

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

> rejoice!

9 am
Mullin Life Center

> faith
formation

10 am

> traditional

11 am
Sanctuary



BOOMERANG
BACK TO CHURCH!

FALL 2021 • FPCGREENSBORO.ORG

we start september 12!

WORSHIP WITH COMMUNION, 9 am Rejoice! and 11 am Sanctuary

Senior Pastor Jill Duffield will open a sermon series on the Fruit of the Spirit. Because we want to protect those who come into our church and to contribute to the well-being of our community, masks are required, seating is distanced, and hand-sanitizing is required as we enter and exit. Our small sacrifices can make a big difference for the least of these where Jesus told us he is found. *Nursery available, first floor of Life Center.*

FAITH FORMATION, 10 am

Masks required for all groups meeting indoors.

Adult class information for Agape Commitment, Faith Builders, Seekers, and YMBC, on page 14. Children & youth meet in classrooms for Boomerang games & activities.

NC FOLK FESTIVAL, starting at noon

This year the downtown festival features gospel music on Sunday. Get your friends & small groups together and enjoy some music! At 2 pm you can hear the music of our Scottish heritage from The Mari Black Trio. Info: ncfolkfestival.com.

VESPERS & FUN, starting at 5:30 pm

Intergenerational Vespers, 5:30 pm on the Sanctuary steps.

6 pm: Children & youth families enjoy food, other adults walk Self- Guided Fruit of the Spirit Prayer Stations around the church (pick up map after Vespers)

6:45: Children go to Paisley Playground and Youth go to Shetler deck for activities, other adults enjoy food and fellowship.

This is why it matters



JILL DUFFIELD
SENIOR PASTOR

Jill will be installed as FPC's 12th Senior Pastor in a special service on Sunday, October 17, at 3 pm in the Sanctuary

Jill also will be the keynote speaker for the Salem Presbytery PW Fall Retreat on September 25 on Zoom. More info, page 15.

As we approach the fall kickoff, we had hoped to be full steam ahead, all hands on deck, firing on all cylinders, you pick the metaphor. Instead, we are still tentatively taking the next step in faith, planning as if all is well, even though we know we have much that is in need of healing.

Perhaps, though, this is the right stance to take no matter what is happening within and around us because, really, when do we not need God's healing, help and discernment? We acutely recognize in the waning days of the summer of 2021, that our knowledge and strength is limited. We will grieve for a long time to come Dolly's sudden and untimely death. We will lament the loss of so many in our community this past year and a half. We will mourn our inability to be together without restriction or anxiety.

And yet, we also rejoice in the profound gift of being the Body of Christ, encouraging, upholding, and caring for each other. Giving thanks in all circumstances. Praising God for sustaining us.

Old Testament scholar Walter Brueggemann invites readers in one of his many books to "imagine the world without the church." He writes, "imagine any community without the church."

I would add, imagine your life without the church. In all the upheaval in our world, in our congregation and in our personal lives, I can name countless ways the love of God has been made tangible, material, and real through the church, this one and many, many others. When people of faith seek to order their lives and subsequently their world in accordance with the gospel, the Spirit moves and the love of God is transformative, for good. This is why church matters.

Worship orients us toward God and helps us order our priorities rightly. Bible study provides the lens through which we see and understand everything we encounter. Being in Christian community with others not of our choosing, some of whom we find challenging, helps us mature in Christ. Service gets us outside of ourselves, expands our view of the image of God, and changes us for the better. Being on the receiving end of care reminds us of our finitude and shows us that we are not alone.

This is why church matters. This is why it matters that you are a part of the church, this church.

Our love for the church, this church, and each other will reveal Christ's love for all of us and for the world. So, in the midst of a prolonged season of challenge and change, I want to remind you that the church matters and that you matter to the church. You also matter deeply to me. I look forward to seeing you soon and being with you for a long time to come.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Jill".

> meet the resident



Sid & Cathy Batts Pastoral Resident Rachel Fitch

Welcome, Rachel! Tell us a bit about you.

I was born and raised in Columbia, SC, and attended the University of South Carolina, majoring in International Relations. I then spent a PCUSA Young Adult Volunteer year in Glasgow, Scotland, serving a church in a materially poor area as I helped lead worship, visited with people, and had many a cup of tea (roughly 926!). I attended Duke Divinity and graduated in May. While there I had the gift of living in a community of folks living with and without disabilities – it was beautiful and challenging and never without randomness and laughter! I also had the gift of meeting and walking to school with Stephen, another member of the community, and we got married at the end of May. We moved to Liberty, and he just began serving as pastor of Shiloh United Methodist in Liberty and Bethel United Methodist in Climax.

How do you define the role of pastor?

As a preacher's kid I recognize that pastors carry an assortment of hats. Although, at the heart of it, I would define pastoring as shepherding. The beauty of the role is the gift of walking with people, through the beauty and joys of life and through the pain and sorrow. Through those periods, the role involves being with, but also guiding and leading. It involves prayerful reflection and seeking to find the spaces and places where God is at work, helping others to see them and name them.

What is it about FPC that called to you?

Reading about the work that you all are doing made me excited and getting to meet a few of you through the interview process and seeing your deep joy and love for and commitment to FPC made me even more excited! It has been a gift to see places where the Spirit is at work here, and I look forward to walking alongside you all in continuing to discover God's abundant love.

What are a few of your favorite things?

I have a hard time naming favorites – there are too many! Foods: I am a bit of a foodie and love cheeses, Brie, Gouda, and fresh mozzarella are favorites, fresh pesto,

(SC) peaches, height of summer tomatoes, any type of curry, fresh bread, pistachios, and just about anything chocolate. Hobbies: I enjoy cooking and love to bake, I also enjoy reading and gardening (although as we just moved to Liberty, I realize what I call a garden and what folks there consider a garden are quite different!). For books I enjoy biographies and historical fiction – I love learning about people and cultures. I also finally listened to Little Women while driving and unpacking boxes and it is fabulous.

