



FIRST WORDS

AUGUST - 2023



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



We like to think that things slow down in the summer here at First Presbyterian Church, but this summer has proven otherwise. God has been busy in our midst.

Consider a quick review of the past five weeks:

- We sent 14 youths to the Massanetta Middle School Conference in Harrisonburg, Virginia, where the theme was “Welcome Home,” exploring the words of the 23rd Psalm. A special thanks to Lee Herring for accompanying these kids and Rev. McGuire on the trip!
- We sent two individuals, Lee Herring, and Brad Brown, on a mission trip to Belize with Mike Blackmon of First Baptist here in Dunn. I cannot wait to hear back from Lee and Brad about their trip!
- We sent 16 high school youths to the Montreat Youth Conference in Montreat, North Carolina, where the theme was “In Joy,” exploring what it means to find joy in God and one another. A special thanks to Gene & Blair Chance and Brian Foster for accompanying Meg and me on this trip!

- We welcomed almost 50 kids for Vacation Bible School last week, where our theme was “Stellar,” exploring God’s love through outer space. I can’t even begin to thank all the individuals who helped set up and lead VBS, but I give thanks to Rev. McGuire for her leadership!
- We began the process of renovating the flooring in our sanctuary and did some work on our organ. I’m grateful to the Facilities Council for their leadership on this effort and for the gift made in memory of Granville Tilghman to make this effort possible. The renovations are taking place in two steps. Currently, the necessary organ work has been completed, and the parquet flooring in the sanctuary has been refinished. In a few weeks, the carpet will be replaced, and new hardwood flooring will be installed in the center of the sanctuary to increase resonance. If all goes according to plan, we will not have to worship in the fellowship hall again.
- Progress is being made on our Columbarium and Memorial Gardens. This past week, the concrete cast of niches was delivered on a 32-ton crane and placed on the columbarium site. In the coming weeks, masonry will be installed around the niches, which will be followed by landscaping work this fall. I’m excited to see the progress! A special thanks to the Columbarium Council for their work!
- Finally, we are already making progress toward our goal of being debt-free by the end of 2023. Since the beginning of the year, we’ve already paid down over \$20,000 of debt, and we’re down to just over \$73,000 to go. I’m grateful to all those who have contributed to these efforts. You can expect to hear more in the Fall as we enter into stewardship season, but with faithfulness and patience, as one body together, I believe God will lead us to this goal by the end of the year.

Belize Pictures





A successful Vacation Bible School 2023!!!!

Our Stellar VBS this year kicked off last Sunday and it was just the beginning of an incredible week of learning about Jesus as our light. Our station leaders prepared amazing lessons and fun activities to teach our kids about shining Jesus' light in our world.

I want to say a resounding thank you to all of these leaders who led each of our stations: Dena Bradham, Kristen Anderson, Courtney Williams, Palmer Foster, Cora Sue Beasley, Meredith Bradham, Meredith Wermel & Betty Byrd.

Thank you also to these incredible group leaders and volunteers who helped our station leaders: Ligon Holder, Kathy Lasater, Millie Jones, Whitney Harrison, Lynda Turner, Williams McGuire, Kathy Medley, Stephanie Wood, Meda Williams, Kelli Willilams, Sydney Bradham, Jane Tart, Jackie Sholar, Jim Sholar, Hilda Lewis & Darren Anderson.

Thank you again and again for our lead decorator who helped turn our church into an outer space adventure: Dot Vaughn.

And thank you to each of you who have prayed for all of these amazing disciples. Vacation Bible School is so important to the life of the church. It's not only a fun time for our children, but it is an intentional time of worship and play where we are learning about Jesus and how we are called to spread the good news of love and goodness in this world we have been given.

Pastor Elizabeth





Musicians have a love-hate relationship with the metronome.

Musicians have a love-hate relationship with the metronome. A metronome is a device that maintains a steady beat. Depending on the model, the metronome will tap, tick, ding, flash, or even speak the counts. The speed of the beat can be set to fast or slow or anywhere in between the two extremes. The metronome will keep the selected tempo until the musician turns it off or throws it out the window. And then, I am completely sure it will still be ticking on the lawn—not missing a beat. It is a pulsating reminder, that “I, Metronome, am correct,” and you, musician, are off!”

