



# GOOD NEWS

# LETTER

*Forest Presbyterian Church  
Living God's Heart, Hands, & Voice*

*Newsletter for Forest Presbyterian Church, Forest, Virginia*

*May 2024*

## What's Happening?!!

### (News and Information from your Session)

The Session is made up of nine Elders, elected by the congregation. The Session's job is to make decisions for the administration of the church. At FPC, each Elder is responsible for one of the ministry teams of the congregation, which include Christian Education, Fellowship, Finance & Personnel, Missions, Outreach, Property, Stewardship/Nominating, and Worship & Music. One Elder serves as the Clerk of the Session and the Pastor is the Moderator of the Session. During this transition period when we are without a pastor, we are grateful that Presbytery has assigned Peter Thompson, pastor at First Presbyterian in Lynchburg, to serve as our Moderator for monthly Session meetings.

In addition to keeping the church running smoothly, Session's primary goal right now is to support the Transition Team in finding an interim pastor as soon as possible. Biz Klingenfus, Denise Kennedy, and Deborah Ashworth have been approved as our Transition Team and they have begun their training with Presbytery leaders Carl Utley (General Presbyter for Presbytery of the Peaks) and Anghaarad Teague Dees (minister at Quaker Memorial.) The Transition Team will be working diligently to find an interim pastor who specializes in guiding congregations through times of transition. We will keep you informed of their progress. Once an interim pastor is in place, we can move on to establishing a Pastor Nominating Committee (PNC) and beginning the search for a permanent pastor.

Session is also working closely with the Deacons. The Deacons at FPC play a crucial role in providing care for members/friends of the congregation. Each family is assigned a Deacon to assist with any needs or concerns that may arise. Don't hesitate to contact your Deacon at any time...they are wonderful, compassionate folks who are available to help!

Did you know there is a new Bulletin Board in the Commons to help you identify the Deacons and Elders of Forest Presbyterian? Please check it out so you can put names with faces. (Thanks to John Farrell for the great photos!) And speaking of names and faces...let's all make a point to wear our nametags. We have received feedback that this is very helpful for visitors and new member alike. (If you don't have a nametag, please let the church office know.)

You may have noticed some orange cones at the back of our parking lot. Our friends at Forest Baptist across Two Church Lane are in need of some additional spaces until they can build more parking on their site. We are happy to be able to help them out! The parking spaces between the orange cones are set aside for them.

John Bates, Bob Hahn, and Biz Klingenfus have stepped up to lead the Adult Sunday School class at 9:30am on Sunday mornings? All are invited and encouraged to attend!

Please continue to keep our church family in your prayers. Remember that we are one in the Spirit, and God is with us always.



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**THANK YOU, FPC!**



FYRE would like to thank everyone who volunteered, donated, and prayed for this year's *yard sale* - total collected was \$2,229.00. We appreciate the love and support of our church family. It is amazing how much fun we can have and what we can accomplish as a community of faith!

### **FYRE Mission Trip Cancelled**

Unfortunately, this year's Mission Trip has been cancelled; HOWEVER, we are planning a "Stay Mission" in its place.

What is a "Stay Mission?" – I'm glad you asked! It is a mission trip without the trip! That means we will still do the "mission" part and the "fellowship" part, but everyone gets to sleep in their own bed at home. This can be done as one single week of service or spread over the Summer. Details are still being worked on.

Each youth has been asked to provide a local place where they would like to serve. We would then set up days of service based on availability. Each day that we serve, we will meet for breakfast together prior to traveling together to our mission location. After we finish for the day, we will spend some time together to reflect on what we saw and learned from our experience. Since we will be staying locally, this is also a good time to invite other youth to join us in service.

## **MAY FYRE CALENDAR**

This "FYRE year" is quickly coming to a close. We had another great year of sending goodies to our college students, baking cookies for our shut-ins, and collecting food for Bedford Christian Ministries. Youth Sunday encouraged everyone to cast nets wide inviting more people to "Get in the Boat" and we shared how we "Stay in the Boat." We have all grown in faith and fellowship together with youth learning from leaders AND leaders learning from youth. While we may be finishing our meetings for this school year, we look forward to a Summer of youth gatherings and stay missions (more to come on that).

