



Dear Friends,

We have been freed! Those gospel words are good news. We are freed from the guilt of our sins. We are freed from fear of death. But we are not just freed from these and many other things. We are freed to live a full life where we can serve God and serve others. We will explore these themes this summer as we consider being freed to love, to care for others, to learn, and to pray to name just a few. You will likely discover some unique places and ministries where God has freed you to receive blessings and share those with others.

We have been freed so let's live into this wonderful freedom!

Grace and peace and freedom!
David

Worship in the Season after Pentecost The Blessing of Freedom!

Sunday, June 22

Title TBD

Luke 8:26-39

Dr. Erin Bowers

Sunday, June 29

Freed to Love

Galatians 5:1, 13-25

Rev. David Smith

Sunday, July 6

Title TBD

2 Kings 5:1-14

Dr. Erin Bowers

Sunday, July 13

Freed to Care for Others

Luke 10:25-37

Rev. David Smith

Sunday, July 20

Freed to Learn

Luke 10:38-42

Rev. David Smith

Sunday, July 27

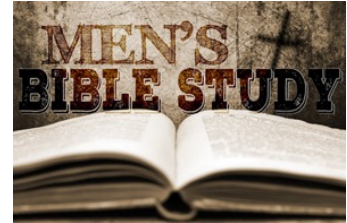
Freed to Pray

Luke 11:1-13

Rev. David Smith

Men's Bible Study – Tuesdays!

The Men's Morning Bible Study & Prayer Group meets on Tuesdays at 7 am in the Session Room. You may also join us via Zoom. If you would like to attend via Zoom, please contact the church office for the meeting link – 336.884.2248.



We will be taking a break for the month of July, but will return on Tuesday, August 5.



Transition Work

How many elders? How many deacons?

One of the hallmarks of Presbyterian churches is they are governed by elected officers. Every year a nominating committee of the congregation selects people to serve as elders and as deacons to be the primary decision makers in the church. These men and women are then elected by the congregation to serve for 3-year terms. As they begin service the class elected 3 years before rotates off. The officers make practically all the decisions for the church other than a few items that require a congregational vote (like sale of property or changes in the by-laws) or that are left to the discretion of pastors (like particulars in a worship service).

How many officers are needed? That depends on the size of the congregation and the complexity of the ministries in which the church engages. The number is also impacted by how many other leadership positions there are in the church. For example, First Presbyterian Church of High Point is blessed to have an active Presbyterian Women organization. Many of those leaders would make a great elder or deacon but might prefer not to try to fill more than one key role.

How the boards are organized is another element to consider. One of the challenges at First Presbyterian that exists is that sometimes there are communication breakdowns between the Session (Board of Elders) and the Diaconate (Board of Deacons) or between different committees. Long-Range Planning has presented a plan to the two boards to consider a unified board structure (one single board) along with an attempt to better organize the committees of the boards.

No decisions have been made yet and the boards will consider this along with a possible reduction in number of officers this fall. The boards will experiment for a bit before deciding by living with the proposal and seeing if it is practical.

Why does this matter for the time of transition? Having good communication between committees, having officer classes of a size that the Officer Nominating Committee can fill, and having board(s) that can effectively manage the church ministries are all signs of a church where members know who they are and what they can accomplish. This is the kind of work that can be described in a mission study that will make the church more attractive for prospective pastors.

David

The Work of the Church

9am Contemporary Worship

Volunteers are asked weekly to serve as Greeters and Ushers.

11am Traditional Worship

June 22 Lisa Cooper, John Cottingham, Chris Osborne, Susan Osborne
June 29 Diane Spencer, Randall Spencer, Bonnie White, Ed White

*****Please contact Lisa Cooper in the Church Office – 336.884.2248 or amoffice@firstpreshp.org if you are willing to serve on one of the Usher Teams from July through December!*****

Open Door Committee Schedule 2025

Chris and Susan Osborne oversee the cooking of meals for Open Door Ministries the first Sunday of each month. Here is the committee/group rotation schedule to assist with cooking and packing meals.

