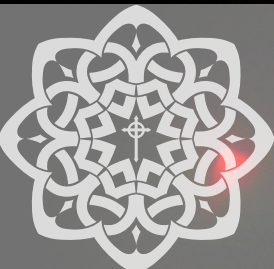


JULY 2025

first press

A MOORESVILLE FIRST PRESBYTERIAN PUBLICATION



THIS MONTH: VBS! FIND OUT HOW YOU CAN HELP

UPCOMING EVENTS, MISSION TRIP REPORTS, & MORE!

PASTOR'S LETTER

“Two are better than one, because they have a good return for their labor: If either of them falls down, one can help the other up. But pity anyone who falls and has no one to help them up. Also, if two lie down together, they will keep warm. But how can one keep warm alone? Though one may be overpowered, two can defend themselves. A cord of three strands is not quickly broken.”

Ecclesiastes 4:9-12

Dear Church Family,

I am still processing the privilege of experiencing a mission to the Dominican Republic with a group from our church family. One aspect that was particularly striking was the spiritual maturity of our youth. Of our team of nineteen, twelve of them were age twenty five and younger. Our fearless leader, Dan Davidson (Filter of Hope), was wise beyond his years! Much of this can be attributed to our healthy church community. Many of the young people on our trip have been blessed with years of Logos, Sunday school, PYF, and a church family that has poured into their lives lovingly and faithfully. I was proud to partner with them as we offered two gifts to these beautiful people in the DR: 1) clean drinking water. 2) The Gospel message of Jesus Christ. We were able to equip over fifty homes with the gift of water and by the end of the week, fourteen people received Jesus Christ into their heart as Lord and Savior. What a blessing!

Additionally, I was struck by the power of community/team. Our group was asked to step way out of our comfort zone. For some, simply stepping out in faith to go overseas was a challenge. For others, this was their first time ever actually sharing the gospel message. One theme our team all agreed on was that not a single one of us ever felt alone. There was strength in community as we sought power from the Holy Spirit and were able to lean upon one another for support. Together we experienced God's presence in numerous ways: breaking up in teams to serve the community, worship on the beach, singing on the bus, praying with families in their homes, celebrating conversions, processing the day each evening as a group, etc.

It is a privilege to serve here at FPC Mooresville! God is at work in our church family. Thank you for your continuous prayers and support.

Blessings in Christ,

Pastor Dave Rockness



STEWARDSHIP

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



PRAYER: *God, I want to be a good steward; give me wisdom so that I can better serve you.*

Wisdom – The Foundation of Stewardship - Proverbs 8:18-36

When we seek first the kingdom of God, everything else we need comes to us as a bonus. The pursuit of wisdom has a similar result. When we seek wisdom wholeheartedly, spiritual and material prosperity are natural side effects. The story of Solomon is a good example. He asked God for wisdom, and in addition God granted him wealth and prosperity.

Old Testament Wisdom Literature lays out life's general principles. No single proverb can ever be taken as a guarantee – in this case, that anyone who is wise will also be wealthy. Jesus, who embodies the wisdom of God, became poor by giving up the glory and grandeur of heaven for the incarnation and crucifixion. And we are called to follow him even into sacrificial living (i.e., the wisdom of the cross) rather than imitate the world's brand of "wisdom," which runs after temporal goods for security and satisfaction. When we imitate Jesus – even to the point of suffering – we know we will share in his glorious reward (see Ro 8:17).

Christian stewardship in its deepest sense is impossible apart from the surrender of man to God in Christ. But when Paul cries out, "(You are of Christ, and Christ is of God)," he goes on to say, "(So then, men ought to regard us as servants of Christ and as those entrusted with the secret things of God. Now it is required that those who have been given a trust must prove faithful.)" The Christian is Christ's. He must think of himself as Christ's man, as Christ's servant. The Christian is a steward of the great revelation which God has given in Christ. The stewardship of the gospel is committed unto him. He shares with other Christians the responsibility of giving the gospel to others. It is required of stewards that a man be found faithful. The Christian must so live that he discharges faithfully the obligations that are laid upon him as a servant of Christ and a steward of the mysteries of God ...

Any true understanding of stewardship must also involve the stewardship of abilities. If a man has yielded his life to Jesus Christ, it follows that the abilities that he has should be laid on the altar of the service of God. Men vary very widely in their abilities. There are some who have one talent and there are some who have ten talents. God does not demand of any man the rendering of an account for the abilities he does not have. But Jesus does lay down the principle that what God expects of us is in proportion to that which He has given us...

The stewardship of possessions must be seen against the background of man's response to the love of God in Christ ... The stewardship of possessions must be seen in the setting of the stewardship of all of life.

