

# The REMINDER

Growing UPWARD

worshipping and praising

Growing INWARD

becoming more like Christ

Growing OUTWARD

sharing the good news



SEPTEMBER 2020



## Save the date for youth ministry director Brock Page's farewell cookout at the church

In celebration of our friendship and thanksgiving for Brock's ministry among us, the session has authorized a love offering for Brock. Seminary is expensive, and seminary years are "good but lean" so I am sure he would be appreciative if you felt led to give. You can give online and select "Love Offering: Brock Page." If you give by Tuesday, we can present it to him on Wednesday, Sept. 9, at 5:45 p.m. when we will have a farewell cookout for Brock outside at church. Brock's last day in the office will be Friday, Sept 4.

## Help reach out to our covenant partners

You are warmly invited to send a card to our covenant partners who are confined to retirement communities during this COVID-19 season. It is difficult to be isolated for so long and be unable to get about due to community quarantine guidelines. If you'd like to have the church mail a card(s) for you, please drop them off at the Welcome Center basket or give them to Teresa Stewart in the office. Teresa also has a list of the residents available. Thank you for your love and care.

## Keenagers' luncheons indefinitely on hold

Keenagers leadership has canceled meetings indefinitely because of the challenges the coronavirus presents.



## Scouting Ministry Update

Hunter Morgan led a five-day, 42-mile backpacking trip on the Appalachian Trail in late July for our Boy Scouts. Pictured are Hunter Morgan and son Lucas at Buzzards Rock in Virginia. David Banner and Dr. Bryon Frost also helped on the backpacking trip.

Our Scouts have paddled Jeffries Creek, attended online merit badge classes, attended a virtual summer camp, completed community service projects and practiced social distancing to earn over 100 merit badges and 17 rank advancements this summer.

Monday night Scout meetings will be held outside or inside in socially distanced smaller groups when weather does not allow for being outside. Virtual stay-at-home scouting is also an option for Scouts this year.

*— Submit news briefs to Kim Brauss in the church office. Email [kbrauss@florencefirst.org](mailto:kbrauss@florencefirst.org) or call 843-662-2583.*

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## ON THE COVER

**As Mason Slaughter looks at his lit candle, Mac Burch lights Laura Tiller's candle during the Confirmation Banquet. Joey Hall waits his turn.**

# Thankfulness

Dear Church Family,

Last night, the incoming deacons and elders gave their testimonies before the session, and it was a profoundly meaningful evening. It is a glorious thing to see how God's grace, forgiveness and love are made real and concrete in each one of our lives. The maturity of the church officers continues to impress me. The incoming class is strong, and I am so grateful. As we like to say in ECO, the primary hope for every church officer is that they grow closer to Jesus because "flourishing churches are led by flourishing leaders who themselves are flourishing disciples."

The Lord continues to work among us in a number of ways. Each time I hear a new connection or mentoring relationship develop, it brings such joy. One of the changes God is working among us now is Brock's transition to full-time seminary and eventually PCA ordination. Brock and I have had a number of good conversations of late, and one in particular stands out as we both felt the Holy Spirit present and affirming Brock's call to ordained pastoral ministry. It was a holy moment. I will miss seeing Brock daily and his warmth and sense of humor. May God bless him, Gretchen, Jordan, Getty, Finn, Amelia and Hudson. Brock's last day in the office will be September 4. You are invited to be a part of the love offering to help with the expenses of the seminary years. (See announcement on previous page for details and online giving.) And, in the meantime, I do not expect our youth ministry to miss a beat. God's hand is with us. Thank you for your service, Brock.

In terms of worship and Sunday School during COVID-19 as the school year returns, I do hear some of you wondering what changes might transpire. The session will meet the day F1 schools reopen, Sept. 8, to take a fresh look at our life together and to ask the Lord how we might change.

All in all, things are going rather well. Both expenses and giving are down slightly; we currently are about \$14,000 behind where we might be, and I appreciate your giving to the Lord. It is a joy to be generous with missions. Even in the past week, I have heard encouraging stories – such as from our missionary Cody Watson and the mass baptism of 5,037 people in northern India, and the video that the Emerts shared as they break ground on their pavilion in Zambia in order to expand their ministry to children.

I also rejoice over our newest confirmands and their mentors. It was such a beautiful process to see mature covenant partners pour love into our 6th graders. Relationships such as these are precious, and, as last year's graduating seniors begin school, their "adopt-a-senior" mentors shall be announced shortly.

Yes, the unusual season of life is still with us, but after being here a year and seeing what God is doing I have nothing to express except for thankfulness.

Lord be with you,

## Flowers in the Sanctuary

Do you have a friend or relative you would like to honor? Sign up to place flowers in the Sanctuary. Contact Genia Tyson (genia\_tyson@hotmail.com or 843-665-0295) or Melba Whitesides (843-669-8209).

A Google spreadsheet — found on our website at [www.florencefirst.org/flowers-in-the-sanctuary](http://www.florencefirst.org/flowers-in-the-sanctuary) — also has been set up for signing up and so dates available can easily be seen.



## A Thought or Two Challenging You Toward Discipleship

# Be challenged to help in God's Kingdom

I am reflecting on the a small portion of the work done in God's Kingdom this week here in Florence. It has been a joy to watch.

