



THE WEEKLY FIRST



DEUTERONOMY 34:10, NRSV

Last week, I started a new series based on Psalm 107:43, “consider the great love of the Lord”. We explored how God is shown as Protector, Shepherd, Savior, and Healer in Psalm 107. This Sunday, we’ll focus on God as a Friend. The teaching is based on Exodus 32-33 referencing where the Lord speaks to Moses “face to face, as one speaks to a friend.” Each week we will consider the multi-dimensional love of the Lord and say with the Psalmist, “Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; his love endures forever. Let the redeemed of the Lord say this.” (Ps. 107:1,2)

We are pleased to welcome Dr. Valarie Valois as our new Director of Music! To



call Valarie accomplished is an understatement - she brings years of experience as a pianist, organist, vocalist, conductor, composer, and teacher to First Pres. Valarie has studied and performed all over the world, and we are blessed to have her

on staff. When not performing or planning services, Valarie enjoys gardening, reading, documentaries, good food, and “celebrating the simple and extraordinary miracles of living every day.” Please take time to extend your own words of greeting to Valarie!

Sunday Bulletin is Online!



Welcome

Our mission is to know Christ, serve Him,
and make Him known.



The Building on the Cornerstone capital campaign is underway to raise funds to make exterior renovations to the church property. Our aspiration is to complete fundraising by early 2026, and have the work done in the spring. The vision is to rejuvenate the outside of the church for continued ministry well into the future, as described in this linked slide from the recent Sunday School presentation: [Cornerstone Vision](#)



Reminder: If you "adopted" one of our youth to pray for this school year, please let Michelle know the name of the child(ren) you took!



All ladies are welcome to join the morning Ladies' Bible Study each Thursday at 10:30am. They will follow Max Lucado's "In the Footsteps of the Savior" - a video study. The author will take us on a journey through the hills, dust, and homes of the Holy Land,

including Capernaum, Galilee, Bethany, Jerusalem. and others. Weaving insights from his own travels to Israel with teaching from his books, Lucado will guide us to walk where Jesus walked and ponder the promises Jesus made. All ladies are welcome!

See Alpha Barger for more information.

The following Missions Speaker is scheduled for our final summer



Sunday School! Join us for a Continental Breakfast beginning at 9:45am in the Fellowship Hall on the following Sunday:

August 31 - Alisha Dixon, AYA House



Join us for Movie Night in the Pavilion on Friday, September 5! Set in the 1970s, the movie tells the story of a Christian movement amongst hippies in Southern California, including its influence on a now-prominent pastor. All ages are invited for dinner (pizza & salad) at 7pm. The movie will start around 8pm. We will move into the Fellowship Hall if weather is inclement. Registration is requested (online or in the Narthex) so we have enough food. Please invite friends and family, don your 70's best, and bring a lawn chair or beach blanket for some "revolutionary" fun!!!



Genesis Sunday is set for September 7! We will begin at 9:30am with breakfast in the Fellowship Hall. At 10am, Fall

Sunday School classes will be introduced for all ages. Offerings this year are:

- Disciples Class (Dave Argabrite) - Books of 1 & 2 Timothy, Titus, and 1 & 2 Peter
 - Friendship Class (Vickie Ellington) - Our Heritage as Presbyterians
 - Heart Sisters (Sandy Bessent & Becky Seaford) - Spiritual Disciplines
 - Guardians Class (Raegan Swaringen) - The Gospel of Luke
 - Navigators (Tracy & Amelia Caskey) - Middle & Senior High Youth
 - Seekers (Carol Lowder, Sharon Stricker, Alpha Barger) - Elementary youth
-



Fall Wednesday Night Activities Begin September 10 with a kick-off dinner at 5:30pm (donation

basis)! September schedule is as follows:

September 10: *Wednesdays in the Word* Pastor Eddie will lead an adult class from 6:30pm-7:30pm. Children and youth will meet for play practice from 6:00pm-6:45pm, then have their own classes until 7:30pm. (Continues on the 1st Wednesday of each month.)

September 17: *Wednesdays in Prayer* Adults will meet at 6:30pm in the Sanctuary, and follow guided prayer time together. Children and Youth schedule remains the same. (Continues on the "middle" Wednesdays of each month.)

September 24: *Wednesdays in Mission* continue as we participate in many of the Missions Projects of our Church. Children and Youth schedule remains the same. (Continues on the last Wednesday of each month.)

There's a place for everyone, so please join us!



FaithFest - a Christian Music Festival - is back this September in Wilkesboro,



NC! The youth and families are invited to attend on Saturday, September 13. We will leave the church around 2pm. Food trucks and vendors are available on site. We will return after the last act, around 10pm. Please sign up in the Narthex ASAP so we can arrange transportation! See Michelle for more info.



The Missions Team is collecting “pull tabs” for the Charlotte area Ronald McDonald House. These tabs can be found on soda cans, soup/vegetable cans, pet food containers, or other canned goods. Please rinse the tabs and place them in the

container in the Narthex.



Work with Operation Christmas Child to process gift-filled shoeboxes for children around the world in Jesus' Name.

Whether you're a people person or like working behind the scenes, we have a variety of seasonal employment openings—from assisting teams of volunteers to lifting cartons of shoeboxes or operating forklifts in our warehouse.



