



Volume 24, Issue 4, April 2022

## Digging Out the Data

When I was in graduate school they gave me my own “carrel.” I didn’t even know what a carrel was! Before, I had to look up books in the large, many-drawer cabinet that listed the library’s books categorized under the Dewey Decimal System. Illinois’ library was very large and there was floor after floor of books and it was no easy task to find what you wanted.

But for new graduate students, all the carrels were inside the “stacks,” which made it quite a bit easier. And with Dewey’s system to help find where to look, I was able to freely roam around to find the book I wanted to study. I could quickly scan through each one to see if it contained what I needed. The best part though was that Dewey organizes books by subject, so there usually were several books about the same topic along the same bookshelf.

What a wonderful surprise! It was then that I really began to love doing research—a trait and “hobby” I’ve used from those days forward, even to today. It’s of course much, much easier today with most anything you want to know only a Google- or Bing-search away. Lightening fast. But, still using the Dewey Decimal Classification (its actual name) is good because of its simplicity. If you have a Kindle reader, you can look at the publishing and copyright information and you can find the “DDC” number for that book.

The point here is that we are inundated with a plethora of information every day from a variety of sources; so much so that sometimes it can be overwhelming. What is true? What is propaganda? What can I believe? Legitimate questions all. My grad-school roommate was getting a masters in communications—specializing in radio-TV. He’d been working at a local TV station since he was fifteen.

He told me many times the job of a journalist was “getting the story.” He explained that this meant collecting the facts as well as getting on tape the perspectives of the people involved by asking them probing, pertinent questions. In those days writing the story meant fairly and accurately recording the facts so that the unknowing reader could properly weigh things prior to forming an opinion. I’ve always cherished that explanation, and I work hard to assess the

“story” to ascertain whether the facts are there; and whether the persons interviewed were asked tough questions. All this before deciding what my perspective is. It’s always been this way.

Today journalists often talk of “narratives.” It seems to me though, that these narratives have a lot of opinion in them, rather than adhering to my roommate’s definition of “the story.” For example, some news articles give a brief explanation of the situation and then have a section called “why it matters” that can quickly move toward opinion, not facts—more than a story. So, I’m almost always skeptical as a start point. Particularly with the war in Ukraine.

It’s the beginning of April and the war’s been raging for five weeks. FPCG’s session and mission committee jumped into action. We’ve collected just under \$12,000 to aid those Polish people who are housing Ukrainian refugees in their homes! This is a fantastic statement of your generosity, love, and compassion for those whose lives have changed forever. All of our lives are changing regularly, of course. New things happen, old things recur. We get a new medical diagnosis. We worry. Wars break out. War reporters get killed getting the story. And we’re bathed in those news reports each day. Some smack of propaganda. Some are narratives with all their opinion overtones. But some are stories, like my roommate did. So I’d advise you to “keep dragging books back to your carrel” as I did years ago.

But folks this is only the *first* step. The *second*? Our God is a providential God who can and must be trusted. Even under the most trying circumstances—for example the bombing of hospitals and schools containing innocent, trusting children. Throughout the ages, God is the one who is ever present. Ever loving. Ever faithful. Ever true. And respite from the information inundation comes from thorough, careful, daily communication with God! And that’s prayer—fervent, regular, frank, candid—prayer.

This month we celebrate Easter, the most sacred, important and central event for Christians. All of Christianity centers on Jesus’ resurrection from the dead on Eastern morning! Chris Watkins and several musicians will provide a special Easter morning “prelude” to our worship service. Then both the Bell Choir and Chancel Choir will add to the service glorifying Christ.

Don’t miss this opportunity.

Grace and peace,

  
John

## Officer Duties

### Elders

April 03 John Dees  
April 10 Ann Hunter  
April 17 Eddie Radford  
April 24 Lee Futrelle

### Deacons

Meredith Gurley  
Coleen Leeper  
Carol Branch  
Tim Haithcock

Deacon in charge: Teresa Smith  
Co-Deacon: Betty Rose Sutton



### For the month of April

C. V. Sutton  
Al Grisette  
Eddie Radford

## The First Presbyterian Church Foundation

The Foundation of First Presbyterian annually provides gifts and support for benevolent causes, and it is time for all interested parties to make application for this support. The Foundation funds cannot be used for the 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. Applications are available from the church office and on the church website ([fpcgoldsboro.org](http://fpcgoldsboro.org)). All requests should be submitted **no later than April 15, 2022** to The Foundation of First Presbyterian Church, C/O First Presbyterian Church, 1101 East Ash Street, Goldsboro, NC 27530.

# Presbyterian Women

## April PW Circle Time

Evening Circle – 6:00 p.m., Monday, April 4 in the parlor.

Morning Circle – 10:00 a.m., Tuesday, April 5 in the parlor.

PWCT – 9:00 a.m., Tuesday, April 26 in the Parlor.

Mrs. Carol Branch will present the Bible Study, “Jesus Prays for His People,” (John 17:1-16) Chapter 11, of the study book, *The Heart of Prayer* by Jerram Barrs.



