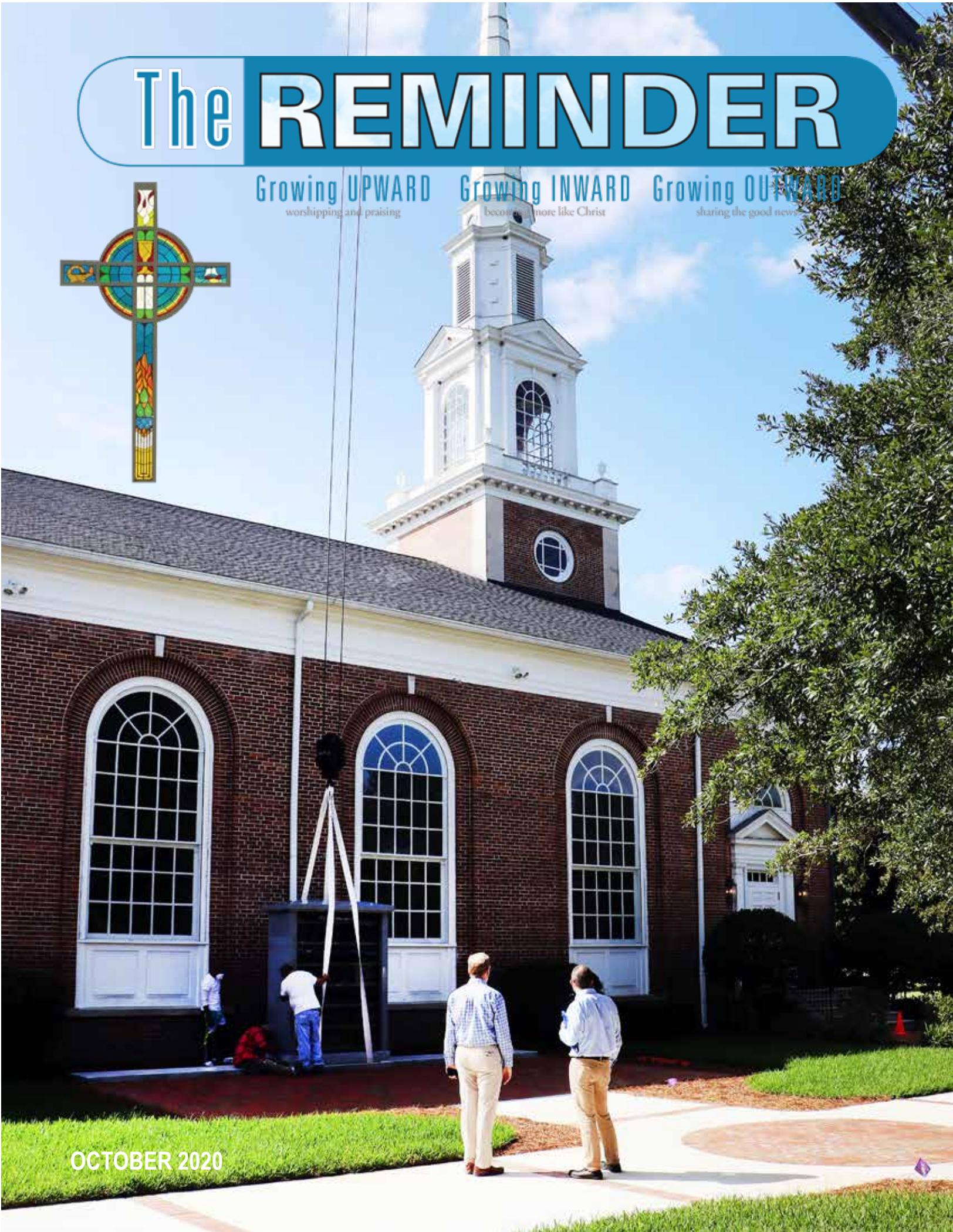


# The REMINDER

Growing UPWARD  
worshipping and praising

Growing INWARD  
becoming more like Christ

Growing OUTWARD  
sharing the good news



OCTOBER 2020



# SESSION HIGHLIGHTS

Greetings in the name of the Lord!

Have you ever wondered what the Session is up to or what is on the horizon for our church? We want to keep you in the loop by providing session highlights each month.

There have been several organizational improvements that we are pleased to share. We really believe these changes will enable us to better serve covenant partners and the community.

We have combined the Evangelism Unit and the Service Unit to form the Outreach Unit. We found that many of our ministries and goals were overlapping. We have a combined interest in reaching out to the lost and encouraging our covenant partners to ascertain the work that God has prepared in advance for them to do. See Ephesians 2:8-10.

