

FIRST PRESS

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First Presbyterian Church, Fayetteville N.C.



WHAT'S INSIDE:

Dr. Garrett's Fantastic Send Off • A Message from Stewardship
Summer Mission Conference Sign Ups • Back-to-School Blessing
The Church Directory Info • Congregational Photo Ordering
H3 F's July 4th Celebration Pictures • Carolina Sound Concert Info
Bash at the Pool for Families • Nursery Book Donation Drive

THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN IS LIKE...

*From that time Jesus began to proclaim,
"Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near." Matthew 4:17*

The Greek word for 'repent' means far more than 'be sorry for your sins and stop doing bad things.' Unfortunately, no single English word conveys the full meaning of the original Greek. In the verse quoted above, Jesus is basically saying, "Adopt a new way of thinking, because the reign of God has come near." But this change in thinking is more than a new intellectual understanding; it is an inward transformation that leads to an outward change in living. We often say that Jesus saves us from our sins, but what kind of life is God saving us to? The simple answer is: A life where God is in charge. Certainly, this is a life that leads to living eternally with God in heaven, but eternal life begins in the here and now because "the kingdom of heaven has come near."

From August through November, I will mostly be preaching from the Gospel of Matthew, picking up the sermon series Mike began in June. Life fully lived in God's kingdom and under God's reign—this is the primary message Jesus teaches with his words and actions in Matthew. In August, I will preach three sermons based on parables in Chapter 13, each of which teaches a different aspect of the kingdom of God. My fourth sermon in August calls for the inward transformation required in repenting towards God's kingdom. I hope you will be in worship as often as you can this month, as we continue the journey together toward God's kingdom. A full list of my August scripture readings can be found in our FPC app. Click on "Dr. Cagle's August Scriptures".

As I have mentioned to many of you, it takes me a while to connect names and faces, but there is one way you can help. Our church has a wonderful digital church directory, but we need more members to post a picture. It would help me so much to see your face or the faces of your family on our Instant Church Directory. Here are two ways to post your picture: log into your Instant Church Director account, click on "Edit My Info" and upload a family photo, or email your photo to Elisabeth Pait at adminasst@firstprez.com

Finally, I hope to see you at our summer Mission Conference, August 12 through 16. Craig Morrison of Operation In As Much will preach on the 16th. On August 23, come hear Carolina Sound in Concert at 4:00 pm, and they will also sing in the 11 a.m. worship service. Read further in this newsletter, see our Sunday bulletin, or visit firstprez.com for more information.

In Christ's Service,
David
Transitional Pastor



A Message from Stewardship

In **2 Corinthians 8:11–12**, *"Now finish the work, so that your eager willingness to do it may be matched by your completion of it, according to your means. For if the willingness is there, the gift is acceptable according to what one has, not according to what one does not have."*

Paul reminds us that God values our willingness to serve more than the size of our gift. He asks us to give according to what we have, not what we wish we had. This applies to not only our finances but our talents that can be shared to grow and serve others as well.

Each of us has been blessed with unique talents and abilities that can strengthen our church and bless others. Whether you enjoy teaching, singing, welcoming guests, preparing meals, working behind the scenes, or simply offering a helping hand, your gifts matter. No act of service is too small when it is offered with a willing heart.

Our church is made stronger when everyone shares the gifts God has entrusted to them. If you've been looking for a way to become more involved, we encourage you to prayerfully consider where God may be leading you to serve.

Thank you to everyone who faithfully volunteers. Your time, talents, and love reflect Christ's in us and helps our church continue His work in our community.

No matter what the organization is, the main reason that people do not participate or give is that they have never been asked.

CONSIDER THIS US ASKING.



SIGN UP, LOG IN & STAY CONNECTED THE FIRST PREZ CHURCH DIRECTORY

MOBILE APP DOWNLOAD & LOGIN INSTRUCTIONS

1. Download the App

• **iPhone, iPad and any iOS -**

Download the App from the App Store.
Search for "Instant Church Directory".

• **Android Devices -** Download the App from the Play Store.

Search for "Instant Church Directory".

2. Open the app. Click on "Create Login".

3. Enter the email address you have previously provided the church office.

4. Create a secure password. The password must be 8 characters long and contain at least two of the following special characters:
capital letters, numbers or symbols.

5. Retype your password to confirm.

6. Check your inbox for an email from service@instantchurchdirectory.com

7. To complete the sign-up process, you will need to verify your email address by clicking on the link sent to you in that email.

8. Once you confirm your email, close the browser window and go back to the App. Click on "Sign In" to sign into your church's directory using your email and password.

Mobile Users:

Look for
this icon!



PREVIOUSLY SIGNED INTO THE DIRECTORY?

