



## pastor's letter

#### Dear Church Family,

Our session voted on Sunday evening (8/7/22) to offer a third worship service as well as to consolidate our current Sunday school program. The service times will be at 8:30 am (contemporary), 10am (contemporary), and 11:15 am (traditional). The Sunday school program will be offered at 10am (for all ages and stages). After two session meetings with lengthy conversation, our elders agreed on the change with a couple of driving factors in mind. First, this change will give people full access to all Sunday school classes. Thus, whether a family or individual prefers contemporary or traditional, they will be able to pick a style and still attend the Sunday school offering of their choice (all ages and stages). Secondly, this change will allow for continued growth with minimal disruption. The contemporary service experienced exceptional growth over the past year. As your pastor, I wish we could just break down the walls and expand the space in the room. In a perfect world, we would simply keep the two services with a Sunday school hour in the middle. However, the sanctuary can accommodate up to 300-400 while the 143 building maxes out at only 200.

We did our best to keep the traditional service near the 11am hour (rather than shift to an earlier time slot less desirable to most) because we believe that it is now in position for future growth with the return of the choir and our church's full commitment to this style. Lastly, the 10am service (contemporary) will not have a Sunday school offering before or after the service. I believe strongly that the two Sunday school hours have been tremendously confusing and that any family truly desiring to attend Sunday school will still have the ability to do so by worshipping at 8:30am or 11:15am. For those who choose to worship at 10am, I will strongly encourage them to get involved in mid-week bible studies or small groups. If anyone needs help finding a group or forming a group, Pastor Jason and I will be more than willing to help.

Stepping back to see the "big picture," I am blown away by how the Lord has protected us during a time in which many churches are struggling. We have not simply treaded water throughout the pandemic, but we have experienced tangible growth. Our \$1 million capital campaign is now within \$20,000 of being complete, our financial giving has increased steadily, and we are seeing a tremendous surge in new people joining our church as new covenant partners (members). Back in 2016, we made a commitment to not only leave our old denomination (PCUSA to ECO), but to implement a 3-pronged vision: 1) to see every member grow spiritually (discipleship), 2) to make our spaces more welcoming (like our people), and 3) to reach the younger generation with the gospel (while staying fully committed to intergenerational ministry). Although our changes may not be ideal for some or perfect for many, we will continue to move forward with the Lord's guidance and make adjustments along the way. Praise be to God for His hand in our growth!

Blessings in Christ,

Pastor Dave Rockness

## stewardship

### "Giving your time, your talents, and your tithes to God's work..."

Action On It...What lifestyle changes could you make that would result in more honor to your body as a temple of God? Make one change this week.



#### Whatever Happened to Real Food? – Psalm 107: 8-9

God has always been in the business of filling hungry souls with good things. In terms of physical nutrition, though, the picture has changed drastically from Old Testament days. The Israelites survived on manna the Lord miraculously provided each day – the Lord, who "gave you manna to eat in the desert, something your fathers had never known, to humble and to test you so that in the end it might go well with you." The testing was no doubt good for God's people – but so was the food.

Americans today have the most abundant supply of food in the world and the most efficient means of distributing it to everyone. We have created powerful agencies to ensure that our food is honestly represented to us and free from harmful substances. Furthermore, we spend countless millions of dollars in food research.

We also have thousands of highly trained doctors, extremely sophisticated medical facilities, and medical research programs supported by millions of dollars. Yet for some reason we really don't feel well.

We have allowed the food and beverage industries to convert us from God's natural provisions to their own highly processed and synthetic concoctions. Our tastes have been so perverted that we have forgotten how real food tastes. Our reasoning has become so distorted that we allow advertisements to persuade us that refined, depleted, processed foods and beverages, full of chemical additives, modified starch, imitation flavor, imitation color and sugar, are superior to real food.

Technology is rapidly breaking down the basic structure of plant and animal life in many ways, and we haven't asked whether science is monitoring the results of these basic changes in health to the human being.

This trend away from being satisfied with God's natural provisions is not unique to North Americans. Most people pursue what is easiest and what is most pleasurable, and often the easiest is the most unhealthy. God's desire is for us to treat our bodies as living and holy sacrifices, and sometimes that means we are to make choices that may not be the easiest but, in the end, are the best choices.

