

The REMINDER

Growing UPWARD
worshipping and praising

Growing INWARD
becoming more like Christ

Growing OUTWARD
sharing the good news

APRIL 2019

New beginnings in the season of Easter

Every year in our church in April, we begin to change our focus. We begin preparing for Easter and the Egg Hunt at the Whitehead's, for Maundy Communion, for the Bell Choir's special Program and for Easter Sunday. (This year at 3 p.m. on Sunday, April 7, we will have a special service for healing and wholeness. Keep an eye out for further details.)

In a very real sense, the Easter message is about new beginnings. Who would have thought that a carpenter from Nazareth, a small and little known village in the Galilee could start something so radically new. And who would not have concluded that when this carpenter was executed that the story was going to be over and that this man, Jesus, would soon be forgotten.

The Creator God has surprising new beginnings. No one could have anticipated what was about to happen when Jesus was crucified.

Actually, this new beginning did not start with his execution. God had been preparing the ground for

His new beginning long before. For instance, the prophets of Israel had given hints about what God was going to do in the future. But very few people believed them. And these prophets' written messages about a future "Anointed One" were soon forgotten when this person did not appear soon on the scene in Israel. But Israel had a long history of keeping their written records of what God had done and the people God had uniquely used, raised up and spoken through.

As often happens, the Lord's new beginnings catch his closest followers by surprise. When things seem lost or humanly impossible, that is often the very time God works something amazing and new that you least expected.

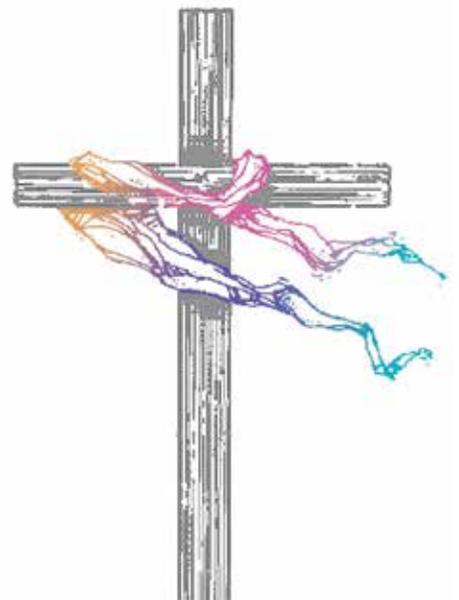
It is the month of Easter, and the month of new beginnings. Get ready for something new God is about to do in, for, and through our church into our community. Get ready!

With gratitude,

CHRIST DIED FOR OUR SINS IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE SCRIPTURES, AND ... HE WAS

raised
on the third day.

1 CORINTHIANS 15:3-4



IN THIS ISSUE

- 2 From the Transitional Pastor
- 3 From the Associate Pastor
- 4 Church Administration Matters
- 5 From the Congregational Care Assistant
- 6 Women in Ministry
- 7 Music Ministry
- 8 Child Development Center
- 9 Birthdays
- 10-11 Calendar
- 12 Prayer Concerns
- 13 Pray for our Missions
- 14 Volunteer Corner
- 15 News
- 16 Children's Ministry
- 17 Cover: Prayerwalking
- 18 Parenting Column
- 19 Youth Ministry



ON THE COVER
Jean Lavespere and Dottie Handley pray during a stop of their prayerwalk throughout the campus of First Presbyterian. For more information, see page 17.

A Thought or Two Challenging You Toward Discipleship

Exciting times for movement in our church

We have presbytery the final weekend in March in Lexington at Sax Gotha Church. Alva Whitehead and Janet Brand are the two elders representing our church this weekend. Alva suggested during our Discipleship unit meeting a couple of months ago that the presbytery pursue a joint youth retreat for our South Carolina presbytery churches. (There are 17 churches in our presbytery.) That idea was shared with the presbytery and the presbytery (executive committee) council approved a budget for 2019-2020 that includes monies for that event. We will announce that and begin to plan the retreat in the near future. Brock Page and Rev. Charlie Buchanan (of First Presbyterian Greenville) already have had a conversation about the event and comprise the early leadership team for the event. Alva's idea was that the retreat would be a means to encourage our youth as they see others their age from around the state pursuing a relationship with the Lord and build relationships with the other churches in our presbytery.

I am excited, as well, about a group of folks who are working with a consultant this year to develop a plan for the discipleship at First Presbyterian. We meet weekly with Rev. Chad Pullins who brings to us

A youth retreat involving our presbytery is in its initial stages. It would be a means to encourage our youth from around the state to build relationships with the Lord as well as other youth.

a wealth of understanding about how churches can develop pathways of disciple-making. Churches say, "We want to make disciples." That is the priority for every church. But defining what that looks like and then moving a person, who maybe is not even a believer, to a place of spiritual maturity takes clarity of thought and then a plan of execution. Those details are what this group is working on weekly and the development of that plan will come to light as the year passes.

The report that was given at the Wednesday night gathering about the ECO National Gathering held in Colorado Springs gave folks a sense of the direction of the denomination. I want to encourage you to listen to some of the talks given at the Gathering. They are available online at this link: <http://econationalgathering.org/2019ng/> Jayne Boswell shared from the Open Hands video the ministry in Wilmington, N.C., where a church plant uses horses to minister to those who have experienced trauma

in their life. Susan Snow shared from the Richard Stearns (President of World Vision Video). She was inspired by his call to care for the poor. Alexis Morris spoke of the message heard at a breakout session (not on video) about how to move into the community for Christ and evangelize. And I shared from Dana Allin's video about the vision he cast at the Gathering for the denomination. All these videos I recommend to you. They will challenge and encourage you.

