



NEWSLETTER

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Serving the Newton Conover Area since 1858

Partners with Iglesia El Redentor, Guatemala

www.fpcnewton.org

December 2022

2022 Calendar of Advent & Christmas Events November 27, 2022 - January 1, 2023

Please note: All worship services will be held in the Sanctuary

Week 2 **December 5th - Second Sunday of Advent**
10:00 a.m. services with Sacrament of Holy Communion, sanctuary
9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. - Unique World Gifts
Matthew's Market Alternative Marketplace by Youth

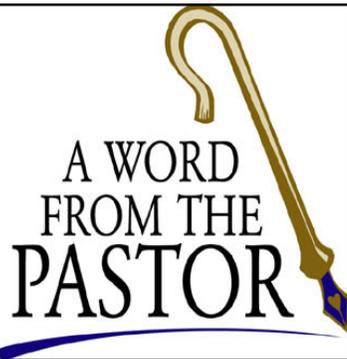
Week 3 **December 11th - Third Sunday of Advent**
10:00 a.m. services, sanctuary
Matthew's Market Alternative Marketplace by Youth

Week 4 **December 18th - Fourth Sunday of Advent**
8:30 a.m. - Congregational Christmas Breakfast, fellowship hall
No Sunday School
9:50 a.m. - Pre-service Carol Sing, sanctuary
10:00 a.m. - Service of Lessons and Carols, sanctuary
Christmas Joy Offering received
Matthew's Market Alternative Marketplace by Youth

December 24th - Christmas Eve
7:00 p.m. - Prelude for Christmas Eve service
7:30 p.m. - Christmas Eve Communion/Candlelight Service
(Nursery provided)

Week 5 **December 25th - Christmas Day**
10:00 a.m. service only, sanctuary
No Sunday School
Matthew's Market Alternative Marketplace by Youth

Week 6 **January 1, 2023 - First Sunday of Christmas**
10:00 a.m. - Worship service with Sacrament of Holy Communion,
sanctuary



Dear Saints of First Presbyterian,

First of all, Merry Christmas! As we plod through Advent and await the coming of Christ, the days are more and more packed with excitement and activity. Sometimes you just need a rest from December!

I have some news to share. I have been to a lot of doctors lately, and the short version is that I have some loss of vision in one area of both eyes. I think it is called a “visual field deficit.” At any rate, when I look at something, the area to the left of what I am looking at is obscured. We are hoping and praying that this will heal itself, but there is no guarantee. The doctor said wait three to six months, and see what happens. We’ve heard stories of people whose vision suddenly “came back,” and stories of others who have had to live with this for the rest of their lives.

The most difficult aspect to this situation is that I can’t drive right now. You should be glad of that, because cars just seem to vanish and then suddenly reappear. I’d be the original nemesis on the roadways!

So I am trying to do pastoral care by telephone and through selected visiting on certain days. My wife gets the award for driving me around, and others have also volunteered. I can read, lead worship, and preach, so that goes on unhindered.

I ask you to pray for me, for my vision to be healed. I ask you to be patient with me as we wait and adjust to this new reality. When you have an emergency, I will do my best to be there, but it might not be as quick as it once could have been. Know that I am praying for you each day.

I am thankful for you all, for the care we have received, for the network of physicians in this congregation and the advice they have offered, for the caring of people who see this as a need I have, and not as a reason for me to leave. Not all congregations would see things this way.

I don’t know what lies ahead! I may be fine and able to continue, or this may get worse and force me to retire. We may find creative ways to do ministry, ways that look different from what has always been. I am faced with something unexpected and unforeseen. So together we will work through this and see what the future brings!

In other news, note all the things going on in our congregation over December! There are a lot of projects and things that we’ve always had, some that are back after COVID, and some new. Your church is alive and well, and anticipating the new year, and God’s new plans for us all!

Have a reflective Advent and a Merry Christmas!

David



- | | | |
|---|---|--------------------------------|
| 2 Dan Loyer | 11 Nancy Gargis
Peggy Johnson
Ron Valentini | 22 RaeAnn Hennes
Jake Radke |
| 6 Ernestine Buff
Meg Yenderusiak | 13 Callie Inscoe
Joseph Inscoe | 23 Aaron Dell |
| 8 Madeleine Gaddy | 14 Judy Sigmon | 27 Susan Jones |
| 9 Joey Jones
Jim Templeton
Randy Walters | 15 Karen Boone | 29 Scott Cranford |
| 10 Faye Morgan
Caleb Wilson
Connor Wilson | 16 Gary McDonald | 31 Samantha Yaussy |
| | 19 Lynn Murphy
Dale Whitaker
Joanne Strike | |
| | 21 Georgia Ingle | |



Newton Community Churches Christmas Open House

Sunday, December 11th, from 3:00 until 5:00 p.m., the churches listed below will be welcoming the community during the Christmas season to drop in for an open house tour of their beautiful and historic sanctuaries. There will be special events happening at Beth Eden Lutheran, First United Methodist and First Presbyterian, Newton during this time.

