

SEPTEMBER 2023

# first press

A MOORESVILLE FIRST PRESBYTERIAN PUBLICATION



THIS FALL! NEWS ON PRESCHOOL, PYF & MORE...

READ INSIDE: STAFF TRANSITIONS & THANK YOUS



# pastor's letter

**“Remember not the former things, nor consider the things of old. Behold, I am doing a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it? I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert.” – Isaiah 43:18-19**

Dear Church Family,

I have been very encouraged by the smooth transitions that have begun to take place in regards to church staffing. David Hamilton has accepted our offer as the new Director of Music and will begin this position on September 1st. A big thank you must go out to the personnel committee and search team. Please take the time to welcome David, his wife Amy, and their four children.

Courtney Rockness has accepted a temporary intern position to lead the Middle School PYF. She and Alyssa Deery, our High School PYF intern, will lead our youth, parents, and volunteers throughout the upcoming school year. Also, Melissa Foulke has agreed to serve as a part-time CE interim as we continue our search to replace Ellen Auten. Melissa will help support and coordinate Logos, Saints Alive, and the Sunday morning children's ministry.

Our church could easily push the pause button and wait for the arrival of new staff people. Instead, we are in a strong position to carry on our weekly ministries without skipping a beat due to resourcefulness, creativity, and the willingness to step out in faith and take a risk. Meanwhile, continue to keep our church in prayer as we seek to fill our open staff positions. The Lord has blessed us immensely in the past and we trust Him to continue to provide for us in these vital areas of ministry.

It continues to be an honor to serve alongside you folks in this church family!

Blessings in Christ,

*Pastor Dave Rockness*

# announcements



## Gift from Troop 166

All three church services are invited on Sunday, September 17th, to enjoy a FREE barbeque plate (pork, macaroni/cheese, & slaw) from Scout Troop 166 immediately following your respective service (8:30am, 10am, 11:15am). You can pick up a box from the Fellowship hall and take it home or you can wait until 12:15pm to enjoy a sit down lunch with the larger church family.

This is a gift from the Troop as a way of saying thank you to the church for supporting them. They will be on site with a smoker cooking, so be sure to express your gratitude to the group!



## Exciting Project

The town of Mooresville has approved a mural to be placed outside our church coffee shop (Performance Coffee House). Our own Courtney Rockness is heading up the project with her artwork.

## Support Preschool in the 2023 Normy Awards!

We are so honored to be a 2023 Normy Award Nominee for Best Preschool-Mooresville!! We would appreciate if you would take a moment to vote for us.

Go to **[www.lakenormanpublications.com](http://www.lakenormanpublications.com)** and click on the flashing banner "Click Here to Vote." We are number #91. Voting runs through September 22. Many thanks to our wonderful families for all of your love and support!





# thank you

Dear Church Family,

Many, many heartfelt thanks for honoring me with such a lovely retirement reception in August. I felt so honored, and I send thanks to all those who helped with the delicious food, beautiful decorations, and planning. I thoroughly enjoyed visiting with so many friends, and appreciate your taking time to express your well wishes to me on the occasion of my retirement. It added so much to the joy of my retirement, and I sincerely appreciate the opportunity to visit with everyone. I will always treasure that special occasion.

Thank you also to Harry Weyer and Rebecca Auten for gathering so many wonderful memories from the past 24 years in a slide show and scrapbook. They are wonderful collections of many treasured memories and people, and I appreciate the time both of you took to create a lasting memory.

And thank you for the generous love offering that was presented to me on August 13. I am humbled and grateful for your kindness, and express my deepest appreciation for such a loving gift.

It has been an honor and a privilege to serve as the DCE at Mooresville First Presbyterian for the past 24 years, and I look forward to continuing to serve alongside you in retirement. Thank you for your support and encouragement through the years.

God Bless You,

*Ellen Auten*

# youth ministry



## PYF Updates

In August, PYF, our program for teens 6th-12th grade, held our annual Back-To-School Bash! Complete with a delicious cook-out, an exciting game of Slip & Slide kickball, and an encouraging devotional for the upcoming school year, this event was an absolute blast!

As always, we want to give a big THANK YOU to all of our parents and volunteers for helping to make this happen- we could not do it without you! A huge shout-out as well to the Mooresville Fire Department for providing the water for our Slip & Slides. And of course, thank you to our students! You guys always bring the energy, fun, and new friends! We are so excited for what this year holds.

That said, youth group is officially back in full swing this fall with some fun new events and returning programs!

As we go into September, we will continue our usual Sunday night gatherings. Note that we will not meet Sunday, September 3rd (Labor Day Weekend), but after that, programs will resume as usual. Middle School (6th-8th grade) meets from 5pm-6:30pm and High School (9th-12th grade) meets 7pm-8:30pm in the fellowship hall.

We have been working hard to make this year a blast, so also note the returning programs and some new events coming to PYF this fall!

