

# The REMINDER

Growing UPWARD  
worshipping and praising

Growing INWARD  
becoming more like Christ

Growing OUTWARD  
sharing the good news

*Never saw you look quite so pretty before.  
Never saw you dressed quite so lovely,  
whats more I could hardly wait to keep  
our date this lovely Easter morning.  
And my heart beat fast as I came  
through the door for in your Easter bonnet,  
with all the frills upon it, you'll be the  
grandest lady in the Easter parade. .*



MAY 2022



**ON THE COVER:** Keenagers held an Easter Bonnet themed luncheon complete with contest in April. Their end-of-season luncheon will be held on Tuesday, May 3, at the Marechal's. For more luncheon pictures, see page 8.

## IN THIS ISSUE

- 2 Mission
- 3 From the Senior Pastor
- 4 From the Interim Assistant Pastor
- 5 Church Administration Matters
- 6 From the Congregational Care Assistant
- 7 Music Ministry
- 8 Keenagers
- 9 Women in Ministry
- 8, 9 Child Development Center
- 10, 11 Calendar
- 12 Remember in Prayer
- 13 Birthdays
- 14 Children's Development Center
- 15 Easter Sunday pictures
- 16 Church News
- 17 Children's Ministry
- 18 Family Ministry
- 19 Youth Ministry

# Poetice: The Emerts



*The Emerts, covenant partners of First Presbyterian Church, are part of Poetice International. They are one of the global missionaries First Presbyterian Church supports:*

Hello to our FPC Family from the Emerts in Zambia! We are well, healthy, full schedules and full hearts! We just wrapped up our annual staff Rally Week, where we plan and prep and pray for the coming year. (Our leaders had a baby in January, so that's why Rally Week took place a little later than usual.) Despite the delay, there is definitely no delay in all that the

Lord has in store for 2022. We've already had a work team here from New York, our student Intensive program starts in six short weeks, with many more teams, camps, projects, and outreaches to come. We are daily amazed at all the ways we see God move and are always grateful to participate in His grand adventure of reconciling the world — and people from all over the world — to Himself! We pray you are also seeing His hand and heart at work around you in Florence, and that you are joining Him in the adventure!

Love,

Jeremy, Courtney, Olivia, Jude and Lincoln

Prayer requests:

- As a family, we desire to make the most of every moment we have with Olivia before we travel with her in August back stateside where she will spend her 11th- and 12th-grade years finishing high school in North Carolina, living with her grandparents there.
- Pray for the members of our small house church (all also members of our big Poetice Church) whom we meet with each Sunday afternoon to grow further together in relationship with Jesus and in friendship with one another. They grow dearer and dearer to us each week we spend time together.

## MISSION TRIP

If you are interested in the possibility of going on a mission trip to Zambia, Africa, October 27 through November 7, please Contact Janet Brand ASAP. The first informational meeting will be held at 5:30 p.m. at The Church of Sandhurst on Sunday, May 15.

# State of the Church

Dear Church Family,

Last Wednesday night was our first “State of the Church” meeting. The purpose of the meeting was to nurture an informed and connected congregation. The church leadership – the elders and deacons – have been faithfully serving, and I want you to be aware of their labor of love. We also very much want to have input from our covenant partners – do you have thoughts or ideas about how we should live together? Perhaps you have an insight or the Lord has laid something on your heart? We are eager to listen. We want you to know who is the best person to reach out to, and we also want you to know “who is doing what” among our church officers.

As such, last Wednesday the chairs of the different units, followed by the clerk of the session and the deacon moderator each spoke about their respective ministry areas. They outlined “the big picture” of what they do; the latest they have been working on; and who else serves on that ministry team before answering any questions. Here’s just one highlight per Unit:

Richie Wilhoit is the Enabling Unit Chair. This team works in many areas, including overseeing the church budget and finances; buildings and grounds; and personnel matters. One thing that is “in the pipeline” is the establishment of a “Legacy of Faith Fund.” This would nurture the life and health of our church and congregation for years to come. More information will be available in the coming months. Stay tuned.

Jack Hofler chairs the Discipleship Unit. This team oversees Sunday School, Wednesday Night programs, nurtures mentoring relationships, VBS, and is involved with children and youth ministry. One recent initiative was the first “Discipleship Weekend.” This weekend seeks to encourage and equip parents and families. The first installment was well-received – the “Birds and the Bees.”

Tabatha Davis chairs the fellowship team. This Unit serves and provides meals for a wide variety of occasions, including Wednesday nights and for new covenant partner classes. They always love when people volunteer to help for a night!

