

The REMINDER

Growing UPWARD
worshipping and praising

Growing INWARD
becoming more like Christ

Growing OUTWARD
sharing the good news



APRIL 2021



SESSION HIGHLIGHTS

Greetings in the name of the Lord!

I am very pleased to advise that the Session recently passed a Resolution in honor and appreciation of Don Hebert, our Church Administrator. We enjoyed surprising him with the framed document at our last Session meeting. Whether dealing with budget issues, a big project or a difficult situation, Don is always capable and steadfast to see it through with excellence. He epitomizes servant leadership and is an inspiration to us all!

It is great to see many of you back at church, as we get vaccinated and move forward toward normalcy. It is such a blessing to begin hearing spring and summer activity plans from Discipleship and Fellowship Units in our Session meetings. Praise the Lord!

We are still mindful of necessary precautions and are prayerfully taking it one step at a time. We are posting all updates on Realm to keep you informed. Please consider returning to worship and activities with us, if you are able and comfortable doing so.

Take care and I hope to see you soon!

Debbie Jackson
Clerk of Session



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ON THE COVER
Children process with palms during the Palm Sunday worship service.

The Other Side of Normal

Dear Church Family,

Today we are cognizant that we crave “normalcy.” Worship attendance continues to climb, routines are re-emerging, and last Sunday the Whitehead’s Annual Easter Egg Hunt was a delightful mix of enjoying the outdoors, one another and children at play. It is good to desire these things. And, at the same time, we are in the most unusual and incredible time of year: Holy Week. Holy Week is when we soak in the most monumental events that have ever happened: we encounter enormous divine self-disclosure through both the Passion of the Christ, and Jesus’ farewell sermons (John 13-17) in which He tells us more of that fundamental essence of God that we call the Trinity. When you see God like this, things will never be the same. Holy Week is not normal. It is glorious.

Many people are experiencing God for the first time today. The Church is growing overseas, and next month we are going to have visits from two of our missionary partners. Cody Watson will be here Sunday, May 2. Cody is a longtime friend of our church and will be sharing a word from the way God is moving in Asia. We have also partnered with Carol Crom for the past 22 years, and she will be in the area from May 8-28. She will be at FPC on Sunday May 16, and will share during the service as well. She loves visiting circles and small groups, and if you’d like to schedule a visit please let the office know. We will also offer special joint Sunday school classes for each of them when they are here. In many places, the persecution of Christians is growing and therefore scant information can be printed, so I am glad that they will be with us in person soon. Their passion is evident.

Finally, I ask that you keep our changing staff in your prayers. It has been a joy to work with Palmer, and you may know that he is planning on moving at the end of June. He has been accepted into a masters program of clinical psychology at Regent University in Virginia Beach. (Palmer, I am excited for you brother – and I will miss you!!) And we continue to search for two other permanent positions that are “interim” – dear Susan Snow as our interim children’s director and Keith



Hamrick as our interim contemporary worship leader. Please pray that God will continue to grow our team.

Any way you look at it, I would not call life normal. And if it is not going to be normal, may it be different in the best sense: May God reveal more of Himself to us. May it be glorious.

Peace,

A Thought or Two Challenging You Toward Discipleship

Love swells in God's heart

I have had many things on my mind in these last days:

1) Happy Easter! He has reason. Hallelujah! 2) How do you know what God's will is for your life? What has God made you to do? and 3) Covid issues!

1) I am reading a book that Mike Lavespere gave me by Tim Keller, *Hope in Times of Fear: The Resurrection and the Meaning of Easter*. Here is a quote from this morning's reading: "Whatever controls us is really our god. ... The one who seeks power is controlled by power. The one who seeks acceptance is controlled by the people he or she wants to please. We do not control ourselves. We are controlled by the Lord of our life." The Lord of my life, who controls me, has overcome all things. He controls it all. I don't have to! My Lord has chosen me! I am not a mistake. The book elaborates on the truth of the resurrection of Jesus and the impact of the resurrection on our lives!! A GOOD READ! Happy Easter!

2) Ephesians 2:8-10, "For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast. For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them." I believe that God made each one of us for a particular purpose. It is our challenge and privilege to determine what God has made us to do! Every member of the body of Christ is purposefully made and without each individual's contribution to the body, it is weaker and less capable of productivity. NOTE THIS: I do not think that attend-

ing church is your purpose! It is a healthy practice, but it is not your purpose! So, ask yourself the question, "What is THE ONE THING in life that (because of the way you are made by God) YOU MUST DO? And realize that is not a "must" from a duty-bound mindset. But in doing this one thing you are fulfilled!

