

# The REMINDER

Growing UPWARD  
worshipping and praising

Growing INWARD  
becoming more like Christ

Growing OUTWARD  
sharing the good news



MARCH 2023





**Youth group members, from right to left, Addison Suggs, Allie Hickey, Jude Packard and Penn Packard, and ski trip leaders Caleb and Lauren Griffin prepare for the slopes.**

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*Please submit news briefs or announcements by the 21st of the month to Kim Brauss at [kbrauss@florencefirst.org](mailto:kbrauss@florencefirst.org).*

*To be added to the mailing list, call the church office at 843-662-2583.*

# MOMENT FOR MISSION: Tenacious Grace

Under the direction of Cookie Cawthon, Tenacious Grace exists to engage hurting women from all walks of life with the message of truth, strength, and hope in Jesus. One aspect of that mission involves building relationships with women during their incarceration at the Florence County Detention Center, sharing Jesus with them at a time of great hopelessness. Tenacious Grace offers many of those women an opportunity to apply to Five Sparrows, a free, two-year recovery residence; this affords them the opportunity – after their release – to continue growing in their relationship with Jesus in an environment conducive to the gospel. Keep in mind, these residents are survivors of abuse, addiction, poverty, and prostitution. The Five Sparrows house gives them the time and space to heal and grow into the women God made them to be. They receive safe housing, medical, dental, and vision care, recovery services, job training, educational opportunities, trauma counseling, life skills, and spiritual growth opportunities at no cost to themselves. Cookie says, “We are blessed to share the love and grace and provision of Jesus and then watch Him save and change the women we serve. Because a resident is freed from the relational, financial and environmental stresses of her past, she is able to begin writing a new story with Jesus.”

### The Grace Bash

(annual fundraiser)

Tuesday, April 4, 2023, 6:30-8:30 p.m.

Church at Sandhurst

Dinner, entertainment and fellowship – Free admission

Please RSVP to Cookie Cawthon at [cookie@tenaciousgrace.cc](mailto:cookie@tenaciousgrace.cc)

or call the office at 843-407-5373

Please come out and support this wonderful ministry!

### Upcoming 2023 Dates of “Partner” Events

**House of Hope** – Evening of Hope – Dr. Ben Carson – March 6, 2023; tickets \$20/each through TicketMaster or Florence Center box office

**LightHouse Ministries** – Annual BBQ fundraiser – 3/20-3/24; Horses, Hats & Humanity – 5/6/23; The Good Neighbor Gala – 9/7/23

**Naomi Project** – “20 for 23” – pledge \$20/mo for 2023; Socks Campaign (tbd); Naomi Day “For Women by Women” - Friday & Saturday, March 3-4, 8 a.m.-1 p.m.

**Helping Florence Flourish** – (\*see website for different locations)

- Monthly “Lunch & Learn”\* – Friday, 3/10/23 (noon-1 p.m.)  
Topic: “Be the Bridge”; location: First Baptist
- Pastor's Breakfast\* – Third Thursday each month at 7 a.m.
- Citywide Prayer Gathering\* – March 23, 7 p.m.

