

FIRST NEWS

SEPTEMBER 2022



Photo taken at Montreat Youth Conference 2022

Last month, the pastoral and program staff gathered in Lake Lure, NC for a two-day retreat. The focus of our time together this year was on team building and cultivating meaningful connections amongst our group. The latter was especially important given the fact that there are several new faces that have joined our church staff in recent weeks and months – mine included!

One of the exercises our facilitator led us through involved about sixty cards spread out on a table. Each card had a picture and a word printed on the front. For example, one card had a picture of footprints going up a giant sand dune with the word “perseverance” printed on it. Other cards had pictures with corresponding words such as *Joy*, *Fear*, *Belief*, *Opportunity*, *Stuck*, *Learning*, *Gratitude*, *Journey*, *Change*, etc. Each of us was asked to pick a card from the table that described where we feel like we

currently are in our lives. We then went around the circle and shared about why we selected the card in our hands.

It was a fascinating and meaningful activity. Not only did it help us get to know one another at a deeper level, but it also stimulated rich conversation as we recognized parts of our own story in the stories of others. And the whole time, I kept wondering to myself:

What card would we - as a church - pick up off the table?

Now I cannot answer that question for all of you, but I can tell you the card that I would pick in response to that question. Specifically, there was one near the middle of the table with a picture of a child’s smiling face and the word: *Hopeful*. Friends, I am so *hopeful* for the future of First Presbyterian. Whether in our ministries of care and compassion, in meals being served on Thursday nights, in any one of our weekly Bible studies, in a busload of youth headed off to Montreat, or in

the small army of children coming forward for the children’s moment most every Sunday – the love of Jesus Christ is being felt and freely shared everywhere we turn.

And so, as we look ahead to the fall, I invite you to find (or re-find) your place here at FPC. Come join with others in your church family as we seek to grow in faith and serve others in love. After all, there is nothing more *hopeful* than a body of believers striving to live out the hope we share in Jesus Christ in all that we do.

Invite a friend and hope to see you soon!

Peace,

Rev. Alan F. Dyer
Senior Pastor



UPCOMING HAPPENINGS

Wednesdays @FIRST

FAITH, FOOD, & FELLOWSHIP

September 14

Greek Chicken, Roasted Greek Potatoes, Greek Green Beans,
Greek Salad, Bread, Dessert & Beverage

Kid's Menu

Chicken Tenders with Dipping Sauce, Mac & Cheese, Applesauce,
Dessert & Juice Box

September 21

Sautéed Shrimp, Cheese Tortellini with Carbonara Sauce, Steamed Broccoli,
Caesar Salad, Bread, Dessert & Beverage

Kid's Menu

Cheese Pizza, Fruit Cup, Dessert & Juice Box

September 28

Hot Chicken Casserole, Copper Pennies (marinated carrots), Garden Salad,
Bread, Dessert & Beverage

Kid's Menu

Chicken Tenders with Dipping Sauce, Tater Tots, Applesauce,
Dessert & Juice Box

Scan this QR code to make your dinner reservation
or visit <https://fpcspartanburg.org/grow/waf>

Child \$7, Adult \$10, Senior \$9, Family \$30

Additional charge for to-go orders - \$1 per individual meal, \$4 per family

Check the **back page** for more WAF news!



JOY FELLOWSHIP ASHEVILLE DAY TRIP



THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 22

Join us for a trip to the WNC Farmer's Market
and lunch at the Moose Cafe!
We'll enjoy an optional trolley tour of
downtown Asheville after lunch.

FOR MORE DETAILS OR TO RSVP: jshackleton@fpcspartanburg.org

SAVE THE DATE!

CHURCHWIDE DAY OF SERVICE | OCTOBER 15TH
STAY TUNED FOR MORE DETAILS!

Young Adult Social at the Breeden's Farm!

Sunday, October 16 | 4:00-6:00pm
More details to come!

RETURN OF



The Perfect Blend
COFFEE & FRIENDS

SELECT THURSDAYS THIS FALL!

JOIN A ROTATING CAST OF PASTORS
FOR COFFEE, FRIENDS, AND A
LITTLE SPIRITUAL BOOST FOR YOUR DAY!

