

FIRST PRESS

VOLUME 38 | ISSUE 1 | JANUARY 2026

First Presbyterian Church, Fayetteville N.C.



UPCOMING EVENTS

- | | | | |
|--------|--|-----------|--|
| Jan 5 | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Engagement Committee• Mission Committee• Food Service Committee | Jan 16-19 | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Youth Ski Trip |
| Jan 6 | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• S.A.L.T. Breakfast at JK's Deli• Worship Committee | Jan 17 | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Creation rehearsal |
| Jan 7 | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• All In Fellowship Meals resume• Adult CE Class resumes | Jan 19 | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Church Office closed• Personnel Committee |
| Jan 8 | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Hannah Circle• Upwards Winter Pickleball begins• Men of God• Tapestry resumes | Jan 20 | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• S.A.L.T. Lunch at Sammios• 2026 Mission Conference Committee• Stated Session Meeting |
| Jan 11 | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Crossing Thresholds Sunday• New Officer Installation• MomCo Meeting | Jan 25 | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• MomCo Meeting• Annual Meeting of the Congregation• Women's Ensemble |
| Jan 12 | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Message Seekers• CE Committee | Jan 26 | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Forty Days of Prayer begins• David's Mighty Men |
| Jan 13 | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Martha Circle• Stated Deacons Meeting | Jan 27 | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• COAP Meeting (Zoom) |
| Jan 14 | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Stretch & Scripture | Jan 31 | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Creation Rehearsal |
| | | Feb 8 | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Stephen Ministry Meeting |
| | | Feb 10 | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Stated Deacons Meeting |
| | | Feb 24 | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• S.A.L.T. trip to NC Museum of Art |
| | | Feb 28 | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Ash Wednesday |

CONNECT WITH US:  @1stPrez  @firstprezfay  The First Prez App

A PASTORAL MESSAGE

from Dr. Mike Garrett

CROSSING THRESHOLDS

Welcome to the new year! Crossing the threshold from one year to the next isn't magic, but it comes with the opportunity to once again place our lives firmly in God's hands. Some things will continue pretty much as they have been. Some things will come as God's amazing and divine surprise.

What is true for each of us is also true for our church. I'm inviting our congregation to place ourselves firmly in God's good hands as we begin a shared opportunity called "Crossing Thresholds". The time has come to ask God to help us imagine new visions for the future of our church and discern what the Spirit is saying to us in these days.

Please mark your calendar right now for Sunday, January 11th. That day our congregation will be commissioned to begin "Crossing Thresholds." Our preacher for both services and consultant guide during the months to come will be Rev. Mark Tidsworth, President of Pinnacle Leadership Associates. We are asking you to return to the fellowship hall at 4:30 pm that afternoon as Mark gives us a congregation-wide introduction to the process. You will also meet our congregation's leadership team. At 5:45 pm we'll have dinner together and conclude by 6:30 pm.

We will have many opportunities for involvement in coming months. We'll begin an emphasis in January called "40 Days of Prayer" to get our hearts and minds in the right place to do this important work. Much more will be shared on January 11, so please make every effort to be present that Sunday.

We stand on the edge of something new. A little anxiety is normal! But we should allow hope to fill our hearts and guide our steps. I look forward to taking this journey with you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Mike".

CROSSING THRESHOLDS

Visioning Journey

Sunday, January 11

After months of planning, we are so eager to launch our congregational visioning process on January 11. This process will result in discernment of our collective aspirations as a church for the next season of life and ministry, while also equipping our Pastor Nominating Committee for searching for our next Senior Pastor. After months of planning and preparation, Launch Sunday moves us into the Visioning Journey proper with the two following events.

Morning Worship

During worship, we will be collectively commissioned to engage the Crossing Thresholds Visioning Journey. Rev. Mark Tidsworth, our visioning consultant, will bring the sermon, launching us forward into a season of dreaming dreams and spiritual imagination. In a very fitting way, we are also ordaining and commissioning our Elders and Deacons for 2026 on Launch Sunday.

