

THE CHURCH FAMILY

Presenting Everyone Complete in Christ

FROM YOUR PASTOR'S DESK

We are in the middle of a sermon series on Faith Foundations based on the book of Hebrews. One of the building blocks of our faith is the “fellowship of believers.” Hebrews 3:13 states: *“But encourage one another every day, as long as it is still called ‘today,’ so that none of you will be hardened by the deceitfulness of sin.”* Our foundation is stronger when we have other Christians in our lives to encourage us, help us, and sometimes steer us in the right direction.

The Covid pandemic made fellowship very difficult. I’m thankful we were able to be together “virtually” but it’s not quite the same as being in the same room. I celebrate the ways we have seen sweet time of fellowship begin to emerge again in our church. Here are a few snapshots:

- ◇ Children “scrambling” for eggs at their Easter Egg Hunt as part of our Image Bearers Ministry.
- ◇ A multi-colored bunch of youth enjoying “color wars” at their end of year party.
- ◇ Young Adults sitting around a campfire to start their summer together.
- ◇ Our Best Years folks enjoying a good old fashioned “pot luck,” eating around tables for the first time in a long time!
- ◇ Basketballs swishing nets and volleyballs being spiked at our adult free play times.
- ◇ The crack of a softball on a bat, as the FPC softball team and their enthusiastic fan base cheer a big hit.
- ◇ Women line dancing and being “spooned” bringing big smiles at Sim’s BBQ.
- ◇ Men climbing ladders and wielding power tools to serve our church and community.
- ◇ The wonderful unity of the staff as we munched on popcorn during our recent staff retreat.
- ◇ Sunday School classes of all ages filled with teaching and learning.
- ◇ Coffee Pots percolating once again on Sunday morning in our Fellowship Café.
- ◇ Children swinging and sliding under the watchful eye of their teachers at our Child Development Center.
- ◇ Our American Heritage Girls pounding spikes into the ground to hold up their tents on a recent camping trip to the beach.
- ◇ Life Groups and women’s Circles laughing and sharing as they study God’s Word.
- ◇ The Choir filling the sanctuary with sweet harmony.
- ◇ The Praise Band finding just the right beat at practice to lead us in worship.

This return to fellowship is a process and we understand if your situation requires you to proceed with caution, but even fellowship with one person can make a difference. I recently looked out the window and saw two church friends exercising together: sharing life as they walked around the church parking lot- that’s sweet fellowship!

This week I read this verse from Psalm 133:1 *“How good and pleasant it is when God’s people live together in unity!”* One result of the pandemic is a realization that fellowship is a sweet gift from God and an important building block in our faith formation.

Thankful to be in fellowship with you!

Steve

 **Vacation Bible School is coming June 21-24!** 
See next page for details.

CHILDREN'S EVENTS IN JUNE



VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL
JUNE 21 - 24
6:30 - 8:30 PM

**Join us for a trip on the
Rocky Railway!**

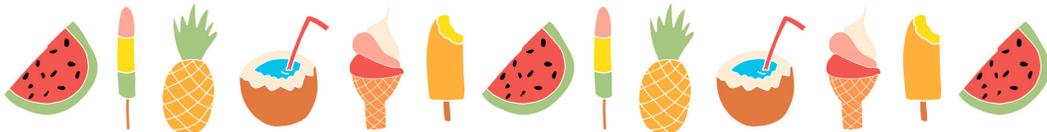
****PRE-REGISTRATION is REQUIRED!****

We will only open spots for the number of children we are safely able to staff. **We need your help!** Contact Lauren Henderson if you are available.

Registration for children entering 1st-6th grade is NOW open for those in the community. A limited number of spots are available.

For additional information or to register:

<https://fpcstanley.churchcenter.com/registrations/events/846384>



NC TRANSPORTATION MUSEUM, SPENCER, NC
JUNE 9, 9:00 AM - 3:00 PM

Children of all ages are welcome - children under 4 years old need their own chaperone. Cost is \$5. Bring a bag lunch and drink.

Spots are limited due to social distancing at facility so RSVP soon:

<https://fpcstanley.churchcenter.com/registrations/events/854514>



ULTIMATE SPORTS AND GAMES CAMP

JULY 12 - 15

8:30 AM - 12:30 PM

PRESENTS...

All children entering 1st-6th grades are encouraged to register!



Basketball
Soccer
Volleyball

Ultimate Frisbee
Fun Games

+ MORE



Register at:

www.fpcstanleysoar.org



▲ We are looking for volunteers ages 16 and up to ▲
▲ serve as camp staff for this summer camp. No ▲
▲ sports skills needed, just a love for kids and heart ▲
▲ for Jesus. We'd love to have you be a part of ▲
▲ this summer event. Contact SOAR Director Lisa ▲
▲ at lisa@fpcstanley.org if interested. ▲

FROM YOUR WORSHIP DIRECTOR

I just want to give a special shout out to all the youth and mentors that helped on Mother's Day! I am so proud of the job they did and their heart behind it. We are continuing with this through the summer but it will be brief. On the nights they are here for their summer series "Chosen" we will practice in the sanctuary from 6:30 - 7:00 pm. Please be on time so we can use the time wisely. We have some great songs to learn together.

