

THE CHURCH FAMILY

Presenting Everyone Complete in Christ

FROM YOUR PASTOR'S DESK

The Second Law of Thermodynamics is a very complex formula that physicists use to describe a phenomena called “entropy.” James R. Newman, an American mathematician, defined entropy as “the general trend of the universe toward death and disorder.” This is a direct result of the disobedience of Adam and Eve that propelled the physical world on its trajectory toward disunity.

Romans 8:22 says “*For we know that the whole creation has been groaning together in the pains of childbirth until now.*” This is not only true on a global level, but on a very personal level. Romans 8 continues “*And not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for adoption as sons, the redemption of our bodies.*” The entropy of the human race is on full display in the advertisements surrounding the upcoming elections. Our human condition always drifts toward disunity.

But in the doctrine of the Trinity we find a spiritual power that reverses the entropy of this world. The Westminster Confession of Faith 2.3 says: “In the unity of the Godhead there be three persons, of one substance, power, and eternity; God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Ghost.” The unity of the Trinity is our model, and it is our hope. Because of the unity of the Trinity we can counteract entropy and experience unity in our lives.

The unity of the Trinity is a gift that we can receive through Jesus who prayed this prayer on our behalf: “*The glory that you have given me I have given to them, that they may be one even as we are one, I in them and you in me, that they may become perfectly one, so that the world may know that you sent me and loved them even as you loved me.*” John 17:20-21

The oneness of the Trinity, becomes our oneness as the body of Christ. We are many different parts all working together in unity as entropy busters. And what is the purpose of our unity? It is “so that the world may know” God’s love and realize that in Jesus the powerful forces of entropy can be overcome. In Jesus natural forces are reversed and instead of hurtling hopelessly toward “death and disorder” we find ourselves on the only path that leads to life and unity. May this unity be evident in our lives and our church!

Grateful for our unity in Jesus,

Steve

Options
for Sunday Worship

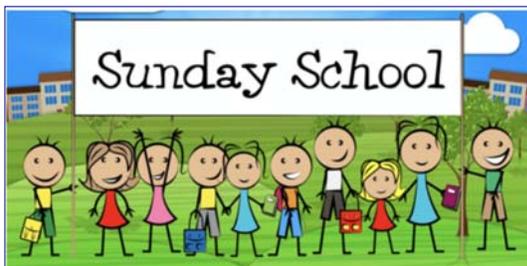
Sunday Worship - 10:15 AM ✠ Pre-service - 10:00 AM

- ⇒ **Attend in person**
- ⇒ **Tune in online - www.fpcstanley.org**
- ⇒ **Listen in by phone - Call 339-207-7653**



DEADLINE FOR SUBMITTING OFFICER NOMINATIONS IS THIS SUNDAY, 8/23!

Nomination forms can be found at the collection box in front of the SOAR office on the main hallway. You can also find the nomination form on our website, fpcstanley.org. Click on the *Officer Nomination* rotating banner. Complete the form online and save it to your files. Click on the church email address and attach the saved file before sending. Call the church office or email Sandra (info@fpcstanley.org) with questions.



CHRISTIAN EDUCATION NEWS

We are anxious to get back to our **Sunday School** classes and we know many of you are also. Your CE Team is working on a plan. Please look for a special letter from them coming in the mail soon.

OUTDOOR WORSHIP

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 13

Make plans to join us Sunday, September 13, for a special outdoor worship service. More details to follow.



Our Daily Bread
Ministries™

OUR DAILY BREAD DEVOTIONALS

We have the new Our Daily Bread devotionals for September - November at the church. Feel free to stop by during office hours to pick up a copy. If you prefer to have one mailed to you, please email Sandra (info@fpcstanley.org).

WOMEN IN THE CHURCH

Our WIC Circles are back! Most of the circles began meeting this month. Hopefully you can meet with one of the circles in September!

Monday, September 14, 6:30 pm:

Ruth Circle will meet in the Parlor.

Monday, September 14, 7:00 pm:

Elizabeth Circle will meet at the home of Sherry Teague.

Martha Circle will meet at location TBA.

Readers Circle will meet in Founders Hall.

Tuesday, September 15, 7:00 pm:

Denver Circle will meet at the home of Vickie Smith.

ATTN: ALL FPC LADIES



We have a lovely gift for all of our ladies. If you have a mailbox at the church you have most likely already found yours. We really want to get these to you so you can begin using them. Please stop by the office during regular office hours to pick up your special present. If you are uncomfortable coming in, call the office and someone will run it out to you.

We would like to thank the anonymous donor for this very thoughtful gift. This is a perfect way to use your God-given talents to share joy with your Christian sisters during these unusual times. What a blessing you are to our church family!

YOUTH NEWS



Our Youth are starting back with some activities. To be sure all youth and parents are aware of planned activities, please sign up for our Youth Group "Remind" messages. It's very simple to sign up:

Text "@fpcstan" to 81010.

