

OCTOBER 2023

first press

A MOORESVILLE FIRST PRESBYTERIAN PUBLICATION

READ MORE: A LETTER FROM THE SENTAS FAMILY

THIS MONTH! MINISTRY UPDATES, WAYS TO GET INVOLVED



pastor's letter

Dear Church Family,

As our church now navigates a period of transition, we are blessed to have wonderful people emerging to fill different ministry gaps. Melissa Foulke has stepped to the plate in an interim role to serve in the capacity of Christian Education. She is providing giftedness, energy, and strong communication skills to a variety of cradle to grave ministries and is bridging the gap well. Our two youth interns, Alyssa and Courtney, are teaming together effectively to keep the youth ministry vibrant. They are not only sustaining PYF, but have revived outreach ministries such as Supper Club, Friday night events, and special worship nights. David Hamilton is already making his presence known and is exceeding the expectations of many in our music ministry. Erika Hammons has been given a few extra hours in the office and has been a tremendous support to Marian and myself. Also, many volunteers have served countless hours to help in areas such as Logos, Sunday school, Sunday morning worship, Feed NC, and the nursery.

As our leadership looks towards the future, we have just approved three new ministry positions. This includes two full-time associates and a part-time children's director. The first full-time position is the Associate of Youth & Young Adults. We will pursue an ordained candidate (or one working towards ordination) to oversee ministry for our youth (6th -12th grade) and young adults (ages 18-30). The second full-time position is the Associate of Intergenerational Ministry & CE. We will pursue an ordained candidate to work closely with the Head of Staff in coordinating intergenerational ministry (focusing on a Wednesday night program geared towards bringing all ages and stages together) as well as being the Director of Christian Education. This person will also work closely with the part-time children's director. Our children's director will focus exclusively on ministry from nursery age to 5th grade.

Please keep our search teams in prayer as we seek to effectively fill these roles. Also, continue to pray for the transitions taking place in our church. I am grateful for and have been energized by so many of you who are on board with our current ministry and vision for the future. The Lord's hand has been very evident in the early stages of this process.

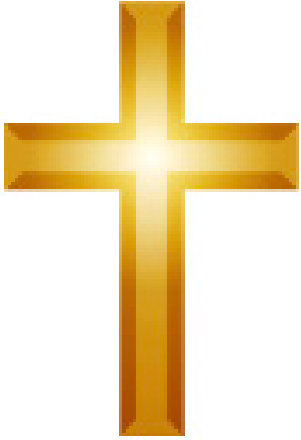
It continues to be a joy to serve alongside you in ministry!

Blessings in Christ,

Pastor Dave Rockness

stewardship

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



PRAY ABOUT IT - Take my life, and let it be consecrated, Lord, to Thee - Take my moments and my days; let them flow in ceaseless praise - Take my hands, and let them move at the impulse of Thy love - Take my feet, and let them be swift and beautiful for Thee.

Endless Time - 2 Corinthians 4:16-5:10

The future belongs to God. Yet as Christians we do believe that the future has a definite shape. Our conviction is that the future will be profoundly marked by the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. The exact shape of that crucified future we do not know, yet we are called as God's people to remain constantly open to God's Spirit as we seek in the present to embody in the midst of the world a foretaste of that future.

With such a view of the past and the future, Christians are free to embody a quite different posture toward the present. Time is not to be understood as a scarce commodity, the shortage of which hangs over our heads like a cloud and threatens our feverish attempts to make something of ourselves and our lives. Instead, by the grace of God and with a view to what God has done in the past and desires to do in the future, Christians are freed to view time as a gift and to dwell graciously in the present, knowing that God has liberated us from the necessity of justifying ourselves. In short, God has created a “time-ful people” whose existence offers the world a foretaste of the kingdom. These people have been freed from the tyranny of believing that their ultimate destiny or joy is tied to how they “spend” their time. This freedom makes possible the appearance of a “new” time: a time for caring for those - like the elderly, children, and the mentally handicapped - whose productivity is suspect; a time for being with those - like the poor, the downtrodden, and the discouraged - who do not promise to contribute to our status or to guarantee that we will leave feeling upbeat; and a time for entering into the gratuitous and joyful worship of a God who promises, not that things will always work out the way we believe they should, but of a God who promises never to leave us or forsake us.

