

JANUARY 2023

first press

A MOORESVILLE FIRST PRESBYTERIAN PUBLICATION



MARK YOUR CALENDARS! EVENTS IN THE NEW YEAR

INSIDE: LEARN ABOUT MISSION OPPORTUNITIES IN 2023

pastor's letter

Dear Church Family,

Happy New Year! This is the time of year for establishing a clean slate and making resolutions. One running joke I have with my family at this time of year is, "I guess I'll have to wait until February to get my treadmill back." Why? Because New Year resolutions often contain lofty goals that are rarely sustained. A person may go from a sedentary lifestyle to an hour a day at the gym five days a week. It's like sprinting the first mile of a marathon! The same can be said of our spiritual lives. A believer can get inspired to start the New Year strong- give more time each month towards ministry opportunities, increase financial giving, read the bible in a year, etc. These are admirable goals and I affirm you pursuing them. However, one word of caution...do not bite off more than you can chew. When I first came to FPC Mooresville, we did not have a mission budget. Finances had been challenging for a decade and our church was in the habit of giving to missions through fundraisers. My challenge for the church was to become a tithing church, budgeting 10% towards giving in the annual budget. I felt to do so immediately could have caused unsustainable disruption. Instead, we set a ten year goal. Our church pledged my first year in Mooresville (2014) to give 1% of our giving towards missions (+ fundraisers). Our proposal this year is to give 9% towards missions and by next year we should be in a strong position to reach our ten year goal.

What are your spiritual goals for 2023? I encourage you to prayerfully consider them in the areas of worship, service, and discipleship. These areas reflect our church mission of Loving God, loving people, and making disciples. If you are not in the pattern of spending time in God's Word, start with 5-10 minutes a day. There's a great devotional guide you can find online that can help you establish this in bite size segments- Scriptureunion.org. Beginners can follow the daily reading plan called "Discovery" and those with more developed faith can follow "Encounter with God." If you are not in the habit of serving others, I encourage you to take a baby step towards volunteering. Perhaps you can start with something simple like helping out in the nursery or ushering once a month. Or maybe you are ready to step it up a notch by joining a committee or getting involved with community outreach. If you have become a little stagnant in sharing your faith, start small by addressing this in your prayer life. Maybe starting with, "Lord, open my eyes towards a person I should be praying for daily" or "Lord, give me eyes and boldness to recognize one witnessing opportunity this month."

As you strengthen in your personal faith, our church strengthens together! My prayer is not for everyone to make it to the gym, spiritually speaking, two hours a day, five days a week. My prayer is to see the solid core of our church family putting in an extra 5-10 minutes in a day. Sustainable growth takes time. It involves slow, steady progress that can lead to tangible fruit, joyful ministry, and a dynamic impact over time. It continues to be a joy to serve alongside you in ministry!

Blessings in Christ,

Pastor Dave Rockness

stewardship

“Giving your time, your talents, and your tithes to God’s work...”



PRAYER - Lord, you are kind and gracious to your people. I praise you for what you did for the Israelites so long ago. And I praise you for what you have done for me.

How We Give to God- Psalm 50:7-15

Hear, O my people, and I will speak, O Israel, and I will testify against you: I am God, your God. I do not rebuke you for your sacrifices or your burnt offerings, which are ever before me. I have no need of a bull from your stall or of goats from your pens, for every animal of the forest is mine, and the cattle on a thousand hills. I know every bird in the mountains, and the creatures of the field are mine. If I were hungry I would not tell you, for the world is mine, and all that is in it. Do I eat the flesh of bulls or drink the blood of goats? Sacrifice thank offerings to God, fulfill your vows to the Most High, and call upon me in the day of trouble; I will deliver you, and you will honor me.

