



Ye Fourth Creek Journal

The Monthly Publication of
the First Presbyterian Church in Statesville

January,
2024

The Pastor's Pen

I would like to take a moment pause in gratitude for the last year we have shared together.

In January, some members of the Youth Group began a ten-week long Confirmation Class that brought six of our young adults into a more active and permanent relationship with some of the adults in our congregation. Through the first half of February, you filled the bags for Valentines for our very deserving young children, to remind them that you love them and care for them. Also, that month, we celebrated our first Preschool Sunday, what we hope to become a tradition in our year.

In March and April, we journeyed through the season of Lent, in preparation for a Resurrection Sunday unlike any we have had (at least in recent memory). The way you spent that Sunday caring for one of our own and for his family in his recovery spoke about what resurrection really looks like and the love that God gives us to pull each other through difficult and trying times.

In May, we worked together for the Missions Golf Tournament—a day of great joy and play to benefit five well-deserving agencies in our community. By the end of the month, we said, “Goodbye,” to our friend, the Rev. Anthony Lamourt, as he departed from us as Music Minister for health reasons. In June, we began a season of rest by commemorating the life of young Bentley Marlowe and his family at the dedication of a new piece of playground equipment in his memory.

We welcomed July by concluding our search for our new Director of Music Ministries, as we welcomed Dr. Hanna Lee to come be a part of our legacy. August saw us winding down the summer and preparing for the “-bers,” but not before the true take-off of our Lemonade Ministry, instigated by one of our recently-confirmed Youth who wanted to us to be a place of hospitality in the hot summer.

September arrived at Rally Day with our detailed conversation about education in our church

and explanations about our Capital Campaign to update our Sanctuary for 2025. We heard the choir sing music in Hawai’ian as we raised nearly \$4000 for mission work for their recovery. October and November featured wonderful opportunities of in-person fellowship throughout the church during Wonderful Wednesdays and Sunday offerings. December came quickly, and we reintroduced ourselves to the Statesville cultural scene by our Christmas Concert.

Needless to say, 2023 was a prolific and busy year at the FPC, Statesville. God alone knows what the next year will bring us, but so long as we journey together following the verse our dear friend, Ann Sharp, valued in her life—Micah 6.8—we will continue being a congregation which cares inwardly that we might serve outwardly... and that is a beautiful thing.

God loves you, and so do I,

Our Congregational Leadership

Session Class of 2024

Catherine Baker	Christian Education (Chair)
Scarlett Chapman	Missions
Robert Dearman	Worship
Joanne Dodick	Congregational Life: Cong. Care
Robin Downs	Congregational Life: F&F
Scott Stevenson	Property: 4CBG

Session Class of 2025

Matt Austin	Admin.: Personnel
Alan Carpenter	Admin.: Communications
John Childress	Missions
Sherry Harris	Worship
Clay Speaks	Missions
Dycie Walton	Christian Education

Session Class of 2026

Jan Ambrose	Congregational Life: F&F
Sloan Goforth	Finance & Stewardship
Katie Long	Christian Education
Nate McElwee	Congregational Life: Cong. Care
Jim Pickett	Safety

Committee Chairpersons

Admin.: Communications	Alan Carpenter
Admin.: Personnel	Matt Austin
Christian Education	Cate Tuck
Congregational Life: Cong. Care	Nate McElwee
Congregational Life: F&F	Ann Speaks
Endowment Board	John Gilbert
Finance & Stewardship	Sloan Goforth
Missions	Caroline Ciampanella
Property: Historic Cemeteries	Scott Stevenson
Property: Safety	Jim Pickett
Property: Support Services	Scott Zanotti
Worship	Sherry Harris

The Rev. C. Jeremy Cannada

Pastor

jeremy@fpcstatesville.org

M-W: 9am - 5pm

Th: by appt.; Sermon Preparation

Dr. Hanna Lee

Director of Music Ministries

hannah@fpcstatesville.org

M-W: 9am - 12pm,

W: 3 - 9pm (choir); Th: by appt.

Sun: 3 - 5pm

Mrs. Falon Speaks

Director of the FPC Preschool

preschool@fpcstatesville.org

M-F: 8:30am - 12:30pm (Aug - May)

Mrs. Clare Robinson

Office Manager

office@fpcstatesville.org

M-W: 9am - 3pm

Ms. LeighAnn Perkins

Financial Secretary

leighann@fpcstatesville.org

W: 9am - 5pm (appts. encouraged)

The Rev. Grant Sharp

Pastor emeritus

Session Notes

At the 18 December 2023 Stated Session meeting, Session:

- Received a devotion from Sloan Goforth about gratitude in the season of Advent and Christmas to come;
- Approved minutes from the Stated Session meeting / Annual Retreat of 19 August 2023 and the Stated Session meeting of 16 October 2023;
- Examined and received Brenda Vernon into membership in the congregation;
- Received a verbal Moderator's Report with discussion on seven topics:
 1. Appointments (a request for family and friends to make appointments with the Team members [Jeremy, Hanna, Falon, LeighAnn, & Clare] to help us to have more efficient use of our schedules);
 2. Committee Calendars (a request to supply the office with accurate meeting dates so they can be properly communicated to the congregation);
 3. Team / Staff Updates
 4. Capital Campaign (a request for Finance & Stewardship to prioritize determining the funding of the Capital Campaign);
 5. Committee Presence (a request for committees to be more active and communicative in the life of the church with members sharing in the church's work);
 6. 2024 Budget (a request for committee chairs to turn into Finance & Stewardship their budget requests); and
 7. Communication (a request for the Ruling Elders to help us determine effective ways to communicate across the congregation; we have heard from several people that we could improve communication from the church, so we want to investigate how better to do this);
- Approved a motion to return to monthly Session meetings, to be held the first Monday of each month (holidays will push to the second Monday), excepting the months of July and December.
- Received the Treasurer's Report, indicating improvement for revenue through November 2023 and a hope that December's offerings will be stronger to finish the year;
- Approved a Consent Docket for the Service of Witness to the Resurrection for Ann Brady and to note her death in the membership record;
- Approved a motion from the Property Committee to upgrade the existing video monitoring system and cameras at an expense of \$10,773.37 with the source of money to be the unused portion of the Food & Fellowship line-item for the kitchen oven update;
- Approved a motion from the Property Committee to develop a new policy: "The FPC, Statesville will not permit use of nor will lease its grounds or facilities to be used by any outside business or individuals to operate a business, whether it be not-for-profit or for-profit. This policy does not prevent any business or agency from performing services or events in conjunction with using the church grounds or facilities in line with the mission/s and ministry/ies of the FPC, Statesville";
- Directed the Property Committee to take on the work of the Building Usage Sub-Committee with input to come from other committees in the development of the Building Usage Policy;
- Requested all active REs to be present for communion during the Christmas Eve Candlelight Service;
- Nominated and approved Sloan Goforth and Nate McElwee to represent their RE Class on the Endowment Board;
- Received a report from the Missions Commission that Pharos Parenting was selected as the 2024 Missions Grant Award recipient;
- Updated the church membership list to reflect requests since 16 October 2023, and
- Prayed for members of the congregation and the present Ruling Elders.

The next Stated Session meeting is scheduled for Monday, 5 February 2024 with Nate McElwee leading the devotional and prayer.

Worship Notes

7 January 2024

Acolyte

Communion Jan Ambrose, Matt Austin,
Catherine Baker, Alan Carpenter,
Scarlett Chapman, & Sloan Goforth

Ushers

Scripture Gen. 1.1-5; Mark 1.4-11
Flowers

14 January 2024

Acolyte

Ushers

Scripture 1 Samuel 3.1-10; John 1.43-51
Flowers

Weekly Livestream: fpcstatesville.org/worship

If you are a member-at-home and wish to have home communion provided to you, please contact Nate McElwee with Congregational Care.

21 January 2024

Acolyte

Ushers

Scripture Jonah 3.1-5, 10; Mark 1.14-20
Flowers

28 January 2024

Acolyte

Ushers

Scripture Deut. 18.15-20; Mark 1.21-28
Flowers

Glory to God Dedication Card

Please complete a unique card for each dedication

I / We would like to dedicate a new hymnal in honor / memory of my loved one.

Name for Dedication: _____

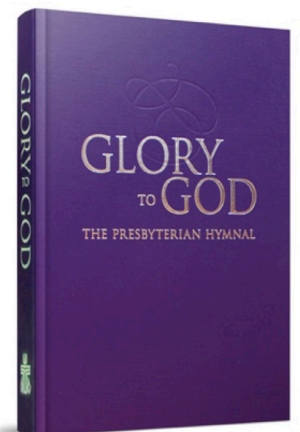
(Please Print)

Dedicated by: _____

(Please Print)

Dedications for each hymnal costs \$25.00
(cash or check payable to FPC, Statesville [Memo: GtG Hymnal])

We will insert a dedication sticker into the hymnal to honor / memorialize your loved one.
Thank you for allowing your love for them to grow and prosper our music ministry.
You may mail this to the church or drop it off with your contribution to the church office.



Wonderful Wednesdays

Over the past academic semester, we have offered Wonderful Wednesdays as an opportunity for members of the church to gather across the generations and have supper and fellowship. We are grateful to each person and family who has attended and helped to make this a successful ministry. We are especially grateful to Ann Speaks for her devoted leadership and guidance, to the Wonderful Wednesday teams who came early each week to prepare the kitchen for the food and to clean up after all had been served, and to John Childress and the staff at the Greenbriar Grille, who provided us weekly meals that were scrumptious and healthy.

Despite a good turn out across the season, we never quite had as many members show up as we had hoped would to make it a sustainable ministry and program for us. So we are temporarily suspending the Wonderful Wednesday program as a weekly offering. We hope it will return in time, with some tweaks that will make it even stronger in the future.

Keep your ears open for news about when we might be able to bring back our weekly gatherings. The Food & Fellowship Committee will be exploring ways to hold occasional-to-monthly opportunities for gathering together.

