

# THE CHURCH FAMILY

*Presenting Everyone Complete in Christ*

## FROM YOUR PASTOR'S DESK

On December 6, 2019 the 911 call center in Somerset New Jersey received a call from 4 year old Isla Glaser. She very calmly told the dispatcher that “my mommy falled down and she can’t talk.” Little Isla answered all of the dispatcher’s questions and when help arrived she opened the door. Her Mom was taken to the hospital where she was treated and released after a few days, saved by a very heroic little girl.

This Easter our theme is “Rescue Story.” The great Rescue Story of the Bible is the death and the resurrection of Jesus Christ that rescues us from sin and death. It is clear in Scripture that only Jesus can rescue us. We have no power to rescue ourselves, or others. Which leads me to this question: what is our part in rescuing others? Little Isla points us to the answer. This four year old had no power to save her mom. She was not a paramedic, she could not diagnose her condition or restore her to health. All that she could do was call for help and open the door.

There is a story in the book of Luke chapter 5 that illustrates this point. There was a paralyzed man who was desperate to see Jesus. His buddies carried him on his bed, but could not get in the overcrowded house where Jesus was teaching. Undaunted, they went on the roof, took out some roofing tiles, and lowered him down. Jesus then proceeds to rescue this man spiritually: “*Man, your sins are forgiven*” and physically: “*rise, pick up your bed and go home.*” What was the role of the paralytic man’s friends in his rescue story? They had no power to rescue their friend from his sinful condition or his physical ailment, but they did play a crucial part: they brought him to the One who could.

Which leads to three challenges for us:

1. Pray. Little Isla cried out for help on behalf of her Mom and they responded to her call. We are to pray for those who we know need to be rescued by Jesus. He will hear our call and our prayers can play a part in their rescue story.
2. Have faith for others. When the paralytic is lowered before Jesus it says “*And when He saw their faith.*” Jesus was moved by the faith of the man’s friends, and their faith played a part in this rescue story. Have unwavering faith that Jesus will rescue your friend.
3. Invite. Open a door, remove a roofing tile, make a clear path for those who need to be rescued by Jesus. Break down any barriers that you can and your efforts can play a part in their rescue story.

This Easter you have the perfect opportunity to put this into practice. Pray for someone you know, have faith that Jesus will rescue them, and invite them to our outdoor Easter service. The fellowship refreshment time begins at 9:45am with worship to follow at 10:30am. What a privilege and joy it is when God chooses us to be a part of His Rescue Story.

Serving a God who Rescues,

*Steve*

## REMEMBER OUR SPECIAL EASTER CELEBRATIONS

**Thursday, April 1, 7:00 pm: Maundy Thursday Worship**



**Easter Sunday, April 4:**

**9:45 am: Fellowship** with us outside. Individually wrapped food will be available. In case of rain, the fellowship will be held indoors.

**10:30 am: Worship Outside** with us as we celebrate the Rescue Story.

We are excited to welcome our newest members who completed Communicant's Class recently: **Madison Abernathy** and **Hudson Rick**. They will be presented to the church and make their public profession of faith during worship on Easter Sunday.

Bring your own chair. Invite a friend.



Children of all ages are invited to attend our

**Easter Egg Hunt.**  
**Sunday, March 28**  
**6:00 - 7:30 PM**

Bring your own basket.  
Snacks will be provided.

## FROM YOUR WORSHIP DIRECTOR

We are so excited to share this new series on Sundays, "Rescue Story"! I was telling the choir Sunday, "We all have a rescue story. This Easter we need to go back and remember what we have been rescued from." Our guest this past Sunday, Tom Green from Palmer Homes, touched on that. We have been rescued from sin, self and the destructive influences it has had in our lives. In order to be rescued you have to have a rescuer! It's good to know that the one who comes to save us has power and dominion over all the things that we struggle with. As Pastor Steve said Sunday, "We, as the rescued, have to give in and let go, trusting the one doing the saving." Are we trusting Him still? Yes, we may have trusted in the past, but are we trusting that He is the one that knows best on how to save us now? Are you struggling, wrestling with things that are in your life now? I want to encourage you as I remind myself that we need not look far for help. The Rescuer is near and ready to deliver you. Once again, we must trust Him!