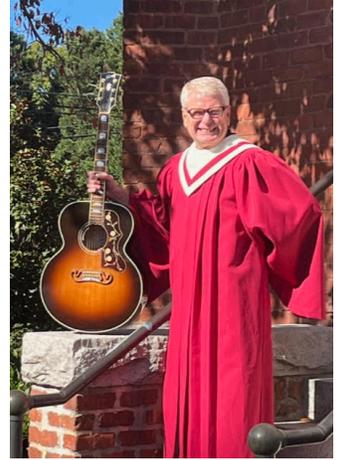
God neither wants nor needs our material gifts *for himself*. He has no personal need of a cup of cold water from our hands, yet Jesus makes clear that he receives our gifts vicariously when we offer them to the needy on Earth (see Mt 25:31-46). What God does want is our glorification of him. In fact, the best that we can offer him is our praise and adoration.

God delights in a generous spirit but finds his greatest pleasure in giving. Best-selling author Max Lucado states that, having “pressed the grapes of service, we drink life’s sweetest wine – the wine of giving. We are at our best when we are giving. In fact, we are most like God when we are giving.”

music ministry

Music Ministry at FPC- My Story

It all started in the late '90s. My family and I had just moved to Mooresville from Columbia, South Carolina. I had taken a job with a brand-new company here in town. Anyway, the boys were very young, and I thought it would be a great idea if we started going to the church across the street. My grandparents had been long-time members of FPC in Rocky Mount, North Carolina, so I figured it would be fine. Not long after we started attending regularly, we became members. The whole family really enjoyed the programs that were offered. I especially enjoyed the music. At that time, there was only one service at 11:00 on Sunday morning, and the choir always sang an anthem. I thought to myself at every Sunday service how much fun it would be to sing in the choir.



One Sunday afternoon several months later, the family and I were waiting in line at a church picnic or some sort of luncheon, and I was talking with the then Head Pastor Ed Lewis. We somehow got to the subject of how much I enjoyed the Sunday anthems, and I jokingly said, "you know, if I joined the choir, I could get free singing lessons. By golly, a week didn't go by before the Music Director had me cornered in the hallway at church, enthusiastically telling me how much he really needed me to sing in his choir. Alan Sledge was the new Music Director at FPC Mooresville. I proceeded to tell him that I had never sung a note in my life except in the shower. He replied, "everybody can sing.... might not be like Celine Dion, but everybody can sing". I was at choir rehearsal the next Wednesday night and in the loft the following Sunday! Oh, how the Lord works on our hearts.

I continued to sing for many more years and learned a great deal from Alan and the Music Directors that followed in his footsteps. Years earlier, I played acoustic guitar when I was a freshman in college. I never considered myself very good at it because I had never had any proper lessons. Well, this information slipped out somehow and I was asked if I would be interested in playing in the praise band. The band and the contemporary service were new but attracting regular worshipers. The service was held in the Fellowship Hall with rehearsals on Thursday nights. In each service, the praise band played three or four songs. Again, I told the leader that I didn't think I was talented enough, but I was persuaded, and they did need more guitars in the band. I have served in the praise band for around 8 years, maybe more than that, and enjoy every minute. This was another opportunity for which I was blessed.

To sing and play music, enjoy doing it, and most of all, doing for the Lord Jesus is all a person could ask. When I'm singing or playing guitar for our Lord, a complete calm overcomes me. I can't explain it except that it brings me Peace & Joy.

My involvement in the outstanding music programs at FPC Mooresville over these many years has been wonderful. Go for it, don't miss out on great music opportunities here. The time I have invested in rehearsals, services, and special events is a lot, but it doesn't compare to the Joy that I have experienced and the knowledge I have gained throughout the journey.

Will McIntyre

missions

Baby Bottle Boomerang

On January 8th, you will find baby bottles in a basket in both the 143 Building and the Sanctuary. This is a fundraiser for the Community Pregnancy Center of Mooresville. The idea is that you will fill up your bottle with loose change (of course bills will be accepted!!!). So, start looking now for all that spare change you have around your home and think about donating it to this very worthy cause. Bottles need to be returned on Sunday, February 12. Please remember to pick up a bottle for your group or family. There are only 100 bottles, but the Pregnancy Center is more than happy to provide more! The Mission Committee welcomes your support; the CPC is one of our local partners in missions.

