

Forest Lake Presbyterian Church



HEAD, HEART AND HANDS IN THE SERVICE OF CHRIST

Newsletter Volume 64, Number 13

June 23, 2021

Dear Friends,

“Please fasten your seatbelts and keep your hands inside the moving vehicle!” Isn’t that what the operators of the carnival rides say just before we get turned upside down on some sort of ride? Well, Presbyterians are not normally known for quick decisions or speedy change of directions, but “please fasten your seatbelts and keep your hands inside the moving vehicle.” The Session met on Sunday evening and considered again our congregational practices as our community and nation move further away from the high rates and risks of COVID 19, and Session made some quick changes.

First, they gave us permission to pass the friendship registers during worship in our pews again so that we can know who is present for worship. This might seem small, but knowing who is in worship not only helps us keep up with our own people, but it is also a safety measure in a time of infection so that we could communicate clearly with attendees if the need arose. And, Session also lifted the social distancing requirement for church events, following the CDC’s lead. These changes mean that you no longer need to register to attend worship, and we can sit in every pew! The seats on the side of the sanctuary will remain, and anyone who would like to preserve social distancing is encouraged to ask the ushers to help find and preserve that safety measure in the sanctuary.

I want to be clear that Session did not change our mask policy. So, masks are always welcome and encouraged if they make you feel safer, but they are not required for those who are fully vaccinated. Masks are still required for those who have not yet or cannot be vaccinated. And Session reserves a parent’s right to make decisions for their own children.

My experience, and probably yours also, is that people are beginning to find their way to what feels safe and comfortable for them, and that everyone is not in the same place. So, as we begin to move back together, I entreat you again to be motivated by love for our neighbor as we do our business. So, if someone or a group or business requests that we wear a mask, we are limited by our love for them and will do so. Christian discipleship is not about demanding our personal rights, but “loving our neighbor as we do ourselves.” That also means that if a person has decided not to receive the vaccine, or – as is the case for some of our folks – if someone cannot receive the vaccine, we ask that you continue to wear a mask. I don’t want to lose anyone else!!! Please guard your health and safety! And, I expect that depending on the rates of infection or the strains of flu that may show up this winter, we will probably want to keep a mask nearby indefinitely.

But, for now, the outlook is much more optimistic, and I have really felt the gratitude and joy of those who are coming back to worship and to events. And staff are planning a joyful return to activities in August. August begins with an amazing, evening Disciple School for ALL ages to help us “Recenter” ourselves in God and in this community. Watch for that registration and come and celebrate with us!

I am grateful to be able to say – “See you in worship!”

Ellen

Ellen Fowler Skidmore

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Friday: 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 - RECONCILE Peace Institute
- * Mamonyane Mohale- Ministry of Hope- Lesotho

PASTORAL CARE NUMBERS

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

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

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



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

Margaret Harris at 790-0954 or cell 608-1477 or mmck1950@gmail.com

Bettianne Davenport at 782-6256 or Cell 530-6018 or bettianned@sc.rr.com



Sympathies of the Congregation are extended to:

- ◆ Sissy Ervin, on the death of her sister-in-law, JoAnne Ervin.
- ◆ Coe Hankinson, on the death of her husband, Hank Hankinson, on June 20, 2021.



**American
Red Cross**

Save the Date! - Red Cross Blood Drive
Our next blood drive is set for August 29
9:30 - 1:30
In the Fellowship Hall.

Mark your calendar



**FLY Tubing trip
Saturday July 10**



Lift Up Your Church Family Via Text!

The Board of Deacons is happy to announce it is starting a new Texting Team. To “play” on this team is pretty easy – all you do is get a list of 10 or so names of FLPC members from Ed and send a text at your convenience to let the member(s) know you lifted them up in prayer that day. The concept is similar to the Note Writing Team, meaning you work at your own pace and get new lists whenever you’re ready.