Crossing Thresholds Launch Banquet, 4:45 to 6:30 p.m.

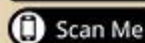
Our Crossing Thresholds Coordination Team invites our church to this Launch Event, featuring:

- An overview of the Crossing Thresholds Visioning Journey with visioning consultant Rev. Mark Tidsworth. Mark will describe each step in the journey, informing our congregation on how we can participate in shaping our future vision.
- An engagement activity around church identity. Rev. Tidsworth will facilitate an opportunity for us to clarify and embrace our identity as FPC of Fayetteville. ***We need your voice for this activity to be aligned with who we are as a church.***
- Receive your copy of Crossing Thresholds Prayer Guide, along with guidance on how to participate in our Forty Days of Prayer, January 26-March 12. Also, we will learn how worship and small groups will work with our Forty Days of Prayer to strengthen our spiritual growth and visioning.



For planning purposes, please register for the Crossing Thresholds Launch Banquet.

You may register online at bit.ly/FPCCrossing or by scanning the QR code. For assistance, please contact the church office.



Adult Christian Education Class

with Dr. Garrett

beginning Wednesday, January 7 at 6:30 p.m.

The Scripture Practice

a 4 week video & discussion series

The library we call "the Bible" can connect us to God and change who we are, but distraction, hurry, and confusion can hinder our experience with these ancient texts. Rediscover how to engage Scripture as an apprentice to Jesus.



ALL IN FELLOWSHIP MEALS

with potluck sides, family & friends.

The church will provide the main entree. You can bring a salad, side, dessert or bread that will serve 8 to 10 people or pay \$8 per adult (age 13+) and \$3 per child (age 5-12). The meal cap is \$20 per family. Childcare available upon request—contact Wanda (wanda@firstprez.com) no later than the Sunday prior. **Vegan & Gluten-Free options are available!**



January 7

January 7 - Spaghetti from Sammio's

For planning purposes, please register online by 12 pm on January 6 at bit.ly/AIFJan7 or scan the QR Code.

January 14 - Baked Chicken

with dressing & gravy from Kinlaws

For planning purposes, please register online by 12 p.m. on January 13 at bit.ly/AIFJan14 or scan the QR Code.



January 14



January 21

January 21 - Stewed Beef, Rice & Gravy from Kinlaws

For planning purposes, please register online by 12 p.m. on January 20 at bit.ly/AIFJan21 or scan the QR Code.

January 28 - Tacos (Chicken, Beef & Beans) from Moe's

For planning purposes, please register online by 12 p.m. on January 27 at bit.ly/AIFJan28 or scan the QR Code.



January 28

Stretch & Scripture resumes January 14!

Meeting the 2nd & 4th Wednesdays

at 6:30 p.m. in room 225

Classes are open to youth (6th grade and up) as well as adults, with a focus on exercising the body, mind, and spirit by integrating Scripture and Christian music with low-impact aerobics and gentle stretching. The class may include elements of floorwork and breathwork, creating a sense of peace and centering on Christ.

Participants are encouraged to bring a towel/yoga mat and yoga blocks.





A First Prez Night out to see
The Best Christmas Pageant Ever
at Cape Fear Regional Theatre



Christmas Eve



FUN AT SEGRA STADIUM
A NIGHT OF CAROLING & HOLIDAY JOY



Kingdom Kidz Calendar

Jan. 4 – Bible Olympics

Jan. 11

Jan. 18 – Do Not Meet

Jan. 25

Feb. 1

Feb. 8

Feb. 15 – Extended Care 4 to 7 PM

Parents Night Out!

Feb. 22 – Children's Sunday Rehearsal



**Children will sing during
11 a.m. worship:**

- February 1
- March 1 – Children's Sunday
- March 29 – Palm Sunday Celebration

KINGDOM KIDZ BIBLE CLASS

Preschool & Kindergarten:

Our Preschool and Kindergarten children will use the Frolic curriculum to learn about the life and ministry of Jesus and the work he did while on earth.



