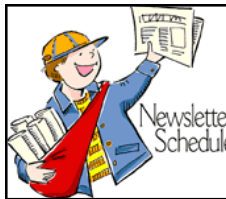
<i>Sylvia Bajorek</i>	<i>Robin McGraw</i>
<i>Mark Bonnema</i>	<i>Mimi Michael</i>
<i>Texie Doolittle</i>	<i>Faye Morgan</i>
<i>Lottie Ethridge</i>	<i>Sylvia Payne</i>
<i>Barb Forshey</i>	<i>Debby Reynolds</i>
<i>Mimi Michael</i>	

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.

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 not meet in August, but will resume on Tuesday, September 24, 2024 at 10:00 a.m. in the parlor.

“The Women”
by: Kristin Hannah



Newsletter Article Deadline

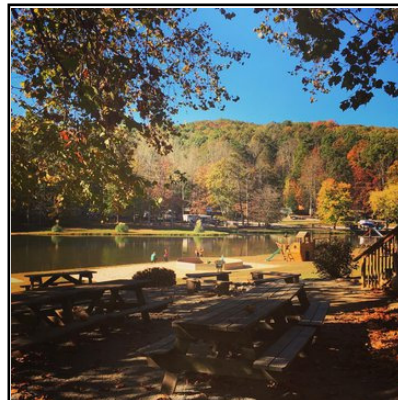
The newsletter is usually published *monthly* on the last Wednesday of the month. The deadline for articles is Wednesday noon prior to the Wednesday that it is published. This is a FIRM DEADLINE. E-mail articles are preferred. Send them to Kim at kberry@fpnewton.com. However, handwritten articles are 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

August 4th
August 11th
August 18th
August 25th

Catawba Valley Rotary
Trinity Baptist
Calvary Baptist
Circle #5



Save the Date!

**Camp Grier
Annual Church
Retreat**

Old Fort, NC

Sept. 6-8, 2024

THE NEWSLETTER is published monthly by:
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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

August 4th

11th Sunday after Pentecost
10:00 a.m. Worship, Sanctuary
Sacrament of Holy Communion
Rev. Jody Welker preaching

August 11th

12th Sunday after Pentecost
10 :00 a.m. Worship, sanctuary
Daily Change Offering received
Rev. Jody Welker preaching

August 18th

13th Sunday after Pentecost
10:00 a.m. Worship, sanctuary
Rev. Jody Welker preaching

August 25th

14th Sunday after Pentecost
10:00 a.m. Worship, chapel
Rev. Jody Welker preaching

