

The REMINDER

Growing UPWARD Growing INWARD Growing OUTWARD

Prayer and fasting

Jesus' love and grace

Living the good news



JUNE 2021



SESSION HIGHLIGHTS

Greetings in the name of the Lord! How can it possibly be June already? It's such a beautiful and great time of the year, except for one thing ... We must accept that four of our beloved Elders are about to "roll off" the Session. This has been such a challenging year with the pandemic and other issues, and these four have been stellar.

I just have to take a minute and share with you that Bryon Frost (our dedicated and discerning doctor), Janet Brand (the faithful servant leader), Jayne Boswell (our strong prayer warrior) and Jim Dameron (our wise spiritual leader) have worked tirelessly and courageously to seek and follow God's direction in everything they have done in leading and loving this church. They have served sacrificially, without recognition or the desire for it. I just thought you should know.

One of the goals of the Session was to grow closer, as a body. We envisioned it would be accomplished by more social gatherings and meals together. COVID had other plans. However, we pushed forward and held all of our stated meetings and many called meetings and prayer meetings, always in person. We have felt the need to meet and pull together like never before. God has drawn us close together and closer to Him.

The word that comes to mind when I attempt to describe it: powerful. His power. We know that apart from Him, we can do nothing. We know we can do all

things through Him who gives us strength. We know where our help comes from.

We just couldn't just let Bryon, Jayne, Jim and Janet walk away, after seeing God use them in such a mighty way! Thankfully, they have agreed to remain involved. For example, they will remain on their respective units through the end of the year (and hopefully longer) for continuity. They are beginning this tradition for all outgoing Elder classes to follow each year.

They have also agreed to form the core group for the ECO Fellowship of Elders. Again, we hope to continue this tradition each year. Bryon and I did a little work on this during the Pandemic. We will continue to co-chair this effort and work to get other "past" Elders plugged in to what is happening at First Presbyterian, now that restrictions are being lifted.

I am also thankful that our newly elected Elders have answered the call to serve at this time. It's a great group! It will be good to get to know them better and to watch what God does in their lives, and in our church through them. We are confident and hopeful in the plans God has for us!

In Christ,
Debbie Jackson
Clerk of Session

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ON THE COVER
Confirmands and mentors retreat

Kairos

Dear Church Family,

Waiting often feels like a big part of life. Waiting requires much patience because it is typically during difficult circumstances that we are so acutely aware of time; it feels like it passes by slowly because the situation in which we desire change is constantly before us. Yet, the Bible speaks more of timing than of waiting. Jesus even began His ministry, *“The appointed time (kairos) has come. The Kingdom of God is near. Repent and believe the good news!”* (Mark 1:15)

God brings things to fruition in their proper season – occasionally this seems quick but more often it feels like a wait. I sense God’s kairos surrounding us today. God has been gathering a staff team. As I wrote last month, Vic Rockhill had joined us as our praise team leader, and Mike Fleenor has resumed visiting – and now I am pleased to say that Wynde Edwards will be our next children’s director, beginning on July 1. Some of you know Wynde from when she was a covenant partner here a number of years ago (she moved away for a time), and we are so pleased she will join us on staff. Welcome, Wynde!

Finally, while I am sad to see Palmer leave and go to graduate school – Palmer, you are a gift brother! – God has been with us. Our search for the next youth director may be finished before May is done. It is amazing: the children’s search was long; the youth search was brief. Kairos. It can’t be rushed, and it cannot be delayed. All in all, I sense God’s providential hand of bringing us together as a new staff team.

This month of May has also been a time in which our confirmands went on their retreat, and will have their first of two times with the elders; our new church officers began their training; and we began a new covenant partners class.

What happens when we see God put piece after piece together? We look for His Kingdom. *“The Kingdom of God is near. Repent and believe the Gospel!”* This means that God is preparing us for good things ahead.



Meanwhile, if you feel like you are in the common place of being smack dab in the middle of a wait – if you are in a “Romans 5 moment” – remember that it is all part of living out the Gospel story. It makes the moment of the appointed time all the sweeter when God brings it about.