SEPTEMBER 1
SEPTEMBER 15
OCTOBER 6
OCTOBER 20
NOVEMBER 3

10:30 AM

Large Private Dining Room in Fogartie Hall



Fall Sunday School Schedule

Beginning September 11

Children (Clark Building)

Nursery	(Room C105 and C108)
3K-5K	(Room C110)
1st & 2nd Grade	(Drop off Room C201, Pick up Room C202)
3rd & 4th Grade	(Drop off Room C201, Pick up Room C203)
5th Grade	(Room C206)

Youth (2nd Floor of Family Life Center)

Middle School	(Room F201)
High School	(Room F202)

Adults (2nd Floor of Main Building)

Abide	(Room 2200)
Bible Alive!	(Room 2208 & On Zoom)
Emmaus	(Room 2207)
LIFT	(Room 2201)



YOUTH & CAMPUS MINISTRIES

Youth Fall Programming

Sunday AM	Sunday PM	Tuesday	Wednesday
Sunday School for all Youth 10 - 10:45 am, second floor of the Family Life Center	Sunday Night Youth 5 - 6:30pm: Middle School Youth 6:30 - 8pm: High School Youth	Java & Jesus (for High Schoolers) Location will alternate between Eastside, Westside and BS	Wednesdays at First 5pm - Food line opens. Youth programming weekly after dinner

Refer to your Weekly Email for more specific dates, times and locations!

Save the date... MIDDLE SCHOOL FALL RETREAT

November 11 - 13, 2022
Asbury Hills Retreat Center
\$250 per person



CHILDREN'S MINISTRY



Dear Members and Friends of FPC,

To say I have received a warm welcome here at FPC would be a serious understatement, given the outpouring of generosity, hospitality, and love my family and I have received these past few weeks. Thank you, thank you, thank you! It is clear we have joined a family that truly supports and cares for one another. I am excited to build relationships with the children of this congregation and find ways to nurture and support the families of First Pres. We serve a BIG God with BIG plans for our young people, and I feel so blessed to be a part of their faith formation. This Fall will be filled with play, Bible stories, dance, wonder, noise, and laughter... I cannot WAIT!



Together in Ministry,
Kara Clark
Director of Children's Ministry

Summer Sizzle: Rally Day September 11

Rally Day is a time to celebrate the beginning of new Sunday School classes, reconnect with familiar faces, and make some new friends.
You don't want to miss this fun fall kickoff!

- 8:30am** Nursery opens (6 months - 3 years old)
Children in 3k-5k meet for donuts and time together (C110)
- 9:45am** 1st-5th graders gather in Social Hall for donuts and meeting
Sunday School teachers (and maybe even some dancing!)
Children will then split into their respective classes.
- 10:45am** Child pick-up (1st-2nd [C202], 3rd-4th [C203], 5th [C206])
- 12:00pm** After the 11:00 worship service, enjoy food trucks
(and **snow**) in the FLC parking lot!! It's going to be **big!!**

Can't wait to see you there!

Make a Joyful Noise! Children's Music Starts THIS MONTH!

Sign Up
Now!



Ages: Birth - 3 Years
Begins September 21

&

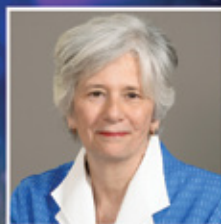
Children's
Choir

Ages: 4K - 5th Grade
Begins September 14

Sign Up
Now!



THANK YOU RECEPTION
for Pastor Ansley and Ms. Beth
SEPT. 14 | DURING WAF



WAYS TO SUPPORT



Door Hangers

Our apple door hangers are made out of solid wood, and will have your child's handprints on them! These are wonderful gifts for friends and family!

Minted.com

You can get 20% off your stationery, cards, custom gifts, and more by using our code **FUNDRAISEFPCWEEKDAY** at checkout! Weekday School receives 15% of all proceeds!

GoGo Squeez Recycling Program

We are collecting all squeezable snack plastic pouches from all brands. This is no direct cost to the preschool. Recycling earns points that can be redeemed in the form of a donation to our school. 2500 pts. = \$25

Amazon Smile

If you shop on smile.amazon.com, or shop with AmazonSmile turned **ON** in your Amazon Shopping app, then 0.5% of your purchase price will be donated to us! Our account is **First Presbyterian Church of Spartanburg, SC**. Remember, only purchases made on smile.amazon.com will serve as donations.

Used Printer Cartridges

The Weekday School gets money towards supplies for recycled printer cartridges, so we'll take any empty ones you have!

