

FIRST PRESS

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First Presbyterian Church, Fayetteville N.C.



A PASTORAL MESSAGE FROM DR. MIKE GARRETT

“Summertime and the livin’ is easy...”

That’s part of the lyric from George Gershwin’s classic “Summertime”. If you are a jazz fan you’ve probably heard the recording by Louis Armstrong and Ella Fitzgerald. If that won’t cause you to stop and “chill” for a while, I don’t know what will.

Today, the “livin’ is easy” in the summertime only if we make it so. The opportunities may change but the breathless pace does not. The memory of long lazy summers from another time has me thinking about “Sabbath”, God’s built in weekly rhythm of slowing down because that’s what we were created to do. One of my favorite spiritual writers Eugene Peterson said:

Sabbath is that uncluttered time and space in which we can distance ourselves from our own activities enough to see what God is doing.

I hope you find some down time this summer and give your brain and your back a rest. But I hope more you take time for some Sabbath, stepping back from the intoxicating need to be busy long enough to notice what God is doing where you are.

We tend to forget that taking Sabbath is not God’s suggestion but God’s commandment. And while many of us would do all we can to keep the other nine, we find plenty of reasons to let this one slide.

So what’s your Sabbath plan this summer? What space will we create, daily or weekly, to sit with the presence of God for a while? I urge you plan it with the same intention you plan a trip to the beach, a day in the mountains, or a gathering with old friends. The outcome will likely be a wiser, less stressed and more resilient you.

In worship this summer I’ll be preaching on the importance of knowing our spiritual purpose in life. After that I’ll be preaching on “Summer Songs” as we listen for God’s wisdom in a few of the Psalms. Please join us if you are in town! Live streaming is a great opportunity for worship, but it’s no replacement for you and the gift of your presence.

One writer I like says, “People who keep Sabbath live all seven days differently.” I find that to be reason enough to try. I hope you do, too.

Blessings,

For summer reading recommendations, check out The Pastor’s Bookshelf on page 4

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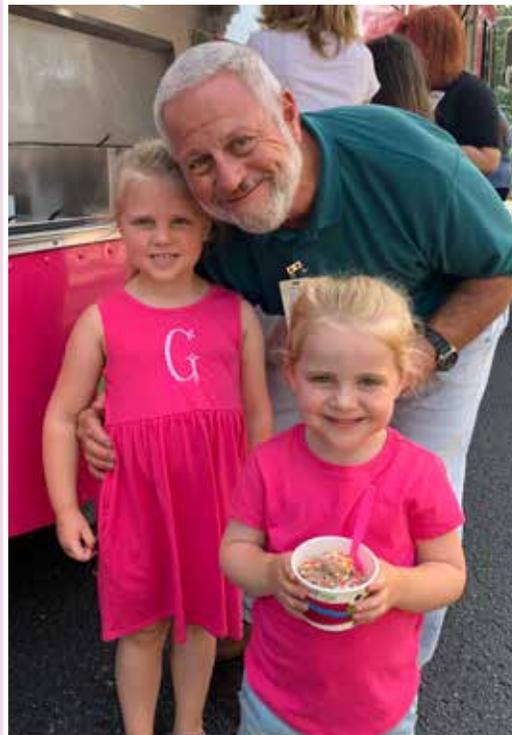
VBS Mission Projects Results!

50 Bug Repellant Sprays & 1,094 Laundry Pods for Operation Inasmuch
\$1,782.20 Donations for Operation Kid-to-Kid



Thank you to everyone for helping the kids reach their goals and for donating! Donations to Operation Kid-to-Kid World Vision will be used to purchase items like notebooks, pencils, backpacks, and paper for kids on reservations. \$1 will help supply a child with the school tools needed for a whole school year!

Fellowship Dinner & Worship





I read a lot - fiction, theology, devotional, current issues. If you are looking for summer reading options here's a few I can recommend:



Crossroads by Jonathan Franzen

A major novel, set in the early 1970's, in which all the major characters have one unlikely thing in common – a church youth group! This is a messy story about the life of a Chicago family that wrestles with faith, hypocrisy, choices, and whether people can change. Franzen is not a Christian author, but he takes the importance of faith seriously. If you grew up in the 60's or 70's, this will bring back some memories.

