

# First Presbyterian Press

First Presbyterian Church  
Goldsboro, North Carolina

Volume 23, Issue 3  
March, 2021

## The Church Is Connected

Many of you ask about the connectional nature of Presbyterianism. I'm convinced it was connectionalism that brought me here—you were and are connected to the folks at Mount Olive Presbyterian Church! We are connected to one another—not because we find one another agreeable or each other's views congenial, but because God in grace and mercy has called us together. Our unity does not lie in us. Our unity is Jesus Christ. And so I am here with you as long as I need to be—until you find a pastor to install permanently.

I talk all the time about God working in ways that we don't expect, anticipate, or find ways to explain. Surely, this is one of them. When I was ordained as an elder in 1978 in Youngstown, New York, we were two Presbyterian Churches, separated since 1858 during the run-up to the Civil War. A bit of arcane information—the Albemarle Presbytery (which included fledgling FPC—Goldsboro), trekked to Oakland Presbyterian Church in Orange Presbytery on route 218 west of Smithfield for a joint meeting, where action was taken to approve the separation from the northern parts of the church. It would be 125 years before the two churches got back together to form the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)!

This history is all pretty dry stuff—but the important point is, as a reformed denomination, we believe strongly that the church is part of the protestant reformation (the reformed church) and that once reformed, it is always reforming. This means that, for example, as we study scripture, the Holy Spirit works within us to see and create new understandings of God's word. It is therefore an exciting situation that, whenever we come together we know that God is working to mold and make us into something new.

These beliefs extend across all the churches in our presbytery, the four other presbyteries in North Carolina, the 14 presbyteries that make up the Synod of the Mid-Atlantic, and the other 15 Synods that comprise our national church! And there are Ministers of Word and Sacrament all over the place who are steeped in the traditions, theology, and practices of Presbyterianism across our country. There is a special bond among us Presbyterians, and it strengthens and endows us to continue to look for ways to mold, build, and modify the church—again through the presence and power of the Holy Spirit.

So, I am proud to be a Presbyterian, even though the church has flaws, factions, and fragilities that make it vulnerable. But, aren't we all vulnerable? And, aren't we all ready to reach out and give solace to and help out those around us who are vulnerable? Of course we are!

As I write this, it is the day after I met with the Pastor Nominating Committee to tell them that I have their backs, so to speak. That they may take as much time as they need—with no sense of pressure—to find just the right pastor to come to Goldsboro and live and work alongside you as the next installed pastor for this lovely church! God already knows who that is—and we must be patient in waiting for both the PNC and the new pastor to find one another and develop a bond that will excite all of them. Excite them knowing that this is the next step in the long, beautiful, and rich history of this great congregation!

So, folks, we are all connected in one way or another. We are connected by the Holy Spirit, working in and among us all. And we are connected to the larger church—where there is a pastor who doesn't know yet that his or her career will include a stop for several years in Goldsboro, North Carolina.

Isn't that an exciting thought! God bless our PNC! God bless that new, yet unknowing pastor! And God bless all of you, in your patience and your understanding of how the connectional nature of we Presbyterians is a hallmark of our faith that is envied across the country.

Grace and peace,

John





## Mr. Rogers Day

**Saturday, March 20 from 4:00 to 6:00 p.m.**

**For elementary age children (Preschool to 5th grade)**

Dress up in your favorite neighborhood hero costume (pastor, trash pickup worker, postal worker, librarian, teacher, healthcare worker). Talk about the people who make our neighborhood so wonderful. Create some neighborhood crafts. Learn to pray for each other.



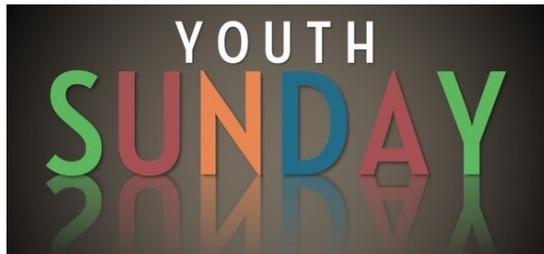
**SUNDAY, MARCH 21, 2021**

**5:00 P.M. TO 7:00 P.M.**

**6TH GRADE TO 12TH GRADE**

**MEET IN THE ACTIVITY CENTER**

**COME AND BRING A FRIEND!**



## Children and Youth Sunday: April 18, 2021

Starting Sunday, March 7 from 9:00 a.m. to 9:30 a.m. our music director, Chris Watkins, is willing to work with children who would like to sing during worship in small groups or solo. Please let me know if you are planning to attend. COVID precautions will be taken.

If your child or youth will be interested in participating in other parts (liturgist, scripture reading, prayers) of the worship service for Youth Sunday, please email Mary Taneti at [fpcgoldce@ncrbiz.com](mailto:fpcgoldce@ncrbiz.com)

Looking forward to a great service involving our young people on April 18th.



