

JUNE 2023 NEWSLETTER

First Presbyterian Church

SYLVA, North Carolina



OUR MISSION

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

Blake Daniel, Pastor
Jean Chance,
Administrative Assistant

office@sylvapres.org
www.sylvapres.org
828-586-4256

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Sylva, NC 28779

Mailing Address:
PO Box 2151
Sylva, NC 28779

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



FROM THE PASTOR

Dear church family,

Ordinary Time is here. This is the season of the church calendar that begins on Pentecost and lasts until Advent, some six months later. We might think it's an uneventful time — after all, there are no major church holidays to celebrate — but it's a season full of meaning and growth, should we have the eyes to see it and the hearts to receive it.

For instance, ordinary time is when we will have Vacation Bible School, one of my favorite weeks of the year. This summer, we are partnering with four other downtown congregations (First Baptist, First United Methodist, St. John's Episcopal, and Lifeway) to offer fun, fellowship, and faith formation for children at Bridge Park. We'd love to have you get involved! You can find more information in this newsletter.

Ordinary time is also when we welcome our seasonal members and visitors back into our midst. Our brothers and sisters in Christ from Florida, South Carolina, California, South Korea, and elsewhere call Sylva "home" for the summer months, and we are delighted to have them as a part of us while they are here.

And ordinary time is when we have fun together. Not that we don't have fun the rest of the year — we do! — but this season affords us even more opportunities to cook out, hang out, and reach out to the community that's buzzing all around us. (Just come to our Fourth of July celebration or September campout to see what I mean.)

(Continued on next page)



FROM THE PASTOR

In her wonderful book *Liturgy of the Ordinary*, Tish Harrison Warren reminds us of this simple truth: *“The new life into which we are baptized is lived out in days, hours, and minutes. God is forming us into a new people. And the place of that formation is in the small moments of today.”* I like that — “the small moments of today.” Being a Christian doesn’t have to be any bigger than that.

I am so grateful to have a church family to be “ordinary” with, and I hope you will join us for worship and life together this summer as we keep following Jesus, one day at a time.

Yours in Christ,

Blake



1 Thessalonians

Sermon Series

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:

June 4	Acts 2:42-47
June 11	1 Thessalonians 1
June 18	1 Thessalonians 2:1-16
June 25	Guest Preacher Rev. Ike Kennerly

DOLLARS AND CENTS

I am very happy to share that our General Fund has gotten a much-needed boost from your recent donations. I have heard from many of you that the letter sent from the Finance Committee was both informative and helpful in considering your contributions and I have seen the results with numerous one-time gifts and many increases in monthly gifts. Praise God that we are now headed in the right direction. Thank you all so much.

May we, as a congregation, continue to be good stewards of the gifts God gives us as we endeavor to love God, love our faith community and love our neighbors.

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

SESSION

At the May 8 session meeting, elder Lynda Parlett led a discussion based on a chapter of *Emotional healthy spirituality* about dealing with trials in our lives. She modified the author's use of the metaphor of a physical wall with the marathon runner's wall. As we reach that wall, we need to turn to God for the resources to keep going, realizing that God is in control and is there for us. When we get past the wall, sometimes after a considerable period, spiritual growth occurs. The session had the pleasure of talking with new members, Robin Gorman and Jess and Josh Jones (and sons Gideon and Abel). All three will be joining us through transfer of letter. The session held a discussion about ways of working with college students at WCU. If you have any ideas about what we might do, talk to an elder.

Bruce Henderson

Clerk of Session

MISSIONS

The next **COVE CLEANUP** is **Saturday, June 3 from 9:00 to 11:00**. Please meet in the church parking lot, wear sturdy shoes, work clothes and gloves. Trash bags and safety vests will be provided.

Lynda Parlett



MUSIC MINISTRY

Happy June everyone!

I hope everyone gets a moment of rest during these next few months. As we did last summer, our music ensembles will be taking a break for a few weeks to allow for some rest and relaxation. That means you may see some soloists, instrumentalists, and small groups leading worship over the summer. Interested in helping out? We would love for anyone who plays a musical instrument to lead the prelude or offertory. Just let me know!

I am so excited that we will be offering a SUMMER MUSIC CAMP for our children's music program! The camp will be Monday, July 17th—Thursday, July 20th from 5:30—7:00PM. This is for ages 4-11 (grades pre-k/5th). We will be learning basic music reading, learning songs, and playing handbells (older kids will be doing REAL HANDBELLS!) To register, please email me your child's name and age at courtney@sylvapares.org.

