

First Presbyterian News

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Pastor's Post

This past month I saw something incredible. On Saturday Aug. 23rd I saw this church step out in faith and lead this community in a heartfelt mission project, the God's Pit Crew Mobile Blessing Bucket Packing Event. God gathered together various churches from South Boston, Clarksville, and as far away as Williamsburg, VA. The Body of Christ was in full swing to help those in need, to show compassion to the least and the lost, and that is what it's really all about. We could brag and boast about amazing numbers, dozens of organizations engaged, 120+ volunteers, 1,008 blessing buckets, \$40,000 raised, but "Let the one who boasts boast in the Lord," (2 Cor. 10:17, NIV). Without the leading of the Holy Spirit, and faithful disciples obeying the call of the Lord, none of this would have happened, and it was all for spreading the hope and grace of God to those who are hurting and in need.

Thank you to all of you who were involved, whether by donations, spreading the word, packing buckets the day of, or all the above. I pray this out pouring of God's blessing will be an encouragement for us to continue to reach out to our community and engage in more mission endeavors to Grow God's Presence! Jesus gave us a clear mission: "...you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth." As well as, "18 Then Jesus came to them and said, 'All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. 19 Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, 20 and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely, I am with you always, to the very end of the age.'" (Acts 1:8; Mt. 28:18-20) Whenever and wherever we step out in faith following His direction, through the Holy Spirit, Jesus will be with us.

So, where do you see a need? What has God laid on your heart for caring for the least of these, reaching the lost, or building up your brothers and sisters in Christ? The Session would love to hear from each and every person who receives this newsletter. Whoever professes faith in Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior is part of the Body of Christ, and each member receives Spiritual gifts from the Lord, "7 Now to each one the manifestation of the Spirit is given for the common good... 11 All these are the work of one and the same Spirit, and he distributes them to each one, just as he determines. 12 Just as a body, though one, has many parts, but all its many parts form one body, so it is with Christ." (1 Cor. 12:7, 11-12, NIV). Let us continue to come together and share these gifts for the edification of the Church, and most importantly, to glorify God the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.



Rally Day is right around the corner, and I hope and pray that we will see and hear from you all in how the Lord is leading you as we enter this new season in the life of First Presbyterian Church! Peace be with you, in the name of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

In Christ,

Pastor John





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

September 14 - 14th Sunday after Pentecost
Sermon Title: “Judgement, Yet Grace”
Scriptures: Psalm 14; Jeremiah 4:11-12, 22-28

September 21 - 15h Sunday after Pentecost
Sermon Title: “The Cost of Sin”
Scriptures: Psalm 79:1-9; Jeremiah 8:18 - 9:1

September 28 – 16th Sunday after Pentecost
Sermon Title: “The Lord of Redemption”
Scriptures: Psalm 91:1-6, 14-16; Jeremiah 32:1-3a, 6-15

October 5 – 17th Sunday after Pentecost
Sermon Title: “Pour Out Your Heart to the Lord”
Scriptures: Lamentations 3:19-26; Lamentations 1:1-6

Rally Day - Sunday, September 7th. The Deacons are planning a wonderful **breakfast at 9:30** (No Sunday School). This will also be a final fundraiser for the Tee Godbold Match campaign. Let’s raise our final \$2,200 to meet the goal.



Prayer List - Colter Wickemeyer’s mother, Judy fell requiring staples in her head. Danny Hazelwood had MRI. Buddy Farrell, age 97 is confined at home. John Powell’s family and friends after his passing (Joanie Cranford’s father).

Cheryl Hackney, Mary Joe, Sharon’s Family. Kim Albert now undergoing radiation therapy. Matthew Luedtke as he travels. Students and Teachers as they return to school. Dino Newton – brain tumor. Many are struggling with illness, falls, loss of loved ones, etc.

Praise - Liam McCarthy was baptized on August 24, 2025. Successful God’s Pit Crew event.

Operation Christmas Child - We are so grateful for all those who have helped so far to help gather items for the Christmas Child Shoebox ministry. We have assessed the items still in need and find that we are \$180 short of our goal for shipping 50 shoeboxes. \$10 donations are still needed to complete this goal.

We also are in need of the following items: Boys T-shirts for all sizes (2-4, 5-9, & 10-14). Sports Bras for girls ages 10-14. Fun items for Boys 10-14. Ideas for this: mini games, mini books, balls - deflated, small coloring books.

