

# First Presbyterian Church **PresbyNews**



**February 2023**

Dear Friends,

It is our great joy to welcome Mrs. Mary Louise Baker as our new Music Director on February 1! She brings very high qualifications and much experience to this position at First Presbyterian Church. A native of Indiana, she has a Bachelor of Music degree in Organ Performance from Salem College, Winston-Salem, NC, and a Master of Music degree in Organ Performance and Literature from the University of Notre Dame. She also earned her certification in Kindermusik, a national training program for children. She has many years of experience serving as church organist, directing children's choirs and teaching at the college level. She most recently served as the organist and Director of Music at First United Methodist Church, Laurinburg, NC, for fourteen years and music teacher at Marlboro Academy, Bennettsville for eight years. She and her husband, Sam, live in the Laurinburg area with their four children (Sadie, Jessie, Sam and Lainey), plus two dogs.

As she begins her work with us, her highest priorities will be music at our Sunday worship services, plus our adult, children and youth choirs. Her work schedule is tentative at this time, but she presently plans to be with us at least on Sunday mornings and Wednesday afternoons and evenings. She will be actively recruiting choir members, so when she asks you to join, say "yes!" She will be working closely with this interim minister to plan and lead music for our Sunday worship services, and upcoming special occasions like Ash Wednesday (February 22) and Maundy Thursday (April 6). Mary Louise will also help us in our children, youth and adult educational programs.

Our Church is going through a significant time of transition in its staff leadership, with Mac's retirement on top of a change in pastors. This interim pastor very much looks forward to working with Mary Louise in worship leadership and our educational ministries. Our God has led us well before, and the elders and I believe that God has led us to our newest Music Director. Please help me to welcome Mary Louise Baker to our congregation!

Your interim pastor,

Dr. Dan Sansbury

When God closes one door, another opens. I am beyond excited to serve as Organist & Choir Director here at First Presbyterian Church! Our first Adult Choir practice will be on Wednesday, Feb. 15 at 6pm. I hope everyone who once sang in the choir will come back and those who've never sung will give it a chance. Music in worship is intended to glorify the Lord, inspire our faith, and bring us closer to God. My passion and purpose is to try and carry out this mission, but it cannot be done alone. With the guidance of the Holy Spirit and your participation, we can be a strong music ministry together. Working with children & families is my forte and I can't wait to get to know you all. I will love you, pray with you, be there for you, and I am confident the Lord will work in mighty ways here at FPC. Thank you for making me feel at home by your warm welcome.

“Sing to the Lord a new song; sing to the Lord, all the earth. Sing to the Lord, praise his name; proclaim his salvation day after day. Declare his glory among the nations, his marvelous deeds among all peoples. For great is the Lord and most worthy of praise.” ~Psalm 96

Love in Christ,

Mary Louise Baker

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### **Session Highlights from January Meeting**

Session highlights as follows:

- 1) Received information from Administrative Committee about annual allowance for Building and Grounds.
- 2) CE reported that 2-4 year old Sunday School class has begun.
- 3) Heard report from Worship Ministry team about proposed T-Loop System for hearing impaired.
- 4) Approved Mission Outreach Offerings for 2023 and annual yard sale
- 5) Heard report from Mission Assessment Team on their progress
- 6) Received thank you notes from Pee Dee Coalition and Thornwell Home for donations

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You may still be able to turn in your 2023 commitments, both “Time & Talent Sheets” and “Pledge Forms.” Extra copies are available on the church pew in the narthex, as well as the church office. Simply fill out your forms and place them in the offering plate, or send them to the church office to Carolyn West, our secretary. Our elders depend on your commitments as they plan our ministries and our budget for this coming year.

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The Session, our governing board of elders, has changed its meeting date to the 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesdays this year. The elders will meet at 6:00 p.m. on February 21, March 21 and April 18.

