

OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

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1 Seth Hutchinson
3 Frances Hess
4 Greg Scott
13 Lambert Hooper
15 Jessica Jones
18 Laura Pope
19 Margaret Simpson
25 Clark Pearson
Timo Gieser
28 Mattias Gieser

OCTOBER ANNIVERSARIES

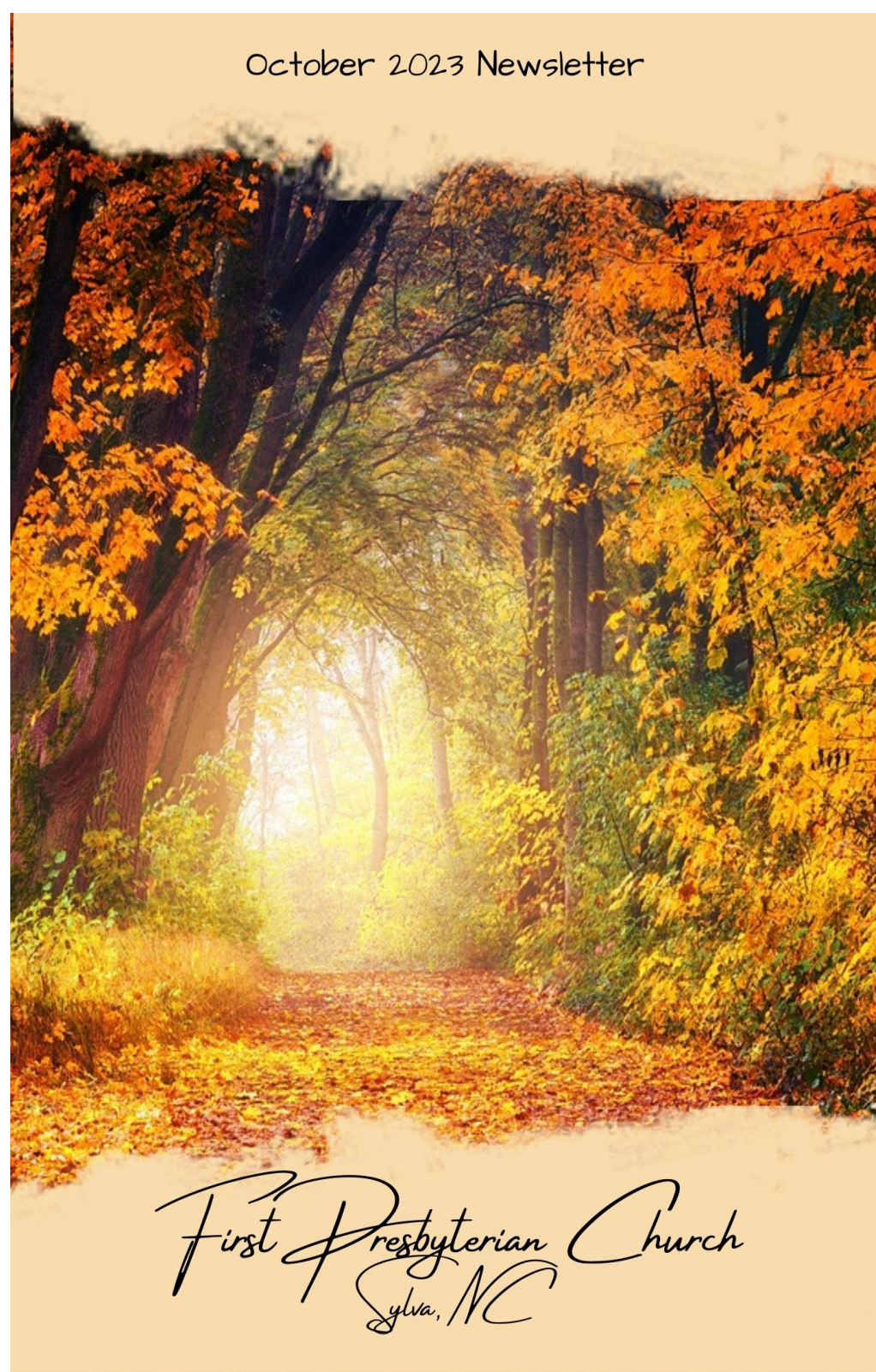
1 Jae & Tom Crawford
Holly & Jeff Pinter
7 Jeff & Laura Pope
12 Linda & Livingston Kelley
26 Blair & Joan Yount
Alisha & Phil Thomas
30 Courtney & Drew Umphlett
31 Adam & Mary Gelbaugh