Message from your Stewardship Committee

Excerpts from NIV Stewardship Study Bible (Page 1519)

Author Philip Kennison

thank you

Dear First Presbyterian Church,

With three weeks in Massachusetts now behind us I find a moment to take a breath and recognize all the ways the Lord has blessed us over the past 3 months. Top on that list is the way we were sent up to Massachusetts. As my family and I prepared to move, First Presbyterian Church of Mooresville very graciously and kindly gave us a first class farewell. A farewell that helped ease the pain of leaving a people and place we love. A farewell that helped prepare us for what lay ahead. You shared loving thoughts and words at the wonderful reception held in the fellowship hall. You wrote countless cards to Stephanie, the kids, and me that left us humbled as we read the kind sentiments being shared. You collected a very generous love offering that took the financial pressure of moving completely away. You made us meals, helped us pack and load, offered to care for our kids in North Carolina Colleges, and most importantly, you placed us in the loving care of a good God as you prayed for us. All of this being very consistent with the loving church that you have been for the 7.5 years I have known you.

I speak on behalf of my whole family when I say we are grateful for our season in Mooresville and better because we spent time with you. Thank you for loving us. Thank you for being faithful in your care for your pastors and their families. Thank you for being faithful to the scriptures and living out your mission of Loving God, Loving People, and Making Disciples. The Sentas family has truly been blessed to join you in that mission and to be sent off to see what the Lord has next for us.

In Christ,

Jason, Stephanie, Nathaniel, Morgan, Peter, and Olivia Sentas

music ministry



Hello! My name is David Hamilton and I am your new Director of Music at First Presbyterian Church Mooresville. I have met a lot of wonderful people in the past month and I look forward to meeting more and building relationships with you all.

Most of you know that my wife Amy and I are from Kannapolis although we have literally lived all over the world due to my career as an opera singer. We are proud parents of Banagher, a freshman at Columbia International University in South Carolina, Linden, a sophomore at North Hills Christian School, Violet, a sixth grader at North Hills, and Amias, a third grader at Shive Elementary School.

When I resigned from my job as Music Director at First Presbyterian Church Kannapolis I was not sure where the Lord would lead us. The very next day Dave Rockness e-mailed me and asked if I was interested in the position. God orchestrated and guided our path here for sure!

I am enjoying working with the Handbells, Chancel Choir, LOGOS kids, Kerri and her worship team, Phil Solomone, Tom Trosuk, and of course Greg Thompson. In the office Marian, Erika, and Dave have helped me so much in my first month.

This church has a rich history of strong music ministry not only in leadership, but in volunteers. The church is richly blessed with musical talent. I am excited to work with Dave on Sunday services and other special services. Speaking of which, here are a few important dates and plans for the fall...

Chancel Choir will sing weekly in the 11:15 service

Handbells - October 1, December 17

Handbell quartet led by Robbie Pearson - October 19

LOGOS - October 29, December 3

Sunday December 17

Messiah by G.F. Handel featuring Chancel choir, orchestra, and soloists

Praise team

Handbells

Other special music

Advent Concert Series(Wednesdays at 1pm during Advent) - more info forthcoming

Wednesday November 29 (sanctuary)

Wednesday December 6 (143) featuring Kerri Smith, Laura Rumble, and Debra Williams

Wednesday December 13 (sanctuary) featuring Greg Thompson

Wednesday December 20 (sanctuary) featuring David Hamilton and Greg Thompson

music ministry

If you have never sung in the choir or have not for a time, please consider joining us if only for a season. October is the time when we will begin preparing Messiah. Rehearsal is Wednesday from 7:15-8:30 in the choir room. God wants to hear you use your voice for his glory and the truth is that anyone can improve at singing. Singing is a motor skill and I would be happy to work with you if you feel uncomfortable about joining. We could also use a few more bell ringers in the handbell choir.

Please contact me if you are interested in either.

David@moorevillefpc.org

Music can stir our emotions to worship and savor Christ. It is my prayer that the music ministry at First Presbyterian Church Mooresville will stir our emotions to know Christ more and worship Him better!

Blessings,

David



christian ed

Christian Education & Sunday School News

Sunday School classes for all ages are held from 10:00am - 11:00am in the Education Building. Preschool will begin in their classrooms on the 2nd floor at 10:00am.

