

# A Pastoral Message from Dr. Mike Garrett

## **"On the third day he rose again from the dead..."**

These are the simple words with which the Apostles' Creed describes the most amazing of miracles. It's not an explanation. It's not even an attempt to convince people who don't believe it. It's what the church believes. It's how we explain ourselves to ourselves. Apart from it we would not exist.

This year, on Easter Sunday we will return to this simple confession from the Creed. We will read the scriptural stories of those who saw it for themselves and hear the promise so that we can know it for ourselves. Two-thousand years later, I believe the resurrection of Jesus is the only sufficient explanation for why we still gather, love one another, serve the least, the last, and the lost. We hope in the day when God in Christ will make all things right in a world in which so much is so wrong.

I hope you will ready yourselves for the good news of a risen Christ. There are several opportunities for worship and fellowship during Holy Week. Notice particularly in this newsletter "The Road To Calvary" and make plans to attend this special worship service on Wednesday, March 27.

During this season of Lent, we will also have our world mission conference, **"What In the World Is God Doing?"** Please study the brochure you will

receive, and attend all the events you can. The conference is designed to remind us that the resurrection we celebrate at Easter is news intended for the whole world, not just our piece of it. We are called to be witnesses across the city and across the globe.

N.T. Wright, one of our greatest New Testament scholars, wrote:

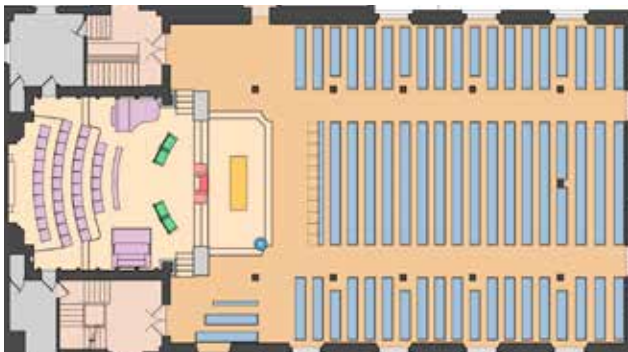
*"The message of the resurrection is that this world matters! ...If Easter means Jesus Christ is only raised in a spiritual sense—[then] it is only about me... But if Jesus Christ is truly risen from the dead, Christianity becomes good news for the whole world—news which warms our hearts precisely because it isn't just about warming hearts."*

May God warm our hearts this Easter, and more importantly, may God change our lives with the good news that on the third day Jesus rose from the dead. Because He did, we and this world will, too.

Blessings,

*Mike*

# 2024 SANCTUARY MODERNIZATION



The sanctuary renovation fundraising effort is well underway.

**We are delighted to announce that  
we are half way to our goal of \$1,300,000!**

The last major renovation of the sanctuary was done in 1959. Twenty years ago, we painted and replaced the carpet. This renovation will consist of a completely redesigned choir loft and a platform on the lower level in front of the pulpit which will provide space for the orchestra, plays, choirs, etc. The pews will be refinished and the red carpets will be replaced throughout. In addition, the lighting in the sanctuary and the sound will be updated so that all can see and hear. The committee urges members to make a pledge during March if possible, so it will minimize the number of people that we need to contact in April.



You can submit your pledge on line at [firstprez.com/sanctuary-modernization](https://firstprez.com/sanctuary-modernization) or scan the QR code.

We are not able to accept online giving for this project. Funds must be submitted to the church in the form of cash or check and marked as "Sanctuary Modernization".

For questions about the renovations or making a pledge, please contact Ralph Huff, Buzz Loyd or Wade Byrd.



## Announcing **CROSS CREEK FELLOWSHIP:** A FRESH APPROACH TO WORSHIP

With great excitement and a spirit of renewal, we invite you to a newly refashioned worship service: Cross Creek Fellowship!

### **A Service Rooted in Tradition, Yet Refreshingly Casual**

Cross Creek Fellowship invites us to come as we are—whether that means jeans and t-shirts or Sunday best—embracing the joy of fellowship and worship without formalities. This service is a place where children are welcome, and where the music blends the lyrics of old with a fresh, folksy twist.

