

JULY 2023 NEWSLETTER

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Sylva, North Carolina

BLAKE DANIEL, PASTOR
JEAN CHANCE, ADMIN. ASSIST.

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Sylva, NC 28779

Mailing Address: PO Box 2152
Sylva, NC 28779

OFFICE HOURS:
MONDAY - FRIDAY
8:00AM - 12:00PM

OUR MISSION

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



HAPPY

Fourth of July

THE CHURCH OFFICE WILL
BE CLOSED ON TUESDAY
THE FOURTH





Dear church family,

Grace and peace to you in the thick of summer! As I wrote in the June newsletter, this is a season in which we enjoy the rhythms of ordinary time in our community and congregation, whether through barbecuing, swimming at the pool, taking fishing trips, watching fireworks, or simply enjoying life together. It's a good time to be in the mountains.

As we reach the halfway point of 2023, I want to share several things with you so we can all be on the same page – two thank yous, two reminders, and one encouragement:

- A **thank you**. As you likely know, the Finance Committee mailed out a letter updating the congregation on the low balance in our General Fund several months ago. I am please to report that since then, our financial situation has become much stronger and more financially viable – thanks to the grace of God and the generosity of all of you. Be on the lookout for other financial updates moving forward.
- Another **thank you**. We have been using our new hymnals, *Lift Up Your Hearts*, for over a month now. Some of the hymns have been familiar to us, but many have been unfamiliar and, therefore, a bit challenging. Thank you for remaining flexible and open as we continue to worship in new and different ways through song and liturgy! It's a joy to have a singing congregation.

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FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

- A **reminder**. Our annual Fourth of July cookout will take place on July 4 at 6:00pm. Robby Hess will be smoking pork for all to enjoy, and many of you will be bringing sides. Come and celebrate our nation's independence and the joy we have in one another. This is a great event for outreach, too, so don't hesitate to invite a family member or friend to come along with you.
- Another **reminder**. Due to a church-wide trip to the Asheville Tourists baseball game on Sunday, July 16, our worship service will begin at 10:00am, not 11. Sunday School classes and choir rehearsal will simply be bumped up an hour, so set your alarm clocks accordingly!
- An **encouragement**. I will continue preaching on 1 Thessalonians through the whole month of July, and I encourage you to study it along with me. Study it, read it, journal about it – that God's Word might dwell in you richly. Then, more importantly, let's live it out – so that Paul's description of his ministry might be a description of our ministry, too: *"Because we loved you so much, we were delighted to share with you not only the gospel of God, but our lives as well."*

May the Lord Jesus bless your summertime and our life together as we continue to follow him, one day at a time.

Yours in Christ,

Blake



FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK



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:

July 2	1 Thessalonians 2:13-20
July 9	1 Thessalonians 4:1-12
July 16	1 Thessalonians 4:13-18
July 23	1 Thessalonians 5:1-11
July 30	1 Thessalonians 5:12-28



WORSHIP UPDATES



It is wonderful to see how our congregation has risen to the challenge of giving to our general fund. This month, for the first time in over a year, we will be able to move some general fund money from the checking account to the money market account where it can earn some interest. It will still be general fund money and can be moved back when needed but this indeed is progress. We have so much to be thankful for at First Pres Sylva. May we continue to grow in our faith and willingness to serve the Kingdom.

In His Service,

Judy Henderson



Three easy ways to give

Set up a one time or recurring donation by visiting our website <https://www.sylvapres.org/>

Mail a check to FPC: PO Box 2152, Sylva, NC 28779

Drop off a check during office hours or during worship

DOLLARS AND CENTS





United Christian Ministries is in need of pasta, pasta sauce and canned tuna. The pantry is currently completely out of the pasta supplies so anything you can donate would be greatly appreciated. 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 October 12. We have assisted with yardwork the last several years and anticipate doing so again this year. We need volunteers to serve on our team so please contact Lynda Parlett (lynda.parlett@gmail.com, 910-977-0588) no later than August 1st to let us know if you can join us. A sign-up sheet will also be placed 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.

We anticipate returning to **The Community Table** to serve meals one night a month very soon. We hope you'll join us. Details to come.

Jackson County Public Schools is holding a school supply drive for students in need as part of their Back to School Bash and we are collecting notebook paper and pencils, both wooden and mechanical. Donations can be brought to the fellowship hall through August 4.

Lynda Parlett





Happy July everyone! I hope you are all having glorious summer adventures! We are gearing up for our SUMMER MUSIC CAMP for our children's music program! The camp will be **Monday, July 17 through Thursday, July 20 from 5:30-7:00 PM**. This is for ages 4-11 (grades PreK-5th). We will be learning basic music reading, learning songs, and playing handbells (older kids will be doing REAL HANDBELLS!). Campers will be invited to share their talents with the offertory and special music on Sunday, July 23. To register, please email me with your child's name and age at courtney@sylvapres.org

While we are still resting in our music program, we are excited about a new season of music making coming soon. 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 7:00-8:15 PM and sing most Sundays for the church service. This is for ages 12 and 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. 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.**

Thanks, everyone, and have a wonderful summer!

