



FIRST WORDS

JUNE 2018



[Visit our Website](#)

A Note From Our Pastor

As you've surely heard by now, I've got three major summer initiatives going on at our church: all summer long I'm challenging our congregation to deepen our hope in God and our community with one another in three tangible ways:



1. BRING YOUR BIBLE TO CHURCH

You read about this one in your newsletter last month— I'm asking everyone to start bringing your own personal bible with you to worship on Sunday mornings. I don't want the Bible to be a book we talk about in church, I want it to be a book we actively know. I want us to actively listen for the voice of Christ in it's pages.

Every single Sunday this Summer, we're going to read a Psalm; and every Sunday I'm going to ask you to be listening to a word or phrase in that Psalm that

strikes your heart. Maybe it challenged you, maybe it encouraged you, maybe it confused you. Underline or circle that word or phrase, and then, let me know what you heard. I'm setting up a little box outside the church office, and you can write down the verse or phrase that struck you and leave it there.

2. DON'T FORGET TO EAT

Jesus is the bread of life, and in him we can never go hungry. But are we remembering to eat? I know things get busy in the summer, and it gets harder to make it to church. But as you hit the beach or the lake or the mountains this summer, don't forget to eat. You can listen to our sermons on our website, and you can even subscribe on your smartphone through any of the major Podcast apps.

But I also want to encourage you to eat out! Find another congregation to worship with while you're away, and if you do, bring the 'menu' back with you. I want to collect the bulletins. You can also leave those in the box outside the church office.

3. KNOW YOUR CHURCH DIRECTORY

We're putting together a new church directory this summer as an effort to get to know one another a little bit better. If you haven't yet, please sign up soon to have your picture taken. A little later in the summer, you'll be invited to join our new directory App on your smartphone.

We want everyone in our church family, not just official members, to be a part of our church directory, because we think it's important for us to know one another. It's important for us to know our brothers and sisters in Christ, and it's important for us to know our neighbors, because Christ commands us to love one another, and to love our neighbors, and how can we do either if we don't know each other first? So don't just sign up to have your picture in our directory— when you see someone whose name you don't know in church, introduce yourself. Get to know one another better. You can't be a Christian by yourself. God gives us one another so that we can walk together.

So those are our three major challenges for the summer: Bring your Bible to Church, Don't Forget to Eat, and Know your Church Directory. I'm excited to see how it all goes!

Rev. Howard Dudley

A Music Moment



While I was in Orlando, Florida at a church conference, I decided to take my three girls, then ages 4, 7, and 10, for a one-day marathon trip to Disney World. We arrived at the very hour it opened, and we stayed until the fireworks and Tinker Bell made their grand display at the end. Did I mention that it was in the month of July? Did I mention that the humidity in Florida was nearly at the saturation point even with sun blazing? I had made a grand proclamation to the girls that I was not going to buy \$5 bottles of water throughout the day. We were simply going to make do the best we could with the water we had smuggled into the theme park. Sounds like a thrifty-mom plan, right?

The plan worked until the water ran out. When you combine near-melting asphalt, aching feet, 100% humidity, a relentless sun, empty water bottles with three girls

under the age of 10, you have one hot mess! It became increasingly evident that I should recant on the proclamation to not buy \$5 water bottles. Thus, I stood in the long concession line with all the other desperate parents to pay whatever it is they were asking for the few ounces of water they had distributed in bottles with Mickey Mouse ears. Meanwhile, the three girls were panting in the shade nearby. No complaints when they realized the water bottles were plain. Mickey Mouse ears were completely irrelevant at this point. Our thirst transcended the need for gimmicky wares. We would have run down the maintenance worker with a garden hose if that's what it took to satisfy our thirst. Twenty dollars for these three water bottles? No problem.

