

# THE SPIRE LIGHT

First Presbyterian Church  
100 Silver Creek Road, Morganton, NC 28655  
828-437-1811  
[www.fpcmorganton.org](http://www.fpcmorganton.org)



February 26-  
March 18, 2017

Worship with us  
on Sundays!

9:30 AM Sunday School  
10:55 AM Worship Service

February 26, 2017  
Transfiguration Sunday  
Rev. Dr. Wanda Neely

Lectionary  
Exodus 24:12-18; Psalm 2  
II Peter 1:16-21; Matt. 17:1-9

Greeters  
Rick and Janet Leissner  
Ted and Holly Restel

Visitors Table  
Brenda Kendrick

March 5, 2017  
First Sunday in Lent  
Rev. Dr. Wanda Neely

Lectionary  
Gen. 2:15-17, 3:1-7; Psalm 32  
Romans 5:12-19; Matt. 4:1-11

Greeters  
Anne Gamble  
Mary Frances Young

Visitors Table  
Janet Leissner

March 12, 2017  
Second Sunday in Lent  
Girl Scout Sunday

Lectionary  
Genesis 12:1-4a; Psalm 121  
Romans 4:1-5, 13-17; John 3:1-17

Greeters  
Pat Franklin  
Ted and Holly Restel

Visitors Table  
Janet Leissner

## Wednesday Night Programs Spring 2017

5:00 PM Chancel Ringers  
5:15 PM Meal—Line opens for reservations only  
5:40 PM Line opens for folks without reservations  
6:00 PM Call for second helpings, if available  
6:15 PM Program, or  
6:30 PM Worship in the Chapel (all ages)  
7:15 PM Chancel Choir

March 1: Ash Wednesday Worship with Communion  
March 8: "Eat and Meet" Committee Night/Worship with communion  
March 15: Worship with communion  
March 22: Worship with communion  
March 29: A Service of Healing and Wholeness  
April 5: "Praying in Color" Worship  
April 12: No Meal/Program (Holy Week)  
April 19: No Meal/Program (Week after Easter)  
April 26: "Caring for Creation" Earth Day Program  
May 3: "Eat and Meet" Committee Night  
May 10: Bible Club Showcase Night!  
May 17: Bible Study with Pastor Wanda Neely  
May 24: Fair Trade Coffee House Concert by *The Butterbeans* (musical trio)  
May 31: Final Celebration with Special Musical Guest (TBA)

### Exciting Announcement!

The Fellowship Committee is very pleased to announce that Chef Suzette Pendleton will cater our Wednesday night meals this spring. Chef Pendleton will prepare healthy and delicious dishes, including separate offerings for children. We hope you will come and try the new menu on March 1!

**Adults: \$7.00**

**Child: \$5.00**

**Family Cap: \$20.00**

Please see page 6 for a detailed description of the policy changes to our Wednesday night meals.



**Daylight Savings Time  
Begins Sunday, March 12!**

**Set your clocks ahead  
before you go to bed...on Saturday night!**



## Ash Wednesday Service with Communion

Wednesday, March 1, at 6:30 PM in the chapel

Please join us for worship each Wednesday evening during Lent  
at 6:30 PM in the chapel.

### Community Counseling Clinic

The Montreat College Clinical and Mental Health Counseling Program has established a Community Counseling Clinic at First Presbyterian Church. Beginning March 1, 2017, it will offer counseling *at no charge* to church members, staff, and their families. It will be staffed by graduate students in Clinical Mental Health Counseling under the supervision of Dr. Penny Lane Hamblin, LPC, NCC, ACS. Dr. Hamblin is a licensed professional counselor. If you would like to make an appointment, please contact:

Dr. Penny Lane Hamblin, Ed.D, NCC, LPC  
Assistant Professor of Counselor Education  
P.O. Box 1389

Morganton, NC 28680

Google voice: [828.475.2382](tel:828.475.2382); email: [phamblin@montreat.edu](mailto:phamblin@montreat.edu)

### Your Part in the Transition . . .

You are invited to participate in the preparation for the search for our next senior pastor. Be watching this spring for information about a gathering of your shepherd group. The gatherings will include opportunities to identify gifts and express desires and needs of our congregation and community through discussion and survey. The survey will be available on computer and in printed version. Let us pray as together we seek God's guidance.

### Elective Sunday School Class—Room 102

February 26: *Spiritual Formation—What It Really Means, How It Applies to You, and Suggested Tools and Techniques*, facilitated by Rick Leissner. We will talk about what spiritual formation is and what it is not, assess where we are in our lives, and get some recommended techniques for growth.

