

first notes

first presbyterian church • fpcgreensboro.org • summer 2024

Summer bombards us
with things to see & hear.



The sun is bright, the
thunder is loud. There's
fireworks & fireflies.

Spend some time doing
nothing but seeing &
hearing. Soak in what God
made; what God is doing
here & now.

– CATHERINE MCNIEL



INSIDE

1,000 Words, Jill Duffield, Capital Campaign, 200th Anniversary,
and Summer at FPC, on Zoom, or wherever you find yourself

1,000 WORDS

CLOCKWISE FROM RIGHT: Three-year-olds received a storybook bible during Rejoice! ... confirmands close their retreat on the labyrinth ... the Peacehaven and FPC young adult group gathered in the Welcome Center ... older elementary children did a footwashing during Sunday School ... Kids Disciple Club closed the year with a foam party.



Connection, commitment & joy



JILL DUFFIELD
Senior Pastor

It feels like 2024 is flying so we must be having fun! As you know, the Rooted & Reaching Capital Campaign kicked into high gear earlier this year. Meetings, lots of meetings, put plans in place for gatherings, communication, worship and more. The leadership team never failed to take on any and every task with enthusiasm and skill. Many of you responded to their calls, pledging, sharing your stories of your love for this church, volunteering to help in any way you could. I confess, when this process started over a year ago, I didn't think, "I can't wait to take on a capital campaign!" I knew we needed to do it. There are projects that cannot wait. I also knew marking our 200th with the funds needed to shore up our walls for our next hundred years of ministry made sense. What I didn't anticipate was the gift of so many conversations with so many of you throughout these past few months.

Whenever we got together, at church or in homes, the sense of connection and community was palpable. It was evident how much you enjoy being with one another, how much you care about each other. The gatherings were marked by laughter and heartfelt sharing. Unprompted, some of you told stories of just how much this church means to you and how committed you are to making sure our congregation thrives for the sake of future generations. I left every meeting encouraged and inspired.

While the most intense part of our Rooted & Reaching Capital Campaign is behind us, there is still much work to be done. The Project Review Committee is working diligently to plan the scope and sequence of the work to be done on our campus. The renovations will require moving our preschool, StepUp and Sunday school classes. No doubt, there will be times when we feel upended by all that needs to get done. However, I've no doubt that the same spirit of connection and commitment I witnessed these past few months will infuse the entire process.

I could not be more grateful to all of you who continue to serve Christ in this place with energy, intelligence, imagination, love, AND joy. I am excited to see what God will do next as we begin the projects funded by your generosity and we mark our 200th anniversary made possible through the faithfulness of those who came before us, the entirety of our life together held in Christ and upheld by the power of the Holy Spirit. Thanks be to God!

Peace,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jill". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Update on our Capital Campaign

When I was asked to be a part of our Capital Campaign at the end of last summer, knowing that we had a lofty goal of over \$ 11 million, it took much prayerful consideration before I could say yes. I came to the conclusion that while I'm not a practiced fund raiser, I do love this church. I also was reminded that



JOHN VERAAR
Campaign Co-chair

God knows what we need and he will provide.

I am pleased to announce that to date we have received over 340 pledges totaling more than \$10 million. We are now at 90% of our goal. Our congregation has achieved this in a little over four months with less than half the historic contributors participating. To that end, we have sent out 300 letters to those that have yet to pledge as a reminder that their support is still needed.

Our Lead Gifts team continues their efforts, staying in contact with potential large contributors. We are expecting totals to grow even more.

Where are we now?

As the Project Review Committee has been making plans, it appears that due to inflation with rising materials and labor costs, the total amount needed to achieve all campaign benchmarks will be greater than our established goal. The actual costs are still being determined and an accurate number is not available at this time. As mentioned earlier, while pledges and contributions continue to mount, we cannot confidently say that all aspects of the Benchmarks can be accomplished.

Going forward the Project Review Committee will be evaluating the benchmark projects and assessing incoming projects bids. Reports from that committee will be forthcoming in future Session meetings. Items not related to renovation projects are similarly being assessed to see how we can accomplish those aspirations. The Capital Campaign committee will also continue to update the Session and the congregation on pledge progress as we move into the fulfillment phase.

