

First Presbyterian Church Mount Airy

The Grapevine

April 2022



April 10-17

Palm Sunday Worship at 11am
Monday-Saturday: Noon Prayer 12-12:20
Maundy Thursday Worship at 6pm
Good Friday Tenebrae Service at 6pm
Children's Easter Party Saturday at 3pm
Easter Sunday Worship* at 10am

**Please bring flowers from home for the flowering of the cross.*

It's almost time for our annual Easter Party at FPCMA! Loida is needing donations of plastic eggs and mini-individually wrapped candy or mini toys that would fit into the eggs. Please bring these items with you to worship and put them in the donation basket in the main hallway. Thank you for your help!





Easter Lilies

Easter Lilies will be placed in the sanctuary on Sunday, April 17th. You may place a lily in honor or in memory of a loved one. The cost to purchase a lily is \$25. Please drop your order form with payment in the offering plate during worship, or you may give through Realm to the fund titled "Poinsettia/Easter Lily."

The deadline for all orders is Friday, April 8th.

New Choir Robes Dedicated in Memory of Bobbie Lane

The new choir robes were dedicated during the service on March 13. Choir director Anna Bush said a few words and dedicated the new choir robes in loving memory of Bobbie Lane. She explained that although the new robes look just like the old ones, they had decided to go back to the black color since it goes with everything. The fabric of the new robes is much lighter and breathable, cooler to wear, and therefore more comfortable for our choir members. Her best guess is the previous robes were purchased in the 1970s or earlier!

"The new robes were funded by memorial funds the church received after Bobbie's passing, and in part by her family," said Anna during the dedication. "I think she would be thrilled to know that part of her legacy is that we were able to get these new robes, and we will always think of her when we wear them. We are so grateful and thankful for the generosity of all."

Anna went on to share several sweet memories and stories about Bobbi. "I want you to know that Bobbie wasn't just a dedicated choir member who we loved and who made us laugh, but she was also involved in this church in many other ways. She was part of the folding bulletins parties that would take place here on Fridays, and in the last years and even last months of her life, she helped Loida on Wednesday nights with the children's fellowship groups. I would come in to get ready for choir and she would be serving their snacks or wiping tables cleaning up after them. She was truly a servant at this church in many different ways, and I want to challenge us all here today to remember her example and BE LIKE BOBBIE. Find a need in this church, a place where your talents can be used and show up. I feel like we are in a new season post global pandemic and post building renovation, and now it feels like a season where we are renovating this church on the inside. Let's all come together and BE LIKE BOBBIE and truly be servants and find ways that. God can be glorified in what we do."

"And lastly, I want to say thank you so much for all the ways you encourage our music ministry. Many of you come up after service and tell us how great we sounded or played. Some of you have given extra offerings to cover special musicians like we had a Christmas. You have been so kind and generous, and your encouragement means so much to us! We want you all to know that our prayer is that God is glorified through our music, and we are thankful for each opportunity to be here and share that with you."



Catching Up with the Beacons: Missions and Community

Update by Loida Slate

Our Beacons youth group were so busy spreading joy and kindness over the holiday season of 2021. We began by assisting with the Salvation Army Thanksgiving meals. Nicole Harrison, Eve Trotter, Margaret McGuire, and Joy Barlow once again headed up this project for our church. The Beacons picked up the food for the 50 Thanksgiving meal kits at Food Lion on the Wednesday morning before Thanksgiving. Back at the church, we unloaded and sorted the food into boxed meal kits with the help of some of our congregational members, older Faith Friends and the Girl Scout troops that use our Scout Hut for their meetings. Several Beacons stayed on throughout the day and assisted Eve and Nicole with the delivery of the boxed Thanksgiving meals to those families who pick up at the church.

The Beacons also collected and bought canned hams and cornbread mix for food kits being put together by volunteers including some of our youth for the Helping Hands Foundation. These non-perishable holiday food kits fed approximately 150 low-income families in our local community.