Eden Mine
by S.M. Hulse

A novel set in the modern rural Midwest about family loyalty that is put the test by current events that could come from today's headlines. An act of domestic terrorism reminds us that choices have consequences, even if we don't intend them. Good choice for a quick read.

Aging Faithfully: The Holy Invitation of Growing Older
by Alice Fryling

Honest, thoughtful, devotional read about the trials and new opportunities that come with growing older. Encouraging and challenging, especially when it becomes clear that the time behind you is longer than the time in front of you.

The Good and Beautiful You
by James Bryan Smith

A book about the kind of people God created us to be and the deceptions we often believe instead. Well written, profound and practical, you'll be hearing a lot more about this one. This is volume 4 in the Good and Beautiful Series.

Understanding Gender Dysphoria: Navigating Transgender Issues In A Changing Culture
by Mark A. Yarhouse

If you find the current discussions about sex and gender identity bewildering, you are not alone. Yarhouse is a Professor of Psychology and a Christian who has worked in this field for years. He explains the issues and is a great guide for clarifying what you think about what has become a cultural divide. Not a simple book, but short, compassionate and clear.

SUMMERTIME STRESS SLOWING YOU DOWN?

We like to think of summer as being a relaxing, enjoyable time. But hurts, struggles, crises, and problems don't take a vacation. Many times our difficulties seem even worse during the summer because everyone else seems to be enjoying life while you are feeling down. If you are experiencing a difficult time—emotionally, spiritually, or relationally—you don't have to suffer alone. Our Stephen Ministers are trained caregivers, ready to listen, care for and encourage you, pray with and for you, and provide one-to-one Christian care to help you through whatever it is that you are facing. Men are matched with male Stephen Ministers, and women are matched with female Stephen Ministers.

It's free. It's confidential. And it will make a difference in your life!

To find out more about Stephen Ministry for you or someone you know, talk with one of our pastors or one of our Stephen Ministry Leaders: Lorene McBryde at 910-824-9690 or Debbie Williams through the church office.



Did You Know . . .

Our support of Better Health provides resources that they use to offer same day emergency medicine and dental care, and diabetes resources to critically ill clients. They are the only agency of its kind in the county.

We have supported The Outreach Foundation since 1996. Since then, our donations have totaled to \$1,419,949.51! These donations have benefited:

- Crisis Nurseries in Lusaka, Zambia
- Ministry of The Outreach Foundation
- Missionary Support Fund
- Bethlehem Bible College
- Rose Endowed Chair at Justo Mwale Theological College

This is truly news worth celebrating!

A shared WORD

from Pastoral Care

Summer is here and for many it is a welcome change of routine. Children are out of school. Grandparents can have time with grandkids. Those having a summer home means more time away. Simply, God provided more daytime to have as rest time! (thank you, Lord!) Vacation is great. Christ took time to get a break and get recharged physically, mentally, and spiritually. Most of us see downtime as a way to recharge physically and mentally. Where does spiritually recharging occur? Can we see ways to become spiritually renewed? I'd like to share some thoughts about becoming spiritually recharged this summer.

connections for Bible devotional reading. I will offer [www. Todaydevotional.com](http://www.Todaydevotional.com) or our dailybread.org. Reading the Bible directly is another option. If you like hardcopy all the above can be gotten. Second, if you are already reading Bible devotions why not change up your routine? You are changing your life routine in the summer. The same can apply here to keep fresh. Change devotions, Bible translations, etc.

2. Stay in Christian Community. Ah Ha! Pastor Mitch is going to lay the old Baptist Bible beating "you better not miss attending First Prez services here! You don't vacation from God!" Well, we love to see your smiling face at 102 Ann St. every Sunday but please note my wording here "stay in Christian Community". My family for years has enjoyed going to the beach services held by Shallotte Presbyterian at 8:30 am at Ocean Isle Beach. It was beautiful to be by the sea and worship the Lord. During the off-season, we attended a local church to have a change of routine with "cousins" of our greater universal church. We found almost all churches in the resort area had adjusted times.

3. Serve and Share in a new way. Our church's motto says this "serve and share". Summer gives us time to serve in new ways. Some are already doing this. The Mexico mission and the Philadelphia mission trips are ways to share the love of Christ in a new way. There are other opportunities. If the children are out of school, set up a time to go to help social ministries both here and in places you vacation. Operation Inasmuch, Habitat for Humanity, Salvation Army, and other organizations have a wide range of ways to help others.