Summer Trips Date for the Youth Group:

The Youth Department has set the dates for the two summer trips for summer 2023. The High School Group will return to Boston for a mission trip from June 24 July1. The Middle School group will again join YCM for a fun week in the sun, but this year it's in the Great Smoky Mountains of TN. July 21-26. Registration will be available on the youth page of the church website at the start of January. The two included are from last year's trips.



Heart For Missions

February is Heart For Missions Month here at First Presbyterian Church and we have lots to tell you about all that we have in store.

missions

Opportunity to Learn About Missions

Over the past year your Mission Committee has been very busy seeking to partner with and support the Lord's work with Acts 1:8 as our model. We have partners here in Mooresville (Jerusalem), around the State of North Carolina (Judea), in our great country (Samaria), and to the ends of the Earth (International). We have designated the month of February as "Heart for Missions Month", and we are looking to help better acquaint you with information about these wonderful ministries with whom we partner. Starting on February 5, we will have four weeks of sermons focused on missions and a series of events for the whole congregation to learn more. On February 12, 2023 we will host a Mission's Luncheon at 12:15 in the Fellowship Hall. We have invited a bunch of our Mission Partners to come and set up a booth where you can learn more about those we support. On February 26, 2023 Percy Muleba from Zambia will preach on Acts 1:8 and that evening we will host our Annual Chili Cook Off. The proceeds of this event will be split between The Christian Mission here in Mooresville and The Biblical Worship Training Center in Zambia. Please mark your calendars.

Opportunity To Do Missions

While we are very excited to help our church learn about Missions here and abroad, we are also very excited to help get you out on a Mission. We have three very exciting opportunities for you to take part in and are asking that you pray about ways you can get involved. You can join the efforts and go, pray for the teams as they serve, or help by lending some financial support to help alleviate the cost for those that go.

March 4-13 - Mission Trip to Kenya and Tanzania - Drew Fitzpatrick and Pastor Jason are leading a trip back to Africa to connect our church members with the ministries we have been working with on our past two trips. Interest meetings for this trip will be held on Sunday January 8, at 12:30 in the 143 Broad Building, and Wednesday, January 11 at 7:00 p.m. in 143 Broad Map Room.

March 10-13 - Mission Trip to Greece - Alyssa Deery and Pastor Jason are taking a group of Young Adults to partner with Lighthouse Church in Quincy MA to work with refugees in Athens Greece. Questions about this trip should be addressed to Alyssa or Jason.

Late April Habitat Blitz Build - First Pres is building another home here in Mooresville and we are excited to get it done in a week. Please mark your calendar for an amazing week of local mission work empowered by God's people here at First Presbyterian.

stephen ministry

A Stephen Ministry Story

Sent by God, Just for Me

I was 26, newly divorced, living far away from family and friends, and dealing with a lot of guilt, shame, and low self-esteem. *Was I a total failure? Would anybody ever want me? Was God condemning me because of my divorce?*

I found a new church and made some friends, but still struggled. It seemed like all my church friends were perfect, happy, and full of faith—while I was flawed, gloomy, and full of doubts.

When I shared some of this with my pastor, he suggested a Stephen Minister.

Before I met my Stephen Minister, I was worried she would judge and reject me once she learned about my past and got to know the real me. But she didn't. She was patient, loving, and accepting. I truly believe she was sent by God just for me.

We got together weekly. She'd ask me questions, get me talking, and then listen as I shared my struggles and doubts. She showed me God's love even when I didn't feel it. Over time, her faithful care helped me to see that perhaps I wasn't such a terrible person after all. Through her

loving care, I began to think that if God loved me, then maybe I could love myself too.

After a while, I got to a better place emotionally, and our Stephen Ministry relationship ended. A few years later, I remarried and had a miscarriage, and she was there for me again as a Stephen Minister, providing the care and support I needed. We now live over a thousand miles apart—but she will always hold a special place in my heart.

