



## FIRST WORDS

APRIL 2024



Loving God.  
Loving our neighbors.  
Because Christ loves us first.



Dear Friends,

Well, the bridge got a little longer! I had expected to end my time with you on Easter but I have agreed to stay until June 2. This gives the Interim Search Committee time to complete their search and bring in a permanent interim pastor.

That being said, I have much enjoyed being among you since early January. I am delighted to work with Elizabeth, Kristen, and Lesia and to continue working with the Session and various committees. Our purpose in the transition is to have a stable and strong ministry.

Several weeks ago, the congregation elected a Pulpit Nominating Committee (PNC) to search for the next senior pastor. That committee has hit the ground running. They have asked for the congregation's input and I believe this is a strong, well-rounded search committee that represents the congregation. I look forward to seeing their important work!

I will continue my same schedule of being in Dunn on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Sunday.

Many blessings!  
Sid



## Christ is Risen! Christ is Risen Indeed!

It feels so good to step into another month with the good news of Easter carrying us through. These past few months have been full of meaningful worship, enlightening discussions about our faith, and glorious moments with our children of all ages. I can't say thank you enough to this congregation for its commitment to discipleship and intentional community. Love y'all!

April is going to be a big month for our youth, so I'll start there:

### **YOUTH SUNDAY is April 21st**

The middle and high school youth will lead us in worship that morning. This is a much anticipated worship service every year and I am so excited to hear our youth proclaim the good news. After worship, everyone is invited to make their way down to the fellowship hall for a spaghetti lunch served by the youth and a dessert auction. Youth parents are encouraged to donate a baked good for the auction, but anyone is welcome to contribute! All proceeds from the lunch and auction will support our summer youth ministry opportunities.

**Before I give you the details on what will happen that Sunday, an important note:**

**If your youth plans to be part of Youth Sunday this year, they are REQUIRED to come to youth group on April 7th and April 14th, starting at 5:15 pm, in the sanctuary.**

**On April 7th, we'll go over the service and everyone will get their part in the service. We will then work on each of those parts together.**

**On April 14th, we'll be practicing and running through the service so we are ready for the following Sunday, April 21st.**

Now, here is what to expect Sunday, April 21st:

- 8:30 am: Youth gather in the fellowship hall for a quick breakfast before heading down to the sanctuary to run through the service.
- 8:30-10:30 am: Items for the dessert auction need to be dropped off in the fellowship hall
- 10:30 am: Worship begins with our Middle and High School Youth leading us
- 11:30 am: The Youth will be the first to leave the service as they head down to the fellowship hall to get ready to serve lunch
- 11:30-12:30 pm: Spaghetti lunch and dessert auction

During the service on the 21st, we will also be receiving our new confirmands into the life of the church. Our 7 confirmands will come forward during the worship service to answer the questions of confirmation. I am so excited to see these incredible young people step out in such faith and I am so proud of them.

### **MONTREAT AND MASSANETTA**

The deadline to sign your youth up for Massanetta or Montreat was April 1st. We have 2 good groups of youth signed up and I look forward to hearing about their incredible experiences this summer.

As a reminder:

Middle Schoolers travel to Massanetta June 20-24

High Schoolers travel to Montreat July 7-13

Details concerning the trips will be forthcoming

### **CHILDREN'S MINISTRY**

Story time and Bible Club resume on Sunday, April 7th at 5:15 pm. We will

continue to meet every Sunday evening with **May 5th being our last Sunday** before we break for the summer.

Mrs. Cora Sue will be back with our preschoolers for story time as they read a Bible story, do a craft, and learn about the church

Our Bible Club leaders continue to lead our K-5th graders with a lesson, choir, and hand bells.

### **END OF YEAR PARTIES**

Details on our end of the year youth and children's parties will be coming in the next few weeks.

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Katharina von Bora was married to a famous activist. She was also a reformist of sorts, even though she spent most of her young adult life as a nun. Having heard of the Reformation, she decided that life in the convent was no longer suited for her or her friends. They escaped among the barrels of herring in a covered wagon with the help of Leonhard Köppe.

Because the families would no longer accept the runaway nuns, they began living in another residence in Wittenberg. None other than Martin Luther, himself, helped them acquire jobs, residences, and husbands. The final nun that needed placement was Katie. Several men pursued her, but she said she would marry no one other than Martin Luther.

In 1525, Katharina married Martin Luther. She was 26, and he was 41. She was a strong supporter of her husband. Luther was often of good humor and state of mind; however, when times of depression overwhelmed him, he would seek a change of scenery. After returning from such a retreat, he came home to find his wife and children sitting around dressed in black.

Martin Luther asked, "Who has died?"

"Why," said she, "doctor, have not you heard that God is dead? My husband, Martin Luther, would never be in such a state of mind if he had a living God to trust to."

Then he burst into a hearty laugh, and said, "Kate, thou art a wise woman. I have been acting as if God were dead, and I will do so no more. Go and take off thy black." ~*The Complete Works of C. H. Spurgeon, Volume 38 By Charles Spurgeon*

Maundy Thursday isn't the final scene. Nor Good Friday. Resurrection morning is the present and future. May our countenances and our hearts reflect the power of the Resurrection. Our God is alive.

The choir will be preparing for Choir Sunday, May 5, 2024. The Adult Hand bells will be playing as well. We desire to sing and play instruments that celebrate the reality that our Lord is alive and at work in our lives. Come and join us. Everyone is welcome to participate.

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# FIRST PRESBYTERIAN PRESCHOOL

## Toddler 1 & Toddler 2 Classes

Hello FPC family and members!!

