

# FIRST PRESS

VOLUME 34 | ISSUE 10 | OCTOBER 2022  
First Presbyterian Church, Fayetteville N.C.



## *A Pastoral Message From Dr. Mike Garrett*

The great poet, William Blake, wrote about something most of us want, whether we know it or not:

*"To see a world in a grain of sand  
And a heaven in a wild flower,  
Hold infinity in the palm of your hand,  
and eternity in an hour."*

*It is at the deepest level  
a hunger to know God.*

The problem, of course, is that hunger gets ignored and suppressed because we don't think we have time. Blake's poem seems to ask us to do things people who have jobs, worries, and children who play fall sports can't slow down enough to consider. Who has time for poetry? We're just happy to get through the day.

The church is supposed to help us kindle and pursue our hunger for God. It too can feel like one more thing on the "to do" list instead of an invitation to scope out our lives for signs of God's presence.

October is here with a full list of opportunities for spiritual growth, mission, and support of our

congregation. So, I have a request of us often overbooked and overanxious people as we contemplate our calendar. Please don't do everything, but make an effort to commit to at least one opportunity to help you grow and one opportunity to help you serve. Carve out some room for Jesus Christ to capture your hands and your heart.

*Above all worship God.*

Come gather with your brothers and sisters in the faith on a regular basis if at all possible. You need them and they need you. If you are unable to gather, give your personal worship your very best. Whether it is online on a Sunday morning or in your favorite chair with a devotional guide or bible, ask God to reveal God's presence to you, and purpose for you.

Some things can't be rushed. If we take the time to be open to the God of eternity, our God has a way of showing up in the grain of sand that is the coming and going of our daily life. May God inhabit your hours and your days!

Sincerely,

*Mike*

CONNECT WITH US



@1STPREZ



@FIRSTPREZFAY

# Pray It Forward With Your Heart

The Engagement Committee is excited to announce that we will be starting the Prayer Partner Program again in November. Instead of groups of 2 we will form groups of 3-5. We ask that you fill out the questionnaire so we can form groups with similarities. The intent is to enrich the lives of our members by utilizing the power and spiritual enlightenment of prayer. We hope that a special fellowship bond will be created through the power of prayer.

Prayer partners will be formed based on the questionnaire which was carefully crafted by the Committee. Look for the questionnaire in upcoming Sunday bulletins and a QR Code in First Things First.

If you have any questions feel free to contact member of the Engagement Committee:

Travis Hibler  
Diane Regensburger  
Lulie Harry  
Melanie Strickland

Bill McFadyen  
Lorene McBryde  
Leslie DeSessa

Scan the QR Code or  
visit [bit.ly/3Sxo2RP](http://bit.ly/3Sxo2RP)  
to fill out the questionnaire.



## Let's Observe a Christian Holiday!

REFORMATION DAY - OCTOBER 31<sup>ST</sup>

Dr. Marcia Mervin, Director of Music Ministry

For most, October 31 means the appearance of ghosts, fairy princesses and power rangers - or some such costume - as children trick-or-treat for Halloween. However, did you know that October 31st is celebrated in many countries around the world as Reformation Day?

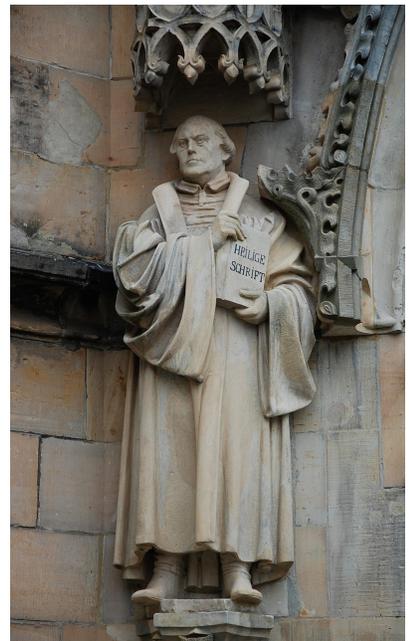
On October 31, 1517, Martin Luther, a German monk, posted "95 Theses" on the door of Wittenberg's Castle Church. Luther was an avid scholar and student of scripture, and he disagreed with the church on many points, including priests serving as intermediaries between the Bible and the congregants and the widespread sale of indulgences to rebuild the church.

