

# Write the Word on Your Hearts

Deuteronomy 6:4-9

## A Pastoral Message

FROM DR. MIKE GARRETT

When we set out to celebrate our 225th year at First Presbyterian Church we wanted to celebrate the faith-filled gifts one generation gives to another:

*One generation commends your works to another; they tell of your mighty acts. (Psalm 145:4)*

The psalm reminds us how important that is with the story of our faith. As we come together on **August 24th, for Kick-Off Sunday**, we want to emphasize the responsibility we have to share the good news of God's grace with rising generations in our congregation. The book of Deuteronomy speaks eloquently of our calling:

*These commandments that I give you today are to be on your hearts. Impress them on your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up. (6:5-7)*

God's grace isn't a story to be told only on Sunday. This year how will you learn the story better? How will you tell the story better? How will you apply it to the hours between the time you rise up and lie down?

We can help! Please consider the opportunities for spiritual growth and discipleship that you will find in this newsletter. There's something for all ages offered at various times throughout the week. As you make commitments on your crowded calendar, make sure it includes a commitment to grow in the knowledge and love of God.

Our midweek adult learning opportunities will begin on Wednesday, September 10. Following our midweek dinner I'll be offering a short course called *"Managing Anxiety: Yours and Theirs"*. We'll explore how to bring the resources of our faith to the anxiety we so often sense in our souls.



I hope you will find an option that speaks to your heart and works in your schedule. By God's grace we have both a story to tell and a calling to tell it faithfully! Let's learn how to do that, together.

Blessings,

Mike





# Write the Word on Your Hearts

## Shaping lives through God's Word, from generation to generation.

As we prepare for a new season of learning, worship, and growth, we're reminded of the powerful words in Deuteronomy 6:4–9, where God commands His people to love Him fully and to pass on that love through intentional teaching and daily living. This call is not just for parents or teachers—it is for the entire community of faith. In the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), we affirm that Christian education is a lifelong, intergenerational journey. Whether you're 5 or 85, your life of faith matters and contributes to the growth and faith of others.

Deuteronomy 6 invites us to shape our lives around God's Word: "Talk about it at home and on the road, when you lie down and when you rise." It paints a picture of faith that is lived out in everyday moments, woven into our rhythms and relationships. The passage reminds us that teaching the next generation isn't just about formal lessons—it's about living what we believe and surrounding one another with reminders of God's presence and promises. At every stage of life, we are called to reflect God's love and help form a community that nurtures discipleship across generations.

One important way we live out this calling is by participating in Christian education opportunities—classes, studies, and gatherings where we deepen our understanding of Scripture, grow in our relationship with Christ, and encourage one another in faith. These settings help us engage with questions, share our stories, and become better equipped to live as disciples in the world. Attending and supporting these programs is not just for our personal benefit—it's part of our shared responsibility to build up the Body of Christ.

From Sunday School and small groups to youth and adult Bible studies, we're excited to grow in faith together. This is more than a new school year; it's a re-commitment to being a people shaped by God's Word in every season of life.

**Join us for Rally Day on August 24**, as we kick off our Christian Education year with worship, fellowship, and blessing. We begin at 9:00 AM with Worship in the Chapel. At 10:00 AM, enjoy a Pancake Breakfast in the Fellowship Hall, where David's Mighty Men will be serving and the Christian Education Committee will highlight learning opportunities for all ages. Children will create a gift for their school teachers, and booths will be available to help you connect and update our Online Directory.

At 11:00 AM in the Sanctuary, we'll continue in worship with the Commissioning of our Christian Education leaders and a shared Back-to-School Blessing over our learning community.

## Rally Day & Back-to-School Blessing

### Sunday, August 24

**Register for the pancake breakfast!**

*Join us as we kick-off the fall season of ministry and learning with a joyful day of worship, fellowship, and celebration!*

**9 a.m.** Worship in the Chapel

**10 a.m.** Pancake Breakfast in Fellowship Hall

Kids will create a teacher's gift.

