

The REMINDER

Growing UPWARD

worshipping and praising

Growing INWARD

becoming more like Christ

Growing OUTWARD

sharing the good news



JULY 2020

Glorifying and loving God

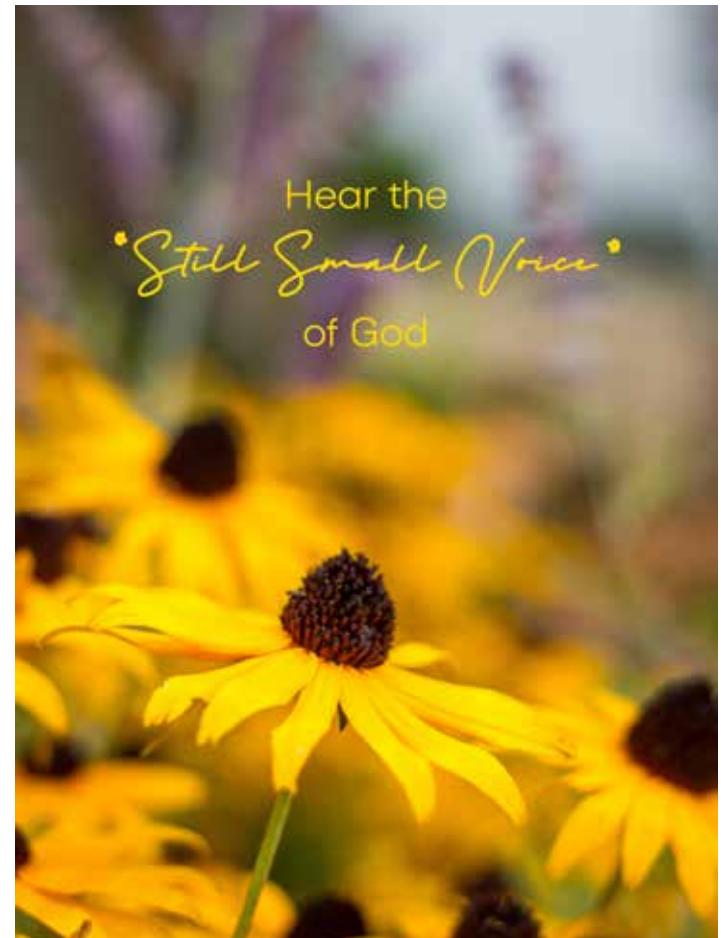
Dear Church Family,

The Revelation to John so powerfully shows us that we are caught up in something that is much bigger than us. We can scarcely take it in. We are caught up in this cosmic spiritual struggle – in which we almost amazingly have a part – and in which we see that God loves even finite creatures like us. During those times when our mind spins as we read, we have to slow down and listen to our hearts. It takes time to grow ears to hear what God is whispering to us – but when we listen, we are changed.

I believe some of us are hearing God now in new ways, and deep shifts are going on in some hearts. It will take time to see these things come to fruition, but God is working. I see our current circumstances as different, unexpected, and sometimes challenging – but I have never for a moment thought this virus season was wasted time.

I have shared many of my thoughts to you already through morning devotionals and Sunday sermons, so here is just a brief update:

- I am thankful that we are able to send our \$50,000 offering to Haiti. It is a gift to be able to help feed 2,500 children during a time of drought and the virus. Thank you for your giving to the Lord.
- As my first year winds down, despite our current circumstances I feel that I am becoming more and more familiar with the rhythms of our church, and our organization and communication are progressing nicely. I have great gratitude for our church officers, and I am looking forward to serving with the new class; I love to see their excitement.



- Finally, I am looking forward to having some rest in July on vacation. I will miss you, but it is good to embrace the Sabbath that God gives us.

