



# FIRST PRESS

VOLUME 35 | ISSUE 5 | MAY 2023  
First Presbyterian Church, Fayetteville N.C.

## A Pastoral Message

FROM DR. MIKE GARRETT

*The Sermon on the Mount is probably the best-known part of the teaching of Jesus, though arguably it is the least understood, and certainly it is the least obeyed.*

-John R.W. Stott

If you are curious about Jesus and what he had to say, you can do no better than to read chapters 5-7 in Matthew's gospel, the Sermon on the Mount. It is here that we meet Jesus at his head-scratching, challenging, and most importantly, life changing best! Throughout the month of May we'll continue to focus on Jesus' sermon as we gather for Sunday worship.



If you would like to dig a little deeper into applying Jesus' words to your life, I recommend the book by James Bryan Smith, *The Good and Beautiful Life: Putting On The Character of Christ*. I'm using it in my own study. It's a down-to-earth approach to how this key teaching of Jesus can change and form our lives.

Speaking of change, the season of change continues for our congregation. We have recently added a new staff member, Rita Balado, who is now our Executive Assistant. Please stop by and get to know her.



The Associate Pastor Nominating Committee has been authorized to begin their search and will soon be receiving applications from interested candidates. You may know people who are qualified to apply. Feel free to share our information when our job description is made public.

This is an important moment for our congregation as we seek new leadership to help our congregation move toward the future in both faithful and creative ways. Please pray that God will bring the right people to us and that we will have the wisdom and discernment to recognize it when it happens. Your prayers for this congregation are always needed as we seek ways to grow both in spiritual depth and in number in challenging times.

I'll soon be spending a couple of weeks setting priorities for the year ahead and doing some intentional study to prepare. I would certainly appreciate your prayers. If you have some ideas about things you would like to hear addressed in preaching or adult teaching in the coming months, please share them with me.

I'm grateful for our staff and our many faithful and capable members whose sacrifice and ministry blesses this congregation. We need you and your faithful example. Please come and worship in the weeks ahead. You never know how much you help others simply by gathering with God's people!

Blessings,

CONNECT WITH US  @1stPrez  @firstprezfay



# A Joyful Easter at First Prez



Look what our Kingdom Kidz & Youth made!





# What have the Kingdom Kidz & Youth been up to?

This year, we changed the children's programming to Sunday evenings. That change created an unique opportunity to gather all the kids, preschool through high school, together to study the Bible, learn music, and fellowship during mealtime.

Andrea, the Kingdom Kidz Bible teacher, shares that she "especially enjoyed the Lego creations the Kingdom Kidz made to illustrate Bible stories. Each Sunday night, we read a story and discussed it. Afterward, each child made something with Legos. Then kids would share and explain the connection to the Bible story in ways that were interesting and inspiring - whether it was their idea of what the Tower of Babel might have looked like, or how Lazarus came back from the tomb."

During music time, the children played instruments and games as they learned to read music. They also prepared songs to share in worship based on Scripture and Bible Truths. They sang in harmony and laughed together. They finished their year with an opportunity for all to learn about, play, and explore the pipe organ.

The children's contribution to the Mission Conference week went really well! The children made potholders and refrigerator magnets to sell for the mission offering. They raised \$1,006.33 to purchase the Jesus Storybook Bibles in Haitian Creole for our partner schools in Haiti.

Thank you to all who volunteered their time, talents, and provided meals for the children and youth on Sunday evenings. Kingdom Kidz will break for the summer and resume in the fall for Pre-K 3's through 5th grade. Children's Sunday School will continue through the summer and we hope your children will join us there.



Do you know a youth who may want to join us for a few local outings like this over the summer? Contact Kimberhly Hopkins at [youth@firstprez.com](mailto:youth@firstprez.com) to get them connected!





## Interested in joining or learning more about First Presbyterian Church?

Please join Dr. Garrett and others for lunch at 12:15 pm following our 11 a.m. worship service on Sunday, May 7<sup>th</sup>, in the Fellowship Building.

Let us know you are coming, or get more information, by calling the church office (910-483-0121) or emailing us at [rita@firstprez.com](mailto:rita@firstprez.com).

## Club 543 End of Year Party

**Sunday, May 7<sup>th</sup>**  
**12-1:30 p.m. in the Activity Room**  
Club 543 will break for the summer.



## May 7<sup>th</sup> at 11 am



## Youth Sunday ... with a twist!

Join us at the 11am Unified Worship Service  
as our youth's gifts and talents are put on display  
in worship to the Lord!

