

# First Presbyterian News

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M-Th 9:00 a.m. - 2:00 pm  
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On Sunday July 20<sup>th</sup> I mentioned the Rural Ideas Conference I had just returned from and spoke about some of the key principles that were shared. Here I would like to expound upon a couple of those, what they called, Anchors. Before we can look at anchors of the church, we need to discuss some misconceptions about small rural churches.

*Small does not equal Less Than!  
Small rural churches are not a problem to be solved!*

There is a common misconception that small churches are less than large churches; less important, less significant, less impactful. Therefore, there is a problem to be solved so they can become large churches, because as we all know, "bigger is better", and "go big or go home". With 90% of Christians in the USA attending a small church, these thoughts could not be further from the truth.

In fact, these congregations often serve as vital **anchor institutions** within their communities—a steady presence that weaves faith, care, and tradition through the fabric of daily life. If we are the community's anchor, then we must ask the question, "**What are we anchored to?**". For any church, regardless of its size, to truly fulfill its purpose, it must remain deeply rooted in Christ and the teachings of Scripture. When Jesus and the Bible serve as both foundation and compass, a church becomes more than just a gathering place; it becomes a beacon of hope, truth, and steadfast love at the heart of its community.

Without this anchoring, a church—regardless of its size or resources—risks drifting from its true purpose in both the community and the Kingdom of God. The foundation of Christ and the authority of Scripture are not optional extras; they are essential. When these are lacking, a church may lose its sense of direction, its transformative power, and ultimately, its ability to serve as a genuine light in the world. To keep from drifting, here are the 6 key anchors that were shared by Rev. Phillip Blackburn, Director of the Town Square Collaborative:

Centering Jesus  
Telling the Gospel Story  
Worshipping with joy  
Showing the Gospel Life  
Congregational Care  
Community Care



What can we take away from this? First Presbyterian, let us lean into who God has created us to be. By centering on Jesus, focusing on the Gospel, and loving others as ourselves, we align ourselves with God's desire and are more able to discern how He is using us in this time and in this place to serve the Kingdom of Heaven. First Presbyterian, let us pray together, thanking and praising God, and pray that the Holy Spirit will guide and direct our steps as an Anchor Institution in this community for His glory. Amen!

In Christ,

Pastor John





**August 3 – 8th Sunday after Pentecost**  
**Sermon Title: “Set Your Hearts on Things Above”**  
**Scriptures: Psalm 49:1-12; Colossians 3:1-11**

**August 10 - 9th Sunday after Pentecost**  
**Sermon Title: “Live by Faith”**  
**Scriptures: Psalm 33:12-22; Hebrews 11:1-3, 8-16**

**August 17 - 10th Sunday after Pentecost**  
**Sermon Title: “Live by Faith” part 2**  
**Scriptures: Psalm 82; Hebrews 11:29 – 12:2**

**August 24 – 11th Sunday after Pentecost**  
**Sermon Title: “God Calls You”**  
**Scriptures: Psalm 71:1-6; Jeremiah 1:4-10**

**August 31 – 12th Sunday after Pentecost**  
**Sermon Title: “Walk with the Lord”**  
**Scriptures: Psalm 81:1, 10-16; Jeremiah 2:4-13**

**September 7 – 13th Sunday after Pentecost**  
**Sermon Title: “The Potter’s Hand”**  
**Scriptures: Psalm 139:1-6, 13-18; Jeremiah 18:1-11**

### **Tee Godbold Memorial Fund Match Campaign -**

***Amazing Blessing for First Pres!*** We have been given a wonderful gift that not only will bless you, but you are invited to be a part of it! Through the grace of God and the generosity of an anonymous donor, a Match Campaign has been offered to our church in remembrance of Nan “Tee” Godbold in the amount of \$20,000. Every dollar donated to Godbold Memorial Fund will be matched up to \$20,000. Your \$500 becomes \$1,000, \$2,000 becomes \$4,000.



Thank you for all who have donated. So far, we have collected \$15,450 toward the potential match of \$20,000, for a potential total of \$40,000. There is still time before the deadline. Let’s see if we can meet the potential amount. We have until August 3rd to receive additional funds.

***We encourage you to contribute to this cause and be a part of this wonderful journey. Your support will make a significant difference in our community.***



**Rally Day** - Save the date! Sunday, September 7 is Rally Day. Let’s plan to come back to church and enjoy the new classes and new opportunities to be examples of God’s Word.

**Prayer List** - Donny Dyer’s family after his passing. Bob Riley - battling Parkinsons and Lymphoma. Connie Troy - in local hospital with medical issues. Testing being done, pray for healing and answers. Griffeth Kaiser, Sallie Adams’ son – needs prayers. Buddy Ferrell - in Duke Hospital. A friend of the McCarthy’s facing cancer diagnosis. JE Tuck going through tests for heart issue. Hazelwood’s - having respiratory issues. Keith VanBenschoten— bladder issues. Colter has a friend with bladder cancer. Joanna Hughes having back and leg pains. Prayers for all affected by the TX floods.



**Prayers continue** - Leon Plaster, Kim Albert, Patricia Burton

**Praise** - Deborah Sizemore had surgery and completed treatments - now cancer free!  
 Teresa McCollum’s mother is back home from the hospital, and doing well.  
 Leon and Betty Plaster welcome a new great grandson.

# Blessing Bucket Packing Event!

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Our efforts to organize this community-wide event in conjunction with God's Pit Crew (GPC) is well underway!

**\* Mission Project: GPC Mobile Blessing Bucket Packing Event**

- **Objective: Assemble 1,008 Blessing Buckets**
- **When: Aug 23, 2025, 10:00 AM – 12:30 PM**
- **Where: First Presbyterian Church Parking lot, 800 N Main St, South Boston, VA 24592**
- **Goal: \$40,000**
- **Collected: \$19,415**
- **Needed: \$20,585**
- **Local Business Sponsors needed! Please help us spread the word.**
- **Volunteers required: 60-70. Sign up link posted on Facebook event and 1stpres.cc homepage. You can also scan QR code**

Sign-up here



Checks can be made out to First Presbyterian Church, with the Memo, "GPC Blessing Buckets".  
800 N Main St, South Boston

**100% of funds collected go to**

**God's Pit Crew**

For more information about God's Pit Crew Blessing Buckets, visit [godspitcrew.org](http://godspitcrew.org).

Online Giving



## What are Blessing Buckets?

A Blessing Bucket is a five-gallon bucket filled with essential items that are used by individuals every day. When received, these buckets help to enrich lives and become a small token of God's love to a person in a time of disaster.

## Where Do They Go?

God's Pit Crew delivers tractor-trailer loads of Blessing Buckets to some of the hardest hit areas after a natural disaster. Each year, God's Pit Crew distributes tens of thousands of Blessing Buckets to those in need.



## Texas Flood Response

In response to the deadly flooding in Central Texas, God's Pit Crew has deployed critical relief supplies to Kerr County. Additionally, a team of Immediate Response volunteers are deploying to assist with immediate needs and provide hands-on support for flood victims in Kerrville, TX. Volunteers are assisting with damaged tree removal, flooded home clean outs, while also providing emotional support to anyone struggling in the aftermath.



God's Pit Crew has currently provided numerous tractor-trailer loads of relief (including Blessing Buckets, bottled water, snack foods, etc.) to Texas communities. Their immediate Disaster Response team has mobilized and will continue working around the clock to help those affected by this devastating storm.





## Christ Lives!

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With all the craziness of the world today, I feel it important to shout my testimony of Christ. I know He lives and He spent His life being an example for me to follow. His atonement had me in mind. At church we have a new document that states just that. I love this document and the very meaning it gives us and the world.

Jesus Christ arrived as a baby over two millennia ago. No one other than Him has had such a profound influence upon all who have lived and will yet live upon the earth.

“He was the Great Jehovah of the Old Testament, the Messiah of the New. He was the creator of the earth. “All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made” (John 1:3 KJV). Though sinless, He was baptized to fulfill all righteousness. He “went about doing good” (Acts 10:38), yet was despised for it. His gospel was a message of peace and good will. He entreated all to follow His example. He walked the roads of Palestine, healing the sick, causing the blind to see, and raising the dead. He taught the truths of eternity, the purpose of our life on earth.”

“He instituted the sacrament as a reminder of His great atoning sacrifice. He was arrested and condemned on spurious charges, convicted to satisfy a mob, and sentenced to die on Calvary’s cross. He gave His life to atone for the sins of all mankind. His was a great vicarious gift in behalf of all who would ever live upon the earth.”

“He rose from the grave to “become the first fruits of them that slept” (1 Cor. 15:20).”

Because of Him, I too, will be able to rise again. I can receive forgiveness of my sins. I testify I know He will return to earth “And the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together” (Isaiah 40:5). He will rule as King of kings, Lord of lords, and every knee shall bend and every tongue shall speak in worship before Him.

I am most grateful for Him. For His love for me. In the grand scheme of things, I am nothing, but to Him, I am everything! Of this I testify and I declare to the world, that He cares about all living, those who ever lived, and those who may come in the future.

Great is His name and Great is His ability to save! ~ *Sherolyn*



## Operation Christmas Child Collection Continues

We have had an overwhelming response to our year round collection for OCC! Each monthly bin has been overflowing! The highlighted item for August collection will be **school supplies**. The challenge is to remember that the items must fit inside a shoebox, along with many other things!

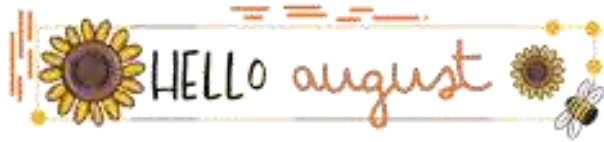
Some suggestions are pencils, erasers, small notepads, crayons, pencil sharpeners, sm. Pkg. tissues. This weekend is “Tax-Free Weekend” - shop early and save.

If you prefer, we can still use \$10 monetary donations for shipping costs. Looks like we’re going to fill more than our 50 box goal! You can put a monetary donation in the offering plate using pew envelope designated for OCC, or drop it by the church office. School supply items may be left in the church office or in the bin next to the Good Sam box.

Elementary and Middle School begins August 13

High School students return to school on August 18.





Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
27 9:30 am - Sun Sch 10:15 am - Fellowship 11:00 am Worship	28	29	30 12:00 - AA 6:00 pm NA 6:00 pm—Choir	31 7:00 pm - Al-Anon 7:00 pm - AA	August 1- Office Closed 12:00 PM AA	August 2
3 - Communion  9:30 am - Sun School 10:15 am - Fellowship 11:00 am Worship 12:15 pm—Diaconate	4	5 10:30 am— Greeting Card Ministry	6 12:00 pm - AA 6:00 pm NA 6:00 pm—Choir	7 7:00 pm - Al-Anon 7:00 pm - AA	8- Office Closed 12:00 PM AA	9
10 9:30 am - Sun Sch 10:15 am - Fellowship 11:00 am Worship	11	12	13 12:00 pm - AA 6:00 pm NA 6:00 pm—Choir	14 7:00 pm - Al-Anon 7:00 pm - AA	15 Office Closed 12:00 PM AA	16
17 - 5 Cents a Meal collection  9:30 am - Sun Sch 10:15 am - Fellowship 11:00 am Worship 12:30 pm - Session	18	19	20 12:00 - AA 6:00 pm NA 6:00 pm—Choir	21 7:00 pm - Al-Anon 7:00 pm - AA	22 - Office Closed 12:00 PM AA	23  Blessing Bucket event 10am-12:30
24 9:30 am - Sun Sch 10:15 am - Fellowship 11:00 am Worship	25	26  New Letter DEADLINE	27 12:00 - AA 6:00 pm NA 6:00 pm—Choir	28 7:00 pm - Al-Anon 7:00 pm - AA	29 Office Closed 12:00 PM AA	30
31 9:30 am - Sun Sch 10:15 am - Fellowship 11:00 am Worship	September 1  	September 2	September 3 12:00 - AA 6:00 pm NA 6:00 pm—Choir	September 4 7:00 pm - Al-Anon 7:00 pm - AA	September 5 12:00 PM AA	Sept 6



We want to recognize everyone. If we don't have your birthday listed, please call the office and let us know.

- 2 Meredith Howell
- 4 Donnell Corelle\*
- 6 Joan Owens\*
- 7 Ann Crabtree
- 10 Jim Luedtke
- 10 Drew Morgan
- 12 Joanna Harrell
- 12 Caroline Harrell
- 14 Barbara Johnston\*
- 15 Lisa Howell
- 17 Wilma Hendley\*
- 19 Sylia Hendley
- 20 Ronnie Crabtree
- 23 Wayne Roller
- 24 Candice Powell
- 25 Dan Koutsos\*
- 29 Sally Slaff
- 29 Marge Nelson\*
- 30 Debbie Burton\*
- 30 Moyrah McCarthy
- 31 Polly Ratcliff\*
- 31 Robin Hall



\* In Memory



- **Choir** - Wednesday's at 6:00 pm
- **Diaconate** - Sunday, August 3
- **Greeting Card Ministry** - August 5 at 10:30 am
- **5 Cents-a-meal** - Sunday, August 17
- **Session** - Sunday, August 17
- **Blessing Bucket Event** - August 23:10am – 12:30

First Presbyterian Church  
800 North Main Street  
South Boston, VA 24592

**Here is your August 2025 Newsletter**