March 5, 12, 19, and 26: *The Early Church—Her Passions, Successes, and Struggles*, facilitated by the Rev. Dr. Robert Lowry. We will discover for ourselves an insight Prof. J. L. Gonzales shared, "Without understanding {the} past, we are unable to understand ourselves, for in a sense the past still lives in us and influences who we are and how we understand the Christian message." Bob suggests that not only is Dr. Gonzales correct, but we could make an additional step and say, "...not only who we are...but who we will become in the future."

### Next Coin War Is March 5

Round Two of the Coin War will continue to be held on the first Sunday of each month during the rest of the school year. Money collected goes to the Nickel-a-Meal Hunger Program. Each Sunday school class has their own collection jar, and jars are outside the fellowship hall before and after Sunday school on Coin War Sundays. *Gain points* by adding *pennies, bills, and checks* to your class jar. *Lower* other classes' totals by adding *silver coins* to theirs. The class with the most points wins! The prize will be a McDonald's or Bojangles' breakfast for the entire class. May the odds be ever in your favor!

#### Totals for the Spring of 2017:

1st-3rd Grade Class: -1,000 (They were badly bombed with silver!)

4th-6th Grade Class: -531

7th-8th Grade Class: 0 points

Korean and Choir Classes: 100 points

Adult Elective Class: 100 points

9th-12th Grade Class: 0 points

Men's Bible Class: 0 points

Clover Class: 4,000 points



Sunday, February 26, 3:30-7:30 PM—BUCM Meal



Youth and adult advisors, please join us on Sunday, February 26, 3:30-7:30 PM, in the BUCM Soup Kitchen to help cook and serve a meal to the needy in and around Morganton. Bring \$3 to help cover dinner; you will eat with the clients after all are served. Pick up and drop off is at BUCM, not at church. Please RSVP on Facebook or contact Pastor Adam today!

**Student Ministries**  
*Rev. Adam Bowling*  
828-448-8914  
[adam@firstpresmorganton.org](mailto:adam@firstpresmorganton.org)

Sunday, March 5—Movie Night with Molly (TBA)

FPC Youth, keep your eyes on your email and social media for details about our Movie Night on Sunday, March 5. You will be responsible for purchasing your own ticket and snacks. More info coming soon!

Sunday, March 12, 2:30-5:30 PM—Trip to *Oklahoma!* at the Old Rock School

Meet on Sunday, March 12, at the Old Rock School at 2:30 PM for the 3:00 PM show to see Pastor Adam and Douglas Coley in *Oklahoma!* Tickets are \$16 for adults, \$14 for seniors, and \$10 for students. Synopsis: The first collaboration of famed partners Richard Rodgers and Oscar Hammerstein II, *Oklahoma!* set the American musical theatre standard. Set in western Indian territory just after the turn of the 20th century, the spirited rivalry between the local farmers and cowboys provides the backdrop for the love story between Curly, a handsome cowboy, and Laurey, a beautiful farm girl. As the road to romance and the road to statehood converge, Curly and Laurey are poised to spend their new life together in a brand new state: OKLAHOMA! If you can't make it on March 12, here are the show dates: March 10, 11, 12, 16, 17, 18, and 19. Thursday, Friday, and Saturday show times are 7:30 PM; Sunday matinees are 3:00 PM.



Friday, March 17-Saturday, March 18—High School Mission Retreat to Black Mountain Home for Children



On March 17-18, high school youth and adult leaders from our church will join other Presbyterian youth and adults from western North Carolina for a Mission Retreat at Black Mountain Home for Children. Registered participants are asked to meet in the fellowship hall, Friday, March 17, 6:00 PM, packed and ready to go. Please eat dinner before you arrive. We should be back to church around 4:00-4:30 PM on Saturday, March 18. We need adult leaders to sign up for this retreat to happen! Registration forms are now available on the Youth Information Table and on the church website. Please contact Pastor Adam with questions.

### Birth Announcements

Members are encouraged to share news of the birth of a baby in their family by calling the church office. The church will place a rose in the chancel on a Sunday of the parents' choosing. Grandparents are also encouraged to call the church office to share the birth of a grandchild, and they will be asked if they would like a rose placed in the chancel. Births that have been reported to the church office will also be announced in the Sunday bulletin and in The Spire Light.



Vacation Bible Camp 2017  
HERO CENTRAL—  
Discover Your Strength in God!  
July 17-21, 2017  
9:00 AM-3:00 PM  
age 3 ½ (toilet trained) to  
rising 6th graders

Contact a director to volunteer today!