# WIJD

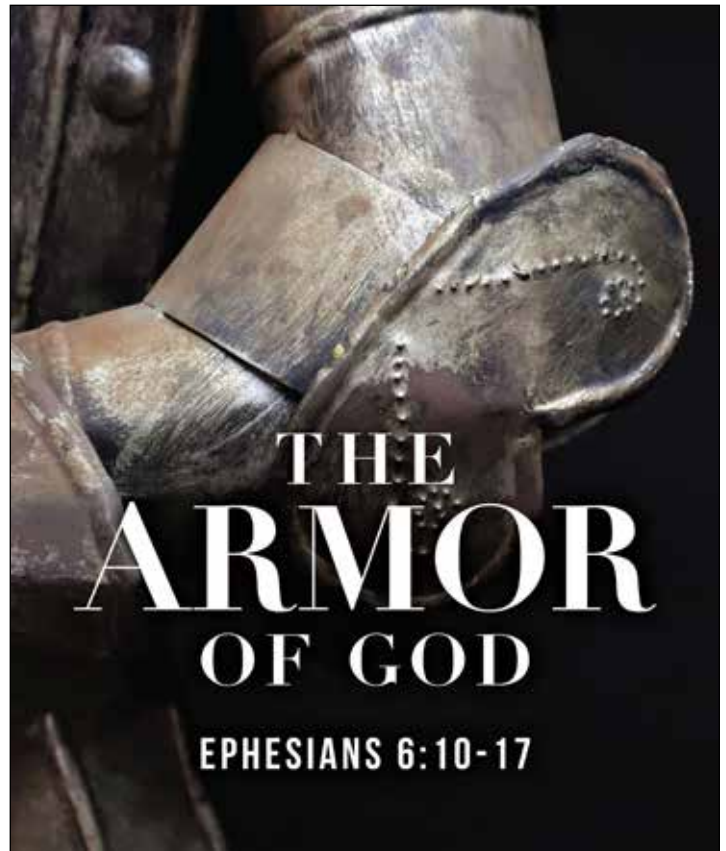
Dear Church Family,

In our Wednesday nights together we have been enjoying fellowship as we have been studying the Lord's Prayer together. After we finish with studying The Prayer, we are going to have some special opportunities coming up. In particular, please mark down March 22 on your calendar. On that Wednesday night, the 5:30 p.m. dinner will be from Holt Brothers and proceeds will go to benefit our ministry partner Lighthouse Ministries. This is another way to reach out in missions while enjoying great food. As you may know, Lighthouse is a longtime partner that FPC helped launch years ago. One of our own church officers, Daniel Jordan, has done a fine job chairing their board for some time. He is always eager to talk about Lighthouse and answer any questions you may have about it.

After dinner, from 6:15 to 7:15 p.m. everyone will meet in the sanctuary for a prayer gathering. I am very excited to say that Bill and I are working with three other pastors in town. They and members of their congregations will join us that evening as we all seek the Lord together. We are working on the details and praying about this upcoming service now, and I ask you to join us in prayer as well. May we be open to something new. We all sense the call to worship the Lord together, and we are excited to see what God will do. How wonderful would it be to see, as the prophet Isaiah says, for all the nations to stream into the House of the Lord (2:2)! Building relationships in and among the congregations through fellowship and prayer is the source of great joy.

Secondly, the videos of the keynote speakers and worship from the ECO National Gathering last month are now posted online. They can be found at: <https://vimeo.com/showcase/10173014>. Next year we will meet at FPC-Greenville, SC, from January 29 to February 1. Would you consider attending just one day? There will be no boring meetings; just excellent worship, teaching and fellowship. You will be refreshed.

Finally, during this season of Lent leading up to Easter, it is common practice for Christians to either give up a



routine or take up a new habit in order to help cultivate an awareness of the Lord's presence with us. As such, we will explore together Ephesians 6 and the "Full Armor of God" in our sermon series. Far from spiritual warfare being "really weird," we will see how intensely practical the rhythms of "putting on the armor" is to our daily lives. I am ever fascinated with how the Lord continually reveals new things to us through His Word.

Frequently we hear the phrase, "WWJD" – meaning, "What Would Jesus Do?" It implies: let us think what Jesus would do, and then do the same thing. Yet, I prefer "WIJD" – "What is Jesus Doing?" It takes the pressure off us performing, while centering our gaze on Him. There is always a "newness" to what He is doing. It means we may not do things "like we have always done them." March 22, ECO, Lent ... what do you sense God is up to?

All Praise be to Him,

# The Secret of Lifelong Fulfillment

## THE REAL SECRET OF LIFELONG FULFILLMENT

... there it was in big, bold, black letters. An article in the *Wall Street Journal* proclaimed the “open secret.” What is this secret? How can you and I experience a life of fulfillment?

The answer should not shock you—PERSONAL CONNECTIONS. “Personal Connections,” so the article proclaimed, “are the most important factor in long-term health and happiness.” That’s not a new insight but based on an 85-year ongoing Harvard University study of adult development.

