

FIRST PRESS

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First Presbyterian Church, Fayetteville N.C.



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A PASTORAL MESSAGE

from Dr. Mike Garrett

It's almost June, and I hear the sound of the church scattering! That's not a bad thing. Most of the Christian life is the story of people scattered into families, jobs, cities, and even vacations. Jesus is Lord as much on the road as in the pew. Much of Christ's mission in this world won't happen as it should unless we scatter. The challenge is to remember we are just as much God's people when we are apart as when we are together.

Of course, when we're in town this summer, I hope we'll gather for Sunday worship. But beyond that there are some unique opportunities for First Presbyterian Church to come together for mission and encouragement. Our **Mexico Mission Team** will be heading for Reynosa from June 6 – 12. Let's unite by remembering them in our prayers during this significant time.

Many of us will join in the local mission and ministry of **Vacation Bible School** from June 15-18. What a wonderful opportunity to support our congregation with our presence, prayers and contributions as we seek to touch the lives of children in our congregation and beyond!

Our **Youth Mission Trip** to Copperhill, TN will happen from June 28 – July 4. Please support our young people as they minister among needy folks through a variety of service and construction projects. These young adults and their adult leaders need our prayers as they serve the Lord.

The **FPC Mini-Mission Conference** will happen the weekend of August 15-16. Put it on your calendar! We'll learn about work of Myrover-Reese in our community and their women's shelter program. We'll share a meal together as well.

The Word and wisdom of scripture found in the New Testament Letter to the Hebrews says:

And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching. (10:24-25)

Let's pay as much attention to our gathering as our scattering these summer months. We need the encouragement we bring to one another.

There is other important information in this newsletter as well as suggestions on summer reading to help deepen your life of faith. Take a moment to take a look!

Blessings,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Mike", with a stylized flourish at the end.



Congratulations to the class of 2026!



Carly Canady

Carly will be graduating from Gray's Creek High School after successfully balancing high school classes and college courses toward her Associate's Degree. She plans to continue her education in the Medical Sonography program and become an ultrasound technician. We deeply appreciate her dedicated work in the church nursery and the special abilities she brings in caring for and teaching our children.

Isabel Carrasco

After graduating from Gray's Creek High School, Isabel will attend Fayetteville Technical Community College to study in the Radiography Program. Her goal is to complete her associate degree, continue her education for a bachelor's degree, and earn advanced certifications in MRI and CT imaging. Her commitment to serving in our church nursery has been a blessing, and we truly value the love, talents, and attention she gives to our children.



Olivia Hall

Olivia is graduating from Cape Fear High School, where she took part in Beta, HOSA, Skills USA, DECA, served as a freshman mentor, and joined the bowling team. She plans to attend UNC-Wilmington in the fall to major in Biology. She hopes to become a Pediatric Physician Assistant. She has worked diligently in our church nursery, and we appreciate her gifts and talents with our children.

Ava Reyes

Ava is graduating from Terry Sanford High School, where she served as Captain of the bowling team, Major in AFJROT, and Co-Captain of the winter and color guard teams. She is attending East Carolina University to pursue a major in Business Administration and a minor in Dance, her passion for the last 14 years. She plans to continue in ECU's ROTC program, join the Air Force as an officer, and eventually own a dance studio.





Christian Barkman

Christian Barkman earned a Doctor of Veterinary Medicine degree from the University of Missouri College of Veterinary Medicine in Columbia, Missouri.

Erin Jackson

Erin graduated from the University of North Carolina at Pembroke with a degree in Social Work. She plans to begin her career as a school social worker with Cumberland County Schools, where she hopes to make a positive impact in the lives of students and families.



Christian Trotta

Christian graduated from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, where he majored in Biology and minored in Music. An avid volunteer, he enjoyed sharing his love of science with children in need. He plans to attend law school and pursue a career in politics and public service, with the hopes of one day becoming the President of the United States. If that doesn't work out he plans to get his driver's license and become an Uber driver.