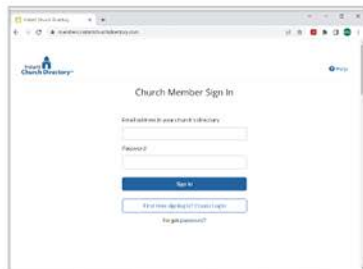
1. Open the app and click on the Sign In button.

2. Enter your email address that is used in your church's directory and your personal member password.

3. Click on the Sign In button. *If you do not remember your personal member password, click on the **Forgot Password?** link to receive a link to your email to reset your password.*

ONLINE MEMBER DIRECTORY LOGIN INSTRUCTIONS

First time signing into the *Online Directory's* website?



1. Go to members.instantchurchdirectory.com
2. Click on the Create Login button under:
First time signing in?
3. Enter the email address you have previously provided the church office.
4. Create a secure password. The password must be 8 characters long and contain at least two of the following special characters:
capital letters, numbers or symbols.
5. Retype the password to confirm it and click Request Login.
6. Check your inbox for an email from service@instantchurchdirectory.com.
7. To complete the sign-up process, you will need to verify your email address by clicking on the link sent to you in that email.
8. Once you confirm your email, you may sign at the website:
members.instantchurchdirectory.com

For more information and videos on how to download the app, log in, use the app, request an update to your information in the directory, change your password and a short cut to log into the website visit:
www.firstprez.com/churchdirectory

If you did not sign up for the Church Directory and you would like access, or if you need additional help, please contact Nichole at nichole@firstprez.com or Elisabeth at adminasst@firstprez.com

You've asked and now is your chance!
**Order your copy of the
225th Anniversary Congregational Photo**
8" x 10" Glossy Photo

Proceeds will benefit FPC's Local Relief Ministry!

\$10 (cash/check) or \$11 (online payment)

+ \$1 postage if you would like your photo mailed

Order online at bit.ly/FPCPhoto or scan the QR Code.

Order in person. Pick up an order form from Eller Hall.

Scan Me





If you're a fan of the rich vocal harmonies of Pentatonix or the energy of the Pitch Perfect films, you won't want to miss this special performance.

Award-winning collegiate a cappella ensemble **Carolina Sound** will visit First Presbyterian Church on Sunday, August 23. The group will share music during the 11:00 a.m. worship service before presenting a full concert at 4:00 p.m. in the sanctuary. **Invite your family, friends, and neighbors to experience an afternoon of exceptional music and inspiring artistry.**

Based at the University of Mount Olive in eastern North Carolina, Carolina Sound is made up of talented students selected for their outstanding vocal ability and musicianship. In April 2026, the ensemble earned third place at the International Championship of Collegiate A Cappella (ICCA) National Finals in New York City.

Directed by Lester and Holly Rector, the group is committed to sharing outstanding music while representing the University of Mount Olive. Before leading Carolina Sound, the Rectors performed with Walt Disney World's renowned Voices of Liberty, bringing years of professional performance experience to the ensemble.

Carolina Sound performs a wide variety of music, including pop, gospel, jazz, and timeless favorites. Their polished arrangements, impressive vocal percussion, and beautifully blended harmonies demonstrate the remarkable possibilities of a cappella performance. Every concert is designed not only to entertain but also to connect with audiences through meaningful, memorable music.

Whether performing in churches, concert halls, or community venues, Carolina Sound consistently leaves audiences inspired by the power and beauty of the human voice.

Join us as we celebrate the beginning of a new school year with this outstanding concert on Sunday, August 23, at 4:00 p.m. **We look forward to sharing this unforgettable musical experience with you!**

Celebrating the Career & Retirement of Dr. Mike Garrett





Thank you to everyone who helped plan and bring to life Dr. Garrett's retirement celebration. The event was a tremendous success and a fitting tribute to a career that has positively impacted so many people. A special thank you to our speakers, Dr. David Cagle, Bud Lafferty, and Bill McFadyen, whose heartfelt remarks perfectly captured the essence of Dr. Garrett's outstanding career and remarkable character. We are grateful to everyone who contributed to making this well-deserved celebration so memorable.



H³ F 4th of July Celebration

Celebrating freedom, friendship,
and sharing a star-spangled spread of delicious food!





LET YOUR LIGHT SHINE!



2026 SUMMER MISSION CONFERENCE

AUGUST 12 - 16

And if you spend yourselves in behalf of the hungry
and satisfy the needs of the oppressed,
then your light will rise in the darkness,
and your night become like the noonday.
Isaiah 58:10

Wednesday, August 12 - 5:30 to 8 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall

Seeing Our Neighbors Clearly:

A Conversation about Poverty, Dignity, and Compassion.

You are invited to join us for a discussion on Poverty lead by members of our Local Relief Team focusing on how we define poverty, who is affected, and what are some of the root causes.