### announcements

#### **Lunch Hour Services**

You are invited to join us on Wednesdays starting on September 21 from 12:15-1:05 pm for a midweek service during the lunch hour. This service will be similar to the Lenten Luncheon we hosted last Spring. We will have two songs led by Laura Rumple, a short message, and a time of discussion. You are invited to bring a lunch along or order one on the website. We will be looking at passages from Genesis and the Psalms to see how we can connect our work to God's work. The goal is to provide a midweek option to explore the church and to connect in worship for people in the downtown area. Our prayer

12:15-1:05 pm Wednesdays September 21 through November 16

is that the congregation would use this as an opportunity to invite coworkers and friends to join, opening the door to conversations about faith. While the focus will be work, it's our hope that both working and retired people can benefit as we look at how we give our regular daily efforts to the Lord. If you have any questions, please feel free to reach out to Pastor Jason Sentas (jason@mooresvillefpc.org).

#### **Wednesday Night Together**

Philippians Bible Study- This fall we will be offering a 10-week bible study (Sept. 14-Nov. 30) for all ages in the 143 Building that will include dinner (\$5/pizza & salad), guided group discussion, and pastoral insight. Dinner will be available 5:30-6pm in the 143 Building and then will transition into bible study which ends at 7pm. If you simply would like to attend the bible study, we will begin promptly at 6pm. Those who arrive late for the dinner portion can still grab a quick bite to eat and join the group. The study will be led by Pastor Dave Rockness.

#### **Invitation from Nell Herring**

On September 16 at 3pm, Nell will be ordained as a Minister of Word and Sacrament at the Presbyterian Center in Louisville (and the service will be available virtually via Zoom). She has expressed the importance for her to include folks from every part of her journey in this worship service. For those interested in attending, please RSVP by September 9th. The link to the RSVP is: bit.ly/REVNELL.

#### **Card Ministry**

I would like to start a card ministry so that all the community care committees will have access to birthday, get well, thinking of you, etc. cards. Our first meeting will be Sunday, September 18 at 3:00pm on the thrid floor, Room 300. Please bring ideas and any materials you might want to use. I will have cards for you to finish. Please let me know if you are interested at marthamcd@aol.com.

Thank you,

Martha McDonnell

## logos/msm

#### **Logos/Middle School Ministry**



We are looking forward to another wonderful year with our Logos/Middle School Ministry (MSM) program. We have had a Logos program at First Presbyterian since Fall 1979, and are grateful to build on this long-lasting program. Logos/MSM is a mid-week program for children and youth in 1st – 8th grades. The goal of the program is the same as it was in 1979 – to develop genuine and lasting relationships between young people and Jesus Christ, between young people and their ministers, parents and other adults in the congregation, and their peers.

Some important information about Logos/MSM:

- Register online at mooresvillefpc.org Register by Wednesday, September 7.
- Logos is for Grades 1-5.
- MSM is for Grades 6-8.
- The 4 parts of Logos/MSM are Bible study, recreation, worship skills and dinner hour.
- Logos/MSM meets on Wednesday afternoons from 4:30 7:00 pm.
- First day of Logos/MSM is Wednesday, September 14.
- Parents must attend a Parent meeting and volunteer in some capacity, usually in the kitchen (or have a volunteer "sponsor" your child). See schedule below for date and time.
- Registration deadline is Wednesday, September 7.
- Cost is \$35 registration fee; \$55 per semester tuition fee.
- Scholarship help is available contact Ellen Auten for details.

Questions about Logos/MSM program – contact Ellen Auten (704-664-5275; ellen@ mooresvillefpc.org).

#### Logos/MSM September Dates

Wednesday, September 7 – Logos/MSM Registration Deadline (register at mooresvillefpc.org)

Parent Meeting - 6:00 pm in Fellowship Hall

Wednesday, September 14 – First day of Logos/MSM – 4:30 – 7:00 pm Welcome to Logos Fiesta Night

Wednesday, September 21 – Down on the Farm Night

Wednesday, September 28 – Crazy Hat Night

#### **Confirmation Class for 8th graders**

All 8th graders are encouraged to participate in the Confirmation class on Wednesday afternoons, beginning September 14, from 4:30 – 5:00 in Room 313. The class will be led by Pastor Dave Rockness, and will meet for 11 weeks in the fall and 11 weeks in the spring. Please contact the church office to sign up: office mooresvillefpc.org.