She was
patient, loving,
and accepting.

If you're dealing with any kind of difficulty, if you're struggling with faith questions or doubts, if you're wondering whether you are a worthy person, then I encourage you to consider getting a Stephen Minister.

It just might be that God already has a special one picked out just for you.

Some details in this story have been changed to preserve confidentiality.

logos/msm

Logos/Middle School Ministry Registration for 2nd Semester

Logos/MSM 2nd semester will begin on Wednesday, January 11. We are looking forward to more great Wednesday afternoons of recreation, choir, Bible study and dinner in 2023, with fun themes, great games, delicious dinners, Bible lessons and choir times.

Children in 1st – 8th grades are welcome to join us on Wednesdays from 4:30 – 7:00 pm. Parent participation is required (usually involves volunteering in the kitchen) and a fee is charged (\$35 per year registration fee and \$55 per semester tuition fee). Scholarship help is available.

If you are interested in registering as a new participant for 2nd semester, please contact Valerie Mauney (704-723-1531; collanwe@gmail.com) by Sunday, January 8. A parent meeting for new participants only will be held Wednesday, January 11 at 4:30 pm in the fellowship hall.

Parents of current participants should turn the Spring 2023 2nd semester intent form in to Valerie Mauney or Ellen Auten as soon as possible. Parents should indicate dates that they are unavailable to volunteer in the kitchen.

Logos/MSM January Dates

Sunday, January 8 - Registration deadline for 2nd semester

Wednesday, January 11 - 2nd semester begins

Space Odyssey Night

Parent meeting for new participants only - 4:30 pm

Wednesday, January 18 - Let it Snow Night

Wednesday, January 25 - Backwards Night

*****Mission Project** - Bring breakfast foods to donate to Feed NC on Wednesday, January 25 (cereal, pancake mix, syrup, breakfast bars, oatmeal, grits, packaged muffins, etc.)

Logos/MSM Inclement Weather Policy

A reminder about the Logos/MSM inclement weather policy: In case of cancellation of Mooresville Schools, Logos/MSM will not be held. Any variance from this will be communicated through email.



announcements

Saints Alive Luncheon



The Saints Alive group, our “older” adult group, is planning a luncheon (cost is \$10) for Tuesday, January 17 at 12:30 pm in the fellowship hall. We’ll enjoy a delicious lunch together, with warm fellowship and encouraging devotions. This month’s luncheon will be a “Let It Snow” theme, and we’ll talk about snow, snowflakes, and an interesting historical figure, “Snowflake Bentley.” Mr. Bentley lived in Vermont, and was instrumental in learning how to photograph snowflakes in the late 1800s – early 1900s. Reservations are encouraged; please contact Ellen Auten (704-664-5275; ellen@moorevillefpc.org) by Monday, January 16 to make a reservation. Come and bring a friend!

January Sunday School Schedules

Sunday January 1

No Children’s Church

No preschool, elementary or youth Sunday School
Some adult classes may be meeting - check with your teacher

Sunday, January 8

Children’s Church resumes - during 8:30 am service

Preschool, elementary and youth classes resume - 10:00 am

The beginning of a new year is a time when we often make resolutions to make changes, add some new habits, and “begin anew.” Consider attending Sunday School as a great New Year’s Resolution! Classes are held for all ages at 10:00 am in the Education Building.

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 2023 off healthy and strong!