First School Pre-K & KT Graduates

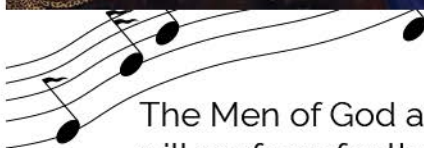




Hannah Circle Ends the Year on a Delicious Note

Hannah Circle celebrated another successful year of Bible study, fellowship, friendship, completion of three mission projects and supporting Women of the Church at Luigi's!

Monthly meetings will resume on the second Thursday of the month on September 10th at 5:30 p.m. in the Adult Education Room.



The Men of God and the Women's Ensemble
will perform for the residents of Scotia Village
in Laurinburg on Friday, June 5,
and you're invited to come along!

For more information, contact Dr. Marcia Mervin.



Scotia Village



Pentecost Worship Service





FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Dear Church Member:

The Officer Nominating Committee requests your assistance in the nominating process for elders and deacons to serve on the Session and Diaconate. Seven persons are needed for the Session Class of 2029. The Board of Deacons, Class of 2029, requires eight persons. In making your recommendations, we ask you to be guided by these principles:

- From the Book of Order, Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.):
Elders should be "persons of wisdom and maturity of faith, having demonstrated skills in leadership and being compassionate in spirit...they have responsibilities for the life of the congregation as well as the whole of the church." (G-2.0301)
Deacons are to be "persons of spiritual character, honest repute, exemplary lives, brotherly and sisterly love, sincere compassion, and sound judgment..." their ministry is one of "compassion, witness, and service..." (G-2.0201)
- From Manual of Operations, First Presbyterian Church, Fayetteville: Nominees for church office: **attend worship** services regularly; support the work of the church **financially**; participate **actively** in the life and activities of the church; have been church members for **at least one year**; and have expressed a willingness to fulfill the office to which nominated, if elected."
- Only active members of First Presbyterian Church may make recommendations and/or serve as elders and deacons.
- Active elders are not eligible to be nominated. Active deacons may be nominated for elder, but are not eligible to be nominated for deacon unless they are filling an unexpired term of one year.

Ways to submit your nominations: complete the form inserted in Sunday bulletins; place completed forms in the offering plate; give your completed form to a nominating committee member; return completed forms to the church office; call the church office at (910) 483-0121; or use the following link - <https://bit.ly/2029OfficerNom>

* This form does NOT need to be submitted if nominations are entered online.

Your 2026 Officer Nominating Committee:

Joann Pearce - Elder Moderator
Brant Brock - Elder Vice-Moderator
Linda Huff - Elder
Ann McRae - Elder

Serria Ciccone - Deacon
Kate O'Keefe - Deacon
Bill McFadyen - At Large
Dr. Mike Garrett Garrett - Pastor/Advisor

FAITH, FAMILY & FAVORITE SUMMER READS



What's on the Pastor's bookshelf:

The Spirit Of Our Politics: Spiritual Formation and the Renovation of Public Life

by Michael Wear

If you are as tired as I am of the immoral and dysfunctional way we practice politics in our time, this book asks us to begin in a different place with the question of Christian character: What kind of person would I like to be? What kind of politics do I want to contribute to building?

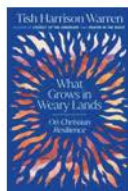


What Grows in Weary Lands: On Christian Resilience

by Tish Harrison Warren

A book by one of our best contemporary spiritual writers. Her previous book, *Prayer in the Night: For Those Who Work or Watch or Weep* was excellent. I've just begun reading it. From the book's own description:

... Warren draws from both her own season of exhaustion and the rich well of Christian tradition—particularly that of the earliest Christian monks—to discover the habits and mindsets that anchor us in times of doubt, difficulty, and spiritual dryness. She offers hope to those who feel like life is overwhelming, taxing, and disorienting.



Healing After Loss: Daily Meditations for Working Through Grief

by Martha Whitmore Hickman

This book of very short devotions, lasting through a year, was recommended by a hospital chaplain for working through my own sense of loss and grief at the death of my mother. Taking just a few minutes, these meditations give us something small to think about, notice or do when we may be too overwhelmed by our own grief to face bigger challenges. Highly recommended.



Dr. Marcia Mervin is a voracious reader and highly suggests historical fiction books by writer Kate Quinn. *The Huntress*, *The Rose Code*, *The Alice Network* and *The Phoenix Crown* are on the top of her favorites list.

