



May 2021



The Season of Pentecost

"I have said these things to you while I am still with you. But the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you everything, and remind you of all that I have said to you." (John 14:25-26)

Sunday, May 16th is the last Sunday in the Season of Easter. It is often also the Sunday the church celebrates the Ascension, the time when Christ ascended to be with God, to use the language of our Apostles' Creed: "To sit on the right hand of God, the Father Almighty." The disciples probably had no idea what to expect after that, but we know Pentecost comes next. On Pentecost Sunday, we remember the time when the gift of the Holy Spirit was made known to all the followers of Jesus and to all the world. In the Presbyterian Church, Pentecost is that one Sunday and then the church calendar after celebrating the Trinity, returns to ordinary time. However, our Lutheran and Episcopalian brothers and sisters mark an entire season of Pentecost, rather than just one Sunday. In this, I agree with the Lutherans and the Episcopalians. How can any of us truly understand the gift of the Spirit and all that gift means for our lives in one Sunday? I invite us all to step out of our Presbyterian box just a tiny bit, and to spend some time in the days after May 23rd to consider what the Holy Spirit means for our lives. Have you been touched by the comfort of the Spirit in a moment when we do not know how to pray as we ought, but that Spirit prays with us and for us with groans too deep for words? Have you felt the fire of the Spirit guiding you or inspiring you? Has the Advocate led you down a new road? Was there a moment when your strength was renewed or your vision made clear? How do we understand the gift of the Spirit and how do we cultivate that gift in our lives? The gift of the Spirit is too important for just one Sunday, so let us take as much time as we need to thank God for that gift and to open ourselves to the power of the Spirit working in our lives.

Pastor Leigh



Celebrating Our Youth

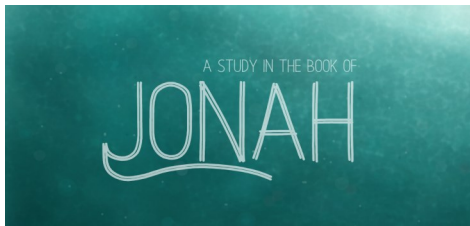
*As I type these words, our youth, along with our Director of Youth and Children, Andrea Roche, are hard at work, getting ready for Youth Sunday, which is **Sunday, May 2.** We have some truly incredible youth at First Pres and we should all take time to thank them, support them, encourage them, and celebrate all that they do. Everyone is invited to worship on Youth Sunday, at either 9:00 or 11:00 or to join us live online or to worship on your own time, by viewing the worship on our Facebook page at anytime. Regardless of how we support our youth, we give thanks to God for their many gifts, and lift prayers of thanksgiving for all of our truly wonderful youth.*

Pastor Leigh



**National Day of Prayer Service
Thursday, May 6, 2021, Noon
at the Courthouse**

On this day, we are invited to specifically take time to turn to God in prayer. Our community is holding a service to mark the day. Join us at the Courthouse at noon for a service led by church leaders from the community, including our pastor. If you would like to attend with an FPC group, meet at the church at 11:45 and we will walk over together.



Summer Worship

One Service, 10:00 AM

May 30th-August 8th

We have exciting plans for summer worship this year. We will be having one service at 10:00 AM in the sanctuary. We will be reflecting on the book of Jonah for the months of June and July. For a short book in the Bible, it is full of rich insights about following God and our lives as disciples, and then, of course, there's the big fish! The sanctuary will look a little different during this time, because we are inviting everyone to immerse themselves into the story. The story of Jonah is our story. Make plans to join us for these special worship services and to be a part of one really big fish story!



Are you friendly and reliable? Are you good at remembering names? Do you have a positive attitude? If you can answer "YES!" to any of these questions, you are perfect for an usher/greeter position!

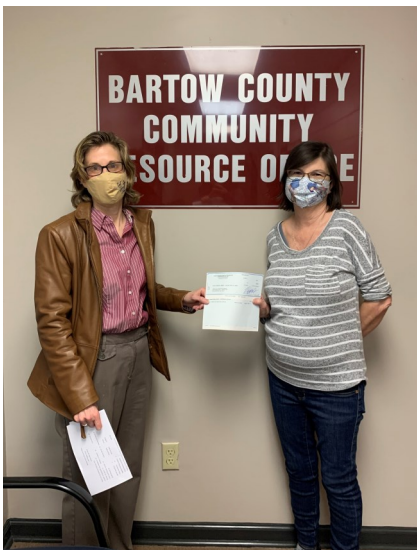
Beginning Sunday, May 30, through Sunday, August 8, there will be one service at 10:00 AM in the sanctuary. Usher/greeters will wear a mask and encourage worshippers to wear a mask, take temperatures, remind worshippers to physically distance and pick up a bulletin.