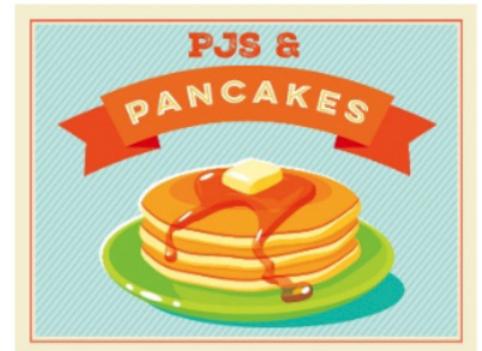


2023-2024 Enrollment

Enrollment Forms come home the week of January 4th, so be on the lookout for them. We have a checklist to help you keep track of your child's paperwork. Please complete these forms and include your Registration fee (\$80 for Church Members, \$90 for non-church members) by Friday, January 20th. Specific class assignments will be sent to you in the mail in July. We open the enrollment to the public, January 23rd, so be sure to turn in your forms as soon as you can.

Pancakes & PJ Day

We are excited to have Preschool-wide Pajama Days on January 12th and 13th. It's a fun day for all the children to dress in their PJ's and we'll have pancakes for a special snack (GF waffles will be available for those with gluten allergies). Please send your child 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 16th in honor of the Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday.

Mark Your Calendars

- January 4: Preschool Resumes
- January 4 & 5: Enrollment Forms Sent Home
- January 12 & 13: Pancake and PJ Day
- January 16: Preschool Closed, Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday
- January 23: Preschool Enrollment Open to Public
- January 24: Library with Mrs. Crystal

CALENDAR

SUNDAY

MONDAY

TUESDAY

WEDNESDAY

<p style="text-align: right;">1</p> <p>Happy New Year! 11:15 am Combined Worship in 143 Broad</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">2</p> <p>Office and Preschool Closed for the New Year Holiday 7:00 pm Scouts BSA Troop 1166-G 7:00 pm Scouts BSA Troop 166-B</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">3</p> <p>Preschool Closed 6:00 pm MCM Circles 6:30 pm Cub Scouts</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">4</p> <p>Preschool Resumes 1:30 pm Prayer Meeting 7:15 pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal</p>
<p>8:30 am Contemporary Worship</p> <p style="text-align: right;">8</p> <p>9:40 am Fellowship Time 10:00 am Sunday School 10:00 am Contemporary Worship 11:15 am Traditional Worship 12:15 pm Congregational Meeting 12:30 pm Mission Trip Meeting 3:00 pm Prayer Shawl Group 5:00 pm MS PYF 7:00 pm HS PYF 7:00 pm Finance Committee</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">9</p> <p>2:00 pm Circle 1 7:00 pm Missions Meeting 7:00 pm Scouts BSA Troop 1166-G 7:00 pm Scouts BSA Troop 166-B</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">10</p> <p>10:00 am Circle 4 Meeting 12:30 pm Circle 5 Meeting 6:00 pm Circle 3 Meeting 6:00 pm Handbells Rehearsal 7:00 pm Scouts BSA Troop 1166-G 7:00 pm Scouts BSA Troop 166-B</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">11</p> <p>1:30 pm Prayer Meeting 4:30 pm Logos/MSM 7:00 pm Mission Trip Meeting 7:15 pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal</p>
<p>8:30 am Contemporary</p> <p style="text-align: right;">15</p> <p>9:40 am Fellowship Time 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</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">16</p> <p>Office and Preschool Closed- MLK Day 7:00 pm Property Meeting 7:00 pm Scouts BSA Troop 1166-G 7:00 pm Scouts BSA Troop 166-B</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">17</p> <p>12:30 pm Saints Alive Luncheon 6:00 pm Handbells Rehearsal 6:00 pm MCM Circles 6:30 pm Cub Scouts</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">18</p> <p>1:30 pm Prayer Meeting 4:30 pm Logos/MSM 5:30 pm Wednesday Night Together Dinner 6:30 pm Bible Study 7:15 pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal</p>
<p>8:30 am Contemporary</p> <p style="text-align: right;">22</p> <p>9:40 am Fellowship Time 10:00 am Sunday School 10:00 am Contemporary Worship 11:15 am Traditional Worship 5:00 pm MS PYF 6:30 pm Session Meeting 7:00 pm HS PYF</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">23</p> <p>7:00 pm Scouts BSA Troop 1166-G 7:00 pm Scouts BSA Troop 166-B</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">24</p> <p>6:00 pm Handbells Rehearsal 6:00 pm MCM Circles 6:30 pm Cub Scouts</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">25</p> <p>1:30 pm Prayer Meeting 4:30 pm Logos/MSM 5:30 pm Wednesday Night Together Dinner 6:30 pm Bible Study 7:15 pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal</p>
<p>8:30 am Contemporary</p> <p style="text-align: right;">29</p> <p>9:40 am Fellowship Time 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</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">30</p> <p>ECO Gathering 7:00 pm Scouts BSA Troop 1166-G 7:00 pm Scouts BSA Troop 166-B</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">31</p> <p>ECO Gathering 6:00 pm Handbells Rehearsal 6:00 pm MCM Circles 6:30 pm Cub Scouts</p>	

