

March Newsletter

FIRST
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH, SYLVA



(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

March Deacon of the Month:
Robby Hess (828) 507-9316
Kelder Monar - alt - (919) 259-8480

OUR MISSION

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



PASTOR'S NOTES

Dear church family,

During worship on Sunday mornings, I have been starting my sermons with a quotation from Paul in Philippians 3: *"I want to know Christ..."* This has been a grounding and centering word for me during the season of Lent, and I hope it has for you, too. This is why we're Christians. This is why we're here, as a church. We don't just want to know about Christ. We want to know Christ.



But knowing Christ is not a one-and-done kind of thing. It is a process, a journey, an ongoing road we must walk. As Paul says, *"Not that I have already obtained all this... but I press on to take hold of that for which Christ Jesus took hold of me. Brothers and sisters, I do not consider myself yet to have taken hold of it. But one thing I do: Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus."*

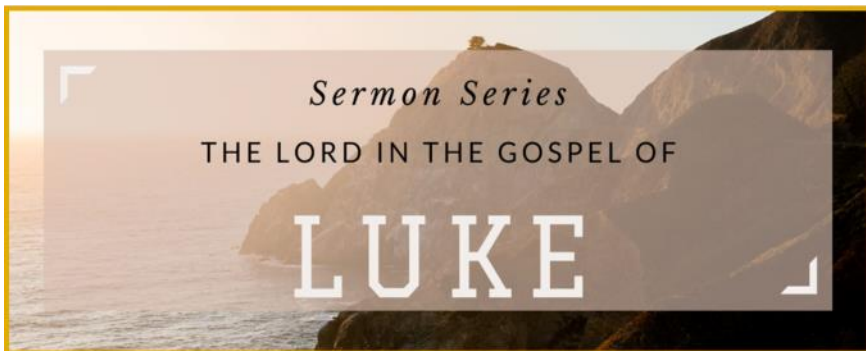
Do you hear the main verb in that section? It's the Greek word *διώκω*, meaning to *desire*, to *pursue*, or (as the NIV Bible says) to *press on*. Paul is *pressing on* to know Jesus, which involves leaning *away* from the past and leaning *towards* the future. He's striving, seeking, searching. He's devoting himself and his entire life to the one, singular goal of *gaining* or *taking hold of Christ*. And ultimately, he rests in the good news that Christ has *already gained* or *taken hold of him*. In other words, all of Paul's work is dependent upon God's grace.

What do you *press on* towards? What guides you, directs you, and orients you in these final weeks of winter? In this wounded and weary world? In this one, beautiful life you get to live? It has to be something. What would you say we as a church family press on towards in our life together?

As the season of Lent continues and we make our way to the cross and empty tomb, let's continue to press on towards Jesus, that we might know him and be known by him, too.

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

March 3 - Luke 6:1-11

March 10 - Luke 6:17-26

March 17 - Luke 6:27-45

March 24 - Luke 19:28-44

March 31 - Luke 24:1-12

Do you have a prayer request?

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

DOLLARS & CENTS

In the recent issue of The Sylva Herald, I read that Bruce Reynolds had died. For over 13 years, I have sent Mr. Reynolds a check for \$833.33 at the first of the month as a mortgage payment for what we now know as the Transition House. It occurred to me that with the number of new members in our church, many of you would not know the history of how that purchase came to be. Christine Reynolds lived at 10 Presbyterian Drive for many years and was a neighbor to the manse which was converted to the MJP center in the 1990s. Bruce Reynolds inherited the house upon her death and wanted the church to have first refusal on its sale. There was a lot of discussion by the Session about buying it. We didn't have immediate need of the space or the land. But we stepped out in faith and it eventual-



ly became the Transition House, a wonderful mission to the graduates of Life Challenge who can live there for a low rent and a portion of utilities for the first year after graduation. Mr. Reynold's gave us the opportunity to buy the house and God gave us the opportunity to provide a safe place for the women to grow and thrive. I am grateful to them both. We have 20 more payments to go before it is paid off.

Thanks be to God.