The Worship Unit is chaired by Allen Griffin. They have had multiple of issues to navigate during this covid season, which have not been easy. We are pleased that at the beginning of June things shall “return to normal,” i.e. we will pass the plate, greet our neighbors, and resume having communion in pre-covid fashion. They seek to help our worship be enriching and glorifying to God. Last Easter in particular was a gift!

Chris Scott is the Outreach Unit chair. This unit seeks to nurture relationships with all of our ministry partners, and be in regular contact with them. It oversees our missions budget and considers funding requests. They are scrupulous in their fiduciary responsibilities. Recently, we have had a wonderful rotation of missionaries join us in worship. We have had fruitful special offerings, such for Haiti, the Emerts, and scholarship for the Moscow Evangelical Seminary.

Mike Nunn is our faithful clerk of session. Among his many duties, he has helped form a “church safety team” that is a pro-active group that seeks to nurture a safe environment for all.

Ellen Pearson is our Deacon moderator. The mission of the Deacons is to let others know that “God loves them and the church cares about them.” This is often done through acts of service such as phone calls, cards, visits, prayer, etc. They also oversee greeters during worship, and seek to nurture all covenant partners through the “flock ministry.” This means that each person has a couple deacons who check in on them, and are always available to help. They – and I – appreciate when you share any prayer concerns.

I could not possibly tell you of all the things your church leadership does. They are second to none. I am grateful for their love, their grace, their hard work, faithfulness, and desire to magnify the name of Jesus. I encourage you to reach out to me or them. All in all, we are a growing congregation. I love being here, and (to name just one thing) it is a delight to see how many small groups and intergenerational intentional relationships that have been bubbling up. This is a fine way to enjoy and build one another up!

Grace and peace,



*In your hearts set apart Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give a reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect. 1 Peter 3:15*

## Reflect God's love to everyone

It was a late Saturday afternoon in Lebanon, Ohio, and I had just finished a wedding. I wanted to get a quick "workout" in at the YMCA before going home. I went into the locker room and a young man was there. He took one look at me in a white shirt, a tie, a suit, and dress shoes and asked, "What do you do?" I chuckled and said, "Don't hold this against me but I'm a pastor and I just finished a wedding."

That simple response led to a conversation. He told me that his name was Bob and that he and his wife, Lisa, had recently moved into the area. Bob went on to say that he was an avid cyclist and runner. And then he added, "My wife is Catholic, and we've not really been involved in any church here."

"Well, Bob," I said, "Don't sense any pressure but 'you all' (can't take the country out of the boy!) are welcome at Lebanon Presbyterian."

Fast-forward over 10 years, and Bob and Lisa's family have grown. They've become active members engaged in small group ministry, and Bob has started a cycling ministry. When I left that community, Bob gave me one of his bikes ... as a gift of our friendship and common bond in Jesus Christ.

Every day God brings into our lives people whom He loves deeply and calls us to treat them with His compassion and respect. Whether you realize it or not you are a "walking, breathing" advertisement of Jesus Christ. My challenge to you is to authentically be who Christ has called you to be and to be open to sharing the Gospel of Jesus Christ. You don't have to manipulate. You don't have to force a conversation. Just be open to God using you and loving that person through you.

Doug Pollock in his book, *God Space*, asks these questions:

- Do you consistently seek to understand "Not Yet Christians" you know before seeking to be understood by them?
- Are you able to communicate acceptance to "Not Yet Christians" without endorsing their lifestyles?
- Do people who are "Not Yet Christians" like you?
- In your relationships with "Not Yet Christians", do you typically offer KINDNESS rather than RIGHTNESS?

People matter to God ... all people matter to God. And so, let's reflect God's care to everyone who intersects our life. A kind word, a quick prayer, a ready smile, an eagerness to listen can be divine instruments leading to life transformation ... even in a locker room.

Love in Christ Jesus,



P.S. Please consider joining me in listening to Natasha Sistrunk Robinson at 7 p.m. Monday, May 9, at New Ebenezer Baptist Church (307 S. Ravenal St). Natasha grew up in Orangeburg; graduated from the Naval Academy; served in the Marines, earned an M.Div and Doctorate from Gordon-Conwell Seminary; and is leading a mentoring ministry. Natasha is an African-American woman who is a role model for all of us. As we seek to be "One Church" in Florence making a difference for Jesus Christ and bringing all races together, Natasha Robinson will inspire us.

## Toward a Healthier Church

# Gratitude yields positivity

### Thoughts on Stewardship

In thinking about my article for *The Reminder*, I came across the following quotes about gratitude and **stewardship**.

