



# NEWSLETTER

## FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Serving the Newton Conover Area since 1858

Partners with Iglesia El Redentor, Guatemala

[www.fpcnewton.org](http://www.fpcnewton.org)

May 2022

Dear Saints of First Presbyterian,

We're back! It feels as though the worst is behind us. We are bouncing back from Covid and are beginning in-person meetings and ministries again. It feels good, let me tell you!

This morning at Presbytery we heard a sermon from one of the pastors who talked about when she encountered Jesus during college. She went into a church, and she was "gobsmacked" by the notion of unconditional love. Here was a God who loved her no matter what! She was astounded. She had no words.

But she told us a story. A friend of hers had taken a group from some other country, a desert land, to Yosemite. They stood staring in front of a giant waterfall. The friend left them there for a while and came back, but they were still staring. All day this happened. He kept going back, asking if they were ready to leave. They weren't. Finally as the sun was going down, he got them back to the vehicle. He commented on how amazed they were. They said, "we were watching and waiting for the waterfall to run out of water!" The idea that there could be that much water in the world, that a waterfall would run on and on, never stopping, was amazing to them. The preacher said this was exactly how she felt about God's amazing love.

I believe God's love will sustain us through the end of Covid, the sorting-out that will follow it, the changes that the church will see, and will make. God's love will sort us out and show us what to do next. God's love is like that waterfall; it simply never stops coming! The Spirit must laugh at us sometimes, but the Spirit will keep pouring out the love on us and in us.

Which means that we cannot be in the position of judging anyone. Instead, we welcome everyone. No matter who you are or what you have done, God welcomes you. God knows you and wants you to join him, and with him, us, in the work and worship of the Church.

I remember a woman said to me once that she didn't think the people of a congregation would welcome her friends. She said she knew they'd be greeted well, but she didn't think they'd feel accepted and welcomed. We commiserated, and agreed to pray for the congregation. How awful it must feel to be a part of a group that can't welcome your friends!

So, if you have ideas about what we could do, or what God might be calling us to do, let me know. The Spirit may be speaking to you, and through you, to us.

David



1 David Phillips

2 John Job  
David Moose  
Helen Thomas

3 Richard Hedrick

7 Brian Foley

9 Greyson Eneix

12 Tina Annas

14 Susan Knowles

16 Brenda Smith

21 Frances Ennis

22 Rowena Hodge

23 Sam Choate  
Devin Turner

24 Will Eneix  
Greg Joplin

26 Kathy McAllister  
Linda Ten Kate  
Jo Todd

27 Caroline Ingle  
Preston Inscoc  
Mark Murphy

28 Karen Mills

30 Ray Rhinehart

31 Elliott Lewis

### Church Office Hours



The office will be closed  
Monday, May 30th for Memorial Day holiday.



### **Adult Fellowship Dinner & Trivia Night**

Finally after two years! Join us Thursday, May 19th in the fellowship hall for the next Adult Fellowship Dinner from 5:45 until 7:30 p.m. We will begin with appetizers at 5:45, followed by the main course at 6:00 and then deserts. Around 6:45 we will enjoy Team Trivia game covering lots of different topics of interest. Of course there will be prizes!

Please call Barb Forshey at 828-244-1200 or email her at [cleefor@yahoo.com](mailto:cleefor@yahoo.com) and let her know what you will be bringing so she can balance out the evening's menu.

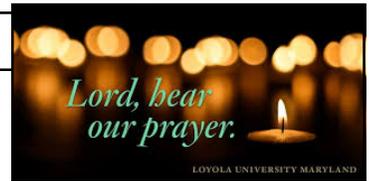
Deadline to sign up is Sunday, May 15th.



### IT Support

Do you like working with computers and technology? We are looking for a few members to assist with IT support on Sunday mornings. Our service and our Sunday school classes all have some technical aspect to them now. And as we all know, sometimes technology decides not to work as planned. If you choose to help, you would be on hand or via phone to assist with any bumps in the road. Please contact Laura Sparks if you are interested in being a Sunday IT volunteer.