Courtney



MUSIC MINISTRY



Mid-summer is when jewelweed typically makes itself known in the wet places in our landscape. More jewel than weed, at least in my estimation, this plant sets out tubular flowers that are beloved by hummingbirds, bees and other pollinators. We have two species: one orange, one yellow. Unlike almost every other showy flower in our flora, jewelweed is an annual. A jewelweed seed grows into a plant that lives only one growing season; its place taken the next season by a successor that must also grow from seed.

Jewelweed relies on its seeds, and the plant does a lot to make sure its seeds spread. It's really quite fun to watch. Each flower becomes a plump green seed, nestled in a pod by the mother plant. In fall, the pods blast the seeds out, launching them through the air to reach fertile ground. It reminds me, a little, of the early church, of the care and spiritual investment Paul puts into each Christian community he seeds. It reminds me too, of how we can transmit the gospel even today – through sustained acts of nurturing, or through dynamic leaps of faith.

We deacons hope to create an atmosphere of fellowship where the gospel can thrive. Come see it at the Fourth of July Cookout! Robby has been hard at work at the culinary star of this year's meal, smoked pork butts! Come for the food – bring a side dish – and stay for the fellowship.



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At our June meeting, the deacons discussed the transportation needs of members of our congregation and made plans to ensure everyone who wants can attend worship.

The deacons also reviewed 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 July is Robby Hess (828) 507-9316 and the alternate is Susan Blair (828) 508-2761.

Kelder





Here are some important announcements and dates to keep in mind for our children's ministry.

Mark your calendars for **RALLY DAY**. Join us on **August 13 at 9:45am** in the fellowship hall to kick off a new year of Sunday School. Breakfast will be served.

Children's ministry needs your help. We are looking for volunteers to meet the following needs:


- Serving in our nursery and preschool room for a Sunday morning. Sign up in the fellowship hall.
- Helping with Children's Church on a Sunday morning.
- Teaching Sunday School weekly or every other week.

Our group summer Sunday School for pre-k through middle school is meeting at 9:45am in the pavilion outside the MJPC. Hope to see your children there!

Warmly,

Heather





Thanks to all who gave to our Presbyterian Women's 100th Anniversary birthday offering on June 4th in support of missions in the U.S. and internationally. We surpassed all previous birthday offerings with \$565.00 donated. Thank you for your generosity.

In our June 16th meeting we viewed and discussed a video about a wise and brave woman in 1 Samuel: Abigail. We will continue our summer study of women of the Bible.

Our next meeting is July 20 at 10:00am.



PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

JOSHUA & JESSICA JONES

Gideon, Abel

Josh is from Sylva and owner of Resolute Physiotherapy and CrossFit Sylva and works full time in DPT program at WCU teaching pain science and orthopaedics. Jess is from Stockbridge, GA and is a Nurse Practitioner at Harris Medical Associates Internal Medicine. The Jones' love getting outdoors, playing games, whitewater, good music, our community, and our new Church home!



NEW MEMBERS

ROBIN GORMAN

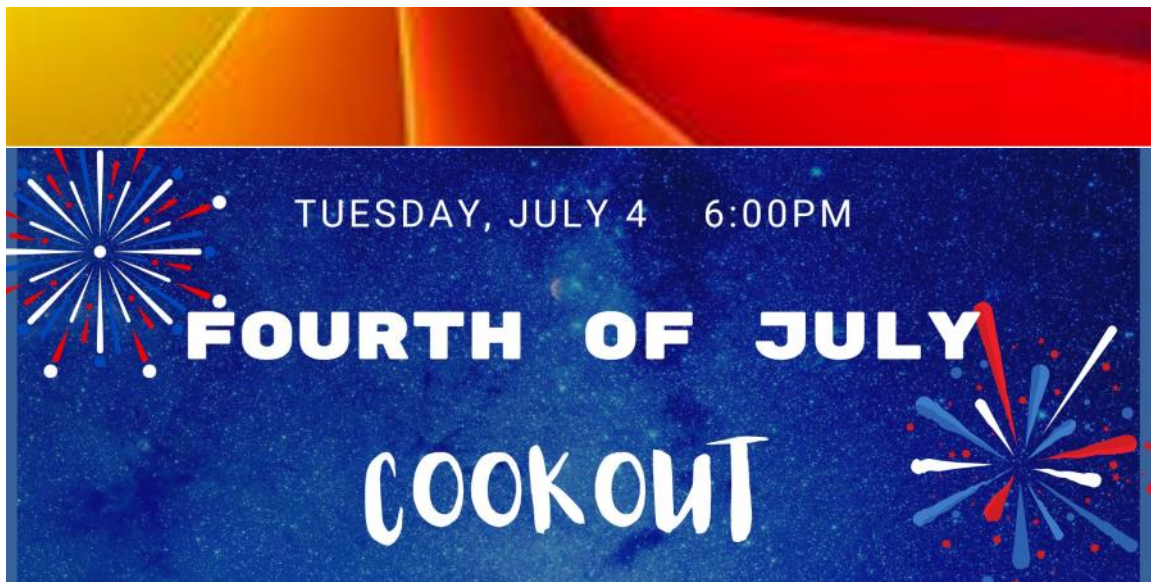
Robin grew up in Jackson, Tennessee but moved here last August from Tullahoma, Tennessee. She felt that she was being called to this beautiful area of the mountains.

