

Have you completed the Growing Young Assessment?

In order to help us better understand the culture of our church, we are inviting you to complete a brief online assessment. This survey is based on the work of the Fuller Youth Institute, specifically the research presented in the book *Growing Young: 6 essential strategies to help young people discover and love your church*.

Use this link:

<https://www.oursurvey.church/FPCFayetteville>

Or scan this QR code:

 **SCAN ME**

Please complete the survey by:

JULY 11, 2021

We anticipate it will take you approximately 5 to 10 minutes to complete, and your responses will remain confidential as they are incorporated into a larger report.

**If you have questions,
please call:**

(910) 483-0121

JULY 2021 | VOL. 33 ISSUE 7

FIRST PRESS

Official Newsletter of First Presbyterian Church, Fayetteville N.C.



A MESSAGE FROM DR. GARRETT

I visited other churches with my friends, and they are really great churches, but I walk in and I feel like nobody even notices that I am there... But I have heard from my friends who come to my church for the first time that they just feel like people really notice that they are here and that they are really wanted here... It's like the common denominator between them all—it's the reason they stay.

This is a young person's testimony as to why their church works for them and their friends. This person is not describing our congregation, but they could be. We do “warmth and welcome” well!

Warmth is one of six core commitments made by churches that are "growing younger" - churches that are able to include and retain young people in their common life. For many weeks, we have talked about those commitments and, in the months to come, we will visit them again. Why? Because sharing the good news of Jesus Christ with emerging generations is at the heart of our mission.

Growing younger as a congregation requires an intentional, thoughtful commitment to the vision. You can help by reading *Growing Young*, if you haven't already. It's available as a book or on Kindle through Amazon. We need your help by taking the [Growing Young Assessment](#) that is available online for our congregation through July 11. We need a high degree of participation from all segments of our congregation so we can be purposeful about planning our next steps. Please invest ten minutes of your time. Links to the assessment can be found in this newsletter, in weekly emails and other communications.

continued on the next page



JOIN THE SISTERHOOD

MOPS and MOMSnext are back! MOPS encourages and equips moms of preschoolers (MOPS) and school-age children (MOMSnext) to realize their potential as mothers, women, and leaders, in relationship with Jesus, and in partnership with our church.



Save the Date
August 29
3-5 p.m.

KICKOFF

This year, it's all about fresh starts, and turning ordinary experiences into extraordinary ones. Together, we will walk in power, love one another, and make love our legacy.

No longer will we wait to “get back to normal”; instead, we will start making space for the new things God has for us. We will become less guarded and more daring because this is our year to live All For Love.

Follow the First Presbyterian Church MOPS group on Facebook for news and updates: @MOPSPresFirst

Once you join, you will be invited to join the PRIVATE MOPS First Prez group where you can post prayer requests, discussion topics, and stay connected with your MOPS and MOMSnext friends.

All those interested in MOPS and MOMSnext are invited to join us for a kickoff gathering here at First Presbyterian.

Childcare will be provided.
Please spread the word.

Please email
corbinthorley@gmail.com to sign up
for childcare.



Meet Corbin!

Corbin is a Marine Veteran, vocalist for the Army National Guard, mother of two, and First Presbyterian's new MOPS and MOMSnext coordinator. She's looking forward to building relationships and connections with other women and supporting them in our community. Email her at corbinthorley@gmail.com.



Love is patient and kind; love does not envy or boast; it is not arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice at wrongdoing, but rejoices with the truth. Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.

I CORINTHIANS 13:4-7, ESV

A Shared Word from Pastoral Care from Pastor Mitch Watson

My prayers are currently focused on the trepidation we may feel, and the wisdom needed to navigate through the easement of COVID restrictions.

We are now free to see our friends and family!... Hurray!... But, wait, a resurgence and a variant has been detected!... Stay home!

We are constantly hit with mixed messages. How can one possibly navigate social norms? How do socialize when we all have different levels of comfort within crowds? When can I see my friends/family/church family?

