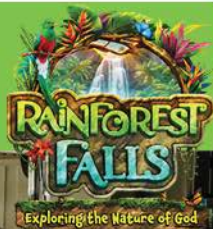


FIRST PRESS

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First Presbyterian Church, Fayetteville N.C.



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Introductions, Welcome Back & Goodbye • School Supply Drive
A Musical Trip to Scotia Village • FPC Youth in Copper Hill
VBS Mission Results & Fun • Family Movie Night Info
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A PASTORAL MESSAGE

from Dr. Mike Garrett

July in Fayetteville! I've learned that those who can flee the hot weather for mountain retreats or seaside escapes, do! Well-deserved rests are taken. It's ordinarily one of the quietest times of the year in the life of our congregation.

As you know, this July is different. Jess Jones and her family have moved on to a new chapter of life and ministry in Florida. The good news is that Britany Spivey has rejoined our staff team in a temporary capacity as Director of Christian Education. Isaac Deskins will soon join our staff team as he takes over ministry focused on our youth. As most of you know, my last Sunday as pastor of First Presbyterian Church will be July 26th. I'll have more to say about that in a separate communication to our congregation in the near future.

I'm excited to remind us that Dr. David Cagle will start as Interim Pastor beginning on July 1. We will work together to ensure a smooth transition, and he will assume full pastoral leadership after July 26th. David has many years of pastoral experience, many of them spent in interim ministry, leading congregations like ours during a time of transition. He will do fine job for this congregation. Please welcome him warmly! David introduces himself to our congregation in this newsletter.

There are so many of you I want to thank for your support and kindness these last eleven years. It's hard to know where to begin! What makes me happiest is the knowledge that I am leaving a healthy congregation, poised to do great ministry in this community and beyond in the years to come. We've done good ministry together and I have no doubt the leadership of this congregation will continue down that path in ways that will be both creative and faithful.

Marcia and I will not be leaving Fayetteville right away. I'm sure we will see you around town for some months to come. While I will no longer be the pastor of First Presbyterian Church, or present for its worship, ministry and gathered fellowship, Marcia and I look forward to being your friends, as we begin new chapters in our lives.

May God bless the good people of First Presbyterian Church!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Mike".



Men's and Women's Ensembles Share Songs of Faith and Hope at Scotia Village

On Friday, June 5, singers from our men's and women's ensembles traveled to Scotia Village in Laurinburg to present a special concert, "The Journey Home: Songs of Faith and Hope". The afternoon was filled with uplifting music and fellowship.

Several church members joined the group in support of this outreach effort, and more than 60 Scotia Village residents enjoyed the performance. The response was overwhelmingly positive, with Cornelia Holmes, Betty Lewis, Claire Mansfield, Priscilla Hooks, and Cindy Dewey expressing such enthusiasm that they jokingly requested that we return every month!

The men opened the concert with "Step into the Water," "Sing Your Way Home," and "Just a Little Talk with Jesus." The women followed with three beautiful selections: "Ubi Caritas," "Lift Thine Eyes," and "How Sweet the Sound." The men then returned to perform "Dig a Little Deeper," "Gentle Shepherd," and "Low Down the Chariot." The concert concluded with a moving benediction, as both ensembles joined together to sing Peter Lutkin's "The Lord Bless You and Keep You."

Participating singers included Brandon Hammond, Ralph Huff, Don Perkins, Adam Farnham, Sue Cartee, Kellie Perkins, Rachel Dixon, Mary Ann Tally, and Marcia Mervin.

The group looks forward to returning to Scotia Village sometime later this year to continue this meaningful ministry of fellowship and outreach. If you would like to participate in future visits, please contact Dr. Marcia Mervin for more information.

Dear Members and Friends of First Presbyterian Church,

I am delighted and honored to serve as your Transitional Pastor. Let me introduce myself so we can grow in our relationship together. Somewhere down the road, I would love to spend time with each of you to hear your story and perhaps share more of the details of my spiritual journey.