## News of the Church Family



### **Prayers for those with Recent Health Concerns**

**CHURCH MEMBERS:** Frances Ennis, Lee Cranford, Julie Jones, Sondra Phillips, Nancy Gargis, Jan Clarke, Laurie Joplin, Wanda Hicks, Ron Valentini, Ann White, Jim Teubner, the Foley family, the Inscoe family, Frances Inscoe, Clayton Brooks, Tom & Linda Witherspoon, John & Edythe Taylor, Courtney Roquemore, Beverly McAlister, Bill Long, Bud Beers, Patty Valentini

**FRIENDS & FAMILY:** Ken McColley, Zachary Ausel, Lisa Eaton, Maryia Johnson & family, Katie Jones, Mary Lib Williams, Lewis Jonas, Margaret Hale, the Wright family, Randy Boyles, Drema Doolittle, Caitlan Reese, Keith & Shelly Moretz, Jerry Bowman, Melanie Cranford

### **Prayers for those in Assisted Living/Homebound:**

**CHURCH MEMBERS:** Dennis DeBalso, Betty Epps, Betty Fieselma, Johnsie Abernethy, Frances Inscoe

### **Prayers for those with Long-Term Health Concerns:**

Janet Drum, Richard Foley, Pete Keel, Robin Miller, Frankie Sigmon, Becky McRee

### **Condolences:**

To former FPC pastor, Rev. Steven Barnes and family on the death of Steven's mother, Emalie Barnes, March 3rd  
To Johnsie Abernethy and family on the death of Johnsie's sister, JoAnne Beard, April 1st  
To Mark & Lynn Murphy and family on the death of Lynn's mother, Gwen Sherrill, April 22nd  
To Bob & Patty Neill and family on the death of Patty's niece, Judy Sigmon, April 25th

### **Prayers for those in Military:**

- John Hardin, U.S. Army, Ft. Sill, OK  
(Cindy Baldwin's nephew)
- LCDR William G. Bickel, Jr., U.S. Navy, Norfolk, VA  
(Bruce & Cathy Murdock's son-in-law)
- Captain Joshua Smith, U.S. Marines, Camp Lejeune, NC  
(Brenda Smith's son)
- Captain Christopher Walker, U.S. Army, Fort Knox, KY  
(Tammy Walker's son)
- LTJG Max Morrill, U.S. Navy, Washington, DC  
(Joan Inscoe's grandson)

### **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 20 scholarship students as they begin a new school year
- For Uzias Rodas, university scholar who is in his 3rd year studying to be a teacher
  - For Humberto Robles, elder, who is receiving a scholarship for theological education



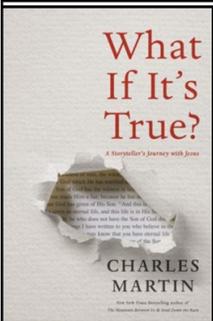
Dear FPC,  
Just want to say "thank you" for the wonderful card you sent to me upon my cancer diagnosis, treatment and recovery. I am greatly appreciative for all your thoughts and prayers.  
Peace, Byron Wade (Presbyter, PWNC)

Dear FPC Newton,  
Easter is a time of hope. This house brings hope to our family because it is forever. Thank you for helping our family plant seeds. Gratefully, the Cruse family (Habitat for Humanity)



## May Circle Meetings

- Circle #2** Tuesday, May 3rd at 7:00 p.m. via Zoom.
- Circle #4** Monday, May 2nd at 3:00 p.m. in the parlor. Refreshments will be served at 3:00 with the meeting to begin afterwards.
- Circle #5** Wednesday May 11th at 11:30 am at the home of Karen and Gary McDougal. We will be celebrating the 100th anniversary of PW Birthday Offering. Each member is asked to bring their favorite salad or dessert. We will collecting our Birthday Offering at this meeting. Judy Brown will be teaching Lesson 5: Ruth & Redemption. Everyone is welcome to join the group.