As a community in faith, we have accomplished a great thing raising an incredible amount of money in a very short span. I want to acknowledge Joel Mikell, our campaign consultant, for his guidance and encouragement throughout these past several months.

But even more important, I need to recognize all the hard work and dedication the entire Campaign Committee, Church Staff, and especially Jill have dedicated to this undertaking. It is their commitment that has achieved a great thing that will help to sustain these buildings and allow us to do Gods work in His house and into our community.

Historically, the definition of First Fruits is the initial results of an enterprise or endeavor. It is a symbol of our trust in God that He will provide. We celebrated the campaign's First Fruits in April, and we need to keep in mind that we as a congregation are achieving a monumental task of raising \$11 million. That is an achievement and a gift from God.

To paraphrase the beginning of Psalm 105:

"Give praise to the Lord, proclaim his name; make known among our FPC congregation what He has done."



LEARN
MORE



MAKE A
PLEDGE



MAKE A ONE-
TIME GIFT

OR GO TO
[FPCGREENSBORO.ORG/
CAPITAL-CAMPAIGN](https://fpcgreensboro.org/capital-campaign)



Celebrate!

FPC's 200th Birthday

Thursday, October 3

Adult Mix & Mingle
Julian Price House

Sunday, October 6

Celebratory worship, one service at 10 am
All-Church Birthday Picnic

SAVE THE DATES AND LOOK FOR YOUR INVITATION IN AUGUST!



FPC has been rooted & reaching since 1824, and this fall we are going to celebrate and serve! Monthly community outreach events kick off on Celebration Sunday, October 6, with the annual CROP Walk at 2:30 pm – we hope to have 200 members participating! We also will commemorate the Work of the Church each month: November, *Excellence in Music Ministry*; January, *FPC & Downtown Greensboro*; February, *Excellence in Pastoral Leadership*; March, *Community Outreach*; and April, *The Way Forward: Children's Education and Ministry*. Keep an eye out for more celebration news!

all Summer

late May

LECTIO DIVINA

Prayerful pondering of writings and personal reflection and prayer. Led by Rev. David Partington, contact him for link at DCPSBW197@GMAIL.COM. **Mondays** at 11 am on Zoom.

FOOD DRIVE-BY

Keep bringing cans & dry goods for Urban Ministry! 11 am-1 pm Wednesdays in front of Redhead Hall.

LEVEL 2 YOGA

Bring water, a mat, a strap & block if you have one. Love offering accepted, not required. Info: Rev. Virginia Wood, REVIRGINIAWOOD@GMAIL.COM. **Thursdays**, 4:25-5:30 pm, Virginia Gilmer Room

MIDWEEK INFORMAL SERVICE

Join our Hot Dish & Hope guests for music, prayer and a message of care. Second Tuesdays & Thursdays at 5 pm in Mullin Life Center

EARTH CARE & BEYOND PLASTICS GREENSBORO

First Mondays each month, 6:30 pm in the Garden Room.

21 ALZHEIMER'S: FACTS, FIGURES & THE FUTURE

Speakers from the Alzheimer's Association and Dr. Tiffany Reed, a gerontologist with experience in dementia care, will share the latest info on dementia and new advances in treatment. Presented by Pastoral Care, the Alzheimer's Association and Well-Spring Solutions. 2:30 to 4 pm in Redhead Hall

OUR AMERICA: LOWBALLED

We will continue learning about discriminatory housing appraisals and their impact by watching the second half of this documentary. 5:30 pm in the Garden Room

22 VETERANS' FELLOWSHIP PICNIC

For veterans, spouses, and widows & widowers of veterans. Noon, at Shelter 7, Carolina Field of Honor at Triad Park.

26 SCRIPTURE ON THE RISEN CHRIST

Rev. John Willett concludes this study. Hosted by YMBC and Agape. 10 am, Redhead Hall

GOSPEL OF JOHN

Seekers Class. 10 am, Main 125

SUMMER CHOIR BEGINS

Sing with the choir! Rehearse at 10 in the chancel, sing in the 11 am service. Best seats in the house!