I imagine the Psalmist knew what it meant to be thirsty-really thirsty. He had probably seen really thirsty animals too. He writes, *"As the deer pants for streams of water, so my soul pants for you, my God. My soul thirsts for God, for the living God. When can I go and meet with God?"* (Psalm 42:1-2 NIV). Human thirst is a powerful force. It will make a thrifty Mom spend crazy money on something that would generally be free in another environment. Water is required for survival. You may be able to survive a couple of weeks without food, but only 3 to 4 days without water. The writer of the Psalms was comparing the human requirement for water to his spiritual thirst for the Lord. Ever been so thirsty for the presence of the Lord that nothing else mattered except meeting with Him, hearing from Him, communing with Him? The Psalmist likely knew of this desperate thirst. No doubt, he knew what the living water tasted like, felt like, and he also knew of drought and parched lips. And he writes, "when can I go and meet with God?" How much longer do I have to exist with this dry, sun-drenched spirit? How much longer until my thirst is satisfied? I don't know how long he waited, but I do know that he was appealing to the Only One who could satisfy his thirst. Psalm 107:9 records, *For He has satisfied the thirsty soul, And the hungry soul He has filled with what is good.* (NASB)

Be listening for the choir to sing, "As the deer pants for the water, so my soul longs after you... You alone are my strength, my shield; to you alone may my spirit yield" (Glory to God Hymnal, p. 626). This chorus is taken from Psalm 42:1 and Psalm 28:7. Hopefully, your soul will thirst after the Lord and the nourishment He provides. May the hot summer days translate into a season of refreshment for you spiritually. May your thirst drive you to the Living Water.



Exodus 13:21-22

21 The Lord went in front of them in a pillar of cloud by day, to lead them along the way, and in a pillar of fire by night, to give them light, so that they might travel by day and by night. **22** Neither the pillar of cloud by day nor the pillar of fire by night left its place in front of the people.

We're about to hit the road--On our way to Massanetta and Montreat!

Early Thursday morning, June 21st, five Mid Hi Youth and I will travel to the Massanetta Middle School Conference near Harrisonburg, Virginia. Last year,

being our first time, I had no idea what to expect, but this year, I can safely say from experience that these youth are about to undergo a spiritual awakening. Through energizers, music, keynote speakers, small group interactions, crafts, games, recreation, and worship, with others their age who come from all over the country, they will have an opportunity to expand their awareness of others, to consider new points of view, to reflect on who they are and what they believe, and to encounter Christ. We will return Sunday, June 24th changed people.

Then, on Saturday, July 7th, twenty-two Senior High Youth along with five adults, will board a bus on loan from Ebenezer Church to head to the Montreat Youth Conference for a week long encounter with youth who have converged from hundreds and thousands of miles to meet at the beautiful campus of Montreat, Black Mountain NC. Our returning youth can tell the first-timers that yes, Montreat is a lot of fun with lively music, fellowship and recreational opportunities. But they'd also say the topics and issues are more profound, the discussions more serious and emotional, the nightly devotional time more thoughtful and personal, and the worship more moving. Montreat is truly a transformative experience for our youth.

There was a commissioning ceremony for Massanetta and Montreat Youth during worship on Sunday, June 17th. We continue to ask for your prayers for safe travels and spiritual growth while we are on our journeys. The youth look forward to sharing their experiences with you and thank you for both your financial support and prayers. We will look to the Lord to lead us along the way by night and by day. He will ever be before us. Exodus 13:21-22

Summer Fun will conclude with a PIZZA PARTY AND CONCERT for both the girls, boys and their parents on June 20th at 6:00 PM. Our theme this year has been ***Make a Joyful Noise: the Science and Scriptures of Sound***. We have studied different ways that sound and musical instruments played a role in the Bible as we explored the properties of sound. We created a variety of instruments and discovered how to make music with unusual items.

We will kick-off VBS with a church-wide event on Sunday, July 22nd. The children will enjoy VBS lessons, music, crafts and games from 9:00-11:30 AM on Monday through Wednesday. The theme this year is ***Shipwrecked: Rescued by Jesus***. As always, we will need the help of Youth and Adults at Vacation Bible School. Contact me at denafpc@gmail.com if you can volunteer. There will also be a closing activity for VBS on Wednesday evening, July 25th to which the church and community are invited. Please invite friends and their children to join us.

Always Blessed by You,

Dena Bradham

Director of Christian Education



Dunn Community Blood Drive

Held at First Presbyterian Church
901 N Park Ave
Dunn, NC 28334

Thursday, June 21, 2018
1:30 PM to 6:00 PM

To schedule your lifesaving appointment visit www.redcrossblood.org and enter sponsor code: "Dunn" or download the Blood Donor App!

Contact Anne Johnson with any questions at (919) 407-9867 .