We are making it a priority to encourage each of you to identify what God is calling you to do in this place. We would love for you to get involved or more involved in one of our ministries. Please reach out to me if you would like to discuss your calling further.

We are also re-envisioning the Fellowship of Elders. We use this term to describe elders who were on a previous session. We want our church to continue to benefit from their experience and wisdom. We are currently reaching out to them to see what they feel led to do.

Finally, we recently donated funds required to build a “Tiny House” in Hope Village, a group of homes to be built through the House of Hope for homeless families in Florence. Several covenant partners are involved and attended the groundbreaking recently. We are really excited about this project, particularly the ministry component of connecting with the families that stay in our house, and sharing the love of Christ with them. I look forward to updating you on these and other initiatives each month. Please contact me or any current elder with questions or ideas.

Debbie Jackson  
Clerk of Session  
Djacksonlawyer@gmail.com  
843-260- 4352

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**ON THE COVER**  
**Senior Pastor Dr. Darryl Evans and Associate Pastor Rev. Chris Handley watch as the Columbarium is installed on campus. For more pictures, see pages 14 and 15.**

# The Changing Seasons

Dear Church Family,

As the heat of the summer fades and we have tastes of the cool winds of fall, so the Church is changing seasons. This first use of “season” speaks to the timing of our weather patterns (chronos); the latter sense of the word is used in the Bible – “season” as in “an appointed time” (kairos). The appointed time is when something is happening in God’s Plan. “The time (kairos) has come and the Kingdom of God has drawn near” (Mark 1:15). I think both are the chronos and kairos – the weather and God’s timing – are still unfolding – bringing change – in this place.

This past month we thanked God for Brock and Gretchen for their service and now we welcome Palmer with open arms. The session is diligently working to see how well we can reasonably switch gears to have a closer semblance of normalcy. The session has had some robust discussion and times of prayer, and what might seem like simple changes at first have great complexity when factoring in the what is best for the life of the congregation. I am very proud of our church officers.

I also feel God stirring in our hearts. Our desire for authentic mentoring and discipling relationships is growing. New small groups are beginning to emerge among our youth. A group of young marrieds is just starting to form. The adopt-a-senior relationships are

taking hold. As Rocky Pearce shared in worship the other day, his small group is open and growing. Today, many people are hungry. In fact, this very morning someone who does not know the Lord was expressing his hunger to me. The opportunities are there.

I think this dynamic of having some restrictions in our lives due to covid, while having new relationships and inner shiftings of the heart will continue for some time. There is a season for everything.

Finally, as I have said in worship, it was a great joy to attend the September 10 groundbreaking for the “Tiny Village” for the House of Hope. First Presbyterian sponsored one of the houses, and later we will have the chance to befriend those who live in that house. The House of Hope keeps its Christian faith front and center, while giving a “hand up and not a hand out” – all while nurturing the life of discipleship of the residents. What a wonderful work of love to be joined with.

In season and out of season, our God is good. Whatever season we are in, we have many reasons to be thankful.

Lord be with you,




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## 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](mailto: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](http://www.florencefirst.org/flowers-in-the-sanctuary) — also has been set up for signing up and so dates available can easily be seen.



## A Thought or Two Challenging You Toward Discipleship

# Serving homeless needs

About two months ago after church I was leaving the building when a young black man came to the office door looking for help. His name is Korey. He and his family most recently were living in Columbia. He explained that he and his wife and 10-month-old baby had unfortunately been kicked out of the living situation they were in because of a conflict. Therefore, they had made their way to the Florence-Darlington area since he had grown up here hoping to make a fresh start. They were asking for a ride to a friend's place out in Darlington County that they had been offered to stay temporarily. I agreed to take them. When we got to the place, I hesitated to leave them.

We drove down a dirt road to the address and we came to a 25-foot camper that already had a family with children living in it. This is where they wanted me to leave them. They had all their belongings in two large suitcases, several plastic bags and a backpack. These belongings seemed like a lot considering the size of the camper. And oh, I forgot to mention, Jazmine, the mother, was eight months pregnant. I could not fathom their predicament. But they were sure this was what they wanted to do. We exchanged phone numbers, and bewildered by it all, I left them.