Finally, I want to say how excited I am for the new slate of officers that have been nominated. Betsy Olsen and the nominating committee have done a wonderful job. The Spirit has led us together to these nominees. I personally thank each of these nominees for the willingness to serve during the days ahead. These are exciting times for our church. The Lord is moving.

Chris

SERVEFLO

SAVE THE DATES
JUNE 15-27, 2019

Columbarium, garden input

At various times throughout the history of First Presbyterian Church, there has been talk of constructing a columbarium and memory garden for use by the covenant partners of First Presbyterian Church. A columbarium is a structure designed to hold urns containing the cremated remains of a loved one who has died. In 2015, a team (Ginger Owen, Glenn Bell, Susan Bankson, Greg Cleveland and George Beshere [2017]) was created and tasked with the responsibility of developing a plan to construct a columbarium and memory garden for First Presbyterian Church. The decision to form the team was based on a perception that there was interest in a columbarium for First Presbyterian Church. The team worked diligently to develop policies and a proposed design for the columbarium. The hope of the Columbarium team is that the covenant partners of First Presbyterian Church will benefit by having the Columbarium and Memory Garden as one of their choices in end of life planning. The team is at a point in the process where it needs to know the desires of the covenant partners. The team would like our covenant partners to answer a one question survey. The question is:

If you have a death in your immediate family and if a columbarium existed on the campus of First Presbyterian church, would you use or consider using it?

YES () NO () POSSIBLY ()

This anonymous survey is being conducted simply to determine the level of interest for establishing a columbarium/memory garden at First Presbyterian Church. On Sunday, April 14, a member of the columbarium team will make a brief presentation about the columbarium in both worship services and covenant partners will have an opportunity to respond to the survey. Again, this is an “interest only” survey and a response does not obligate respondents to reserving a niche in a columbarium if one is constructed at some time in the future. In the meantime, please feel free to contact me for more information about the **First Presbyterian Church Columbarium and Memory Garden**.

Thoughts on Stewardship

In thinking about my article for The Reminder, I came across the following quotes on the subject of **gratitude and stewardship**.



One of the incredible truths about gratitude is that it is impossible to feel both the positive emotion of thankfulness and a negative emotion. ... Gratitude births only positive feeling — love, compassion, joy and hope... As we get older, we get schooled in our mistakes and learn to focus on what’s not right, what is lacking, missing, inadequate, and painful. That’s why gratitude is so powerful. It helps us to return to our natural state of joyfulness where we notice what’s right ... Gratitude reminds us to be like plants, which turn toward, not away, from the light. **MJ Ryan in Attitudes of Gratitude**

The most important aspect of tithing and stewardship is not the raising of money for the church, but the development of devoted Christians. **Fred M. Wood**

Quarterly Contribution Statements

First Presbyterian Church has been blessed through the first quarter of 2019 by covenant partners and others who have given faithfully in support of the ministries of the church. Contributions to the church tend to follow a pattern from year to year. To date, our giving is about the same as it was for the same period last year. In the coming weeks, covenant partners will receive quarterly contribution statements for 2019 (January – March). Your contribution statements are intended to serve as a reminder of the commitment to faithfully support the ministries of First Presbyterian Church. If you have questions or need additional information please contact Gwen DuRant, 843-662-2583 or email gduyant@florencefirst.org. Thank you for your faithful support, both financially and with your time and talent, of First Presbyterian Church.

Paul's response to the Corinthians

THE SECOND LETTER CONTINUED
1 CORINTHIANS 5:1 – 1 CORINTHIANS 6:11

One of the major questions raised in Christian Church is how do believers work and associate with non-believers. Our task as believers is to help non-believers perceive the Gospel in our actions and words so that they are drawn to Christ.

In this section of I Corinthians Paul calls the Church to discipline members whose behavior violates a holiness code. This holiness code is conveyed upon the Church by their relationship to the covenant community of the Old Testament. Much of the behavior expectations placed upon the Church by Paul is inferred by his understanding of the Jewish ethical laws. In the modern Church, we find that the sin of individuals is tolerated because the church has lost its sense of health and integrity as a corporate body. The Corinthian Church has become part of the Covenant People of God with the ethical norms of the People of God in Scripture. Paul in I Corinthians 5 deals with sexual immorality, which has been reported to him. This act of sin is unlawful in the Old Testament and to Roman law of the first century. Paul expects the person to be removed from the fellowship of the Church.

“When you are assembled, and my spirit is present with the power of our Lord Jesus, you are to hand this man over to Satan for the destruction of the flesh, so that his spirit may be saved in the day of the Lord (1 Corinthians 5:4b-5).” Paul believes the Church should judge the immoral person inside the fellowship but not those outside. “For what have I to do with judging those outside? Is it not those who are inside that you are to judge? God will judge those outside.

“Drive out the wicked person from among you (1 Corinthians 5:12-13).” The modern Church has the responsibility to judge those in the Church but not those outside. Such sinful behavior defeats the witness to the power of the Gospel to live according to the teachings of Jesus. Paul creates two kinds of people in this judgment on sexual conduct. The Church is to seek to witness to the change the Holy Spirit can provide to those in-



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

involved in sexual sin. The Church has a responsibility to judge and to speak against those known publically to sin who are worshipping as believers. This is a difficult concept to bring upon the Church. Does the Church have the right to judge its own? Paul would say yes. He also says the Church needs to associate with sinners to help them be transformed.

