



First United Presbyterian Church of Dale City

Chronicles

May 2021



14391 Minnieville Road
Woodbridge, Virginia 22193
703-670-7834

<https://fupcdc.org>
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People of the Church, Ministers
Rev. Adam C. Bowling, Pastor
Dana Van Slyke, Chancel Choir Director
Justin Streletz, Pianist/Organist
Rebecca and Chris Anderson,
Contemporary Worship Directors
Ike Evans, Jubilation Handbell Director
Joann Paige, Nursery Supervisor
Tiffany Ramsey, Little Hands Preschool Director
Homer Detrich, Sexton
Kim Parker, Office Manager

From Pastor Adam

Why I Don't Preach about Mothers on Mother's Day

FUPCDC faith family,

I've been your Pastor for almost two and a half years, and so I think it's now time to tell you why I don't preach about mothers or mothering on Mother's Day. I know some of you may be disappointed to hear this news. Know that we **will** recognize Mother's Day during a special Prayers of the People this year. But, besides the fact that this is a secular holiday and not a religious one, I want you to be aware that it is also a difficult day for many.

I became especially aware of this fact when Amy Young posted her now infamous (in the clergy world) "Open letter to Pastors" in 2012 on her blog "The Messy Middle." I thought that I would reprint that letter here, so we can all grow in faith and understanding about ways that we can love the women in our lives this year and in the years to come.

On the Journey
with you,

Pastor Adam



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An open letter to pastors (A non-mom speaks about Mother's Day)

Dear Pastor,

Tone can be tricky in writing. Picture me popping my head in your office door, smiling and asking if we could talk for five minutes. I'm sipping on my diet coke as I sit down.

You know that I'm not one to shy away from speaking my mind, part of the reason you love me (mostly!), so I'm guessing that internally you brace yourself wondering what might be next.

I set my can down and this is what I'd say.

A few years ago I sat across from a woman who told me she doesn't go to church on Mother's Day because it is too hurtful. I'm not a mother, but I had never seen the day as hurtful. She had been married, had numerous miscarriages, divorced and was beyond child bearing years. It was like salt in mostly healed wounds to go to church on that day. This made me sad, but I understood.

Fast forward several years to Mother's Day. A pastor asked all mothers to stand. On my immediate right, my mother stood and on my immediate left, a dear friend stood. I, a woman in her late 30s, sat. I don't know how others saw me, but I felt dehumanized, gutted as a woman. **Real women stood, empty shells sat.** I do not normally feel this way. I do not like feeling this way. I want no woman to ever feel this way in church again.

Last year a friend from the States happened to visit on Mother's Day and again the pastor (a different one) asked all mothers to stand. As a mother, she stood and I whispered to her, "I can't take it, I'm standing." She knows I'm not a mother yet she understood my standing / lie.

Here's the thing, **I believe we can honor mothers without alienating others.** I want women to feel welcome, appreciated, seen, and needed here in our little neck of the body of Christ.

1. **Do away with the standing. You mean well, but it's just awkward.** Does the woman who had a miscarriage stand? Does the mom whose children ran away stand? Does the single woman who is pregnant stand? A.w.k.w.a.r.d.

2. **Acknowledge the wide continuum of mothering.**

To those who gave birth this year to their first child—we celebrate with you

To those who lost a child this year – we mourn with you

To those who are in the trenches with little ones every day and wear the badge of food stains – we appreciate you

To those who experienced loss through miscarriage, failed adoptions, or running away—we mourn with you

Continued on page 3

To those who walk the hard path of infertility, fraught with pokes, prods, tears, and disappointment – we walk with you. Forgive us when we say foolish things. We don't mean to make this harder than it is.

To those who are foster moms, mentor moms, and spiritual moms – we need you

To those who have warm and close relationships with your children – we celebrate with you

To those who have disappointment, heart ache, and distance with your children – we sit with you

To those who lost their mothers this year – we grieve with you

To those who experienced abuse at the hands of your own mother – we acknowledge your experience

To those who lived through driving tests, medical tests, and the overall testing of motherhood – we are better for having you in our midst

To those who are single and long to be married and mothering your own children – we mourn that life has not turned out the way you longed for it to be

To those who step-parent – we walk with you on these complex paths

To those who envisioned lavishing love on grandchildren -yet that dream is not to be, we grieve with you

To those who will have emptier nests in the upcoming year – we grieve and rejoice with you

To those who placed children up for adoption — we commend you for your selflessness and remember how you hold that child in your heart

And to those who are pregnant with new life, both expected and surprising –we anticipate with you

This Mother's Day, we walk with you. Mothering is not for the faint of heart and we have real warriors in our midst. We remember you.

