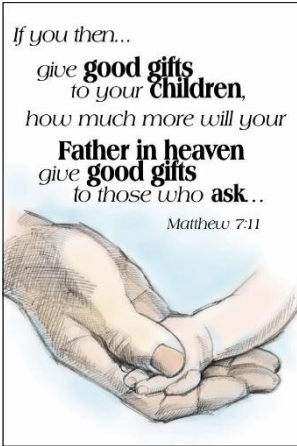


<p>Rev. John McCarthy – Pastor Sherolyn Barnett – Office Manager Secretary@1stpres.cc Sue Wilkins – Treasurer Jim Luedtke – Choir Director</p>		<p>Face Book: www.facebook.com/firstpressobo Website: 1stpres.cc Office Hours Mon – Thurs: 9:00 am – 2:00 pm Closed Friday's 434-572-3581</p>
--	---	---



Give Thanks

As we get closer to the Holidays, here are a few verses that help us remember the importance of an attitude of gratitude. Everything we have is a gift from the Lord. “Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights,” (James 1:17, NIV). We all at times get so busy with life, such as travel, shopping, school events, and extracurricular activities. This busyness can steal our focus from the most important thing, glorifying and praising the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, and enjoying Him forever.

"¹⁶ Rejoice always, ¹⁷ pray continually, ¹⁸ give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God’s will for you in Christ Jesus." (1 Thessalonians 5:16-18, NIV)

This verse is a perfect recipe for a life well lived. Rejoice comes from the word “joy”, which as we know is not the same as happy, because happiness is a fleeting emotion. Joy comes from the Lord and is generated from an inner peace as we draw closer to the Lord. Praying continually fosters our relationship with God, which in turn helps us to see all the things we can be thankful for in any circumstance we find ourselves in.

"⁴ Enter his gates with thanksgiving and his courts with praise; give thanks to him and praise his name.⁵ For the Lord is good and his love endures forever; his faithfulness continues through all generations." (Psalm 100:4-5)

God is faithful through all generations, and that is the reason why the author exhorts us to enter his gates with thanksgiving.

"Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God." (Philippians 4:6)

Anxiety has been an increasing problem in our country. Anxiety is based on the fear of the unknown. However, if you are in prayer, thanking God for the blessings around you, you are communing with the life giver Himself, and in His grace and peace melt away the temporal fears of this world because you know what He has already done and will do.

"Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace. And be thankful." (Colossians 3:15)

This Thanksgiving, Advent, and Christmas season, lean into your spiritual relationship with your Father in Heaven. Pray for an attitude of gratitude. Pray for the wisdom to know that God is in control, and there is no need for anxiety or stress. Pray, thanking God for the greatest gift ever given, His Son, Jesus Christ, who died and rose again so that we may die to sin and raise to live life eternal with the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit!

"And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him." (Colossians 3:17)

In Christ,
Pastor John





Don't forget Daylight Savings Time –
Beginning on Sunday, November 1!

Turn your clocks back on Saturday,
October 31st (Halloween) before bed.



November 1 – 23rd Sunday after Pentecost

Sermon Title: What We Are

Scriptures: Psalm 34:1-10; 1 John 3:1-3

Nov 8 – 24th Sunday after Pentecost

Sermon Title: Are You Prepared

Scriptures: 1 Thess. 4:13-18; Matt. 25:1-13

Nov 15 – 25th Sunday after Pentecost

Sermon Title: What Are Your Talents?

Scriptures: 1 Thess. 5:1-11; Matt. 25:14-30

Nov 22 – Christ the King Sunday

Sermon Title: Authority, Power, and Dominion

Scriptures: Psalm 100; Ephesians 1:15-23

Nov 29 – 1st Sunday of Advent

Sermon Title: Who Is Coming

Scriptures: Psalm 80:1-7; Isaiah 9:6-7a

Dec 6 – 2nd Sunday of Advent

Sermon Title: Mighty God

Scriptures: Psalm 85:1-4, 10-13; Rev 1: 8, 17-18

Community Thanksgiving Service - Come out to the annual
Community Thanksgiving Service. Hosted by First Baptist on Tuesday,
November 24 at 7pm.

Rev. John McCarthy will preach the message.



