



JANUARY 2026

# first press

A MOORESVILLE FIRST PRESBYTERIAN PUBLICATION



HAPPY NEW YEAR FPC MOORESVILLE FAMILY!

READ MORE! MINISTRY UPDATES & PHOTOS INSIDE...





# PASTOR'S LETTER

**“You are the light of the world. A town built on a hill cannot be hidden. Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.” - Matthew 5:14-16**

Dear Church Family,

Happy New Year! It was truly heartwarming to see our worship spaces filled with families, extended families, and returning college students this Christmas season. We are blessed with a gifted staff and a vibrant congregation!

As we begin this new year, I encourage you to reflect on the Bible verses above and consider how you can let your light shine. To do this, it's important to spend time in God's presence.

- Have you established a daily devotion time?
- Are you nourishing your soul in God's Word?
- Are you taking time to “soak in the Son” as you live out your faith?

If you already have a devotional habit, perhaps challenge yourself to read through the Bible in a year. If you're just getting started, maybe try setting aside 10–15 minutes a day.

To help you on this journey, I recommend these online devotional guides:

- <https://scriptureunion.org> (Discovery Online, under Adult Resources)
- <https://scriptureunion.org> (Encounter w/God, also under Adult Resources)

I'd love to hear about your plans for spiritual growth this year! Feel free to share with me your goals or pick my brain for additional resources to help get you in a good pattern for this upcoming year.

It continues to be a privilege to serve alongside you in ministry!

Blessings in Christ,

*Pastor Dave Rockness*



# STEWARSHIP

**GIVING YOUR TIME, YOUR TALENTS, AND YOUR TITHES TO GOD'S WORK...**

**PRAYER:** *Father, your gifts are good, and I am grateful for them. But help me, O God, to see only you in the good life you have given me and not to focus on the possessions you have blessed me with. Help me to keep the right perspective on money and prosperity; help me to find my joy in the pleasures of living every day simply and quietly so that I can know your presence and hear you when you speak.*

## **Enjoying the Simple Gifts - Ecclesiastes 2:1-26**

The writer of Ecclesiastes, the Teacher, in chapter 2 describes his process of elimination to drill down on life's meaning. Many people do the same thing today, only we call it "finding ourselves." At the end of chapter 2 the Teacher summarizes his experience thus far: it is best to enjoy an uncomplicated life. This kind and degree of joy are sharply different from the extravagant pleasures he had pursued earlier, as part of his hedonistic experiment (see 2:1-11). He has at last settled on a more serene variety of joy, a joy that finds pleasure in simplicity and in the process of living (see v. 24-26). But he gives the credit for his happiness to God, "for without him, who can eat or find enjoyment?" (v. 25). A pursuit of any lifestyle here on earth, even pursuing simplicity, will fail if our goals are to get away from stress or to avoid work. Without God, even simple pleasures can become idols that will break our hearts.

While it is true that the simple life is a goal for some, many other people still seek the pleasures of wealth and prosperity. Christian financial planner, author and CEO Ron Blue comments:

I happened to notice an interesting statistic in USA Today. It seems that 38 percent of Americans ages 18 to 29 would be willing to sacrifice happiness for a higher-paying job. The older we get, the less likely we would be to make the swap, but even among folks in the 50 to 64-year-old category, 25 percent say they'd trade happiness for money.

I can't say that this report surprised me all that much, but I had to marvel, nonetheless, at our national perspective. Our perspective determines our beliefs, our vision, our faith, and, ultimately, our actions.

I want to challenge you to see things as they really are. I want you, in other words, to adopt the right perspective. The reason this step is so critical is that many people choose this point to get bogged down in the generosity process. Fresh from focusing on their financial problems, they tend – like folks in the USA Today report – to see money as the answer to everything:

*If only we had some extra cash, we could take that vacation we need so much ...*

*If only Jim would get a raise, then we could pay off the credit cards or set something aside for the kids' college education ...*

*If only we could afford a bigger house ...*

*If only ...*

# SAINTS ALIVE

Welcome back to another amazing year of Saints Alive. On the 3rd Tuesday of every month (Sept - May) we meet for a time of fellowship and fun. Lunch costs \$10 a person.

RSVPs are asked on or before the Sunday prior to Saints Alive. Our Next Saints Alive will be on Tuesday, January 20th with Bob Amon. Bob will be coming and sharing with us about the Circus!