**We will have our last regular meeting on Sunday, May 5 from 3:30 to 5:00. But that is not all for May...**

### **End of Year Study Break – Food, Music, Games**

On Saturday, May 18 from 2:00 – 5:00, the FYRE leadership will host a **Youth Study Break!** This is a time to recover from SOLs, studying for exams, and just blowing off stress from the end of the school year. **This is open to ALL MIDDLE AND HIGH SCHOOL youth, which means BRING YOUR FRIENDS!** Enjoy games such as Gaga, Fizzball, and whatever else Lindsay and Macy come up with. Plenty of food to enjoy and music to lift everyone's mood (or even do an energizer to).

## **2024 GRADUATES**

Special **CONGRATULATIONS** to both our High School and College students!!

### **High School Graduate:**

**Sarah Lawson Harrison** - Jefferson Forest HS - Sarah plans to attend UVA in the fall

### **College Graduates:**

**Helen Haslet** - Graduating from VT with BA in Political Science

**Patrick McCray** - Graduating from Liberty University with a BS in Business Administration & Data Analysis - Entrepreneurship




# Christian Education

Our Church School year is soon coming to a close for the summer! The **last day of Church School** for all (K-adults) will be **Sunday, May 19**.

A Big **“Thank You goes to all the Teachers”** who have been involved in our Church School program. They are very giving of their time and talents! And work very hard to make this ministry work. We hope you have a wonderful summer and see you in the fall!

Send your child to camp? Camp Bethel has a full slate of camp options for children & teens! They welcome children of all faiths, traditions, and races, and believe Jesus’ message of life, hope, love and unconditional acceptance. In small groups of 10-12 campers they play and learn together in an Christian community as the Body of Christ (1 Corinthians 12). Trained counselors lead hundreds of active, fun, educational activities. The camp is a safe, special place, and your children will be “happy campers!” Register at Camp Bethel - [campbethelvirginia.org](http://campbethelvirginia.org)

## Camp Bethel 2024 Summer Camps

	<u>Younger Elementary</u> ages 5-8	<u>Older Elementary</u> ages 8-12	<u>Middle School Resident</u> ages 12-15	<u>Middle School Adventures</u> ages 12-15	<u>High School Resident &amp; Adv.</u> ages 15-18
<b>Week 1</b> June 9-14	Mini Camp 1A (Sun-Tue) Mini Camp 1B (Wed-Fri)	Elm Resident 1 Elm Resident + Tube 1 Elm 3-Day 1 (Wed-Fri)	MS Resident 1 MS Resident + Tube 1	MS Adv WWRaft Tube 1 MS Adventure Tube 1 River Adv Program 1	HS Adv WWRaft Tube 1 River Adv Program 1
<b>Week 2</b> June 16-21	Knee-High Day Camp 2	Elm Resident 2 Elm Resident + Eques 2 Elm Adventure 2	MS Resident 2 MS Resident + Eques 2	MS Adv Canoe Cave Climb 2	HS Resident 2 HS Resident + Tube 2 HS Resident + Eques 2 HS Adv Canoe Cave Climb 2
<b>Week 3</b> June 23-28	Knee-High Day Camp 3	Elm Resident 3 Elm Resident + Tube 3 Elm Day Camp 3	MS Resident 3	MS Adv Climbing Combo 3 MS Adv Bike Canoe Climb 3 MS Adv Paddlesports 3	HS Adv Climbing Combo 3 HS Adv Bike Canoe Climb 3 HS Adv Paddlesports 3 Backpacking Trip 3
<b>Week 4</b> June 30- July 5	Mini Camp 4 A (Sun-Tue) Mini Camp 4 B (Wed-Fri)	Elm Resident 4 Elm Resident + Eques 4 Elm 3-Day 4 (Wed-Fri)	MS Resident 4 MS Resident + Tube 4	MS Adv Cave Climb Tube 4	Mtns-Beach-Bay Trip 4
<b>Week 5</b> July 7-12	Knee-High Day Camp 5	Elem Resident 5 Camp Too Sweet 5	MS Resident 5 Camp Too Sweet 5	MS Adv Canoe Tube 5	Camp Too Sweet 5
<b>Week 6</b> July 14-19	Mini Camp 5 A (Sun-Tue) Mini Camp 5 B (Wed-Fri)	Elm Resident 6 Elm Resident + Eques 6 Elm Resident + Tube 6 Elm Adventure + Tube 6 Elm 3-Day 6 (Wed-Fri)	MS Resident 6 MS Resident + Eques 6	MS Adv Bike Canoe Tube 6 MS Adventure Tube 6	HS Adv Bike Canoe Tube 6
<b>Week 7</b> July 21-26				MS Moonrise Adv 7 MS Adv Bike WWRaft 7 MS Adv Canoe Climb 7	HS Moonrise Adv 7 HS Adv Bike WWRaft 7 HS Adv Canoe Climb 7 Backpacking Trip 7