However, do not mistake our laid-back approach for a departure from our deep-rooted faith. While Cross Creek Fellowship may be described as "contemporary," it is not contemporary in the sense you might find elsewhere in Fayetteville. Our aim is to be "ANCIENT BUT NOT TRADITIONAL." This means we hold fast to the beauty of our theology, the ancient roots of our faith, and the storied history of First Presbyterian Church, all the while presenting a service that is accessible and inviting to everyone.

### **A Mission Beyond Our Church Doors**

Cross Creek Fellowship is not simply another option for our Sunday worship; it is a mission. It reaches out to those beyond our church doors who might feel intimidated or uncomfortable in a traditional worship setting. It is a beacon for those seeking a spiritual home where they can explore their faith in a relaxed and nurturing environment.

We envision Cross Creek Fellowship as a vital part of our church's outreach, connecting new faces to the many ways they can grow, serve, and belong within our community. It's about creating pathways for individuals to explore their faith and find their place among us, contributing to and benefiting from the vibrant life of First Presbyterian Church.

### **Stay Tuned for More on Cross Creek Fellowship**

As we look forward to the official launch of Cross Creek Fellowship, we want to ensure you stay informed about all the details leading up to this special day. While we are hoping for a launch on Sunday, April 7th at 4 pm in the Fellowship Hall, we invite each of you to stay tuned for more information and consider taking part in this exciting journey.

If you feel called to contribute or simply wish to learn more about how you might help with the Cross Creek Fellowship launch, we warmly invite you to reach out to Pastor Jeff Shaver directly at [Jeff@firstprez.com](mailto:Jeff@firstprez.com).



# WHAT IN THE WORLD IS GOD DOING?

WE INVITE YOU TO JOIN US IN LEARNING ABOUT

**GOD'S MISSION IN OUR TIME**

## MISSION CONFERENCE WEEK MARCH 9 - 17

### MISSION CONFERENCE SCHEDULE

**WITH SPECIAL  
GUEST SPEAKERS**

#### SATURDAY, MARCH 9



**8:30 a.m.** Mission Conference Kick Off in the Sanctuary.

**9 a.m.** Rise Against Hunger in Fellowship Hall.

Registration required, childcare available.

Visit [bit.ly/RAHMarch2024](https://bit.ly/RAHMarch2024) or scan the QR code

*For childcare registration, visit [bit.ly/RAHChildcare](https://bit.ly/RAHChildcare)*

#### SUNDAY, MARCH 10

**9 a.m.** Worship Service in the Chapel with Rev. Dr. Mark Mueller.

**10 a.m.** Sunday School.

**11 a.m.** Worship Service in the Sanctuary with Rev. Dr. Mark Mueller.



**4:30 p.m.** Rev. Dr. Mark Mueller Presentation in the Sanctuary.

**5:30 p.m.** Dinner in Fellowship Hall. For planning purposes, please register online at [bit.ly/March10Dinner](https://bit.ly/March10Dinner)

#### MONDAY, MARCH 11



**9:15 a.m.** Mission Committee and Officers focus group discussion in the Activity Room with Rev. Dr. Mark Mueller.

For planning purposes, please register online at [bit.ly/March11Breakfast](https://bit.ly/March11Breakfast)

#### WEDNESDAY, MARCH 13



**5:30 p.m.** All In Fellowship Meal with Rev. Craig Morrison and men from the Lodge. For planning purposes, please register online at [bit.ly/March13Dinner](https://bit.ly/March13Dinner)

**6:30 p.m.** Presentation in the Sanctuary with Rev. Craig Morrison. Club 543, all children and youth will work on a mission project for Operation Inasmuch.