**11 a.m.** Back-to-School Blessing

**Register for the Pancake Breakfast online at [bit.ly/FPC2025KickOff](https://bit.ly/FPC2025KickOff) or scan the QR Code.**

**August 24 is also Promotion Sunday!**

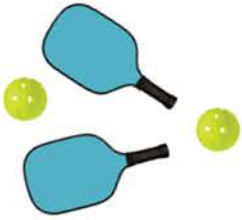
Children will move up to their next age group for Sunday School.

Kindergarteners join Elementary Sunday School and 6th graders join Youth Sunday School.





# PICKLEBALL IS COMING TO FIRST PREZ!



Join us for **Courtside Connections** —  
a fun, social pickleball night for all skill levels!



**Thursdays, beginning September 11  
6:00 to 8:00 p.m. in Fellowship Hall**

**Courtside Connections** is open to youth (middle school & up) and adults,  
and includes a short devotional each week.

**Come enjoy a fun evening of fellowship, friendly play, and grow in faith together.**

**We Need Your Help! To launch this ministry, we are looking for:**

- A team of facilitators to help organize and support weekly play
- Donations of equipment: paddles, balls, and a portable net

Donations can be dropped off at Britany Spivey's office during church office hours.

If you'd like to help as a facilitator or donate equipment/funds, please contact Britany at [britany@firstprez.com](mailto:britany@firstprez.com).

**Thank you for helping us build a ministry that  
brings people together in fellowship, fun, and faith!**



## H3 F BIRTHDAY BASH

FROM SIPPY CUPS TO DENTURES—everyone's INVITED!

**September 1 at 12 p.m.**



Congregational Care will provide the main course, drinks, and the **CAKE!**



SCAN ME!

Bring a side, salad, bread or dessert to share with 8-10 people.

**RSVP to the Birthday Bash today — because if you've got  
a birthday, you've got a reason to party!**

Visit [bit.ly/H3FBirthday](http://bit.ly/H3FBirthday) or scan the QR Code.



## **225th Anniversary Celebration Sunday: "From Generation to Generation"** **Sunday, September 7**

### **11 a.m. Worship Service**

Join us in worship on Sunday, September 7 to celebrate 225 years of worship here in this place with communion, a tribute to our Scottish Heritage, remembrance of the past, and a look forward to embracing our future. The Anniversary Celebration Service Music will include bagpipes, trumpet, flute, cello, handchimes, handbells, and combined choral works. The service music will premiere an anniversary work by Theodore Schwamm, "Teach Us, O God", and the anthem commissioned for the 200<sup>th</sup> Anniversary by Helen Kemp, "Come Children, and Join In Our Festival Song"

*There will be a meal following worship. Sign up coming soon!*

### **12 p.m. Celebration Luncheon in Fellowship Hall**

*More details and a registration will be announced soon!*

### **4:30 p.m. Historical Scavenger Hunt**

An intergenerational scavenger hunt around the grounds.  
Everyone is invited to join in the fun!

**2025**  
*Celebrating 225 years  
To God be the Glory!*



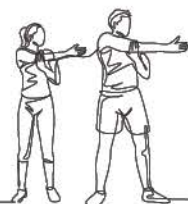


## SOUL STRIDERS

Meeting weekly on Wednesday mornings at 9 a.m. beginning September 3rd

Join us for a unique blend of faith and outdoor fitness designed specifically for moms! This "Scripture and Stroller" class offers a refreshing opportunity to nurture your soul while getting a fantastic workout, all with your little one(s) in tow.

**Sign up and more info coming soon!**



## Stretch & Scripture

Wednesday evenings beginning  
Sept 10 at 6:30 p.m.  
Open To Youth & Adults  
Led by Jess Jones

*Connect the physical with the spiritual.*

Classes will focus on exercising the body, mind, and spirit by integrating Scripture and Christian music while combining low-impact aerobics and gentle stretching. The class may include elements of floor-work and breathwork, creating a sense of peace and centering on Christ.

Participants are encouraged to bring a towel/yoga mat and yoga blocks.