With all respect to the *Wall Street Journal* and Harvard, long before they existed the Bible identified relationships as the essential foundation for a life of purpose. The biblical phrase is “one another.” At least 59 times (count ‘em) the Bible calls us to “one another.” “Love one another.” “Forgive one another.” “Be kind to one another.” “Do what is good for one another.” And so the list goes.

But I want to draw your attention to one verse. **Carry one another’s burdens and so fulfill the law of Christ.** (Gal. 6:2) Life gets hard and the loads can be heavy. How wonderful when someone walks beside us and eases the burden.

From our Wednesday night small groups, I’ve heard accounts of “burden bearing.” One of our covenant partners offered to sit with one of our single adult covenant partners during Sunday worship so that person wouldn’t feel isolated. Another person knew of a struggle that a friend was going through and made a point to ask, “How are you doing with that challenge in your life?” Followed by the powerful words of “burden bearing,” “I’m praying for you.” Another person called me and offered, “Bill, if someone needs financial assistance to attend the Marriage Retreat, call me and it’s done!”

Please remember this act of “carrying one another’s burdens” is not co-dependence and doing for someone what they need to do for themselves. It is walking with them, acknowledging their challenge, and offering to do some “heavy lifting” in terms of prayer ... of food ... of friendship ... of joining with them on the task ... of being an accountability partner.

In 2017, I was diagnosed with an aggressive cancer that needed to be removed. People in this congregation



stepped up. They laid hands on me and prayed for me (how I needed that). They sent me cards. Several visited me in the hospital ... at Wake Forest! One person who had experienced the same surgery, called me throughout the year just to see how I was doing and to offer me wise counsel.

In short, they “carried my burden.” Is it any secret that in 2020 when Jill and I were praying about a place to live ... Florence was on the top of the list and the community of First Presbyterian Church? Join with me in intentionally building PERSONAL CONNECTIONS. And let’s have the Time of our Life with one another and Jesus.

Love in Christ Jesus,

*Bill*



# Our Ministry Action Plan and its allocation

## Facts & Figures

I am using my newsletter article this month to share some of the highlights from 2022 and to provide information about the 2023 Ministry Action Plan. As the chart shows, our giving for 2022 exceeded our ministry expenses. A portion of the surplus has been allocated to support Helping Florence Flourish in 2023.

### 2022 Ministry Action Plan

<b>Pledge Gifts Received</b>	\$ 1,173,125.00
<b>Non-Pledge Gifts Received</b>	\$582,565.00
<b>Miscellaneous Income</b>	\$66,784.00
<b>Total 2022 Ministry Action Plan Receipts</b>	\$1,822,476.00
<b>Total 2022 Ministry Action Plan Expenses</b>	\$1,746,097.00
<b>Surplus</b>	\$76,379.00

In February, the Session approved the **2023 Ministry Action Plan** in the amount of \$ 1,820,268. The Ministry Action Plan is allocated to five areas that make up the church's ministry. Those areas are Worship, Outreach, Discipleship, Fellowship and Administration (Enabling). **Worship** funds the purchase of music and resources needed by our worship leaders to provide meaningful weekly worship services and special worship opportunities throughout the year. **Outreach** approximately 32% of our Ministry Action Plan is dedicated to monthly support of national and global missionaries, including the Emerts, Actionnel Fleurisma, Carol Crom and Gray Scott. Additionally, FPC also supports numerous local benevolence agencies — Lighthouse Ministry, House of Hope, Tenacious Grace, Helping Florence Flourish, A Choice to Make, Mercy Medicine and The Naomi Project to name a few. **Discipleship** includes funding for education and discipleship activities for our covenant partners (children, youth, and adults). This includes our Vacation Bible School, Confirmation, children's ministry, youth ministry activities, adult conferences, and classes. As the name implies **Fellowship** provides funding for times when our covenant partners come together to share in activities that help connect us as the family of faith (sports teams, concerts, picnics, and seasonal activities). **Administration (Enabling)** includes fund-