Miss Jess' reading recommendations for children & youth:



The Wingfeather Saga by Andrew Peterson

A fantasy series about the Igiby children who live in the magical world of Aerwiar and discover they are central to a great mystery, battling creatures like the Fangs of Dang while uncovering family secrets.

Raising Dragons by Bryan Davis

The first book in the Christian fantasy series *Dragons in Our Midst*, following teenagers Billy and Bonnie as they discover they are part dragon and must fight an ancient dragon slayer to protect their heritage, blending modern-day adventure with Arthurian legend and biblical themes.



ROCK CLIMBING

WITH KINGDOM KIDZ & S.U.R.G.E.





Adiós Mexico Mission Team

On June 6, our Mexico Mission Team will depart for Reynosa, Mexico to serve alongside Faith Ministry and partner families in building homes for those in need. Through hard work, fellowship, and faith, the team will help create not only houses, but places of safety, hope, and new beginnings for the families they meet.

As they prepare for this journey, we invite the congregation to surround the team in prayer. Pray for safe travels, strength and endurance for the work ahead, continued good health, and hearts open to God's presence in every moment. May their hands be guided in service, their spirits be strengthened through fellowship, and their time in Reynosa be a blessing both to the families they serve and to each member of the team.

May God watch over them, protect them, and use their gifts to share Christ's love in meaningful and lasting ways.



FPC's Mexico Mission Team with the Hernandez Osorio Family standing by the newly built walls of Casa #10 in 2025.



Letters from Faith Ministry and The Hernandez Osorio Family (Casa #10)

Hi Diane and friends from First Prez,

Included here is a note from the family of Casa #10 that you built over the summer. You generously provided funding for their electricity and plumbing. The family already had installed electricity and didn't have a need from plumbing, so we gave them the funds you sent to help recoup what they spent on the electricity and to help with any other need they have. They were very grateful and wrote you all this note.



For Casa #11, we are still working with the family to asses and address their needs. Thanks so much!

Good afternoon!!

I want to thank you for everything you have done for me and for my family. We are so grateful (to God) for putting you in our family. Thank you for the support. Truly, we are infinitely grateful. Thank you God for putting people like you all who support people like us. We will never forget you, and you will always be in our hearts and our prayers. This funding that we have received from



you will be such a great help. Thank you, family, thank you. Thank you. Our home will always be open when you want to visit us.

God bless you always and may He give you much health, wellbeing, and a long life. Thank you, brothers and sisters from FPC Fayetteville.

From: The Hernandez Osorio Family- Dalila, Iker, Adrian

CROSSING THRESHOLDS

Sharing the Conclusions

Sunday, June 14

Congregational Luncheon,
Presentation and Q & A Session
with Rev. Mark Tidsworth



Join us on June 14, immediately following the 11 a.m. worship service, for a congregational luncheon, presentation and question-and-answer session with Rev. Mark Tidsworth.

We will gather outside on the lawn under the canopy tent beside the chapel for a time of conversation and fellowship. We will discuss the Crossing Thresholds initiative and upcoming changes in leadership at First Presbyterian Church.

Rev. Tidsworth will also be the guest speaker at both worship services that morning.

For planning purposes, please register by Thursday, June 11.



Scan Me

Register online at bit.ly/FPCCTLunch or scan the QR Code. For assistance, please call the church office at (910) 483-0121



JUNE
15 - 18
9 AM - 12 PM

**REGISTRATION IS
ALMOST FULL!**

Volunteers & campers:

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



VBS needs your help!

Here are some items for VBS that you may already have at home or they can be purchased new. We appreciate your help!