<u>Month</u>	<u>Committee</u>	<u>Moderator</u>
July	Congregational Care	Anne Dallas
August	Finance	Maryann Sibrizzi
September	Worship	Elizabeth Briggs
October	Nurture	Denny Wesney
November	Presbyterian Women	Beth Breece
December	Youth	Deborah Brown

Lemonade in the Shade continues through **August 17**. Join us under the Porte Cochere for some refreshing fellowship following the 11:00 am Worship service. Contact Lisa Cooper at 336.884.2248 or amoffice@firstpreshp.org to sign up, or click [here](#) to sign up on Signup Genius.



June 22 – Bill & Elizabeth Davis
June 29 – Deborah & Maddie Brown
July 6 – Debbie Mellinger

Open Date: August 10

First Presbyterian Church of High Point
Prayer Concerns/Thanksgivings shared by Staff Members
June 18, 2025

We ask the groups and congregation members to keep these items in prayer.

- Thanksgiving for current participants and prayers for new members for the Men's Morning Prayer and Bible Study.
- Safe travels and effective ministry and a fun time for our Youth Mission trip.
- That the Spirit stirs volunteers to join the Summer Choir and/or the Worship Band.
- Wisdom for leaders as they plan for VBS July 15-18 and willing volunteers to help.
- Leaders for our High School and Young Adult Sunday school classes.
- Blessed experience for the staff and choir members who are attending the Montreat Music and Worship Conference through June 21.
- Church Scout Troop as they travel to Germany.
- Those in our congregation who are mourning the loss of loved ones.
- Wisdom for all selected by Officer Nominating to serve as officers and our current officers.

Session Calls for Congregational Meeting on July 13 Following 11 am Worship

The Session has called for a congregational meeting following the 11 am service on **July 13**. The Officer Nominating Committee will deliver a slate of officers for the congregation's vote. The committee selected 8 members, 4 to serve as elders and 4 to serve as deacons. These numbers are more in line with the plans that Long Range Planning presented to streamline both boards.

Those selected for Elder for the class of 2028 are Jim Caress, Mary Fraley, Betsy Hunt and David Perry. The Deacons for class of 2028 are Judy Deal, Heidi Hans, Ed Henriques and Janice Kubinski. In addition, the committee asked Susan Osborne and Will Allen to shift their tenures to the class of 2026 on the board of Deacons. With these additions and changes there are now 4 officers in each three-year class on both boards for a total of 12 Elders and 12 Deacons.

Thank you to the committee for their excellent work!



Troop 20 is off to Berlin Monday **June 16** and will be staying in the region for ten days. Four adult leaders and five lucky Scouts, ages 13-16, are flying from Charlotte to Munich and on to Berlin where we'll be met by our host, Tony Luther. Tony was raised in our area, stationed in Germany, retired from the military, and now lives in Berlin with his wife and Scoutmaster's a troop. Tony often brings his Scouts to our summer camp in Yanceyville, so we've been able to remain in close contact. We're fortunate to be staying in the homes of Scouting families in very nice sections of Berlin and are grateful to have their guidance around many sites. We will visit Leipzig as well as Potsdam and all the various museums, shops, and historic sites Berlin offers. Additionally, we plan to take two historic trail hikes and complete their Messenger of Peace badge.

2025 High School Graduates of First Presbyterian Church

<u>Student</u>	<u>High School</u>	<u>Future Plans</u>
Martha Glenn Bowers	Penn Griffin High School	Coastal Carolina University
Evie Wesney	Southwest Guilford High School	East Carolina University

2025 High School Graduates of First Presbyterian's Extended Family

Lincoln Burns <i>Grandson of Joan Burns (Parents are John Burns & Janice Skelly)</i>	Accelerator School - Raleigh	University of Oklahoma
Hines Busby <i>Grandson of Julian & Ann Busby</i>	Salisbury High School	Wake Forest University
Henry Martin Cox <i>Grandson of Ralph & Carol Cox (Parents are Ben & Pressley Cox)</i>	J.L. Mann High School Academy of Mathematics, Science & Technology	University of South Carolina
Tyler Rutherford <i>Grandson of Wayne & Sally Rutherford</i>	Laney High School, Wilmington	William Peace University
CJ Young <i>Grandson of Butch & Tricia Mendenhall</i>	Cardinal Gibbons High School	Undecided

2025 College Graduates

<u>Student</u>	<u>College/University</u>	<u>Degree</u>
Madelyn Cheek	East Carolina University	B.A. in Communications
Carter Redding	Western Carolina University	B.S. in Construction Management