How did you spend your pandemic year?

Hanging in my apartment! I also walked around the block (a lot) visited with neighbors on the porch, took classes (from my apartment), hiked and read for school at Falls Lake in Durham, and did lots of people watching from our front porch – between a neighbor across the street who would stick her head out of her upstairs window and talk with/shout at passersby to another who would work on his hundreds of steps and another who carried a broom around as a reminder of six feet, there was rarely a dull moment! And, in those duller moments, we worked on planting vegetables, baking bread, and learning to sew a simple quilt from scraps.

You graduated from Duke Div. If Coach K were a biblical character, which one would he be and why?

So, I asked the audience on this one. My younger sister, who vacated her dorm room a couple of Januarys and Februarys to live in a tent in order to go to the Duke v. UNC game said (sarcastically), "God, duh. We bow to him when he enters Cameron." My father, a good minister and general fan of basketball said, "Barnabas the encourager – as Coach K comes alongside and encourages people." Coach K is also known for coming from a humble upbringing and naming his brother, a lifelong firefighter, as one he looked up to as an example of hard work and dedication. Another said Paul, one who mentors, and I'm certain my seminary roommate (a born and bred Tar Heel) would have a very different answer. Lots of options! What do y'all think?



FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT

FALL SERMON SERIES BY JILL DUFFIELD

Begins Sunday, September 12. Scriptures: Isaiah 11:1-9 & Galatians 5:16-25

● LOVE

September 19
Leviticus 19:9-17 & 1 Corinthians 13

● JOY

September 26
Jeremiah 31:1-14 & John 16:16-24

● PEACE

October 3, World Communion Sunday
Psalm 85 & Ephesians 2:11-22

● PATIENCE

October 10
Psalm 145:1-9 & Colossians 3:12-17

● KINDNESS

October 17, Children's Sabbath
Micah 6:6-8 & Mark 9:33-37

● GOODNESS

October 24
Exodus 33:12-32 & Matthew 7:7-10

● FAITHFULNESS

November 7, All Saints' & Communion Sunday
Isaiah 25:6-9 & John 11:32-44

● GENTLENESS

November 14, Confirmation Sunday, one service
at 11 am. Psalm 139:1-18 & Luke 12:22-32

● SELF-CONTROL

November 21, Stewardship Sunday
Psalm 112 & 2 Peter 1:1-11

WEDNESDAY DEVOTIONAL

Sign up to receive a Fruit of the Spirit devotional from our staff each Wednesday during the sermon series. Contact Yolanda Baxter, ybaxter@fpcgreensboro.org.

America is the exemplification of what I call the project of modernity. That project is the attempt to produce a people who believe that they should have no story except the story that they chose when they had no story. That is what Americans mean by 'freedom.'

– Stanley Hauerwas, Professor Emeritus of Divinity and Law at Duke University

You Belong Here



**MATT
LOGAN**

Director of
Discipleship
& Young Adult
Ministry

Harvard researchers found that young adults reported the highest rates of feeling lost or lonely during the pandemic. An accumulation of these studies was summarized in a February 17, 2021, article in *The Harvard Gazette*. Richard Weissbourd, a psychologist who helped lead the research findings, points out that young adults report feeling lonely at a higher rate than the elderly and youth. "It's a group that we are really concerned about," says Weissbourd. Colleen Walsh of *The Harvard Gazette* writes, "Weissbourd and his colleagues consider combatting loneliness a moral imperative in an

increasingly 'hyper-individualist society.'"

Many young adults came boomeranging back to Greensboro over the past 18 months. Boomeranging is becoming somewhat of a cultural phenomenon, especially in American cities. There is even a website for boomerangers right here in Greensboro, boomerangso.com. I encourage you to look through the profiles. You might see some familiar faces. Not everyone who boomerangs back to where they're from is lonely or feeling lost. I am skeptical they would admit it, anyway. The Harvard researchers point out loneliness is a vicious cycle. Those who feel lonely are ashamed to admit it, which produces loneliness. The lonelier the more ashamed. The more shame, the lonelier.

Fewer young adults are living where they are from. They are disconnected from place. The prevailing question for me in our young adult ministry here at



WONDERING THROUGH THE BIBLE

Thursdays at 7:30 pm on the Sanctuary steps, bring your chair. (Myers Loyalty Room for inclement weather.)
Contact: mlogan@fpcgreensboro.org

FPC is this: Why at a time when identity is so paramount, do more and more young adults lack a sense of belonging? Many young adults in our church context move away for a promising career. They don't really know their new city and their city doesn't know them. So, we stay busy. We go to trivia night at the pub, we grab the overtime hours, or we join an exercise class.

What about when the world stops? No exercise classes. No ability to go try the new oyster-infused lemon Saison at the brewery nobody has heard of. No telling the difference between work and life. What is the story you tell yourself about yourself when you lose the ability to stay busy? The dislocation of place and story produce a perverse sense of freedom. This meaning of freedom is not a virtue, it's detachment, un-storied life.

I think this detachment has produced a longing for home. It's why, if you were like me, you called your

continued from opposite page

mother and father more often during the shutdown. If you are like me, the past 18 months made you realize that you would rather be enveloped as a character in the story of a community instead of writing every sentence yourself.

Most members who transfer to our church or transfer away from our church are coming or going from Myers Park Presbyterian Church or White Memorial Presbyterian Church, young adults included. In private, I refer to our three churches as the North Carolina Presbyterian Triumvirate. This seems obvious. I meet with our new young adults, and they tell me that FPC reminds them of the church they grew up in. They have a sense of place. They are part of a story. They belong here. This is why we started reading the Bible in our young adult small group.