About two weeks ago Jazmine, who had given birth to their second son, called distraught over their circumstances. I was not surprised to hear

they could no longer stay where they were. It was just too small, and they had overstayed their welcome. As we talked, I heard the distress in her voice, while her newborn was crying. So, I gave her the phone number for the Courtney McGuinness homeless shelter. Then I called the director, Wanda Vereen, to see if there was an opening. Wanda wanted to help! So, I called Jazmine back encouraging her to move in that direction. But later that afternoon, I spoke to Jazmine and she told me that she had found out that she and the babies would be separated from Korey if they were to stay at the shelter. That was not what the family wanted, so they were unwilling to go. I understood. I called Salvation Army in hopes that they could help, but they could not help a family either.

So finally, I called Modestine Brody at Resurrection Restoration Center for Homeless (RRCH) on Douglas Street and asked her if she could help this family. She did not normally serve families, but Modestine was praying about moving in that direction. If you remember we had a ministry in Florence called Family Promise that was unable to keep up its ministry going for many reasons. So that left Florence without the ability to serve homeless families. Knowing this, Modestine was praying about stepping into that gap even before I called. Modestine, then, spoke to Jazmine and told her she would work with them, even though she was not quite ready to

accommodate families. But even then, Jazmine and Korey were hesitant because of some of the uncertainty about how it would work so they declined the help again.

Then Thursday of last week, Jazmine, Korey and I spoke again. They were now living on the streets in Darlington with the two babies. It could not be much worse. They knew they needed help even though they could not be sure about the situation. I was able to pick them up that afternoon and take them to Modestine and RRCH. It was a blessing to watch the men who were living there jump into action to serve this young family. Modestine/RRCH is trying to step into a ministry need in our community.

Please pray for the couple and for the Resurrection Restoration Center for Homeless as it tries to provide for families seeking help.

*Chris*

## Toward a Healthier Church

# Columbarium arrival

Our columbarium is here, FINALLY! Tuesday, September 22, 2020, marked the culmination of a dream and desire that dates to 1994, for our church to have a columbarium. Special thanks to our Columbarium Team, Susan Bankson, Glenn Bell, George Beshere,



Greg Cleveland, Steve Grady, and Ginger Owen for their work in bringing this dream to fruition. Our current team has been working on the project

### INSIDE

More images of the Columbarium's arrival, installation, pages 14-15. More images of the Columbarium's arrival, installation, pages 14-15. They have conducted interest surveys, researched various locations for the garden, developed operating policies and procedures and assisted our covenant partners with arrangements to reserve a niche. We are currently working on a service of dedication for the columbarium. The church is pleased to be able to offer this option for our covenant partners as part of the end-of-life planning process. If you are interested in reserving a niche, please contact George Beshere, Steve Grady, Glenn Bell, or me. We'll be glad to assist you with the necessary arrangements.

### Campus Parking

In an effort to ease the transition as we begin to return to on-site worship and other activities, this is a good time for a hospitality reminder as it relates to parking on campus. First and foremost, we have plenty of on-campus parking and ample handicap accessible parking in the lot behind the Sanctuary adjacent to the Jenkins Fellowship Hall. With that in mind please:

**Park only in designated spaces** – This is a safety issue. Drivers and pedestrians need to be able to see and be seen in the church parking lots. Please avoid parking in a manner than blocks or restricts the traffic lanes in the parking lot. Also, please avoid blocking sidewalk access points. This includes the new sidewalks through the columbarium garden

area adjacent to the Sanctuary.

**Observe Handicap parking** – We have reserved parking spaces marked for use by our members and guest who have significant mobility impairments. Please observe these signs.

**Do not block driveway entrances** – Please be sure that your vehicle does not extend into the driveway entrance. This is a safety concern for people attempting to enter from or exit onto Park Avenue. It could also present an obstacle to first responders (Fire, Medic, Police) in the event of an emergency on campus. Also, make sure that your vehicle does not extend into the sidewalk on Park Avenue. The sidewalk along Park Avenue is under city jurisdiction and vehicles blocking the sidewalk could be subject to a citation or possible towing.

**Practice "Sacrificial Parking"** – As a show of hospitality, I would like to encourage all able-bodied covenant partners to begin or continue the practice of "sacrificial parking" by reserving the closer parking spaces for our guests and for those in the congregation with mobility issues.

### 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 had to get creative with worship, Sunday School and the other things we "normally" do. While we are longing for things to "get back to normal" we are beginning to hear the term "new normal." One thing that has not changed is that we have commitments to support missionaries (global and domestic) as well as supporting local benevolence agencies that are on the front lines during the pandemic. As we continue to move through this time of being the "church scattered" and as we look to the future, I want to encourage all covenant partners to continue to give as you have these past months. As always, we are thankful for your continued financial support of the mission and ministry of First Presbyterian Church.