For more information, or to join the Texting Team or the Note Writing Team, just email Ed: edblack@flpc.org.

VBS—Disciple School— **Re-centering in God with our Faith Family**

FLPC Intergenerational Opportunity Coming in August

The Education ministry is excited to announce a new initiative for our entire church! From August 1-August 4, FLPC will be hosting an intergenerational worship, service, and learning opportunity each night from 5-7 PM. The preliminary theme is “Recentering in God with our Faith Family,” and options will be available for both children and adults. We will not have 9-12 Vacation Bible School in the summer, but we are excited to gather both our children **and** adults in this new way in August!

While we are excited about this new project, we need your help planning and implementing it! If you are willing to join the planning team, please contact Ed: edbblack@flpc.org. All are welcome!



Mark Your Calendars Now!
Hearts and Hands Bazaar and Barbecue Bonanza
October 30, 2021

With a three-fold purpose of allowing members to use their gifts and talents to Glorify God, providing a fellowship opportunity for the congregation at large, and generating funds for benevolent giving to national and local missions, the Bazaar is a joint effort of Presbyterian Women, the Service and Benevolence Ministry, and the Care and Connections Ministry.

FLPC has many talented crafters, artists, bakers, cooks, and grill-masters who are invited to contribute to the event’s success. Do you know someone you can encourage to share their talents? Do you have something you can offer? Registration coming soon.

Congregational Retreat
Save the Date

March 25-27, 2022 will be our next congregational retreat in Montreat, NC. Montreat College professor and CS Lewis scholar Dr. Don King will be our speaker for the weekend. More information including registration will come in the fall.

What is Gleaning?

It is the gathering of leftover produce after a harvest. When the farmer is ready to plow a field, there is generally lots of good produce left. That's when gleaners come in to pick and take the produce to a local food pantry. Would you like to help us pick produce? In just an hour or two we can pick a tremendous amount of food. Come join us! Contact Jodibeckham@flpc.org if you are interested in helping next time.

Fall Co-Ed Softball

Come play softball with our FLPC team in the City of Columbia Parks and Rec league. Cost to register is \$40, which includes your t-shirt. The season begins August 15. Games will be 5-9 on Sundays at the Earlewood Ballfield. Contact [Stephen McCrae](mailto:StephenMcCrae) to register/questions.



Currently, FLPC supports these recycling programs:

- Solo cups: Everyone is reminded that FLPC is working with TerraCycle to recycle plastic 'Solo' cups. (They don't have to be Solo brand but MUST be #6 and should be dry.). Note that these are NOT recyclable in your curbside bins. TerraCycle cleans and melts the cups into hard plastic that is then remolded to make new recycled products.
- Inkjet print cartridges: FLPC is still collecting print cartridges to support Camp Fellowship. Please note this does NOT include toner cartridges from laser printers, but only the smaller inkjet cartridges.

**** Energy bar wrappers: Unfortunately, Terracycle is no longer taking energy bar wrappers, **so please do not bring those to church for recycling.**

Please help reduce waste by bringing your solo cup and inkjet cartridges to church and placing them in the marked bins in the downstairs recycling closet.

Come Help in our Kids Garden

Many hands make light work! Volunteer your time this summer helping in our Kids Garden on your own schedule. We will soon need helpers of all ages to harvest produce and weed/water a bit when needed. Our garden generates wonderful produce each summer that we donate to Rehoboth UMC Food Pantry. Come support this mission of the church - no garden skills needed - we'll show you what to do. [Contact Julie Lott.](mailto:JulieLott)



Capital Campaign Update - 6/16/21

Target = \$1,001,000.00

Pledged YTD = \$890,840

Number of households responding YTD = 109

Total number of households = 311

Gifts received toward pledges

YTD = \$342,435



Meal Packaging Service Opportunity August 22, 2pm

FLPC will host a Meal Packaging Event with the Outreach Project in our Fellowship Hall on Sunday, August 22. We hope to package 25,000 meals that day to help feed the hungry in our community. Make plans to join us, all ages are welcome! Look for registration in July.