*"Do not fear for I am with you; Do not look anxiously about you, for I am your God. I will strengthen you, surely I will help you, Surely I will uphold you with My righteous right hand."*  
Isaiah 41:10

## YOUTH UPCOMING EVENTS

**Saturday, April 17th - Picnic in Julian Price Park, Blowing Rock, NC!** We will depart the church at 9:00 AM. Wear comfortable walking shoes and bring a camping chair if you plan to hang out by the creek. Lunch will be provided! At some point in the afternoon we will go to downtown Blowing Rock to shop around and perhaps stop by Kilwin's for ice cream before heading home. **RSVP by Sunday, April 11th.**

**Sunday, May 2nd** - We will celebrate all that we have learned over this past church year with an End-of-the-Year CrossFit Celebration! Hotdog dinner (and smores!) provided. Teens will receive a sneak-peek at summer plans! More information to come. It's going to be.....colorful!

## WOMEN'S MINISTRY NEWS

### **Team Meeting:**

The next **Women's Ministry Team Meeting** is **Sunday, 3/28**, at **4:30 pm** in Founders Hall.

### **Spring Outing:**

Plan to join us on **Saturday, May 8th** for a trip to **Sim's Country BBQ** to enjoy good food, great company and live music! We will depart from the church at 4:00 pm. **Email Lauren or sign up on the women's webpage for your FREE ticket. You must have a reserved ticket to attend.**

### **Circle Meetings:**

**Ruth Circle** meets **Monday, April 12** at 6:30 pm in the Parlor

Denver, Elizabeth, Martha and Readers Circles will resume meetings in June.

### **Weekend Retreat:**

Our Women's Ministry is sponsoring a **Ladies' Retreat to Pigeon Forge, TN, April 23-25**. The ladies who participate in our circles were given the opportunity to sign up last month and our spots have nearly filled up! **If you are interested in attending, please email Lauren ([lauren@fpcstanley.org](mailto:lauren@fpcstanley.org)) right away and she can check space availability.** There will be a wait list in case someone cannot attend.

## SUNDAY SCHOOL UPDATE

**Joshua. A warrior. A leader. God's man.** Joshua is the first book that follows the Pentateuch (Genesis-Deuteronomy). It is the endcap to what some refer to as God's greatest redemptive work in the Old Testament. The first books of the Bible tell the story of how God redeemed His people from slavery and formalized His covenant love for them. In this second part (under the leadership of Joshua) the Lord brings His people into the Land of Promise and gives them rest. The journey isn't always easy.

You don't want to miss this study in our **Mask-Required Sunday School** class taught by Don Hensley. They meet in the Conference Room (just behind the Sanctuary). This study will be formed just like their study of the book of John from prior years = section by section. Come and learn!

## SOAR NEWS

Are you interested in playing **Adult (ages 15 and up) Co-ed Softball**? For more information or to sign up scan the QR code or contact the church office.



**Open Gym for Adult (ages 15 and up) Co-ed Volleyball** begins Monday, April 12th, 7:00 - 9:00 pm. It will take place every Monday in the FPC gym. Come join the fun and fellowship! For more information, contact Lisa Revels at [lisa@fpccstanley.org](mailto:lisa@fpccstanley.org).

## WELCOME TO OUR TECHNOLOGY & DIGITAL MINISTRY INTERN



We are thrilled to bring Luke Bynum to our ministry team as our Technology and Digital Ministry Intern. Luke has been a part of our church since he was born. As a youth Luke served our church and community through his involvement in our SOAR ministry. He even voluntarily filled in the gap directing SOAR for a time, for which we are very grateful. Now Luke joins our staff in an “official” capacity bringing his expertise and passion for using technology to reach the lost and to encourage the growth of our church family. He will be responsible for oversight of all things related to technology, including our Sunday morning worship needs. He will also help shape our digital media outreach that will impact the next generations. We are very excited about how God will work in and through Luke during this internship as he helps our church reach our technologically based world with the gospel! Be sure to thank him for all he has done to bless our church, and pray for him that God would use him in a mighty way!

## UPDATED CHURCH DIRECTORY ROSTERS

Be sure to pick up a copy of the recently updated church family directory. We have many additions and changes. There are copies available on the Literature Display in the main hallway, on the “Coffee Table” outside of Founders Hall and in the church office. Please destroy ALL of your previous copies and replace with the updated version. You are welcome to take multiple copies if needed. If you are not able to pick up a copy yourself, you may call the church office and request a copy be mailed or emailed to you.