Let me explain:

The Bible can tell us more about our identity and who we belong to than we can know through our modes of self-discovery. This is an essential protestant belief. We don't have to go it alone. Our lives are particular and unique, but we are identified in the body of Christ, and we belong to the church. We're part of the story. If you are boomeranging back to Greensboro or to FPC, you don't have a choice whether to be a part of God's story. You just are. I hope the inevitability of your creatureliness, and God's sovereignty gives you peace. However, you do have a choice to be a part of ours. You belong here. We can't wait to see you.

Discipleship in the Welcome Center



Leigh Curl-Dove has joined FPC as discipleship coordinator. An ordained minister in the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship, Leigh most recently served at Wilshire Baptist in Dallas. She previously served in the office of the chaplain at Meredith College. A Memphis native, she holds a BA in religion at Baylor and an M. Div. from Duke. She is married to our former pastoral resident Keith Curl-Dove. Leigh will work in the Welcome Center Mondays-Thursdays, 9 am-3 pm, and Sundays, 8 am-12:30 pm. As we work to transform this space into a community hub for members and visitors, Leigh will help us reimagine what it means to be a downtown church. Pop into the Welcome Center and welcome Leigh!

Since you're a Baptist and the Baptists are free people, how do you anticipate you will deal with us Presbyterians, the predestined?

Obviously, I will start by passing out Bible tracts detailing the Romans Road and try to save all you poor Presbyterian souls ... just kidding. While I may not be an expert on Presbyterian polity or Reformed theology (though I do have a better understanding than most Baptists, thanks to my husband), we're members of the same family, the same body of Christ. I will "deal" with you predestined folk no differently from my own free folk. While I won't use the term "predestination", I agree that all have been chosen by God and saved through Christ.

Favorite fishing story, go!

Anytime we get to fish in Great Smoky Mountain National Park, it's wonderful. Last summer, once the national parks opened back up to campers after being closed because of COVID, we got to spend a few days camping and fishing with a couple friends we hadn't seen in forever. We fished a really great stream that comes down from the Chimney Tops in the park, and I caught a decent-sized wild rainbow. The next day on a different stream, I had an elusive brook trout on the line and out of the water. But, alas, I did not net it because Keith did not move fast enough with the net.

Tell us about your pets.

We have a cat named Aurora and a dog named Bells. We recently discovered that they play hide and seek together when we are not home. So, while Aurora tries to act like she is a victim of Bells' energy when we are home, they are actually friends. Both are very cute and full of personality. I have plenty of pictures if you want to see them.

What excites you about this new position?

I am excited to help shape this role, imagining and dreaming about what it could become. FPC is in a big moment in its life as a church. You get to dream, imagine, and discern together what this next phase of life looks like, what God is calling you to, and where the Spirit is moving. I am honored, thrilled, and excited (as if I haven't already used that word enough) to get to be even a small part of this next chapter with you all.



Farewell to James, Welcome to Betsy



When **James Keith** arrived at FPC 11 years ago, his mission was to assemble singers and musicians for Rejoice! and to draw from his broad musical knowledge to select the right pieces to complement the liturgy.

“This wasn’t the saccharine fare you sometimes hear on the radio. These were songs with meaningful lyrics that interfaced with the liturgy and sermon.”

Those who attended—including many families with school-aged children – loved the band, the moving messages and melodies, the casual atmosphere, the donuts and coffee. And James.

His position, part-time, gave James immense freedom not only to build the program but also to build a business, the successful Double Oaks B&B, restaurant, and gathering place on Mendenhall Street. Today he and a staff of 14 hold private dinners by reservation on the weekends and a wine tasting every Wednesday that attracts crowds of as many as 150 who gather in the backyard to share a glass and conversation over live jazz.

As though these projects were not enough, James will now be working alongside his wife Amanda to gut and refurbish the old NuWray Hotel in Burnsville, NC. The Keiths hope to establish a setting that enlivens Burnsville’s picturesque mountain community and brings area clientele together for music and conversation using the Double Oaks model.

So on August 31, James said goodbye to FPC but not to the friends he’s made here: friends from Rejoice!, friends who frequent wine Wednesdays, the countless people who appreciate all this man has brought to our worship community – relationships that last a lifetime. James, we all will miss you.

– SUSAN DEVANEY

Betsy Hyslop has been hired as our Interim Associate Director of Music for Rejoice! She joins us September 12.

Betsy has a deep background in music, having served as both a music educator and for more than



20 years as the leader of contemporary music at Westminster Presbyterian here in Greensboro. She was instrumental in the creation of those services in that congregation. Her husband, Greg, teaches jazz guitar in the UNCG School of Music.

We are thrilled to have Betsy, and her breadth of experience, with us. She will be with us through the end of 2021, during which time we will form a search committee to examine the long-term needs of this position and search for the right person that will help lead us into the next chapter of this important part of the life of our church.

– JOHN ALEXANDER

PERFORMANCES & EVENTS

NOTE: These are current plans. They might change depending on COVID trending.

Celebrating 20 years with the Le Tourneau Organs

Organ Recital with John Alexander

Sunday, November 14
5 pm, Sanctuary

Bel Canto Company & John Alexander

Friday, October 29
7:30 pm, streamed at musicforagreatspace.org
Yves Castagnet's *Messe Salve Regina*. Also with Timothy Olsen. Live Q&A with the artists after the performance.