Moe's Pop-Up Fundraisers

Buy a Moe's Taco Kit that feeds 4-6 people!
Most recent fundraiser was August 25 (possibly another soon!)

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!





DO YOU KNIT OR CROCHET? WE NEED YOU!

Although the weather is far from being chilly, we are already preparing for FPC's largest annual mission project, Winter Warmth, where we distribute brand-new coats to children in need across Spartanburg County.

In addition to coats, children will also be receiving hats and scarves, handmade by members of the church. That's where **you** come in! If you're able to knit or crochet, we could really use your help in making it happen!

Winter Warmth will take place on **November 12th** this year. It's never too early to start! If you have questions, please email them to winterwarmth@gmail.com.

**LOSE
SOMETHING?
WE MAY HAVE
FOUND IT!**
check the
Lost & Found
located at Receptionist's Office

AN UPDATE FROM HAND IN HAND MINISTRIES

The Spartanburg County District 3 Food Delivery Program helps to serve fresh produce to 56 food insecure families across the district. Not only are the families fed by the weekly deliveries from the D3 bus drivers, but the drivers are also able to work through the summer, providing their outreach year-round.

On the morning of August 1, Levator Williams (District 3 Director of Transportation) was overwhelmed by the sight of two massive produce trucks, filled to the brim with fresh bananas, cabbage, apples, and squash. The smile of pure joy on her face could have been seen halfway across the country.



This delivery would not have been possible without the generosity and coordination of First Presbyterian's own Pano Stathakis, who placed the order for Hand in Hand and ensured that it was delivered with punctuality and grace.



RECREATION NEWS

NEW GYM HOURS

(Beginning September 6th)

MONDAY-THURSDAY 7:00AM-8:00PM
FRIDAY 7:00AM-2:00PM

BOOTCAMP CLASSES

MONDAY / WEDNESDAY / FRIDAY
7:15AM (ON ZOOM) 9:15AM (ON THE TRACK)

YOGA CLASSES

MONDAYS / WEDNESDAYS
8:15AM (ACTIVITY ROOM)

\$5 PER CLASS | TAUGHT BY NICOLE HENSLEY

COMMUNITY OPEN GYM BASKETBALL

TUESDAYS & THURSDAYS, 5:30-7:30PM

MEMBERS AND NON-MEMBERS
ARE INVITED TO COME AND
SHOOT SOME HOOPS!

BASKETBALLS WILL BE PROVIDED!





PASTORAL CONCERNS

(THROUGH AUGUST 23, 2022)

IN MEMORIAM

Markus Bolliger
Tuesday, June 14, 2022
Father of Stephan Bolliger

CHRISTIAN SYMPATHY

Christian sympathy is extended to:

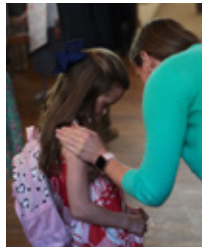
Kay Maddox, on the death of her mother, Velma Humphries.
Jeannie Tate, on the death of her father, James Edward Seegars, and her mother, Shirley Thompson Seegars
Melanie Davis, on the death of her mother, Jane Stinson Thompson

WEDDINGS

Congratulations to:

Mr. and Mrs. Jon Emmett Shuler Jr. (Jenna Leigh Gregory), who were married Saturday, May 21, 2022

BLESSING OF THE BACKPACKS & WELCOME RECEPTION FOR KARA CLARK SUNDAY, AUGUST 14



WELCOME OUR NEW MEMBERS!



Margaret Fraser



**Addison, Lauren, Logan,
and Jackson Harris**

STAFF RETREAT TO LAKE LURE, NC AUGUST 10-11, 2022



SMALL GROUP SCHEDULE

MONDAYS

Young Men's Bible Study

Noon-1:00pm (Large Private Dining Room)

Young men of the church and community are invited to a weekly Bible Study, led by Rev. Alan Dyer. This is a great opportunity for fellowship, prayer, and learning with other men in their 20s/30s/40s. This fall they will kick off with a study of **The Beatitudes** from the Gospel of Matthew. Bring a bite to eat if you want!

Women's Ministry Circles (Monthly, at various times)

Find your place in one of our Women's Circles each month as they enjoy fellowship and explore "Celebrating Sabbath". See the church website for specific dates, times, and locations.