## SUMMER FUN FOR KINGDOM KIDZ & YOUTH!

## Pool PARTY

in August

More information to be announced soon!

## ESCAPE ROOM AT FIRST PREZ

### SOLVE THE MYSTERY!

**Wednesday, June 21<sup>st</sup> - 6 to 7:30 p.m.**  
**Activity Room**

Register at [bit.ly/FPCEscape](http://bit.ly/FPCEscape)  
or scan the QR code.  
Pre K 3 through high school



## MOVIE NIGHT

**Wear your PJs, bring a  
pillow and sleeping bag**

**Wednesday, July 19<sup>th</sup> - 6 to 8 p.m.**  
**Activity Room**

Register at [bit.ly/MovieNight719](http://bit.ly/MovieNight719)  
or scan the QR code.  
Guardians are welcome to join.  
Childcare will be available for the littles.



Join us for the Back to School Blessing during the 11 a.m. service on August 27<sup>th</sup>



## VBS Registration is open!

**June 25 | 4:30-6 p.m. - Family Kickoff Celebration with music & food!**

**June 26-29 | 9:00-12:00 p.m. - Vacation Bible School for kids**

Open to all kids who have completed Pre-K to 5th grade. Join Daniel—torn from his home and forced into the king's service. Explore exotic sights and smells in a Babylonian bazaar!

## 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!

- Small Disposable Plates & Bowls
- Paper Towels Or Napkins
- Hand Sanitizer
- Cups – Small Disposable
- Mini Muffins
- Fruit Snack Gummies
- Graham Crackers
- Applesauce Cups
- Chocolate Pudding Cups (60)
- Juice Boxes Or Pouches
- Ziploc Storage Bags (Gallon, Quart And Sandwich Sizes)
- 3 Tailgating Tents To Borrow (June 21-29)
- Pretzel Sticks
- Goldfish Crackers
- Popcorn
- Rice Chex Cereal
- 4 Small Bags Of Potting Soil
- Paper Grocery Bags
- Small Peat Pots In 3 Different Sizes
- Empty Shoe Boxes
- Medium Size Jingle Bells
- Red And Orange Tissue Paper

**Volunteers & children register for VBS online!**  
**Scan the QR Code or visit [bit.ly/FPCBabylonVBS](http://bit.ly/FPCBabylonVBS)**



SCAN ME

These fresh items need to  
be dropped off on Sunday  
morning, June 25:

- Baby Carrot Sticks
- Apples
- Celery
- Ranch Dressing
- Strawberries
- Clementine's or Cuties



## VBS PREP DAY

**MAY 24<sup>TH</sup> 4:30-7:30pm**  
**in the Activity Room**

**Dinner & childcare provided.**



Please register  
for VBS Prep Day  
before May 22<sup>nd</sup>  
by visiting  
[bit.ly/VBSPrep524](http://bit.ly/VBSPrep524)  
or scan the QRCode.





## Mother's Day Potluck Luncheon May 14th, 2023

*Your family looks forward to having you join them on Mother's Day!!*

*Feel free to invite and bring a friend!*

Home & Hearth Holiday Fellowship is a program that creates connections, builds relationships and forms a close-knit community during the holidays. It's for anyone who is displaced from their relatives, new to the church, lives alone, has no family to visit, is overworked and needs a break, or just doesn't want to be alone during a holiday. If you fall into any of these categories, or just don't want to cook for the holiday, you're invited to join in our celebrations!

- The meal will start at 1:00 pm, so please bring food by 12:50 pm in order to start on time.
- A double-sided buffet will allow everyone to be served promptly, but the luncheon will be leisurely.
- Please bring a side, salad, bread, or dessert, enough to feed 8 to 10 people, either purchased or homemade.
- The Congregational Care Committee will provide the main entrée and drinks.



SCAN ME

Please let us know what you will bring for your contribution to our H<sup>3</sup>F Mother's Day Potluck Luncheon by signing up online at [bit.ly/H3FMothersDay](https://bit.ly/H3FMothersDay) or scanning the QR code.

Sign up in person in Eller Hall or call the church office.

For planning purposes, please sign up by Wednesday, May 10th at 9 p.m.

## Graduate Sunday May 21<sup>st</sup>

We will honor our graduates and their families with a Potluck meal in Fellowship Hall after the worship service on Graduate Sunday. The church will provide fried chicken and barbecue. Please bring a side dish or dessert to share.

