



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH ASHEVILLE

SUMMER 2026

The First Chronicle

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CELEBRATION SUNDAY & CHURCH PICNIC Sunday, Jun. 7 | Noon

We will provide the main dish (grilled hot dogs, hamburgers, and veggie burgers) and dessert (from Sunshine Sammies!). **You're invited to bring a side dish to share.** Drop off dishes earlier that morning in the foyer. Casual dress is encouraged. Picnic lunch is served in the fellowship hall, enjoy sitting inside, or on the patio, Sunshine Sammies in the circle drive, and the playground will be open for activities.

A Message from Patrick

As we move into the summer months, I find myself full of gratitude for this congregation, for the work we share, who we are as siblings in Christ, and for the remarkable season of ministry we are in together.

Let's begin with joy. On May 31, during our 11 am worship, we will have the privilege of celebrating three confirmands who are making a profession of faith and becoming active members of the body of Christ. There are few moments in congregational life more moving than watching someone stand before this community, claim their place, and most importantly claim the One who has already claimed them. Please join me in celebrating this important step in their lives!

That same morning at 10:45 am, our congregation will gather in the sanctuary to elect new officers. I am always deeply grateful when people answer the call to serve, and I am so thankful for the elder and deacon nominees who are stepping forward into this season of ministry. Serving in these roles is a huge commitment of energy, imagination, intelligence, and love. They deserve our prayers and our gratitude.

On June 7, we gather for our annual church picnic, which is always lots of fun. But this year it carries special meaning because we will also celebrate **the conclusion of the Building a Wider Welcome campaign**. I have been humbled and encouraged by the enthusiasm and generosity of this congregation in ways that are staggering. My sincere hope is that every household in our congregation will be part of this effort. Together, we are planting seeds for the future.

June also marks a milestone to celebrate: the one-year anniversary of Elizabeth LaJeunesse joining our team as Music Director. I am so grateful for



A Message from Patrick (Continued)

her gifts, her collaborative spirit, and the way she has led our music ministry this past year. If you haven't told her how much she means to this congregation, now is a great time to do so!

This summer, I look forward to seeing you in worship. We are fortunate that summer attendance here tends to be strong, and it's easy to understand why. The mountains are the place to be this time of year, and many of us are here as much as we can be. We also welcome many visitors: travelers passing through, people exploring what it might mean to move here, folks looking for a church home. I encourage each of you to invite friends and neighbors, and to offer the kind of warm, genuine welcome that is a hallmark of radical hospitality.

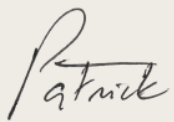
Around our campus this summer, you will begin to notice some preconstruction activity near our Narthex and Commons areas. Our contractor, Beverly-Grant, will be conducting selective investigative work to gather information that will help us finalize construction plans and timelines. This is an exciting step! The vision is becoming real.

Finally, a word about our Guatemala mission trip. We had a wonderful group prepared to travel this summer to visit our sister congregation, Eben Ezer Church in La Blanca. Unfortunately, we made the difficult decision to cancel. The political situation in Guatemala is volatile, and particularly so in the San Marcos district where La Blanca is located. State Department safety warnings, combined with caution from local contacts and the presence of youth in our group, made it clear that this was not the right time to go. Our partners there are not in danger, but travel by U.S. citizens carries real risk right now, and we are not willing to take that risk with our folks.

That said: just because we cannot travel to see them does not mean we cannot be present with them. Over the coming months, we will find ways to stay connected, through cards, videos, and other creative means. Watch for more information on how you can be part of that. They are our siblings in Christ, and distance does not change that. We hope and plan to make this trip next year.

What a season this is. There is so much to celebrate, so much to do, and so much to look forward to. I am grateful beyond measure to do this work alongside you!

Grace and peace,



BUILDING A WIDER WELCOME: THE WORK BEGINS!



After months of planning and years of dreaming, we are thrilled to share that the construction phase of **Building a Wider Welcome** is officially underway.

In April, the Architect Design Committee solicited proposals from several contractors, each of whom responded with strong interest. After extensively interviewing three finalists, with invaluable support from our architect, John Yurko, the committee unanimously recommended Beverly-Grant Construction. The Session affirmed that recommendation in May, voting to enter into a preconstruction contract with them.