## May Birthdays

- 2 Alice Smith
- 4 Curt Cope
- 7 Robin Carter
- 14 Barbara Hecht
- 18 Denise Kennedy
- 21 Valerie Boyle
- 23 Helen Haslet
- 28 Bobbi Teates
- 31 Pattie Andrews



## Stewardship/Nominating notes

This committee has been meeting to nominate new Elders and Deacons for the coming year. If anyone would like to serve in either of these important positions, please contact JoAnn Scott ([imscottypiper@yahoo.com](mailto:imscottypiper@yahoo.com)) or see her at church on Sunday.

The committee has also been reviewing the candidates for the Pastoral Nominating Committee (PNC). This time-intensive committee will be selecting pastors eligible to candidate for the position of our new pastor. We do have a separate committee that is working on finding an Interim Pastor

# MAY 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			<b>1</b> 6p Handbells 7p Adult Choir  Choir Rehearsal	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b> 	<b>4</b>
<b>5</b> <b>Communion</b> 3:30p Last FYRE Regular Meeting	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b> <b>Newsletter                      Deadline</b>	<b>8</b> 6p Handbells 7p Adult Choir 	<b>9</b> <b>Newsletter Deadline</b> 	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>12</b> <b>Mother's Day</b> 	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b> 6p Handbells 7p Adult Choir	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b> 	<b>18</b> 2-5p FYRE Study Break
<b>19</b> Last day of Church School Potato Bar Fellowship- Following Service 4p Bells of the Blue Ridge	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b> 6p Handbells 7p Adult Choir	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b> 	<b>25</b>
<b>26</b> <b>2-Cents-A-                      Meal</b>	<b>27</b> <b>Memorial Day</b> 	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b> 6p Handbells 7p Adult Choir	<b>30</b> 	<b>31</b>	

### ABBREVIATIONS

a - am  
 p - pm  
 MT - Ministry Team

### SUNDAY WORSHIP SCHEDULE

9:30 am - Church School  
 10:30 am - Worship Service



# Choir Notes

## RAISE YOUR VOICES!

Do you love to sing? We would love to have you sing with us! The Forest Presbyterian Choir meets on Wednesday evenings in the sanctuary from 7 until 8 pm. The choir will take a summer break soon, but it's never too late to stop by and sing a few songs with us before the summer begins!



# Deacon notes

God's grace is usually defined as undeserved favor. In His grace, God is willing to forgive us and bless us abundantly in spite of the fact that we don't deserve to be treated so well or dealt with so generously. God's grace gives us "eternal encouragement and good hope". God is gracious to us for the rest of our lives, working within and upon us. As the recipients of God's grace, Christians are to be gracious to others and to exercise our spiritual gifts for the building up of the church. It is by His grace that the congregation of Forest Presbyterian Church will begin a new journey. God will guide us in our growth to become a glorious place to worship Him in a complete church with a minister and an overflowing congregation. God's grace for us will ensure our success in our new journey without fear along the way. He will guide us with His never-ending grace, strength, and love. Let God in your life to lead you to be a working partner in our journey.