June

A Sundays all month

THE LORD'S PRAYER:

The Meaning and Power of the Prayer Jesus Taught

Video & discussion based on the book by Adam Hamilton. Book available for \$15 at Welcome Center reception desk. Come As You Are Summer Elective Class. 10 am in the Garden Room

PROFESSOR SANDIE GRAVETT

will begin a summer series. Hosted by YMBC and Agape. 10 am, Redhead Hall

GOSPEL OF JOHN

Seekers Class continues this study. 10 am, Main 125

SUMMER CHOIR

Sing with the choir! Rehearse at 10 in the chancel, sing in the 11 am service. Best seats in the house!

5 PLANNING YOUR FUNERAL

Presented by Newton Cowan, part of the Planning Your 4 Quarter series. RSVP by June 3 to Debby Foster, 336-478-4702 or DFOSTER@FPCGREENSBORO.ORG. 5-6 pm in the Garden Room

6 INTERCESSORY COMMUNAL PRAYER

Pray for our church and community. 6:30-7:15 on Zoom. Contact Yolanda Baxter for link, YBAXTER@FPCGREENSBORO.ORG. Also August 1 and September 5.

10 GREAT WOLF LODGE DAY TRIP

Welcome to youth group, rising 6th-graders! Have fun, get to know other youth, and hear about youth ministry. \$65 covers transportation, admission & dinner. *Sign up by May 31!*



Green pastures, still waters and soul-refreshing moments

Summertime at FPC, on Zoom
and wherever you may find yourself

12 WALKING GROUP

Meet on the sanctuary steps. 5:30 - 6:30 pm. Info: Donna Chase, 336-253-0409. Also July 10, August 14

PAINT THE TOWN

INTERGENERATIONAL SERVICE PROJECT

We are looking for youth and adults to partner together to paint a house for a low-income family in Greensboro. This is part of a Community Housing Solutions project. They provide leadership and materials. Participants must be at least 14 years old by June 12. We'll be painting 8:30 am-3:30 pm. Use the QR code to sign up, or Matt Bussell, MBUSSELL@FPCGREENSBORO.ORG, or Lisa Witherspoon, LWITHERSPOON@FPCGREENSBORO.ORG.



The Life Center will become a Life-saving Center when we host a blood drive on June 12, 1:30-6 pm! The Red Cross says June is one of the months of greatest need. Our goal is 65 donors. Make your appointment now! Use the QR Code, go to the Welcome Center reception desk, or call Tim Cook at 704-213-2253. We also need volunteers! Pick a shift at FPCGREENSBORO.ORG/SIGNUP



18 PASSPORT KIDS CAMP

Our older elementary students head to Brevard College for four days of Bible study, missions education, recreation & worship. Please keep them in your prayers!

19 COMMUNITY SERVICE GROUP

Handcraft small quilts, blankets, hats for church and non-profit efforts. Visitors welcome, supplies available. 10 am-noon, Garden Room. Also July 17 and August 21.

FORK & FAITH

Monthly fellowship lunch for women, noon in Mullin Life Center. RSVP five days prior to Dolly Jennings, DJ6871202@GMAIL.COM or 336-854-2663. Also July 17.

23 INTERGENERATIONAL CHOIR

Ages 3rd grade -adult are invited to rehearse at 10 am in the chancel and sing in the service at 11 am. No robes needed! Questions? Contact John Alexander. Also August 18

25 YOUTH SERVICE PROJECT

Youth serve at Hot Dish & Hope. 4:45-6 pm, Life Center. Contact Lisa Witherspoon, LWITHERSPOON@FPCGREENSBORO.ORG, or Phae Smith, PSMITH@FPCGREENSBORO.ORG. Also July 9

26 STEPUP GREENSBORO LUNCH & LEARN

Learn how our ministry partner helps people find work and build stable lives. RSVP to Monica Robinson, MROBINSON@STEPUPGREENSBORO.ORG or 336-676-5871, ext. 310. Noon-1 pm in Redhead Hall. Also August 1 and October 23

29 PEACEHAVEN FARM WORKDAY

Light garden work, 9-11 am, meet at Peacehaven. Let Donna Chase know if you're coming, DCHASE@FPCGREENSBORO.ORG.

MORE



Summertime faith time!

Summer is a great time to build faith habits – for disciples of all ages! Christian Formation has a 3-month calendar of activities you can do. Here is June to get you started. Pick up a full set in the Welcome Center, sanctuary entrances or Life Center.