I was born and raised in Knoxville, Tennessee, by loving parents and deeply devout Christians. Church was a vital part of our family. In Sunday School, I learned the stories of scripture, at summer Presbytery Camp my faith deepened, and in high school Christian Fellowship my faith commitment grew. I graduated from the University of Tennessee with a business degree and considered a call to ministry at that time, but various factors first led me to a career in medical sales for 8 years. While quite successful in this industry, I continued feeling God's call. After much prayer, reflection, and discernment, I began my preparation for ministry at Columbia Seminary in Decatur, Georgia. It was there I met my future wife. I graduated in 1995, and we were married two weeks later.



My first call to ministry was to Rockville Presbyterian Church on Wadmalaw Island, a small church of around 125 members, 30 miles south of Charleston, South Carolina. During my 5 ½ years there, the church grew and developed, and my two children were born. My next call was to Brownson Presbyterian Church in Southern Pines, North Carolina. This was also the church where my wife grew up, the church where we were married, and the church where my in-laws were members. I would be happy to share the details of how this came about if you are interested. During my 4 ½ years in this call, I served as the Associate Pastor of Congregational Care and Adult Spiritual Formation. In 2005, I was called as the Head of Staff at the First Presbyterian Church in Kingsport, Tennessee, and for the next 12 years I grew as a preacher, a teacher, a pastor, and church leader. But in my mid-fifties, I began feeling a call to a new type of ministry. Wanting to share my knowledge and experience gained through 22 years of ministry, having served in a small, mid-sized, and a large church, as a solo pastor, associate pastor, and head of staff, I answered a call to Transitional Ministry. Over the last 9 years, I have served as a Transitional Pastor in 3 mid-sized churches, a large church, and most recently I returned to where my call to ministry joyfully began—to a wonderful small church in Rockingham, North Carolina.

With joy and expectation, I look forward to being your preacher, your Bible and faith teacher, your pastor, and together with our session your church leader. We have much work to do, fellowship events to share, losses to mourn together, and life events to celebrate as a congregation. Together, we will continue the work for preparing our congregation for the arrival of your next installed pastor.

And so, our adventure begins.

In Christ's Service,

David Cagle
Transitional Pastor



A Message from Stewardship

As we look ahead to this year's Stewardship Campaign at First Presbyterian Church, we do so with a renewed sense of identity, purpose, and calling.

The theme that emerged from our Crossing Thresholds process — **Deep Roots, New Fruit** — beautifully captures who we have been for 225 years and who God is shaping us to become in the years ahead.

Our deep roots show in the steady, faithful ways this congregation offers its time, talents, and heartfelt gifts. Your generosity keeps worship vibrant, enables our children and youth to grow in faith, strengthens mission efforts near and far, and nurtures the relationships that make First Presbyterian feel like home. These gifts are the rich soil that anchors us firmly and allows new growth to flourish.

At the same time, God is cultivating new fruit among us — new families, new ministries, new partnerships, and new opportunities to serve Fayetteville with compassion and purpose. **This season invites us to celebrate what God has already done and to invest in what God is preparing next.**

As we step into a new season filled with both change and opportunity, especially as we prepare for Mike's retirement and the beginning of our Stewardship focus, we invite you to consider how God is calling you to support First Prez. This next chapter will depend on volunteers, leaders, teachers, musicians, and storytellers who are ready to offer their gifts generously and joyfully. Together, we can cultivate the rich soil of our shared faith and nurture the new fruit God is preparing to bring forth. Thank you for your faithful support, which keeps us grounded in God's love and reaching toward the future God is growing among us.

Did you miss the Crossing Thresholds Vision Guide?

To view or download the guide, visit firstprez.com/crossingthresholds

UNA SEMANA INCREÍBLE EN MÉXICO! AN AWESOME WEEK IN MEXICO!





**Filling the walls with
Prayer & Scripture Cards
from First Prez!**



First Presbyterian Church joyfully invites you
to a day of worship and celebration
honoring the remarkable career
and retirement of

Dr. Mike Garrett

Together, we will give thanks for God's faithfulness,
for a lifetime of devoted service, and for the many ways
Dr. Garrett has blessed our church and community.

Sunday, July 26, 2026

11:00 a.m. — Worship Service in the Sanctuary

12:00 p.m. — Celebration Lunch in Fellowship Hall

Please RSVP on or before July 15.

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

Register in person in Eller Hall
or call the church office at (910) 483-0121.



RSVP Online

We invite you to participate in the celebration by sending cards, photos,
videos, or digital messages for Dr. Garrett to nichole@firstprez.com.