This summer, you will begin to see the first visible signs of that work. Beverly-Grant will be conducting selective investigative work around our narthex and Commons areas, gathering the information needed to finalize construction plans and timelines before the full build begins. It is exciting to watch this vision move from dream to drawing board to reality! Thank you for making it possible.

Music & Worship



SUMMER CHOIR STARTS JUNE 14

While the Chancel Choir gets a much-deserved break from rehearsals over the summer, the choir is not on vacation! This year, **Summer Choir Sundays** will be the 2nd and 4th weeks of June (14, 28), July (12, 26), and August (9, 23), and all are welcome to join us. In the style of pop-up choir, we will meet at 10 am in the chancel to learn an anthem for that morning. Come to one or two or all, and invite a friend! No RSVP necessary.

HANDBELL SUNDAY ON JUNE 21

If you have handbell experience, it's not too late to sign up to ring this summer! Rehearsals will be on Sunday afternoon, Jun. 14, and Wednesday evening, Jun. 17. We'll learn a couple of more challenging pieces to play at the 11 am service on Jun. 21, and maybe even accompany a congregational hymn.

ORFF SUNDAY — ALL ARE WELCOME!

On Aug. 16 at the 11 am service, we'll be putting together an ensemble of Orff instruments. What are Orff instruments, you ask? Those xylophone-like instruments that you probably played in elementary school that are oh-so-versatile! Anyone can play, even if you don't read music. Contact Elizabeth if you'd like to revisit your childhood music experience and be part of the fun!

Interested in any of these musical happenings? Reach out to Elizabeth at elajeunesse@fpcasheville.org to ask questions or get involved!



CHORISTER CORNER

Save the date! Just as summer comes to a close and we're gearing up for another eventful program year here at FPCA, we have a special opportunity for our Choristers! On **Sunday afternoon, Sept. 20**, Dr. Kari Adams, Professor of Music Education at UNCG, will come to work with children (in grades 1–5) from FPCA, Central, and Trinity for a Church Street Chorister Mini-Festival. Dr. Adams will also work with the Chancel Choir that morning.

More details to come in August, but please put this afternoon on your calendar—you won't want to miss it!

INSTRUMENTALISTS: WE WANT YOU

Consider sharing your musical gifts in worship this summer! From violin to tuba, and anything in between—if you would like to play a solo piece as a prelude to worship at 8:45 or 11 am, contact Elizabeth to get on the calendar!

CHARLOTTE BRONZE HANDBELL ENSEMBLE PRESENTS

HYMNS OF GRATEFUL PRAISE

- Friday, June 19th, 2026 - First Presbyterian Church Asheville, NC - 6:30pm
- Saturday, June 20th, 2026 - Grace Lutheran Church Hendersonville, NC - 4pm*

*Partnership Concert with The Carol Ringers of Annandale, VA



LISTENING LIBRARY

On June 19 at 6:30 p.m., Charlotte Bronze Handbell Ensemble will give a free concert in our sanctuary. Their program, entitled "Hymns of Grateful Praise," is sure to include something for everyone.

Check out this recent performance to get a preview of what seven octaves of bells sounds like!



Adult Faith Formation

SUNDAY MORNINGS

Join us this summer for conversation, learning, and connection. Faith Formation will meet on Sundays from 9:45 to 10:45 am in Room 112 during June and July, with a special intergenerational gathering in August in the fellowship hall. All are welcome.

- In June, **Text Talk** will host the class, offering engaging discussion around scripture and faith.
- In July, **Faith & Fellowship** will lead the series with thoughtful conversation and community.
- During August, the Faith Formation Team will host a **fun and interactive intergenerational class** in the fellowship hall designed for all ages to learn and connect together.

Whether you attend every week or drop in occasionally, we hope you will join us this summer.

MID-WEEK OFFERINGS

MEN'S GROUP – WEDNESDAY MORNINGS AT 9 AM

A weekly gathering for men to connect, reflect on topics around life and faith, and share life together.



Youth & Young Adult Faith Formation

YOUTH MINISTRY

The youth of FPCA are gearing up for another meaningful summer of trips and opportunities for engagement!

- We hope the entire congregation will join us on May 29 (at 6 pm in the Sanctuary) for **“An Evening with Holy Fools.”**
- Please hold our senior high youth (and adult leaders) in prayer during our annual **Montreat Youth Conference**, Jun. 14–20.
- Please hold our middle school youth (and adult leaders) in prayer during our **Massanetta Springs Middle School Conference** experience, Jul. 14–17.
- Our 2026 Guatemala trip has been cancelled due to safety concerns in the region of our sister congregation, Eben Ezer in La Blanca, but we are excited to serve and **participate in mission together** in other ways this summer.
- **Percolating Presbies** (Sunday mornings at 9:45) will meet for a laid-back and topical discussions relevant to our lives each Sunday during June and July, and we will join the intergenerational Faith Formation class in August!