Please mark your calendar for this special community Christmas event.



Holiday Hours

Church Office Closed

***Monday & Tuesday
December 26th & 27th***

&

***Monday
January 2, 2023***

FPC Music Ministry Notes

Sunday, November 27th, was the beginning of the church liturgical year. Happy New Year – happy church New Year, that is. The first liturgical season is Advent. The word *Advent* means “coming”. During this time, we prepare and wait for Christmas when we celebrate God’s sending a small baby into the world to be our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. For us at this time during Advent, we reflect on how we now wait for the second coming of Christ when He returns to take us home with Him to live eternally. This season is a time of preparing our hearts for His return.

Over the next few weeks of Advent and moving into Christmas, the scriptures and music shared will reflect on God’s word and the promises of this special season. Three special worship services filled with scriptures and music will be held as we get closer to Christmas. These worship services are:



Sunday, December 18th – Service of Lessons and Carols

10:00 a.m. with pre-service music at 9:50 a.m.

A service of nine Lessons with scripture, short meditations, carols, and choral anthems all accompanied by organ, brass quartet, piano, flute, tambourine and percussion.

Christmas Breakfast precedes this service (8:30 a.m. - 9:30 a.m.)
Hosted by the Men of the Church



Saturday, December 24th – Christmas Eve Candlelight Communion Service

7:00 p.m. Christmas Musical Prelude

Organ, handbells, solos, duets, brass and more

7:30 p.m. Candlelight Communion Service



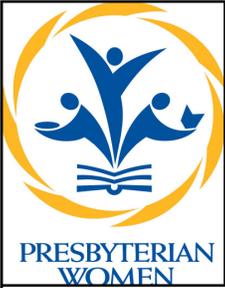
Sunday, December 25th – Christmas Morning Worship 10:00 a.m.

Come celebrate Christ’s birth with scripture and carols

So come worship and celebrate these blessed seasons of Advent and Christmas. May all be blessed with peace, hope, love, and joy during this time. Merry Christmas.

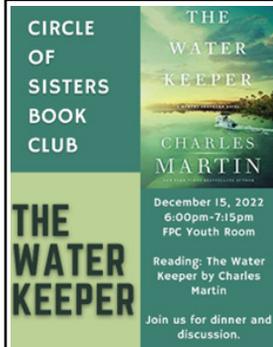
Cathy Murdock – Director of Music





December Circle Meetings

- Circle #2** Circle 2 will meet Tuesday, December 6th at 7:00 p.m. in the conference room and via Zoom.
- Circle #4** Circle 4 will meet on Friday, December 2nd at 12:00 Noon at Catawba Country Club. Nancy Holloway is hostess.
- Circle #5** Circle 5 will not meet in December. They will resume on Wednesday, January 11th at 11:30 a.m. in the High School Youth room.



Circle of Sisters Book Club

The Circle of Sisters Book Club invites all women to come to First Presbyterian Newton church on Thursday, December 15th from 6:00 pm until 7:15, for dinner and a book discussion! We will be meeting in the FPC youth room.

Please sign up and grab a book with our link or let us know you'd like a book! You can purchase a book by clicking on the link below. You can sign up at church or by calling the church office. Need more information? Contact Susan Roquemore at 717-645-1220.

"The Water Keeper" by Charles Martin

"Hearts of Fire" Order Link Below:

<https://www.amazon.com/Hearts-Fire-Underground-Church-Stories/dp/0882641506>

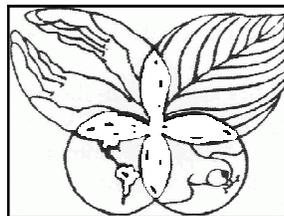
The Book Club meets on the **fourth Tuesday** of each month at 10:00 a.m. Join in as your schedule permits. Please e-mail Becky McRee at raiamnc@gmail.com if you have questions about the Club.

Instead of a book discussion during December, the group will meet at 11:30 a.m. on Tuesday, December 13th for a luncheon at the home of Jennifer Horton, located at 1169 Kensington Circle, Newton.

Everyone is asked to bring their favorite holiday dish.



Special thank you to Bud Beers for completing two baptism cross stitch samplers. Way to go Bud!