UNCG University Choirs Harvest Home Concert

Sunday, November 21, 5 pm, Sanctuary



a little
advent
music

All performances begin at 5 pm in the Sanctuary

A Little Advent Music 1, Sunday, November 28

A Little Advent Music 2, Sunday, December 5, with John Alexander, organ, and UNCG Brass Ensemble

Community Messiah Sing-a-long, Sunday, December 12

A Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols, Sunday, December 19, 4:30 pm handbell prelude. Chancel Choir, Canticle Choir, orchestra & handbells

FPC CHOIRS

All rehearsals will be held in the Sanctuary.

CHANCEL CHOIR

Wednesdays at 7 pm

CHILDREN'S CHOIRS

Wednesday beginning September 15
– Cherub and Credo, ages 3-second grade, 5 pm
– Canticle Choir, grades 3-12, 5:30 pm

HANDBELL CHOIRS

Tuesdays beginning in September
– Westminster Choir, 4:45 pm beginning September 4
– Coventry, 5:45 pm beginning September 11



CANNED FOOD FOR URBAN MINISTRY:

Donations at the Wednesday Food Drive-by have been spectacular – as of the end of August totaling more than 18,000 pounds! That is almost the total from all of last year! Drop off in front of Redhead Hall Wednesdays, 10 am to 2 pm. We also have a great need for volunteers to be greeters under the tent. Please sign up for

a 2-hour shift at fpcgreensboro.org/signup.

HOT DISH & HOPE: This fall take-out meals will continue to be provided each Tuesday & Thursday. Info: Camille Townsend, cctownsend15@gmail.com or 336.908.2088.

MOBILE MEALS: Partner with other FPC members to deliver hot meals to senior adults the third Wednesday of each month or fifth Mondays. Info: Linda Allen, 336.294.3084 or liallen1@yahoo.com.

GIVING BACK GARDEN: Teams of members nurture the rows across from Mullin Life Center & deliver produce to local nonprofits. Info: Joan Stone, jowosto@gmail.com or 336.273.1465, or Lee Atkinson, norway@triad.rr.com or 336.292.2325.



We are stewards of God’s creation, so our Green Team looks for ways to make our church more energy efficient. The team also organizes recycling for Styrofoam and glass. Contact Nancy Abrams (336.314.2694). The church has two locations for recycling drop off:

- Glass bins are on the upper parking deck behind the Shetler Building. The City of

Greensboro picks up.

- Clean, No. 6 Styrofoam can be left in bins on the lower level of the parking deck and are taken to the community densifier, or you can take your Styrofoam directly to the Tiny House warehouse, 1310 W. Gate City Blvd.

FPC has been recognized as a Hunger Action Congregation and an Earth Care Congregation by the Presbyterian Church USA.

HURRICANE RECOVERY: Presbyterian Disaster Assistance will be responding and is taking contributions to help. Info: pda.pcusa.org

AFGHAN REFUGEES are being settled in Durham through Church World Service. Make a donation at cwsglobal.org or write a check to “Church World Service” and mail to 504 W. Chapel Hill St., Suite 106, Durham, NC 27701. In the memo line or online form, put “Afghan SIV support.” Families may be relocated to Greensboro. If and when that happens our friends at CWS will let us know so that we can help with this effort as the Spirit leads us.



WITH OUR FRIENDS AT THE FARM

Join our young adult small group at the **Peacehaven Farm Volunteer Workday** on Saturday, September 11, 8:30-11:30 am. We will do light farm work with Peacehaven adults with disabilities. Families are invited. Sign up at peacehavenfarm.org/volunteer.

Peacehaven Farm Harvest Celebration on Sunday, October 24, 3-5 pm: Live music from JDC, the Peacehaven Band, an apple cider press, fun and games & more! CDC guidelines will be followed.



PCUSA's Matthew 25 initiative focuses on building congregational vitality, dismantling structural racism, and eradicating systemic poverty. FPC is one of 875 congregations in this initiative.

HOW DO WE TALK ABOUT MATTHEW 25?

Join others from across our Salem Presbytery for this Bible study and theological reflection on the mission focus of Matthew 25. Led by Rev. Frank Dew. September 21, 11 am-noon on Zoom. Link at salempresbytery.org/salem-master-calendar

DECONSTRUCTING RACISM: GREENSBORO CIVIL RIGHTS PILGRIMAGE

Take a spiritual walk to the sites that shaped our community and country during the civil rights era and continue to affect us today. Gather at Memorial Chapel on September 26 at 2:30 pm and return by 5 pm.

A Zoom class and discussion led by Dr. Linda Brown, retired Bennett college professor, and Marilyn Wolf, spiritual director, will precede the pilgrimage. It will be held September 19, 4-5:30 pm.

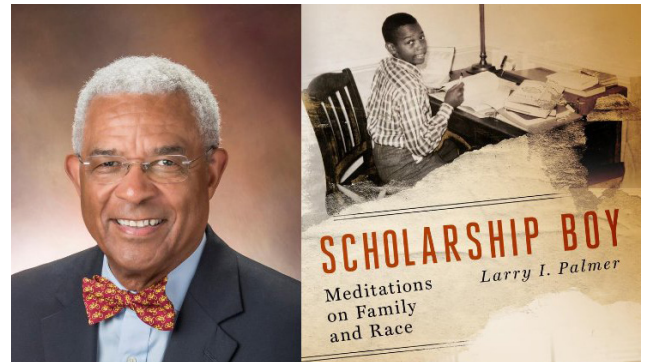
This experience is designed to culminate our 2020-21 fall and spring FPC Deconstructing Racism classes and will include prayer, liturgy, history, and action steps. For those who are unable to walk, a driving map with approximate times for arrival will be provided. Registration is required, limited to 25. Contact Yolanda Baxter, ybaxter@fpcgreensboro.org.