Erin Bowling: [erinkbowling@gmail.com](mailto:erinkbowling@gmail.com); 448-8913  
Teresa Carpenter: [teresacarpen@aol.com](mailto:teresacarpen@aol.com); 443-7727  
Carly Carpenter: [carlycarpen@aol.com](mailto:carlycarpen@aol.com); 475-9591

### Primetimers Event—Oklahoma!

On March 19, 2017, the Primetimers will attend the musical *Oklahoma!* at the Old Rock School in Valdese. Show time is at 3:00 PM; we will meet at the church at 2:15 PM. Cost is \$12.00 per person (group rate cost). Please call the church office at 437-1811 or Lewis Rigsbee at 433-5032 if you wish to attend.



### Presbyterian Women

The Spring Gathering for Presbyterian Women will be held at the First Presbyterian Church of Newton, NC, on Saturday, April 8, 2017.

## From the Good News Committee. . .

(The following is a continuation from our last newsletter.)

Below is a partial list of ways that congregations and, more specifically, you as a member of First Presbyterian Church can love any and all who walk through our doors. This list is adapted from the book *Now Go Forward* by J. David Eschelmann, who says, "Loving unbelievers the way Jesus did is the most overlooked key to growing a church . . . The command to love is the most repeated command in the New Testament, appearing at least 55 times."

8. Use only appropriate and allowed *touch*, such as a handshake or a gentle pat on the back.
9. Ask *questions* and learn about *your guests*. It is better to express interest in them than it is to try to "sell" your church.
10. *Listening* is a very effective way to show love.
11. Greet children at *their level*.
12. Let children be *children*. Yes, families love children's church and child care. We also love it when you allow us to decide if our children should remain with us in worship and, even more, when you love our kids as kids (crying, playing, singing) and don't expect them to be grown-ups.
13. Invite visitors to join you at *something, anything!* Invite them to today's fellowship meal, next Sunday's Christian Education hour, or to a restaurant for some one-on-one time.
14. Never let new people *sit alone*. Eschelmann says, "New people should *never* have to sit alone. Take initiative and go to them without delay."



This list will continue in the next issue of *The Spire Light!*

See pages 5 and 6 below.



## In the interim...

### A Tithe of Days

**Lent:** the 40 days, not counting Sundays, from Ash Wednesday until Easter, observed by Christians as a season of fasting and penitence.

**lent:** the past tense and past participle of “lend,” meaning to give or allow the use of something temporarily on the condition that it is to be returned.



Two words spelled and pronounced the same; the only difference is that one has a capital letter. Christians get the name of their special season from the old Anglo-Saxon word for “lengthen,” because Lent comes at the time when the days begin to lengthen. However, Robert Bolt has pointed out the significance of the name, matching the past tense of our English word for “lend.” Bolt asks some significant questions:

*“Want to thank God for a life that has been lent to you? Maybe that is what it means to say we are “living on borrowed time.” How better than to spend 40 days expressing our gratitude for life in service to those who may not feel the same gratitude, because their borrowed life does not look or feel so wonderful? Want to thank God for the material riches that you enjoy? What better way than to consider the 40 days of Lent as a time to try out tithing? If all that we have is a gift from God in the first place, does that mean that it has only been lent to us to put at another’s service or use?”*

The Christian’s season of Lent has been described as the “spiritual tithing of the year.” Forty days—a tithe of the year. As we journey through Lent and the days begin to lengthen, may we give from our lives and our riches with gratitude for all that God has *lent* us. In the opportunities listed in this newsletter, may you find ways to tithe your life in Lent.

*Wanda Neely*

### In Appreciation

*It has been an enjoyable and meaningful opportunity to have served as your Interim Minister of Visitation for the past year plus. I want to thank the church, the Personnel Committee, and the Session for this privilege and also thank the Session and Presbyterian Women for their generosity at Christmas. I am delighted with the pastoral love, caring, and compassion shown by our professional staff. All of us who worship together at First Presbyterian Church are fortunate to have this outstanding leadership. --Faithfully, Rev. Wyatt Aiken*

### Thank You!

The First Presbyterian Youth would like to thank the congregation for their support of the Souper Bowl of Caring Food Drive for BUCM. With your help, we collected **1,381 lbs. of food** and **\$4,505.29** for the hungry in Burke County and took home the trophy (again)! All three churches collected a grand total of **3,399 lbs. of food** and **\$10,000.29** for BUCM. Thank you for supporting this worthy cause!