# Christian Education

## Sunday School Teaching Schedule For February 2023

### Preschool/Elementary

|                  |                               |
|------------------|-------------------------------|
| 5 <sup>th</sup>  | Tammy Joyce                   |
| 12 <sup>th</sup> | Becky Childers/Kristen Miller |
| 19 <sup>th</sup> | Karen Tillman/Shelley Morgan  |
| 26 <sup>th</sup> | Jean Page Watson/Fred Harris  |

### Middle School/High School

|                  |                 |
|------------------|-----------------|
| 5 <sup>th</sup>  | Marietta Burch  |
| 12 <sup>th</sup> | Gina Goddard    |
| 19 <sup>th</sup> | Tracie Phillips |
| 26 <sup>th</sup> | Mary Anderson   |



## Fun Program Schedule For February 2023

Below is the meeting schedule for Fun Program Children:

|                                      |         |
|--------------------------------------|---------|
| Wednesday, February 1 <sup>st</sup>  | 3:00 pm |
| Wednesday, February 8 <sup>th</sup>  | 3:00 pm |
| Wednesday, February 15 <sup>th</sup> | 3:00 pm |
| Wednesday, February 22 <sup>nd</sup> | 3:00 pm |

**Parents please note: If we have bad weather and school is dismissed early or canceled - Fun Program will not meet.**



## Middle School and High School Youth Schedule for February 2023



Sunday, February 5<sup>th</sup> 4:15 pm - Florence to  
Trampoline Park

Sunday, February 12<sup>th</sup> 11:00 Worship -  
**Souper Bowl of Caring Sunday**  
6:00 pm Youth

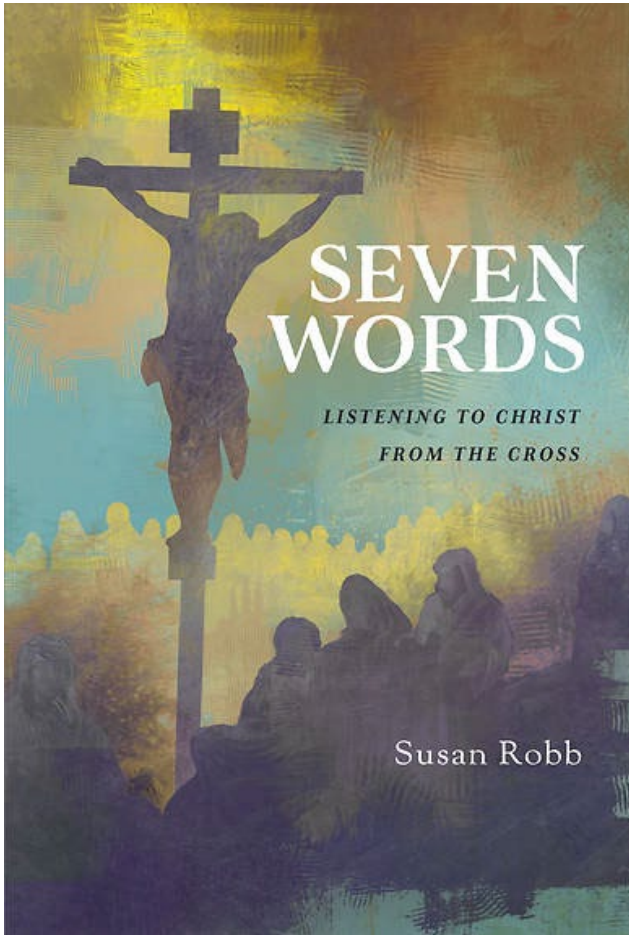
Sunday, February 19<sup>th</sup> 6:00 pm

Sunday, February 26<sup>th</sup> 6:00 pm

The first part of February is going to be busy. On Sunday, February 5<sup>th</sup> all youth are to meet at the church at 4:30 pm to go to Florence to the Trampoline Park. Afterwards, they will go and have supper. The church will be paying for the Trampoline Park and all youth need to bring money for their dinner. Calvin Phillips, Meredith Creech, and Katelyn Evans are in charge of the outing. If you have any questions, please contact Calvin Phillips.

Secondly, on Sunday, February 12<sup>th</sup> the youth will be doing the Souper Bowl of Caring. All Youth will need to be here that day for Worship and Youth will be stationed at all 4 doors to take any food items and monetary donations which will go to the McArn Food Bank.





