

The Pastor's Pen

y the time you read this, it is very likely Resurrection Sunday will have come and gone, and the new season of Easter will be upon us. Strangely, I am writing this note to you on Holy Tuesday, so my mind is mixed between the what is and the what will be.

Easter is such a special time for us all, and it brings with us such great hopes and dreams for the future. It speaks promise for life upon us all and for those whom we have loved and let go from life. Easter is about resurrection, yes, but it is also a great way to imagine new beginnings. As this fifty-day long season brings us from the empty tomb to the Pentecost moment, we have so much for which to be thankful to God!

I am proud to inform to you that the Session voted at a called meeting on 21 March 2024 to begin the process of conducting a search for a new Associate Pastor for Christian Formation. They have seen the way the congregation is growing rapidly, and they understand the need we all

In this Issue

have to get as much support to help us grow deep even as we arow wide.

The FPC Session is aware that such a step should never be taken without much prayer, so they have met with the **Endowment Board** membership to look at ways such an avenue might take place, and the Endowment Board members have expressed some options they may be willing to listen to and entertain as we plan ahead. One thing they have noted is a need for a strong Stewardship Campaign.

To this end, the Finance & Stewardship Committee is already looking ahead to the 2025 Budget. Within a few weeks, we will begin our next Stewardship Campaign, with the purposes of helping us to learn what ways we can each participate and give into the life of the congregation as we come into this new season of dream and direction. It is an exciting time ahead of us, but it is one that we will want to take

gently and with every sense of discernment being explored.

2024

This brings me to another point: our Centennial Capital Campaign. Due to the the church's rapid growth and need to meet our education and formational goals, the Session has also voted to pause indefinitely the CCC for the time being. We will continue to work with the Property Committee to see about taking care of the most necessary of the projects in short time, but our purpose to be peoplefocused instead of propertydriven has made Session come to this difficult (but necessary) determination. The work that has gone into these plans (and the time offered graciously by so many members) is not in vain; God has a plan for us we cannot yet see, but we take each step by faith into the unknown, just as those disciples did in the hours after Jesus's death and days following his resurrection.

Happy Easter, God loves you, and so do L

Our Congregational Leadership

Session Class of 2024

Christian Education (Chair) **Catherine Baker**

Scarlett Chapman Missions **Robert Dearman** Worship

Joanne Dodick Congregational Life: Cong. Care

Property: 4CBG **Scott Stevenson**

Session Class of 2025

Admin.: Personnel **Matt Austin**

Alan Carpenter Admin.: Communications

John Childress Missions **Sherry Harris** Worship **Clay Speaks** Missions

Christian Education **Dycie Walton**

Session Class of 2026

Jan Ambrose Congregational Life: F&F Finance & Stewardship **Sloan Goforth Katie Long** Christian Education

Nate McElwee Congregational Life: Cong. Care

Jim Pickett Safety

Committee Chairpersons

Admin.: Communications Admin.: Personnel **Matt Austin Cate Tuck** Christian Education Congregational Life: Cong. Care Congregational Life: F&F **Ann Speaks**

Endowment Board Finance & Stewardship

Missions

Property: Historic Cemeteries

Property: Safety

Property: Support Services

Worship

Alan Carpenter

Nate McElwee

John Gilbert Sloan Goforth

Caroline Ciampanella

Scott Stevenson

Jim Pickett **Scott Zanotti Sherry Harris**

The Rev. C. Jeremy Cannada

Pastor

jeremy@fpcstatesville.org

M-W: 9am - 5pm; appts. requested Th: by appt.; Sermon Preparation

Dr. Hanna Lee

Director of Music Ministries

hannah@fpcstatesville.org

M-W: 9am - 12pm,

W: 3 - 9pm (choir); Th: by appt.