First Presbyterian is a connectional church; let us therefore pray for other congregations within our Presbytery:

Ellenboro Presbyterian Church, Ellenboro, NC



### In Sympathy

*“I am the resurrection and the life.”*

Congregational love and sympathy are extended to Katrina Avery and family at the death of her brother, Richard McCoy Herman, on January 24, 2017.

Congregational love and sympathy are extended to Lori Stock and family at the death of her uncle, Bill Smith, on February 6, 2017.

Congregational love and sympathy are extended to Richard Gordon and family at the death of his wife, Marilyn Gordon, on February 10, 2017.

Congregational love and sympathy are extended to Janice Branstrom and family at the death of her mother, Priscilla Pendleton Mast, on February 15, 2017.

# FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH CALENDAR

## Sunday, February 26

9:30 AM Sunday School  
 10:00 AM Chancel Choir  
 10:55 AM Worship Service with  
                   Communion  
 12:00 PM Children's Choir  
 3:30 PM Youth Cook BUCM Meal

## Monday, February 27

10:00 AM Deadline for Meal RSVP  
 10:15 AM Mind, Body, Spirit  
                   Class—Room 212  
 6:00 PM Demographic Survey Team

## Tuesday, February 28

7:00 AM Men's Breakfast  
 1:30 PM Staff Meeting

## Wednesday, March 1



3:15 PM Backyard Bible Club Begins!  
 5:00 PM Chancel Ringers  
 5:15 PM Meal  
 6:30 PM *Ash Wednesday  
                   Worship Service  
                   with Communion*  
 7:15 PM Chancel Choir

## Sunday, March 5

*First Sunday in Lent*  
 9:30 AM Sunday School  
 10:00 AM Chancel Choir  
 10:55 AM Worship Service  
 12:00 PM Children's Choir  
 Youth Movie Night TBA

## Monday, March 6

10:00 AM Deadline for Meal RSVP  
 10:15 AM Mind, Body, Spirit  
                   Class—Room 212  
 10:30 AM Circle 1—Grace Ridge  
 7:00 PM Circle 2—Parlor

## Tuesday, March 7

7:00 AM Men's Breakfast  
 1:30 PM Staff Meeting  
 7:00 PM Circle 3—Parlor

## Wednesday, March 8

3:15 PM Backyard Bible Club  
 5:00 PM Chancel Ringers  
 5:15 PM Meal  
 6:30 PM Worship Service  
                   with Communion  
 7:15 PM Chancel Choir

## Thursday, March 9

7:00 PM Patton High School  
                   Choir Concert—FPC Sanctuary

## Friday, March 10

8:30 AM Admin. Committee Mtg.

## Sunday, March 12

*Second Sunday in Lent*  
*Girl Scout Sunday*  
 9:30 AM Sunday School  
 10:00 AM Chancel Choir  
 10:55 AM Worship Service  
 12:00 PM Children's Choir  
 2:30 PM Youth at *Oklahoma!*



## Monday, March 13

10:00 AM Deadline for Meal RSVP  
 10:15 AM Mind, Body, Spirit Class  
 12:00 PM Spire Light Deadline

## Tuesday, March 14

7:00 AM Men's Breakfast  
 1:30 PM Staff Meeting

## Wednesday, March 15

3:15 PM Backyard Bible Club  
 10:30 AM Spire Light Volunteers  
 5:00 PM Chancel Ringers  
 5:15 PM Meal  
 6:30 PM Worship with Communion  
 7:15 PM Chancel Choir

## Friday, March 17



6:00 PM High School Retreat

### Wednesday Night Meals Policy Change

- There is no longer a permanent list for Wednesday night meals. Each individual/family **must sign up weekly** on the friendship pad, via the church website, or by calling the church office at 437-1811 by **10:00 AM each Monday** to reserve a meal(s). Reservations may be left on the church answering machine.
- If a child wants the publicized adult meal, they must pay the adult meal price of \$7.
- If you reserve a meal(s) for a Wednesday night, we ask that you pay for your meal(s), whether or not you attend, as the church must pay for those meals.
- Folks without reservations will be asked to wait until 5:40 PM to go through the line, to make sure there is enough food for folks that have reservations.
- We will call for second helpings at 6:00 PM, if they are available. However, each reservation is guaranteed only one adult or child meal.
- We ask that all set-up and serving volunteers arrive at 4:30 PM to help get ready for Wednesday night.
- All individuals and volunteers are required to pay for their meals on Wednesday nights.

The next newsletter covers March 19-April 8 events.  
 Please submit your church news to the church office by noon on March 13.