Message from your Stewardship Committee
Excerpts from NIV Stewardship Study Bible
Theologian Holmes Rolston (Page 796)

MUSIC MINISTRY

Love Divine, All Loves Excelling is our hymn for July 2025. Charles Wesley's contribution to hymnody cannot be overstated. He wrote the words to nearly 6,500 hymns. Among his most famous are *Hark! The Herald Angels Sing*, *Christ the Lord is Risen Today*, and *O For a Thousand Tongues to Sing*. *Love Divine, All Loves Excelling* expresses the love of Jesus Christ for us which is the divine love. Christ first loved us. We do not deserve it, but he lived the life

we could not and died the death that we deserve. Our only response can be to love Him and to love others. We ask God to finish his new creation until we cast our crowns before Him, lost in wonder, love, and praise. Many of you may be more familiar with the HYFRYDOL tune for this hymn. In my opinion the BEECHER tune written by John Zundel is more fitting for the majesty and triumphal power of the love of Christ with an interval of a sixth between the first and second measure.

The Chancel Choir has been busy singing a wide variety of music for worship. I am grateful for their flexibility in styles and for their dedication to leading us in worship every Sunday. The ***Watching Over Israel*** from ***Elijah*** by Felix Mendelssohn is standard choral repertoire. Originally written in German, it depicts events in the life of the Prophet Elijah as told in 1 and 2 Kings. Mendelssohn was heavily influenced by the Passions of Bach and the biblical oratorios of Handel. The anthem tells of our God who never sleeps or slumbers but continually watches over us. If we walk in grief and languish, He will quicken us or give us new life from our spiritual death. The choir did a wonderful job singing this anthem.

I'll Stand is a modern spiritual written by Raymond Wise. The line "if I don't stand for Jesus, I'll fall for anything the devil brings" is our mission as Christ followers. Pastor Dave has told us in sermons that if we do not teach our children to follow Christ and live for Him, the world will teach them not to.

Finally, for our Hymn Sing on June 25 we sang many traditional hymns from our hymnal, but also some modern hymns like ***Behold our God*** and ***Facing a Task Unfinished***. Again I believe it is important for us to sing the hymns of the past, but to find new ways to sing the gospel. The last line of verse one of ***Facing a Task Unfinished...***

We, who rejoice to know Thee
Renew before Thy throne
The solemn pledge we owe Thee
To go and make Thee known!

YOUTH MINISTRY

Hey everybody!

I hope your summer has been going well so far! It has definitely been a busy season for Sarah and I, but also a tremendous blessing. I am excited to share with you all that we have now officially moved into the town of Mooresville! We were living in Huntersville this past year because it was closer to Queen's University, which is where Sarah was finishing up her undergraduate degree. Thanks be to God that He has opened a door for us to be closer to the church now! That commute on I-77 everyday has not been fun! We have only lived in Mooresville for a little over one week, and we already feel so much more a part of this community. God is good!

Not only has the Lord been doing a lot in my personal life this summer, but He has been moving amongst our youth in mighty ways too. Thank you for all your support and prayers in helping send out our youth to FUGE summer camp in South Carolina last



June. I am thrilled to share that 4 students from our church gave their lives to Jesus for the first time, and another 4 students from our church expressed that they felt called to vocational ministry! It would be impossible for me to explain everything that God did throughout that week of camp in this newsletter. There were so many powerful and vulnerable conversations centered on Christ that were had amongst our students. Thankfully, that fire has not dwindled out since camp either, but I have noticed how many of our students are emerging as leaders for God's kingdom on their sports teams, in their families/friend groups, and other spaces as well. I am hearing so many crazy stories and seeing firsthand how God is using our youth to spread the gospel. I am so proud of them, and their mature faith at that age inspires me! I have included some pictures below for you to check out from youth this past month.

Dates to be aware of:

July 14th - July 18th VBS (Students that served, we will do something fun afterwards on July 18th)

July 26th - August 1st High School Miami Mission Trip (if you have any work in exchange for funds for our students going on this trip, please reach out to me!)

Blessings,
Zeb Nelson





CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

Sunny Days and summer fun! I hope you are finding time to relax, get outside and enjoy your summer together as a family.

We have BIG things going on in July! The biggest is VBS WEEK! We are so excited to MAGNIFY God and His creation this summer at VBS!

If you would like to help before VBS with prep, crafts, decorating or anything else OR if you would like to join us as a volunteer that week please reach out to Melissa!

What's Happening This Month:

1. July 7-11- VBS Prep - Come join us any day between 10am - 3pm to help us get all of the last minute things prepped and ready for VBS week! (filling name tags, sorting bandanas, organizing crafts, double checking check in lists, creating signs....)



2. July 13 - VBS Decorating Day! This is the day where we transform the church into our summer VBS adventure! Lunch is provided for volunteers. It takes a lot of hands to get all of the decorations up, rooms set up, tables and chairs put away. We could use as many hands as are willing to help! 12:30pm - 5pm (or until we are done).

3. July 14 - July 18 - VBS WEEK. 9:30am - 12:30pm (VBS registration is almost full. We have a few spaces in 3rd grade and 6th grade).

4. July 20 VBS Sunday - This week we invite all of our campers to join us for Sunday worship to lead us in a worship song they have learned throughout the week with David Hamilton.

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.

SUMMER SUNDAY MORNINGS

Sprouts Ministry (0 - Preschool) - 2nd floor

0 - 23 months - Nursery room

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

Preschool (our 4-5 year olds) Bear Room

Kingdom Kids (Kindergarten - 5th grade)

Drop off - Fellowship Hall

Pick up - Fellowship Hall

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 to tables for their lesson time. We strongly encourage children to bring their bibles to Sunday School.