One of the incredible truths about gratitude is that it is impossible to feel both the positive emotion of thankfulness and a negative emotion... Gratitude births only positive feeling — love, compassion, joy and hope... As we get older, we get schooled in our mistakes and learn to focus on what's not right, what is lacking, missing, inadequate, and painful. That's why gratitude is so powerful. It helps us to return to our natural state of joyfulness where we notice what's right ... Gratitude reminds us to be like plants, which turn toward, not away, from the light. *MJ Ryan in Attitudes of Gratitude*

The most important aspect of tithing and stewardship is not the raising of money for the church, but the development of devoted Christians. *Fred M. Wood*

### Quarterly Contribution Statements

By now, all covenant partners should have received your quarterly contribution statements for the first quarter of 2022 (January - March). First Presbyterian Church has been blessed through the first quarter of 2022 by covenant partners and others who have given faithfully in support of the ministries of the church. Thanks to the continued generosity of our covenant partners the current financial condition of the church remains sound.

With that said, contributions to the church tend to follow a pattern from year to year. To date, our expenses are running slightly ahead of our income. This is due in large part to the fact that we are seeing an increase in our ministry activities after two years of restrictions because of the COVID-19 pandemic. Your contribution statements are intended to serve as a reminder of the 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 [gduyant@florencefirst.org](mailto:gduyant@florencefirst.org). Thank you for your faithful support, both financially and with your time and talent, of First Presbyterian Church.

### Facilities Update

Despite some weather setbacks, the paint crew with Furman Babb Painting is making good progress painting the Sanctuary building. When completed, the exterior of all buildings on the campus will have received a new coat of paint. Please be aware of ladders, lifts, scaffolding, and other equipment set up around the building as the project continues. Funding for this project is from the church's Capital Reserve Fund.

### Columbarium Memory Garden

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. We have filled one panel and are working on a second one. Each panel contains eight (8) names, currently we have 3 names meaning that we need 5 more to fill out the panel. If you would like more information about the "In Memoriam" section or, 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. 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.

# Abraham, Our Father in the Faith

Romans 3:31-4:22

Abraham's faith journey is an excellent example of believing in God's promises. Abraham trusted the Lord God when there was no Scripture, no law, and no Jesus Christ. We see in Abraham faithful obedience, which is the goal of all who trust God, both Jew and Gentile. In a strange sort of way, Paul desires to use Abraham to "uphold the law."

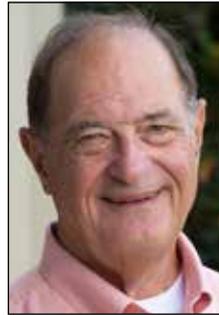
"Do we then overthrow the law by this faith? By no means, we uphold the law (Romans 3:31)."

As Protestant Christians have held that righteousness is received by faith, the law is sometimes seen as oppressive. Paul is seeking to show the usefulness of the law as a way to show faithful people how to obey the Lord. Abraham is justified by faith not works. Paul quotes Genesis 15:6 as proof that Abraham's faith brought him righteousness.

"Abraham believed God and it was reckoned to him as righteousness (Genesis 15:6 and Romans 4:3)."

What does "reckoned" mean in Paul's discussion of Abraham? It is used 11 times by Paul in Romans 4. Reckon means to credit to or to give someone a valuable gift. The gift of faith was given to Abraham. Righteousness is a gift to Abraham and also a gift to all who believe God "raised from the dead Jesus our Lord (Romans 4:24)."

The Gospel as given to us through the writers of the New Testament uses several words to describe our relationship with God. Human beings believe God saves, that God justifies, that God is graceful, that God is merciful and God gives eternal life. All these ideas describe the status of a believing human being with God. Abraham's righteousness is given to him (reckon to him) before circumcision (Genesis 17:10) or



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

before he is tested by offering Isaac as a sacrifice to God (Genesis 22). The gift of faith to a human being produces a desire to obey God. The law guides our obedience. Faith produces a response to obey God. Jesus Christ is the person who totally obeys God. The only God, the LORD, is known in Jesus. Any faith that relies upon human worthiness is Idolatry. Paul has shown the root of all sin is Idolatry (Romans 1:23). Modern humans seldom worship birds or animals or reptiles, but humans worship themselves by creating gods in their own image.

Abraham is not only the father of faith but also the proof God fulfills God's promises in God's time. Even in the midst of sin, faithful people believe God. With Abraham Paul has outlined the Gospel of God (Romans 1:1): 1) the Law and the Prophets anticipate the Christ; 2) righteousness comes by faith; 3) God is merciful; 4) grace comes before law; 5) God can be trusted, God is faithful. For Paul the Gospel of God begins with Abraham and is proven in the resurrection of Jesus. That is not the end, because the Church has the responsibility to obey God by declaring salvation is available to all.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mike".



**Have the Summer of a Lifetime close to home!** WinShape Camps for Communities brings the ultimate day camp to our campus, 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, physical activity and creative play. Registration is open for the week of July 18. Sign up online at <https://camps.winshape.org/day-camps/florence-sc/>.

