



NEWSLETTER

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Serving the Newton Conover Area since 1858

Partners with Iglesia El Redentor, Guatemala

www.fpcnewton.org

February 2023

Dear Saints of First Presbyterian,

With our annual congregational meeting upon us, we have much to read and ponder about the year gone by. But there is much to look forward to in the year to come!

I have asked the Session to consider a re-organization, and they have responded affirmatively. I think they were excited by the changes I propose. Here they are:

The Christian Education committee becomes the Council on Discipleship. This will broaden the group's perspective, I hope, to see all of our efforts at teaching brought under one umbrella.

The Congregational Ministries, Membership, and CARE team are brought together as the Council on Caring. All pastoral care and fellowship functions are under their domain.

The Council on Sharing is the former Mission committee. It's portfolio remains the same, with a new leader coming aboard later this year. We appreciate the many years Bob Neill has given this committee work.

The Council on Administration comprises the former finance, property, personnel, and stewardship committees. They will find ways to organize themselves and present a unified report that keeps us informed about our resources.

The Council on Nominating will begin its work shortly after Easter, so to bring a slate forward to us in September, per our by-laws! — so that we can train our new class of elders before they take office in January.

The Council on Praise is the new name for the former Worship Committee, which holds as its responsibility the worship spaces, the choirs, the AWE group, and all things about worship.

You may disagree with some aspect of this; that is fine. We will probably fine-tune some of this as we go along this year.

I give thanks for elders who are excited about their work and flexible enough to put up with the notions that the pastor dreams up! I pray that God gives us a year of clarity and function, so that we can climb out of the "pandemic hole" into the new reality that God brings.

I also asked the elders to step up to the meaning of the weekly "elder on call", especially since I can't jump in a car and drive somewhere at the drop of a hat. They agreed! Aren't they a great group? Yes they are! For the Session and its work in this new year, I give thanks.

David Roquemore

News of the Church Family

Prayers for those with Recent Health Concerns

CHURCH MEMBERS: Lee Cranford, Julie Jones, Sondra Phillips, Nancy Gargis, Laurie Joplin, Jim Teubner, the Foley family, the Inscoc family, Tom & Linda Witherspoon, Courtney Roquemore, Beverly McAlister, Bud Beers, Bill & Kay Long, Richard Hedrick, Jeannie Clark, Elise Yaussy (www.heartfunctionltd.com), Jo Todd, Michael & Becky McRee, Judy Fulton, Terryl Anderson & family, Frances Ervin, David Roquemore, Dale Whitaker, Joe Jones, Rick Knowles, Ron Valentini, Bob Neill, Dick Yaussy, Robin Miller, Peggy Templeton

FRIENDS & FAMILY: Zachary Ausel, Lisa Eaton, Mary Lib Williams, Margaret Hale, Caitlan Reese, Keith & Shelly Moretz, Bobby Brown, Zak Kuhn, Cora Compton, Ken McColley, Tom MacLauchlin, Luke Ohman, Melanie Cranford, Alex Terry, family of David Crockett Long, Shirley Harwell, family of Richard Odum, Michelle Nelson-Beers, Heather Forshey, Larry O'Dell, family of Linda Mundy, Ellen Jones, Leenie Vallandingham, Fred Thompson, Anne Walker, Selena McColley, Linda Boyette, Ken McColley, Nancy Davis (friend of Bonnie Pritchard)



Condolences:

To Peggy Templeton and family on the death of Jim Templeton, January 31st.

Prayers for those in Assisted Living/Homebound:

CHURCH MEMBERS: Dennis DeBalso, Betty Epps, Betty Fieselman, Johnsie Abernethy, Frances Inscoc, Frances Ennis, Wanda Hicks, Ann White

Prayers for those with Long-Term Health Concerns:

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

Prayers for those in Military:

- John Hardin, U.S. Army, Ft. Sill, OK
(Cindy Baldwin's nephew)
- 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 Inscoc's grandson)

Prayers for Missionaries and International Faith Partners

- Lawrence & Inge Sthreshley 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 Humberto Robles, elder, who is fulfilling requirements in secular education in order to continue his studies at the seminary.
- For Dayana Rojas, who is receiving a university scholarship to study nursing
- For Yesmi Monterroso, who will receive a university scholarship in 2024 to study business



