

February 13, 2023



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF SANFORD

# First Word

*“To live by faith, to be known by love, and to be a voice of hope.”*

**Dear First Presbyterian Church,**

<sup>7</sup>“Ask, and it will be given to you; search, and you will find; knock, and the door will be opened for you. <sup>8</sup>For everyone who asks receives, and everyone who searches finds, and for everyone who knocks, the door will be opened. (Matthew 7)

Often, as brothers and sisters in-Christ, we come together for prayer. We pray for people who are facing the many challenges of life, those who are sick and waiting for much-needed medical care, families that are divided by anger and hostility, communities that are ravaged by the violence of guns and crime, and wars that are happening all over the globe. We pray for justice and the end of homelessness, racism, and all discrimination. We pray for hope, courage, and faith, seeking to inspire the world to believe.

Join me today in a prayer for those affected by the earthquake/aftershocks in Turkey and Syria. Ask God to provide them with faith, courage, and strength for the rebuilding ahead. Bless the many rescuers and others who are reaching out to help these communities. Pray this prayer written by *Laurie A. Kraus, Coordinator, Presbyterian Disaster Assistance.*



Holy One, whose desire for all peoples is wholeness, life abundant, and peace: Hear us as we pray in sorrow for lives lost and communities shattered by earthquakes and aftershocks. As your servant Elijah fled for his life into the wilderness and found bread for the journey, may survivors of this disaster find, in the outpouring of their neighbors’ care, shelter, sustenance and companionship in the midst of horrors.

In the sheer silence that follows. When the cries for help are stilled and the cameras and the news cycle have moved onto another tragedy, calling us to bear witness. Calling us to remember. Calling us to bring ourselves to a ministry of prayerful presence and potent generosity. Let us have an answer when your voice inquires, What are you doing here, Elijah?” Let us answer with our prayers Let us answer with generous gifts.

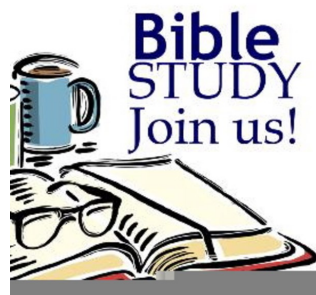
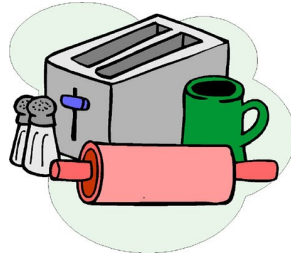
Let us join together, an international community of healing, To rebuild, to restore, and in time, to rejoice. That in a world that suffers, Light still shines, that in a world that suffers, and darkness and dust shall not overcome it.

**In the name of Christ tor we pray, Amen**



2/13: Maxine Auman  
 2/14: Vann Gibson, John Kelly  
 (Emily's son), Ricardo Silva, Rhonda  
 Woodell  
 2/16: Russ Knight  
 2/19: Frank Mills

The Outreach Committee is holding a donation collection during the month of February for Family Promise. They will be collecting new or gently used decorating items for a new home or items that would be useful when families move to a new home like curtains, bed sheets (preferably King), towels, kitchen utensils and small appliances. There will be donation boxes set up in McIver Hall, the Colonnade, and the Harper Center decorated for Valentine's Day. Please help with this worthy cause and make deserving families move-in-day a huge success. **Thank You, The Outreach Committee**



### Bible Study Update

On Tuesday, February 14th at 10am, a discussion/study of Paul's letter, Romans, will begin. You are invited to make Tuesday morning Bible study a regular part of your weekly schedule!

### WALKING TRACK SCHEDULE

This week's walking track volunteers:  
 2/13-Joan Bland, 2/14-Don Wazenegger,  
 2/15-Jim and Laurie Lee, 2/16-Julie Lemon,  
 2/17-Charles LaRue



## This Weeks Calendar

### Monday 2/13: Circle Meetings

9AM-12PM: Walking Track  
 5:30 PM: Contemporary Choir Rehearsal  
 6:30 PM: Traditional Choir Rehearsal  
 7:15PM: Handbell Choir Rehearsal

### Tuesday 2/14:

9AM-12PM: Walking Track  
 10AM: Bible Study  
 6PM: Yoga in the Harper Center

### Wednesday 2/15:

9AM-12PM: Walking Track  
 10AM: CDC Devotion  
 12PM: Staff Meeting  
 5:30PM: Personnel Committee  
 7PM: Prayer Group