While many opposed the power of the church at that time, Luther sought reformation and purity in the life of the church. His theses provided means for people to question the church's actions and led to the Protestant Reformation - a social and religious change. This split from the Catholic Church heralded a new era in Christianity, encouraging people to read the Bible for themselves rather than rely on the traditions of the church. (This was now made possible for the first time due to the invention of the printing press by Johannes Gutenberg, ca. 1440, which provided the means to print and distribute a Bible in the language of the people.)

Martin Luther was remarkable for many reasons: he spent 10 years translating the Bible into the German language; he married the nun, Katharina von Bora, setting a precedent for Protestant clergy; and he composed over 30 hymns including "A Mighty Fortress Is Our God". Excommunicated by Pope Leo X, Luther remained true to his passion for the Bible and the Lord until his death, paving the way for all to embrace God's grace.

Ways to Observe Reformation Day:

1. Read the Bible - this is a precious gift to you made possible first of all by the work of Martin Luther.
2. Learn more about the Reformation
3. Share the Holiday Online



# Trunk or Treat

**OCTOBER 23 4:30-6:00 P.M.**

**ENJOY FUN & FELLOWSHIP!**  
**BURGERS & HOT DOGS WILL BE SERVED**

## Volunteer!

**WOULD YOU LIKE TO HELP BY  
DECORATING YOUR TRUNK?**  
(WITH SCRIPTURE, STORY OR YOUNG  
CHILD FRIENDLY THEMES)

**SIGN UP TO BE  
A PART OF THIS  
AWESOME FELLOWSHIP  
& OUTREACH EVENT!**



Please let us know you plan to come or if you would like to volunteer. Scan the QR Code or visit [conta.cc/3Bj6Ppm](http://conta.cc/3Bj6Ppm) to register online.

We are now collecting peanut-free candy.

Donated candy can be dropped off outside of Britany's office.

*Save the date*

**FAMILY  
ADVENT  
WORKSHOP**  
Prepare for  
Advent  
with us!

For families of Children & Youth.  
Dinner will be served.

**Sunday, November 20<sup>th</sup>**

**4:30 pm**

## Care Packages for Deployed Soldiers

Children's Ministry plans to send care packages to our deployed soldiers. Please send the mailing addresses of deployed friends and family to Britany Spivey by November 2<sup>nd</sup> if you'd like for them to receive this special gift. The congregation can assist with this outreach by donating care package items through October 30<sup>th</sup>.

Items may be dropped off in Eller Hall. Recommended care package items include:

- chewing gum
- baby or body wipes
- beef jerky
- playing cards
- protein mixers/shakers
- water flavor packets
- protein bars
- small sunscreen
- snack-size chip bags, cookies, mac & cheese
- hygiene articles
- toiletries: travel sized portions of their favorite shampoo, conditioner, deodorant or lip balm

\*Single-serve packets are best as it may be hard to keep things fresh once opened.

## *A thought from the Stewardship Committee*

### Let Us Serve.

Has a friend or church member answered your needs or been of service to you by being present, paying attention, working through an issue or problem, looking after or taking charge of something for you? This gift of service, sometimes called "helps," is the ability to step in and meet the practical needs of individuals or the church as a whole.

We all have a need to serve as part of our human nature but, as Christians, the act of service to others is even more compelling because of Christ's perfect example. We, as Christians, are one body of Christ with many members (Romans 8:4), and we are called to be the hands and feet of Jesus. We care, serve, and love because He first loved us. In Romans 12:7, the Bible says if our gift is serving, "then let us serve." Paul is saying this in the context of using our gift of service as being a talent or treasure that we share with others just as Christ did. It is love in action.

Have you ever considered serving as a gift, as a tithe, or tool of stewardship? As stewards of Christ's love, we serve because He served us. Our gifts of time, talent, and treasure are what we contribute as love in action by being the hands and feet of Jesus to others. As we give, our investment in bringing others into the body and presence of Christ is definitely priceless!