If you have questions about our new journey, or concerns, difficulties, needs, or celebrations, please contact your Deacon. We are excited about our bulletin board, located in the Commons, with the list of Deacons and Elders. We hope that this will be an informative guide for you.

## HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY!

The Deacon's wish a very Happy Mother's Day to all mothers and to those who have served in the rolls of mother in any capacity!

If you know of someone who has been a mother, and they are now alone - consider sending them a card, make a visit or a phone call.



# MISSIONS

## One Great Hour of Sharing

- What a beautiful blessing of love our congregation shared on Easter morning!
- Our One Great Hour of Sharing offering brought in \$525.00. A special "Thank You" to all who shared in this offering. You made a difference!

**Thank You!!!**

## Food Pantry - The Missions Team

- would like to thank you for the continued support of the local food pantry. The pantry needs items for kids out of school soon. Peanut butter, jelly, cereal, pop tarts, jello packs children's juice boxes, snacks, spaghetti o's, prepackaged items for children, mac n cheese. Thank You!!!



## Shepherds Table - Please consider a donation of

- money or desserts for Shepherds Table 3rd Friday of every month.

## Heads Up - Be thinking about Operation

- -Pack-A-Bag for new school year - 2024-2025 coming soon!



# Walking Group!

In March we reached Columbia, South Carolina and then travelled north and west to Pierre, South Dakota, which was a trip of 1,251 miles. We arrived there in early April and then we had to turn south and head for Nashville, Tennessee, a distance of 909 miles. When we cross Tennessee off our list, we will have visited 42 of the 50 states and been on the road for 3 years as we began this journey to visit all the state capitols in alphabetical order in May 2021. If you are a regular walker or exerciser, we invite you to join us, - we would enjoy having you walk with us. Each member does his or her own regimen and reports in weekly. Just contact Ginny Lenz for more information.



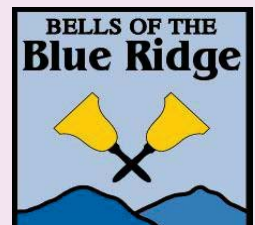
# HANDBELL CONCERT

## THEY ARE BACK BELLS OF THE BLUE RIDGE

We are thrilled to welcome the Bells of Blue Ridge back to our sanctuary for their spring concert! Mark your calendars NOW for Sunday, May 19, 4:00 pm. This year's concert is "A Few of Our Favorite Rings," featuring some of the all-time favorites from members of the group, now in its 20th season! Where else can you hear Bohemian Rhapsody, Dancing Queen, Pirates of the Caribbean and medley of hits from the Lion King played by handbells? BBR concerts are FUN, FAMILY-FRIENDLY and FREE! An event for the whole family - Hope to see you there!



SUNDAY, MAY 19  
4:00 PM



You have a special invitation to join us for a remarkable evening of music and fun with the Bells Of The Blue Ridge



## Lunch Group

The Forest Presbyterian Church Lunch Group will not meet again until possibly in the fall. Our coordinator Robin Carter is discontinuing the lunch group at this time due to lack of participation. The meeting time for the lunch does not fit everyone's schedules at this time. We will be sure to let everyone know when we resume the Lunch Group. Thank you to all who were able to enjoy the lunch group time and fellowship together. See you in the fall!

Please contact Robin Carter with comments or any alternate ideas (525-3845 or [RobinD55@verizon.com](mailto:RobinD55@verizon.com))



## May events

- ⇒ Handbells - Every Wednesday, 6pm
- ⇒ Adult Choir - Every Wednesday, 7pm
- ⇒ Communion - Sunday, May 5
- ⇒ Last FYRE Youth Group - Sunday, May 5
- ⇒ Newsletter Deadline - Thursday, May 9
- ⇒ Mother's Day - Sunday, May 12
- ⇒ FYRE Study Break - Saturday, May 18, 2-5pm
- ⇒ Church School ends - Sunday, May 19, 9:30am
- ⇒ Fellowship Potato Bar - Sunday, May 19, 11:30am
- ⇒ Bells of the Blue Ridge - Sunday, May 19, 4pm
- ⇒ Two-Cents-A-Meal - Sunday, May 26
- ⇒ Memorial Day - Monday, May 27