FPCA Youth Group Presents: A Night with Holy Fools
Friday, May 29 @ 6 pm in the sanctuary; refreshments to follow

The youth have been reading, studying, and discussing 1 Corinthians this year, thinking carefully about the ways that Paul's wisdom and guidance to



the new Christians in Corinth can serve young Christians following Jesus today. Our youth are creating projects in various formats (including a short film and a music video) that we hope will be engaging, entertaining, and edifying to the congregation.

Please plan to show the youth of FPCA your love and support by joining us for this unique experience.

YOUNG ADULTS – “STILL FLO!”

We have several exciting plans for our young adult group this summer! We will gather to celebrate and commemorate Juneteenth with some learning; for putt-putt, drinks, and conversation around God and gender at Saltface Mule in July; and to enjoy an Asheville Tourist game together in August!

Details are being worked out and will be sent out by email. Please email David Germer at dgermer@fpcasheville.org to get on that list!

Children's Faith Formation



As we reach the end of our regular Godly Play year on May 24 (Pentecost), we're excited to share plans for two special summer faith formation series for children ages 3 through 5th grade. In June, we'll worship together at 11!

Worship Together @ 11

June 7, 14, 21, 28 @ 11 am in the Sanctuary

While faith formation classes for children are on break in June, families with children are warmly invited to worship together in the family transept during the 11 am service. This beloved space, with a soft rug, books, and familiar Godly Play stories, is designed to welcome children and their grown-ups into the fullness of worship, right where they are. We're also quietly rolling out some new resources this month to help families engage in the service together. (This space works best for children ages 3 and up who can play quietly and independently. Childcare is always available on the Children's Hall if that works best for you.)

Sing a New Song: Summer Session for Young Children (age 3–rising 2nd grade)

July 12, 19, 26, and August 2 @ 9:45 am on the Children's Hall

Through singing, stories, and play, children will explore how music has always been part of the way God's people express joy, comfort, and wonder. Each week is a fun, welcoming space for little ones to gather with new friends and discover that there is a song for every moment.

Called to Lead: Worship Leadership Training for Older Elementary Children (rising 3rd through 5th grade)

July 12, 19, 26 @ 9:45 a.m. meeting on the Children's Hall

Older elementary children are invited to grow into a role they may not yet know they have: worship leader. In three sessions designed to stand alone or build on one another, we'll explore different parts of our Sunday worship: the call to worship, the confession, the Affirmation of Faith, and the Lord's Prayer. Children will learn not just what these elements are, but why they matter and how to lead them with confidence. Whether your child has been leading in worship already, is excited for the opportunity, or isn't sure yet if this is for them, they are warmly encouraged to check it out. Each session is self-contained, so children can join one or all three.



With great joy, we celebrate two recent baptisms that welcomed new members into the household of God! **Marceline Carrollo**, daughter of Kaitlin & Dan, and **Henry Bowkett**, son of Anna & Tom, were baptized on Sunday, May 17.





FPCA @ the Tourists Baseball Game Friday, July 10

Meet at the ballpark beginning at 5:30 pm. FPCA has a reserved section of seats. Dollar hot dogs and fireworks after the game!

Reserve tickets NOW: RSVP to life@fpcasheville.org.
Adults \$12 per person, age 18 and younger free.



Summer Social Groups are a great way to connect with others from the congregation. These groups are for long-time members and newer attendees alike! Groups can either be food-based (meals in each other's homes or in local restaurants), more activity-based (think game nights, or outings in town), or a combination of both, and will meet 3-4 times this summer.

Interested? Scan the code above or contact Shannon or Nancy at life@fpcasheville.org. Register by Jun. 9; groups begin the week of Jun. 16.



CHURCHWIDE RETREAT AT MONTREAT | OCT. 2-4

For almost 30 years FPCA has had the tradition of going to Montreat and connecting in a meaningful and very intergenerational way. Time and time again, new people say that coming to the retreat gives them the relationships and connections that make ministry at FPCA even more rich!