FAMILY FAITH IN JUNE

SCRIPTURE SUNDAY MINDFUL MONDAY TRANQUIL TUESDAY I WONDER WEDNESDAY THANKFUL THURSDAY FUN FRIDAY SERVICE SATURDAY

2	"Be still and know that I am God" Psalm 46: 10 (NRSV)	3	*One time I felt peaceful today was..."	4	Listen to the sounds of birds chirping outside. How many different chirps and songs can you identify?	5	I wonder if it's easy for you to be still and quiet?	6	A friend I am thankful for...	7	Play a game together.	8	Make a simple bird feeder to care for the birds in your neighborhood.	1	Deliver treats to a neighbor.
9	"Sing to the LORD a new song!" Psalm 98:1 (NRSV)	10	*One sound I noticed today was..."	11	Lie on your back and look at the clouds. What do they look like? What shapes do you see?	12	I wonder what songs you sing when you are happy?	13	A place I am thankful for...	14	Paint, color, or play with play-doh together.	15	Pick up trash in your neighborhood.	22	Make a card and send it to someone you needs extra love and support.
16	"You are the light of the world!" Matthew 5:14 (NRSV)	17	*One texture I touched today was..."	18	Close your eyes and listen for the rustling of leaves. Can you hear them or is the air too still?	19	I wonder how others know we love them?	20	A person I am thankful for...	21	Listen to songs from different decades.	28	Make a collage of things that make your family unique.	29	Reuse something instead of throwing it in the trash.
23	"Love is patient." 1 Corinthians 13:4 (NRSV)	24	*One time I felt happy today was..."	25	Draw a picture of a plant, tree, or flower.	26	I wonder when you feel God's love the most?	27	A thing I am thankful for...						
30	"Love is kind." 1 Corinthians 13:4 (NRSV)														

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A *Sundays all month*
JULY WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Each Sunday we will worship together in one service at 10 am in the sanctuary.

PROFESSOR SANDIE GRAVETT

will lead a summer series. Hosted by YMBC and Agape. 9 am, Redhead Hall

GOSPEL OF JOHN

Seekers Class continues this study. 9 am, Main 125

9 **YOUTH SERVICE PROJECT**

Youth are invited to help serve at Hot Dish & Hope. Contact Lisa Witherspoon, LWITHERSPOON@FPCGREENSBORO.ORG, or Phae Smith, PSMITH@FPCGREENSBORO.ORG.

10 **RACIAL EQUITY INSTITUTE TRAINING**

REI's two-day program, which FPC is hosting, offers a historical, cultural, and structural analysis of racism and explores how institutions and systems are producing inequitable outcomes. Learn more: RACIALEQUITYINSTITUTE.ORG. If you are interested in attending, contact Matt Bussell, MBUSSELL@FPCGREENSBORO.ORG.

UNFINISHED FAMILY BUSINESS

Doug McLeroy and Karen Amirehsani will discuss family systems and dynamics and constructive communication. 5 pm in the Garden Room. RSVP by July 8 to Debby Foster, 336-478-4702 or DFOSTER@FPCGREENSBORO.ORG.

17 **MONTREAT MIDDLE SCHOOL CONFERENCE**

Pray for our group headed to Maryville College in Tennessee for the week for speakers, worship, small groups, and recreation.



COMMUNITY SERVICE GROUP

Handcraft items for church and non-profit efforts. We make small quilts, blankets, hats and more. Visitors are always welcomed and supplies are available. 10 am-noon in the Garden Room. Also August 21.

FORK & FAITH

Monthly fellowship lunch for women, noon in Mullin Life Center. RSVP five days prior to Dolly Jennings, DJ6871202@GMAIL.COM or 336-854-2663.

21 **HIGH SCHOOL MONTREAT YOUTH CONFERENCE**

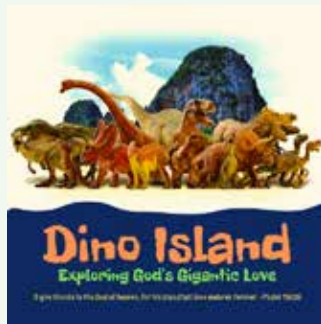
Our group heads to the mountains for this amazing annual experience! Pray that during this week they will experience that "their faith matters, they are loved as they are, and they are part of a community of faith."