In a separate issue in 1 Corinthians 6:1-11, Paul deals with those who take people to court. His attitude is similar to the argument concerning immorality: “If you have ordinary cases, then, do you appoint as judges those who have no standing in the church? I say this to your shame. Can it be that there is no one among you wise enough to decide between one believer and another (1 Corinthians 6:4-5).” Don't allow unbelieving judges to decide between believers. In a strong statement Paul judges those who will inherit the kingdom of God. Those who commit known sin will not inherit the kingdom. He defines a believer or follower of Jesus as “you who were washed, you were sanctified, you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and in the Spirit of our God (1 Corinthians 6:11).” The order of life for a believer is baptism (washed) sanctification (following the teachings of Jesus) and justified (putting on the image of Jesus as righteousness). The goal of a believer in the LORD, Jesus, and the Spirit is to be righteous. We are right in the sight of God. The death of Jesus insures our righteousness and the Spirit as the guarantee we are right with God. Thanks be to God.

Mike

Women in Ministry

SPRING CELEBRATION

Monday, April 15

6:30 p.m. Salad Buffet Dinner in the CLC

For more than a decade, **Dr. Muriel O’Tuel** has motivated a variety of audiences including school, college, business, church and civic organizations throughout the United States. Muriel O’Tuel can spin a yarn. Her stories are like a craftsman’s toolbox. You never know what she will pull out or how she will wield it, but the results are something to behold. Her wisdom and wit are intertwined in a way that teaches and inspires while the audience is entertained.

Her stories might leave you laughing or crying but they will never leave you.

Bring a salad; bring a friend!

RSVP to the church office for child care by April 8.



Dr. Muriel O’Tuel



Women in Ministry Monthly Groups

Women 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	April 13	9 a.m.	Call Jan Green
Joyful Hearts	April 9	10 a.m.	Room 100
Posies and Petals	April 9	10 a.m.	Lawson-Rain Chapel
Prayer Warriors	April 9	6:30 p.m.	Presbyterian Community
SonFlowers	April 9	10 a.m.	814 Greenway Drive
Soul Sisters	April 9	noon	Price Classroom
Serenity	April 9	3 p.m.	Lawson-Rain Chapel
Women of Grace	April 11	6:30 p.m.	3002 Japonica Lane

Get involved in Music Ministry

Tuesdays

1:30 p.m. Ladies' Ensemble (Ladies of all ages)

4 p.m. Girls' Ensemble (Sixth grade and older)

Wednesdays

5 p.m. Chancel Handbell Choir

6:45 p.m. Preschool Choir

6:30 p.m. Children's Choir

6:30 p.m. Praise Team Rehearsal

7:30 p.m. Chancel Choir Rehearsal



If you're interested in joining the music ministry, please call Ann Rodgers Chandler, Director of Music, at the church office, 843-662-2583.

Praise Team vocalist auditions

If you're interested in exploring using your musical gifts to serve the congregation on the Praise Team, please contact Glenn Ham: 843-687-8556 or glennham@allstate.com.



Save the Date: Spring Handbells Concert

6:30 p.m. May 8



Patient, active listening key to communication

Young children are prone to ask questions. They want to know the who, what, where, when, and why of just about everything! They are naturally curious. The more answers they get, the more questions they ask. Answers stretch their thought process and help it to grow and mature. In turn, it expands their verbal abilities. In other words: the more they know, the more they want to know. A healthy, active, 3- or 4-year old, may ask “Why?” at least 200 times or more a day. These constant questions can drive even the most caring, patient parent or teacher a little over the edge. As young preschoolers, my own children were constantly asking “why?”. Now my 4-year-old grandson has taken over. As parents and educators, it is important to answer as many of their questions as possible. In order to do this most effectively, we must give children our full attention. Young children, especially, need eye contact on their level. The thoughts, ideas, and questions coming from a young child may not seem that important to an adult. Their stories may be simple, but to the child, what they are trying to say, is very important. Everyone has a story to tell. But, it’s his or her story. In order for a young child to explain what happened, they need a patient, active listener. Their cognitive and verbal skills must catch up with their thoughts. They know what they think happened. They know what they are trying to say, but it may take them a few extra minutes to actually say it. Often a hurried, busy parent will finish telling the story for their child, which can be more frustrating for the child and the parent. Children are smart. They know when someone is truly listening and is not preoccupied doing something else. Children are like human sponges. They are constantly soaking up the world around them. They “hear” even when it may seem they are not listening. Walking through a crowded mall, a parent may not notice the person sitting on a bench holding a crying baby. But the ears of young children are tender. A child will stop and stare or ask why the baby is crying. When the newscast comes on, the television or car radio, children are listening. They hear the good, the bad, and the ugly. Often a young child will mimic the same response from which they have heard someone else give. Later they may say something or act a certain way and an adult will ask, “Where did you hear that?” or “Why are you acting like that?” Often, in an effort to process what



CDC ART SHOW

Join us at **6:30 p.m. Thursday, April 11**, for the CDC Art Show in the Jenkins Fellowship Hall.

