**THE UPDATE**

 **May 2023**

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**Online**

<https://www.forestparkpres.org>   Check it out!  Forest Park Presbyterian Church website.  Up to date information online.  Links to latest news, calendar, Sunday sermons, and Daily Connections from Pastor Scott! This online mission is a work in progress!

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCQ6HozKk70sDOhIjSMJg14g/featured>Forest Park Presbyterian Church channel on youtube.com Our Sunday services are available to see online and live streaming. They are archived and you can go back to watch our services at your convenience. You can also subscribe to the channel.

**May Time with Children Assignments**

May 7 - Doug Griffith

May 14 - DeNeil Suarez

May 21 - Scott Jeffreys

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Description automatically generatedMay 28 - Phil Lail

**VBS July 10-14, 2023**

**BigHeart Farms**

**Where God’s Fruit Grows!**

**Galatians 5:16-26**

5 pm - 7:30 pm

Infants- Adults

Volunteers needed!

Contact Mary Crawford: (704) 450-1180

Email: mfcnovember@gmail.com

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What an informative program we were presented at the April JOY luncheon! A representative from the Dove House was our speaker. She spoke about the responsibilities of a children’s advocate and how this advocacy program works with social services, police department, judicial system, school system, and others in Iredell and Alexander counties. Many questions were addressed regarding child abuse and the ongoing follow up of various cases, many lasting several years.

Our JOY group enjoyed homemade vegetable beef soup and cheese sandwiches and dessert. Thank you to Ann McGarr for the delicious soup!

Hope to see all of you **Wednesday, May 17.** Please voice your thoughts on lunch ideas and programs or activities that would be of interest to our group. Put **JOY** on your calendar!

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**Circle #2** is meeting on Tuesday, **May 9**, at 2:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall.

**Circle #3** will meet in the Fellowship Hall**, May 2** at 6:30 p.m. Looking forward to our meeting together!

All Circles recently responded to the urgent need for food at the Iredell Christian Mission. 257.5 pounds of food items were donated! Thank you!

**Congratulations!**

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Katie Hoover will graduate May 12 from the Crossroads Academy at Statesville High School.  She will also graduate May 13 from Mitchell Community College with an Associate of Arts degree as part of the Early College Program.  She will attend the University of NC in Wilmington as a junior beginning in August, planning to major in Sales and Marketing. ***“You Go Girl, your church family is so proud of you and your accomplishments!”***

**Fifth Street Mission for May**

The mission focus for the month of May is the collection of over-the-counter medications for Fifth Street Ministries. The dollar stores are a great source for basically all the pharmacy needs. Donations of items allow the clinic to have more money for the prescription meds that residents may need. The clinic nurse is always very appreciative of what we donate, as they serve the residents and often folks who are from the neighborhood or are previous guests.

A table for collection will be in the narthex and the meds will be delivered the first of June. Items may include:

* Tylenol (acetaminophen)
* Aleve (naproxen sodium)
* Motrin (ibuprofen)
* Cough syrup
* Cough drops
* Cold/Flu medicine
* Razors
* Shaving cream
* Feminine hygiene products
* Deodorant for men and women

A close-up of a candy bar

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**Update/Newsletter**

There are a few ways now to receive your monthly newsletter, The Update.

* Pick up in Narthex (the last or 1st Sunday of the month)
* Mail (postal service)
* Text (through phone tree) linked to website
* Email (through phone tree) linked to website

Due to postage increases, we are trying to offer other ways to get our information to you. We will mail remaining printed newsletters from Sunday to you. Please make sure to take home your newsletter from the Narthex file.

**Loving Hands Committee**

The Loving Hands Committee of Forest Park Church is responsible for providing a meal for the family when there has been a death of a loved one.  This consists of meal preparation, setup of serving tables, serving, cleanup, etc.    Anyone who wishes to serve with this group would be greatly appreciated!  Please contact Nan Weatherman at (704) 402 4718.

**Sanctuary Guild**

The Sanctuary Guild is responsible for making sure the sanctuary is always in proper order, that flower arrangements are available and appropriate for Sunday worship service, that pulpit area is in order, and that all seasons of the year are acknowledged specifically with the flower arrangements.  The paraments are also changed according to the liturgical calendar and appropriate for communion. If you would like to serve on the sanctuary guild, please call the church office,  704-862-6482.  Your participation will be appreciated.

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Description automatically generated**Our Music Ministry**

If you are interested in being a part of the church's music ministry please speak with Sarah, Brad, or any choir member.

We work hard in rehearsals but have fun doing so.  May the Lord be glorified in our music. Amen!

**Congregational Emergency Relief Fund (CERF)**

This service was formed to financially help FPPC members who have unexpected needs arise. Only FPPC members are eligible to receive help from CERF. Requests for aid must be reviewed and approved by the CERF committee. The CERF committee consists of two Forest Park members who were approved by the session. Current committee members are Doug Griffith (704 785 6953) and Jackie Tomlin (704 880 4869).

All requests and gifts are to be strictly confidential. Persons who need financial help must go directly to one of the committee members. The minister of Forest Park, members, and/or officers of the church should not be approached.

The funds from CERF come from one or two fundraisers as needed and from monetary donations; many of which are given in honor or memory of loved ones. There are times when individuals who have received help from CERF find themselves in a position to repay the gift. We are grateful for this. We encourage those who are feeling especially blessed to donate to this fund.

A group of balloons

Description automatically generated with low confidence**Happy May Birthday to You!**

2 Matt Tomlin

3 LA Parks

24 Amanda Chipman

27 Holland Massey

27 Crew Massey

30 Steve Black

**Food for Thought**

Coming together for meals is a blessing in the life of our church. The session began a discussion regarding the schedule of our dinners. A few ideas were to move dinners back to Wednesday nights, scheduling them quarterly, or having a Sunday lunch rather that dinner. You may want to share your ideas within your care team or just let one of the elders know your opinion. Our goal is to have our meals at a time that works best for our folks

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