



First Presbyterian Church

WEEKLY UPDATE/2.23.23

MOUNT HOLLY NC

Hello!

"Bless These Days." That is how Kate Bowler introduces her latest book: "The Lives We Actually Lead." As mentioned last month, I'm looking forward to sharing her spirituality and genuine wisdom as we spend a few minutes each week during our Lenten Lunches to be enriched along our Lenten journeys.

To give you a glimpse of the "flavor" of her devotional, here are a couple of excerpts from her introduction:

"We are living in difficult times, and we can see it all over our calendars. There's an appointment for a teenager's anxiety disorder or a visit to the nursing home. The mail is full of paperwork about the divorce, medical bills, school debt, or overdue credit cards...."

And then she says, "When I bless the actual days I am living, I suddenly find I have a great deal more to say that is honest. I am mourning. I am bored. I am exhausted. I am apathetic. I don't have to wait to say something spiritually true. I can simply bless it all instead." This book, so appropriate for Lent, is about "Blessings for Imperfect Days."

I think there's something to that! When we acknowledge that life is simply hard sometimes; that we can be stuck in the muck; and then give that actual situation to God, it lightens the load! The psalmists knew how to lament, but it was always addressed to God, and undergirded with trust in the commiserating presence of God holding them still. The Lord is indeed, our shepherd!

In the faith that we share,

Janet

Endowment and Scholarship Grants

It is such a blessing that faithful members of this church have provided the gift of endowment funds that support and enhance our mission and ministry. The Endowment Committee will meet in April to consider requests for financial support of our ministries as well as for college scholarships for members of the church. Request forms are available through the church office and are due April 1.

MH Historical Society

The Mount Holly Historical Society will host a Celebration of Black History in our sanctuary on Tuesday, Feb. 28 at 7:00pm. All are invited.

Lenten Lunches

On **Sundays, March 5, 12, 19 and 26** all are invited to gather for lunch and a brief Lenten study right after worship. We look forward to this time of fellowship and to grow in faith during this Lenten season!



Thank you!

We received 274 food items and \$270.00 in cash donations. All were delivered to the CRO.

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
Paty Byrd	26
Shannon Lineberger	29
Dianne Bumgarner	30
Nicole Zonin	31

Prayer Concerns

We continue our prayers for those among us in need and for the world.

- For the families of John Bean and Yates Springs as they grieve their passing
- For peace among nations
- For victims of earthquake

In Memoriam

John Lee Bean

July 18, 1948 - January 28, 2023

Everett Yates Springs

April 5, 1930 - February 6, 2023

"Peace I leave with you;
my peace I give to you."

PC(USA) Disaster Assistance

Our denomination is responding to the earthquake on the Syrian/Turkish border. Donation info is provided for those who wish to assist.

Presbyterian Church (USA)
PO Box 643700
Pittsburgh, PA 15264-3700

Note: DR999999-ST Earthquake

OR donate online at pda.pcusa.org

Session Highlights

At its meeting on February 12, Session:

- ♦ Approved the minutes of the January meeting as well as those of the Annual Meeting held on January 29.
- ♦ Received the January Budget Report
- ♦ Approved an expenditure from our Endowment funds to send four of our young people and two leaders to one of the Montreat Summer Youth Conferences. We're very excited about this!
- ♦ Approved the recommendation from the Worship Committee, that having enjoyed it so much last year, to hold our Easter Sunday worship service outdoors at 10:00 a.m. on April 9. This will be the only service that day, and the service will move indoors in the event of bad weather—still at 10:00
- ♦ Our Music Director, Hanna, has let us know that she will need to transition out of her position with us. Two children, a full time job and living so far from Mount Holly, have understandably, become too much. Through March and April she will be with us on Sunday mornings only. The Personnel Committee will work on next steps to fill this position.

Budget Update

Total Budget 2023	\$186,702.00
YTD Receipts	\$26,265.53
YTD CRO	\$91.00
YTD Daily Change	\$118.00
Souper Bowl of Caring	\$270.00

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



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

Guatemala Update

Jeff Kaylor has been keeping in touch with our sister church in Guatemala. We have learned that the church, Madian Pocoman, has changed its location and name to "Monte de Los Olivos." Below is an excerpt from a recent letter along with some pictures. Each year we send funds there for the church and for student scholarships as part of our mission giving.

"Hello dear brother Jeff I hope you're enjoying from our God's blessings because we do everyday.. God's Good all time. Sorry for my late reply. I've working a lot here. I have 2 Works now. I work in a local bakery near my home and I have my own Computer Workshop called "Teknica PC Computer" and I have it in my own home's 2nd floor on the top.

I saw that you asked me about our "new" church. Well, let me tell you that we only switched our name. Madian Pocoman doesn't exist anymore nor the place, now we call "Monte de Los Olivos" located in the same town Palin but with a different name and building, we all still are the same attendants with the same people.

Right below attach some pictures for our activities before Christmas with children, the one in the clown costume is my wife Leticia Mixtún de Balcárcel.. need to say that all these activities were made in our new Building as Monte de Los Olivos.

Thank you so much for your prayers we really need them all,, and please keep on praying for us and don't stop, we also pray for all of you there at Mount Holly church in NC, please say hello to all our brothers and sisters we send hugs and blessings.. GOD BLESS YOU ALL"

Together in Christ

John Balcarcel

Bassit for Monte de Los Olivos

Jesus is Love

