



2024
*April
Newsletter*

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
SYLVA



OUR MISSION

To make disciples who love Jesus Christ, love the church, and love their neighbors as themselves.

(828) 586-4256

office@sylvapres.org

www.sylvapres.org

46 Presbyterian Drive, Sylva, NC 28779

**Mailing Address: PO Box 2152, Sylva,
NC 28779**

**OFFICE HOURS: Monday - Friday
8:00am - 12:00pm**

Blake Daniel, Pastor

Jean Chance, Administrative Assistant

Courtney Umphlett, Music Director

Margaret Hale, Organist/Pianist

Heather Monar, Children/Youth Ministry

Lilly Matheson, Children's Ministry Assistant

Judy Henderson, Treasurer

Grace Reed, Financial Secretary

Lynda Parlett, Assistant Financial Secretary

April Deacon of the Month:

Jeff Pope (828) 736-7867

Dianne Scott - alt - (828) 506-5665

PASTOR'S NOTES

Dear church family,

This is my favorite time of year. Eastertide. Springtime. The season when the days are getting longer and warmer and members of our community emerge from their homes like bears from their caves to stretch their legs and plant their gardens and turn their faces once more towards the sun. Indeed, resurrection is the name of the game.



And this is certainly true around the church. Not that we were dormant during the wintertime (our church calendar definitely said otherwise) – but we are entering this season with renewed energy and addressing some projects that have long been in the queue. Here are some examples:

Worship & Discipleship. We are so grateful to have a thriving music and Christian education program. Courtney and Margaret are doing a fantastic job with the choir on Sundays, our two adult Sunday School classes are bursting at the seams, and Heather, Lilly, and their faithful team of volunteers are leading our children with creativity and love. If you're not involved in any of these ministry areas, I encourage you to consider becoming so. Join the choir, even if you're not confident about your singing abilities (Courtney is a great teacher!). Come to Sunday School, either in the Garden Room or upstairs in the MJPC. And help out with our children's program, which is always on the lookout for more volunteers.

Mission. The Session has recently completed a SWOT analysis to discern the ways God might be leading us into the future, and one of the topics for prayer and consideration was the topic of mission, specifically in regards to community outreach and social justice concerns. Since the 2nd greatest commandment – and part of our mission statement – is to “love our neighbors as we love ourselves,” we want to be intentional about doing just that. One such opportunity is our upcoming Yard Sale on April 6 to benefit The Community Table, our literal neighbor down the street. We

encourage you to bring your donations and come to show your support, and to be on the lookout for other possibilities in the future.

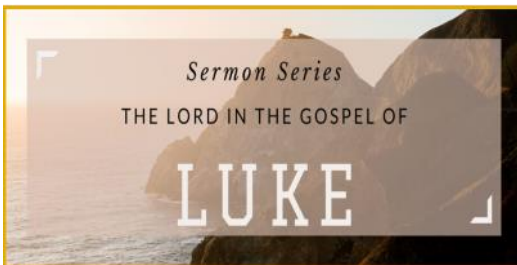
Landscaping & Parking Lot. You may remember that the Session recently appointed a Task Force to give our church landscapes an overhaul. This led to the removal of most of the plants on our property last year, and it will soon lead to many new plants being installed as spring gets underway. We invite you to join us for a Spring Work Day on May 4 to help us do this planting, as well as to help with other tasks (e.g., washing windows, pressure washing sidewalks, spreading mulch). The Session has also approved repairs to our parking lot (see Alisha's Clerk of Session report in this newsletter). Sean Williams of Williams Sealcoating has begun filling the cracks in our asphalt, and he will soon return to reseal and restripe the parking lot in order to make it more accessible to all our members and guests. Thanks be to God for the new life we have through Christ, and for our life together.

See you Sunday,

Blake

WORSHIP

Join us for worship on Sundays as we offer our praise to God, study Scripture and learn about its relevance for our lives, and go deeper in fellowship and life together. In-person services take place in the sanctuary at 11:00am. We are also live-streaming for those who are not able to attend via our [YouTube page](#).



SUNDAY SCRIPTURES

April 7 - Luke 24:13-35

April 14 - Luke 24:36-49

April 21 - Luke 8:26-39

April 28 - Luke 15:11-32

Do you have a prayer request?

Send prayer concerns or updates to our church prayer email address:
pray@sylvapres.org



Welcome to our newest members!