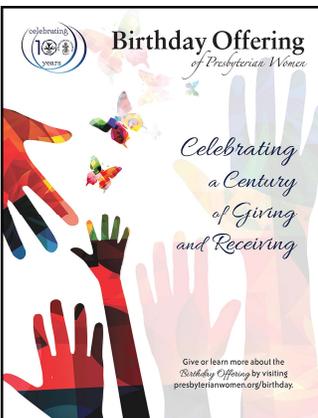


## Women's Ministry Events

### Circle of Sisters Book Club

Come join Circle of Sisters Book Club as we discuss "*What If It's True?*", by Charles Martin. We will be meeting Wednesday, May 4th at 6:00 p.m. in the FPC Youth Room. Our discussion will begin around 6:30 p.m. Pizza and salad will be served for dinner. Need a book? We have book scholarships available! All are welcome!

Books can be purchased here: <https://www.amazon.com/What-If-Its-True-Storytellers/dp/0785221328>



## Presbyterian Women's Birthday Offering Celebrating a Century of Giving and Receiving

*Do not neglect to do good and to share what you have,  
for such sacrifices are pleasing to God.*

Hebrews 13:16

This year the Birthday Offering of Presbyterian Women celebrates the century mark of generous giving. Launched in 1922 to honor the anniversary of the Woman's Auxiliary in the Presbyterian Church in the United States, the Birthday Offering is an annual May tradition for givers and receivers around the world. Over the last 100 years, more than 200 organizations around the world have benefited from the Birthday Offering, transforming countless lives. This year's two grant recipients are Mission at the Eastward (MATE) in Farmington, Maine; and Iglesia Presbiteriana de Lares, Puerto Rico – Jesus Feeds the Five Thousand.

Birthday Offering Envelopes will be available at church services and in the church office the entire month of May. Or if you are still staying at home, feel free to call the office and they will be happy to mail you one. To learn more about the Birthday Offering, visit [www.presbyterianwomen.org/birthday](http://www.presbyterianwomen.org/birthday).

And in closing, a trivia question: Who were the first two recipients of the Birthday Offering? Montreat, with the funds to be used for the Entrance Gate and Miss Dowd's School for Girls in Kochi, Japan.

# CHRISTIAN EDUCATION NEWS

## Youth Connections

### Upcoming Events

#### MAY 2022

##### Sunday, May 1st

12 Noon - 2 p.m. - Youth & Graduation Rehearsal

##### Sunday, May 15th

Youth & Graduation Sunday



#### High School & College Graduates

Sunday, May 15th, Presbyterian Women will honor our recent high school and college graduates during the 10:00 a.m. worship service. If you know a member of our congregation who will be graduating from high school or college the 2021-2022 academic year, contact the church office or email Laura Sparks at [lsparks@fpcnewton.com](mailto:lsparks@fpcnewton.com).

#### April Recaps

##### April 3<sup>rd</sup>

4:30 p.m. 6:00 p.m. - Sunday Community Supper

Our youth served up a pizza and salad dinner for our Sunday Community Supper guests! We would love to have you join us next time. The youth will serve again on August 21st! Let Laura know if you would like to help!



##### April 10th - Palm Sunday

Children to wave palm branches at beginning of service. We had a wonderful Palm Sunday service yesterday! Thanks to the young disciples who helped wave palm branches!



##### April 17th - Easter

9:00 a.m. - Easter Egg Hunt

It was so wonderful to see so many smiling faces on Easter! Thank you to everyone who donated candy, filled eggs, hid eggs, and taught our BLAST lesson of the day! Looking forward to seeing more happy faces in the future!



## Financial Stewardship Report

2022 Pledge Budget	470,000.00
Pledge Budget through 3-31-2022	136,749.96
Pledge Receipts through 3-31-2022	128,519.53



FPC Newton is blessed with an excellent and thorough program of congregational care. **The Care Team Ministry** is an active ministry and available to all members of our church family, in good times and bad. If you are facing particular challenges or difficulties, or you just feel like you need additional love and care, we are ready to care for you!