BEGINNING ON OCTOBER 1

Elementary and Middle school classes will use the following schedule:

10:00am - 10:15am First Kids meet in Fellowship Hall (K-8)

10:20am - 11:00am Bible lesson (K-8)

****This is a change- we are now inviting our kindergarten children to join our elementary school program instead of our preschool program.*

K-2 in room 324

3-5 in room 322

6-8 in the Youth Room 310

Parents pick children up in classrooms

Volunteer Needs:

- **First Kids worship:** from 9:45am - 10:15am
Join us in creating a fun and vibrant time of worship, celebration and fun. Head back to the 10 am service to catch the sermon or stay to help with one of our Sunday School classes.
- **Nurseries/preschool helpers** for the 8:30, 10:00, 11:15 services
We are looking for extra helping hands for all of our nursery/preschool classrooms. We are hoping to open a third room in the near future but need volunteers to help.
- **The Advent Sunday Committee** is being put together now. If you would like to help organize Advent Sunday we would love your time and talents.

Please contact Melissa Foulke (melissaf@moorevillefpc.org, 704-664-5275) for more information about volunteering with our children's ministries or Advent Sunday.

****Adult volunteers must have a background check, participate in staff training, and agree to abide by our volunteer protocols.*

christian ed

Logos/Middle School Ministry

Logos has kicked off and we are excited about another fantastic year growing together in the Lord and having a ton of fun doing it too.

Logos/MSM is a mid-week program for children and youth between young people and Jesus Christ, as well as between all generations of our church family. We hope to build relationships between children and the pastors, parents, and other adults in our church family.

Some important information about Logos/MSM:

- 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 volunteer in some capacity, usually in the kitchen (or have a volunteer "sponsor" your child). See schedule below for date and time.
- Cost is \$35 registration fee; \$55 per semester tuition fee.
- Scholarship help is available – contact Melissa Foulke for details.

Questions about Logos/MSM program – contact Melissa Foulke (melissaf@moorevillefpc.org) or (704) 664-5275. Or contact Valerie Mauney (collanwe@gmail.com)

Logos/MSM October Dates:

Wednesday October 4 – Take Me Out to the Ballgame
Wednesday October 11 – No Logos/MSM - Fall Break
Wednesday October 18 - By the Campfire
Wednesday October 25 - Fall Festival (costume night)
Sunday October 29 - Sing in the Contemporary 10am service



Confirmation Class for 8th graders

All 8th graders are encouraged to participate in the Confirmation class on Wednesday afternoons, beginning September 6, 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: officemoorevillefpc.org.

christian ed

Adult Sunday School Classes (10:00 – 11:00 am)

Covenant Bible Class

Taught by Bob Amon
Meets in Room 309

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

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 fun events planned in the upcoming months.

Saints Alive is our senior adult ministry, it includes monthly luncheons as well as occasional trips to local points of interest.

- We meet in the fellowship hall on the 3rd Tuesday of the month, from 12:30 – 1:30 pm.
- We enjoy fellowship around the tables, along with a delicious lunch, coordinated by church hostess Jerilyn Fair.
- Cost of lunch is \$10.
- We will 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 17 at 12:30 for lunch!



preschool

What We're Learning

Autumn brings so many learning opportunities such as apple tasting, leaf hunting, looking for pumpkin attributes and seeing God's hand in the fall foliage. Our school-wide theme for the end of month is "Down on the Farm."

Original Art

Our Fall fundraiser this year transforms your child's artwork into custom keepsakes. These are great gifts for Christmas and will be back in plenty of time to wrap them up and put them under the tree! The artwork and order forms were sent home the last week of September and are both due back with your payment to us by Friday, October 6th .



Fall Break

Preschool will be closed October 11-13 for Fall Break. This is a great time for picking out pumpkins, jumping in the leaves or going on a family hike. Enjoy this break and we will see you back on Monday, October 16th .



Farm Days

During October, we get "Down on the Farm." We explore animals that live on the farm, how crops grow and the important jobs of farmers. Dress like a farmer or your favorite farm animal! We look forward to a cock-a-doodlely good time!

Mark Your Calendars!

October 6th: Original Works Fundraiser Orders Due
October 11th-13th: Fall Break, Preschool Closed
October 30th-31st: Farm Days
November 1st: Preschool Closed



youth ministry

PYF Updates

Hello all! Alyssa and Courtney here, and we are so excited to share with you what's been happening with "PYF" (Presbyterian Youth Fellowship) so far this semester! The two of us have felt extremely blessed by the support of this congregation as we work to keep this ministry running smoothly, and we are thrilled to report continued growth and exciting new changes as the school year starts!