WE NEED ALL ELIGIBLE DONORS!!



Download the Blood Donor App today. Get your digital donor card, schedule your next appointment, track your lifetime donations, view your blood pressure, and follow your donation on its way to a hospital.

Schedule your blood donation appointment today.

#MissingType | redcrossblood.org/missingtypes | 1-800-RED CROSS

© 2018 The American National Red Cross | 171801

DONOR ID - MEMO - 4011-005430 - 4000000000 - 000000

Here are some highlights from our June 18th, 2018 Session Meeting:

- Starting next month, our church will be transitioning to a new Church Information System. This is the application we use to keep up with everyone's contact information, as well as giving to our church. We currently use a program called "Realm," but we will be transitioning to a cheaper and more efficient system called "**Breeze**." You'll be hearing more information about it in the coming months.
 - The Session allocated funds for the creation of a **Choral Scholars Program**. Starting this Fall, our hope is to have two choral scholars singing in our church choir— college students from surrounding universities who are studying music and vocal performance. Our hope is that this will both greatly enhance our worship together, while also strengthening our connection to Campbell and our ministry with college students.
 - The Session has amended our policy on **memorial gifts**. Policy has been that any undesignated gifts given to the church in memory of a loved one who has passed a way should add to our Church's Mission Endowment. Under our new policy, any undesignated gifts will be given to our Vision Project, paying down our congregation's debt on our Fellowship Hall.
 - The Session is working on the beginning stages of what we are calling a **Vision Project**, an effort to raise funds to position ourselves to increase our mission giving, fully support our facility and add to our church's program staff. The Session is excited about these efforts, and if you haven't already, you will be hearing more about the Vision Project in the coming months.
-

Dates to Remember

June 21st - Red Cross Blood Drive

June 23rd - 20's and 30's Women's Group at the Cellar

June 21st - 24th - Massanetta Middle School Conference

June 27th - Handicapped Parking Lot Closed

July 4th - Church Office Closed

July 7th - 14th - Montreat Youth Conference

Announcements

The New Church Directory:

First Presbyterian will be putting together a new church family wide photo directory this summer! You can sign-up online for a time for you and your family to have your picture taken or you can contact Lesia in the church office for assistance. Dates will be Thursday-Saturday, July 25, 26 & 27, and then again August 10 & 11! We look forward to including you and your family in our directory! You can schedule your photography session [HERE](#).



Attention: Ladies in their 20's and 30's!

The Women of First Presbyterian are hoping to start a ministry to help some of the newer/younger women in the church connect with one another. We are hosting a brunch on **SATURDAY, JUNE 23rd, 10 AM at THE CELLAR - DOWNTOWN DUNN** to help spread the word about this new group. On behalf of Women of the Church, we would love for you to join us and discuss ideas on how we can CONNECT! GROW! and BELONG!

Handicapped Parking Lot Paving

On Wednesday, June 27th the handicapped parking lot will be closed for repairs and repaving. If you come to the church that day please come to the doors closest to the office on the Park Avenue side (front) of the church.

Mark Your Calendars!

Our 2018 Vacation Bible School, "Shipwrecked – Rescued by Jesus", will be July 22-25. Contact [Dena Bradham](#) if you would like to volunteer to help.

Wednesday Night Basketball

Looking for a little exercise? Join us for Basketball, every Wednesday Nights at 7:30 PM in the Fellowship Hall. For more information contact Bryant Pope.

Thursday Night Bluegrass Jam

Do you play a guitar, banjo, mandolin, dobro, bass, fiddle or other bluegrass instrument? Love bluegrass music? Want to test your chops? Join us in the Fellowship Hall on Thursdays at 7:00 PM for our new weekly Bluegrass Jam, hosted by Mac McCaskill. No experience necessary, and listeners and spectators are welcome.

Cooking Teams Needed

The Fellowship Council is taking signups for Wednesday night meal teams for the

Fall! We hope that our fantastic teams from the past year will help again this coming year, but we need more teams! If you'd like to help but cooking is not your strength, see Cindy Smith or Bryant Pope about hosting a take-out meal or a covered dish set-up and clean-up.

Get your First Presbyterian Church of Dunn T-Shirts!