### Thursday 2/16:

9AM-12PM: Walking Track

### Friday 2/17:

9AM-12PM: Walking Track  
 11AM: Blanket Ministry

### Sunday 2/19:

9AM: Contemporary Service  
 11AM: Traditional Service  
 12PM: CE Committee Meeting  
 12:30PM: Outreach Committee Meeting  
 1:30PM: Worship Committee Meeting

*There is a pipe missing from the pipe organ façade in the Sanctuary. The dented pipe has now been picked up for repairs. This is a long process and will take several months. Thank you for your patience, David.*

### OUR PRAYER LIST

**Parkview:** Rexine Lloyd, Maxine Auman, Ann Barkley

**Universal Healthcare/Lillington:** Betty Lou Bristow

**Home or with family:** Jean Perry; Cathy Johnson; Don Suddarth; Bruce Benton

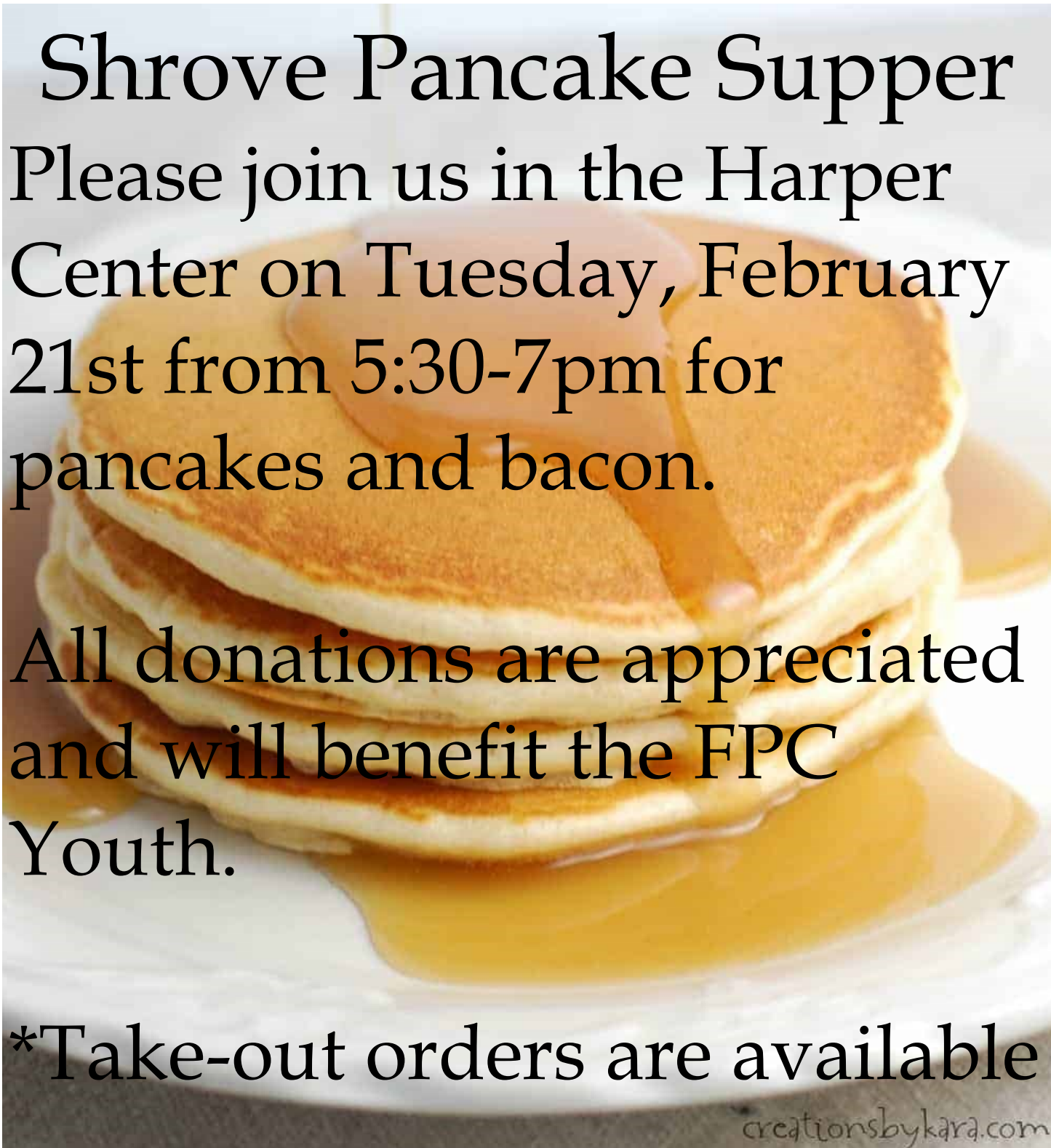
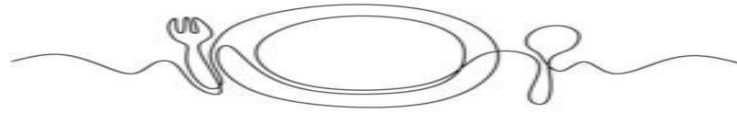
**Our Friends & Family:** Tiffany Scott Heron (Donna McClune's niece); Michael McClune (Donna McClune's son); James Cox; Billy Boaz; Jamey Allen (Harold James' sister); Phyllis Moore; Carolyn Herring (Bunny Paderick's niece); Greg Horrell (Bunny Paderick's brother-in-law); Richard Angel (Pat Angel's 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 - February 2023

