



The Pewsletter Weekly

First Presbyterian Church
Lincolnton NC

"The Unforced Rhythms of Grace"



[Zechariah 9:9-12](#) (click for Scripture)

[Matthew 11:16-30](#) (click for Scripture)

I tend to get a bit more interested when Jesus shows emotion. Whether it is his rage as he overturns the tables of the moneychangers in the Temple or his tears at the death of his friend Lazarus, an emotional Jesus is an engaging Jesus.

In our Gospel passage this week Jesus starts out pretty angry. Neither John, the baptizing doomsday street preacher nor Jesus, the miracle working, partying hippie seem to shake the Galilean people from their malaise. The kingdom has drawn near and no one will listen or take notice.

Then he abruptly shifts gears and becomes the welcoming, comforting Jesus we all learned about in first-grade Sunday school. Such are the "unforced rhythms of grace." The sermon title comes from a portion of our text as translated in Eugene Peterson's *The Message*

"Are you tired? Worn out? Burned out on religion? Come to me. Get away with me

and you'll recover your life. I'll show you how to take a real rest. Walk with me and work with me—watch how I do it. Learn the unforced rhythms of grace. I won't lay anything heavy or ill-fitting on you. Keep company with me and you'll learn to live freely and lightly." Matthew 11:28-30.

If that has a familiar ring to it you will probably recognize it readily from the NRSV.

"Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me; for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light."

Our thick-headedness can be frustrating for Jesus but he always shows up with arms outstretched to give us comfort, teach us gentleness and humility, and give us another chance.

Join us Sunday for worship at 10:30 AM as we we explore the unforced rhythms of grace.



The reports of my death have been greatly exaggerated.

This well known Mark Twain quote seems appropriate, though had you asked me last Friday I might not have been so sure. Thank you so much for your prayers this past week! The notes and phone calls I received helped to pick me back up though I must give the creativity award to Shortie McConnell who left me a voicemail singing a get well ditty to the tune of O Danny Boy! I'm so thankful for Clerk of Session Jan Duncan and the others who stepped in on a day's notice to handle worship on Sunday.

Since this came out of the blue for most of you and others reading this are hearing about it for the first time, allow me to explain. I had a simple scheduled medical procedure last Tuesday the 27th that turned out to be a bit more debilitating than I had been led to believe. I then contracted some sort of infection that had me in the ER on Friday with severe flu-like symptoms. After some IV antibiotics it still took me a few more days to fully recover. I had been planning to lead worship on Sunday all along and it wasn't until Saturday morning that I finally called Jan, accepting the fact I wasn't going to make it.

I'm happy to report that as of Wednesday I am back in the saddle and as good as new. Well, as new as a breaking down guy in his very upper mid-50's can be. Thank you again and I look forward to being with you for worship on Sunday.

Blessings and peace,

Danny



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MAKE PLANS FOR SUMMER MUSIC AT FPCL



The 2016 Lincolnton Summer Recital Series was a big hit with both church members and the larger community. Here is whats in store this year!

Sunday July 23rd "An Evening With Scott Barker"
6:00 PM



First Presbyterian Church Sanctuary

You will not want to miss this energetic performer as he serenades with favorites from church as well as popular American standards.

Gastonia native Scott Barker is an accomplished pianist with a storied career. After graduating from Hunter Huss High School in 1977, Scott earned a Classical Music Performance degree from Erskine College. From there Scott's musical talents have taken him far and wide playing professionally with such groups as The Platters, The Larry Hart Band, The Full House Band and many others. Currently Scott is the pianist at Pisgah Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church in Gastonia.



Sunday August 6th "So Much to Sing About!" ~ A Choral Festival 6:00 PM First Presbyterian Church Sanctuary

A reprisal of one of last year's highlights, this choral festival will again feature choir members from a variety of area congregations led by:

John Lineberger, Conductor & Director
(Director of Music & Organist, First Presbyterian Church, Lincolnnton
Organist for Saturday Mass, St. Michael's Roman Catholic Church, Gastonia)

Andrew Barbour, Organist
(Director of Music & Organist, Emmanuel Lutheran Church, Lincolnnton)

Loretta Beam, Pianist
(Director of Music & Organist, Cedar Grove Lutheran Church, Vale)

Opportunities To Serve

Christian Ministry Soup Kitchen

Soup Kitchen dates are filling up! Thanks to everyone who has volunteered time to feed and be fed.

The 2017 dates listed below are still available. Sign up at the Government St. vestibule or call the church office.

October
November
December

Saturday 21st
Sunday 12th
Saturday 16th



Please sign up to provide refreshments after worship. It's a simple way to participate in the life of FPCL!