### Is your loved one graduating?

Email their photo to [nichole@firstprez.com](mailto:nichole@firstprez.com) for inclusion in our celebration & publications.

To register in person, sign up in Eller Hall or call the church office. To register online, scan the QR Code, or visit [bit.ly/2023Graduate](https://bit.ly/2023Graduate)



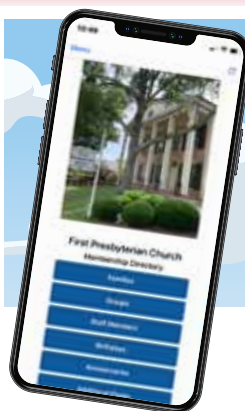
SCAN ME



## SCHOLARSHIPS for Graduating Seniors

Contact Bengie Hair at [BMH4954@aol.com](mailto:BMH4954@aol.com) for an application. Submit your application via email or by placing your printed submission in Bengie's mail box in the church office.

**APPLICATION EXTENDED DEADLINE:  
APPLICATIONS ARE AVAILABLE NOW,  
AND ARE DUE MONDAY, MAY 8TH.**



## THE FIRST PREZ CHURCH DIRECTORY APP IS COMING!

We need your family's updated information in the directory.

Only members of First Prez will be able to have access to the Church Directory app and the information included in the directory.

### Your contact information will remain safe!

Once the app is made available to members, your email address must be listed to have access to the app. More information about downloading the app, creating an account, logging into the app and updating your information will be available when the app is launched.

Information for children refers to your children that are college age or younger, unmarried, and reside with you.

Please email [Nichole@firstprez.com](mailto:Nichole@firstprez.com) or call the church office if you need any help or have questions.

Printed copies of the directory will be available by request after the app is established.



SCAN ME

To complete the sign up form online, please visit [bit.ly/FirstPrezDirectory](https://bit.ly/FirstPrezDirectory) or scan the QR Code.

To sign up in person, complete a questionnaire that can be found in the bulletins and in Eller Hall. Please place your completed questionnaire in one of the baskets by the entrances to the Sanctuary, Chapel or in Eller Hall.



# THE HILLS ARE ALIVE!

**Vienna and Salzburg, Austria**  
**June 13-June 23, 2024**

Mark your calendars and get ready to travel with First Presbyterian Church Music Ministry to the birthplace of great classical music, Vienna and Salzburg! You do not need to sing to enjoy this great adventure. The trip will include 10 nights lodging in 4-star hotels, daily breakfast, all transportation, English-speaking guided tours and a farewell dinner. The group will depart on June 13th, 2024 to arrive in Vienna on the 14th and return on June 23rd, 2024. Registration begins now. Won't you join us? Contact Dr. Marcia Mervin, [marcia@firstprez.com](mailto:marcia@firstprez.com), for more information and to register.



## 2023 Confirmands

The 2023 Confirmation class was recognized on Sunday, April 9th.

These four young people pledged their love for Jesus Christ and promised to serve Him faithfully in front of our congregation. Welcome to these four newest members of First Presbyterian Church. To read their statements of faith, visit [bit.ly/2023Confirmands](http://bit.ly/2023Confirmands)



## Pentecost

### Sunday, May 28th

Be sure to mark your calendars and join us for a Pentecost Celebration at the 11am Worship Service. Remember to wear red.



## First Prez will host the United Way Day of Caring Blood Drive

**Wednesday, May 24th**  
**10 a.m. to 3 p.m.**  
**in Fellowship Hall.**

Sign up to donate by scanning the QR code, visit [bit.ly/May2023BloodDrive](http://bit.ly/May2023BloodDrive) or call the church office at (910) 483-0121.