- | | | |
|---|---|---|
| 2 David Coffey | 9 Kim McCarter | 17 Donald Duncan
Jonathan Lail
Ellen Williams
Kim Thompson |
| 3 Johnnie Leagon
Mason Cappelletty | 10 Melinda Keel
Lawson Lail
Alice Walters | 18 Betsy Ingle |
| 5 Will Kirby | 11 Edythe Taylor | 19 Spencer Radke |
| 6 Tracey Paul
Betty McDonald
Merle Kemp | 12 Ann Gaither
John Pritchard | 22 Ellie Induni
David McCart |
| 8 Alan Forshey
Jemmetta Eckard | 13 Mary Davis
Tyler Inscoe
Judy Brown | 24 Devon Paul |
| | 14 Walker Brown | 25 Jimmy Roddy |
| | 15 Melva Cooper
Elizabeth Edwards | 26 Emma Coffey |
| | 16 Deward Clark | 27 Keziah Anderson |
| | | 29 Mark Annas |



Dear Church family,

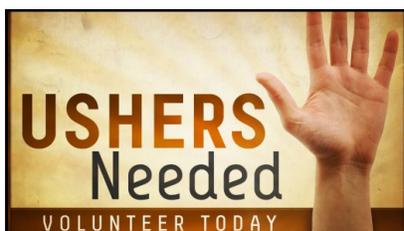
When physical limitations occur along with pain and exhaustion, one is forced to realize how family, friends, and the Church are so very important. Your kindness to me was and is appreciated. Reaching out to me with food, sending cards, quick messages, visits, phone calls and prayers, all confirm and reinforce my love for this caring FPC family.

Thank you!
Frances Ervin

Please consider joining our current pool of ushers. We need four ushers per Sunday as well as anyone who would be willing to substitute when needed. There will be a sign up poster located in the narthex or you may call the church office to have your name added.

Questions: Please contact Clark Strickland at 828-464-4928 or 828-446-8779.

Thanks for your participation!



Financial Stewardship Report

2022 Pledge Budget	470,000.00
Pledge Budget through 12-31-2022	470,000.00
Pledge Receipts through 12-31-2022	461,656.55



FPC Care Team

The FPC Care Team will now meet four times per year on Mondays, rather than monthly. The schedule for 2023 is as follows:

April 10th, July 10th and October 9th

The group will meet on April 10th, 2023 at 5:30 p.m. in the conference room.

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 church office will send you emails keeping you apprised of pastoral care developments in the congregation, and I 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. Pastor David is also revising and updating what the "Elder on Call" does each week, so that will cover some of the slack that this may seem to create.



Youth Lunch and Homebound Communion

Our youth and adult volunteers had the honor and privilege of visiting and sharing communion with some of our homebound members on January 8th. Visiting and/or calling your family members is so important. If you would like to visit these folks, give us a call at church and we will give you a list! Connecting with their church family truly means the world to them!

2023 Souper Bowl of Caring

Sunday, February 12th 11:00 a.m. - Noon (FPC Fellowship Hall)

As part of the national Souper Bowl of Caring efforts, FPC Youth will provide a soup and sandwich lunch for the congregation on Sunday, February 12th in the fellowship hall following the worship service. Donations will be accepted at the event, or by sending to the church office with proceeds benefiting The Corner Table and ECCCM. Please make checks payable to First Presbyterian Church and note on the Memo line: Souper Bowl of Caring.



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. 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>February 5th</u>	Catawba Valley Rotary
<u>February 12th</u>	Trinity Baptist
<u>February 19th</u>	FPC Youth
<u>February 26th</u>	Cornerstone Youth

All Dinners Will be Carry-Out Only!



CHRISTIAN EDUCATION NEWS

Youth Connections

Upcoming Events

FEBRUARY 2023

Sunday - February 5th

11:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. - Youth Lunch & Mission Project

Sunday, February 12th

9:00 a.m. - Noon - Youth Souper Bowl of Caring lunch, fellowship hall

Sunday, February 19th

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

Sunday, February 26th

5:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m. - Youth dinner & Lent activity with youth at First United Methodist Church, Newton

Young Disciples - Lunch and Defy

January 15th, we had an amazing group of 25 children, youth, and adults enjoy pizza, fun, and fellowship at DEFY!

Thank you to everyone who came! It was so wonderful to have such a great group! And a huge shout out to Debby Reynolds for bringing 5 youth with her!



January Recap

January 22nd - Fire pit and Movie Night- The Sparks House

Youth and Young Disciples got together on January 22, for a movie and indoor fire pit night! So due to the rain, instead of making grill cheese in the pie irons we made them in a pan. And instead of roasting marshmallows over the fire we zapped them in the microwave for 10 seconds. S'more perfection! Thanks, Sarah, for bringing your friend Elijah to join us!



January 29th- Escape Room

On Sunday, January 29th, the youth and their friends had lunch following church and then travelled to Trapped! Escape Games on Lenoir Rhyne Blvd! We almost escaped The Pirates Cove! A huge thanks to James Philhower for bringing two friends with him!





February Circle Meetings

Circle #2 Lydia Circle

Circle 2 will meet Tuesday, February 7th at 7:00 p.m. in the conference room and via Zoom.