On August 29, 15 folks from different churches around Florence worked through the first session of ***Race Class and the Kingdom of God***, a curriculum developed by David Bailey and his friends at **Arrabon (which means a “taste of things to come”)**. This group of 15 is preparing to facilitate/lead **multi-racial groups** through this material. Groups will be launched sometime near the beginning of October. This is Helping Florence Flourish's response to the racial tensions documented in our media almost daily. The people of the Kingdom of God are being challenged to be a different kind of people in this time. What do the people of God do in Florence that helps those outside the Kingdom sense God's inbreaking. David Bailey made the point in

his material/video that we (God's people) are a people in exile. And a people in exile does not dominate and wield power, instead we seek peace and pursue it (Psalm 34 and Jeremiah 29:7). Keep your eyes and ears poised for "Open Enrollment" for these groups as they begin. I would love to talk to you about participating in or facilitating a group.

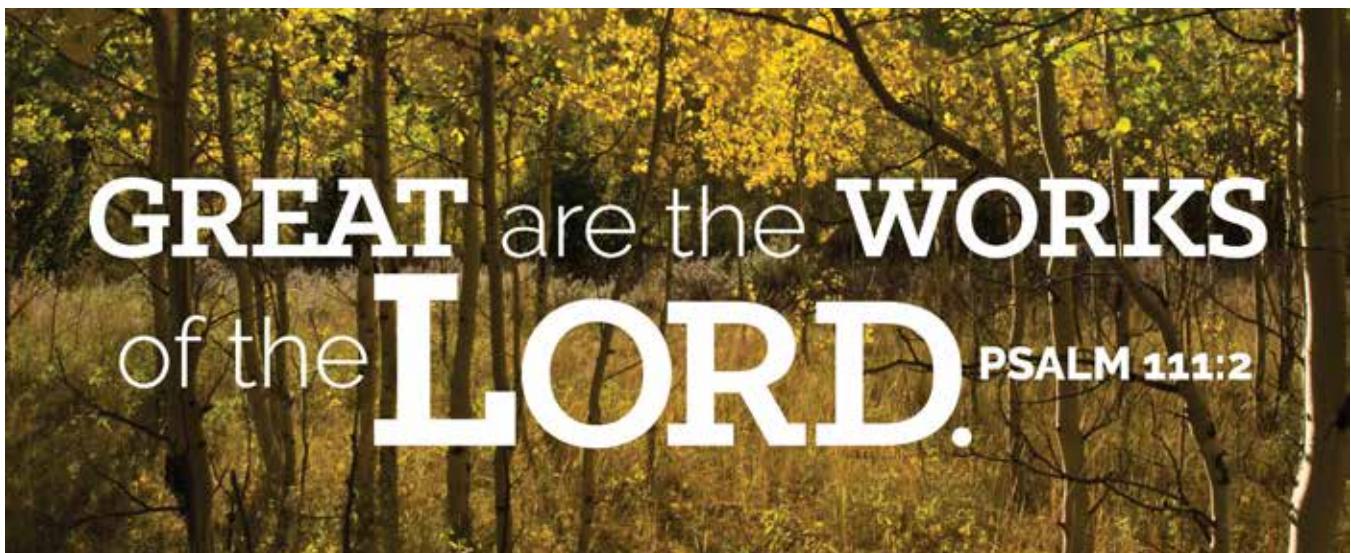
I also had the joy of participating in a **Pastor's Gathering on August 25 at Sandhurst Church**, where area pastors began conversations around a resource called **Gospel Saturated**. Again, this was purposefully a **racially mixed gathering**. Building relationships around thoughts that promote Kingdom thinking will result in Kingdom fruitfulness. These pastors will be **meeting monthly over this year**.

Finally, last Thursday night (August 27), the **City Wide Prayer Gathering** was hosted by Pastors Burton

Ross and Ron Denham and The Assembly church on West Palmetto Street. You may remember the black congregation that met under our roof after their building burned on Pine Street merged with a white congregation to form The Assembly. About 75 folks (both black and white) were in attendance. It is healthy to cry out together and ask the Lord to meet us and change us and use us to bring His Kingdom. The next City Wide Prayer Gathering will be at 7 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 24, at First Presbyterian.

All of these events were distinctly **multi-racial** and tasted a bit like what the Kingdom of God will taste like (Arrabon) when it comes in fullness. Be challenged to join and praise the Lord for what he is doing in our midst.

*Chris*



## Toward a Healthier Church

# Memory Garden nearing completion

Things are coming together well with the Columbarium and Memory Garden. The foundation, hard-scape and irrigation system are in place. Unique Landworks is putting the finishing touches on the landscaping. This is all part of the plan to transform an outdated parking area to a beautiful landscaped area featuring sidewalks and gathering spaces that will eventually serve as a backdrop to our columbarium. Thank you for your patience during the construction process during the past two months. Many of you have asked about a completion date. We are receiving regular updates from the company. The latest is that our columbarium is in production. However, there are several COVID-related logistical issues that the company is working to resolve. For that reason, they are unable to give us an exact date. In the meantime, if you are interested in reserving a niche, please contact George Beshere, Steve Grady, Glenn Bell or me. We'll be glad to assist you with the necessary arrangements.