TUESDAYS

Tickled Pink Women's Bible Study

The Names of God: Crafting Faith on Divine Character

Join women of faith to rediscover the names of God and how they reveal divine character. Come for the study and reflection, for the laughter and friendship, and to deepen your trust in the Living God. We will begin with coffee and fellowship before diving into the scripture. If you like, **wear pink!** Bring a friend. The more the merrier!

**Tuesdays, Sept. 13 - Nov. 8, 9:15am-10:30am
in Fogartie Hall**

**Know a bibliophile?
Well, we've got a book club!**



**First Tuesday of each month
Starting September 6
10:30am & 7:00pm (Arthur Center)**

New selections every month.
All are welcome for fellowship and stimulating conversation!

Our first selection is
The Indigo Girl by Natasha Boyd



Nan & Tom McDaniel's Study Group

**Tuesdays and Thursdays (Starting Sept. 6th & 8th)
Noon-1pm on Zoom**

Wherever you are, spend your lunch hour deepening your faith with this long-standing study group, now meeting on Zoom. Join them this fall as they explore Jake Owensby's **Looking for God in Messy Places: A Book About Hope**. Join in on either Tuesday or Thursday. Contact **Shannon Hutcheson** for Zoom information.

WEDNESDAYS

Christians in the Making (Women's Study)

**Wednesdays, Starting September 14th
10:00am (Purnell Room)**

Join this great group of faithful women led by Jennifer Biber as they read, study and pray the Psalms this fall.

Wednesday Men's Bible Study

**Wednesdays (year-round)
Noon-1:00pm (Arthur Center)**

Led by Kyle Keefer, this faithful group of men takes an in-depth walk through books of the Bible. Bring your Bible and a bite to eat, if you want!

THURSDAYS

Nan & Tom McDaniel's Study Group (See Tuesday's information)

Younger Women's Bible Study

**Thursday mornings (Sept. 22 - November 3rd)
9:30-10:30am (High School Youth Room)**

We will be studying the book of Galatians together. Come join us for a casual Thursday morning study (women in their 20s, 30s, and 40s welcome), where we can learn and grow together! For more information, please contact **Leslie Lang, Donna Pulliam, or Carter Smith**.

FRIDAYS

Early Men's Bible Study Fridays (year-round)

6:30-7:30am (Small Private Dining Room)

Led by John Verreault, this men's group begins their day studying the Bible and exploring faith together.

Friday Men's Bible Study Fridays (year-round) 7:00-8:00am (Arthur Center)

The Friday Morning Bible Study is a group of men who gather each week to journey through the books of the Bible. **And what a journey it is!** There is commentary that is as interesting (and often humorous) as it is informative. Also, there is fellowship and camaraderie that you wouldn't quite expect at such an early hour.

Come and join us for a faith-inspiring time of study and learning.



Wednesdays @FIRST

FAITH, FOOD, & FELLOWSHIP

WEDNESDAY NIGHT PROGRAMMING

SEPTEMBER 14 - OCTOBER 19 (6:30-7:15PM)

DISCIPLESHIP IN AN INSTANT SOCIETY (FOGARTIE HALL)

In a culture that focuses on shallow efforts and instantaneous results, this study, led by Alan Dyer, will help you go deep so that you can focus on God for the long journey. There you will find riches! Based on the book *A Long Discipleship in the Same Direction* by Eugene Peterson.

Copies of the book are available at the church for \$15.

SEPTEMBER 14 - NOVEMBER 9 (6:30-8:30PM)

JUSTFAITH: FAITH AND RACIAL HEALING (ROOM 2208)

This program guides participants in telling the truth about the history of racism in the United States, and brainstorms together how we might work toward true reconciliation with God and restoration with one another.

This group requires registration and is limited in number.

For more information, please contact Leslie Lang (llang@fpcspartanburg.org)

or Liz Evans (lzrd216@gmail.com).

SEPTEMBER 28 (6:30-7:15PM)

SKIN HEALTH (PURNELL ROOM)

In preparation for our *Fall Vaccination – Skin and Bone Screening Clinic*, please join Dr. Peter Neidenbach as he discusses the importance of caring for our largest organ, skin.

Dr. Greg Colbath and Nurse Practitioner, Emily Pack will join us again on October 5th to discuss Bone Health.

Stay tuned for even more WAF events!

First Presbyterian Church
393 East Main Street
Spartanburg, SC 29302-1917

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