Peace,

A Thought or Two Challenging You Toward Discipleship

GET INVOLVED! IT'S TIME TO SERVE!

SERVEFLO

Season of service upon us

It is time to ServeFLO.

We are in June already! And the traditional time to pursue a season of service is upon us! We have a blood drive on Tuesday, June 15, from 1 to 6 p.m. in the fellowship hall. It is an opportunity to give the gift of life to someone! Sign up with Kim Brauss in the church office. Thank all of you for continuing to make our blood drives a success.

ServeFLO always includes prayer. So Our City Wide Prayer Gathering will be held at 7 p.m. Thursday, June 24, at First Baptist. Let's pray that God would move in our midst!

Also, we have the opportunity to help clean up Florence on Saturday, June 26. Our city council is looking for help to take furniture off the curb. City council woman Lethonia Barnes contacted us to ask for help taking away unsightly garbage that the city sanitation department cannot keep up with. Sadly, many of our neighborhoods have furniture on the curbside because of evictions, or oversized trash (tires, old TVs, mattresses, etc.) has just been put out ... thinking that it would be taken by the city. It is our poorer neighborhoods that are most greatly impacted.

Our clean-up effort will require that we get teams of people that are able to help load pick-up trucks and trailers with garbage. All ages can participate! We will gather at First Baptist Church's parking lot (300 S. Irby St.) at 7 a.m. and we will be off to the neighborhoods by 7:30 a.m. after a brief time of planning and prayer! This is an opportunity to witness through kindness to a



Our next blood drive will be from 1 to 6 p.m. June 15. few of our neighbors! If you have a truck and/or trailer please let Richard Genoble know. Email him at rgenoble@aikenandco.com. He is coordinating our teams!

If that does not sound like your cup of tea, there is an opportunity that Saturday to join a group of painters as they spruce up Manna House at 450 Jarrett St. The new executive director Paul Jones is doing a great job improving the facility so they can better serve the hungry of Florence.

Be encouraged and challenged to follow the Lord as his disciple!

Chris

Toward a Healthier Church

Defining the new normal

I recently read an article in *Christianity Today* titled: “*Church Decline and Recovery during COVID 19.*” The article is full of statistics about the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on churches. The article stated that: “Among churches surveyed, in-person attendance has suffered dramatically. At the peak of COVID in January of 2021, in-person attendance had fallen by 60 percent compared to January of the preceding year. This means that for every 10 people attending in-person the prior year, only 4 were attending in-person in January of 2021.” Thankfully, we are beginning to move out from COVID-19 pandemic and “church life” is gradually beginning to return to normal. The same article goes on to say that: “In January of 2021, in-person church attendance was a meager 40 percent of the preceding year. Just three months later that number had risen to 57 percent of the pre-pandemic crowd. Even better, much of this represents increased engagement by parishioners.” The numbers for First Presbyterian Church so far in 2021 are consistent with the national study. This is very encouraging. The article concludes by saying: “The coming months are critical for the post-COVID return and defining the new normal. We need to be encouraging people to come back to the church when the time is right.” The Session, church staff and other leaders are working hard to promote a return to normalcy. Please keep them in your prayers.

Who Do I Call?

First Presbyterian Church is fortunate to have three very talented Ministry Assistants who provide administrative support to our staff and assist our covenant partners. In addition to general knowledge about the ministry of First Presbyterian Church, each of our ministry assistants has specialized responsibilities. **Teresa Stewart** is our Ministry Assistant who can answer most of your questions regarding membership matters, Women In Ministry and general church information. Teresa also provides administrative support to the Senior Pastor. **Kim Brauss**, is our Communications Ministry Assistant, Kim’s responsibilities include publication of the monthly newsletter (The Reminder), the weekly worship bulletins, maintenance of the church website and other social media (Facebook, etc.) Kim

also provides administrative support to our Associate Pastor. **Gwen DuRant**, is our Financial Assistant. Gwen is the person to contact if you have questions related to your contributions. She also handles accounts payable and payroll for the church and our Child Development Center.

Financial Update

Numbers can tell us a lot about the health of an organization. Each year First Presbyterian Church asks our covenant partners to make a pledge to financially support the ministry and mission of the church in our community and around the world. Last year, despite the COVID-19 pandemic our covenant partners gave faithfully, and we ended the year with a budget surplus. For 2021, 150 of our covenant partners have pledged over \$1.2 million in support of the ministry and mission of First Presbyterian Church and our leadership was very encouraged by the response. Thus far in 2021, our *actual pledged receipts* are approximately 18 percent lower than we expected at this point in the year. With that said, it is important to note that our staff and ministry leaders are being good stewards of what has been given as they plan and implement ministry activities. First Presbyterian Church has been able to meet our commitments to support our missionaries and provide support to the local agencies (House of Hope, Light House, Jobs for Life, Restoration Homeless Ministry, etc.) We are heading into the summer months when attention turns to family vacations, summer camps and other activities. As you plan for summer, be sure to include continued support of the church in your plans. During the pandemic, many of our covenant partners set up online giving through REALM and other e-giving vehicles. Online giving allows you to financially support the ministries of FPC even when are not able to be present. I am sharing this information to say thank you to our covenant partners and others who give faithfully to support the ministries of First Presbyterian Church and, to encourage you to continue that support as we emerge from the COVID pandemic and church life begins to return to normal.

I am grateful to be in ministry with you!



A Covenant of Obedience

Philippians 2:14-3:1

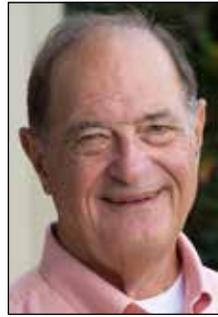
Paul writes Philippians from prison as he faces death. He is living in the mid-first century when Rome is an Empire controlling the entire known world. He is a Jewish scholar (some say a Rabbi) and a Roman citizen. Being a Roman citizen was considered a great honor. He is also a disciple of Jesus, becoming an apostle through a revelation of Jesus to Paul.

I believe Paul and Jesus are both prophets. Jesus speaks with the voice of the Lord. A prophet is one who speaks the word and will of God to the people of God and the world. The prophets sought the people to live in a Covenant of Obedience in the midst of a dishonest and perverted culture. Isaiah, Jeremiah, Ezekiel and all the Minor Prophets spoke the will and word of God during a time when Israel (destroyed in 722 BCE) and Judah (destroyed in 587 BCE) were disobedient and idolatrous. The Roman army destroyed the city of Jerusalem with the temple in 70 AD.

The Jewish and Christian faiths struggled to find a purpose in the first and second centuries. The words of Paul to the church in Philippi are written before the destruction of the temple in Jerusalem. He is seeking to call the Christians to obey God. We in the 21st century seek to understand how we are to obey. Paul gives this advice in Philippians 2:14: "Do all things without murmuring and arguing."

Murmuring and arguing are the opposite of rejoicing. The Israelites under Moses murmured in the wilderness. The word, murmur, can also be translated complain. The word for argue has diverse meanings. It can mean reasoning or thinking as having an opinion. In a negative sense it means to dispute or doubt. I believe Paul desires for modern Christians to avoid useless theological arguments. We as the Church are to be an example to a "crooked and perverse generation."

God's people as followers of Jesus are to be a light to the world. Christians are called to obey the LORD "so that you may be blameless and innocent, children of God without blemish in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation, in which you shine like stars in



REV. MIKE FLEENOR'S BLOG

<https://onepastorsponderings.wordpress.com/>

the world (Philippians 2:15)." The people of the world need the love of God. Paul adds a personal note of love to the Philippian Church. He presents the Church as a sign of his missionary work. The Church is to be Paul's sacrifice to the Lord. In this way Paul knows joy. The letter to the Philippians calls for the Church to be joyful.

In Philippians 2:19-24, Paul upholds his fellow-worker, Timothy, and then Paul says he hopes to come to them. Timothy has a Jewish mother and a Greek father. He became a Christian on Paul's journey in Derbe (Acts 16). He calls Timothy his child (1 Corinthians 4:17). He is mentioned in five of Paul's letters and was with Paul during Paul's imprisonment. Timothy visited the Churches in Thessalonica, Corinth, and Philippi in the name of Paul. Another fellow-worker of Paul mentioned in Philippians 2:25-30 is Epaphroditus. He had brought a gift to Paul from the church in Philippi. He became sick in Rome and almost died there. Paul sends him back to Philippi and writes to make sure he is received well.

"Welcome him then in the Lord with all joy, and honor such people because he came close to death for the work of Christ, risking his life to make up for those services that you could not give me" (Philippians 2:29-30). Paul ends with the theme of the letter: "Finally, my brothers and sisters rejoice in the LORD (Philippians 3:1a). The Church preaches a hope in the midst of despair and grumbling. We as the Church are to "do all things without grumbling and questioning." The Covenant cannot be revoked. The LORD God through His prophets' words will honor the Covenant.



Ultimate day camp coming this summer to our campus

Registration is open for the summer of a lifetime close to home! WinShape Camps for Communities brings the ultimate day camp right to First Presbyterian Church the week of July 26, combining fun, faith and friendship into an action-packed week. Campers completing grades K5-8 cultivate their God-given skills and talents in a mix of indoor and outdoor moments. Register today at <https://camps.winshape.org/day-camps/1091>



Graduates ready for kindergarten



Hayes Brookens:
"Teach a ninja class."



Reames Evans:
"A doctor like my mom."



Henry Fast:
"A firefighter."

Our 4K children were celebrated with a graduation parade outside the Welcome Center in May. Our 15 graduates will enter kindergarten in the fall. We wish them the best! God speed!



Ansley Gaskins:
"Work at an Icee place."



Ford Hoffer:
"Not sure yet."



Amelia Johnson:
"A doctor."



Smith McMillan:
"A police man."



Colton Miles:
"A grown up."



Alexandra Moore:
"I don't really know yet."



Braxton Pflieger:
"A drag racer."



Avery Powell:
"A princess."



Grace Prescott:
"A doctor."



Katon Sanderson:
"Batgirl, Elsa,
I don't know."



Murray Sanderson:
"Work doing science."



Langley Smith:
"A preacher."



In May, we honored our 2021, 4K Graduates with a Graduation Parade, held in front of the First Presbyterian Church Welcome Center. The graduates arrived in golf carts, cars, and trucks, all decorated with balloons, streamers and signs. CDC Staff and others cheered on the graduates as they rode in vehicles circling the fountain. At a designated spot, each child exited their vehicle and made their way to our 4K Graduate throne for pictures, hugs, and cheers. The graduates were given a Bible Story Book and a certificate of Graduation. Many of this class of graduating 4-year-olds, were in our first infant room class when our Child Development Center first opened in August 2016. Watching them learn and grow the last almost five years has been a wonderful experience. Hats off to our 4K Lead Teacher Mrs. Dawn Gerhard and this year's Assistant Teacher Mrs. Bernice Bartell who have done an excellent job preparing these children for kindergarten.



In the words of one of our 4K children's parents Patricia Fast who commented, "Thank y'all so much for the wonderful celebration tonight. It literally brought tears to my eyes seeing your faces cheering for Henry around the corner. It was a small picture of what you've been doing for him the last five years. Thanks to every day you've encouraged him when he was down, challenged him to push on to reach his potential, and reinforced who he is in Christ. So much of his confidence, curiosity and enthusiasm can be attributed to your daily patience, presences and consistency with him." She also said, "Henry points his thumbs to his chest and recites, "I am fearfully and wonderfully made, I am a child of God, and I can do all things through Christ who gives me strength. I learned that at school." What more can you want in a foundation for your child? Thank you to each teacher and staff member from the bottom of our hearts. We love y'all."

We have openings in our 4K class for the next school year, which will begin on August 16. Anyone interested in sending their child to 4K here at First Presbyterian Child Development Center may find out more information to register their child by emailing me at bhepler@florencefirst.org.