If you feel led to serve as an usher/greeter during our Summer Schedule, please email Suzanne Collins (suzannelc80@gmail.com) or call the church office.

Celebrating our Mission Partners

Over the past few months, as I have begun the process of getting to know you all, I have also been working on getting to know this community. It has been a joy and a privilege to visit with some of our mission partners and to learn more about how we support their work and the important work they do in this community. We are all connected and in Christ's name, we reach out to the vulnerable in this community through partnering with these organizations that embody what it means to serve in our community. I had the privilege of visiting with the Good Neighbor Homeless Shelter, Community Resource Center, Hickory Log, Tranquility House (Domestic Violence Shelter), and Advocates for Children. If you would like to learn more about the ministry of any of these organizations, I would love to speak with you about them or, join us in our Mission Conversations on May 3rd at 6:00 in the Fellowship Hall.

Pastor Leigh



Mary reaches donor milestone!

Red Cross Blood Drive Milestone!

We give thanks for our work serving this community through our support of the Red Cross Blood Drive. We celebrate member Mary Gilreath who reached a blood donor milestone of 30 gallons at the March Red Cross Blood Drive! **Our next blood drive is May 12th, 2:00p.m. - 7:00p.m. in the Education Building Upper Room and café area.** For more information, or to schedule an appointment, go to www.redcrossblood.org and enter sponsor code: firstprescartersville

New Sound System!

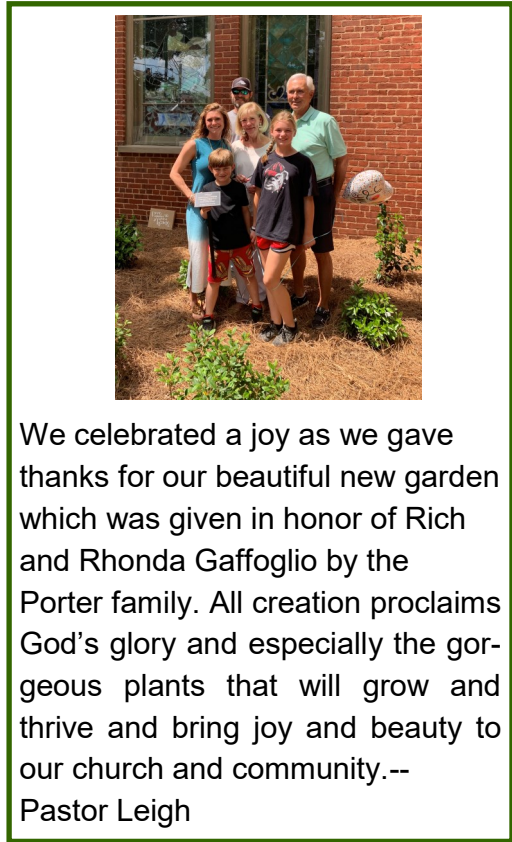
Things are sounding a lot better in our sanctuary and our online worship, thanks to our new sound system! We are always working to make sure that everyone can hear the good news of Jesus Christ!

Thank you to our Tech crew and properties and worship committees for their work in making this happen!



Renovations in Office Space

The recent storm had many of us sheltering in our basements and brought a great deal of water to our office spaces at the church. Because of the water, our offices and hallways require new carpet and additional work with the baseboards and some sections of the wall. Thank you for your patience as we navigate these necessary renovations. Thank you to our Properties and Stewardship and Finance committee members, Dennis Collier, Kyle Russell, Mark Bridges, and Robert Sims for their work in helping to remediate and repair after the storm.



We celebrated a joy as we gave thanks for our beautiful new garden which was given in honor of Rich and Rhonda Gaffoglio by the Porter family. All creation proclaims God's glory and especially the gorgeous plants that will grow and thrive and bring joy and beauty to our church and community.--
Pastor Leigh

Please join the FPC worship task force as we consider, discuss, and dream about future worship possibilities for our congregation. The task force invites you to join a Zoom listening session on **Wednesday, May 5th at 7:00 p.m.** (Beth Gaines and Leigh Jones, facilitators) to discuss and share your ideas. The zoom link will be included in the Constant Contact Friday Weekly News and again on May 3rd.



FPC's Book Club will meet on **May 27th at 10:30am** in the Fellowship Hall.
The selected book is *Just Mercy* by Bryan Stevenson.
All are welcome!

Thank you

We make a difference in the lives of many people in this community and when there is a need, we step up to meet the needs of our brothers and sisters. Thank you for your incredible generosity through donations to Red Door Food Pantry and Community Resource Center of baby supplies and food. Thanks to you, we donated: 99 jars of baby food, 9 containers of baby formula, 12 packages of diapers, 5 packs of baby wipes, 37 jars of peanut butter, 37 boxes of cereal and 1 pack of juice boxes.