### christian ed

#### **Sunday School News**

With the change to 3 worship services, all Sunday School classes will be held at the same time – at 10:00 am in the Education Building.

Preschool, elementary and youth classes will be held from 10:00 – 11:00 am, using the following schedule:

10:00 – 10:15 am Gathering Time and singing in Fellowship Hall

10:15 – 11:00 am Individual classes meet

3-5 year olds Room 210

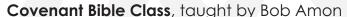
1st – 5th grades Room 324

6th – 8th grades Room 310

9th – 12th grades Room 313

11:00 am Parents pick children up in classrooms





Meets in Room 309

This classes uses the International Sunday School Lessons to facilitate their class discussions.

#### **Exploring Scriptures**

Meets in Room 301

**Men's Bible Class**, taught by Ross Culp and Dave Ramey Meets in classroom under the sanctuary

Upper Room Class, taught by John and Judy Daniel

Meets in Room 301

This class uses the "That the World May Know" DVD series, taught by Ray VanderLaan.

\*\*Adult classes may have varying beginning and ending times, based on their class' needs.

#### First Kids Children's Church

\*\*Please note: Children's Church will not be held September 4 or September 11. New programming and times begin Sunday, September 18.

We will be offering First Kids Children's Church during the 8:30 contemporary worship service beginning Sunday, September 18. First Kids is for children in 1st - 5th grades, and will meet in the fellowship hall. Children will meet their adult leader in the coffee shop area of 143 Broad following the opening worship songs.





### christian ed

#### Volunteering in Logos/MSM, Sunday School and Sunday Nurseries

Please contact Ellen Auten (704-664-5275; ellen@mooresvillefpc.org) for more information about volunteering in the Logos/MSM program, Sunday School or Sunday morning nurseries. Adult volunteers must have a background check, participate in staff training, and agree to abide by our volunteer protocols.

#### Bibles to 2nd graders

One of our traditions at First Presbyterian is to present a new Bible to second graders at the beginning of the school year. This year, Bibles were presented to the following on Sunday, August 28:

Liam Campbell Maddy Christman Elizabeth Royal Jack Seyller



We look forward to sharing Bible stories and Bible adventures with this special group of young people. God bless you!

#### Saints Alive Fellowship Luncheons

We are excited to announce the return of monthly Saints Alive fellowship luncheons in the church fellowship hall.

Generally, the luncheons will be held at the church on the 3rd Tuesday of each month, with a few "field trips" planned in the upcoming months. Saints Alive is our senior adult ministry, and pre-pandemic included monthly luncheons, trips to local points of interest, and an annual trip to Island Vista in Myrtle Beach, SC. The pandemic greatly altered our programming, and we are hoping to return to a "new normal" as we come out on the other side of the pandemic.

To re-start our luncheons, following are some details about the plans:

- We'll meet in the fellowship hall on the 3rd Tuesday of the month, from 12:30 1:30 pm.
- We'll enjoy fellowship around the tables, along with a delicious lunch, coordinated by church hostess Jerilyn Fair.
- Cost of lunch is \$10.
- We'll share a devotional together, and find out how our church friends are doing, and see if anyone needs a visit or some encouragement.

Hope to see you Tuesday, September 20 at 12:30 for lunch!

### camp grier

#### **Camp Grier Retreat**

\*\*\*Register at mooresvillefpc.org by Sunday, September 4
We are making plans for a weekend retreat at Camp Grier in Old Fort, NC, for the weekend of September 9 – 11.