As our Wednesdays progress, even without this program, if you would like to participate in the choirs on Wednesday evenings, please be in contact with Dr. Hanna Lee. Bible / Book Study will take off for the month of January, with a potential one-week offering to be held later in the month. Details of this will come as the month progresses.

Clinkers Update

Clinkers for the Month of December, met at the home of Billy & Lourdes Winters. The members enjoyed a wonderful pause in the midst of the last days of the Advent season before Christmas arrived to share in the merriment of fellowship and a great dinner together. We thank the Kuttehs, the Picketts, the Rankins, and Jan Ambrose & Richard Hanson for co-hosting last month's event !

OWLS

The OWLS will hold their next luncheon on Tuesday, 9 January 2024 at 12:30pm in the Fourth Creek Meeting Hall. RSVP to Martha Rothwell at 704.450.7169 or Sarah Davis at 704.902.1937.

Christmas Card-a-thon

We would like to thank everyone who participated in December's Card-a-thon. As much, we would like to thank the Young Men's Bible Class for their purchase of poinsettias to go to the members who received bags from us. Because of you, the Christmas spirit was strongly felt by some of our most special members, and we are truly grateful to each of you and to those members of the Congregational Care Committee and YMBC who delivered the bags to our beloved ones.

Lost & Found

The Church Office has a few items in its "Lost & Found." If you locate something around the church without its owner, please drop them to the office where we can hold them until the item(s) is/ are reunited with their owner. Thank you.

Missions Update

As the church begins to return to its decor and state after the holidays, you will note the absence of the Missions Partner boxes from the foyer outside the Church Office. At present, this program is now concluded.

The Missions Committee will meet this month to explore new opportunities for the congregation to engage in service and missions in our Statesville Community. If you are interested in offering suggestions or serving on the Missions Committee, please speak with its chairperson, Caroline Ciampanella.

Missions Commission

The Missions Commission is proud to inform you that Pharos Parenting was selected from among eight other well-qualified applicants for the 2024 Missions Grant Award. We look forward to welcoming Pharos Parenting to our service on Sunday, 4 February 2024, when they will receive their award for \$10,000.

An "Until Again" from the Angel Tree

Thank you to everyone who participated in last year's Angel Tree ministry. Because of you, we were able to be a part of helping to serve families both of American Renaissance School and Iredell Christian Ministries. Your support and prayers for this annual ministry keep it going, and we anticipate our Angel Tree to return next autumn, with details to begin coming as early as October or early November. Again, to each of you who became a blessing to an unknown child and/or family: Thank You!

Calendar-by-Mail Opportunity

Did you get any 2024 by-mail calendars that you don't know what to do with? If so, please bring them to the church. We have a member who will take the collected calendars to local ministries, where they will be distributed to others who need them. Thank you. We will collect them throughout January.

January Birthdays

2	Robin Downs
4	David Austin Rudy Davis
5	Annabelle Wasik The Rev. Lynn Kunkle Rodger Speaks
8	Jim Kartner
9	Mary Tharpe
10	James Lucas Taegan Zanotti
11	Gina Terry
12	Clay Pittman
13	Kay Brawley Ryan Ford
14	Susie Haynes
15	Judy Stevenson
16	Harriet Gilbert
17	Catherine Baker Shelly McElwee William Bush
18	Eva George
19	Collins Tuck
25	Adam Hill
28	David Jones
29	Arlene Foster Bristol Fussell
30	Hattie Speaks

On Thursday, December 14th our preschool gathered for our annual Christmas program. It was a wonderful evening spent with our children and their families. We hope all our teachers and families have a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!



The preschool collected mittens, gloves, hats, and scarves for our annual mitten tree last month. Thank you to all the church families that also supported our monthly mission! We delivered over one hundred mitten tree donations to Fifth Street Ministries just in time for Christmas!



FPC Preschool
★ 2024/2025 ★
Registration

Enrollment for our 2024/2025 school year opens in January. Please register EARLY to guarantee a spot in your child's preferred class. Spaces are limited.

- January 5th (Early Enrollment for current families)
- January 12th (Early Enrollment for Kindermusik families)
- January 16th (Enrollment Opens to the Public)

Enrollment Coming Soon



www.fpcstatesville.org 704-873-9054 preschool@fpcstatesville.org

The First Presbyterian Church
125 North Meeting Street
Statesville, North Carolina 28677
(Return Service Requested)

Tel: 704.873.7244

The deadline for the Fourth Creek Journal is 12:00pm
of every third Tuesday of each month.

The February issue deadline is Tuesday, 16 January 2024.

The calendar insert (print version) is current as of the time of publishing.
For the most up-to-date calendar, go to fpcstatesville.org/calendar

The First Presbyterian Church welcomes all to worship and serve the Lord. We honor and celebrate human and theological diversity and unity through Jesus Christ. We welcome individuals of every age, race, nationality, gender, ability, sexual orientation and economic circumstance to participate in the life and mission of our church.