## COVID-19 Financial Update

Thanks to the continued generosity of our covenant partners the current financial condition of the church remains sound despite the economic impact of COVID-19. In fact, as I am writing, I am thankful to report that our giving is only slightly behind this time last year. The way we "do church" has changed dramatically due to the pandemic. From the looks of things, that is going to continue for the foreseeable future. We have



Unique Landworks puts the finishing touches on the landscaping for the Columbarium and Memorial Garden.

had to get creative with worship, Sunday School and the other things we "normally" do. While we are longing for things to "get back to normal" we are beginning to hear the term "new normal" One thing that has not changed is that we have commitments to support missionaries (global and domestic) as well as supporting local benevolence agencies that are on the front lines during the pandemic. Additionally, we have fixed costs (utilities, insurance, payroll) that must be met. As we continue to move through this time of being the "church scattered" and as we look to the future, I want to encourage all covenant partners to **continue** to give as you have these past months. As always, we are thankful for your continued financial support of the mission and ministry of First Presbyterian Church.

## Supporting Your Church in Your Later Years

I have had conversations recently with two of our Covenant Partners who are in the 70-plus age range.

The conversations were about the IRS rule regarding **required minimum distributions (RMDs)**. **Mandatory distribution** refers to the minimum amount of money an individual must withdraw from certain types of tax-advantaged retirement accounts each year in order to avoid tax penalties. This rule goes into effect in the year an individual turns 72 years old. These withdrawals will be included in your taxable income. There is another rule, the **qualified charitable distribution (QCD)** rule, which allows traditional IRA owners to deduct their required minimum distributions on their tax returns if they give the money to a charity. First Presbyterian Church is a registered 501c3 charitable organization. Contact your financial advisor to learn more about the QCD rule and how you might take advantage of it to support the ministry of First Presbyterian Church.

# The importance of repentance

2 CORINTHIANS 7:5-16

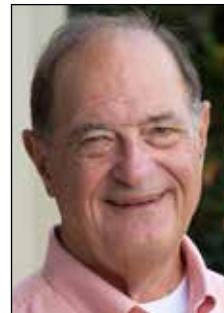
Repentance is a constant prayer in the life of a Christian. Paul had written a “severe letter” to the church calling them to repent. There had been fear and fighting within the church and Paul had called them to repent and reconcile. He sent Titus with the “severe letter” and now meets Titus and finds out the Corinthians have repented. This passage, 2 Corinthians 7:5-16, is best understood to follow immediately after 2 Corinthians 2:13.

Ernest Best in his commentary, *Second Corinthians*, says, “We now pick up again the story of the visit of Titus to Corinth, which we left at 2:13.”

Paul writes, “So I said farewell to them and went on to Macedonia (2 Corinthians 2:13).” 2 Corinthians 7:5 follows the thought of Paul: “For even when we came into Macedonia ...” Paul’s friend and pastoral colleague, Titus, has visited the Corinthian church and returned. The conflict in Corinth has been resolved, Paul’s authority has been reaffirmed, and the people have repented. Titus is joyful to deliver the news and Paul is full of joy.

“We were especially delighted to see how happy Titus was, because his spirit has been refreshed by all of you. I had boasted to him about you, and you have not embarrassed me. But just as everything we said to you was true, so our boasting about you to Titus has proved to be true as well. And his affection for you is all the greater when he remembers that you were all obedient, receiving him with fear and trembling. I am glad I can have complete confidence in you (2 Corinthians 7:13b-16).”

Paul’s joy is created by the repentance of the people. First the people were sorrowful or grieving and then turned to repent. “Yet now I am happy, not because you were made sorry, but because your sorrow led you to repentance. For you became sorrowful as God intended and so were not harmed in any way by us (2 Corinthians 7:9).” Paul contrasts “godly grief” with “worldly grief.” Worldly grief is self-pity and only



**REV. MIKE  
FLEENOR’S BLOG**  
<https://onepastorsponderings.wordpress.com/>

sends a person into misery. “For godly grief produces a repentance that leads to salvation and brings no regret, but worldly grief produces death (2 Corinthians 7:10).”

Repentance is more than feeling sinful and praying for forgiveness. It is an action of life that enables a Christian to serve, teach or proclaim the mercy of God. The ongoing process of the Christian disciple, sanctification, comes through repentance. Repentance is a change of heart that leads to doing good deeds for others and produces a transformation in a believer’s attitude.

The heart in the Bible is the center of attitude and controller of behavior. Three times Psalm 51 uses the word heart to convey a change of attitude and desire to repent. First, the prayer in the Psalm is for wisdom: “Teach me wisdom in my secret heart (Psalm 51:6). Second, the prayer is to “Create in me a clean heart (Psalm 51:10).” Finally, the statement is made that God accepts “a broken and contrite heart (Psalm 51:17).”

Each day we are reminded of our salvation, we repent and seek a better life. Paul ends this letter with a boast for Titus, a compliment to the Corinthian Church, and an outburst of joy! “I am glad I can have complete confidence in you (2 Corinthians 7:16).” I believe the Lord has confidence and joy in us as we seek to live out our repentance.

