

THE CHURCH FAMILY

Presenting Everyone Complete in Christ

FROM YOUR PASTOR'S DESK

In the first chapter of Acts we find the disciples in a very uncertain situation. Jesus has ascended and is no longer with them, and the promised Holy Spirit has not yet come. What are they supposed to do in this “in-between” time? After gathering in the upper room Acts 1:14 says that “These all with one mind were continually devoting themselves to prayer, along with the women, and Mary the mother of Jesus, and with His brothers.”

We are in a very uncertain situation in our world, as a result the church as we knew it is gone, and we are waiting to see what the future holds. In this in-between time let us follow the lead of the early believers and in with “one mind continually devote ourselves to prayer.”

Therefore, IMO (In My Opinion) the most important calling for us as a church in these unique times is PRAYER. The Bible clearly calls us to pray:

- “With all prayer and petition pray at all times in the Spirit, and with this in view, be on the alert with all perseverance and petition for all the saints.” Ephesians 6:18
- “Pray without ceasing.” I Thessalonians 5:17
- “Then Jesus told them a parable about their need to pray at all times and not lose heart.” Luke 18:1
- “Devote yourselves to prayer, being watchful and thankful.” Colossians 4:2
- “Keep watching and praying that you may not enter into temptation; the spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak.” Matthew 26:41
- “First of all, then, I urge that petitions, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgiving be offered on behalf of all men.” I Timothy 2:1
- “Is anyone among you in trouble? Let them pray.” James 5:13
- “If my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and I will forgive their sin and will heal their land.” 2 Chronicles 7:14

In this in-between time I am asking you to join me in a prayer initiative called “Seven Minutes on Sundays.” For at least seven minutes each Sunday at lunchtime I encourage you and your family to pray for the following seven items:

1. Our church (local and global).
2. Our families
3. Our Country
4. Our leaders (Church and political)
5. Our schools (administrators, teachers, students)
6. Our missionaries
7. Our neighbors.

In addition, continue your prayers throughout the week by being an “Armorbearer” (see insert in this newsletter.) Just as the disciples’ prayers led to the explosion of the church, may our prayers lead to a mighty work of God in the days to come!

United with you in Prayer,

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**



FPC YOUTH
will meet this
Sunday evening, July 26, and then
again on August 9 and 23. They will
begin each night at 6:00 pm
outside of the Activity Building.

SOAR NEWS

FREE
FAMILY
KICK
BALL
TOURNAMENT



SATURDAY
August 22, 10:00 am
on FPC fields

8 TEAMS MAX
6-10 players per team
Open teams will be filled
out with additional player.
Ages 5 and under don't
count on roster.

SHAVED ICE
FREE shaved ice will
be provided for all!

It's time to bring it back to the good ole times of recess games. Dust off those tennis shoes, put on that sweat band, grab your family team shirt, and join us for our first ever family kickball tournament!

ALL AGES and ABILITIES are invited and there's a place for everyone to get in on the action. Play the game or come watch and root for your favorite team.

You may register as a team (see specifics above) or as an individual. Open roster spots will be filled with individual registrants. We have space for 8 teams.

Register now at <https://fpstanley.churchcenter.com/registrations/events/468453>.

WORSHIP SERVICE UPDATE

Starting Sunday, August 2 you will not be required to sign up to attend the in-person Worship service. Our Reopening Task Force with the confirmation of our Elders and Deacons has made the following recommendation: In light of the increased risk in our area in recent weeks we are asking during this time for anyone in our church building to wear a face covering. The exceptions to that will be anyone with health issues that prevent them from wearing a face covering, children under 11 are not required to wear face coverings, but the decision is at the discretion of their parents. Make sure you watch the opening video in this Sunday's live stream worship which will give more details about this decision. Stay tuned as all our plans are subject to change! (NOTE: This paragraph was updated after the printed newsletter was mailed via USPS.)

Since it's been a while for many of you to attend in-person worship, remember that we have hearing devices for those of you who may need the sound amplified. Please see one of our Tech Team members, usually found in the booth at the back of the sanctuary, for assistance.

If you choose to "attend" Worship online, remember the sermon notes and service line-up are available on our website (www.fpcstanley.org) by Saturday morning. This will give you time to print them off if you are interested.



COMMUNION WILL BE SERVED AUGUST 9

On Sunday, August 9 we will serve the Lord's supper to those who are able to come in person using pre-packaged communion elements.

For those watching on-line at the end of the service you will be invited to come to the church for drive-through communion where our Elders will serve you in your cars.



IT IS

OFFICER NOMINATION TIME!

Officer Nominations are being accepted
August 2 through August 23.

Nomination forms including additional details can be found at the collection box in front of the SOAR office on the main hallway. You may also do an online nomination by going to our website and clicking on the *Officer Nomination* rotating banner.