Our Toddler classes have been very productive in learning and crafts. This past month the toddlers marched into March learning about dinosaurs, farm animals, zoo animals, and Easter/Spring. Then we ended the month with our fun-filled Easter egg hunt and party which we thoroughly enjoyed. Here are a few pictures of all the learning and fun we had.

Thank you for all the love and support!

Mrs. Yolanda, Mrs. Jennason, & Mrs. Crystal





## Announcements

# April Upcoming Sundays

7 MEN OF THE CHURCH BREAKFAST  
TWO CENTS A MEAL

14 THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER

21 YOUTH & CONFIRMATION SUNDAY  
YOUTH FUNDRAISER - SPAGHETTI  
LUNCH & DESSERT AUCTION

28 COMMUNION



**FIRST PRESBYTERIAN  
CHURCH**

**Men of the  
Church  
Breakfast**

**April 7th at 8:30 AM**

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**Youth Sunday & Fundraiser Lunch**

Sunday, April 21<sup>st</sup> has been set aside as Youth Sunday. Please join us in support of the youth of our church and make plans to stay after the worship service for their annual Spaghetti Lunch and Dessert Auction fundraiser. If you would like to help by bringing a dessert for auction please see Pastor Elizabeth.



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## From the Pastor Nominating Committee

Our Pastor Nominating Committee is hard at work searching for a new Pastor for our First Presbyterian family. We need your help in our study to find the person who will be joining us in the future. Please click the link below to fill out a short questionnaire about what is important to you regarding a pastor. **All questionnaires are due by April 5th.**

[PNC Questionnaire](#)

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## Honorary Lifetime Membership Nominations

The Presbyterian Women are now taking nominations for Honorary Lifetime Membership candidates. If there is a special woman from First Presbyterian Church that you would like to be considered, please submit your nomination below.

[Submit Your Nomination Here](#)

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◆◆◆ **FPC ANNUAL** ◆◆◆

# GOLF

**TOURNAMENT**

**\$200**  
PER TEAM



**MAY**  
**14**

**ALL PROCEEDS GO TO  
SUMMER YOUTH PROGRAMS**

**CHICORA GOLF CLUB**  
495 CHICORA CLUB DR,  
DUNN, NC 28334

**LUNCH - 12:00**

**TEE OFF - 1:00**

The date for the Annual Church Golf Tournament is Tuesday, May 14 at 1:00. Lunch will be included and served in advance of the tee-off at noon. It is a 4-person, captain's choice format. Those interested are asked to form their own foursome. The cost is \$200 per foursome, with all proceeds supporting the summer church youth programs. Entry forms will be available on the table outside the church office. If there are any questions, please contact Will Gage.



# Praying for Our Church Family

Barbara Byrd  
Barbara Godwin  
T.C. Godwin

Elease Hodges  
Dave Mason  
Wayne Smith

## Praying for Others

Stephen Bath (Pam Kelly)  
John Beasley (Rick Stephenson)  
Thomas Corbin (Linda Grisier)  
Emily Cottle (Janet Mobley)  
Arlene Duff (mother of Michelle Powell-Duff)  
Phillip Gaines (Morgan Colmenero)  
Becky Glover (Betty Byrd)  
Susan Grissom (Betty Byrd)  
Paula Harman (Patsy Powell)  
Skippy Jackson (Butch Warren)

Justin Johnston (Keith Williams)  
Natalie Kulish & Family (Pastor Elizabeth)  
Perry & Pam Lewis (Pam Strickland)  
Mitch Mason (Harry Byrd)  
Sarah Shields (Butch Warren)  
Laura Tyndall (Cora Sue Beasley)  
Steve Watson (father of Melissa Stevens)  
C.B. Williams (Harry Byrd)  
Donna Williams (sister of Bonnie Bayles)



### **Nursery Attendants**

April 7 - Morgan Colmenero  
April 14 - Ryan & Trina Brackman  
April 21 - Courtney & Meda Williams  
April 28 - Andy & Meredith Wermel

### **Acolytes**

April 7 - Ryann Spell  
April 14 - Macie Wood  
April 21 - Johnson Williams  
April 28 - Vivian Rabb

### **Broadcast & Sound Team**

April 7 - Cole Stevens & Bryant Pope  
April 14 - Andy Wermel & Bryant Pope  
April 21 - Jason Colmenero & Bryant Pope  
April 28 - Wesely Johnson & Bryant Pope

### **Ushers**

#### **April 7**

Eugene Chance  
Derek Easter

#### **April 14**

Casey Kerley  
Lynn Godwin

#### **April 21**

Lynda Turner  
Brian Foster

#### **April 28**

Chris Smith  
Cindy Smith

# April Birthdays

Jennifer Hill	1	Will Hathaway	10	Elizabeth McGuire	19
Margie Stephenson	2	Hilda Lewis	10	Karl Bauer	20
Ella Williams	2	Barbara Gowin	11	Rob Kelly	20
Gale Tart	3	Joey Tart	11	Stash Frick	22
Judy Hobson	4	Heather Lawson	12	Kaitlyn Tew	22
Duncan Herring	6	Whit Bradham	13	Roy Tew	23
Brad Lasater	6	Lou Ann Patrick	14	Billy Gray	24
Matthew Taylor	6	Katrina Turlington	14	Will Gage	25
Adair Colmenero	7	Dickie Wiggins	15	Tim Ledford	27
Robert Strickland, III	7	Pete Alvarez	16	Christian Jackson	28
Susan Tart	7	Taft Stevens	18	Dena Bradham	30
Charles Dorman	10	Rilyn Kerley	19	Mary Pope	30

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