We also need more socks for all ages - Boys and Girls.



Monday, September 1
Office Closed





Communion Survey Results

We have received questions about the results of the Communion survey. Below are the final results we received.

<u>Intinction</u>	<u>13</u>	with a couple people asking for wafer instead of bread
<u>Individual Pre-packaged -</u>	<u>10</u>	
<u>Traditional</u>	<u>25</u>	with one person asking to come up
<u>No Preference</u>	<u>2</u>	

We had people vote for more than one—listing a preference of 1st, 2nd, or 3rd choice.

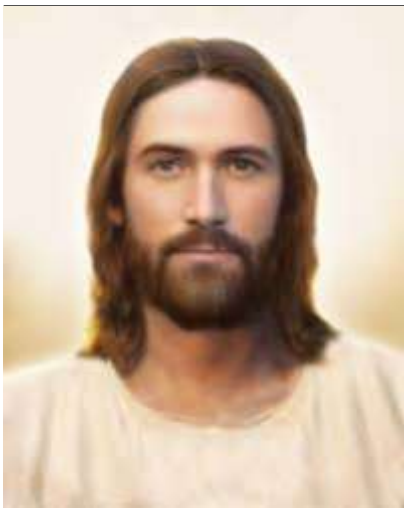
- Additional thoughts:
- Flexible, will go with other’s thoughts
 - Love the Traditional but realize it doesn’t work for all
 - Intinction is fine, I don’t like the COVID alternative
 - Too rushed, and not as meaningful as it could/should be.

Based on your responses, as well as conversations, we have decided to return to the Traditional communion. There may be special occasions when we will do the Intinction style communion.
Thank you for your feedback.

Blessing Bucket Event - A huge shout out to all who came to help. With over 120 volunteers from across the area. We met our goal of raising \$40K. We feel blessed to partner with First Baptist, Clarksville Presbyterian, SVHEC, as well as other organizations that had fund raisers and brought volunteers. We all came together as a large community with one heart and one mission, to help bring hope and the love of Christ to those devastated by natural disasters.

Thank you!





I have been thinking about the current darkness in the world. We know that Christ is the Light of the world. He is my light. In John 12:46 NKJV we read, “I have come as a light into the world, that whoever believes in Me should not abide in darkness.”

Recently I heard an analogy that I really liked from an entomologist. Because of all his work with insects he sees gospel truths in insect behavior and characteristics.

He said, “Insects have an amazing capacity to detect and respond to light.” We have all experienced the mass of insects flying around our porch lights at night. This term he said is called Phototaxis. Some insects show positive phototaxis, while others have negative response. Moths are an example of those with positive phototaxis. They consistently fly toward light; they cannot resist the stimulus the light provides.

Cockroaches on the other hand have negative phototaxis. They run from light as quickly as they can. They prefer the darkness.

He asked the question, “When directed to follow Christ, how do we react? Do we go to Christ’s light like a moth to a porch light, or do we go away from Him as a cockroach retreats from light?”

I am not sure why I was struck by this analogy, but it really hit me. Do I want to be a moth or a cockroach?

Christ has also said in John 8:12 NKJV “I am the light of the world. He who follows Me shall not walk in darkness, but have the light of life.”

As we draw toward the Light, toward Christ, we are filled with His love and become more like Him. We then are filled with His light. Again, we are commanded, “Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.” Matthew 5:16 NKJV.

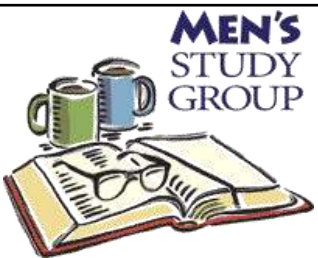
My challenge to myself and to us all is to continue in faith, be anxiously drawn to the Light, be a moth, not a cockroach. Let’s let our light shine! ~ Sherolyn





Women’s Bible Study - Fall study will begin on Wednesday, September 10 at 10:30 am. We will be studying the book of Romans. Romans speaks powerfully to us by revealing how grace transforms identity, how faith reorders our relationship to law and culture, and how the gospel calls us to live with integrity, hope, and unity in a fractured world.

We look forward to getting back together and encourage new members to join in the learning, the fellowship and the friendship!

Men’s Bible Study - We are looking to re-start up our Men’s group this month; and we are exploring different days/times and formats. One suggestion is a lunch time devotion. Please reach out to the office, or Pastor John with an idea, day, time, that work for you, if you are interested.