#### SATURDAY, MARCH 16



**10 a.m.** Mission Committee and Officers focus group discussion in the Activity Room with Mrs. Colleen Hernandez. For planning purposes, please register online at [bit.ly/March16Breakfast](https://bit.ly/March16Breakfast)

#### SUNDAY, MARCH 17

**9 a.m.** Worship Service in the Chapel with Mrs. Colleen Hernandez.

**10 a.m.** Mexico Mission Q&A in the Chapel with Mrs. Colleen Hernandez.

**11 a.m.** Worship Service in the Sanctuary with Mrs. Colleen Hernandez.

**4:30 p.m.** Colleen Hernandez will meet with the Kingdom Kidz & Youth.



**FIND THE MISSION CONFERENCE  
WEEK SCHEDULE, EVENT DETAILS  
AND REGISTER ONLINE BY VISITING  
[firstprez.com/mission-conference](https://firstprez.com/mission-conference)**



**Rev. Dr. Mark Mueller**  
Executive Director of  
The Outreach Foundation



**Rev. Craig Morrison**  
Executive Director of Fayetteville  
Area Operation Inasmuch



**Mrs. Colleen Hernandez**  
Associate Director of Faith Ministry



# Palm Sunday Celebration Sunday, March 24

**9 a.m.** Worship Service in the Chapel

**10 a.m.** Sunday School

**11 a.m.** Worship Service in the Sanctuary

Congregational Potluck Luncheon will follow the 11 a.m. Worship Service

The Children's Easter Egg Hunt will follow the meal

*Children will process into the sanctuary during the first hymn, waving palms at the 11 a.m. worship service.*

The church will provide the main entrees (BBQ and Fried Chicken from Paradise Acres) and dessert.

Please bring your favorite side dish to share.

To RSVP sign up in Eller Hall, call the church office, scan the QR code or visit [bit.ly/PalmSunday2024](https://bit.ly/PalmSunday2024)



**Children's  
Easter Egg  
Hunt**

**Sunday, March 24 following  
the Potluck Meal**

*Bring your Easter Basket  
& a friend!*



## THE ROAD TO CALVARY

Walk with Jesus on the road to the cross. Experience the Passion as never before.

Invite your friends and neighbors to attend!

**Wednesday, March 27**

**6 p.m. Catered Dinner in Fellowship Hall - Registration required**

**7 p.m. Dramatic Tenebrae Service in the Sanctuary**



SCAN ME

Please register for the catered dinner.

Sign up in Eller Hall, call the church office, scan the QR code or visit [bit.ly/CalvaryDinner](https://bit.ly/CalvaryDinner)



Childcare will be provided during the service.  
Performed by the First Presbyterian Church  
Worship Arts Troupe & the Celebration Choir.

### ***This beautiful tradition continues at First Presbyterian!***

A barren cross will be moved to the Sanctuary porch in observance of Good Friday on March 29. Please bring fresh flowers Saturday, March 30, or on Easter Sunday morning to transform the barren cross into a beautiful celebration of the Resurrection of Christ!

Feel free to take photos at the cross and post on social media using the hashtag #Easteratfirstprez. Tag @1stprez on Facebook and @firstprezfay on Instagram. You can also email them to [nichole@firstprez.com](mailto:nichole@firstprez.com) for possible inclusion in future publications.

**Flowering  
of the Cross**





# Easter Sunday - March 31



**Remember to bring your flowers for the Flowering of the Cross!**

**7 a.m.** Community Sunrise

Worship Service in Lafayette Park

**Remember to bring your lawn chair!**

**9 a.m.** Congregational Breakfast

Assorted Biscuit Sandwiches & Casseroles

To RSVP sign up in Eller Hall, call the church office, scan the QR code or visit [bit.ly/FPCEasterBreakfast24](https://bit.ly/FPCEasterBreakfast24)



SCAN ME

**10 a.m.** Sunday School

**11 a.m.** Unified Easter Worship Service in the Sanctuary with the Church Orchestra



SCAN ME

## Home & Hearth Holiday Fellowship

Easter Potluck Luncheon

**March 31 at 12:30 p.m.**

You may bring your food to the Fellowship Hall before the 11 a.m. service and put it in the Fellowship Hall refrigerator. The luncheon will start at 12:30 p.m., following the Easter Worship Service. A double-sided buffet will allow everyone to be served promptly, but the luncheon will be leisurely. The Congregational Care Committee will provide ham and drinks. Please sign-up to bring sides, salads, and desserts. These food items can be purchased or homemade, your choice. **Please sign up & let us know what you plan to bring to the Potluck Easter Luncheon by March 25 to avoid duplications & allow us to order enough ham.**

To register in person, sign up in Eller Hall or call the church office (910) 483-0121.