3. Commend mothering for the ways it reflects the Imago Dei (Image of God) by bringing forth new life, nurturing those on her path, and living with the tension of providing both freedom and a safety net.

I know I might be an unusual one to be speaking about Mother's Day; but maybe that's why so many talk to me about mothering, **I've got the parts, just not the goods.** Thanks for listening and for continuing to mother us in a shepherding way. Even though I'm a bit nervous to come on Sunday, I will be here. But if you make us stand, I might just walk out =).

Warmly and in your corner,

Amy

Session Notes

April Report from Session

The Session approved returning to worship inside the building on Sunday, July 4, 2021 upon recommendation of the Safety and Security committee. It will also be the return to two worship services as before closing to inside gatherings; a traditional service at 8:30 AM and a contemporary service at 11:00 AM.

The building will be open to inside groups beginning on Sunday, August 1, 2021. The Safety and Security committee will continue to monitor the world and local situation and make recommendations and modifications as needed. More details will be announced as we approach these dates.

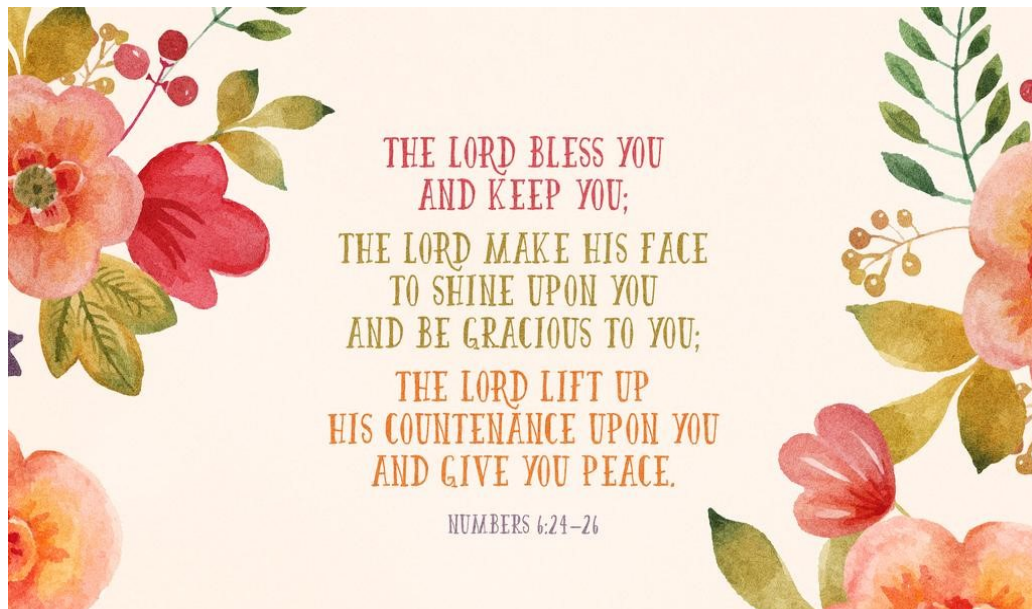
The results of the congregational meeting vote to elect Agnes Fokwa and Nne Kalu to serve as deacons in the class of 2024 and Anne Green, a deacon to fill an unexpired term in the class of 2022 were approved. The votes were 95 yes, 0 votes no, 0 abstentions. These ladies and deacons elected at the annual meeting in February will be ordained (if they have not previously been ordained) and installed during worship on June 6. This is our new schedule to match installation of church officers with the church program year.

Charlotte Stultz and Curt Hoagland were approved to be the Ministry Team Leaders for Evangelism and Outreach and Growing in Faith, respectively, beginning June 6, 2021. Previously approved Ministry Team Leaders are Martin Andrews (Worship), Pam Cox (Mission), Dennis Dingle (Stewardship), Betsy Gilbert (Fellowship), Mike Gundel (Property), Ellen Nuernberger (Congregational Care/Deacons), and Jim Stacy (Administration). These leaders will serve a two-year term.