3) Covid-19 has rocked our world — the whole world — and continues to rock it! It has made us ponder life in a much deeper fashion. We cannot take life together in the body of Christ for granted. We need each other to "spur one another onto love and good deeds." Stan Bergstrom, one of my older wise friends, said to me, "Chris, you know one thing that I noticed about being quarantined is that it is bad for your soul." I agree! I cannot stress enough the importance of your spiritual health. Yes, take care to protect yourself and loved ones; your physical health is important, too. There are many vaccination clinics opening up; available shots are becoming easier to find. And so I challenge you: Be involved with other believers, so that you can be nourished in your soul. We not only offer virtual Bible studies, prayer groups, and services, but also they're offered in-person. The importance is being involved. What's more, children are the most impressionable when it comes to faith and belief in God. I love jumping in on the Zoom Bible drill calls with the children and providing my weekly Children's Message. I can hardly wait to see you,

Chris

Ultimate day camp coming this summer to our neighborhood

Registration is open for the summer of a lifetime close to home! WinShape Camps for Communities brings the ultimate day camp right to First Presbyterian Church the week of July 26, combining fun, faith and friendship into an action-packed week. Campers completing grades K5-8 cultivate their God-given skills and talents in a mix of indoor and outdoor moments. Register today at <https://camps.winshape.org/day-camps/1091>



Toward a Healthier Church

Columbarium and Memory Garden

Our columbarium and memory garden has been completed. The columbarium consists of 85 niches. A niche is where the cremains (ashes) are placed. Each niche will accommodate two sets of cremains. Each niche has a granite faceplate on which the name of the deceased and the dates of birth and death is engraved. First Presbyterian Church is pleased to be able to offer this option for our covenant partners as part of the end-of-life planning process. In addition to the niches for placement of cremains (ashes), the columbarium features an "In Memoriam" wall. This section is for the remembrance of covenant partners, their spouses, children, as well as the parents of covenant partners, who are deceased and are interred elsewhere. If you are interested in reserving a niche or would like more information about the "In Memoriam" section, please contact George Beshere, Steve Grady, Glenn Bell or me. We'll be glad to assist you with the necessary arrangements.

Quarterly Contribution Statements

First Presbyterian Church has been blessed through the first quarter of 2021 by covenant partners and others who have given faithfully in support of the ministries of the church. Contributions to the church tend to follow a pattern from year to year. To date, our giving is about the same as it was for the same period last year. In the coming weeks, covenant partners will receive quarterly contribution statements for 2021 (January – March). Your contribution statements are intended to serve as a reminder of the commitment to faithfully support the ministries of First Presbyterian Church. The chart below is a summary of our revenue and expenses though the 1st Quarter of 2021.

2021 Ministry Action Plan Summary

Pledge Gifts Received	\$265,105.00
Non-Pledge Gifts Received	\$76,269.00
Miscellaneous Income	\$1,007.00
Total 2020 Ministry Action Plan Receipts	\$342,381.00
Total 2020 Ministry Action Plan Expenses	\$346,476.00
Surplus (Deficit)	(\$4,095.00)

Time Flies!

A little over seven years ago, I moved to Florence after accepting the job as Church Administrator with First Presbyterian Church. At that time, the only thing I knew about Florence was that I used to drive through here on my way to the beach. The past seven years have been good for me personally, professionally and most important, spiritually. From day one, I was impressed with the level of spiritual maturity that I saw in the elders, deacons and other leaders of this congregation. I continue to marvel at the generosity of our covenant partners not only in support of the church's ministry action plan but in support of special needs as they arise. Over the past seven years, I have had the opportunity to work with several gifted and spirit-filled pastors (Dr. Barry Jenkins, Dr. Bill Cain, Dr. Jim Bankhead, Rev. Chris Handley and Dr. Darryl Evans).

Additionally, I cannot say enough about the dedication and commitment of our current and former program staff (Ann Rodgers Chandler, Alexis Morris, Brock Page, Susan Snow, Palmer Jones, and Beth Hepler). It has also been my extreme pleasure to work with and lead a very committed administrative and custodial staff (Gwen DuRant, Kimberly Brauss, Teresa Stewart, Ron Echols, Sidney Ruff, and Wanda Lasane) as they handle the "behind the scenes" details of the ministry of our church.

