



# Forest Lake Presbyterian Church



HEAD, HEART AND HANDS IN THE SERVICE OF CHRIST

Newsletter Volume 63, Number 11

May 27, 2020

Dear Friends,

The President of the Montreat Conference Center, Richard DuBose, wrote in an emailed newsletter that our current situation feels like driving in the fog. We can only see a few feet ahead of us and if we turn our bright lights on, in an attempt to see further, it only makes things worse. I resonate with that sentiment. As the information swirls around us - much of it conflicting and all of it evolving – decisions seem to be made best at a slow speed for only the few feet ahead of us. That is how I am approaching making decisions for our congregation. I want to affirm that this congregation has already shown itself to be flexible, grace-filled and resilient! We are learning as we go, and have already done so many things that we would not have believed possible a few short months ago. I know we can make it through to a clearer spot together, but let me tell you how I and the Session and Staff are proceeding to make decisions.

At the May 17<sup>th</sup> Stated Session meeting, the Session voted to take a facts focused approach to decision making. They approved using the information from a variety of objective markers in our decision making: DHEC Data (especially new cases and the information from our nearby zip codes); Health Experts' Guidance (National and State Level); Federal, State and Local Policies (esp. AccelerateSC, and the White House's Opening Up America Again document); Vaccine Information; Guidance from our Hospitals and Nursing/Rehab Facilities; Guidance from Richland School Districts 1 & 2 and surrounding Daycares; and input from our Public Safety Officials (Forest Acres PD, Richland County Sheriff's Office and the City of Columbia PD).

We are currently – as you know – worshipping only remotely via livestream. We will offer a “Drive-In” option this Sunday at 8:30am in the Rockbridge Parking Lot (watch your email and our website for details) in addition to livestreaming worship at 10am. And while we have relied mostly on video and phone meetings, we have allowed small group meetings of ten or fewer folks as long as safety practices are followed. The Staff are all able to work remotely, and have taken turns being in the office. Essentially, the church is closed except for essential business. Despite that a lot is going on under the surface! Ministries continue to meet. The Congregational Nominating Committee is hard at work. The Board of Deacons is doing an inspiring job of keeping in touch with our members!

The Staff and Ministries are right now working on steps that will allow us to re-open in phases when the Session believes that we can balance both our need to be together and move back towards life together AND the health and safety of the most vulnerable members of our church and larger community. Next week, I want to write more about a theological frame that can help us make both meaning and decisions. For now, I hope that you will all read the Apostle Paul's image of the Church as the Body of Christ (1 Corinthians 12:14-27). 1 Cor 12:26 says: *If one member suffers, all suffer together with it; if one member is honored, all rejoice together with it. Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it.*

Thank you for being the living, breathing body of Christ in Columbia!  
See you either in the Parking Lot or online this Sunday

Peace,

*Ellen*

Ellen Fowler Skidmore

Forest Lake Presbyterian Church  
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[www.flpc.org](http://www.flpc.org)  
Office Hours: M-F; 8:30—1:00

*Proclaiming the good news of God's love in  
Jesus Christ, to build a fellowship of  
Christian Love, and to serve this  
community and the world in the spirit  
of the Servant Christ.*

## Please Pray For . . .

### Mission Co-Workers

- \* Rev. Mark Adams & Miriam Maldonado Escobar- Mexico
- \* Rev. Shelvis & Rev. Nancy Smith-Mather - Uganda
- \* Ministry of Hope- Lesotho

### PASTORAL CARE NUMBERS

**Ellen Skidmore** - 803-463-7586 (cell)  
E-Mail: [ellenskidmore@flpc.org](mailto:ellenskidmore@flpc.org)

**Eric Skidmore** - 803-543-9859 (cell)  
E-mail: [zacchaeus@sc.rr.com](mailto:zacchaeus@sc.rr.com)

**Ed Black** - 803-240-0192 (cell)  
Email: [edblack@flpc.org](mailto:edblack@flpc.org)

Church office hours are temporarily changed to: Monday—Friday, 8:30am—1:00pm, for essential business only.