The Adult Choir will be taking a break for the summer but you don't want to miss the Sundays they are participating. They will be leading us this Sunday, May 23 at both the 8:30 and the 10:30 am services and hopefully again on June 13. If you miss it, you will miss a blessing! We will have some other options this summer including some small ensembles and groups in the coming months!

Calling all young adults from nineteen to thirty-something. We are looking to have some music for you guys as well. If you are interested you can email me at brian@fpcstanley.org or text me at (704)915-9758. We want to have a time that we can get you together and see what God has in store. So, whether you are a singer or musician (or both) I hope to hear from you!

Blessings,

A WORD FROM OUR PASTORAL ASSISTANT

Dear Friends at FPC,

Carol and I have experienced a major U-turn in our lives, and we want you to know about it.

SouthLake PCA in Huntersville is calling me as their pastor, and I have indicated that I will accept the call. It's been a whirlwind!

Some of you will be aware that I have served as SouthLake's interim pastor for about 16 months and as their Session Moderator for about half that time. This PCA congregation in Huntersville has actively been looking for a new pastor for nearly two years, considering multiple pastoral candidates along the way. But when the conclusion was reached that the most recent candidate was not the man God had for them, the five-member Session (acting as the Pulpit Committee) turned to me with a direct proposal on May 3. The Session told me that "to a man" they believe that I am the one whom God has sent in answer to their prayers. They said, "We've been praying for God to lead us to a pastor, and we have realized that the man has been standing right in front of us." I didn't know what to say.

This was nothing I had sought out or cared to discuss when the possibility was raised informally by a few individuals over the past months. After the Session put it to me so forcefully, Carol and I agonized over the decision for a couple of days during which we fasted and prayed. In the end, I realized that all the reasons I could give not to do it were pathetically selfish, things I would be thoroughly ashamed to offer as explanations before the Lord. On her part, Carol, reluctant at first ("I don't want you to have another heart attack!") said that through her fasting and prayer the Lord had brought her to the point where she could say that she would be at peace with whatever I decided.

We told the elders we would accept if called. A quietness immediately descended upon our hearts and spirits, and now we find ourselves quite joyful and excited. I am giving SouthLake an initial commitment of 3 years, at the conclusion of which I will be 75 years old. It is not necessary for us to move our residence, so we will still be right down the road, seeing you often about town, I am sure. I will be resigning my little ministry on staff at FPC, but our love for you continues, and I will still minister to you in any way I can as a former pastor and friend.

Thank you for your understanding. Please pray for us.

Warmly,

Dan



GREAT COMMISSION TRAIL

Our new Great Commission Trail officially opened for community use on Sunday, May 16. It is approximately 1/4 mile of shaded and level ground. We need lots of folks using the trail to pack it down. Come out and take a walk!

A huge thanks to Ethan Dake for making this his Eagle Scout Project!!

Crossfit **UPCOMING EVENTS!**
FPC Youth Ministry

May 26th: Dinner at Sports Page, Bus departs at 5:00 PM (Bring \$20)

June 2nd: Summer Series-Chosen 1:2, 7:00 - 8:30 PM at Youth Building

June 9th: Bowling at Textile Lanes in Belmont, Bus departs at 6:30 PM (Bring \$10/socks)

June 16th: Summer Series-Chosen 1:3, 7:00 - 8:30 PM at Youth Building

June 21st-24th: Service Opportunity Assisting with VBS, 6:30-8:30 PM

June 30th: Summer Series-Chosen 1:4, 7:00-8:30 PM at Youth Building



YOUNG ADULT SUMMER KICK OFF BASH

Come join us on Sunday, May 23rd at 6:00 pm at the Great Commission House (park at church) for an evening of connection with friends old and new. We will enjoy a delicious cookout, hanging out around the fire pit, playing games and hearing about exciting opportunities coming this summer. This event is for anyone in the post High School eighteen-twenty something age range. Come hang out with us as we grow together in our faith!

WOMEN'S MINISTRY NEWS

JUNE CIRCLE MEETINGS: **Monday, June 7, 6:30 pm**
Ruth Circle meets in the Parlor.

Monday, June 7, 7:00 pm
Denver Circle meets at the home of Vickie Smith.

Elizabeth Circle

Martha Circle meets at the home of Anne Abernathy.