Finally, Hebrews 10:24-25 says "... let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another..." Let us all find ways to include spiritual recharging this summer. The church body that finds ways to keep recharged in summer can find in the fall one that is ready to reconnect and grow in sharing and serving here in Fayetteville.

God Bless, Pastor Mitch

Worship Around the World with First Prez!

Starting this month, we will have a
Worship Around the World map in Eller Hall.

Vacation time is upon us. We encourage you to travel and stay in the Christian Community by visiting churches at your vacation destination. **We invite you to put a pin in the map for the places that you visit and have worshiped.** You can also bring a bulletin to help frame our Worship Around the World map.



Save the date!

CHILDREN & YOUTH MINISTRIES

BACK TO SCHOOL BASH

POOL PARTY

August 10th

5-7:30pm

more info coming soon!



SAY "HELLO!" TO TRAVELING JESUS!

Pick up a Traveling Jesus from Eller Hall, or in a Children's Bulletin. Take him with you everywhere you go this Summer! With your parents or guardians permission, take a picture of your adventures with Traveling Jesus. Jesus goes with us everywhere and this is a reminder of that, as well as a way to keep us connected over the summer.

Your parental helper can post your picture to social media using the hashtag
#FPCTravelingJesus or email it to nichole@firstprez.com





Presbyterian Night at the Ballpark



Friday, August 26

Join with fellow Presbyterians for an evening of fun and fellowship
Game starts at 7:05PM

Come enjoy an evening in beautiful Segra Stadium in downtown Fayetteville as the Fayetteville Woodpeckers take on the Charleston Riverdogs.

Scan the QR Code for more information and to purchase your tickets online

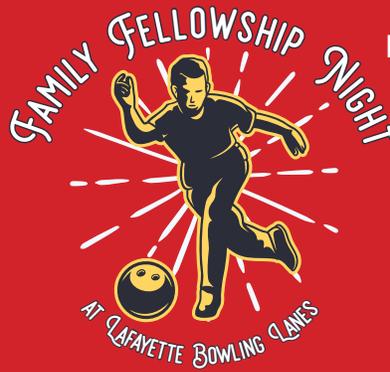


SCAN ME

Proceeds from ticket sales are a fundraiser in support of:



Refugee Welcome & Hospitality



Join us for Family Fellowship Night at Lafayette Bowling Lanes on Thursday, July 21st at 5:30 PM

The whole family will enjoy two bowling games (including shoe rental) for \$8 per person. The family cap is \$20. Please pay with cash or check.

Contact Britany or Matt for more information, or call the church office (910) 483-0121. Registration ends Tuesday, July 19th. Scan the QR Code to register online today!



MONUMENTAL VBS PRAISE BAND

Thank you to the musicians, technology and sound engineers who volunteered their time and talents to lead music for VBS each year. These dedicated volunteers begin preparing the music for Opening and Closing Sessions weeks in advance. The time spent during VBS week, arriving early to prepare and leaving late as they set the stage for each next day's adventure requires a great deal of energy. Yet, they welcome the task with great joy and enthusiasm.

The VBS Praise Band for 2022 featured Kimberhly Hopkins and Erin Jackson as vocalists and leaders, accompanied by Austin T. (guitar), Rev. Matt Thorley (saxophone), Bruce McRae (trombone), Cameron H. (percussion), and Dr. Marcia Mervin (keyboard). The sound and technology volunteers this year are Aiden H., Martha VorderBruggen and Don Perkins.



Our God is Awesome!

And so are our wonderful volunteers!

Thank you for all of your help with VBS. Without each and every one of you, it would not be possible. I pray that you know just how thankful I truly am for all of you.

Britany & the VBS Committee



Do you believe that Christian community is part of your spiritual well-being? Are you looking for ways to get connected?

Small Group Ministry is a way to do that. We are looking for ways to provide opportunities for faith and spiritual formation here at First Presbyterian Church starting this fall and into the future and we asking for your help.

If you would like to learn more about small groups or help in the planning process of brainstorming content/studies or life group options, **we invite you to come and talk with Britany Spivey and members of the Christian Education Committee:**

- **July 17** – After both worship services in the Parlor Light Refreshments
- **July 17** – 7:00 PM Zoom Drop In
- **July 20** – 6:00 PM in Eller Hall Light Refreshments

Scan the QR code for the Zoom Link



Can't make it to the scheduled times, but want to know more? Reach out to Britany at britany@firstprez.com.