they have heard, a young child may get the sequence of events mixed up. Their cognitive ability to process events is playing catch up. Children can subconsciously hear something, even from another room, for example on the radio or television. Later, the child becomes upset or acts out and the parent is confused as to what is wrong. Children are tender-hearted and things bother them. I remember well when my oldest son was small, every time the “Feed the Children” commercial came on TV, my son would start crying. The pictures of those starving little children were upsetting him. In our own circles we are all guilty of “half” hearing what others are saying. We allow our own agenda or the pressures of the world to crowd out what is important. Listening to someone else is in a sense a sign of acceptance and affirmation. We show our respect for others when we listen. It is not always convenient to give a young child our undivided attention. However, if we don’t take time to actively listen to the little things, will they bother to tell us the big things? Cultivating any kind of healthy relationship takes time and effort. As children grow and change and are no longer underfoot the adults will be the ones asking the questions. “Where are you going?”, “Who is going?”, “When will you return?” Every parent of a teenager wants to be in the “know.” Today, the world is crushing in, and there are so many things vying for the attention of our children. Taking time to listen early on to their questions of “why” and their simple stories can open a door of communication that will pay off as the child grows into an adult. It’s all a process, but one definitely worth practicing and cultivating.

Beth



April

BIRTHDAYS

**April 1**

Tag Gandy
Michelle Babb
Sara Goodstein
Maddy Duncan

April 2

Matt Goodstein
Doug Stover
Lane Josey

April 3

Elizabeth McLean
Bonnie Stuber

April 4

Emily Grace Kennedy
Evelyn Childers
Brandon Fuller
Ronnie Hucks
April Munn

April 5

Whit Player
Cole Rabon
Wills Urquhart
Rylie Hughes
Naomi Selleck

April 7

Megan Harris
Rufus Bratton
Matt Marechal
Shannon Watt

April 8

David McLean
Marla Slaughter
Nicky Carter
Paula Jackson

April 9

Will McLean
Bennett Matthews

April 10

Charlie Caldwell

April 11

Amy Brown
Cary Andrews

April 12

Quentin Johnson
Linda Smiley

April 13

Peggy Braswell
David Prince

April 14

Sara Johnson
Isla Campbell
Patrick Morgan

April 15

Ashley Bratton

April 17

Glenn Ham
Mark Davis
Jeremy Emert
Maddux Langston
Margaret Lee

April 18

Sandra Arnold
Farrah Hughes
Liam Scott
John Molnar
Richard Nash

April 19

Robert Moore
Huck Thompson
Steve Grady
Pat Walker

April 20

Bruce Burch
Tallon Temple

April 21

Guy Thompson

April 22

Melanie Moore
Samantha Truman
Kit Fulmer
Seth Hallman
Bonnie Brown
Charlie Jordan

April 23

Franklin Reames
Sullivyn Jackson
Diana Monjarrez

April 24

Holly Campbell

April 25

Harriett Whitehead

April 26

Beth Abernathy
Jim Leach
Carson McMillan

April 27

Bob Barrett
Betsy Olsen
Daniel Jordan

April 28

Gary Bray
Ruby Hsia
Gayden Tyler

April 29

Laura Tiller
Christopher Garris
Bern Lavespere
Beth Hepler

April 30

Susan Hofler
Alissa Warters
Katherine Ryan



MONDAY, APRIL 1

- 10:00 AM Monday Morning Prayer Group
- 4:30 PM Stretch Your Faith: JFH
- 5:45 PM Stretch Your Faith: JFH
- 6:30 PM GriefShare: Room 104
- 7:00 PM Boy Scouts: Scout Room

TUESDAY, APRIL 2

- 7:00 AM Men's Breakfast
- 9:30 AM Women's Prayer Group
- 9:45 AM WiM CT Committee Meeting: LR
- 11:00 AM WiM Bible Moderators Meeting
- 12:00 PM Discipleship Coaching: Discovery Class
- 12:00 PM Just for Women's Ministry
- 12:00 PM Keenagers Luncheon: JFH
- 1:30 PM Ladies' Ensemble Rehearsal
- 5:00 PM Women's Prayer Group – Hucks
- 7:00 PM Men's Choral Society Rehearsal: Choir Room

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 3

- 5:00 PM Adult Handbells
- 5:45 PM Family Night Dinner
- 6:30 PM Wednesday night programs
- 6:30 PM Praise Team Rehearsal
- 7:30 PM Chancel Choir Rehearsal

THURSDAY, APRIL 4

- 7:15 AM Men's Breakfast: Presbyterian Community

SUNDAY, APRIL 7 CDC Art Show through April 11

- 9:00 AM Contemporary Worship Service
- 10:00 AM Sunday School
- 11:00 AM Traditional Worship Service
- 3:00 PM Healing Service
- 4:30 PM Volleyball
- 5:30 PM Youth Fellowship

MONDAY, APRIL 8

- 10:00 AM Monday Morning Prayer Group
- 4:30 PM Stretch Your Faith: JFH
- 5:45 PM Stretch Your Faith: JFH
- 6:30 PM GriefShare
- 7:00 PM Boy Scouts: Scout Room

TUESDAY, APRIL 9

- 7:00 AM Men's Breakfast
- 9:30 AM Women's Prayer Group
- 10:00 AM WiM Joyful Hearts: Room 100
- 10:00 AM WiM Posies & Petals: Lawson-Rain Chapel
- 10:00 AM WiM SonFlowers: 814 Greenway Drive
- 12:00 PM Discipleship Coaching: Discovery Class
- 12:00 PM Just for Women's Ministry
- 12:00 PM WiM Soul Sisters:
- 1:30 PM Ladies' Ensemble Rehearsal
- 3:00 PM WiM Serenity: Lawson-Rain Chapel
- 5:00 PM Women's Prayer Group – Hucks
- 6:30 PM Prayer Warriors: Presbyterian Community
- 7:00 PM Men's Choral Society Rehearsal