## April Birthdays!



02 Lily Spicer

06 Mr. Dillion Wooten Jr.

07 Worth Haithcock III

07 Mr. Neal Benton Sr.

12 Kate Hunter

14 Mr. Charlie Dees

15 Revel Wilder

15 Josephine Wilder

17 Mr. Willis Underwood III

20 Mrs. Coleen Leeper

21 Mrs. Jackie VanHoy

21 Mrs. Rosalyn Lomax

21 Mrs. Chris Martin

21 Mrs. Phyllis Patterson

21 Dr. Bud Fidler

22 Mrs. Sue Potter

22 Mr. Jordan Krutsch

23 Mr. John Till

23 Mr. Toby Brown

23 Rev. Dr. James Taneti

24 Mr. Bruce Malpass

24 Mr. Thomas Bradshaw II

25 Lilly Eason

26 Mrs. Barbara Bradshaw

26 Mrs. Jennifer Wilder

28 Mr. Buck Tate Jr.

28 Mr. James Spicer Jr.

28 Ms. Bess Gibson

29 Hinton Crocker

30 Mrs. Joan Stafford

# Christian Education

## Events the month of April 2022

Sunday	Faith Formation Classes for all ages at 9:00 a.m.
Sundays 10 & 24	Young Presbyterians in the Gym 4-6 p.m.
Sunday, April 3	Youth Group: cookout and movie night 4-7 p.m.
Wednesdays 6, 13 & 27	Confirmation Class of 2022 in the library 3:00 p.m.

**Vacation Bible School** will be hosted at FPC

Monday thru Friday, July 25-29, 2022 from 9:00 a.m. to Noon.

We will need the help of many youth and adult leaders.

Please sign up by emailing Mary Taneti at [fpcgoldce@ncrrbiz.com](mailto:fpcgoldce@ncrrbiz.com).



## THE FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH EDUCATION SCHOLARSHIP



The FPC Education Scholarship has been established to support FPC members needing financial assistance to further their education. FPC seeks to nurture and support our young members training for vocations and careers. The monetary award will depend upon the amount of monies available and number of applicants selected. Applications are available in the church office and must be submitted by May 23. Please mark your application to the attention of the Education scholarship. The monetary award will be mailed. No formal presentation will be made.

Please note that the Education Scholarship Fund is not in the budget and is solely dependent on congregational giving. Donations to the Fund are welcome at any time during the year, as well as on two designated Sundays, Graduate Sunday and Discipleship Sunday.

# Music Ministry

**The Children's Choir – Palm Sunday:** On Palm Sunday, April 10<sup>th</sup>, the wonderful singers of the Children's Choir will sing "Ride Through Jerusalem" accompanied by the sounds of hand chimes and piano. What a wonderful way to hear the joy of the processional as the children tell of the people, the donkey, and the Rider who entered the holy city that day.



The children are asked to be in the sanctuary by 9:00 a.m. to find their places on the steps and to receive their palm branches to wave. They will also go over their processional down the aisle during the singing of the opening hymn.

## Praise Him with Brass, Timpani, Organ, and Handbells



Beginning at 9:30 a.m. on Easter Sunday morning, the ringers of the Handbell Choir, Brass Ensemble, Percussionists, and Organ will present the triumphant music of the Resurrection. The Handbell Choir will ring "Fantasia for Easter Sunday," "Thine Is the Glory," and "Glorious Things of Thee Are Spoken" accompanied by trumpets, trombones, timpani, cymbals, and organ. These wonderful musicians have been practicing and learning their music for months and will inspire you with their joyful sounds.

The brass ensemble is composed of professional musicians from The Top Hat Orchestra of Virginia and students from the East Carolina University School of Music. Our timpani has been loaned to us by the music department of Goldsboro High School under the direction of Mr. Orlando Mitchell.

Please arrive early and listen to music that you will only hear this year. You will find yourself lifted up and ready to praise God for His Sacrifice and Resurrection as the music soars.



## The Chancel Choir and Guest Soloists will Sing Praises!

The Chancel Choir will lead the processional at the start of the 10:00 a.m. service as the orchestra leads the congregation in the singing of “Christ the Lord Is Risen Today!” During the service the choir will sing “The Trumpets Shall Sound on Easter Morn” and “He Is Not Here!” At the conclusion of the service the choir and congregation will join in the singing of Handel’s “Hallelujah” chorus from “Messiah.”

Joining the choir will be Katherine Lakoski, soprano, and Kyle Whitton, baritone. Both of these artists have sung throughout the United States and Europe in both operas and concert settings. They will be singing solos in both the pre-service musical presentation and again in the morning service at 10:00 a.m.

The Chancel Choir will provide three special anthems on Easter Sunday accompanied by the brass and timpani ensemble. You will not want to miss their beautiful music! Make plans to come early on Easter Sunday morning to hear the special 30-minute presentation of music followed by the wonderful music of our Chancel Choir!

Please make a special effort to arrive at the church in time to bring your bouquets for flowering of the cross on the lawn of the church, and to find a seat in the sanctuary to enjoy the music. You will not be disappointed and will receive a special blessing on this Holy Day.