Veteran's Day – In observation of Veteran's Day the church office will be closed.
We hope and pray all will enjoy the day and remember all the veterans who
help(ed) keep us free and safe.



Prayer List – Carolyn Lovelace, Art Carter, and Patty Ward Alexakis – all previous members of First Pres passed during October. Larry "Rat" Davis passed. Prayers for their families and friends. Mark Foster – having difficulty swallowing. Elaine Glenn fell and slowly healing from fall and a virus. Walt, Don Cherry's nephew in Columbus, OH was rear ended by a truck.

Jim Luedtke's daughter, was in a serious car accident, she was blessed to receive only bruising. Sandi Huges had a mild reaction to the flu shot, and she has a swollen foot making wearing a shoe difficult. She is slowly healing. Jennifer McCarthy had a sinus infection but is recovering.

Prayers Continue – for those traveling, grieving, hurting emotionally, financially, spiritually and physically, especially Andy, Pat & Ted, Dwight, Gilliam family, Carol Foster, the Glenn family, Kit Hooper and Patricia Burton in Commonwealth Senior Living, Debiec family, Danny Hazelwood, Jennifer McIntosh. Many are in need of prayers and support.

Praises - Frances Harrell's nephew, Everett is now cancer free! Frosty and Joni Owens are proud grandparents to a new granddaughter, Collins Grace Owens, born Oct. 11 at 7lb 15oz. Parents: Mike and Melissa Owens in Wake Forest. Jim and Susie Luedtke were also blessed with a 4th great grandchild.



Thank you to all who have provided supplies for our shoeboxes this year. We have received all necessary supplies (we believe) to fill the 60 boxes.

If you have gone onto the Samaritan's Purse website and filled an online box, please let us know so we can add that to the count of boxes prepared and shipped by First Presbyterian.

Or if you would like to go online and fill a box there is still time (and boxes can be filled throughout the year). Click the link below for ease of going to the site to fill boxes: [Broadcast TV Ads](#)

After clicking the link scroll down to "Build a Shoebox Online" and the green bar "Get Started".

OCC Packing Party – Sunday, November 15 after worship. Come join the fun as we pack the 60 boxes to send to children across the world.

OCC Collection Dates – November 16-23. There will be a 2-hour window each day where volunteers are needed to receive and record shoebox deliveries. Wagons and hand trucks will be available to assist with getting the shoeboxes indoors – no heavy lifting is required! On November 23rd the boxes will be transported to Boydton, VA.

Collection Schedule – We need 6-8 people each day. Please consider helping with this ministry and the opportunity to serve. Sign-up sheet is on bulletin board next to the office.

Monday, November 16th from 5-7 pm

Wednesday, November 18th from 3-5pm

Friday, November 20th from 5-7 pm

Sunday, November 22nd from 1-3 pm

Tuesday, November 17th from 10am–12 noon

Thursday, November 19th from 10am–12 noon

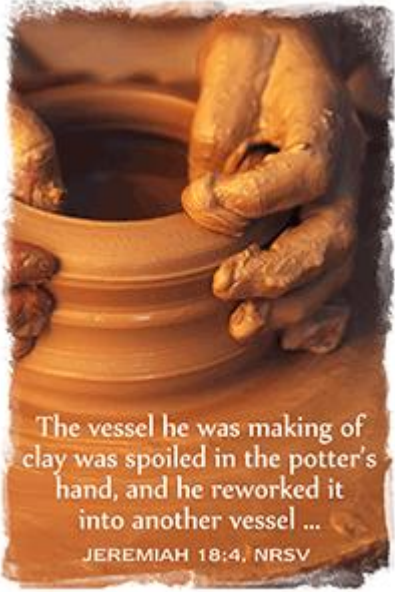
Saturday, November 21st from 10am–2:00 pm

Monday, November 23rd from 10am–12 noon

Contact Jennifer McCarthy for any questions.



Annual Christmas Cantata – First Pres Chancel Choir will present their annual Cantata on Sunday, December 13th. Mark your calendar and start the season with beautiful Christ centered music.



Potter’s Clay

As I was teaching Sunday School last week, to the youth, I was impressed by the story of Jeremiah and the potter.

