

POLLOCKSVILLE

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



Sunday, September 10, 2023

Leader in Worship: The Reverend Barbara Hager

Music Accompanist: Jennifer Miller

311 Main Street / P O Box 205 / Pollocksville, NC 28573

www.PollocksvillePresbyterian.org

(252) 224-8181



The Session & Committee Chairs for 2023

Clerk of Session: Jay Bender	(252-224-6201)	jaybender@ec.rr.com	
Treasurer: Ron Pound	(252-638-8397)	ronclbs@gmail.com	
Sheron Bender, <i>Child Care</i>	(252-270-9967)	sbww@ec.rr.com	[Class of 2025]
Shirley Bryan, <i>Evangelism/Memorial</i>	(910-581-6141)	vsb218@icloud.com	[Class of 2025]
Amber Swanger, <i>Personnel</i>	(252-515-2385)	akkocher91@gmail.com	[Class of 2025]
Jean Bender, <i>Christian Ed</i>	(252-229-6545)	jbbender2@embarqmail.com	[Class of 2024]
John Bender, <i>Worship</i>	(252-675-8431)	jmbender1991@gmail.com	[Class of 2024]
Eileen Griswold, <i>Stewardship</i>	(252-671-0391)	eegriswold@aol.com	[Class of 2024]
Ed Jekel, <i>Facilities</i>	(315-723-4422)	edjekel@quadlink.net	[Class of 2023]
Margaret Ross, <i>Fellowship/Cong. Care</i>	(252-670-8254)	adamandmargaretross@gmail.com	[Class of 2023]
Ed Valentine, <i>Missions</i>	(252-617-8278)	W2YPM@earthlink.net	[Class of 2023]
Presbyterian Men Moderator -	Jeremy LeRay	(252-474-7678)	jdleray@gmail.com

Pollocksville Presbyterian Church

15th Sunday after Pentecost

11:00 a.m.

Order of Worship

September 10, 2023

Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

Call to Worship (*Responsive*)

Leader: Why have we gathered on this holy day?
What has drawn us to this time and place?

People: **We have been drawn to a flame burning here.
We sense the glory of God in this place.**

Leader: God calls us to this time of worship.
The place where we are standing is holy ground.

People: **Give thanks to God: sing praises.
Give attention to the voice of God.**

Leader: Out of a burning bush, God spoke to Moses.
In the rhythm of worship, God speaks to us.

People: **We will listen for God's message to us.
Surely God's strength will supply our needs.**

Prayer of Invocation

~ *Liturgist*

*The Peace of Christ

Leader: ...The peace of our Lord, Jesus Christ, be with you all.

People: **And also with you.**

*Opening Hymn

“God of the Ages, Whose Almighty Hand”

#262

The Presbyterian Hymnal

Call to Confession

Unison Prayer of Forgiveness

O God, we have wavered in our faith in the midst of suffering, and we have not persevered in prayer. We have claimed to be wiser than we are and have even tried to correct you. We make excuses for ourselves rather than listening for your direction and heeding your call. Our days are so filled with the busyness of this world that we cannot see your reign among us. We are so weighed down by our own concerns that we have no energy to serve in your realm. Send your cleansing fire among us, forgiving God. Amen.

Silence is kept

Assurance of God's Pardon

~ Rev. Hager

God is willing to grant us forgiveness, but we cannot receive it if we are unwilling to be changed by it. If we want to be Christ's followers, we will deny ourselves and take up the cross, not as a burden but as the joyous symbol of loving and giving for all the right reasons. We will overcome evil with good. In Jesus Christ we are forgiven!

Anthem

Hymn Medley

Prayer for Illumination

~ Rev. Hager

Scriptures

New Revised Standard Version

Matthew 18: 15-20

¹⁵ "If your brother or sister sins against you, go and point out the fault when the two of you are alone. If you are listened to, you have regained that one. ¹⁶ But if you are not listened to, take one or two others along with you, so that every word may be confirmed by the evidence of two or three witnesses. ¹⁷ If that person refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church, and if the offender refuses to listen even to the church, let such a one be to you as a gentile and a tax collector. ¹⁸ Truly I tell you, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven. ¹⁹ Again, truly I tell you, if two of you agree on earth about anything you ask, it will be done for you by my Father in heaven. ²⁰ For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them."