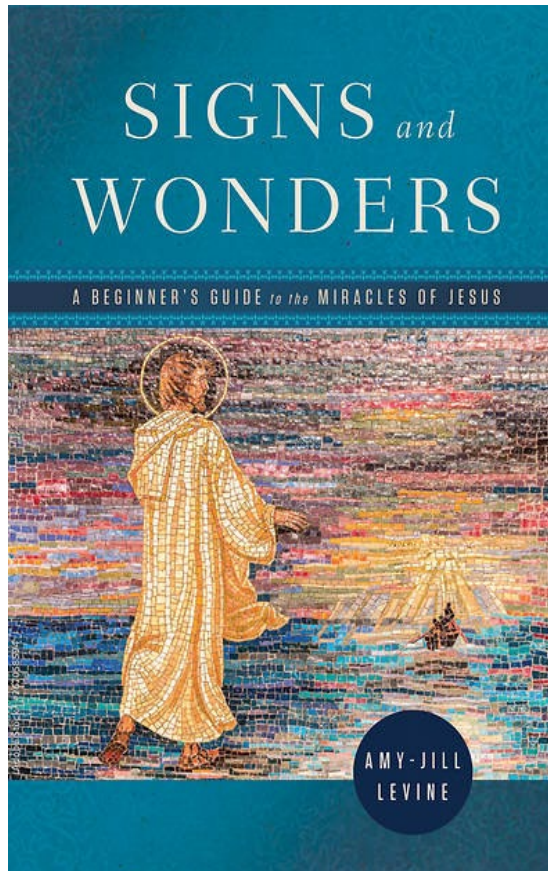
**PARLOR CLASS WILL BEGIN A  
NEW STUDY ON FEBRUARY 12<sup>TH</sup>**

**ENTITLED:**

**Seven Words by Susan Robb** The most difficult part of Lent is, of course, contemplating our Savior on the cross: the physical pain, the humiliation, and the undeniable injustice. Our hearts break. It's natural to try and avoid the reality of how Jesus died, but it is from the cross that Jesus shows his deepest love for us. As Jesus draws his final breath and utters his last words, it is then that his deep trust in the Father and his divine glory are revealed. This study looks at Christ's final words from a biblical and historical perspective, showing how we can find life and hope in them. Please join the Parlor Class on Sunday, February 12<sup>th</sup> as they begin this new study.

## *The Fellowship Class will begin two studies by Amy-Jill Levine*

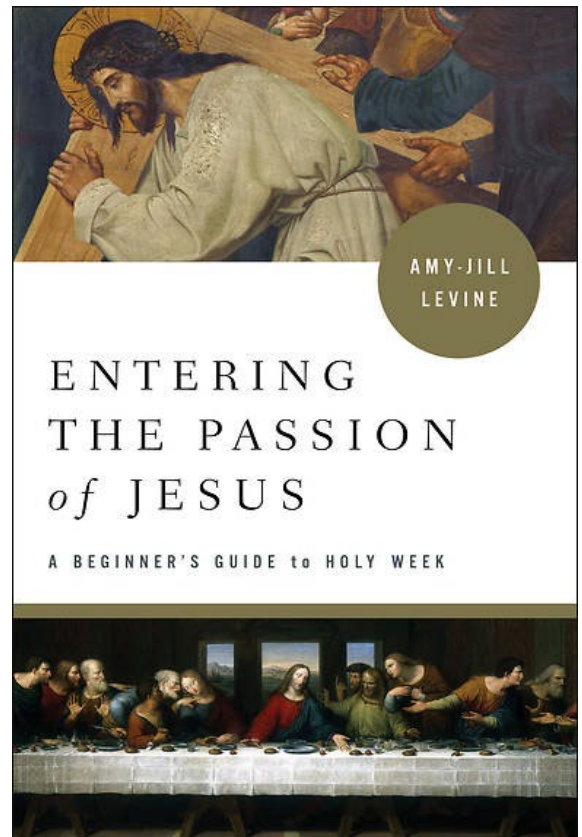
*The Class will begin with Signs and Wonders which looks at the miracles of Jesus. The first 2 lessons will be on Sunday, February 12<sup>th</sup> and Sunday, February 19<sup>th</sup>. Then on Sunday, February 26<sup>th</sup>, the Class will begin a Lenten Study entitled: Entering the Passion of Jesus.*



***Signs and Wonders:** Amy-Jill Levine explores selected miracles of Jesus in historical and theological context. For each miracle, she discusses not only how past witnesses would have understood the events, but also how today's readers can draw meaning from Jesus's words and actions.*

***Entering the Passion of Jesus:** Jesus' final days were full of risk. Every move he made was filled with anticipation, danger, and the potential for great loss or great reward. Jesus risked his reputation when he entered Jerusalem in a victory parade. He*

*risked his life when he dared to teach in the Temple. His followers risked everything when they left behind their homes or anointed him with costly perfume. We take risks as we read and re-read these stories, finding new meanings and new challenges. Author, professor, and biblical scholar Amy-Jill Levine explores the biblical texts surrounding the Passion story. She shows us how the text raises ethical and spiritual questions for the reader, and how we all face risk in our Christian experience.*