Elementary (1st–5th Grade):

Elementary Kingdom Kidz will continue their study of the Apostle Paul, focusing on his missionary spirit and how it connects to our own mission emphasis at First Prez. In preparation for the Mission Conference in March, the children will also work on a hands-on mission project—creating potholders and magnets to support our fundraising efforts for the students we sponsor through Haiti Outreach Ministry schools.

Help Us Feed the Fun! Sundays | 4:30 – 6:30 p.m.

Each week, our Kingdom Kidz and Youth group S.U.R.G.E, gather for fun, faith, and fellowship—and one of the most meaningful parts of their time together is sharing a meal! We need your help to keep this tradition going. Meals are made possible by our amazing volunteers, families, and church members. Would you consider signing up to provide dinner one Sunday this season?

Past favorites include:

Hot dogs • Tacos • Pizza • Pasta • Chicken tenders

(Feel free to team up with another family!)



Sign up today! Visit bit.ly/KidzMeal or scan the QR code.

Have questions? Contact Jess Jones at youth@firstprez.com.

Thank you for being a part of nurturing both the bodies and hearts of our young disciples!





S.U.R.G.E. CALENDAR

Jan. 4 – Bible Olympics

Jan. 11 – Ends at 5:30, **Flag Football Tournament @ Highland**

Jan. 18 – Do Not Meet

Jan. 25

Feb. 1

Feb. 8 - **Ends at 6pm** - Superbowl Party at the Hall Residence

Feb. 15 – Extended Care 4 to 7 p.m. – **Parents Night Out!**

Feb. 22



Youth Ski Trip

Jan 16th-19th

"This Is The Way"

The youth are hitting the slopes in Winterplace, WV and learning to follow God's lead on the "slopes" of life.

JAN 25 TO FEB 8

SUPERBOWL OF CARING FOOD DRIVE

GIRLS VS BOYS

Blue donation box Pink donation box

TEAM UP AND TACKLE HUNGER

SECOND HARVEST FOOD BANK
Give what You Can - Grow What You Need

**Team up with our youth to tackle hunger in our community -
HELP US REACH OUR GOAL OF 500 NON-PERISHABLE ITEMS!**

The winning team wins a special treat and surprise!

We love the big game, but we love our neighbors more!

Join the youth and be a game changer for our neighbors in need through the Souper Bowl of Caring. Bring in any of the listed goods below OR donate to Youth Missions. All donations go to Second Harvest Food Bank. \$1=1 item
Last year ended in a tie. Who will win this year, boys or girls?

DONATIONS BEING COLLECTED:

PEANUT BUTTER

CEREAL

CANNED FRUITS

CANNED VEGETABLES

RICE

PASTA

FRUIT CUPS

PUDDING CUPS

CANNED SOUPS

CANNED MEATS

**TOGETHER, WE CAN TACKLE HUNGER
—ONE DONATION AT A TIME!**

The Gathering: Foundations meeting 1st and 3rd Sundays:

January 4, February 1,

March 1, March 15,

April 19, May 3 & May 17

at The Sweet Palette

101 Person Street - Downtown

MomCo

meets on the 2nd and 4th Sunday

January 11, January 25

February 8, February 22

March 8, March 22

April 12 & April 26

in Eller Hall

s.a.l.t.

Seasoned Adults
Learning Together

S.A.L.T. Fellowship Breakfast

Tuesday, January 6

JK's Deli at 8:30 a.m.

Lunch at Sammio's - Tuesday, January 20 at 11:30 a.m.

We will meet at Sammio's, located at 2623 Raeford Road. Cost will be lunch. Please RSVP by January 13. Contact Sarah Cromartie at 910-977-1813.