From left to right: The Hogan family, Marjorie Eyre, Ann Guessford, Lee Galloway, Donna Stewart, Luke Burkhart, Marcia Woosley, Royce Woosley, Kristen Brady, Travis Berry, & Dennis Stewart

DOLLARS & CENTS

There is something very uplifting about this time of year. First and foremost, we celebrate the risen Christ. And add to that daffodils and pansies, flowering trees, and perennials starting to green up. It does the heart good! We begin the season with expectancy and look forward to a season of need-ed sprucing up of the church grounds, a repaved parking lot, sewer and plumbing problems at

the Transition House repaired, planting flowers in the beds, VBS around the corner. We finished our first quarter financially strong thanks to God's provision through generous gifts from members and friends. Thanks be to God.

In His Service:

Judy Henderson, Treasurer

Donations 3-7 / 3-27

Regular Fund: \$25,058.96

Organ: \$ 287.76

Missions: \$400.00

Disaster: \$200.00

Contingency: \$ 275.00

TOTAL: \$26,221.72

Worship

Attendance: 115

3 WAYS TO GIVE

Recurring Donation

Set up a one time or recurring donation:

<https://www.sylvapres.org>

Drop It Off

Drop off a check during office hours or at worship.

Mail A Check to:

First Presbyterian Church

P.O. Box 2152

Sylva, NC 28779

SESSION

Spring is my favorite. I love being a witness to all that blooms and grows this time of year. Similarly to the first flowers of the season, our church is blooming, too! In February and March, the session approved the following individuals for membership: **Travis Berry, Kristen Brady, Luke Burkhart, Marjorie Eyre, Lee Galloway, Ann Guessford, James Hogan, Kelly Hogan, Dennis Stewart, Donna Stewart, Marcia Woosley, and Royce Woosley.** Please take some time to introduce yourself to these folks and extend a warm welcome to our church family!

Lastly, the session has hired Williams Sealcoating to give our parking lot a much-needed refresh! Work will begin in the coming weeks and will happen in three phases. **Phase One:** Blow and edge the parking lot and fill cracks. **Phase Two:** Sealcoat the parking lot with two coats. **Phase Three:** Re-stripe/paint.

Love & Peace,

Alisha Thomas
Clerk of Session

MUSIC

Happy Easter everyone! I hope everyone is enjoying some time outside in this beautiful weather.

As we head towards the end of another school year and music program season in our church, I am very excited about summer musical opportunities to bring to our congregation.

Tuesdays 6:00-7:00 PM (starting July 9th): **Instrumental Ensemble** If you play an instrument that you would typically see in an orchestra, come join our instrumental ensemble! We will be playing simple hymn arrangements and preparing to play for church sometime in August. **All ages and experience levels are welcome.**

Wednesdays 6:00-7:00 PM (starting July 10th): **Group piano class for ALL ages.** No previous skills required. You will learn piano playing based on where you are currently, even if you have never touched a piano. **The only "payment" is that you will play the prelude in church some time in the fall.**

Monday July 15th-Thursday July 18th
2:00-4:00 PM **Children/Youth Choir Camp (Ages 4-14)**

Monday July 15th-Thursday July 18th
4:00-6:00 PM **Children/Youth Handbell Camp (Ages 4-14)**

If you are interested in any of the above, you can register at <https://forms.gle/2dCruKqtSQ4LESCu8>

If you have questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Have a great month, everyone!

Courtney

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

Happy Spring!

Families, mark your calendars for Vacation Bible School! This year, it will be held over 4 days from **May 28 -May 31** at Bridge Park in Sylva. I will provide more information about volunteering as we get closer to the dates.

As you may have noticed, the number of children and youth at FPC Sylva is growing! We are so excited to welcome new families! As always, if you are interested in knowing more about our children and youth programming or just want to get to know our awesome kids better, please reach out to me.

Warmly,

Heather Monar



DEACONS

This Easter we celebrate the resurrection of our Lord. How fitting, then, for us to reflect on the resurrection fern. This little fern forms mats on trees in wet places – my favorite colony grows on a broad limb leaning out over Deep Creek toward Tom Branch Falls in the Smokies. In tough times, the fronds of resurrection fern will shrivel and fade, seemingly defeated by drought. In this process, the plant can lose three-quarters of its water. Though only Christ can truly conquer death, the quick green-up once moisture returns looks all the world like a resurrection.