**Sign up coming soon!**

### MANAGING ANXIETY:

YOURS & THEIRS

## WEDNESDAY NIGHT ADULT CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

with Dr. Mike Garrett

**Beginning September 10 at 6:30 p.m.**

Childcare will be provided.

Reactivity is contagious. It spreads within us as individuals until it becomes unmanageable, and it spreads like wildfire between people. Reactivity keeps us from encountering deep peace and freedom and it causes relational damage and stuck patterns.

But it doesn't have to be this way. With some careful observation, diagnostic tools, and practical habits, you can learn to flip the power dynamic and move from being managed by anxiety to managing it. You can lower reactivity in yourself and others and displace your anxiety with peace. You can be calm, aware, and present.

Anxiety carries a message that keeps you stuck and trapped, but you can learn to notice when you are living by that message of anxiety and replace it with a true belief of freedom and peace.

## Stewardship Corner: Honoring the Past, Preparing for the Future

This spring, we witnessed God's amazing faithfulness as our congregation united in an extraordinary way. Thanks to the devoted and generous hearts of many, our Spring Pledge Campaign successfully collected \$163,000 in new and updated pledges. We extend our heartfelt gratitude to everyone who pledged, prayed, and stepped out in faith. Your commitment to this ministry has made a significant impact that is both immediate and far-reaching.

As we look ahead to the fall and prepare for our 2026 Stewardship Campaign, we're also pausing to celebrate a remarkable milestone: the 225th anniversary of First Presbyterian Church. For over two centuries, our church has been a beacon of faith, hope, service, and compassion in Fayetteville and beyond. This anniversary is more than just a big number. It's an opportunity to honor our legacy, express gratitude for the many shoulders on which we stand, and contemplate how we will continue this mission in the years – and decades – to come.

Thank you again for your unwavering support of First Prez. As we honor our past and prepare for the future, may we continue to be a church defined and emboldened by faith, generosity, and hope.

—The Stewardship Committee





## End of Summer Bash at the Pool for Families!

Wednesday, August 13  
5 to 7:30 P.M.  
at Highland Country Club

Pool, splash pad & lifeguards on duty.

**Don't forget your swimsuit, towels & sunscreen!**



Scan me

Chicken fingers, watermelon & chips will be provided.  
Guardians of younger children, please plan to stay.

**RSVP by August 11.** Scan the QR Code or  
visit [bit.ly/PoolParty25](http://bit.ly/PoolParty25)

**All families are welcome—invite your friends!**



**"Come, Children, And  
Join In Our Festival Song"**

*Rehearsal and Lunch*

Sunday, August 24  
12:15 p.m. - 1:30 p.m.

First grade & up children, youth, hand-  
chime, and handbell ringers are invited to  
learn some very special music for the 225th  
anniversary worship celebration! *Lunch in the  
activity room, then rehearse in the choir room.*

## WE HOPE TO SEE YOU FOR KINGDOM KIDZ & S.U.R.G.E. YOUTH

(PRE K 3 THROUGH HIGH SCHOOL)

4:30-6:30PM EVERY SUNDAY NIGHT



**SURGE**

BIBLE STUDY, MUSIC, DINNER & FUN

• Sept. 7 - 225th Anniversary Scavenger Hunt

• Sept. 14

• Sept. 21

• Sept. 28

• Oct. 5

• Oct. 12 - Trunk or Treat

• Oct. 26

• Nov. 2

• Nov. 9

• Nov. 16

• Nov. 23

• Nov. 30

• Dec. 7

Kidz will sing during the  
11 a.m. worship on Sept. 7,  
Oct. 12, Nov. 16, and Dec. 7.

Check out  
this special  
opportunity to sing  
during worship!



Kingdom Kidz & S.U.R.G.E. Youth will take a break  
December 14 and resume January 4, 2026.