Care Team Members are:

<i>Sylvia Bajorek</i>	<i>Faye Morgan</i>
<i>Texie Doolittle</i>	<i>Sylvia Payne</i>
<i>Lottie Ethridge</i>	<i>Carole Roddy</i>
<i>Barb Forshey</i>	<i>Susan Roquemore</i>
<i>Robin McGraw</i>	<i>Penn Waldron</i>
<i>David Roquemore</i>	

**The Care Team will meet Tuesday,  
May 10th at 5:00 p.m. in the  
conference room.**

We've been making phone calls on behalf of the church to make sure folks are okay! Please contact any of us if you have a request or need!

*"I know what it is to be in need, and I know what it is to have plenty. I have learned the secret of being content in any and every situation, whether well fed or hungry, whether living in plenty or in want. I can do all this through him who gives me strength."*

Philippians 4:12-13



### 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@fpcnewton.com](mailto:kberry@fpcnewton.com). However, handwritten articles are welcome.

**To 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

<b><u>May 1st</u></b>	Beth Eden Lutheran
<b><u>May 8th</u></b>	Trinity Baptist
<b><u>May 15th</u></b>	Friendship UMC
<b><u>May 22nd</u></b>	C/E Committee
<b><u>May 29th</u></b>	Calvary Baptist

**All Dinners Will be  
Carry-Out Only!**



The Book Club meets on the **fourth Tuesday** of each month at 10:00 a.m. One of the biggest pleasures of reading a good book is discussing it with other readers. There's no better place to do that than a book club. Everyone is welcome and you can join anytime! Join in as your schedule permits. Please e-mail Becky McRee at [raiamnc@gmail.com](mailto:raiamnc@gmail.com) if you have questions about the Club.

### **May 24th**

**"The Elephant Whisperer"**  
by: Lawrence Anthony



### VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES AT HABITAT FOR HUMANITY

For the last several decades our church has had a close working relationship with Habitat for Humanity of Catawba Valley. Our Missions budget has a line item that offers financial assistance to this great organization. Over the years, many of our members have volunteered to participate in the actual construction of the homes. For the last four years, we have joined with other churches in the area to support an annual Apostle Build, providing safe, well-constructed new homes to deserving families. They are currently working in the Ridgeview community of Hickory, building new homes as well as operating Habitat Repairs! which offers upgrades to older homes throughout the county. Construction volunteers are welcomed at both of these programs.

If driving nails is not your thing, there is a way to build a house without picking up a hammer. One of the primary sources of support for Habitat is the ReStore. They receive donations from the public, merchandise and sell those items, and the proceeds benefit Habitat for Humanity of Catawba County. The ReStore is badly in need of volunteer assistance. Their current volunteers range in age from 18 to 86 years old! Tasks may include ringing up purchases, customer service, greeting, stocking, pricing, social media, and general warehouse help. They are especially in need of cashiers at this time. They have two shifts daily, 10:00 a.m. until 1:30 p.m. And 1:30 p.m. until 5:00 p.m., and are very flexible in their scheduling.

For more information about this worthwhile volunteer opportunity, contact Bob Neill or Ann Sperry who currently volunteers at the ReStore.



### MARCH MADNESS FOOD DRIVE RESULTS 2022

FPC-Newton finished a strong third in the recent March Madness food drive in which 26 churches competed. We collected the equivalent of 3,820 pounds of food and were beaten only by Newton's FUMC and Tri-City Baptist. The breakdown of teams was as follows: The "field"-1,725; UNC-1,033; Duke-641; N.C. State-289; App State-90; Clemson-17; Wofford,- 17; LRU- 8. The total collected by ECCCM in the drive was over 57,000 pounds! Thanks so much to everyone who donated to this effort. As usual, the real winners are the folks who are served by ECCCM!