That's it! Help us get our youth back in action by signing up today!



SATURDAYS, SEPTEMBER 12 - OCTOBER 24
9:00 - 9:30 AM: AGES 18 MONTHS - 3 YEARS OLD
10:00 - 10:45 AM: AGES 3 - 5 YEARS OLD

Lil Flyers is a FUNdamental skills development program for ages 18 months-5 years. Our 18 months-3 year old classes will be Parent/me classes. The program focuses on developing the basic fundamental skills of movement (i.e. balancing, running, jumping, catching, hopping, throwing, galloping, skipping, leaping, kicking) that are needed in child development and all sports through fun games, activities, and exercises that are developmentally appropriate for each age group. The program will also work on social skills such as following directions, listening, cooperative play, team play, and autonomy.

We are excited to begin this new season and would love to have you join us. **REGISTER BY visiting our website www.fpcstanleysoar.org.** If you have any questions, please contact our SOAR Director Lisa Revels at lisa@fpcstanley.org.

A FALL EVENT: OCTOBER MISSIONS FESTIVAL

by Mr. Jimmie Mitchell

Theme: The Heartbeat of God

Key Verse: “And I will give you a new heart, and a new spirit I will put within you. And I will remove the heart of stone from your flesh and give you a heart of flesh.” –Ezekiel 36:26

How can you prepare?

Pray

- for the MTW Committee as they continue to prepare for a different type of conference
- for our missionaries who will be participating virtually
- for God to use you in missions – praying for a specific missionary, giving through Faith Promise

Remember: It is very important to bathe our missions outreach in prayer!

Plan to attend

Watch for the schedule. Instead of the usual four-day conference, Missions will be highlighted throughout the month of October. We encourage you to come to as many services as possible or to watch online.

Remember: Either way, in person or online, we want you to be a part of the Festival!

Proclaim the Gospel

Share your faith with at least one person.

Share your enthusiasm for spreading the gospel around the world.

Remember: God wants to use each one of us to proclaim the good news of the gospel!

WITH OUR MISSIONARY FAMILY

After more than a decade of suffering from a debilitating dementia, **Garry Chambers'** oldest sister died August 5. **Paula Connington** passed away at her home in Liberty, SC. A nurse who once served on the mission field with Wycliffe/JAARS, she is survived by her husband **Fred** and two daughters. Our sympathy is extended to **Garry and Anita** and the entire Chambers family.

Our missionary friends **Paul and Marty Clark** in **Peru** write: It is a different world. We have not been out of the house since March 15th. International flights were to open August 1st, but that date has been shoved forward to the end of year or early 2021. Here it is all pretty much out of control. Hospitals have simply collapsed some time ago....people dying at home, in the streets, in hospital corridors, etc. Quite nightmarish, actually. Everyone, yes everyone wears a mask. Not waiting to be told to do so. People want to survive and that is just about all they can do about it. Those who have running water, wash their hands. Millions cannot. All said and done, whether we understand it or not, God knows what he is about. It is for us to do our part responsibly. That means looking after ourselves as we look after others around us. With a few gifts received, Marty busily buys and packs bags of food for people who come to our door. Our little bit of help comes along with a word of encouragement from the Bible.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY IN SEPTEMBER

10 – Joshua Pollorena (2019)	20 – Kevin Bentley
11 – Rebecca Schweitzer (2011)	30 – Nelson Ayllon
18 – Foard Hunt (2009)	Paul Clark
David J.	
Anna Shweitzer (2005)	

CRISIS PREGNANCY CENTER OF GASTON COUNTY'S 30TH ANNUAL WALK 4 LIFE FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 11, 7:00 AM - 9:00 PM

Visit the CPC website at <http://cpcgaston.com/walk-for-life/> for more details and to obtain the Walk Sponsor Sign-Up sheet. This is a great way to get out of the house and support a great cause at the same time!

FREE OVER-THE-COUNTER MEDICINE GIVEAWAY! SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 5, 9:00 AM - 2:00 PM FIRST UNITED METHODIST COMMON GROUND CAMPUS 5481 HICKORY GROVE ROAD, STANLEY

Pre-Registration is strongly encouraged: www.medassist.org/mobile.

This is a **drive-thru** event. OTC items include: cold, cough and flu medicine, band-aids, pain and allergy relief, vitamins and children's medicine and much more while supplies last!

WITH LOVING THANKS

With all the medical issues this spring and the recent severe storm, we have had to call on our church family once again for help. Thanks to Kevin Rhyne, Robert Rhyne and Ronnie Smith for tackling the trees and branches that just missed our house and deck. Also thanks to Charles and Mason Hamrick and Ryan Grice who did our mowing and weed-eating. Lifting us up in your thoughts and prayers plus all the beautiful cards were an encouragement to us. We consider ourselves truly blessed for being a part of such a wonderful church family with attentive pastors.