Registration is now underway for Vacation Bible School. This summer 5 downtown Lincolnton churches are joining together to offer an inspiring, fun-filled experience. Registration forms are available in the church office or by contacting Christine Thomas (704-435-8526).

Facebook page: [downtownlincolntonvbs](#)

What: Campout: Getting S'more of Jesus
When: July 30 – August 2, 5:30PM (Dinner); 6:00 – 8:00 PM (Program)
Where: First United Methodist Church
Who: Preschool (2-5), Grades: K-1, 2-3, 4-5
Sessions: Music, Bible, Projects, Wilderness Games, Snacks, Closing Campfire
Churches: 1st United Methodist, Emanuel UCC, 1st Presbyterian, Emmanuel Lutheran, St. Luke's Episcopal

Registrations due by Sunday July 23

Upcoming Worship Teams

July 9th

Greeters & Offering
Mort Wadsworth, John
Carpenter Worship Leader Alice
Gene Abrams
Nursery Pat Carpenter
Children's Time Danny Trapp
Lock-up Sandy Eldridge
Refreshments Rachel and Anna Gilbert

July 16th

Greeters & Offering
Mary Smith & Pam Sipe
Worship Leader Jan Duncan
Nursery Sharon Williams
Children's Time Christine Thomas
Lock-up Sandy Eldridge
Refreshments

July 23rd

Greeters & Offering
Myra and Rick
Ramsour
Worship Leader Sandy Eldridge
Nursery Pam
Sipe Children's Time Jan
Duncan
Lock-up John Carpenter
Refreshments

If you cannot serve, please find your own replacement and notify the office of the change.





Property Update – Work completed thisweek

Fellowship Hall /Kitchen Roof – after inspection we chose an inexpensive “fix” which includedsecuring some shingles and caulking holes. This should stop leaking but simplydelays the inevitable.

Vestibule WaterFountain – has been removed and will be replaced by a hot/cold water coolerdispenser gifted by a generous church member.

Campus Wi-Fi –existing Wi-Fi did not extend much beyond the offices and choir room. Comtek isworking with us to boost the signal to cover both buildings. This is especiallyimportant to allow the preschool the ability to stream educational material andto replace our sanctuary sound system with an efficient digital one. This initial work is inexpensive and costs are being sharedwith the preschool.

Park – Five youngladies from our Girl Scout Troop under the leadership of Tina Cloer haveundertaken the park as the project to attain their Silver Award. Work has begunand is anticipated to last into September. The scope includes bench repair orreplacement, tables, landscaping, planting and mulching.

Many thanks to sessionproperty representative Sandy Eldridge for her good work on all of this.

Remember In Prayer And Acts Of Kindness

Randy Baucom, friend of the McBrydes
Oliver Bone, John Lineberger's great-uncle
Helen Bone, John Lineberger's great-aunt
Cindy Boone, Karen Morgan's sister
Tom Bowen
Nan Bumgarner, friend of Scott Smith
Helen Caskey
Jan & David Clark and family
John Cloer, Thad Cloer's father
Dick Eckburg
Amy Harrison, Kristy McBryde's sister
Susan Henforth Ford and family, on the death of her father Bob
Charles & Judy Holland
Glenn Jackson, grandson of Judy Roberts' friend
Bill Larrison, friend of John Lafferty
Ted Larrison, Bill Larrison's brother
John Lineberger and family
Angie & Rich Lukes, friends of Nancy Rudisill
The family of Jim Moore
Joe Morgan and family
The family of Margie Payseur
Susan Rhodes, Sue Bowen's friend
The family of Lesa Ritter
Rasheem Sinclair, friend of Deede and Khalilah Young
Janice Stroupe
Loren Ward, friend of Shortie McConnell
David Wulf, friend of John Lafferty

Our Homebound or Those Unable to Attend: Carolyn Lee, Imogene Long, Frances Nelson

Our Partners in Ministry: Drs. Leslie and Cynthia Morgan, South Asia

Please contact the church office to inform us of those needing prayer as well as those who should be removed from the list.

First Presbyterian Church
114 West Main Street, Lincolnton, NC 28092
Phone: 704-735-8671 www.fpclincolnton.org
Church School: 9:30am Worship: 10:30 am
Choir Rehearsal: 7:00pm Wednesdays
MISSION: Reach. Teach. Feed. Love.

MEET OUR STAFF

Rev. Danny Trapp	Pastor	dtrapp@carolina.rr.com (cell—704-654-1319)
John Lineberger	Music Director/Organist	musicdirector@fpclincolnton.org
Jill Goins	Administrative Assistant	admin@fpclincolnton.org
Kristen Willis	Preschool Director	preschool@fpclincolnton.org
Nancy Rudisill	Sexton	admin@fpclincolnton.org

SESSION

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