

# FIRST CHRONICLE



## A MESSAGE FROM PATRICK

As we move into the heart of summer, I'm grateful for the abundant life of our church community. June was truly a month of celebration and new beginnings.

What a joy it was to witness the ordination and installation of our new officers! And Pentecost was so special as we recognized our 5th graders, celebrated the baptism of Evan Teeters, and gathered for a delightful church picnic that strengthened our bonds of fellowship. Then, at the end of the month, we welcomed Elizabeth LaJeunesse as our new music director. How blessed we are! Look for pictures that tell these stories in the pages that follow.

July promises to be a month of continued growth and connection. Our middle school and high school youth will soon embark on their trips to Massanetta and Montreat - weeks of intentional spiritual retreat that will shape their hearts, build bonds, and leave lasting memories. I encourage all of us to keep our youth in our prayers as they journey together this summer.

Summer also brings opportunities for fellowship and fun! Mark your calendars for our outing to the Tourists baseball game on July 18. Also, on July 13, we'll have a great opportunity to get to know Elizabeth better during a special faith formation hour and reception following our late service.

July delivers the warmth of summer - not just in temperature, but in the countless ways we experience God's love. I give thanks for the warm embrace of God's love in Christ, the warmth of our congregation's ministry and mission, and the joy of gathering together in worship.

I look forward to seeing you soon,

Patrick

### A LOOK INSIDE:

**Liturgical Arts & Creation Care p. 2**  
**Gallery & Baseball Game p. 3**  
**Pentecost Images p. 4**  
**Pop-Up Choirs & Youth Trip p. 5**  
**Faith & Formation pp. 6-7**  
**Celebrating 5<sup>th</sup> Graders p. 8**  
**Summer Book Club p. 9**  
**Church Retreat pp. 10-11**  
**Mark Your Calendars p. 12**

# ORDINARY TIME AND LITURGICAL ARTS



The season of Ordinary Time in the church calendar is not "ordinary" at all! The high seasons of the church year -- Advent, Christmas, Epiphany; Lent, Easter, Pentecost -- focus on some of the most important events in the life of Jesus: his birth, ministry, death, and resurrection. In between those seasons we celebrate Ordinary Time, a time to focus on both the ministry of Jesus and our own lives of discipleship.

The color for Ordinary Time is green, in all its shades and variations. This makes clear that we are in a season of growth which is unique to each of us, but together we are an extraordinary garden.

## CREATION CARE TEAM

You have a wonderful opportunity to become part of the world's largest campaign to reduce plastic waste. Local communities everywhere will be participating in Plastic Free July with the goal of moving towards a sustainable future by choosing to not use single-use plastic.

We can and must take action to mitigate the ongoing plastic pollution problem in Western North Carolina. Plastic Free WNC's website states "Plastics, especially single-use plastics, are clogging up our rivers and streams, posing grave threats to native biodiversity and overall ecosystem health."

Mountain True, Creation Care Alliance, Sierra Club, and River Link are some of the local organizations that will partner in this effort. Mountain True has conducted microplastic sampling throughout the French Broad and other WNC watersheds.

Plastic Free WNC has compiled a helpful list of 31 ways to reduce your single use plastics that include an alternative way to meet your needs. More information will be shared in our weekly Eco-tips.

### DID YOU KNOW:

**Our denomination has several different email new sources to keep abreast of news through the lens of faith and social action? Follow the QR code below to see the different options available with daily, weekly, and monthly options.**





# GALLERY EXHIBIT TOTEM PAINTINGS: FAMILY, SPIRIT AND CULTURE



In this exhibition, ten artists reimagine the concept of totems, exploring themes of family, spirit, and culture. Most pieces adhere to a 9" x 72" format, echoing traditional totem shapes while allowing for diverse artistic expressions.

Totems have long symbolized connections between people, nature, and ideas. Our artists draw on this rich history, presenting works that reflect on identity, heritage, nature and community in contemporary contexts.

Through various mediums and styles, these modern totems invite viewers to contemplate their own connections to family and culture. As you explore the exhibition, consider how these vertical forms convey personal narratives and universal themes within a shared visual language.