**Deacon in Charge:** Joyce Wooten  
**Co-Deacon:** Kent Warren  
**Ushers:** Steve Jara and Sonny Wooten



Karen Haithcock  
 Beth Kannan



March 7 Barbara Bradshaw  
 March 14 Barbara Vinson  
 March 21 Chris Martin  
 March 28 Sam Hunter



March 7 Tim Haithcock  
 March 14 Kent Warren  
 March 21 Charlie Rouse  
 March 28 Joyce Wooten



**Dates Available for Sanctuary Flowers**

If you would like to place flowers in the Sanctuary, the following dates are available:

**March 14, 21 April 11,18,25**

**May 2, 9, 30 July 11, 18**

**August 1, 8, 15, 22, 29**

*Please contact Susan Stackhouse or Ruth Smith in the church office if you are interested.*



We would like to extend an opportunity to the congregation to place a name on the memorial or honor list and share in the cost of the Easter lilies. The cost will be \$10 for each name listed. The deadline for placing orders is March 29th.

**MARCH BIRTHDAYS**

- |                       |                             |
|-----------------------|-----------------------------|
| 3 Mrs. Lauren Metzler | 21 Mr. Michael Ellis        |
| 5 Mr. Sam Hunter      | 22 Emily Sauls Lewis        |
| Trotter Sumner        | 24 Fort Parker              |
| 9 Thomas Sumner       | Mrs. Lynn Branch            |
| 11 Mr. Sonny Wooten   | 25 Ms. Sandra Franklin      |
| Mrs. Meredith Gurley  | Dr. Sherman Hawkins         |
| 14 Mrs. Elva Graham   | 26 Dr. Joe McLamb           |
| 15 Miss June Fields   | Mrs. Ann Hunter             |
| 18 Mr. Demis Perez    | 27 Scott Jara               |
| 19 Mr. Philip Brogden | Mr. Clift McCall            |
| Mrs. Hannah Rouse     | 29 Mr. Bill Corbin          |
|                       | 30 Mrs. Sandi Blair--Gibson |

# The Foundation of FPC



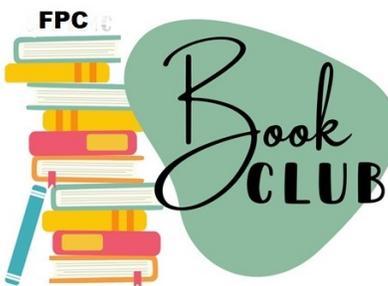
The *Foundation of First Presbyterian Church* annually provides gifts and support for worthy causes, and it is time for all interested parties to make application for this support. The Foundation funds cannot be used for operating expenses of the church. Only benevolent and non-operating “causes” can receive gifts, such as local and foreign missions, Christian educational support, and special music worship enhancement. All requests should be submitted using an FPC Foundation Grant Application. The applications are available from the church office and on the web. All requests should be submitted **no later than March 31** to The Foundation of First Presbyterian Church, C/O First Presbyterian Church, 1101 East Ash Street, Goldsboro, N.C. 27530.

If you would like to make a memorial contribution to the FPC Foundation, brochures and envelopes are available. Your gift will be wisely invested in God’s service.

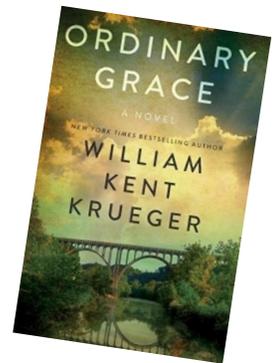


It is Yard Sale time! Donations are needed and greatly appreciated! Our **Annual Missions Yard Sale** is always a big event, and we want this year’s sale to be a success. The date has not been announced.

If you have items that are too large to bring in, please call the church and a pick-up will be arranged.



The Congregational Nurture Committee (CNC) invites everyone to join the Congregational Book Club. Please read the book “Ordinary Grace” by William Kent Krueger. The in-person discussion is scheduled for Thursday, March 4, 2021, at 7:00 p.m. Lynn Branch will lead the discussion.



**Evening Circle** will meet on Monday, March 1 at 6:30 p.m.

**Morning Circle** will meet on Tuesday, March 2 at 10:00 a.m.

**PWCT** will meet Tuesday, March 30 at 9:30 a.m.



**Sunday  
March 14**



**Committees** meet the first Tuesday of the month at 7:00 p.m.  
**Personnel Committee** meets the first Tuesday at 5:30 p.m.

**Diaconate** meets the second Tuesday of the month at 7:00 p.m..  
**Memorial Committee** meets the second Tuesday at 4:00 p.m.

**Session** meets the third Tuesday of the month at 7:00 p.m.