SUNDAY SCHOOL RETURNS SEPTEMBER 7!

The Christian Education Team looks forward to a *hopeful* reopening of Sunday School with a big celebration on Sunday, September 7. Help us pray toward that date!



WOMEN IN THE CHURCH

Our WIC Circles are preparing to get back in the groove. Most of the circles will begin meeting in August. Check the schedule below for details as dates have changed!

Monday, August 10, 7:00 pm:

Elizabeth Circle will meet at the home of Robin Mundy.
Martha Circle will meet at the home of Anne Abernathy.
Readers Circle will meet in Founders Hall.

Tuesday, August 11, 7:00 pm:

Denver Circle will meet at the home of Vickie Smith.

NOTE: Ruth Circle will not meet in August. Plan to join them on September 14 in the Parlor.

ACTIONS OF THE OFFICERS

Our Elders and Deacons met recently and approved the following items:



⇒ Upgrade the lighting system in the sanctuary...

You may have noticed our rental lights which have helped the quality of our on-line services, but we believe a permanent solution to our lighting needs will allow us to reach our online community for years to come! The new system will be specifically designed to improve not only our on-line worship, but also will also enhance the visual experience for those in the sanctuary and sanctuary extension. The lighting is scheduled to be installed in the next month or so. Please pray that God will use our new lights, to more effectively share Jesus, the "Light of the World."

⇒ Donation to the Stanley Police Department

FPC will participate with the United in Action of Stanley Churches(UASC) in raising funds to help our Stanley Police Department obtain body cams. We believe we are called by Jesus to be involved in meeting the needs of our community and pray the cameras will help protect the Stanley PD officers and the citizens of Stanley. Our church will contribute \$1000 toward the cause as part of our outreach ministry.



A **BIG thanks** to **Jake Teague** for his help cleaning out the gutters at the house on the new property. There were literally trees growing out of the gutter and Jake not only cleaned them out, but tightened them up where they were loose! **We appreciate Jake serving Jesus and blessing our church!**



WITH OUR MISSIONARY FAMILY

Continue to pray for our missionaries!! Praise God that as of this date none of them have reported contracting the virus. A number of them have had their plans put on hold or canceled. May God use this unusual time for His glory and the spread of the gospel.

Happy Birthday in August

04 – Cody Janicek	17 – Raylene Casson
06 – Brenda Bracken	David K.
Micaiah K. (2003)	18 – Joel McCall
Adriana Wood	20 – Amina F.
10 – Ken Cross	Eliza Hunt (2012)
12 – Laura Cochran	26 – Amanda Weaver (2003)
14 – Bill S.	30 – Michael Lee

Note: Those whose last name is not listed are serving in sensitive areas.

THANK YOU AND FAITH PROMISE DONATION FROM MCBRAYER SPRINGS PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

This is the letter FPC received recently from McBrayer Springs Presbyterian, Shelby, NC:

Since the sale of McBrayer Springs PCA property and dissolution of its congregation, the Board of Directors of the corporation is in the process of dispensing the remaining cash assets to Christian missions.

In grateful recognition of your patient support of the McBrayer Springs Mission over the years the Board has decided to gift your Faith Promise Fund with the enclosed \$5,353.94.

Thank you—FPC Session, missions committee and FPC congregation—for your aid in building and supporting our church. Thanks especially to Rev. Dan King for his ministry and guidance in chairing our Oversight Commission.

Although we're disappointed that our ministry has come to an end, we are pleased to invest in the building of Christ's church in this manner.

May God bless you as you strive to advance the Gospel of Jesus Christ in a world that desperately needs to hear its message.

*Sincerely, In Christ,
Steve Clover, Treasurer
McBrayer Springs PCA*

WITH LOVING THANKS

Thank you so much for our graduation gifts! We appreciate you thinking of us as we celebrate this time in our lives!

*Love,
Kelsey and Kaleigh Smith*

Thank you so much for your kind and generous expressions of love and support during Jerry's recent sickness and death. She is alive today, safe with her Lord. The cards, visits, calls, meal and especially your prayers have been a source of strength to the entire family. Your kind generosity is a testimony to your love for Jerry and a model of compassion in a time of loss. We are grateful for the exceptional pastoral care, those who provided a meal, and the whole church family for your love and wanting to be here.

Also I want to thank our friends in the Open Bible Sunday School class that Jerry and I love so much.

*Sincerely,
Tom and the Barton family*

We have been so blessed by you during and after our hospitalizations. Thank you for the meals, cards, yard work, and especially for the prayers.