**WE HOPE TO SEE YOU FOR  
KINGDOM KIDZ &  
KINGDOM YOUTH**  
(PRE K 3 THROUGH HIGH SCHOOL)

*BIBLE STUDY, MUSIC, DINNER & FUN*

- Oct. 2
- Oct. 23 - Trunk or Treat
- Nov. 6
- Nov. 20 - Advent Event
- Dec. 4 - Lessons & Carols Rehearsal
- Oct. 9
- Oct. 30
- Nov. 13
- Nov. 27



**Wednesday, October 19<sup>th</sup>**  
Doors open  
at 6:30pm  
Service begins  
at 6:45pm

Our mid-week Worship Service in the Chapel is intentionally casual in dress, speaks to the heart as much as to the head, rich in visual images as well as in words, and both participatory and connectal. Most importantly, it is an opportunity to worship God and become different people because we did. All ages are welcome, and nursery is provided.



Presbyterian Women  
October  
Community Affairs Project



**Connections of Cumberland County**

Donations can be dropped off outside of the elevator upstairs.

- COFFEE & K-CUPS • CREAMER
- BOTTLED WATER • 14 GALLON TRASH BAGS
- EMPTY TRAVEL-SIZE REFILLABLE BOTTLES
- JUICE BOXES • APPLE SAUCE • GOLDFISH • CRACKERS
- FRUIT GUMMIES • GRANOLA GARS • COOKIES • NOODLE CUPS

**Interested  
in helping  
decorate FPC  
for Christmas?**

Meet Carol Short  
in Eller Hall  
after the 11am  
Worship Service  
on Oct 23rd

**Sunday, October 9<sup>th</sup>**  
12-1:30pm

**Mini Golf**

**CLUB  
543**

Club 543 goes to  
Mountasia Golf & Games!  
Parents will need to  
provide transportation  
to and from the event.

To register online,  
visit [conta.cc/3dB16lc](http://conta.cc/3dB16lc)  
or scan the QR Code.



SCAN ME



# A shared word from Pastoral Care

Pastoral Care is often a ministry that people know of but it can be like trying to hold onto jello while shaking it to define exactly what one does. Compellingtruth.org defines Pastoral Care as the following:

*"Pastoral care is generally used as a term referring to the practices pastors do to shepherd or care for individuals in their local congregation. For example, some aspects of pastoral care could include hospital visitation, visits to elderly church members, pastoral counseling, prayer with church members, premarital counseling, weddings, funerals, baby dedications, or similar practices."*

Christ in Luke 15 tells the parable of the good shepherd that leaves the other 99 sheep to find the one that is missing, hurt, lost. In pastoral care, we need to show the same care that Christ illustrated and demonstrated. Let me share some thoughts to help move one to become more aware of pastoral care.

**1. Pastoral Care is done on a person-to-person basis.** One individual stops their world to engage another in their world filled with hurts that they need to cope with by sharing. Many who join a church ultimately do so because of the way they are accepted at an individual level by others who are willing to engage them in a personal way.

**2. Pastoral Care is listening to another one's story and being willing to walk with them.** Stories are sacred. Especially if they entail emotional pain, shared desires, broken dreams, amazing comebacks, etc. The story of our lives is centered around the Story of God and his unconditional love through Christ by the Holy Spirit.

**3. Pastoral Care is a learned skill.** One must be willing to look within oneself to see how one can help others. The great thing I will tell you it does not take a Ph.D.! It does take personal discipline to unlearn the drive of self-personality to become one of the shared stories that knit us all together. The goal is to let another human being know "I have heard you". Wise answers are not needed. Many times one internally knows what to do, they just need to air it out. Sometimes it is just the bridge for that person to get the help they need.

**4. Finally showing one cares is the biggest key to pastoral care.** Philippians 2 says it best:

*"Therefore if you have any encouragement from being united with Christ, if any comfort from his love, if any common sharing in the Spirit, if any tenderness and compassion,....."*

*"Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves, not looking to your interests but each of you to the interests of the others."*

This article is a snapshot of how I serve our First Prez family. Know that I am here for those I call family. We all are called to help others in Christ's love so seek those spiritual care moments from each other as we journey toward Him.

Pastor Mitch



## All In Fellowship Wednesday Evening Meal

Enjoy a main entree with potluck sides, family & friends at 5:30pm, followed by Dr. Garrett's class at 6:30pm - "Being Christian In Public"  
October 5<sup>th</sup> - Meatloaf

**Scan the QR Code or visit [bit.ly/3xUbXxT](http://bit.ly/3xUbXxT) to register online.**

*Future Wednesday Evening Meals (registration not necessary!)*

October 12<sup>th</sup> - Chicken Salad, October 19<sup>th</sup> - Spaghetti & Meatballs  
October 26<sup>th</sup> - Popcorn Shrimp & Chicken, November 2<sup>nd</sup> - Chicken & Pastry

## rightnow MEDIA™

First Presbyterian's Bible Study Library is now digital...