Beth

**WEDNESDAY, JUNE 2**

6:00 PM Confirmation Banquet
6:00 PM Youth

THURSDAY, JUNE 3

7:00 AM Men's Bible Study: Room 202
10:30 AM Prayer Group: LR

SUNDAY, JUNE 6

10:00 AM Combined Worship Service
11:15 AM First Connections

MONDAY, JUNE 7

5:30 PM Stretch Your Faith
7:00 PM Men's Bible Study: Welcome Center

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 9

6:00 PM Youth
6:30 PM Praise Team Rehearsal

THURSDAY, JUNE 10

7:00 AM Men's Bible Study: Room 202
10:30 AM Prayer Group: LR
1:00 PM Bible Study: Zoom

SATURDAY, JUNE 12

6:00 AM Parking Lot Mission: Hope Health

SUNDAY, JUNE 13

10:00 AM Combined Worship Service
11:15 AM Officer Training: JFH

MONDAY, JUNE 14

5:30 PM Stretch Your Faith
7:00 PM Men's Bible Study: Welcome Center

TUESDAY, JUNE 15

1:00 PM Red Cross Blood Drive: JFH
6:30 PM Board of Deacons

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 16

6:00 PM Youth

THURSDAY, JUNE 17

7:00 AM Men's Bible Study: Room 202
10:30 AM Prayer Group: LR
1:00 PM Bible Study: Zoom

SUNDAY, JUNE 20

10:00 AM Combined Worship Service

MONDAY, JUNE 21

9:00 AM Vacation Bible School
5:30 PM Stretch Your Faith
7:00 PM Men's Bible Study: Welcome Center

TUESDAY, JUNE 22

9:00 AM Vacation Bible School
6:30 PM Joint Session Meeting

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 23

9:00 AM Vacation Bible School
6:00 PM Youth
6:30 PM Praise Team Rehearsal

THURSDAY, JUNE 24

7:00 AM Men's Bible Study: Room 202
9:00 AM Vacation Bible School
10:30 AM Prayer Group: LR
1:00 PM Bible Study: Zoom

SATURDAY, JUNE 26

ServeFLO

SUNDAY, JUNE 27

10:00 AM Combined Worship Service

MONDAY, JUNE 28

5:30 PM Stretch Your Faith
7:00 PM Men's Bible Study: Welcome Center

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 30

6:00 PM Youth
6:30 PM Praise Team Rehearsal

Concert on the Lawn



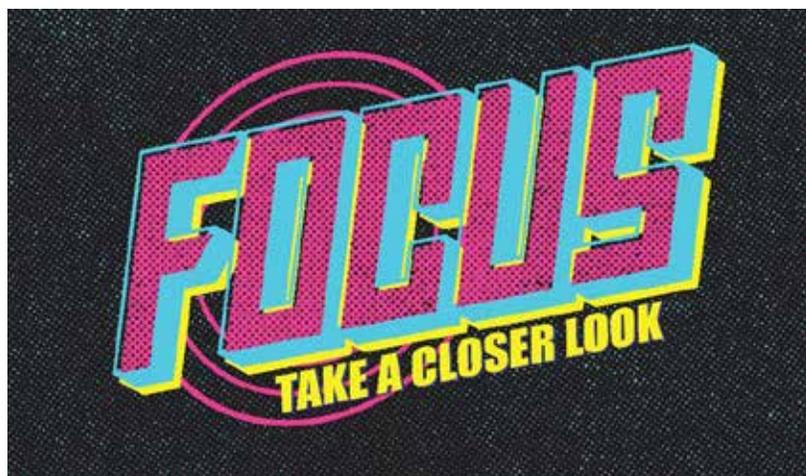
VBS 2021

June 21-24
9 to 11:45 a.m.

Thanks to all who registered for VBS 2021! At this year's VBS, kids will take a closer look at God's Word and learn to see what matters most!

If you have any questions, please contact Caroline Genoble at 843-992-7972 or carolinegenoble@gmail.com.

We can't wait to see you there!



Remember in Prayer

Extended Care

Commander Nursing Center

Jessie Moss

Home

Adele Kassab

Glenn Odom

Martha Tyson

Lowman Home

Mac King

Methodist Manor

Joyce Floyd

Marie Jordan

Maria Whitehead

Presbyterian Community

Ann Cash

Helen Foster

Aaron Leland

Clariann Kellam

Memorials

Ernest B. Hunter, Jr.

Mary Sherer

Casey Taylor

Households

FLOCK 1: Munford and Lyllian Scott

FLOCK 2: Helen Foster

FLOCK 3: Justin Hardee, Carter, Sarah Ella, and Thomas

FLOCK 4: Farrell Godwin

FLOCK 5: Isam and Mona Zakhour

FLOCK 6: David and Donna Crockett

FLOCK 7: Buddy and Janet Brand

FLOCK 8: Jan and Marilyn Bays

Sympathy

Mary Lou Arnold, loss of her brother

Chris Handley, loss of his stepfather

Margaret Jones, loss of her mother

Genia Tyson, loss of her mother

Lord, Hear
Our Prayer

Sick & Recovering

Kent Caudle

Aubrey Crawford

Kit Fulmer

Sherrill Fussell

Linda Lawson

Isla Louise McCoy

Johnny Stoupenos

Fred Swearingen

Shannon Watt

Jack Williams

Elders

Bryon Frost

Jim Dameron

Deacons

Danny Jones

Frances Rogers

Mission

Helping Florence Flourish

Actionnel Fleurisma

Women in Ministry

Beverly Harrell

Peggy Taylor

Sunday School Teachers

Chris Handley

Emily McLean

Staff

Palmer Jones

Vic Rockhill

Meet the Staff

Vic Rockhill, Praise Team leader

On May 9, Vic Rockhill had his debut as the new Praise Team leader at First Presbyterian Church. The band performs during the Contemporary service. Here's a question-and-answer session with Vic:

Describe your primary responsibilities at First Presbyterian: At FPC my primary responsibility is to serve as the praise team leader for the contemporary service, where I have the privilege of planning the music, scheduling the band, and leading practices for Sunday services. I get to research, play, sing, and pray over new and traditional music and bring that creatively before God's people to engage them in a time of ministry.

What is your favorite thing to do in Florence?

In Florence, my wife, Ashley, and I love taking our 5 children to parks and pools and anything we can do as a big group. Our children are Michael Westbrook, Colton Westbrook, Katie Rockhill, Belle Rockhill, and Caroline Westbrook. Ashley, and I enjoy going out to the fine restaurants in town on as many date nights as possible (see "5 children" remark above).

Tell us about your family: I say often that marrying my wife was the best decision of my life after the one for Christ, but I know she was given to me by him and having only been married a little over a year now, I am thrilled at the long time we'll have together. She teaches at a local elementary school and has felt very welcomed at FPC. Our five kids keep us busy; they're between the ages of 10 and 5. I work full-time in financial and insurance services since I left teaching a few years ago, but I have never been able to get far from music ministry as the Lord seems to make provision for me to do that.

Tell us about your hobbies: My hobbies include hacking golf greens, playing video games (don't you dare judge), dating my wife, singing, learning foreign languages (I'm doing Koine now), learning in general, writing, and meeting new people.



How do you see God moving at First?

God is certainly moving at FPC! I have had the privilege of seeing firsthand the vision the session is praying over for the contemporary service, and it was one of the things that drew me and my family to FPC. The biggest things we've noticed is the sense of warmth that comes from those we've met and the resources that FPC has that seem to fit with young family growth and commitment to improving ministry moving forward. I'm very excited to be a part of that and help any way I can!

Contact Vic Rockhill at vicrockhill@gmail.com or 843-758-4138.

Annual Spring Celebration



The Women in Ministry's Spring Celebration was held Monday, May 17, with featured guest speaker Wendy Blight. The women celebrated a season full of study, prayer, fellowship and fundraising not only for local and global missions, but also House of Hope's HOPE Village's kitchens. Margaret Baroody, a woman of dedicated faith and friendship, was awarded the Life Service Award.





Church News

One Service, Cookies and Lemonade begin

Our Combined Worship Services at 10 a.m. and Cookies and Lemonade afterward will continue until August 8. Please mark your calendar.

Men's Prayer Breakfast resumes at Bazen's

All men are invited to breakfast at Bazen's Restaurant at 7 a.m. Tuesdays for prayer and fellowship. Call Mike Fleenor at 843-992-2109 if you have questions.

Children's Church resumes for services

Teachers and assistants are needed throughout the summer for our Children's Church during the 10 a.m. worship service. Sign up online (shorturl.at/WY069) or a paper copy is available on Susan Snow's door for those unable to access the link.

Women's Summer Bible Study

Kathy Griffin will lead a summer Bible study for women starting at the end of June on campus. The study will be on Jude and will begin June 28 and go through July 26. Time will be Monday night from 6:30 to 8 p.m. in one of the Sunday school classrooms. Come with your Bible as we discuss this wonderful book. Text or call Kathy at 843-229-3589 with questions or if you are planning to attend.

New member classes being held

Anyone interested in learning more about joining the church, we will meet at 11 a.m. Sunday, June 6, in the fellowship hall for a new covenant partner class. Please let the office know whether you're planning to attend, 843-662-2583.

ServeFLO blood drive to be held

The Red Cross will have a blood drive from 1 to 6 p.m. Tuesday, June 15, in the fellowship hall. If you would like to donate or volunteer with check-in, contact Kim Brauss in the church office, 843-662-2583.



Congrats to Scouts on medals, merit badges

Fishing was good for the Boy Scouts on their May camping trip. Everyone caught, cleaned, cooked and ate their own fish. Merit badge classes for swimming and communications were also held in May. Congratulations to four Eagle Scouts: Lucas Morgan, Jordan Hope, Preston Marshall and John Michael Morgan that received medals at our May 23 outdoor court of honor.

ServeFLO / Clean-Up Day

First Presbyterian Church, along with several other churches, are teaming up June 26 to collect discarded furniture on city streets, per a request from Florence City Council. In some neighborhoods, discarded furniture is problematic. If you would like to assist, contact Chris Handley or Richard Genoble, chandley@florencefirst.org or rgenoble@aikenandco.com. Trucks and trailers are needed, as well.

Church campus mask update

Following CDC guidelines we are allowing those fully vaccinated Covenant Partners to remove their masks while on church campus. We continue to encourage "safe seating." In accordance with Florence School District 1, parents can decide whether their children wear masks. Thank you all for your patience this past year. We are delighted we are getting back closer to normal. Blessings, the Session

Submit briefs for The Reminder to Kim Brauss by email at kbrauss@florencefirst.org by the 19th of the month.



God's Promise

"... We will tell the next generation the praiseworthy deeds of the Lord, his power, and the wonders he has done." Psalm 78:4

Tuesday afternoon, I watched as our elders questioned our confirmands on the catechism the confirmands have been studying these past months. Questions and answers turned into conversations about what we believe.

Wednesday morning, I led chapel with my sweet 2-, 3-, and 4-year-old friends who are part of our Child Development Center family. Our lesson, on the floor with sturdy wooden figures moving on a red felt underlay, was on Pentecost: "Pentecost, when we remember how God gave us the gift of the Holy Spirit so we can say and do the wonderful things that Jesus did." This lesson ends with Peter's words, "God's promise is for you ... and for your children, and for everyone God calls."

Faith formation. Discipling our children. Passing our faith to the next generation. Please pray with me that we would honor God in this. Please pray that God would prick the hearts of those whom He is calling to serve. Pray, remembering Jesus' words: "The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field." (Luke 10:2)

I am blessed to serve beside you.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Susan".



CONFIRMATION: THE RETREAT

Please pray for our confirmands and mentors as they continue to walk together during this special time in their faith journeys. Confirmands are undergoing examination and will join the church June 6.