# The Ministry of Reconciliation

The main issue dealt with in 1 Corinthians is the primacy of love in the life of one who follows Jesus. If we are to be a disciple of Jesus then we must become love. A Christian has no choice but to love.

The main issue in 2 Corinthians is the definition of the ministry for the church and each person who is a disciple. We are to be reconciled first to God and then to one another. Reconciliation and forgiveness are a necessary part of love. In the section of 2 Corinthians 2:14-7:4, Paul defines ministry using Jesus and the example set between Paul and the Corinthian Church as reconciliation. The logic of the letter builds to 2 Corinthians 5:17-18. "So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new! All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation."

The major theme of Paul's letters is that salvation humanity is a free gift. Salvation is offered to all of humanity through the faith of Christ. The result of accepting this gift is to begin a journey of righteous living. Paul seeks to define justification with a new word, reconciliation. Paul lays groundwork for his statement in 2 Corinthians 5:16-21 with a discussion of righteousness. Right living is the purpose of a devout Pharisaic Jew. The righteousness of the follower of Christ is needed by both Jewish Christians and Gentile Christians. In his writings, Paul seeks to explain the importance of the law for the follower of Jesus without the condemnation of the law. I believe Paul is seeking to speak of the freedom of righteous living without the burden. Paul is a devout Pharisee before his call (conversion) to believe Jesus is the Christ. Paul continues to seek to be righteous but understands true righteousness is found only in being reconciled to God through following Christ. Jesus as the Messiah or Christ becomes the key to Paul's understanding of life. Jesus appeared to Paul calling him to be a missionary to the nations (Gentiles) to relate the Pharisaic Jewish faith to people who had not been exposed to the Jewish faith and Jesus as the Messiah. He sees his faith as a Pharisaic Jew and knowledge of the law as an asset to the follower of Christ.



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

Paul uses three images to describe the triumph of God in the Corinthian Church. The first is a triumphal entry of Christ as victor. Jesus is the victor over sin and death. The second uses two different words for the impact of the Church in the world. These words are translated fragrance and aroma. This smell is Jesus' sacrifice for the sins of the world. The sense of smell is used to give thanks for the Church. "But thanks be to God, who in Christ always leads us in triumphal procession, and through us spreads in every place the fragrance that comes from knowing him (2 Corinthians 2:14)." The third image is the acceptance or refusal to claim the aroma of Christ. "For we are the aroma of Christ to God among those who are being saved and among those who are perishing; to the one a fragrance from death to death, to the other a fragrance from life to life (2 Corinthians 2:16)." Salvation in Christ is free. We are reconciled to God and to one another.

*Mike*

# Finding resolve amidst a pandemic

In late January of this year things seemed to be under control, for the most part, here at First Presbyterian Child Development Center. We had just finished our 2020-2021 school registration and the future looked bright.

Plans were set in place to expand our infant program to allow for 10 additional infants, a real need in the Florence area. We were busy making phone calls to area childcare centers, comparing notes regarding their aftercare programs. Plans were being made to start preparing a place for school-aged children, who would need afterschool care in the fall. In the midst of all of this planning and preparation the CDC students and staff were busy gearing up for one of our favorite school events, the annual CDC Art Show and Sale, which was scheduled for late March.

Then, suddenly with little warning, everyday life as we knew it here at the First Presbyterian Child Development Center and in our world, abruptly STOPPED. We were forced to change gears and to change them rapidly. As the COVID-19 pandemic unfolded it was evident that change was here.

The events that followed in the next six months are all jumbled in my mind. Someday maybe I will get them in order. Maybe I will write a book and title it, "How to Jumpstart a Child Development Center, Affected by Covid." The book would have three chapters, "Life Before COVID," "Survival during COVID" and "What's Next." The book could focus on the five major phases of



finding normalcy after COVID-19. In my view I see five "R"s. They are:  
 REVIVE  
 REJUVINATE  
 REGROUP  
 RESTORE and  
 REJOICE.

There is not enough time now for me to explain my word choices. The COVID-19 pandemic remains. The story of COVID and the affects on all of us has not come to an end and it may never end. The same is with grief. The stages of grief tend to be a series of emotions:

DENIAL  
 ANGER  
 BARGAINING  
 DEPRESSION and  
 ACCEPTANCE.

My grief experience has taught me that the emotions of grief are not in sequence, either. One can experience every grief emotion in a single day or they can be spread out,

similar to a roller coaster. When you lose someone to death your life is never the same. You learn to deal with it and go on. After COVID-19, we will never be the same.