## New Children's Church Curriculum Launch

Starting this fall, we will be using a new curriculum  
for our Children's Church time. Whirl Curriculum is  
a Bible-based program designed to help children  
explore key Bible stories in ways that are age-  
appropriate and engaging. Each lesson follows  
a four-part sequence—Welcome, Hear, Respond,  
and Launch—making it ideal for Children's Church  
settings. Through animated videos and Bible  
storytelling, kids learn how to connect faith to  
real-life situations. Whirl also supports at-home  
learning, encouraging families to continue the  
conversation beyond Sunday.



## Help Us Feed the Fun! Sundays | 4:30 – 6:30 p.m.

Each week, our Kingdom Kidz and Youth group S.U.R.G.E.,  
gather for fun, faith, and fellowship—and one of the most  
meaningful parts of their time together is sharing a meal!

We need your help to keep this tradition going. Meals are  
made possible by our amazing volunteers, families, and  
church members. Would you consider signing up to provide  
dinner one Sunday this season?

Past favorites include:

Hot dogs • Tacos • Pizza • Pasta • Chicken tenders  
(Feel free to team up with another family!)



Sign up here!

Sign up today!

Visit [bit.ly/KidzMeal](http://bit.ly/KidzMeal) or scan the QR code.

**Have questions?**

Contact Brittany at [britany@firstprez.com](mailto:britany@firstprez.com) or  
Jessica Jones at [youth@firstprez.com](mailto:youth@firstprez.com).

Thank you for being a part of nurturing both the bodies and  
hearts of our young disciples!



## Join Jess & Britany for a new 10 a.m. Sunday School Class

### Parenting "Habits of the Household"

Are you longing for more peace and  
purpose in your home? Join us for *Habits*  
*of the Household*, a parenting Sunday School class that  
explores how to intentionally bring spiritual formation  
into your daily family routines. Based on Justin Whitmel  
Earley's practical and grace-filled approach, this study  
helps parents create simple rhythms—around mealtimes,  
bedtimes, discipline, and more—that shape your children's  
hearts and deepen your family's walk with God. Whether  
you're navigating toddlers or teens, this class offers encour-  
aging tools, guided discussions, and real-life strategies to  
help make your home a place of love, worship, and growth.  
**All are welcome!**





## Youth Mission Wrap Up

This summer, our youth focused their mission efforts locally. We partnered with Cumberland County Council for Older Adults and I Want To Mow Your Lawn to provide lawn care services to the elderly and disabled in our community, and Pastor Jeff. We also visited Fayetteville Urban Ministry and helped complete some projects around the church. Our youth met daily for devotionals to study God's vision behind our missions and truly reflect on what it means to be a servant. We finished the week with team building and a zipline adventure at ZipQuest.

I sincerely have to thank Britany Spivey, Dave Darden, Brian Pearce, Dorothy Armstrong, Matt Helmke, Jon Szopinski, and Christian Trotta for their leadership in this mission.

With a grateful heart,  
Jessica Jones

*For we are God's handiwork,  
created in Christ Jesus to do  
good works, which God prepared  
in advance for us to do.  
Ephesians 2:10*



### YOUTH SUNDAY SCHOOL

With the growing number of students struggling with mental health, we want to take the opportunity to engage this topic and bring the Gospel to bear on the conversation.

Let's learn together how to "Flourish" through anxiety, depression, forgiveness, and shame.

## GRACEFUL PRAISE

2<sup>ND</sup> GRADE & UP

Rehearsals

Sundays 3:15 to 4:15

September 14\*, 21, 28 & October 5

\*Costume fittings on Sept 14.

Worship Participation on  
Sunday, October 12 at 11 a.m.

*We're back to continue  
what we started!*

Join us as we finish the liturgical  
dance piece we started in the spring.

# reframe

## S.U.R.G.E. FALL STUDY

This fall S.U.R.G.E. will be using Reframe curriculum to engage our youth in biblically faithful, culturally relevant, and meaningful conversations regarding...

### IDENTITY

The labels we give ourselves, others, and the labels given by God.