*Mike*

# CDC celebrates its fourth anniversary

In August, First Presbyterian Child Development Center marked its fourth year of childcare ministry, through the First Presbyterian Church. We opened our doors to the Florence community, on August 8, 2016. Because of a growing need of quality childcare options, we were well received in the Florence community.

When we opened in August 2016, we had a total enrollment of 52 children; 37 infants and toddlers and 15 preschool age. Before COVID-19 arrived, we had a total enrollment of 84 children. Although the pandemic has altered our enrollment, we currently have three infant and toddler classes up and growing and over 40 children enrolled for preschool, which will begin on September 8. As we move forward in our fifth year of operation, we are constantly aware of the continuing need for more quality infant and toddler care in the Florence area. We have plans to extend our current infant and toddler program to reach our licensed capacity of 49 children (under 30 months of age).

We are compiling information and looking at the logistics of offering an aftercare/summer program for school-aged children, kindergarten through third grade. Laying the foundation for a quality school-aged program is no easy task and will take months of planning and preparation. We want to be ready to step up and meet the challenge when the time comes.

Thank you again, for your contin-



ued support and encouragement. The past five months have been a challenging time as are continuing to operate during this pandemic. We are following the DSS and DHEC recommendations as closely as possible. This means a change in our drop off and pick up procedures along with other necessary changes in the daily operation of the center. We covet your prayers for us, for the safety of the children and their families that we serve. Also, for the safety and well-being of each of our Child Development Center Staff members and their own families. Here at the First Presbyterian Child Development Center we are striving to provide a Christian atmosphere, where young children are nurtured,

kept safe and loved. Our children are our future. We have a responsibility to do all we can to protect them and keep them safe.

Our world today is full of chaos and confusion, of anger and hatred. Evil and darkness lurk about. Our children are looking to us for answers. As Christians, we are being called to the frontline. We must stand firm in Christ. We must teach our children the truth found in God's word and give them the tools they will need to stand firm.

*Betha*



# September


**TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 1**

- 9:30 AM WiM Coordinator's Team Meeting: JFH  
 11:00 AM WiM Bible Moderators: Lawson-Rain Chapel  
 5:30 PM CDC Staff: JFH

**WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 2**

- 11:00 AM 412 (Youth)  
 12:00 PM CDC Staff: JFH  
 6:30 PM Praise Team Rehearsal

**THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 3**

- 10:30 AM Prayer Group: Lawson-Rain

**SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 6**

- 10:00 AM Worship Service


**MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 7**

- Church office closed  
 5:30 PM Stretch Your Faith: C

**TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 8**

- 6:30 PM Session

**WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 9**

- 5:45 PM Farewell Cookout for Brock Page

**THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 10**

- 10:30 AM Prayer Group: Lawson-Rain

**FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 11 PATRIOT DAY**
**SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 12**

- 6:00 AM Parking Lot Mission:  
 HopeHealth Parking Lot  
 9:00 AM WiM Bread & Fish


**SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 13**

- 10:00 AM Worship Service  
 6:00 PM Youth Fellowship

**MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 14**

- 5:30 PM Stretch Your Faith: CLC  
 6:30 PM WiM Women of Grace  
 7:00 PM Boy Scouts

**TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 15**

- 10:00 AM WiM Sonflowers: Parlor  
 10:00 AM WiM Joyful Hearts: JFH  
 10:00 AM WiM Posies & Petals: Lawson-Rain  
 12:00 PM WiM Soul Sisters: JFH  
 3:00 PM WiM Serenity: Lawson-Rain  
 6:30 PM Board of Deacons: JFH  
 6:30 PM Prayer Warriors: Lawson-Rain


**WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 16**

- 5:30 PM Fellowship: Concert on church steps, picnic  
 6:30 PM Praise Team Rehearsal

**THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 17**

- 10:30 AM Prayer Group: Lawson-Rain

**SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 19**

- 7:00 PM Marriage Night

**SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 20**

- 10:00 AM Worship Service  
 6:00 PM Youth Fellowship


**MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 21**

- 5:30 PM Stretch Your Faith  
 7:00 PM Boy Scouts

**TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 22 AUTUMN BEGINS**

- 6:30 PM Session

**THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 24**

- 10:30 AM Prayer Group: Lawson-Rain  
 7:00 PM City Wide Prayer Gathering

**SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 27**

- 10:00 AM Worship Service  
 6:00 PM Youth Fellowship

**MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 28**

- 5:30 PM Stretch Your Faith: CLC  
 7:00 PM Boy Scouts

**WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 30**

- 6:30 PM Praise Team Rehearsal



# SEPTEMBER Birthdays

**SEPTEMBER 1**

David Campbell  
Jimmy McLellan

**SEPTEMBER 2**

Tyler Jackson

**SEPTEMBER 3**

Devon Bowen  
Lisa Dozier  
Karen Jordan  
Clara Maxwell

**SEPTEMBER 4**

Stan Bergstrom  
Blaine Carter  
Chad Hayes  
Clariann Kellam  
Bob Whitesides

**SEPTEMBER 5**

Elizabeth Blanton  
Peggy Cagle  
Kathryn Hopkins  
Michelle Jones  
Cathy Patrick