## A LOOK AHEAD...

- |            |  |
|------------|--|
| May 1      | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>PW Coordinating Team Meeting</li> <li>Congregational Care Committee</li> <li>Mission Committee</li> </ul>                     |
| May 2      | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>S.A.L.T. Breakfast at JK's</li> <li>Christian Education Committee Meeting</li> <li>Worship Committee Meeting</li> </ul>       |
| May 7      | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Youth Sunday - <b>Unified 11 a.m. Service only</b></li> <li>Stephen Ministry</li> <li>New Member/Interest Luncheon</li> </ul> |
| May 8      | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Engagement Committee Meeting</li> </ul>   |
| May 14     | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>H3F Mother's Day Luncheon</li> </ul>  |
| May 18     | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>S.A.L.T. trip to Seagrove Pottery</li> </ul>  |
| May 21     | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Graduate Sunday</li> </ul>  |
| May 24     | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>United Way Blood Drive</li> <li>VBS Prep Day</li> </ul>   |
| June 4     | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Elder Emeritus Luncheon</li> </ul>  |
| June 21    | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Escape Room at First Prez</li> </ul>  |
| June 25    | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>VBS Kick Off Celebration</li> </ul>   |
| June 26-29 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Vacation Bible School</li> </ul>  |
| July 4     | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>H3F July 4th Luncheon</li> </ul>  |
| July 19    | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Movie Night</li> </ul>  |
| July 23-28 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Youthworks Mission Trip</li> </ul>  |
| Aug. 27    | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Back to School Blessing</li> </ul>  |
| Sept. 10   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Rally Day</li> </ul>  |
| Sept. 13   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>All In Fellowship Meals Resumes</li> <li>Adult Christian Education Class Resumes</li> </ul>                                   |



# Honorarium

Joy Keys

Kay & Wayne Autry

## May Birthdays

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



# Memorials

Dat Gilbert

Marilyn Britt  
Jan & John Burgess  
Ann Rowell  
Gemmy Lou s& Robert Exum  
Margaret Hedecoe  
Ann & Buzz Loyd  
Patsy Markham  
Becky & Grodon Rose  
Jenny Singleton  
Luyanne & Thomas Nicholson  
Mary Everett  
Beverly Stewart  
Linda & Warren Tillman  
Hanna Circle  
Kay Autry & Mike Brantley

Beth Player

Ann Rowell

Merle Prewitt

Ann Rowell

Judye Blecker

Virginia Minges  
Linda Gurnik  
Daphne & Oscar Manning  
David Allred  
Carol & Chip Haigh  
Lynda & Clayton Deaton  
Janice & John Burgess  
Allyson & Donald Wherren  
Elizabeth & Brian Cook  
Janet Holt  
Vicki & Timothy Richardson  
Scottie & Bill Bryan  
Julianne & Bill Hussey  
Pat & Cliff Spiller

Robert Billman

Hannah Circle  
Linda Huff  
Gillie Revelle  
Ann Rowell  
Eliza & Fred Williams  
Melanie Strickland  
Patsy Markham

Terry Herndon

Gillie Revelle  
Ann Rowell  
Eliza & Fred Williams  
Patsy Markham





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.

**FIRST PRESS**  
**First Presbyterian Church**  
102 Ann Street, Fayetteville, North Carolina 28301  
(910) 483-0121  
www.firstprez.com  
Volume 35, Issue 5  
First Press (USPS915-720) is published monthly by First Presbyterian Church, P.O. Box 569, Fayetteville, NC 28302. PERIODICALS Postage paid at Fayetteville, NC. Postmaster: send address changes to First Presbyterian Church, 102 Ann Street, Fayetteville, NC 28301.

PERIODICALS

## A Farewell from our Preschool Director, Julie MacRae



Dear Friends of First Presbyterian,  
It has been a blessing and an honor to serve as your preschool director for the past ten years. We are expecting our first grandchild and for this reason, I am making this my last semester at First School so I can spend time with her.

Our own, Mrs. Britni Nichol, will be your new First School Director. Miss Britni is currently the assistant teacher with Miss Pat in PreK. Miss Britni knows the established, successful environment of First School and will strive to maintain that. She can relate to the needs of our military families along with many other qualities that will make her an excellent fit for First School director.

Thank you for the many wonderful memories that I will have and for welcoming Britni as your director.

Yours in Christ,  
Julie MacRae

Miss Julie, we are thankful for you  
and for our time together!

*Welcome*  
to our newest  
staff member  
Rita Balado  
Executive Assistant



## Elder Emeritus Potluck Luncheon Sunday, June 4<sup>th</sup>



To celebrate the thirteen Emeritus Electees, we will have a congregational potluck luncheon in the Fellowship Hall following the 11am Worship Service. Please bring a dish (a main course, a side dish, salad, bread, or dessert) to share. The church will provide fried chicken and BBQ.



Register online for the Potluck Luncheon by scanning the QR code or visit [bit.ly/ElderEmeritus](http://bit.ly/ElderEmeritus)  
Register in person in Eller Hall or call the church office (910) 483-0121