



Give thanks to the Lord for his steadfast love endures forever” (Psalm 118:1)

Volume 24, Issue 1, January 2024

Dear friends and siblings in Christ at First Presbyterian Church Goldsboro:

As we begin a new year 2024, please join me in singing, ‘*Great is Thy faithfulness, great is Thy faithfulness, morning by morning new mercies I see; All I have needed Thy hand hath provided, great is thy faithfulness, Lord unto me*’. This beautiful song is based on Lamentations 3:23. The poems of Lamentations were written after the city of Jerusalem and the temple were destroyed. These are verses of sorrow with all kinds of metaphors, images, acrostics of individuals and community grieving amidst tragedy. Yet even in the midst of despair, they proclaimed the faithfulness of God.

It seems like the world is going through a lot of turmoil, sorrows, and transitions. There are conflicts, wars and heated political upheavals that sometimes try to take away our joy and our hope in Jesus Christ. In our own church, in 2023, we had some challenges. We had some staff transitions and hard situations that were challenging. My family and I felt some of that hurt too, and at times, we were emotionally and spiritually exhausted.

But in the midst of all of that, we can also say, like in Lamentations 3:23 that God has provided, God has been faithful. We have welcomed new members, we have had wonderful local mission events, we had great community events; and in spite of the challenges, we are a strong church. We have had successful Bible studies, baptisms, prayer times, pickleball games, mission trips, vacation Bible school, music events, trunk-or-treat, paved the parking lot, finished the welcome center, and many more.

God is faithful because in 2023, we welcomed Dalton Bolles as the new youth director. We also welcomed Paige Corbet as the new director of Christian Education and Children’s ministries and Jessica Lopez Judd as the Office and Building administrator. They are a wonderful addition to the staff leadership, and I am very grateful for their lives, gifts, and talents. “*Great is your faithfulness, o Lord!*”

So, as we begin the new year of 2024, let us trust in God’s faithfulness like the prophets and leaders of the Bible. This is a year for new beginnings and new opportunities. God did not promise us to keep us away from challenges, but that God will be with us at all times; for *‘even though I walk through the darkest valley, I will fear no evil, for you are with me’* (Psalm 23:4). My vision, hope and prayer is that 2024 may be a year of kindness and collaboration, where we will keep strengthening our unity, continue becoming a welcoming community of joy, and keep agape-loving everyone near and far. *“Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus”.* (Philippians 3:13-14). Happy New Year 2024! Feliz año nuevo!

Sincerely in Christ, *Rev. Dr. Noé Juarez*

Officer Duties

Elders

Jan. 7
Jan. 14 David Evans
Jan. 21 Eddie Radford

Deacons

Deacon in charge: Carol Branch
Co-Deacon:



For the month of January

John Parker
Dan Blackshear
Suzanne Blackshear

The Christmas Joy Project



THANK YOU!!! With your kindness and generosity, our Christmas Joy Project was able to bring love and smiles to 5 families with a total of 10 children this year. A huge thank you to our Presbyterian Women for their ongoing support of providing the funds for food for each family that needed it. How marvelous it is to see Christ working through our church congregation. Lisa Royall

Save the Date

Vacation Bible School will be hosted at FPC Monday thru Friday, July 22-26, 2024. We will need the help of many youth and adult leaders please sign up by emailing Paige Corbett at fpcgoldcedir@gmail.com

Presbyterian Women News

January PW Circle Time

Presbyterian Women continue our Bible Study series from *Sacred Encounters: the Power and Presence of Jesus Christ in Luke-Acts*, by Olive Mahabir. Our January lesson will be led by Suzanne Corbin and is titled, "A Person with Leprosy Encounters Jesus." **Evening Circle** will meet **January 8th at 7:00 PM**, and **Morning Circle** will meet **January 9th at 10:00 AM**. Circle meetings will be held in the church parlor. All women in our church are invited to attend whichever meeting meets your schedule. Please join us and bring a friend!

