



FIRST WORDS

MAY 2024



Loving God.
Loving our neighbors.
Because Christ loves us first.



Dear Friends,

The vibe is good and the work of the church continues in a positive direction. Youth Sunday was a testament to the strong youth ministry that continues and Elizabeth's work with them. The Pastor's Nominating Committee has hit the ground running, seeking congregational input and doing the necessary assessment work in preparation for its forthcoming search. It's a strong committee made up of a good mix of congregational members. It will represent the church well and will ably go about its important task.

I applaud your decision to have a columbarium and the work that is being done to build and complete it. My former church has a columbarium and it is a meaningful, sacred place for that congregation. It will be for you as well. The dedication is on Sunday, June 2.

I am grateful for my time among you and look forward to your future. I will be here until June 2.

Onward!

Sid



Before I launch into a new month, I want to take a moment to give thanks for all the great ministry that happened in April. **Make sure to read to the end, because I have info for VBS 2024.**

Our littles and Bible Club kids continued to be led by our wonderful

teachers and I don't think I can say thank you enough to each of them for sharing their gifts with our children.

Kristen Anderson
Dena Bradham
Karen Parker
Cora Sue Beasley
Mia Johnson

These ladies blow me away with the ways they share the love of Jesus Christ through music, Bible stories, crafts, and games. Thank you!

April was also an enormous month for our youth.

Our middle and high school youth worked hard to prepare for Youth Sunday on April 21st and I am so incredibly proud of each of them. They stood up in front of our congregation and proclaimed the good news of Jesus Christ through prayer, confession, singing, and preaching. I am also grateful for our advisors who have displayed a continuous presence and leadership over these last several months. I am indebted to each of them. Thank you to:

Brian Foster
Blair and Gene Chance
Meredith and Andy Wermel
Courtney Williams
Russ Warren

Our 6th and 7th grade confirmands also stood in front of their congregation as 2 of them were baptized and they all reaffirmed their baptism by professing their faith in Jesus Christ. Each of them has worked hard over these months we've spent together. We've talked about our faith, asked good and deep questions about the Bible, and spent lots of time putting our faith into words as they all wrote their statements of faith. It was also a gift to see the connections their elder mentors made with them.

Now for May!

Storytime and Bible Club

The first Sunday in May will be our **last** gathering for Storytime with Littles and Bible Club for our K-5th graders. The kids will be doing one last rehearsal of their Mother's Day song that they will sing in worship on May 12th. The rest of our time together that night will be a fun surprise!

Youth

Middle School: Confirmands are done meeting for this season, but those going to Massanetta will be receiving info soon.

High School: Our 8th-12th graders are done meeting for the season as well, but I am excited as we prepare to go to Montreat in July, so be on the lookout for more information.

Graduate Sunday is scheduled for May 19th. We will be honoring all of those who graduate from High School, College, or Grad School this Spring. If you would like to honor your graduate, please submit their name and from where they are graduating by Thursday, May 16th to Lesia Campbell at fpcdunnoffice@gmail.com or fill out the [online form](#).



VBS 2024 at FPC!

This year's theme is: Scuba: Diving Into Friendship with God

When: July 21st, VBS Kick-off
July 22nd-24th, VBS!
Who: Kids in Prek through rising 5th graders

Here is the link to register your child:
<https://fpcdunn.breezechms.com/form/VBSregistration521518>

The deadline to register your child is July 15, 2024.

Also, if you are interested in volunteering, I need you! Let me know, and I'll find an awesome way for you to make this VBS even more amazing for our kids.

As a reminder, here are some important upcoming dates:
May 5th - 5:15 pm, last Storytime and Bible Club before we break for summer
May 12th - kids sing in worship and play handbells
May 19th - Graduate Sunday, submit your graduate's name by May 16th
June 20-23 - Massenetta Middle School Conference
July 7-13 - Montreat High School Conference
July 21 - VBS Kick-off Celebration
July 22-24 - VBS (deadline to register is July 15th.)

See y'all soon!
Pastor Elizabeth



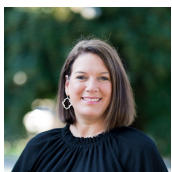
Choir Sunday has been a designated Sunday in which a series of choir favorites have been performed during the morning worship service. This tradition has been a part of First Presbyterian Church for well over 30 years. The tradition was halted, as was the rest of the world, during the 2020 pandemic. For the past four years, the choir has been faithfully singing, but the traditional Choir Sunday service was not been scheduled.

This year the traditional Choir Sunday returns on **Sunday, May 5, 2024**. The Choir will be singing the old favorites of yesteryear as well as a few newer selections that have emerged as choir favorites. Choir members will be sharing a bit of history about the designated anthems and Dr. Batts will be sharing Scripture in between the selections. Should be a wonderful celebration of Word and song!

The K-5 Kids will be performing on **Sunday, May 12, 2024**. They will sing, and play hand bells and chimes. A few students will perform a short skit about the beauty of being a child of God, no matter your age.

Finally, on **Sunday, May 19, 2024**, First Presbyterian Church will be honoring the 2024 graduates.

On **Sunday, June 9**, the harpist, Alyssa Hall will be playing for us in morning worship. More details in the June Newsletter.



Greetings, from First Presbyterian Preschool, we have been a busy group these last few months. In April, our students had their spring pictures taken, which served as a small fundraiser for the preschool. Some of the classes also participated in a butterfly release on the playground.

