

NEWSLETTER

AUGUST 2023

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH - SYLVA



OUR MISSION

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

*August 13th at 9:45 AM
in the Fellowship Hall*

RALLY DAY

From the Pastor



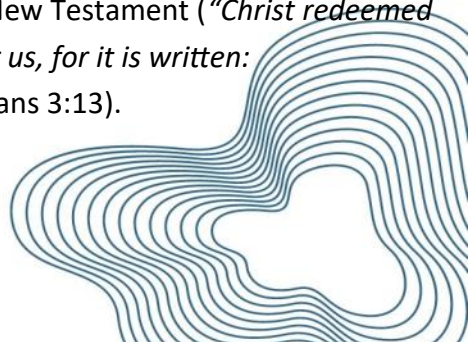
Dear church family,

Over the summertime, my family and I have enjoyed taking Saturday trips to forested spots near Sylva. Our favorites thus far have been the Joyce Kilmer Memorial Forest near Robbinsville and the Cradle of Forestry in America near Brevard. Both locations have afforded us beautiful picnic areas, interpretive knowledge of history and landscape, and long, peaceful walks in the woods. I highly recommend you visit them, even if you've already been there before.

Because there's something special about trees, isn't there? They offer us shade and fruit and lumber. They're a haven for pollinators and other creatures. They purify the air around us. They direct our eyes down – towards the earth – and up – towards the heavens – and in this they reorient us to the things of God. As Joyce Kilmer himself wrote, *"I think that I shall never see / A poem lovely as a tree... / Poems are made by fools like me, / But only God can make a tree."*

Is it any wonder, then, that Scripture talks a lot about trees? There's the tree of life and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil in Genesis 2; the tree of wisdom in Psalm 1 and Proverbs 3; and the new tree of life in Revelation 22. Remember that the cross of Jesus is often called a tree throughout the New Testament (*"Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law by becoming a curse for us, for it is written: 'Cursed is everyone who is hung on a tree.'"* – Galatians 3:13).

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From the Pastor

And then, remember how Jesus described himself as a vine (very similar to a tree!), and his followers as his branches, in John 15. So, yes, there is something special about trees.

This doesn't mean we worship trees – we Christians aren't pagans or pantheists. But it does mean we see them as signposts of the Kingdom, reminding us of God's goodness in creation and of our call to be stewards of that creation. In this last stretch of summertime, I hope you spend some time among the trees. And, as you do, give thanks to the God who made them.

Yours in Christ,

Blake



Worship News

Worship News

Join us for worship on Sundays as we give praise to God, study Scripture and learn about its relevance for our lives, and go deeper in life together. In-person services take place in the sanctuary at 11:00am. We are live-streaming for those who prefer to worship from home via our [YouTube page](#).

Sunday Scriptures:

August 6	2 Thessalonians 1
August 13	2 Thessalonians 2
August 20	2 Thessalonians 3:1-5
August 27	2 Thessalonians 3:6-18

Do you have a prayer request?

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



Dollars and Cents



It's hard to believe that in a few short weeks school will be starting and the busyness that goes with it. Summer has brought many visitors to our worship services and we have missed folks who have traveled to local lakes and even abroad. Some summers have been challenging to our finances with so many out of town and offerings variable but we have been holding steady this year for which I am thankful. May we continue to enjoy the community of believers God has called together at FPC and support His work as we are able.

In His Service,

Judy Henderson, Treasurer



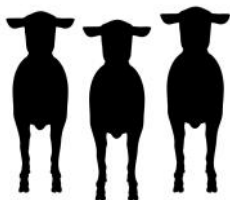
Missions

United Christian Ministries is in need of pasta and pasta sauce this month. Additionally, items that cannot be purchased with government assistance are needed including: Shampoo, dish detergent, laundry detergent, paper products and pet food. Please place your donations on the Giving Tree in the Fellowship Hall.

Hands on Jackson, the one day community service blitz assisting senior citizens with minor home repair, cleanup, etc., will take place this year on **Thursday, October 12**. We have assisted with yardwork the last several years and anticipate doing so again this year. We really need volunteers to serve on our team so please contact Lynda Parlett (lynda.parlett@gmail.com, 910-977-0588) no later than September 1st to let us know if you can join us or sign-up on the sheet in the Fellowship Hall.

The next **Cove Cleanup** (roadside trash pickup along Grindstaff Cove Road) will take place in September. Watch the newsletter and weekly emails for details.

Farm Help Needed: We anticipate holding our second annual **Advent Gift Market** in November. At the gift market you can donate to give farm animals, supplies and equipment to impoverished people throughout the U.S. and the world and/or support our local nonprofit organizations as holiday gifts in honor or in memory of those you hold dear. We would like to have some farm animals on the grounds for our children to enjoy that day so if you have or know of someone willing to share their calves, lambs/sheep, goats, etc. on that day, please contact Lynda Parlett at lynda.parlett@gmail.com or 910-977-0588.



Lynda Parlett



Music Ministry

Can you believe August is already here? August is always such an exciting time in the life of our church, which includes our ensembles starting back!

We would love ANY and ALL to join us for any of the following:

***Church Choir:** NO music experience necessary! We will teach you everything you need to know. We meet on Wednesday 7:00-8:15pm and sing most Sundays for the church service. This is for ages 12 & up. **Choir starts back Wednesday, August 9th.**

***Youth/Adult Handbells:** Our handbells will be meeting weekly this year (time and day TBD) and we have practice most weeks at First United Methodist Church. The only requirement for handbells is that you are able to read music. We play for church 2-3 times per semester and also play for the Christmas program. This is for ages 12 and up. **Handbells start back the first week of September.**

***Children's Music:** We invited all children ages 4-11 to join us for children's on Sunday mornings 9:20-10:00 AM! We sing, play instruments, and learn the basics of music reading. We play/sing for church 2 times per semester and also play for the Christmas program. There is no experience required! **Children's Music starts back Sunday, September 10th.**

***Parents of children 3rd grade and up, please see the email I sent with some questions and respond. Thank you! ***

Thanks everyone and have a wonderful summer!

Courtney



Deacons

High-elevation Southern Appalachian bogs are special places in our landscape. They exist in flat, wet places high in the mountains, a rare combination made rarer by our past efforts to drain them. They are home to many remarkable plant and animal species, like insect-eating purple pitcher plants, or the 8-foot tall queen of the prairie.



Purple Pitcher Plant
Sarracenia purpurea

One of these bogs recently humbled me. I was guiding two other biologists deep into the wetland, mucking through 10-inch-deep water. With one more step, the ground gave way beneath me, sucking me in an instant up to my knees in mud. Mud poured into my boots, and I slowly sank in almost to my waist. I was stuck, and no power of mine could free me.



Queen of the Prairie
Filipendula Rubra



Wetland bog

It was a particularly vivid illustration that God didn't make this world for us to travel alone, that we depend on community for our spiritual and physical well-being. From my low place in the bog it took both biologists and my intern to pull me out. But any of us may be called at any time to help a brother or sister in Christ from a spiritual low.

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Deacons

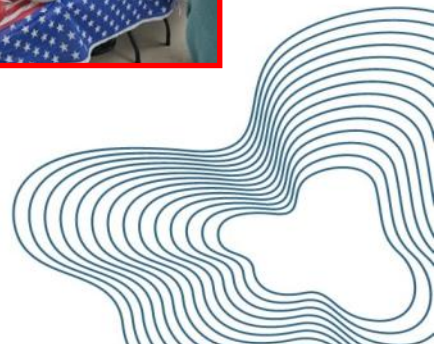
We deacons hope to foster the sense of community in our congregation where that spiritual sharing can happen. The **Fourth of July Cookout** was our latest effort. Despite some rain, it was a great opportunity for fellowship and food. Robby's smoked pork was delicious, and thanks to the rest of the congregation we had tables overflowing with sides and desserts.

As always, the deacons regularly review the 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).

The deacon of the month for August is **Kelder Monar (919) 259-8480** and the alternate is **Tom Tabor (828) 226-9260**.

Kelder

Fun on the Fourth of July!



Children's Ministry

Our children have been enjoying summer Sunday school and learning about some of the miracles of Jesus. One of



the miracles we learned about was Jesus healing a blind man, and the children got to participate in a hands-on activity to demonstrate

what it would be like without their sight. Check out these pictures of the children guessing an object by only their touch or smell!



Mark your calendars for **Rally Day** on **August 13th**. This kicks off the start of another Sunday school year. All Sunday school attendees are invited for a breakfast provided by the hospitality committee at 9:45 am in the fellowship hall. After breakfast, the children will go to their Sunday school classrooms and meet their teachers.

Families, please also mark your calendars for **Sunday, August 20th**! We are having a **back to school event** at the **Dillsboro River Company**. We will have a cookout starting at 4 pm with burgers, hotdogs, and drinks provided by the church. Families who are interested in tubing on the river before the cookout should arrive at 2 pm to allow time to tube before the cookout starts. Please bring a side dish to share. Mary or Adam Gelbaugh will be happy to answer any questions you might have about tubing. Can't wait to see all our families there for this fun event.

Thank you all again for your support and attention to my call for children's ministry volunteers. I continue to ask each of you to prayerfully consider how you may help our growing children's ministry!

Warmly,

Heather



Personnel



Child Care Attendant WANTED

The First Presbyterian Church of Sylva is looking for an individual to serve as a child care attendant on Sunday mornings from 9:30am to 12:30pm.

Some of the responsibilities include:

- Set up nursery or pre-school room
- Prepare for the day's lesson
- Love and care for all children in the nursery rooms
- Engage the children in creative play, songs, stories, and otherwise provide a happy, wholesome experience.

Please contact the Church at 828-586-4256 or email kakieg9@gmail.com if you are interested or have questions.

All applicants must pass a background check.



Hospitality

During the months of June and July the Hospitality Committee continued their primary ministry of making visits, bringing food, sending cards and being in touch by phone as needs and concerns arose.

We are working on tidying up some areas of the church. We've completed the reorganization of the large storage room off the entryway. We will soon be reorganizing the storage room for the fellowship hall and labeling the cabinets and drawers in the kitchen.

In June we were delighted to host a **baby shower** for our youngest member, **Ada Josephine**, and her parents Paige and Matt Yelen.



In July we had a great turnout for the **Asheville Tourist baseball game**. It looks like we need to make this an annual event!

Please mark your calendars for **GAME DAY, SATURDAY AUGUST 23, 1-4 PM**, in the church Fellowship Hall. Everyone is invited, bring a friend. Bring games, cards, puzzles and a snack and plan on lots of fun!

Beth Baxley



Presbyterian Women

- ◇ In July the PWC wrote a letter of endorsement for United Christian Ministries in support of a Thank Offering grant through the PW Synod. This grant is being pursued in order to help purchase food for UCM due to the skyrocketing need this year. It will be spring before UCM hears about this grant and others.
- ◇ Our monthly meeting was held on Thursday, July 20. In keeping with our summer theme of learning more about women in the Bible, we watched an excellent video sermon entitled “Hannah: A Woman of Grace”.
- ◇ Rather than hold a meeting in August, we will instead host a dinner for all the women of the church on **THURSDAY, AUGUST 24 AT 5 PM** in the Fellowship Hall. Please mark your calendars and join us!
- ◇ Starting in September our new nine month study will begin. This year’s study is entitled “Sacred Encounters: The Power and Presence of Jesus in Luke-Acts”. The study booklets have arrived and look wonderful. We are happy to order more for any women of the church interested! We will be sharing more about the study over the six weeks.

Beth Baxley



PRESBYTERIAN
WOMEN



Upcoming Events

Rally Day

AUGUST 13 AT 9:45AM | FELLOWSHIP HALL

JOIN US TO PROMOTE OUR KIDS MOVING UP IN SUNDAY SCHOOL.
BREAKFAST WILL BE SERVED FOR EVERYONE. A SIGN UP SHEET IS
IN THE FELLOWSHIP HALL ON THE KITCHEN COUNTER.

Thursday, August 24, 5:00PM
Dinner for all of the Women of the Church

Sponsored by the Presbyterian Women's Circle.



Upcoming Events



Game Day
SAT. AUGUST 26TH
1:00-4:00PM IN THE FELLOWSHIP HALL



EVERYONE IS INVITED. BRING YOUR FRIENDS. BRING YOUR FAVORITE GAMES, CARDS, PUZZLES AND A SNACK. GET READY FOR FUN!



Church Campout
SEPTEMBER 8-10, 2023
STANDING INDIAN CAMPGROUND
LOOP 3, SITE 33
RESERVE YOUR SITE ASAP AT [RECREATION.GOV](https://www.recreation.gov)!

Our Fall Church Campout will take place Sept. 8-10, 2023!
We will be camping at Standing Indian Campground, based in Loop 3, Site 33. Even though this is months away, the campsite will be filling up fast, so reserve your own site at www.recreation.gov.



Opportunities to Serve

AUDIO / VIDEO HELP NEEDED!

We are looking for volunteers to help run the sound and video for Sunday morning services. Want to learn how and sign up for a shift? Please contact the church office at office@sylvapres.org



YOUR HELP NEEDED

Sign up for:



FLOWERS FOR
THE SANCTUARY



GREETING & USHERING



HELPING IN THE NURSERY
OR CHILDREN'S CHURCH

Interested in serving on a church committee?

Notify the Church Office or our Pastor!

- Christian Education
- Finance
- Hospitality
- Mission
- Personnel
- Property
- Transition House
- Worship



Birthdays & Anniversaries

Birthdays

- 8-1 Jim Smythe
- 8-2 Heidi Buchanan
Becky Lindsay
Sarah Thompson
- 8-10 Lynda Parlett
- 8-11 Margaret Hale
- 8-15 Charley Patten
Courtney Umphlett
- 8-24 Steve Parlett
- 8-25 Curtis Grace
Caitlin Cody
- 8-26 Jim Gieser
Joe Hutchinson

Anniversaries

- 8-10 James & Judy McManus
- 8-14 Melanie & Tom Tabor
- 8-15 Dave & Dottie Whitesides
- 8-19 Bruce & Judy Henderson
- 8-23 Charley & Kathy Patten



If you would like your birthday or anniversary listed in future newsletters, please send the information to office@sylvapres.org.



Office Notes

*Updated Directories
available from the church office.
You may also find copies
on the table above
the name tag drawers.*

Pastor:	Blake Daniel
Administrative Assistant:	Jean Chance
Music Director:	Courtney Umphlett
Organist/Pianist:	Margaret Hale
Children & Youth Ministry Director:	Heather Monar
Children's Ministry Assistant:	Sydney Kugel-Humphrey
Treasurer:	Judy Henderson
Financial Secretary:	Grace Reed
Assistant Financial Secretary:	Lynda Parlett
July Deacon of the Month:	Kelder Monar (919-259-8480) Alternate, Tom Tabor (828-226-9260)

First Presbyterian Church—46 Presbyterian Drive—Sylva, NC 28779

Mailing Address: PO Box 2152—Sylva, NC 28779

828-586-4256

office@sylvapres.org

www.sylvapres.org