A virtual book fair was approved for the Mission and Outreach committee to hold to support ENIC International Elementary School in Cameroon. There will be more details later in bulletins and newsletters. You will be able to purchase books for the school and for your own use through this event.

Conduit has been laid from Dane Ridge to the church in preparation for bringing Verizon fiber optics into the church building. The same trenching will also serve to bring power to a new electronic church sign. A contract has been signed with RTE Media on behalf of the church to upgrade live streaming, lighting, and projection capabilities. Both the Audio-Visual task force and the Church Sign task force are working hard to bring these project to completion and make upgrades to church communications.

Submitted by Sara Porter, Clerk of Session



DEACONS: THE MINISTRY OF COMPASSION AND SERVICE

The ministry of deacon as set forth in Scripture is one of compassion, witness, and service, sharing in the redeeming love of Jesus Christ for the poor, the hungry, the sick, the lost, the friendless, the oppressed, those burdened by unjust policies or structures, or anyone in distress. Persons of spiritual character, honest repute, exemplary lives, brotherly and sisterly love, sincere compassion, and sound judgment should be chosen for this ministry.

2021 BOARD OF DEACONS

A Ministry of Compassion and Service

Class of 2021

Agnes Fokwa
Debbie Folly
Lisa Fortner
Kathy McNeely
Carol Schwalm
Celine Sonkwa

Class of 2022

Debbie Cornelius
Liz Goolgasian
Charlotte Stultz

Class of 2023

Bob Albrecht
Sandy Chamberlin
Claudia Cunningham
Pam Emert
Ellen Nuernberger
Tracy Stevens

Ellen Nuernberger, Co-Moderator 703-878-0009

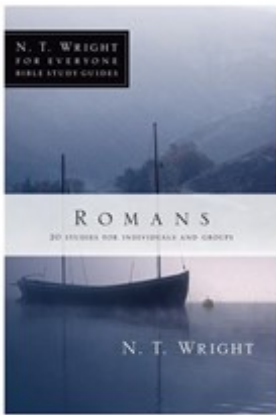
Carol Schwalm, Co-Moderator..... 703-680-7673

We love to hear from you. If you need to be connected with your Deacon, please contact Carol Schwalm or Ellen Nuernberger by calling the numbers listed above or the church office (703-670-7834).



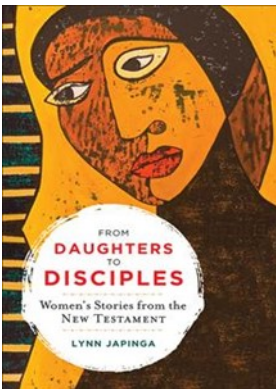
Adult Christian Education

Spring Adult Education Classes



Romans Bible Study

Join us April 11 - June 6 for a 9-week study on the book of Romans. With a scholar's mind and a pastor's heart, N.T. Wright (and FUPCDC leader Curtis Hoagland) will walk you through Romans with this guide designed especially with everyday folks in mind. Perfect for group use, this study uses the popular inductive method combined with Wright's thoughtful insights to bring contemporary application of Scripture to life. This course is designed to help you understand Scripture in fresh ways under the guidance of one of the world's leading New Testament scholars. Thoughtful questions, prayer suggestions, and useful background and cultural information will guide our group more deeply into God's Word. We will look at the early church of Rome and some of their struggles, and how they compare to our world today. Discover how you can participate more fully in God's kingdom. We hope you can join us each **Sunday from 8:30 AM - 9:30 AM on Zoom**. Class Link: <http://www.fupcdc.org/class>



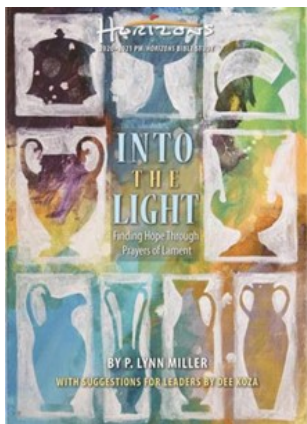
Women's Monday Bible Study also known as Bible Buddies

Anna, Mary, Lydia, Dorcus, Mary, Martha, Mary Magdalene, Elizabeth, Can we connect with any of these brave, complex, ancient sisters in the faith? Can their stories of dedication remind us of our Christian Call? "Jesus encouraged and supported women. When they are shamed or limited or restricted, he affirmed them and expanded their sphere of action." (From the Introduction)

You are invited to join the Ladies Bible Study to learn more about their stories:

From Daughters to Disciples: Women's Stories from the New Testament by Lynn Japinga. For more information, please contact Betty Matthews through the church office office@fupcdc.org or 703-670-7834.