UNDERGROUND RAILROAD TREE WALKING TOUR

Max Carter, retired Guilford college chaplain and New Garden Friends member, leads. October 7 at 3 pm. Meet at the New Garden Friends parking lot across from Guilford College. No registration required. This Presbytery-wide event will be followed by an FPC small-group discussion and reflection at a nearby restaurant.

LENS OF LOVE

Get to know our pastoral resident Rachel Fitch and delve into a fresh and relevant way to interpret scripture from the book *Lens of Love* by Jonathan Walton, dean of the Wake Forest School of Divinity. Sundays at 10 am, October 17 - November 14. Reading the book is optional.



From St. Louis to Exeter, Harvard & Yale

In 1958, 14-year-old Larry Palmer left his parents and nine siblings in St. Louis and boarded a train to attend Phillips Exeter Academy. He went on to earn a BA from Harvard and a law degree from Yale, and served as vice provost and on the law faculty at Cornell.

In *Scholarship Boy* Palmer reflects on his experiences as a young black boy growing up far from home, learning to fit into a white world without becoming estranged from his closely-knit family. He joins us to speak about his book and life and share about racial justice work at his home church, Second Presbyterian in Richmond, Va.

Monday, November 8, at 7 pm

Presentation followed by book signing

Tuesday, November 9, at 1:30 pm

Join book club gathering in the Garden Room

> pastoral care

Transition Update

As a new church year begins, we miss our pastor, friend, listener, and colleague Dolly Jacobs so much. We are committed to continuing the love, compassion, caring, acceptance, and understanding that she and her team infused into this important ministry. Our staff and Human Resources leadership have been working with the Presbytery on next steps. The Session will be briefed soon, and then we will share it with you all. Please continue to keep Bill, Sydney, CeCe, and Dolly's extended family in your prayers.

– Neil Dunnivant, Executive Pastor



This summer Pastoral Care volunteers sponsored a lunch gathering for the **Veterans Fellowship Group** at the Carolina Field of Honor in Kernersville. If you are interested in this group, contact Rev. Doug McLeroy, 336.478.4739.

Updates from other Pastoral Care small groups will be shared as they are available, depending on COVID trending this fall.

PASTOR ON CALL: An FPC pastor is always available to our membership for sudden illness, death, or personal crises. To reach the pastor on call, please call 336.908.8615. Leave a message and the pastor on call will respond.

PASTORAL VISIT: Our pastors make hospital, home, and care center visits to assure members they are being remembered during this time.

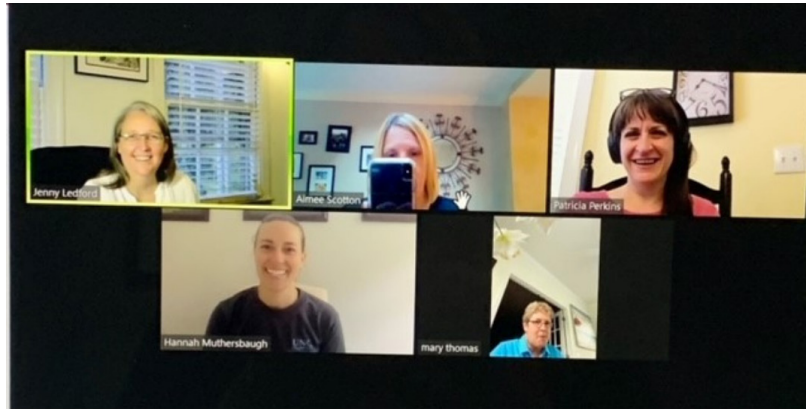
Please don't assume that our pastors know you or a loved one is in the hospital or very ill at home. Contact us through the Pastor on Call line.

WORSHIP SUPPORT: When circumstances prevent you from attending worship, you may watch the Sanctuary service online at fpcgreensboro.org. You may also receive the bulletin or chancel flowers.

SADYE BOWLES FUND: This fund is available to help adults ages 55+ with financial need pay for necessary care in their home or in a care facility. Must live within 50 miles of Greensboro; preference given to FPC members. Contact committee chair Charlie Younce or Executive Pastor Neil Dunnivant.

PLANNING IN ADVANCE: When a loved one has passed away, a pastor will help you plan a Service of Witness to the Resurrection. Although it is difficult to talk about death, what better gift can you give a loved one than meeting with a pastor prior to an illness or death to plan for meaningful service? Pastoral Care is working on a new edition of our booklet which offers guidance on advance planning.

> faith formation



Called to Connect: Reconnecting with God and One Another



**DONNA
CHASE**

Director of
Spiritual
Formation

This was the theme of this summer's Montreat Youth conference which guides our ministry as we head into the fall.

As the body of Christ we are called to connect and this happens most often through the power of relationships. Throughout the pandemic we have stayed connected through many and varied virtual opportunities, outdoor gatherings, drive-bys, and lots of texts, phone calls and note-writing.

We have exercised our creativity and innovation to help keep our faith community together and yet we understand that these liminal spaces often create a sense of disconnection and dis-ease.

As we boomerang back to church this fall we are excited to focus on creating space for authentic community to flourish. In Faith Formation we believe that this happens best in small groups, and we encourage you to connect or reconnect to one of our many offerings.

Small Groups are a safe place to share your faith journey honestly and authentically in hopes of connecting more fully with God and one another. They take the form of small church school classes, midweek Bible study groups, book clubs, circles, prayer groups, etc. They include study, worship, prayer, caring for and serving one another.

Come connect or reconnect this fall. If you don't see an opportunity that fits you, we encourage you to create your own group or reach out to a staff member to help you get connected.

We are called to connect as the body of Christ together.

IMPORTANT

NOTE: Some classes and small groups are still considering whether they will meet in person, online, or both. As decisions are made we will share updates.

REMINDER: Masks are required for all groups meeting indoors.