July Birthdays

- | | |
|-----------------------|----------------------|
| 1 Cynthia Huggins | 17 Mary Downing |
| 1 Terry Herndon | 17 Megan Langley |
| 1 Barrett Teele | 17 James Duhon |
| 1 Drew Fincher | 18 Paige Darden |
| 1 Bruce Hammill | 18 Zachary Fegan |
| 2 Sarah Cromartie | 18 Elizabeth Seufert |
| 2 Ann Loyd | 19 George Markham |
| 2 Adam Farnham | 19 Bill Conklin |
| 2 Clara Dunn | 19 Maryann Johnson |
| 2 Eddie Prewitt III | 20 Janet Prewitt |
| 2 Mark Luce | 20 Jackson Teele |
| 3 Linda Adams | 20 Thomas Martin |
| 4 Wayne Mosley | 21 Gracen Morris |
| 5 Diehl Jones | 21 Chance Kirby |
| 6 Danielle Hurley | 22 Bill Kirchman |
| 6 Adam Datkuliak | 22 Sally Alderman |
| 6 Drew Napoli | 22 Colin Wauford |
| 7 Gary Ciccone | 23 Rich Clarke |
| 7 Melanie Strickland | 24 Daniel Jutson II |
| 7 Brewer Stiles | 24 Mary Lynn Sasser |
| 8 Shannon Blue | 24 Meredith Stiehl |
| 8 Kaytlyn Gilbert | 25 Pam Darden |
| 9 Gage Mosley | 26 Jay Gilbert III |
| 9 Melissa Jolly | 27 Katelyn Jolly |
| 10 John Patrick Dunn | 28 Mick Noland |
| 10 Marcia Garrett | 28 Alvin Fortson |
| 13 Linda Huff | 28 Jody Gutierrez |
| 13 John Campbell | 28 Tucker Stiles |
| 14 John Tyson Sr. | 28 Robert Stiehl III |
| 14 Lisa Thorley | 29 Marty Sutherlin |
| 15 Colin McMahan | 29 Carol Dunning |
| 15 Clara Schwamm | 29 Allene Bullock |
| 16 James Breswitz Jr. | 30 Connie Burry |
| 16 Emmy Johnson | 31 Jan Burgess |
| 16 Pamela Tolbert | 31 Herman Dunn Jr. |
| 17 Dan Jutson | |

Memorials

Jesse Byrd

Mary Ann Tally
Ann Eller
Linda & Warren Tillman
Carol & Sammy Short
Steve & Deborah Hubbard
Daphne & Ray Manning
Ann & Buzz Loyd
Patty & Wilson Rogers
Winnie Grannis
Martha & Marshall Tanner
Milo & Lorene McBryde
Eliza & Fred Williams
Tricia & Barry Arnett
Jane Sandrock
Grace & Tommy Hall

Mary Huffstetler

Jewel Vann

Sanctuary Flowers

July & August

Schedule a Sunday honorarium or memorial flower arrangement by contacting Debra Chestnutt (910) 818-9006 or Debra@Chestnutt.com

A Look Ahead...

- Church Office is closed, July 4
- YouthWorks Mission Trip Parents Meeting, July 5
- YouthWorks Mission Trip, July 10-15
- Missions Committee Meeting, July 11
- Small Group Interest Meetings, July 17
- Small Group Interest Meeting, July 20
- Cross Creek Service, July 20
- Family Fellowship Bowling Night, July 21
- David's Mighty Men Meeting, July 25
- Pool Party, August 10
- Stephen Ministry Meeting, August 14
- Cross Creek Service, August 17
- First Day of Public School, August 29

INTERESTED IN PLAYING BASKETBALL?

EVERY TUESDAY AT 7PM, THE BASKETBALL GROUP MEETS IN FELLOWSHIP HALL.

CONTACT BRIAN PEARCE AT THE CHURCH OFFICE FOR MORE INFO!



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PERIODICALS

Our mission at First Presbyterian Church is to *serve* Jesus Christ and *share* His gospel through meaningful worship, loving fellowship, spiritual growth, and compassionate outreach within our community and throughout the world.



Friendships, Fellowship & Spiritual Growth

Be a part of the conversation in how we can fulfill our Mission Statement through Small Groups.
Take a peek at page 6 for more information.