ing to cover the operating costs of the church (utilities, building and grounds maintenance, supplies, staff salaries, insurance, office equipment, ECO denominational support). To date, we have received pledges from 150 covenant partners totaling **\$1,117,440.00**. The average pledge is \$7,450.00 In addition to those who have made a pledge to support the church, we have those who, for various reasons, do not "pledge" but give faithfully in support of the church's ministry and mission. The church leadership and staff appreciate the faithful support of our covenant partners and work hard to be good stewards of this support. If you have not yet made a pledge, you may do so on REALM, the church website ([www.florencefirst.org](http://www.florencefirst.org)) or by contacting the church office for a pledge card. Thank you!

## Do More ONREALM

Several years ago, First Presbyterian Church implemented an ACS database system called REALM. Since then, many covenant partners, staff and leaders have taken advantage of this system to communicate with each other. REALM allows you to update your personal information, follow church announcements, and look up other covenant partners. REALM also allows you to manage your giving to First Presbyterian Church. You can access REALM from your home computer or from your mobile device (phone, tablet, etc.) with RealmConnect. Simply download the Connect app from wherever you get your mobile apps (App Store, Google Play, etc.) If you have questions, contact me or Gwen DuRant. One of us will be happy to help you get signed up. Our goal is for everyone to get connected.

**Let's be the church ... together.**





# **WEDNESDAY** *Dinner Nights!*

## **MARCH MENU**

**MARCH 1: CHICKEN TACOS**

**MARCH 8: CHICKEN AND RICE CASSEROLE, GREEN BEANS, ROLLS**

**MARCH 15: SOUTHERN BREAKFAST & FLOCK NIGHT**

**LOOK FOR YOUR FLOCK'S TABLES & FELLOWSHIP WITH YOUR FLOCK MEMBERS**

**MARCH 22: HOLT BROS BBQ SUPPORTING LIGHTHOUSE MINISTRIES - MUST RSVP**

**MARCH 29: HAMBURGERS, HOTDOGS, CHIPS, ICE CREAM**

*Join us this Wednesday!*

**DINNER STARTS AT 5:30 PM**

\$5 a Person | \$20 Family Maximum

# Save the Dates

The Women in Ministry's Spring Celebration will be held at 6:30 p.m. Tuesday, April 25, in the CLC.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

**Wednesday, March 1:** Bible Moderator's Meeting, 4 p.m.

**Wednesday, March 1:** Coordination Team (CT) Meeting, 5:15 p.m.

**Week of March 11-14:** Circle of Friends Meetings (various times and locations)



## Women in Ministry Circle of Friends

For March we will be focusing on Session 6 ~ANXIOUS PRAYER! We will be discussing how prayer is our posture in the Fight against Anxiety.

Please let Amy Williams (asfwilliams@gmail.com) know if you would like to get plugged into a circle. We'd love to have you!

*Humble yourselves, therefore, under the mighty hand of God, so that He may exalt you at the proper time, casting all your cares on Him, because He cares about you.*

*1 Peter 5:6-7.*

Bread and Fish	March 11	9 a.m.	Room 100
Joyful Hearts	March 14	10 a.m.	Room 100
Prayer Warriors	March 14	6:30 p.m.	Lawson-Rain Chapel
SonFlowers	March 14	10 a.m.	Lawson-Rain Chapel
Soul Sisters	March 14	noon	Price Classroom
Serenity	March 14	3 p.m.	Lawson-Rain Chapel
Women of Grace	March 13	6:30 p.m.	3002 Japonica Lane
Sunday Salty Sisters	March 12	4:30 p.m.	FPC Church Parlor





# Church News

## Breaking Bread Together

Acts 2:42 - *They devoted themselves to the Apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer.* One of the great ways to build bonds between people is sharing a meal. Please join us for Flock Night on March 15 during the regular Wednesday Night dinner. We will sit down and share a meal and warm conversation together in our individual Flocks. Look for your Flock's tables and share some food and fellowship with your Flock members.