SUNDAY FAITH FORMATION, 10 AM

AGAPE: Will remain virtual in September, watching Sandie Gravett's videos from home. Will re-evaluate for November and December.

COMMITMENT: Blair Hagan Room, Memorial 100. Focusing this year on being a Matthew 25 congregation Attending *Lens of Love* class in October & November. Led by members. Contact Betsy Harrington, betsyharrington@triad.rr.com

FAITH BUILDERS: Myers Loyalty Room, Smith 242. Discussing the Fruits of the Spirit, continuing the theme of Jill Duffield's fall sermon series. Led by class members.

SEEKERS: Main 125, with conference call option. Contact Gerard Davidson, gdaavidson@wardblacklaw.com



YMBC, Redhead Hall

Contact John Sullivan, jon554sull@aol.com

September-November: New series on 2 Corinthians led by Professor Sandie Gravett. Paul's words about affliction, humility, forgiveness, boldness, generosity, and all the things that comprise a Christian life, make 2 Corinthians the perfect study for our time. His message expresses clearly who we need to be as the people of God and may offer a few surprises along the way. Series will be on video, may be shown in Redhead Hall or viewed at home.

October 3, Jill Duffield

December 5 & 12: Guest speaker John Willet

December 19, Christmas carols with Lane Ridenhour

FALL STUDIES IN THE SOLARIUM



FPC 101

September 19 - October 10

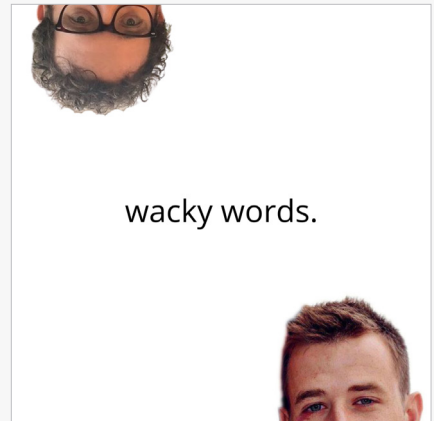
Those considering membership and existing members are invited to join us to explore the Bible, church history, theology, and polity. Led by Matt Logan. Info: mlogan@fpcgreensboro.com.



a Lens of Love

October 17 - November 14

Get to know Rachel Fitch, our new pastoral resident, and delve into a fresh and relevant way to interpret scripture from the book *a Lens of Love* by Jonathan Walton, dean of the Wake Forest School of Divinity. Reading the book is optional.



November 21 - December 19

Join Kevin Murray & Matt Logan for a different take on Scripture.

WEEKLY SMALL GROUPS

MONDAYS: LECTIO DIVINA AND CENTERING PRAYER, led by Rev.

David Partington, 11 am-noon on Zoom. Selected Scripture readings are chosen and distributed to participants, via email, prior to each weekly gathering. Contact David Partington, dcpsbw197@gmail.com.

TUESDAYS: PEACEHAVEN FARM SMALL GROUP, 7-8 pm on Zoom.

Contact Donna Chase, dchase@fpcgreensboro.org.

WEDNESDAYS: MEN'S LECTIONARY,

7:30-8:30 am on Zoom. Contact Jack Harrington, jackharrington44@gmail.com.

THURSDAYS: WONDERING

THROUGH THE BIBLE: 7:30-8:30 pm, Sanctuary steps (bring your chair) or Myers Loyalty Room, Smith 242, if inclement weather. Contact Matt Logan, mlogan@fpcgreensboro.org.

GRACE ON FRIDAYS: 9:15-10:30 am,

Garden Room. Study of Psalms led by Lisa Witherspoon, lwitherspoon@fpcgreensboro.org.

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

For now, monthly luncheons will not be held. Our circle study this year is *What My Grandmother Taught Me: Learning from the Women in Matthew's Genealogy of Jesus*.

Mary and Martha

Second Mondays, 10:30 am, Blair Hagan Room, led by BJ Williams

Sallie Huss

Second Mondays, 10:30 am, Quiet Center. Led by Gail Derkasch

Hearts and Minds

Third Mondays, 10 am, member homes. Led by Betty Jo Forney

Ruth and Naomi

Third Tuesdays, 10:30 am, Blair Hagan Room. Led by Anne Cox

FALL GATHERING OF SALEM PRESBYTERY PW

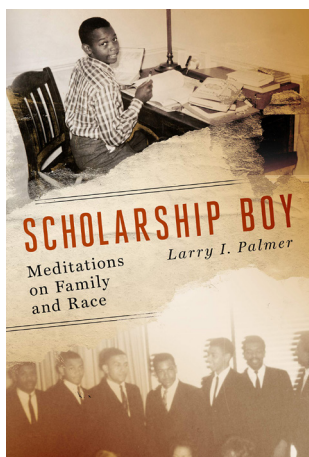
Senior Pastor Jill Duffield will be the guest speaker at this virtual gathering on Saturday, September 25, 9:15 am to noon. Jill will also lead a Bible study based on this year's PW book, *What My Grandmother Taught Me*. Workshops include "Spiritual Self Care" and "Social Justice and Peace." Cost is \$5; registration link at [fpcgreensboro.org/signup](https://www.fpcgreensboro.org/signup). Info: Avys Massey, 336-855-5783 or amassey3@aol.com.

MONTHLY WOMEN'S ZOOM BIBLE STUDY: Sheroes of the New

Testament. Video posted the second Monday of each month, follow up discussion on third Monday at 2 pm on Zoo. September: Maria Hanlin on the Woman at the Well; October: Donna Chase on the Canaanite Woman; November, Lisa Witherspoon on Lydia.

CURRIE LIBRARY BOOK CLUBS

The book clubs plan to meet in-person (wear your masks!). Everyone is welcome!