Every one of us experiences loss in a different way. As we look around at our world everyone of us is different. As humans we cannot fix the world and make things soft and fuzzy for everyone. It sometimes may look like we are in this pandemic thing all alone and no one else is experiencing the good the bad and the ugly. That is when we want to push the panic button. That is when I run to my favorite scripture:

From the ends of the earth I call to you, I call as my heart grows faint; lead me to the rock that is higher than I. Psalm 61:2

Blessings,

*Beth*



# OCTOBER

**THURSDAY, OCTOBER 1**

10:15 AM Women's Bible Study: Women's Only Class  
10:30 AM Prayer Group: Lawson-Rain

**SUNDAY, OCTOBER 4**

10:00 AM Worship Service  
5:00 PM Youth Fellowship  
5:30 PM Engaging God's Word Bible study

**MONDAY, OCTOBER 5**

5:30 PM Stretch Your Faith: CLC  
7:00 PM Boy Scouts: Outside or Scout Room

**TUESDAY, OCTOBER 6**

9:30 AM WiM Coordinator's Team Meeting: JFH  
11:00 AM WiM Bible Moderators: Lawson-Rain Chapel  
12:00 PM Just for Women Bible Study  
5:00 PM Women's Prayer Group - Hucks

**WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 7**

5:00 PM Handbells Rehearsal  
6:30 PM Praise Team Rehearsal

**THURSDAY, OCTOBER 8**

7:00 AM CDC Fall Festival: CLC  
10:15 AM Women's Bible Study: Women's Only Class  
10:30 AM Prayer Group: Lawson-Rain

**SATURDAY, OCTOBER 10**

6:00 AM Parking Lot Mission: HopeHealth Parking Lot  
9:00 AM WiM Bread & Fish: Call Peggy Swearingen

**SUNDAY, OCTOBER 11**

10:00 AM Worship Service  
5:00 PM Youth Fellowship  
5:30 PM Engaging God's Word Bible study

**MONDAY, OCTOBER 12**

5:30 PM Stretch Your Faith: CLC  
6:30 PM WiM Women of Grace  
7:00 PM Boy Scouts

**TUESDAY, OCTOBER 13**

10:00 AM WiM Sonflowers: Pilgrim Classroom  
10:00 AM WiM Joyful Hearts: JFH  
12:00 PM Just for Women's Bible study: CLC  
12:00 PM WiM Soul Sisters: JFH  
3:00 PM WiM Serenity: Lawson-Rain  
6:30 PM Session  
6:30 PM Prayer Warriors: Lawson-Rain

**WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 14**

5:00 PM Handbells Rehearsal  
6:30 PM Praise Team Rehearsal  
6:30 PM WiM Women of Valor

**THURSDAY, OCTOBER 15**

10:15 AM Women's Bible Study: Women's Only Class  
10:30 AM Prayer Group: Lawson-Rain

**SUNDAY, OCTOBER 18**

10:00 AM Worship Service  
5:00 PM Youth Fellowship  
5:30 PM Engaging God's Word Bible study

**MONDAY, OCTOBER 19**

5:30 PM Stretch Your Faith: CLC  
7:00 PM Boy Scouts

**TUESDAY, OCTOBER 20**

12:00 PM Just for Women's Bible study: CLC  
6:30 PM Board of Deacons: JFH

**WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 21**

5:00 PM Handbells Rehearsal  
5:45 PM Fellowship: Cookout and Games  
6:30 PM Praise Team Rehearsal  
6:30 PM WiM Women of Valor

**THURSDAY, OCTOBER 22**

10:15 AM Women's Bible Study: Women's Only Class  
10:30 AM Prayer Group: Lawson-Rain

**SUNDAY, OCTOBER 25**

10:00 AM Worship Service  
5:00 PM Youth Fellowship  
5:30 PM Engaging God's Word Bible study

**MONDAY, OCTOBER 26**

5:30 PM Stretch Your Faith: CLC  
7:00 PM Boy Scouts

**TUESDAY, OCTOBER 27**

12:00 PM Just for Women's Bible study: CLC

**WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 28**

5:00 PM Handbells Rehearsal  
6:30 PM Praise Team Rehearsal

**THURSDAY, OCTOBER 29**

10:15 AM Women's Bible Study: Women's Only Class  
10:30 AM Prayer Group: Lawson-Rain