Marquina Watts, M.S.N., R.N., C.N.L., a Nurse at Independence Plus, based in Chicago, published "5 Keys of effective communication in the Workplace." I liked her key points so much that I adapted them to a congregational setting...

continued on the next page

A Message from Dr. Garrett, cont.d

Speaking of young people... as I write this, we are enjoying a wonderful week of Vacation Bible School! I'm always encouraged by the way the adults and youth of our congregation give of their time and talents to serve the children they are leading. I've been here long enough to see some of our youth step into leadership roles. It's encouraging! And of course, the energy the children bring is amazing.

During these summer months, please stay in touch! Worship with us online if you are away. Take time to take care of your soul. I'm grateful for the opportunity to serve as your pastor.

Mitch

First Friends

*Tackling daily life and growing closer to Jesus in community with other **young adults under 45** at First Presbyterian Church of Fayetteville, N.C.*



First Friends Small Group

Join First Friends for dinner, fellowship, and an opportunity to "dig deeper" into the ministries and teachings at First Presbyterian. First Friends meet bi-weekly on Wednesdays through the summer for dinner from 6 p.m. to 7:15 p.m. at various restaurants. Don't worry about missing a week, just join when you can!

Childcare for First Friends small group can be arranged with the following link: <https://bit.ly/FFSmallGroup>

First Friends Supper Club

Do you want to be a Supper Club host, or interested in getting more details about the next meet-up?

Please email mary.kelly.butler@aol.com for more information.

Questions? Please email mary.kelly.butler@aol.com for dates, information and for a link to the private Facebook group.

OPEN TO
visitors!

Assisted living and other long-term care facilities have gradually reopened to visitors, allowing residents to reconnect with their loved ones. Visitors are welcome, but protocols vary.



Be sure to reach out to your First Presbyterian Church family!
Pictured: Hilda Kirby (left) embraces Fran Primeaux during a visit.

ESCAPE ROOM

at First Presbyterian Church

6:30 PM
AUGUST 4

The whole church family is invited to join us for a fun evening of strategy and problem solving!
Use the clues to solve puzzles before time runs out!

All ages are welcome,
and childcare will be provided.

Be on the lookout for a registration form in your weekly First Things First emails.

Fellowship Night

WITH THE



TICKET OPTIONS:

\$10 TICKET

-OR-

\$15 TICKET (INCLUDES HOT DOG/CHIPS/DRINK)

JULY

23

2021

SEGRA STADIUM

Downtown Fayetteville, N.C.

FRIDAY

6:30

PM

REGISTER:

<http://bit.ly/FPatSegra>



SCAN ME

5 Keys to Effective Communication in a COVID world

1 Be H.O.T.

Honest, Open, and Transparent

Remember Ephesians 4:25 - "Therefore, each of you must put off falsehood and speak truthfully to your neighbor..." Be open and honest about your limits, as well as your needs.

2 Be empathetic.

Empathy is a connection with the emotions of another. Romans 12:15 states, "Be happy with those who are happy, and weep with those who weep." Communication can be far more than just words.

3 Be accountable.

Jesus said let your yes be yes, and your no be no. (Matthew 5:3) This means being accountable for your actions, regardless of the outcome...even if it means setting boundaries with those you love.

4 Remain respectful.

Treat others how you want to be treated. We all know this is the Law (Matthew 7:12), but we often find it's easier said than done. Be firm, fair, and friendly in all that you do.

5 Just do it!

All it takes to start the conversation is for you to speak up! Share your desires for social interaction! Communicate your boundaries along with your needs! It can be a messy, albeit fun process.

Break the ice, socialize in phases (phone calls/outdoor visits/indoors with masks), and regardless of the outcome, pave the way for future connections and friendships.

*A Shared Word from Pastoral Care, cont.d
from Pastor Mitch Watson*



What an amazing journey through the Rocky Railway! On our faith-filled adventure, we discovered that trusting Jesus pulls us through life's ups and downs. Jesus' power helps us do hard things, gives us hope, helps us be bold, lets us live forever, and helps us be good friends.