Sun: 3 - 5pm

Mrs. Falon Speaks

Director of the FPC Preschool

preschool@fpcstatesville.org

M-F: 8:30am - 12:30pm (Aug - May)

Mrs. Clare Robinson

Office Manager

office@fpcstatesville.org

M-W: 9am - 3pm

Ms. LeighAnn Perkins

Financial Secretary

leighann@fpcstatesville.org

by appointment

The Rev. Grant Sharp

Pastor emeritus

Session Notes

At the 4 March 2024 Stated Session meeting, Session:

- Received a devotion from Joanne Dodick;
- Voted to approve Nate McElwee to serve as Temporary Clerk due to Brian Long's excused absence;
- Examined and received Chris & Susan Sugden (Children Ben & Kate) into membership;
- Voted to approve the minutes of the Stated Session Meeting of 5 February 2024 and the minutes of the email vote of 20 February 2024 concerning a request for a Girl Scout Cookie Sale;
- Received the Moderator's Report with a
 discussion about the need for a Director of
 Christian Education or some other assistance, as
 the staff are particularly taxed beyond doing
 what we can and some members have
 expressed burnout, as well;
- Received a letter from Pharos Parenting thanking the church for its Missions Grant donation, and received a letter from the Broad Street UMC acknowledging the Potts' transfer of membership;
- Heard the Treasurer's report, showing that we should be at 16% of our budget use, and all numbers were reported in good order;
- Heard a report from the Building Usage Subcommittee that it plans to have a draft of its work to Session by mid-spring;
- Approved a motion for the Nominating Committee slate: Catherine Baker, Joanne Dodick, & Scott Stevenson (REs) and Caroline Ciampanella, Susan Hollingsworth, Jonna Sears, & Thomas Tuck (MALs) with a congregational meeting to be held on Sunday, 17 March for their vote;
- Approved a request by the Moderator that communion be offered on Resurrection Sunday

- (31 March 2024) and the first Sunday in April, per the tradition of the congregation. Non-active Ruling Elders are invited to participate as servers for the 7 April service.
- Approved a motion that the Rev. Sonny Reavis of the Broad Street United Methodist Church be permitted to preach at the community Good Friday Service on Friday, 29 March 2024;
- Approved a motion to transfer the memberships of David & Linnie Abernathy to the FPC, Henderson (NC) and Hewitt & Connie Linyard to the First Baptist Church in Statesville
- Motioned to direct the Endowment Board to consider revising their bylaws to commit to a 2year increase of 2% (from 4% to 6%) for the purpose of funding a Christian Formation Ministry position. The Session will invite the Endowment Board to a meeting on Thursday, 21 March at 6:30pm for this discussion;
- Prayed for members of the congregation and the present Ruling Elders.

The next Stated Session meeting is scheduled for Monday, 8 April 2024 at 6:30pm with Jeremy Cannada leading the devotional and prayer.

At the 21 March 2024 Called Session meeting, Session:

- Engaged in conversation with the members of the Endowment Board, by which no decisions were made with regard to the directive of percentage increase; the Endowment Board will reassess the request following a more complete investigation and proposal by the Finance & Stewardship Committee;
- Voted to suspend the rules of the called meeting to vote upon removing the names of Elaine Steele and Janice Thornton, due to death;
- Motioned and approved a Pastor's Discretionary Checking account to be created.

Worship Notes

7 April 2024

Acolyte Durgin Baker

Communion Jan Ambrose, Matt Austin,

Catherine Baker, Alan Carpenter, Scarlett Chapman, & Sloan Goforth

Ushers Team 2 - TBA (Captain)

Scripture

Flowers Susan Hollingsworth

14 April 2024

Acolyte Collins Tuck

Ushers Team 3 - Matt Austin (Captain)

Scripture

21 April 2024

Acolyte Sophia Martinez

Ushers Team 6 - Katie Long (Captain)

Scripture

28 April 2024

Acolyte Caroline Long

Ushers Team 1 - Jim Tarman (Captain)

Scripture

Weekly Livestream: fpcstatesville.org/worship

If you are a member-at-home and wish to have home communion provided to you, please contact Nate McElwee with Congregational Care.