Church staff can be reached by email. (see website for those addresses)

## STEPHEN MINISTRY



Forest Lake Presbyterian Church is a Stephen Ministry congregation!

If you feel like you or someone you know could benefit from a one-to-one, confidential, caring Christian relationship, please contact:

Wayne Harris at 790-0954 or cell 608-1187 or  
[wcharris1973@gmail.com](mailto:wcharris1973@gmail.com)

Margaret Harris at 790-0954 or cell 608-1477 or  
[mmck1950@gmail.com](mailto:mmck1950@gmail.com)

Bettianne Davenport at 782-6256 or Cell 530-6018 or  
[bettianned@sc.rr.com](mailto:bettianned@sc.rr.com)



Sympathies of the Congregation are extended to:

- \* Paul and Mary Rogers on the death of his mother, Mary Stephens Rogers on May 21, 2020.
- \* June Canfield, on the death of her husband, Walt Canfield on May 23, 2020.



Do you have a prayer request? Do you know of a need in our church family? You are always welcome to email Ed Black at [edblack@flpc.org](mailto:edblack@flpc.org) or text/call: 803-240-0192.

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*Thank You!*

Dear Friends from Forest Lake,  
I want to thank you all for your prayers, card, and calls. Please continue to pray until I get 100% better and I'm sure I will with your prayers.

Thank you all again,

Love,  
Alice Joye

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## Times are Tough! Your Church Family is Here for You!

**Stephen Ministers** are available to walk alongside those who need a spiritual companion during this unprecedented time. If you or someone you know is interested in having a Stephen Minister, please contact any or all of the following:

Stephen Leader: Bettianne Davenport: [bettianned@sc.rr.com](mailto:bettianned@sc.rr.com)

Stephen Leader: Margaret Harris: [mmck1950@gmail.com](mailto:mmck1950@gmail.com)

Stephen Leader: Wayne Harris: [wcharris1973@gmail.com](mailto:wcharris1973@gmail.com)

Staff Liaison: Ed Black: [edblack@flpc.org](mailto:edblack@flpc.org)

**The Board of Deacons** is tasked with extending a Christian hand to care for our congregation. If you need assistance from the Board of Deacons, please contact any or all of the following:

Moderator: Shannon Fancher: [shannonfancher@flpc.org](mailto:shannonfancher@flpc.org)

Vice Moderator: Brad Woodward: [brad.woodward@att.net](mailto:brad.woodward@att.net)

Staff Liaison: Ed Black [edblack@flpc.org](mailto:edblack@flpc.org)

## Camp Fellowship: Re-Imagine Summer 2020

The Board of Camp Fellowship has made the decision to suspend residential camp for this summer. While we are sad not to be able to attend Camp, Kevin and Emily are working hard to bring camp to us.

Education Ministries wants to sponsor **Camp In A Box** for families that are interested. The boxes will include 5 activity packs with all supplies included for 3-5 people. Activities are intended for all ages and can be done on their own or by inviting family and friends to work together. Boxes will also include camp swag and opportunities will be provided to connect with Camp Staff throughout the summer for Bible Study, energizers, and activities.

Please contact Ms. Andrea if you are interested in receiving a **Camp In A Box** at your house -

The graphic is titled "RE-IMAGINE SUMMER 2020" and "CAMP IN A BOX". It features a central illustration of a cardboard box labeled "CAMP FELLOWSHIP" with a blue arrow pointing to the right. To the left of the box is a starburst containing various camp-related icons like a tent, guitar, and water. To the right, under the heading "5 ACTIVITY PACKS", are five numbered packs (#1-#5). Below this, a list of contents is provided:

**EACH PACK INCLUDES:**

- Bible study guide
- Nature activity
- Game instructions
- Music & book resources
- Table talk cards

**ADDITIONAL ITEMS:**

- Craft supplies
- Access to unique online content
- Limited edition camp swag!

At the bottom left is the "CAMP FELLOWSHIP" logo, and at the bottom right are social media icons for Facebook and Instagram, along with the website "www.campfellowship.org".

Want to support Camp Fellowship this summer?

Purchase an item from the Amazon Wishlist to be included in the Camp In A Box for families.

[https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/l/3D0E0Z0XXCR8V?ref\\_=w1\\_share](https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/l/3D0E0Z0XXCR8V?ref_=w1_share)

**Time for Young Disciples LIVE will have a new time beginning on June 7. We will meet online at 9:00am for a brief time of conversation.**

On Sunday, June 7, meet Ms. Julie Warren and Ms. Jodi Beckham as they share information about their trip to Africa and visit with Ministry of Hope. It will be fun to hear all they discovered. Please join the Zoom call at 9:00am with this link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83523251554?>

## Calendar

### SUNDAY, MAY 31

10:00 AM—Worship Livestream  
11:30 AM—Time for Young Disciples via Zoom  
5:00 PM—MS FLY via Zoom  
7:30 PM—HS FLY via Zoom

### MONDAY, JUNE 1

6:00 PM—Care & Connections via Zoom

### TUESDAY, JUNE 2

8:00 AM—Personnel via Zoom  
10:30 AM—Staff Meeting  
4:15 PM—Education Ministry via Zoom  
5:30 PM—Service & Benevolence via Zoom  
5:30 PM—Worship Ministry via Zoom  
6:30 PM—Nightly Prayer via Zoom  
7:00 PM—Men's Bible Study via Zoom  
7:30 PM—Middle School Check In

### WEDNESDAY, JUNE 3

10:00 AM—H3 via Zoom  
4:00 PM—Book Club via Zoom  
8:00 PM—H3 via Zoom

### THURSDAY, JUNE 4

5:30 PM—Property Ministry via Zoom  
6:30 PM—Nightly Prayer via Zoom  
7:30 PM—High School Check-In via Zoom

### SUNDAY, JUNE 7

10:00 AM—Worship Livestream  
9:00 AM—Time for Young Disciples via Zoom  
5:00 PM—MS FLY via Zoom  
7:30—HS FLY via Zoom

## IS THE CHURCH OFFICE OPEN?

Yes . . . but only for essential business. We are currently scheduling two staff persons at a time, during the week from 8:30am to 1:00pm, to be in the office for essential communication and building functions. We ask that the members not come to the church, unless what you need is essential. Church phones are answered between 8:30 and 1, but all Church staff may be reached during the regular work day by email, and many of us by cell phone. If you need something, please call or email first, instead of dropping by the office. We realize that this is NOT how we normally operate, but we want to keep the office open, and we will not be able to do that if the staff get sick.



## Family Promise Update

Family Promise of the Midlands is still operating but in a very different way by partnering with other homeless organizations in the Midlands. The families they are currently serving are using hotels and apartments as living quarters. Forest Lake Presbyterian Church has made two donations so far from our Family Promise budget to assist them in providing housing for the families. Until the churches are able to host families in house again, Family Promise is in need of gift cards for grocery stores, gas, restaurants, etc. to assist families in the program. If you would like to contribute to this very worthwhile effort please mail them directly to Family Promise at 1333 Omarest Drive, Columbia, SC 29210 and indicate that the gift cards are given on behalf of Forest Lake Presbyterian Church.



## Shoe Drive

The shoe drive will continue through June 15.

Please rubber band the shoes together and place in the bin outside the glass doors downstairs.

To date, more than 400 pairs of shoes have been donated!

Keep shoes out of landfills and help raise funds

Sponsored by Keep the Midlands Beautiful, who partners with Funds2Orgs to support micro-enterprise vendors in developing nations.

## **FLPC SPAM ALERT!**

Staff and members of FLPC have reported receiving both emails and/or texts that appear to be from Rev. Ellen Skidmore. Beware! If you get an email or a text that has a cryptic message “from” Ellen Skidmore, please don’t hit reply! Look to see if the email address (beyond the name) is actually [ellenskidmore@flpc.org](mailto:ellenskidmore@flpc.org), and if you are unsure, simply send Ellen a separate email or text to ask if the communication is actually from her. Often the spam messages will say something like: “You busy? I need some help.” If you suspect foul play DO NOT REPLY! We have consulted our IT company, and they assure us that these emails and texts are simply phishing and no one has breached our security or firewalls. Instead emails and numbers are “harvested” from websites and used to try to lure unsuspecting people into sending money. Ellen Skidmore promises NEVER to ask you to send her a Wal-Mart Gift Card!!! Be “wise as snakes and innocent as doves.” (Matthew 10:16)