Scan Me

A light dinner will be provided for attendees.

Space is limited, so advance registration is required.

Register online at bit.ly/FPCNeighbors or scan the QR code.

Need help registering? Call the church office.

If registration is full, email Terry Plummer at plummer.terry57@gmail.com to be added to the waitlist.

Saturday, August 15 - 9 a.m. to Noon

Come join us for a morning of hands-on mission activities and fellowship for all ages. We will be packing a variety of kits to provide for our community partners who serve those in need. There will also be information tables available where you can learn more about our outreach in Haiti, Mexico, Cuba, and locally.

The morning will begin with coffee, juice, and refreshments. We will also have the opportunity to meet Ivan Pride, the Executive Director of Myrover Reese Recovery Homes, along with some of his staff.

Sunday August 16

9 a.m. - Worship with guest speaker Rev. Craig Morrison in the Chapel

10 a.m. - Presentation in the Chapel by Ivan Pride, Executive Director of Myrover Reese Recovery Homes.

11 a.m. - Worship with guest speaker Rev. Craig Morrison in the Sanctuary

Following the 11 a.m. service, join us in the Fellowship Hall for our annual

Hot Dog and Ice Cream Social

hosted by members of your Mission Committee.

Let us know you're coming to the Hot Dog & Ice Cream Social!

Register online at bit.ly/FPCIcecream or scan the QR Code.

Can't register online? Call the church office.



Scan Me





Together We Can **LAUNCH** Brighter Futures at Walker Spivey Elementary

Local Relief Ministry is collecting school supplies for Walker Spivey Elementary School to support students and teachers as they begin the new year. If you'd like to help, please drop off donations in Eller Hall.

Your generosity makes a real difference for our community.

Monetary donations can be dropped off at the church office. Please note "Local Relief Ministry" on checks or envelopes.

Student Supply List:

- | | |
|---|---|
| ☐ Composition Notebooks | ☐ Pencils |
| ☐ Spiral Notebooks | ☐ Highlighters |
| ☐ Three Ring Pocket Folder | ☐ 24 Count Crayons |
| ☐ Plastic Pocket Folders | ☐ Expo Dry Erase Markers |
| ☐ Index Cards | ☐ Expo Dry Erase Cleaner |
| ☐ Sticky Notes | ☐ Colored Pencils |
| ☐ Ziploc Bags | ☐ Jumbo/Large Erasers |
| ☐ Gallon | ☐ Pencil Pouch (no boxes) |
| ☐ Half Gallon | ☐ Scissors |
| ☐ Quart | ☐ Glue Sticks |
| ☐ Pint | ☐ Headphones |
| ☐ Back Pack | ☐ Kleenex/Tissues |
| ☐ Reuseable Water Bottle | ☐ Clorox Wipes |
| ☐ Germ-X (Hand Sanitizing Wipes) | ☐ Pocket Folders (with & without prongs) |
| ☐ Binder 1/2 inch (with clear front cover) | ☐ Binder 1 inch (with clear front cover) |
| ☐ Notebook Paper (wide & college rule) | |

Teacher Wish List:

- | | | |
|---|--|--|
| ☐ Tissues | ☐ Dry Erase Markers | ☐ Label Maker |
| ☐ Hand Sanitizer | ☐ Pre Sharpened Pencils | ☐ Multi-colored Pens |
| ☐ Paper Towels | ☐ Sticky Notes | ☐ Band Aids & Ointment |
| ☐ Clear Tape | ☐ Disinfectant Wipes | ☐ Heavy Duty Stapler & Staples |
| ☐ Glue Sticks | ☐ Stackable Paper Trays | ☐ Non-Perishable Wrapped Snacks |



A Smart Way to Give

Shop these Amazon wish lists, and send your donation directly to the church.



Student List

Scan the above QR Code or visit bit.ly/LRMStudent for the Student Supply List.



Teacher List

Scan the above QR Code or visit bit.ly/LRMTeacher for the Teacher Wish List.



BACK-TO-SCHOOL BLESSING

Sunday, August 23



10 a.m. - Sunday School

Children will create special crafts for their teachers during Sunday School.

11 a.m. - Worship Service

Join us for a Back-to-School Blessing for students (children and youth), teachers, and administrators as we launch a new school year together.

Bring your backpack, briefcase, or tote bag with you. During the service, you'll be invited forward for a special prayer and blessing.

Special Music during worship:

The acclaimed Carolina Sound a cappella ensemble will also share their incredible music during worship!

After Worship:

Cool off and celebrate
with Italian Ice from Sunset Slush!