*****Please note- any children who have not been picked up by 11:10am will be brought to the second floor childcare room (Duck room) so that our teachers can get to church on time.**



JULY 2025

SUNDAY

MONDAY

TUESDAY

WEDNESDAY

		1 7:30pm Young Adult/ College Gathering	2 1:30pm Prayer Meeting 6:30pm Summer WNT
6 8:30am Contemporary Worship 10:00am Sunday School 10:00am Contemporary Worship 11:15am Traditional Worship 6:30pm Combined Refresh Youth- pool party	7 10:00am VBS Workshop 7:00pm Scouts BSA Troop 1166-G 7:00pm Scouts BSA Troop 166-B	8 10:00am VBS Workshop	9 10:00am VBS Workshop 1:30pm Prayer Meeting 6:30pm Summer WNT
13 Communion Sunday 8:30am Contemporary Worship 10:00am Sunday School 10:00am Contemporary Worship 11:15am Traditional Worship 12:30pm VBS Decoration Day 6:00pm Worship & Music Committee Meeting 6:30pm Combined Refresh Youth- pool party 7:00pm Finance Committee	14 9:30am VBS 7:00pm Personnel Committee 7:00pm Scouts BSA Troop 1166-G 7:00pm Scouts BSA Troop 166-B	15 9:30am VBS	16 9:30am VBS 1:30pm Prayer Meeting
20 VBS Sunday 8:30am Contemporary Worship 10:00am Sunday School 10:00am Contemporary Worship 11:15am Traditional Worship 2:00pm Prayer Shawl 5:00pm Congregational Care Council Meeting 6:30pm Combined Refresh Youth	21 7:00pm Scouts BSA Troop 1166-G 7:00pm Scouts BSA Troop 166-B	22	23 1:30pm Prayer Meeting 6:30pm Summer WNT
27 8:30am Contemporary Worship 10:00am Sunday School 10:00am Contemporary Worship 11:15am Traditional Worship 6:30pm Combined Refresh Youth	28 7:00pm Scouts BSA Troop 1166-G 7:00pm Scouts BSA Troop 166-B	29	30 1:30pm Prayer Meeting 6:30pm Summer WNT

CALENDAR

THURSDAY

FRIDAY

SATURDAY

BIRTHDAYS

<p>3</p> <p>7:00pm Praise Team Rehearsal</p>	<p>4</p> <p>Office Closed- Independence Day</p>	<p>5</p> <p>7:15am Men's Bible Study</p>
<p>10</p> <p>10:00am VBS Workshop 7:00pm Praise Team Rehearsal 7:30pm Young Adult/ College Gathering</p>	<p>11</p> <p>10:00am VBS Workshop</p>	<p>12</p> <p>7:15am Men's Bible Study 7:15am Women's Bible Study 9:45am VBS Volunteer Training 10:30am VBS Decoration Prep</p>
<p>17</p> <p>9:30am VBS 7:00pm Praise Team Rehearsal 7:30pm Young Adult/ College Gathering</p>	<p>18</p> <p>9:30am VBS</p>	<p>19</p> <p>7:15am Men's Bible Study 7:15am Women's Bible Study</p>
<p>24</p> <p>7:00pm Praise Team Rehearsal 7:30pm Young Adult/ College Gathering</p>	<p>25</p>	<p>26</p> <p>Mission Trip - Miami 7:15am Men's Bible Study 7:15am Women's Bible Study</p>
<p>31</p> <p>6:30pm Sunday School Teacher Training 7:00pm Praise Team Rehearsal 7:30pm Young Adult/ College Gathering</p>		

7/1- Eric Estes, Chuck Hunter
7/2- Carolyn Brawley, Noah Hutto, Betty Pearce, Pete Peterson
7/3- Kathryn Coates, James Couturier, Ralph Herring, Cameron Sledge, Rick Van Harn
7/5- Julianna Morrow, Mary Mosely
7/6- Bryan Cole, Ann Manning
7/7- John Grimes, Celia Putnam
7/10- Erin Micklow, John Morrow, Patrick Stutts
7/11- Jeffrey Brawley, Joshua Davis, Lynette Roberts
7/13- Hayden Estes
7/14- Meg Sileo
7/15- Justin Neff
7/16- Madeleine Waugh, Matthew Windsor
7/17- Tom Rhyne, Ezra Seyller, Donna Welsh
7/18- Trevor Potts, John Robinson
7/19- Kathleen Patterson, Gary Roach
7/20- Catherine Campbell, Jacob Johnson
7/21- Jackson Schaan
7/22- Katie McIntosh
7/23- Saleena Boles, Nolan Lynch
7/24- Allison Neff, Verna Whalen
7/25- Marilyn Beaver, Marian Dillingham
7/26- Ellen Auten, Riley Rumble
7/27- French Brawley, Caroline Howard, Jordan Magnusson
7/28- Jordyn Trimmerger
7/29- Emory McNeely
7/30- Graham Weaver
7/31- Hillary Zwolinski

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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

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

July 2025



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