# AND GIGANTIC.

Explore discipleship videos for kids, youth and adults.

*Includes suggested studies from Dr. Garrett.*

GET FREE ACCESS

1

Visit the website  
[bit.ly/3xULkJm](http://bit.ly/3xULkJm)  
or scan the QR Code



2

Click  
Confirm &  
Sign Up

3

Create  
your profile

**THEN EXPLORE!!**

android chromecast iPhone & iPad

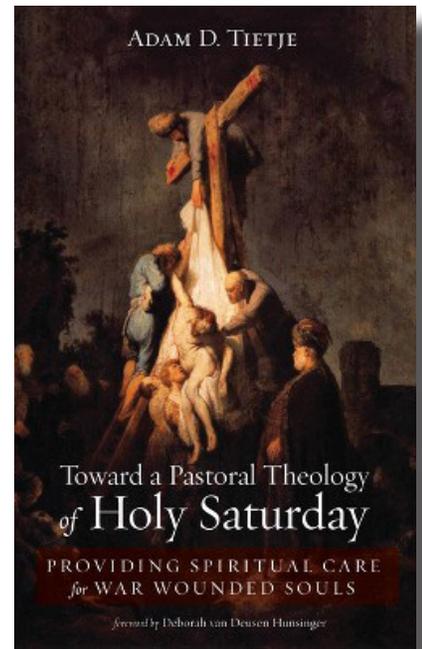
Roku Apple TV fireTV

Contact Britany Spivey if you have any questions.



# stephen MINISTRY®

The Congregation is invited to attend and bring a friend to hear Adam Tietje share his insights from his book, "Holy Saturday" on Sunday afternoon, October 9, at 3:00 in the Chapel.



Here is an excerpt; "Holy Saturday is marked by absence and silence. The altar is stripped bare. There is no light from candles. As the church remembers Jesus' burial and death, we hold vigil at the tomb and wait. This is where the church"....." must begin with those who come home from war and, indeed, with all those who suffer. The good news of Holy Saturday is that God in Christ came to keep vigil with us all, even in the darkness of a tomb and in the depths of hell." pg 18-19.

Adam Teitje is a ThD student at Duke University Divinity School and served 9 years as a US Army Chaplain, including deployment to Afghanistan. He shared his expertise on Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder and moral injury with Stephen Ministry last fall. We welcome Adam and all interested persons to this event.

Your Stephen Ministry Team

## YOUTH LOCK IN

Friday, October 28 starting at 6:00 PM  
Saturday, October 29 pick-up at 8:00 AM

Halloween themed lock-in with a Bible lesson, Halloween games, football, basketball, video games, & food.



## CONFIRM

YOUR FAITH | YOUR COMMITMENT | GOD'S CALL



Confirmation is a journey filled with intentional opportunities for our youth to walk alongside peers and adults. Through exploration and discovery, youth will grasp what it means to belong to God and to live a life of discipleship within our church community and the world. FPC youth will familiarize themselves with the "Collaborate: Presbyterian History & Doctrine" curriculum. Youth will also meet weekly every month through April with mentors and elders in preparation for their profession of faith during Confirmation Sunday tentatively scheduled for Easter.

### UPCOMING OCTOBER MEETINGS

**Youth & Parents Meeting** 3:30PM | OCTOBER 2ND | ACTIVITY ROOM

**Youth Meetings** 3:30PM | OCTOBER 9TH & 30TH | ACTIVITY ROOM

November & December Meetings - To Be Announced  
PLEASE EMAIL [MATT@FIRSTPREZ.COM](mailto:MATT@FIRSTPREZ.COM) FOR MORE INFO