In Jeremiah 18, God sent Jeremiah to a potter’s house. Jeremiah watched the man craft a bowl and finding it wasn’t perfect reshaped it. In verse 4 we read, “so he made it again another vessel, as seemed good to the potter to make it”. God explained, “Behold, as the clay is in the potter’s hand, so are ye in mine hand, O house of Israel” (Jeremiah 18:6). We can take a lesson from this. Even though we may feel broken, and marred due to sin or other circumstances, God is not done with us. He is ready and willing to take us and reshape us into the being He knows we can be.

It is proven that more growth and strength comes from pain and trials. I showed a picture of the Great Basin Bristle Pine Tree, one of the longest living things on the earth. Some say they could be up to 5000 years old. These trees grow in the desert areas of the western US. They grow in the harshest environments. It isn’t due to ease that they have survived for so long. It is quite the opposite, it is because of the harsh conditions: little rain, short growing season, and extreme temperatures that these trees are so tough. The bark is nearly as hard as a rock. So, they are not damaged by forceful winds. They have developed “thick skin”. We too can take a lesson from these trees. We often think “Why would a loving God allow all this evil to happen?” or “Why am I suffering through all these trials?” Perhaps we feel we should be receiving many more blessings because of the “good” we are doing in the world. But God knows what and who we can become. He wants us to be more like Him; to do so means we must change and be reshaped.

Remaining open to God’s shaping means making room for prayer, scripture, and honest self-examination. Trusting God does not mean pretending that suffering is easy or that every hardship is punishment. Isaiah offers a fitting prayer: “But now, O LORD, thou art our father; we are the clay, and thou our potter; and we all are the work of thy hand” (Isaiah 64:8, KJV).
~ Sherolyn



“The Table”

You are warmly invited to come and put your feet under **The Table**. As we gather around **The Table**, it becomes a sacred space for genuine communion – an opportunity to connect deeply, not just with God, but with one another. Take a break from your busy schedule!

- Join us at THE TABLE for food and fellowship.
- Hosted by: Frances Harrell, Carol Foster, and Sallie Adams
- When: First Fridays (November 6, December 4, etc)
- Where: 1212 Sixth Street, South Boston
- Time: 11:30 am – 1:00 pm
- RSVP: Frances Harrell 434-575-2969



November



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<div>1</div> <div>9:00 am - Diaconate 9:45 am - Sun Sch 10:30 am - Fellowship 11:00 am Worship 6:30 pm - Big Questions/Honest Conversations</div>	<div>2</div> <div>11:00 am - NA</div>	<div>3</div> <div>6:30 pm—Prayer Meeting</div>	<div>4</div> <div>10:30 am—WBS 12:00 pm - AA 6:00 pm NA 6:00 pm—Choir</div>	<div>5</div> <div>7:00 pm - Al-Anon</div>	<div>6 - Office Closed</div> <div>12:00 PM AA</div>	<div>7</div>
<div>8 - Communion</div> <div>9:45 am - Sun Sch 10:30 am - Fellowship 11:00 am - Worship 12:00 pm – Congregational Meal 6:30 pm - Big Questions/Honest Conversations</div>	<div>9</div> <div>11:00 am - NA</div>	<div>10</div> <div>6:30 pm—Prayer Meeting</div>	<div>11 – Office Closed</div> <div></div> <div>10:30 am—WBS 12:00 pm - AA 6:00 pm NA 6:00 pm—Choir</div>	<div>12</div> <div>7:00 pm - Al-Anon</div>	<div>13 - Office Closed</div> <div>12:00 PM AA</div>	<div>14</div>
<div>15 - 5 Cents a Meal collection</div> <div>9:45 am - Sun School 10:30 am - Fellowship 11:00 am Worship 12:30 pm - Session 6:30 pm - Big Questions/Honest Conversations</div>	<div>16</div> <div>11:00 am - NA</div>	<div>17</div> <div>6:30 pm—Prayer Meeting</div>	<div>18</div> <div>10:30 am—WBS 12:00 pm - AA 6:00 pm NA 6:00 pm—Choir</div>	<div>19</div> <div>7:00 pm - Al-Anon</div>	<div>20 - Office Closed</div> <div>12:00 PM AA</div>	<div>21</div>
OCC Shoeboxes Received – Volunteers Needed!						
<div>22</div> <div>9:45 am - Sun Sch 10:30 am - Fellowship 11:00 am - Worship 6:30 pm - Big Questions/Honest Conversations</div> <div>OCC Shoeboxes</div>	<div>23</div> <div>11:00 am - NA</div>	<div>24</div> <div>6:30 pm—Prayer Meeting 7:00pm - Community Thanksgiving Service @ First Baptist</div>	<div>25</div> <div>10:30 am—WBS 12:00 pm - AA 6:00 pm NA 6:00 pm—Choir</div>	<div>26 – Office Closed</div> <div>7:00 pm - Al-Alon</div> <div></div>	<div>27 - Office Closed</div> <div>12:00 PM AA</div> <div></div>	<div>28</div>
<div>29</div> <div>9:45 am - Sun Sch 10:30 am - Fellowship 11:00 am - Worship 6:30 pm - Big Questions/Honest Conversations</div>	<div>30</div> <div>11:00 am - NA</div>	<div>December 1</div> <div>6:30 pm—Prayer Meeting</div>	<div>December 2</div> <div>10:30 am—WBS 12:00 pm - AA 6:00 pm NA 6:00 pm—Choir</div>	<div>December 3</div> <div>7:00 pm - Al-Anon</div>	<div>December 4 - Office Closed</div> <div>12:00 PM AA</div>	<div>December 5</div>