She has two daughters, Claire and Hannah. Claire just graduated with her Masters Degree in Food Science from UT Knoxville at WCU studying pre-nursing. She has two dogs and enjoys sitting with them outside on her porch.

Robin has been a teacher for 13 years but is in the process of changing careers to work in personal insurance. She is excited to be a part of First Presbyterian Church of Sylva.



NEW MEMBERS



Sign up in the Fellowship Hall to bring drinks, condiments, sides and desserts!
The church will provide the main dish.



Got a kid grades PreK-5th that loves to sing and make music? We will be learning basic music reading, songs and playing handbells. Campers will be invited to sing and share their talents on Sunday morning, July 23, at our church service. Register by emailing child's name and age to courtney@sylvapres.org.





Early Worship

JULY 16

WORSHIP WILL BE HELD
AT 10:00AM



Church Outing **ASHEVILLE TOURISTS**

SUNDAY 16 JULY 1:00PM

Your tickets have been reserved. Please make payment of \$16.50 per ticket to the church and note on the memo line of your check "Tourist tickets." We will carpool from the church following the 10:00am worship service.



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. BRING A SMALL DISH TO SHARE.



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.



UPCOMING EVENTS



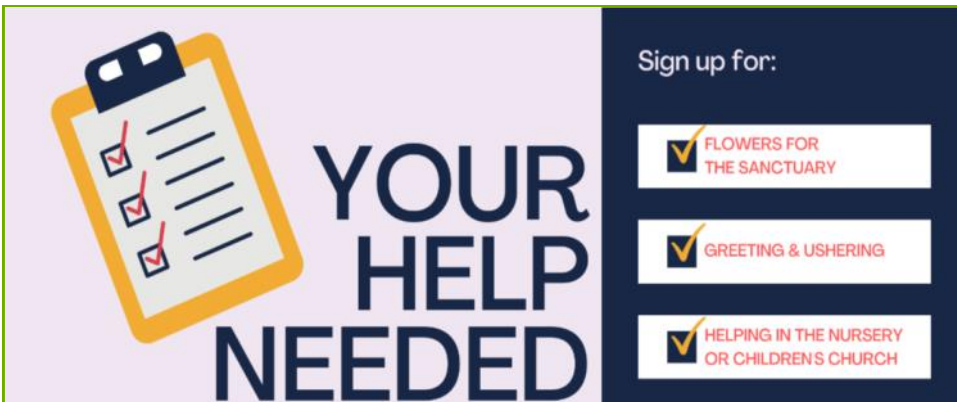
SIGN UP TO HELP IN THE FELLOWSHIP HALL

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



OPPORTUNITIES TO SERVE



**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



Do you have a prayer request?

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

OPPORTUNITIES TO SERVE

Birthdays

7-1 Moira Campbell
7-2 Melanie Tabor
7-8 Betty Foti, Phil Thomas
7-11 Ali Large
7-14 Roger Blunt
7-20 Sally Hinson
7-21 Anne Lane
7-22 Marlies Owens
7-23 Whitney Murajda
7-25 Debbie Woods
7-26 Hal Stockton, Joshua Jones
7-27 Amy Thompson
7-28 Alice Monar
7-31 Lisa Mingos

Anniversaries

7-5 Sarah & Tommy Thompson
7-9 Joshua & Jessica Jones
7-21 Ike & Margarette Kennerly
7-26 Diane & Don Herring



If you would like your birthday or anniversary listed in future newsletters, please send the information to office@sylvapres.org. If you would like a copy of the church directory, please notify the church office as well!

BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES



NAME TAGS

NAME TAGS that were kept in one of the name tag drawers have been replaced.
If your name tag was not in one of the drawers, please contact Jean in the
church office or write your name on the list provided above the drawers
so that a new one can be made.

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:	Robby Hess (828-507-9316) Alternate, Susan Blair (314-508-2761)



OFFICE NOTES