# *Spring Handbells Concert*

*6:30 p.m. Wednesday, May 11*



Come hear the handbells at 6:30 p.m. Wednesday, May 11, in the Sanctuary with our talented Chancel Handbell Choir! Family dinner will be served at 5:30 p.m. Please join us for original compositions as well as hymn and song arrangements.



## *Keenager Easter Celebration*



Keenagers luncheon in April celebrated the season with style.



# WOMEN IN MINISTRY

## *Spring Celebration*

**6:30 PM • MONDAY, MAY 16**  
**CHRISTIAN LIFE CENTER**

The Women in Ministry will hold their Spring Celebration on Monday, May 16, in the CLC. You're invited to bring a salad and a friend for fellowship, faith, and food.

Guest speaker will be Nicole Wills, a wife and mother who had a double lung transplant several years ago. Her faith carried her through and she felt called to begin her speaking ministry. Also during the Spring Celebration, the Life Service Award will be presented.

Child care will be provided with RSVP to Becky Thomas in the church office:  
 bthomas@florencefirst.org or 843-662-2583.



**GUEST SPEAKER NICOLE WILLS**

Nicole is a resident of Cramerton, North Carolina, (a Charlotte suburb), but she is a South Carolina native, graduating from Clemson University with a degree in Marketing. She has been married to her husband Nelson for 18 years, and they have a 16-year-old son, Rich.

In 2016 Nicole had a double lung transplant and after being asked to share her story on several occasions, felt called to start a speaking ministry to share how her faith carried her through the most challenging time in her life.

In addition to her speaking ministry, Nicole enjoys volunteering for the Lung Transplant Foundation, serving on a couple of local boards, following her son around the state as he plays competitive golf, and supporting her husband in his role as mayor of their small town.



Christa Godwin, Jennifer Foxworth and Ann Rodgers Chandler perform during last year's Spring Celebration.

**SUNDAY, MAY 1**

- 10:00 AM Combined Worship Service
- 11:00 AM Church Picnic
- 5:00 PM Youth Small Groups

**MONDAY, MAY 2**

- 2:30 PM Prayer Group: Lawson-Rain Chapel
- 5:00 PM Children's Ministry Meeting: LR
- 5:30 PM Stretch Your Faith: CLC
- 7:00 PM Boy Scouts: JFH
- 7:00 PM Men's Bible Study: Room 203

**TUESDAY, MAY 3**

- 7:00 AM Men's Prayer Breakfast
- 9:30 AM WiM Coordinating Team: LR
- 10:45 AM CDC Music
- 12:00 PM Keenagers: Marechal's

**WEDNESDAY, MAY 4**

- 5:45 PM Youth Group
- 6:00 PM Confirmation Banquet: CLC
- 6:00 PM Praise Team Rehearsal
- 7:30 PM Chancel Choir Practice

**THURSDAY, MAY 5**

- 7:00 AM Men's Bible Study: Room 202
- 7:00 AM Youth: F. E. Pops
- 1:00 PM Bible Study: Zoom, Room 202
- 6:00 PM Girl Scout Leaders: Scout Room

**SUNDAY, MAY 8 Confirmation Sunday**

- 9:00 AM Contemporary Worship
- 9:30 AM Choir Rehearsal: JFH
- 10:00 AM Sunday School
- 11:00 AM Traditional Worship
- 5:00 PM Youth Small Groups

**MONDAY, MAY 9**

- 12:30 PM Worship Committee Meeting: LR
- 2:30 PM Prayer Group: LR
- 5:30 PM Enabling Unit Meeting: Women's Only Classroom
- 5:30 PM Stretch Your Faith: CLC
- 7:00 PM Boy Scouts: Scout Room
- 7:00 PM Men's Bible Study: Room 203

**TUESDAY, MAY 10**

- 7:00 AM Men's Prayer Breakfast
- 10:45 AM CDC Music
- 12:00 PM Discipleship Unit Meeting
- 2:00 PM Fellowship Unit Meeting
- 4:30 PM Florence Area Swim Team Banquet
- 6:30 PM Girl Scout Troop Meeting: Scout Room

**WEDNESDAY, MAY 11**

- 11:00 AM CARE House Luncheon
- 12:15 PM Outreach Unit Meeting: Pilgrim
- 5:30 PM Family Night Dinner
- 5:45 PM Youth Group
- 6:30 PM Handbell Spring Concert

**THURSDAY, MAY 12**

- 7:00 AM Men's Bible Study: Room 202
- 1:00 PM Bible Study: Zoom, Room 202

**SATURDAY, MAY 14**

- 6:00 AM Parking Lot Mission
- 7:00 AM Youth: F. E. Pops

**SUNDAY, MAY 15 Graduation Sunday**

- 9:00 AM Contemporary Worship
- 9:30 AM Choir Rehearsal: JFH
- 10:00 AM Sunday School
- 11:00 AM Traditional Worship
- 5:00 PM Youth Small Groups

**MONDAY, MAY 16**

- 12:30 PM Worship Committee Meeting: LR
- 2:30 PM Prayer Group: LR
- 5:30 PM Enabling Committee Meeting:  
Women's Only Classroom
- 5:30 PM Stretch Your Faith: CLC
- 6:30 PM **WIM Spring Celebration: CLC**
- 7:00 PM Boy Scouts: JFH
- 7:00 PM Men's Bible Study: Room 203

**TUESDAY, MAY 24**

- 7:00 AM Men's Prayer Breakfast
- 10:45 AM CDC Music
- 6:30 PM Girl Scout Troop Meeting: Scout Room
- 6:30 PM Session: JFH

**WEDNESDAY, MAY 25**

- 5:30 PM **Family Night at the Farm**
- 6:00 PM Praise Team Rehearsal

**TUESDAY, MAY 17**

- 7:00 AM Men's Prayer Breakfast
- 10:45 AM CDC Music
- 6:30 PM Board of Deacons

**THURSDAY, MAY 26**

- 7:00 AM Men's Bible Study: Room 202
- 7:00 AM **Youth: F. E. Pops**
- 1:00 PM Bible Study: Zoom, Room 202

**WEDNESDAY, MAY 18**

- 5:45 PM **Youth Group**
- 6:00 PM Praise Team Rehearsal
- 7:30 PM Chancel Choir Practice

**SUNDAY, MAY 29**

- Summer Worship Schedule Begins*
- 10:00 AM Combined Worship

**THURSDAY, MAY 19**

- 7:00 AM Men's Bible Study: Room 202
- 7:00 AM **Youth: F. E. Pops**
- 1:00 PM Bible Study: Zoom, Room 202

**MONDAY, MAY 30**

- 2:30 PM Prayer Group: LR
- 5:30 PM Stretch Your Faith: CLC
- 7:00 PM Boy Scouts: JFH
- 7:00 PM Men's Bible Study: Room 203

**SUNDAY, MAY 22**

- 9:00 AM Contemporary Worship
- 9:30 AM Choir Rehearsal: JFH
- 10:00 AM Sunday School
- 11:00 AM Traditional Worship
- 4:00 PM Trinity Collegiate Baccalaureate
- 5:00 PM **Youth Small Groups**

**TUESDAY, MAY 31**

- 7:00 AM Men's Prayer Breakfast
- 10:45 AM CDC Music

**MONDAY, MAY 23** *Last Day to Register for VBS*

- 2:30 PM Prayer Group: LR
- 5:30 PM Stretch Your Faith: CLC
- 7:00 PM Boy Scouts: JFH
- 7:00 PM Men's Bible Study: Room 203

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# Remember in Prayer

## Extended Care

### Home

Isla Louise McCoy  
Jack Williams

### Lowman Home

Mac King

### Methodist Manor

Joyce Floyd  
Marie Jordan  
Maria Whitehead

### Presbyterian Community

Ann Cash  
Helen Foster  
Aaron Leland  
Clariann Kellam

## Memorials

Joyce Baird  
Kenneth E. Coxé  
Jack Maffett

## Baptisms

Jacob and Hailey Mikulecky

## Households

FLOCK 1: Phil and Tammy Moore  
FLOCK 2: Jess and Martha Nance  
FLOCK 3: Sally King  
FLOCK 4: Charlie and Alice Caldwell  
FLOCK 5: Rachel Odom  
FLOCK 6: Matthew and Emily Hyman, Blakely and Linley  
FLOCK 7: Peete and Linda Smiley  
FLOCK 8: Stan Bergstrom

## Flowers in the Sanctuary

May 1: Communion  
May 8: Betsy Olsen  
May 15: Elizabeth and Joe McLean  
May 22: Pam Morgan  
May 29: Evans and Mary Jane Holland

\*Do you have a friend or relative you would like to honor? Sign up to place memorial flowers in the Sanctuary. Please contact Genia Tyson ([genia\\_tyson@hotmail.com](mailto:genia_tyson@hotmail.com)) or 843-992-8904) or Melba Whitesides (992-4267). Please leave your name, number, and date you wish to reserve.