Details of the retreat include:

Theme: The Rock of Ages

Date: Friday, September 9 - Sunday, September 11

Come for all or part of the weekend

Time: Arrival at camp after 6:00 pm Friday

Departure from camp following morning worship on Sunday (approx. 11 am)

Location: Camp Grier in Old Fort, NC

985 Camp Grier Road Old Fort, NC

Registration: Register on church website: www.mooresvillefpc.org by Sunday, September 4

Cost: \$105 for weekend (12 years and older)

\$90 for weekend (5-12 years)

\$35 for Saturday only (12 years and older)

\$25 for Saturday only (5-12 years)

No charge - 4 years old and younger

Saturday rate includes Camp Grier's day rental fee, Saturday lunch and supper and supplies

Meals: Friday night - on your own

Saturday breakfast - Camp Grier dining hall

Saturday lunch - Grilled hamburgers/hot dogs in Beech pavilion

Saturday supper - Catered barbecue from Okie Dokie's

Sunday breakfast - Camp Grier dining hall

Sunday lunch - on your own

**Activities:** Canoeing, rock slide waterfall, "Polar Bear Club," homemade boat race down the mighty Camp Grier Creek, Lake Refuge Regatta with canoes and kayaks, football, 4-square, board games, cards, hikes to the fire tower, creek walking, Rhododendron Trail hike, Bible study on the porch, outdoor worship in the outdoor chapel, campfire with singing and s'mores, rocking and relaxing!



### missions

#### **Missions Update**

Dear First Presbyterian Church,

Good afternoon and God bless you all. I pray you and your families are doing well. I have some great news to share with you. I can't thank you enough for the encouragement and opportunity you provided. Thank you for letting me share Lifewater's story with your congregation. I was blessed and hundreds of lives received safe water, sanitation, and hygiene education through your compassion and generosity. Which leads me to the best part.

I received information on how your support was allocated. If you recall, you designated your support to Bensa, Ethiopia. I am happy to say, I have an update on a completed project in the region that your support helped make possible.



<< This was the original water point in Bensa, Ethiopia. It was an old system that was not protected and the water was contaminated by wild and domestic animals. Located outside the village of West Abaya Hora, this was the primary source of water for a village of 53 families. The total population recorded in the area was 319.



<< This is the final water point, a storage tank that is part of a new pipe system. It provides protected, safe water to the village with multiple taps to reduce overcrowding and time waiting. That helps keep disease from spreading and saves mothers time.

I am thrilled beyond measure to provide you this update. It feels as though this has come full circle from our first introduction. I am humbled and honored to have worked with you in transforming these lives, thank you. I am still in the same position at Lifewater;

however, my primary responsibilities will be stewarding relationships in the central part of the country. We want you to feel comfortable reaching out to either one of us should you need anything.

The work going on in Uganda, Tanzania, Ethiopia, and Cambodia is still going strong. Please keep us in your prayers as we enter the second half of the year. We have a lot of work to do.

Gratefully yours,

Jim Evans

Regional Director of Donor Relations
Lifewater International

### preschool

#### **Sneak-A-Peek Orientation**

Our Sneak-A-Peek Orientation got us back in the school spirit! We are excited for the children to continue to get into the routine, learn and have fun. Prayers are welcomed! Our preschool is in full swing and we need daily prayers. We ask that you begin to pray for our school, our preschool families and our teachers. Your daily prayers throughout this school year are greatly appreciated!



#### **Our Annual Bible Verse**

Every year the teaching staff have a yearly Bible verse that we focus on. This year our Bible verse is:

"With God all things are possible."
- Matthew 19:26

#### **Openings**

If you know anyone looking for a preschool, please have them contact the preschool office. We have a few openings in our two day 3 year old program, our three day 4 year old program and one opening in our Transitional Kindergarten program. We would love to have our classrooms full of little learners.



#### **Labor Day**

Preschool will be closed September 5th & 6th for Labor Day. We hope everyone has some wonderful family time!

#### **Upcoming Events**

Preschool Closed for Labor Day Break: September 5 & 6

Chapel with Pastor Dave: September 12 & 13

Picture Days: September 14-16

Tentative Fire Drills: September 20 & 21 Fire Safety Days: September 22 & 23 Library with Ms. Crystal: September 27

#### STEPHEN MINISTRY

### Care Receivers Share How Their Stephen Ministers Made a Difference

Although my needs changed as I went from wife to caregiver to widow, my Stephen Minister's love and support remained a constant. She was there at every stage of my journey, helping me through some of the most difficult moments of my life—so I could begin to heal.