3	Norma Henderson*
7	Susan Wilkinson
8	Jim Albert
10	Sarah McCollum

11	Irene Smith*
11	Matthew Bain
13	John McCarthy
13	Kim Wickemeyer
14	Bob Hughes
16	Peggy Burton
20	Russell Lee
21	Andrew Ferguson
22	Ann Cabell Zimmermann
23	Debbie Ferguson
23	Jean Long
26	Pat Hay
26	Charles Van Duser*
27	Maelyn Freshour
28	Elaine Glenn
28	Mike Marvin
30	Kathy Debiec



Session Notes: Since our last Newsletter, our Session discussed:
The Session met on Sunday, October 18, 2026.

1. Rev. John McCarthy opened the meeting with prayer.
2. News of the congregation was shared by Pastor John.
3. The minutes of the September 20th Stated Session Meeting were approved.
4. Next Presbytery Meeting – October 22 (Thursday): In-person, Raleigh Court Presbyterian Church.
5. Membership Roll – Dabney Thomas Poindexter Gilliam, Sr. passed away on September 29, 2026. The roll currently stands at 98 members.
6. Prayer Meeting – Each Tuesday at 6:30 pm in the Fellowship Hall.
7. Discovering Faith – Sunday Evening Service at 6:30 pm in the Fellowship Hall.
8. Worship – Next Communion, Sunday, November 1, 2026.
9. The Congregation elected four “at large” members for the Nominating Committee.
10. The Session approved a Congregational Meeting be called for November 15, 2026, for the purpose of electing the Church Officers for the Class of 2029 and to approve the Pastor’s Terms of Call for 2027.
11. Sunday, November 8th there will be a Chili covered dish meal after worship.
12. Budget & Finance – Financial reports for September 2026 were reviewed.
13. The Session approved the 2027 Church Budget.
14. The Session approved the quote from Green Edge Services for annual care of the church property.
15. The Personnel Committee is meeting regularly with Pastor John to review the progress on the targets and goals established during the annual review process.
16. Operation Christmas Child – November 15 – Packing Party after Worship and Congregational Meeting.
17. November 16-23 – Collection Week
18. Hitachi Energy will provide a truck to transport the cases to the area collection point.
19. Pastor John closed the meeting with prayer.
20. Next meeting will be on Sunday, November 15, 2026.



- **Choir** - Wednesday's at 6:00 pm
- **Communion** - Sunday, November 8
- **Congregational Meal** - Sunday, November 8
- **Diaconate** – November 1 at 9:00 am
- **Session** - Sunday, November 15 at 12:30 pm
- **5 Cents-a-meal** - Sunday, November 15
- **Congregational Meeting** – November 15
- **OCC Packing Party** – Sunday, November 15

First Presbyterian Church
800 North Main Street
South Boston, VA 24592

Here is your November 2026 Newsletter