"Bible Buddies" is a group of FUPCDC ladies and their friends who meet from **7:00 PM - 8:30 PM every Monday on Zoom** to discuss the book and share joys and concerns as they pray together and learn more about God.



Horizons Monthly Bible study.

"Into the Light: Finding Hope Through Prayers of Lament" is the title of the 2020-2021 Horizons Bible Study. The group meets on the **second Monday of the month**, September through June, at **9:30 AM**, via Zoom, for discussion and viewing of the video. The emphasis is on the hope we can find in the scriptures even as we lament our circumstances.

If you would like to join this study, please contact Sara Porter at office@fupcdc.org.

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Adult Christian Education

Pastor's Wednesday Evening Bible Study



Pastor Adam's Bible Study on **Wednesdays at 7 :00 PM**, via Zoom, is continuing the study of the Gospel of Matthew. All are welcome.

If you would like to join this study, please contact Pastor Adam at office@fupcdc.org

Fair Share Community Speaker Series

Join us on **Saturday May 15 at 7:00 PM** via Zoom, for a program on [Dismantling Racism](#).

Have you ever said or thought 'I'm not a racist?' Do we really understand racism? Or how to go about dismantling it? The Reverend John Molina-Moore, General Presbyter on National Capitol Presbytery and Rev. Tara Spuhler McCabe will lead our discussion.

The Dismantling Racism Project is one strategy intended to increase the breadth and depth of racial justice work in the region through supporting organizations to build a shared analysis of race and racism, to engage in anti-racist organizational development and to move racial justice organizing campaigns.

Racism is defined as a set of societal, cultural, and institutional beliefs and practices, 'regardless of intention' that subordinate and oppress one race for the benefit of another. Topics we will explore include;

Understanding how racism works, Assessing Organizational Racism, Naming and Framing Racism, Race as a political construction, and Moving Racial Justice: Are you ready? Open to all.



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Adult Christian Education

Women's Retreat - Saturday, June 5, 2021 (10 AM—12 Noon)



Join us for the FUPCDC Women's Retreat on **June 5, 2021 on Zoom** with Rev. Anne Russ.



Rev. Anne Russ is an ordained pastor in the Presbyterian Church (USA). She runs Doubting Believer, an online, inclusive faith community and believes that a faith that struggles with questions is always stronger than one that never asks any. She is a writer, workshop leader and loud laughter. She currently resides in New York City.

Use this form to register for FUPCDC's FREE Virtual Women's Retreat -
[Virtual Women's Retreat Registration \(google.com\)](https://www.google.com)

It will be held on **Saturday, June 5, 2021 (10 AM - 12 Noon)**. We will email you information on how to join Zoom once you register for the event. If you have any questions, please email Betsy Gilbert at betsy.gilbert24@gmail.com.

Little Hands Preschool



**Registration
Now Open!**

**REGISTER BEFORE
AUGUST 1, 2021
TO GET \$10-25
OFF PER MONTH**

www.fupcdc.org/lhps

SCHOOL SPIRIT TASTES GREAT



Make dinner a selfless act by joining us for a fundraiser to support Little Hands Preschool. Come in to the Chipotle at **2457 Prince William Pkwy** in Woodbridge on **Monday, May 24th** between **4:00pm** and **8:00pm**. Bring in this flyer, show it on your smartphone or tell the cashier you're supporting the cause to make sure that 33% of the proceeds will be donated to Little Hands Preschool.

NEW! ORDER ONLINE FOR PICKUP

Use code **PFDLAAJ** before checkout in 'promo' field. Orders placed on Chipotle.com or through the Chipotle app for pickup using this unique code will be counted towards the fundraiser.



