



# First Presbyterian Church

WEEKLY UPDATE/2.23.24

MOUNT HOLLY NC

## Hello!

*Before the fruit is ripened by the sun,  
Before the petals of the leaves uncoil,  
Before the first fine silken root is spun,  
A seed is dropped and buried in the soil.*

*Before we gain the grace that comes through loss,  
Before we live by more than bread and breath,  
Before we lift in joy an empty cross,  
We face with Christ the seed's renewing death.*

These stirring words come from a poem by Thomas H. Troeger, Presbyterian minister, professor, liturgist and hymnist. In fact, Troeger wrote the words to nine of the hymns in our Glory to God hymnal, and we will be singing these words during worship next month. Before his death in 2022, Troeger said to a friend, "I am dying but my soul is dancing." Beautiful.

As you receive this newsletter, we will have entered into the season of Lent—a time of soul-searching, of turning toward God and of seeking a deeper faith. May these days of worship, fellowship and study together be blessed and meaningful as we follow in the way of Christ.

In the faith that we share,

Janet

## Lenten Lunches

On Sundays, Feb. 25, March 3, 10, and 17 all are invited to gather for lunch and a brief Lenten study right after worship. Amy-Jill Levine will be back, via DVD, for a study entitled, *Witness at the Cross—"pausing alongside those who were there and how they experienced the event."*

We look forward to this time of fellowship and to growing in faith during this Lenten season!

## Maundy Thursday, March 28

Join us at 6:00 for a very moving Tenebrae "Service of Darkness as we recall the days before Jesus' death. The Lord's Supper will be observed and the service will conclude with lowered lights as we sing: Were you there when they crucified my Lord?

## Easter Sunday 11:00

We look forward to special music, with choir, trumpet and handbells as we celebrate the resurrection.

## The Pancake Breakfast is Back!

The men of the church, will serve a delicious breakfast at 9:30, preceding the Easter service. Come hungry!

## Flower Cross

Bring a few flowers from your garden to adorn our outdoor flower cross—a beautiful symbol of new life in Christ.

## Spring Work Day March 9

Join us, starting at 9:00 to help spruce up our church. Coffee and Donuts provided, along with good fellowship!

*Open doors, open hearts, a welcome for all just as you are!*



### March Birthdays

Bailey Kaylor	1
Yvonne Webb	1
Brenda McKinney	6
Shannon Fish	14
Diana Faust	15
John Reynolds	16
Harrison Faith	18
Maria Wothe	21
Paty Byrd	26
Shannon Lineberger	29
Dianne Bumgarner	30
Nicole Zonin	31

### One Great Hour of Sharing

The OGHS Special Offering will be received on Easter Sunday in support of Disaster Relief, the Hunger Program, and the Self-Development of People Program as administered through the PC(USA). Kids have been given their Fish Banks, and offering envelopes for adults are in the pew racks. You can also note OGHS on your check to give to this cause.

### VBS— Save the Date!

- Sunday, June 2, following worship.
- Monday and Tuesday, June 3 & 4, in the evening.

This is an event for ALL Ages. Mark your calendars and plan to join the fun and fellowship!

### Endowment Grants

Endowment funds are available to support and enhance our mission and ministry. The Endowment Committee will meet in April to consider requests for financial support of our ministries. Request forms are available through the church office and are due April 1.

### SOUPER Bowl Report

We received 308 food items and \$171.00 in cash donations. All were delivered to the CRO. Thank you!

### Session Highlights

Session met on February 11, and took the following actions:

- Received a report about the initial meeting of the Balcony Team. This meeting began the yearlong process of discerning our church’s direction for the future.
- Approved the 2023 Statistical Report that will be sent to the Office of the General Assembly.
- Approved calling a brief Congregational Meeting on Sunday, February 25, after worship, to accept amended Terms of Call for our pastor.
- Discussed various considerations for renting office space in our building to a certified pastoral counselor. The Session approved a motion to further investigate this possibility before making a decision.
- Received the January 2024 Profit and Loss report.
- Received reports from committees about their upcoming plans.
- Agreed that we will have a church cleanup/workday on Saturday, March 9. If there is inclement weather, the workday would be moved to March 16.

### Budget Update as of 2/21

Total Budget 2023	\$180,765.21
YTD Receipts	\$19,416.50
YTD CRO	\$159.26
YTD Daily Change	\$45.00
YTD One Great Hour of Sharing	\$20.00

The QR code below is provided for those who wish to give online.



Thank you for your faithful support of our mission and ministry!