Finally, I have been fortunate to develop some deep and lasting friendships with many of you. I am grateful for the opportunity to be in ministry with you and I look forward to what the future holds for the body of believers known as First Presbyterian Church.

The Mindset of Christ

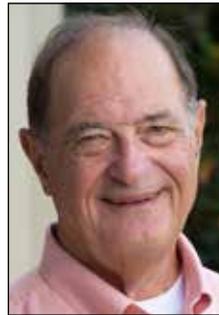
Philippians 2:1-11

These verses from Paul's second letter to the Philippians included in the canonical letter to Philippians contains a great synopsis of the Gospel. The hymn included in this passage is the Gospel. Paul Eckel has defined Philippians 2:6-11. "The Song is literally the Gospel in miniature ... It is God's story. It is the Good News."

Christians believe Jesus is God in the flesh. We call this, the incarnation. The hymn in Philippians is known as the Christ hymn. The hymn says Jesus emptied himself of his divine nature in heaven, becoming an earthly human. The Christological paradox is that Jesus the Christ is both God and human in the same body. This is known as the kenotic understanding of Christ's work. Keno means to empty. Jesus emptied his Godliness and became a human being. Jesus has a certain mind set or attitude of humility. This is what Paul reminds the Philippian Church of in his letter to them. He places the kenotic hymn in his words to them. He reminds the Philippians to have the mind of Christ. "Let each of you look not to your own interests, but to the interests of others. Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus (Philippians 2:4-5)."

We are to have the mind of Christ in us. Paul calls the Church to have this "mindset" in each person. The hymn describes the mind set of Christ. We as Christians are to have the mindset of Jesus. The hymn identifies this mind set. Jesus did not use his Son-ship of the Creator God to become the leader of the world but became the humble servant of humanity dying on a cross to rescue humanity from certain destruction.

"Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited, but



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

emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, being born in human likeness. And being found in human form, he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death— even death on a cross (Philippians 2:5-8)."

The second part of the kenotic hymn praises the resurrected Jesus as the only true representative of God on earth. Crowder in his song: "All My Hope is in Jesus" makes a personal testimony to the power of Jesus to raise a human being from self-destruction to salvation. The world's people must look to Jesus to receive rescue and salvation.

We are living through a crisis in our world in which our only hope is in Jesus. Through humility and self-sacrifice humanity can exit this time of disease with a mind-set of Christ.

"Therefore God also highly exalted him and gave him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bend, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father (Philippians 2:9-11)."

*"Let each of you look not to your own interests, but to the interests of others.
Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus."*

Philippians 2:4-5

Excitement arrives with new season

Greetings from the First Presbyterian Child Development Center! Spring is here, and the children and staff have welcomed it with open arms. Every day now their happy little voices can be heard around the church campus as they are getting outside more and soaking up the sunshine.

Soon the 4K class and their teachers will begin preparing the soil in our gardening beds for new growth. This year our two oldest preschool classes will be using the Creative Curriculum Gardening Guide, which will encompass a variety of age-appropriate gardening activities and experiences. The excitement is mounting, and we can hardly wait to dig in the dirt!

The annual CDC Art Show and Sale will be held on Thursday, May 6. Our CDC families will attend by class and to their final selections. The art work will be displayed in the Welcome Center and also outside in the area adjacent to the Welcome Center. It is our hope that our church friends will come by prior to the sale and see what the children have made. The art will be displayed in the Welcome Center area two days prior to the actual sale for everyone to have a sneak peek. It's hard to believe how fast children grow! It's almost time for our 2021, 4K Graduation. This year our 4K Graduation Parade will be held Thursday, May 13. The graduates will ride in golf carts, cars, and trucks driven by their parents and parade around our campus cheered on by our staff and others.

As we move forward in the COVID-19 pandemic, we are reminded constantly of the goodness of our God and the blessings that he has bestowed on our Child Development Center here at First Presbyterian Church. These are not easy days; our lives have all changed in many ways, but let us remember that our God Reigns!

Blessings,

Beth





THURSDAY, APRIL 1

6:00 AM Morning Prayer: Lawson-Rain
7:00 AM Men's Bible Study: Room 202
10:30 AM Prayer Group: LR
1:00 PM Bible Study: Zoom
7:00 PM Maundy Thursday Service

FRIDAY, APRIL 2 GOOD FRIDAY

6:00 AM Morning Prayer: Lawson-Rain

SUNDAY, APRIL 4 EASTER

9:00 AM Contemporary Worship
9:30 AM Rehearsal: JFH
10:00 AM Catechism: CLC
10:00 AM Sunday School
11:00 AM Traditional Worship



MONDAY, APRIL 5 CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED

5:30 PM Stretch Your Faith
7:00 PM Boy Scouts
7:00 PM Men's Bible Study: Welcome Center

TUESDAY, APRIL 6

9:30 AM WIM Coordinator's Team Meeting: JFH
11:00 AM WIM Bible Moderators: Lawson-Rain
10:00 AM My Brother's Keeper
12:00 PM Just for Women Bible Study: CLC

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 7

6:30 PM Praise Team Rehearsal

THURSDAY, APRIL 8

7:00 AM Men's Bible Study: Room 202
10:30 AM Prayer Group: LR
1:00 PM Bible Study: Zoom
7:00 PM Youth: CLC

SATURDAY, APRIL 10

6:00 AM Parking Lot Mission

9:00 AM WIM Bread & Fish: Call Peggy Swearingen

SUNDAY, APRIL 11

9:00 AM Contemporary Worship
9:30 AM Rehearsal: JFH
10:00 AM Catechism: CLC
10:00 AM Sunday School
11:00 AM Traditional Worship

MONDAY, APRIL 12

5:30 PM Stretch Your Faith
6:30 PM WIM Women of Grace: Home of B. Maffett
7:00 PM Boy Scouts
7:00 PM Men's Bible Study: Welcome Center

TUESDAY, APRIL 13

10:00 AM WIM Joyful Hearts: Pilgrim Classroom
10:00 AM WIM Posies & Petals: JFH
10:00 AM WIM SonFlowers: Lawson-Rain
12:00 PM WIM Soul Sisters: JFH
3:00 PM WIM Serenity: LR
6:30 PM WIM Prayer Warriors: LR
7:00 PM Girl Scouts: Scout Room



WEDNESDAY, APRIL 14

6:30 PM Praise Team Rehearsal
6:30 PM WIM Women of Valor

THURSDAY, APRIL 15

7:00 AM Men's Bible Study: Room 202
10:30 AM Prayer Group: LR
1:00 PM Bible Study: Zoom
7:00 PM Youth: CLC

SUNDAY, APRIL 18

9:00 AM Contemporary Worship
9:30 AM Rehearsal: JFH
10:00 AM Catechism: CLC
10:00 AM Sunday School
11:00 AM Traditional Worship



April

MONDAY, APRIL 19

5:30 PM Stretch Your Faith
 7:00 PM Boy Scouts: CLC
 7:00 PM Men's Bible Study: Welcome Center

MONDAY, APRIL 26

5:30 PM Stretch Your Faith
 7:00 PM Boy Scouts: CLC
 7:00 PM Men's Bible Study: Welcome Center

TUESDAY, APRIL 20

6:30 PM Board of Deacons
 7:00 PM Youth

TUESDAY, APRIL 27

6:30 PM Session
 7:00 PM Youth
 7:00 PM Girl Scouts

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 21

6:30 PM Praise Team Rehearsal

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 28

6:30 PM Praise Team Rehearsal

THURSDAY, APRIL 22

7:00 AM Men's Bible Study: Room 202
 10:30 AM Prayer Group: LR
 11:30 AM Kiwanis Pancake Lunch pickup (till 1:30 p.m.)
 1:00 PM Bible Study: Zoom
 7:00 PM Youth: CLC
 5:00 PM Kiwanis Pancake Dinner pickup (till 7 p.m.)

THURSDAY, APRIL 29

7:00 AM Men's Bible Study: Room 202
 10:30 AM Prayer Group: LR
 1:00 PM Bible Study: Zoom
 7:00 PM Youth: CLC

SUNDAY, APRIL 25

9:00 AM Contemporary Worship
 9:30 AM Rehearsal: JFH
 10:00 AM Catechism: CLC
 10:00 AM Sunday School
 11:00 AM Traditional Worship

He is
 not here,
 for he
 has *risen*.

