

September 17, 2023

Guest Minister	The Reverend Dr. Matthew Covington
Worship Leader	Chris Teigland
Flowers	Anne Robinson
Ushers	Mary Lois and Sloan Leonard
Minister's Hospitality	Wynn and Jim Dorsett
Refreshments	Sally and Tommy McElwee
Music	Lana Donovan
Bagpiper	Emmitt LaBelle

### Friday Morning Bible Study

Bible Study will be held on Friday, September 22nd, starting at 8:30 AM in the small dining room at the Eseeola Lodge. A free continental breakfast is available for attendees. Dr. Hood will lead the Bible Study based on Mark 4:35-41, "Face to Face with Uncertainty". Please come and bring a friend! Kathy and Charlie Gray will be hosting Dr. Hood.

Next week our guest minister will be  
The Reverend Dr. W. Douglas Hood, Jr., Senior Pastor  
First Presbyterian Church of Delray Beach  
Delray Beach, Florida

### Wee Kirk Website

Please visit the Wee Kirk website ([www.weekirk.org](http://www.weekirk.org)) for information about our visiting ministers, church history, and benevolence. On the website, you can volunteer to usher or serve lemonade. For more information about volunteering, call or text Dianne Bailey at 704-936-9047. Past sermons also can be found on the website. For more information about sermon recordings, call or text Albert Myers at 904-806-5072.

### Wee Kirk Presbyterian Church

Post Office Box 702, Linville, North Carolina 28646  
Manse Phone Number: (828) 737-6918

# Wee Kirk Presbyterian Church



*Circa 1895*

## GUEST MINISTER

### The Reverend Dr. Matthew Covington

With pleasure today we welcome The Reverend Dr. Matthew Covington and his wife Ann.

Matthew and Ann (Garner) Covington met as students at Davidson College. Matthew was a senior, and Editor of *The Davidsonian* newspaper. Ann was a freshman who quickly earned a byline. In fact, Ann would later edit *The Davidsonian* herself. Matthew and Ann were married in June, 1980. Two weeks later, Matthew enrolled in Greek School at Columbia Theological Seminary, and Ann began training to be a paralegal assistant. Ann worked primarily in insurance defense. During his theological studies, Matthew took intern positions at the First Presbyterian Church of Atlanta and at the Druid Hills Presbyterian Church. He finished the Doctor of Ministry degree at Columbia in 1984.

Matthew was the recipient of a graduate exchange fellowship with Westminster College in Cambridge, England. He and Ann lived there during the 1984-85 academic year. Matthew's special interests of study in Cambridge were biblical theology and Christology. Ann studied architectural history. Upon their return to the U.S., Matthew was called to be the Associate Pastor for Outreach and Evangelism at the White Memorial Presbyterian Church in Raleigh, N.C. Matthew and Ann have also served the First Presbyterian Church of Natchez, MS, and Seven Oaks Presbyterian in Columbia, S.C. Matthew has been the Pastor of The Presbyterian Church of Bowling Green since January, 2003.

Matthew's ministry in Bowling Green has been marked by careful, biblical preaching and teaching, by pastoral care extended widely in the church and the community, and by a sharpened focus on the outreach/mission of the church.

In 2022, Matthew and Ann returned to Westminster College, Cambridge for a three-month sabbatical. Matthew's study was concerned with identifying creative responses for the church to our secularized society.

Matthew and Ann are the parents of two exceptional daughters, Claire Duren and Elizabeth Leverette. Claire and her husband, Grant, are the parents of Hewitt (6) and Clark (5). Elizabeth and Marlowe are the parents of James (5). Matthew officiated at both of his daughter's weddings, and at each of the three boys' baptisms.

## WEE KIRK OUTREACH

A significant percent of our gifts and offerings go to our Outreach Program, the focus of which is to serve the children and families in Avery County. Through your generosity, we provide swimming lessons for Pre-K and 2nd graders, essential needs, medical care, and enrichment programs, along with scholarship stipends for some Mayland Community College students. Thank you for your support.

## ORDER OF SERVICE

September 17, 2023

### ANNOUNCEMENTS

**LET US PREPARE OUR HEARTS** (Please remain seated)

Surely the presence of the Lord is in this place. I can feel His mighty power and His grace. I can hear the brush of angels' wings. I see glory on each face. Surely the presence of the Lord is in this place.

**CALL TO WORSHIP** (Psalm 85:8, I Kings 19:13, Matthew 14:27)

Leader: After a great strong wind, after the earthquake and the fire;

**Congregation: A still, small voice. Is heard.**

Leader: "Take heart," says the Lord. "It is I." Let us hear what the Lord God speaks, for the Lord speaks peace.

\* HYMN NO. 391

*Take My Life*

### PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND ASSURANCE OF PARDON

O Lord our God, we are driven to bear allegiance to many, many things. The clock and the calendar make their demands. One thing leads to another, and we are over-busy. We are conflicted about our own priorities. In an earlier age, our many distractions would have been called idolatries, but our age is permissive of all our various devotions. Help us, O God, to escape from lesser allegiances that ensnare us. Release us, so that we may come to Jesus Christ and name him Lord of All. Give us opportunity to declare, with the disciple Peter, that Jesus is the Messiah and the Son of our Living God. Amen.

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Psalm 124

NEW TESTAMENT READING

Matthew 16:13-20

SERMON

"Why Keep Quiet?"

\* THE APOSTLES' CREED

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OFFERING AND \*DOXOLOGY

PASTORAL PRAYER AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

\* HYMN NO. 288

*I Sing the Mighty Power of God*

\* BENEDECTION

\* *Those who are able please stand.*