



First Presbyterian Church

UPDATE/1.23.24

MOUNT HOLLY NC

Hello!

And here we are, several weeks into 2024! How fast the time goes! As I meet with our Session, committees and staff, I'm excited about plans that are in the making, and appreciative of the wisdom for which to navigate the needs of our ministry.

In December, our Session was invited by our Presbytery Associate Executives, Beverly and George Thompson, to participate in a Vision Discernment Process for healthy churches like ours, in order to consider where God is calling us next in our ministry. Session is pleased to have this opportunity and is working to form a small team to guide our way. We will join with a team from the First Presbyterian Church of Newton in this process. As we get up and running in the next couple of months, you will hear more about this and there will be opportunities for your input as well!

If faith communities are willing to look at who they are and how God calls them, the choices we make can offer opportunities for transformative and vital witness.
(from *Grace for the Journey*, the guide for the visioning process)

As the season of Lent approaches, I look forward with you, to opportunities to deepen our faith, love God and one another, and be the church together!

Blessings,

Janet

Annual Meeting Jan. 28

Please plan to stay for a few minutes after worship for the Annual Meeting of the Congregation. We will celebrate the accomplishments of 2023, receive the reports of Session and its Committees, and vote on the Terms of Call for the pastor.

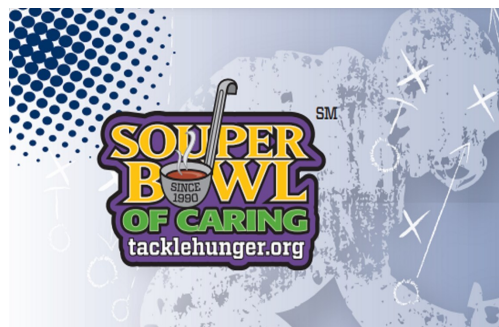
Donut Sunday - Jan. 28

Join us in the Fellowship Hall at 11:00 for worship around the tables with donuts, coffee and juice!

The Annual Meeting of the Congregation will follow.

Ash Wednesday Supper

On Wednesday, February 14 at 6:00 pm we will gather in the Fellowship Hall for a simple soup supper and worship service which will include communion and the imposition of ashes. We look forward to gathering together and hope you will join us!



Souper Bowl of Caring

Sunday, February 11 is SOUPer Bowl of Caring. You are invited to bring donations of non-perishable food or monetary contributions to the worship service on that day.

Since 1993 close to \$193 million has been reported donated to local food charities across all 50 states with over 305,000 individual groups participating! Be part of the movement that is sharing God's love with those in need. Our contributions will go the Community Relief Organization.



February Birthdays

Wayne Johnson	02
Ji-Ho Lee	02
Roger Lindsey	09
Karen Williamson	10
Marc Williamson	16

Lenten Lunches

Lenten Lunch and Bible Study will be held on Feb. 25, March 3, 10 and 17, immediately following worship. We will again turn to Professor of New Testament and Jewish Studies, Amy-Jill Levine, and learn from her video series called "Witness at the Cross." You may recall from a previous study that Levine is a gifted scholar and teacher. Do come! This is a good time to invite a friend to worship and the program!

Black History Program

The Mount Holly Historical Society provides this program, held in our sanctuary on Tuesday, Feb. 20 at 6:00pm. All are welcome!

Thoughtful Thursdays

Good food and good discussion were enjoyed last week on the topic of the Middle East Conflict. Stay tuned for the next event to be scheduled after Easter.

Budget Update 1/22

Total Budget 2024	\$180,765.21
YTD Receipts	8,581.50
YTD CRO Offering	149.26
YTD Daily Change Offering	5.00

A final report of the 2023 budget and the budget for 2024 will be provided in the Annual Report at the Annual Meeting on the 28th

Session Update

Your church Session met on January 14 and as we do at the start of the new year, spent time affirming what we appreciate about our church, and considering our ministry for the year ahead. Discussion was held in response to several articles from the *Presbyterian Outlook* about the mission and ministry of smaller churches, as well as planning for the Vision and Discernment process noted in the pastor's comments on page one of this issue.

The usual business meeting then followed, highlights as noted:

- Elected Jayn Cox to serve as Clerk of Session. (Jayn is not currently serving on Session, but takes this position in service to Session without vote.) Brenda McKinney will continue as Asst. Clerk.
- Received and approved the December 2023 Budget Report. S&F and the Endowment Committee will meet to do strategic planning for the budget challenges we are facing.
- Buildings and Grounds will work on addressing needed electrical updates as pointed out by our insurance company.
- All of our committees are planning, with enthusiasm, for our programs and ministry in the year ahead!

Committees are always eager to welcome new members. If you have an interest or passion for serving on one of those listed below, please contact one of the elders on that committee:

Buildings & Grounds

Jeff Kaylor, Josh Kalinowski

Christian Education

Nan Kaylor

Fellowship/Member Care

Susan Nalley

Mission & Outreach

Paul Bumgarner

Stewardship and Finance

Todd Arnold

Worship

Karen Jones, Jonathan Brackett