If you would like your
birthday or anniversary listed
in the newsletter,
contact the church office,
office@sylvapres.org

HAPPY FALL
Y'ALL

October 2023 Newsletter



First Presbyterian Church
Sylva, NC

(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

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
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

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



OPPORTUNITIES TO SERVE

Looking for ways to help out at the church?

We need volunteers to serve in Children and Youth Ministry,
as ushers and greeters, as Coffee Fellowship or Family Night Supper hosts,
and to provide flowers in the Sanctuary.
Sign-up sheets are in the Fellowship Hall under the Mission bulletin board!
Or email the church office: office@sylvapres.org.



HELP NEEDED

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

SIGN UP FOR:

- Greeters/Ushers
- Audio/Video
- Children's Church
- Flowers
- Coffee Fellowship
- Nursery

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



Updated Directories

available from the church office.
You may also find copies on the table
above the name tag drawers
before going into the Sanctuary.

Send all changes/corrections
for the directory to the church office.
office@sylvapres.org

UPCOMING EVENTS



RSVP by October 1 to the church office

office@sylvapres.org

or sign on the sign-up sheet in the fellowship hall.

PASTOR'S NOTES



Dear church family,

Every year I have the privilege of meeting with seven other pastors for study, conversation, recreation, and prayer. These retreats are sponsored by the Foundation for Reformed Theology, which was established by the late Dr. John Leith, a longtime professor at Union Presbyterian Seminary in Richmond, VA. Dr. Leith was devoted to the training and nurturing of pastors, and his Foundation ensures that this legacy continues for generations to come.

As part of the Foundation, our group selects a bibliography to read from each year. (We don't just get to hang out!) This year's topic was "Reformed Piety," which refers to spiritual formation and faithful living as followers of Christ. Our list included writings by John Calvin, Karl Barth, Howard Rice, Donald Bloesch, and Belden Lane, all of whom helped us think deeply about the difference Jesus makes in our everyday lives. Perhaps Calvin summed it up best:

"We are not our own: let not our reason nor our will, therefore, sway our plans and deeds. We are not our own: let us therefore not set it as our goal to seek what is expedient for us according to the flesh. We are not our own: in so far as we can, let us therefore forget ourselves and all that is ours. Conversely, we are God's: let us therefore live for him and die for him. We are God's: let his wisdom and will therefore rule all our actions. We are God's: let all the parts of our life accordingly strive toward him as our only lawful goal... We are consecrated and dedicated to God in order that we may thereafter think, speak, meditate, and do nothing except to his glory."

Do you hear the refrain? "We are not our own... we are God's." May that be the fundamental witness of our lives and our congregation as we move into October and new season of life together.

Yours in Christ,

Blake



Blake's Pastors Group:

L-R: Michael McKee, Newland, NC; Jonathan Ytterock, Ft. Collins, CO; Pastor Blake; Nick Nielsen, Calypso, NC; Tee Gatewood, Banner Elk, NC; Tommy Grimm, Bloomington, IN.

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](#).

Do you have a prayer request?