These artists are showing at Pink Dog Creative in the River Arts District.

## FPCA BASEBALL

### Take us out to the ballpark!

FPCA is headed to the Tourists baseball game on July 18th, 6:30 pm.

Suggested donation for tickets is \$10 and children free! There are limited tickets so sign up today!

RSVP by July 7 to [life@fpcasheville.org](mailto:life@fpcasheville.org).

Please note due to construction the parking at the ballfield is even more limited than usual.

**FPCA Goes to the *Ballgame!***

**July 18th**  
**Tourists vs.**  
**Bowling**  
**Green**

**6:30 pm**  
**RSVP by July 7.**  
**Limited Tickets**

**Fireworks**  
**& Dollar Hotdogs!**



# IMAGES FROM PENTECOST SUNDAY

Thank you to all who attended and helped make the services and picnic a fun and memorable gathering!





# SING THIS SUMMER WITH OUR POP-UP CHOIR!

## TWO SUMMER OPPORTUNITIES: JULY 20 & AUGUST 10

Miss singing with the choir while it's on summer break? Love to sing but can't commit to a full choir season? Want to get to know our new music director? Our Pop-Up Choir is the perfect chance to lift your voice in worship without the midweek rehearsals!

Join us on Sunday, July 20 and/or Sunday, August 10 for two special opportunities to sing with our new Director of Music, Elizabeth LaJeunesse. All you need to do is show up early on Sunday morning for a brief rehearsal before worship. No robe, no weeknight rehearsal just the joy of singing together in community.

Whether you're a longtime choir member eager to pop back in for a Sunday, or someone who's always wanted to try choir without a big commitment, the Pop-Up Choir is a great way to share your gifts and experience the joy of choral singing.

Come sing your heart out, no strings attached!

Questions? Contact Elizabeth at [elajeunesse@fpcasheville.org](mailto:elajeunesse@fpcasheville.org) or just show up a little early on those Sundays, we'd love to have you!



New Music Director Elizabeth LaJeunesse.

## IMAGES FROM YOUTH TRIP TO MEMPHIS



The Youth had a wonderful trip to Memphis. More images and reflections to come in next month's newsletter.

# SUMMER IN FAITH FORMATION: STAY CURIOUS, STAY CONNECTED

## CLASSES SUNDAYS AT 9:45 AM

The Faith Formation Committee has an exciting summer planned—and we hope you'll be part of it! Whether you're in town or on the road, there are meaningful ways for all ages to stay rooted in faith, community, and curiosity.

### Summer Faith Formation for Young Children

Our 4-week Summer Series for Young Children (age 3-2nd grade) continues this month. In July we will meet on July 13, 20, and 27 at 9:45. Each week, children will engage with Jesus' teachings through stories, songs, and outdoor play. Older elementary aged children can connect with one another through supervised play on the Children's Hall. Then in August, we'll gather for a special intergenerational class in the Fellowship Hall—a great chance for all ages to learn and grow together.

Every week, nursery care is always available for younger (and older) children as needed. Questions? Contact Caitlin Johnson at [cjohnson@fpcasheville.org](mailto:cjohnson@fpcasheville.org)



Some artists explaining their process to Diane and Mark Rehfield on the Curiosity Quest during our Pentecost celebration! This art installation was painted by the children who were part of our Wednesday night programming!



## Youth—Percolating Presbies

Youth have some great chances to connect this summer around Memphis, Massenetta, and Montreat! The Percolating Presbies group will meet most Sundays in July (except July 6 when they will join the Intergenerational Faith and Fellowship Class in the Fellowship Hall) for relaxed conversation and connection.

### TEXT TALK (ROOM 112)

Want to dig deeper into the sermon text? Text Talk continues through July and then takes a break in August. This discussion is perfect for those looking to reflect more deeply on the morning's scripture.

## Faith & Fellowship Class: Music and Worship

In July, Faith & Fellowship Class explores the power of song and worship in our spiritual lives with a class called "Sing a New Song." Of special note is on July 13 we will have our new Music Director, Elizabeth LaJeunesse leading this class! We hope you will be there to meet and greet her and hear a bit about who she is and what she hopes for at FPCA.