### EMOTIONS

Fear, Anger, Sadness, Love

### SPIRITUAL FORMATIONS

Living, Prayer, Presence, Listening

"Reframe curriculum aims to equip youth with the knowledge, skills, and values necessary for them to embrace a faith that has both theological and practical significance in their life, in order for them to be strong Christian leaders in today's society."

labels







<b>1 Bella Gutierrez</b>	<b>18 Julia McFadyen</b>
<b>2 Alan Ray</b>	<b>19 Jackson McBryde</b>
<b>2 Alex Hammill</b>	<b>19 Bill Hathaway</b>
<b>3 Tad Prewitt</b>	<b>20 Mary Beth McCoy</b>
<b>3 Brooke Deaton</b>	<b>20 Terry Plummer</b>
<b>4 Shirley Stevens</b>	<b>20 Austin Taylor</b>
<b>4 Amanda Viverette</b>	<b>21 Roger Holmes</b>
<b>5 Pamela Chan</b>	<b>21 Chris Aul</b>
<b>5 David Datkuliak</b>	<b>21 Serriah Ciccone</b>
<b>5 Madison Spivey</b>	<b>21 Gerald Montero</b>
<b>6 Will Cotty</b>	<b>22 Amanda Holmes</b>
<b>6 Connor Barnes</b>	<b>22 Marilyn Britt</b>
<b>7 Pat McNeill</b>	<b>22 Mary Kelly Smith</b>
<b>7 Pam Senter</b>	<b>22 Scarlett Johnson</b>
<b>7 Jim Crenshaw</b>	<b>23 Terry Sasser</b>
<b>7 Chris Foster</b>	<b>23 Kelly Baileys</b>
<b>7 Casey Yates</b>	<b>24 Steve Horosko</b>
<b>8 Crawford MacKethan</b>	<b>24 Clayton Kaminska</b>
<b>9 Claire Galt</b>	<b>26 Mary Spires</b>
<b>9 Lilly Deaton</b>	<b>26 Jeanne Harbison</b>
<b>10 Grant Stiles</b>	<b>27 Art Bisbee</b>
<b>10 Andy Napoli</b>	<b>27 Lilly MacKethan</b>
<b>11 Chris Megill</b>	<b>27 Randa Dunn</b>
<b>12 David Allred</b>	<b>28 Vicki Kelly</b>
<b>12 Richard Sneed</b>	<b>28 Bruce Carlton</b>
<b>12 Kyle Bisbee</b>	<b>28 Ashley Baltz</b>
<b>12 Jordan Brown</b>	<b>29 Tyler Blue</b>
<b>14 Buddy Wilkins</b>	<b>29 Olaira Birk</b>
<b>14 Joshua Wright</b>	<b>30 Shannon Strong</b>
<b>15 Al Cromartie</b>	<b>31 Beverly Stewart</b>
<b>16 Sandra Herndon</b>	<b>31 Dilia Martins</b>
<b>16 Lauren Holmes</b>	
<b>16 Donald Wherren</b>	
<b>16 Sean Kelly</b>	
<b>17 Skyler Campbell</b>	

Happy  
BIRTHDAY!



## A LOOK AHEAD...

- |               |   |
|---------------|---|
| <b>Aug 3</b>  | • Choir Council Meeting                   |
| <b>Aug 4</b>  | • Engagement Committee Meeting            |
|               | • Mission Committee Meeting               |
| <b>Aug 5</b>  | • S.A.L.T. breakfast at JK's              |
|               | • Congregational Care Meeting             |
|               | • Worship Committee Meeting               |
|               | • C. E. Committee Meeting                 |
| <b>Aug 6</b>  | • Property Committee Meeting              |
| <b>Aug 9</b>  | • Hands on Mission Activities             |
| <b>Aug 10</b> | • Mini Mission Conference speakers        |
|               | • Hot Dog & Ice Cream Social              |
| <b>Aug 12</b> | • Finance Committee Meeting               |
|               | • Anniversary Planning Committee Meeting  |
|               | • Stated Deacons Meeting                  |
| <b>Aug 13</b> | • End of Summer Pool Party                |
| <b>Aug 17</b> | • Summer Choir Rehearsal                  |
| <b>Aug 18</b> | • Personnel Committee Meeting             |
| <b>Aug 19</b> | • Stated Session Meeting                  |
| <b>Aug 23</b> | • Jubilate Deo Kick-Off Rehearsal         |
| <b>Aug 24</b> | • Rally Day                               |
|               | • Pancake Breakfast                       |
|               | • Back to School Blessing                 |
|               | • Children's Anthem Anniversary Rehearsal |
| <b>Aug 25</b> | • David's Mighty Men                      |
| <b>Aug 26</b> | • COAP Meeting (Zoom)                     |
| <b>Aug 29</b> | • Lowlanders Meeting                      |
| <b>Sep 1</b>  | • Church Office closed                    |
|               | • H3 F Birthday Bash                      |
| <b>Sep 2</b>  | • S.A.L.T. breakfast at JK's              |
| <b>Sep 3</b>  | • All In Fellowship Meals begin           |
|               | • Adult Christian Education classes begin |
| <b>Sep 7</b>  | • 225th Anniversary Celebration           |
|               | • Historical Scavenger Hunt               |
|               | • Kingdom Kidz & S.U.R.G.E. resume        |