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

SUNDAY SCRIPTURES:

October 1

Genesis 2:4-25

October 8

Genesis 3

October 15

Genesis 4:1-16

October 22

Genesis 6:1-8

October 29

Genesis 7-8

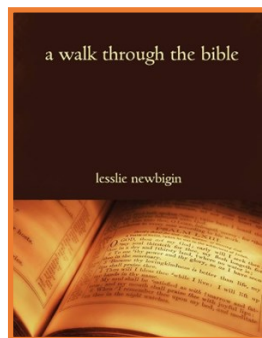
FALL BOOK STUDY

A Walk Through the Bible by Lesslie Newbigin

Wednesday Nights from 6:00-7:00pm October & November

First Presbyterian Church of Sylva – Fellowship Hall

Books can be purchased at City Lights Bookstore for \$12



zation day, working on the storage closet off the fellowship hall. We discovered some good, useful stuff we didn't know we had and stuff we really didn't need anymore, which left room for storage of stuff we use that needed a better home. Our next project is labeling the kitchen on Oct. 31, Halloween...hmmm....

As of this writing we are looking forward to **GAME DAY, Sept. 30th, 2-4 PM** in the Fellowship Hall. Bring your favorite games, puzzles, card games, a snack and a friend. We'll see you there!

We are really looking forward to our **LADIES' TEA PARTY on Oct. 14th, 2 PM**. We are planning a lovely menu and gathering up our tea cups, pots, servers, etc. Please plan to join us! Don't forget to **RSVP by calling or emailing Jean at the church office or signing up in the Fellowship Hall** so we know how many treats to prepare.

Beth Baxley



PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

We had a wonderful turnout for our first meeting of the new nine month study "**Sacred Encounters: The Power and Presence of Jesus Christ in Luke-Acts**", with five new members attending and many returning members. We went deep into the encounter of Mary, pregnant with Jesus, visiting her cousin Elizabeth, who was pregnant with John, both miracles in God's redemption plan.

On **Oct. 10 at 10 AM** we will meet again but will jump ahead out of sequence to Chap. 4, to look at Mary and Martha as they encounter Jesus in Luke 10. All women of the church are invited to join us!

In our worship service on Oct. 15 there will be special offering envelopes in the bulletins for the annual

PWC Thank Offering for specific missions in the US and in Zambia.

Please prayerfully consider giving generously to this mission effort.



are needed. Also items that cannot be purchased with government assistance including: Shampoo, body wash, 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 on **Thursday, October 12.** Our team is complete and awaiting our assignment! Thanks to all who signed up.

The latest **Cove Cleanup** took place on Saturday, September 16. Our team included: Blair Yount, Frances Hess, Peg Shafer, Beth Baxley, Evelyn and Leon Bennett, Bruce Henderson and Lynda Parlett. We picked up 10 bags of trash, more than the last couple of pickups unfortunately. Our next cleanup will take place in early December.

The Smoky Mountain High School ladies golf team, members of the Fellowship of Christian Athletes, will join us for Family Night Supper on **November 1** to celebrate the end to their season. Please plan to join us in welcoming these young women, their families and their coach.

Advent Gift Market: Our second annual Advent Gift Market will be held on **Saturday, November 18 from 9:00 to 12:00.** 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. Mark your calendar and please plan to attend.

Lynda Parlett

HOSPITALITY

The Hospitality Committee held another clean up and reorgani-

Book Study Schedule:

10/4—*No Meeting (Family Night Supper)*

10/11—Week 2—Ch. 2 & 3: *Chosen by God*

10/18—Week 3—Ch. 4: *Judges, Kings and Prophets*

10/25 – Week 4 – Ch. 5: *Return and Renewal*

11/01 – *No Meeting (Family Night Supper)*

11/08 – Week 5 – Ch. 6: *God's Kingdom and Jesus*

11/15 – Week 6 – Ch. 7: *Sacrifice*

11/22 – *No Meeting (Thanksgiving Break)*

11/29 – Week 7 – Ch. 8: *Future Revelation*

"What is there within the Bible? What sort of house is it to which the Bible is the door? What sort of country is spread before our eyes when we throw the Bible open? The answer is a strange, new world – the world of God." – Karl Barth