Vacation Bible School & Kids Disciple Club Camp

July 29- August 1, 9 am-noon

Come to Dino Island for a fun week of Vacation Bible School! We'll explore God's Gigantic love for us through Bible stories, crafts, games, science, snacks & more! Open to ages 3 (must be 3 by August 31) through rising 2nd-graders.



Rising 3rd-5th graders are invited to Compassion Camp! We'll learn what compassion is through biblical examples then share compassion with others in service projects on and off campus, with fun and games mixed in.



\$30 per child, discount if parent volunteers. Deadline to register is June 30, but some groups may close earlier if they fill up.



\$30 per child, discount if parent volunteers.



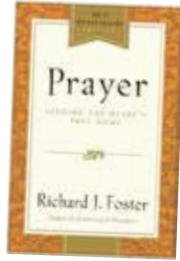
Reading & more

Recommended by staff

Mostly What God Does: Reflections on Seeking and Finding God's Love Everywhere by Savannah Guthrie

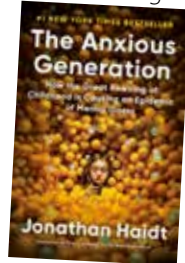
Black Liturgies: Prayers, Poems and Meditations for Staying Human by Cole Arthur Riley

Prayer: Finding the Heart's True Home by Richard Foster. How prayer can move us inward into personal transformation, upward toward intimacy with God, and outward to minister to others.



Thrivers: The Surprising Reason Why Some Kids Struggle and Others Shine by Michelle Borba. As we push our adolescent children toward more achievement, we are turning them into STRIVERS and many are no longer THRIVERS. Learn seven character traits to help kids thrive.

The Anxious Generation: How the Great Rewiring of Childhood Is Causing an Epidemic of Mental Illness by Jonathan Haidt. "Phone-based childhood" has increased anxiety, depression among



adolescents and teens. Haidt suggests steps for parents, schools, tech companies, and others to take.

The Unmaking of June Farrow by Adrienne Young. In the fictional town of Jasper, NC, June is determined to end the curse that has plagued Farrow women, and forced to decipher clues and make difficult choices.



Mad Honey by Jodi Picoult and Jennifer Finney Boylan. An unforgettable love story, and a moving and powerful exploration of the secrets we keep and the risks we take in order to become ourselves.

The Hidden Life of Cecily Larson by Ellen Baker. At age 4, Cecily was left at an orphanage. Three years later she was bought by a traveling circus. Now, Cecily is 94 and her past comes to light after her grandson sends off DNA for a school project.

Broken Harbor by Tana French. "Scorchers" Kennedy takes the case of a man & his two young children who have been murdered, leaving his wife in intensive care.

Currie Library Book Club ideas



These books have been selected for next year's reads. Get ahead this summer! The clubs meet September-May, the second Monday of each month at 10:30 am and the second Tuesdays at 1:30 pm, both in the Garden Room.

The Greater Journey by David McCullough

Hannah Coulter by Wendell Berry

The Lord's Prayer by Adam Hamilton

The Women by Kristin Hannah

First Ladies by Marie Benedict

West With Giraffes by Lynda Rutledge

The Extraordinary Life of Sam Hell by Robert Dugoni

When Truth Is All You Have by Jim McCloskey

The Heaven and Earth Grocery Store by James McBride

ALSO RECOMMENDED

Silver Alert by Lee Smith

Horse by Geraldine Brooks

Remarkably Bright Creatures by Shirley Van Pelt

The Light We Carry by Michelle Obama

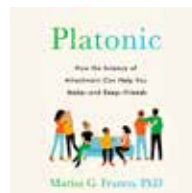
The Personal Librarian by Marie Benedict

AUDIOBOOKS

The Defining Decade: Why Your Twenties Matter - and How to Make the Most of Them Now by Meg Jay

Platonic: How the Science of Attachment Can Help You Make - and Keep - Friends by Marisa G. Franco

How to Raise the Perfect Dog by Cesar Millan



PODCASTS

Unlocking Us with Brene Brown. Conversations that unlock the deeply human part of who we are, so that we can live, love, parent, and lead with a whole heart.