Over Christmas, the Beacons collected items such as slippers, personal hygiene products, pajamas, and lap blankets that we dropped off at several of the nursing homes/continuing care facilities in Mount Airy. We also bought and stuffed Christmas goodies to fill four shoeboxes to send off for Operation Christmas Child.

In March, the Beacons assisted Helping Hands by priming three bedrooms in the old Shepherd's House building which will become the new location for this organization. They were excited to have Mike Branch join them and give them some pointers. They hope to be able to work with other adults in our church on future community projects.

In April, we are getting ready to send 15 kits that include shampoos, conditioners, body wash, toothpaste, toothbrushes, and other personal hygiene products to donate to Surry Medical Ministries for a special project to help migrant farmers and their families in Surry and Yadkin County.

The Beacons have also begun collecting specific item(s) for the Shepherd's House residents each month. For April, the item is laundry detergent. There is a basket in the foyer for this collection effort.



Sabbatical Update: May 31-August 29

Griff will be taking his sabbatical May 31 through August 29. Our Presbytery recommends that pastors take a sabbatical every seven years. This month marks Griff's seventh year with us. A detailed letter was sent out to the congregation in February. If you missed it or wanted to refresh your memory, here's the link: [Letter about Sabbatical](#)

Griff and Elizabeth will be splitting a position at Christian camps in New Hampshire that Elizabeth attended in her youth. Brookswoods and Deer Run have a Leadership Development Program (LDP). They will lead this program together which will consist of overseeing the logistics of the program and mentoring the eight college students who spend the summer with 48 young men and women who are between 16 and 18 years old. Here is a link to more information about where they will be: <https://www.christiancamps.net/>.

In Griff's absence, Janise Smith will be our interim pastor. Janise has preached for us in the past. You can learn more about her [here](#).

We will have more information in the May issue of the Grapevine. Please keep Griff and his family in your prayers as they enter this period of reflection and renewal.



Session News: Ministry Teams Reports

Missions Ministry Team would like to invite you to participate in the following:

- **Yokefellow:** Our food for the month of April is dried beans and canned vegetables. Donations of any non-perishable food are welcome. A collection basket is in the hallway. We're hoping to help them with a mission project soon. Details to come.
- **Pennies for Hunger** will be collected on May 1. Bring your loose change for our special buckets.

- The Beacons have started to collect items for the **Shepherd's House**. For April, they are collecting laundry detergent. A collection basket is located in the area outside the sanctuary.
- **Do you knit or crochet?** We are collecting scarves and lap quilts (3'x3'). Contact Beth Pequeno for more information. beth.pequeno@gmail.com
- **Walk to End Alzheimer's: Saturday, September 10** at Riverside Park (Time TBD) Learn more or join our team at <http://act.alz.org/goto/FPCMA>
- We are also looking into how we can help people from Ukraine and assist Surry Medical Ministries with their efforts to help migrant workers coming through the area. (See article about what the Beacons did!)

The Worship and Music Ministry Team

- Member led music practices are on Sunday nights at 5pm in the sanctuary. If you have musical talents that you would like to share with the church, please reach out to Anna at the church or anna@fpcma.com
- Chancel Choir practice continues to be held on Wednesday nights at 7:00 pm.
- See the article above about our new choir robes!

The Communications Team

- New visitor cards have been designed and left on tables around the sanctuary. Please help us gather contact information of our visitors by encouraging them to fill out a card and leave it in one of the offering plates.

COVID-19 Precautions Updated: The Session recommends wearing masks, but it will no longer be required. Traditional Communion elements are now available in front of the sanctuary during observance of the Lord's Supper. The prepackaged servings will continue to be available in the pews.

Stewardship letters have been mailed. Members are requested to respond by April 10.