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## A Thank you to workers @ Clothing Giveaway

FPC members are AMAZING! You filled an upstairs classroom to the ceiling with your wonderful clothes! You helped carry everything into the gym, put up tables and worked for countless hours sorting and setting up for the Clothing Giveaway. You even brought in more clothes, encouraged your friends to do the same and (best of all) you spent your Saturday helping our guests find what they needed. God has blessed us with so much. Sharing our bounty has brought us joy! I thank God for each of you – Love, Ann Hunter.

The New Hope Presbytery invites FPC to nominate one person/couple from our congregation for **2022 Outstanding Older Adult Award**. The purpose of this award is to recognize an older adult/ couple 60 years or older, who exemplifies a positive image of aging personally, in the life of the church, and/or community. This offers an opportunity for churches to recognize older persons who, by their example, serve as a role model to all generations for growing old with a sense of God's grace. **Focus should be exclusively on the person's/couple's later life activities.** If you would like to nominate someone for this award, you may submit it in writing to the church office by April 1, 2022.

**Ukraine Prayer Tree:** To show our support for the people of Ukraine, blue and yellow ribbons are available to be place on the prayer tree in front of the Sanctuary. Ribbons are available in the Narthex if you wish to place a ribbon on the prayer tree after worship service Sunday and offer a prayer. You may also pick up ribbons at the church office during the week to place on the tree.



**Thank you for your very generous donations  
to support the Ukrainian Relief Fund!**



# Holy Week Schedule



## **Sunday, April 10**

**Worship Service @ 10:00 a.m. (Sanctuary)**  
**EGGStravaganza 4:00 to 6:00 p.m. (Gym)**

## **Maundy Thursday, April 14**

**The Living Last Supper @ 8:00 p.m.**  
**Sanctuary**

## **Good Friday, April 15**

**Prayer Vigil from 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.**  
**Black Chapel**

## **Easter Sunday, April 17**

**6:30 a.m. Easter Sunrise Service**  
**Flowering of the Cross (front lawn)**  
**9:30 a.m. Music of Easter (Sanctuary)**  
**10:00 a.m. Easter Service (Sanctuary)**  
**Flowering of the Cross (front lawn)**  
**Easter Egg Hunt (front lawn)**

## Prayer Requests

Please pray daily for your **PNC**. Members are Ali Blackburn, Shelby Benton, Barbara Bradshaw, Toby Brown (chair), Ann Hunter, Malcolm Shearin, and James Spicer.



**Confirmands:** Garrett and Worth

### Congregation Members @ home

Mrs. Hope Derby, Mr. Jimmy & Louise Huffman, Mr. O. L. Starling, Ken and Judy Taylor, Mrs. Jackie VanHoy and Mrs. Ditty Whitford.

### Friends & Family

Mr. Jeff Stanley, (son of Bill and Sharon Stanley)

Ms. Beth Jennings, friend of Carol Branch

Rev. Jason Leonard, Wiley Leonard's son

Ms. Emily Lassiter, friend of Emily Byrd

Mrs. Jane Johnson, mother of Nathan Johnson

Mr. Bob Locket, friend of Ken Taylor

Mr. Phil Barbee, brother-in-law of Fred and Rosalyn

Ms. Lori Mobley, friend of Lisa Royall

### Outreach

Mr. Gilbert Brown @ Brookdale Senior Living on Berkley Blvd.

Mr. Mike Pate @ Brookdale Senior Living on Country Day Road

Mrs. Madelyn Percise @ Cypress Glen, Greenville, NC

## FPC Calendar for April 2022

Sundays	Sunday School for all ages at 9:00 a.m. Worship Service at 10:00 a.m. Young Presbyterians 4-6 p.m. (2 <sup>nd</sup> and 4 <sup>th</sup> Sundays) Youth Group 5-7 p.m. (1 <sup>st</sup> , 3 <sup>rd</sup> and 5 <sup>th</sup> Sundays)
Mondays	Church office 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. A Day Away 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Goldsboro Bridge Club 1:00 to 5:00 p.m. Cub Scouts Troop 3 at 6:00 p.m. Scouts Troop 3 at 7:00 p.m. <b>Presbyterian Women's Evening Circle (first Monday)</b>
Tuesdays	Church office 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Presbyterian Women Morning Circle (first Tuesday) Committee Meetings (first Tuesday) 7:00 p.m. Deacons Meeting (second Tuesday) 7:00 p.m. Session Meeting (third Tuesday) 7:00 p.m.
Wednesdays	Church office 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. A Day Away 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Confirmation Class 3:00 p.m. Independent Prayer in chapel 5:00 p.m. Hand bell Choir 6:00 p.m. Chancel Choir 7:30 p.m.
Thursdays	Church office 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Congregational Book Club 7:00 p.m. (first Thursday) Goldsboro Bridge Club 1:00 to 5:00 p.m.
Fridays	Church office 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. A Day Away 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.
Saturdays	Church office closed

For a detailed weekly calendar please visit the church website.