To register online, scan the QR code or visit [bit.ly/H3FEaster2024](https://bit.ly/H3FEaster2024)

## Easter Basket Mission Project

Children's Ministry is making Easter baskets to donate to the Children's Center at Cape Fear Valley Health Foundation to distribute to children in the hospital around the Easter Holiday. Our goal is to make 5 baskets for the NICU (birth to 3 years old) and 15 baskets for children (ages 3-18).

**Please bring brand new items to the church by Wednesday, March 20.**

### NEONATAL INTENSIVE CARE UNIT

Newborn Socks / 0-3 Months size Socks

Onesies

Baby Blankets [30" x 30"]

Baby Wipes

Books

\*Please note that any size clothing newborn size and larger is fine.

### PEDIATRIC INTENSIVE CARE UNIT AND

### PEDIATRIC EMERGENCY DEPARTMENT

Blankets [40" x 60" for toddlers or larger]

Light-up and musical toys

Hair ties or headbands

Socks [children & youth sizes]

Stuffed animals (small)

Books [appropriate for all ages, including middle & high school students]

Journals/Coloring books & Crayons

Character action figures

Hotwheels

Legos/Duplo

Pop-Its (and other sensory toys)

Socks/Underwear/Sweatshirts/Sweatpants/Athletic Shorts (all sizes accepted, but there is an increased need for larger sizes)



## Easter Egg Donations Needed!

We are collecting donations of pre-stuffed eggs or individually wrapped nut-free candy to stuff in Easter eggs for our children's Easter egg hunt.

Donations can be dropped off at Britany's office now through Sunday, March 17.





# KINGDOM KIDZ & YOUTH

4:30-6:30PM EVERY SUNDAY NIGHT  
BIBLE, FELLOWSHIP & DINNER

## Kingdom Kidz & Youth Calendar

- March 3 Kingdom Kidz Snack Kit Packing
- March 10 Pajama Day!  
Making Tie Blankets for the Child Advocacy Center
- March 17 Kidz- Mission Project for Kids at Walker Spivey
- March 24 Palm Sunday Easter Egg Hunt and Luncheon  
DO NOT MEET IN AFTERNOON
- March 31 Easter Sunday - DO NOT MEET
- April 7
- April 14
- April 21
- April 28
- May 5
- May 19

Kingdom Kidz will sing  
March 24 and April 21  
during the 11 a.m. worship services.  
Youth Sunday is May 5.

## Club 543 will meet

**Wednesday, March 13 - 5:30-7:30 p.m.**

Meet in the Fellowship Hall: Talk with Rev. Morrison about the homeless in our community and Dinner & Outreach Project in Room 207

**Sunday, April 21 - 12-1:30 p.m.**

Meet in Room 210

**Sunday, May 5 - 12-1:30 p.m.**

Meet in the Activity Room for our  
End of Year Fellowship Party!



At SCUBA, kids (entering kindergarten to entering 6th grade) plunge into an undersea world brimming with colorful coral, flashy fish, and abundant life. Immersed in oceans of fun, kids discover God is a real friend who loves them forever!

## 2024 VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

**JUNE 17-20, 9AM TO 12PM**

registration is now open!

**VBS Volunteers are needed!**

Please contact Andrea Horosko  
at [ahorosko82@gmail.com](mailto:ahorosko82@gmail.com) or  
Britany Spivey at [britany@firstprez.com](mailto:britany@firstprez.com)

**REGISTER FOR VBS TODAY!  
VISIT [BIT.LY/FPCSCUBA](https://bit.ly/fpcscuba)  
OR SCAN THE QR CODE**



SCAN ME



**Children's Sunday is March 3**  
**Come worship with Kingdom Kidz!**  
The sermon will be given by Dr. Garrett,  
"The Forgiven Family".

The children will be leading the 11 a.m. service on March 3. They chose the hymns and will present special musical anthems, lead us through liturgy and so much more. Please support their efforts as our children step into leadership roles.

## WHAT HAVE OUR YOUTH BEEN UP TO?



**SOUPER BOWL OF  
CARING RESULTS  
WE BEAT HUNGER!**

**381**

**ITEMS DONATED!**

**A WONDERFUL TIME  
WAS HAD BY ALL AT THE  
SUPER BOWL PARTY.**

**THANK YOU, KIM AND  
KEVIN HALL, FOR BEING  
SUCH GRACIOUS HOSTS!**



## SKI TRIP AT APPALACHIAN SKI MOUNTAIN



**Youth Sunday is May 5!**

**2024 Youth Mission Trip - July 7 to 12 to Louisville, KY**  
Registration for this trip will reopen next week. The remaining spots available will be reserved on a first-come, first-serve basis and will be filled. To reserve your youth's spot, contact Kimberhly Hopkins at [youth@firstprez.com](mailto:youth@firstprez.com) as soon as possible.

**Mexico Mission Trip - June 1 to 8**

Last call to join us on this life-changing trip! The deadline to register is March 23. Contact Debra Chestnutt at [debra@chestnutt.com](mailto:debra@chestnutt.com) for more information.



- |                          |                      |
|--------------------------|----------------------|
| 1 Charles Morris         | 19 Jim Young         |
| 1 Marshall Barnette      | 19 Andrew Foster     |
| 1 Cynthia Russell-Sippel | 19 David Reid        |
| 1 Charlotte Boyette      | 20 Suzanne Heflin    |
| 1 Hudson Boyette         | 20 Sean Fincher      |
| 2 Mark Nordwall          | 20 Justin Williams   |
| 3 Dot Ennis              | 21 Bill Senter       |
| 3 Tricia Baker           | 23 Merritt Ciccone   |
| 4 Andrea Horosko         | 23 Ever Leigh Brown  |
| 4 Chris Blue             | 23 Joyce Borum       |
| 5 Barbara Ursich         | 24 Brandon Hammond   |
| 5 Joshua Barkman         | 26 Bowman Smith      |
| 7 Cohen Mosley           | 26 Mary Ann Tally    |
| 7 Gary Hardin            | 26 Liam Sparzak      |
| 8 Molly Alderman         | 26 Lou Brooks        |
| 8 Gus Sherrill           | 27 Patrick Strong    |
| 9 Devon Campbell         | 28 Benjamin Deaton   |
| 9 Ann McRae              | 28 Amelia Chan       |
| 9 Emma McCauley          | 29 David Spivey      |
| 10 Olivia Herring        | 29 Matthew Enfinger  |
| 10 Jackson Gutierrez     | 30 Carol Short       |
| 11 Michael Blight        | 30 Annaliese Rocker  |
| 12 Claire Self           | 31 Mary Acker        |
| 12 Wade Byrd Sr.         | 31 Paul Haddow-Green |
| 14 Lulie Harry           |                      |
| 14 Linda Tillman         |                      |
| 14 David Rowell          |                      |
| 15 Bob Bleecker          |                      |
| 16 Ralph Huff III        |                      |
| 16 John O'Keefe          |                      |
| 17 Olivia Hammill        |                      |
| 19 Ann Rowell            |                      |



## Memorials

*Ricky Franklin*

Ann Rowell

*Sandi Kankelfritz*

Eliza & Fred Williams

*David Barkman*

Ann Rowell  
Ann & Buzz Loyd

*Honorarium*

*Carol & Sammy Short*

Pam & Bill Senter



## A LOOK AHEAD...

- |           |   |
|-----------|---|
| Mar 3     | • Children's Sunday   |
| Mar 4     | • PW Coordinating Team Meeting<br>• VBS Committee Meeting<br>• Congregational Care Meeting<br>• Engagement Committee Meeting<br>• Mission Committee Meeting |
| Mar 5     | • S.A.L.T. Breakfast at JK's<br>• Worship Committee Meeting<br>• C. E. Committee Meeting  |
| Mar 9     | • Rise Against Hunger   |
| Mar 10    | • Guest Speaker Rev. Dr. Mark Mueller<br>• Confirmation<br>• Rev. Dr. Mark Mueller presentation & dinner  |
| Mar 11    | • Officers Mission Meeting<br>• Finance Committee Meeting   |
| Mar 12    | • Stated Deacons Meeting<br>• Martha Circle   |
| Mar 13    | • Rev. Craig Morrison Presentation & Meal<br>• Club 543   |
| Mar 14    | • Hannah Circle   |
| Mar 16    | • Officer Mission Meeting   |
| Mar 17    | • Guest Speaker Mrs. Colleen Hernandez  |
| Mar 19    | • Stated Session Meeting  |
| Mar 21    | • Theology On Tap   |
| Mar 23    | • Mexico Mission Trip Deadline  |
| Mar 24    | • Palm Sunday Celebration with<br>Congregational Potluck Luncheon and<br>Children's Easter Egg Hunt<br>• "The Road To Calvary" Rehearsal                    |
| Mar 25    | • David's Mighty Men  |
| Mar 26    | • S.A.L.T. trip to Nasher Art Museum  |
| Mar 27    | • "The Road To Calvary" & dinner  |
| Mar 30    | • Easter Orchestra Rehearsal  |
| Mar 31    | • Easter Services<br>• Congregational Breakfast<br>• H3F Easter Luncheon  |
| Apr 20    | • S.A.L.T. trip to Temple Theatre   |
| May 5     | • Youth Sunday  |
| May 26    | • Graduation Sunday   |
| Jun 1-8   | • Mexico Mission Trip   |
| Jun 17-20 | • VBS   |



## FIRST PRESS

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PERIODICALS

FPC

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.

**A GREAT FAMILY EVENT!**

**Rise**  
**AGAINST HUNGER**  
food • community • sustainability

**HELP US GET CLOSER TO  
1 MILLION MEALS!**

**MARCH 9**

**MISSION CONFERENCE KICKOFF AT**

**8:30 A.M. IN THE SANCTUARY**

**DON'T FORGET YOUR HAT!**



SCAN ME

Volunteers must register for RAH. Scan the QR Code or visit [bit.ly/RAHMarch2024](http://bit.ly/RAHMarch2024) to register online.

Childcare will be provided for younger children. Elementary age and up are welcome to help with packing. To help with planning, please register for childcare by visiting [bit.ly/RAHKids](http://bit.ly/RAHKids)

## HELP US RECOGNIZE THE ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF OUR GRADUATES!



If you know someone who is graduating from high school or college, please let us know by contacting Kimberhly at [youth@firstprez.com](mailto:youth@firstprez.com)

## All In Fellowship Wednesday Meals

Enjoy a weekly Wednesday meal with potluck sides, family & friends at 5:30 p.m. in Fellowship Hall followed by an Adult Education Class with Dr. Garrett at 6:30 p.m. "The After Party Toward Better Christian Politics," or join the Celebration Choir Rehearsal.

The church will provide the main entree. You can bring a salad, side, dessert or bread that will serve 8 to 10 people or pay \$8 per adult (age 13+) and \$3 per child (age 5-12). The meal cap is \$20 per family. Childcare upon request by the prior Monday. Email [britany@firstprez.com](mailto:britany@firstprez.com) for childcare.

**March 6 - Chicken with Mixed Vegetables**

**March 13 - Mission Conference Catered Meal**  
Register online at [bit.ly/March13Dinner](http://bit.ly/March13Dinner) or in Eller Hall

**March 20 - Lasagna**

**March 27 - Holy Week Catered Meal**  
Register online at [bit.ly/CalvaryDinner](http://bit.ly/CalvaryDinner) or in Eller Hall