On November 9, the clubs will combine to hear Larry Palmer. Info, page 11

MONDAY BOOK CLUB

10:30 am, second Mondays, Solarium

September 13: *Speechless No More: A Life Transformed by a Voice Disorder*, by our member Dot Sowerby, who will facilitate. Library has copies for sale.

October 11: *The Rector of Justin* by Louis Auchincloss

December 13: *There There* by Tommy Orange, Greensboro's One City One Book selection, facilitated by Donna Chase.

In 2022: *The Things We Cannot Say* by Kelly Rimmer, *The Book Woman of Troublesome Creek* by Kim Michele Richardson, *The Professor and the Madman* by Simon Winchester, *Afterlife* by Julia Alvarez, *The Book of Lost Friends* by Lisa Wingate

TUESDAY BOOK CLUB

1:30 pm, second Tuesdays, Garden Room

September 10: *Speechless No More: A Life Transformed by a Voice Disorder*, by our member Dot Sowerby, who will facilitate. Library has copies for sale.

October 8: *The Rector of Justin* by Louis Auchincloss

December 13: *There There* by Tommy Orange, Greensboro's One City One Book selection, facilitated by Donna Chase.

In 2022: *This Tender Land* by William Kent Krueger, *Afterlife* by Julia Alvarez, *The Book Woman of Troublesome Creek* by Kim Michele Richardson, *Caste: The Origins of Our Discontent* by Isabel Wilkerson



Boomerang Like Simba



LISA
WITHERSPOON

Director of Children's
Formation

A child-friendly boomerang story? That's a tough one. As I thought about this, I began re-running animated movies in my mind and it was actually one of my teenagers who said, "What about the Lion King, mom?"

Do you remember that story? Simba, the son of the lion king Mufasa, is primed to succeed his father. However, Mufasa's jealous brother, Scar, murders the

king and convinces young Simba it was all his fault. Simba flees, feeling ashamed. Later, his childhood friend, Nala, convinces him to return and save the pride from Scar's tyrannical rule. Boom – the valiant young lion returns.

Of all the animated movies out there, I tend to shy away from this one for children because, although it is certainly filled with catchy music and

lovable characters, it is also full of strong emotions and many would even say it's frightening.

Maybe that just speaks to the nature of "boomeranging." Leaving IS hard and scary. Sometimes, coming back can be even harder, even scarier. Things may have changed and what once felt so "normal" and safe no longer seems familiar. It can make us feel unsteady, off-balance.

In that same daunting moment, though, returning can be a positive opportunity. It can be a chance to see things with new vision and try things a different way, drawing on experiences had and lessons learned while we were away. It can make us exceedingly grateful for the simple comforts we have missed.

Indeed, while we were "away" from our normal, comfortable, but perhaps a little tired, church routines, it was scary. I will be the first to admit that it threw me – and most of us – significantly off balance.

Now, as we cautiously anticipate a return, my prayer is that we will all do it with grace for one another, gratitude for simple pleasures, and wisdom to see the opportunity for improvement.

CHURCH SCHOOL, 10 AM SUNDAYS

FALL "MAKE UP" MILESTONES, SEPTEMBER 19 - NOVEMBER 7

First Grade – Getting to Know My Bible in Corl 302

Second Grade – Worship Education in Corl 301

Third Grade – Communion Education in Corl 300

Fourth Grade – Catechism Education in Corl 303

Fifth Grade – Bible Skills in Corl 306

Kindergarten will join preschoolers in Life Center 102 for a brief lesson led by high school youth! (Nursery staff will be present for supervision)



Join about 80 other parents in the First Pres Parents Facebook group! Link at fpcgreensboro.org/signup.

KIDS CLUBS, FIRST SUNDAYS, 4:30-5:30 PM

October 3, November 7, December 5

Mixed-grade clubs – grades K-5 can choose from Music Club (Orff instruments), Yoga Club or Lego Club; Preschool Club for ages 3-4. Each gathering will incorporate a Bible story, scripture, or spiritual practice. Parents are invited to gather in the Welcome Center during the club times.

Pre-registration required by September 22. Register one time for the entire year (not per date) and commitment to participate on all dates (barring sickness, etc.). Registration will be available via weekly e-news and at fpcgreensboro.org/signup in September.



Where Does It Hurt? Listening to Heal Our Children
October 17, Plus Weekday Preschool 75th anniversary celebration! Drop-in reception in Welcome Center, 8:30 am -12:30 pm.

No participant registration will be required. Trunk decorators, we need you! Please sign up so we can allocate space.
fpcgreensboro.org/signup

Movie will be Disney/Pixar's "Onward" – Pre- registration will be required and will begin in mid-October. Details and registration limitations will be determined by COVID trending at the time.

KIDS HELPING KIDS, THIRD SUNDAYS



Each month we will focus on a different outreach project. Through October 17, we will hold a diaper drive. Members can drop off diapers in the red wagons on Sunday mornings. On October 17, grades K-5 are invited to join us at the Greater Triad Branch of the Diaper Bank of NC from 2-4 pm as we deliver all the diapers collected, hear about why the diapers are needed, and work to help sort and count diapers to prepare them for families who need them. Sign up at fpcgreensboro.org/signup.

In November we will have a different project and will gather during Church School.

> weekday preschool



A Milestone Year for Weekday Preschool



**LANA
BURSKE**

Weekday
Preschool
Director

Last fall the preschool was truly blessed to open on September 8. It was a milestone for the school with tremendous support from the Session and strong guidance from the FPC COVID Task Force, the WPC Committee, the NC Department of Health and Human Services Division of Child Development and Early Education, medical professionals, community leaders, parents, church members, church staff and teachers.

We connected with children and families every day through safe practices and lots of sanitizing and disinfecting!