The metronome is part tyrant and part tool. It is helpful in maintaining the beat while trying to work through a difficult passage, or keeping multiple players together. Musicians love that aspect, but the tyranny of the tick is also the part we hate. It never ebbs and flows like real music. Thus, you will never see musicians performing pieces with a metronome on stage.

Metronomes are mechanical. Musicians are human. Trying to sync up the human with the non-human is not always possible—nor should it be. But the mechanical does put a standard, an internal framework inside the musician. It keeps the arrhythmia at bay. Without an internal steady beat, the continuity of the music is lost. Musicians would be going their own way, in their own time. Individuality may be valued, but it is highly likely that the latest concert tickets you purchased were to hear music that maintained a steady pulse, with musicians conforming to an accepted tempo.

The metronome taps, the clock ticks, and the heart beats. Order needs to be maintained for life to flow. This is by design, no doubt. Our Father knew that we would need the steady reminder of His Love and His Word, to keep us in sync. We need Him to keep the chaos of our own way from drowning out the beautiful music He has purposed for us. The constant preaching and singing of His Word in worship is not a tyrannical hammer to beat us into sync, rather it’s more like a reassuring heartbeat that supports life and security. What unimaginable cacophony would result if the pulsating reminder of God’s love and Word were thrown out of the window? Perhaps you have already heard that noise. Suddenly, the ticking of the metronome becomes a comfort. Embrace the tick.

Sunday, August 6, 2023, at 7:00 pm

Colton Barber, organ major at East Carolina University will be presenting an organ recital at First Presbyterian Church. Everyone is welcome.

Announcements

DUMA NEEDS YOU

If you would like to volunteer for our next scheduled DUMA Day on August 8th, please contact the church office, Jeanette Herring or Blair Chance.

We will have two shifts for volunteers to sign up for and lunch will be provided.



Colton Barber, Organ Concert



On Sunday, August 6th at 7:00 pm, Colton Barber will be having an organ concert at First Presbyterian Church. He will be playing many works including Bach, Vierne, Vaughan Williams, and many others.

August Starting Point

What is Starting Point?

Starting Point is an informal reception after worship where you can learn more about our church: Who are we? What do we believe? How can we get involved? If you're wondering where to start with our church, you can start here!

*When: **Sunday, August 20th***

*Where: **The Corner Room Following Worship***

All Blood Types *Needed*



Blood Drive **Dunn Community First Presbyterian Church**

Held in the Banquet Hall
901 N Park Ave
Dunn, NC 28334

Tuesday, August 22, 2023
12:30 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.



Congregational Meeting on August 27

Once a year, we elect a nominating committee to discern who God may be calling to serve in the leadership of our church as elders and deacons. If you have suggestions for who might serve as an elder or deacon, you can anonymously submit those names to the church office until August 27th.

RALLY DAY SEPTEMBER 10, 2023

Sunday School Kickoff - 9:30 AM
Worship - 10:30 AM
Rally Day Celebrations - 5:30-7 PM



FIRST
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH OF
DUNN

Massanetta & Montreat Sunday: September 24

Join us for lunch after church on September 24 to hear all from our youth about our summer conferences to Montreat and Massanetta.



MONTREAT
CONFERENCE CENTER

Columbarium and Prayer Garden

The Columbarium and Prayer Garden Council has plans for the continued purchase of Columbarium niches and for Memorial Gifts and Honorariums. If you would like to Memorialize someone with a gift or honor someone with an Honorarium some of the options are:

- Benches
- Lighting
- Fountain
- Prayer Garden Landscaping
- Perpetual Maintenance
- General Donations.

Please contact a member of the Columbarium and Prayer Garden Council if

you are interested.

