

THE HARBINGER

Newsletter - May 2023



A COVERING OF FAITH

"With all of these, take the shield of faith, with which you will be able to quench all the flaming arrows of the evil one." -Ephesians 6:16

When Paul wrote to the church at Ephesus about the shield of faith, he used the word *thureos*, which means "door." Roman soldiers' shields were large, rectangular, and door-sized. In other words, they covered every single part of the soldier's body. It's the same with our faith. The salvation we've been given in Christ covers us from head to toe. And because He is lavish in love and steadfast in keeping His promises, we'll always have enough for every situation we encounter.

The Roman soldiers' shields had one other distinctive quality: they were made of several hides of leather sewn together. This meant that every morning, a soldier would have to rub oil into the shield in order to keep it pliable and to prevent it from drying out and cracking. This daily renewal was the difference between life and death... literally!

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In our own faith walk, we must daily allow God's Holy Spirit to refill and reenergize us. The Spirit replenishes our joy, rebuilds our faith, and redirects our thoughts so that we can live boldly and courageously for Jesus. This begs the question: *What have we done today to oil our shields?* Let's not get complacent and allow distractions to deter us from our duty! In Christ, we have a true shield that won't ever let us down. Praise the Lord!

Passage from *Beautiful Wisdom Daily Devotions*, published by Barbour Publishing, Inc.



SUNDAY, MAY 07

Children's Ministry Sunday

11:00 SERVICE

Annual Church Picnic

12:00 PM



Our **Annual Church Picnic** will be held the first Sunday of May. We will enjoy an afternoon of fellowship, food, and fun, so be sure to invite your family and friends to join us!

- Early at 8:30 Worship will be in the sanctuary
- 11:00 Worship will be led by the help of our children, for a special "Children's Ministry Sunday"
- Picnic to begin immediately following the 11:00 service

Menu


Fried Chicken, Baked Ham, Mac and Cheese, Green Beans,
Fresh Fruit, Yeast Rolls, Cake and Cookies for Dessert,
Tea, Water, and Lemonade

Volunteers needed to setup tables, plate desserts & fruit, serve food, and greet others.

Scan the QR code, visit our [church website](#), or log onto [Realm](#) to RSVP!



OneBlood Blood Drive



DONATE BLOOD

First Presbyterian Church
Tuesday, May 2
2:00 PM - 6:00 PM

All donors receive*:

- **\$20 eGift Card**
- **OneBlood T-shirt**
- **Wellness Checkup** including blood pressure, pulse, temperature, iron count, and cholesterol screening.


Fact: One in three of us will need a blood transfusion.

Donors Receive


\$20
eGiftCARD

Walmart
amazon
...and more!

- PLUS -




- PLUS -



Appointments are encouraged, please visit oneblood.org/donate-now and use **sponsor code 42420**

ID REQUIRED

*One offer per donor, per donation. No cash value. Not transferable. Gifts may vary. For more information please visit oneblood.org/details.



OneBlood supports our Carolinas community and provides lifesaving blood products to the following NC hospitals:

- Sole blood provider for Atrium Health
- Levine Cancer Institute
- Levine Children's Hospital
- Jeff Gordon Children's Center

Scan the QR code to make your appointment!



MEET & EAT LUNCH

May 9 at Noon

We will welcome guest speaker, Bill Gross, Coordinator of Gaston Controlled Substances Coalition, with discussion of the opioid dependence crisis in our community.

Log onto Realm to view menu and RSVP by May 8.



MEDICATION TAKE-BACK

SUNDAY, MAY 14
8:00 - 11:15 AM

Gather your opioids and other medications you no longer need – pills, fluids, and ointments, and drop them off in the Gathering Area to ensure proper disposal and help reduce the risk of opioid misuse. The Gaston Controlled Substances Coalition and law enforcement officer will collect and discard them following Drug Enforcement Agency rules.



Youth & Children's Ministry Spotlight

DATES TO REMEMBER

Sun. April 30

Compassion Journey Experience : Noon

Wed. May 3

Children's Sunday Program Rehearsals : 4:15

*For children's choir members & speaking parts
WOW - 5:00-6:00 pm

Sun. May 7

Children's Ministry Sunday : 11:00 service

- Children's choir members arrive by 10:15
- Children with speaking parts arrive by 10:30
- Greeters & Offering Bearers arrive by 10:45

*Children should wear a navy blue or red top

Wed. May 10

WOW End of the School Year GLOW Party : 5:00

- No choir this day
- Children should wear white for the party
- Choir & WOW will resume in the Fall

Sun. May 14

8th Grade Confirmation : 11:00 service

*Confirmation Breakfast at 9:45 am

Sun. May 21

Senior Sunday : 11:00 service

*Breakfast for Seniors at 9:45 am



Summer Camp



at Camp **BETHELWOODS**

JULY 30 -
AUG 4

COMPLETED KINDERGARTEN - 5TH GRADE



DAY CAMP | PARTIAL WEEK OVERNIGHT CAMP | FULL WEEK OVERNIGHT CAMP

VISIT THE EVENT PAGE ON REALM TO REGISTER! SEE ROBIN RUSSELL FOR QUESTIONS.

READY, SET, MOVE!

FOLLOW JESUS HERE, THERE, AND EVERYWHERE

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH BELMONT

VBS 2023 REGISTER NOW!

JUNE 12-15

9:00 am - 12:00 pm
COMPLETED KINDERGARTEN -
COMPLETED 5TH GRADE



Women's Malawi Mission Project

A special thank you to the women of FPC Belmont for their efforts and dedication in their most recent mission project benefiting the girls of Malawi, Africa. Together, our women assembled 840 reusable sanitary pads, which will provide the girls of the Ebenezer School in Malawi, access to hygienic products that they otherwise may not have the funds or means to acquire.

Representatives of our congregation, Ed and Terri Forsyth, joined together with the Presbytery of Western North Carolina Mission Team to transport and distribute the items during their most recent mission trip to Malawi. Thanks to each one who played a part in making a significant impact in the lives of the girls and women of Malawi.



Easter AT FPC BELMONT