## Fellowship of Elders Dinner

A message to All ECO Elders — You should have each gotten a "Save The Date" for our Dinner Meeting on March 20 at 6 p.m. We will meet in the Jenkins Fellowship Hall to enjoy a nice meal and time together. Please plan to be there!

There are about 75 of us now. Even though we have "rolled off" of the Session, we are all still Elders. It is encouraging to see how you have stayed involved in the church and the community since the end of your term on the Session. Thank you for your service on the Session and thereafter.

Let's come together for food and fellowship with our current Session and our Pastors. Let us consider how we may spur one another on ... encouraging one another. Hebrews 10:23-25.

Contact Debbie Jackson, Jeannie Brodie or Chris Scott with any questions or suggestions. We look forward to seeing you on March 20!

## Lunch to highlight Helping Florence Flourish

Keenagers' luncheon will be at noon Tuesday, March 7, in the fellowship hall. Lunch will be fried chicken, potato salad, green beans, and dessert. The guest speaker will be Rev. Chris Handley with Helping Florence Flourish. We welcome all who are 55 and older to join us for food, fellowship, and fun. Cost is \$6 for lunch.

— Submit news briefs to Kim Brauss, [kbrauss@florence-first.org](mailto:kbrauss@florence-first.org) or call 843-662-2583.



Beth Hepler



Don Hebert

## Staff Recognitions

First Presbyterian is fortunate to have a talented and dedicated church staff. This month, we recognize two of our staff members on their employment anniversaries. Beth Hepler has been the Director of our Child Development Center since its inception 7 years ago. She has been instrumental in growing the center from a beginning enrollment of 50 children to the current enrollment of 80. Beth joined our staff in February 2016.

Don Hebert has been our Church Administrator for 9 years. Don joined our staff in March 2014.

Thank you, Beth and Don, we are grateful for both of you and your individual contributions the ministry of First Presbyterian Church.

## Scouting Ministry update

Our Boy Scouts helped at the American Heritage Festival in Lake City in February.

In March, our Cub Scouts will hold pinewood derby races and spend the night on the Yorktown aircraft carrier with our Boy Scouts. Special thanks to Jack Hofler for his 2 years of Cub Scout leadership and to Weave Whitehead for his 12 years of Cub Scout leadership. Also special thanks to Brandon Hylton for his leadership as scoutmaster of our Scout troop.

As this school year nears an end, our Scouts are preparing for summer scout camp and a trip to New Mexico backpacking in the Rockies at the Philmont Scout Ranch.

## Call for female vocalists for Praise Team

The early service is looking to rotate in some female vocalists on a once a month basis and wanting to meet this need with some of you ladies who may feel impressed upon to serve. How you can tell?

1. Someone gave you this announcement.
2. Someone has told you how good you sounded singing in church last Sunday.
3. You're tired of just singing in your car on the road and are ready to take a chance and praise from the front of the room.

What an opportunity to give back! If you're interested, please email Praise Team leader Vic Rockhill at [vicrockhill@gmail.com](mailto:vicrockhill@gmail.com).



# Children prepare for spring art show

As our calendar moves toward the spring, we are busy at the CDC getting ready for our annual CDC Art Show & Sale, which will be held the week of April 17-20, with our parents gathering to purchase the art on Thursday, April 20. The art will be on display earlier that week in the Welcome Center for you to stop by and take a look at what the children have made.

Preschool is a wonderful time to explore hands-on art activities. Before a child is 5, they normally do not have the concept of what the finished product will look like. Up until then, it's all about the process. Young children can learn so much from experiencing with different colors of paint and textures. From creating art projects they learn how much glue is too much glue. They stretch their fine and gross motor skills through doing various art techniques. One of the most satisfying things about preschool art work comes when a child proudly exclaims, "I made this all by myself." At First Presbyterian Child Development Center we allow the children to do their own work! After all, no parent wants to see what a teacher can create. For some young children sticking their fingers in a glob of fingerpaint and swirling it around on a piece of paper, is totally disgusting. Other children may choose not only to paint their paper but also paint their fingers. Making a creativity mess in preschool is the most fun of all. For the most part young children love to paint, glue, cut and create!

