



# COMMISSION AND COMMITTEE EVENTS

## ADMINISTRATION

### **\*\*Corona Virus Information from Dr. Ken Wilkins**

Your church is gathering information and making plans about the outbreak of COVID-19, the new corona virus illness that is making its way across the globe. Eddie Bellis, Lloyd Griffith, Patty Fleming, Nancy McAden, Hal Vandersea and Ken Wilkins met on March 10 to discuss this new illness and what our response should be. The most important thing you can do is wash your hands. Respiratory illnesses are passed by person-to-person contact, either by an infected person coughing/sneezing on an uninfected person, or more likely by an uninfected person touching an infected one. Remember, it is possible to shed a virus during the incubation period when people are not having any symptoms of the illness. So, wash your hands! It's worth knowing proper technique: use soap and water, scrub for 20 seconds being careful to get the base of the palms and between fingers, and dry. Hand sanitizer of at least 62% alcohol is also acceptable. We should behave as we would during any winter flu season: If you are sick, stay home. Avoid close contact (within 6 feet for at least 10 minutes) with those who are sick. Cover your cough, preferably NOT with your hands. Wash your hands. For now, First Presbyterian Church does not plan any dramatic changes in function. We will continue to have Sunday services, regular meetings as planned, and to serve communion as usual.

### **Bulletin Insert Deadline**

Information for the bulletins needs to be to Priscilla by **Wednesday 5pm** to be included in the insert before printing. Priscilla@firstpresnb.org.

## CARE

**\*\*Grief Support Group** will meet next on **Tuesday, April 21st 5:30 – 7pm** in the Choir Room/2.08.

## EDUCATION

**All classes and Bible Studies postponed until further notice. Thank you for your understanding.**

### **Register for First Presbyterian Preschool!**

Registration for next year continues online. Please complete and return the registration form, media release form, and financial responsibility form. A check or money order for your registration fee can be mailed to the church office marked "Preschool Registration." Questions can be sent to Preschool Director Kerri Wheeler ([firstpreskerri@gmail.com](mailto:firstpreskerri@gmail.com)). Scholarships are available! Forms are available in the Preschool office or on the Preschool website ([www.firstprespreschool.info](http://www.firstprespreschool.info)) under "forms."

## FELLOWSHIP

**Fellowship Cafe** – To reopen when the church offices reopen.

### **\*\*Lunch Wagon, Save the Dates:**

The **March** Lunch Wagon to Farmville has been CANCELLED  
The **APRIL** Lunch Wagon to Goldsboro has been CANCELLED

**Plans for our JMS Center kitchen project:** The finishing of the kitchen in the J. Murphy Smith Center is nearing completion! In celebration of this long-awaited project, the fellowship committee would like to have a "kitchen shower". Even though we were able to keep some of the items from the previous kitchen, we still are in need of many supplementary necessities to create a workable kitchen. You can be a part of this process. In the next few days, you will receive an email with a list of needed items to complete our kitchen. Items include serving utensils, pots, pans etc. This list was chosen for durability and longevity. There will be several options for the purchase of these items. You may call or visit Foods Unlimited on McCarthy Boulevard to purchase items, or beginning March 8<sup>th</sup> for the rest of the month of March on Sundays, there will be a table in the courtyard between services for you to donate items that you purchased, donate towards purchase of these items or simply designate on your check to the kitchen project.

**\*\*First fellowship dinner, Wednesday, April 1. *POSTPONED til further notice.***

### **Family Camp at Camp Albemarle, April 18<sup>th</sup> Save the Date**

Family camp will happen on **April 18, 1-5pm** at Camp Albemarle with a catered dinner at 4pm. Family activities will include waterfront, tree climbing and more. Information about sign up to come.

## OUTREACH

### **\*\*Backpack Blessings IMPORTANT**

Friends,

In response to the nutrition needs of children in our area due to the Coronavirus, we will be holding food distributions on March 27 at each of our summer distribution sites for families in our area who are identified as living in food insecure homes. We will continue these food distributions every two weeks until they are no longer needed.

We need your help!! Here are some ways that you can make a difference.

#### **1. *Food donations***

**We are asking for food donations of specific foods to go in our food boxes to supplement what we have already ordered.**

These foods are:

Canned fruits and vegetables  
Canned soups  
Tuna or other canned meat  
Boxes of pasta (any kind)  
peanut butter  
jelly (no glass)  
brownie or cookie mix  
ramen noodles  
Food Lion Gift cards

These donations can be brought to **Garber UMC (4202 Country Club Road)** from **10:00 am - noon** starting **Thursday, March 19** and continuing every M-F after that. You will just need to drive by with your donations, there will be board members to unload your car.

You can also order food items online and have them shipped directly to Garber.

2. ***Monetary donations*** are needed and appreciated! You can give to your local church to their Backpack Blessings Fund, donate at our website ([www.backpackblessings.com](http://www.backpackblessings.com)), or mail a check directly to:

Backpack Blessings, Inc.  
PO Box 1675  
New Bern, NC 28563-1675

3. ***PRAY!*** For our children, and for their families, and for our communities!

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to call or email me  
Ruth Powers

### **\*\*Free Income Tax Return Preparation *POSTPONED TIL FURTHER NOTICE***

Any questions, call **252-772-5245** (*Please do not call Christ Church – this is an independently run program, separate from the church's activities.*)

Web Site: [www.NewBernVITA.com](http://www.NewBernVITA.com), Email: [NewBern@gmail.com](mailto:NewBern@gmail.com)

**\*\*Faith Connection's Community Forum, "Stewards of the Earth," next Sunday, March 29, POSTPONED TIL FURTHER NOTICE**

**\*\*New Hope Volunteer Village Opening has been moved to July.**