In His Service,

Judy Henderson, Treasurer

SESSION

On Saturday, February 3rd, the elders and deacons gathered for a joint meeting at the home of Bruce and Judy Henderson. This was a beautiful time of worship led by Pastor Blake and James Walawender, reflection on the past year, and vision casting for the year(s) to come. Blake read a portion of Paul's letter to the Philippians which expresses his desire to *know* Christ (Ch. 3). We discussed how knowing the heart of Jesus can make us better leaders in the church, friends to those we sit beside on Sunday morn-

ings, and advocates for under-served populations in our community. And as an overly nostalgic millennial, this passage of scripture and discussion reminded me of a popular praise and worship song

I Want to Know You (In the Secret) by Sonicflood

*In the secret,
in the quiet place
In the stillness,
you are there
In the secret,
in the quiet hour
I wait, only for you
Cause I want
to know you more.*

*I am reaching
for the highest goal
The I might
receive the prize
Pressing onward
Pushing every hindrance
aside, out of my way
Cause I want
to know you more*

*I want to know you
I want to hear your voice
I want to know you more
I want to touch you
I want to see your face
I want to know you more*

from my summer camp days in the early aughts.

It's a highly repetitive tune and the music itself will take you straight back to a late 90s/early 2000s romcom. But reading the lyrics from a now almost 33-year-old perspective, it was a sweet reminder of the cry of my teenage heart, and the true cry of all our hearts I think, which is to really know Christ.

We're particularly excited for the months ahead, as we'll be examining several individuals for membership at FPC! Thanks be to God for all he is doing in our midst!

Love & Peace,

Alisha Thomas

MUSIC

Happy March everyone! I hope everyone has been enjoying the warmer weather we have had the past few days.

I have had a few folks offer suggestions from our new hymnal. We would love to include songs you want to hear! Please feel free to send any suggestions

to courtney@sylvapres.org

As always, we always welcome new members in our music programs! Here is a little detail about them:

***Sunday Choir:** Ages 13 and up. We practice on Wednesdays 7:00-8:15 PM and sing nearly every Sunday except in the summer-time. No musical experience is necessary, just a love of singing and a desire to help lead worship.

***Handbell Choir:** Ages 12 and up. We practice on Wednesday 5:10-5:50 PM at FUMC Sylva. The only requirement is you must be able to read music. We will teach you the rest.

***Children's Music:** Ages 3-12. Sunday morning practice 9:00-9:45 AM. We do a little bit of everything!

Lastly, if you **play an instrument** and are interested in participating in our church services, please email me at courtney@sylvapres.org. We are always looking for folks young and old to lead the prelude. In addition, I am looking at putting an instrumental ensemble together over the summer.

Have a musical and blessed month!

Courtney

MISSIONS

United Christian Ministries: This month's collection is for Jelly, Canned Chicken and Pasta Sauce. We also continue to collect other non-perishables, particularly canned foods with pop tops, and all hygiene products as well as pet food for those struggling to feed themselves and their families. All donations may be left on the Giving Tree in the Fellowship Hall.

Cove Cleanup: The next roadside trash pickup on Grindstaff Cove Road will take place on **Saturday, March 16 from 10:00 to 12:00**. We need folks to assist. Please meet in the church parking lot and wear sturdy shoes, a hat for the sun and work gloves. Safety vests, grabbers and trash bags will be provided.

Habitat for Humanity: A grant from the WNC Presbytery in the amount of \$20,000 has been awarded to the Macon/Jackson Habitat for Humanity for a house build in Jackson County. Stay tuned to the newsletter and weekly emails for further details. We'd like to put together at least one team to work on the construction!

Church Yard Sale to Benefit The Community Table: As you know from our previous newsletter, The Com-

munity Table is struggling to meet the nourishment needs of our community both through their food pantry and the hot meals they provide. We plan to hold a **yard sale** with all proceeds to benefit ***The Community Table*** on **Saturday, April 6 from 9:00 AM to 12:00** in our parking lot. We need your donations of children's toys, clothing, household items and furniture in good condition that can be sold. Items can include: Small appliances such as stereo equipment, radios, clean toaster ovens and other items in good operable condition; Kitchen accessories such as dishes, cookware and accessories; DVD's and books; Small furnishings such as end tables, lamps, side tables and chairs; and, Gardening accessories such as flower pots, spades, decorative stoneware, etc. We will have a table in the Fellowship Hall for you to leave your donations. If you have a question regarding an item you'd like to donate, please contact us. We will also need volunteers to help us set up and conduct the sale so please contact Lynda Parlett at (910) 977-0588 or lynda.parlett@gmail.com!

The director of The Community Table, Paige Christie, is still in dire need of affordable housing. She is looking for a 3 bedroom/2 bathroom home or a buildable lot of approximately ½ acre with water accessible. Homes for \$250,000 or less that aren't in dilapidated condition or within reasonable commuting distance are nearly nonexistent in our area. If you know of or have something that could help Paige, please contact her as soon as possible at 586-6782. If she's unable to find something soon I'm afraid we may lose this compassionate servant altogether. And please keep her and this ministry in your prayers.