### **April 2020 Financial Update**

|   |            |
|---|------------|
| Annual Budget   | \$ 811,062 |
| YTD Budgeted Expenses                                 | \$ 270,354 |
| YTD Actual Income                                     | \$ 289,748 |
| YTD Actual Expenses                                   | \$ 235,290 |
| Budget details are available in the downstairs lobby. |            |

### **Memorial Gifts made in April**

Sandi Bush  
Buford Goff

## **Pentecost! A New Worship Experience**

On Sunday, May 31<sup>st</sup> we will celebrate Pentecost – the birthday of the church. And you will have TWO opportunities to worship.

8:30am – Drive-In Worship

You are invited to print out your own bulletin and meet us in the Rockbridge parking lot to worship in person and in the safety of our own cars. You will be able to tune your car radio to an FM station and participate in worship from the safety of your car.

10:00am – Livestream Worship

We will celebrate communion at this service, so get your bread and grape juice and join us. Our amazing doves will be present in the sanctuary, and resident fabric artist, Margaret Harris, has made new stoles to reflect the fire and power of the coming of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost! Don’t miss it!

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## **Contemplative Experience & Practice Online Retreat** **Friday, June 26 and 27, 2020**

Offered by Mepkin Abbey in Moncks Corner, SC

This online retreat will explore what a contemplative experience is, what its fruit are, and the practice of centering prayer. Contact Ellen Skidmore for questions.

# **Congratulations to our Graduates!**

## **High School**

- ◆ Rose Beacham, Richland Northeast High School, Enrolling in Furman University
- ◆ Lindsay Cribbs, A.C. Flora High School, Enrolling in Furman University
- ◆ Lucy Derrick, Dreher High School, Enrolling in Wofford University
- ◆ Donelson Johnson, Blythewood High School, Enrolling in Frances Marion University
- ◆ Katie Pittman, Spring Valley High School , Enrolling in Queens University

## **College**

- ◆ Katie Arnold, B. S. in Psychology and Science, minor in Biology; Clemson University
- ◆ Lizzie Beckham, B. A. in Arts Management, minors in Marketing and Hospitality & Tourism; College of Charleston
- ◆ Aleksey Mohov (formerly known as Matthew White), B.S. in Physics; University of Texas, Dallas
- ◆ Emory Moore, B.S. in Political Science and B.S. in Environmental Science; N.C. State University (granddaughter of Suzanne and Sid Thomas)
- ◆ Olivia Nix, B.A. in Marketing; College of Charleston
- ◆ Rachel Skidmore, B.A. in Art History, minors in Spanish and Sustainability; College of Charleston

## **Graduate School**

- ◆ Ebony Eaddy, Master's in Public Health Administration, Summa Cum Laude; Webster University

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### **Presbyterian Women's Mary Gooding Smith Scholarship Award**

The Presbyterian Women of Forest Lake are pleased to announce that Rose Beacham and Lindsay Cribbs are the recipients of the Mary Gooding Smith scholarships awarded to graduating high school seniors. These students were selected for their outstanding academic grades and strong faith principles. The scholarship will be forwarded to the college they will be attending. The Presbyterian Women wish these ladies a very successful college experience.