**SEPTEMBER 6**

Betty Lee Gandy  
Sarah Porter

**SEPTEMBER 7**

John Bankson  
David Douglas  
Kathy Hatfield

**SEPTEMBER 8**

Morgan Banner  
Alex Cotran  
Paul Davis  
Lee Nunn  
John Scott

**SEPTEMBER 9**

Anne Floyd  
Hunter Morgan  
Pearce Scott  
Don Watts

**SEPTEMBER 10**

Robin Cranford  
Carol Fleenor  
Caroline Garris  
Ken Knudsen

**SEPTEMBER 11**

Betty Bell  
Debbie Harwell  
Jason Newton

**SEPTEMBER 12**

Mac King  
Jo Ann Patton

**SEPTEMBER 13**

Mary Watts

**SEPTEMBER 14**

Bradford Brown

**SEPTEMBER 15**

Chuck Collins  
Mark Hanna  
Carly Lewis  
Dudley Saleeby

**SEPTEMBER 16**

Matt Dowdell  
Thomas Hemmingsen  
Patrick Lynch  
Jeanne Watts

**SEPTEMBER 17**

Mason Slaughter

**SEPTEMBER 19**

Joyce Floyd  
Edward Henderson  
Peggy Taylor  
Sara Watts

**SEPTEMBER 20**

Marilyn Bays  
Jason Coker  
Darryl Evans  
Milly Slaughter

**SEPTEMBER 21**

Jessica Carmichael  
Greg Cleveland  
Kate Genoble  
Richard Genoble  
Brandon Matthews  
Richard Ryan

**SEPTEMBER 22**

Rebecca Clancy  
Mike Roycroft

**SEPTEMBER 23**

Preston Bankson  
John Ivey Brown  
Mary Lachlan Campbell

**SEPTEMBER 24**

John Joseph Alexander  
Stan Gaddy  
Zane Miles  
Elizabeth Wheeler  
Luke Scott IV  
Chuck van Witzenburg

**SEPTEMBER 25**

Annie Abernathy  
Jill Cain  
Al Gilpin  
Grayson Jones

**SEPTEMBER 26**

Ben Carter  
Hudson Kennedy

**SEPTEMBER 27**

Collins Coker  
Grace Cleveland  
Jack Cleveland  
Graham Rabon  
Pam Turner

**SEPTEMBER 28**

Lendi Watkins

**SEPTEMBER 29**

Furman Brodie  
Franklin Emerson  
Laura Purvis  
Jeremy Straus

**SEPTEMBER 30**

Helen Foster  
Ella Hylton  
Eliza Johnson  
Sara King  
Ginger Owen  
Luke Scott IV  
Chuck van Witzenburg

# Circle meetings begin in September

Women in Ministry encourages women to connect with our First Presbyterian community and join a Circle of Friends this year!

Circle meetings will begin September 15; some will be face-to-face (following COVID-19 guidelines); others will be online or follow a blended format of face-to-face and online via Zoom.



Circles will use the Bible study guide, *Living so that, Making Faith-filled Choices in the midst of a Messy Life*, by Wendy Blight.

If you have questions about circles and which one to join, please contact Jayne Boswell, 843-229-7790 or [boswell.jayne@gmail.com](mailto:boswell.jayne@gmail.com).



## Women in Ministry Monthly Groups

**W**omen in Ministry's aim is to strengthen our relationship with God and build each other up in the body of Christ.

If you are not involved in a circle, please, join in for Christian fellowship and Bible study. We have a place for you!

Bread and Fish	September 12	9 a.m.	Call Peggy Swearingen
Joyful Hearts	September 15	10 a.m.	Jenkins Fellowship Hall
Posies and Petals	September 15	10 a.m.	Lawson-Rain Chapel
Prayer Warriors	September 15	6:30 p.m.	Lawson-Rain Chapel
SonFlowers	September 15	10 a.m.	Pilgrim Classroom
Soul Sisters	September 15	noon	Jenkins Fellowship Hall
Serenity	September 15	3 p.m.	Lawson-Rain Chapel
Women of Grace	September 14	6:30 p.m.	3002 Japonica Lane
Women of Valor*	September 16	6:30 p.m.	Room 202

\*Childcare available. Schedule a week in advance with Teresa Stewart in the church office, [tstewart@florencefirst.org](mailto:tstewart@florencefirst.org) or 843-662-2583

# Save the date for upcoming Marriage Night

Couples are warmly invited to participate in the upcoming Marriage Night that will be held from 7 to 10 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 19, at First Presbyterian Church.

Come dedicate time to focus on what God has for your marriage, while being in community with others that are struggling to balance it all too! We will join thousands of couples in churches across North America for Marriage Night. Learn from Les and Leslie Parrott, Matt and Lauren Chandler, Conway and Jada Edwards, and comedian Michael Jr.

Registration information is forthcoming and will be announced soon.