**Time: 12:30 - 1:30**

**Location: Fellowship Hall**

**RSVP: by January 18**

# SAINTS ALIVE 2026

**January 20 12:30pm - 1:30pm**  
Bob Amon shares the history of the circus

**February 17 12:30pm - 1:30pm**  
Fitness in February with Sharon Culp

**March 17 12:30pm - 2:00pm**  
Lenten Service with David Hamilton

**April 21 12:30pm - 1:30pm**  
TBD

**May 19 12:30pm - 1:30pm**  
TBD



# PRESCHOOL

## Happy New Year, Preschool Families!



We hope you made many wonderful memories with your little ones during the Christmas season. We look forward to starting 2026 off healthy and strong!

in tennis shoes or regular school shoes, as slippers can be a bit slippery. This is your easiest day to dress your child for preschool... just roll them out of bed!



## Preschool Closed

Just a quick reminder, Preschool is closed on January 19th in honor of the Martin Luther King Jr Holiday.

## Mark Your Calendars

- January 1-5: Preschool Closed
- January 6: Preschool Resumes
- January 6 & 7: Enrollment Forms Sent Home
- January 8 & 9: Pancake and PJ Day
- January 12 & 13: Chapel
- January 19: Preschool Closed, Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday
- January 20: Preschool Enrollment Open to Public
- January 26: Library with Mrs. Crystal

## Pancakes & PJ Day

We are excited to have Preschool-wide Pajama Days on January 8th and 9th. It's a fun day for all the children to dress in their PJ's. Please send your child

# CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

**SAVE THE DATE! VBS July 13-17**

More information about volunteering and registration will come soon.

## What's Happening This Month!

This month the Kingdom Kids will be working together to learn the Fruit of the Spirit. Feel free to use this QR code to find the song we sing in Kingdom Kids about the fruit of the spirit!



## Check in for Nursery - Highschool

Just a reminder, all children going to a Sunday School class, WNT or Youth group event should be checking in at our check in station. Children 5th grade and younger will get a name tag with a matching guardian name tag for secure pick up.

No name tags will be printed for our MS or HS students. Please be sure to check in your children before you take them to their class or meeting area.

## SUNDAY MORNINGS

### Sprouts Ministry (0 - Preschool) - 2nd floor

0 - 23 months - Nursery room

Toddlers (our 2's and 3's class) Duck room

(Teachers: Ms. Allison, Ms. Melissa)

Preschool (our 4-5 year olds) Bear Room

(Teachers: Ms. Margaret, Ms. Lily)

### Kingdom Kids (Kindergarten - 5th grade)

Drop off - Fellowship Hall

Pick up: 3rd Floor Classrooms

K-1st Grade Room 322

(Teachers: Ms. Lucy, Ms. Andrea, Ian)

2nd-4th Grade Room 324

(Teachers: Mr. Rick, Ms. Denise, Ms. Kathryn, Brother Bill)

4th-5th Grade Room 309

(Teachers: Ms. Courtney, Mr. Will, Ms. Jodi, Hatten)

**Children's Sunday School Hour: 10am - 11am**

## **Sprouts Ministry is our Nursery - preschool**

**We love the playground!** We have a great time getting outside, running, playing and building friendships. Please know that we aim to go outside weekly weather permitting.

**Toddlers and preschoolers** will participate in a time of music/worship as well as in a Bible lesson, activity and a visit to the playground if the weather is cooperative. We will provide a light snack.

**Infants - young 2's** will be in our infant room playing and being cared for by some wonderful volunteers. They will be provided a snack of cheerios and water or whatever you bring in their cup. *Please bring a cup for them if you are able, we have labels here for you to use to label your child's cup.*

*Check in will begin at 9:45 after the Sunday School teachers have prayed together. Please wait for the check in time to begin so that our teachers can pray and get to their classes before you and your children do.*

## **Kingdom Kids is our Kindergarten - 5th grade**

**Elementary school classes will use the following schedule:**

10:00 Kingdom Kids meet in Fellowship Hall for a time of worship, scripture memorization, games and more. After we conclude our large group time together, the children will divide by grade and head to their classes on the 3rd floor with their teachers. Please pick up your K-5th graders from their classes on the 3rd floor.

**\*\*\*Please note- any children who have not been picked up by 11:15am will be brought to the second floor childcare room (Duck room) so that our teachers can get to church on time.**

## **WNT will kick off on February 11th!**

### **Wednesday Night Together:**

**Choir 5pm - 5:30pm**

Please check your children in before heading to their choir classes.