All online orders must be placed for pickup at the same time/location of the fundraiser. Delivery cannot be counted at this time. Gift card purchases during fundraisers do not count towards total donated sales, but purchases made with an existing gift card will count. \$150 minimum event sales required to receive any donation.



FUPCDC Earth Care Group

Know, Grow, and Go with FUPCDC to honor God's creation and reduce climate impact everywhere!

REFUSING PLASTIC – HOW TO TAKE YOUR FIRST STEPS

"But ask the animals and they will teach you, or the birds in the sky and they will tell you." Job 12:7

KNOW by learning about Earth Care until you're an expert!

- Watch the "[Plastic Wars](#)" documentary and the [Explaining the "Break Free From Plastic Pollution Act of 2021" \(pre-recorded webinar\)](#)
- Learn how to reduce plastic by sharing your toys with other families: [The Toy Nest](#).
- Learn about the [Presbyterians for Earth Care "Eco-Stewards Program"](#) for young adults, "Where faith and the environment connect."

GROW by committing to new Earth Care habits.

- Refuse to buy beverages bottled or served in plastic.

GO by putting your commitment into **ACTION!**

- [Prepare your beverages at home to take with you when you go out.](#)
- Take photos and videos of you and your family putting your "Grow" commitments into action. We will collect and compile your submissions in August to show at September's Church Picnic.
- Join our Facebook group! [Click here](#) to join our FUPCDC Earth Care Group.

Look for the **Know-Grow-Go** button on our [FUPCDC Earth Care web page](#) for more suggestions.

The Earth Care Group expresses it's gratitude to:

- The Congregational Connections Committee for providing our congregation with reusable shopping bags. If you haven't received yours yet they will be available at upcoming in-person worship services.
- The Education Committee for hosting the April Fair Share Community Speaker Series featuring the [Prince William Food Rescue](#).

Bible Drama Camp: *The Phantom Tollbooth Jr.*

Drama Camp is happening this Summer! (For members and friends Of FUPCDC)

We will be performing *The Phantom Tollbooth Jr.* First week of camp will be virtual. July 12 - 16, 9:00 AM to 11:00 AM. Small groups will be called as needed.

The second week will be on the lawn at church. . . July 19 - 23, 9:00 AM to 11:00 AM.

Performance July 24 / Time TBD

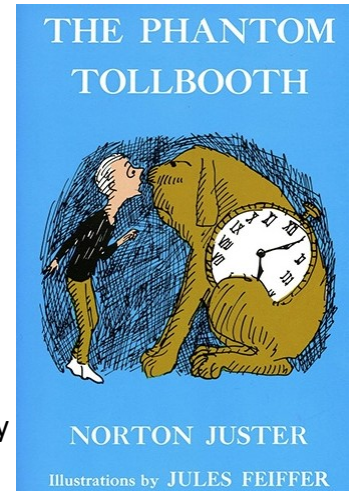
Free. . . limited to 20 campers. Look to the FUPCDC web site to sign up online!

All safety precautions will be heeded...Masks, Social Distancing, Approved by Safety and Security

Questions? Call Cathy Albrecht or Becca Anderson

Acting, Singing, Dancing. . . Crafts. . . Daily Bible Lesson. Just Fun! Fun! Fun!
Free snow cones on certain days!

Theme: Time is a Gift



Coming Soon! Virtual Book Fair

Virtual Book Fair Through Scholastic Books to Benefit ENIC International Elementary School.

This school was founded by Bill Ediage, one of our own, to help in Cameroon with Educational goals for young children ages two to twelve. It is a Christian school also.. .teaching the Bible. The Mission and Outreach Committee of our church has approved this virtual Book Fair.

How does it work?

- 1) you can buy a set of books for a classroom.
- 2) you can buy a few books for the school.
- 3) you can buy books for your grandchildren and we get credit to buy for the school
- 4) you can donate money and we will pick books for classes...
(Books that are both culturally and age appropriate.)



As we cannot travel at this time, we are looking forward to continuing to be a Missional Church. Spreading the Love of God around the world. These children appreciate so much, as they have so little.

Please consider being a part of this "Mission Trip" to Africa....Virtual... through books...

More information to come.

Anything submitted may be altered, edited, or changed for continuity and clarity by the communications team.



Her children
rise
up
—and—
Call
her
blessed



PROVERBS
31:18