

The REMINDER

Growing UPWARD
worshipping and praying

Growing INWARD
becoming more like Christ

Growing OUTWARD
sharing the good news



NOVEMBER 2019

Being still in this season of change

Dear friends,

Amidst all busy-ness of life, we are keeping “being still” before the Lord front and center, for it is central to who we are. I thought it was confirming even this past week-end as we hosted the semiannual gathering of the Presbytery of SC that our speaker Andrea Messinger ended her first talk about embracing change by being still before the Lord.

I believe that this “being still” will usher in the next season of life as a congregation. The Session is seeking the Lord’s guidance, and we are going to meet twice a month (beginning in November) so that we have a night entirely devoted to prayer and seeking the Lord’s guidance. Please pray for the elders and the future of this congregation as we wait upon the Lord.

There are so many things to seek the Lord’s direction in, including:

• *The next Children’s Director.* The search team is in place; the job is posted; and we are off to a very fine start. We are joyful in our search even as many hands are joining together and growing in this ministry during this interim period.

• *The next Worship Leader.* We are sad to see Glenn Ham leave FPC at the end of November, as he is in process to retire, sell his business and move to Nashville. Yet, we know the move will be a good one for him and we wish him the very best. We are beginning to search for an interim worship leader so we can have time to reflect on our next steps.

• *Stewardship Season.* We rejoice that we have under \$90,000 remaining of the \$1.75 million loan from 2013. As pledges are fulfilled, we plan on retiring this debt before January 1. We also are embarking on our annual stewardship season this month as we plan how we might best advance the Lord’s Kingdom in the next year.

As for the Evans, we hope to finish our transition of settling in to Florence this month. We did buy a home down the street from the church in October, and we hope to move in by Thanksgiving after our renovations are complete.

I have greatly enjoyed Wednesday evenings, and teaching my *Outline of the Bible* class. I am seriously considering teaching Revelation next year, and I hope you will join us; it holds so much wonder and beauty. As our series on Wednesday nights begins to wind down, allow me to note that on November 13 we will have a prayer service in the chapel, and on November 20 our missionaries the Emerts will be with us to share about their ministry in Zambia.

All in all, may we seek to be grounded and still even amidst a season of change.

Peace be with you,
Darryl

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ON THE COVER
Dr. Weave Whitehead as the Beadle carries the Bible during the Kirkin’ O’ the Tartans on Reformation Sunday at the 11 a.m. worship service October 27.

A Thought or Two Challenging You Toward Discipleship

Presbytery meeting a success

The Presbytery of South Carolina met at First Presbyterian on October 25-26. There were approximately 65 people in attendance from 14 of the 17 churches in our presbytery.

During our Saturday presentation we heard about Presbyterian ministry in Egypt, Syria and Iraq. Rev. Marilyn Borst of the Outreach Foundation shared pictures of many pastors and elders from around that region. It is truly amazing to hear how God is working in the Middle East. We could learn from our brothers and sisters in Christ from this region. For more information, visit <https://www.theoutreachfoundation.org/trips-list/2020/3/5/egypt>

We heard from Rev. Brian Stewart from First Presbyterian Greenville about their new initiative for Missional Communities/Community Groups in the neighborhoods of Greenville and how they are reaching their neighbors with the love of Christ. During the past year they have begun seven groups that are made up of about 150 people. This also was challenging and encouraging to see these groups intentionally reach others into the kingdom.

Probably the most notable action we took as a presbytery was to vote approval of the Presbytery Manual of Operations. This guide is exciting because it captures the DNA of who we are as covenant partners of the ECO.



About 65 representatives from 14 churches in South Carolina met at First Presbyterian for the Presbytery Gathering.

In one section of the manual it says that a Presbytery nurtures missional living ... and then highlights what that means:

- ECO leaders and covenant partners consciously spend ministry time and energy outside the walls of the church.
- ECO covenant partners can name specific non-believers they're inviting into their life of faith as a natural extension of who they are.
- An ECO church's training systems consistently evaluate and improve how the church equips covenant partners to be ambassadors for Christ in their daily lives.
- ECO covenant partners emulate the posture and attitude of Jesus in every situation where they live, work, and play.

Rev. Andrea Messinger, the Flourishing Liaison for the ECO from the home office in California, was our guest speaker. She gave two talks

during the course of our meeting (Friday night and Saturday). She spoke on "The Unchanging God in Changing Times" and "The Mandate of the Church." Her greatest challenge to us was that without a vision for the future that involves taking risk and executing healthy God given change, the church will cease to bear fruit. Her message was well received; and she has since made the leaders present consider how to guide their churches best into the future.

Let me thank all those who helped host the event through greeting, working registration, leading in worship, and preparing our meals.

God met us during our time. And we were challenged toward a greater discipleship!

Chris

Give prayerful consideration this season

Our 2020 Stewardship Campaign has begun. During the month of November, Dr. Darryl Evans and Reverend Chris Handley will preach a series of sermons on the importance of stewardship and our growth as disciples. Additionally, each week we will hear from covenant partners who will share why they pledge and believe in the mission of First Presbyterian Church. During the month, all covenant partners will receive a pledge card that will allow you to estimate your giving in support of the **2020 Ministry Action Plan**. Additionally, there will be an online pledge card on the church website www.florencefirst.org. Your pledge is important to the planning process for the coming year. The campaign will culminate with Commitment Sunday on November 17.

Several years ago, we began using the phrase **Ministry Action Plan** as an alternative to the “Church Budget.” The phrase is based on the premise that the church leadership (staff, elders, deacons and others) implement *plans* for ministry to our members, our community and around the world. Those ministries have a cost associated with them. Funding for the ministries come from the contributions of our covenant partners and others who support the ministries of the church. Research shows that people, particularly young adults, are more energized about contributing to a church’s Ministry Action Plan than they are when asked to “give to the budget.” The term Ministry Action implies involvement in life-changing work, which is what God has called us to be and do.

The Covenant Partners of First Presbyterian Church understand the importance of our ministries, the lives

that are being impacted through these ministries, and the blessings that come to us as we serve Christ with generous and grateful hearts. During our 2020 Stewardship Campaign we are asking you to do two things:

1) Give prayerful consideration as to how God would have you give to support and expand the ministries of First Presbyterian in 2020. As our giving increases, so do the ministries of our church.

2) Join us on Sunday, November 17, for our Commitment Sunday. On Commitment Sunday, all covenant partners will have an opportunity to turn in pledge cards as part of our morning worship services as a sign of our commitment to Christ and what He is doing through First Presbyterian Church. During both services, covenant partners come forward and place commitment cards on the Communion Table. This act is about far more than collecting “pledge” cards; it is our opportunity to recommit our lives to Christ and be a part of what He is doing in our community and in the world. The truth is we all need that challenge!

Because **God has blessed us**, we want and need to continually look for ways that **we can bless others** (our covenant partners, our community and the world). As we move through this Stewardship season, I encourage each of you to consider your stewardship of time, talent and treasure as it relates to the ministries of First Presbyterian Church. Thank you for your generosity *and* faithful support.



*Consider your stewardship of time, talent and treasure
as it relates to the ministries of First Presbyterian Church.
Thank you for your generosity and faithful support.*

The church is directed by the Trinity

1 Corinthians 12:4-31 is important as the church reflects upon the use of spiritual gifts in its ministry to the world. The church is the body of Christ as directed by the Holy Spirit of the LORD God. The LORD God, Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit are all used interchangeably in this part of I Corinthians. I believe the people of God are Gentiles (Greeks or Nations) and Jewish people who believe Jesus is the Christ or Messiah. All gifts used in the Church are given by the Holy Spirit: "All these are activated by one and the same Spirit, who allots to each one individually just as the Spirit chooses (1 CORINTHIANS 12:11)." God as Trinity chooses humans to serve in the redemption of humanity.

There are two different attitudes in Corinth and in our modern Church about the gifts of the Spirit. The first attitude is gifts are given to each person to be used to worship and to work in the outreach and ministry of the Church. The second attitude is that some gifts are greater and create levels of importance in the church.

Paul realizes the second attitude exists in the Corinthian Church and needs to change into the first. He gives three examples to prove his point expressed in 1 Corinthians 12:7, "To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good." Paul uses the concept of common good three times in I Corinthians (7:35, 10:33 and 12:7). I believe it is important to the modern church to understand that we all are working toward the goal with God to redeem humanity through Christ.

The first example of working for the common good is Spiritual gifts are not used for individual glory but for the building up of the church. We are not to spend our time asking what our gifts are, but we are to be about the business of using our gifts in service to the community ("for the common good)."



REV. MIKE FLEENOR'S BLOG

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

Paul identifies the work of the LORD God in three ways. The gifts are given by the Spirit, ministry is done in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, and worship is work exemplifying God's glory.

The second example of working for the common good is a complex and intricate argument to explain how the church is like the body of Christ: "For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ (1 CORINTHIANS 12:12)."

"But as it is, God arranged the members in the body, each one of them, as he chose (1 CORINTHIANS 12:18)."

Each part of the body has a function, but no one member of the body is useless. If you have had a broken toe then you know Paul's statement is true: "If one member suffers, all suffer together with it; if one member is honored, all rejoice together with it (I CORINTHIANS 12:26)."

The final example of working for the common good is the importance of building up the community as God appoints (calls) persons to perform certain functions. The greater gift, the way of love, is stated at the end of Chapter 12 and expounded in Chapter 13.



GriefShare meets weekly from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. in Room 104. GriefShare is a friendly, caring group of people who will walk alongside you through one of life's most difficult experiences. You'll gain access to valuable resources to help you recover from your loss and look forward to rebuilding your life.



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	November 9	9 a.m.	Call Jan Green
Joyful Hearts	November 12	10 a.m.	Presbyterian Community
Morning Mercies	November 11	10:30 a.m.	Pilgrim Class
Posies and Petals	November 12	10 a.m.	Lawson-Rain Chapel
Prayer Warriors	November 12	6:30 p.m.	Lawson-Rain Chapel
SonFlowers	November 12	10 a.m.	Parlor
Soul Sisters	November 12	noon	Price Classroom
Serenity	November 12	3 p.m.	Lawson-Rain Chapel
Women of Grace	November 11	6:30 p.m.	3002 Japonica Lane
Women of Valor	November 13	6:30 p.m.	Room 202



Please join us for decorating the church Sanctuary for Christmas. Those who are interested in joining Ashley Scott and the women of the church can help from 7 to 9 p.m. Monday, December 2, and 10 a.m. to noon or 2 to 5 p.m. Tuesday, December 3. Those interested can email Ashley Scott at scottashleyc@gmail.com.



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 — also has been set up for signing up and so dates available can easily be seen. We ask if you add your name to please follow up with Genia Tyson and/or Melba Whitesides; sponsors handle the order and payment. Bulletin announcement needs to be given at least a week before to Kim Brauss, kbrauss@florencefirst.org, in the church office.

Advent Handbell Concert



Ring in the Advent season at 6:30 p.m. Wednesday, December 4, in the Sanctuary with our talented Chancel Handbell Choir! This is a First Presbyterian tradition rich with Christmas melodies from around the globe. Family Night Dinner will be held prior to the concert.

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
- 6:30 p.m. Children's Choir
- 6:30 p.m. Praise Team Rehearsal
- 6:45 p.m. Preschool Choir
- 7:30 p.m. Chancel Choir Rehearsal

If you're interested in joining the music ministry, contact Ann Rodgers Chandler, Director of Music, 843-662-2583 or achandler@florencefirst.org.

Learning effective communication



Communication is the key.

Research tells us that we hear even while we are still in the womb. New-born babies cry. They cry because they need or want attention. As they grow and develop, they learn to form syllables that mimic what they hear others saying. Soon the syllables become words and then as young children they learn to put the words together to form sentences. We can communicate loudly with audible words and silently with our actions or vice versa. Without saying anything at all we can pass attitudes and opinions to others. It's all a process. It may take a lifetime to learn and develop the skills needed to communicate and to communicate well.

It is a joy to hear young toddlers begin making sounds and putting syllables together. As they grow and become more aware of their peers they may communicate good experiences by exchanging smiles and hugs. However, If one toddler has a toy that another toddler wants, they may even communicate by biting to get the toy! This becomes a challenge especially for the anxious parent or caregiver who is trying to solve the problem ahead of time. It's all apart of learning to communicate.

All day long at the CDC I hear teachers telling the children, "Use



Children in 3K create a jack-o-lantern, which is a great sensory activity.

your words." It is a basic concept that must be taught. If you want to communicate you must learn to use your words and to use them effectively. This means no pulling on someone's clothing to get their attention or taking away a toy. At the same time, we must teach children to give "nice touches" to their friends. What is a "nice" touch? This, too, is a way of communication. Young children must be reminded, if someone pushes you in line or touches you and you don't like it, use your words to tell them, "Stop" and "I don't like that!" Learning to listen is also a very important part of communication. It's about being quiet and respectful while the others are talking. It's

about listening not only to their words, but also their heart. Good listeners practice self-control and patience. We all have a story to tell, but we must all learn that communication is learning to take turns, listening, and talking.

It is the responsibility of not only educators and parents but also all of us to equip children with the skills needed to effectively communicate in our world. We can make a difference, one child at a time.

Blessings,
Beth



November

BIRTHDAYS

**NOVEMBER 1**

Cathy Bazen

NOVEMBER 2

Cameryn Brand
Marian Howard
Lisa Jernigan
Lalla Saleeby

NOVEMBER 3

Cailin Foxworth
Levi Ham
Natalie Monjarrez
Sue Shin
Alan Thomas

NOVEMBER 4

Margaret Baroody
Rhett Hughes
Wesley Snow

NOVEMBER 5

Carolyn Holland
Patrick Hunt
Henley Thompson

NOVEMBER 6

Liam Brand
Stephen Christian
Alcy Lee
Brian Naylor
Rocky Pearce

NOVEMBER 7

Emily Jackson
Nancy Moore

NOVEMBER 8

Brandon Hylton
Susie McLellan
Landon Watkins

NOVEMBER 9

Joe Blanton
Ginny Casstevens
Cheryl DeGraw
Ansley Sanderson

NOVEMBER 10

Gresham Hindman
Jane Matthews
Ivan Morris

NOVEMBER 11

Joseph Commander
Michael Hawkins
Haley Jackson
Wells McBride
Janie Ray

NOVEMBER 12

Mary Frances Moore
Pat Patton

NOVEMBER 13

Ashton Pennstrom
Joanna Refvem
Paul Welch

NOVEMBER 14

Paige Alexander
Dave Banner

NOVEMBER 15

Fran Curtis

NOVEMBER 16

Brooke Langston
Jane Shurman
Lisa Westmoreland

NOVEMBER 17

Keegan Taylor
Ella Rawlinson

NOVEMBER 18

Brian Kim
Wesley Player
Carrigan Spearman

NOVEMBER 19

Tom Gasque

NOVEMBER 20

Christie Henderson
Rick Hoefler
Colton Miles
Hampton Naylor
Anna Lee Pennstrom
Duncan Tyson

NOVEMBER 21

Charlie Bazen
Sheila Cockfield

NOVEMBER 22

Curt Boswell
Rainey Josey
Hannah King
Sidney Ruff

NOVEMBER 23

Sullivan Carmichael

NOVEMBER 24

Matthew Braswell
Maggie McNeil
Connie Stewart

NOVEMBER 25

Ann Cash
Kendall Jackson
Amy McKay
Alexis Morris
Mary Ann Nash
Kate Stokes

NOVEMBER 26

Liz Andrews

NOVEMBER 27

Don Hebert
Walter Johnson
Taylor Powell

NOVEMBER 28

Tom Pantos

NOVEMBER 29

Taiter Garrett
Maymie Lou Spearman

NOVEMBER 30

Drew Knudsen
Chris Scott
Jane Slagle
Macy Turner



November

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 3 Communion Sunday

9:00 AM Contemporary Worship Service
 10:00 AM Sunday School
 11:00 AM Traditional Worship Service
 4:30 PM Volleyball
 5:30 PM Embracing God's Word: Fellowship Hall
 5:30 PM Youth Fellowship
 6:00 PM Basketball Practice: CLC

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 4

10:00 AM Monday Morning Prayer Group
 12:45 PM Discipleship Coaching: Discovery Class
 5:15 PM Stretch Your Faith: JFH
 5:15 PM Basketball Practice: CLC
 6:00 PM Jobs for Life: Lawson-Rain Chapel
 6:30 PM GriefShare: Room 104
 7:00 PM Boy Scouts Meeting: Scout Room

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 5

7:00 AM Men's Breakfast: JFH
 9:15 AM Women's Prayer Group
 9:30 AM WiM Coordinating Team Meeting:
 Lawson-Rain Chapel
 11:00 AM Bible Moderators Meeting: Pilgrim
 12:00 PM JFW Bible Study: CLC
 12:00 PM Keenagers: Jenkins Fellowship Hall
 1:30 PM Ladies' Ensemble Rehearsal: Choir Room
 3:45 PM East Florence Mission (Youth)
 5:00 PM Women's Prayer Group – Hucks
 6:30 PM Girl Scouts: Scout Room
 7:00 PM Men's Choral Society Rehearsal: JFH

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 6

5:00 PM Chancel Handbell Choir Rehearsal
 5:45 PM Family Night Dinner: Meat loaf, green beans
 6:30 PM Wednesday night programs
 6:30 PM Praise Team Rehearsal
 6:00 PM 412 (Youth Program)
 7:30 PM Basketball Practice
 7:30 PM Chancel Choir Rehearsal

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 7

7:15 AM Men's Breakfast: Presbyterian Community
 11:30 AM CDC Stone Soup Lunch: CLC
 5:30 PM Basketball Practice

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 9

6:00 AM Parking Lot Mission: HopeHealth Parking Lot
 9:00 AM WiM Bread & Fish: Call Jan Green
 3:30 PM Resurrection Center Banquet: JFH

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 10

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
 6:00 PM Basketball Practice: CLC

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 11

10:30 AM WiM Morning Mercies: Pilgrim Classroom
 12:45 PM Discipleship Coaching: Discovery Classroom
 5:15 PM Basketball Practice: CLC
 5:15 PM Stretch Your Faith: JFH
 6:30 PM GriefShare
 6:30 PM WiM Women of Grace: 3002 Japonica Lane
 7:00 PM Boy Scouts: Scout Room

**TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 12**

7:00 AM Men's Breakfast: Jenkins Fellowship Hall
 9:15 AM Women's Prayer Group
 10:00 AM WiM Posies & Petals: Lawson-Rain
 10:00 AM WiM Joyful Hearts: Presbyterian Community
 10:00 AM SonFlowers: Parlor
 12:00 PM JFW Bible Study: CLC
 12:00 PM WiM Soul Sisters: Price Class
 1:30 PM Ladies' Ensemble Rehearsal: Choir Room
 3:00 PM WiM Serenity: Lawson-Rain
 5:00 PM Women's Prayer Group – Hucks
 6:30 PM Girl Scouts: Scout Room
 6:30 PM Session
 6:30 PM WiM Prayer Warriors: Lawson-Rain
 7:00 PM Men's Choral Society Rehearsal

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 13

5:00 PM Chancel Handbell Choir Rehearsal
 5:45 PM Family Night Dinner: Ziti, salad, dessert
 6:30 PM Wholeness & Healing Service
 6:00 PM 412 (Youth Program)
 7:30 PM Basketball Practice
 7:30 PM Chancel Choir Rehearsal



November

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 14

7:15 AM Men's Breakfast: Presbyterian Community
 5:30 PM Basketball Practice
 6:00 PM Self-Portrait Painting and Devotional: JFH

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 15

Youth Fall Retreat (November 15-17)

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 16

10:00 AM Aglow International:
 4:00 PM Respite Night: CLC

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 17 Commitment Sunday

9:00 AM Contemporary Worship Service
 10:00 AM Sunday School
 11:00 AM Traditional Worship Service
 3:30 PM Angel Choir Practice: Lawson-Rain Chapel
 4:30 PM Volleyball
 5:30 PM Youth Fellowship
 6:00 PM Basketball Practice: CLC

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 18

12:45 PM Discipleship Coaching: Discovery Classroom
 5:15 PM Basketball Practice: CLC
 5:15 PM Stretch Your Faith: JFH
 6:30 PM GriefShare
 7:00 PM Boy Scouts: Scout Room

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 19

7:00 AM Men's Breakfast: JFH
 9:15 AM Women's Prayer Group
 12:00 PM JFW Bible Study: CLC
 1:30 PM Ladies' Ensemble Rehearsal: Choir Room
 3:45 PM East Florence Mission (Youth)
 6:30 PM Board of Deacons: Pilgrim
 6:30 PM Girl Scouts: Scout Room
 7:00 PM Men's Choral Society Rehearsal: JFH

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 20 Emerts Visit

5:00 PM Chancel Handbell Choir Rehearsal
 5:45 PM Family Night Dinner: Chili/fritos, baked potato
 6:30 PM Praise Team Rehearsal
 6:00 PM 412 (Youth Program)
 7:30 PM Basketball Practice
 7:30 PM Chancel Choir Rehearsal

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 21

7:15 AM Men's Breakfast: Presbyterian Community
 5:30 PM Basketball Practice

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 24

9:00 AM Contemporary Worship Service
 10:00 AM Sunday School
 11:00 AM Traditional Worship Service
 3:00 PM Operation Christmas Child Shoebox Packing:
 JFH
 3:30 PM Angel Choir Practice: Lawson-Rain Chapel
 4:30 PM Volleyball
 5:30 PM Youth Fellowship
 6:00 PM Basketball Practice: CLC

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 25

12:45 PM Discipleship Coaching: Discovery Classroom
 5:00 PM Chancel Handbell Choir Rehearsal
 5:15 PM Basketball Practice: CLC
 5:15 PM Stretch Your Faith: JFH
 6:30 PM GriefShare
 7:00 PM Boy Scouts: Scout Room
 7:30 PM Chancel Choir Rehearsal

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 26

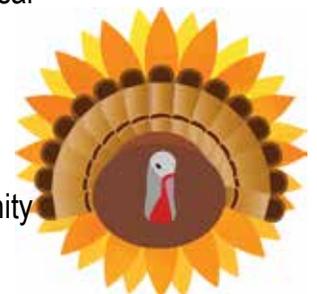
7:00 AM Men's Breakfast: JFH
 9:15 AM Women's Prayer Group
 12:00 PM JFW Bible Study: CLC
 1:30 PM Ladies' Ensemble Rehearsal: Choir Room
 3:45 PM East Florence Mission (Youth)
 6:30 PM Session
 6:30 PM Girl Scouts: Scout Room
 7:00 PM Men's Choral Society Rehearsal: JFH

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 27

6:30 PM Praise Team Rehearsal
 7:30 PM Basketball Practice

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 28

Thanksgiving; Office Closed
 7:15 AM Men's Breakfast:
 Presbyterian Community

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 29
Church Office Closed

Extended Care

Heritage at Lowman

Mac King

Heritage

George Richardson

Home

Adele Kassab

Methodist Manor

Madeline Brice

Joyce Floyd

Marie Jordan

Presbyterian Community

Hannah Barringer

Ann Cash

Aaron Leland

Tom and Clariann Kellam

Sympathy

Ken Charles, loss of his father

Walt Johnson and Chrissie Prince,

loss of their father

Donnie Wheeler, loss of his mother

Virginia Spencer, loss of her mother

Households

Thom and Sandra Anderson

Tom and Michele Lewis, Carly, Jake, and Benjamin

Justin and Amy Dozier, Whit

Mary Ervin, Charlie

Bobby and Theresa Garris, Jessica, Caroline, Christopher

Ronald and Kathy Hayes

Betsy Johnson

Patrick and Amy Lynch

Memorials

Hebert Ames

Felicia Gold Gressette

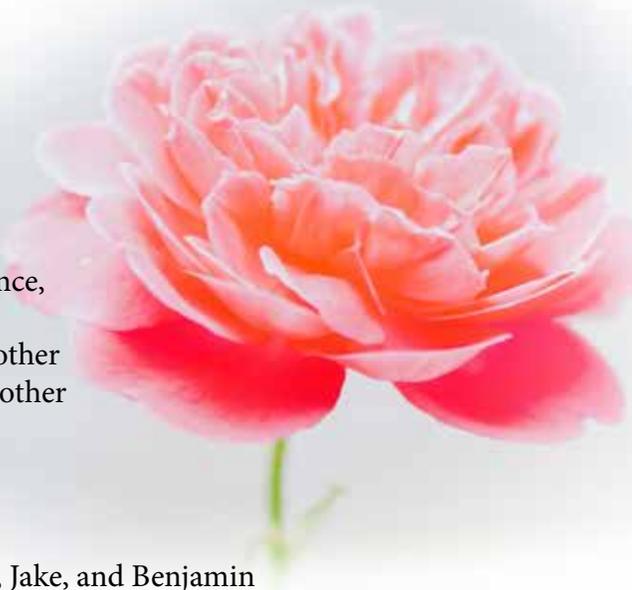
Walter R. Johnson, Sr.

Frank Key

Tony Meeks

Robert Olsen

LORD, HEAR OUR PRAYER



Sick & Recovering

Berta Allen

Thom Anderson

Cary Andrews

Jonathan Bankhead

Jack Cagle

Chuck Dennis

Theresa Echols

Kit Fulmer

Tom Gasque

Jimmy Green

Carolyn Holland

Rainey Josey

Tom Kellam

Jim Moore

Ginger Owen

Mike Page

Peggy Corbin Scheu

Rhett Spencer

Elders

Betsy Olsen

Chris Scott

Deacons

Amy Brown

Eddie McRae

Mission

Helping Florence Flourish

The Emerts, Poetice Zambia

Women in Ministry

Emily Hodges

Kathryn Hopkins

Sunday School Teachers

Amy Williams

Jeremy Williams

Staff

Kimberly Brauss

Teresa Stewart

Expectant Families

Steven and Caroline Toniolo

James and Erin Johnson

Landis and Hannah Lane

Births

Brady James Matthews, son of Brandon and Brittany Matthews

God's Work in our Community

Helping Florence Flourish

Helping Florence Flourish (HFF) works together to build God's Kingdom. Its focus groups help identify the greatest needs in the Florence community: education, homelessness, restoration of the family, racial bridging, and city wide prayer gathering. The focus groups' works are the core of HFF.

In June, it creates a weeklong effort of service in the community, ServeFLO, and it includes a weeklong Christian camp for children open to the community. HFF is a distinctly Christian movement based on two



biblical realities — that those who would follow Him would be one and followers would also be a blessing to the place in which they live. The great desire and prayer for those involved in the HFF movement is that the Church in Florence will continue to draw together to address the various kinds of brokenness in our community for the sake of God's name.

God's Work Around the World

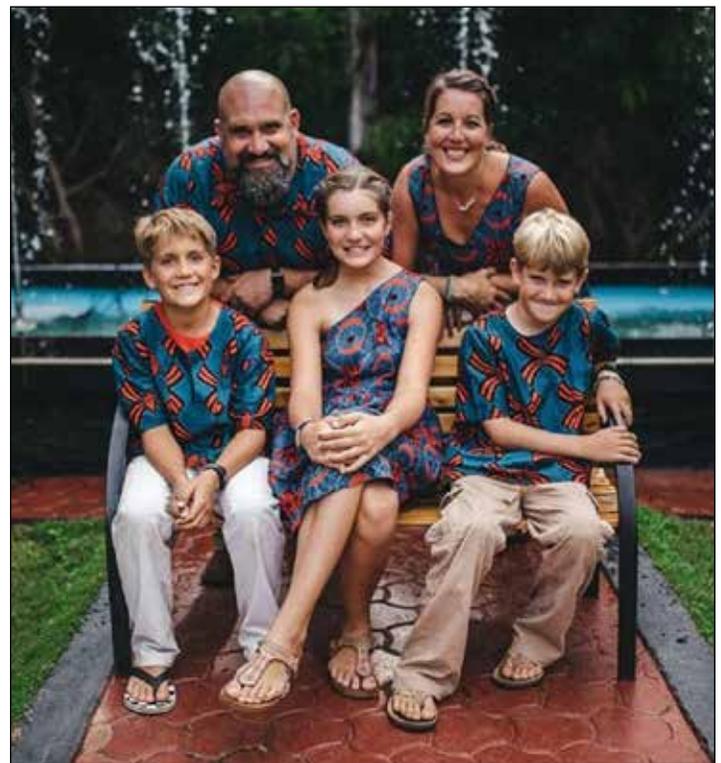
The Emerts Poetice International

Six years ago, our Covenant Partners Jeremy and Courtney Emert, Olivia, Jude, and Lincoln moved from Florence to Zambia. They are serving with Poetice Zambia. Poetice's goal is to see impoverished communities become spiritually, emotionally, psychologically, physically, and socially healthy. For more on a Poetice opportunity, visit page 16.

Jeremy's newest assignment is as Spiritual Care Pastor of the Poetice flock. He has served as the Director of Community Engagement and Base Manager. Courtney serves as the Restore and Worship Coordinator. She oversees worship for teams as well as week to week, and is also leading our prayer ministry which is called Restore. In addition, we support and encourage short-term U.S. teams, walking alongside team leaders and members throughout their time in southern Africa. Currently, the Emerts are stateside for a three-month hiatus. They will be part of a Wednesday night program at First Presbyterian on November 20.

Prayer requests from the Emerts include:

- our time with family and friends while stateside through the new year
- our Zambian Church: people would continue en-



The Emerts — Jeremy and Courtney, and Olivia, Jude, and Lincoln — will be speaking at First Presbyterian on November 20.

countering the Truth and Love of Christ, and grow in depth and understanding of his Word

- that we would continually be led by the Holy Spirit in every thing He has for us the coming year.



Church News

Veterans welcome to Keenagers luncheon

Keenagers' guest speaker for November's noon luncheon will be Retired Army Col. Barry Wingard, who served more than 37 years in the military. The luncheon will be held November 5 in the Jenkins Fellowship Hall. Wingard, who is chairman of the Florence Veterans Park, is active in the Florence community. We would like to invite our Covenant Partners who are veterans to be our guests to the lunch. Please call the church office at 843-662-2583 to RSVP. Dominoes will be taught and played after the Keenager meeting for anyone interested. Jan Green will lead the game.

Inward Initiative

Known as "The Inward Initiative," this newly forming committee will be charged with making attendance at FPC the best possible experience for both visitors and covenant partners. From first steps on the campus all the way through new member classes, our job will be to insure that all will feel welcome and engaged as they worship at FPC. We believe we can truly help us form a tighter bond not only with our Covenant Partners, but also with potential visitors who may be considering joining our church.

Covenant Partners are encouraged to participate as they feel led. For questions, please contact Walt and Hunter Burch, wburch@csi360.com and hunterwburch@gmail.com.

Help pack for Operation Christmas Child

We'll have a churchwide packing for all ages for Operation Christmas Child from 3 to 5 p.m. Sunday, November 24, in the Jenkins Fellowship Hall.

Bring your own items to pack. Preprinted boxes will be available, as well as crafts and letter writing. Join us for this joyful, family event. Wear festive clothing for packing.

Children's Ministry Director position posted

Children's Ministries has been finalized by the Search Committee. A summary of the job description has been posted on the church website. Please pass along the information to anyone you know who may be interested in the position. You are encouraged to reach out to any of the committee members (Ashley Bratton, Jeannie Brodie, Jim Dameron, Darryl Evans, Don Hebert, Laura Ann Hofler, and Susan Snow) if you have questions or comments. Your input is welcomed, and your prayers are needed!

Scouting Ministry update

Our Scouts will be helping with Florence's S.C. Pecan Festival in November and build a boat launch for Jeffries Creek paddlers at Naturally Outdoors. We have an Eagle Court of Honor planned for November 25 to present Eagle Scout Medals. Our outing for November will be attending the camporee at Camp Coker. Hunter Morgan has started the planning for next summer's backpacking trip in Yosemite National Park.

Angel Choir practices to be held

Angel Choir practices for Living Nativity will take place during the beginning of the Sunday School hour (preschool) and Wednesday Nights during choir (preschool and elementary). Practice for all will be at 3:30 p.m. Sunday, November 17 and 24, in the Lawson-Rain Chapel.

Church league basketball practices begin

Our teams' basketball practices start this week in our Christian Life Center:

Girls: 6-7 p.m. Sundays

8/U Boys: 5:15-6:30 p.m. Tuesdays

10/U Boys: 5:30-6:45 p.m. Thursdays

12/U Boys: 5:15-6:30 p.m. Mondays

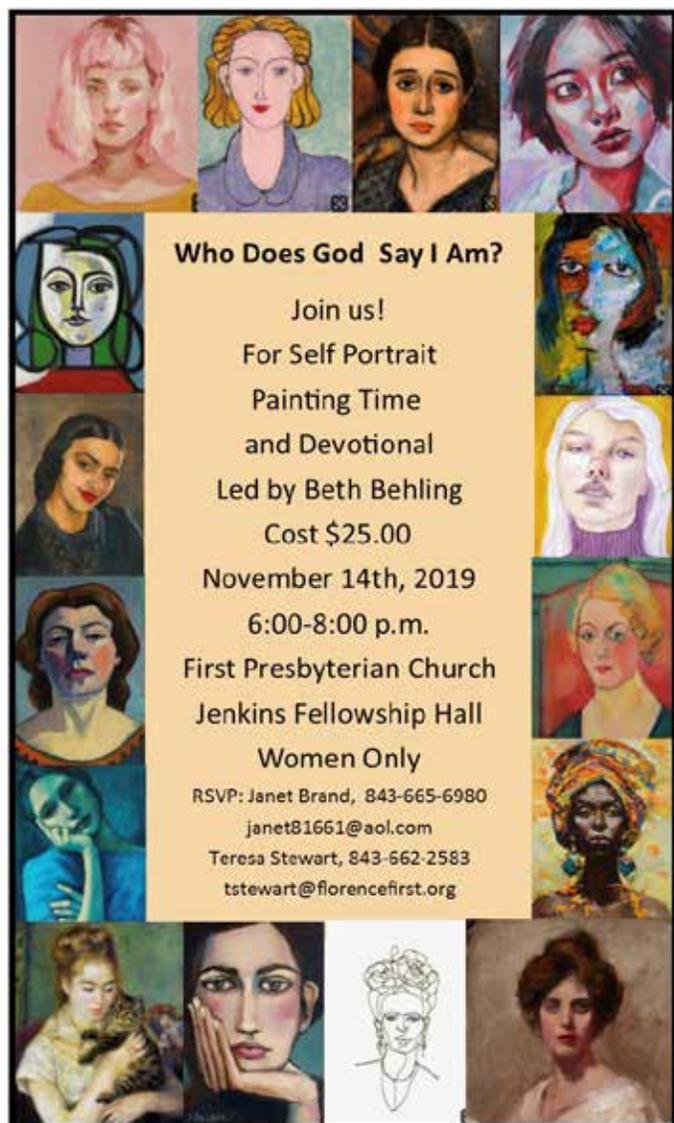
14/U Boys: 6:30-8 p.m. Tuesday evenings

17/U Boys: 7:30-8:45 p.m. Wednesday evenings

For any questions, contact Walt Burch, 843-616-4650.

Stretch Your Faith class for all levels

Stretch Your Faith fitness class for all levels begins at 5:15 p.m. on Mondays in the fellowship hall. There is no fee for this class, and it is open to the community.



Who Does God Say I Am?

Join us!
For Self Portrait
Painting Time
and Devotional
Led by Beth Behling
Cost \$25.00
November 14th, 2019
6:00-8:00 p.m.
First Presbyterian Church
Jenkins Fellowship Hall
Women Only

RSVP: Janet Brand, 843-665-6980
janet81661@aol.com
Teresa Stewart, 843-662-2583
tstewart@florencefirst.org

The Presbyterian Community Report

A rumor came true that Ineeda Mann had applied for readmission. She could not tolerate four degrees below zero without indoor plumbing in Possum County, West Virginia. The Democrats won the election and were 100 percent for Go Green. They allowed no electricity to be used in the daylight hours, so everything had to be done in the dark at night.

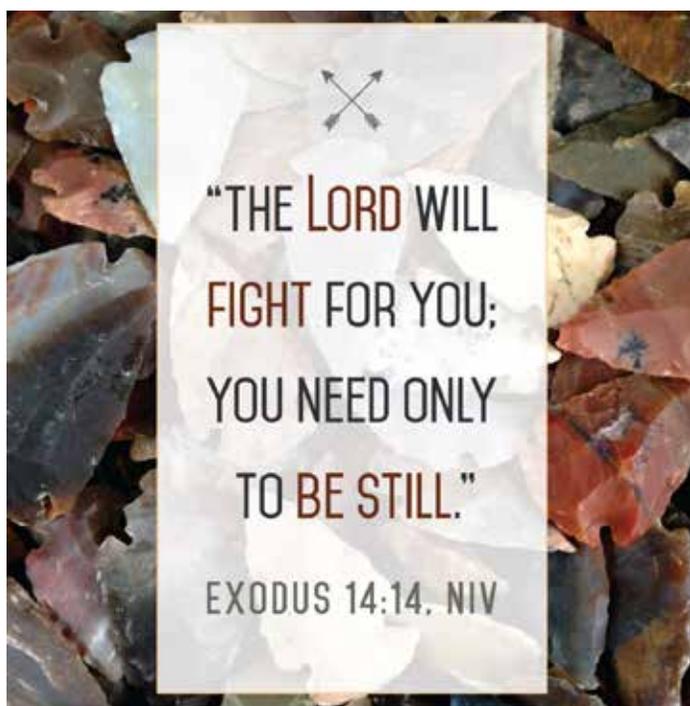
Greyhound has one bus stop in West Virginia, that being Possum County, between Miami and New York; therefore the bus driver held a flashlight and asked each passenger where they were going. Ineeda told him Florence. Since many passengers use Greyhound to get to New York for foreign travel, the driver had never heard of Florence, South Carolina, so he put her on the northbound bus to New York City.

Ineeda Mann's first thought upon arriving at daylight was that they sure put a lot of Miracle Grow in the concrete. The buildings were so tall! Her hair looked like it was plugged into an electric socket. She had not stuffed a marshmallow in her front missing tooth and unknowingly to her caused some embarrassing looks. She did not know that one of her straps on her Bibb overalls had come loose, causing more embarrassment. The Salvation Army saw her homeless position and dolled her up and sent her back to Florence, South Carolina, where she was accepted as a hardship case.

Included in the hardship situation, Ineeda Mann has benefits including: Security gate at nighttime, Medical disbursement, Three good meals a day, Laundry, Yard care, Shopping trips, Out-of-town trips, Games, Bible study twice a week taught by our chaplain, Exercise sessions daily except weekends, Holiday celebrations and special events outside, Church service at 4 o'clock every Sunday, Men's Only Sunday School Class, Thursday morning Small Group Bible Study, Cat discussions, Physical Therapy, and many others unlisted.

Isn't it time for you to consider coming out and talking with our marketing director to discuss with her any questions you might have?

— Tom Kellam, *Foreign Correspondent*,
with Henry "Sherlock" Rose, *scribe*



“You were made in the image of God to be a light in the darkness, to be a voice for His Kingdom.”

Can you give God 3 months ... to change your life forever?

At the School of Justice and Mission in Choma, Zambia, you will learn about Jesus, leadership, and justice in a uniquely diverse, multicultural, interdenominational environment that trains you to become a vibrant disciple of Jesus Christ, qualified to be engaged in the global movement of God throughout the world!

Your 12-week stay in Zambia will include: Lectures from incredible teachers from around the globe; Ministry visiting local families, facilitating youth camps, leadership conference, children-adult activities; Time with God daily in Worship and Prayer; and Outreach ministering to people in Sub-Saharan Africa.

Who can apply? High school graduates, college students, young adults/couples, or older adults interested in training ground work for international missions. For more information go to school.poetic.org or contact Janet Brand, janet81661@aol.com.



SCHOOL OF
JUSTICE + MISSION
CHOMA, ZAMBIA

BE ON
MISSION
EVERYWHERE.

Family Night Dinners

Family Night Dinners are held at 5:45 p.m. on Wednesdays throughout the school year. Dinner is \$5 per person, and families cap at \$20. Following the meal, at 6:30 p.m., activities are available for all ages.

For November, the planned* meals are:

- November 6: Meat loaf, green beans,
mashed potatoes, and cookies
- November 13: Ziti, salad, and dessert
- November 20: Chili/fritos, baked potatoes, salad,
and ice cream cups
- November 26: No dinner

*Menus are subject to change.





GOOD NEWS. GREAT JOY.

samaritanspurse.org/occ

You're Invited to a Packing Party!

Demonstrate God's love in a tangible way to children in need around the world through Operation Christmas Child. Please join us for fun, fellowship, and filling shoebox gifts!

Date/Time: Sunday, November 24, 3-5 pm

Place: First Presbyterian Church
Jenkins Fellowship Hall

Church Wide family fun for all ages!
Wear Christmas attire. There will be packing, crafts, prayers, & fellowship.

RSVP: for child care only to Teresa Stewart,
tstewart@florencefirst.org

Please Bring: Remember to bring your \$9 per shoebox to help us cover project expenses such as shipping the boxes. Or you can pay online to **Follow Your Box** around the world.

Your items to pack in a box. Any extra fillers. Preprinted cardboard shoeboxes will be available.
contact: Linda Smiley 843-618-0324

Operation Christmas Child blesses children around the world with gift-filled shoeboxes that become opportunities to share the Good News of Jesus Christ.

New resource available for discipling youth

Associate Pastor's note: This column addresses challenges Christian parents face. Brock Page and I (Chris Handley) will share the responsibility of giving parents a nugget to help and challenge.