Special thanks to all of the volunteers, youth, crew leaders, and the VBS praise team for creating such a wonderful experience for these children, and glorifying God through your service.

Special thanks to the Preteen group for their outreach ministries during VBS week. Be sure to ask them what they did!





**THANK YOU FOR HELPING
US SURPASS OUR VBS
MISSION GOALS!**

TOGETHER, WE COLLECTED

124 PONCHOS

FOR THE SALVATION ARMY

AND RAISED

\$6,731

**FOR THE CRISIS NURSERIES IN
LUSAKA, ZAMBIA**

SANCTUARY FLOWERS



CALL DEBRA CHESTNUTT

(910) 818-9006

TO RESERVE A FUTURE DATE FOR
MEMORIALS AND HONORARIUMS.
ALL SUNDAYS THROUGH THE MONTHS OF
AUGUST AND SEPTEMBER ARE AVAILABLE.

HONORARIUMS

Kay Autry

A special friend

Joann and Benny Pearce

Patsy Markham; Eliza and Fred Williams

MEMORIALS

Brett Ciccone

Linda and Ralph Huff;

Jo Beth and Franklin Johnson

Harriett Cromartie

Hilda Kirby

Margarette Dunn

Sharon and John Buroker

Jim Hankins

Sharon and John Buroker

Harry Hooks

Labinda Bryan

Eleanor Manning

Kay and Wayne Autry; Sharon and John Buroker

Frank Paul McGwier

Labinda Bryan; Patsy Markham; Ann Rowell;
Cape Fear Coin Club

July Birthdays

1 Cynthia Huggins

1 Terry Herndon

1 Barrett Teele

1 Drew Fincher

1 Bruce Hammill

2 Sarah Cromartie

2 Ann Loyd

2 Adam Farnham

2 Clara Dunn

2 Eddie Prewitt III

2 Mark Luce

3 Linda Adams

4 Wayne Mosley

5 Diehl Jones

5 Tim Dunn

6 Danielle Hurley

6 Adam Datkuliak

6 Drew Napoli

7 Gary Ciccone

7 Melanie Strickland

7 Brewer Stiles

8 Shannon Blue

8 Kaytlyn Gilbert

9 Gage Mosley

9 Melissa Jolly

10 John Patrick Dunn

10 Marcia Garrett

12 Barbara Dobbins

12 Corey Breece Jr.

13 Linda Huff

13 John Campbell

14 John Tyson Sr.

14 Lisa Thorley

15 Clara Schwamm

15 Colin McMahon

16 James Breswitz Jr.

16 Emmy Johnson

16 Pamela Tolbert

17 Dan Jutson

17 Mary Downing

17 Megan Langley

17 James Duhon

18 Paige Darden

18 Zachary Fegan

18 Elizabeth Seufert

19 George Markham

19 Bill Conklin

19 Jordan Gutierrez

19 Maryann Johnson

20 Janet Prewitt

20 Jackson Teele

20 Thomas Martin

21 Gary Allen

21 Gracen Morris

21 Chance Kirby

22 Bill Kirchman

22 Sally Alderman

22 Colin Wauford

23 Rich Clarke

24 Daniel Jutson II

24 Mary Lynn Sasser

24 Meredith Stiehl

24 Megan Baileys

25 Pam Darden

26 Jay Gilbert III

27 Katelyn Jolly

28 Mick Noland

28 Alvin Fortson

28 Jody Gutierrez

28 Tucker Stiles

28 Robert Stiehl III

29 Marty Sutherlin

29 Carol Dunning

29 Allene Bullock

30 Connie Burry

31 Jan Burgess

31 Herman Dunn Jr.



MEMORIALS

Robert J. Stiehl, Jr.

Patsy Markham

Dana Ward

Luanne Bedinger, and family, and Susie Shaub; Judy Capps; Ann Eller; Patsy Markham; Ann Rowell; Flora McDonald Garden Club

John C. Williams III

Labinda Bryan