## A WORD FROM OUR CHRISTIAN EDUCATION DIRECTOR

### “ARE YOU STILL HIBERNATING?”

Bears hibernate for four months out of each year. When hibernation comes, they settle down in a dry place to slow down. Their body assists this process by cooling down to 88 degrees. Did you know their heartbeat slows down? In normal sleeping times a bear’s heart beats about forty times a minute. In hibernation, it only beats eight times a minute. Another interesting fact is that they can be completely awake during hibernation. Their eyes will be open, they can move around the cave, stretch, give birth AND nurse their young.

I encourage all of our heads of households to take a look into the souls of your family. Wives, look at your husband and children. Husbands, look at your wife and children. Are they growing in their understanding of who God is? Does their faith seem to be stagnant? What are you doing in your household to point to Jesus Christ each day and expand their knowledge of God’s Word and Presence?

You may discover that you (and they) have been in a hibernation period. It’s time to WAKE UP!

For a bear to wake up, it requires their central nervous system to begin to freak out. The central nervous system realizes that a crisis is coming in their bodies because they haven’t been fed and are running on low. If they do not get up and eat NOW – they will slowly begin to perish.

Don’t allow this to happen in the souls of your family members (or yourself!). I encourage you to stretch your spiritual muscles, trusting in the Lord, and come to church! Bring your family to worship the Lord in His house. Bring your children and your teenagers. Do not miss the signs of your souls’ central nervous system (the Holy Spirit) saying – DANGER! Running on empty! Critical status coming!

If you are still exercising extra caution as this pandemic begins to abate, we offer several opportunities for you to gather safely. Our early service (mask required) has a lower attendance which allows for PLENTY of social distancing. We also have a ‘mask on’ Adult Sunday School class, one of our children’s classes is mask required, and a Life Group that meets through Zoom. I strongly encourage you to prayerfully consider getting yourself and your family back in church. Until you start moving those ‘spiritual discipline muscles’ again, you may not even realize how weak they have become.

*“Besides this you know the time, that the hour has come for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we first believed.” - Romans 13:11*

*“For you are all children of light, children of the day. We are not of the night or of the darkness. So then let us not sleep, as others do, but let us keep awake and be sober.” - 1 Thessalonians 5:5-6*

Time to WAKE UP, CHURCH!

As I stretch my arms in the air and blink awake myself,



## WITH LOVING THANKS

*Dear friends,*

*Thank you for all the expressions of love I and my family have received these last few months. Your cards, texts, calls, gifts and meals have blessed us, adding to our reasons to give thanks and praise to God. Most of all, I thank you for your prayers. The peace I have felt through these months I know is evidence of the prayers of His people. May God continue to grow our love for one another and for the world which is in desperate need of all we have here.*

*“Oh give thanks to the Lord, for He is good, for His steadfast love endures forever.” Psalm 118:1*

*With love,  
Frankie Henderson and  
the Henderson family*

## GIDEONS OFFERING UPDATE



Thank you to all who gave to the Gideons love offering earlier this month. Our Guest Speaker, Vance Dalton, reported the total received from FPC was \$4,466. Praise the Lord!! This will allow the purchase of 895 Bibles or 3,308 New Testaments, making the Word of God available for everyone and reaching souls for Christ!



## OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD IN MAY!

You're invited to participate in a unique opportunity to share God's love with children in hard-to-reach countries around the world!

Nearly 300,000 gift-filled shoeboxes that were ordered through Build a Shoebox Online will be assembled over several weeks beginning May 8 at the Operation Christmas Child Processing Center in Charlotte, North Carolina. You can volunteer to help pack these boxes so they can be sent to boys and girls who live in areas that are difficult to reach with the Gospel due to cultural or geographic barriers.

Please know that they are monitoring local, state, and national guidelines and making adjustments to help protect the health of those involved in packing the boxes.

Registration will open soon. Plan now to join them in May or June for this special opportunity and be a part of shining Christ's light in some of the world's darkest places. Contact Sandra in the church office if you are interested in volunteering. You will be notified when registration opens.