WEDNESDAY, APRIL 10

- 5:00 PM Adult Handbells
- 5:30 PM WinShape Preview Event
- 6:30 PM Praise Team Rehearsal
- 7:30 PM Chancel Choir Rehearsal



THURSDAY, APRIL 11

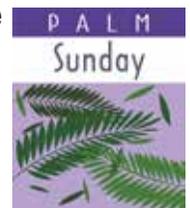
- 7:15 AM Men's Breakfast: Presbyterian Community
- 6:30 PM WiM Women of Grace: 3002 Japonica Lane
- 6:30 PM CDC Art Show Reception: JFH

SATURDAY, APRIL 13

- 6:00 AM Parking Lot Mission: Hope Health
- 9:30 AM WiM Bread & Fish: Call Jan Green

SUNDAY, APRIL 14

- 9:00 AM Contemporary Worship Service
- 10:00 AM Sunday School
- 11:00 AM Traditional Worship Service
- 4:00 PM Easter Egg Hunt: Whitehead's
- 4:30 PM Volleyball
- 5:30 PM Youth Fellowship



MONDAY, APRIL 15

- 6:00 AM Morning Prayer: Lawson-Rain
- 10:00 AM Monday Morning Prayer Group
- 4:30 PM Stretch Your Faith: JFH
- 5:45 PM Stretch Your Faith: JFH
- 6:30 PM GriefShare: Room 104
- 6:30 PM WiM Spring Celebration: CLC
- 7:00 PM Boy Scouts: Scout Room



April



TUESDAY, APRIL 16

6:00 AM Morning Prayer: Lawson-Rain
 7:00 AM Men's Breakfast
 9:30 AM Women's Prayer Group
 12:00 PM Discipleship Coaching: Discovery
 12:00 PM Just for Women's Ministry
 1:30 PM Ladies' Ensemble Rehearsal
 5:00 PM Women's Prayer Group – Hucks
 6:30 PM Board of Deacons
 7:00 PM Men's Choral Society Rehearsal

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 17

6:00 AM Morning Prayer: Lawson-Rain
 5:00 PM Adult Handbells
 6:30 PM Praise Team Rehearsal
 7:30 PM Chancel Choir Rehearsal

THURSDAY, APRIL 18

6:00 AM Morning Prayer: Lawson-Rain
 7:15 AM Men's Breakfast: Presbyterian Community
 8:00 AM United Way Annual Meeting
 7:00 PM Maundy Thursday service

MAUNDY
Thursday



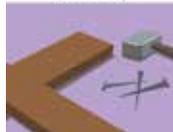
FRIDAY, APRIL 19 Good Friday

6:00 AM Morning Prayer: Lawson-Rain

SATURDAY, APRIL 20

10:00 AM Aglow International: JFH, LR
 4:00 PM Respite Night

GOOD
Friday



SUNDAY, APRIL 21 Easter

9:00 AM Contemporary Worship Service
 10:00 AM Sunday School
 11:00 AM Traditional Worship Service
 4:30 PM Volleyball
 5:30 PM Youth Fellowship

EASTER
Sunday



MONDAY, APRIL 22 Easter Monday

Church office closed
 10:00 AM Monday Morning Prayer Group
 4:30 PM Stretch Your Faith: JFH
 5:45 PM Stretch Your Faith: JFH
 6:30 PM GriefShare: Room 104
 7:00 PM Boy Scouts: Scout Room

TUESDAY, APRIL 23

7:00 AM Men's Breakfast
 9:30 AM Women's Prayer Group
 12:00 PM Discipleship Coaching: Discovery
 12:00 PM Just for Women's Ministry
 1:30 PM Ladies' Ensemble Rehearsal
 5:00 PM Women's Prayer Group – Hucks
 6:30 PM Session Meeting
 7:00 PM Men's Choral Society Rehearsal

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 24

5:00 PM Adult Handbells
 6:30 PM Praise Team Rehearsal
 7:30 PM Chancel Choir Rehearsal

THURSDAY, APRIL 25

7:15 AM Men's Breakfast: Presbyterian Community

SUNDAY, APRIL 28

9:00 AM Contemporary Worship Service
 10:00 AM Sunday School
 11:00 AM Traditional Worship Service
 4:30 PM Volleyball
 5:30 PM Youth Fellowship

MONDAY, APRIL 29

10:00 AM Monday Morning Prayer Group
 6:30 PM GriefShare: Room 104
 7:00 PM Boy Scouts: Scout Room

TUESDAY, APRIL 30

7:00 AM Men's Breakfast
 9:30 AM Women's Prayer Group
 12:00 PM Discipleship Coaching: Discovery
 12:00 PM Just for Women's Ministry
 1:30 PM Ladies' Ensemble Rehearsal
 5:00 PM Women's Prayer Group – Hucks
 6:00 PM Helping Florence Flourish dinner, discussion
 7:00 PM Men's Choral Society Rehearsal

Remember in Prayer

Extended Care

Heritage at Lowman
Mac King

Homebound
Linda Foxworth
Dora Hewitt
Pam Hoogenboom
George Richardson

Methodist Manor
Madeline Brice
Joyce Floyd
Marie Jordan

Pee Dee Gardens
Joy Tedder

Presbyterian Community
Hannah Barringer
Ann Cash
Lois Jinks
Aaron Leland
Tom and Clariann Kellam

Sympathy

Carolyn Holland, loss of her husband, Wendell
Family of Margaret (Joseph) Baroody
Jean Lavespere, Loss of her brother
Peggy Braswell, Loss of her mother