On Being with Krista Tippett. Conversations with scientists, artists, politicians & more on what it means to be human & how we want to live.

Everything Happens with Kate Bowler. The Duke Divinity professor & cancer survivor talks to funny and wise people about how to live with the knowledge that, well, everything happens.



SCOTLAND PILGRIMAGE: REGISTER BY AUGUST 1

Trip is April 29-May 10, 2025. Connect with personal faith and our Scottish Reformed roots through a pilgrimage experience from Edinburgh to Iona and back to St. Andrews and Dundee! We will also explore how the Church of Scotland is reaching into the community to rediscover its mission. Info: Yolanda Baxter, YBAXTER@FPCGREENSBORO.ORG.

August

A *Sundays all month*
REGULAR WORSHIP SCHEDULE
9 am Rejoice, 11 am Sanctuary

SUMMER CHOIR
Come at 10 am to the chancel for rehearsal, sing in the 11 am service. We will not robe in the summer.

MATTHEW 25 AND US
August 4 will be FPC's *Journey on Race* documentary, remaining Sundays on care for creation. Come as You Are Summer Elective Class, 10 am in the Garden Room.

GOSPEL OF JOHN
Seekers Class continues this study. 9 am, Main 125

1 **STEPUP GREENSBORO LUNCH & LEARN**
Learn how our ministry partner helps people find work and build stable lives. RSVP to Monica Robinson, MROBINSON@STEPUPGREENSBORO.ORG or 336-676-5871, ext. 310. Noon-1 pm in Redhead Hall. Also October 23

INTERCESSORY COMMUNAL PRAYER
for our church and community, 6:30-7:15 pm on Zoom.
Also September 5. Contact Yolanda Baxter for link, YBAXTER@FPCGREENSBORO.ORG.

9 **MONTREAT WOMEN'S CONNECTION**
Be in prayer for our women attending this weekend retreat.

18 **INTERGENERATIONAL CHOIR**
Ages 3rd grade - adult are invited to rehearse at 10 am in the chancel and sing in the 11 am service. No robes needed! Questions? Contact John Alexander.

21 **COMMUNITY SERVICE GROUP**
Handcraft items for church and local non-profit efforts. Supplies available. 10 am-noon, Garden Room

FORK & FAITH
Fellowship lunch for women, noon in Mullin Life Center. RSVP five days prior to Dolly Jennings, DJ6871202@GMAIL.COM or 336-854-2663.

25 **ONE WORSHIP SERVICE**
for Ordination and Installation of Elders, 11 am, sanctuary.



SAVE THE DATES!

AUGUST 25
Youth Parent meeting

SEPTEMBER 3
Weekday Preschool opens

SEPTEMBER 4
Chancel Choir rehearsals resume

SEPTEMBER 8
Fall Family Fellowship Kickoff
Youth Kickoff events

SEPTEMBER 11
Children's Choirs begin

SEPTEMBER 15
Children's/Youth Sunday School begin
Kids Disciple Club Kickoff

SEPTEMBER 27-29
Raleigh Youth Mission Weekend

SEPTEMBER 28
Neil's Meals

OCTOBER 1
Women's Retreat registration opens

OCTOBER 6
Crop Walk

OCTOBER 20
Camp Weaver Sunday

First Presbyterian Church
617 N. Elm St.
Greensboro, NC 27401-2095

Non-Profit Org.
US POSTAGE PAID
Greensboro, NC
PERMIT 95



Practice
Earth
Care this
summer!

Get a solar charger for your phone or tablet.

Set your thermostat to at least 74 when you're home and higher when you're not. Investing in a programmable thermostat makes it easy!

Use mineral-based sunscreens, which are less harmful to ocean life, and stick to lotions instead of sprays.

Take your own water bottle with you everywhere.

Take reusable bags to EVERY store – grocery, department, drug store, farmers market.

Give up plastic straws and utensils.

Buy soda in aluminum cans and recycle them.

Use bar soap, and purchase boxed laundry powder and dishwashing powder.

For picnics or for leftovers and other food items, use reusable silicone bags and glass storage containers.

Spend some time picking up trash on the beach, on a trail, or in a local park.