Thanks everyone and have a wonderful summer!

Courtney



DEACONS

Do you remember the first time you saw a flame azalea in bloom? The shock of bright orange stands out against the mellow green of the spring forest. To see it – so bold, so unexpected – is a challenge to what you thought was possible on this earth. That feeling is the faintest shadow of what the disciples felt on the first Pentecost.

Once you know the flame azalea, seeing it again each spring is both comforting and invigorating. And again, that feeling is just a shadow of the power that the Holy Spirit can have in our lives if we let it.

The deacons have been felt the spirit in the past month, we've been busy. First, we handed out care bags at final exam time at the beginning of the month. This year we provided bags for ten students – the largest number in memory. Next we had the spring hike to High Falls below Lake Glenville. The weather was perfect, and it was a time of good fellowship and connection to God's Creation. The next day, we handed out flowers for Mother's Day to all the mothers in the congregation. Finally, the deacons had a joint meeting with the elders for a meal and time of fellowship, graciously hosted by Curtis and Kathy Grace.



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DEACONS

We also look forward to the month ahead, and especially to our Fourth of July Cookout. In a flash of inspiration, Robby Hess plans to introduce a new element to our get-together: smoked pork. Taste-tests so far have given it two thumbs up. Mark that evening on your calendar for fun, fellowship, fireworks and pork!

The deacons also 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 June is **Jeff Pope (828) 736-7867** and the alternate is **Jenna Pendry (314) 348-0115**.

Kelder



Rhododendron calendulaceum Common name: flame azalea

A deciduous shrub in the Ericaceae (blueberry) family

It is native primarily to woodland slopes and mountain balds in the Appalachian Mountains from Pennsylvania to Georgia.

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

Thank you to everyone who has volunteered to help with Vacation Bible School! We are still looking for volunteers. This year it will be held June 12-June 16 from 9 am-12 pm at Bridge Park. Our church has been assigned to the registration table, so we need volunteers who can help check campers in and out each day. We also need volunteers to be group leaders. Group leaders help walk the campers from station to station. We will have groups ranging from pre-k to 5th grade. Please let me know if you are interested in volunteering or want to know more about it. This has been such a wonderful community event, and we need your help to make sure our campers have another great year of VBS! Families, I have emailed the link to register your children. Please reach out with any questions about this.

Our last day of traditional Sunday School for our children is June 4th. During the summer our children will be meeting with me and other volunteers during the traditional Sunday School time for a group Sunday School class to engage in some new opportunities and activities. We will resume our traditional Sunday School on Rally Day in August.

I'd like to give a big shout out to Alisha Thomas for hosting a fun and creative charcuterie workshop for our high school youth! We had a fantastic time learning about the history of charcuterie, different cheeses, and learning how to make a salami rose. All of our plates turned out beautiful and different, and we are so appreciative of Alisha helping our youth show their creative side!

Warmly,

Heather



HOSPITALITY

The Hospitality Committee continues to provide meals and serve at receptions, which is our primary responsibility, but we also make visits and phone calls, send cards, and enter into prayer whenever a need arises in our congregation. We welcome any opportunity to serve.

In May we assisted with the joyful coffee fellowship celebration of Grace Reed's birthday, and honored Dr. Nash and his family and many friends at the reception following his memorial service.

Coming up in July: **Asheville Tourist Game, July 16th, at 1 PM.** We can get a group rate of \$16.50 per person for press row seats if we book at least 12 tickets. These are bigger padded seats up under the announcement booth. If we get 20 or more planning to go there are other deals. We will need to make reservations soon, so please let the church office know by **June 9th** if you want to go. More details soon about worship time, transportation, etc.

Beth Baxley

July 16— 1:00pm

Let the church office know by June 9th if you want to go!



PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

The PWC met on May 18th for our final lesson on “Celebrating Sabbath”, our nine-month long study. This has been a rich study in which we have learned that truly celebrating Sabbath encompasses so much more than attending church, or resting on Sunday. God intended Sabbath to be a celebration and a blessing that redirects not only our week but our whole way of living. It calls us to trust and surrender to Him, and it deeply impacts our relationship to His creation, and our fellow human beings. I think we were all changed by this study and very

blessed. We celebrated the completion of our study with a salad luncheon in the fellowship hall with Pastor Blake joining us.