Note: During Circle #2's Bible study recently, the question came up as to why circles were only named with numbers. As the group was studying Lydia at the time, a woman of "independent and generous spirit", the circle decided to change their name to Lydia Circle. And since Lydia was a purveyor of purple cloth, you may spot one of these Lydia women sporting a purple badge. Note that she also is a woman of independent and generous spirit! Women are welcome to join our circle or come as a guest.

Circle #4

Circle 4 will meet Monday, February 6th at 2:00 p.m. in the parlor. Mary Elizabeth Baugh is hostess.

Circle #5

Circle 5 will meet during the Valentine's Day luncheon on Friday, February 10th in the fellowship hall.



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

Wednesday, February 15, 2023

12:00 pm - Casa Azul Restaurant in Conover

Come join "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 February 15, 2023 at 12:00 pm at Casa Azul in Conover. Sign up by calling the church office or Susan Roquemore at 717-645-1220!

Thanks, FPC Women's Ministry

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 Susan Roquemore at 717-645-1220 if you have questions about the Club.

February 28th

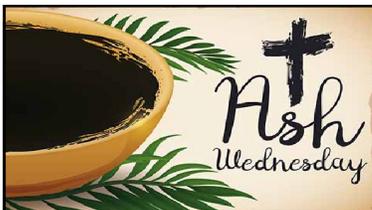
"Run, Rose, Run"

Dolly Parton & James Patterson

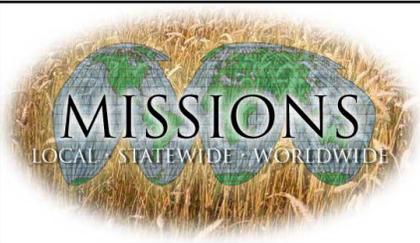


Ash Wednesday Service

Wednesday, February 22nd, is Ash Wednesday, which marks the beginning of the season of Lent.



We will gather together in the chapel at 7:00 p.m. on Wednesday evening to share and celebrate in worship. All are invited to join together for this special service, which will include the imposition of ashes—a central part of the worship service. Ashes are a sign of humbling oneself before God, and they have a long history in biblical and church traditions. Come join us on Ash Wednesday for worship. Let's begin the upcoming Lenten season by receiving ashes and praying for



The Daily Change Offering

We find that it takes an enormous amount of effort to cause things to change sometimes. But if we pay attention, we also can see that a tiny amount of sustained effort over a long period of time can have a dramatic effect. It has been a bit confusing to see so many name-changes for our presbytery's main Hunger initiative.

Two-Cents-a-Meal became Nickel-a-Meal, and now The Daily Change Offering. And, it's likely that all we really know about it is that once a month or so, a number of us walk to the front of the church at some point and a big clatter is made as coins are emptied into cans. There's more to it than that!

The program has three emphases – Prayer, Discovery and Action.

The importance of prayer, and the content of our prayers around mealtime might be obvious. (But it might not!) What do we know about the extent of food insecurity in our community or in our nation or other parts of the world?

What can we do?

\$75-100,000 is collected in our presbytery every year for this program. These funds are distributed to both regional and international organizations. The Corner Table and Back Pack program here in Newton, and hunger ministries in Sherrill's Ford have received grants in recent years, and the Nkhoma Hospital in Malawi and the Health project that is a part of our Guatemala Partnership receive funding annually through your Daily Change .

So, what kind of a difference do a few coins make? To take one example, two to five cents a meal, over the course of the 25+ years the Guatemala Health project has existed, represents some 10-15 million meals that have been enjoyed by people in our presbytery, and these little-bits-at-a-time have funded educational programs for community health promoters, nutritious snacks for Guatemalan children, water filters, and fuel efficient stoves. Folks feel noticed, begin to hope, and are healthier.

A little daily change on our part, multiplied over time in the church, has a big impact on many others. And, a little daily change might bring about a bit of change in us as well.

Room in the Inn



There are members of our community who lack safe, secure, and most importantly, warm shelter on cold winter nights. For ten years prior to the arrival of the pandemic, First Presbyterian Church, Newton provided a cold weather emergency shelter on nights when the temperature was predicted to fall to 25 degrees or below. This shelter, called *Room in the Inn*, operated from 6:00 p.m. until 8:15 a.m. in the church's Fellowship Hall, offering a warm meal and a warm place to sleep.

We are grateful that First UMC Newton has offered to continue this vital ministry. Pastor Josh Sherfey and his congregation have a wonderful facility and we have shared our cots, blankets, pillows etc. as well as the knowledge we acquired during a decade of operating the shelter. In order to adequately staff the shelter, Josh is seeking volunteers from other churches in the community. Once the decision to open is made, an opportunity to volunteer for the various positions will be sent via email.