The incredible strength and determination of our teachers and families during the school year was both surprising and humbling. It was with strong health and safety protocol that we were able to open the school and serve

young children and families while employing teachers during a time of great uncertainty. The trust teachers and families gave the preschool, backed by support, science, and education, was incredible. The effort and support of both church staff and members for the reopening of the school was enormous and blessings abound. We learned so much over this last year about what it takes to stay healthy, and it is with this knowledge and experience our church family will be able to return to church and activities safely with great joy this Fall.

This year the Weekday Preschool will celebrate its 75th Anniversary! The preschool began in 1946 with a single Kindergarten class, and today we have 120 students ages infants through Kindergarten and a faculty of 25. The preschool has been Nationally accredited through NAEYC since 2010 and very proud to serve church members and the community with high quality early care and education.

Children's Sabbath & Anniversary Celebration, October 17. Current students and families will have a celebratory week October 18-22, culminating in class picnics.



Mid-October, 9 am-1 pm in the halls of the preschool depending on COVID. Proceeds will be used to purchase books for each classroom.



New small groups: Service & Youth Race Task Force



**KEVIN
MURRAY**

Director
of Youth
Ministry

Fall 2021 is upon us and what a year and a half we've had together and apart. We are excited to continue our mission of Connect 4: Faith, Fellowship, Service, FPC. Our call to discipleship, fellowship, and community is strong and we are going to put forth the effort to answer that call.

This year will start off strong with Small Groups as well as an upper-high school co-ed gathering. While most of our weekly Small Groups gather by grade and gender, we have added 2 new interest-based small groups for any age. The new groups are our Youth Race Task Force and a Service small group. Small groups are the best way for you to connect, grow your faith, and be in a safe space with others who love and support you. We have a fantastic group of adult leaders that have committed their time building a solid program just for you!

We will have quarterly big events, monthly service opportunities, worship, and fellowship times that will keep us connected as a whole group. And a sneak peek for summer 2022 – New York mission trip and Montreat Youth conference for high schoolers and local service days for middle school.

We look forward to seeing you soon!

SEPTEMBER

12 Sunday morning Faith Formation kicks off at 10 am, Fall Kickoff vespers & celebration, 5:30-8 pm, Sanctuary steps & Shetler parking deck (Life Center if bad weather)

26 Small groups begin, exploring Galatians with an emphasis on the Fruit of the Spirit!

OCTOBER

3 Confirmation 2022 sign-ups

24 Planning for youth Christmas Eve service, 5:30-7 pm, Memorial 300

31 Trunk or Treat, 3-5 pm

TBA Quarterly fellowship event

NOVEMBER

14 Confirmation Sunday for class of 2021

DECEMBER

19 Christmas Party, 9:30 pm-midnight; Broomball, 12:30-2 am, Greensboro Ice House

23 Christmas Eve service practice, 11:30 am, Sanctuary

Nominate our leaders

FPC members influence the direction of our church through nominating and electing our leaders. As the Nominating Committee prepares a slate of elders and a trustee for next spring's election, we ask you to suggest members whose leadership will strengthen the church and its mission for Jesus Christ.

Deadline for nominations is September 26. Please:

MAIL this form to Debby Foster's attention at First Presbyterian Church, 617 N. Elm St., Greensboro, 27401 "Confidential: Nominating Committee", or

DROP OFF (in a sealed envelope marked "Attn: Debby Foster") at the Welcome Center reception desk, or

PLACE it in the offering plate (sealed in envelope)

EMAIL Debby Foster at dfoster@fpcgreensboro.org

I RECOMMEND:

(Why do you think they would be a good leader?)

PLEASE NOTE **E** FOR ELDER, **YE** FOR YOUTH ELDER, AND **T** FOR FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH TRUSTEE

2021-2022 NOMINATING COMMITTEE: Beau McIntosh, chair; Katherine Farless, vice chair; John Adcox, Lucas Botros, Susan Downtin, Robby Hassell, Dolly Jennings, Catherine Johns, Eve Key, Maddy Lowman, Allison Morrisette, Brian Pierce, Jane Pope, Garrett Walker, Steve Warren

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

617 N. Elm St.
Greensboro, NC 27401
336-373-0445

ON THE WEB

fpcgreensboro.org

SOCIAL MEDIA

[Facebook.com/fpcgsonc](https://www.facebook.com/fpcgsonc)
[YouTube.com/fpcgreensboro](https://www.youtube.com/fpcgreensboro)
Instagram: 1stpresgso

THANK YOU to this issue's contributors:

John Alexander
Lana Burske
Donna Chase
Susan DeVaney
Leigh Curl-Dove
Jill Duffield
Rachel Fitch
Matt Logan
Kevin Murray
Lisa Witherspoon

THE NEXT FPC MAGAZINE
WILL ARRIVE IN OCTOBER.



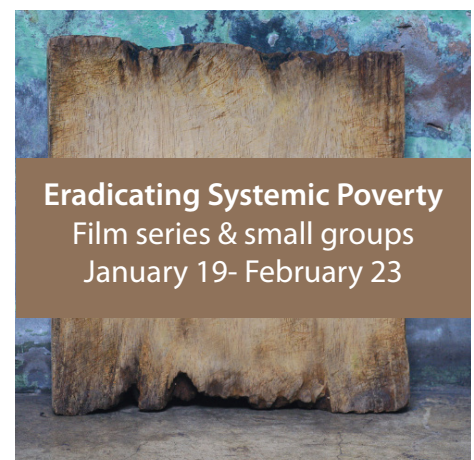
BOOMERANG
INTO 2022!



Soul Collage Women's Retreat
with Spiritual Director
Becky Hamrick
January 22



More Children & Youth
Milestones and Confirmation



Eradicating Systemic Poverty
Film series & small groups
January 19- February 23