Lord be with you,

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ON THE COVER

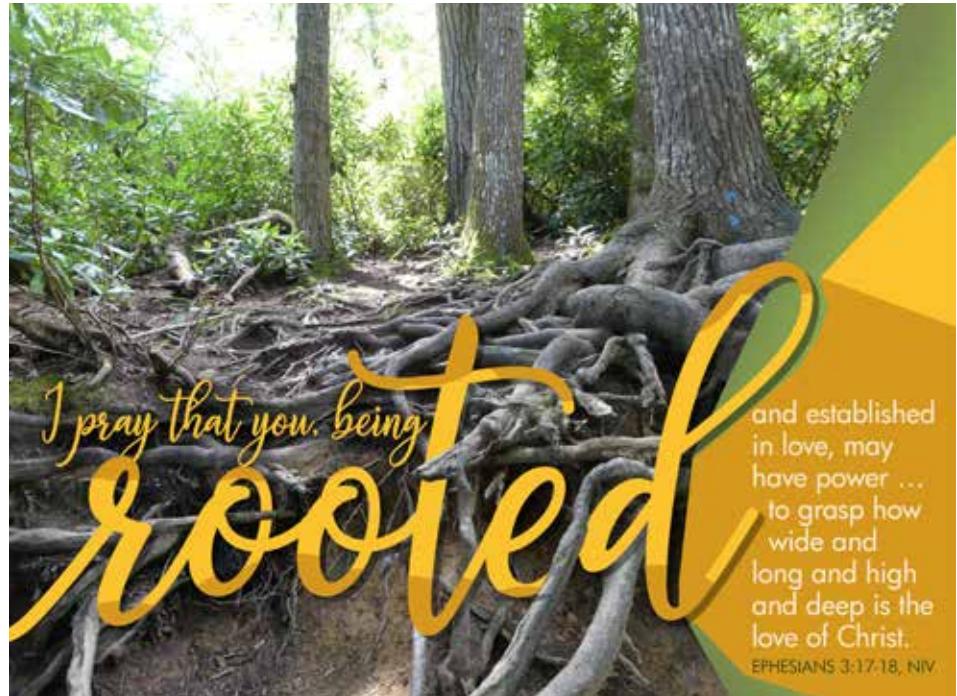
Downtown Roll & Cycling Festival was held in June as part of the kick off for Helping Florence Flourish's ServeFLO week. For more pictures, see page 6 and 7.

A Thought or Two Challenging You Toward Discipleship

Moment by moment connections

I am reading David Benner's *Desiring the Will of God*, and in it he puts these words in Jesus' mouth: "I am come to inaugurate the kingdom of God and bring a reign of love to the world. I will conquer everything that afflicts you and the world — disease, sin, suffering, injustice, poverty, ignorance and even death. Come and join me so that I may first lead you to the Father's healing love and saving grace. Then take up your place beside me — sharing my labor, sharing my suffering and sharing the victory that is certain." As I reflect on my life, I am confident that the Father's healing love and saving grace are at work in my heart! There is much more healing and much more grace needed, but I am thankful for the assurance that God loves me enough to send his Son... for me! This forgiveness given me is amazing, yet I am sensing there is much more.

I am growing in my awareness of the deep intimacy that God desires with me. There is a moment by moment connection possible. When Blaise Paschal experienced this he wrote one word and tucked in his coat, "Fire." I am more and more aware that this deep intimacy is not accomplished by effort and spiritual disciplines. It is accomplished by attentiveness and awareness. I am asking God to help me be attentive to Him. Jesus says, "I am with you always." That is an amazing gift. Lord help us be attentive and aware of you. Thank you for the gift of a moment by moment relationship.



Then, finally, I am more and more aware that the Lord has made me (and you) for a certain purpose. Ephesians 2:10 says that "We are God's handiwork created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do." Don't you wonder what it is God made you to do. Can you name it? Jesus said above "take up your place beside me — sharing my labor, sharing my suffering and sharing the victory that is certain."

I was in a conversation with elders Debbie Jackson and Bryon Frost and we yearned together that we together (the covenant partners of First Presbyterian) would be able to name what it is that God, the Father, made you and I to do. I would love to get in a conversation with you ... maybe even a study with you ... to help you name what it is

God has for you to do in this season of your life!