Readers Circle meets in Founders Hall

SERVICE DAY: All women are invited to participate in our **Service Day** on **Saturday, June 5**. We will begin at 8:00 am with breakfast and then go out to do some work until lunch time! Let Lauren or Sandra know if you are available to volunteer.

Contact the church office if you have some light house cleaning (one room deep cleaned), gardening or outside cleaning that you need help with.

OUTING: All women are invited to join us at **Narroway Productions** for "**Jesus the Teacher**" on **Friday, July 30**. The bus will depart the church at 5:00 pm. Cost including dinner and the show is \$20. **To reserve your spot, turn in your money to Lauren.** Limited spots are available so reserve your seat ASAP.



BEST YEARS OUTING TO NARROWAY PRODUCTIONS

JULY 10, BUS WILL DEPART AT 10:00 AM

Cost is \$18.00 including dinner* and show.

See Sandra to RSVP and purchase your ticket. Deadline to RSVP is June 10.

*Be sure to notify us if you need a gluten free meal or if you have a fish allergy.



Our Christian Education Team is once again offering **scholarships** to those of our church family who will be going to a **church camp** this summer.

Requests with a copy of the registration form should be turned in to the church office **on or before June 7**.

Amount of scholarship aid will be determined by the number of applicants.

WITH LOVING THANKS

Dear church friends,

Thank you for being so kind to us with cards, calls, food and most of all prayers for healing of my ankle. We give God the glory for all of you.

*God bless you all.
Janet Redding*



We want to thank each person who sent cards, letters, and prayers for Mike's recovery. After two weeks of physical therapy, he is home and can walk without assistance for short periods of time. We stand amazed of the healing power of the Holy Spirit.

Mike and Judy Dixon

WITH OUR CHURCH FAMILY

Lexi Robinson, daughter of **Will and Sarah Robinson**, was baptized on Easter Sunday, April 4.

Sympathies are extended to **Jamie and Lisa Revels** and family in the death of Jamie's grandmother. **Peggy Broome**, of Gastonia, passed away April 25 at the age of 84.

Congratulations to **Ed and Stacey McGraw** on the birth of their first grandchild. **Landon Dean** was born March 12th to **Jared and Emily McGraw** of Lincolnton.

Sissie Kilby had surgery on May 18 for carpel tunnel as well as some work on her elbow.

WITH OUR MISSIONARY FAMILY

Pray for our missionaries as they face daily stresses in their personal lives and in their ministry. Pray that our missionaries will be obedient and faithful in all that they do and not be tempted to view the ideas of success and failure through the world's eyes.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY IN JUNE

- | | |
|-----------------------------|--------------------------------|
| 01 – Marcia J. | 17 – Bethany Schweitzer (2001) |
| 03 – Mark Schweitzer (1999) | 20 – Jennifer Comer |
| 06 – Ellen Barnett | 21 – Ema Lepadatu |
| 10 – Laura Dye | 24 – Tricia Lee |
| 13 – Pedro Polloreana | Debbie Saenz |
| Pam Schweitzer | 29 – Carin F. |

CRISIS PREGNANCY CENTER OF GASTON COUNTY

BABY BOTTLE BLESSINGS

Remember to fill your baby bottle
and return it to the church office
no later than Sunday, June 20!



APRIL FINANCIAL REPORT

Needed monthly for budget	64,660.25
Received in April for budget	45,725.13
Needed to date for budget	258,641.00
Received to date for budget	234,532.01
Needed monthly for Faith Promise	14,465.42
Received in April for Faith Promise	11,518.37
Needed to date for Faith Promise	57,861.68
Received to date for Faith Promise	67,134.52

Birthdays to Celebrate in June

- | | | |
|---|--|--|
| 1 Shanna Griffin
Chuck Jessen
Audrey Lamb | 10 Morgan Smith | 21 Ruth Kerley
Karsyn Rutkowski |
| 2 Julianne Griffin
Angie Killian | 12 Rebecca Baker
Chloe Billings | 25 Ethan Dake
Heather Ormsby |
| 3 Ivan Davis | 13 Jasey Herd
John Ludeman | 27 Daniel Deneve
Eleanor Greenly |
| 4 Kathy Paramore | 14 Kim Jessen | 28 Brandon Lawson
Lisa Revels |
| 5 Aiden Friesenhahn | 15 Elizabeth Abernathy
Maelin Treat | 29 Mary Ruth Heffner
Robin Griffith |
| 7 Ed McGraw
Graham Smith | 17 David Pitts | 30 Melissa Clevenger |
| 9 Sammy Ludeman
Madilyn Saine | 18 Dalton Lawson | |
| | 19 Seth Abernathy | |

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@fpcestanley.org • Website: www.fpcestanley.org

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



512 Old Mt. Holly Road
Stanley, North Carolina 28164

Bulk Rate
U. S. Postage
Paid
Permit No. 12
Stanley, NC 28164

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED