

FIRST PRESS

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First Presbyterian Church, Fayetteville N.C.



A pastoral message FROM DR. MIKE GARRETT

Years ago I served with a Senior Pastor who called the Sunday after Easter "So What Sunday." So what happens now? Is it back to business as usual or will the power that raised Jesus Christ from the dead begin to change the story of our lives? The Apostle Paul, who was clobbered on the road to Damascus (literally) by the presence of the resurrected Christ, believed it can. He says in his letter to the church in Ephesus that there is an incomparably great power for us who believe:

That power is the same as the mighty strength (God) exerted when he raised Christ from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly realms... (Eph. 1:19-20)

Where could you use a little resurrection power in your life right now? Where do things need to change? What circumstances seem dead and without promise? What problems, personal or public, seem beyond our solving? What grief or disappointment seems unrelenting? The New Testament vision of God's gracious resurrection power is that it begins to make itself felt now in the lives of those who believe, even as we await its full manifestation in our future of the resurrection from the dead. N.T. Wright has written:

Jesus's resurrection is the beginning of God's new project not to snatch people away from earth to heaven but to colonize earth with the life of heaven.

Between now and Pentecost I'll be preaching on the post-resurrection appearances of Christ as he made himself present in the lives of his disciples. **How can he make himself present in yours? Now is a good time to seek an answer to the question.**

My thanks to the many of you who made the season of Easter so special in the life of our congregation. From children's ministry, to food service, to ushering, to the gifts and talents present in our music ministry, so many folks gave generously of themselves.

If you are worshipping with us online, I hope you notice our improved capabilities in our live streaming of the worship services. More enhancements are on the way. A special word of thanks is due our volunteers who handle the sound and technical side of worship every week. It's an important ministry. We couldn't do it without you!

Our course we hope you will worship with us in person whenever possible. It's through our gathering with one another that we are most likely to see a bit of heaven come to earth. I look forward to greeting you soon!

Sincerely,



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@FIRSTPREZFAY



What a wonderful April at First Presbyterian!



CROSS CREEK

Summer Series

Did you find the Cross Creek Worship during the Lenten Wednesdays Upbeat? Vibrant? Engaging? Inspirational? Yes, the music was a little different than Sunday morning and so was the preaching. For some, this mid-week service provided an opportunity to "recharge" spiritually at the half-way point from Sunday to Sunday. For our youth and children, who knew almost all of the songs from the past VBS praise team music, it was a time to sing with heart and soul to music they enjoyed.

You are invited to join us for Wednesday Cross Creek Worship sessions on the third weeks of May, June, July and August. Mark your calendars now for these upcoming Cross Creek Services:

May 18
(Chapel)

June 15
(Fellowship Hall)

July 20
(Chapel)

August 17
(Chapel)

This sermon series is based on the book *Not A Fan* by Kyle Idleman. The premise of the book is that Jesus is not looking for fans, but he is looking for followers. A fan is someone who comes to the games when the team is winning, but quickly turns away when things start going wrong for the team. A follower is someone who stays with the team through everything. Good times and bad, a follower will stay with the "team" until the end.



Be on the lookout for an email about the Cross Creek Worship Service survey, or scan the QR Code to take the survey now! Your thoughts are so important in shaping the direction of Cross Creek as we continue to seek the direction God would have us to go in providing diverse types of worship that uplift Him and draw us deeper into His Presence.



s.a.l.t.

Seasoned Adults Learning Together

Monthly Fellowship Breakfast & Excursions



The SALT Group will leave at 8:30am on Wednesday, June 1, from the church parking lot to visit a number of the popular and well-known potters in the Seagrove area. We will have reservations for lunch at the Westmoore Family Restaurant on 2172 NC 705, across from the famous Ben Owen Pottery Gallery.

All of the shops open at 10:00am and close at 5:00pm, so everyone should arrive back at the church no later than 6:30pm. **If you plan to join us for this event, please call Ann Rowell at (910) 867-3556 or cell (910) 391-1482 by Friday, May 27.**

Did You Know ...

Because of our support of **Connections of Cumberland County**, in 2021 they were able to assist over 300 homeless or at-risk women with housing. That included 454 children in those households.

Because of our support of **The Care Clinic**, they have been providing FREE health care to uninsured adults in our community for more than 25 years.

Our support of **Fayetteville Operation Inasmuch** has helped them to provide a hot breakfast every week-day morning to roughly 100 poor and homeless people. While they are there, they are treated like family where they have access to showers, laundry, medical, and other services. Before breakfast begins each day there is reading scripture, hymns, and prayer.



"Kristyn and Keith Getty Contemporary Hymns for Today's Church"

For nearly two decades, Irish hymn writer Kristyn Getty and her husband, Keith, have created a collection of worship music for churches to sing every Sunday. Since Keith joined with song-writing partner Stuart Townend to write "In Christ Alone" and "Power of the Cross," the Gettys began a journey of creating music they'd like to sing in church, and soon were described as pioneers of the modern hymn movement.

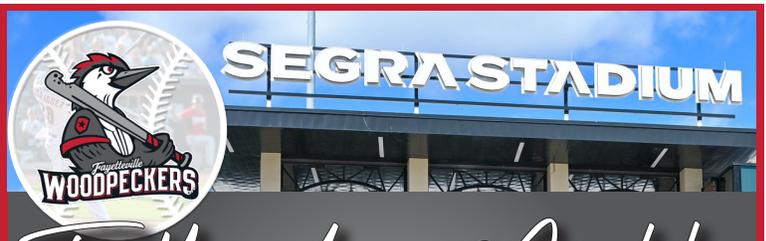
Interestingly, the Gettys didn't set out to write hymns. They just decided in the beginning that they wanted to create music people would want to sing in church. So they began writing songs that told a story that would explore the full riches of the gospel through music. With each song created, two goals exist: the desire for the word of Christ to dwell richly in the believer's heart (Colossians 3:16), and to create music that would be easy to sing for all generations and styles of churches. The Gettys music is now described as the modern hymn.

To the Gettys, a hymn isn't defined by a particular style or structure, but rather by its purpose and use and by answering key questions, such as, Is this a melody congregations can sing across the generations? Can this be sung with or without any music at all? Do the lyrics build up the church?

In a 2013 interview with "Today's Christian Woman", the source of this information, Kristyn Getty shared: " Singing is medicine to my soul like nothing else. I became a Christian at a young age, yet even now I can sometimes forget the most basic tenets of the faith, including the fact that as a sinner, I'm worse off than I think I am, yet God's grace is greater than I'll ever know. One of the things I love most about music is how it reminds me of those truths."

"The song I probably sing most is "In Christ Alone." I wonder if it's because the Lord needs me to hear it again and again. I can easily wake up in the morning laden with guilt over a word unkindly spoken or because of the unhealthy fears I wrestle with at times as a mom. Then I feel as if I can't turn to the Lord with those failings. Now that's bad theology! But when I sing the lyrics: In Christ Alone, my hope is found/He is my rock, my strength, my song...No guilt in life, no fear in death/This is the power of Christ in me—then I know the Lord is breathing truth into my spirit. He uses the music to proclaim freedom to me, and prayerfully to others too."

Today's Christian Woman, May/June , 2013 - Posted May 22, 2013



Fellowship Night

Join your First Presbyterian Church family for a night at Segra Stadium as the Woodpeckers take on the Carolina Mudcats!

We have reserved 35 seats along the 3rd base line!

May 13th - The game starts at 7:05pm.

**Choose from two ticket options:
\$10 individual ticket -or-
\$16 individual ticket with meal voucher
(hot dog/chips/drink).**

Registration ends May 6th.

To register call the church office, register online at firstprez.com or scan the QR Code.



Stick around after the last out for Friday night fireworks!

TICKETS WILL BE AVAILABLE FOR PICKUP UP AT THE CHURCH WEDNESDAY, MAY 11-THURSDAY, MAY 12.



Presbyterian Women May Community Affairs Project



Balm in Gilead Family Counseling Ministries is a non-profit public charitable trust. Their purpose is to help any and all individuals, families, and communities in need. All services are free. Offices are opened daily for an ongoing multi-faceted outreach. They host a food pantry that features both perishable and non-perishable food bundles, a clothing closet, furniture closet, toys and household items that are readily available for those who come and are in need. Donations are continuously received and continuously distributed.

Items Needed on a Consistent Basis: All types of Clothing and Furniture

<u>Non Perishables:</u>	Canned vegetables	Cooking oils	Canned Chicken
	Peanut Butter	Spaghetti	Spaghetti Sauce
	Jelly	Cranberry sauce	Mac and cheese
	Grits	Pancake mix	Syrup
	Cereal	Condiments	Oatmeal

For Homeless Ministry bags:

Personal Hygiene items	Toothbrush	Toothpaste
Canned soups and meats with pop off tops		Hats
Disposable eating utensils	Small box of crackers or similar items	

2022 Catechism Class



Congratulations

to our 6th and 7th graders who completed Catechism class!

VBS VOLUNTEER TRAINING & DINNER



May 12, 5:30pm
IN THE ACTIVITY ROOM



Please register by May 10.

Scan the QR code to register online.

VBS PREP DAY

MAY 25 – 10AM TO 2PM – ACTIVITY ROOM

VBS NEEDS YOU!

Supplies listed below may be dropped off at the church office or outside of Britany's office. Monetary donations can be made to the church office.

Your support is greatly appreciated!

Rice Chex Cereal

Pretzels

Goldfish Crackers

Popcorn

Mini muffins

Fruit Snack Gummies

Graham Crackers

Applesauce

Juice Boxes or Pouches

Chocolate Pudding Cups (60)

Napkins

Paper towels

Cups – 3 & 9 oz.

Hand Sanitizer

Small Disposable Plates & Bowls

Ziploc storage bags

(gallon, quart, and sandwich sizes)



These fresh items need to be dropped off on Sunday morning, June 12:

Carrot Sticks

Apples

Celery

Ranch Dressing

Strawberries

Clementine's or Cuties



**VBS REGISTRATION IS OPEN BUT SPACE IS LIMITED!
PLEASE MAKE SURE TO REGISTER SOON!**

Scan the QR Code to register online



HELLO FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH FAMILY!

We have an exciting few months coming up for Youth Ministry, starting in May! First up, we start the month off with a "BANG" with **Youth Sunday on May 1st!** Make sure to mark your calendars with this date to come out and support your youth!

We also get the amazing opportunity to **celebrate our Graduates on May 22nd with Graduate Recognition Sunday!** This is an important tradition that we have at First Presbyterian Church and it gives a great opportunity for the church to hear from their youth and for the graduates to see the support and the love that comes from this great congregation. **Make sure you come out to support our youth and plan to stay for the Graduate Potluck Luncheon after the service!**

The youth have a lot of upcoming trips this summer, which you will hear more about in the upcoming months newsletters. **Please continue to pray for our youth as we move forward into the summer and they get ready for the trips coming up!**



God Bless,
Pastor Matt



IT'S TIME TO SHOW OFF YOUR GRADUATES!



Email your graduate's photo to nichole@firstprez.com to be included in Graduate Sunday (High School and College) celebrations and the June Newsletter (for all graduates).

Graduate Sunday May 22nd

We will honor our High School & College graduates and their families with a Pot Luck meal in Fellowship Hall after worship service on Graduate Sunday.



Register online by May 18th. Scan the QR code to register and let us know what covered dish you'd like to bring!

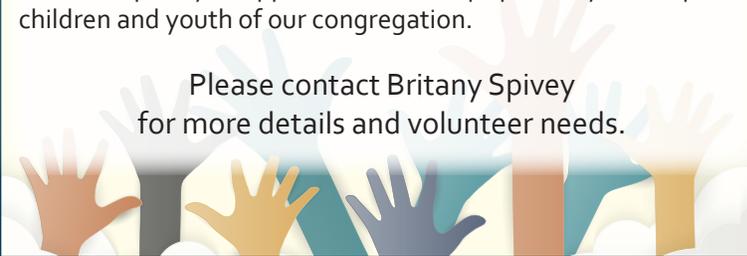
Volunteer Teacher Appreciation - May 22

Going to church is only half of it; we love others by volunteering. On May 22, join us in the parlor during the Sunday School time to honor and show appreciation of our volunteers and teachers that help with Children's and Youth Ministries.

We at First Presbyterian are blessed to have a wonderful program which simply could not exist without the assistance and support of parents and other members of the congregation.

To help with the responsibility of educating our children in the faith, we ask for parents or other care givers to be available to help in the following ways: Sunday School Leaders, Evening Bible Time Leader, Children's Church Leader, Substitute Teachers. There are plenty of opportunities to help spiritually develop the children and youth of our congregation.

Please contact Britany Spivey for more details and volunteer needs.



M
MOPS
meeting, May 15
@ 4:30 p.m.

David's Mighty Men
meeting
Monday, May 23
at 6 p.m.
in the Activity Room.

June
Newsletter
Deadline
May 18th

Celebrate
Mother's Day
at First Prez
Sunday, May 8th

May Birthdays

- | | |
|-----------------------|---------------------------|
| 3 Colton Petti | 18 Amy Navejas |
| 3 James Breswitz | 20 Larry Norris |
| 3 Mark DeSessa | 21 William Duhon |
| 4 Marie Rouse | 22 Taylor Aul |
| 4 Genevieve Rocker | 23 Quincy Scarborough Jr. |
| 4 Reese Navejas | 23 Amanda Walworth |
| 5 Reese Farnham | 24 Brooke Johnson |
| 6 Linda Gutheil | 24 Jacob Campbell |
| 7 Barrett Stiehl | 24 Bowdre Fortson |
| 7 Julia Furman | 25 Kimberly Hall |
| 7 Mary Susan Megill | 25 Mel Kankelfritz |
| 7 Anne Evanco | 25 Benjamin Napoli |
| 8 Mary Heldreth | 27 Winnie Self |
| 9 Alexa Walworth | 27 Emily Sasser |
| 9 Angela Lenard | 28 Graham Emerson |
| 9 Bruce McRae | 28 Michael Ruff |
| 10 Joyce Reid | 29 Hayden Blue |
| 10 Allison Smith | 29 Elizabeth Ciccone |
| 11 Michael Garrett | 30 Linda Anderson |
| 12 Jake Richter | 30 Milo McBryde |
| 13 Holly Richter | 30 Robert Mathews Jr. |
| 13 Sandi Kankelfritz | 31 Lee Ann Fortson |
| 16 Christopher Napoli | 31 Sutton Hammond |
| 17 Betsy Stiles | 31 Ella Spinosa |
| 17 Brantley Brock Jr. | |

A Look Ahead...

- Youth Sunday, May 1
- Family Skate Night, May 1
- VBS Volunteer Training & Dinner, May 12
- Fellowship Night Out at the Woodpeckers, May 13
- Graduate Sunday & Volunteer Appreciation, May 22
- Presbyterian Women Award Recognition & Reception, May 15
- VBS, June 13-17, 2022
- Music Ministry Trip to Carnegie Hall, June 24-28
- Mission Trip to Mexico, June 26 - July 3
- YouthWorks Mission Trip, July 10-15

Honorariums

Pam Senter
Breedon & Cathy Blackwell

Memorials

Paul DeSessa
Linda & Ralph Huff
Kaye McRaney
Joann & Benny Pearce
Carol & Sammy Short

Ruth Hooker
Carol & Sammy Short

Sanctuary Flowers

May 29th & June 2022

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

PATHFINDERS

The Pathfinders will welcome the summer season with an early June visit to one of our very own local gardens. Dr. Michael Ruff will give us a tour of his beautifully landscaped yard just as the daylilies are coming into full bloom. As usual, we will meet at the church in the morning and carpool to the activity.

More details will be coming as we get closer to June, but contact Andrea Horosko (ahorosko@aol.com) for more information.

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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.



PERIODICALS