Matthew 28:6





Drive-in Concert

A virtual drive-in concert was held “on the grounds” March 10 featuring Zach Williams. Concertgoers tail-gated in the parking lot while listening to the music.



He is Risen

HOLY WEEK

Morning Prayer, March 29-April 2

The Lawson-Rain Chapel will be open from 6 to 7 a.m. all week for prayer led by Rev. Chris Handley.

Maundy Thursday, April 1

Maundy Thursday Service at 7 p.m. Join us for this service as we prepare our hearts for Easter Sunday.

Easter Sunday, April 4

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

Remember in Prayer

Extended Care

Heritage at Lowman

Mac King

Home

Adele Kassab

Glenn Odom

Methodist Manor

Joyce Floyd

Marie Jordan

Maria Whitehead

Presbyterian Community

Ann Cash

Helen Foster

Aaron Leland

Clariann Kellam

Memorials

Jack Cagle

Hannah Carpenter

Tom Kellam

Casey Taylor

Rich and Lucy Thomas

Households

FLOCK 1: Patrick and Rebecca Clancy, Rebecca and Jacqueline,
and Taylor Powell

FLOCK 2: Brian and Patricia Fast, Anna Parsons, Henry and Elizabeth

FLOCK 3: Win and Allison Hallman, Amanda and Lauren Bostwick,
and Seth Hallman

FLOCK 4: Chuck and Lisa Collins

FLOCK 5: Jack and Phyllis Williams

FLOCK 6: Jim and Ruth Bertram

FLOCK 7: Chris Williams

FLOCK 8: Margaret Baroody

Lord, Hear
Our Prayer

Sick & Recovering

Margaret Baroody

Butch Carroll

Kent Caudle

Aubrey Crawford

Kit Fulmer

Linda Lawson

Isla Louise McCoy

Jessie Moss

Johnny Stoupenos

Fred Swearingen

Martha Tyson

Shannon Watt

Jack Williams

Elders

Bryon Frost

Richie Wilhoit

Deacons

Jim Moseley

Emily Whitehead

Mission

House of Hope

The Emerts

Women in Ministry

Renda Barnes

Leslie Brodie

Sunday School Teachers

Jan Green

Jack Hofler

Staff

Ann Rodgers Chandler

Beth Hepler

God's Work in our Community

House of Hope

House of Hope is a local non-profit ministry-based organization First Presbyterian supports. House of Hope provides housing and support to men, women, and children in the Florence community. House of Hope provides emergency, short-term, and transitional housing, as well as long-term support through its Life Recovery Program.

The Courtney McGinnis Graham community Shelter

provides emergency and temporary housing, food, clothing and support to the homeless community. Guests at the shelter are able to meet with the case manager and connect with support to find help, housing, and employment. The shelter also provides emergency housing during times of extreme cold and heat with nobody being turned away.

The Life Recovery Program provides job training, financial guidance, substance recovery, and Bible study. House of Hope includes two Mission Marts with profits from the marts going to the ministry.

God's Work Around the World

Poetice International, The Emerts

A global missionary First Presbyterian supports is Poetice International with the Emerts, who are also covenant partners at First Presbyterian Church. Seven years ago, Jeremy and Courtney Emert, Olivia, Jude, and Lincoln moved from Florence to Zambia. They are serving with Poetice Zambia. Poetice's goal is to see impoverished communities become spiritually, emotionally, psychologically, physically, and socially healthy.



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 (843-992-4267).

A spreadsheet found at www.florencefirst.org/flowers-in-the-sanctuary — also has been set up for signing up and so dates available can easily be seen.



All Women are invited to attend the Women in Ministry
Annual Spring Celebration

Monday, May 17, 2021
 6:30 – 8:30 p.m. in the Life Center
 Guest Speaker: Wendy Blight