*We love you and thank God for you,
Ed & Debra Wallace*



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

In Memoriam



Geraldine (Jerry) S. Barton
August 19, 1937 - July 12, 2020

Christian sympathies are extended to **Tom Barton, Sr.** in the death of his wife, **Jerry Barton**. Jerry, a long-time member of FPC, passed away at the age of 82 on Sunday, July 12. Jerry was blessed to have many others in her family also in our church family: Son - **Tommy Barton (Janice)**; Grandchildren - **Jamie Stewart (Charlie, Adelee, Brooklynn, Cora Belle)** and **Sallie McAlister (Chris, Rhys, Leith)**.

Phyllis Ribbeck is doing well following recent cataract surgeries.

Congratulations to **Adam and Jennifer Greenly**. They welcomed their second child, a daughter, on June 27. She was born prematurely (at 34 weeks) and has been in the NICU since her delivery. We praise God that she is making good progress and they hope to have her home soon. Jennifer continues to recover at home. Big brother J is eager for his sister to come home.

Monnie Blackmon underwent surgery for breast cancer in June and is facing additional surgery later this summer. Her underlying medical condition is complex and certain procedures and many medicines are not options in her treatment. She, her husband **Bobby** and son **Bobby, Jr.** will appreciate your prayers.

Please continue to pray for **Thad, Laura, Lilli and Koen Davis** as they adjust to their new home. They will certainly be missed here at FPC. Their new address is: 34 Wayside Lane, Lookout Mountain, GA 30750.

JUNE FINANCIAL REPORT

Needed monthly for budget	60,967.16
Received in June for budget.....	41,413.26
Needed to date for budget.....	365,802.96
Received to date for budget	343,918.22
Needed monthly for Faith Promise	13,750.00
Received in June for Faith Promise	13,716.69
Needed to date for Faith Promise	82,500.00
Received to date for Faith Promise.....	108,499.54

Birthdays to Celebrate in August

2 Chris Baker Claire Kopka Tommi Rust	8 Frankie Henderson	18 Bill Robinson	27 Tommy Barton
3 Zack Bedford Cora Stewart	10 Bruton Beatty	19 Ken Dake	28 Katie Saine
5 Chris Black Lilli Davis	11 Deanna Beatty Heather Roberts	21 Scott Deneen Mike Gamage Leah Treat	30 Chuck Bynum Doug Gladden Eloise Hamilton David Hill
6 Madeline Jessen	12 Averly Deese Barbara Graham	22 Rick Herd	31 Shirley Chucci
7 Dean Chaney	13 Kristen Henderson	23 Jon Yodice	
	17 Don Hamilton Tenley Lawson	24 Randy Cole Mike Dixon	

The Church Family is a monthly publication of First Presbyterian Church
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E-mail: info@fpctanley.org • Website: www.fpctanley.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 (limited in-person, online and phone)



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Stanley, North Carolina 28164

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

ARMORBEARER

Prayer Calendar – August 2020
First Presbyterian Church • Stanley, NC

Armorbearers were personal attendants of a warrior chieftain who accompanied him in dangerous missions; they held huge shields sometimes surrounding their leader to protect him. **Intercessory prayers** by church members can **protect** their leaders from “the flaming arrows of the evil one” and uphold them “that words may be given to me in opening my mouth boldly to **proclaim** the mystery of the gospel.” (Eph 6:16, 19)

Prayer Prompt for August – (IGO) It’s God’s Opinion (Proverbs 18, James 1)

Fools find no pleasure in understanding, but delight in airing their own opinions. 4 Many words rush along like rivers in flood, but deep wisdom flows up from artesian springs. 6 The lips of fools bring them strife, and their mouths invite a beating. 7 The mouths of fools are their undoing, and their lips are a snare to their very lives. 8 The words of a gossip are like choice morsels; they go down to the inmost parts. 10 The name of the Lord is a strong tower; the righteous run to it and are safe. 12 Before a downfall the heart is haughty, but humility comes before honor. 13 To answer before listening—that is folly and shame. 15 The heart of the discerning acquires knowledge, for the ears of the wise seek it out. 17 In a lawsuit the first to speak seems right, until someone comes forward and cross-examines. 20 From the fruit of their mouth a person’s stomach is filled; with the harvest of their lips they are satisfied. Words kill, words give life; they’re either poison or fruit—you choose. James 1:19 My dear brothers and sisters, take note of this: Everyone should be quick to listen, slow to speak and slow to become angry, 26 Those who consider themselves religious and yet do not keep a tight rein on their tongues deceive themselves, and their religion is worthless. (NIV&MSG)

Pray for Pastors Steve Jessen, Dan King, Chaplain Ivan Davis (TLC)

Pray as the Holy Spirit guides you in thinking about, and praying for our pastors. Some suggestions for prayer are included, but pray also as you are aware of other particular needs and concerns they may have.

