



First Presbyterian Church

UPDATE/7.24.23

MOUNT HOLLY NC

Hello!

I was showing a friend around the church recently. When we got to the Historical Room and she looked at the “Wall of Pastors,” she asked me: “Are you so proud to be the first woman in that long line of male pastors?” The answer was “yes!” I clearly remember, when interviewing for this position, being asked by the Committee on Ministry representative to the Pastor Nominating Committee how I felt about potentially becoming the first female pastor of this church. I was excited! I can also look back to the day many years ago, when a woman pastor was hired by the church where I grew up—it was then that I learned that such a thing was possible, and the course of my life changed.

The *Presbyterian Outlook* magazine published an article last week by Frances Taylor Gench, professor of Biblical Interpretation at Union Seminary in Richmond. It is in response to those who, even today, would say that women should not serve as pastors. We’ve all heard the argument that the Bible says women should keep silent. To this narrow view, Gench addresses how Presbyterians approach scripture and why we have affirmed women in ministry since 1956. I have provided the article for you with this newsletter as I think you will learn a lot, not only about what the Bible says about women, but also about what it means to engage with scripture, and to wrestle with it, which Gench says in itself is an “act of faithfulness.” Amen to that!

As this newsletter goes to print our Montreat participants are back from an amazing Youth Conference. We will enjoy a report and slide show from them in worship this Sunday, July 30! It was so good that they can’t wait to go back next year!

Blessings,

Janet

**Concert & Ice Cream Social
Sunday, Aug. 6 at 3:00
Come, and bring a friend!**



Farmers Market Food Boxes

50 Food Boxes with beautiful fresh produce were packed up and delivered to those in need. Thank you to all who volunteered! (See more pictures on page 2!)



August Birthdays

Kathryn Williamson	4
Bob Randall	5
Mike Prosser	7
Madilyn Lockridge	6
Jeff Kaylor	9
Robert Whitt	9
Will Arnold	14
Paxton Lineberger	15
Laura Arnold	20
Ronnie Williamson	25
Jim O'Dell	26
Nelson Whittington	28
David Lineberger Jr.	31

Community Partnerships!

FPC is glad to share the gift of our space with our community!

Girl Scouts: We're delighted to welcome Girl Scout Troop 10136 that will meet every other Wednesday evening from 6-8pm beginning Aug. 23.

Lantern Parade: A workshop for teachers, led by Emily Andress, will be held in the Activity Room on Aug. 5 in preparation for this year's Lantern Parade on October 21.

School Supplies



We will receive our annual offering of school supplies during worship on **August 13. Needed items are:**

- zippered pencil pouches
- dry erase markers (any colors)
- student scissors
- highlighters (any color)
- elastic waistband pants for boys and girls (all sizes)
- two pocket folders
- **composition** notebooks (no spiral notebooks)
- Velcro brand white adhesive dots
- LARGE crayons for preschoolers
- large pencils
- Zip ties
- Individually packaged snacks

Thank you!



Hymn Sing—August 20

Please help us to plan the service by sharing your favorites. Request forms are available in the sanctuary.



Budget Update as of 7/17

Total budget 2023	\$186,702.00
YTD receipts	\$ 89,694.40
YTD CRO	\$507.00
YTD Daily Change	\$405.97

Thank you for your ever-faithful giving for our ministry at First Presbyterian!

Thank you to our VBS leadership team and to all who participated. A great time was had by all!