- **Returning: Supper Club!** PYF is once again starting our mid-week program which was once a long-held tradition. Each Wednesday our high school group will meet at the church at 6:15pm, go out to dinner at a local restaurant together, and then return for a brief lesson. It's a great time of fellowship and outreach to friends who have never been to PYF and want an easy way to get involved! This will kick off on Wednesday, September 6th.
- **New: Once-a-month Combined PYF Worship & Dinner!** The last Sunday PYF of each month will be a combined middle/high school group gathering in 143 Broad from 6pm-8pm. Volunteers will provide a meal, and then students will partake in student-led worship, Scripture readings, and testimonials. This will be a great way for students to own and share their faith as well as to step up into various leadership roles. The first will be on Sunday, September 24th.

# youth ministry

- **Returning: Fall Friday (or Saturday) Events!** Be on the lookout for this year's fun fall events! We will hand out calendars and communicate details as these events approach, as some require reservations and adult volunteers for driving if they are off campus. This month, look forward to our Middle School Game Night (Friday Sept 15th) or our High School Scarrigans Trip (Saturday Sept 30th)! Sign ups will open up soon.

As always, thank you to students for your eager participation and leadership, and to parents for your constant support of this program in so many different ways. We always love seeing new faces, so if you've never been part of PYF or have friends you would like to bring, please do! It's going to be a great year!

Blessings in Christ,

Alyssa Deery (alyssa@moorevillefpc.org)  
Courtney Rockness (courtneyr@moorevillefpc.org)

**WANT TO STAY EVEN MORE UP TO DATE? FOLLOW OUR INSTAGRAM!**  
**@fpc.pyfmooreville**

Hello Church Family,

Alyssa, here! I come to tell you some exciting news. Courtney Rockness is joining the internship team with me and will be heading up middle school youth group. I am beyond excited about this transition. If my math is correct, I have been given the honor to know her and be her friend for the past nine years. I was able to meet Courtney when the Rockness' first moved up to Mooresville. We ran on the cross country team together and along with Cassandra, we all became best friends and had a great high school experience with one another.

Courtney loves God, is kind, confident, considerate, silly, and so creative. Her gifts and talents will be a great addition to youth group. Taking into consideration that everyone knows and loves her already, she will be a great asset to the success of youth group this upcoming school year. I am blessed by her spirit as a friend and will be even more blessed to work alongside her. We are both beyond excited and thank you all for your support as we navigate this new school year. Please keep us and the youth in your prayers.

Joyfully,

*Alyssa Deery*

# music ministry

## **New Music Director**

Our new Director of Music, David Hamilton, joined the First Presbyterian staff family on Friday, September 1. Please welcome David and his family as you participate in the music ministry in one of our choirs or raising your voice in song on Sunday mornings.

David's career in music began at The North Carolina School of the Arts in Winston-Salem where he received his high school diploma in Voice Performance. He continued his education at the University of North Carolina at Greensboro receiving a Bachelor of Music in Voice Performance. At the Boston Conservatory, he received a Master of Music in Voice Performance and was a member of Pi Kappa Lambda.

David's professional career includes teaching in both public and private schools as well as the college level. He has most recently served as Music Director at one of our ECO churches. He has worked with Pre-K through high school age children. His performance career has varied—performing in operas as well as presenting recitals in different venues. He's also been featured in Oratorio solos in different churches on the east coast. David has served in apprenticeships at Sarasota Opera and Opera Carolina and four other sites. To acknowledge his talent, David has received awards for his performance:

- The Ron & Charlotte Payne Award from the Metropolitan Opera National Council
- First Place from the National Association of Teachers of Singing in Finger Lakes
- First Place from the Music Teachers National Association

Join us in welcoming David to First Presbyterian Church!



# preschool

## Start of the School Year

Our Sneak-A-Peek Orientation got us back in the school spirit! We love hearing all the children back in our preschool hallways. 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!

## Openings

If you know anyone looking for a preschool, please have them email [tracey@moorevillefpc.org](mailto:tracey@moorevillefpc.org). We have a few openings in MWF 2 year old program, our 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 4th & 5th for Labor Day. We hope everyone has some wonderful family time!



## Support Preschool in the 2023 Normy Awards!

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Go to [www.lakenormanpublications.com](http://www.lakenormanpublications.com) and click on the flashing banner "Click Here to Vote." We are number #91. Voting runs through September 22. Many thanks to our wonderful families for all of your love and support!