Our students in all three classes will learn about space, ocean life, and summer during our last month together. Also, in preparation for the school

year to end our 3-day and 5-day classes will be getting ready for their end of the year programs.

Registration for the 2024/2025 school year is now open to the public. The link is active [on the church website page](#) for anyone who may be interested in registering. The Toddler 1 class has two openings, and the 5-day class has two openings. The Toddler 2 and 3-day classes are full with a waiting list.

We will also have a preschool t-shirt sale this summer as another fundraiser. As always it is such an honor and privilege to invest into the lives of these sweet children.

Thank you for giving us the opportunity.

In Christ,
Ranae Strickland

Announcements

Shoe Project

This Spring, our congregation will once again participate in the "Shoe Project," which is when we provide the funds to purchase new shoes and socks for youth in our local schools. We will be meeting at the local Shoe Show on Tuesday, May 7th, at 8 am, so that we can pair up with a youth to help them pick out their new shoes. If you would like to participate, please contact Natalie Turner or Zach Harper.

Graduate Sunday

On May 19th, we will honor the graduates of 2024. If you would like to have your graduate honored in the bulletin that morning, please submit their name and from where they are graduating. We will honor those graduating from high school, college, or grad school.

Transition Team

The Session has approved a Transition Team to ensure that the mission and ministry of the church is being fulfilled during our transition period until a minister is called. This will be your source of communication during this period, so continue to watch for any news and updates that will be forthcoming.

The Transition Team is Betty Byrd, Tilghman Pope, Courtney Williams, Billy Godwin, Jane Tart, Deborah Warren, and Whitney Harrison.

Upcoming Sundays

5

MEN OF THE CHURCH BREAKFAST
TWO CENTS A MEAL
CHOIR SUNDAY

12

MOTHER'S DAY
PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN LIFETIME
ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

19

GRADUATE SUNDAY
PENTECOST SUNDAY

26

TRINITY SUNDAY



◆◆◆ **FPC ANNUAL** ◆◆◆

GOLF

TOURNAMENT

\$200
PER TEAM



MAY
14

**ALL PROCEEDS GO TO
SUMMER YOUTH PROGRAMS**

CHICORA GOLF CLUB
495 CHICORA CLUB DR,
DUNN, NC 28334

LUNCH - 12:00

TEE OFF - 1:00

The date for the Annual Church Golf Tournament is Tuesday, May 14 at 1:00. Lunch will be included and served in advance of the tee-off at noon. It is a 4-person, captain's choice format. Those interested are asked to form *their own foursome*. The cost is \$200 per foursome, with all proceeds supporting the summer church youth programs. Entry forms will be available on the table outside the church office. If there are any questions, please contact Will Gage.



PLEASE SAVE THE DATE FOR THE

*Columbarium
&
Prayer Garden
Dedication*

*Sunday, June 2, 2024
at 10.30am*

First Presbyterian Church
901 N Park Avenue
Dunn, North Carolina

Luncheon to follow in the Fellowship Hall

Praying for Our Church Family

Hilda Bannerman
Barbara Byrd
Barbara Godwin

T.C. Godwin
Elease Hodges
Dave Mason

Praying for Others

Stephen Bath (Pam Kelly)
John Beasley (Rick Stephenson)
Gail Copeland (Rick Stephenson)
Thomas Corbin (Linda Grisier)
Emily Cottle (Janet Mobley)
Arlene Duff (mother of Michelle Powell-Duff)
Phillip Gaines (Morgan Colmenero)
Becky Glover (Betty Byrd)
Paula Harman (Patsy Powell)
Donald Hawley (Frank Williamson)

Skippy Jackson (Butch Warren)
Justin Johnston (Keith Williams)
Natalie Kulish & Family (Pastor Elizabeth)
Perry & Pam Lewis (Pam Strickland)
Mitch Mason (Harry Byrd)
Sarah Shields (Butch Warren)
Laura Tyndall (Cora Sue Beasley)
Steve Watson (father of Melissa Stevens)
C.B. Williams (Harry Byrd)



Nursery Attendants

May 5 - Wiley & Jill Pope
May 12 - Derek & Julie Easter
May 19 - Courtney & Meda Williams
May 26 - Derek & Julie Easter

Acolytes

May 5 - Mia Walker
May 12 - Winnie Smith
May 19 - Piper Smith
May 26 - Henry Lawson

Broadcast & Sound Team

May 5 - Jason Colmenero & Bryant Pope
May 12 - Wesley Johnson & Bryant Pope
May 19 - Jason Jones & Bryant Pope
May 26 - Cole Stevens & Bryant Pope

Ushers

May 5
Si Harrington
Helen Harrington

May 12
Lee Herring
Will Gage

May 19
Kevin Allen
A.C. Williams

May 26
Brad Brown
Lee Herring

May Birthdays

Austin Fitchett	1	Lincoln Jones	14	John Gage	22
Beth Stevens	2	Layla Jones	15	Hunter Taylor	22
April Wilson	2	Wes Turner	17	Kelli Williams	23
Margaret Gurkin	3	Tara Strickland	20	Allie Smith	25
Jim Sholar	5	Faye Bass	21	Derek Easter	28
Marleena Davison	5	Gerald Hatley	21	Bonnie Bayles	30
Melissa Stevens	9	Kathy Medley	21	Mary Grey Godwin	30
Erin Elisabeth Taylor	9	Jerry Parker	21	Bryant Pope	30
Whitley Turner	11	Natalie Turner	21	Jonathan Turlington	30
Dianne Tilghman	13				