- Brown Packing Paper - pieces or rolls (the stuff from your amazon boxes)
- Foam Craft Sheets - any size, but larger is better (green, brown, white)
- Paint (new or opened) - house, acrylic, spray (greens, browns, blues, bright colors)
- Cardstock - green, bright colors
- Green Chenille Stems - qty 100
- Disposable Drinking Cups - 5oz., qty 600
- 2x4s - if you have any extras laying around
- Tissue Paper - brown/tan
- Painter's Tape - blue and green
- Duct Tape - green, black, brown
- Plastic Table Cloths - greens
- Napkins - any color and size
- 6 inch Paper Plates
- Balloons - any color
- Band-aids

We would like to borrow these items and they will be returned to you:

- Faux Greenery, Plants, Trees
- Hand Mirrors - qty 8
- Butterfly Net
- Fishing Vests



**CLICK. SHIP.
BLESS VBS!**

**HOP ON OVER
TO OUR AMAZON
WISH LIST TODAY!**

**Check out our Amazon Wish List,
pick out your items and have your
donation delivered to the church.**

**Visit bit.ly/VBSAmazonList
or scan the QR Code**



June Birthdays

1 Brennan Blue	15 Jennie Dwyer	25 Kevin Dunning
1 Erin Jackson	15 Pat Jones	25 Wendy Galt
3 Scott McRae	15 Kitty Petti	26 Erin Holmes
4 Barbara Alexander	16 Timothy Datkuliak	27 Drew Baker
4 Gillie Revelle	16 John McCauley	27 Daina Byrd
5 Terrence Tedder	18 Frances Beauchamp	27 Connor Spencer
6 Jeremiah Datkuliak	18 Chloe Galt	28 J.J Cleveland
6 Tom McCutchen	18 Stuart Hammill	28 Danielle Page
8 Levi Dunn	18 Matthew McMahon	30 Ann Eller
9 Seven Pridgen	18 Hudson Szulis	
11 John McFadyen	19 Berton Barco	
11 Nichole Russ	19 Dianne MacIwinen	
12 Cooper Barco	19 Jason Myers	
12 Austin Brown	20 Malachi Jackson	
12 Nina McLaughlin	22 Julia Mulvey	
13 Lauren Duhon	22 Patty Murray	
15 Rodney Baker	22 LaMar Williams	



Memorials

Clara Moorman

Warren & Sue Baker
Debbie & LaMar Williams
Tommy & Grace Hall

Kay Autry

Warren & Sue Baker
Debbie & LaMar Williams

David Plummer

Patsy Markham

Myra Garrett

Mick & Karen Noland
Sammy & Carol Short
Patsy Markham
Warren & Sue Baker
Debbie & LaMar Williams
Tommy & Grace Hall
Milo & Lorene McBryde

Stephen Gooding

Debbie & LaMar Williams

Bertha Tedder

Debbie & LaMar Williams



WEIRD STUFF

OLD TESTAMENT



Giants? Talking Snakes? Nephilim?

Lake of Fire? Plagues? A whale swallowing a man?

A city destroyed by fire? A father sacrificing his son?

On the surface, it appears that the Old Testament is filled with some weird stuff, but what if you were told that the point isn't the "weird"?

In this video series from RightNow Media, Dr. Jeff Voth and Hebrew scholar, Dr. Nathan French, discuss and make sense of some of the weird stuff in the Bible to ultimately point us back to the needed redemption of Jesus Christ.

Join the GIFT Sunday School class this summer to dig deep into ancient theology and discover the Biblical truths we need today.

UPCOMING EVENTS

- June 1 • Mission Committee Meeting
- June 2 • S.A.L.T. Breakfast at JK's
 - Worship Committee
- June 3 • S.A.L.T. Seagrove Pottery Tour
- June 4 • Engagement Committee
- June 5 • Scotia Village Concert
 - VBS Work Day
- June 6 -13 • Mexico Mission Trip
- June 8 • Christian Education Meeting
- June 9 • Stated Deacons Meeting
- June 10 - 12 • VBS Set Up
- June 14 • Guest Pastor during worship
 - Crossing Thresholds Event
 - Stephen Ministry Meeting
- June 15 - 18 • Vacation Bible School
- June 15 • Personnel Committee
- June 16 • Finance Committee
 - Stated Session Meeting
- June 22 • David's Mighty Men
- June 28 - July 4 • Youth Mission Trip
- June 30 • COAP Zoom Meeting
- July 4 • H3 F 4th of the July Potluck

VBS Volunteers:

Do you need a
"We ♥ VBS" shirt?



Please drop off your blank T-shirt by
Jess' office no later than June 5.