CALENDAR

THURSDAY

FRIDAY

SATURDAY

<p>5</p> <p>7:00 pm Praise Team Rehearsal 7:00 pm Stephen Ministry 7:00 pm Young Adult Bible Study in 143 Broad</p>	<p>6</p>	<p>7</p> <p>7:15 am Men's Bible Study</p>
<p>12</p> <p>Preschool Pancake and PJ Day 6:00 pm Worship & Music Committee Meeting 7:00 pm Praise Team Rehearsal 7:00 pm Young Adult Bible Study in 143 Broad</p>	<p>13</p> <p>Preschool Pancake and PJ Day 6:00 pm Officer's Retreat</p>	<p>14</p> <p>7:15 am Men's Bible Study 9:00 am Officer's Retreat</p>
<p>19</p> <p>7:00 pm Praise Team Rehearsal 7:00 pm Stephen Ministry 7:00 pm Young Adult Bible Study in 143 Broad</p>	<p>20</p>	<p>21</p> <p>7:15 am Men's Bible Study</p>
<p>26</p> <p>7:00 pm Praise Team Rehearsal 7:00 pm Young Adult Bible Study in 143 Broad</p>	<p>27</p>	<p>28</p> <p>7:15 am Men's Bible Study 10:00 am Cub Scouts Pinewood Derby Workshop</p>

Birthdays:

- 1/1- Rebecca Auten, Jen McNeely, George Reeve, Jan Stilwell, Mary Beth Stutts
- 1/2- Dennis Winter
- 1/4- Amanda Garvin, Ron Gragg, Liam Magnusson, Emily Meehan, Caitlin Riefner, Paul Trimble
- 1/7- Andrew Cook, Nick Smith, Emerson Stutts, Harry Weyer
- 1/8- Laura Christman, Maria Heilman
- 1/10- 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
- 1/15- Weston Mauney, Claire Omohundro
- 1/17- Tom Trosuk
- 1/18- Abby Copeland, Martha McDonnell, Stacy Windsor
- 1/19- Steve Gallman, Elizabeth Miller, Vivian Potts, Lily Sandrovich
- 1/20- Drew Fitzpatrick, Joyce Reeve, Rose Sheppard
- 1/22- Megan Morrow, Thomas Miller, Natalie White
- 1/23- Hazel Cole
- 1/24- Greg Fillnow
- 1/25- LuAnn Sledge
- 1/29- Ciarra Rockness, Peggy Rogers
- 1/30- Bob Amon, Charlie Heilman, Ryan Trimble
- 1/31- Debbie Hyatt, Bill Payne

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Permit No.74
Mooreville, NC

Address Service Requested

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

249 West McLelland Ave.
Mooreville, NC 28115

Telephone: 704-664-5275

Fax: 704-664-7526

Preschool: 704 664-7201

Website: www.moorevillefpc.org

Email: office@moorevillefpc.org

[moorevillefpc@groups.facebook.com](https://www.facebook.com/moorevillefpc)

If you would like to be added to or deleted from
our mailing list, please send an email to
office@moorevillefpc.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 2023



ECO

A Covenant Order
of Evangelical
Presbyterians