Flower Guild Information

Like everything else, the cost of a fresh flower arrangement has increased in the last few years. You have likely noticed there have been more and more Sundays when we have used our artificial arrangements at our Sunday worship services. One way we anticipate cutting down on the cost of these flowers is to be better stewards with the gifts of those who give them; we will have fresh arrangements during each of ourSunday services when communion will take place along with "high-church" Sundays.

If you would like to place flowers in memory or in honor of someone special during any other weekend of the year, please call Jane Lentz at 704.880.6900 or email her at janeplentz@gmail.com. Thank you to everyone who gives arrangements to the glory of God!

Joby Bell & Ling Yu Hsiao Organ Concert

Please plan to attend a special organ concert by Drs. Joby & Ling Bell featuring sacred and jazz secular music. This concert will take place on Sunday, 7 April at 3:00pm and is open to the public.

Note of Gratitude

Dear Family & Friends,

A sincere note of thanks for the many prayers, calls, visits, and food during my recent surgery and recovery. I truly felt the love of this amazing church family and am looking forward to being back at church soon - I have so missed being with you.

With Love, Ann Speaks

Clinkers Update

Many thanks to Lourdes Winters for facilitating February Clinkers at Cozumel where a large crowd gathered for food and fellowship. The feedback from this group for hosting/co-hosting opportunities was tremendous allowing us to plan for several more gatherings during 2024. Clinkers will meet at 6:30 on Thursday, 18 April at the Manse. Co-hosts with Pastor Jeremy will be Jan Ambrose, Richard Hanson, Susie & Donnie Haynes, Susan Hollingsworth, Cathy Lasater, Jonna & Dick Sears, Doris & Wendell Worthington. This lively and well attended group always enjoys time together for food and fellowship. If you have not had a chance to join us, please consider doing so.

Missions Update

Pharos Parenting is having their annual charity concert,"Rockin' for a Reason", 11 April at Chickadee Hill Farms in Troutman. This year's band is Blue Monday: an MTV band with a great following. The link for all information is (eventugroove.com.)

Boys and Girls Club presents 2nd annual Pancake Day, Thursday, 18 April, 6:00am until 7:00pm, Statesville Civic Center.

OWLS

The OWLS will hold their next luncheon on Tuesday, 2 April 2024 at 12:30pm in the Fourth Creek Meeting Hall. RSVP to Martha Rothwell at 704.450.7169 or Sarah Davis at 704.902.1937.

PW Circle 3

Circle 3 will meet Tuesday, 16 April, 6:30pm at the home of Anne Herschler, 304 Oakhurst Rd. Every woman of any age is welcome to join us.

Child Abuse Prevention Month

April is Child Abuse Prevention Month!

Dove House, Children's Hope Alliance, Guardian ad Litem, DSS, Iredell County Partnership for Young Children, and Pharos Parenting are partnering together to raise awareness during the month of April. We encourage churches to participate in Wear Blue Sunday on 14 April. By wearing blue, you are taking a stand against child abuse.

Remember: If you see something, say something. For social media posts, please use hashtag #wearbluesunday2024. We look forward to seeing Iredell and Alexander counties washed in BLUE on 14 April!!

Welcome New Members



John & Cathy PottsJohn's Birthday: 11 July
Cathy's Birthday: 13 August



Chris & Susan Sugden Chris's Birthday: 2 February Susan's Birthday: 22 July Ben's Birthday: 23 November Kate's Birthday: 23 November

Updates to the Directory, including addresses and contact information are provided on the church website, fpcstatesville.org.

Kindermusik with Gina is Moving

Final Kindermusik classes at FPC will be held 13, and 16 May, respectively. Kindermusik will move from FPC after Memorial Day. The Grand Opening of Fourth Creek Musik will be held 1 July at 11:00am. The new location is 859 N. Center Street.

What a wonderful twenty years it has been! We have touched the lives of hundreds of families in the studio and the preschool with the magical, musical learning that is Kindermusik. I estimate over 8,000 books, instruments, and albums now live in the homes of the children in our community!

