



ANNOUNCEMENTS

OCTOBER 4, 2026

Below you will find a variety of ways to connect at FPCA

For more information on any of these please email life@fpcasheville.org. For a full staff list, please go to fpcasheville.org/leadership-staff. To see and sign up for our weekly email, please go to fpcasheville.org/weekly-news.

Interested in joining FPCA?

Our Session welcomes new members on the third Sunday of the month in the library. Our next opportunity is on Oct. 18 at 9:45 am. For more information, please contact Nancy McNeill at nmcneill@fpcasheville.org.

FAITH FORMATION @ FPCA

Sunday Mornings – Classes will resume on Oct. 11

- **Percolating Presbies** meets at 9:30 am in the second floor youth suite.
- **Godly Play** meets at 9:45 am on the first floor children's hall.
- **Text Talk** meets at 9:45 am in Room 112.
- **Faith & Fellowship** meets at 9:45 am in the ground floor fellowship hall. Join us for three weeks (Oct. 11, 18, and 25) as we explore how Scripture came together, why genre and context matter, and how these tools can help us appreciate the Bible's beauty, complexity, and meaning more deeply so that it can speak into our lives today.

Presbyterian Women

PW will gather on Monday, Oct. 5, at 10:30 am in Room 112, where commissioned lay pastor Matt Wood will lead a discussion to discover what it means to belong to one another as members of Christ's family, each gifted for the good of all. All women are invited to join these monthly gatherings as we share in study, prayer, and conversation.

The Men's Group

The Men's Group meets on Wednesday mornings at 9 am at the church in Room 112 to discuss matters of faith and life. For more information, contact Shannon at sjordan@fpcasheville.org.

Women's Studies: Navigating Conflict with Wisdom on Oct. 15

We'll gather at 10:30 am in the fellowship hall for a potluck brunch and conversation with panelists, Rev. Bill Lowrey, pastor and mediator; Dr. Pam Baker, psychiatrist; and Sarah Thornburg, attorney and chair of the Asheville City Schools Board of Education. What have they learned about listening, responding, disagreeing, and moving forward? And what can we learn from them as we navigate the difficult conversations in our own lives? RSVP to life@fpcasheville.org.

CONGREGATIONAL LIFE @ FPCA

Changes in FPCA Parking Lot Management

Effective Oct. 1, FPCA has transitioned to a new company, Secure Park USA, to manage both the Church Street and Aston Street lots. You'll soon see new blue signage! Church members can continue to park in both lots at any time without charge while displaying a valid FPCA member sticker. Long-term, we plan to move from stickers to a license plate-based recognition system.

Blessing of the Animals on Oct. 10

All are welcome — furred, feathered, and finned companions alike — as we gather to give thanks for the animals who share our lives and to ask God's blessing upon them. Bring your pet (on a leash or in a carrier), along with your own water bottle and a bowl for your pet. Revs. Anne Apple and Cam Murchison will help lead this service. We will meet at 2:30 pm in the picnic pavilion at Murphy-Oakley Park (715 Fairview Rd.). See the weekly email for additional details.

Parents' Night Out

On Sunday, Oct. 18, from 4:30 to 7 pm, grown-ups may bring children (birth–5th grade) to the church for a fun night with friends and pizza, while the adults walk to The Draftsman for dinner and fellowship together. RSVP to life@fpcasheville.org.

MISSION @ FPCA

Saturday Sanctuary Begins Oct. 10

Every Saturday for roughly six months, we provide a warm meal and a safe, welcoming space to neighbors, building relationships and finding Jesus in our midst, right in the fellowship hall. Contact David Germer at dgermer@fpcasheville.org with questions or to join the email list.

Building Bridges Panel Discussions at FPCA — All are welcome!



We have been hosting the fall Building Bridges course here at FPCA, with a fantastic team of volunteers. During weeks 4-8, panel discussions are open to our community, on Mondays from 6:30 to 8 pm in the FPCA fellowship hall. Scan the code for dates and topics, and contact David Germer at dgermer@fpcasheville.org with any questions.