CONFIRMAND

Eliza Blanton
Ben Carter
Alex Cotran
Will Evans
David Frost
Heyward Hanna
Thomas Hardee
Wells McBride
Jackson Mozingo
Julianne Newton
Mary Tiller Rabon
Anne Evans Scott

MENTOR

Elizabeth McLean
Charlie Caldwell
Mike Lavespere
Weave Whitehead
Robert Moore
Paul Davis
Erik Marechal
Jim Moseley
Don Hebert
Sally Dameron
Amy Williams
Tabatha Davis



June BIRTHDAYS

JUNE 1

Donna Collins
Jim Dameron
Landis Lane
Emily McLean
Melanie Sprenger
Butch Turner

JUNE 2

George Henderson
Coleman Jeffords

JUNE 4

Courtney Emert
Bryan Harwell

JUNE 5

Cile MacLennan
Brittany Miles

JUNE 6

Margaret Charles
Eli Gaddy
Gerry Rosenlund

JUNE 7

Marshall Benton

JUNE 8

George Beshere
Drew Caudle

JUNE 9

Mary Jernigan

JUNE 10

Addie Bulloch
Abigail Tuttle

JUNE 11

Troy Lamb

JUNE 13

Emily Hodges
Jon Lewis
Betsey Moore
Mary Tiller Rabon
Thomas Ray
Anna Reames
Celia Urquhart

JUNE 14

Gray Scott
Katherine Watts

JUNE 15

Merrette Dowdell
Marty Hucks

JUNE 16

Ken Charles
Carter Hardee
Beverly Harrell
Bobby Henegar
Eric Kim
Cathy Lee
Susan Snow
Gordon Weatherford
Hunter Welch

JUNE 17

Breeden DuBose
Grace DuBose
Charles Lamb
Hunter Morgan
Edmund Whitehead

JUNE 19

Hunter Burch
Ansley Moore
Lyn Ortiz
Gil Vassy

JUNE 20

Lila McMillan
Cammie Moree

JUNE 22

Amelia Anne Brown
Mary Grady
Alaina Naylor
Patrick Ortiz
Ashley Scott

JUNE 23

Lauren Bostwick
Frank Ellington

JUNE 24

David DuBose
Robin Stoupenos

JUNE 25

Justin Dozier
Ida Whitehead

JUNE 26

Alan Floyd
Bryan Rabon

JUNE 27

Dawn Benton
Weatherly Tiller
Genia Tyson

JUNE 28

Cindy Coward
Richard Genoble
Johnny Stoupenos
Ellen Wilhoit

JUNE 30

Scarlett Cranford
Sally Dameron
Tammy Moore
Susan Perrou

Youth Ministry

We've been pushing hard to finish up a few more projects these past few weeks. We've built a great counter-top space along with a mountain scene mural, as well as a fresh coat of paint in the hallway. It has been a busy month, and Taiter has been putting a lot of hours painting the hallway as well as working on the mural with Sarah Nell Harwell, a former member of the youth group, who is now an art teacher here in Florence! So, if you see either of them around, make sure to thank them! With this busy season of finishing exams and school, we've also celebrated our seniors graduating. Please be in prayer for all of them as they transition into this new and exciting season.

Church history was part of our discussion earlier this month — I challenged the students to examine the ways the church has functioned or the particular disciplines they emphasized throughout the ages and consider what we can learn from those who have gone before us. For example — we can consider the faith of the Desert Fathers, the Monastic Movements, or the Reformers and learn from the ways these men and women sought to honor Jesus Christ and worship Him. More recently we've returned, as we often do, to the parables of Jesus Christ found in the Gospels. There is constantly more to dig up from and receive from His teachings.

Peace,
Palmer





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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
Praise Team Leader	Mr. Vic Rockhill
Interim Director of Youth and NextGen Ministries	Mr. Palmer Jones
Interim Children's Ministry Director	Mrs. Susan Snow
Girls Ministry Coordinator	Ms. Christina "Taiter" Garrett
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