We can also tally 60+ scholarships, a dozen awards/recognitions, ten or so newspaper features, several hours with the seniors and friends at the ElderCenter (now the Iredell Adult Day Center), increased enrollment in our preschool, service hours for scouts and IB students, and many collections of canned food/

dry goods, mittens, pajamas, and diapers/formula gathered for donation to the charities in our community.

Our Kindermusik family has now grown to its next generation once upon a time Harriet Gilbert, Mary Neely, Edie Holland and others brought their grandchildren to some of my earliest Kindermusik classes. Now, the peers of those children are bringing their own babies to Kindermusik!



All of this impact would not have been possible without the support of First Presbyterian Church and its leadership over the years, and for that I am most grateful. To honor this support, and as an homage to the history of our church in the community, my new studio is named **Fourth Creek Musik**.

I am excited to invite you to the grand opening of **Fourth Creek Musik**, just up the road at Forest Heights Shopping Center (across the street from our friends at Trinity Episcopal). **Fourth Creek Musik** will be the home to several Kindermusik classes and much more. Open Studio Play & Learn, group lessons, and the Kindermusik Musicians program (instrument instruction for ages 5-7) are all on the horizon for our community through the **Fourth Creek Musik** studio. The Statesville Chamber of Commerce and I will host a ribbon cutting/grand opening July 1st, 2024 at 11am.

Enrollment is open NOW for classes beginning in August. I hope you will join us.

YMBC College Gift

The Young Men's Bible Class is please to announce the Education Gift to high school seniors of 1st Presbyterian Church of Statesville. Applicants must apply meeting the criteria below, and submit the application by April 21st, 2024 to the person stated below. Applicants must meet the submission date.

Applicants must submit the following:

- Submit High school transcript from the Guidance Department including courses, tests scores, GPA, & rank in class.
- 2. A listing of your high school extracurricular activities (clubs, officer status, years in each club, sports, and honors.
- 3. Work experience
- 4. Community activities
- 5. Church Activities
- 6. An essay: the role First Presbyterian Church of Statesville has played in your development as a young adult.
- 7. Two written references other than parents.

Submit these to Donnie Haynes in hard copy personally or to the church office and place in Donnie Haynes's Mailbox (Treasurer) at church OR mail to him at:

410 Macon Drive Statesville, NC 28625

Wonderful Wednesdays

24 April

Wonderful Wednesdays has returned, and we are delighted to be able to say that the Food & Fellowship Committee will once again join in to help us serve each week's meals.

Each month, we will have food provided to us by the Greenbriar Grille, excepting the 3rd Wednesday of each month, when the Historic Cemeteries Committee will host "Tacos for Tombstones" as a fundraising dinner to support the cleanup of the cemeteries' tombstones through May.

F&F Weekly Wonderful Wednesday Kitchen Teams

Team 3

| 3 April | Cancelled |
|----------|-------------------------------|
| 10 April | Team 1 |
| 17 April | Team 2 (Tacos for Tombstones) |

April Birthdays

Madeline Gilbert 2 7 Matthew Jones 9 Nolan Brown 12 Maggie Kutteh 13 Jeremy Kauffman Annie Parker 14 Jerry Johnson Michael Jones 16 26 Joanne Dodick Roger Rumple Fran Campbell 27 Janet Frazier Teresa Kutteh Westbrook Fowler 28 30 Bryan Campbell

Shirley Kunkle





May 6-10

TEACHER APPRECIATION WEEK

Please join us in helping to shower our preschool teachers with love, support, and encouragement to say...

THANK YOU

for all that they do for our preschool.

We are looking for volunteers to assist in providing breakfast or lunch that week.
Please email Falon if you are interested in helping, preschool@fpcstatesville.org.