Graduate Recognition Sunday

May 23rd

Do you have a youth or young adult who is graduating this year? We want to celebrate with them on **Sunday, May 23 at the 11 a.m. worship service.**

Please email andrea@cartersvillepres.org to let her know of your graduate.

Let's Go Braves!
Trip to the
Atlanta Braves
Sunday, June 6th



Open to FPC members and friends of ALL ages. Join us on Sunday, June 6th for a 1:20 p.m. home game at Truist Park to see the Atlanta Braves take on the LA Dodgers. Tickets are \$20 and parking will be extra. We are trying to get group seating, please email andrea@cartersvillepres.org to sign up. This is open to families, singles, youth, friends, etc. Transportation for youth who want to go without parents is available.



VBS Save the Date & Volunteers Needed

VBS is coming to FPC this Summer! July 26-30, 9 a.m. until noon
 VBS is open to all children in our community, and it is a time for kids to hear God's Message, deepen their faith, enjoy songs, create crafts, and have a wonderful week.

Volunteers with all abilities are needed: teachers, snack coordinators, set builders, guides for our children, game leaders, decorators, etc.

There is a place for everyone at VBS!

If you want to volunteer for VBS, contact andrea@cartersvillepres.org.

Youth Events

Youth Group Calendar

May 2 - Youth Sunday - Youth Leading both the 9 & 11 a.m. worship services.
 No afternoon youth group.

May 9 - No Youth Group (Mother's Day)

May 16 - End of Year Youth Group - Open to Ideas

May 23 – Senior Recognition Sunday

June 6 – Atlanta Braves Game

As the weather gets warmer, we are always looking for fun, safe, outdoor activities for our youth. Feel free to contact Andrea if you have an idea for our youth.

If you or a member of your immediate family is quarantined or awaiting test results, please do not come to youth group or any church activities. We can always zoom you in!

If you have any questions, contact Andrea:

Andrea@cartersvillepres.org or 678-910-6026

First Presbyterian Preschool

Lindsay Scoggins ~ Director

April Paulk ~ Assistant Director

Beth Weathersby ~ Board Director



We are close to breathing a sigh of relief as we celebrate a full year of Pre-school during this Global Pandemic. Faithful to the protocols set forth by the Session (per CDC) and many prayers, we can report these stats: We never had to completely shut down the school, although we closed a few classrooms due to teacher infections. Only 3 teachers became infected with COVID-19. Two of those suffered mild symptoms, and one struggled with breathing issues due to asthma. No one entered the hospital. Parents reported a few children who tested positive, but it was due to family exposures not from the school.

It has not been an easy task, but we have worn our masks, kept children in the rooms, and kept our distance. We are most thankful that our church supported every move we made and guided us on many occasions.

Thus, we can announce that Fun Day and Graduation will take place with continued CDC protocols and Session approval.

We will have a Kindergarten class again in August. There will be 9 children coming to meet our new teacher, Jennifer Graves. Our Pre-K and 3-year-old classes are filling up, although we have a few openings. There are lots of spaces for the 2-year-old classrooms and the nursery. Historically, the phone rings off the hook in July for moms needing a break!

If you happen to see these women, please say thank-you because they showed up and loved our children every day:

Sheila Rosser, Paige Lanthem, Sharon Ellis, Carol Ries, Lauren Reed, Rosemary Purdy, Tiffanie Flores, Kelly Forrester, Jennifer Belisle, and Louisa Thacker. They are saints!

Sincerely, Lindsay, April, and Beth

May 2021

- **Fun Day**
Friday May 7
- **Graduation Practice the first week of May**
- **3-year- old Graduation**
Wednesday, May 12, at 9:00 A.M.
- **3-year-old Graduation**
Thursday, May 13, at 9:00 A.M. and 10:00 A.M.
- **Pre-K Graduation**
Friday, May 14, at 9:00 A.M.
- **Most End of Year Parties are taking place off campus**
- **Post Planning May 17**



Eligh with hands in pockets ...

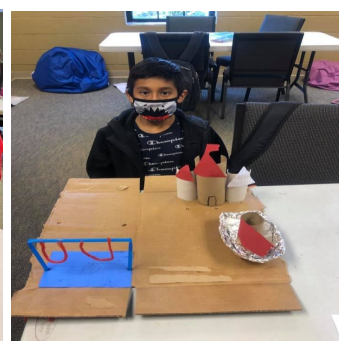


May 2021

Hands of Christ After School Program



Hands of Christ will celebrate our dedicated and hard-working staff during the week of May 3rd-7th. This group has weathered the storm of an unprecedented year with grace and perseverance. We are so blessed to have them!