Parke and Darlene Sweigart

I would like to thank my church family for the prayers, phone calls, texts and cards sent during my hospitalization in June. They were greatly appreciated and were a tremendous blessing to me during that time.

Terri Fowler

In last month's newsletter, we mentioned the approval by our officers for FPC to participate with the United in Action of Stanley Churches(UASC) in raising funds to help our Stanley Police Department obtain body cams. The following note is an excerpt from a thank you note we received from the UASC:

On behalf of United in Action of Stanley Churches, Inc. and its pastors, ministers,, laity and prayer warriors, we wish to thank almighty God as well as the First Presbyterian Church family for your generous contribution of \$1,000.00 in support of our communitywide outreach initiatives including the Stanley Police Department.

We are excited that God continues to bless us through your generosity, allowing us to support our community through our outreach ministry.



TEMPORARY OFFICE HOURS



We are continuing with the temporary office hours of Monday - Thursday, 10:00 am - 2:00 pm. Many of these days you will find multiple staff members in the office even beyond these hours. If you are comfortable in getting out, we welcome you to stop by the office! We are not wearing masks but we ARE practicing social distancing and have plenty of hand sanitizer around the church. As always, you can contact one of our pastors or a staff member by phone if you have a need outside of these hours.

WITH OUR CHURCH FAMILY

On August 2, the **Rev. Scott Deneen** was installed as the fifth Pastor of Harvest Church (PCA) in Lincolnton, NC. Pastor Scott served FPC from 2002 to 2017 as Assistant Pastor, Associate Pastor and Senior Pastor. Harvest arose as a daughter congregation of FPC, beginning as an in-home Bible study group in 1993. Weekly Lord’s Day worship began in 1995. And Harvest was constituted a “particular church,” having elders and a pastor of its own, in 1998. **Scott and Suzy** will continue to reside in Stanley for the immediate future. Our heartiest congratulations are extended to the Deneens and to the Harvest congregation, along with our commitment to on-going prayer for their fruitful ministry together.

Alice Jessen was hospitalized on August 6 for complications caused by a blocked bile duct. She underwent surgery on August 10 to remove a tumor from her common bile duct. At the time of this printing, she continues her recovery in the hospital.

Earlier this month, **Diane Yodice** was admitted to Caromont Regional. She is now home as she continues her recovery.

After an apparent heart attack, **Buddy Cavin** was admitted to Caromont Regional earlier this week.

Shirley Chucci underwent surgery on August 17 to repair a broken hand/wrist after an accident at home.

When **Jimmie Mitchell** was a child, his sister Florence, ten years older, was given the responsibility of supervising his daily rest time. Before he could get out of bed she required him to memorize some scripture, much of which he remembers to this day. **Florence Mitchell Culp** of Edgemoor, SC, passed away July 29 in Harrisburg, NC. She was 91. Our Christian sympathies are extended to Jimmie and Martha Sue and the entire Mitchell family. Of the ten Mitchell siblings of that generation, Jimmie and two other sisters survive.

JULY FINANCIAL REPORT

Needed monthly for budget	60,967.16
Received in July for budget	57,020.35
Needed to date for budget	426,770.12
Received to date for budget	400,938.57
Needed monthly for Faith Promise	13,750.00
Received in July for Faith Promise	9,017.00
Needed to date for Faith Promise	96,250.00
Received to date for Faith Promise	117,516.54

Birthdays to Celebrate in September

- | | | | |
|---|--|---|---|
| 1 Clay Harper | 7 Chelsea Abernathy
Parke Sweigart
Jacob Treat | 18 Claudia Forbes-Robinson
Kevin Griffith
Dillon Lamb | 25 Austin Abernathy
Darlene Sweigart |
| 2 Dicky Franks | | | 27 Jenny Greenly
George Ross |
| 3 Emma Harper
Lauren Harper
Chelsea Ponzio
Hudson Rick | 8 James Ludeman | 19 Kary Kopka | |
| | 10 Julie Jessen
Christine Tucker | 22 Kaylyn Clevenger
Tracy Withers | 28 Pam Cole
Crystal Hare
Abigail Jessen |
| 4 Adam Greenly | 12 Angel Ross | 23 Judy Dixon
Ann Featherstone
Mark Harper | 30 Jim Tilley |
| 5 Martha Sue Mitchell
Roy Redding | 15 Ann Holcomb
Marianne Magill | | |

The Church Family is a monthly publication of First Presbyterian Church
512 Old Mt. Holly Road, Stanley, NC 28164 • Phone 704-263-4275 • Fax 704-263-0498
E-mail: info@fpstanley.org • Website: www.fpstanley.org
Temporary Office Hours: 10:00 AM - 2:00 PM, Monday - Thursday

Senior Pastor, Steve Jessen • Pastoral Care, Dan King
Sunday Worship 10:15 AM (in-person, online and phone)



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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED