

# FIRST PRESS

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First Presbyterian Church, Fayetteville N.C.



## A PASTORAL MESSAGE FROM DR. MIKE GARRETT

*See, I AM DOING A NEW THING!*

**NOW IT SPRINGS UP; DO YOU NOT PERCEIVE IT? ISAIAH 43:19**

When Isaiah spoke these words to God's people in Israel they did not perceive it. Weary from 70 years of living as refugees in the Babylonian Exile, the fear was God is done with us. Isaiah had to do a lot of heavy lifting to persuade anyone something new – a return to the Promised Land – was coming.

We often wish God would bulldoze the old and build the shiny new thing in life on a vacant lot. In biblical history God rarely does. God brings new life out of old realities, where we have a hard time imagining something new and better could still happen. God does this, according to Isaiah, so we will remember where the power is, and to whom the praise belongs.

Our 2022 stewardship campaign is asking each of us to have eyes for the new thing God is doing in our weary time, and give ourselves in support of it. It's an invitation to invest our

love, time, and money in the mission and ministry of First Presbyterian Church. It's an encouragement to open our spiritual eyes to discern what is next for us in the life of our congregation. I hope you will give of yourself with generosity, commitment, and creativity.

I'm happy to report we are forming a "Growing Young" Task Force to help us implement insights and ideas that have risen from our recent Calvin Lecture with Jake Mulder, author of Growing Young. Is this something new God's Spirit is creating among us? I believe it is.

We continue to move as quickly as possible toward more normal practices of gathering and fellowship as we wrestle with the realities of Covid-19. We continue to balance the need to protect our most vulnerable members of all ages with the need to do faithful ministry. This can be a wearisome process.

I feel it myself. Thanks for your faithfulness. Let's be hopeful! As of this writing things are looking much better in our community. As the picture becomes clearer, the leadership of our congregation will respond with revised guidelines for gathering, eating, and worshipping together.

***See, I am doing a new thing!*** That is God's promise made to us, kept by Jesus Christ, and still unfolding in the life of our church. Let's keep our eyes open.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Mike".

Prayerfully consider your intention to give, and how you can use your time, talents, and resources to serve and enhance our church's ministries.



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



# WEDNESDAY TOGETHER

## NEW CHRISTIAN EDUCATION OPPORTUNITIES ON WEDNESDAYS

The new "Growing With" and "A Different Approach to Prayer" classes began on Wednesday, Oct. 27. Hopefully, many have already joined the first sessions, but it's certainly not too late to be a part of the conversation and fellowship!

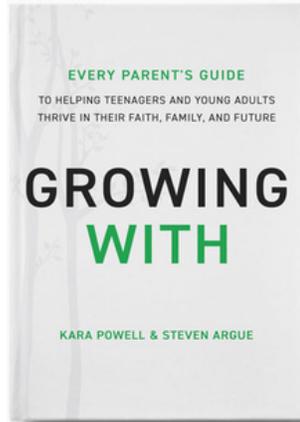
### "Growing With" 5-week series in the Activity Room

One day they seem content to hang out with you. The next, they're too busy. And even if they weren't busy, you aren't sure they would want to.

As parents, grandparents, and adult friends, we often feel the gap between us and our kids widening when they enter the years between 13 and 30. Yes, they're growing up. But we fear that gap is a symptom that we're growing apart.

*Growing With* shows you how to close the family gap, giving parents courage to take the next faithful step on a shared journey of growth that trusts God to transform us all.

Join the book study, led by Dr. Garrett, and small group discussion. You'll need a copy of *Growing With* to participate. Copies are readily available through Amazon (Amazon Kindle is the cheapest way to go.) A limited number of copies are available for purchase at First Presbyterian Church.



### "A Different Approach to Prayer" Room 413

Oct. 27; Nov. 3; and Nov. 10

(Nov. 10 session will include a prayer walk through the church)

Join Leslie DeSessa and Ann McRae for a new look at visual prayer and collage-making with a sacred intention. The process is prayerful, contemplative, and enriching to your spiritual life. We hope you find blessings, peace, and new way to communicate the desires and needs of your heart through the crafting of visual prayers. **Feel free to join the group at any time, even if you missed the first session!**



## TWO SPECIAL STEPHEN MINISTRY SESSIONS Room 405

### "Active Listening", 5:30 p.m. November 17

Listening is an essential part of Stephen Ministry. Stephen Ministers use active listening skills to help people recognize and accept the feelings they are experiencing. This session will help us build valuable listening tools that will equip and serve us in our relationships, friendships, and all interpersonal communication.

### "Christmas Blues", 5:30 p.m. December 1

It's no secret that many deal with grief, loneliness, unmet expectations and a host of concerns that require additional emotional and spiritual support during the holidays. As people are open to spiritual, meaningful things, Christmas affords us the opportunity for evangelism and sharing the only gift that can bring true joy—Christ's love for us and others.



FPC's Stephen Leaders and Ministers are trained and available to provide emotional and spiritual care. Please do not hesitate to reach out for a Christian friend who listens, prays, supports, and encourages.

Call (910) 483-0121 and ask to be referred to a Stephen Minister.



# TRUNK OR TREAT & All Church Fellowship

Many thanks to all those who attended and who helped host our Trunk or Treat and All Church Fellowship. The many creative trunks and wonderful cooks created a hospitable atmosphere and a great time of fellowship with both church members, First School families, and new faces.



FIRST FRIENDS SUPPER CLUB

## ALL ARE WELCOME

INTERGENERATIONAL connection · friendship · fellowship

Visit <https://bit.ly/FFSupperClub> to see details, dates, to sign up to host and/or to bring side items to share for the monthly dinners.



## NEW COMMITTEE LOOKS TO ENGAGE

In January of this year a brand new, and very special committee, was formed to equip and engage our current membership in openly welcoming and encouraging visitors to the First Presbyterian family. Formerly the Commitment Committee, we have decided that a name change was needed to properly describe the new direction and focus of this endeavor. **Thus, the Engagement Committee was formed.** Together with the congregation, we provide hospitality to prospective members, visitors, and youth while guiding them through the path of becoming members. Many churches have seen a steady decline in membership in recent years. There are many reasons why, and one of the Engagement Committee's key duties is to stem this trend within our own church.

**We like to be considered an “open arm” committee.** We are sure you have seen the welcome tent outside the entrance to the sanctuary before and after the 11:00 service. It has been a unique and challenging opportunity to safely welcome current members and visitors, and offer our hospitality during the pandemic. We began offering pre-packaged refreshments and implemented a new welcome gift bag that includes small gifts and information about Christian education and ministries. Each visitor is encouraged to fill out a “Connect Card” so that we can take the first step to connect and build a relationship. They are now located in the pews in both the sanctuary and chapel. **We welcome your ideas in hospitality and more importantly, new committee members- of all ages!**

All of us have been a visitor to one church or another in our lifetime. **Can you remember how that felt? Was it uncomfortable or wonderful? Reflect on that experience, and then think about how you can help. We need all to be on the look out for new faces; show a welcoming smile; and greet all who walk through the doors.** Invite friends, neighbors, and acquaintances to share in our church's worship experience. It is incumbent upon all of us to continue to grow and build our church so that it has a promising future. We are sure you have heard Dr. Garrett and members of our church leadership promote the book *Growing Young*. We were recently visited by one of the authors, Jake Mulder, as speaker for our Calvin Lecture series. If you haven't done so, we strongly encourage you to read it.

As you can see, our committee has a lot of work to do, and many programs that are still in the planning phase, like the Prayer Partner Program, and more. Don't forget that we are ALL a part of the "welcoming committee"! With all of us involved, our congregation is a powerful force of love, openness, and acceptance. Encourage one another to stream, or attend in person, the wonderful worship services and Christian Education classes we have to offer. Invite, and bring a friend. Stay engaged, and help us grow our church!

*Our mission is to equip and motivate the current membership to engage prospective members, visitors, and youth by creating a Christian atmosphere of welcome, openness, and acceptance.*

# Now Thank We All Our God

*a hymn story from Dr. Marcia Mervin*

Being thankful in difficult circumstances is a challenge. As we continue to struggle with the current health crisis, imagine if that were to go on for thirty years!

From 1618 to 1648, Germany struggled with famine, disease and destruction during the Thirty Years War, affecting much of Europe. Yet, in 1636, Martin Rinkart, a Lutheran pastor in Eilenberg, Saxony, wrote a wonderful hymn of Thanksgiving still sung in churches today.

Born in 1586, Rinkart grew up poor, the son of a coppersmith, in Eilenberg, Saxony, Germany. Being musically gifted at a young age, he sang in the choir at the St. Thomas Church in Leipzig, where he later became a foundation scholar and chorister in 1601. A scholarship allowed him to attend the University of Leipzig where he studied theology.

In 1617, at the age of 31, Rinkart returned to his hometown of Eilenberg as a pastor just as the Thirty Years War began. The town filled with refugees taking shelter in the walled city. This was a desperate time. With the Swedish army surrounding the city gates, there was nothing left inside but plague, starvation and terror. Eight hundred homes were destroyed. Large numbers of people were dying, and as many as fifty funerals were held per day. As illness raged, even the pastors became ill while caring for the sick and burying the dead. One by one, the ministers also perished until only Martin Rinkart was left.

In 1636, when the Swedes demanded a huge ransom, Martin Rinkart went out from the safety of the city walls to negotiate. Bathed in prayer and with God's help, Rinkart courageously reached a diplomatic agreement to bring some relief to their suffering.

With joy and hope, Rinkart then composed this great hymn of Thanksgiving for the survivors in Eilenberg to sing to help them begin to heal from the horrors they had endured.

## Sources:

\*Griffin, Pam. "Story Behind the Song: Pastor gives praise, thanks during darkest of times.", The Destin Log, <https://www.thedestinlog.com/news/20181120/story-behind-song-pastor-gives-praise-thanks-during-darkest-of-times>, Nov. 21, 2018.

\* Morgan, Robert J. "Then Sings My Soul - 150 of the World's Greatest Hymn Stories", Thomas Nelson, Inc, Nashville TN. 2003, p. 17.

*"Now thank we all our God, with heart and hands and voices,  
Who wondrous things hath done, in Whom this world rejoices.  
Who, from our mothers' arms, hath blessed us on our way  
With countless gifts of love, and still is ours today.*

*O may this bounteous God through all our life be near us,  
With ever joyful hearts and blessed peace to cheer us;  
And keep us in God's grace, and guide us when perplexed,  
And free us from all ills in this world and the next."*



## God Is Great

SCAN TO REHEARSE THIS SONG  
WITH YOUR FIRSTKIDS

**CHILDREN'S MUSIC MINISTRY  
WILL LEAD THE CONGREGATION  
IN SINGING THE ANTHEM ON  
SUNDAY, NOV. 14**

## Stewardship and Children

Stewardship is truly a matter of the heart, and we can never be too young to learn how to give ourselves to God. God has blessed children with many gifts. The church, community, and world are blessed as children share these gifts.

We encourage you to talk about stewardship as a family and how this year's theme affirms God's power to do new things and that we can be a part of the greater plan.



FAMILY DEVOTION



## FAMILY ADVENT EVENT



DINNER • FELLOWSHIP • ADVENT & CHRISTMAS CRAFTS

5pm - 6:30pm November 21 All families are welcome!

Register at <https://bit.ly/FPCAdventEvent>



SCAN ME TO REGISTER

# MISSION OUTREACH- NOVEMBER UPDATE

First Presbyterian Church is located in the heart of Fayetteville – close to where the city began and where the downtown still thrives today. But there are many needs to be met in this very same area. Through our church's generous giving, you are supporting some of these vibrant agencies and activities.



First Presbyterian Church is a member of this group which includes other downtown churches, the City of Fayetteville, and Habitat for Humanity. The Coalition sponsors weekly walks through the area, neighborhood clean-ups, Rock the Block and National Night Out events. As we serve and share, our presence in the neighborhood has brought hope to many families living there.



Our congregation has donated funds to help build three Habitat for Humanity homes in the B Street neighborhood. Recently, the organization has announced plans to build twelve more houses in the area. So, as COVID releases its grip on our community, there will be exciting mission opportunities for First Presbyterian Church in and around B Street.



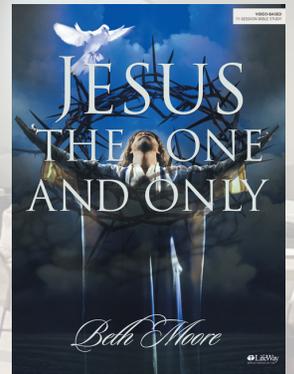
Our financial support helps provide necessary supplies for the women and children served there. In addition, First Presbyterian has hosted several Connect to Fellowship events that offer a meal and educational opportunities along with friendly fellowship. As we get the pandemic more and more under control, we hope to resume these events in 2022. Connections of Cumberland County is another mission field right in our own backyard.