Student Excellence

On Monday, May 17th and Tuesday, May 18th our Hands of Christ students will be recognized at our annual Awards Ceremony. Each classroom teacher has selected five students to be rewarded for their academic effort, positive attitude and exemplary behavior. The HOC staff also votes for a 5th grader to be our Hands of Christ Hero- this student is a positive role model for their peers, is helpful and courteous toward adults, and maintains a diligent work ethic in their academics.



The HUG Award is given in memory of Michele Sims. It stands for "Happy U Grew", to reward the student who has made the most improvement since their enrollment at the afterschool program. This yearly recognition encourages and rewards the effort of over 80 children in our student body. Our graduating students receive Bibles to take with them on their journey beyond our doors.

May Birthdays

| | | | |
|----|----------------|----|------------------|
| 1 | Betty Sime | 16 | Brad Hughes |
| 1 | Sid McAllister | 16 | Maggie Cummings |
| 2 | Don Denhoff | 18 | Hallie Wachsmuth |
| 2 | Sean Ireland | 19 | Kenzie Waters |
| 4 | Kellie Clark | 19 | Grace Shields |
| 4 | Darcy Hughes | 22 | Bobby Bergman |
| 6 | Ashley Knight | 22 | Renee Shields |
| 6 | Paxton Russell | 23 | Bob Meadows |
| 7 | Sid Haley | 23 | Laura Rentz |
| 8 | Mark Gebert | 24 | Chamblyn Dudley |
| 8 | Lars Ennerberg | 25 | Brandon Bowen |
| 8 | Linda Motuba | 26 | Kim Bowen |
| 9 | Megan Johnson | 28 | Emily Collier |
| 9 | Will Bradley | 30 | Matt Simons |
| 10 | Paul Wachsmuth | 31 | Graham Hembree |
| 11 | Cathy Wall | | |
| 12 | Jerry Coalson | | |
| 12 | Brian Choate | | |
| 14 | Miranda Haley | | |



In May We Pray for Our Church:

Staff: Jean Dudley, Darlene Vessels (ASP), Kerri Vessels (ASP), Rosemary Purdy (Preschool), Carol Ries (Preschool)

Officers: Jackson Cline (Session), Gracie Pruitt (Diaconate)

Ministries: Faith Development

Families: May 1-7: Rob and Julia Forbes (Tripp, Clayton), Rich and Rhonda Gaffoglio, Trey and Beth Gaines (Margaret, Meredith), Jessica Gardner (Patrick), Mark and Veletta Gebert

May 8-14: Betty Gilbert, Jean Gilliland, Mary Gilreath, Candler and Susan Ginn, Craig and Katie Godfrey (Anna, Emily)

May 15-21: Paul and Joan Green, Christine Green, David and Sara Gregory (Megan, Ethan), Katelyn Grundy, Richard Gurley

May 22-31: Mike and Miranda Haley (Daisy, Sid), Linda Hall, Emily Hammer, Mina Harper, Cheryl Harris

First Presbyterian Church

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Contact

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pam@cartersvillepres.org

Becky Ferguson, secretary

becky@cartersvillepres.org

Angie Hood, receptionist

angie@cartersvillepres.org

Beth Weathersby, preschool co-director

beth@cartersvillepres.org

Lindsay Scoggins, preschool co-director

lindsay@cartersvillepres.org

Jean Dudley, after school program director

jean@cartersvillepres.org

Andrea Roche, children & youth director

andrea@cartersvillepres.org

May Calendar

May 2

Youth Sunday

May 4

6:30pm - Properties Committee Meeting

May 5

7:00pm - Worship Task Force Listening Session
Zoom Meeting

May 6

12:00pm - National Day of Prayer Service

May 7

Preschool Fun Day

May 9

Mother's Day

May 10

6:00pm - Worship Committee Meeting

May 11

7:30pm - Faith Development Meeting

May 12

9:00am - Preschool Graduation 3yr olds

2:00pm - Red Cross Blood Drive till 7:00pm

May 13

9:00 & 10:00am - Preschool Graduation 3yr olds

May 14

9:00am - Pre-K Graduation & Last Day of
Preschool

May 17

4:00pm - Hands of Christ ASP Awards Day

5:30pm - Stewardship & Finance Meeting

May 18

4:00pm - Hands of Christ ASP Awards Day

6:30pm - Mission Committee Meeting

7:00pm - Session Meeting

May 20

Last Day of Hands of Christ Afterschool

May 23

Youth Senior Recognition Sunday

May 24

7:00pm - Diaconate Meeting

May 27

10:30am - Book Club Meeting/Fellowship
Hall

May 30

10:00am - Summer Worship Begins/one
worship service

May 31

Memorial Day

Church office closed

