

GOOD NEWS

LETTER

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

Newsletter for Forest Presbyterian Church, Forest, Virginia

September 2024

What's Happening?!

(News and Information from Session)

The Transition Team continues to work diligently toward finding an interim pastor for our church. They are consulting with Presbytery to consider hiring a part-time “bridge” pastor to provide some consistency while they conduct their search. Session, along with members of the congregation, will soon be participating in a Mission Study in order to determine what God is calling Forest Presbyterian Church to do in the coming years.

FPC member, John Bates, has published a book of devotions entitled **Two Years of Daily Devotions Based on the Common Lectionary**. Several copies are available in the church office and it can also be purchased on Amazon for \$9.95. John teaches our Adult Sunday School class and will also be serving as our Commissioner to Presbytery over the next year. We are grateful to God for John’s contributions.

Session has approved a change in the Sunday morning schedule effective September 8th (Rally Day). Church School will begin at **9am**, followed by fellowship in the Commons at 10am, and worship at 10:30.

Session will be reviewing and updating church policies regarding Youth Protection, Sexual Misconduct, Harassment, and Antiracism.

The Finance Team is in the beginning phase of developing a budget for 2025 and planning for this fall’s Stewardship campaign.

Grant applications have been submitted to the Synod of the Mid Atlantic for replacement of our piano, and to the Presbytery of the Peaks to support our church’s participation in **Rise Against Hunger** next spring.

Please continue to keep our congregation in your prayers during this time of transition.

RALLY DAY

Sunday,
September 8,
9:00 AM

Church School resumes on Sunday,
September 8, 9:00 am.

Everyone join us for
Rally Day Kickoff!
Come enjoy a special Church-wide
breakfast together!



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RALLY DAY!

WE ARE FEASTING ON THE WORD!

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 8, 9:00 AM

We are celebrating the kick-off of a new Church School season with a new Church School start time of 9:00 am - 10:00 am. We will also have a church-wide breakfast so plan to come and join us for a time of food and fellowship while learning about our Christian Education program for all ages. Meet the Church School teachers and take part in some fun activities. This is for everyone (ALL AGES)!



**You will not want
to miss out!!!**

*Churchwide
Breakfast*

Choir Notes

A New Year of Singing!

Attention ALL Singers (yes, even *you* who sing in the shower and car)! The choir will resume rehearsals on **Wednesday, September 4, 7 - 8 pm**. If you have been waiting to join the choir, now is the perfect time! We need YOU! Everyone from 9th grade on up is invited to sing with us. No experience necessary. All you need is the desire to make a joyful noise to the Lord with other believers! The choir is a great way to become involved in the church. Please join us!



**A NEW SEASON
FOR ALL**

DING-A-LINGS

CURRENT & FUTURE!

We are kicking off the new year of ringing on Wednesday, September 4th 6-7 pm. If you read music, this is the group for you! The Ding-A-Lings Handbell Choir is starting a new year of music, fun and laughter and we could use a few more hands! We have ringers from beginner to intermediate to one who plays for Bells of the Blue Ridge, so there is plenty of room for YOU!

Contact Laurie Brownson (434-221-8038 or email vacubsfan5@gmail.com) if you have questions about being a part of the handbell choir.

**Come experience the joy
of our motto:
In Jesus' name we play!**

Christian Education

A Word From CE - Christian Education – More than Sunday morning!

Rally Day. What does that truly signify at Forest Presbyterian Church? Having to get the kids up early so that they can attend Sunday school? Getting yourself up early to start going to church after the Summer away? What about that word “rally”? The Merriam-Webster’s Dictionary has several definitions for “rally”:

verb

1. to come together again to renew an effort;
2. to join in a common cause;

noun

1. a mustering of scattered forces to renew an effort;
2. a mass meeting intended to arouse group enthusiasm.



For this year, Rally Day is defined as **all of us enthusiastically coming together as we renew our desire to learn and grow as a family of Faith.**

This year, the motto of Christian Education is “More than Sunday morning”. Our Church school kicks this off by sharing a common curriculum across all ages. “Feasting on the Word” is a church-wide curriculum that follows the lectionary calendar. This means that everyone will be studying the same text each week which will also be the basis for the time with children and the sermon (when the lectionary is followed in the service). Conversations at home become a bit more interesting when children and youth can add in their comments to what is usually an “adult conversation”. We are all learning together.

Twice a month on Sunday afternoons, **FYRE Youth Group meets.** This is open to **ALL** youth (not just church youth) from grades 6-12. FYRE (Forest Youth Reaching Everyone) is expected to have a new level of energy as our leaders Lindsay Bennett and Macy Andrews put their creative minds together to ramp up the new year!

As we move into the Fall, a Confirmation class will be conducted for 8th – 12th graders. More on this in the October newsletter!