The deacons extend our thanks to the congregation, to all those who provided an Easter Basket for a child at the Black Mountain Children's home.

Our church's spring hike will be Saturday, April 13th, at 4:00pm at the Jackson County Greenway (the main, Locust Creek entrance). Come

for fellowship, flowers, and an easy walk on the paved trail. We might even see a resurrection fern!

The deacons continue our service – organizing events, helping with funerals, and caring for the church and community. The deacons regularly review our prayer list. If you would like to add to the prayer list, please email pray@sylvapres.org or call the church office (828-586-4256).

Kelder

MISSIONS

United Christian Ministries: Watch the weekly email for the items of the month. We also continue to collect other nonperishables, particularly canned foods with pop tops, and all hygiene products as well as pet food for those struggling to feed themselves and their families. *Coming in May- Mother's Day Diaper Drive!* Infant and adult diapers will be collected for those in need of these expensive items. All donations may be left on the Giving Tree in the Fellowship Hall.

Church Yard Sale to Benefit The

Community Table: The Community Table is struggling to meet the nourishment needs of our community

both through their food pantry and the hot meals they provide so we hope to help through a yard sale with all proceeds going to The Community Table. The sale will take place on **Saturday, April 6 from 9:00 AM to 12:00** in our parking lot and we invite you to come out to get some great bargains while supporting our neighbors. We need volunteers to help sort and price donations on Wednesday, April 3 at 6:00 in the Fellowship Hall. We also need volunteers to help set up the tables and put out the sale items at 8:00 Saturday, April 6, volunteers to help sell the items and, volunteers to help break down the tables at Noon. If you can help, please contact Lynda Parlett at (910) 977-0588 or lynda.parlett@gmail.com!

Coming in May- A school supply drive will be held to help students in need in the Jackson County Public Schools. We will be collecting wide-ruled and college-ruled notebook paper and spiral notebooks. A table for donations will be provided in the Fellowship Hall.

Committee members needed: As you ponder the needs of our

church family and community, please prayerfully consider joining the Mission Committee. We need helping hands to faithfully fulfill Jesus' command to serve others. We meet on the 4th Sunday of the month at 9:00 in the Parlor. Come try it out. We'd love to have you join us.

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

In our March monthly meeting, we discussed the life-changing encounter the Ethiopian eunuch had with the apostle Philip in the book of Acts. Led by the Holy Spirit, Philip was prompted to walk on the road from Jerusalem to Gaza, where he met a man from Ethiopia, the African region which was then "the ends of the earth". This man was reading from the scroll of Isaiah but had no idea of the meaning behind the message. Through the Spirit's prompting, Philip was able to share the Good News and the man was overjoyed to be baptized and carry the message of Jesus back to Ethiopia. This is a story of the first global expansion of the gospel through personal witness, to the ends of the earth, that blurs all gender, ethnic and status boundaries. It is also a reminder that knowing the Word of God is an essential

tool for expanding the Kingdom.

The Presbyterian Women's Circle is excited to be hosting **Rev. Linda Abel, Pastor of Hayesville Presbyterian Church, on April 18**, when she will be addressing the women of our church on the topic of the role of women in the church through history. We will have free sub sandwich boxed dinners at 5:30, courtesy of the Hospitality Committee, prepared by the Mountain Projects Food Service, followed by Rev. Abel's presentation at 6:15. Childcare and rides to church will be available upon request.

PLEASE RSVP TO JEAN BY APRIL 8th regarding attendance, as well as dinner, childcare and ride requests. Jean will give you sub choices and other details. **PLEASE JOIN US!**

HOSPITALITY

The Hospitality Committee meets quarterly on the second Sunday at 9:00am in the parlor. If you would like to become a part of this committee, please feel free to join us. If you have a need or request of the committee, please feel free to join us or contact any member of

the committee.

The Hospitality Committee members are: Frances Hess - Chairman, Betty Foti, Susan Blair, Beth Baxley, Jenna Porter, David Porter, Ali Large, Diane Scott, Pat Mikula, Robin Gorman and Jae Crawford.

The Hospitality Committee will be assisting with the following events:

- **April 18 - 5:30pm:** Meal prior to the presentation by Rev. Linda Abel for all of the women of the church.
- **May 4 - 12:00—2:00pm:** Appreciation Luncheon for volunteers of the Children's Ministry.