As spring comes our way we will begin to clear out our preschool garden area and start weeding to get ready for a spring planting. One of our favorites from last year was a variety of sweet peppers that we enjoyed snacking on until early November. The children love to help weed the garden, plant and water. However, their favorite part of gardening is playing in the dirt!

We continue to seek out new faces of people who may be interested in spending time here at the center each day, guiding these young children as they learn and grow. Anyone interested in talking with us more about the CDC job possibilities may submit their resume to [bhepler@florencefirst.org](mailto:bhepler@florencefirst.org) for an interview and more information.

Blessings,

*Beth*



**WEDNESDAY, MARCH 1**

- 4:00 PM WiM Bible Moderators Meeting:  
Women's Only Classroom (WOC)
- 5:00 PM Chancel Handbell Choir Rehearsal
- 5:15 PM WiM Coordinating Team Meeting
- 5:30 PM Wednesday Night Dinner
- 6:00 PM Praise Team Rehearsal
- 7:30 PM Chancel Choir Rehearsal

**THURSDAY, MARCH 2**

- 7:00 AM Men's Bible Study: Room 202
- 7:00 AM Youth: F.E. Pops
- 8:30 AM Morning Exercise Class: CLC
- 1:00 PM Bible Study: Zoom, Room 202
- 5:00 PM Kiwanis Pancake Dinner

**SUNDAY, MARCH 5**

- 9:00 AM Contemporary Worship
- 10:00 AM Sunday School
- 11:00 AM Traditional Worship
- 2:00 PM Youth: Paint Ball
- 3:30 PM Sixth Grade Ministry: CLC

**MONDAY, MARCH 6**

- 8:30 AM Morning Exercise Class: CLC
- 2:30 PM Prayer Group: Lawson-Rain Chapel
- 5:30 PM Selah Yoga: CLC
- 6:30 PM Boy Scouts: Scouts Room
- 6:30 PM GriefShare: Pilgrim Classroom
- 7:00 PM Men's Bible Study: Room 203

**TUESDAY, MARCH 7**

- 7:00 AM Men's Prayer Breakfast
- 8:30 AM Morning Exercise Class: CLC
- 12:00 PM Keenagers: JFH
- 12:00 PM Just for Women Bible Study: CLC

**WEDNESDAY, MARCH 8**

- 8:00 AM Veterans Brunch Meeting: LR
- 12:15 PM Outreach Unit Meeting: Pilgrim
- 5:00 PM Chancel Handbell Choir Rehearsal
- 5:00 PM Children's Min. Mtg: Children's Chapel
- 5:30 PM Wednesday Night Dinner, Programs
- 6:00 PM Praise Team Rehearsal
- 7:30 PM Chancel Choir Rehearsal

**THURSDAY, MARCH 9**

- 7:00 AM Men's Bible Study: Room 202
- 7:00 AM Youth: F.E. Pops
- 8:30 AM Morning Exercise Class: CLC
- 1:00 PM Bible Study: Zoom, Room 202
- Boys & Girls Club Steak and Burger Night

**SATURDAY, MARCH 11**

- 6:00 AM Parking Lot Mission: HopeHealth
- 9:00 AM WiM Bread & Fish: Room 100

**SUNDAY, MARCH 12 Daylight Saving Time**

- 9:00 AM Contemporary Worship
- 10:00 AM Meet the Pastors
- 10:00 AM Sunday School
- 11:00 AM Traditional Worship
- 3:00 PM WinShape Pop-Up Event: FPC
- 3:30 PM Presbyterian Kids (PKs 1st, 2nd): CLC
- 4:30 PM WiM Sunday Salty Sisters: Parlor
- 5:00 PM Youth Small Groups