## Upcoming Events

September 4th & 5th: Preschool Closed for Labor Day Break  
September 11th & 12th: Chapel with Pastor Dave  
September 14th & 15th: Picture Days  
September 19th & 20th: Fire Drills  
September 21st & 22nd: Fire Safety Days  
September 25th: Library with Ms. Crystal  
September 28th & 29th: Original Works Art Fundraiser Packages Sent Home



# CALENDAR

SUNDAY

MONDAY

TUESDAY

WEDNESDAY

<p>3</p> <p>8:30 am Contemporary Worship</p> <p>9:40 am Fellowship Time</p> <p>10:00 am Contemporary Worship</p> <p>10:00 am Sunday School</p> <p>11:15 am Traditional Worship</p> <p>NO PYF</p>	<p>4</p> <p>Office &amp; Preschool Closed- Labor Day</p> <p>7:00 pm Scouts BSA Troop 1166-G</p> <p>7:00 pm Scouts BSA Troop 166-B</p>	<p>5</p> <p>Preschool Closed- Labor Day Break</p> <p>6:00 pm MCM Circles</p> <p>6:30 pm Cub Scouts</p>	<p>6</p> <p>1:30 pm Prayer Meeting</p> <p>4:30 pm Logos Begins</p> <p>6:15 pm HS PYF Supper Club (Chick-fil-A)</p>
<p>10</p> <p>8:30 am Contemporary Worship</p> <p>9:40 am Fellowship Time</p> <p>10:00 am Contemporary Worship</p> <p>10:00 am Sunday School</p> <p>11:15 am Traditional Worship</p> <p>5:00 pm MS PYF</p> <p>7:00 pm HS PYF</p> <p>7:00 pm Finance Committee</p>	<p>11</p> <p>2:00 pm Circle 1</p> <p>7:00 pm Personnel Committee</p> <p>7:00 pm Scouts BSA Troop 1166-G</p> <p>7:00 pm Scouts BSA Troop 166-B</p>	<p>12</p> <p>10:00 am Circle 4 Meeting</p> <p>6:00 pm Circle 3 Meeting</p> <p>6:00 pm MCM Circles</p> <p>6:30 pm Cub Scouts</p>	<p>13</p> <p>1:30 pm Prayer Meeting</p> <p>4:30 pm Logos</p> <p>6:15 pm HS PYF Supper Club (Barcelona)</p>
<p>17</p> <p>8:30 am Contemporary Worship</p> <p>9:40 am Fellowship Time</p> <p>10:00 am Contemporary Worship</p> <p>10:00 am Sunday School</p> <p>11:15 am Traditional Worship</p> <p>12:15 pm Troop 166 BBQ</p> <p>3:00 pm Prayer Shawl Team</p> <p>5:00 pm MS PYF</p> <p>7:00 pm HS PYF</p>	<p>18</p> <p>7:00 pm Scouts BSA Troop 1166-G</p> <p>7:00 pm Scouts BSA Troop 166-B</p>	<p>19</p> <p>12:30 pm Saint's Alive Luncheon</p> <p>6:00 pm MCM Circles</p> <p>6:30 pm Cub Scouts</p>	<p>20</p> <p>1:30 pm Prayer Meeting</p> <p>4:30 pm Logos</p> <p>6:15 pm HS PYF Supper Club (Moe's)</p>
<p>24</p> <p>8:30 am Contemporary Worship</p> <p>9:40 am Fellowship Time</p> <p>10:00 am Contemporary Worship</p> <p>10:00 am Sunday School</p> <p>11:15 am Traditional Worship</p> <p>6:00 pm Combined PYF</p> <p>Worship &amp; Dinner in 143 Broad</p> <p>6:30 pm Session Meeting</p>	<p>25</p> <p>2:00 pm Library Committee Meeting</p> <p>7:00 pm Scouts BSA Troop 1166-G</p> <p>7:00 pm Scouts BSA Troop 166-B</p>	<p>26</p> <p>6:00 pm MCM Circles</p> <p>6:30 pm Cub Scouts</p>	<p>27</p> <p>1:30 pm Prayer Meeting</p> <p>4:30 pm Logos</p> <p>6:15 pm HS PYF Supper Club (Showmars)</p>

# CALENDAR

THURSDAY

FRIDAY

SATURDAY

	1	2 7:15 am Men's Bible Study
7 7:00 pm Praise Team Rehearsal	8	9 7:15 am Men's Bible Study
14 Preschool Picture Day 6:00 pm Worship & Music Committee Meeting 7:00 pm Praise Team Rehearsal	15 Preschool Picture Day 7:00 pm MS PYF Game Night (fellowship hall)	16 7:15 am Men's Bible Study
21 7:00 pm Praise Team Rehearsal	22	23 7:15 am Men's Bible Study
28 7:00 pm Praise Team Rehearsal	29	30 7:15 am Men's Bible Study 7:00 pm HS PYF Scarrigans Trip

## Birthdays:

**9/1-** Noah Fleming, Bill Lackey  
**9/4-** Rachel Van Harn  
**9/5-** Ashley Norton  
**9/6-** Walter Morgan  
**9/7-** Courtney Rockness  
**9/9-** Joshua McClure  
**9/10-** Bella James, Jimmy Pearce  
**9/11-** John Donelson, Sue Stevens  
**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, Shelley Rhyne  
**9/18-** Esther Kann, Reed Parker  
**9/20-** Steve Abernathy, Gene Vaughan, Curt Will  
**9/22-** Whitfield Brawley, Amelia Rider  
**9/23-** Angie Copeland, Pat Culberson, Trish Glad, Jodi Rockness, Jordan Sledge, Logan Foulke, 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

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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](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

September 2023



## ECO

A Covenant Order  
of Evangelical  
Presbyterians