

In Touch

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH ROANOKE RAPIDS NC
First Presbyterian Church seeks to follow the teachings of Jesus Christ by expressing our love for Him and our neighbors through worship, discipleship, stewardship, fellowship, congregational care, and mission.



Sharing Our Gifts

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A NOTE FROM THE PASTOR

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

Since I have two brand new hip joints I have been doing a whole lot of walking for my recovery and for general health benefits. While I am walking I will listen to podcasts. One of my podcast sources is TEDtalks. TED stands for Technology, Entertainment, and Design. TEDtalks are set up all over the world. I believe that there was one on Lake Gaston a few years back. TEDtalks are conferences where a series of 18 minute talks are given about all kinds of ideas on technology, entertainment and design. The talks are always very stimulating. I heartily recommend that you look them up on the web and watch, or listen to, a few talks every day.

One day I was walking and listening to this fellow talk about how the technology that allows for gene manipulation in human beings is becoming more and more ubiquitous. This is an amazing technology that will allow all sorts of genetically caused diseases to be cured. Children with Cystic Fibrosis now have a way to live perfectly normal lives, all they need is to be treated with a drug that will enter into the nucleus of their cells, snip out a portion of their damaged DNA and splice in a repaired piece.

The technology that supports this medical treatment, called CRISPR, can be used for other types of gene manipulation on other species. Scientists have successfully spliced genes into frogs that make them glow in the dark. Some of the foods we eat are genetically modified using this technology. And of course if scientists can cure diseases in humans, they could, at some time, also modify other aspects of a person's DNA to make them be super athletes, or super models, or anything that a person could desire.

This is not news. Some of you may remember that I have written to you about this before. I even did an adult lesson during a Vacation Bible School on this topic. CRISPR-based medical therapy is a world-changing technology that has the potential to greatly reduce suffering, not only in humans, but in all species. Unfortunately, humans, sinful creatures that we are, will often take a wonderful capability that we have and find a way to abuse

A NOTE FROM THE PASTOR

it. Gunpowder was initially invented by the Chinese to make fireworks. But soon it was used to make rockets for war.

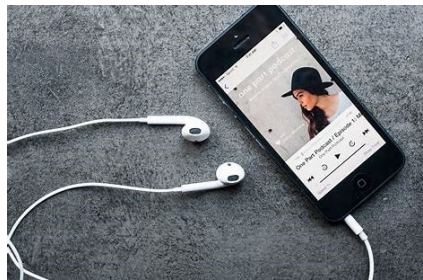
What was interesting to me about this TEDtalk was that the speaker was upset about the fact that there is very little preventing a scientist from genetically modifying a developing embryo or a mature human being for sinister purposes. He was convinced that the scientific community was completely unprepared to self-police themselves when it came to the possibility of making designer babies, or creating living beings that are mixtures of attributes from several species.

As I was listening to him, I was waiting for him to talk about the moral obligation to do work that honors God and respects God's command to be compassionate stewards of the earth and all its creatures. But that never came up. There was no mention of God throughout his lecture. Too bad.

Too bad because all of the ethical underpinnings that he said were lacking in the scientific community already exist, but have been successfully ignored, maybe even forgotten. That is what got my attention. We are at a point in our society when there is a need for a spiritual center in our collective lives which tells us when we are approaching an ethical boundary and guides us as we seek to take advantage of new technologies and use them for good. The church has always been that, but the church is largely unfamiliar to those who seem to be crying out for it. I wonder if that is not part of our calling as followers of Jesus Christ, to reach out to those who are hungering for some order in the chaos that comes from doing things just because we can, rather than asking whether we should.