By Chris Handley
Associate Pastor

ECO, our denomination, is trying to help our teens and children move to a place of faith by partnering with an organization that helps create conversations between parents and children. The resources they offer give much needed help to parents so that parents can address the heart issues related to growing in faith. The organization providing these resources is called AXIS.

Axis' welcome note on their portal page reads, "Welcome to your Axis Dashboard!"

We're thrilled you're here and thankful for your desire to disciple the next generation into life-long faith in Jesus. Our goal is to equip you, the caring adult, to be confident and prepared to start life-changing conversations with the students in your life."

I am excited for us to have this resource available to us through our denomination (they paid for it for us to have access,)

What follows is a taste of what is available. This is a section from an article called "A Parent's Guide to a Doubting Teen."

"SHOULD I BE WORRIED MY TEEN HAS DOUBTS"

Despite what it may feel like — "I've done something wrong!" "Clearly



his faith isn't strong enough!" "She's just going to walk away from her faith!"—when a teen or pre-teen starts asking real questions about faith, God, Christianity, and other belief systems, it's nothing to panic about. In fact, it's not only normal, but also a healthy and developmentally appropriate part of spiritual growth. How many of us have echoed the words from Mark's gospel: "I do believe; help me overcome my unbelief!"

Theologian Os Guinness once wrote, "If ours is an examined faith, we should be unafraid of doubt. If doubt is eventually justified, we were believing what clearly was not worth believing. But if doubt is answered, our faith has grown stronger."

If your teen is struggling with questions or doubts, he/she is joining a great cloud of witnesses who've been on the same journey. From John the Baptist, "Doubting Thomas," Martin Luther, C.S. Lewis, and Mother Teresa, Christianity is filled with individuals who intellectually and spiritually struggled to believe, but through their authentic struggle they came to a place of deep trust and reliance upon God. "Doubt can very often coexist with faith. The fact that a person has doubts doesn't mean they have no faith; it may mean that their faith is alive, that it is struggling, that it is growing." However, in some (not

all) circles of Christianity, this rich history of doubting well was recently replaced by a strict adherence to "blind faith," ignoring evidence rather than following it, and fearing questions rather than using them to make one's faith stronger. Young Christians were taught to do as they were told, rather than to think for themselves. The results have been disastrous, with many millennials and Gen Zers choosing to walk away from a belief system that seemed misogynistic, oppressive, illogical, and downright boring. But it absolutely doesn't have to be that way! We believe, like so many generations of Christians before us, that we have nothing to fear from questions, doubts, and scrutiny because the evidence points solidly and firmly to Christ as Risen Savior. We also believe that following and becoming more like Him is the only path to true fulfillment, flourishing, and life. So rather than allowing our teens' curiosity and/or skepticism to scare us, let's breathe, relax, and view this as an opportunity to bring them into the rich history of skeptics who found that Christ was who they'd been looking for all along and to bring them into deep, lifelong flourishing. After all, if God is who He says He is, then no question, doubt, or other barrier to belief is too big for Him!

As you parent you may come across an issue with which Axis could be of help to you. Be in touch with Youth Ministry Director Brock Page or myself about how to get resources. Be encouraged! We want your child to come to faith and grow in faith.

Youth Ministry News



Youth Schedule

- Sunday School: Nov. 3, 10, 17, 24 / 10-10:50 a.m. / Light breakfast, Fellowship, Lesson
- Small group: Nov. 3, 24 / 5:30-7 p.m. / Dinner, Lesson
- MOVE: Nov. 10 / 3-9:30 p.m. / iWorship Youth Event at GroundZero in Myrtle Beach
- 412 on Wednesdays: Nov. 6, 13, 20 / 6:30-7:30 p.m. / Bible study and prayer
- East Florence Mission: Nov. 5, 12, 19, 26 / 4-5 p.m.

iWorship Event with Brock Gill @ GroundZero

- We will attend a youth worship event at GroundZero from 6 to 8 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 10. GroundZero is a Christian youth venue located in Myrtle Beach and seeks to bring Christ-centered teaching and events to our area churches and groups. The featured speaker is Brock Gill, a gifted Christian communicator and illusionist. We will leave First Presbyterian Church at 3 p.m. Nov. 10 and return by 9:30 p.m. that night. We will eat at the venue so please bring \$10 to cover that cost. The event itself is free. We also need other adults to help chaperone. Please contact Brock at bpage@florencefirst.org if interested.

Fall Retreat 2019

- Our annual fall retreat this year is Nov. 15-17 at Montreat Conference Center in Montreat, North Carolina. We will leave at 4 p.m. Friday, Nov. 15, and return at 5 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 17. The cost is about \$90 plus food.

Sticky Faith

- One of the greatest desires of Christian parents is the assurance that their children have a genuine relationship with Christ and that they grow in that relationship throughout their lives. It is difficult many times to know just how we as parents are supposed to help them in this quest. We know that we are the primary shapers of our children's faith. We also know that we have the primary responsibility to share Christ with our children and disciple them as they grow in their walk with Christ. Yet, we grapple with how to do it. The greatest resource we have at our disposal is the Word of God. As we spend time in God's Word, we will grow in our faith and in our knowledge of God's Word. Knowledge of God's Word will equip us to disciple our children well. 2 Tim. 3:16 states, "All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness." Deut. 6:7 commands, "You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise." We can do no better than immersing ourselves in God's holy and inspired Word and then teaching it to our children.



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

CHURCH STAFF

Senior Pastor / 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. Glenn Ham
Director of Youth Ministry	Mr. Brock Page
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
Custodian	Mr. Sidney Ruff
Housekeeping	Ms. Wanda LaSane

Covenant Partner Magnetic Name Badges



Order Form

Consider getting a name badge to be easily recognized and remembered.

It's a useful tool to facilitate conversation.

The name badge form is also available in the Welcome Center or online in Realm.

A badge costs \$7.

Please return this form to the Church Office with your check made payable to First Presbyterian.

Name (exactly the way it should appear on your badge)

Please use another form for more than one name.

Number of badges: _____

Amount enclosed: _____