Presbyterian Women Honorary Life Membership Award

Each year Presbyterian Women give thanks to God for ALL women who faithfully serve Him in so many ways. Each year at this time we recognize one of these women of faith with the Presbyterian Women's Honorary Life Membership. This woman will receive a certificate and commemorative pin. And, her name will be added to the list of other women who have been recognized over the years. Applications are due to the Amy or the church office by Friday, December 30th.

Application forms are available in the church office.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION NEWS

Youth Connections

Upcoming Events

DECEMBER 2022

Sunday - December 4th

Matthew's Market
11:00 am - Noon - Lunch

Sunday, December 11th

Matthew's Market
4:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m. - Christmas Dinner & Movie
Night at the Sparks' home

Sunday, December 18th

Matthew's Market
4:30 p.m. - 6:00 p.m. - Youth & Young Disciples
Community Sunday Supper



Matthew's Market Alternative Marketplace is sponsored by the FPC Youth and is an opportunity to do some very important alternative gift giving. Gifts purchased from Matthew's Market, will benefit those in need in Malawi, Africa, our sister church in Guatemala and provide wheelchair ramps for those in need in eastern Catawba County.

You will receive a decorative gift card with an insert explaining the gift for each purchase made. Again this year we are offering an express check out. Order forms are located in the narthex and the church office. Matthew's Market will be open through December 25th. You can leave your order, payment and pick up your cards the following week—no standing in line and no waiting!

November Recap!

Christmas Wishes Tree
(formerly known as DSS Angel Tree)

Thank you to everyone who sponsored a child/youth this year!
Thanks to your generous donations and gifts, we were able to make
40 children and youth's Christmas that much brighter!





2022 FPC Newton Congregational Christmas Breakfast

It's that time of year to put aside all diets and eat well.... so why not start with a BIG BREAKFAST!! Make plans to attend the Congregational Christmas Breakfast from 8:30a.m. - 9:30 a.m. on Sunday, December 18th being provided by the Men of the Church.

We will be having sausage, bacon, biscuits, sausage gravy, scrambled eggs, grits, mixed fruit, orange juice, milk and coffee.

What a great way to feed family or guest(s) you may have staying with you that morning! Please fill out the slip in the Sunday bulletin, the form included in this newsletter or contact the church office by email (kberry@fpcnewton.com), so we will know how many to plan for, and if you don't sign up and decide you want to come at the last minute - please do - we will have plenty. Please plan on coming and enjoying breakfast on us and good fellowship with your congregational family and others.

Thank you! FPC Men of the Church



The Community Blood Drive will be held at Beth Eden Lutheran Church, Newton on Tuesday, December 6th from 2:30 p.m. until 7:00 p.m. The need for blood is ongoing. Your gift is always important! Please make an appointment to give.



Holiday Gift Baskets Presbyterian Coffee Project (Circle#5 Mission)

We have gift bags and baskets available for purchase in the narthex and ready for purchase. They make thoughtful and delicious hostess gifts or gifts for anyone you would like to remember this holiday season. We can also make up baskets for you using the products we have on hand. All proceeds from basket sales go to the farmers who grow the coffee, chocolate, etc., and Circle 5's mission projects.

Order forms with prices are available in the church office and narthex. Questions, please contact Karen McDougal at 828-320-3717.



Seniors Morning Out & Homebound Holiday Gift Bags

Catawba County Senior Nutrition Services is one of the services coordinated by the Catawba County Social Services Department. There are two related programs which serve our seniors. *Meals on Wheels* delivers meals to recipient's homes four days a week and are distributed out of our Fellowship Hall. Also, in our Fellowship Hall, approximately 30 seniors gather Monday through Thursday for fellowship, educational activities and a meal. This program is known as *Seniors Morning Out*.

The Christmas season is just around the corner! This year, we are providing goody bags to bring holiday cheer to some of our members at home as well. The Missions Committee is coordinating this project and plan to pack a total of 45 bags.

Below is a list of items that can be placed in the bags:

- Snacks (pudding, applesauce, cookies, peanut butter crackers, oatmeal or anything easy to chew or swallow)
- Toilet paper, Kleenex
- Lotion (unscented), Bath Soap
- Toothpaste/Toothbrush
- Gripper socks
- Light flannel blanket
- Large Print Activity Books (Word Search)

In order to properly assemble the goody bags, monetary donations will be welcomed and the Missions Committee will purchase needed items. Please make your check to FPC Newton and put "Holiday Goody Bags" on the memo line. Donations will be accepted through Tuesday, December 6th.

