

# *Shepherd's Staff*

June & July 2025

First Presbyterian Church  
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*"Graduation is an exciting time. It's an ending and a beginning; it's warm memories of the past and big dreams for the future."*  
*Congratulations Graduates! We are proud of your achievement.*

*Ryker Bowers, son of Matthew & Kelly Bowers*  
*Brent Lisk, son of Greg & Dona Lisk*  
*Grant Lisk, son of Greg & Dona Lisk*

*Our graduates graduated from South Stanly High School and plan to attend Stanly Community College.*



Pastor's Corner: June 2025

*Good words satisfy like a fine meal; yes, good conversations are sure to satisfy. Words have power in matters of life and death, and those who love them will savor their fruit.*

—Proverbs 18:20-21

“What we’ve got here is a failure to communicate.” Those words made famous in the movie *Cool Hand Luke* sums up a lot of the challenges in day-to-day life. People are—for the most part—good, and most of us go through life with good intentions. At the same time, we are all imperfect and fall short of God’s good intentions. And nowhere is that more true than in the ways we try to communicate with each other.

Just think of all the way that our communication goes awry. We miss calls, lose emails, or forget to pass along a message. We mean to check in with someone...but somehow never quite get around to doing so. We misunderstand what someone is trying to say in a text or speak hastily without thinking through how what we say may be perceived. We stay silent about something because we’re afraid of how others would react if we put what’s on our hearts and minds into words. We even mentally tune out a person speaking to us, because we are busy planning what to say in response. What we’ve got in all these cases is a failure to communicate. These failures are usually of the head instead of the heart—but that doesn’t keep them from causing pain.

King Solomon was right in Proverbs: words—whether spoken or in print—are powerful things. They can build us up and satisfy our souls like a rich feast, or they can hurt us terribly. And sometimes, the best conversations are the ones in which God’s grace empowers people to say things that hurt in the moment...but that also make room for everyone to heal and become reconciled. Just ask anyone who has helped unpack an unanticipated breakdown in plans/expectations or mediate a painful discussion between loved ones.

This summer, the lectionary provides us with a chance to both unpack the power of words and listen to some hard truths that God’s communicates to us in Scripture. On June 8, we will celebrate the Pentecost—the day in which the apostles were empowered to share Christ’s message with words that the whole world could understand. From there, we will move on to an exploration of the Prophets—whose duty it was to communicate God’s word in a new way whenever the people failed to get God’s message on their own and went too far astray. As we will see, though prophets’ words often hurt—and people didn’t always react well at first—what they said eventually helped bring about healing and reconciliation. And the people feasted on the results.

As we go through this portion of the lectionary, I pray that we can reflect on the power of our own words and seek to communicate better with Christ, our inner selves, and one another. For when we address our own failures to communicate, our conversations with God and one another tend to slowly grow more fruitful. Our hearts, minds and souls become more satisfied with what comes out of those conversations. And we all grow in Christ’s word—which is the most satisfying word of all.

## Session News

All of you are aware of the Ten Cents a Meal offering that is collected on the first Sunday of the month and is sent to Presbytery of Charlotte. Ten Cents a Meal is a food support ministry from the churches of the Presbytery.

The Presbytery offers grants to individual churches to help provide additional funding in providing food to those in our community that go to the Norwood Community Table for their lunch meals. Some of our members assist during the week in serving meals. Stanly Community Christian Services asks churches to volunteer to prepare and serve a meal on Saturdays when the Table is closed. This year, we applied and were awarded a \$1000 grant through the Ten Cents a Meal program to allow us to serve some Saturdays throughout the year.

We will receive \$250 per quarter and the money is to be used to purchase the food needed to prepare lunch on the Saturdays we choose. Susan Moss, who volunteers every Wednesday at the Table has agreed to help lead us with this program. With the money, we should be able to serve meals on Saturday at least once or twice a quarter. We will need volunteers to help prepare and serve the meals. We will let you know what Saturdays help will be needed. Please let Susan know if you would be willing to help in any capacity needed.

### Community Table Dates

July 5

September 6

November 8

December 6

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Sunday, June 8 is Pentecost, the day on which we celebrate the coming of the Holy Spirit to a band of frightened disciples, transforming them into bold disciples and giving birth to the church. The Pentecost Offering will be received. The Pentecost Offering provides a direct way to meet the needs of young adults, youth and children at risk. 40% of this offering stays with the local congregation.