Romans 12: 9-21

⁹ Let love be genuine; hate what is evil; hold fast to what is good; ¹⁰ love one another with mutual affection; outdo one another in showing honor. ¹¹ Do not lag in zeal; be ardent in spirit; serve the Lord. ¹² Rejoice in hope; be patient in affliction; persevere in prayer. ¹³ Contribute to the needs of the saints; pursue hospitality to strangers. ¹⁴ Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them. ¹⁵ Rejoice with those who rejoice; weep with those who weep. ¹⁶ Live in harmony with one another; do not be arrogant, but associate with the lowly; do not claim to be wiser than you are. ¹⁷ Do not repay anyone evil for evil, but take thought for what is noble in the sight of all. ¹⁸ If it is possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all. ¹⁹ Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave room for the wrath of God, for it is written, "Vengeance is mine; I will repay, says the Lord." ²⁰ Instead, "if your enemies are hungry, feed them; if they are thirsty, give them something to drink, for by doing this you will heap burning coals on their heads." ²¹ Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

Sermon

"Loving the Hard to Love"

~ Rev. Barbara Hager

*Hymn of Response

"Spirit of God, Descend Upon My Heart"
The Presbyterian Hymnal

#326

Sharing of Joys and Concerns

Morning Prayer and Lord's Prayer

Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. AMEN.

*The Apostles' Creed

I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, And in Jesus Christ his only Son, our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. AMEN.

*Gloria Patri

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost; As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen, amen.

Offering of our Tithes and Gifts

Offertory

*Doxology

Praise God from whom all blessings flow; Praise Him, all creatures here below; Praise Him above, ye heavenly host; Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen.

*Prayer of Dedication

~ Rev. Hager

May our offerings be an expression of genuine love that reflects your love for us, O God. We seek to honor you as we serve one another in Christ's name. We reach out to overcome evil with good. Direct our use of the resources you entrust to us, that we may not only contribute to the needs of the saints, but also devote our lives to the building of a peaceable worldwide community in which all are valued. Amen.

*Closing Hymn

“How Great Thou Art”
The Presbyterian Hymnal

#467

*Charge and Benediction

*Postlude

Please rise in body or spirit / **Bold: Congregation Speaks*

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Congregational Meeting Following Morning Worship Service

- 1) to elect the at-large members of the 2023-2024 Congregational Nominating Committee
- 2) to receive suggestions from the Congregation for the office of Ruling Elder

~ **See Bulletin Insert for List of Eligible Members** ~

Welcome!

to everyone who is worshipping with us today.

Thank You!

Rev. Barbara Hager for filling the pulpit this morning!

Rev. Hager was ordained to ministry in the PCUSA in 1982 after graduating from Princeton Theological Seminary (M. Div.) and Allegheny College (B.A.). She has served as solo pastor, head of staff and interim pastor in churches in Minnesota, Pennsylvania, Connecticut and North Carolina. She was also a practicing attorney in Connecticut for many years. She has substantive experience on presbytery Permanent Judicial Commission and Nominating Committee. She currently serves on the Bills and Overtures Committee of the Coastal Carolina Presbytery. Also, she is on the National Council Of Churches Interfaith Communion which addresses Jewish, Christian and Muslim relations. She lives in the Myrtle Grove area of Wilmington North Carolina with her cat, Max. She enjoys reading, art galleries, and travel.

Next Sunday, September 17th

Kenneth Yearick will fill PPC's pulpit



For Congregational Use: Lectionary Readings:

Ezekiel 33:7-11 and Psalm 119:33-40; Romans 13:8-14; Matthew 18:15-20

Daily Readings for September 10 – 16 use the following web link:

<https://www.presbyterianmission.org/ministries/worship/lectionary/>



Prayer List (Additions as of 9-3-2023)

Prayers for Ron Pound’s upcoming eye surgery on Tuesday; Mark shared for Janet: “Fred, Ruth and Lee Hollinger- dear friends of Janet and Blair- are all struggling with serious medical issues”; Prayers for those all around us who were impacted by the hurricane; Continued prayers for Amy Eubank Aneuber for transplant success & prayers for her family (Thelma Edmondson); Prayers for Ms. Penny Bender; Bruce Jackson- former member of PPC, hospitalized in El Salvador due to a stroke (Vic Bryan); Prayers for Our Nation; Our Military; Our Church; PPC Childcare.

Our complete prayer list is available in the PollyPress.

~ USHERS & GREETERS ~

John & Dana Bender – Ushers for September 10th & 24th

~ Ushers needed for September 17th ~

October – Bob & Carol Mattocks

November – Jean & Allen Bender

December – Ushers Needed

**Thank you to all the volunteers who fill in as needed!
You are appreciated!!!**

*If you would be willing to serve as an usher, please contact
John Bender at 252-675-8431 or email: jmbender1991@gmail.com*



2023 Guest Speakers for Pollocksville Presbyterian Church

September 17 – Kenneth Yearick

September 24 – Rev. Cynthia Williams

October 1 – Kenneth Yearick (Communion)

October 8 – Rev. Tim Havlicek (Homecoming)

October 15 – Kenneth Yearick

October 22 – Kenneth Yearick + Children’s Hope Alliance

October 29 – Rev. Dr. David McDonald

November 5 – Mary Ann LeRay

November 12 – Kenneth Yearick

November 19 – Kenneth Yearick

November 26 – Kenneth Yearick

HOMECOMING 2023

***Pollocksville Presbyterian Church
Sunday, October 8th
Mark your calendars***

Worship Service will be held in the sanctuary at 11:00. Sunday school will be offered to children during the worship hour in the Fellowship Hall. Our guest minister will be the Reverend Tim Havlicek.

A catered lunch will be served in the Fellowship Hall following the service. We will have tents set up on the lawn in front of the Education Building for a true “Dinner on the Grounds” (weather permitting).

Please contact the church office if you plan to attend. We need this number to enable us to plan for food.



If you would like an announcement or article included in the weekly PollyPress, please email the information to the secretary at fwaters@pollocksvillepresbyterian.org

Please indicate what week you wish it to be included. Also, if you have any joys or concerns that need to be announced, please contact the church office.


Announcements for the bulletin need to be given to the secretary by Wednesday of each week. Articles or announcements for the PollyPress need to be to the Secretary by first thing Monday morning.



**Thank you to everyone who has contributed items to the Childcare to help them in their crafts and projects!
Stop by and see what they have made!**



Announcements & Reminders

- Sunday Mornings** **11:00 am – Worship in the Church Sanctuary & Streaming Live on Facebook & on PPC Website**
- Sundays at 9:45 am** **Adult Sunday School – *Remember your Bibles!***
Children’s Sunday School at 11 am
- Sunday, September 10** **Congregational Meeting Following the Morning Worship**
5 pm Session Meeting
- Monday, September 11** **7 pm Presbyterian Women’s Circle Meeting**
Hostess – Kay Bender, Study Leader – Carol Mattocks
- > *For those who have not picked up your study books, they are available in the church library.*
- Wednesday, September 13**  **6 pm Choir Practice to resume**
- Sunday, September 17** **Lunch & Program – *see below***
- Sunday, September 24** **Congregational Meeting – *see below***
Crop Walk
- Sunday, October 1** **Communion during Worship Service**
– *World Communion Sunday*
- Saturday, October 7** **5 pm Session Meeting**
10 am – 5 pm Filling Station – Jones County – “A Perfect 10”



Sunday, September 17 - Stewardship Lunch and Program

Lunch will be provided - Followed by Questions & Answers on the Budget



Sunday, September 24 - Congregational Meeting

To receive the report from the Nominating Committee, and if the way be clear, to proceed to the election of three (3) Ruling Elders to the Class of 2026.