Considering a monetary gift to honor Dr. Garrett's retirement?

If you're considering a monetary gift to celebrate Dr. Garrett's retirement, there are two ways to contribute. You may write a check either to First Presbyterian Church or directly to Michael W. Garrett. Here's what distinguishes the options: Gifts made out to the Church are tax-deductible for the donor but will count as taxable income for Dr. Garrett. In contrast, checks payable directly to Michael Garrett are not tax-deductible for the donor, yet are not taxable to him. All direct contributions will be gathered and presented to Dr. Garrett at the retirement luncheon, while the Church will issue a separate check to him covering all honorariums it receives on his behalf. If you have questions about the tax implications, please consult your tax advisor.

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+

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.



WEAR YOUR PJS & JOIN US IN THE ACTIVITY ROOM.

bring a pillow and sleeping bag

SUNDAY, JULY 19

4:30 TO 6:30PM

Pizza and popcorn will be served.

Guardians are welcome to join!

Childcare will be available for the littles.

Please RSVP.

Scan the QR Code or visit bit.ly/MovieNight26



Scan Me



**A giant monkey-sized
thank you to our amazing
donors and supporters
who helped the kids
swing beyond their goals!**

Local Mission Project:

Walker Spivey Elementary

325

SCHOOL SUPPLIES COLLECTED



Global Mission Project:

Haiti Outreach Ministries

\$706.22

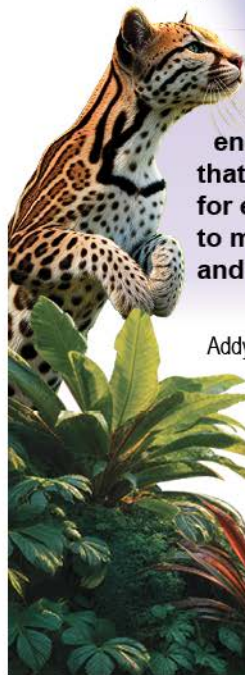
**TOWARDS STUDENT TUITION
Boys Won!**



Thank you to all of our incredible VBS volunteers for your hard work, dedication, and servant hearts. Your time, energy, and enthusiasm helped create a fun, faith-filled week that made a lasting impact on our children. We are so grateful for everything you did behind the scenes and in the spotlight to make VBS a success. Thank you for sharing God's love and helping make this week so special!

A Rainforest Round of Applause for Our Volunteers!

Addy A., August A., Dorothy Armstrong, Stefany Arocho, Maude Bledsoe, Kathryn Boyette, Linda Campbell, Debra Chestnut, Ashlee Cleveland, David Darden, Pam Darden, Terry Darden, Leslie DeSessa, Julie Dilts, Joe Evans, Deborah Faircloth, Callen F., Elizabeth Firth, Bryson H., Cameron H., Kim Hall, Noah H., Maryn H., Mary Heldreth, Huntyr Hopkins, Kimberhly Hopkins, Andrea Horosko, Steve Horosko III, Erin Jackson, Rhett J., Scarlett J., Madelyn K., Sean K., Vicki Kelly, Vivian K., Alex Langley, Kristan Mathews, Lorene McBryde, Mona McFadyen, Maggie McFadyen, Bitsy McLaughlin, Ann McRae, Flora McRae, Scott M., Virginia Merva, Elizabeth Namkung, Kathy Nickell, Sebastian O., Benjamin O., Susannah O., Don Perkins, Jeannie Plummer, Terry Plummer, Sandra Russell, Madison S., Brantley Sweiger, Brynn Sweiger, Henry S., Mya S., Christian Trotta, John Turner















Dear Church Family,

As I write this letter, my heart is filled with gratitude for the privilege of serving as your Youth Director and Interim Christian Education Director. While it is never easy to say goodbye, I want to take a moment to thank you for the love, support, encouragement, and prayers you have shown me throughout my time here.

Serving alongside you has been one of the greatest blessings of my ministry. Whether through youth group gatherings, Sunday school classes, Vacation

Bible School, mission opportunities, retreats, fellowship events, or simply sharing life together, I have witnessed God's faithfulness at work in this congregation. I am especially grateful for the students and children who have allowed me to walk beside them as they grow in their faith, ask difficult questions, and discover God's calling on their lives.

I have been continually encouraged by the dedication of our volunteers, parents, teachers, and church leaders. Your willingness to invest your time, talents, and hearts into the next generation reflects Christ's love in powerful ways. The ministries of this church exist because of faithful servants like you.

As this chapter comes to a close, I leave with confidence that God will continue to do amazing things through this congregation. The same God who has guided us in the past will lead us into the future. My prayer is that you will continue to grow in faith, deepen your relationships with one another, and remain committed to sharing the love of Christ with your community and the world.

Thank you for allowing me to be part of your church family. Thank you for your kindness, your friendship, and the countless memories we have shared together. Though my role may be changing, the impact this congregation has had on my life will remain with me always.

May God bless each of you abundantly, and may His grace, peace, and love continue to guide this church for many years to come.

"Give thanks to the Lord, for He is good; His love endures forever."

— Psalm 136:1 (NIV)

With heartfelt gratitude and love in Christ,

Jessica Jones

Youth Director & Interim Christian Education Director



Save the date for
Summer 2026 Mission Conference
August 12 - August 16

***Let your
Light Shine***

*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 will become like the noonday.
Isaiah 58:10*



\$11 cash/check
paid to the church office.
Please note Mission Conference
T Shirt on checks or envelopes.

or **\$12.05** if paying online
with a debit/credit card



Scan Me

To preorder online,
scan the QR Code or visit
bit.ly/FPCMissionShirt

Or preorder by calling
the church office at (910) 483-0121

**Preorder your
2026 Summer
Mission Conference
T Shirt today!**

Then Your Light Will Rise

In the Darkness
Isaiah 58:10

FPC
First Presbyterian
Fayetteville, NC

*Summer 2026
Mission Conference*

July Birthdays

1 Drew Fincher	10 John Patrick Dunn	20 Janet Prewitt
1 Bruce Hammill	10 Marcia Garrett	20 Jackson Teele
1 Cynthia Huggins	12 Paddy Armstrong	21 Chance Kirby
1 Barrett Teele	12 Corey Breece	22 Sally Alderman
2 Sarah Cromartie	13 John Campbell	22 Bill Kirchman
2 Clara Dunn	13 Linda Huff	22 Colin Wauford
2 Adam Farnham	14 John Tyson	23 Rich Clarke
2 Ann Loyd	15 Colin McMahon	24 Daniel Jutson
2 Mark Luce	15 Clara Schwamm	24 Mary Lynn Sasser
2 Eddie Prewitt	16 James Breswitz	24 Mya Szopinski
3 Linda Adams	16 Emmy Johnson	25 Pam Darden
4 Wayne Mosley	16 Pamela Tolbert	26 Jay Gilbert
5 Tim Dunn	17 Richard Baltz	27 Katelyn Jolly
5 Diehl Jones	17 Mary Downing	28 Alvin Fortson
6 Adam Datkuliak	17 James Duhon	28 Jody Gutierrez
6 William Firth	17 Dan Jutson	28 Mick Noland
6 Danielle Hurley	17 Megan Langley	28 Tucker Stiles
7 Gary Ciccone	18 Paige Darden	29 Allene Bullock
7 Brewer Stiles	18 Zachary Fegan	29 Carol Dunning
8 Shannon Blue	18 Elizabeth Seufert	29 Marty Sutherlin
8 Kaytlyn Gilbert	19 Bill Conklin	31 Jan Burgess
9 Melissa Jolly	19 Maryann Johnson	31 Herman Dunn
9 Gage Mosley	19 George Markham	

Memorials

Clara Moorman

Linda & Ralph Huff

Carolyn Herndon

Tommy & Grace Hall
Debbie & Lamar Williams

David Plummer

Fred & Eliza Williams

Stephen Gooding

Ann Rowell
Bud Lafferty
David Hedgecoe
Elyse Brown
Gillie Revelle
Tommy & Grace Hall
Milo & Lorene McBryde

Kay Autry

Tommy & Grace Hall

Stacy Grooms

Sue Baker

Myra Garrett

Ann Rowell
Hannah Circle
Linda & Ralph Huff
Elyse Brown

Bertha Tedder

Fred & Eliza Williams

Dan Nickell

Tommy & Grace Hall