You are forgiven! You are loved, cherished moment by moment! And you have been given great purpose! Let's be challenged to discipleship with Him!

Chris

Site work begins for Columbarium Garden

We are making good progress with the Columbarium and Memory Garden. The foundation is in place and landscaping has begun. Over the next 4-6 weeks the area will be transformed from an outdated parking area to a beautiful landscaped area featuring sidewalks and gathering spaces that will eventually serve as a backdrop to our columbarium. During this time, we ask that you exercise extreme caution in and around the construction area. Please observe all barriers and caution signs in and around the area. The landscaping and hard-scape work are being handled by local contractors. The company that is building the columbarium is based in Canada. Our Columbarium committee is receiving monthly updates from the company. The landscaping should be completed the first week of August. The actual dates for completion of the project and 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

As we continue to move through this time of being the "church scattered" and as we slowly resume gathering for worship, we are entering another traditionally challenging period, SUMMER! I want to encourage all covenant partners to **continue** to give as you have these past months. Many of you started giving electronically during the pandemic (online, mail, ACH, etc.). One of the easiest ways



A crew pours concrete for the Columbarium and Memory Garden. To look at more pictures of the work in progress, see page 15.

to give is through **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** 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. And, of course, now that we are gathering for worship, you can place your contribution in the offering plate on Sunday morning. Please feel free to 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.

Quarterly Contribution Statements

Thanks to the continued generosity of our covenant partners the current financial condition of the church remains sound despite the economic impact of COVID-19. In fact, our giving is slightly ahead of this time last year. In the coming weeks, covenant partners will receive quarterly contribution statements for the second quarter of 2020 (April-June). Your contribution statements are intended to serve as a reminder of your 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 gdurant@florencefirst.org. Thank you for your faithful support, both financially and with your time and talent, of First Presbyterian Church.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Gwen".

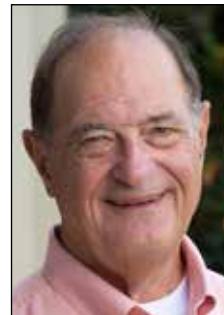
Giving thanks for God's comfort

2 CORINTHIANS 1:3-11

There is no doubt that Paul suffered for his witness about Jesus as Christ and his faith in Jesus Christ. The Corinthian Church had a tumultuous relationship with their founder, Paul. He wrote several letters over a period of 10 years to them. They had helped him, maybe even with a financial gift. Paul suffered from physical ailments, and the Church nursed him back to health.

The first part of 2 Corinthians is a letter of thanksgiving. Paul identifies the LORD God with three characteristics. First, God is the Father of Jesus Christ. Second, God is the Father of mercy. Third, God is the God of all comfort. The word used for consolation, console, and comfort is a fairly common Greek word with many meanings. The four main meanings are to call or summon, to encourage, to request, and to console or comfort.

The context of 2 Corinthians 1:3-11 calls for console or comfort because Paul uses it in response to suffering. Human beings need God to comfort them when they are suffering. here are three types of suffering in human lives. There are tragedies as occurrences which cause pain and even death. here are consequences to our actions in which we bring suffering on ourselves or other humans. The third type of suffering is what happens to Christians because they are Christians. Paul intends the Church to be comforted in this type of sufferings. We can relate these sufferings by knowing missionaries have suffered persecution and even death and some governments have persecuted the Church. Over history, even the Church has used its power to exploit the weak and poor. Paul has been



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

comforted in his sufferings. He does not seek to explain human suffering but only that God comforts our suffering on this earth.

In 2 Corinthians 1:3-11 Paul uses the word comfort 10 times and suffering seven times. In the church, we as Christians are called to comfort others when they suffer and we will receive comfort when we suffer. In this way God uses human beings to help others. Paul relates one event of his affliction and how he is comforted in 2 Corinthians 1:8-11. Paul experiences physical suffering but feels the comfort. His life is threatened in Asia, and he is rescued. Paul believed he would live until Christ returned to earth. But there is evidence in Philippians that he believed he would die before the Second Coming of Jesus. At the time of writing 2 Corinthians, he felt his deliverance would be in the coming of Jesus.

Paul's deliverance is a reason for thanksgiving: "many will give thanks on our behalf for the blessing granted us through the prayers of many (2 Corinthians 1:11b)." The past few months have been a time of suffering for millions in our world. Many have died. I believe God is with us in our suffering for whatever reason. God will comfort us and for this comfort we give thanks.

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.



Downtown Roll & Festival



More than 200 people turned out for the Downtown Roll and Cycling Festival held Saturday, June 13. "It was the best one in 5 years. Touch Free Water obstacle course was a hit. Thanks to the youth group that worked the course and dismantled the whole thing for me at the end!" said Janet Brand, director of the event. There was wonderful police support. People stayed after the ride and had a free lunch (hotdog, Pepsi, ice cream) and socialized. Lots of races and different faiths, were represented and it was well received in community.

Downtown Roll & Festival



Elder Janet and Buddy Brand



Children line up to participate in the obstacle course.



Senior Pastor Dr. Darryl Evans and his children, Addie and Will



Rev. Chris Handley



Meg and
Tallon
Temple

Congratulations to our graduates!



James Allen IV



Finnley Hodge



Emma Howell



Jace Jansen



McKenlee Kendrick



Maddox Lail



Nova Lesesne



Auriana Martin



Abigail Tuttle



Adeline Wallace



Hats off to our 2020, Child Development Center, 4K Class Graduates! A graduation celebration parade was held on Tuesday, June 16, around the fountain area in front of the Welcome Center. The children arrived in cars, trucks and golf carts, driven by their parents and decorated with signs and balloons. Mrs. Dawn Gerhard, our 4K Lead Teacher, other CDC Staff

and Teachers, along with several church staff members cheered the graduates on! We are very proud of our graduates, and we will miss them all next year. Watch out Kindergarten, here they come! Blessings,

Betha



JULY Birthdays

JULY 1

Randy Cranford
Julia Watkins

JULY 2

Pessy Losah
Addie Evans
William Bratton
Derek Hemmingsen

JULY 3

Harper Suggs
Harriett Gilpin
Frances Welch
Avery Hucks

JULY 4

Natalie Hall
Louise King

JULY 5

Ken Jackson
Erik Marechal

JULY 6

Benjamin Lewis
Bobby Garris
Amelia Carter
Mary Kirkpatrick
Weston Lewis
Emma Carter
Kate Carter

JULY 7

Renee McRae
Wendy Singletary
Wanda Granger
Stirling Temple
Guy Slagle
Richard Hopkins

JULY 8

Maggie Reece
Emily Jordan

JULY 9

David Prince

JULY 11

Frank Hodges
Rob Lewis
David Spearman

JULY 12

Sammie Kennedy
John Hofler
Luke Poston
Susan Rhea

JULY 13

Jan Bray
Nabil Cotran
Ann Houck

JULY 14

Hunter Moore
Gregg Jones
Barbara Maffett

JULY 15

Robbie Suggs
Eiley Foxworth

JULY 16

Pat Conyers

JULY 17

Mac Gandy
Jessica Garris
Margaret Lee
Mitchell Green
Jim Moseley

JULY 18

Pam Morgan
Robert Miles

JULY 19

Jane Moss
Landen Turner

JULY 20

Isla Louise McCoy
Marty Taylor
Nancy Harwell

JULY 21

Amanda Grubb
Denise King
Weber Mimms
Freeman Williams
Mike Porter
Alice Bankson

JULY 22

Ella Grimsley
Martha Nance
Rob Molnar
Jimmy Green

JULY 23

Walt Burch
Alice Caldwell
Tenny Moss
Martha Blanton

JULY 24

Beth Player
Ford Scott
Kim Ryan
Christy Wallace

JULY 25

Shawn Bulliner
Alicia Truman
Elizabeth Tuttle

JULY 27

Troy Mbunu
Michael Miles

JULY 28

Eddie McRae
Margaret Jones
Hannah Moree
Caleb King

JULY 29

Thomas Hardee
David DuBose
Bruce Crawford

JULY 30

David Sanderson
Vicki Hebert
Thomas Davis

JULY 31

Palmer Jones
Marie Jordan
Seth Crawford





July



WEDNESDAY, JULY 1

10:00 AM Summer Women's Bible Study
4:00 PM Youth Zoom meeting
5:00 PM Youth Zoom meeting
7:00 PM Women's Bible Study

