

# ASSOCIATE PASTOR FOR CHRISTIAN FORMATION

The Session has called a Congregation Meeting for Sunday, January 12, at the start of the 11 am worship service. The purpose of the meeting is to consider a slate of members for the Associate Pastor for Christian Formation Nominating Committee.

With the retirement of Donna Chase this spring, the church will be seeking a called and installed pastor who will be leading our Christian Formation ministry, offering pastoral care, teaching, and participating in worship leadership. The Nominating Committee has put forth these members to serve on the APNC: Lisa Cook, Katherine Farless, Layne King, Will Martin, Paul Parker, Rebecca Sheaff, and Adrienne Woods.

Please be in prayer for Donna, for those who will serve on the APNC, and for the person God is calling to this important work.



## **LISA COOK**

*A rotated elder, Lisa is vice-chair of the Human Resources Committee, teaches youth Church School, and serves on the Youth and Lay Reader committees.*

I was blessed to grow up with Sunday School teachers who had a profound impact on my faith. Throughout young adulthood participating in a weekly Bible study was foundational in growing my faith as an adult and building relationships that continue to be an important part of my life. Over the past couple of years assisting in teaching pre-teens and teens has been an incredibly meaningful experience.

I believe we are in a season of discerning what Christian Formation looks like moving forward. Family schedules are busier, Sunday School classes are continuously evolving, and all Christian Formation committees are reflecting on and deciding what is working and what needs adjusting. My hope is that Christian Formation will continue to be a meaningful and enriching experience for all ages whether it be on a Sunday morning, during a weekday Bible Study, or at important calendar events.



## **KATHERINE FARLESS**

*Katherine is a rotated elder and a member of the Youth Committee. She has been active in children's ministry, confirmation, and the Nominating and Pastoral Resident Search committees.*

Christian Formation has been a vital part of my life since a child at First Presbyterian in Lexington, NC. I have benefitted from countless knowledgeable and committed Sunday school teachers and mentors throughout my church life, and have been able to give back in serving in many of those roles as well. Small group studies, retreats, and church gatherings have connected me to fellow church members and strengthened my connection to God. It is most special to see the way Christian Formation affects the lives of my three sons. Youth group, Sunday school, confirmation, summer camps – we try to take advantage of it all, and I can see the way FPC is woven throughout their everyday lives.

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**LAYNE KING**

*Layne, a rotated elder, has been involved in children and youth ministry, the Discipleship Committee, the Grace Bible Study group, the Blood Drive and the Women's Retreat.*

Christian Formation has been an integral part of my life from childhood to the present. Faith, hope, and love are areas that have grown and are still growing. I need and use Christian Formation to fill my mind with the truth of Christ and my heart with the love of Christ.

My hope is that Christian Formation at FPC continues to help its members and the community grow into the image of Jesus Christ and live out faith, hope, and love.



**WILL MARTIN**

*Will, a rotated elder, has served on the Pastor Nominating Committee, Human Resources, Appointments, and Stewardship committees.*

My faith has been strengthened by several groups formed throughout the years. These include a cherished young married adults group, men's retreats to Pinehurst, intergenerational bible studies, and countless Sunday classes. Being able to share experiences with others in small groups really helps me find my lane on the highway that is FPC.

I would hope to see a strong young married couples group, as that is what drew me into an active role at FPC. I also love the chance to share with members in different life stages, so intergenerational groups are dear to my heart. We certainly need to have a comfortable place for young families so that we continue to sustain church membership. Small groups are where we will feel most connected and where we will make friendships that last a lifetime.



**PAUL PARKER**

*Paul, a rotated elder, has been active with youth ministry, as a mentor and at mission trips and youth conferences; with second-grade Communion Education, and as board chair of First School.*

Growing up my whole family (including 5 brothers/sisters) were very active in a small church's youth group in northern New York. Our 3 sons were very active in youth group; the mission

trips and Montreat were an important part of their faith journey.

I believe that youth are the future of the church and that the church can and should place a greater priority on youth by providing more leadership/resources/support/mission experiences etc.



**REBECCA SHEAFF**

*Rebecca grew up in FPC. She returned as an adult with her family in 2023. She has been active in teaching and attending Sunday School, hunger ministries, and First Family gatherings.*

I love to use my church as pathway for my walk with Christ. Getting involved, worshipping with friends, and having a comfortable place that feels like home is a wonderful and tangible way to feel God's presence in your life. I find that having a physical place to worship leads to a true church family and results in a deepening of faith simply by showing up. When you are at church and around the people, singing the music, listening to the scripture, participating in the traditions you open your heart and mind to the light of God.

And like most things in life, the more you put into something, the more you get out of it. So my husband and I try to get involved and encourage our children to get involved, so that our walks with God can be enriched and supported by the church. We hope that as we continue to support the church, Christian Formation will continue to support our children and the future!



**ADRIENNE WOODS**

*Adrienne, a rotated elder, serves on the Youth Committee and helps with confirmation. she also has served on the Nominating, IT, and Communications committees.*

Christian Formation, especially at First Presbyterian Church, has shaped my faith through meaningful family experiences. I have truly enjoyed the fellowship events that our family has been able to experience together. I've also loved being involved with Vacation Bible School, Kids Disciple Club, and youth events. Working with a small group of church members to plan these activities has been so rewarding, and I really enjoy seeing the kids' participation and engagement.

I am honored to be part of this group. My hope for the future is to continue growing and engaging our members