This fall, we are delighted to welcome David LaMotte as our guest speaker. David is well known as a singer, songwriter, author, and peacemaker. We look forward to our time together.

To experience the retreat most fully, we encourage you to stay at the Assembly Inn. When you stay on site, the weekend becomes more than something you attend. Being together in one place allows relationships to grow naturally and often becomes the most treasured part of the retreat. And while the retreat is just "up the road" we encourage you to pretend it is hours away and immerse yourself in this time away.

Overnight space fills quickly, and room registration must be confirmed by Jun. 24 for overnight attendees; commuters register by Aug. 24. Final payment is due Sept. 25. Questions or need more information? Contact Shannon or Nancy at life@fpcasheville.org.

JOIN OUR SUMMER BOOK CLUB!

Summers are full of fun and travel, vacations and often fewer meetings and commitments. For the second summer we are offering the FPCA Book Club. The thought is to choose a book, take it with you on your travels. Read it, reflect on it, and then we will come back together on August 30th for a luncheon after the 11 am service. People will be invited to sit at tables with others who read their books.

This summer's books have been chosen through the lens of radical hospitality: what it means to truly see one another, welcome one another, and create spaces where people can belong, heal, and grow. In a world that often feels hurried, divided, and lonely, these books invite us to slow down and pay attention to the people around us. Some explore friendship and generosity. Others help us think about faith, family, grief, curiosity, or the ways we care for children and one another. Together, they ask an important spiritual question: **How do we become people who make room for others?**

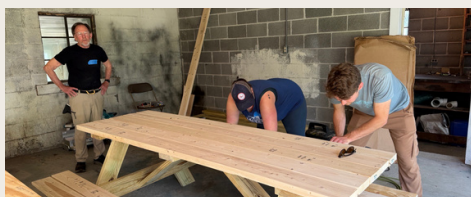
- [How to Know a Person](#) by David Brooks
- [Theo of Golden: A Novel](#) by Allen Levi
- [Remarkably Bright Creatures](#) by Shelby Van Pelt
- [Wonder: 52 Conversations to Help Kids Fall in Love With Scripture](#) by Meredith Miller

Whether you are an avid reader or simply curious, we hope you will join us as we explore stories and ideas that help us imagine a deeper connection with God, one another, and the world around us. Scan the code to learn more about each of these books on the website. Questions? Reach out to Shannon Jordan at sjordan@fpcasheville.org.



LOVE ASHEVILLE DAY OF SERVICE & LEARNING

This year's Love Asheville event saw 85 FPCA folks gather for lunch, then spread out into the community to serve our neighbors. We assembled 200 "blessing bags," learned about the realities of poverty, weeded community garden beds, potted up tomato plants, constructed picnic tables, and strengthened relationships with vital community partners.



UPCOMING EVENTS

MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR THESE SPECIAL EVENTS

Monday, May 25

FPCA Offices Closed for Memorial Day

Friday, May 29

FPCA Youth Group Presents: An Evening with Holy Fools

Sunday, May 31

Confirmation Sunday
Congregational Meeting

Sunday, June 7

Celebration Sunday & Church Picnic

Sunday, June 14

Summer Choir

Tuesday, June 16

Summer Social Groups begin

Friday, June 19

Charlotte Bronze Handbell Ensemble Concert

Monday, June 22

Lunch Bunch at La Rumba

Sunday, June 28

Summer Choir

Friday, July 10

FPCA @ Tourists Baseball Game

Sunday, July 12

Children's Summer Faith Formation
Summer Choir

Sunday, July 19

Children's Summer Faith Formation

Sunday, July 26

Children's Summer Faith Formation
Summer Choir

Monday, July 27

Lunch Bunch at Tupelo Honey South

Sunday, August 2

Children's Summer Faith Formation

Sunday, August 9

Summer Choir
Families Pizza & Popsicles in the Park

Sunday, August 23

Summer Choir

Monday, August 24

Lunch Bunch at Apollo Flame Bistro

Sunday, August 30

Luncheon & Summer Book Club Discussions



IS THIS YOUR DISH?

We have several dishes that arrived at FPCA for a potluck meal and never made it home! If you are missing a dish, please pick it up in the Wallace Foyer on your next visit to the church.



GRATITUDE FOR NEW SHOWERS!

Shower construction is now complete—just in time to welcome Asheville Youth Mission groups this summer! Take a tour of the three new shower/ changing stalls and sink area during the Church Picnic on Sunday, Jun. 7.