This past month marked the relaunch of our weekly "Supper Club". Each Wednesday our high school group will go out to dinner together, then return to the church for a lesson and discussion time. It's been a success so far, and we look forward to continuing as the year goes on!



This past month also brought with it our first middle school Friday event- we did a game night at the church complete with pizza and snacks, glow sticks, costumes, and of course, prizes for our game winners! Then at the end of the month, we had our high school event, a trip to Scarrigans (and you guessed it, Courtney was the most scared).



We've continued to meet each Sunday in the fellowship hall, from 5-6:30pm for middle school and 7-8:30pm for high school. This past month we started a new tradition for the last Sunday of each month- our combined Dinner & Worship Night from 6-8pm! A huge THANK YOU to the parents who provided the most delicious meal, and to the students who stepped up to lead worship and share Scripture and God moments!

**WANT TO STAY EVEN MORE UP
TO DATE? FOLLOW OUR
INSTAGRAM!**

@fpc.pyfmooreville

youth ministry

The excitement has only just begun! Here are some important dates to keep in mind for the month of October:

- **October 6th: High School 5th Quarter!**

There are just 4 quarters in a football game, but join us after Mooresville's Homecoming Game this Friday for a **5th Quarter** in the fellowship hall! No, it's not more football, but it **IS** a super fun time to hang out with friends, have pizza, and play games. You don't have to go to MHS or even have to attend the game that night to come to this event- all high schoolers are welcome! It officially goes from 9:30pm to 11:30pm, but feel free to come and go as you are able!

- **October 14th: Combined MS/HS Hiking Trip!**

Join us for a Saturday trip to Kings Mountain! We will be hiking, enjoying the beautiful fall scenery, and having a picnic lunch at the top. More details to come via email! There is no cost to this trip but you do need to sign up by Wednesday, October 11th so we know how many vehicles are needed. **Note that our VA Creeper Trail Bike Trip, which was originally scheduled on this day, has been **postponed** to November 11th due to difficulty in scheduling enough bike rentals for the month of October. Sign-ups for that will also be in the weekly email!

- **January 12th-15th: SnowBird!**

We know, we know, this isn't an October event. BUT. This month you DO need to decide whether you would like to join us on our January overnight retreat in Andrews, NC (for both middle school and high school). It will be a fun long weekend (there's no school Monday, no worries) at a Winter Camp! We will be doing all the fun camp activities including optional skiing/snowboarding! Spots fill up quick, meaning... **you have to sign up and put in a \$100 deposit by November 1st**. We will be planning a bake sale fundraiser this month for those who would like to raise money for their trip... details on that coming soon! We will continue to announce and send out details via email, so check those inboxes every Tuesday! Meanwhile, visit **swoutfitters.com** to find out more about the camp!

Are you:

Someone with questions?

A student who wants to get involved?

An adult who wants to volunteer on Sundays or for a special event?