THURSDAY, JULY 2

10:30 AM Prayer Group: Lawson-Rain Chapel

FRIDAY, JULY 3

CDC closed for staff development

SATURDAY, JULY 4 INDEPENDENCE DAY



SUNDAY, JULY 5

10:00 AM Worship Service
6:00 PM Youth Fellowship Zoom meeting

MONDAY, JULY 6

Church office and CDC closed for holiday

WEDNESDAY, JULY 8

10:00 AM Summer Women's Bible Study
4:00 PM Youth Zoom meeting
5:00 PM Youth Zoom meeting
6:30 PM Praise Team Rehearsal
7:00 PM Women's Bible Study

THURSDAY, JULY 9

10:30 AM Prayer Group: Lawson-Rain Chapel

SATURDAY, JULY 11

6:00 AM Parking Lot Mission: Hope Health

SUNDAY, JULY 12

10:00 AM Worship Service
6:00 PM Youth Zoom meeting

TUESDAY, JULY 14

6:30 PM Session: Off Campus

WEDNESDAY, JULY 15

10:00 AM Summer Women's Bible Study
4:00 PM Youth Zoom meeting
5:00 PM Youth Zoom meeting
7:00 PM Women's Bible Study

THURSDAY, JULY 16

10:30 AM Prayer Group: Lawson-Rain Chapel

SATURDAY, JULY 18

10:00 AM Aglow International

SUNDAY, JULY 19

10:00 AM Worship Service
6:00 PM Youth Zoom meeting

TUESDAY, JULY 21

6:30 PM Board of Deacons

WEDNESDAY, JULY 22

10:00 AM Summer Women's Bible Study
4:00 PM Youth Zoom meeting
5:00 PM Youth Zoom meeting
6:30 PM Praise Team Rehearsal
7:00 PM Women's Bible Study

THURSDAY, JULY 23

10:30 AM Prayer Group: Lawson-Rain Chapel

SUNDAY, JULY 26

10:00 AM Worship Service
6:00 PM Youth Zoom meeting

TUESDAY, JULY 28

6:30 PM Session

WEDNESDAY, JULY 29

10:00 AM Summer Women's Bible Study
4:00 PM Youth Zoom meeting
5:00 PM Youth Zoom meeting
7:00 PM Women's Bible Study