## WITH OUR CHURCH FAMILY

**Liz Johnson** is recovering from back surgery on February 19. **Frankie Henderson** underwent surgery on March 8 to remove her gall bladder. We were happy to see both of these ladies in worship recently. **Wayne Friday** spent several days in the hospital for treatment earlier this month. **Chris Black** is recovering at home from foot surgery. **Ann Smith** is home after a stay in the hospital for pneumonia.

Congratulations to **Andrew and Hailey Deese** on the birth of their 3rd daughter. **Andie Mae** was born March 12. **Averly** and **Addison** are her older sisters. **Tommy and Ellen Deese** are the proud grandparents. **Uncles Joe and Daniel Deese** along with their families join in the excitement of this new addition to their family.

We want to wish a very Happy Birthday to our oldest member, **Mrs. Helen Lieurance**. On March 29 Helen will turn **101 years old** ❤️

## WITH OUR MISSIONARY FAMILY

**Jake and Melissa Hunt** and their children Sam, Foard, Eliza and Sara Posey are in the USA for a six-month HMA (Home Ministry Assignment) from March – August. The Hunts serve in Prague, Czech Republic.

Pray for **Shaun and Becky Hurrie** and their children Isaac, Anwyn, Elise and Karis as they begin their ministry in Cape Town, South Africa.

### HAPPY BIRTHDAY IN APRIL

02 – Katy Janicek	05 – Melissa Hunt	24 – Robin White
03 – Ana Santana	06 – Michael Cochran	26 – Suzanne Scott
04 – Carrie Dirks	27 – Jonathan J. (2013)	29 – Fox Cochran (2009)
Anna F. (2007)	09 – Karen Weaver	
Michaela Wadhams (2007)	22 – Garry Chambers	

## FEBRUARY FINANCIAL REPORT

Needed monthly for budget .....	64,660.25
Received in February for budget .....	57,902.28
Needed to date for budget .....	129,320.50
Received to date for budget .....	120,865.28
Needed monthly for Faith Promise .....	14,465.42
Received in February for Faith Promise .....	25,185.62
Needed to date for Faith Promise .....	28,930.84
Received to date for Faith Promise .....	39,295.62

# *Birthdays to Celebrate in April*

- |  |  |  |
|--|--|--|
| 1 Keith Black<br>Fletcher Drenth                   | 11 Casey Ham   | 22 Garry Chambers<br>Nathan Chitwood                         |
| 2 Terri Fowler                                     | 12 Rachel Baker<br>Mary Rankin   | 23 Karen Ensley  |
| 3 Sallie McAllister                                | 16 Courtney Greeson<br>Dorcas Murphy<br>Jacob Rhyne<br>Charlie Stewart | 24 Johan Vandepoll   |
| 4 Tony Beam<br>Brad Heath<br>Chris McAllister      | 17 Hadley Rumfelt  | 26 Joe Deese<br>Lisa Grice<br>Lexi Robinson<br>Liam Robinson |
| 5 Cathy Rhyne                                      | 19 Ellen Deese   | 28 Sharon Herd<br>Emily Revels                               |
| 7 Chip Beatty                                      | 20 Brent Grice<br>Gavin Hare<br>Emery Huss                             | 30 Selena Little   |
| 8 Tommy Deese                                      | 21 Aubrey Brooks   |  |
| 10 Bentley Beatty<br>Doug Lamb<br>Sydney Underwood |  |  |

The Church Family is a monthly publication of First Presbyterian Church  
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Senior Pastor, Steve Jessen ♦ Pastoral Care, Dan King  
Worship-Mask Required 8:30 AM ♦ Sunday School 9:30 AM ♦ Worship-Mask Optional 10:30 AM



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# ARMORBEARER

Prayer Calendar – April 2021

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)

## Scripture Prayers and Praises for Easter – Matthew Henry

“We give all praise and honor to you, O Christ, that even as you were delivered for our offences, so you rose again that we might be pronounced righteous. We lift up our hearts in thankfulness that you were declared with power to be the Son of God, by the resurrection from the dead. For though you were dead, you are now alive and live forever more. You have the keys of death and hell. Having been raised from the dead, you will never die again, for death has no more dominion over you.” *Rom. 4:25; 1:4; Rev. 1:18; Rom. 6:9.*