Susan

When things seemed like too much to handle, my Stephen Minister brought normalcy and calm. With him by my side, I knew I could make it from one week to the next. I could feel God's presence when my Stephen Minister was there.

James





My Stephen Minister was a consistent presence walking with me throughout my divorce. He would always show up, and most importantly, he refused to give up on me. I'll forever be grateful for the way he changed my life.

When I was with my Stephen Minister, I felt **Jesus was with me.** I saw the love of God in her eyes while we talked and prayed, and it would fill me with such comfort and peace. It helped me know that I could make it through.

After the death of my mom, I needed some**one who would listen—**even to the same stories over and over—and who wouldn't be afraid to say her name or bring up her memory. That's who my Stephen Minister was, and I don't know how I would have gotten through it without her.

Molly



When someone you love is terminally ill, people often pull back because they're scared and don't know what to say. But my Stephen Minister **stood with me through it all**—listening, talking, and helping me on the journey. It was so reassuring to know he was by my side.

Andrew



My Stephen Minister listens—really listens. He doesn't judge me or tell me what to do but walks side by side with me. I never realized how helpful and healing that can be. With his care and support, I'm making it through.

Brian



My Stephen Minister loves me, listens to me, cares for me, prays for me, supports me, and gives me a safe, confidential relationship where I can totally share my heart. No matter how much I have to unload on her, she listens to whatever is going on.

Celeste



I'm blessed with an amazing Stephen Minister. She's been genuinely attentive and caring ever since she came alongside me. She's kind of fearless in that way—she'll just be there without trying to fix me or talk me out of my feelings as I struggle with what's happening.

Nancy •



I needed to know that there was one person in the world who knew the good, the bad, and the ugly about me—and still cared for me. Experiencing that through my Stephen Minister was a tangible expression of God's love. It changed my life.

Iulia 🛑



My Stephen Minister's weekly visits became an anchor in my life—something I could rely on when everything else was so uncertain. She was a steady reminder of God's presence, helping me know I was never alone.

Heather



Stephen Ministry showed me the face of Christ. God brought me exactly what I needed through the care of my Stephen Minister, and that demonstrated to me how God cares for each and every one of us.

Frank



- Stephen Ministry is a lay caring ministry being used by more than 13,000 congregations worldwide to increase care and outreach to hurting people.
- Through Stephen Ministry, congregations are able to equip and empower a team of laypeople—Stephen
- Ministers—who provide one-to-one, Christ-centered care to people experiencing grief, health issues,
- divorce, spiritual crisis, job loss, infertility, or other life difficulties. Since Stephen Ministry began in 1975,
- millions of people have received care from a Stephen Minister.
- Visit **stephenministries.org** to learn more about Stephen Ministry and see stories about the difference
- Stephen Ministers are making in people's lives.

