

July — September, 2020



# THE MESSENGER

Dear Friends:

A couple of weeks ago I was playing around on YouTube and came across some highlights from the movie “Apollo 13.” I remember the movie and went to see it when it was out, but what I really remember, even though I was just a child at the time, are the actual events. Most of you are familiar with them, I’m sure. Fresh off the successful moon trips of Apollo 11 and 12, Apollo 13 was a very different story. There was an explosion, a loss of power and oxygen, and for several days the world clung to the news, hoping and praying for a safe return.

One of the trickiest parts of the journey home was the “re-entry,” when the Command Module had to plunge through the Earth’s atmosphere on the way to splash down. It was tricky because the heat shield that protects the Command Module during re-entry had been damaged, and no one was sure if it would hold up. It did hold up, of course, and thanks to heroic efforts, the astronauts made it back safely to earth.

This idea of re-entry, and the dangers it entails, has been on my mind a bit lately. It is on my mind because we are beginning to face a dangerous re-entry ourselves, a re-entry into our lives, our world, and our society, into so much that seems to have been left behind during the pandemic. How do we re-enter our lives, and do so in a safe and faithful way? Here are a few thoughts.

- **Take your time.** Don’t rush back into everything you did before until you feel good and ready. I know there are voices out there that are saying everything is fine now, but you must make your own decision. Don’t let anyone push you to move faster than you are ready to move.
- **Pay attention to what you are feeling.** The levels of anxiety and depression have sky-rocketed during the pandemic. As I mentioned in my last article, take time to slow down, pause, and name the emotions that you are feeling. I have found myself to be very much on edge at times, and that edginess has bled over into my encounters with friends and family. Has that happened to you? Sometimes it is the people to whom we are the closest that bear the brunt of our anxiety. Have you had disagreements with anyone lately? Then pay close attention to what you are feeling.
- **Pray, pray, pray, and when you finish with that, pray some more.** Take your feelings, the good, the bad, and the ugly, to God in prayer. It is perfectly ok to feel stress, anxiety, and worry about everything that is going on right now, especially about getting back out into the world. Remember, however, that you do not have to deal with all of this on your own. Turn to God, lay your concerns at God’s feet. Philippians 4:6-7 says “Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.”

Yes, re-entry back into our lives may be tough. It may be filled with peril, fear, and trepidation. But remember this: we do not go back by ourselves. God is with us, God loves us, and God will be with us every step of the way.

Yours in Christ,  
John Pruitt

## CHURCH INFORMATION

First Presbyterian Church  
611 Oakhurst Street  
Kernersville, NC 27284

Office: (336) 993-7358  
Fax: (336) 993-5526  
www.fpckernersville.org

Rev. John Pruitt  
Minister

Ms. Jane Johnson  
Church Secretary

### Services:

Sunday Worship: 10:30 a.m.



## Birthdays

### July

2 Joyce White  
5 Gerry Sharp  
12 Deryel Clark  
13 Joy Lynn Budkey  
17 Winnie Theobald  
27 Konnie Conrad  
29 Jan Roney

### August

1 Kae Mattingly  
4 Rusty Sudderth  
14 Marcia Newton  
19 Burch Idol  
20 Dottie Roudabush

### September

4 Robert Kerr  
7 Kerry Kerr  
12 Robert Myers  
14 Nick Nitkin  
16 Floyd Conrad  
17 Norman Self  
18 Donna Carmichael  
18 Jim Carmichael  
25 Debbie Dillon  
26 Lynda Self  
27 Judy Maxwell  
29 Rocky Newton  
30 Karen Mills

*If your birthday is missing or incorrect, please contact the church office. Thank you.*

## Anniversaries

### July

6 Allen & Kae Mattingly  
8 Skip & Shirley Smith  
16 Rocky & Lisa Newton  
22 Mike & Darcy Polinsky

### August

10 Deryel & Ginger Clark

### September

Nothing on File

*If your anniversary is missing or incorrect, please contact the church office. Thank you.*

## First Presbyterian Church Session Members

### Class of 2019

Lorna Foster  
Lynda Self

### Class of 2020

Dee Barham  
Rich Tincher

### Class of 2021

Kerry Kerr  
Rusty Sudderth



## **The Parable of the Mustard Seed**

*by Mike Southern*

The field stood empty,  
    just gently rolling hills and wild grass  
    where birds scratched for food.  
A man walked by,  
    whistling as he enjoyed the sunshine  
    and the fresh country air...

*Then he stopped.*

He looked out across the empty field  
    then reached into his pocket.  
He pulled out a small bag  
    and poured something  
    onto his palm.

SEEDS.

Seeds of many sizes and colors,  
    a gift from his young son,  
    gathered while he played in the garden.  
There weren't many of them  
and he didn't want to waste the gift...  
    but the field was so empty  
    and the birds looked so hungry  
        so he walked out into the field  
        and flung the seeds around him.  
    Then he walked away.  
The birds quickly gobbled up the seeds  
        EXCEPT for one small mustard seed,  
    so small that the birds missed it  
        as they gobbled down the rest.  
That tiny mustard seed fell through the grass  
    and onto the ground...  
    and it grew  
        and it grew  
        and it GREW  
    until it was so large the birds  
        came and built their nests in its branches.  
And the field wasn't empty anymore.

# *Worship Service Schedules*

**To be determined due to Coronavirus.**