# Remember in Prayer

## Extended Care

### Heritage at Lowman

Mac King

### Home

Adele Kassab  
Casey Taylor

### Methodist Manor

Madeline Brice  
Jack Cagle  
Joyce Floyd  
Marie Jordan  
Maria Whitehead

### Presbyterian Community

Hannah Barringer  
Ann Cash  
Helen Foster  
Aaron Leland  
Clara Maxwell  
Tom and Clariann Kellam  
Macy Turner

## Memorials

Betsy Eaddy  
Harriett Hindman  
Jean Lee  
Verida Marchette  
Frances Pearson  
George Richardson  
Jo Roth  
Roena Vaught

## Honorariums

Ann Rodgers Chandler  
Linda Jacobs

## Baptisms

Joe Wylie Pearce IV  
Brooklynne Clancy  
Jacqueline Clancy

## Sympathy

Family of George Richardson  
Family of Besty Eaddy  
Liz Andrews, loss of her sister  
Margaret Charles, loss of her brother Charlie Key  
Wallace Vaught, loss of his mother

## Sick & Recovering

Madeline Brice  
Jack Cagle  
Kent Caudle  
Butch Carroll  
Linda Lawson  
Isla Louise McCoy  
Glenn Odom  
Rosanne Saunders  
Casey Taylor  
Alan Thomas

## Elders

Tabitha Davis  
Mike Nunn

## Deacons

Luke Scott  
Heather Taylor

## Mission

InterVarsity  
Actionnel Fleurisma

## Women in Ministry

Berta Allen  
Jane Ames

## Sunday School Teachers

Jan Bray  
Martha Nance

## Staff

Beth Hepler  
Brock Page

## Households

Flock 1: Debbie Wilson  
Flock 2: Alva and Ida Whitehead  
Flock 3: Ryon and Lendi Watkins, Landon and Julia  
Flock 4: Rufus and Bonnie Brown  
Flock 5: Matt Tyler, Austin  
Flock 6: Butch and Pam Turner  
Flock 7: Jake and Lori Stokes, Kate, Samuel  
Flock 8: Sandra Anderson



# God's Work in our Community

## InterVarsity

A local mission First Presbyterian supports is InterVarsity at Francis Marion University. For over 75 years, InterVarsity has had a vital presence on hundreds of college campuses, including FMU in Florence.

InterVarsity wants every student on every college campus to have the opportunity to hear about and experience the real hope of Jesus.

With the start of the new school year, they're addressing the challenges from COVID-19. They will still have a student-led small group as well as include FMU stu-



dents in some state-wide virtual gatherings.

Prayer requests from Adam Salloum, area director, include:

- Prayers for its primary student leader, Ty, going into the fall. May he thrive this year as a leader.
- Prayers for the Lord to raise up new leaders. It's going to be a challenging year because of the pandemic.

# God's Work Around the World

## Actionnel Fleurisma

A global missionary First Presbyterian supports is Actionnel Fleurisma, director of OFCB Ministries in Haiti:

Greetings in his holy name to everyone at First Presbyterian Church of Florence! On behalf of the Bayonnais community, it's an honor and a blessing to tell you how grateful and appreciative we all are.

First of all, let me extend our thanks to our fellow brothers and sisters there for their generous gift of nearly \$50,000 to support the Bayonnais community during the time of hardships in our lives here since Haiti became independent on January 1, 1804.

That gift has reached about 7,000 families and over 49,000 individuals. A great impact of love and compassion from you, First Presbyterian Church of Florence, on the Bayonnais communities and some extended counties. Big thanks and appreciation with gratefulness to you all, and certainly, there is a huge crown waiting for you all for such an action to bring relief to so many vulnerable ones on this island.

I know starvation has not ended yet in Bayonnais because there aren't any crops or other means to survive.



We have a long way to go while dealing with hunger and starvation here. Prayer requests include:

- We would love your prayers for Haitians in general to have fear for the Lord.
- Pray especially for kids and pregnant mothers to have access to food regularly.
- Pray for me, personally, for my U.S. Visa to get renewed so that I could attend my first child's wedding, which Chris Handley is performing on the 17th of September. My visa has been invalidated since June 7, and the American Consulate is still closed.
- Pray for my family asking the Lord to open doors so that we could keep our kids in school at UNCG and at UNCC.