Trip to NC Museum of Art - Tuesday, February 24

"The Book of Esther in the Age of Rembrandt" We will depart the church at 8:30 a.m. Cost will be lunch at Bella Monica. Reservations are needed by January 20. RSVP to Nancy Billman at 910-916-5994

Rev. Billy Herring

Donald & Allyson Wherren

Buzz & Ann Loyd

Patsy Markham

Ann Rowell

Mark & Mary Rice

Kaye Baggett

Shirley Stevens

Ann Eller

Martha's Circle

Gillie Revelle

Patsy Markham

Fred & Eliza Williams

Olivia Herring

Ted Lepper

Patsy Markham

Olivia Herring

Earl & Dot Ennis

Julie Ennis

Gisela Phillips

Linda Baker Huff

Memorials

Betty Few Scarborough

Quincy J. Scarborough Jr.

Rev. Earl Vaughn, Sr.

Olivia Herring

Phil Anderson

Dr. & Mrs. Stephen Rochman



Honorariums

Olivia Herring

Buzz & Ann Loyd

Danny McInnis

Linda Baker Huff

Carol & Sammy Short

Linda Baker Huff

Ray & Daphne Munning

Ann Highsmith

Daniel A. McInnis

January Birthdays

1 Mona McFadyen	14 Jennifer Plyler	21 Jenny MacKethan
1 Tommy Myers	14 Ben Taylor	23 Sue Cain
1 Kelly Harrison	14 Crystal Helmke	24 Owen Smith
1 Easton Brown	14 Steven Wauford	24 Fran Primeaux
2 Krista Hunter	14 Matthew Pritchett	24 Matt Plyler
2 Cornelia Holmes	15 Sarena Myers	24 Timothy Davidson
2 Baker Alderman	16 Rob Hasty Jr.	24 Charlotte Spivey
3 Lana VanStory	16 Tommy Spencer	26 Laurie McLaurin
4 Tammy Laurence	16 Buck Jordan	26 Abigail Jolly
4 Nicole Brown	16 Ainsley Mihacsi	27 Betty Lewis
5 Rebecca McAlister	17 Marian Boyette	27 Sue Cartee
5 Lynn Leath	17 Carrie Hall	29 Hector Davis
5 Daniel Revels	18 Bonnie Blue	29 Cameron MacKethan
6 Barbara Meek	18 Theodore Schwamm	29 Bill Deaton Jr.
6 Paul Regensburger	18 Ashlee Cleveland	29 Britany Spivey
6 Grace Zimmer	18 Flora McRae	29 Drew Kramer
7 Sophia Pridgen	19 Claire Hill	29 Emmalee Wauford
8 Sue Stevens	20 Reid Furman	30 Michael Petti
8 Julia Dwyer	20 Charles Baker Jr.	30 Diane Regensburger
11 Terry Ciccone	20 Jonathan Szopinski	30 Madison Spencer
11 Will Battles	21 Sammy Short	31 Maude Bledsoe
12 Ella Beal Navejas	21 Clara Moffitt Moorman	31 Luke Self
13 Christian Barkman	21 Kristan Mathews	
13 Ainsley Plyler	21 Stacy Pritchett	



THE NEW TESTAMENT YOU NEVER KNEW

—Online Bible Study—

GIFT Class Update:
a new Bible study
will begin January 18.

"The New Testament You Never Knew" from Study Gateway, an 8-week video study featuring N.T. Wright.

Tapestry Women's Bible Study Group
will begin "Titus" on Thursday, January 8
at 10 a.m. in the Activity Room.

In this 8-session Bible study, Courtney Doctor and Hunter Beless team up to explore every verse of Paul's letter to his friend Titus. You'll see the essential connection between right belief and right character and the way both testify to the goodness of the gospel. And you'll be reminded that our world will be attracted to the gospel when they see its beauty displayed in us.

Contact Ann Rowell at growell@nc.rr.com for more information.