Households

Dan and Beth Abernathy, Annie, Amelia
Chris and Paige Alexander, John Joseph, Gracyn
Rod and Sandra Arnold
George and Jeannie Beshere
David and Donna Crockett
Sam and Lisa Dozier, Meredith, Sarah
Jonathan and Heather Draegar, Jameson, Genevieve
Mike and Lynn Porter, David, Sarah

Memorials

Margaret Baroody
George Dawson
Wendell Holland
Billy Houck

Lord, Hear
Our Prayer

Sick & Recovering

Jonathan Bankhead
Jack Cagle
Barbara Covington
Chuck Dennis
Grace DuBose
Gwen DuRant
Vicki Hebert
Carolyn Holland
Anna Grace Hubbs
Rainey Josey
Ginger Owen
Mike Page
Mary Catherine Rawlinson

Hospital

Theresa Echols
Tom Kellam
Heather Krohn

Hospice Care

Pam Hoogenboom
Ruth Montgomery

Elders

Jim Dameron
Bryon Frost

Deacons

James Johnson
John Scott

Mission

House of Hope
Caleb King

Women in Ministry

Lalla Saleeby
Linda Smiley

Sunday School Teachers

Ellen Pearson
Jay Pearson

Staff

Brock Page
Sidney Ruff

Baptism

Thomas David Hemmingsen,
son of Derek and Melanie
Hemmingsen

God's Work in our Community

House of Hope

The House of Hope is a non-profit ministry based organization that provides housing and support to men, women, and children in the Florence community.

The House of Hope provides emergency, short-term, and transitional housing, as well as long-term support through its Life Recovery Program.

The Courtney McGinnis Graham community Shelter provides emergency and temporary housing, food, clothing and support to the homeless community. Guests at the shelter are able to meet with the case manager and connect with support to find help, housing, and employment. The shelter also provides emergency housing during times of extreme cold and heat with



nobody being turned away.

The Life Recovery Program is another part of the ministry that provides long-term support, job training, financial guidance, substance recovery, and bible study. This program is a commitment of 9 months to one year long. Upon completion, graduates have the tools and support needed to work and live independently.

House of Hope includes two Mission Marts with 100% of the profits from the marts going to the ministry.

God's Work Around the World

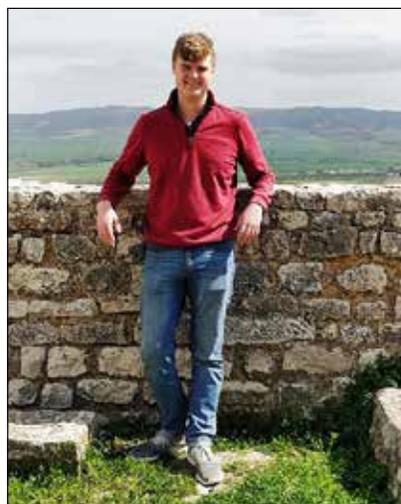
Caleb King

Son of Drs. Caleb and Louise King

Hello First Pres! I'm Caleb, and I work as a missionary here in Cairo, Egypt. I was born in Florence, South Carolina, and baptized at First Presbyterian Church, and until this year have lived in Rwanda, Africa, where Mom and Dad (Drs. Caleb and Louis King) are missionaries with Bridge2Rwanda.

After graduating high school in July, I have been living in Cairo, Egypt, as part of a missions team since August. I am in Egypt studying Arabic and doing what I can to proclaim God's word until June, when I will return to America to go to Harvard College in Massachusetts. I hope to major in Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations.

Though it's taken me years to be willing, I am so excited to say that I have decided to answer God's call to proclaim the Good News in the parts of the world that have never heard it. It is my hope to return to the Arab World after college and live here indefinitely, planting



Caleb King works as a missionary in Cairo, Egypt, after graduating from high school. This fall he'll be a student at Harvard.

the Church and living as a joyful witness!

Please pray that:

- the rest of my time here in Egypt would be productive in Arabic studies
- All of my physical and financial needs would be met
- Clarity in my pursuit of the truth of the Gospel in a world that hates God's Truth
- Energy and encouragement as I have had a few hard months here, spiritually and physically
- God's guidance in my next steps.



Church News

Volunteers needed for Respite Nights

Volunteers are needed for the monthly respite nights for families whose child or children has or have special needs. The idea is to give parents a break from caring for their child/children.

We need volunteers April 20 and May 18 to help chaperone and care for the children. Please contact Ashley Hylton: 843-319-0896 or awhylton13@gmail.com.

Keenageers luncheon to feature music

Keenagers will hold a noon luncheon on Tuesday, April 2, in the Jenkins Fellowship Hall. The musical program will feature Sheldon Withrow. On the lunch menu is ham, sweet potatoes, green beans, rolls, and dessert. Come enjoy sweet fellowship and a delicious meal.

Scouts earning Reading merit badge

In April, our Scouts will be volunteering at the downtown Arts International festival, camping and fishing in Effingham, paddling the Lynches River, and backpacking in the mountains.

The Scouts are working on Reading merit badge and will meet at the library to check out books after a service project last month of reading to younger children at the Lester Elementary Literacy night.

He is Risen

HOLY WEEK, APRIL 14-21

Palm Sunday, April 14

- Worship Services: 9 a.m. and 11 a.m.
 - Easter Egg Hunt: 4 p.m. at Weave and Emily Whitehead's.
- Bring your children, grandchildren, and a friend for the hunt and fellowship. Covenant partners should bring a homemade snack to share.