“Father in heaven, we honor you that you would never allow your HOLY ONE to see decay. Indeed, you delivered him from the birth-pains of death, because it was impossible for him to be held back by its power. We rejoice that you publicly declared to all the house of Israel that the very same Jesus they crucified is both Lord and Christ. We affirm our faith the Christ died and rose again so that he might be Lord both of the dead and the living. So, whether we remain awake or fall asleep in death, we know that united with him we will keep on living.” *Acts 2:31,24,36; Rom. 14:9, I Thess. 5:10.*

*(From: A Way to Pray, Edit/Revised O. Palmer Robertson, Banner of Truth, Pub., p. 107).*

## 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)

## Pray 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

**Saturday:** Brian Miskelly, Worship Director and Luke Bynum, Technology/Digital Intern

## Pray for Our Elders and Deacons

- 1 **Dan Ormsby:** Pray for comfort and healing for the people having various health issues in our church family.
- 2 **Matt Ormsby:** Pray that our country will turn to Christ crucified, risen, and coming again.
- 3 **Grady Rhyne:** Pray that God will rescue the lost who need Christ as their risen Lord and Savior.
- 4 **Kevin Rhyne:** Pray that I will not be silent but confront societal evil when encountered and give witness to the truths of Scripture.
- 5 **Robert Rhyne:** Prayer for my daughters in both their Christian walk and their personal relationships.
- 6 **Will Robinson:** Pray for God to call more persons to our various music, choir, and worship teams.
- 7 **Ron Smith:** Pray for new ministry partners for the King's Daughters Ministry in 2021.
- 8 **Tracy Withers:** Pray for my mother-in-law Ann (Smith) Seibert as she deals with ongoing congestion and breathing problems after recent hospitalization.
- 9 **Ryan Abernathy:** Pray that Elizabeth and baby boy continue to have good health during her pregnancy.
- 10 **Jeremy Abernathy:** Pray that the cases of Covid will continue to drop so more can return to full participation in the worship and work of the church.
- 11 **Chip Beatty:** Pray for our church staff to have God's direction and wisdom in guiding our church through the aftermath of Covid.
- 12 **Lynn Burrell:** Pray that I will be able to find the right contractors to complete the renovation work required at FPC.
- 13 **Ken Dake:** Pray for Eric as he figures out where he wants to go in life, and for Ethan as he completes his Eagle "trail project" at FPC.
- 14 **Ron Ensley:** Pray that God would lead FPC Elders and Deacons how to best use the Great Commission House and Church Plant funds He has provided.
- 15 **Mason Friesenhahn:** Pray for protection of our teachers and school children who are in school.
- 16 **Mike Gamage:** Pray that I turn to God first in all matters.
- 17 **Chris Graham:** For us to remember that these tough days will be just a blip on the timeline of our eternity.
- 18 **Don Hensley:** Prayer that I continue to enjoy reading God's Word and the commentaries, as we begin to study the book of Joshua.
- 19 **Joel Jessen:** Pray that the Lord would give me a spirit of humility in my service.
- 20 **Dillon Lamb:** Pray for the children, workers and ministry of the Child Development Center.
- 21 **Dan Ormsby:** Pray that I will be a Godly example to my family and the people I come in contact with.
- 22 **Matt Ormsby:** Pray that our country will return to God for unity, peace, and order that honors Christ.
- 23 **Grady Rhyne:** Pray for our country that leaders will seek the Lord's help and direction to lead us wisely for the good of all.
- 24 **Kevin Rhyne:** Pray for me to protect my heart by repenting of sinful thoughts and carnal desires both for my good and for the glory of God.
- 25 **Robert Rhyne:** Prayer that I would be a good steward of all the many blessings afforded to my family.
- 26 **Will Robinson:** Pray for our family with our many responsibilities at work and home.
- 27 **Ron Smith:** Please continue praying for Debbie's brother, Butch, as he deals with multiple health issues.
- 28 **Tracy Withers:** Please pray for our son Maxton as he is facing another relocation with the Army.
- 29 **Ryan Abernathy:** Pray that God continue to guide us as we navigate a growing family and work responsibilities.
- 30 **Jeremy Abernathy:** Pray for those still suffering from Covid related hardships of illness, loss of jobs, finances, and schooling.

### Praise and Thanksgivings

- Praise God that the Great Commission House is finished and was used for the first time by visiting CRU missionaries, Kevin and Alisa Bentley.
- Praise for the rebirth of the choir and music program under Brian Miskelly.