Grace and peace,

Joe



JULY CALENDAR OF EVENTS

MONDAY, JULY 1

6:00 pm Worship Committee

7:00 pm Witness Committee

TUESDAY, JULY 2

Office Open

WEDNESDAY, JULY 3

Office Closed

THURSDAY, JULY 4

Office Closed



SUNDAY, JULY 7

9:45 am Sunday School

11:00 am Worship

THURSDAY, JULY 11

6:00 pm Finance & Personnel

SUNDAY, JULY 14

9:45 am Sunday School

11:00 am Worship

MONDAY, JULY 15

1:00-4:00 pm Music Camp

TUESDAY, JULY 16

1:00-4:00 pm Music Camp

JULY CALENDAR OF EVENTS

WEDNESDAY, JULY 17

12 Noon Lunch Bunch at Logan's

1:00-4:00 pm Music Camp

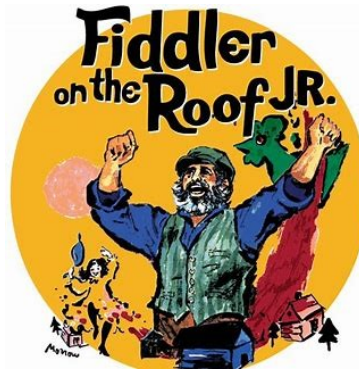
THURSDAY, JULY 18

1:00-4:00 pm Music Camp

FRIDAY, JULY 19

1:00-4:00 pm Music Camp

7:00 pm Fiddler on the Roof Performance



SATURDAY, JULY 20

7:00 pm Fiddler on the Roof Performance

SUNDAY, JULY 21

9:45 am Sunday School

11:00 am Worship

6:00 pm Session

SUNDAY, JULY 28

9:45 am Sunday School

11:00 am Worship

CONCERNS OF THE CHURCH

Worldwide Concerns

- *SYRIA and YEMEN
- * SOMALIA, drought, famine, anarchy
- * EGYPT and LIBYA political unrest
- *ISRAEL,GAZA, PALESTINE, peaceful coexistence
- * IRAQ, AFGHANISTAN, security
- *USA, war in Syria, Iraq and Afghanistan
- *NIGERIA the approximately 100 abducted Chibok school girls
- *Syrian refugees
- *Ukrainian people victimized by foreign aggression
- *The people of the Democratic Republic of Congo as they struggle with an Ebola outbreak, Government instability and famine
- *Families separated at the Southern Border
- *Victims of fires in California
- *People of Venezuela
- *Victims of tornadoes in the South and floods in the Midwest
- *Victims of violence in Sri Lanka
- *People of Sudan



**FPC Lunch Bunch at LOGANS on Wednesday,
July 17th and at SECOND STREET on
Wednesday, August 21st**

Please join us for a Dutch treat lunch, at 12:00 Noon, each
month as we fellowship together!



Everyone is
welcome!



Healing Friends & Families of the Church

Priscilla Ricks
Glenn & Gayle Garner, @ Meals on Wheels
Sheryl and Wayne O'Neil
Ken and Holly Phipps & family
David and LaNae Grimes
Mary Francis Fisher
Harrison West, son of Kent & Carol
Debbie Daniels
Delbra Davis
Betsy Medlin
B.T. Brown
Mike Stainback
Billy Green
Joyce Thomas
Jason Mitcham

Bill Howell
Sally Ray Warren
Kevin and Michael
Doug Hayes
Sandra Stephenson
Ellen Burnett
Susan Horrell
Vicki Pruden
Peg Myrick
Bev Hummel
Becky Hux
Jonathan Hayes
Marie Anderson

SPECIAL PRAYERS

- We pray for the Children of Clara Hearne and Aurelian Spring Schools and our ministry to them.
- We pray for Stanley White and Littleton Churches during their uncertain times of not having a pastor.
- We pray that Carter Roux will be kept safe while teaching in South Korea.
- Jeff and Diana Dillard
- Pray for Rev. Kadade and the Evangelical Church in Niger.

On-Going Care

Harry Bright
Bobbie Bright
Sandy Sandoval
Charles Harris

**ALL people
who provide
on-going care**



ADDRESSES:

Mike Stainback
Pennybyrn
109 Penny Road
High Point, NC 27260

Charles Harris
Vintage Inn
826 East Boulevard
Villa #5
Williamston, NC 27892

FIDDLER ON THE ROOF, Jr.

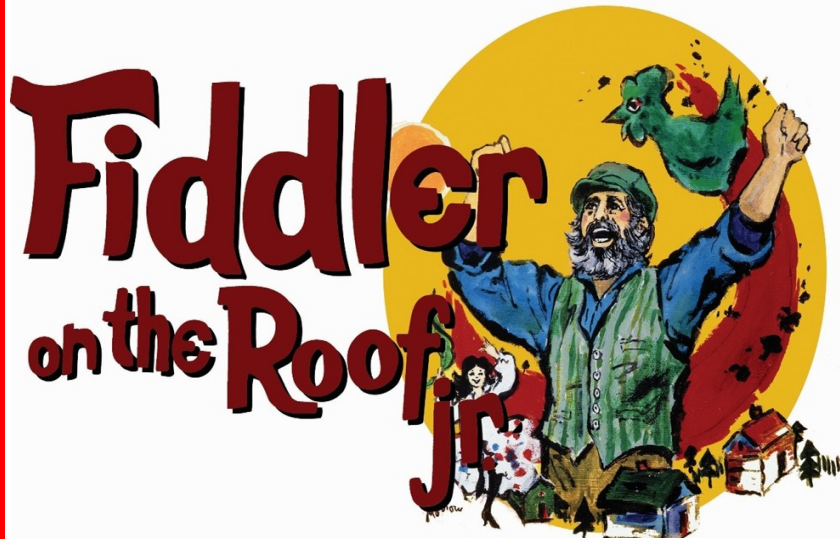
Set in Imperial Russia, 1905, FIDDLER ON THE ROOF, is a tale of Tevye, who is a poor milkman and the father of five daughters. Tevye and his wife Golde try to maintain their Jewish religious traditions despite outside influences that threaten to invade their family and town. Tevye does not always quote scriptures correctly, but he is a man of strong faith. He prays to God as he tries to protect his daughters and teach them traditional values of his Jewish heritage during the unsettling time of anti-semitic Czarist Russia.

Although FIDDLER ON THE ROOF is the story of small town Russian Jews at the start of the twentieth century, the show celebrates themes of love and tradition that cut across barriers of time, race, nationality, class and religion.

It also celebrates those pilgrims that have been courageous enough to leave their homeland in search of a better life. In the United States, most all of us are here because of someone who made that same decision.

Please join the youngsters that will perform FIDDLER ON THE ROOF, Jr. to experience what that decision must have felt like first hand as they perform this beautiful story of faith, love and courage through their acting, singing and dancing. Shalom!

**FREE
MUSIC & DRAMA CAMP**



July 15-19, 1-4 pm each day

Performances July 19 & 20, 7 pm

Rising 2nd through 12th graders

(Teens begin practice on June 5)

Students must have finished at least first grade.

**First Presbyterian Church Loy Building
16 East Fifth Street
537-4018**

Application forms in the church office

AUGUST CALENDAR OF EVENTS

SUNDAY, AUGUST 4

9:45 am Sunday School

11:00 am Worship

MONDAY, AUGUST 5

6:00 pm Worship Committee

7:00 pm Witness Committee

THURSDAY, AUGUST 8

6:00 pm Finance & Personnel

SUNDAY, AUGUST 11

9:45 am Sunday School

11:00 am Worship

SATURDAY, AUGUST 17

11:00 am Voter ID Seminar

SUNDAY, AUGUST 18

9:45 am Sunday School

11:00 am Worship

6:00 pm Session

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 21

12 Noon Lunch Bunch at 2nd Street Lunch

SUNDAY, AUGUST 25

9:45 am Sunday School

11:00 am Worship



JULY BIRTHDAYS

Linda Brewer	July 3
Mike Knudson	July 13
Grace Fishel	July 14
Faye Graham	July 14
Allen Snowbarger	July 14
Mike Stainback	July 17
LaNae Grimes	July 23
Kay Norwood	July 23
Trace Oglesby	July 29



AUGUST BIRTHDAYS

Mary Small	August 14
Jenny Shives	August 16
Sharron Clifton	August 20
Riddick Ricks	August 21
Jeff Dillard	August 24
Summer Shives	August 25
Michael Glasgow	August 27

May you spend the day being...

CELEBRATED by
those around you





Halifax County Board of Elections to conduct educational seminar on voter ID requirement

The Halifax County Board of Elections will hold an educational seminar about voter photo identification requirements at 11:00 am on Saturday, August 17th, 2019 at the Halifax County Agricultural Building, 359 Ferrell Lane in Halifax, NC 27839.

The seminar is free and open to the public.

Beginning in 2020, voters will be required to provide photo identification before they vote. This includes both in-person and by-mail voting, with some exceptions.

In November 2018, North Carolina voters approved an amendment to the N.C. Constitution to require voters to present photo ID at the polls.

Session Law 2018-144 requires each county board of elections to hold at least two voter ID seminars before September 1, 2019. Additional seminars will be held after the November Municipal Election. Dates, times and locations will be announced at a later date. Attendees also will receive information about voting options, including absentee-by-mail, One-Stop early voting and Election Day voting. Information about provisional voting, the availability of free North Carolina voter ID cards and residency requirements for voting also will be provided.

Voters can obtain a free voter ID card at the local county board of elections office during regular office hours. To request the free voter ID card, voters must be registered and complete a request form. Voter ID request forms can be found at www.halifaxnc.com.

For more information on the voter ID requirement in North Carolina, please go to www.ncsbe.gov/Voter-ID.

Questions? Please contact the Halifax County Board of Elections at (252)583-4391 or elections@halifaxnc.com.



A NOTE FROM THE FINANCE AND PERSONNEL COMMITTEE

To you, the Congregation, a big Thank You for the wonderful pledge response received in May. Entering May, we were almost \$4,000 under the year-to-date pledge commitments and potentially facing cuts to our expenses for the last half of the year. BUT, May pledges were almost \$8,600 OVER the month's budget! We are now about \$5,000 over the YTD pledge budget. Thank You from the Finance and Personnel Committee, and please continue to meet your commitments for the balance of the year so the Church can continue our good works locally and throughout the world.



EMAIL ADDRESS CHANGE

If you've notice the front of the bulletin lately you may have seen that the church office and the pastor's email addresses have changed. They are as follows:

Church office: firstpresbyterianchurchrr@gmail.com

Rev. Sandoval's: fpcerminister@gmail.com

Although we will continue the old embarq emails for a short while, please try to use our new gmail accounts because we will eventually delete them. Thanks!





Church finances as of May 2019 (Year to date)

	Budgeted	Actual
Income	\$72508.85	\$77753.72
Expenses	\$72196.40	\$65942.60
Over/(Under)	\$312.45	\$11811.12



The **PENTECOST OFFERING** which nurtures the faith of those who are the church to come – children, youth and young adults, was received on June 9th. 40% of the offering remains with our congregation to support ministries with children and youth in our local community; 25% goes to Young Adult Volunteer experience; 25% supports ministries with youth; and 10% supports the “Educate a Child, Transform the World” national initiative.

In 2018 we contributed \$114.60. Our congregation contributed \$225 this year!

Great job! Thanks to all who supported this special offering!

SERMON SERIES ON THE BOOK OF REVELATION



Last Sunday, June 23rd, Pastor Joe started a new sermon series on the Book of Revelation. There are 22 chapters in the Book of Revelation and it is written by John. The series will last approximately 20 weeks leading us into Advent.

The books of the Gospel give us a brief summary of the events and conditions leading up to Jesus' return. Sixty years after the resurrection of Jesus the book of Revelation was written. John was on the island of Patmos when he received this vision.

The theme of Revelation is to make your outward witness consistent with your inward Christian convictions.

The book of Revelation was written to seven churches as both encouragement and challenge. It is not a secret code in which believers can decipher the timeline of Jesus' return. Instead, it shows that every human kingdom eventually becomes Babylon and must be resisted. Jesus, the slain Lamb who dies for the sins of the world, will return as King with His followers to prompt repentance. He will permanently remove evil and make all things new again. That promise motivates all generations of God's people to remain faithful in the midst of persecution until our King returns.

You don't want to miss this exciting series on Revelation!

Be sure to join us each Sunday at 11:00 am.

If you do have to be away you can catch up with the audio sermons on the website:

www.fpc-rr.org

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**JULY-AUGUST 2019
IN TOUCH**

