



# Dear First Presbyterian Church Family,

In Paul's letter to the Ephesians, we read these words of proclamation in Chapter 5, <sup>1</sup> Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children, <sup>2</sup> and walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us.... 8 for once you were darkness, but now in the Lord you are light. Walk as children of light."

In the January 9<sup>th</sup> edition of First Word, there was an invitation to us to recognize the light in others and Paul affirms our calling from Christ to "walk as children of light." The light of Jesus Christ is love revealed through words we speak and deeds we do each day of our lives. This light is the strength and courage that are revealed through the way that we face adversity and witness through our perseverance of faith, believing in Christ even in the midst of the toughest of circumstances. The light of the Spirit is revealed through our gentle response to a world that has its fair share of anxiety and fear. Our calm presence reflects that light in ways that help others to trust in the Lord who is our Shepherd. The light of Christ, like the brilliant beam that shines from the lighthouse on a rocky shore, is illuminated many, many-fold as we allow Christ to guide us in all of our decisions so God's will is done. Remember the words declared in the hymn, "If Thou but Suffer God to Guide Thee,"

> SING, PRAY, AND KEEP HIS WAYS UNSWERVING, OFFER YOUR SERVICE FAITHFULLY, AND TRUST HIS WORD: THOUGH UNDESERVING. YOU'LL FIND HIS PROMISE TRUE TO BE. GOD NEVER WILL FORSAKE IN NEED THE SOUL THAT TRUSTS IN HIM INDEED.

Commissioned by Christ the Light of the World to be Lights to the World, you are invited to step outside on a clear morning and to watch the sun rise. Focus on its warmth and glow and let your life glow also! Shalom, Brad



"To live by faith, to be known by love, and to be a voice of hope.

1/24: Doug Degon

Katie Bland Quick

1/28: Reid Diesfeld





Dear FPC family,

Philip and I wish to thank you for all the kind expressions of sympathy following my father's passing.

Sincerely,

Cathy Giles

# WALKING TRACK SCHEDULE

# This week's walking track volunteers:

1/23-Nancy Kimble, 1/24-Carol Varga, 1/25-Joan Bland, 1/26-Jim and Laurie Lee, 1/27-Don Wazenegger



Hey, do you know a middle or high schooler who is looking for somewhere to learn more about the Lord and be with other Youth for fun, food, and fellowship together on Sundays from 5-6:30pm? Please

invite them to visit with us in the Harper Center, or the other locations we have chosen to meet this year. We have our schedule posted on the bulletin board outside the church office. Call Michele for more details.

### This Weeks Calendar

# **Monday 1/23:**

**9AM-12PM:** Walking Track

**5:30 PM:** Contemporary Choir Rehearsal **6:30 PM:** Traditional Choir Rehearsal **7PM:** Finance Committee Meeting **7:15PM:** Handbell Choir Rehearsal

### Tuesday 1/24:

9AM-12PM: Walking Track

**10AM:** Bible Study

**5:30PM:** Congregational Care Committee

Meeting

**6PM:** Yoga in the Harper Center

### Wednesday 1/25:

**9AM-12PM:** Walking Track

**10AM:** CDC Devotion **7PM:** Prayer Group

### Thursday 1/269:

**9AM-12PM:** Walking Track

### **Friday 1/27:**

9AM-12PM: Walking Track

### **Sunday 1/29:**

**9AM**: Contemporary Service **11AM**: Traditional Service

**12PM:** Soup Cook-Off in the Harper

Center



### **OUR PRAYER LIST**

Parkview: Paul Kelly, Rexine Lloyd, Maxine Auman Cape Fear Valley Medical Center: Betty Lou Bristow

Home or with family: Jean Perry; Cathy Johnson; Don Suddarth; Bruce Benton; Ann Barkley Our Friends & Family: Tiffany Scott Heron (Donna McClune's niece); Michael McClune (Donna McClune's son); James Cox; Billy Boaz; Jamey Allen (Harold James' sister); Phyllis Moore; Carolyn Herring (Bunny Paderick's niece); Greg Horrell (Bunny Paderick's brother-in-law); Richard Angel (Pat Angel's husband); Marci Hudzik; Dennis Parnell (friend of David Vann); Emily Heeseman (Samantha Morgan's friend and college roommate); Heather Wicker; Carla Bailey; Joanna Dempsey; Michelle Hendley Leonhardt (Daughter of Mike and Peggy Hendley); Flora Harrington; George Honeycutt at St. Joseph's of the Pines (neighbor of Dean and Jana Wilkinson)

## Offering Counters Schedule - January 2023

Week 1 (1/41 John Garris and Daryl Perry, Week 2 (1/8) Samantha Jeffries and Don Wazenegger, Week 3 (1/15) Joan Bland and Julie Lemon, Week 4 (1/29) John Garris and Daryl Perry

The Lay Readers for January for the 9am service are Russ and Lynn Knight and for the 11am service, it is Brad Marin.

We look forward to seeing you there!!!



It's that time of year again...time for our annual soup cook-off! Please join us in the Harper Center on Sunday, January 29th after the 11am service as a contestant or to just enjoy a bowl of your favorite soup. As always, your donations to our FPC Youth are greatly appreciated. Earn bragging rights and a prize for 1st and 2nd places!

2023 Soup Cook-Off Judges: John and Jae Breidenstine Charlie and Charlene Hicks Pat and Emalee McCracken

Who will be our 2023 Soup Cook-Off Top Chef??? Come to the Harper Center on January 29th at noon to find out, and enjoy fun, food and fellowship. We look forward to seeing you there!!!



Laurie Lee will be behind the Harper Center on Thursday, February 2nd with an open trunk to collect food for CUOC from 10am-12pm.

# Pictures from Bingo this past Saturday afternoon!

