Monday: To love God with all their heart, and to love others as themselves. (Matt. 27:37-39)

Tuesday: To trust the Lord completely for their wisdom, so that he will direct their daily path. (Prov. 3:5,6)

Wednesday: To pray always, putting on the armor of the Lord to stand against the wiles of the Devil. (Eph. 6:11ff)

Thursday: To love their wives and manage their family in ways that honor Christ. (Eph. 5:25, I Tim. 3:4,5)

Friday: That God’s word will be their reproof, correction, and instruction in righteousness. (II Tim 3:16)

Saturday: To care faithfully for the flock and have compassion for lost sheep. (John 10:16, Lk. 15:4)

Sunday: To empower them to preach and teach the Gospel in the power of the Spirit. (Matt. 4:23, Rom. 10:15)

Prayer for Our Ministry Leaders and Staff

Pray daily as the Holy Spirit guides you in thinking about, and praying for, our ministry leaders and staff:

Monday: Debbie Smith, Director, Child Development Center

Tuesday: Jimmie & Martha Sue Mitchell, Global Outreach

Wednesday: Lauren Henderson, Director of Christian Education and Children’s Ministry

Thursday: Lisa Revels, SOAR Director

Friday: Sandra Taylor, Administrative Assistant

Prayer for Our Elders and Deacons

- 1 **Ryan Abernathy:** Pray for the safety and health of our TLC staff and residents.
- 2 **Jeremy Abernathy:** Pray for Aug. 3-6 VBS, leaders, staff to show God's love and point children to Jesus.
- 3 **Chris Baker:** Pray for our families as decisions are being made about our children returning to school and the options provided. Also for our teachers and school administrators during this stressful time.
- 4 **Chip Beatty:** Pray for the Tech Team doing all the work of live-streaming our services.
- 5 **Lynn Burrell:** Pray for everyone that is adversely affected from our current environment.
- 6 **Ken Dake:** Eric and I are still holding out at work. Business is down so I am still on furlough. Eric is back part time since he can't collect unemployment.
- 7 **Ron Ensley:** I would appreciate prayers for healing of blurred vision in my right eye. It is making reading difficult.
- 8 **Mason Friesenhahn:** Pray for Anna and all those who are trying to prepare for school re-opening.
- 9 **Mike Gamage:** Prayers for our families, church, community, and nation for God's grace to fill us all with understanding and tolerance of others' opinions.
- 10 **Chris Graham:** For wisdom, clarity, and patience as we plan for future staffing needs.
- 11 **Mark Harper:** Pray that our kids can go back to school on time and in a normal and healthy environment.
- 12 **Don Hensley:** Pray for Daniel's job situation and possible necessary career path change.
- 13 **Dillon Lamb:** Pray for Lauren Henderson and SS teachers and staff preparing to re-open in September.
- 14 **Dan Ormsby:** Pray for God's grace and guidance for all the families who have to teach their children at home and have to work.
- 15 **Matt Ormsby:** I ask that you please pray for our country's police officers and their families.
- 16 **Grady Rhyne:** Pray for Nathan and all the children and youth getting ready for school.
- 17 **Kevin Rhyne:** Pray that many people hear the gospel message and respond by joining our Christian family as an end result of the COVID pandemic.
- 18 **Will Robinson:** Pray for the ongoing ministry of our Praise/Worship Team.
- 19 **Ron Smith:** Pray for the Child Development Center to be filled for the preschool year for the fall program so that we can bring all our teachers back.
- 20 **Tracy Withers:** Pray for our Missions Team as we try to plan for some type of Missions Conference this fall.
- 21 **Ryan Abernathy:** Pray for the safety and health of our CDC staff, parents, and children this fall.
- 22 **Jeremy Abernathy:** Pray for shut-ins, those in nursing homes and their families during this time.
- 23 **Chris Baker:** Pray for me and others adjusting to work from home during this extended period of time.
- 24 **Chip Beatty:** Pray for our Deacons as we try to provide help for those in need who may come to us.
- 25 **Lynn Burrell:** Pray that my current rehab will help to resolve my ongoing back issues.
- 26 **Ken Dake:** Since we have lost Thad, please pray for our Youth ministry workers and program this fall.
- 27 **Ron Ensley:** Pray for school teachers and students as they return to school once again in a difficult environment.
- 28 **Mason Friesenhahn:** Pray for Anna and Mason, and all teachers and staff, as they adjust to the new normal at school.
- 29 **Mike Gamage:** Prayers that all of us physically separated from people and activities that unite us can rely on God to maintain and strengthen these bonds remotely as it would please Him.
- 30 **Chris Graham:** For Thad and his family, that the Lord continue to guide, comfort, and strengthen them in their new location.
- 31 **Mark Harper:** Pray that the work load at my company will increase and that the workers who were furloughed will be able to return soon.

Praise and Thanksgivings

- Praise for son-in-law Scotts new job.
Don Hensley
- Praise for great family time during lockdown.
Ken Dake
- Thanks be to God for the creative live-stream services and the Tech Team's hard and faithful work to produce the service each week.