# OCTOBER

## Birthdays

**OCTOBER 1**

Tiffany Straus

**OCTOBER 2**Sarah Dozier  
Thatcher Jordan**OCTOBER 3**Theresa Garriss  
James Whitehead**OCTOBER 4**Marlene Pantos  
Diane Rouse  
Wendell Jones  
Rosanne Saunders  
Caden McKay  
Kohl Duncan  
Wanda LaSane**OCTOBER 5**Stan Lehmans  
Brock Page  
Shand Josey  
Jake Stokes**OCTOBER 6**Erin Johnson  
Lane Dowdell  
Ralph Bratcher  
Hugh Ervin**OCTOBER 7**Lana Lehmans  
Alex Lewis  
Will Lewis  
Billy Patrick**OCTOBER 8**

Bruce Hubbs

**OCTOBER 9**Charlotte Tuttle  
Ann Collins Josey  
Barb Rosenlund**OCTOBER 10**

Patricia Fast

**OCTOBER 11**Ruth Watts  
Tena Rabon  
Bill Truman  
Laura Anne Hofler  
David Spivey**OCTOBER 12**Bryon Frost  
Carson Harwell  
Barbara Green  
Rod Arnold**OCTOBER 13**Grace Bostwick  
Michael Pullmann  
Lydia King  
Vica Fuller**OCTOBER 14**Bob Silver  
Casey Taylor  
Justin Green  
Nancy Poston  
Lucas Morgan  
Bradford Campbell  
Danny Jones**OCTOBER 15**Carey Hindman  
Pat Tuttle  
Jan Bays**OCTOBER 16**Henry Rose  
John Hofler**OCTOBER 18**David Frost  
Christy Douglas  
Anna Grace Hubbs  
Bailey Hylton  
Charley Hylton  
Chris Williams**OCTOBER 19**Alison Thompson  
Cooper Wallace  
Katherine Ryan  
Eleanor Lane**OCTOBER 20**Christina Stewart  
Hank Henderson  
Edith Hicks**OCTOBER 22**Myrna Simmonds  
James Genoble  
Sarah Wheeler  
Richard Granger  
Elizabeth Lee**OCTOBER 23**

Yong Shin

**OCTOBER 24**

John Harrell

**OCTOBER 25**John Pennstrom  
Quincy Kennedy  
Bob McLean  
Zane Morris  
Mona Zakhour**OCTOBER 26**

Jay McLaurin

**OCTOBER 27**Jeannie Brodie  
Richard Shurman  
Caleb King  
Stephen Thompson  
Jim Bertram**OCTOBER 28**

Julie Thomas

**OCTOBER 29**RJ Lee  
Jayne Boswell**OCTOBER 30**Teresa James  
Christopher Warner**OCTOBER 31**Hugh Whitehead  
Anna Shurman  
Eliza Wilhoit  
Randi Ryan

# Women in Ministry Circle meetings

Women in Ministry encourages women to connect with our First Presbyterian community and join a Circle of Friends this year!

Circles will use the Bible study guide, *Living so that, Making Faith-filled Choices in the midst of a Messy Life*, by Wendy Blight.

If you have questions about circles and which to join, contact Jayne Boswell, boswell.jayne@gmail.com.

## Help Us Get in Touch with Our College Students:

The Women in Ministry would like to encourage our college students throughout the school year.

If you have a child in college or graduate school, please send the name, address, and email address to Patricia Fast, patriciajfast@gmail.com, or Teresa Stewart, tstewart@florencefirst.org.

|                   |            |           |                         |
|-------------------|------------|-----------|-------------------------|
| Bread and Fish    | October 10 | 9 a.m.    | Call Peggy Swearingen   |
| Joyful Hearts     | October 13 | 10 a.m.   | Jenkins Fellowship Hall |
| Posies and Petals |            |           | Not Meeting             |
| Prayer Warriors   | October 13 | 6:30 p.m. | Lawson-Rain Chapel      |
| SonFlowers        | October 13 | 10 a.m.   | Pilgrim Classroom       |
| Soul Sisters      | October 13 | noon      | Jenkins Fellowship Hall |
| Serenity          | October 13 | 3 p.m.    | Lawson-Rain Chapel      |
| Women of Grace    | October 12 | 6:30 p.m. | 3002 Japonica Lane      |
| Women of Valor*   | October 14 | 6:30 p.m. | Room 202                |

\*Childcare available. Schedule a week in advance with Teresa Stewart in the church office, tstewart@florencefirst.org.



## Church News

**Onsite worship service:** The Session recently voted that: “everyone will be required to wear a mask to enter the Worship Service. Masks may be removed while seated and practicing social distancing.” For the protection of others, please be considerate and respectful of those around you as we gather for worship. Masks are available at the door for any who may need one. There is limited seating available in the sanctuary and, our ushers will assist you in finding a seat as you enter the sanctuary. The ushers will dismiss you row by row at the end of the worship service. Overflow seating is available and is also a good option for families with young children. Thank you for your patience and cooperation.