**MONDAY, MARCH 13**

- 8:30 AM Morning Exercise Class: CLC
- 12:30 PM Worship Unit Meeting: LR
- 2:30 PM Prayer Group: Lawson-Rain Chapel
- 4:30 PM Discipleship Unit Meeting: WOC
- 5:30 PM Enabling Unit Meeting: WOC
- 5:30 PM Selah Yoga: CLC
- 6:30 PM Boy Scouts: Scouts Room
- 6:30 PM GriefShare: Pilgrim Classroom
- 6:30 PM WiM Women of Grace: Off campus
- 7:00 PM Men's Bible Study: Room 203

**TUESDAY, MARCH 14**

- 7:00 AM Men's Prayer Breakfast
- 8:30 AM Morning Exercise Class: CLC
- 10:00 AM WiM Joyful Hearts: Room 100
- 10:00 AM WiM Sonflowers: LR
- 12:00 PM Just for Women Bible Study: CLC
- 12:00 PM WiM Soul Sisters: Price Classroom
- 6:30 PM WiM Prayer Warriors: LR



**WEDNESDAY, MARCH 15**

5:00 PM Chancel Handbell Choir Rehearsal  
 5:30 PM Wednesday Night Dinner - Flock Night  
 6:00 PM Praise Team Rehearsal  
 6:15 PM Educational Programs  
 7:30 PM Chancel Choir Rehearsal

**THURSDAY, MARCH 16**

7:00 AM Men's Bible Study: Room 202  
 7:00 AM Youth: F.E. Pops  
 8:30 AM Morning Exercise Class: CLC  
 1:00 PM Bible Study: Zoom, Room 202

**FRIDAY, MARCH 17 St. Patrick's Day**

2:00 PM Youth Spring Getaway departure  
 4:00 PM St. Anthony school rehearsal: CLC

**SUNDAY, MARCH 19**

9:00 AM Contemporary Worship  
 10:00 AM Sunday School  
 11:00 AM Traditional Worship  
 5:00 PM Youth Spring Getaway return

**MONDAY, MARCH 20 Spring begins**

8:30 AM Morning Exercise Class: CLC  
 2:30 PM Prayer Group: Lawson-Rain Chapel  
 4:00 PM St. Anthony school rehearsal: CLC  
 5:30 PM Selah Yoga: CLC  
 6:30 PM Boy Scouts: Scouts Room  
 6:30 PM GriefShare: Pilgrim Classroom  
 7:00 PM Men's Bible Study: Room 203

**TUESDAY, MARCH 21**

7:00 AM Men's Prayer Breakfast  
 8:30 AM Morning Exercise Class: CLC  
 12:00 PM Just for Women Bible Study: CLC  
 4:00 PM St. Anthony school rehearsal: CLC  
 5:30 PM Fellowship Unit

**WEDNESDAY, MARCH 22**

4:00 PM St. Anthony school rehearsal: CLC  
 5:00 PM Chancel Handbell Choir Rehearsal  
 5:30 PM Wednesday Night Dinner  
 6:00 PM Praise Team Rehearsal  
 6:15 PM Educational Programs  
 7:30 PM Chancel Choir Rehearsal

**THURSDAY, MARCH 23**

7:00 AM Men's Bible Study: Room 202  
 7:00 AM Youth: F.E. Pops  
 8:30 AM Morning Exercise Class: CLC  
 1:00 PM Bible Study: Zoom, Room 202  
 4:00 PM St. Anthony school rehearsal: CLC

**FRIDAY, MARCH 24, and SATURDAY, MARCH 25**

4:00 PM St. Anthony school play: CLC

**SUNDAY, MARCH 26**

9:00 AM Contemporary Worship  
 10:00 AM Sunday School  
 11:00 AM Traditional Worship  
 3:30 PM PKs (3rd-5th): CLC  
 4:00 PM St. Anthony school play: CLC

**MONDAY, MARCH 27**

8:30 AM Morning Exercise Class: CLC  
 2:30 PM Prayer Group: Lawson-Rain Chapel  
 5:30 PM Selah Yoga: CLC  
 6:30 PM Boy Scouts: Scouts Room  
 6:30 PM GriefShare: Pilgrim Classroom  
 7:00 PM Men's Bible Study: Room 203