Email us! alyssa@mooresvillefpc.org / courtneyr@mooresvillefpc.org

CALENDAR

SUNDAY

MONDAY

TUESDAY

WEDNESDAY

8:30 am Contemporary Worship 9:40 am Fellowship Time 10:00 am Contemporary Worship 10:00 am Sunday School 11:15 am Traditional Worship 5:00 pm MS PYF 7:00 pm HS PYF	9:30 am Lost & Found Bible Study 7:00 pm Scouts BSA Troop 1166-G 7:00 pm Scouts BSA Troop 166-B	6:00 pm Handbells Rehearsal 6:30 pm Cub Scouts	1:30 pm Prayer Meeting 4:30 pm Logos/MSM 5:15 pm Lost & Found Bible Study 5:30 pm WNT Dinner 6:00 pm Bible Study with Dave 6:15 pm PYF Supper Club 7:15 pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal
8:30 am Contemporary Worship 9:40 am Fellowship Time 10:00 am Contemporary Worship 10:00 am Sunday School 11:15 am Traditional Worship 5:00 pm MS PYF 7:00 pm HS PYF 7:00 pm Finance Committee	9:30 am Lost & Found Bible Study 2:00 pm Circle 1 7:00 pm Personnel Committee Meeting 7:00 pm Scouts BSA Troop 1166-G 7:00 pm Scouts BSA Troop 166-B	10:00 am Circle 4 Meeting 12:30 pm Circle 5 Meeting 6:00 pm Circle 3 Meeting 6:00 pm Handbells Rehearsal 6:30 pm Cub Scouts	Preschool Closed-Fall Break 1:30 pm Prayer Meeting 6:00 pm Lost & Found Bible Study 5:30 pm WNT Dinner 6:00 pm Bible Study with Dave 7:15 pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal
8:30 am Contemporary Worship 9:40 am Fellowship Time 10:00 am Contemporary Worship 10:00 am Sunday School 11:15 am Traditional Worship 12:30 pm Church Picnic-Bellingham Park 3:00 pm Prayer Shawl Team 5:00 pm MS PYF 7:00 pm HS PYF 7:00 pm Finance Committee	9:30 am Lost & Found Bible Study 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 Handbells Rehearsal 6:30 pm Cub Scouts	1:30 pm Prayer Meeting 4:30 pm Logos/MSM 6:00 pm Lost & Found Bible Study 5:30 pm WNT Dinner 6:00 pm Bible Study with Dave 6:15 pm PYF Supper Club 7:15 pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal
8:30 am Contemporary Worship 9:40 am Fellowship Time 10:00 am Contemporary Worship 10:00 am Sunday School 11:15 am Traditional Worship 5:00 pm MS PYF 6:30 pm Session Meeting 7:00 pm HS PYF	9:30 am Lost & Found Bible Study 2:00 pm Library Committee Meeting 7:00 pm Scouts BSA Troop 1166-G 7:00 pm Scouts BSA Troop 166-B	6:00 pm Handbells Rehearsal 6:00 pm Iranian Speaker 6:30 pm Cub Scouts	1:30 pm Prayer Meeting 4:30 pm Logos/MSM 6:00 pm Lost & Found Bible Study 5:30 pm WNT Dinner 6:00 pm Bible Study with Dave 6:15 pm PYF Supper Club 7:15 pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal
8:30 am Contemporary Worship 9:40 am Fellowship Time 10:00 am Contemporary Worship 10:00 am Sunday School 11:15 am Traditional Worship 6:00 pm Combined PYF Worship & Dinner in 143 Broad	Preschool Farm Day 7:00 pm Scouts BSA Troop 1166-G 7:00 pm Scouts BSA Troop 166-B	Preschool Farm Day 6:00 pm Handbells Rehearsal 6:30 pm Cub Scouts	

CALENDAR

THURSDAY

FRIDAY

SATURDAY

<p>5</p> <p>7:00 pm Discussion & Dessert 7:00 pm Praise Team Rehearsal</p>	<p>6</p> <p>9:30 pm HS PYF 5th Quarter</p>	<p>7</p> <p>7:15 am Men's Bible Study</p>
<p>12</p> <p>Preschool Closed- Fall Break 6:00 pm Worship & Music Committee Meeting 7:00 pm Praise Team Rehearsal</p>	<p>13</p> <p>Preschool Closed- Fall Break</p>	<p>14</p> <p>7:15 am Men's Bible Study Combined PYF Hiking Trip- Kings Mountain</p>
<p>19</p> <p>7:00 pm Praise Team Rehearsal</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</p>	<p>27</p>	<p>28</p> <p>7:15 am Men's Bible Study</p>

Birthdays:

10/1- Fred Coates, Angie Toma
10/2- Paul Manning, Paige Rider, Teresa Trimble
10/4- Luz Heilman, Daniel Moore, Judy Roach, Beth Sink
10/5- Robbie Pearson
10/6- Hans Pluer, Liz Rader, Kate Woods
10/7- Debbie Lackey, Camryn Stissel
10/8- Anne Baker
10/9- Scott Knutsen
10/10- Mark Childers, Beth Riefner
10/12- Laura Rumple
10/14- Liam Campbell, Don Copeland, Carson Schaen
10/15- Tina Brooks, Sarah Cook, Tony Ervin, Austin Russell, Ron Zanetti
10/16- Richard Hall, Shannon McIntosh, Bill Morrow, Ian Robb
10/17- Cadence Culbreth
10/18- Joanne Chaplinsky, Matthew Hutto
10/19- Brad Chappell, Tate Potts, Abigail Snodgrass
10/20- Stone Culler
10/23- Trenton Newell
10/24- Allyn Ramsey
10/25- Debby Zimmerman
10/26- Audry Harris, Michael Zwolinski
10/27- Jae Teeter
10/28- Jack Barrett, Justin Foulke, Jackson Trimble
10/30- Amelia Christman, Taylor Dickerson, Natalie Meehan
10/31- Carolyn Holhouser, Tracey Prochaska, Mike Toma

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

October 2023



ECO

A Covenant Order
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