Coming in May - Mother's Day Diaper Drive for UCM and school supply drive for Jackson County Public Schools. Watch the newsletter and weekly email for details.

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.

Lynda Parlett

HOSPITALITY

The Hospitality Committee has continued its mission of visiting, taking meals, sending cards and praying for those in need. In addition, we will be assisting with the following upcoming events:

March 28th: Maundy Thursday church service dinner

March 31st: Easter Sunrise service breakfast

April 18th at 5:30 PM: meal prior to the **presentation by Rev. Linda Abel** for all the women of the church. The topic will be (working title) “The Role of Women in the Church through History”

More information on each of these events will be coming soon.

Beth Baxley

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

Our study this month centered on the miraculous encounter in Acts 3, in which the apostles Peter and John healed a man with a physical disability. In ancient times, people with disabilities had no rights or protections. Their impairments were believed to be punishments for their or their parents’ sins. They survived by begging. Jesus,

and then his apostles, not only brought salvation and miraculously healed people with physical disabilities, but they affirmed that they were children of God who should be treated with dignity and equity. This was a total overturning of the social rule of marginalizing and discriminating. It is the approach we seek to emulate today, following the radical example of Jesus. To help bring this to life, Marjorie Eyre, our teacher for the lesson, brought her dear friend, Glenda Snow, to join us. Glenda is blind. She has a powerful testimony of how God has used her blindness for His glory. She shared a host of amazing adaptive devices she uses to keep her independent. She reminded us that though she has achieved remarkable independence, she needs others, and appreciates her own church family who are quick to give her rides and provide support whenever she needs it.

COMING UP: Our next Circle meeting will be held on **Thursday, March 21st**, at **10 AM** in the Youth Room of the Mary Jay Patten Center. Our study will be Lesson 7 in *Sacred Encounters: An Ethiopian Eunuch Encounters the Good News of Jesus*.

Thursday, April 18th: PWC will be

hosting *Rev. Linda Abel, pastor of Hayesville Presbyterian Church*, who will speak on “**The Role of Women in the Church through History**”. All women of our church are invited. There will be a free Subway box dinner at 5:30, followed by her presentation at 6:15 in the Fellowship Hall. Child-

Please RSVP Jean in the church office, office@sylvapres.org, so we will have a head count for dinner. Please, also let her know childcare and transportation needs.

care (nursery through middle school) and transportation will be available upon request.

May 12th Mother’s Day: PWC will be having a birthday offering for missions and hosting coffee fellowship with a birthday cake to celebrate the 101st anniversary of the PWC birthday offering.

Beth Baxley



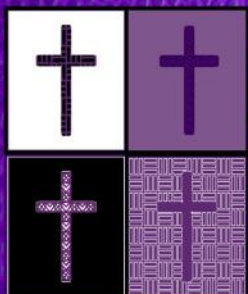
Saint Patrick, who lived during the fifth century, is the patron saint of Ireland and its national apostle. Born in Roman Britain, he was kidnapped and brought to Ireland as a slave at 16. He later escaped, but returned to Ireland and **was credited**

with bringing Christianity to its people.

In the centuries following Patrick’s death (believed to have been on March 17, 461), the mythology surrounding his life became ever more ingrained in the Irish culture: Perhaps the most well-known legend of St. Patrick is that **he explained the Holy Trinity using the three leaves of a native Irish clover, the shamrock.**

The first St. Patrick’s Day parade took place not in Ireland but in America. Records show that a St. Patrick’s Day parade was held on March 17, 1601 in a Spanish colony in what is now **St. Augustine, Florida**. The parade, and a St. Patrick’s Day celebration a year earlier were organized by the Spanish Colony's Irish vicar Ricardo Artur.

LENT & EASTER



Lenten Prayer Group

Wednesday nights at 6:00pm
February 21 through March 20
FPC Garden Room



MAUNDY THURSDAY

Thursday, March 28 @ 6:00pm

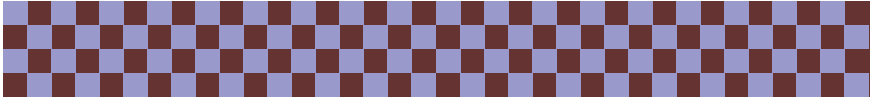
Dinner and Communion in the Fellowship Hall
Followed by Worship in the Sanctuary

Easter Sunrise Service

March 31 @ 7:00am
FPC Pavillion

Coffee and a simple breakfast will be provided

UPCOMING EVENTS



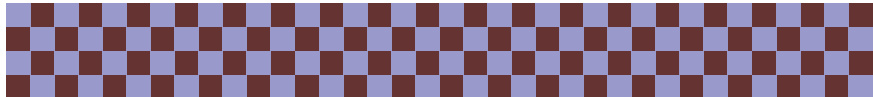
First Wednesday
of Each Month

**Family
Night
Supper**

An abstract painting with vibrant colors including red, yellow, blue, and orange, featuring textured brushstrokes.

MARCH 6 @ 6:00 pm

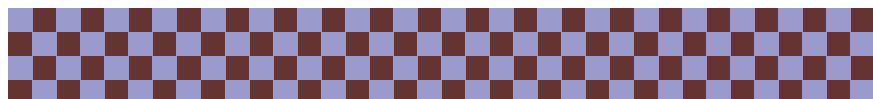
**Come enjoy a simple potluck dinner with our church family.
Please bring a side dish, entrée, salad or dessert if you are able.
If not, come anyway!**



SATURDAY, MARCH 16

COVE CLEAN-UP

Meet at the church at 10:00am to help clean up Grindstaff Cove Road as part of the Adopt-a-Highway program!

A red background with a pattern of small white dots, resembling confetti or a starry sky.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Thursday,
March 21 @ 11am
Youth Room
MJP Center

Presbyterian Women's Circle Monthly Meeting

Lesson 7 - Sacred Encounters

Donations Needed



YARD SALE

APRIL 6TH 9-12
FPC PARKING LOT

SALE SALE SALE

THIS SALE BENEFITS THE COMMUNITY TABLE

Presbyterian Women's Circle

Rev. Linda Abel

The Role of Women in the Church Through History

April 18th - 5:30pm

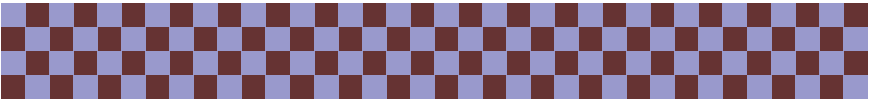
FPC Fellowship Hall

All Women of the Church are Invited

Free Subway box dinner at 5:30pm - Presentation starts at 6:15pm

Childcare & Transportation available upon request

OPPORTUNITIES TO SERVE



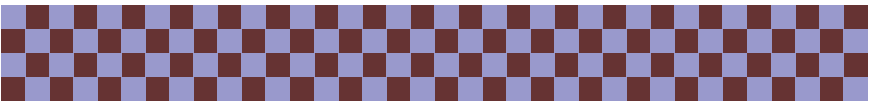
Interested in serving on a church committee?
Notify the pastor or the church office.

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

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.

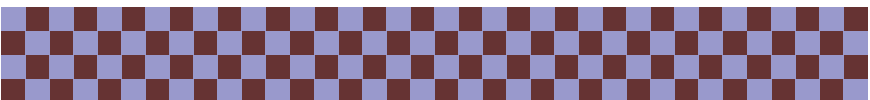


First Presbyterian Church

VOLUNTEER TRAINING SESSION

MARCH 3 - 12:30

Join us in the
Fellowship Hall
after coffee
fellowship



COMMUNITY

United Christian Ministries

NEEDED FOR THE MONTH OF MARCH:
pasta sauce, peanut butter, jelly, canned chicken

FROM THE CHURCH OFFICE

CHURCH DIRECTORIES

UPDATED DIRECTORIES ARE AVAILABLE AT YOUR REQUEST FROM THE CHURCH OFFICE. A FEW COPIES ARE KEPT AT THE ENTRANCE TO THE SANCTUARY.

To keep the directory current, send all changes/corrections to 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.



March



Birthdays

- 3-7 Drew Umphlett
- 3-8 Roger Murajda, Joan Yount
- 3-13 Karen Dean
- 3-14 Beth Baxley
- 3-20 Jeff Pope
- 3-21 Annie Hogan
- 3-24 Robby Hess, Julia Hogan
- 3-25 Steve Baxley
- 3-26 Robin Porter
- 3-27 Ada Yelen
- 3-30 Branch Pendry.



Anniversaries

No March
Anniversaries