## Sympathy

Charlie Grace, loss of his mother  
Pearce and Coker families, loss of Carolyn's mother  
Debbie Jackson, loss of her brother

Lord, Hear  
Our Prayer



## Sick & Recovering

Glenn Bell  
Butch Carroll  
Amelia Carter  
Aubrey Crawford  
Claudia Ervin  
Judy Fuller  
Debbie Harwell  
Nell Oliver  
Dudley Saleeby  
Bonnie Stuber  
George Stuber

## Elders

Rob Hall  
Laura Marechal

## Deacons

Karen McBride  
Mary Lynn Williamson

## Mission

Poetice (The Emert Family)  
East Florence Mission

## Women in Ministry

Katherine Ryan  
Karen Silver

## Teachers

Alexis Morris  
Ellen Wilhoit

## Staff

Mike Fleenor  
Beth Hepler

# May BIRTHDAYS

**MAY 1**

Wanda Hill

**MAY 2**

Amy Dozier

**MAY 3**Amanda Bostick  
Sarah Elizabeth Rainwater**MAY 4**Noha Cotran  
Melanie DuBose  
Cissy Hicks  
Mya-Rose Losah  
Gwen Misurella**MAY 5**Ann Rodgers Chandler  
Patti Vassy**MAY 6**Ellen Pearson  
Scarlett Sims**MAY 7**

Barbara Meeks

**MAY 8**Mac Burch  
Carolyn Pearce  
Katie Rockhill  
Peete Smiley**MAY 9**Camp Blanton  
Jennifer Foxworth  
Christi Gasque  
Anne Hanna  
Hayes Hofler  
Liam Hughes**MAY 10**Libby Fuller  
Lee Gandy  
Ella Warner  
Lilly Williams**MAY 11**Caroline Babb  
Carter Brand  
Kim Brauss  
Melaine Campbell  
Carol Duncan  
Barbara Montgomery**MAY 12**

Robin Halus

**MAY 14**Breck Granger  
Thomas Rogers**MAY 15**

Stephanie Spivey

**MAY 16**John Hail  
Elizabeth Anne Hanna**MAY 17**Emma Blanton  
Allison Johnson**MAY 19**Donna Grubb  
Jack Hofler  
Meredith Dozier**MAY 21**Sasha Hall  
Andy Jeffords  
Donald Heath**MAY 22**

Mary Lynn van Witzenburg

**MAY 24**Kelly Molnar  
Carol Banner**MAY 25**Ruth Bertram  
Hank Moree  
Lynn Porter  
Sonny Slaughter  
Austin Tyler**MAY 26**Jim Frederick  
Jim Poston  
Ben Green  
Zip Vassy**MAY 27**

Madison Sprenger

**MAY 28**Graham Emerson  
Masters Emerson**MAY 30**Henry Fast  
Tomi Jean Cleveland  
Danielle Guinn  
Hunter Scott**MAY 31**

Erin Lewis



## Spring is here with garden, art show

The 3K and 4K Preschool classes had a fun time recently when we planted our garden. So far this year we have planted carrots, pumpkins, tomatoes, cucumbers, sweet potatoes, peppers and a variety of flowers, including sunflowers. We are hoping to plant a few more vegetables, too. So far some of the ones that we planted by seed are starting to sprout, which is very exciting to the children.

The annual CDC Art Show and Sale was held in late April. Well attended by the CDC Children's families and others the Art Show was again a wonderful time of fellowship and fun for our CDC families. Our hats off to our creative teachers who once again came up with some wonderful art activities for the children to do! The children did a super job on their art and enjoyed showing off their art at the show.

As our calendar turns to May we are gearing up for our 4K Graduation, which will be held for the 4K families on Tuesday, May 10. This year we have five 4K graduates, and we are proud of them and their accomplishment.

Summer is almost here and that means a less structured classroom and more summer day camping



activities. Each 2K, 3K and 4K Class will be engaged in some fun and exciting summer camping themes.

It is always fun to see what the teachers have planned for the summer session. More time out doors is always a plus and of course weeding and watering our garden will keep us all busy.

Blessings,

*Beth*



*He is Risen!*





# Church News

## Combined service, picnic set for May 1

Pastor Actionnel Fleurisma will be visiting from Haiti and preaching during the Combined Service at 10 a.m. May 1. A church picnic will follow the service. Please bring a side dish to share. And please bring a blanket for seating. Limited seating will be available under the tent for those in need.

## Keenagers to hold luncheon

Keenagers will have their end-of-the season luncheon Tuesday, May 3, at the Marechal's, 519 Oleander Drive. A fun time will be had with a lunch at noon. All are encouraged to carpool as there's limited parking. Park at the church, and the church bus will be provided for transportation. Please arrive at the church at 11:45 a.m. to ride the bus over.

## Senior Boxes

We have more than a dozen FPC seniors graduating high school this year! Let's send them off with love and encouragement. We will be putting together "senior boxes" for them as graduation gifts from the church. Donations can be made to the church office. For information, contact Lynn Porter, [lynn.portersc@gmail.com](mailto:lynn.portersc@gmail.com)/843-319-3479.

## Family Night at the Farm

Please join us Family Night at the Farm from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. Wednesday, May 25. Join us for dinner, music and games at the Frost's Farm: The Cabin at Old Spur, [www.thecabinatoldspur.com](http://www.thecabinatoldspur.com). Our 2022 Graduating Seniors will be recognized. Please call the church office to let us know how many in your family will be attending. Extended family welcome! The farm is located at 750 Old Spur Road, Timmonsville, SC 29161.

## Save the Date for upcoming men's retreat

Men of the church are invited to an upcoming retreat at Black Mountain, N.C., on May 26-28.



## Cub Scouting Ministry update

Our Cub Scouting ministry held its Pinewood Derby races in April.

Pictured are Charley Hilton and his dad, Brandon. Our Cub Scouts ended the year with a cookout and campfire with Dr. Weave Whitehead leading songs with his guitar on April 30. Special thanks to leaders Jack Hofler, a first-year den leader; Brandon Hylton, a five-year Cub Scout leader; and Weave Whitehead, an 11-year Cub Scout den leader. Our Cub Scout ministry is for 5K-fifth-graders and will start a new Cub Scout year in September.

## Masterworks Choir to perform spring concert

The Masterworks Choir will perform their spring concert at 5 p.m. Sunday, May 15, at the FMU Performing Arts Center in downtown Florence.

This special concert will be performed in memory of Bill Mills, founder of Masterworks and director of the choir for 33 years before his death in 2012. As always, there is no charge for Masterworks Choir concerts and all are welcome.



# KIDS CONNECTION

## *Our children are a gift from God*

*Children are a gift from God. Psalm 127:3*

### **A Very Special Thank You to our Teachers!**

Thank you to all the people who teach our children about Jesus. Your commitment is truly valued and appreciated! Your teaching ungirds the church as a whole, and it helps support what our Bible teaches us in Proverbs 22:6: *Train up a child in the way he should go, and when he is old, he will not depart from it.* Our world is tough, and what we teach our children today in God's word will strengthen them for a lifetime. Thank you for your service to our children and our church.

### **Confirmation events completing the season**

Our Confirmation Retreat was a wonderful time of spiritual growth, fellowship, and fun. Thank you to all the Mentors and Confirmands!

Reminder to Confirmation Parents: The Confirmation Banquet will be held at 6 p.m. Wednesday, May 4. Families of the Confirmation students can decorate the tables with a centerpiece, China, napkins, and silverware by 3 p.m. May 4. We will set up the tables on Tuesday in the CLC just in case you would like to decorate earlier.

Confirmation Sunday is May 8 at the 11 a.m. service.

Blessings,  
Wynde



### **VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL 2022**

"Make Waves" is our theme for this year's Vacation Bible School. It has a fantastic missional message for children and adults!

Don't forget to register for VBS! The deadline to register is Monday, May 23.

Pre-registration is required. We will not accept any walk-ins or "day-of" registrations.

**When:** June 20-23; 9-11:45 a.m.

**Where:** First Presbyterian

**Who:** Students who have completed 5K-fifth grade

\*Special note: Programming is available for Birth-age 5 if parent or grandparent is an onsite volunteer. Please register this age group as well if you are volunteering. <http://www.myvbs.org/firstpresflorence/register/>  
Link was also emailed to parents on Realm.

### **MEMORY VERSE**

**"Whoever believes in me ... rivers of living water will flow from within them." John 7:38, NIV**

# May is for Mothers!



Even when our mothers fail us ... when their bodies fail ... when their memory fades ... when their love and support is withdrawn ... we bring glory to the Lord by honoring them. Our mothers have been a gift from the Lord to us. Let us thank Him for the experience of His love and care that we received and do receive through them. Thank You for never leaving and forsaking us, Lord! Your tender mercies sustain us today and every day.

The Bible has a lot to say about mothers. Isn't it amazing that God chose a teenage girl to bring the Savior of the World to earth?!? Jesus had a high regard for all women, especially mothers. As Christians, we should, too. What can you do to honor your mother this week? This month? This year? Honoring others with your time, talents, and words is a lifestyle. Let's commit our bodies to the Lord anew as we remember the love and care we received from our mothers.

"And just as a little thread of gold, running through a fabric, brightens the whole garment, so women's work at home, while only the doing of little things, like the golden gleam of sunlight runs through and brightens all the fabric of civilization."

"Daily Tasks are Not Small Things" Laura Ingalls Wilder - May 1923

Isaiah 66:13: "As one whom his mother comforts, so I will comfort you."

Isaiah 49:15: "Can a mother forget her nursing child? Can she feel no love for the child she has borne? Though she may forget, I will not forget you!"

Proverbs 31:25: "She is clothed with strength and dignity; she can laugh at the days to come."

Proverbs 31:26: "She opens her mouth with wisdom, and the teaching of kindness is on her tongue."

Proverbs 31:28-29: "Her children rise up and call her blessed; her husband also, and he praises her: 'Many women have done excellently, but you surpass them all.'"

Deuteronomy 6:6-7: "And these words that I command you today shall be on your heart. You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise."

**Proverbs 31:31: "Honor her for all that her hands have done, and let her works bring her praise at the city gate."**

Psalms 139:13-14: "For you formed my inward parts; you knitted me together in my mother's womb. I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made. Wonderful are your works; my soul knows it very well."

Genesis 3:20: "The man called his wife's name Eve, because she was the mother of all living."

Deuteronomy 4:9: "Only be careful, and watch yourselves closely so that you do not forget the things your eyes have seen or let them fade from your heart as long as you live. Teach them to your children and to their children after them."

Luke 2:51: "And his mother treasured up all these things in her heart."

# Youth Ministry

April was a fun month! The youth served up a delicious ice cream bar for the final Wednesday Night meal of the year, dyed eggs to contribute to the Easter Egg Hunt, and enjoyed a Spring Break Brunch at Taiter's house. We are so excited for the Summer & cannot wait to go on our trips.

Please be on the lookout for ways you can help support the youth group this Summer and throughout the year.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

**Small Groups (5 – 7 p.m.):** May 1, 8, 15 & 22.  
Dinner provided.

**Sunday School (10 – 11 a.m.):** May 8, 15 and 22.  
Light breakfast served.

**Youth Group (5:45 – 7:30 p.m.):** May 4, 11 and 18

**Coffee at F.E. Pops (7 a.m. – until):** May 5, 14, 19 and 26.

**Rising Seventh-Graders Welcome to Youth (5:45 – 7:30 p.m.):** May 11. We will have dinner, games & introduce all of the events and activities that we are involved in throughout the year. Sunday School (10 – 11 a.m.): May 8, 15 and 22. Light breakfast served.

**Senior Sunday (11 a.m. service):** May 15. Join us in the late service as we celebrate our Seniors.

**Family Night at the Farm (5:30 – 7:30 p.m.):** May 25 at the Frost's Cabin at Old Spur. This is a church-wide picnic, where we will have dinner, games & music. We also will recognize our graduating Seniors. It is sure to be a wonderful time of fellowship. Please reach out to Taiter or Emily Whitehead with any questions. The Cabin at Old Spur is located at 750 Old Spur Road in Timmons ville.



## SAVE THE DATES!

**Fun in The Son! (July 10-15):** \*\*Senior High & Junior High (current seventh grade-12) are invited on this trip.\*\* We will travel to Hilton Head Island. Mornings include quiet times, the morning session & seminars. After lunch, you will have free time to relax & enjoy the beach. A variety of recreation activities & tournaments will be organized for each afternoon. The evening schedule will include dinner, a counselor meeting, the evening session & family time (with your church family). Cost is \$480. Spots are limited so please let Taiter know ASAP if you would like to go.

**End of Summer Trip (July 22 -24):** We will stay at the Garden City Chapel at the beach. This trip is for the entire youth group, including rising seventh-graders. Cost is \$75 per person (\$50 per sibling). Bring a friend!



700 PARK AVE., FLORENCE, SC 29501

PHONE: 843-662-2583

FAX: 843-662-1726

www.florencefirst.org

#### CHURCH STAFF

Senior Pastor and Head of Staff  
Interim Assistant Pastor  
Congregational Care Assistant  
Director of Music/Organist  
Praise Team Leader  
Director of Youth  
Children's Ministry Director  
Child Development Center Director  
Family Ministry Assistant  
Church Administrator  
Ministry Assistant  
Financial Assistant  
Communications Assistant  
Custodian  
Housekeeping

Dr. Darryl Evans  
Dr. Bill Cain  
Rev. Mike Fleenor  
Mrs. Ann Rodgers Chandler  
Mr. Vic Rockhill  
Ms. Christina "Taiter" Garrett  
Mrs. Wynde Edwards  
Mrs. Beth Hepler  
Mrs. Emily Whitehead  
Rev. Don Hebert  
Mrs. Becky Thomas  
Mrs. Gwen DuRant  
Ms. Kimberly Brauss  
Mr. Sidney Ruff  
Ms. Wanda LaSane

# SAVE

*the*

# DATE



**MEN'S RETREAT AT  
BLACK MOUNTAIN, N.C.  
MAY 26-28**