2024 FPC Missions Golf Tournament



Statesville Country Club 635 Deauville Rd. Statesville, NC 28625



Four Person Captain's Choice

\$400/Team

(Includes Cart, Greens Fees & Lunch)

> Sponsorship Opportunities

Lunch - \$1,000
Putting Contest - \$500
Driving Range - \$500
Beverage Cart - \$500
Hole - \$250

Registration begins at 11 am Lunch served at 11:30 am Shotgun start at 1pm. Mulligan Packages
Putting Contest
Raffle Prizes

Prizes awarded for: 1st & 2nd Place Closest to the pin

100% of net proceeds go to these mission ministries of FPCS:









To Sign Up or Sponsor, contact:

John Childress 704.775.3876, Clay Speaks 704.682.5711, Matt Austin 704.657.4466,

Dick Sears 704.562.0845, Billy Winters 704.871.7094, Brian Long 704.928.7227, John Downs 704.517.4294

Or call the church office directly at 704-873-7244

April 2024

| T | |
|---|--|
| reschool Holiday OAM Chair Yoga (H) OPM Daytime Carr OPM OWLS (4CMH | FPC Preschool Holiday 10:00AM Chair Yoga (4CMH) 12:00PM Daytime Care Group (LiF) 12:30PM OWLS (4CMH) |
| OAM Chair Yoga IH) IP) Daytime Care IP (LIF) | 9:30AM Kindermusik (KM) = 10:00AM Chair Yoga 12:00PM Daytime Care (COUP) -12:00PM Daytime Care (ER) Croup (LiF) Croup (LiF |
| AM New Event AOM Chair Yoga (H) OPM Daytime Ca Ip (LiF) PM PW Circle 3 | 9:30AM Kindermusik (KM) = 9:00AM New Event 12:00PM Daytime Care = 10:00AM Chair Yoga (4CMH) = 12:00PM Daytime Care Group (LiF) = 6:30PM PW Circle 3 |
| OAM Chair Yoga IH) OAM FPC Prescho 1 House OPM Daytime Car p (LiF) | 9:30AM Kindermusik (KM) = 10:00AM Chair Yoga 10:00AM FPC Preschool (4CMH) = 10:00AM FPC Preschool Open House Group (LiF) Group (LiF) |
| 0AM Chair Yoga IH) PPM Daytime Ca IP (LIF) PM FPC Preschoc e Park | 9:30AM Kindermusik (KM) = 10:00AM Chair Yoga 12:00PM Daytime Care (4CMH) Croup (LiF) = 6:00PM FPC Preschool Art in the Park |