A **Game Day** and **Progressive Dinner** are being planned. Dates and times will be announced at a later date. I would like to say "Thank you" to the committee members for their participation in the past, present and for future events and functions in the church.

Frances Hess

UPCOMING EVENTS



We need volunteers to help with the YARD SALE:

- **April 3:** Sorting & Pricing at 6:00pm in the fellowship hall
- **April 6:** Set up at 8:00am; Sales from 9:00am to noon; Breakdown at noon

A sign up sheet is in the fellowship hall.

Questions? Call Lynda Parlett at (910) 977-0588




UPCOMING EVENTS



Church Spring Hike **Saturday, April 13**

Meet at 4pm at the Locust Creek end of the Jackson County Greenway,
the main parking area. It should be an easy 2 mile walk.





Presbyterian Women's Circle

Rev. Linda Abel

The Role of Women in the Church Through History
April 18th - 5:30pm

FPC Fellowship Hall
All Women of the Church are Invited


Free Subway box dinner at 5:30pm - Presentation starts at 6:15pm
Childcare & Transportation available upon request



RSVP to the Church Office by April 8

office@sylvapres.org / 828-586-4256

Let Jean know your selection of sub sandwich;
if you need childcare; and if you need a ride.



UPCOMING EVENTS



A graphic for a Spring Work Day event. It has a light green background with a purple border. On the left, there are illustrations of a shovel, a pitchfork, and a hand digging in the soil. In the center, the text "Spring Work Day" is written in a blue cursive font, followed by "May 4" and "9:00am-12:00pm" in a blue sans-serif font. On the right, there is a sun icon and an illustration of a rake raking soil with a small plant growing in it. At the bottom, the text "Help us spruce up our landscaping, clean the church building, and tackle other projects" is written in a blue sans-serif font.

COMMUNITY

United Christian Ministries

Needed for the Month of April:

peanut butter, jelly, pasta sauce, canned chicken

Other items needed: daily hygiene supplies, dishwashing liquid, laundry detergent



6 week study begins

April 3

"Kingdom Disciples"

by Tony Evans

Women's Community Bible Study



We are excited to announce our last bible study of the spring season!

Womens' Community Bible Study, a non-denominational bible study in Sylva, will begin a 6-week study on **April 3: "Kingdom Disciples," by Tony Evans**. An opening coffee will be held on Wednesday, April 3 starting at 9am at Sylva First Presbyterian Church on Grindstaff Cove Road. Enjoy refreshments and an introduction to this video-based study that will show us how to move from simple faith to progressively learning how to live all of life as a disciple of Jesus Christ. Childcare is provided at no charge. For more information, or to pre-register, please Email joyce_pope@hotmail.com.

OPPORTUNITIES TO SERVE



HELP NEEDED

SIGN UP FOR:
Greeters/Ushers; Audio/Video; Children's Church;
Flowers; Coffee Fellowship; Nursery

Don't forget to look at the clip boards in the Fellowship Hall each week to see if there are vacant spaces that need to be filled for the following week.

FROM THE CHURCH OFFICE



CHURCH
Directories

AVAILABLE UPON REQUEST FROM THE OFFICE

SEND ALL CHANGES/CORRECTIONS TO
THE CHURCH OFFICE AT
OFFICE@SYLVAPRES.ORG



Don't forget to wear your name tag.

IF YOU DON'T HAVE A NAME TAG,
WRITE YOUR NAME ON THE PAPER PROVIDED
AND WE WILL MAKE ONE FOR YOU.



Birthdays

- 4-1 Pat Mikula**
- 4-3 Alisha Thomas**
- 4-5 Patrick Hill**
- 4-6 David Kelley, Tim Boyer**
- 4-7 Lee Galloway**
- 4-10 Erin Daniel, Jenna Pendry**
- 4-11 Will Murajda**
- 4-14 Brenda Hill**
- 4-15 James McManus**
- 4-18 Sam Hale**
- 4-21 Bruce Henderson, Ben Pendry**
- 4-24 Linda Kelley**
- 4-30 Dennis Stewart**

Anniversaries

- 4-7 Steve & Beth Baxley**
- 4-11 Doug & Doris Cody**
- 4-17 David & Jenny Porter**
- 4-24 Ben & Jenna Pendry**
- 4-26 Blake & Erin Daniel**