You can get a T-shirt now in White or in Grey for just \$15. You can also order a polo in Grey or Blue for \$25. We have a limited number of shirts "on hand" but are taking orders for more. Don't miss out! Get your T-shirt now!



Prayer Concerns

**Larry Bacon
Margaret Beasley
Phillip Campbell
Abe Elmore
Joe Giles
Judy Godwin
Keilah Goff
Tammy Lockamy**

**Flonnie Manning
Linda McCaskill
Marty Parker
Butch Raynor
Gloria Ryals
Butch Smith
Jeanne Tart**



June Birthdays

<i>June Green</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>Brooke Wilson</i>	<i>16</i>
<i>Bailey Williams</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>Scott Wilson</i>	<i>16</i>
<i>Joe Godwin</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>Kathryn Hales</i>	<i>17</i>
<i>Gregg Taylor</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>Heather Cannady</i>	<i>18</i>
<i>Lauren Smith</i>	<i>4</i>	<i>Gladys Wood</i>	<i>19</i>
<i>Rodney Godwin</i>	<i>6</i>	<i>Layla Jones</i>	<i>19</i>
<i>Wayne Smith</i>	<i>8</i>	<i>Katherine Fitchett</i>	<i>20</i>
<i>Jody Yarbrough</i>	<i>11</i>	<i>Lea Anna Tart</i>	<i>20</i>
<i>Linda Lee</i>	<i>13</i>	<i>Lisa Fitchett</i>	<i>23</i>
<i>Ross Stevens</i>	<i>13</i>	<i>Emma Stanley</i>	<i>23</i>
<i>Claire Parker</i>	<i>14</i>	<i>Harris Kelly</i>	<i>27</i>
<i>Jeanette Herring</i>	<i>15</i>	<i>Wyatt Turner</i>	<i>29</i>

July Birthdays

<i>Melissa Johnson</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>Emily Powell</i>	<i>14</i>
<i>Harris Pope</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>Jackson Pope</i>	<i>19</i>
<i>Doris Suggs</i>	<i>4</i>	<i>Jerry Rawls</i>	<i>20</i>
<i>Hugh Bradham</i>	<i>5</i>	<i>Mary Myres Pope</i>	<i>21</i>
<i>Will Pope</i>	<i>5</i>	<i>Page Jackson</i>	<i>22</i>
<i>Adam Byrd</i>	<i>7</i>	<i>Jackson Warren</i>	<i>23</i>
<i>Elizabeth Hales</i>	<i>7</i>	<i>Ryan Godwin</i>	<i>25</i>
<i>Luke Hales</i>	<i>7</i>	<i>Lindsey Malone</i>	<i>25</i>
<i>Owen Hales</i>	<i>7</i>	<i>Angela Godwin</i>	<i>26</i>
<i>Lewis Hathaway</i>	<i>7</i>	<i>Kendall Tart</i>	<i>27</i>
<i>Rayleigh Morgan</i>	<i>7</i>	<i>Tanner Sasser</i>	<i>29</i>
<i>Maggie Stewart</i>	<i>7</i>	<i>Winnie Smith</i>	<i>29</i>
<i>Susan Hatley</i>	<i>8</i>	<i>Barbara Godwin</i>	<i>30</i>
<i>Jason Colmenero</i>	<i>9</i>	<i>Reid Johnson</i>	<i>31</i>
<i>Jodi May</i>	<i>10</i>	<i>Ignacio Pozos-Neri</i>	<i>31</i>
<i>Billy Ray Godwin</i>	<i>11</i>		

Interested in upcoming events at FPC?
Be sure to check out our [online calendar](#) on the church website!

Nursery Attendants

June 24
Jason & Morgan Colmenero
Will & Mary Gage



Acolytes

June 24 - Sydney Bradham
July 1 - Ashton Yarbrough
July 8 - Cole Stevens
July 15 - West Stanley

Deacon Greeters

(June)
Lee Herring
Anne Johnson
Susan Williamson

(July)
Patsy Williams
Claudette Green
Morgan Colmenero

Elder at the Door

June 24 - Billy Godwin
July 1 - Linda Lee
July 8 - Bill Lasater
July 15 - Cindy Smith

First Presbyterian Church | 910-892-4121 | fpcdunnoffice@gmail.com | www.fpcdunn.org

STAY CONNECTED



Visit our website