2025 College Graduates of First Presbyterian's Extended Family

Duncan Burns <i>Grandson of Joan Burns (Parents are John Burns & Janice Skelly)</i>	Appalachian State University	M.S. in Technology with a concentration in Renewable Energy Engineering
Jack Dew <i>Grandson of Mike & Linda O'Briant</i>	Wake Forest University	J.D. in Law
William Griffey <i>Son of Mark Griffey</i>	Wingate University	B.S. in Business Management
Claire Catherine Houlihan <i>Granddaughter of Ralph & Carol Cox (Parents are Phillip & Jennifer Cox Houlihan)</i>	University of Georgia, Athens	B.B.A. in Economics

Stephen Ministry

Christ Caring for People through People



**STEPHEN
MINISTRY**

That's the motto of Stephen Ministry. The Stephen Minister's role is to bring God's love into the lives of people who are going through a difficult time or experiencing a crisis. What do Stephen Ministers do? They listen, care, support, encourage, and pray with and for a person who is hurting. And in the midst of this confidential, one-to-one, caring relationship, God's healing love comes pouring through.

If someone you or someone you know is facing a crisis—large or small—and could benefit from the caring presence of a Stephen Minister, talk to one of our Stephen Leaders: *Erin Bowers, Lisa Cooper, or Chris Osborne*. Our Stephen Ministers are ready to care for you!



SAGES: Senior Adults Growing, Engaging & Serving

SAGES: We are taking a break for the summer but will return in September! Watch this space for news, and if you would like to be added to the SAGES email list, contact Erin Bowers at erin@firstpreshp.org.

4 Afternoons in June 1, 2, and 3 John

Join us as we dig into these three short epistles of John! Meeting on Tuesday afternoons in June at 2:00 pm.
(June 3, 10, 17, and 24)

For more information, or to sign up for the email list, contact Erin Bowers at erin@firstpreshp.org.

Fellowship



Church Family Game Night on June 19, featuring...

FAMILY FEUD!

Join us for a night of fun, laughter, and friendly competition!

Bring your whole family or come solo and cheer on your friends as we play a church-style version of **Family Feud**—with questions for all ages!

- ✓ **FREE to attend**
- ✓ **Fun for all ages**
- ✓ **Coffee & dessert**
- ✓ **Kids, teens, parents & grandparents welcome!**

🌟 **Want to be a contestant?** Sign up as a family team or individual!

☎ Contact the church office to register. 336-884-2248

Let's bring our church family and community together for an unforgettable evening!

📍 *Get ready to hit that buzzer and see who knows the top answers!*

Picnic on the Lawn – a great evening of fun and fellowship occurred on Monday, May 26, 2025. More family events to come!



Missions

One Can



Two Can



Who Can?



YOU Can!

Ward Street food bank feeds 40 families a week. Each family receives a large box of helpful items. Please donate this month and place your items under the table in the FLC lobby. You do not have to buy each item, but if everyone bought one thing or more, we would be helping our community so much!

This month, we are collecting cereal, peanut butter and canned fruit. Please drop off your items by **June 29.**



PENNIES FOR...

H – is for Helping those who cannot help themselves
U – is for United together to assist the hungry
N – is for Note the collection dates
G – is for Global distribution
E – is for Every little bit helps (pennies, dimes, dollars and more)
R – is for Remembering Jesus's teachings of serving others

Our next collection date is **Sunday, August 10, 2025**



BLESSING BOX



Please remember to donate items for the Blessing Box that would serve our homeless population the best. Pop top cans or pouches of meat, canned fruit, peanut butter and juice boxes/water. Thank you for your help in helping the hungry in our community.

Hygiene Kit Packing Project – Tuesday, June 10, 2025! We packed over 100 kits for Presbyterian Disaster Assistance to use in Western NC for people who are/might become displaced from their homes or need to clean up their communities—and we had a great time doing it! We have enough supplies to pack some more kits later this summer but we need to “even up” our kits with missing items. We’ll pack the additional kits later in the summer, but in the meantime, if you’d like to help purchase the missing items, use the QR code here:





Worship & Music

Regular Worship Times

-
- 9:00 am – Contemporary Worship in the Family Life Center
 - 10:00 am – Sunday School
 - 11:00 am – Traditional Worship in the Sanctuary.

Our traditional service is live streamed on our YouTube channel each Sunday.

Each Sunday, our live streamed worship service is on our YouTube channel beginning at 11 am (traditional), or later in the day as a saved recording. Go to the church webpage (www.firstpreshp.org) and click on the “Worship” tab in the toolbar. Then, choose the service you want to see live. Click on the “Downloads” tab to access the latest bulletin. From the “Worship” tab you can also find previously recorded services by choosing “Past Sermons.”



A VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY to Learn & to Serve

Our live stream depends on people behind the scenes helping run the equipment. This job requires minimal training and knowledge of equipment. The job is great for older high school students and adults with a curious mind and ability to stay on task. THIS IS A GREAT WAY TO SERVE our congregation and everyone who finds us online! Please contact Elizabeth or Lisa in the church office to sign-up for training in this role.

Summer Choir!



Come take a seat in the loft for worship! Our Covenant Choir breaks from weekly rehearsals during the summer. We meet on Sundays at 10:15 in the choir room to prepare music for the 11 am service. This is a great opportunity for folks who cannot commit to regular rehearsals! Some choir experience is helpful but not required. If you are interested in being part of the summer choir gang, please reach out to Elizabeth at

elizabeth@firstpreshp.org or 336-884-2248, Ext 550.

Youth News

EVERYONE IS WELCOME

Are you a middle or high school student? Or the parent or grandparent of a middle or high school student? All middle and high school youth are welcome and encouraged to join in fellowship with us each week, September through the end of May. If you know someone interested, please reach out to the church office for info.



Upcoming Events

June 15-21 – Mission Trip to Charleston!

Thurs, June 26 – Ice Cream & Lunch @ Mayberry's (11:30 am–1:30 pm)

Sun, June 29 – PYC Middle & High School (6:30 pm)

Weds, July 2 – SkyWild & Country Park (10:00 am – 2:30 pm)

Please keep our Youth in your prayers while they travel and do mission work in Charleston, SC this week: Mary, Jules, Claire, Marshall, Denny, Gunnar, Peyton, Deborah, Will, Evie, Harrison, Thomas, Avery, Thomas & Haley.



Christian Education

Youth Sunday School Class Schedule

Have a wonderful Summer! We'll come back together on Sunday mornings on Celebration Sunday, **August 24!**



Coffee and Conversation: The parents of Sunday school aged children are meeting at 10:00 am each Sunday for “Coffee and Conversation”! While your child attends their Sunday school class, you are invited to join this group in the FLC for an informal and relaxed time of fellowship. You'll find them at the tables in the back of the room, close to the kitchen and the sound booth.

Adult Sunday School Class

The **Martha Brown Bible Study class** meets at 10:00 am Sundays in the Chapel. Dave Perry teaches this class. They are currently studying *The Pastoral Epistles*. The **Parlor Class** is joining this class for the summer.



Our next **Discover FPC** series is being held on three Sundays: **June 15, 22, and 29**. Please join us between our two worship services—beginning at about 10:00 am in the Session Room. This three-week series of classes is designed for those who may have begun worshiping with us recently or have been worshiping with us for a while, those who may have some interest in joining the church, who have recently joined the church, or those who would just like to find out more about First Presbyterian Church of High Point. It is a good opportunity to meet the church staff in person, and to ask any questions! Contact Erin Bowers at erin@firstpreshp.org for more information.

Children's News

SUMMER SUNDAY SCHOOL has begun! All PreK (4yrs) and elementary children can join us in the High School room for movies and popcorn each Sunday morning from 10-10:45 am



VBS is coming July 15-18 from 9:30 – Noon.

Please see Heather Redding if you can help or click to access the online sign-up sheet [VBS Link](#). Registration for children is open by using the QR code.



VBS... IN EGYPT!



JULY 15-18, 9:30-NOON

**Joseph's Journey from prison
to palace.**

First Presbyterian Church.,
918 N. Main St. , High Point

www.firstpreshp.org

Church Information

FPCHP is forming a Tech Team!



This committee will oversee, use cameras, A/V, live streaming and review other tech needs of the church. If you are interested, please contact the Church Office to let them know your interest. Please prayerfully consider serving the church on this important new aspect of our worship and ministry.