Linda Hayes linda@harnettlaw.com

Jane Tart janeatart@me.com

Clem & Kathy Medley clemmedley@yahoo.com

Robbie Tart Robbiet.rethouse@gmail.com

Billy & Patsy Powell dunndealmaker@gmail.com

Andrew McLean Agmclean81@icloud.com

THANK YOU VOLUNTEERS



Nursery Attendants

August 6 - Courtney & Meda Williams

August 13 - Jason & Millie Jones

August 20 - Andy & Meredith Wermel

August 27 - Wiley & Jill Pope

Acolytes

August 6 - Winnie Smith

August 13 - Ryann Spell

August 20 - Piper Smith

August 27 - Johnson Williams

Broadcast & Sound Team

August 6 - Wesley Johnson & Bryant Pope

August 13 - Jason Jones & Bryant Pope

August 20 - Cole Stevens & Bryant Pope

August 27 - Andy Wermel & Bryant Pope

Ushers

August 6

Casey Kerley

A.C. Williams

August 13

Chris Smith

Cindy Smith

August 20

Si Harrington

Helen Harrington

August 27

Lynda Turner

Kevin Allen

IN OUR *Thoughts and Prayers*

Cliff & Ruby Artis

Bryan Avery

Stephen Bath

Joyce Dorman

Arlene Duff

Nell Frank

Wayne Franklin

Phillip Gaines

Barbara Godwin

Rodney Godwin

T.C. Godwin

Susan Grissom

Floy Hamilton

Nick Harmon

Paula Harmon

Becky Hartley

Elease Hodges

Justin Johnston

Dave Mason

Mitch Mason

Becky Peele

Roger Pierce

Will Pope

Mary Alice Reece

Kenneth Rosenquest

Wayne Smith

Melissa Stevens

Steve Turnage

Melissa Ward

Steve Watson

Garrett Winder

August Upcoming Sundays

6 TWO CENTS A MEAL

13 PASTOR ELIZABETH PREACHING

20 STARTING POINT

27 CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

August Birthdays

| | | | | | |
|--------------------|----|--------------------|----|-------------------|----|
| Dottie Driver | 1 | Gene Smith | 14 | Anna Stanley | 22 |
| Macie Wood | 1 | John Tart | 14 | Peggy Bryan | 23 |
| Andy Wermel | 2 | Tyler Wilson | 15 | Daughtry Williams | 23 |
| Palmer Foster | 3 | Julie Easter | 16 | Theo Lane | 24 |
| Amanda Hudson | 5 | Pam Kelly | 16 | Julie Howard | 25 |
| Vernon Stewart | 5 | Mary Mac Holder | 17 | Daniel Lane | 25 |
| A.C. Williams | 9 | Dave Mason | 17 | Landen Williams | 25 |
| Henry Willoughby | 9 | Cindy Smith | 18 | Amanda Allen | 26 |
| Amy Godwin | 10 | Tyler Sasser | 19 | Zoe Diggs | 26 |
| Heather Williams | 11 | Keith Williams | 19 | Kathy Lasater | 26 |
| Chris Smith | 12 | Lynn Godwin | 20 | Lynda Turner | 28 |
| Sara Titchener | 12 | Zachary Harper | 20 | Diane Gray | 31 |
| Joyce Dorman | 13 | Clarice Willoughby | 20 | Mary Alice Reece | 31 |
| Mike Vaughn | 13 | Karin Suess | 21 | Grey Wermel | 31 |
| Lauren Whittington | 13 | | | | |

Fall Sundays



Sept

- 10 Rally Day
- 17 New Members Reception
- 24 Montreat & Massanetta Sunday

Oct

- 1 World Communion Sunday
- 8 Kid's Choir
- 15 Congregational Meeting / Starting Point
- 22 Commitment Sunday
- 29 Communion / Fall Festival

Nov

- 5 All Saints Sunday
- 12 Starting Point
- 19 Dedication of the Columbarium & Memorial Garden
- 26 Communion

First Presbyterian Church | 910-892-4121 | fpcdunnoffice@gmail.com | www.fpcdunn.org

STAY CONNECTED



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Calendar](#)

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website](#)

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