THURSDAY, JULY 30

10:30 AM Prayer Group: Lawson-Rain Chapel

Law enforcement luncheon



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

Clara Maxwell

Tom and Clariann Kellam

Macy Turner

Memorials

Lola Coggeshall

Jerry Fussell

Doris Poston

*Lord Hear
Our Prayer*

Households

FLOCK 1: Linda Westbrook

FLOCK 2: Bill and Alicia Truman

FLOCK 3: Steven and Caroline Toniolo, Grier

FLOCK 4: Dan and Beth Abernathy, Annie and Amelia

FLOCK 5: Macy Turner

FLOCK 6: Ginger Sullivan

FLOCK 7: Peete and Linda Smiley

FLOCK 8: David and Denise Alvey

Births

George Faulkner Henderson, son of Edward and Christie Henderson

Lucile "Cile" Caroline MacLennan, daughter of Perry and Jenna MacLennan

Sick & Recovering

Madeline Brice

Jack Cagle

Dwight Fincannon

Harriett Hindman

Isla Louise McCoy

Glenn Odom

Rosanne Saunders

Peggy Corbin Scheu

Alan Thomas

Elders

Jayne Boswell

Ryon Watkins

Deacons

Kim Hawkins

James Johnson

Mission

Manna House

Tim and Annette Gulick

Women in Ministry

Berta Allen

Jane Ames

Sunday School Teachers

Jan Bray

Heather Taylor

Staff

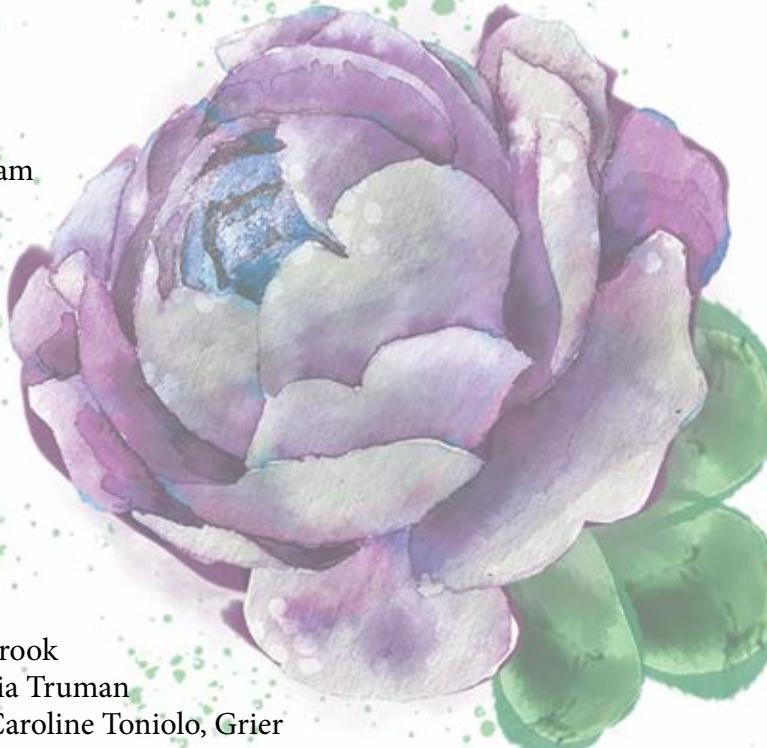
Gwen DuRant

Teresa Stewart

Baptism

Grier Elizabeth Toniolo,

daughter of Steven and Caroline Toniolo



God's Work in our Community

Manna House

Manna House is one of the local missions First Presbyterian supports. Founded in 1986 by an inter-denominational group of men and women who observed a need in our community. The Manna House is a non-profit organization that provides food and other basic services for those who need a hand up.

The Manna House served its first meal on July Fourth in 1987. Since then, the need has grown exponentially — clientele from 11 to over 200 served daily.

Meals are prepared by the staff, cooks, and dedicated volunteers who work together to serve guests. Among those served are the working poor, the elderly, the chronically or temporarily homeless, and individuals in crisis. The common thread in each of the personal stories is every one is in need of someone who cares. The Manna House also has an emergency food pantry that's open a few days a week. It provides a two-week supply of food to those in emergency need. The intention is to help stabilize the family until a more permanent way is available.

It is located at 450 Jarrott St. in Florence.

God's Work Around the World

Tim and Annette Gulick

One couple of the global missionaries First Presbyterian supports is Tim and Annette Gulick. After working as the summer youth interns at First Presbyterian Church in the 1990s and finishing seminary, Tim and Annette Gulick joined the mission organization, One Challenge International. Since 1996, Annette and Tim have focused on providing youth ministry training and materials.

Recently, before they could travel to Ethiopia and South Sudan, their flights were canceled: "Apparently, God knew what he was doing. If we had left as planned, we wouldn't have been allowed to enter South Sudan, because they closed the country to all foreigners. We would have gotten stuck in Ethiopia. Instead, we got 'stuck' in Orlando, Florida, where family and friends have taken us in.

Despite the disappointment, we do have good news: after four years of teamwork, programming, and many setbacks, we have finally gotten the new www.ParaLideres.org website up and running. This is the Spanish youth ministry website we've managed for the last 21 years and – in another show of God's providence – these past few weeks it needed my focused attention to guide the team across the project finish line.



Our travel plans have been canceled, but our work sure hasn't slowed down. One new project is collaborating with Family. fit (www.family.fit). It is an internet, family-fitness program (body and soul) to help families enjoy and grow healthier during their coronavirus quarantine and beyond. It was initiated by Christian sports ministries, and they invited us to help write some of the devotionals for teens.

When you think of us, please pray for our students and colleagues, especially those in Africa and India. Please ask God to provide what they need and encourage them, especially during the lockdown.



Church News

Haiti relief fundraiser raises over \$48,000

Thank you to everyone that donated to the Haiti relief fund. We are sending what we have raised so far which is over \$48,000.

Pastor Actionnel Fleurisma, leader of Operation Force for Christ, Bayonnais, wrote, "How could anyone imagine that such a huge amount could have been raised at this time in our history? To God be the glory! Thank you!!"

If you have not donated yet but would like to, we will be sending a second installment in the fall. The need is great in this country devastated by so much. Thank you for sharing the love of Christ at home and throughout the world.

Donations help our friends in Bayonnais, Haiti, who need assistance more than ever because of the 16-year drought compounded with the lack of access to food and funding because of the pandemic. Actionnel Fleurisma, one of the missionaries we support, says there's widespread famine and starvation. For more information, contact Janet Brand, janet81661@aol.com.



Red Cross Blood Drive success

Thank you to all who participated in the blood drive during Helping Florence Flourish's ServeFLO week! Twenty-seven units were collected Thursday with the potential to save 81 lives. Thirty-one donors presented at the drive. These numbers are awesome especially during these challenging times.

Scouting Ministry Update

Our Boy Scouts are attending "Virtual Summer Scout Camps" this summer. They are camping at home and earning merit badges in online classes.

We know that all things work together for good for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose.

ROMANS 8:28, NRSV

Columbarium Garden Construction



During the next several weeks, part of First Presbyterian will be transformed from an outdated parking area to a beautiful landscaped area featuring sidewalks, gathering spaces that will eventually serve as a backdrop to our columbarium. The landscaping and hardscape work are being handled by local contractors. The company building the columbarium is based in Canada. Our Columbarium committee is receiving monthly updates from the company. We are hopeful that work will be completed later this summer. For more information, read Don Hebert's column on page 4 or call him at the church office, 843-662-2583.

*God is love, and whoever abides in love abides in God,
and God abides in him.* – I John 4:16

CONFIRMATION JOURNEY

Please continue to pray for our confirmands as they walk with their mentors on this faith journey. Their Confirmation Banquet will be held at 6 p.m. Wednesday, August 19, in the Christian Life Center. Our confirmands will also confirm their commitment to God and the church during the Sunday worship service, August 23.

Confirmand

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

Mentor

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



Mac Burch



Brooklynne Clancy



Jacqueline Clancy



Lily Green



Joey Hall



Ella Hylton



Mason Slaughter



Laura Tiller

Snapshots, special moments, and big trucks...

Do you journal? I am not very good about journaling. I will capture special thoughts some days on paper and will frequently date verses or passages that really speak to me in my Bible during my quiet time, but I am really not very disciplined about journaling. But I do take pictures and snapshots. God speaks to me in pictures.

Let me share a few snapshots from my summer here at First:

Helping Florence Flourish

Lisa Ivory helping make COVID Hygiene Kits in the Lawson-Rain Chapel. I know Lisa through her leadership in our Mission Camps and Time2PEEP ministry. Many of you have known her much longer than I.

Lisa Ivory is a beautiful follower of Christ. She is a disciple, and she is gentle and joyful as she makes disciples.