## Notes from the Stated Session Meeting – May 17, 2020

- ◆ The Session spent time discussing how best to make decisions about re-opening or expanding the face-to-face options at FLPC. They approved using the following objective markers to define a staged re-opening or expansion of activities:
  - DHEC data on new cases and trends both in the state and in our particular zip codes.
  - Health Expert's Guidance – Centers for Disease Control, DHEC, medical experts on federal and state levels
  - State and Local Government guidance – AccelerateSC from the Governor's office, as well as federal guidelines – Opening Up America Again from The White House.
  - Schools and Daycare Practice – especially RSD1 & RSD2 and local daycares
  - Vaccine Availability
  - Nursing, Rehab and Hospital visitation practices and policies
  - Public Safety Input – Forest Acres PD, Richland County Sheriff's Office, City of Cola Police Department guidelines
- ◆ Staff and Ministries will be tasked with defining re-opening/expansion steps using the data from these sources. Session will determine the pace at which events may resume. Currently practice is to use remote options for meetings where possible while allowing small group meetings of ten or fewer folks (assuming social distancing and safety practices). Other decisions were made based on recommendations from Ministries (see below).
- ◆ Education recommended that Vacation Bible School be postponed until the summer of 2021, and that conversations with Camp Fellowship continue to provide families with *Camp in a Box* activities could be provided to our families. Education is also discussing alternative plans for “camp-like” events throughout the summer as allowed.
- ◆ Education is also working with Karen Webster, executive Director of *Healthy Seminarians; Healthy Church*, to provide free online courses:
  - Plant-Based Pantry Party – an online cooking demo and discussion, and
  - *Moving in Wholeness* – focus on health and wholeness from a biblical, theological and practical perspective.
- ◆ Personnel reported that FLPC has received \$78,109 in funds through the CARE's Act following our application for these funds through the Partial Payroll Protection Loan program. These funds, used for payroll expenses, will ensure that our congregation will be able to pay all of our staff and offer furlough payments to our nursery workers and kitchen coordinator, who have been without pay because of the pandemic for 2 ½ months. While our budget is stable now, the future is uncertain for everyone. Personnel and Session take very seriously the responsibility to be stewards of these funds. Session and Personnel together accepted the funds with the understanding that the money comes from the Federal government and that Session will evaluate our financial position at year end to see if some or all of the money may be repaid.
- ◆ Personnel also reported on their guidance to staff about the functioning of the church office. Currently two staff members are scheduled to be in the office from 8:30-1:00 on Monday through Friday. All staff are working remotely, but the office itself is closed except for essential business. Those who come to the office are asked to make an appointment with the staff person they need to see. If a staff person or a family member is diagnosed, the office will drop to 1 staff person at a time or close completely depending on the situation. Voice mails are checked remotely by all staff and everyone is readily available to the congregation by email. Personnel expressed their strong support for the staff's right to say “no” to meetings, visits, or behavior that they fear puts their health at risk. Staff were encouraged to post signs on the doors (especially those with punch codes) asking all outside visitors to come for essential business only, to wear masks, and to use hand sanitizer (provided inside each punch-code door).
- ◆ Property reported that the HVAC system in the Church Library was replaced (it died of old age) and that six LED bulbs in the sanctuary that were burned out had been replaced. Repairs to the sprinkler system have been made and a successful outdoor work day resulted in new pinestraw and lots of powerwashing being completed.
- ◆ Service and Benevolence reported that the shoe drive will continue until June 15<sup>th</sup>. To date, more than 400 pairs of shoes have been donated and kept out of landfills.
- ◆ Stewardship and Administration recommended that Session continue to keep the proposed Capital Campaign on hold for now. The projects are essential and the hope is to be able to move this campaign into a more active phase as soon as possible.
- ◆ Worship asked permission to hold a drive in worship service at 8:30am on Sunday, May 31<sup>st</sup> (Pentecost). Members and the community will be invited to drive into the Rockbridge parking lot and tune their radios to the indicated FM frequency. Worshipers will be able to
- ◆ Hear through their car radios from the safety of their own cars. Livestream worship will continue at 10am as usual that day as well. Communion will not be served at the drive-in worship, but will be observed virtually during the livestream service.
- ◆ In ongoing work to update the FLPC Manual of Administrative Operations, Session approved the following language that describes how the minutes of congregational meetings are approved. The Manual was amended to read: “The Session is the council for the congregation (G-3.0201) and approves the minutes of all congregational meetings. (G-3.0204) Once approved by the Session, the minutes shall be made available at the next congregational meeting and are always available to any member of the congregation by request.”
- ◆ The moderator asked all Session Ministries to report to the June Stated Session meeting their progress on safety planning and procedures assigned to their ministries.