**Hiding God’s Word in your heart:** An invitation to all Fourth-Graders (and their parents)! Be a part of our new Bible Drill program led by Ellen Wilhoit. Together we will learn 25 verses of Scripture, 10 key passages, and the books of the Bible. Bible Drill will begin meeting weekly on Wednesdays from 4:30 to 5:30 p.m. via Zoom. More information coming soon! Please give this prayerful consideration.

**Just for Women Ministries:** JFW Bible Study will meet from noon to 1 p.m. on Tuesdays in the CLC starting through Nov. 17. The eight-week study will be on Heaven. COVID-19 requirements include facemasks, social distancing, no lunch or drinks, and no lesson handouts. Join us for an hour-long session presented by Kathy Griffin. For more information, email JFWministry@gmail.com.

**Engaging God’s Word:** A 10-week Bible study on 2 Samuel is held on Sundays from 5:30 to 7 p.m. Men, women, and couples small groups are available. Stewart Billingsly will be the lecturer. Contact Janet Brand for more information, janet81661@aol.com.



## Scouting Ministry Update

Congratulations to Michael Frost on being our newest Eagle Scout.

Michael is the 14-year-old son of Bryon and Brandon Frost. Michael and his dad are pictured camping in the Mount Rogers wilderness area in Virginia on this summer's backpacking trip on the Appalachian Trail.

For his Eagle Scout service project, Michael raised the funds to purchase a gaga pit for the Montessori School of Florence and led Scouts to set it up. Scouts meet on Monday nights at First Presbyterian Church. If you are interested in finding out more about the program, contact Tim Fisher at [timwfisher@aol.com](mailto:timwfisher@aol.com).



— Submit news briefs to Kim Brauss in the church office. Email [kbrauss@florencefirst.org](mailto:kbrauss@florencefirst.org).

# Remember in Prayer

## Extended Care

### Heritage at Lowman

Mac King

### Home

Adele Kassab

Casey Taylor

### Methodist Manor

Madeline Brice

Jack Cagle

Joyce Floyd

Marie Jordan

Maria Whitehead

### Presbyterian Community

Ann Cash

Helen Foster

Aaron Leland

Clara Maxwell

Tom and Clariann Kellam

Macy Turner

## Memorials

Herbert Ames

Betsy Eaddy

Charlie Key

George Richardson

## Baptism

Eleanor Reed Lane

## Sympathy

Family of Hannah Barringer

Ron Love, loss of his mother

Jim Poston, loss of his father and his brother

*Lord, Hear  
Our Prayer*

## Sick & Recovering

Madeline Brice

Jack Cagle

Butch Carroll

Kent Caudle

Linda Lawson

Isla Louise McCoy

Glenn Odom

Rosanne Saunders

Casey Taylor

Alan Thomas

## Elders

Allen Griffin

Jack Hofler

## Deacons

Michele Lewis

Jim Moseley

## Mission

Helping Florence Flourish

Cody Watson

## Women in Ministry

Charissa Canfield

June Chang-Kim

## Sunday School Teachers

Carol Fleenor

Martha Nance

## Staff

Palmer Jones

Wanda LaSane

## Households

FLOCK 1: Amy Wood

FLOCK 2: Jackie Williams

FLOCK 3: Richie and Ellen Wilhoit

FLOCK 4: Walt and Hunter Burch, Mac and Bruce

FLOCK 5: Martha Tyson

FLOCK 6: Duncan and Genia Tyson

FLOCK 7: Johnny and Robin Stoupenos

FLOCK 8: Rod and Sandra Arnold



# God's Work in our Community

## Helping Florence Flourish

A local mission First Presbyterian supports is Helping Florence Flourish (HFF), which is led by our associate pastor, Chris Handley. HFF works with churches and Christians in the community 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' work is the core of HFF.

During its September City Wide Prayer Gathering hosted at First Presbyterian, 20 churches were represented.



Starting this month is the curriculum involving folks from different churches in the community: *Race Class and the Kingdom of God*. More than a dozen multi-racial groups will delve into material as a response to racial tensions documented in the news almost daily. Keep your eyes and ears open for the enrollment. Please pray for the success of this initiative. For more information, email [chandley@florencefirst.org](mailto:chandley@florencefirst.org).