The online sign-up process is quick and easy. If you would like to join in this effort, please contact Kim Berry at the church office (kberry@fpcnewton.com), Beth Huggins (huggins.beth@gmail.com), or Rev. Josh Sherfey (josh@firstnewton.org.) There will be a training session for volunteers in the near future. Please consider how you can assist in this worthwhile mission.

How is the Shelter Staffed?

Volunteers are needed to serve in the following roles:

Hens (5:45 p.m. - 10:00 p.m.)- open shelter, welcome guests, assist with showers, serve dinner

Owls (10:00 p.m. - 6:00 a.m.)- stay overnight

Roosters (6:00 a.m. - 8:15 a.m.)- serve breakfast, help with clean up, close shelter

Volunteers serve in pairs or groups. Volunteers are also needed to provide meals that can be served for breakfast or dinner.



"God sends the Church in the power of the Holy Spirit to join in the mission of Jesus Christ in service to the world. Jesus' mission and the church's worship are deeply connected; indeed, worship is mission....Through its mission in the world, the church seeks to bear witness to God's reign through the proclamation of the gospel, acts of compassion, work for justice and peace, and the care of creation."

The passage above is excerpted from the "Book of Order" which is the Constitution of the Presbyterian Church (USA). Our own congregation exhibits a great passion for and dedication to mission which is indicated by the generous support of the many ministries and missional activities here at FPC-Newton. All of these activities are overseen and coordinated by your Missions Committee, one of the nine Standing Session Committees.

According to the FPC Session Handbook, the Missions Committee shall be responsible for, but not limited to:

- ◆ All mission projects of the church and providing information to the congregation about such programs and projects
- ◆ Providing support for international, national and local programs and projects
- ◆ Coordinating Red Cross Blood Drives
- ◆ Assisting community efforts to provide food for homeless and poverty-level citizens through various programs such as Sunday Community Suppers, ECCCM, The Corner Table, 5 Cents-a-Meal and similar programs.
- ◆ Assisting community efforts to provide housing and shelter through various programs such as Habitat for Humanity, Disaster Recovery, Family Care Center and similar programs.
- ◆ Assisting community efforts to provide emergency aid to and support of individuals and families through various programs such as Room in the Inn, Salvation Army, Red Cross, and similar programs.
- ◆ Providing support of our community through Senior's Morning Out programs
- ◆ Providing partnerships with the local Latino community
- ◆ Maintaining, fostering, and strengthening international partnerships with projects in Guatemala
- ◆ Providing financial aid and logistical support for our church youth mission trips.
- ◆ Providing financial support for the Presbytery of Western North Carolina missionaries and other mission co-workers.

In order to complete this rather daunting list of tasks, our committee is entrusted with approximately 20% of the church's annual budget. As you can imagine, our Missions Committee is composed of several dedicated members with huge hearts and a deep desire to "join in the mission of Jesus Christ in service to the world." We are currently in need of new members to assist us with this task. We meet on the second Monday of each month at 7:00 pm on the first floor of the educational building. Please search your heart and consider joining the Missions Committee in doing God's work in our community and around the world. For more information, please contact any member of the committee or the church office.

Bob Neill, Chair
Missions Committee
828-323-7806



Adult Fellowship Dinner - March 16th

St Patrick's Day Potato/Chili Bar and Bingo Night will be the theme of the next Adult Fellowship Dinner on Thursday, March 16th from 5:45-7:30 p.m. in the fellowship hall.



Each person is asked to bring one of the following: an appetizer, a topping (cheese, green onions, bacon bits, jalapenos), chili (meat or vegetarian) or dessert plus a bingo prize. Bingo prizes can be a homemade item, something to re-gift or something everyone would like.



If you would prefer a sweet potato instead of regular, please let Barb know.

Schedule: Appetizers - 5:45 p.m.; Meal - 6 p.m. and Bingo from 6:40-7:30 p.m.

Please call Barb or Alan Forshey by March 12th to let them know what you plan on bringing. Cell/text: 828.244.1200 or email cleefor@yahoo.com

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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.

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
701 North Main Avenue
Newton, NC 28658

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Place Address Label Here

February 5th

5th Sunday after Epiphany
Sacrament of Holy Communion
10:00 a.m. worship, sanctuary
David Roquemore preaching

February 12th

6th Sunday after Epiphany
10 :00 a.m. worship, sanctuary
Daily Change Offering received
David Roquemore preaching

February 19th

Transfiguration of the Lord
10:00 a.m. worship, sanctuary
David Roquemore preaching

February 26th

1st Sunday in Lent
10:00 a.m. worship, chapel
David Roquemore preaching

Worship
SCHEDULE