First Steps News: Enrollment for the 2022-2023 school year is now open for all families. A \$150 fee is required to hold your spot for the coming year. An enrollment form must be completed and turned in along with the fee. Enrollment forms can be found on our [website](#) or picked up in the church office.

First Steps is hiring teachers and subs for the coming school year. These positions are part time. Interested applicants can send their resume to firststeps@fpcma.com.

Lastly, we are hiring a long-term substitute to cover during a maternity leave in a two-year-old classroom for the months of April and May. Please contact Christie Sheppard for more information at firststeps@fpcma.com.





Worship Volunteers Needed! There are lots of ways to get involved during Sunday morning worship. We need scripture readers, flowers for the Sanctuary, worship greeters, nursery and Little Church helpers. Please take the time to sign up for one of these positions on the sign-up sheets in the hallway, or by reaching out to Anna at office@fpcma.com.

Prayer List: Becky Lyons, Brad Ballentine, the family of Brandon Overby, Drew Preston Standridge, Thomas Reisinger, Mike Shumaker, Mark Johnson, The Tate family, Tammy Moore, Mary Higgs, Kayla Keller, Kelley Jackson, Laura Brown, members of the military and their families

Live Streams of Worship Services

We continue to provide live streaming of worship services through our Facebook page. You do not need to be a member of Facebook to access. To see past or live streams, use this link: [Live Streams](#)



Mark Your Calendar:

Friday, April 8: Deadline to order Easter Lilies

Sunday, April 10: Palm Sunday: 11am Service

- 10:45am: Children, Beacons and any parents are invited to help re-enact Jesus' Triumphant entry by participating in the Palm Sunday Processional. If you wish to participate, meet in the upstairs foyer.
- Stewardship Responses requested by this day. You can also mail in using enclosed envelope.

Monday, April 11: Session Meeting (Rescheduled- usually held on 3rd Monday of the month) 7pm

Monday, April 11-Saturday, April 16: Noon Prayer 12-12:20pm

Thursday, April 14: Maundy Thursday: Communion Service 6pm - Come remember and celebrate Jesus' last meal with his disciples when he washed their feet and gave them the commandment: Love one another. Childcare provided.

Friday, April 15: Good Friday: Tenebrae Service at 6pm

Tenebrae means shadow or darkness. The Beacons will lead us as we hear the story of Jesus' betrayal, trial, death, and burial. As the story progresses, the sanctuary grows darker and darker. Childcare provided.

- Office Closed today.

Saturday, April 16:

- Noonday Prayer: noon
- Children's Easter Party: 3-5pm

Sunday, April 17: Easter: 10am Service- Note time change!

- Bring flowers from home for the Flowering of the Cross
- No Sunday School or afternoon or evening activities today.

Monday, April 18: Church Office closed

Sunday, April 24: Outdoor Worship and Fellowship Picnic, 11am

- Bring blankets and chairs for worship
- Lunch to follow service- bring dish to share (meat, side, or dessert)

Sunday, May 1: 11am Service

- Pennies for Hunger will be collected.

May 31-August 29: Griff on sabbatical

Saturday, September 10: Walk to End Alzheimer's

Weekly Activities:

Sundays:

- 5:00pm: Member Led Music Practice, Sanctuary

Tuesdays:

- 11:00 am: Griff will be leading a devotional and during a walk on the Greenway through April 12. We will read *Backyard Pilgrim* by Matt Canlis and gather for a weekly walk to discuss a question a week. Contact Griff (by phone or griff@fpcma.com) if you are interested in joining and purchasing the book.

Wednesdays:

- 7:00 pm: Chancel Choir practice, Choir Room

Additional Activities explained in the Discipleship Section.