School Supplies Collection

We are once again collecting school supplies for Condor Elementary through August 6th. Items can be left in the white collection box, in the welcome area downstairs. Any of these items are appreciated. If you would like to donate a backpack stuffed with each of these items, that is most helpful for the school. Items needed are pencils, erasers, colored pencils, crayons, markers, pencil sharpeners, ear buds, spiral notebooks, composition books, pocket folders, glue sticks, scissors, highlighters, small bottles of hand sanitizer, blue and black pens, and backpacks. Contact [Jodi Beckham](#) with questions. *Thank you!*



Congratulations to our Graduates!

Sammie Lencke, Cardinal Newman High School; Attending Clemson Bridge Program in Fall

Grace McCoy, AC Flora High School; Attending Lander University in the Fall

Nicholas Mershon, Dreher High School

Bailey Lockwood, Wofford University. Will begin Dental School at MUSC

Graydon Olive IV, *juris doctor* degree, *cum laude* from USC School of Law

Notes from the Stated Session Meeting – Sunday, June 15, 2021

- The Board of Deacons reported on a new texting team as an innovation in how the Deacons keep in touch with our members.
- Worship requested that Session approve continuing the 10:00am worship hour until a change is needed. Having everyone together in the same service allows us to see each other, which is a gift and a joy!
- Session approved inviting a representative from the Rehoboth UMC Food Pantry to come and to speak to the congregation to thank us for our support. They have asked for an opportunity to do this, and a time will be scheduled with staff.
- Stewardship and Administration reported on the transition that our church is making from the older version of our membership and financial software (called Automated Church Systems, or ACS) to a newer product by this same company. The new software is called Realm, and is much more flexible and user friendly than the older product. Staff has been undergoing training in the new software and members will be asked to create a Realm Account. This “account” will allow members to access the membership directory, their own financial giving records, and much, much more. Please watch your newsletter for more information.
- Session approve Worship’s request to allow worshipers to pass the Friendship Registers in worship on each pew. This will allow us to keep a record of attendance without having to require people to pre-register for worship.
- Received information about the August 1- 4 intergenerational Bible School – Recentering in God and in our church family – and approved a collection of board games and sidewalk chalk that will be given to Homeless No More.
- Approved plans proposed by Personnel Ministry to split the Director of Faith Formation position (formerly held by Andrea Paschal) into two part-time positions: A Children’s Faith Formation position and an Adult Faith Formation position. Personnel requested Session approval for the plan and direction and plans to bring position descriptions, salary ranges and search committees to Session for approval. This may require a called Session meeting in July.
- COVID-19 Discussions. Session approved the following proposal from Property Ministry with regards to food preparation and serving: “When an event with food is planned, the way the food is served must be approved by the ministry sponsoring the event and the Kitchen Coordinator.” This clears the way for Ministries to make plans to restart events with food, once a plan is approved by that Ministry.
- After discussions about the Church’s COVID-19 practices, Session approved a motion made by Elder Jessica Agee and seconded by Anne Fowler to remove the social distancing requirements for events at Forest Lake.
- The Congregational Nominating Committee requested that Session call a Meeting of the Congregation on Sunday, August 22nd at 9:30am for the purpose of hearing and acting upon the recommendation of the CNC to elect Elders and Deacons for the class of 2024. After discussion, the motion was amended to add a second purpose to the meeting. The meeting will also update the congregation on the Capital Campaign and the capital improvements that are funded by that campaign. The motion passed.
- Session elected Drew Radeker and Bud Hult as commissioners to the August 24th Stated Meeting of Trinity Presbytery and Ward Warrant to serve as an alternate commissioner.
- Session reaffirmed their intention to hold the August Stated Session meeting in person at church and to retain a hybrid option.