



First Presbyterian Church

UPDATE/1.20.22

MOUNT HOLLY NC

Hello!

Do you remember when the calendar turned from 1999 to the year 2000? There were lots of celebrations but also lot of worries about computer systems and how we would accomplish the technological turnover into a new century. The clock turned, and so did our computers. And life went on.

And now here we are in 2022, the year that we thought would have left the challenges and weariness of 2020 and 2021 long behind us. Yet here we are. There are words from an old gospel song that come to my mind: "We've come this far by faith, leaning on the Lord." It was written in 1956 and based on I Corinthians 5:7—"for we walk by faith, not by sight." Indeed we do, and life goes on.

But it isn't just a "shrug of the shoulders" acknowledgement that life goes on. Rather, life is still a moving forward in faith with purpose that is God's purpose. Even when we're tired. Even when we're frustrated. Even when "crazy" seems in full force in the world.

Your Session met earlier this month for a time of reflection and creative thinking about what moving forward in faith means for us. A few of those thoughts are provided on the back page. Please let us know what might excite you about them or other thoughts you might contribute! We've come this far, yes! Onward!

Blessings,
Janet



Souper Bowl of Caring

Sunday, February 13 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. You can also drop off donations at the church office. (Shannon is in the office to receive your offerings Tuesday - Thursday from 9:30—3:00 and Friday from 9:30—1:00 More than 30 years ago the Souper Bowl of Caring began with a simple prayer from a single Presbyterian youth group. Since that day, more than \$153 million has been raised. Be part of the movement that is sharing God's love with those in need. Our contributions will go the Community Relief Organization.

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.

Annual Meeting Jan. 30

Please plan to stay for a few minutes after worship for the Annual Meeting of the Congregation. We will celebrate the accomplishments of 2021, receive the reports of Session and its Committees, and vote on the Terms of Call for the pastor.

February Birthdays

| | |
|------------------|----|
| Wayne Johnson | 02 |
| Sylvia Whitley | 08 |
| Roger Lindsey | 09 |
| Karen Williamson | 10 |
| Marc Williamson | 16 |



Usher Training—Jan. 23

We are looking for folks to serve as ushers on an occasional Sunday morning. If this is something you might be able to help out with, please plan to remain after worship on Jan. 23 for a brief training and opportunity to sign up for dates of your choice. Many thanks!

Prayer Concerns

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

- John B. recovering from severe Vertigo, now at home
- Paul and Jennifer S. recovering from Covid
- Peace in the midst of violence in the world
- Health and safety for healthcare workers and first responders
- All whom we hold in our hearts for healing and comfort

Budget Update

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|--------------------|--------------|
| Total Budget 2022 | \$189,601.00 |
| YTD Receipts | \$7,975.00 |
| YTD CRO | \$85.00 |
| YTD 5 Cents a meal | \$25.00 |

A final report of the 2021 budget and the budget for 2022 will be provided with the Annual Report which will be emailed or mailed out next week.

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

Session Update

Your church Session met on January 9 and spent time looking back and looking forward with a focus on the three points of being a PC(USA) “Matthew 25” Congregation.

One focus of Matthew 25 is on **Congregational Vitality**. We considered the question, “What would people miss if the church were not here?” Our list included important items of our successful ministries such as the Pumpkin Patch, Meals on Wheels, our response when Ida Rankin School has a need, support of the CRO, financial support for Guatemala mission and endowment grants among others. The list pointed out the many vital ways we do mission!

The group also did some collective brainstorming on how each of our committees is and might, in the future, focus on vitality as well as the other two elements of being a Matthew 25 Church:

- ***Eradicating Systemic poverty***
- ***Dismantling institutional racism***

Each committee now has before it the collective and creative thoughts of the whole session to use as inspiration for the year ahead. Some of the thoughts offered include potential ways to respond to needs for food and clothing, inviting guest preachers with knowledge of poverty and racism issues, and finding ways to build relationships with people and congregations of color and being a partner in our community for the good of Mount Holly.

Our committees are always eager to welcome new members. If you have an interest or passion for serving on one of them, please contact the chairperson listed below!

Buildings & Grounds

Aaron Lockridge

Christian Education

Nan Kaylor

Fellowship/Member Care

Susan Nalley

Mission

Susie Crisan

Stewardship and Finance

Marguerite Randall, Todd Arnold

Worship

Karen Jones