May 2024

| Saturday | 4 | 11 | 18 | 25 9:00AM Table of Reconciliation (FR) | |
|-----------|---|---|---|--|--|
| Friday | 3 Group (LiF) | 10 Group (LIF) | 17 Graduation, Wise Owls (Sand) Graduation, Wise Owls (Sand) Graduation, Zoo Crew (Sanc) 1:00PM FPC Preschool Graduation, Little Gardeners (Sanc) | = 12:00PM Daytime Care Croup (LIF) | 31 Group (LiF) |
| Thursday | 2 8:00AM Missions Golf Tournament 9:30AM Kindermusik (KM) 12:00PM Daytime Care Group (LiF) 6:00PM Girl Scouts (4CMH) | 9 = 9:30AM Kindermusik (KM) = 12:00PM Daytime Care Group (LiF) | FPC Preschool Last Day of School East Own FPC Preschool Eraduation Practice (Sanc) = 10:00PM Earl Prevention Class (4CMH) | 9:15AM SP Committee on Examinations = 9:30AM Kindermusik (KM) = 12:00PM Daytime Care Group (LiF) | 30 Group (LiF) 6:00PM Girl Scouts (4CMH) |
| Wednesday | 1 10:30AM Piecemakers (YR) = 10:00AM Preschool Chapel (Sanc) = 10:30AM Fall Prevention Class (4CMH) = 12:00PM Daytime Care Group (LiF) = 4:00PM Children's Choir = 5:00PM Wonderful Wednes = 6:00PM Handbell Choir = 7:00PM Sanctuary Choir | 8 10:30AM Piecemakers (YR) 10:00AM Preschool Chapel (Sanc) 10:30AM Fall Prevention Class (4CMH) 2:00PM Worship & Music 4:00PM Children's Choir 5:00PM Wonderful Wednes- 6:00PM Handbell Choir | 15 FPC Preschool Last Day of School 2:30AM Piecemakers (YR) 9:30AM FPC Preschool Graduation Practice (Sanc) 10:30AM Fall Prevention Class (4CMH) 12:00PM Daytime Care 4:00PM Children's Choir 5:00PM Wonderful Wednes- | PPC Preshool Teacher Workday = 9:30AM Piecemakers (YR) = 10:30AM Fall Prevention Class (4CMH) = 12:00PM Un Daytime Care Group (LiF) = 5:00PM Wonderful Wednesday (4CMH) = 7:00PM Sanctuary Choir (Sanc) | 29 = 9:30AM Piecemakers (YR) = 10:30AM Fall Prevention Class (4CMH) = 12:00PM Daytime Care Group (LiF) = 4:00PM Children's Choir (MR) = 7:00PM Sanctuary Choir (Sanc) |
| Tuesday | 30 (4CMH) = 12:00PM Daytime Care Group (LIF) = 6:00PM FPC Preschool Art in the Park | = 10:00AM Chair Yoga (4CMH) = 12:00M Daytime Care Group (LIF) = 12:30PM OWLS (4CMH) | 14 (4CMH) (4CMH) 12:00PM Daytime Care Group (LIF) | PPC Preshool Teacher Workday 10:00AM Chair Yoga (4CMH) 12:00PM Daytime Care Group (LIF) 6:30PM PW Circle 3 | = 10:00AM Chair Yoga (4CMH) = 12:00PM Daytime Care Group (LiF) |
| Monday | 29 = 9:30AM Kindermusik (KM) = 12:00PM Daytime Care Group (LiF) | 6 -9:30AM Kindermusik (KM) -12:00PM Daytime Care Group (LiF) -6:30PM Session Meeting (HR) | 13 9:30AM Kindermusik (KM) 12:00PM Daytime Care Group (LiF) 5:00PM Missions Committee (FR) 6:00PM Property Committee (FR) | PPC Preshool Teacher Workday 9:30AM Kindermusik (KM) 12:00PM Daytime Care Group (LiF) 6:00PM Property Committee (FR) | 27 = 12:00PM Daytime Care Group (LiF) |
| Sunday | = 9:45AM Sunday School = 11:00AM Sunday Worship (Sanc) = 2:30PM Congregational Care Committee Meeting (HR) = 5:00PM Youth Choir (MR) = 6:00PM Youth Group (YR) | 9:45AM Session Meeting for Membership = 9:45AM Sunday School = 10:40AM Session: Communion Meeting (Chap) = 11:00AM Sunday Worship (Sanc) = 5:00PM Youth Group (YR) = 6:00PM Youth Group (YR) | 12 = 9:45AM Sunday School = 10:00AM Children's Choir (MS) = 10:00AM Handbell Choir (Sanc) = 11:00AM Sunday Worship (Sanc) = 5:00PM Youth Choir (MR) = 6:00PM Youth Group (YR) | 9:00AM Youth Sunday 9:45AM Sunday School 11:00AM Sunday Worship (Sanc) 4:00PM Christian Education Committee (FR) 5:00PM Youth Choir (MR) 6:00PM Youth Group (YR) | 9:45AM Sunday School 11:00AM Sunday Worship (Sanc) 2:30PM Congregational Care Committee Meeting (HR) 5:00PM Youth Croup (YR) 6:00PM Youth Group (YR) |

The First Presbyterian Church 125 North Meeting Street Statesville, North Carolina 28677 (Return Service Requested)

Tel: 704.873.7244

The deadline for the Fourth Creek Journal is 12:00pm of every third Tuesday of each month.

The May issue deadline is Tuesday, 16 March 2024.

The calendar insert (print version) is current as of the time of publishing. For the most up-to-date calendar, go to fpcstatesville.org/calendar

The First Presbyterian Church welcomes all to worship and serve the Lord. We honor and celebrate human and theological diversity and unity through Jesus Christ. We welcome individuals of every age, race, nationality, gender, ability, sexual orientation and economic circumstance to participate in the life and mission of our church.