# God's Work Around the World

## Cody Watson, Frontier Fellowship

A global missionary First Presbyterian supports is Cody Watson, who is a veteran of Frontier Fellowship and has been on staff since 1994. He graduated from Emory University with a degree in Business Administration and later received his Doctor of Ministry degree from Columbia Theological Seminary. His ministry experience includes interning with Cru (formerly Campus Crusade for Christ), serving as a missionary for three years in South Korea and three in Bangladesh and directing the Presbyterian Center for Mission Studies in Pasadena, California.

Cody has traveled in Asia, Africa, Central America, Central Asia and Europe but now spends the majority of his time focused on India, Nepal and Bangladesh. His ministry promotes the strategies of Disciple Making Movements and Oral Bible Storying, and he's an advocate and instructor for the Perspectives on the World Christian Movement course.

Please pray for:



1. Ongoing online trainings, where we are engaging over 500 leaders across east and North West India and Nepal.
2. Please pray for leaders families to cope well during lockdown and uncertainty.
3. Business for Movement started well. We are developing an app for leaders for easy access of training materials and coaching they need. This is also for promoting local network assets.

# *Special Delivery*



On September 22, the Columbarium arrived on campus for delivery. An idea started in the 1990s, the Columbarium and Memorial Garden had a few different plans. The most recent committee working the past few years on the project decided on the design and location. The three-piece unit — each piece weighing about 8,000 pounds — was installed next to the Sanctuary. Glenn Bell, who has been on the committee since the inception, said, “It’s nice to see it come to fruition.”



Columbarium committee member Ginger Owen said the garden will be complete with landscaping in October. Our pastors are currently making plans for a service of dedication of the Columbarium this fall. Special thanks to our Columbarium Team, Susan Bankson, Glenn Bell, George Beshere, Greg Cleveland, Steve Grady, and Ginger Owen for their work.

# *Concert and Picnic on the Lawn*



Monthly fellowship fun continued in September with a reunion of the band Midlife Crisis in front of the Sanctuary. The outdoor concert was held September 23 as part of the fall fellowship during this time of social distancing. The fellowship unit also provided sub sandwiches to complete the picnic on the lawn. Next month's fellowship event will be a cookout and games held on October 21. And save the date for November 18; it's outdoor movie night.



# Receiving God's Word



We gave Bibles to our First-Graders on Sunday. Dr. Darryl Evans told them, “The Bible that you are holding is often called ‘The Greatest Story Ever Told.’ And the Big Story is this: Jesus wants to be your friend. His friendship only gets better with time. That’s the Big Story.”

The Bible is actually 66 separate books combined into one book. This one book is divided into two sections. It was written by as many as 40 different men over hundreds of years, but the whole Bible is inspired by God. It is a message to us from God, pointing us to Jesus.

Janet Brand and I have had the joy of leading this group in Sunday School for the past two years. This Sunday we introduced them to their new Bibles at the foot of the Sanctuary steps. We encouraged them to read Luke 2 that night with their parents. It is a story they have heard many times. As Bradford Brown remembered gesturing toward the Sanctuary steps, “The Angel Choir.”

We share the stories... we plant the seeds... and Jesus changes everything!

Sharing the Big Story!



# Youth Ministry



## Youth Activities in September

- On September 6, there was an informal hangout for any of the youth that were in town for Labor Day weekend. On September 13 and September 20 we also had Youth Group from 5 to 7 p.m.
- We had a Wednesday Night Bible Study on September 16
- Morning Bible Study Wednesday, September 16
- Moment of Encouragement: A customer gave us a Starbucks gift card “for our next Bible study meeting”
- Thursday Morning Breakfast at Bazen’s on September 17
- Sunday Large Group on the 27, 5 to 7 p.m. • Wednesday Night Group on September 30, 6 to 7:15 p.m.
- Weekly morning Bible study • Weekly breakfast at Bazen’s

## Upcoming Events

- SAVE THE DATE: Planning a Farm Day (shotguns, bonfires, etc.) for October 18

## October Schedule

### Sunday Night Large Group

October 4: 5 to 7 p.m. in the Youth Lounge. Bring \$5 for food

October 18: 4 to 7 p.m. Afternoon at the Farm (Details coming. There will be shotguns & a lot of adult supervision involved.)

### Sunday Night Small Groups

October 11: 5:30 to 7 p.m. (locations TBD)

October 25: 5:30 to 7 p.m. (locations TBD)

### Wednesday Night Gathering (meets in the Youth Lounge, no dinner provided)

October 7, 14, 21, and 28: 6 to 7:15 p.m.



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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         |
| Interim Director of Youth and NextGen Ministries | Mr. Palmer Jones          |
| 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          |