Join the Habitat Faith Build This Fall

This is the 33rd year that, together with other faith communities, FPCA is building a house for a local family. There are jobs for all skill levels (16 years and older), and we have reserved three work days for those who want to help build: Saturdays, Oct. 31 and Nov. 14, and Friday, Nov. 20. Other slots are also available. Monetary contributions are also welcome. Visit the church website or contact Bill Winkler at life@fpcasheville.org for information.

Building A Wider Welcome

Earlier this year, our capital campaign raised \$5.2 million to invest in the future of this congregation and its ministry and mission—and work is already underway! The parking lot at 46 Aston St. has been resealed and re-stripped. Our general contractor, engineering team, and architect are in the midst of a Phase 1 evaluation for the narthex and Commons renovations. And the installation of a multi-split HVAC system in the Education Building is scheduled to begin this fall. Find all these updates and more at fpcasheville.org/widerwelcome.



LIFE AT FPCA



Below are some of our upcoming church events. For a full list, scan to see our most recent Thursday News.

For information on our Staff and Leadership, please scan here:



Sunday, October 4, 2026

Rev. Dr. Patrick Johnson will be preaching at 8:45 am in the chapel. *(No childcare.)*
Retreat participants will worship at 11 am in Convocation Hall in Montreat.

Monday, October 5, 2026

Presbyterian Women meets at 10:30 am in Room 112.
Building Bridges panel discussion will meet from 6:30 to 8 pm in the fellowship hall.

Wednesday, October 7, 2026

The Men's Group will meet at 9 am in Room 112.
Women's Bible Study will meet at 11 am in Room 112.
No Wednesday night dinner, children's choir, or parent group this week!
Chancel Choir will rehearse from 7 to 8:30 pm in the sanctuary.

Thursday, October 8, 2026

The Liturgical Arts Team will meet at 1:30 pm in Room 205.

Saturday, October 10, 2026

Saturday Sanctuary will take place from 10:30 am to 2 pm in the fellowship hall.
A Blessing of the Animals will take place at 2:30 pm at Murphy-Oakley Park.

Sunday, October 11, 2026

Rev. Dr. Patrick Johnson will be preaching at 8:45 and 11 am.
Percolating Presbies will meet at 9:30 am in the second floor youth suite.
Godly Play will meet at 9:45 am on the first floor children's hall.
Text Talk will meet at 9:45 am in Room 112.
Faith & Fellowship will meet at 9:45 am in the ground floor fellowship hall.
Youth Group will meet from 5 to 7:30 pm in the ground floor fellowship hall.

Partners at 40 Church Street



FPCA Affiliations

COMMUNITY JOYS & CONCERNS

Please pray for these joys and concerns in our FPCA family. If you have a prayer request, please call the church office at 828-253-1431 or email life@fpcasheville.org. If it is an emergency, please reach out to the church office, and if after hours, please choose option 5 to reach the pastor on call this week.

We pray for:

Jerry Bleckley, as he navigates a recent cancer diagnosis.

Susan Bridgers' younger sister who has been diagnosed with a severe leukemia.

BJ Crosby's brother Gary, and his wife, as Gary has been diagnosed with stage 4 cancer.

Frank & Cathie Dodson, as Frank continues to receive chemo treatments at Wake Forest.

Gloria Dupree, as she recovers from a fall resulting in a cracked collar bone.

Joan Gaddis, mother-in-law of **Susan Gaddis**, for an ongoing hospitalization.

Alice Lentz's brother Kenny, in hospice care at home in Columbia, S.C., and for his family.

Jean Shearouse's mother Mary, who has been recently hospitalized.

Craig & Lynn Sumey, along with their ministry in Scotland, that they are led to the faith community God has in store for them.

We are thankful for:

Bill Kantonen was able to be a part of an honor flight to Washington, D.C. on September 26 in celebration of his time serving in the Air Force.

Marshall Presbyterian Church, as they re-dedicated their church building two years after Hurricane Helene.

Please join us in celebrating the following members who have birthdays this week:

Micki Argall, Linda Welsh, Dennis Herman, Tom Byers, Jim Apple, Tamara Puffer, Alice Boggs Lentz, Jennifer Vogel, Liam Culp, Mary Beth Atherton, Ian Croft, Tom Hunnicutt, James Robinson, Zack Jones, Ruth Barnhardt, Valorie Vliek, Anita Rose, Garza Baldwin, and James Littlejohn.