Wherever you find yourself this summer, we invite you to stay connected, stay curious, and stay grounded in community.

### July 6 – *Sing, Say, or Act It!* Intergenerational Game Day

Join us for a joyful morning of music, laughter, and play! Teams will guess Bible and worship songs by singing, giving clues, or acting them out, no musical talent required. A fun way for all ages to connect through faith and song.

### July 13 – Meet & Greet: Elizabeth LaJeunesse

Come enjoy a casual morning of conversation and connection with our new Director of Music, Elizabeth LaJeunesse. Learn about her passion for music and worship, and help us give her a warm welcome to our church community!

### July 20 – A New View of Worship

What happens when we take a deeper dive into the meaning of worship and our call to lead? Donna Ensley, FPCA elder and graduate of the Presbytery's Church Leadership School (CLS), will share insights from her two-year journey through this dynamic program that equips everyday people to serve, lead, and even preach in worship. Come hear how the experience transformed her understanding of worship and how it might inspire your own path of worship, faith and leadership.

### July 27 – Sing New Creation

What does hope sound like? Our final session turns to Revelation 7 and the songs of the saints, imagining God's new creation where all peoples join in praise. Join us in envisioning and embodying the harmony of God's future today.

## Celebrating Our Fifth Graders



On Pentecost, we marked the end of the Godly Play program year at 9:45 and recognized four graduating 5th grade students in worship at 11. We celebrated the presence of Wesley Burdette, Serena Friend, Bayard Starun, and Byron Trunnel in our church, noting their worship leadership and significant gifts. As they prepare to move from Godly Play to Youth Ministry this summer and fall, we sent them with four gifts to remember their time in Godly Play:

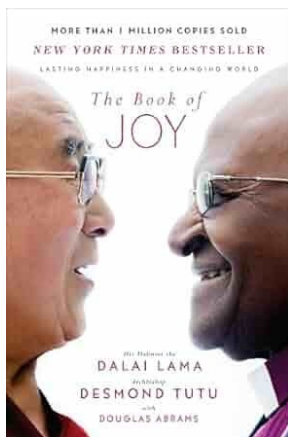
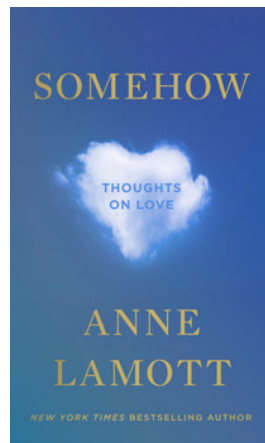
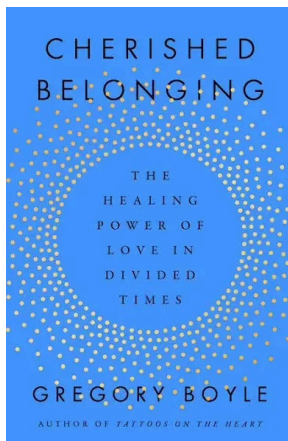
- A package of Goldfish crackers because some of the best conversations in Godly Play were had over snacks.
- A wooden figure from our Godly Play room to remind them that their identity as God's beloved people goes with them wherever they go.
- A small golden box that holds the parable of the Good Shepherd just like the one in their Godly Play room. They are known, loved, and safely held in God's care everywhere their journey takes them.
- A Bible of their own. The stories and sharing begun in Godly Play are far from over – they will continue to discover God's love, get to know Jesus, and follow the leading of the Holy Spirit as they read scripture alongside this community.

Our congregation stood to affirm and celebrate Wesley, Serena, Bayard, and Byron, promising their continued support as they explore faith in new ways with our youth ministry. Thanks be to God for the presence of young people in our midst and for a congregation ready to recognize their gifts!



