

The REMINDER

Growing UPWARD
worshipping and praising

Growing INWARD
becoming more like Christ

Growing OUTWARD
sharing the good news



JUNE 2020

Glorifying and loving God

“But since we were torn away from you, brothers and sisters, for a short time, in person not in heart, we endeavored the more eagerly and with great desire to see you face to face”

– I Thess. 2:17

Dear Church Family,

We miss you!! This is an unusual season that we are in, and we trust the Lord is working in your life. We recognize that amidst the challenges there are also opportunities to do things in fresh ways — such as the Blessing of the Graduates service, online testimonies and prayer meetings.

In terms of our corporate worship together, we have put much prayer, thought, and even consulted with other congregations and medical professionals about what would be appropriate steps in moving toward gathering again for public worship. At the forefront of our minds is how to glorify God and show love to others. We are acutely aware that some of us are at-risk, and advocate a “don’t rush it” approach; others we know are both comfortable and eager to join together with precautions in place and ask, “If we can go out to eat, why prohibit us from worshiping Jesus?”

As such, here is our next step beginning on Sunday, June 14, 2020 at 10 a.m.:

- Online worship will continue. We will keep (or improve) streaming services and the online bulletin.
- If you are at risk, we love you so much that we request that you stay at home. We desire that this time be an opportunity for flexibility and understanding – for grace and not for guilt.
- We will begin to gather in the Sanctuary with social distancing in place, except with your own family. We will skip every other pew, which ensures a 6.5-foot social distance.
- Ushers will both help you find a seat as well as dismiss pews row by row (similar to a wedding service).
- The Sanctuary will seat about 100, with no more than 9 people in a row, for 15 pews.
- Overflow seating will be in the Fellowship Hall, as the CLC floor is being renovated. Again, ushers will assist in seating and dismissing.

- We encourage that you wear a mask for other people’s protection, and so that those who feel it is necessary will feel less awkward among God’s people.
 - There will be no congregational singing since this spreads the virus easily, yet there will be soloists in the choir loft. We will join together in reciting prayers and the Creed.
 - There will be no Bibles or hymnals; please use your phone to access them online.
 - Hand sanitizer stations will be placed at the doors.
 - Offering plates will be located at the doors.
 - There will be no coffee or refreshments.
 - No children’s church, Sunday school, or nursery will be available.
 - The children’s message will continue online – not in person.
 - Please reserve the restrooms for urgent situations.
- It would be helpful to us if you promptly let the office know whether or not you may attend, so that we can have a rough estimate to help us plan (843-662-2583/ tstewart@florencefirst.org). No one can anticipate every scenario, and so we expect that there will be bumps that will be smoothed out as the weeks go by. We ask for your flexibility and grace. We are attempting to minimize risk, while making the opportunity available for you to make your own decision.

“I thank my God in all my remembrance of you, always in every prayer of mine for you all making my prayer with joy, because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now. And I am sure of this, that he who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ. It is right for me to feel this way about you all, because I hold you in my heart, for you are all partakers with me of grace, both in my imprisonment and in the defense and confirmation of the gospel. For God is my witness, how I yearn for you all with the affection of Christ Jesus. And it is my prayer that your love may abound more and more, with knowledge and all discernment, so that you may approve what is excellent, and so be pure and blameless for the day of Christ, filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ, to the glory and praise of God.” (Philippians 1:3-11)

On behalf of the Worship Unit and Session,



A Thought or Two Challenging You Toward Discipleship

The active Body of Christ

What is God saying to us in these Virus days? ECO has directed leaders toward a think tank called Aspen that is helping leaders think well. I have read their pamphlet (<https://eco-pres.org/wp-content/uploads/Relaunch-Church-Key-Questions-final.pdf>) and agree with their opening paragraph for us and our situation:

“THE CORONAVIRUS PANDEMIC has stretched every church to find new ways to fulfill its mission to be the Body of Christ. The church never was the building. It is and always has been people who make up the church. In this era of church building closures to promote social distancing, congregations are learning anew what it means to be the Church. Reports of churches providing front-line assistance to support medical relief, food distribution, and other social services, the COVID-19 crisis has highlighted the many ways the church still is one of society’s greatest assets.”

First Presbyterian has stepped up in these days and been THE CHURCH. To start, First raised over \$6,000 for Harvest Hope Food Bank. In addition, you all donated enough food items to fill 18 boxes of food for distribution through Harvest Hope. Volunteers from First also have been involved in delivering thousands of meals to senior citizens around Florence. A new team for meal preparation through My Brother’s Keeper has helped weekly during the past month prepare their Tues-



Members of First Presbyterian Church helped raise over \$6,000 and donated non-perishable food to fill 18 boxes for Harvest Hope Food Bank.

day dinner for the homeless and poor. Volunteers from First helped remodel office space recently out at the Harvest Hope warehouse. The people of God have moved out!

First Presbyterian also will be involved again with a smaller-scaled ServeFLO this year as Helping Florence Flourish encourages believers from around the city to witness through service. The Downtown Roll and Run4 Hope will take place on Saturday, June 13, starting at 700 Park Ave. A lunch for our law enforcement officers will take place at 700 Park on Wednesday, June 17; and a blood drive will take place at 700 Park on Thursday, June 18. A host of volunteers also will be needed to help deliver 3,500 health kits to our north and east Florence neighborhoods. There are other opportunities, as well. See the www.ServeFLO.org site for more info.

The “Relaunch Church” piece by the Aspen Group begins by quoting a Wall Street Journal article by Robert Nicholson titled, “A Coronavirus Great Awakening?,” in which he writes, “Could a plague of biblical proportions be America’s best hope

for religious revival? As the 75th anniversary of the end of World War II approaches, there is reason to think so. More so than ever in our lifetimes, the Church may have an unprecedented opportunity to reach people with the gospel message of salvation and hope.”

As church leader Ed Stetzer said, “The church has left the building, and that may be the gift God gives us in the midst of this crisis.”

Yes, we need to be careful and wise during these days. But maybe God is in the process of getting us to think differently about how we move and live and the rhythms of our lives. First Pres has pivoted and is learning how to use all the digital tools available to us to spread the gospel and help people find an anchor in this storm. Yes, we will be getting back together soon. But, will it be ministry as usual, or will we use this opportunity to reset as a Body and seek God’s wisdom in how you might better reach people with the Gospel and saving power of Jesus Christ? Be challenged to follow Jesus!

Chris

Church moving forward with projects

While our regular weekly rhythm has been disturbed, we are moving forward with some projects that have been in the planning stages for quite some time. First, work has begun for refurbishing the foyer of the **Christian Life Center** (paint and flooring) and replacing the carpet in the gym. Our Christian Life Center was built in the mid-1990s and the carpet is original. To say that we've gotten our money's worth is an understatement. For the past several years, the church has set aside money each month for capital improvement and replacement projects. Funding for the CLC refurbishment projects will come out of those funds.

Additionally, site preparation work has begun for our **Columbarium and Memory Garden**. Hopefully, weather permitting, the foundation will have been formed and poured by the time you are reading my article. Once the foundation is in place, landscaping, hardscapes and irrigation of the garden area will follow. The actual dates for completion of the project is contingent on weather and restrictions related to the COVID pandemic. If you are interested in reserving a niche, please contact George Beshere, Glenn Bell or me. We'll be glad to assist you with the necessary arrangements.

COVID-19 Financial Update

Thanks to the continued generosity of our covenant partners the current financial condition of the church remains sound despite the economic impact of COVID-19. We have heard of churches in our area that have seen their weekly offerings



reduced as much as 90%. Thankfully, this has not been the case for our church. A few weeks ago, I was talking with one of our covenant partners about the generosity of this congregation. As we talked, she said, "Don, I really believe that thankfulness leads to generosity." I agree 100%. For April our average weekly receipts were about 97% of our average weekly need and giving has remained strong for the month of May. In addition to financial support of the ongoing ministries of our church, many of you have found ways to carry out the work of the "body of Christ" in a variety of ways (making masks, volunteering to cook and deliver meals, and donating to Harvest Hope Food Bank) just to name a few. This is a tremendous blessing and testament to the faithfulness of our covenant partners even during this time of uncertainty. Your generosity has blessed many in our community.

As we continue to move through this time of being the "church scattered" and as we look forward to the time we can gather together for worship, let me encourage all

Work began the final week of May on the Christian Life Center. The foyer will be refurbished (paint and flooring) and the carpet will be replaced in the gym. Site preparation work also has begun for the Columbarium and Memory Garden.

covenant partners to continue to give as you normally would (online, mail, ACH, etc.) **REALM** - Log-in to REALM and tap the "Giving" icon then follow the instructions to make a one-time donation or set up a recurring gift. **Bill Pay** - If you use online banking, you can set up an automated payment to First Presbyterian Church.

Bank Draft - You can instruct your bank or financial institution to set up a bank draft to First Presbyterian Church. **Online** - Visit our website www.florencefirst.org and click "Online Giving" at the top of the home page and follow the instructions. **Text Giving** - Simply text [florencefirst to 73256](tel:80373256) and you will receive instructions on how to give using a credit/debit card, checking or savings account. **Mail** - Our mailing address is: First Presbyterian Church 700 Park Ave., Florence, SC 29501. Please contact me if you have questions about any of these giving options. As always, we are thankful for your continued financial support of the mission and ministry of First Presbyterian Church.

The Church as Saints

The first two chapters of 2 Corinthians are an introductory portion of a letter of reconciliation written to the church in Corinth.

Paul writes to the congregation following a report of opponents of Paul attacking his authority. He has written a severe letter to them calling them to believe the true Gospel of salvation in Jesus Christ. Paul continues to state his gospel is the true Gospel because it bases salvation upon faith in Jesus' death and resurrection.

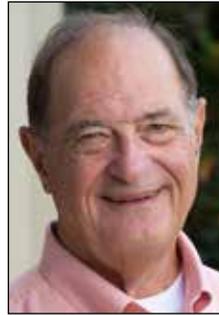
Timothy had been with Paul and had taken the severe letter and represented Paul as the Corinthians repented. Now Timothy has returned to Paul and Paul writes this fourth letter to the Corinthians. Paul's authority had been challenged therefore he reminds the Corinthians of his authority given to Paul by Jesus himself.

"Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God," combines the three facts of Paul's call. Jesus had appeared to Paul and established Paul's apostleship. Paul is called by the Lord God establishing him as a prophet. As an apostle Paul had a special call to take the Gospel to the Gentiles. Paul throughout his career as a prophet must continually remind the Churches that the Lord through Jesus had called him to be a prophet to the Gentiles.

Timothy is with Paul and becomes a pastor later as Paul is imprisoned. This letter is written to all the believers and churches in the Roman province of Achaia. This area included Athens and possibly many other churches that met in the homes of believers. Paul calls the believers: "saints."

One of the interesting facts of Paul's use of the term saints is that the word only occurs in the plural. I make two conclusions, one is that one person does not exist alone as a church.

The second conclusion is that our sanctification comes



REV. MIKE FLEENOR'S BLOG

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

through the Holy Spirit which inhabits every believer. Saints are only holy when they are together.

The greeting in the letter includes words which carry strong meanings for the church: "Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ (2 Corinthians 1:2)."

Grace is unmerited love and would have surprised the Corinthians as Paul includes both God and Jesus as the giver of grace. Peace is the normal Jewish greeting, shalom, which means may you receive the blessing of God. God is identified as Father, which indicates creator and the one who established the world and directs history. Paul gives Jesus the authority of God by calling him Lord and gives Jesus the glory of God by being the Messiah or Christ as a result of his death and resurrection. Paul as the leader and founder of the mission to the Gentiles must restate the origin of his call from Jesus. It is good for all believers to remind themselves that they are called into service in the Church by the Lord God and the Lord Jesus Christ.

We are all saints together seeking to redeem the world for God. The Church's duty and call is to be full of grace to the people we met both inside and outside the church. We are to serve others and be compassionate. The church is to be a people of peace. During these days, the world needs compassion and to feel at peace with our lives completely different and turned upside down. Peace is difficult to find, and God through Christ is the only one to offer peace.

It is good for all believers to remind themselves that they are called into service in the Church by the Lord God and the Lord Jesus Christ.

Ringling of the church bell



Above: Elder Richie Wilhoit rings the church bell at 7:19 p.m. recently. He and a few others, including his wife, Ellen; Tag Gandy; and Butch Carroll, meet nightly since the start of the Covid-19 pandemic and quarantine. They ring the bell 19 times at 19:19 military time or 7:19 p.m. Wilhoit said he wanted to do something meaningful in response to the pandemic. Sounding the bell nightly followed by prayer — for the community, the world, the congregation, for healing, and an end to the crisis — was a way to unite the community in pausing to hear the bell and praying. Wilhoit said they'll continue to ring the bell likely until the congregation is able to worship in person again. We invite you to pause at 7:19 nightly to say a prayer. According to Carroll, Wilhoit said, the bell has been with the church since First Presbyterian was first located at Church Street.





PHOTOS COURTESY MORNING NEWS AND DAVID YEAZELL

Congrats, Seniors!



The Senior Graduation Blessing was held Sunday, May 17, recognizing our 19 graduating Seniors at First Presbyterian Church. The event was held after our worship service and was live-streamed. Only seniors and their immediate families were allowed in the Sanctuary. Social distancing and safety procedures were in place. After the service, family, friends, and covenant partners surprised the graduates with a car parade wishing them the best.

CDC planning staggered-scale reopening

First Presbyterian Child Development Center has been operating on a much smaller scale over the past eight weeks as we have cared for the children of the first responders and medical staff. We have grown from one classroom with 7 children to five classrooms with less than 30 children in attendance.

We plan to begin re-opening on a staggered scale beginning June 15 to the rest of our enrollment. Up until now we have operated with less than half of our staff and will be calling back the remainder of staff in the next few weeks. Hopefully, in the near future, we will jump start our center with full enrollment and look with anticipation to the remainder of the summer of 2020. Again, this year as in the past the children will enjoy a more relaxed day camping experience as we move forward.

The COVID-19 virus has brought many changes to our daily routines at the center. Our staff is doing a great job working hard to assure that we are doing our part to cut down on germs. Parents are dropping their children off and picking them up each day in the tower area. Children and staff are having their temperature taken upon arrival in the mornings and again after lunch time. Anyone with a temp of 100.0 or higher is not allowed to stay. Parents and staff are signing off each day on a form that indicates that they are well and no one in their household is ill. Staff are eating their lunch on campus and not leaving mid-day to get lunch



and then return to the center. We have stepped up on cleaning behind ourselves and washing hands more often. Social distancing is hard for the younger children, but we are doing what we can and teaching the children not to touch their faces or the faces of their friends as they play.

We hope that we have all learned something from this COVID-19 experience, maybe more than anything we have learned the importance of taking time for family and friends and not taking our lives for granted. Every day is truly a gift.

Blessings,

Beth



Children play inside during the rain. Sandbox play and playing with tongs helps physical development. The eye-hand coordination and small muscle control improve as they learn to use the tools.



Birthdays

JUNE 1

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

JUNE 2

Coleman Jeffords

JUNE 3

Bill Cain

JUNE 4

Courtney Emert
Bryan Harwell

JUNE 5

Brittany Miles

JUNE 6

Margaret Charles
Eli Gaddy
Grayson Prince
Gerry Rosenlund

JUNE 7

Marshall Benton

JUNE 8

George Beshere
Drew Caudle

JUNE 9

Mary Jernigan

JUNE 10

Abigail Tuttle

JUNE 11

Troy Lamb

JUNE 13

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

JUNE 14

Hannah Carpenter
Gray Scott
Katherine Watts

JUNE 15

Merrette Dowdell
Marty Hucks

JUNE 16

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

JUNE 17

Breeden DuBose
Grace DuBose
Charles Lamb
Hunter Morgan
Edmund Whitehead

JUNE 18

Jo Lynn Bratcher
McKenzie Lehmans
Collins McBride
Addison Suggs
Abi Urquhart

JUNE 19

Hunter Burch
Ansley Moore
Gil Vassy

JUNE 20

Jim Braswell
Lila McMillan
Cammie Moree

JUNE 22

Amelia Anne Brown
Mary Grady
Alaina Naylor
Ashley Scott

JUNE 23

Lauren Bostwick
Frank Ellington

JUNE 24

David DuBose
Robin Stoupenos

JUNE 25

Justin Dozier
Jason Grimsley
Ida Whitehead

JUNE 26

Alan Floyd
Bryan Rabon

JUNE 27

Dawn Benton
Weatherly Tiller
Genia Tyson

JUNE 28

Cindy Coward
Richard Genoble
Johnny Stoupenos
Ellen Wilhoit

JUNE 30

Scarlett Cranford
Sally Dameron
Tammy Moore
Susan Perrou



June



MONDAY, JUNE 1

6:30 PM GriefShare: Online meeting

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 3

4:00 PM Youth Zoom meeting

5:00 PM Youth Zoom meeting

THURSDAY, JUNE 4

10:30 AM Prayer Group: Lawson-Rain Chapel

SUNDAY, JUNE 7

10:00 AM Online Worship Service

6:00 PM Youth Zoom meeting

MONDAY, JUNE 8

6:30 PM GriefShare: Online meeting

TUESDAY, JUNE 9

6:30 PM Session: Off Campus

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 10

10:00 AM Summer Women's Bible Study

4:00 PM Youth Zoom meeting

5:00 PM Youth Zoom meeting

7:00 PM Summer Women's Bible Study

THURSDAY, JUNE 11

10:30 AM Prayer Group: Lawson-Rain Chapel

SATURDAY, JUNE 13

ServeFLO kicks off

7:00 AM Run for Hope

9:00 AM Downtown Roll & Cycling Festival

SUNDAY, JUNE 14

10:00 AM Worship Service

6:00 PM Youth Zoom meeting

MONDAY, JUNE 15

6:30 PM GriefShare: Online meeting



TUESDAY, JUNE 16

6:30 PM Board of Deacons

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 17

10:00 AM Summer Women's Bible Study

11:30 AM Law Enforcement Luncheon

4:00 PM Youth Zoom meeting

5:00 PM Youth Zoom meeting

7:00 PM Summer Women's Bible Study

THURSDAY, JUNE 18

10:30 AM Prayer Group: Lawson-Rain Chapel

1:00 PM Red Cross Blood Drive: fellowship hall

SATURDAY, JUNE 20

ServeFLO work day



SUNDAY, JUNE 21

10:00 AM Worship Service

6:00 PM Youth Zoom meeting



TUESDAY, JUNE 23

6:30 PM Session

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 24

10:00 AM Summer Women's Bible Study

4:00 PM Youth Zoom meeting

5:00 PM Youth Zoom meeting

7:00 PM Summer Women's Bible Study

THURSDAY, JUNE 25

10:30 AM Prayer Group: Lawson-Rain Chapel

SUNDAY, JUNE 28

10:00 AM Worship Service

11:00 AM Congregational Meeting

6:00 PM Youth Zoom meeting

GET INVOLVED! IT'S TIME TO SERVE!

SERVEFLO

SAVE THE DATES: JUNE 13-21, 2020

*"If anyone serves me, he must follow me; and where I am, there will my servant be also.
If anyone serves me, the Father will honor him."
- John 12:26*



MISSION OF HELPING FLORENCE FLOURISH:

Helping Florence Flourish works toward a visible demonstration of the unity of the body of Christ (Jn 17:21) to bless Florence. (Jer. 29:7)

ServeFLO is a means by which HELPING FLORENCE FLOURISH strives to accomplish its vision.

ServeFLO is area churches coming together to bless Florence.

Teams from churches and ministries will fan out around our community to serve and bless during this season. Register your team or church at the ServeFlo website.

serveflo.org

Teams can determine how they want to bless our community; or HFF will assist you in finding a way to be a blessing!

KICKOFF RALLY: The Downtown Roll and Run for Hope on Saturday, June 13.

Saturday, June 20, will be the focal point in our season of service, which runs June 13-21.

Below is a list of projects on which you can serve during this time:

- Downtown Roll
- City of Florence Parks and Rec Project
- House of Hope Tiny House
- House Repairs / Home Works
- Law Enforcement Luncheon
- Lighthouse Ministry Project
- Red Cross Blood Drive
- Resurrection Restoration for Homeless Project
- Run for Hope
- School Repairs (painting, cleaning, yardwork)
- Service Area of your choosing
- Trash pickup around Florence
- Unity Sunday: June 14
- YMCA Field Repairs

Remember in Prayer

Extended Care

Heritage at Lowman
Mac King

Heritage
George Richardson

Home
Adele Kassab
Casey Taylor

Methodist Manor
Madeline Brice
Joyce Floyd
Marie Jordan

Presbyterian Community
Hannah Barringer
Ann Cash
Aaron Leland
Tom and Clariann Kellam
Macy Turner

Memorials
Lola Coggeshall
Jerry Fussell
Doris Poston

Households

FLOCK 1: Don and Ruth Watts, Katherine, Mary, and Sara
FLOCK 2: Nancy Thompson
FLOCK 3: Casey and Peggy Taylor
FLOCK 4: Jeremy and Amy Williams, Lily and Freeman
FLOCK 5: Stephen and Alison Thompson, Guy, Henley, and Huck
FLOCK 6: Doug Stover
FLOCK 7: Guy and Jane Slagle
FLOCK 8: Berta Allen

Birth

Mya-Rose Akweseh Losah, daughter of Houlton Losah and Yvette Mbangowah

Sympathy

Family of Jerry Fussell
Jean Lavespere, loss of her mother

*Lord, Hear
Our Prayer*



Sick & Recovering

Madeline Brice
Jack Cagle
Dwight Fincannon
Harriett Hindman
Isla Louise McCoy
Glenn Odom
Rosanne Saunders
Peggy Corbin Scheu
Alan Thomas

Elders

Janet Brand
Richie Wilhoit

Deacons

Pat Tuttle
Sam Dozier

Mission

Parking Lot Ministry
Cindy Jackson

Women in Ministry

Emily Hodges
Kathryn Hopkins

Sunday School Teachers

Mary Lee Evans
Patricia Fast

Staff

Darryl Evans
Ron Echols

God's Work in our Community

Parking Lot Mission

One of the local missions First Presbyterian Church supports is Parking Lot Mission.

The Parking Lot Mission (PLM) traditionally has included a weekly devotional followed by a hot breakfast provided by families, individuals, and local churches. Additionally, individuals and groups distribute food, personal items, household goods, and clothing.

Into the third month of this pandemic after having halted the mission, the leaders decided "after much prayer, consideration, and consultation" to resume the program May 30. A breakfast will be served and volunteers are welcome to distribute food and other essential items.

To provide a safer environment, we will not serve coffee, ask all volunteers to wear masks while serving, and discourage close mingling. If you are a volunteer and are in a high-risk category or are not comfortable serving in this environment, the mission fully understands and affirms your decision not to participate.

The past couple months, the mission has been able to help more than a dozen households on a weekly basis with basic provisions, but so many more have unmet needs.

Please pray for all involved in the Parking Lot Mission, but most of all, pray that God be glorified in all we do, and that His love is shared in an authentic manner through these simple actions.

More information on PLM can be found on facebook.

God's Work Around the World

Cindy Jackson, Burn Care International

One of the global missionaries First Presbyterian Church supports is Cindy Jackson. She is the founder of the Burn Care International. She travels and teaches, helping care givers in developing countries around the world with practical ideas on how to offer a low-cost, effective, rehabilitation program to their patients:

"This time of quarantine has definitely had an impact on our work and presented many challenges. However, it has also been a good time to reevaluate going forward and things that we would like to improve upon when we open our doors full time again. Our work generally includes in-patient care as well as out-patient care, but we have seen a decrease in out-patient visits. Our patients are still in close contact with us (what's app messaging) but are not coming into the hospital. Much of their therapy is being done at home. For some patients this has been very positive in that it has given parents more encouragement to work harder on their home therapy. In Bolivia, the hospital is closed and locked down tight to any out-patient care, in Ethiopia all staff is working from home and our surgeon has traveled back to Norway until the quarantine is lifted, and in Tanzania, they are working with caution but are

not under quarantine. Our plans for Malawi are on hold for right now. As soon as the travel restrictions are lifted I will visit each clinic to resupply materials and supplies and check in, and I have plans to do training in Kenya and Malawi this fall and in Honduras at a remote jungle hospital.

These times are different and hard to understand especially since none of the hospitals has seen a decrease in the number of burn patients. However, this time is not being wasted and I have plenty to do seeking more sources of funding, working on upgrading my website (www.burncareinternational.com), taking an online burn course, designing a pamphlet for new burn patients, and finding new supply outlets. I would truly appreciate your prayers in each of these areas that much would be accomplished so that we continue to improve our work and that when the restrictions are lifted that I will be ready to get to traveling again.

Your continued support at First Presbyterian is such an encouragement to me and I appreciate all that you do to pray for and support BCI. Thank you so much!

Cindy Jackson
Burn Care International"



Church News

Summer Women's Bible Study to begin

Come join other First Presbyterian women this summer for an Inductive Bible study in the book of Hebrews. We will begin the 10-week study on Wednesday, June 10, at 10:00-11:30 a.m. and 7:00-8:30 p.m. at the church. We will practice appropriate social distancing and will have smaller groups of women meeting in different rooms depending on the number of women who plan to attend.

This study has 5 days of homework that will help us dig into Hebrews each week followed by a video teaching with Jen Wilkin. (Workbooks are \$14.) In this verse by verse study in the book of Hebrews, Jen Wilkin explores how God "provided something better for us" in the person of Jesus Christ (Hebrews 11:40). Through stories of old testament heroes and practices, the author of Hebrews demonstrates how the new covenant is superior to the old and how Jesus Christ is the fulfillment of every promise. We will explore familiar verses in the context of the entire Bible, learning how to place our hope and faith in Christ alone. We hope you will consider joining us for the summer to study God's word and grow together in Him.

For more questions or to sign up to attend the Bible study, please contact Cynthia Knudsen at 843-687-1082, cknudsen1@sc.rr.com, or Dottie Handley at 843-206-3200, handleydv@gmail.com.

Scouts take online classes, clear creek

Our Cub and Boy Scout troops stopped all meetings and activities in mid-March. Scouts are taking online merit badge classes using Zoom meetings and helping each other advance while social distancing. They are camping in their backyards with family members, and they also had a social distancing paddle on Jeffries Creek led by Hunter Morgan. Hunter and the Scouts have cleared Jeffries Creek from Naturally Outdoors to Jeffries Creek Park for paddlers. If Covid-19 restrictions ease, the Scouts have a backpacking trip on the Appalachian Trail planned in late July. Nature deficit disorder has the Scouts eager to get back outdoors.

Congregational meeting to be held June 28

There will be a congregational meeting on Sunday, June 28, for the purpose of electing a new slate of church officers. Voting will be held at the end of the 10 a.m. service. Due to social distancing not everyone can be physically present in the sanctuary, but those in the fellowship hall will be able to observe via video and be heard via cell phone through a designated communication agent and will count toward a quorum.



FPC volunteers continue to serve meals

First Presbyterian Church's cook team and serving volunteers for My Brother's Keeper continues to serve 175 people every Tuesday. They are also cooking for approximately 75 people at Perfecting Lives Tabernacle on Lucas Street.

If you are interested in cooking and or serving, please contact Janet Brand at janet81661@aol.com.





Church News

**WE'RE ALL
IN THIS
Together**

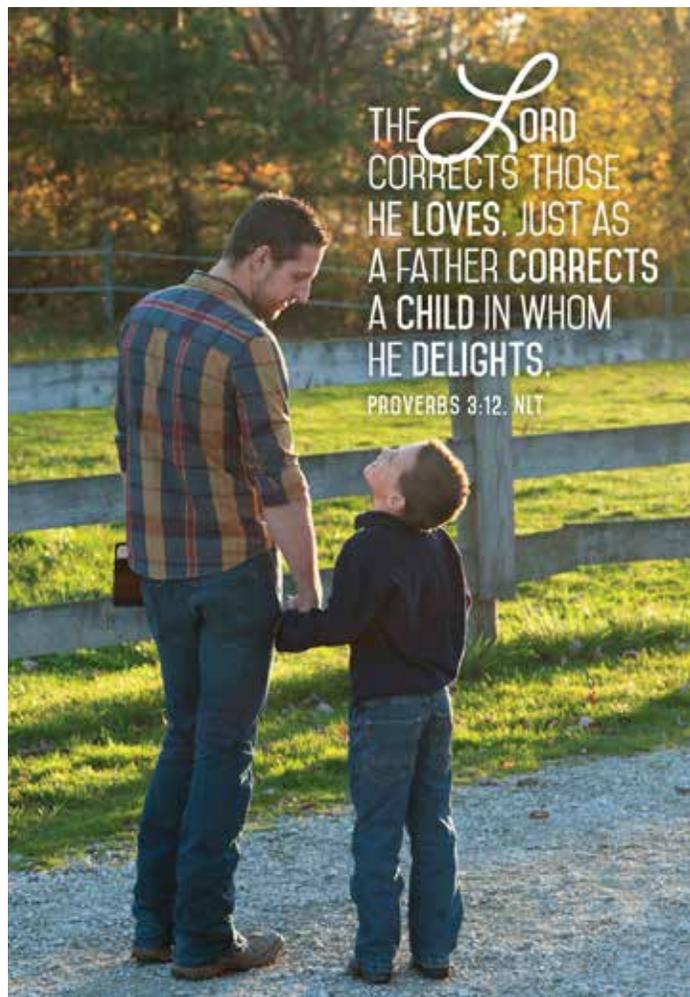


Donors needed for upcoming blood drive

Several slots remain for the Red Cross Blood Drive that will be held on campus from 1 to 6 p.m. Thursday, June 18. The drive will be held in the fellowship hall and is in support of Helping Florence Flourish's ServeFLO week of service.

Masks will be provided for all donors, increased sanitization and social distancing will also be in place. To make your appointment please see Kim Brauss (kbrauss@florencefirst.org) or visit www.redcross-blood.org sponsor code: "FirstPresFlorence".

— To submit a brief for *The Reminder*, email Kim at kbrauss@florencefirst.org



THE LORD
CORRECTS THOSE
HE LOVES, JUST AS
A FATHER CORRECTS
A CHILD IN WHOM
HE DELIGHTS.
PROVERBS 3:12, NLT

Happy Father's Day!
June 21

CITY OF FLORENCE DOWNTOWN ROLL & CYCLING FESTIVAL

Saturday, June 13

9 AM to NOON



Helping
Florence
Flourish



Touch Free Water Obstacle course
Free lunch - Helmets Encouraged
DTR Always Promotes Distancing
Donations go to HFF

Teacher Appreciation

The Great Commission

Then Jesus came to them and said,

“All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me.

Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.”

Matthew 28:18-20



SUNDAY MORNING TEACHERS

Carol Fleenor
Barbara Green
Ruth Watts

Elizabeth Blanton
Karen Jordan
Ida Whitehead

Mary Lee Evans
Patricia Fast
Libby Fuller

Janet Brand
Kendall Brand McGowan
Susan Snow

Jan Bray
Heather Taylor

Walt and Hunter Burch
Rob and Sonya Molnar

Rufus and Ashley Bratton
Jason and Casey Coker
Laura Ouzts
Meg Temple
Amy Williams

Jason and Tara Newton
Mike and Lynn Porter
Chris and Cille Scott

Sally Dameron
Ashley Hylton

Caroline Genoble

WEDNESDAY NIGHT TEACHERS

Jan Bray
Jennifer Foxworth
Renee McRae
Betsey Moore

Renda Barnes
Peggy Swearingen

Cynthia Knudsen
Jane Sherman
Jeremy Williams

Butch Carroll
Mike Lavespere

Ann Rodgers Chandler
Bruce Hubbs
Stuart Snow

February 21-22, 2020
Perimeter Church

NOTES FROM ATLANTA

A Children's Ministry Vision Trip

Ashley Bratton
Caroline Genoble
Laura Anne Hofler
Amy Williams



A Note of Thanks

Thank you for sending us to represent First Presbyterian Church at the PCA Committee on Discipleship Ministries Children's Conference. In our 24 hours away, we listened to 2 sermons, attended 11 breakout sessions, gathered books and curriculum ideas, networked, brainstormed, and dreamed about next steps for the children's ministry of FPC. We are excited to give a snapshot of what we learned and look forward to putting new ideas in place.

Our Takeaways

CONTINUING OUR LEGACY

We were proud to share our ministry's strengths with other churches, including our disability ministry, dedicated teachers, and camps. We look forward to building on this foundation.

TRUSTING GOD

We heard about two spiritual truths:

1. Trust God with our children's hearts; since salvation belongs to the Lord, the pressure is off parents to do the "right" things.
2. A benefit of ministering to children is that we, too, are daily reminded of how great God is.

EQUIPPING PARENTS

We felt encouraged in our Christian parenting after this trip. We'd like to do more to minister to parents and families of FPC in the same way.

TRAINING TEACHERS

We would like to host regular teacher training focused on strategies and management that will empower our volunteers to reach all types of children.

REACHING OUR COMMUNITY

We envision community outreach to parents by hosting dynamic speakers. For example, we met a speaker who equips parents to teach kids about the birds and bees.

CONNECTING GENERATIONS

We are thankful for the generational diversity in our church and learned about a curriculum that makes meaningful connections across age groups.

Loving and teaching our children well

By Brock Page

Youth Ministry Director

One positive aspect of the COVID-19 pandemic has been extra time to pray and think about the ministries of FPC and how we are addressing the different needs of our families. An idea that has popped up during conversations among staff has been assisting our parents more when it comes to discipling their children. We know shepherding youth is challenging, and it is one of our primary callings as Christian parents.