# CALENDAR

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY
Camp Grier Retreat Deadline Amara Reid Baptism 9:30 am Contemporary Worship - 143 Broad 9:45 am Sunday School 10:00 am Men's Bible Class 10:30 am Fellowship Time 10:45 am Sunday School 11:00 am Traditional Worship	Office and Preschool Closed- Labor Day 7:00 pm Scouts BSA Troop 1166-G 7:00 pm Scouts BSA Troop 166-B	Preschool Closed 6:00 pm MCM - Circles Handbells	Logos Registration Deadline 1:30 pm Prayer Meeting 6:00 pm Logos/MSM Parent Meeting 6:30 pm Inquirer's Class 7:15 pm Chancel Choir
Camp Grier Retreat 11 9:30 am Contemporary Worship - 143 Broad 9:45 am Sunday School 10:00 am Men's Bible Class 10:45 am Sunday School 11:00 am Traditional Worship 5:00 pm Stephen Ministry Fall Kickoff Dinner 7:00 pm Committee Meetings	9:00 am Lost and Found Bible Study 2:00 pm Circle 1 7:00 pm Scouts BSA Troop 1166-G 7:00 pm Scouts BSA Troop 166-B	6:00 pm MCM - Circles 12:00 pm Circle 5	Fall School Pictures 1:30 pm Prayer Meeting 4:30 pm MSM/Logos Begins 5:30 pm Wednesday Night Together Dinner 5:30 pm Lost and Found Bible Study 6:00 pm Bible Study w/Dave 7:15 pm Chancel Choir
New Members Sunday 8:30 am Contemporary 18 Worship - 143 Broad 10:00 am Sunday School 10:00 am Contemporary Worship 11:15 am Traditional Worship 3:00 pm Prayer Shawl and Card Making Meetings 5:00 pm MS PYF 7:00 pm HS PYF	9:00 am Lost and Found Bible Study 7:00 pm Property Meeting 7:00 pm Scouts BSA Troop 1166-G 7:00 pm Scouts BSA Troop 166-B	12:30 pm Saints Alive Luncheon 6:00 pm MCM - Circles	21 1:30 pm Prayer Meeting 4:30 pm MSM/Logos 5:30 pm Wednesday Night Together Dinner 5:30 pm Lost and Found Bible Study 6:00 pm Bible Study w/Dave 7:15 pm Chancel Choir
8:30 am Contemporary Worship - 143 Broad 10:00 am Sunday School 10:00 am Contemporary Worship 11:15 am Traditional Worship 5:00 pm MS PYF 7:00 pm HS PYF	9:00 am Lost and Found Bible Study 7:00 pm Scouts BSA Troop 1166-G 7:00 pm Scouts BSA Troop 166-B	6:00 pm MCM - Circles	28 12:15 pm- Lunch Hour Study 1:30 pm Prayer Meeting 4:30 pm MSM/Logos 5:30 pm Wednesday Night Together Dinner 5:30 pm Lost and Found Bible Study 6:00 pm Bible Study w/Dave 7:15 pm Chancel Choir

### CALENDAR

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THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
7:00 pm Praise Team Rehearsal	2	7:15 am Men's Bible Study
7:00 pm Praise Team Rehearsal 7:00 pm Stephen Ministry Group	9 Camp Grier Retreat	Camp Grier Retreat 7:15 am Men's Bible Study
Fall School Pictures 7:00 pm Praise Team Rehearsal	Fall School Pictures	7:15 am Men's Bible Study
7:00 pm Praise Team Rehearsal 7:00 pm Stephen Ministry Group	23	7:15 am Men's Bible Study
7:00 pm Praise Team Rehearsal	30	

EDIDAY

THIIDCDAV

#### **Birthdays:**

Lackey Pearce Stevens Shelley Rhyne

9/1- Noah Fleming, Bill 9/3- Vann Couturier,

Duncan, Jordan

**9/5-** Ashley Norton

9/6- Walter Morgan

9/7- Courtney Rockness

9/9- Joshua McClure,

Stephanie Sentas

9/10- Bella James, Jimmy

9/11- John Donelson, Jacque Junkins, Sue

9/12- Sandra Blalock, Angela Carpenter, Pat King, Caroline Ladd

9/13- Marsha Cornelius

9/14- Walt Jones, John Neely, Jeff Stonestreet

9/15- Katherine

Kavanaugh, John Smith, Bruce Telford

9/16- Dot Campbell, Nancy Davidson

9/17- Dan Davidson,

**9/18-** Lizzie Brumley,

Esther Kann, Reed Parker 9/20- Steve Abernathy,

Gene Vaughan

9/22- Whitfield Brawley, Amelia Rider

9/23- Angie Copeland, Pat Culberson, Trish Glad, Jodi Rockness, Jordan Sledge, Logan and Dylan Foulke

9/24- Eliza Decastro, Brem Sholar

9/25- Caroline Micklow

9/26- Rose Sink, Maddie Teeter

9/29- Jerry Bickett, Andrew Merrill, Faye Wright

9/30- Ross Culp

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### FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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Website: www.mooresvillefpc.org Email: office@mooresvillefpc.org

mooresvillefpc@groups.facebook.com

If you would like to be added to or deleted from our mailing list, please send an email to office@mooresvillefpc.org or call 704-664-5275

9:30 am Contemporary Worship 11:00 am Traditional Worship

September 2022