Serve and Share! There are so many healthy and constructive ways to use our time, energy, and resources to share the good news of God's abundant love to our neighbors.

*Tapestry*

WOMEN'S STUDY GROUP  
10 A.M. THURSDAYS

New study of Beth Moore's  
"Jesus the One and Only" begins Nov. 4

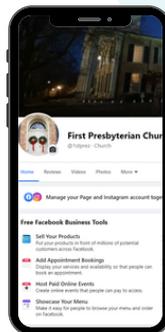


*Mission Chat*

11:30 AM TUESDAY, NOV. 16



WITH GUEST  
**Ron Gunter**  
CEO, Fayetteville Area  
Habitat for Humanity



LIVE @1stprez

WATCH LATER



YouTube  
First Presbyterian Church of  
Fayetteville, N.C.

# November Birthdays

1 Hudson McFadyen	11 Riley Spinosa
1 Joy Keys	11 Radford Brown
1 Maria Reid	11 Grady McLaughlin
2 Glinda Davis	11 Greer McLaughlin
3 Daniel Perry IV	12 Nancy Soffe
3 Mike Spinosa	12 Mackie Weeks
4 Corey McMahon	14 Susie McFadyen
5 Bill Dunn Sr.	14 Sara Campbell
5 Tommy Holmes	15 Allan Battles
5 Ned Johnson	16 Cara Spencer
5 Susan Williams	16 Caroline Helmke
6 Fred Williams Jr.	16 Jacqueline Smith
6 Cole Wright	17 Shep McCauley
6 Stiles Kraft	17 Page Haddow-Green
6 Daniel Harrison	18 John Harbison
6 Taylor Gilbert	19 Priscilla Hooks
6 Lyn Kirby	19 Tripp Hall III
7 Alex McFadyen	20 Benny Pearce
7 Wells Alderman IV	20 Frank Perkins Jr.
7 Michael Dunning	20 Cecelia Sherrill
7 Debbie Brock	21 Caroline Cox
8 Janice Luce	21 Jim Watson
9 W.C. Strickland Jr.	22 Sandra Joyce
9 Stephen Gooding	23 Catherine Traylor
9 Happy Hibler	23 Susan Hardin
9 Margaret Reid	24 Billy Kirby
10 Mack Cromartie Jr.	25 Debra Chestnutt
10 Brian Pearce	25 Steve McRae
10 Evans Hibler	26 Dee McCutchen
10 Eden Hibler	27 Gayle Braxton
10 Resa Cleveland	27 Luke Howle
10 Stone Harrison	27 Lia Bullock
11 Martha Helms	28 Eliza Harrison
11 Lee Gutierrez	30 Jamie McFadyen

## MEMORIALS

### May Hunter Cromartie

Amy Cook

### Henry Rankin

Betty and Quincy Scarborough

### Brantley S. Vann Jr.

Kay and Wayne Autry; Marilyn Britt; Amy Cook; Priscilla Hooks; Linda and Ralph Huff; John S. McFadyen; Betty and Quincy Scarborough; Shirley Stevens

### Susan Williams

Linda and Ralph Huff; and Carol and Sammy Short

## Together in *service*

We invite the congregation to join Presbyterian Women as they help **Second Harvest Food Bank** continue its mission to provide nutritious food to those at risk of hunger.

### NEEDED ITEMS:

- peanut butter
- cereal
- canned fruits and vegetables
- rice
- pasta
- fruit and pudding cups
- canned soups, stews and meats

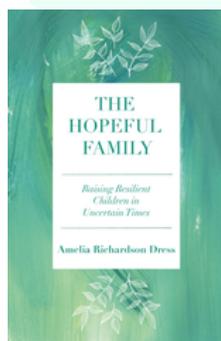


**SECOND HARVEST  
FOOD BANK**  
Southeast North Carolina



## Faith Practices for Families

Join us as we explore "The Hopeful Family" by Amelia Richardson Dress.



This book provides reflections and practical exercises for families seeking to incorporate faith practices, such as Sacred Reading, Gratitude, and Generosity into daily life. Parents of youth and children are invited to join us for this special series at 10 am on Sunday, Nov. 7, 14, and 21 in Room 413.