In his name,  
Actionnel Fleurisma



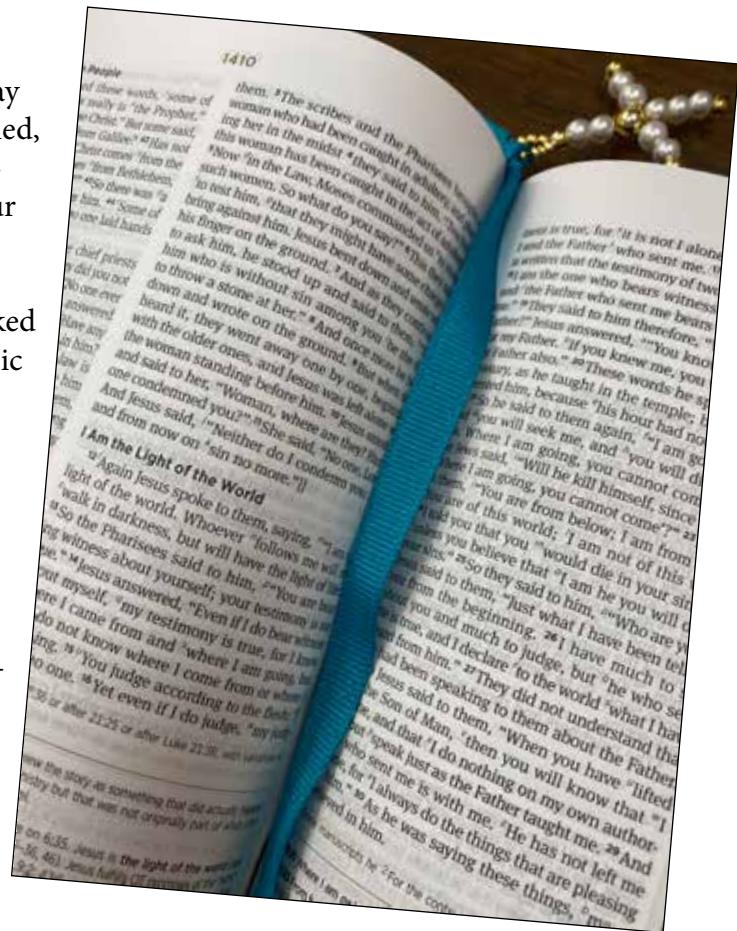
# Light of the World

So many thanks to the many hands that made *Light of the World* Confirmation Banquet 2020 and Confirmation Sunday so special for our newest covenant partners! You brainstormed, organized, carried, boxed, and served. From beautiful hand-made bookmarks, to festive dinner boxes, you have loved our confirmands and their families well.

Mentors, thank you, for walking beside our confirmands as they took this next step in their faith journeys. More was asked of you as mentors during this COVID-19 time. The pandemic impacted many of the activities of this confirmation season, but it did not end the relationship between confirmand and mentor. Thank you!

The Confirmation Banquet is a celebration, but it is also a called Session meeting. Elders met with and examined the confirmands. (Their faith statements are on display in the Welcome Center.) Welcome newest covenant partners!

Confirmands, confirmation is not the end of your faith journey. It is the next step in the faith journey. Following Jesus is a lifelong journey. It is a challenge and adventure... but Jesus, who loves you so much that He was willing to die for you, Jesus will be with you every step of the way. Love Him and serve Him in response. Live Him in this world. He is the light of the world. Let Him shine in your life!



Grace, mercy, and peace,

*Russell*



Multiple generations worked together to celebrate our newest covenant partners including Emily McLean, Shannon Watt, and Freeman Williams, top, Mary Lynn van Witzenburg and Betty Bell, middle, Amy Williams, Kathy Hatfield and Shannon Watt, bottom. They designed, decorated and cooked. They carried and climbed. They boxed, and served. All to say, "Welcome!"





Left: Elders Richie Wilhoit and Ryon Watkins share during the examination. Elder Mike Lavespere spearheaded the confirmation process. Mentoring is an integral part of our life of discipleship.



This intentional season of discipleship included about 13 weeks of mentoring. The mentors, parents and confirmants meet at the final elder examination. Below left: Darryl asks our confirmants whether they want Jesus to live in their hearts and become covenant partners. Chris, below right, gives the benediction to our newest covenant partners.





*Pictured from left to right, top to bottom:*

**Mentor**

Sally Dameron  
Paul Davis  
Jim Dameron  
Barbara Green  
Ashley Hylton  
Kara Morgan  
Mike Fleenor  
Cynthia Knudsen\*

\*not pictured

**Confirmand**

Ella Hylton  
Mason Slaughter  
Mac Burch  
Jacqueline Clancy  
Brooklynne Clancy  
Laura Tiller  
Joey Hall  
Lily Green



# First Presbyterian welcomes interim youth director

Dear friends,

I would like to share some good news – the Lord is sending us Palmer Jones to be part of our staff team! Palmer will begin September 1 and will be with us this school year as our full-time “Interim Director of Youth and NextGen Ministries.” If you are wondering about the slight change to the staff title, “Next-Gen” simply refers to “cradle to college.” As such, Palmer will focus on two things: (1) ministering to the youth, and (2) helping us think through the children-to-youth program so that whole ministry is integrated and flowing. Naturally, he will be working on this with me, Susan, the youth ministry team and the Discipleship Unit.

Many of you know Palmer since he grew up here at FPC. More recently, he graduated from Hampden-Sydney College in 2018, and then worked for two