Morning Prayer, April 15-19

The Lawson-Rain Chapel will be open from 6 to 7 a.m. all week for prayer.

Maundy Thursday, April 18

Maundy Thursday Tenebrae Service at 7 p.m. Join us for this Service of Darkness with readings and music by the Chancel Choir as we prepare our hearts for Easter Sunday. Childcare will be available for infants-5K.

Easter Sunday, April 21

- Flowering of the Cross: Decorate the cross with flowers from home
- Worship Services: 9 a.m. and 11 a.m.

Basketball Champions



Our First Pres B team won the 10U Ebenezer church league basketball championship. They were undefeated in play. They won their games by an average score of 37-14 throughout the season. Congratulations to the players and coaches of First Pres!

City of Florence Downtown Roll & Cycling Festival

Save the date for the free City of Florence Downtown Roll & Cycling Festival, which will be held from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday, June 15, at First Presbyterian Church.

The ride this year will be in honor and in memory of law enforcement and first responders. Join in the fun as a volunteer or participant. The 3-mile ride starts Park side at 10 a.m. The festival will include inflatables, raffles, balloons, games, face-painting, vendors, and more. Greatly appreciated donations will go to Helping Florence Flourish's citywide projects. No registration is required. All ages are welcome. Contact Janet Brand for more information and how to volunteer at Janet81661@aol.com.



WinShape Preview Event to showcase Best Week Ever!



Come see what the day camp is about during the WinShape Preview Event with the Road Crew from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. Wednesday, April 10.



This full-day camp offers children who have completed 5K-8th grade faith, fun, fitness, and family time.

Camp will be July 15-19 on the First Presbyterian Church campus. Cost is \$219. Registration is open. If you want more information, talk with Brock or Alexis. You also can visit <https://camps.winshape.org>.

Monthly canned food drive

The first Sunday of every month, all children's Sunday School classes are asked to bring non-perishable food items, diapers, or baby formula for Sunday School offering. There will be collection boxes in the pods.

A local congregation distributes it bi-monthly to people in the Florence community.



The River

Vacation Bible School
June 9-12
5:30 to 8 p.m.

We will begin each night with Family Dinner followed by classes for everyone! **God's river of love** flows from the first garden to the last. Jump in and let the gospel carry you through.

Online registration opens in April. Volunteers are needed in many areas — some of which don't involve working with children. Contact Heather Taylor or make a note in the friendship pad on Sunday mornings.

Mission Camp

June 24-27
completed 1st-6th grades

Join children from Central United Methodist Church, St. Luke Lutheran Church, and The Assembly for a great week of hands-on work showing the love of Jesus to the Florence community. Online registration opens April 15. Camp fills up! Don't wait. Space is limited.

EGG HUNT

4 p.m. April 14

Join your First Presbyterian family for the annual Egg Hunt hosted by Weave and Emily Whitehead at 177 W. Pocket Road. Families are asked to bring a home-made snack to share.

Children in fourth grade and younger are invited to hunt eggs.

Sign up with the QR code below.



*“For where two or three are gathered together because they are mine,
I [Christ] am there among them.”*

— Matthew 18:20

Prayerwalking blessing our church, city

By Dottie Handley

A movement is afoot on campus. Prayerwalking, a new opportunity to walk and pray for our church, began this spring at First Presbyterian Church. Prayerwalking, or on-site intercession, is simply praying in the very places where you expect God to bring forth His answers.

Our church has had many committed prayer warriors through the years who have faithfully prayed that people would see their sin and their need for a Savior, that Christ's lordship would be enacted more fully and that His name would be known and glorified. We continue to have those who gather and pray for our church as we build Christ's Kingdom here and now. I wanted to bring prayerwalking to First Pres as another way to carry on and encourage our prayer life as a church. My desire is to invite folks who perhaps have never prayed before to come and learn; that praying God's word back to Him is simple and brings great joy to His heart. Or perhaps there are those of us who need to be refreshed or renewed in our prayer lives. Try walking our church campus and praying with a friend when it suits you to do so. My experience is that you will be blessed as a result and we know that the Lord is faithful to hear our prayers.

We have many wonderful prayer



Above: Jean Lavespere, left, and Dottie Handley, pause to pray in the narthex during their recent prayerwalk on campus. Left: A page of the prayer booklet available in the prayer room is shown.

warriors in our church who have gone to be with the Lord. My hope is that the Lord will raise up more faithful prayer warriors who will carry on the good work of prayer that began many years ago at First Presbyterian.

I am more than willing to answer any questions and help folks get started. Visit the prayer room (under the stairs in the Welcome Center) to pick up a prayer booklet and sign up to prayerwalk. May the Lord be praised as we pray for His

Kingdom work to be done at First Presbyterian and beyond.

First Peter 3:12 says, “For the eyes of the Lord are on the righteous, and his ears are open to their prayer.”

It's our intent to have focused, fervent prayer for years to come with prayerwalking on our campus. If you're interested, a brief orientation and scripture will be provided. Please contact Dottie Handley at handleydv@gmail.com or 843-206-3200.

Discipling children is foundation of parenting

Associate Pastor's note: This new Parenting column addresses, on a monthly basis, some of the challenges Christian parents face. Alexis Morris, Brock Prage, and I (Chris Handley) will share the responsibility of giving parents a nugget to help and challenge moms and dads.