### Save the Date! Rise Against Hunger!

BACK BY POPULAR DEMAND!!! *Rise Against Hunger's* packaging program is a volunteer-based initiative that coordinates the assembly-line packaging of highly nutritious dehydrated meals comprised of rice, soy, vegetables, and 23 essential vitamins and minerals. In 2018, 68 volunteers packaged 17,062 meals in 90 minutes. Our church will again sponsor an event on Saturday, September 24th at 1:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. This year we are excited to be working with our friends from Beth Eden Lutheran Church. This event is for all ages and we encourage everyone to participate as they are able.

There will be more information forthcoming over the next few months, but for now, put it on your calendar. For more information about this organization, visit their website @ [www.riseagainsthunger.org](http://www.riseagainsthunger.org).



THE CORNER TABLE PRESENTS

# Feed The Flock Gala

HELP CREATE A GARDENING THEMED AUCTION BASKETS BY DONATING:

GLOVES, HAT, SEEDS, TOOLS, SMALL FLOWER POTS, BULBS, WATER HOSE, GLASSES, SUNSCREEN, GUMMY WORMS, BUG SPRAY, OR OTHER GARDENING ITEMS

PLEASE TURN THEM INTO THE OFFICE BY MAY 11TH!

CONTACT SUSAN ROQUEMORE (717)645-1220 FOR MORE INFORMATION



## Feed the Flock Gala & Basket

The Corner Table is having its annual Gala with silent auction on Friday, June 10th. Our church is collecting items to create a gardening basket in the silent auction this year. The money gathered from the Silent Auction and the Gala will feed many hungry families in our area.

Items we are looking for are seeds, bulbs, gardening gloves, Miracle Grow, garden decorations, clippers, hats, a towel, potting soil, gardening tools, a gardening magazine, a gardening book, etc. Let's fill this basket! If you choose to bring an item please include its price, as the Corner Table needs to add up the cost of the basket for the bidding! Please bring items to the church by Tuesday, May 10th! If you have any questions please reach out to Susan Roquemore 717-645-1220. Thank you!



## **"Well Isn't That Special?!" Ladies Lunch Group**

**May 5, 2022 11:30 a.m.**

**Geppeto's on Springs Road in Hickory**

Come join this new women's ministry group called "Well Isn't That Special?!", as we make lunch dates each month! Come to one, two or many!

Just sign up each time so we can reserve seats! Bring friends! It's a special time! Join us for lunch on Thursday, May 5th at 11:30 a.m. at Geppeto's on Springs Road in Hickory! Call the church office to sign up!

## Mamma Mia

Tickets have been purchased for Mamma Mia. We are looking forward to going and seeing the show with a group of 9 ladies! Season tickets were graciously donated by Frances Ervin and Karen McDougal! Thank you!



**THE NEWSLETTER** is published monthly by:  
**First Presbyterian Church, Newton, NC**

Website: [www.fpcnewton.org](http://www.fpcnewton.org)  
Office 828-464-0648 FAX 828-464-0866  
Editor: Kim Berry ([kberry@fpcnewton.com](mailto:kberry@fpcnewton.com))  
Church Office Hours:  
9 a.m. - 5 p.m. Monday-Thursday  
9 a.m. - 1 p.m. Friday  
Sunday School: 9:00 a.m. Sunday Worship: 10:00 a.m. (Outdoor)

**FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**  
**701 North Main Avenue**  
**Newton, NC 28658**

**RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED**

Place Address Label Here

**May 1st**

**3rd Sunday of Easter**

10:00 a.m. Outside Worship  
Sacrament of Holy Communion  
*Rev. David Roquemore preaching*

**May 8th**

**4th Sunday of Easter & Mother's Day**

10 :00 a.m. Outside Worship  
5¢-a-Meal Offering received  
*David Roquemore preaching*

**May 15th**

**5th Sunday of Easter  
Graduate & Youth Sunday**

10:00 a.m. Outside worship  
*Rev. David Roquemore preaching*

**May 22nd**

**6th Sunday of Easter**

10 :00 a.m. Outside Worship  
*Rick Leissner preaching*

**May 29th**

**7th Sunday of Easter**

10:00 a.m. Outside worship  
*Rev. David Roquemore preaching*