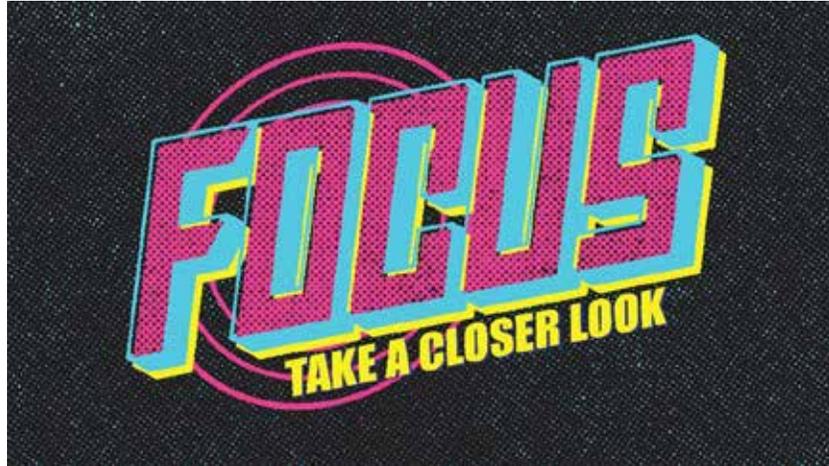
Wendy is a wife, mother, author, Bible teacher, attorney, and the Biblical Content Specialist for Proverbs 31 Online Bible Studies. Her heart's desire is to help women fall in love with God's word. To learn it, pray it, and know it with confidence they can tackle any problem life presents through it. Wendy has written four books, including *I Know His Name: Discovering Power in the Name of God*, *Living So That: Making Faith-Filled Choices in the Midst of a Messy Life*, *Hidden Joy in a Dark Corner*, and her newest one *I Am Loved: Walking in the Fullness of God's Love*. She has been a featured guest on Oprah Radio, the 700 Club, Family Life Today with Dennis Rainey, Revive our Hearts with Nancy Leigh DeMoss, and Building Relationships with Dr. Gary Chapman. Wendy's favorite place to be is at home in Charlotte, writing and enjoying time with her husband, Monty, and their two children, Lauren and Bo.

Dinner will be served. • Nursery will be provided with RSVP to the church office by May 10.

Women in Ministry Circle meetings

Bread and Fish	April 10	9 a.m.	Call Peggy Swearingen
Joyful Hearts	April 13	10 a.m.	Pilgrim Classroom
Posies and Petals	April 13	10 a.m.	Jenkins Fellowship Hall
Prayer Warriors	April 13	6:30 p.m.	Lawson-Rain Chapel
SonFlowers	April 13	10 a.m.	Lawson-Rain Chapel
Soul Sisters	April 13	noon	Jenkins Fellowship Hall
Serenity	April 13	3 p.m.	Lawson-Rain Chapel
Women of Grace	April 12	6:30 p.m.	3002 Japonica Lane
Women of Valor*	April 14	6:30 p.m.	Room 202

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



VBS 2021

June 21-24
9 to 11:45 a.m.

Join us for VBS 2021! We will kick-off VBS Monday morning, June 21, and run through Thursday, June 24. Online registration will open April 1 for children who have finished 5K-5th grade (preschool/nursey program available for children/grandchildren of volunteers only). There is limited space this year because of covid protocols, so please register early! Unfortunately, due to covid safety issues, **we will not allow walk-ins or "day of" registrants.** Please contact Heather Taylor at handmtaylor@yahoo.com or 404-783-8878 if you are interested in volunteering!

Register online: www.myvbs.org/firstpresflorence



Church News

Red Cross Blood Drive results

Thank you to all who volunteered for the blood drive March 30. Because of your commitment and hard work, we were able to collect 27 pints of blood, which can help save up to 81 lives! THANK YOU!!!

As a reminder, the next drive is on Tuesday, June 15, from 1 to 6 p.m. with the same goal of 27 units.

Boy Scouts to have camping trip and paddle Lynches River

Our Boy Scouts will be working on fingerprinting, crime prevention, and communications merit badges in April. They will have a camping trip in Effingham and paddle Lynches River.

Service projects this month are patching potholes, putting up benches around the Freedom Florence pond and marking a paddle route on Jeffries Creek from Naturally Outdoors to Freedom Florence.

Submit briefs for The Reminder to Kim Brauss by email at kbrauss@florencefirst.org by the 19th of the month.

Beautiful moments during Holy Week

Palm Sunday was so special. It is the first day of Holy Week; the day we celebrate Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem as both Savior and King. The people greeted Him waving palm branches. Palm branches were a sign of kings. So many Sundays later, we remember this day.

Our children processed at worship waving palm branches. I was at the back handing out palms, but I had asked Ashley Bratton to take photos for me. I am especially struck by one moment she captured. It's the cover of this month's Reminder.