April Birthdays



2	Mary Kilby	11	Kathryn Gatewood	16	Jim Younger
3	Susan Gitt	12	Carolyn Robertson	16	Sam Brown
3	Amy Heath	12	Alex Bowers	18	Isabel Wishart
4	Claire Merritt	12	David Rives	19	Van Cooke
4	Alexander Merritt	13	Catherine Wood	19	Laura Pell
9	Kelly Merritt	14	David Majure	25	Megan Eads
11	Carol Burke	14	CeeJay Inman	27	Claire Isaacs



April Anniversaries:



Dan and Cathy Harrison	April 3	Felton and Joan Godwin	April 10
Bud and Mary Kilby	April 5	Van and Jenny Cooke	April 10
Wayne and Joy Barlow	April 7	Gene and Peggy Rees	April 12
Bob and Terri Keck	April 8		

FPC Children and Youth Discipleship:

Beacons (5th-12th grades) meet every Sunday in April (except Easter Sunday) from 5-7pm in the Scout Hut for Bible study and fellowship/activity time together. Connect with us on Realm or on Instagram: fpc_beacons.

Godly Play (ages 3 yrs-1st grades) will meet on Wednesday, April 6 and Wednesday, April 20 from 5-7pm in the Scout Hut for Godly Play Bible stories, curriculum, Bible verse memorization, and time for song and dance.

Faith Friends (ages 2nd-5th grades) meet on Wednesday, April 13 and Wednesday, April 27 from 5-7pm in the Scout Hut for SPARK Rotation Bible stories, curriculum, Bible verse memorization, songs, games, and activities. Connect with us on Instagram at faithfriendsfpc

For more information on monthly events or the activities listed above, contact Loida Slate at the church or loida@fpcma.com.

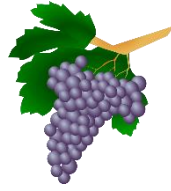
Adult Discipleship

New Adult Sunday School Class: 10:00 am in the Ladies Parlor.

The class uses The Bible Project (found at <https://bibleproject.com/bible-studies/reflections/>) that has paired a video with passages to read and discussion questions to walk through as a group. We hope you will join us for this unique study. Each lesson stands alone, so join us when you can.

Odds and Ends Sunday School meets each Sunday at 10am in the classroom located upstairs in the long hallway past the staff offices.

The complete church calendar can be found at [News & Events](#)



Your Session Members:

Moderator: Pastor Griff Gatewood

Clerk of the Session: Bob Keck

Elders:

Class of 2022: Mary Ellen Goad, Joy Barlow, Nelson Clark, and Valerie Parker

Class of 2023: Will Sheppard, Margaret Cockerell, and Beth Pequeno

Class of 2024: Barry Schneider, Lydia Taylor, and David Rives

Ministry Teams:

Music and Worship

Children's Discipleship

Adult Discipleship

Financial Oversight

Personnel

Buildings and Grounds

First Steps

Congregational Care

Missions

Communications

Contact:

Margaret Cockerell, Valerie Parker

Loida Slate, Valerie Parker (Youth)

TBD

Barry Schneider

Nelson Clark

Will Sheppard, Lydia Taylor

Nicole Harrison, Christie Sheppard

Margaret Cockerell, Mary Ellen Goad

Beth Pequeno

Joy Barlow

Useful Links:

Church Calendar: [News & Events](#)

Church website: www.fpcma.com/

Office Email: office@fpcma.com

Bulletins: www.fpcma.com/worship.html

Facebook: [@FirstPresMtAiry](#)

Instagram: [fpcmountairy](#)

Live Stream videos: https://www.facebook.com/FirstPresMtAiry/live_videos/

Realm Connect:

<https://onrealm.org/fpcma/Account/Start?ReturnUrl=%2Ffpcma%2FTextNotifications%2FSetup>

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Pastor: Griff Gatewood

Office Administrator and Music Director: Anna Bush

Director of Youth and Children's Discipleship: Loida Slate

Director of First Steps: Christie Sheppard

This publication was created by the Communications Team with the assistance of the office staff. If you have questions, concerns, or something to add, contact Beth Pequeno at beth.pequeno@gmail.com