Week 1 (2/5) Joan Bland and Julie Lemon, Week 2 (2/12) David and Rhonda Miller, Week 3 (2/19) John Garris and Daryl Perry, Week 4 (2/26) Samantha Jeffries and Don Wazenegger  
 The Lay Readers for February for the 9am service are Pat and Emalee McCracken, and for the 11am service is John Breidenstine.

## FPC Youth News

There is a Youth Supper Sign-Up Sheet on the table in the Colonnade for March and April. As always, we appreciate so much your continued generosity in providing meals for our Youth Meetings!



**Shrove Pancake Supper**  
Please join us in the Harper Center on Tuesday, February 21st from 5:30-7pm for pancakes and bacon.

A large, close-up photograph of a stack of golden-brown pancakes on a white plate. The pancakes are topped with a generous amount of light-colored syrup that is dripping down the sides. The background is a soft, out-of-focus light color.

All donations are appreciated and will benefit the FPC Youth.

**\*Take-out orders are available**

# Bible Study



Bible Study? You Betcha!

## My Personal Experience

I grew up going to Sunday School and church every Sunday, so I was familiar with a lot of Scripture. What I didn't know was the context in which it was written and how it applied to my life. That didn't seem to be a problem until much later. Fast forward to age 66, when I retired. I started going to Bible Study taught by Stuart, then by ourselves led by Wendell, then by Ron, then by Jenny, and now by Brad. Following are some things I have learned.

The Bible is a whole book, all of a piece, instead of a random collection of books. God is the same God all the way through; only humanity's perception of God has changed. God is always loving, merciful, forgiving; God wants the people to live good lives, gives wise guidance, expects people to follow, disciplines when they don't. God is a promise-keeper and is worthy of praise and worship. Water is a theme all through the Bible, from the creation of the seas to the river in Revelation. Another significant theme is Light, from the creation of light which was proclaimed to be Good, to Jesus' announcement that he was the Light of the world.

The Bible raises more questions than it answers. There are Hows and Whys that we cannot know because we have finite minds, not infinite minds like God.

Come and join me at 10:00 on Tuesdays in the Church Library beginning **March 7** as we undertake to learn what the book of **Romans** says to you and me. Blessings! Joyce Kelly

**Special Note:** Thank you to Joyce Kelly for sharing the reflection above. Our Bible Study group has concluded a study of Ephesians and will begin meeting again on **Tuesday, March 7**. Plan to join us for this time together with family and friends. Peace, Brad



*Presbyterian Women*

***PW News: We need two volunteers to work as a team for the Breadbasket four times a year; the second Tuesday of March, June, September, and December. All that is needed is a group of six or seven people to prepare and serve lunch at the Breadbasket on the days listed above from 8:30am-12:30pm. Please contact Bunny Paderick at (919)770-3961 if you are willing to serve in this most rewarding way. Thank you!***



## Are you a good s-p-e-l-l-e-r?

First Presbyterian Church has a chance to promote reading, our community, and have some fun with other community groups at a Community Spelling Bee. It would be great if our church formed a team of four strong spellers for this event. It will take place March 20<sup>th</sup> at the Dennis A Wicker Civic Center from 6:00 to 9:00pm (registration 6:00 to 7:00; competition 7:00). The team of spellers would work together on each word. This event is sponsored by the local chapter of the Delta Kappa Gamma Society (Women Educators). There is a \$200 per team entry fee that could possibly be funded through donations (small or large) of church members. The proceeds provide a copy of GOODNIGHT MOON for every baby born at Central Carolina Hospital. If interested in being a team member or providing funds for the entry fee, please contact Wanda Wazenegger at (919)-774-3775. The contribution is tax deductible.