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### *Let's Keep in Touch with our Homebound...*

Dutch Snead  
8542 Whitley Road  
Norwood, NC 28128

Al Calder  
PO Box 92  
Norwood, NC 28128

Charlotte Benton  
42889 Will Road  
Norwood, NC 28128

Donald Farmer  
Universal Healthcare  
430 Brookwood Ave NE  
Concord, NC 28025

Harry Beeker  
Trinity Oaks  
728 Klumac Road Apt 120-B  
Salisbury, NC 28144

Patricia Mabry  
Taylor House  
319 Palmer St.  
Albemarle, NC 28001

## Happy Birthday

June 2	Gabriel Roush
June 4	Salah Russell
June 5	Monica Carlis
June 6	Edith Lujano-Melendez
June 10	Tanner Hatley
June 12	Lora Melton
June 14	Chason Alligood
June 17	Kaye Coble
June 20	Al Calder
June 23	Sonny Tyson
June 28	Lucy Crump
June 28	Kenzie Edwards

## Happy Birthday

July 11	Ro Honbarrier
July 12	Denise Smith
July 13	Wayne Deese
July 14	Blake Ballard
July 16	Luke Crump
	Taylor Edwards
July 17	Tom Garner
July 20	Mitchell Edwards
July 24	Hallie Lambert
	Sarah Braswell
	William Hatley
July 26	Erik Johnson
July 28	Bobby Parker
July 29	Frankie Calder

## Happy Anniversary!

June 4	Jeff & Laura Britt
June 30	Bill & Mary Ann Evans
	Jeff & Theresa Russell

## Happy Anniversary!

July 20	Mitchell & Cindy Edwards
July 22	Stephen & Susan Moss



### Faith on the Fifth June 29

*Mark Your Calendar for our 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday Breakfast at 8:30 am*

Faith on the Fifth offering will be received.

This offering is collected on 5th Sundays and is designated for a specific purpose.

Pastor Heather will be in our office on Tuesdays/Wednesdays and Wadesboro's office on Mondays/Thursdays.



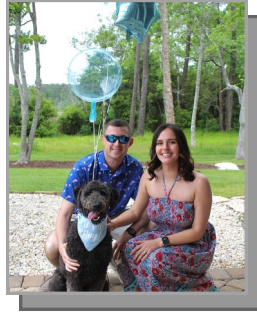
You can always call or email her for pastoral care concerns any day of the week.

Her number is (859) 940-6437.

Email: [heather.mcintyre@my.LPTS.edu](mailto:heather.mcintyre@my.LPTS.edu)



*Congratulations to Hannah & Austin!*



*Baby Poplin coming October 2025*

*Baby Poplin is a BOY!*

*Grandparents to be.....*

*Stephen & Susan Moss*

*Ursula McRae*



*A memorial has been given to the church in  
memory of Johnny Gibson  
by Susie Lisk*

### **Summer YMCA Camp**

We are again hosting the Summer Y Camp. The camp will run for eight weeks starting Monday, June 2. There will be no camp during the week of July 4<sup>th</sup>. Campers will be in the fellowship hall, picnic shelter or playground from 9:00 am to 1:00 pm every day except Wednesdays when they will be at Piney Point Golf Club pool.



### **Father's Day**

On Father's Day, the arrangement in the sanctuary will be in honor/memory of fathers. Each name is \$2.00. The form and money need to be in *No Later Than, Wednesday, June 11.* Please make your check payable to First Presbyterian Church and designate for Father's Day. Forms are on the table in the vestibule. The names of those being honored/remembered will be listed in the bulletin on Father's Day.

#### **Father's Day Recognition**

Please print below the information exactly as it is to appear in the bulletin.

In memory of: \_\_\_\_\_

Given by: \_\_\_\_\_

In honor of: \_\_\_\_\_

Given by: \_\_\_\_\_





## J-Walkers

Learning about Easter.....  
making empty tombs.

Thank you! Pastor Heather  
for the meaningful and  
delicious lesson.

## Information Board

Need to contact a Session Member, below is their contact numbers

Class of 2025: Jeff Russell ~ 704-699-5728  
Class of 2026: Cindy Edwards ~ 704-438-0270  
Class of 2027: Kaye Coble ~ 704-985-6463

Frankie Calder ~ 704-984-0952  
Kirk Wallace ~ 704-695-5177  
Charles Harris ~ 704-985-9163

### Session Meeting

Tuesday, June 17

5:30 pm

### Opening/Closing Church

June Charles D. Harris & Jeff Russell  
July Kirk Wallace & Frankie Calder  
August Charles D. Harris & Dale Morton

### Community Table Volunteers

Required Volunteer Hours  
9:00 am – 1:00 pm

June 4: Finley Sutton  
June 11: Kaye Coble  
June 18: Susan Moss  
June 25: Kirk Wallace  
July 2: Beverly Johnson  
July 9: Sylvia Parker  
July 16: Susan Moss  
July 23: Finley Sutton  
July 30: Kaye Coble

Volunteers are needed  
Please see Beverly Johnson

### Worship Schedule

#### June

Worship: 9:30AM  
Sunday School: Following Worship

#### July ~ August ~ September

Sunday School: 9:45 am  
Worship: 11:00 am

### Norwood Food Pantry Needs

**June:** Canned Meats ~ tuna, chicken, salmon

**July:** Boxed Pasta: Hamburger Helper, Instant Potatoes, Stuffing Mix



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### Reminder: Our Services Are Online!

Do you want to attend a service but can't make it in person?

You can always watch us on.....

YouTube! Norwood First Presbyterian Church - YouTube

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