News of the Church Family

Prayers for those with Recent Health Concerns

CHURCH MEMBERS: Lee Cranford, Julie Jones, Sondra Phillips, Nancy Gargis, Laurie Joplin, Wanda Hicks, Ron Valentini, Ann White, Jim Teubner, the Foley family, Tom & Linda Witherspoon, Courtney Roquemore, Beverly McAlister, Bud Beers, Kay Long, Richard Hedrick, Melva Cooper, Jeannie Clark, Jim & Peggy Templeton, Gary McDougal, Elise Yaussy, Bill Long, Jo Todd, Michael & Becky McRee, Judy Fulton, Terryl Anderson & family, Frances Ennis



FRIENDS & FAMILY: Zachary Ausel, Lisa Eaton, Maryia Johnson & family, 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, Geneva McGraw, family of Richard Odum, Michelle Nelson-Beers, Heather Forshey, Jerry Powell, Larry O'Dell, family of Linda Mundy, Ellen Jones, Leenie Vallandingham

Condolences:

To Terryl Anderson and family on the death of Mark Anderson, November 21st.

Prayers for those in Assisted Living/Homebound:

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

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 Inscoe'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 Uzias Rodas, university scholar, who is in his 3rd year studying to be a teacher
- 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

Financial Stewardship Report

2022 Pledge Budget	470,000.00
Pledge Budget through 10-31-2022	391,666.60
Pledge Receipts through 10-31-2022	384,448.72



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:

January 9th, April 10th, July 10th and October 9th

The group will meet again on Jan. 9, 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.



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>December 4th</u>	Liberty Hill Baptist
<u>December 11th</u>	Trinity Baptist
<u>December 18th</u>	FPC Youth
<u>December 25th</u>	Calvary Baptist

All Dinners Will be Carry-Out Only!



Adult Fellowship Dinner - Thursday, January 5, 2023 **"A Night of Music and Magic"**

Come enjoy a night of fellowship, food, magic and music on Thursday, January 5th from 5:45 until 7:30 p.m. in the fellowship hall. Please sign up to bring either an appetizer, main course or dessert. Barb and Alan Forshey will be handling the food arrangements. Please contact Barb to let her know what you plan on bringing by Monday, January 2nd at 828-244-1200 or email cleefor@yahoo.com

The evening's program will feature Richard "Rick" Ramseur of Lincoln County, NC, who lives in the third oldest house in Lincolnton, named Woodside, built in 1798. Following retirement from his corporate training program directorship for Vermont American Corporation/Robert Bosch Tool, Mr. Ramseur has become famous in his hometown as a magician and musician, garnering the title "Man of the Year" from the Lincolnton-Lincoln County Chamber of Commerce in 2014. Ramseur's instrument of choice is the musical handsaw, a skill passed down to him by his father. His wife, Myra, accompanies him on piano.

His journey to become a stage magician resulted from a serious industrial accident in which Ramseur almost lost his right hand. After undergoing five operations, he learned sleight-of-hand tricks as part of his rehabilitation therapy. The tricks worked by restoring full use of his hand, but also gave him a skill which has allowed him to perform over a thousand magic shows in 12 states and four countries. Please sign up using the form in this newsletter.

PLEASE SIGN UP!

**Congregational Christmas Breakfast
Sunday, December 18, 2022
8:30 a.m. - 9:30 a.m.
Fellowship Hall**

Yes, I / We plan to attend!

_____ # Adults

_____ # Children

Name: _____

Please indicate any house guests attending.

Sign up deadline: Monday, December 12, 2022

**Adult Fellowship Dinner
Thursday, January 5, 2022
5:45 p.m. - Fellowship Hall**

5:45 p.m.—Appetizers

6:00 p.m.—Dinner

6:45 p.m.—Program begins

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Sign up deadline: Monday, January 2, 2023

THE NEWSLETTER is published monthly by:
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Editor: Kim Berry (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.

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
701 North Main Avenue
Newton, NC 28658

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Place Address Label Here

December 4th
2nd Sunday of Advent

10:00 a.m. worship, Sanctuary
(including Sacrament of Holy Communion)
Rev. David Roquemore preaching

December 11th
3rd Sunday of Advent
10:00 a.m. worship, Sanctuary
Daily Change Offering received
Rev. David Roquemore preaching

December 18th
4th Sunday of Advent
SERVICE OF LESSONS & CAROLS
Breakfast at 8:30 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall
No Sunday School
10:00 a.m. worship service, Sanctuary
Christmas Joy Offering received



December 24th
CHRISTMAS EVE

7:00 p.m. - Prelude for Christmas Eve service
7:30 p.m. - Christmas Eve Communion/Candlelight
Worship Service, Sanctuary
Rev. David Roquemore preaching

December 25th
CHRISTMAS DAY
10:00 a.m. worship only, Sanctuary
No Sunday School, No Breakfast
Rev. David Roquemore preaching