Children ages 5 years old - 3rd grade will meet in the choir room

Children 4th grade - 12th grade will meet in the sanctuary

**Dinner 5:30pm - 6:15pm** - Dinner will be in the Fellowship Hall. Dinner is \$5 a person with a max of \$20 per family. High chairs are available as well as a "kids meal" choice.

**Classes for all ages 6:30pm - 7:35pm**

**Sprouts ministry - Childcare**

0 - 2 - Fish room

3 - preschool - Duck room

**Elementary** children will once again be working through "The Biggest Story"

K - 2 - Room 324

3 - 5 Room 322

**Children will only be dismissed to someone with the appropriate matching tag.** Please know we are doing this for the safety of the children. If someone other than the person who dropped them off is picking up, we will also accept a picture of the parent security tag. Snap a pic and share it with whomever is picking up. Please do your best to pick up all children by 7:30pm.



# WOMEN'S MINISTRY



**Our Holiday Tea and Brunch, "Expect the Light", was a wonderful time of fellowship and preparing our hearts for the holiday season ahead!**

We were delighted to feature our keynote guest Emily Newton of Charlotte Young Lives. Emily shared the beautiful story of Christ's work in her life and how God has used her experience to bring the light of Christ to teen moms in the greater Charlotte area.

We were reminded this season that it is Christ, whose birth we celebrate, who gives us *expectant hope* in our hearts and lives!

*A special note of gratitude* goes out to all of those who provided their time, talents, and *tea sets* to make this event possible. *(Including the amazing group of men who helped to serve in a variety of ways!)*

An additional thank you to all who gave generously to the ministries of Charlotte Young Lives and Bridge of Hearts. Both ministries were truly blessed in abundance but your outpouring of love!

*Soli Deo Gloria -to God alone be all the Glory!*





# JANUARY 2026

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY
<b>Communion Sunday</b> <b>Epiphany (1/6/26)</b> <b>8:30am</b> Contemporary Worship <b>10:00am</b> Sunday School <b>10:00am</b> Contemporary Worship <b>11:15am</b> Traditional Worship <b>5:00pm</b> MS Refresh Youth <b>7:00pm</b> HS Refresh Youth	<b>4</b> <b>Preschool Closed- Christmas Break</b> <b>7:00pm</b> Scouts BSA Troop 1166-G <b>7:00pm</b> Scouts BSA Troop 166-B	<b>5</b> <b>5:00pm</b> Handbells Rehearsal <b>6:30pm</b> Cub Scouts	<b>6</b> <b>1:30pm</b> Prayer Meeting <b>6:30pm</b> Choir Rehearsal
<b>8:30am</b> Contemporary Worship <b>10:00am</b> Sunday School <b>10:00am</b> Contemporary Worship <b>11:15am</b> Traditional Worship <b>6:00pm</b> Worship & Music Committee <b>6:30pm</b> Combined Refresh Youth Kickoff <b>7:00pm</b> Finance Committee	<b>11</b> <b>9:30am</b> Preschool Chapel <b>2:00pm</b> Circle 1 <b>7:00pm</b> Personnel Committee <b>7:00pm</b> Scouts BSA Troop 1166-G <b>7:00pm</b> Scouts BSA Troop 166-B	<b>12</b> <b>9:30am</b> Preschool Chapel <b>10:00am</b> Circle 4 <b>12:30pm</b> Circle 5 <b>5:00pm</b> Handbells Rehearsal <b>6:00pm</b> Circle 3 <b>6:30pm</b> Cub Scouts	<b>13</b> <b>1:30pm</b> Prayer Meeting <b>5:00pm</b> VBS Meeting <b>6:30pm</b> Choir Rehearsal
<b>8:30am</b> Contemporary Worship <b>10:00am</b> Sunday School <b>10:00am</b> Contemporary Worship <b>11:15am</b> Traditional Worship <b>2:30pm</b> Prayer Shawl Team <b>5:00pm</b> MS Refresh Youth <b>7:00pm</b> HS Refresh Youth	<b>18</b> <b>Office Closed &amp; Preschool Closed- MLK Jr. Day</b> <b>6:30pm</b> Missions Committee <b>7:00pm</b> Scouts BSA Troop 1166-G <b>7:00pm</b> Scouts BSA Troop 166-B	<b>19</b> <b>12:30pm</b> Saints Alive Luncheon <b>5:00pm</b> Handbells Rehearsal <b>6:30pm</b> Cub Scouts	<b>20</b> <b>1:30pm</b> Prayer Meeting <b>6:30pm</b> Choir Rehearsal
<b>8:30am</b> Contemporary Worship <b>10:00am</b> Sunday School <b>10:00am</b> Contemporary Worship <b>11:15am</b> Traditional Worship <b>12:15pm</b> Congregational Meeting <b>5:00pm</b> MS Refresh Youth <b>6:30pm</b> Session Meeting <b>7:00pm</b> HS Refresh Youth	<b>25</b> <b>7:00pm</b> Scouts BSA Troop 1166-G <b>7:00pm</b> Scouts BSA Troop 166-B	<b>26</b> <b>5:00pm</b> Handbells Rehearsal <b>6:30pm</b> Cub Scouts	<b>27</b> <b>1:30pm</b> Prayer Meeting <b>6:30pm</b> Choir Rehearsal