## *Prayer Changes Things*

Ellen Duvall  
 Bobby Polson  
 Meredith Hydrick's relative: Edward  
 Gerry Rogers (& Bobby); Ina Coggeshall  
 Atha Lou Gibson; Gray & Bea Sloop  
 Bennie and Benny Lou Moore;  
 Gina Goddard's dad: Gene Brymer  
 Dan Tillman's friends, Tammy Griffin (cancer)  
 Jodi Reid (cancer)  
 Craig Dubos  
 Patty Greene (relative of Carole Kennedy)  
 Beth O'Neal  
 Marion Murphy  
 Bobbie Jones  
 Vernon White  
 Cindy Aremia (friend of Grayson Cauthen)  
 Jim Conn , Monty Dodson, Elsie Rainey  
 (Shirley Brock's sister)

## *February Birthdays*

2-Jill Wentz  
 6-John Folger  
 8-Melanie Flynn  
 12-Sara Marie Jewart, Katelyn Evans  
 15-Barbara Dickson, Thomas Gulledege,  
 Michael Flynn  
 16-Susan Malloy, Harold Watson  
 17-Michael Hammer  
 20-Laura K. Folger

23-Cam Beck  
 25-Tom Hammer  
 27-Bill Malloy

## *February Calendar Of Events*

|    |          |                                  |
|----|----------|----------------------------------|
| 1  | 8:30 am  | MMO                              |
|    | 3:00 pm  | Fun Program                      |
| 5  | 10:00 am | Church School                    |
|    | 11:00 am | Worship (Communion)<br>Reception |
|    | 12:45 pm | Worship Team Meeting             |
|    | 5:30 pm  | Mission Outreach                 |
|    | 6:00 pm  | Youth                            |
| 6  | 8:30 am  | MMO                              |
| 7  | 12:00 pm | At Ease Luncheon                 |
|    | 5:30 pm  | Mission Outreach                 |
|    | 6:00 pm  | Worship Team Mtg.                |
| 8  | 8:30 am  | MMO                              |
|    | 10:00 am | PW Bible Study                   |
|    | 3:00 pm  | Fun Program                      |
| 12 | 10:00 am | Church School                    |
|    | 11:00 am | Worship                          |
|    | 6:00 pm  | Youth                            |
| 13 | 8:30 am  | MMO                              |
| 15 | 8:30 am  | MMO                              |
|    | 3:00 pm  | Fun Program                      |
| 19 | 10:00 am | Church School                    |
|    | 11:00 am | Worship                          |
|    | 6:00 pm  | Youth                            |
| 21 | 6:00 pm  | Session Meeting                  |
| 22 | 8:30 am  | MMO                              |
|    | 3:00 pm  | Fun Program                      |
|    | 6:00 pm  | Ash Wednesday Service            |
| 26 | 10:00 am | Church School                    |
|    | 11:00 am | Worship                          |
|    | 6:00 pm  | Youth                            |
| 27 | 8:30 am  | MMO                              |



The sympathy of the congregation is extended to the following:

Randy Jewart and his family upon the death of his mother, Rose Marie Jewart from Vandergrist, PA.

Melanie Flynn and her family upon the death of her sister, Kathryn Lynn White. Mrs. White passed away on Saturday, December 31, 2022.

The family of Russell E. Bennett, Jr., 96 years old from Southern Pines. Mr. Russell died on 1/1/2023. He was a former member of FPC.

The family of Mr. Joseph H. Witherspoon.

**McArn Food Bank:** hours of operation are 1-5 Thursday and Friday  
Items needed: cereal, bread, pasta, rice.

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The congratulations of the congregation are extended to Josh and Regina Evans upon the birth of their daughter, Allison James Evans, born January 10, 2023. Mary Jane and David Evans are the proud grandparents.

## Presbyterian Women News

Circle Assignments

Circle 1

February 5- Communion

February 19- Youth Supper

Circle 2

No Assignments

Satellite

No Assignments

Bible Study February 8 at 10:00am in the Fellowship Building

All Honorary Membership applications due on March 15. Please put them in Moderator MJ Evans box.

Looking Ahead

Circle 2 -March 5 Communion

Circle 2- March 19 Youth Supper



Bible Study is March 8.