



First Presbyterian Church

UPDATE/9.22.22

MOUNT HOLLY NC

Hello!

It is always so much fun this time of year to have our front lawn “decorated” with our pumpkin patch. From my office window I get to see folks wander among the pumpkins, carefully selecting which ones they will take home with them. No matter what the age, from youngest to oldest, everyone wanders among these traditional and whimsical gourds, looking for that one pumpkin that is just the right one for them.

This is the time of year when we celebrate the harvest, and ponder the blessings that are ours. It is the time of year when we are called to think about what this church means to us and what our ministry means to the community and to those we support in mission. As our Stewardship and Finance Committee leads us in a season of planning for our ministry and mission in 2023, I ask you to remember, again, that stewardship isn’t an event or a campaign. Stewardship at its heart is a spiritual practice—a holy practice—in which we reflect on the abundance of God’s love that we experience in our lives and in this place. I am excited about the energy among us and eager for a robust future. May the winds of God’s Spirit move among us, calling us to faithful stewardship and a practice of abundance in our ministry together!

Blessings,
Janet



Pumpkin Patch!

The pumpkins are arriving on Friday, September 30! We appreciate all who are able to come and help unload the truck— a phone call will go out once we know the arrival time. It’s a lot of fun to fill our front lawn up with these signs of the Fall season!

We are looking forward to a great variety of pumpkins and gourds! All are invited to purchase your pumpkins here and to invite your friends and neighbors to do the same. All proceeds go to the CRO—Community Relief Organization.

The patch is “Self-Pay” and open all hours. There are envelopes for cash that can be slipped through the mail slot or a QR card to pay via credit card. Checks should be made out to the church.

Peace and Global Witness Offering

On October 2 we will receive the PC (USA) Special Offering for Peace and Global Witness. Through this offering we are able to participate in a large ministry to confront systems of injustice and to promote reconciliation around the world and here at home as well. 25% of the offering remains with us to give locally, 25% is used in our Presbytery and 50% supports the work of Presbyterians across the globe.

You can contribute to this offering by using the special envelopes in the pew racks, or by designating this offering on your usual manner of giving to the church.

World Communion Sunday

October 2 is also World Communion Sunday—a day on which we celebrate being at the one table of the Lord with our siblings in Christ around the world. Our communion table cloth that day is from Kenya. The pastor’s stole is from Ghana. Our lectern cloth is a gift from our partner church in Guatemala. If you have clothing that reflects your heritage, feel free to wear it to worship that day!

Session Highlights

The Session met on Sunday, August 14, and took the following actions:

- Received Carol Davis into the membership of our church through reaffirmation of faith.
- Received Mike Prosser into the membership of our church through baptism and affirmation of faith. A special welcome to both of them!
- Decided to make the wearing of masks optional for our worship services.
- Approved using a monetary donation, from a church member, to plant new shrubbery in front of the Educational/Office building.
- Approved updating the kitchen in the Fellowship Hall with paint and new countertops. This update will be funded by a donation from a church member.
- Received a report from the Stewardship and Finance Committee about plans for our upcoming Stewardship campaign.
- Received the January – August Profit and Loss report.
- Authorized the Personnel Committee to hire a potential candidate for the temporary Administrative Assistant position after conducting an interview and background check of this person.
- Approved an increase in the stipend for Jonathan Brackett, our Worship Leader.

2022 Session Members are:

Class of 22: Jayn Cox, Karen Jones, Marguerite Randall, Kathryn Williamson

Class of 23: Todd Arnold, Susie Crisan, Aaron Lockridge

Class of 24: Jonathan Brackett, Nan Kaylor, Susan Nalley



October Birthdays

Susie Crisan	2
Janet DeWater	2
Jayse Flood	9
Zachary Gibson	11
Susan Nalley	16
Kayleigh Johnson	26

In Our Prayers

- Shannon Fish recovering from surgery
- John Bean recovering from a second knee surgery
- Nancy Jessen recovering from surgery
- Paty and John Byrd during Paty's lengthy recovery
- All who struggle with ongoing health issues



Welcome!

We are pleased to welcome Elizabeth "Lizzy" Pharr to our office during Shannon's absence. Lizzie is married to Daniel, has a daughter named Layla and a son due in February. And, she has close connections to the Catawba Coffee shop as well!

Building/Property Updates

Earlier this year, the Endowment Committee and Session approved funds to continue updating areas of our building. You may have noticed that the buzzing lights in the choir and classrooms on the lower level of the sanctuary building have been replaced. The bulbs are now energy efficient, are covered and they are quiet!!

The other project for this year is about to get underway. This one involves paint and carpet for the Office/CE Building hallway, workroom and library—those areas with original tile flooring which is scuffed and discolored. We are excited about how this will refresh our look and create modern spaces for our work and gathering.

With this comes opportunities for you to assist with the project. See below! :)

Any Day Can Be a Work Day!

As we prepare for the installation of carpet in our Office/CE Building, there are tasks that need to be completed in preparation. If you are willing to come in at your convenience, to work on any of the following, please let Janet know!

- ◆ Remove and store pictures from walls
- ◆ Remove coat hook apparatus from walls
- ◆ Remove old, non-functioning radiators
- ◆ Cover bulletin board
- ◆ Sort and stow craft supplies in hallway cupboard, and cover
- ◆ Pull off old cove base
- ◆ Wash down walls
- ◆ Paint

Carpet has been ordered. Once this prep is done, the carpet will be installed.

Official Church Work Day!

Mark your calendars for Saturday, **October 29, at 9:00** for our annual Fall Work Day—always a fun time with good fellowship and much accomplished!

Lantern Parade and FPC

We've had a great group of FPC folks working on lanterns for the Mount Holly Lantern Parade on Oct. 22. This year's theme is: "It's Written in the Stars!" It's an amazing event—mark your calendars and join the fun!

You can also watch for our wisemen and star lanterns to make an appearance in our sanctuary during the Christmas season!

Budget Update

Total budget 2022	\$189,601.00
YTD receipts	\$114,797.00
YTD CRO	\$664.00
YTD Daily Change (5 Cents)	\$512.87

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



It was a great day at the Farmers Market last month, filling 50 food boxes for those in need!