# CALENDAR

THURSDAY

FRIDAY

SATURDAY

1  New Year's Day- Office and Preschool Closed <b>7:00pm</b> Praise Team Rehearsal	2  Preschool Closed- Christmas Break	3  <b>7:15am</b> Women's Bible Study <b>7:15am</b> Men's Bible Study
8  Preschool Pancake and PJ Day <b>7:00pm</b> Praise Team Rehearsal	9  Preschool Pancake and PJ Day	10  <b>7:15am</b> Women's Bible Study <b>7:15am</b> Men's Bible Study <b>9:00am</b> Session & Officers Retreat
15  <b>7:00pm</b> Praise Team Rehearsal	16  Refresh Youth- Snowbird Winter Retreat	17  Refresh Youth- Snowbird Winter Retreat <b>7:15am</b> Women's Bible Study <b>7:15am</b> Men's Bible Study
22  <b>7:00pm</b> Praise Team Rehearsal	23	24  <b>FCA Banquet</b> <b>7:15am</b> Women's Bible Study <b>7:15am</b> Men's Bible Study
29  <b>7:00pm</b> Praise Team Rehearsal	30	31  <b>7:15am</b> Women's Bible Study <b>7:15am</b> Men's Bible Study <b>10:00am</b> Cub Scouts- Pinewood Derby Workshop

## BIRTHDAYS

**1/1-** Rebecca Auten, Jennifer McNeely, George Reeve, Janet Stilwell, Richard Stilwell, Mary Beth Stutts  
**1/2-** Dennis Winter  
**1/3-** Brian Slusser  
**1/4-** Amanda Garvin, Ron Gragg, Liam Magnusson, Emily Meehan, Caitlin Reifner, Paul Trimble  
**1/5-** Josh O'Meara, Ann Will  
**1/7-** Andrew Cook, Thomas (Nick) Smith Jr, Emerson Stutts, Harry Weyer  
**1/8-** Laura Christmas, Maria Heilman  
**1/10-** Joe Bost, Chris Creech, Linda Ervin, Maria Reid  
**1/11-** Amanda Crews  
**1/12-** Melissa Campbell, Mark McNeely  
**1/13-** C.P. Chappell, Margie Gallman, Sue Nott  
**1/14-** Chet Carpenter, Samuel Justice, Margaret Mosely  
**1/15-** Robert Mauney, Claire Omohundro  
**1/16-** Jody Tyree  
**1/17-** Tom Trosuk  
**1/18-** Abigail Copeland, Katie Kennerly, Martha McDonnell, Stacy Windsor  
**1/19-** Drew Fitzpatrick, Joyce Reeve, Rose Sheppard  
**1/21-** Diana McCutcheon, Thomas Miller, Megan Morrow  
**1/23-** Hazel Cole  
**1/24-** Greg Filnow  
**1/26-** James Justice, Travis Linen, Luanne Sledge  
**1/29-** Lois Handy, Ciarra Rockness, Peggy Rogers  
**1/30-** Bob Amon, Charlie Heilman, Ryan Trimble  
**1/31-** Debbie Hyatt, Bill Payne

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[office@mooresvillefpc.org](mailto:office@mooresvillefpc.org) or call 704-664-5275

8:30 am Contemporary Worship  
10:00 am Contemporary Worship  
10:00 am Sunday School  
11:15 am Traditional Worship

January 2026



**ECO**

A Covenant Order  
of Evangelical  
Presbyterians