Ephesians 6:4 says: “Fathers, do not provoke your children to anger, but bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord.” Deuteronomy 11 states: “You shall therefore lay up these words of mine in your heart and in your soul ... You shall teach them to your children. ...”

So we can see the command of Scripture for parents is to teach their children. It is not the responsibility of the church to disciple them; the church is to help or support you, the primary discipler. That doesn't make the task of teenage discipleship any less daunting. We would like to provide as much support as possible to those wading the quicksand of what is known as the “teenage” years or adolescence.

Our desire is to provide a monthly class, a support class, that will address some of the most common topics/issues that youth and parents face today. We will choose topics that you desire to learn about. Chris Handley and I will teach these



classes. Tentatively, the classes will be held monthly, likely starting Monday evening, June 29. There will be about 30-40 minutes of instruction followed by 20-30 minutes of discussion. Our thinking right now is to use Zoom for the classes. This will allow the most flexibility for those attending. We will poll parents for a time that will work best. Our hope is that together we can train and instruct our children in the ways of the Lord.

The following is from Axis, a resource that provides useful tools for addressing difficult topics: “As our post-Christian culture increasingly marginalizes Christianity, it is critical for those of us who care about the next generation not to take a business-as-usual approach to their formation. If we do nothing they will be shaped away from life with God in Christ. We have the opportunity to reimagine what passing on our faith to the next generation looks like in this unique cultural moment. Let's be creative, courageous, and faithful!”—Jonathan Morrow, “Jonathan Morrow on Building Lasting Faith in Gen Z”

Axis also writes this about discipling our children in today's culture: “Often our kids know about what's going on in the world hours, days, weeks, even months before we do. Even if we've kept up with technological advancements, it's

impossible to know everything our kids do or are exposed to. And not knowing what they're going through or dealing with makes it very hard to guide them through those things. But if you've read anything we've written before, then you know we at Axis don't advocate sheltering your kids by banning anything and everything that might be questionable. Instead of being our children's consciences for them, we want to train their consciences to think deeply about the world around them. Instead of allowing them to piggyback off our faith, we want to help them own their faith.”

Below is a list of topics. Begin thinking about your top 10 — the 10 topics you would like information about. Feel free to add to the list. We will send out a poll in the next couple of weeks to vote on.

1. Purity
2. Modesty
3. Failure
4. Anxiety/Depression
5. Bullying
6. Identity
7. Drugs
8. Suicide
9. Alcohol
10. Sex
11. Relationships
12. Prayer
13. Pornography
14. Bible
15. Mental Health
16. Evangelism
17. Vaping
18. LGBTQ
19. Body image

For more information, email Brock at bpage@florencefirst.org

Youth Ministry



Youth Graduation Sunday was held May 17. Nineteen seniors graduated from high schools in the Florence area. To find out more about them and their plans, log onto Realm to watch their Graduate Moments.

Youth Schedule for June

- Sunday School: June 7, 14, 28 / Lesson posted on Marco Polo
- No Small groups
- MOVE: June 7, 14, 28 / 6 - 7 p.m. / Zoom meeting with lesson
- 412 on Wednesdays: June 3, 10, 17, 24 / Middle School at 4 p.m. and High School at 5 p.m. / In-person and Zoom meeting with Bible study

Coronavirus 2020

- Youth ministry continues despite the quarantine caused by COVID-19. We have been able to meet via Zoom and Marco Polo at our normal times on Sundays and Wednesdays. These times have been fruitful despite not being able to be together physically. We have been studying the book of James on Wednesdays and the book of Romans on Sundays. Continue to pray for the youth ministry during these times, especially that the students would engage in the meetings and with the Scriptures.

412 on Wednesdays

- Starting Wednesday, June 3, we plan to gather outdoors at church for youth group. Your student will need to bring a chair or blanket to sit on outside. We will continue to use Zoom during those meetings, so if you are not comfortable at that point with your student being present in person, they can still participate via Zoom. Middle school will continue to meet at 4 p.m. and high school will meet at 5 p.m. We will have a lesson and possibly a game that does not involve violating the social distancing guidelines. There will be no food or beverage provided. Meetings will last about 45 minutes.

Summer Conferences

- Great Escape has been canceled. Fun In The Son is scheduled the week of July 6-10. We still plan to attend FITS if it is not canceled. FITS is for 9-12 grades. If possible, please let me know tentatively if your high schooler will attend if we go. I will continue to update as I receive updates from YCM.

Parent Classes

- During the quarantine, we have been praying about ways to provide teaching for parents of youth that addresses topics specifically geared toward youth. We plan to begin offering Parents of Youth classes once a month starting in June. These will likely happen Monday evenings. Please see the parenting article in this month's edition of the Reminder for more details.



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CHURCH STAFF

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