The children are so beautiful, gifts from God. But in this one photo, I see our young covenant children walking between pews filled with our dear older church family. Our children are literally walking through the generations. These generations have been faithful to God's call on all our lives.

"We will not hide them from their descendants; we will tell the next generation the praiseworthy deeds of the

Lord, his power, and the wonders he has done." (Psalms 78:4)

Thank you dear friends, dear church family for your faithfulness to our Lord.



And later that same day, we had a very special afternoon at the egg hunt at the Whitehead's. Our children have been hunting eggs at the Whitehead's for more than 40 years. Many thanks to Weave and Emily Whitehead who hosted this year's hunt at their home... to Karen Jordan for her planning and refreshments ... and to many of you who baked cookies and dyed the hundreds of eggs that were hidden and hunted!

It is a joy to gather together! It is joy to be surrounded by such beauty! Thank you, Father God!

So many blessings,

Quian





April BIRTHDAYS

APRIL 1

Michelle Babb
Maddy Duncan
Tag Gandy
Sara Goodstein

APRIL 2

Jenna MacLennan
Matt Goodstein
Doug Stover
Lane Josey

APRIL 3

Elizabeth McLean
Bonnie Stuber

APRIL 4

Evelyn Childers
Brandon Fuller
Ronnie Hucks
Emily Grace Kennedy
April Munn

APRIL 5

Rylie Hughes
Whit Player
Cole Rabon
Wills Urquhart

APRIL 7

Rufus Bratton
Perry MacLennan
Matt Marechal
Shannon Watt

APRIL 8

Nicky Carter
Paula Jackson
David McLean
Marla Slaughter

APRIL 9

Will McLean

APRIL 10

Charlie Caldwell

APRIL 11

Amy Brown
Cary Andrews

APRIL 12

Quentin Johnson
Linda Smiley

APRIL 14

Isla Campbell
Sara Johnson
Patrick Morgan

APRIL 15

Ashley Bratton

APRIL 17

Glenn Ham
Mark Davis
Jeremy Emert
Maddux Langston
Margaret Lee

APRIL 18

Sandra Arnold
Farrah Hughes
John Molnar
Richard Nash
Liam Scott

APRIL 19

Robert Moore
Huck Thompson
Pat Walker
Steve Grady

APRIL 20

Bruce Burch
Tallon Temple

APRIL 21

Guy Thompson

APRIL 22

Bonnie Brown
Kit Fulmer
Seth Hallman
Charlie Jordan
Melanie Moore
Franklin Reames

APRIL 23

Sullivan Jackson

APRIL 24

Holly Campbell

APRIL 25

Harriett Whitehead

APRIL 26

Beth Abernathy
Carson McMillan

APRIL 27

Bob Barrett
Daniel Jordan
Betsy Olsen

APRIL 28

Gary Bray
Gayden Tyler

APRIL 29

Christopher Garris
Beth Hepler
Laura Tiller

APRIL 30

Susan Hofler
Katherine Ryan
Alissa Warters



Youth Ministry

In March, we bid farewell to the old green carpet in the youth rooms and updated the floors. We cleaned out the closet, took several trips to the Mission Mart to donate old items, and added a fresh coat of paint in “The Lounge.” Now we are on the hunt for furniture to update the rest of the space. (Please, contact me if you have something to give!)

Our weekly rhythms have continued with Wednesdays, Thursdays, and Sundays. During our Sunday School hour, the past few weeks we have been working our way through Romans 5-7, including that particularly dense passage in Romans 7:7-25 in which Paul details the relationship between The Law, Sin, and ourselves. Even though passages like these can be confusing or challenging for Christians of any age, we trust that the Spirit can provide understanding, clarity, and truth.

Another hallmark passage we examined together was Romans 5:3-5:

Not only that, but we rejoice in our sufferings, knowing that sufferings produces endurance, and endurance pro-

duces character, and character produces hope, and hope does not put us to shame...

My hope is that as we tackle these passages head on with our students they are prepared when hardship comes their way--that they know that their faith in Christ is big enough to deal with such things. We want to disciple and teach students that grow into adults with enduring faith, with character, and ultimately hope in Christ.

I will end this month’s reminder with two verses we discussed at youth group this month, 2 Thessalonians 2:16-17:

Now may our Lord Jesus Christ himself, and God our Father, who loved us and gave us eternal comfort and good hope through grace, comfort your hearts and establish them in every good work and word.

Peace,
Palmer





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