Bible studies disappeared during COVID but we are past that time and ready to get running again. On Rally Day, be sure to check out the CE table and indicate the type of Bible Study you are interested in. We are all learning and growing our Faith everyday. Let’s remember that Christian Education is “**More than Sunday morning!**”

**ALL AGES
NURSERY - ADULTS
JOIN US EVERY SUNDAY MORNING
FOR CHURCH SCHOOL
SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 8
9:00 AM - 10:00 AM
(new time for church school)**

SEPTEMBER 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 Communion	2 Labor Day 	3	4 6p Handbells 7p Choir practice  Choir Rehearsal	5	6 	7
8 9a Rally Day - Rally Day Breakfast Church School Resumes 	9	10 Newsletter Deadline 	11 1-5p FPC Blood Drive  6p Handbells 7p Choir resumes	12	13	14
15 FYRE Youth Group	16	17	19 6p Handbells 7p Choir practice 	14	20 	21
22	23	24	25 6p Handbells 7p Choir practice	26 	27	28
29 2-Cents-A- Meal Music Sunday	30					

ABBREVIATIONS

a - am
p - pm

SUNDAY WORSHIP SCHEDULE

9:00 am - Church School - **New Time**
10:00 am - Coffee & Fellowship Time
10:30 am - Worship Service

DEACON NOTES

NEW DEACONS: We would like to welcome four (4) new Deacons - Laura Collier, Joe Fike, Kurt Heideman, and Carol White

Please be sure to check out the bulletin board in the Commons, it has been updated with new photos of all the Deacons (a big *thank you* to John Farrell), and includes a list of their respective Deacon families. You should be hearing from your Deacon soon.

RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVE:

Forest Presbyterian Church, along with the Deacons, are hosting and sponsoring a Red Cross Blood Drive on Patriot's Day, Wednesday, September 11, 1:00 pm to 5:00 pm in the Commons. This is an outstanding way to support the Red Cross, our community and our country. The Red Cross almost always has a shortage of blood, so we need YOU to come out and donate blood! There are sign-up sheets located in the Commons to sign up to donate blood, to help with snacks and to help in anyway you can. You may also go directly to the Red Cross web page to sign up <https://www.redcrossblood.org/give.html/drive-results?zipSponsor=351838>

Your donation of blood is needed! Please tell your family and friends about this blood drive so it will be a success and not be cancelled again. Thank you in advance for your help!



Walking Group!



Weather conditions this summer has been hot and dry, but despite all of this we continue to make good progress of walking on our tour of state capitals.

In May we were in Austin, Texas. From there we traveled to Salt Lake City, Utah, a distance of just over 1,000 miles. Our next stop is Montpelier, Vermont. This is clear across the country and twice as far in miles. From there it will be onto Virginia. Two new walkers have joined us this month. If you are interested in walking with us or know of others who may be interested, please contact Ginny Lenz to be placed on our list. All that is involved is calculating how far one has walked during the week and an email to (Ginny Lenz at rvlenz@aol.com) for any other details. We would love for YOU to join us on our journey!

September Birthdays

- 2 Biz Klingenfus
- 12 Terri Cornwell
- 19 Rob Theisen
- 22 Mark Buchanan
- 24 John Bates
- 30 Eva Francis



September events

- ☞ Communion - Sunday, September 1
- ☞ Labor Day - Monday, September 2
- ☞ Handbells - Every Wednesday beginning September 4, 6pm
- ☞ Adult Choir - Every Wednesday beginning September 4, 7pm
- ☞ Rally Day Kick-Off - Church School resumes - Sunday, September 8, 9:00am -*Rally Day Breakfast*
- ☞ Newsletter Deadline - Tuesday, September 10
- ☞ FPC Blood Drive - Wednesday, September 11, 1-5pm
- ☞ Music Sunday - Sunday, September 29, 10:30am
- ☞ Two-Cents-A-Meal - Sunday, September 29

**Each Sunday 10:00 - 10:30
Between Church School and
Worship Service
Coffee and Fellowship Time**

New Church
School Time:
9:00 am



FPC and KROGER

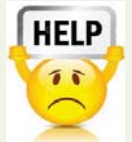
KROGER CARES REWARDS PROGRAM

Forest Presbyterian Church is part of the Kroger Rewards Program! The Rewards program is Kroger's way of giving back to non-profit organizations in the community. We started with about 12 households. FPC earned \$75 in three months from these families just by shopping at Kroger. Imagine what we can do in a year with 50 or more folks participating in the program! To sign up just go to krogercommunityrewards.com and follow the instructions to link your Kroger Card to FPC. Family members and friends can also link their cards for more rewards. Just use your Kroger card at the checkout as usual and help us grow our reward! This is just another way of helping to supply funds for our church. Any questions - please see Jeni Willoughby!



MISSIONS

Operation Pack-A-Bag: A "Special Thank You" to everyone for all the support with our 2024 Pack-a-bag mission. With your donations and prayers we are sending all of the applicants in the Jefferson Forest zone back to school with new bookbags and supplies, while assisting with 3 other local elementary schools as well with supplies and bookbags. Without your generous support and donations this would not have been possible. What a blessing we could provide for them! Please continue to pray for our students as they head back to the classroom this year. THANKYOU!!



Bedford Christian Ministries:

We are in need of sheets, towels and wash clothes for clients in need. Please consider donating the following:

- SHEETS (any size)
- Towels
- Wash Clothes



We will have a special drive for these items for the month of September. These items may be gently used. Any questions, please contact Ginny Fiddler (ginintheforest@aol.com or 1-540-588-2301).

Shepherds Table: Bedford Christian Ministries is in need of individual desserts for Shepherds Table. If you can help serve contact Denise Kennedy (540-871-0494), or if you can provide desserts or a donation to buy desserts, please contact Ginny Fiddler (540-588-2301)

**Remember -
pick up extra items when shopping at the grocery store!**