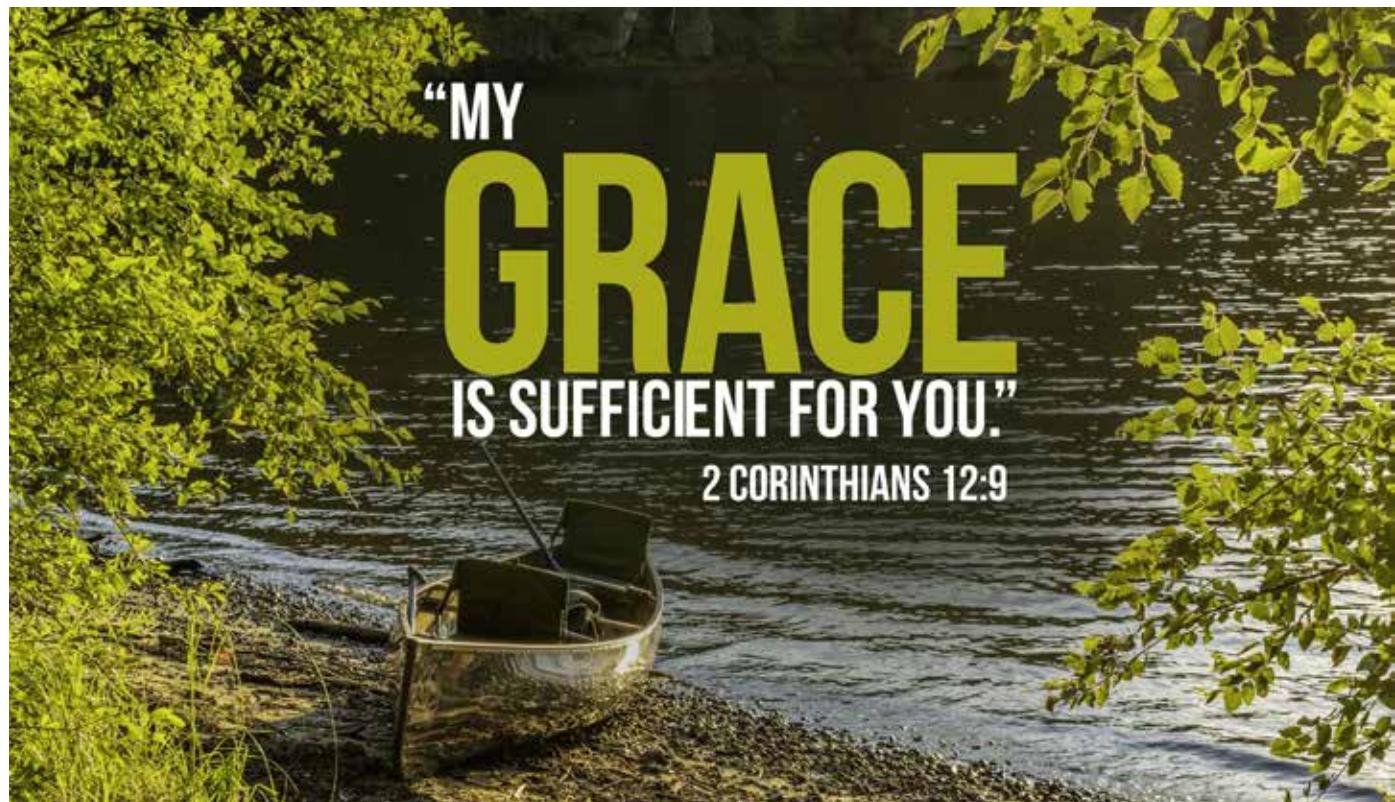
years at a very large church in Falls Church, Virginia, named Falls Church Anglican. One year he was a youth ministry intern for a program that had 300 youth, so he has some fine experience with good mentors at a strong church.

Palmer was set to begin theological studies full-time at Gordon Conwell Theological Seminary in Massachusetts right about now, but COVID-19 changed seminary life, so he will be with us while taking a class on the side. Palmer is also considering ordination in ECO and went to the ECO National Gathering earlier this year.

Simply put, from Brock’s departure to Palmer’s arrival, I have felt the Lord’s hand in all of this. Brock and Palmer will even overlap a few days. I am so thankful for both of them. I believe this is God’s will; even Presbyterians can’t plan this well.

Welcome, Palmer!

Peace,  
Darryl



# Youth Ministry



Top left: Youth trip to Montreat. Top right: The 2020 graduating senior boys post with Brock.

Above: The Page family: Brock, Gretchen, Jordan, Getty, Finn, Amelia and Hudson.

Below: Youth Spring Retreat 2019.



## Final Farewell

I want to take a brief moment to reiterate how thankful I am for the past six years. First Presbyterian has truly ministered to me during my role here as Director of Youth Ministry. I am so grateful to have had the opportunity to build relationships with so many covenant partners at FPC. All of you have been an encouragement to my family during this time as well. Know that we love you and you will always have a place in our hearts. To the youth (current and former), I pray that God will use the time we had together to minister to your heart and give you a foundation upon which to build a life devoted to Christ and His kingdom. I truly love all of you. Though my time here has come to an end and I will not be able to continue to minister to you, please know that my family's prayers are with you. I leave you with the words of the apostle Paul in 1 Thessalonians 2:8, "So, being affectionately desirous of you, we were ready to share with you not only the gospel of God but also our own selves, because you had become very dear to us." We will miss you!

Brock

## Youth Schedule for September

- During the transition, the youth ministry will not skip a beat. Be on the lookout soon for details about the schedule in September.



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#### CHURCH STAFF

Senior Pastor and Head of Staff	Dr. Darryl Evans
Associate Pastor	Rev. Chris Handley
Congregational Care Assistant	Rev. Mike Fleenor
Director of Music/Organist	Mrs. Ann Rodgers Chandler
Interim Praise Team Leader	Mr. Keith Hamrick
Director of Youth Ministry	Mr. Brock Page
Interim Children's Ministry Director	Mrs. Susan Snow
Child Development Center Director	Mrs. Beth Hepler
Church Administrator	Rev. Don Hebert
Ministry Assistant	Ms. Teresa Stewart
Financial Assistant	Mrs. Gwen DuRant
Ministry Assistant	Ms. Kimberly Brauss
Head Custodian	Mr. Ron Echols
Custodian	Mr. Sidney Ruff
Housekeeping	Ms. Wanda LaSane