# October Birthdays

- |                      |                      |
|----------------------|----------------------|
| 1 Callie Davis       | 16 Amber Little      |
| 1 Victoria Datkuliak | 17 Mayon Weeks Jr.   |
| 3 Art Hooker         | 17 Olivia Stiles     |
| 4 Jennifer Hammond   | 17 Bob Leath         |
| 5 Marnie McBryde     | 17 Will Deaton III   |
| 5 Mary Cox           | 17 Furman Robinson   |
| 5 Earl Vaughan Jr.   | 17 Melissa Cole      |
| 6 Carolyn Hill       | 18 Buzz Loyd Jr.     |
| 6 Jinnette Hathaway  | 18 David Nimocks Jr. |
| 7 Sonny Phinney      | 19 Monica Spartzak   |
| 7 Calista Plyler     | 19 Maggie Montero    |
| 8 Eric Cotty         | 20 Joann Pearce      |
| 8 Briana Brown       | 20 Berkley Stiles    |
| 8 Caroline Hasty     | 21 Sherri Blight     |
| 9 Matthew DeSessa    | 22 Gay Foster        |
| 9 Michael Navejas    | 22 Cameron Viverette |
| 10 Callen Farnham    | 23 Larry Dobbins     |
| 10 Margaret Furman   | 23 Austin Howle      |
| 10 Reid Furman II    | 24 Dan McInnis       |
| 11 Nanelle Strong    | 25 Alice Teele       |
| 11 Emily Davidson    | 25 James Broadwell   |
| 12 Dianne Bryan      | 26 Victoria Moody    |
| 13 Alex Smith        | 28 Evelyn Byrd       |
| 13 Tom Brooks IV     | 28 Tammy Watson      |
| 14 Scott Fincher     | 30 Patsy Markham     |
| 14 Maryn Hammond     | 30 Cheyenne Campbell |
| 15 Amy Cook          | 30 John Cameron      |
| 15 Matt Helmke       | MacKethan            |
| 15 Carolyn Herndon   | 30 Will Boyette Jr.  |
| 16 Kenneth Dwyer     | 31 Lauren Allred     |
| 16 Anna Blue         | 31 Jaxon Walworth    |

## Memorials

### Mitchell Preston Watson

Grace & Tommy Hall  
Jewel P. Vann  
Patsy Markham

### Alice Lafferty

Ann Rowell  
Winnie Grannis  
Gillie Revelle

## Sanctuary Flowers

Schedule a Sunday honorarium or memorial flower arrangement in October by contacting Debra Chestnutt (910) 818-9006 or [Debra@Chestnutt.com](mailto:Debra@Chestnutt.com)

## A Look Ahead...

- Oct. 1 • Jubilate Deo Rehearsal
- Oct. 2 • World Communion Day
  - Youth & Parents Confirmation Meeting
  - Stitch Buddies begins
- Oct. 3 • Officer Training
- Oct. 8 • Rise Against Hunger
- Oct. 9 • Stephen Ministry Meeting
  - Club 543 Mini Golf
- Oct. 10 • Officer Training
- Oct. 18 • S.A.L.T. Southern Supreme Tour
- Oct. 19 • Cross Creek Worship Service
- Oct. 22 • Jubilate Deo Rehearsal
- Oct. 23 • Trunk or Treat
- Oct. 24 • David's Mighty Men
- Oct. 25 • COAP Meeting
- Oct. 28 • Youth Lock-in
- Nov. 2 • S.A.L.T. Trip to Cedar Creek Gallery
- Nov. 12 • Jubilate Deo Rehearsal
- Nov. 16 • Cross Creek Worship Service
- Nov. 20 • Advent Family Workshop
- Dec. 1 • S.A.L.T. Temple Theatre Trip
- Dec. 4 • Lessons & Carols Rehearsal
- Dec. 11 • Lessons & Carols Service
- Dec. 17 • Christmas Orchestra Rehearsal

*s.a.l.t.*

Seasoned Adults

Learning Together

*Monthly Fellowship*

*Breakfast & Excursions*



S.A.L.T. Trip to Southern Supreme Fruitcake & More -  
Tuesday, October 18th, departing from the church at 8:30 a.m.

Call Nancy Billman by October 13th for reservations (910) 916-5994



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.

**Bow Street will be closed. Enter the church parking lot from Ann Street or Person Street.**

**Volunteers must register for RAH. Scan the QR Code or visit [force.co/3eQSAZf](https://force.co/3eQSAZf) 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/3S4M9qw](https://bit.ly/3S4M9qw)

# HELP US SURPASS 900,000 MEALS! OCTOBER 8TH MEAL PACKING BEGINS AT 9AM DON'T FORGET YOUR HAT!



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