In need of a Notary? Ashley and Lisa are both certified and can help you. Come by the Church Office any weekday between 9:00 am and 4:30 pm.



Reading Group



Reading Group meets the first Wednesday of each month at 10:00 am.

Anyone who is interested in reading

and discussing the following selections is welcome to join!

Contact Erin Bowers at erin@firstpreshp.org if you'd like to be included on the email list to receive information and reminders.

- **July – no meeting**
- **August 6:** *Hello Beautiful* by Ann Napolitano
- **September 3:** *Never Let Me Go* by Kazuo Ishiguro
- **October 1:** *The Magnificent Lives of Marjorie Post* by Allison Pataki
- **November 5:** *Remarkably Bright Creatures* by Shelby Van Pelt
- **December 3:** *Every Valley: The Desperate Life and Troubled Times that Made Handel's Messiah* by Charles King

The next edition of the Presbygram will be issued on Wednesday, July 9.

Thank you so much for the generous love offering for my 20 years of service. I feel blessed to be a part of such a special church. Your kindness and thoughtfulness mean so much to me. Thank you again for thinking of me!

Love,

Ashley Beason



SUMMER OFFICE HOURS

During the months of June, July and August the church office will close at 12:30 pm on Fridays.

PLEASE NOTE:



If the door is locked during office hours, please press the grey button on the AIPHONE unit to the side of the door for assistance.

BE SURE TO STAND IN FRONT OF THE CAMERA so the office staff can identify you. Sometimes it's hard to see who is there, so please be patient if we have to ask via speaker!

New FPC Logo!

A new logo for First Presbyterian was designed for the newly revamped website. It's on the new shirts we recently ordered – there will be another order opportunity in the near future.



Check out the website, too: www.firstpreshp.org.

Church History



Fifty-one years ago on June 22, 1984, eight 4th and 5th graders published a "newsletter" called THE EVANGEL. They interviewed a few church members as well as staff searching for the meaning of Evangelism. They also explained the meaning of Pentecost and presented a visual representation of the symbols of Pentecost. Additional articles included forgiveness, people helping people, good news, setting priorities and many more worth reading. If you are interested in reading the entire newsletter, it is posted on the bulletin board in the hallway by Heather Redding's office. If you are interested in looking for and uncovering more of these gems, please let me know.
Sally Tarolli, Historian.

Gifts & Memorials



A gift has been received in memory of Bo Morgan from Kaye L. Sergeant.

Gifts have been received in memory of Gerald Payne by Jerry & Phyllis Robbins, Roy & Laura Boyles, Presbyterian Women, PW Circle # 1, Stuart & Kathy Rush, Dave & Karen Perry, Sanders & Lane Dallas, Tom & Elizabeth Walsh, Drew & Melva Nealeans and Ralph & Carol Cox.

Staff Extensions & Email Addresses 336-884-2248

David R. Smith, Transitional Pastor, Ext. 545
david@firstpreshp.org

Erin Kesterson Bowers, Associate Pastor, Ext. 546
erin@firstpreshp.org

Elizabeth Gullely, Director of Music, Ext. 550
elizabeth@firstpreshp.org

Michael Jenkins, Organist & Assistant Music Director Ext. 551
organist@firstpreshp.org

Amanda Scholz-Edwards
amanda@firstpreshp.org

Heather Redding, Director of Childrens' Ministries, Ext. 548
children@firstpreshp.org

Harrison Hart, Youth Director
youth@firstpreshp.org

Ashley Beason, Office Manager, Ext. 542
ashley@firstpreshp.org

Lisa Cooper, Administrative Assistant, Ext. 540
amoffice@firstpreshp.org

Sammie Braxton, Parish Visitor
sammie@firstpreshp.org

Cynthia Varner, Preschool Director, Ext. 549
preschool@firstpreshp.org

PERIODICALS POSTAGE PAID AT
HIGH POINT, NC USPS (020246) pub.
Monthly by First Presbyterian Church,
918 N. Main St., High Point, NC 27262-3924.
Postmaster please send address changes to:
Presbygram 918 N. Main St., High Point
NC 27262-39824

First Presbyterian Church
918 North Main Street
High Point, NC 27262
Phone 336-884-2248
www.firstpreshp.org