AUGUST AVERAGE ATTENDANCE: 84

SEPTEMBER DONATIONS: \$ 19,523.34

Regular Fund \$ 18,096.27

Contingency \$ 325.00

Disaster \$ 125.69

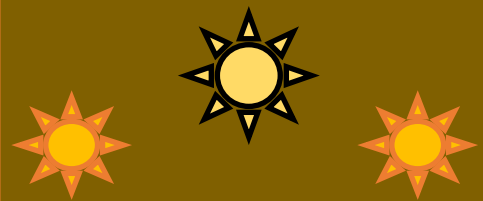
Organ \$ 176.38

Missions \$ 800.00

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

**Mail check to FPC PO Box 2152,
Sylva, NC 28779**

**Drop off a check during office hours
or at worship.**



DOLLARS & CENTS

The Session Committees and Deacons have been hard at work, examining their current expenses and coming up with the amounts they will bring to our **budget meeting to be held on October 9th.** All of us on the Finance Team would covet your prayers for this

meeting that we discern what God wants for our church in 2024.

One thing we always do is make sure that our benevolence budget is at least 10% of the total.

Benevolences include our donations to local missions such as UCM, HERE, Circles of Jackson, etc., global missions such as our support to the Mussers in Spain, the Reeds in Brazil, the Geisers in South Africa and to our Presbytery of WNC.

Benevolence checks are among the first I write each month. It brings me great joy to return a tithe to the Lord's work.

In His Service,

Judy Henderson, Treasurer

SESSION

Elder Alisha Thomas provided our devotion at the September 11 meeting as we continued through Scazzero's *Emotionally Healthy Spirituality*. The theme was finding strategies for "loving well." Among the strategies are developing listening skills, treating individuals as people

rather than objects, and dealing with conflict rather than pretending that something that is wrong is right. Most of the rest of the meeting focused on updates rather than new initiatives.

"The new balcony chairs will arrive in October or November and will be installed after Advent."

New flooring is being installed in the Transition House and volunteers will be sought to help with painting. Preliminary plans are being made to send our middle schoolers to Great Escape next summer (expect to take part in their fund raising). All committees are working toward the October 9 budget meeting. **A congregation meeting has been called for October 8 to elect a nominating committee to select next year's new officers.** Finally, seriously consider taking part in the Fall Book Study that started on Wednesday, September 27, at 6:00 p.m. The book for this year is Lesslie Newbigin's very brief, but very powerful overview of the

Special Meeting

Bible. I hope to see you there.

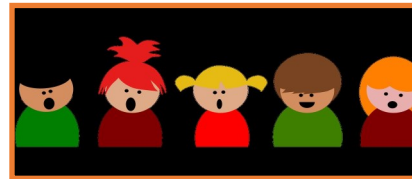
**Bruce Henderson,
Clerk of Session**

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

Greetings!

Sunday school for our children and youth has gotten off to a wonderful start!

On **October 6 and 7** our church will be hosting a **Young Children and Worship training**. This is in-



tended for all those involved with our children's church program, parents with young children, and those interested in learning more about our program. The training will be from 6 to 9 pm on Friday October 6th, and 9 to 4 pm on Saturday October 7th. Please reach out to me with any specific questions!

Warmly,
Heather

DEACONS

So often I write about finding spiritual nourishment through the wonders of God's Creation. This past month our church had its annual camping trip, this time to Standing Indian Campground. It was an immersion in Creation, and a time of great fellowship and fun (and a cornhole tournament). As always, the Saturday dinner was a delicious highlight.



The deacons are also putting together a basket for the **Black Mountain Children's Home Fall Festival**, which will be on Oct. 14.

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 October is Kelder Monar (919) 259-8480 and the alternate is Robby Hess (828) 507-9316.

Kelder

MISSIONS

United Christian Ministries: Donations of pasta and pasta sauce, p-nut butter in small jars, jelly, can chicken, and homeless food