By Brock Page

Director of Youth Ministry

Parenting is a challenge. That may be one of the most obvious statements ever. Anyone who has raised children knows the challenge it can be to navigate through the different stages of a child's development, both psychological and physiological. Add to that the attempt to raise a child "in the discipline and instruction of the Lord" (Eph.6:4) and the task seems nearly impossible.

Christian parenting has become increasingly challenging in today's culture as technology has allowed easy and constant access to the culture, a culture that is becoming more and more anti-Christian. Yet, one of our duties as Christian parents, if God blesses us with children, is to teach our children the gospel and how to live their lives in a way that is pleasing to the Lord. I need as much help as I can get along those lines. I am constantly looking for books, articles, blogs, etc., that offer BIBLICAL advice on how to parent and how to parent successfully. I need to be clear here: Nothing replaces the Bible as our primary source of what we are to believe concerning God and what duty God requires of man (West-



minster Shorter Catechism, Question 3). This includes parenting our children. However, it is helpful to find supplemental material from trained professionals who have intently studied a particular biblical topic. One great source for such material is The Gospel Coalition.

I recently discovered an article by contributors Jeff Robinson and Chap Bettis titled "Faithful Parenting is Successful Parenting." In it, they make several key observations for successful parenting. One is the notion that Matthew 28:18-20, (¹⁸ And Jesus came and said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. ¹⁹ Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰ teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age), should be the foundational scripture for parents. These verses give us our mission as Christians, and that mission is discipleship. We often look to Deuteronomy 6 or Ephesians 6 as key verses for parenting but Bettis challenges that we as parents are called to make disciples, and that starts with our own children. Bettis writes, "Too many pastors and parents have separated kingdom life and family life. But God intends each family to be a Trinity-display-

ing, disciple-making unit."

Robinson asks Bettis: "If you could give parents one piece of advice, what would it be?" Bettis replies, "Make sure you are living the gospel at home. The number one reason kids give for walking away is hypocrisy on the part of their parents or church leaders. Lo and behold, we see in the New Testament that the first way a spiritual leader teaches is through example. And our home is a stage where our children are studying our lives. When they are young, they are imitating us. When they are older, they are evaluating us. Do they see a genuine relationship with the Lord? Paul could say of Timothy's upbringing that his mother and grandmother had a living faith (2 Tim. 1:5), and it was because of those examples that he was following the Lord."

That is indeed convicting to me. It causes me to pause and ask if my wife, Gretchen, and I are truly discipling our kids. Are we teaching them what it means to have a relationship with Christ and how they, and us, are to live to bring Him glory? Are we living it out in front of them? We and you (parents) have that challenge and command in front of us. Are we being faithful to our call to be a disciple and to make disciples, especially when it comes to our children? God has given us what we need to parent successfully. He has given us His Son. And by God's grace and through the power of the Holy Spirit, we can meet the challenge to be faithful and successful parents.

Youth Ministry News



Youth Schedule

- Sunday School: April 7, 14, 21, 28 / 10-10:50 a.m. / Light continental breakfast, Lesson
- MOVE: April 7 / 5-7:30 p.m. / Dinner, Lesson, Games
- Small groups: April 14 / 5:30-7 p.m. / Dinner, Lesson
- 412 on Wednesdays: April 3, 10, 17 / 6-7:30 p.m. / Dinner, Bible study, prayer
- East Florence Mission: April 2, 9, 16, 30 / 4-4:45 p.m.
- P3BC on Thursday: April 18 / 7:15 a.m. / Breakfast, prayer, devotion

Spring Break Mission Trip

- We will be participating in a Spring Break mission trip again this year the week of April 22-26. Our plan is to travel to Shelby, N.C., and work with YCM's Son Servants again. The total cost for the trip is \$325/student, which includes lodging, food, service project materials, and entrance to the U.S. National Whitewater Center and Carowinds. Financial assistance is available. We need adult chaperones, as well. Please contact Brock at 864-230-8354 if interested in participating.

Graduation Sunday

- We will honor our graduating seniors at the 10 a.m. Combined Worship Service on Sunday, June 2. If you have a graduating senior, please make plans to attend.

Great Escape

- This is our annual week-long conference for middle school students in grades 7-8. The conference is conducted by Youth Conference Ministries and is held at Lee University in Cleveland, Tenn. The conference uses engaging worship music, dynamic speakers, and high-energy fun, and engaging recreation to teach students about the gospel of Christ, as well as challenge them to grow in their faith.

Fun In The Sun

- This is our annual week long conference for high school students grades 9-12. The conference is conducted by Youth Conference Ministries and is held at the Hilton Head Beach and Tennis Club in Hilton Head. The conference uses engaging worship music, dynamic speakers, and high energy, fun, and engaging recreation to teach students about the gospel of Christ, as well as challenge them to grow in their faith.



700 PARK AVE., FLORENCE, SC 29501
 PHONE: 843-662-2583/FAX: 843-662-1726
www.florencefirst.org

CHURCH STAFF

Transitional Pastor	Dr. Jim Bankhead
Associate Pastor	Rev. Chris Handley
Congregational Care Assistant	Rev. Mike Fleenor
Director of Music/Organist	Mrs. Ann Rodgers Chandler
Praise Team Leader	Mr. Glenn Ham
Director of Youth Ministry	Mr. Brock Page
Director of Children's Ministry	Mrs. Alexis Morris
Child Development Center Director	Mrs. Beth Hepler
The Tabernacle Experience	Mr. Joe Koenig
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
Assistant Custodian	Mr. Sidney Ruff
Housekeeping	Ms. Wanda LaSane