The holiday bake sale was a great success, and we appreciate all who participated: those who baked and those who bought. Proceeds will go to support our charitable efforts.



January Birthdays!



02 Mrs. Beth Stackhouse

15 Mrs. Victoria Barfield

03 Will Stackhouse

15 Mrs. Michelle McArthur

03 Mary Wynne Stackhouse

16 Dean Gurley, II

04 Mr. Al Grisette

17 Mr. John Henderson

04 Dr. Jim Stackhouse

17 Mr. Ethan Brogden

05 Mr. Ken Taylor

19 Mr. John Wooten

05 Mr. John Walston

21 Mrs. Toddy Warren

06 Mr. Al Tate III

26 Mr. Sean Huneycutt

06 Mrs. Amy Krutsch

27 Mrs. Gail Shearin

28 Mr. Kent Warren

28 Wagner Wilder

06 Mr. Austin Williams

31 Mrs. Evelyn Rose

08 Mr. Pat McArthur, III

31 Mrs. Laurie Urand

11 Mr. David Evans

31 Mr. Jack Kannan

13 Mr. Jake Crocker

Christian Education

Events the month of January 2024

| | | |
|-----------------------|-------------|---------------------|
| Sunday, January 7 | 2-3:30 p.m. | Young Presbyterians |
| Sunday, January 14 | 4:00 p.m. | Ice Cream Social |
| Wednesday, January 17 | 5:30 p.m. | Bible Study |
| Friday, January 19 | 6-8:00 p.m. | Parent's Night Out |
| Sunday, January 21 | 2-3:30 p.m. | Young Presbyterians |
| Wednesday, January 24 | 5:30 p.m. | Bible Study |
| Wednesday, January 31 | 5:30 p.m. | Bible Study |



A Note from Chris

Dear Singers and Ringers of First Presbyterian Church,

This December you gave the gift of your music to the entire congregation each Sunday. The beautiful music was a blessing to all who listened to you each week.

Children of the Children's Choir: You were wonderful in the musical, "Miracle at the Christmas Café." You sang all the songs perfectly and acted and spoke your lines like a professional actor or actress. Your parents must be very proud of you, but no prouder than I.

Chancel Choir Singers: There are not enough superlatives to describe how glorious you sounded on the night of December 10th! You looked wonderful and sang with all your talents and convictions. You truly gave a blessing to all of us.

Members of the orchestra and our guest soloists said that you are the best choir that they have heard in a long time. You are the best choir in the entire state of North Carolina in my estimation.

Thank you for being my surrogate family. I never feel alone when I am with you.

Handbell Choir Ringers: I have never been prouder of a handbell choir in my career! You rang each selection with confidence and dedication. If you made any mistakes no one ever heard them because they were captivated by your wonderful technique and beauty. I am so blessed to be part of your "handbell family." The tour to Williamsburg was the highpoint of my Christmas season.

Thank you, Congregation, for your love and support for these musical ensembles. These young and mature musicians give you the joy of the season every day of the year. They are the most dedicated and hard-working group of children and adults I have ever known.

When you see a member of any of these ensembles, please tell them how much their music means to you.

Sincerely, Chris Watkins

From the Finance Office

- ❖ Pledge envelopes are available for pick up in the church office hallway. If you do not find yours there and would like to get one, please call Jean Whitaker.

A big thank you goes to Ali and Jason Blackburn for hosting our Presbyterian Social, Sunday evening, December 3. It was wonderful in every way and greatly enjoyed by about 75 FPC members and friends. Thanks also to all those who helped by bringing delicious foods to share. Our next Presbyterian Social will be in the spring, hosted by Melissa and Kent Warren.



FPC Calendar for January 2024

| | |
|------------|---|
| Sundays | Sunday School for all ages at 9:00 a.m. Worship Service at 10:00 a.m. |
| 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. Presbyterian Women's Evening Circle (January 8th) |
| Tuesdays | Church office 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Presbyterian Women Morning Circle (January 9th) 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. Wednesday Family Night/5:30 p.m. (January 17) |
| 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.