Work from approximately mid-November to mid-December at one of our regional shoebox processing centers:

Atlanta, GA | Baltimore, MD | Boone, NC | Charlotte, NC
Aurora, IL | Coppell, TX | Englewood, CO | Fullerton, CA

Apply at samaritanspurse.org/occseasonaljobs



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• **Our collection for 500 Operation Christmas Child shoeboxes!** For the month of August our focus is school supplies.

Needs are:

- Wooden pencils

- Packs of skinny markers
- Pencil sharpeners
- Ink pens
- Wireless notebooks or note pads

Place donations in the red collection bin in the Narthex. You may also give online or with an offering marked for "Shoeboxes".



Join us on September 21 for an Operation Christmas Child Sunday! A church-wide Sunday School at 10am will feature guest speaker Marvellous Okonne. Marvellous received a shoebox gift as an 8-year-old living in Central Africa. He will share how that gift continues to remind him of God's love. During the worship service, we will celebrate 5 years as a Drop-Off Collection site for area shoeboxes. Following worship, the Missions Team will provide a spaghetti dinner on a donation basis. All proceeds will go towards our shoebox packing efforts. **Thank you for your faithful support of this ministry!**

The Dorcas Circle of Hope will resume meeting on Monday, Sept. 22 at 2pm in the Fellowship Hall. They meet regularly on the 4th Monday of the month for fellowship and Bible study. This year, their focus will be on Randy Alcorn's book, *Heaven*. All ladies are welcome. See Carol Lowder



for more information.



Thank you to all who have donated to the First Pres Blessing Fence!

So many items have been gifted to our community through this ministry.

Current needs:

- Feminine Products
- New or gently used bath towels
- Small cosmetic bags

Please see Sam or Kay McAllister if you can help!



Linda's Closet is open for guests on the 1st, 3rd & 5th Tuesdays from 11:00am - 1:00pm in August & September.

OPEN DATES FOR GUESTS:

September 2, 16 and 30

There is a need for boys clothes sizes 2-16 and men's clothes and new underwear for men, women and children.

Other Tuesdays will be "work days"

If you would like to volunteer, please contact Trish Nixon.

Thank you for your support of this ministry!

Prayer Concerns

Help us keep Prayer Concerns current with weekly updates. Email the church or note on a prayer card & place in the offering plate.

Church Family

- Connie Lisenby - surgery on September 5
- Angela Miller - recovery from bad fall and broken wrist
- Jerry Phillips and family - on the passing of her son, Bynum Phillips
- Sharon Cranford - recovery from hip replacement
- Chad Eudy - health concerns
- Betty Sechler - recovery from knee surgery

Family & Friends of Church

- Sonny Darling (Lisa Salisbury's grandson) - recovering from hospital stay
- Thomas "Bran" James (friend of Pam Hooks) - 10 yr old with stomach cancer
- Pat Haynes (Renee Goodnight's mother) - recovery from foot surgery
- Amy Morgan (Adam Stricker's mother-in-law) - continuing with treatments
- Kristen Cranford (Sharon's daughter-in-law) - aortic aneurysm surgery 9/15
- Jane McDaniel (Mal & Debbie's daughter-in-law) - testing for health concerns
- Chris Race (family of Trish Nixon) - colon cancer
- Cara Mistal (Trish Nixon's niece) - cancer
- Christine Bork (Trish Nixon's niece) - cancer
- Karen Miller (friend of Cresses) - non-small-cell carcinoma
- Rachel Duval (Sam McAllister's granddaughter) - recovery from brain surgery
- Kim Stipe (Kay McAllister's daughter) - recovery from surgery
- Zelda West (Trish Nixon's granddaughter) - another surgery in September
- Barbara Coffey (friend of Judy Hunter) - cancer
- Thomas Dishman (friend of Judy Hunter) - kidney transplant

Homebound

- Barbara Hancock - Home
- Loretta Young - Five Oaks
- Linda Bost - Best of Care

This Week@FIRST PRESB

Sunday, August 31

9:45am - Fellowship Breakfast

10:00am - Sunday School w/

Alisha Dixon of the AYA House

11:00am - Worship Service

Tuesday, September 2

11:00am - 1:00pm - Linda's Closet

12:00pm - NA

Thursday, September 4

10:30am - Ladies' Bible Study

12:00pm - NA

Friday, September 5

7:00pm - Movie Night

12:00pm - NA

Next Sunday, September 7

9:30am - Fellowship Breakfast

10:00am - Genesis Sunday/Sunday School

11:00am - Worship Service

SERVANTS

Elder Lock-Up: Ken Sparks

Children's Message This Week: none

Children's Message Next Week: none

Children's Church This Week: Megan Quigg

Children's Church next week: Risa Little

Acolytes This Week: Ingrid & Oliver Townsend

Acolytes Next Week: Landon Walker & Mary-Gray Petersen

Nursery: Megan Quigg & Lynn Efird

Nursery Next Week: Risa Little

Ushers: Phil & Jill McLain, Todd Pless, Tony Rary

Ushers Next week: Lynn Sechler, Phil Smith, Pam Hooks, Ryan Walker

Greeters: Tony Rary, Debbie McDaniel

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH SESSION - ACTIVE ELDERS

Raegan Swaringen Sharon Cranford Tony Rary

Cookie Hamilton Chris Lowder Ken Sparks

Sue Maiocchi Phil McLain

Pastor Eddie Spencer, Moderator

Jeff Barnhardt, Session Clerk





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