We will continue to meet monthly this summer on the third Thursday of each month. Our summer meeting theme will be a celebration of women in the Bible. On June 15th at 10 AM we will be viewing a video on Abigail, from 1 Samuel 25. All women of the church are welcome to join us!

Beth Baxley



Front Row: *Dawn Cornwell, Jerry Sams, Rebecca Mack*

Back Row: *Donna Mason, Jean Guilford, Jenny Porter, Gloria Stockton, Joella Bennett, Betty White, Peg Shafer*

Not Pictured: *Beth Baxley, Moira Campbell, Marjorie Eyre, Betty Foti, Kathy Grace, Anne Lane, Grace Reed*

UPCOMING EVENTS



CAMILLA HOITENGA

International flute soloist

There will be a concert at the Jackson County Public Library on **June 3** at **3pm** in the Community Room featuring Camilla Hoitenga, wife of our church member Daryl Hale. She is an international flute soloist. You can find out more about her on her website, hoitenga.com

You are Invited

Open House & Ice Cream Social

Sunday, June 4, 2023
2 to 4 pm



Whitewater Cove
3127 Hendersonville Hwy.
Disgah Forest, NC 28768



For your convenience, our Mountain Home Thrift Store donation truck will be on-site!



BLACK MOUNTAIN MOUNTAIN HOME
for Children, Youth and Families

UPCOMING EVENTS

A graphic for a Bible School event. At the top, the word "Babylon" is written in a large, stylized, yellow font with a 3D effect. Below it, in a smaller, brown, stone-like font, is "Daniel's Courage in Captivity". The background of the graphic shows a stylized illustration of a city with a river, palm trees, and a castle in the distance. The text "Community Vacation Bible School" is prominently displayed in a large, bold, black font. Below this, the location "Bridge Park, Downtown Sylva" is written in a smaller, black font. The dates "June 12-16, 2023" and the time "9:00 am- 12:00 pm" are written in a bold, red font. Below the time, it says "VBS programming for Pre-K- 5th grade and Youth (6th-12th)" in a smaller, black font. A QR code is located on the left side of the graphic. To the right of the QR code, the text "Scan the QR code for online registration!" is written in a bold, black font.

Babylon
Daniel's Courage in Captivity™

**Community Vacation
Bible School**

Bridge Park, Downtown Sylva
June 12-16, 2023
9:00 am- 12:00 pm

VBS programming for Pre-K- 5th grade
and Youth (6th-12th)

Scan the QR code for online
registration!

We need volunteers to help with Vacation Bible School!

This year it will be held June 12-June 16 from 9 am-12 pm.

Our church has been assigned to the registration table, so we need volunteers who can help check campers in and out each day.

We also need volunteers to be group leaders. Group leaders help walk the campers from station to station. We will have groups ranging from pre-k to 5th grade. Please let Heather Monar know if you are interested in volunteering, or want to know more about it.

If you are only able to commit to part of the week, that is okay!

Contact Heather at fpcsylvakids@gmail.com.

UPCOMING EVENTS



Church Asheville Tourists Game Outing - July 16

Group ticket prices are \$16.50 each for press row seats.

Call the church office by June 9 as reservations must be made soon!



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



Ushers & Greeters

NEEDED


SIGN UP IN THE FELLOWSHIP HALL

Please consider serving the church by signing up to usher/greet.

Three individuals are needed each Sunday.

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.

BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

Birthdays

- 6-2 Doris Cody
6-3 Heather Monar
Adam Gelbaugh
6-5 Anne Sylvester
Tommy Thompson
6-6 Charles Hess
6-9 Betty Painter
6-10 Dianne Herring
6-11 Donna Mason
6-13 Jake Buchanan
6-15 Nancy Zachmann

Anniversaries

- 6-4 Sam & Margaret Hale
Roger & Amanda Murajda
6-14 Steve & Marlies Owens
6-16 Charlie & Betty Foti
6-21 Lambert & Joy Hooper



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!

OFFICE NOTES



Please check your personal information in the church directory and see if it is correct. If it needs to be changed, please contact the church office at office@sylvapres.org. If you are in need of a church directory, contact Jean in the church office.

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

Deacon of the Month:

Jeff Pope (828-736-7867); alternate, Jenna Pendry (314-348-0115)