Baptism

Our newest covenant partner, Grier Elizabeth Toniolo, receiving the Sacrament of Baptism. She is just beginning her faith journey. And we, the Covenant Partners of FPC, promised to undertake with her parents “the Christian nurture of Grier Elizabeth so that in due time she may confess her faith in Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior.” We are a part of her faith journey as we fulfill our pledge and God’s call on our lives found in the book of Matthew. “Therefore go and make disciples...” (Matt. 28: 19-20)

Construction

Big trucks and real progress. Construction of the Columbarium & Memory Garden on a hot summer day, as seen from above. It's always fun to watch big trucks! Life is a journey... Enjoy! Susan Snow

Loving all His children well

By Chris Handley
Associate Pastor

Dottie and I were walking the neighborhood, and we ran into a neighbor that we had not seen in a long time. She shared how her marriage had fallen apart and how difficult life had become. She has children (daughters) and my mind ran to the years my mom was busy raising my sister and me. The older I get the more impressed I am about how my mom did what she did to raise us. She taught school to make ends meet and she loved us through all our antics! She remarried a few years after the divorce for which I am thankful.

But, how did she do it? How can anyone be a single parent? Parenting is the hardest job there is! But then being a single parent is that much more difficult.

All parents are called to provide physical and emotional care. (Love your children well). Practically speaking that means first spending time with them, and then engaging them in conversation by asking questions. The next thing to work at is giving instruction. Be sure to teach and guide them with gentle



and sometimes firm instruction. In other words, discipline your children. This is especially difficult for the single parent because they're at risk in losing favor. But try to remember if there is no discipline, children are apt to fall into poor habits that lead down a poor path. Single parents may especially struggle with this; but ask God to help you IN LOVE point out sinful, selfish, counter productive behavior for the good of your child. Be careful how you administer discipline, but be sure to discipline your children. (Ephesians 6:4). Then probably the best thing you can do for your child is to point them to Jesus.

My mom is and Dad was Christian. Obviously they lived through missteps, but their faith left a mark on my sister and me. As I think about it, though, I do not have memories of them sharing their faith with us. I wish they had! Verbal testimony came to us through friends and adult mentors. If you know Jesus, you will model a life with Him

AND you will speak of Him. One small way to do that is leading a family in prayer at meal time. That is a witness! But try to share something with your child about what you are learning about following Jesus.

Finally, single parents need help! So do everything you can to get your children to be around other mature adult Christians! And I mean people who are not only good people, but also people who speak of and live for Jesus.

Being a single parent is tough! Those of us who know single parents need to pray for and support them in any way that we can. Single parents be encouraged by this. . .

As I reflect on my life and share my spiritual journey, I have to say my parents' divorce was one of the significant catalysts that got me started in the faith! Isn't God amazing? Would I wish those kind of events on anyone? NO! Just remember God is working in your home even when you think you are alone!

Contact Chris Handley at chandely@florencefirst.org.

“Fathers, do not provoke your children to anger, but bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord.”

Ephesians 6:4, ESV

Youth Ministry



Youth pack COVID 19 Hygiene Kits during ServeFlo.



Youth volunteer with Downtown Roll and Cycling Festival.

Youth Schedule for July

- Sunday School: No SS in July
- Small group: No small group in July
- MOVE: July 12, 19 / 5 p.m. Middle School, 6 p.m. High School, Outside (weather permitting), No meal
- 412 on Wednesdays: July 8, 22 / 4 p.m. Middle School, 5 p.m. High School
- East Florence Mission: No EFM in July

Lake Day

- On Wednesday, July 15, the youth will take a day trip to Lake Murray for a day of fun in the sun. We will rent pontoon boats and spend time swimming and cruising the lake. Plan to meet at the church at 9 a.m. We will return by 7 p.m. Please bring money for lunch.

Youth Presbytery Retreat

- The youth presbytery retreat will be held Nov. 6-8. The retreat is being held at Lookup Lodge. We will leave from the church at 4 p.m. Friday, Nov. 6, and return by 5 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 8. The cost is \$160. This will be our fall retreat for 2020. Contact Brock for more details.

Parent Classes

- Our plans for the parenting class have been pushed back for the time being. Please be on the lookout for more information coming soon.



700 PARK AVE., FLORENCE, SC 29501
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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