4 p.m. - Carolina Sound in Concert

Looking for a fun family outing before the school year gets into full swing? **Don't miss this exciting concert by Carolina Sound, the award-winning a cappella ensemble from the University of Mount Olive.**

Kids, teens, parents, and grandparents alike will love the energy, creativity, and amazing vocal talent of this group. With contemporary favorites, upbeat arrangements, and music made using only their voices, Carolina Sound delivers a show that keeps audiences of all ages entertained from beginning to end.

Bring the whole family and enjoy an afternoon of unforgettable music together. Invite your friends and neighbors!

Admission is free, and everyone is welcome!

END OF SUMMER BASH AT THE



**Pool &
splash pad**
with lifeguards on duty

Pizza, popcorn, watermelon & lemonade
Bring your swimsuit, towel & sunscreen!

Wednesday, August 12
5 to 7:30 p.m.
at Highland Country Club
Family fun before school starts.

*Bring a friend
& make a splash!*

RSVP TODAY

For more info
and to register, visit
bit.ly/FPCPoolParty
or scan the QR Code.



Scan Me

SAVE THE DATE!

Sunday, September 13 is Fall Kick-Off!
Pancake Breakfast • Unified Worship Service at 11 a.m.
Kingdom Kidz & S.U.R.G.E. return

Children's Book Donation Drive

Help us build a wonderful library for our church nursery! We are seeking donations of gently used or new hardback children's books and read-aloud books to share with our youngest members. Religious and Bible-themed books are especially appreciated, but any age-appropriate children's books are welcome.

Please drop off book donations in Eller Hall.

If you would prefer to support this effort with a monetary donation to help purchase new books, we would be grateful for your generosity.

Thank you for helping us create a warm, faith-filled reading space where our little ones can discover the joy of reading and grow in God's love!



August Birthdays

1 Emily Firth	17 Skyler Campbell
1 Bella Gutierrez	18 Julia McFadyen
2 Alex Hammill	19 Bill Hathaway
2 Alan Ray	19 Jackson McBryde
3 Brooke Deaton	20 Mary Beth McCoy
3 Tad Prewitt	20 Terry Plummer
4 Amanda Viverette	20 Austin Taylor
5 Pamela Chan	21 Chris Aul
5 David Datkuliak	21 Serriah Ciccone
5 Madison Spivey	21 Roger Holmes
6 Connor Barnes	21 Gerald Montero
6 Will Cotty	22 Marilyn Britt
7 Jim Crenshaw	22 Amanda Holmes
7 Chris Foster	22 Scarlett Johnson
7 Pat McNeill	22 Mary Kelly Smith
7 Casey Yates	23 Kelly Baileys
8 Crawford MacKethan	23 Terry Sasser
9 Lilly Deaton	24 Steve Horosko
9 Claire Galt	24 Clayton Kaminska, Jr.
10 Andy Napoli	26 Jeanne Harbison
10 Grant Stiles	26 Mary Spires
11 Chris Megill	27 Art Bisbee
12 David Allred	27 Randa Dunn
12 Kyle Bisbee	27 Lilly MacKethan
12 Jordan Brown	28 Ashley Baltz
12 Richard Sneed	28 Bruce Carlton
14 Buddy Wilkins	28 Vicki Kelly
14 Joshua Wright	29 Olaira Birk
15 Al Cromartie	29 Tyler Blue
16 Sandra Herndon	30 Shannon Strong
16 Lauren Holmes	31 Dilia Martins
16 Sean Kelly	31 Beverly Stewart
16 Donald Wherren	

UPCOMING EVENTS

- Aug 3 • Mission Committee Meeting
- Aug 4 • S.A.L.T. Breakfast at JK's
- Worship Committee Meeting
- Aug 6 • Engagement Committee
- Aug 9 • Stephen Ministry Meeting
- Aug 10 • Christian Education Meeting
- Aug 11 • Stated Deacons Meeting
- Aug 12 • Family Pool Party
- Aug 12 - 16 • Summer Mission Conference
- Aug 17 • WOC Planning Meeting
- Personnel Committee Meeting
- Aug 18 • Finance Committee Meeting
- Stated Session Meeting
- Aug 23 • Back-to-School Blessing
- Carolina Sound Concert
- Aug 24 • David's Mighty Men
- Aug 25 • COAP Meeting
- Sep 1 • S.A.L.T. Breakfast at JK's
- Worship Committee Meeting
- Sep 3 • Engagement Committee Meeting
- Sep 7 • H3 F Birthday Bash
- Sep 8 • Martha Circle
- Sep 10 • Hannah Circle
- Sep 13 • Fall Kick-Off
- Kingdom Kidz & S.U.R.G.E. begin

Memorials

Stacy Grooms

Sammy & Carol Short

George Thomas

Anna Searcy

Carol Williams

Martha Circle

Delores Breswitz

Julia Carter

Gillie Revelle