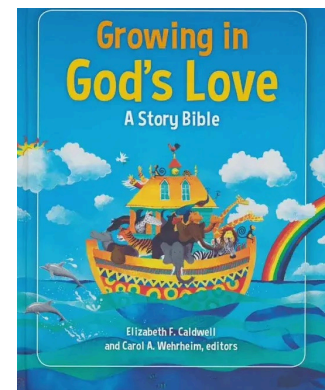
## Summer Book Club: Read, Reflect, Return

Take your faith formation with you this summer—wherever you go! Join our Summer Book Club and read at your own pace while on vacation or lounging at home. Then, come back together on Saturday, August 24 for a lively conversation with others who read the same book. Want to connect with fellow readers before then? Let Shannon know, and she'll help you find your book buddies! For more information on the books: [fpcasheville.org/summerbookclub](http://fpcasheville.org/summerbookclub)



## NEED A PASTOR? WE'RE HERE FOR YOU.

Caring for our congregation is one of the privileges of being your pastor. If you would like to speak with Patrick, David, or Shannon, please call the church office at 828-253-1431. For urgent needs after hours, call the same number and choose option 5 to reach the pastor on call. If you have a non-emergency prayer list request, you can call the church office during business hours or email us at [life@fpcasheville.org](mailto:life@fpcasheville.org).



# COME AWAY TOGETHER: 5 REASONS TO SIGN UP FOR THE CHURCH RETREAT TODAY!



## 1) Reconnect with Your Church Family

Whether you've come every year or this would be your first, Montreat is where memories are made and relationships deepen.

## 2) Rest, Reflect, and Renew

Step away from the noise of daily life and settle into the peace of the mountains—with time for worship, learning, laughter, and stillness.

## 3) Something for Everyone

Programs for children, youth, and adults—plus intergenerational fun. Whether you're 5 or 95, there's space for you.

## 4) Be Inspired

We're thrilled to welcome Rev. Dr. Kimberly Wagner from Princeton Theological Seminary as our retreat leader, guiding us in a weekend of hope and healing.

## 5) Rooms Are Filling Fast!

Overnight registration open until July 1. Commuter registration open through Sept. 1. Interested in the overnight option but miss the deadline? Check with Nancy McNeill at [life@fpcasheville.org](mailto:life@fpcasheville.org) to inquire about last minute availability.

## Register Now!

Contact Shannon for more information at [life@fpcasheville.org](mailto:life@fpcasheville.org).

Register at: <https://fpcasheville.org/church-retreat/>





# REGISTER NOW

Let this be the year we come together, one year out from the storm, as a visible witness to the resilience and grace of God at work among us.

The retreat begins Friday night, October 3, 2025, with a kickoff dinner and ends after worship on Sunday, October 5, 2025. Please see the linked form for costs. Sign-ups for overnight attendees ends on July 1, 2025; check with Nancy McNeill at [life@fpcasheville.org](mailto:life@fpcasheville.org) to inquire about last minute availability. Sign-ups for commuters due by September 1, 2025. Final payment is due by September 20, 2025. You can sign up online or during coffee hour on Sunday mornings.

Costs:

- Overnight: Two Nights, One adult \$195.00
- Overnight: two Nights, Two adults 1st Adult \$165.00 and second adult \$165.00
- Commuter Adult-\$80, Children 5 and under, Free. Children 6-11 \$30, Youth 12-17 \$55.00
- Family Discount 10% off per person for families of 3 or more.
- Full and partial scholarships are available, please reach out to Shannon if needed. If you would like to support a scholarship, please let us know.

## Register Now!

Register at: <https://fpcasheville.org/church-retreat/>



# UPCOMING EVENTS

Mark Your Calendars for These Special Events

Sunday, July 13, 2025

Music Director Elizabeth Lajeunesse Faith & Fellowship Meet & Greet, and Welcome Reception

Friday, July 18, 2025

FPCA Baseball Night at the Tourists Ballpark, 6:30pm.

Sunday, July 20, 2025

Pop-Up Choir

Sunday, August 10, 2025

Pop-Up Choir

Sunday, August 24, 2025

Summer Book Club Luncheon

Sunday, September 14, 2025

Kick-Off Sunday

Friday, October 3- Sunday, October 5, 2025

Church Retreat at Montreat Conference Center.



FPCA members enjoying a picnic on the patio on Pentecost Sunday.