## Memorials

Charlotte McLaurin

Sammy & Carol Short  
Warren & Sue Godwin-Baker  
Mary Ann Tally

Ricky Huff

Ann Highsmith  
William Leon Senter

Carol Conklin

Ann Highsmith

## LOWLANDERS

A Young Professionals and Families Small Group

**WILL MEET AT  
MADELINE MCFADYEN'S  
HOME ON  
AUGUST 29  
AT 5:30 P.M.**



## FIRST PRESS

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PERIODICALS

## THE SNACK KIT MINISTRY NEEDS YOUR HELP!



As we prepare for the 2025–2026 school year, we are in need of support in providing snacks kits for students of Walker Spivey Elementary School. With your help, we can ensure every student has access to the nourishment they need to succeed.

### SNACK KIT ITEMS NEEDED 2025-2026 SCHOOL YEAR:

- Campbell's Condensed Chicken Noodle Soup 10.75 oz cans
- Chef Boyardee Beef Ravioli 15 oz. cans
- Dole Cherry Mixed Fruit Bowls, 4 oz. cups
- Kool-Aid Jammers Juice Pouches, 6 fl. oz.
- Kraft Original Macaroni and Cheese Easy Microwavable Dinner, 2.05 oz.
- Nutri-Grain Bars, 1.3 oz. individually wrapped bars
- Pop-Tarts, Frosted, 2 pastries per package
- Quaker Instant Oatmeal Pack, 1.51 oz. (any flavor)
- Snack Pack 3.25 oz. Pudding Cups
- Van Camp's Beanee Weenee 7.75 oz. cans
- Welch's Mixed Fruit Snacks, 0.8 oz. pouches
- Yoo-hoo Chocolate Drink, 6.5 oz. drink boxes
- Ziploc Gallon Storage Bags

**Food donations are greatly appreciated and can be left in Eller Hall or upstairs near the Snack Kit room (#416).**

## Community Caring in Action: Help Walker Spivey Kids Start School Strong

Local Relief Missions will be attending the Walker Spivey Elementary School Open House this August to support families in need. We are collecting school supplies for the 2025–2026 school year and want to ensure that every student starts the year with the tools they need to succeed. Donations can be dropped off outside of the Snack Kit room (#416).

### STUDENT NEEDS:

School Book Bags/Backpacks  
Pencils  
Pencil Pouches  
Pencil Sharpeners  
Erasers  
24ct Crayons  
Colored Pencils  
Highlighters  
Children's Scissors  
Compositions Books  
Post It Notes  
Ruled Notebook Paper  
Wide Ruled Notebook Paper

### TEACHER WISH LIST:

Kleenex  
Quart Ziploc Bags  
Gallon Ziploc Bags  
Disinfectant Wipes  
Band Aids



Our mission at First Presbyterian Church is to **serve** Jesus Christ and **share** His gospel through meaningful worship, loving fellowship, spiritual growth, and compassionate outreach within our community and throughout the world.