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
31 9:30 am - Sun Sch 10:15 am - Fellowship 11:00 am Worship	September 1 	September 2 10:30 am— Greeting Card Ministry	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
7 - Rally Day 9:30 am - Breakfast 10:15 am - Fellowship 11:00 am Worship	8	9	10 10:30 am - WBS 12:00 pm - AA 6:00 pm NA 6:00 pm—Choir	11 7:00 pm - Al-Anon 7:00 pm - AA	12- Office Closed 12:00 PM AA	13
14 - Communion 9:45 am - Sun Sch 10:30 am - Fellowship 11:00 am Worship 12:15 pm—Diaconate	15	16	17 10:30 am - WBS 12:00 pm - AA 6:00 pm NA 6:00 pm—Choir	18 7:00 pm - Al-Anon 7:00 pm - AA	19 Office Closed 12:00 PM AA	20
21- 5 Cents a Meal collection 9:45 am - Sun Sch 10:30 am - Fellowship 11:00 am Worship 12:30 pm - Session	22	23 	24 10:30 am - WBS 12:00 - AA 6:00 pm NA 6:00 pm—Choir	25 7:00 pm - Al-Anon 7:00 pm - AA	26 - Office Closed 12:00 PM AA	27
28 9:45 am - Sun Sch 10:30 am - Fellowship 11:00 am Worship	29	30	October 1 10:30 am - WBS 12:00 - AA 6:00 pm NA 6:00 pm—Choir	October 2 7:00 pm - Al-Anon 7:00 pm - AA	October 3 Office Closed 12:00 PM AA	October 4

1 Mike Koch
6 Connie Marvin
6 Sallie Pool
7 Connie Cox*
8 Harman Saunders
8 Michaela Fraser Freshour
8 Doris Koch
9 Joan Cranford
10 Sam Lewis
10 Julianna Berry
10 Carole Woodward
11 Tommy Wilkinson
14 Matthew Lee
16 Eric Roberts
17 George Burton
17 Sallie Adams
18 Dylan Berry
18 Jeremy Luedtke



21 Nan “Tee” Godbold*
21 Courtland Thackston
22 Mike Freshour
24 Grace McAbee
24 Parker Harrell
25 Joe Ferguson*
26 Fred Collins*
28 Jennifer McCarthy
28 Shirley Blackmon*
29 Latane’ Saunders
29 Susan Chandler



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

* In Memory



Session Notes: Since our last Newsletter, our Session discussed:

The Session met on Sunday, August 17, 2025.

- 1) Rev. John McCarthy opened the meeting with prayer.
- 2) News of the congregation was shared by Pastor John.
- 3) Minutes of the June 22nd Stated Session Meeting were approved.
- 4) Don Cherry, Commissioner, reported on the Presbytery Meeting held Thursday, June 26, 2025, at First Presbyterian Church, Martinsville.
- 5) Worship - Next Communion, Sunday, September 14, 2025. Positive feedback on old method for communion.
- 6) After Rally Day, the start time for Sunday School will move from 9:30 to 9:45 am. Sunday School will conclude at 10:30 am.
- 7) Mike Rand (chair) and Robert Guthrie will be the elders to serve on the Nominating Committee.
- 8) A Called Congregational Meeting will be held on Sunday, September 14th for the purpose of electing “at large” members for the 2025 Nominating Committee.
- 9) We approve \$1200 for upstairs AC unit coil.
- 10) Quotes: Fall lawn treatment and dead tree near parking lot.
- 11) Budget & Finance – Financial reports for June/July 2025 were reviewed.
- 12) Local Missions – Operation Christmas Child 2025 - This month (August) school supplies or monetary donations.
- 13) The “Blessing Bucket” packing party will take place this Saturday, to August 23, 2025 (September 6 rain date), from 10:00 pm to 12:30 pm as scheduled.
- 14) Pastor John closed the meeting with prayer.
- 15) Next Stated Session meeting will be on Sunday, September 21, 2025, at 12:30 pm.



- **Choir** - Wednesday's at 6:00 pm
- **Communion** - Sunday, September 14
- **Diaconate** - Sunday, September 14
- **Greeting Card Ministry** - September 2 at 10:30 am
- **5 Cents-a-meal** - Sunday, September 21
- **Session** - Sunday, September 21

First Presbyterian Church
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Here is your September 2025 Newsletter