**TUESDAY, MARCH 28**

7:00 AM Men's Prayer Breakfast  
 8:30 AM Morning Exercise Class: CLC  
 12:00 PM Just for Women Bible Study: CLC  
 1:30 PM Red Cross Blood Drive: JFH  
 6:30 PM Session and Diaconate Meeting

**WEDNESDAY, MARCH 29**

5:00 PM Chancel Handbell Choir Rehearsal  
 5:30 PM Wednesday Night Dinner  
 6:00 PM Praise Team Rehearsal  
 6:15 PM Children's Ministry Presentation  
 7:30 PM Chancel Choir Rehearsal

**THURSDAY, MARCH 30**

7:00 AM Men's Bible Study: Room 202  
 7:00 AM Youth: F.E. Pops  
 8:00 AM Beckman Oral Motor Conference  
 8:30 AM Morning Exercise Class: CLC  
 1:00 PM Bible Study: Zoom, Room 202  
 4:00 PM St. Anthony school play: CLC

# Remember in Prayer

## Extended Care

**Lowman Home**  
Mac King

**The Manor**  
Frank Ellington  
Joyce Floyd  
Julie Hughes  
Marie Jordan  
Maria Whitehead

**Presbyterian Community**  
Ann Cash  
Clariann Kellam

## Memorials

Anna Vassy

## Baptism

Thomas Rhett "Tommy" Spencer IV,  
son of Rhett and Eliza Spencer

## Households

FLOCK 1: Robbie, Whitney, Addison and Harper Suggs  
FLOCK 2: Teresa Stewart  
FLOCK 3: Sarah Elizabeth Rainwater, Carter, Sarah Ella, and Thomas Hardee  
FLOCK 4: Brett and Donna Green  
FLOCK 5: Matt Tyler  
FLOCK 6: Rob, Sonya, Kaitlyn, Kelly, and John Molnar  
FLOCK 7: Chris Williams  
FLOCK 8: Ann Cash

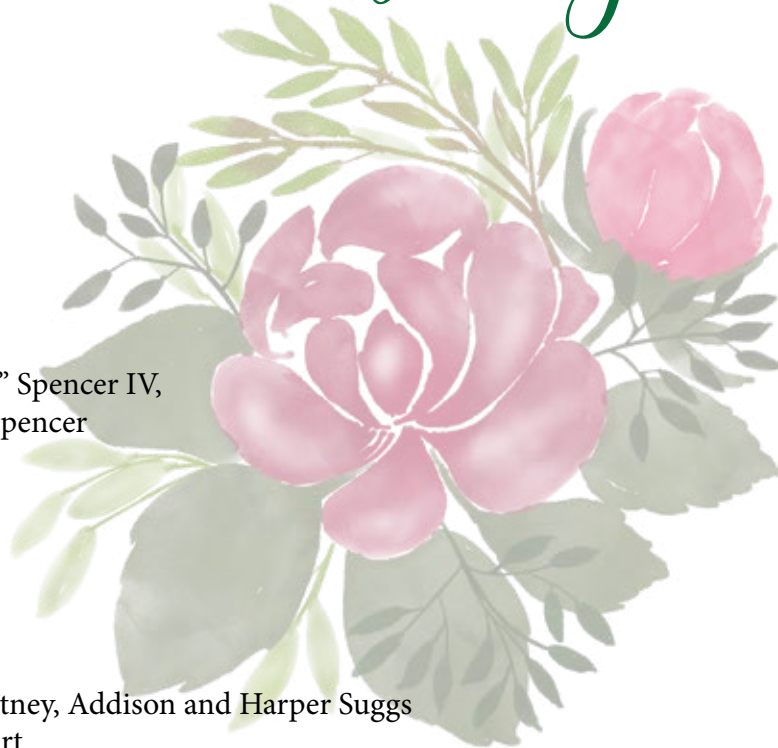
## Flowers in the Sanctuary

March 5: Communion  
March 12: Janie Ray  
March 19: Ellen Pearson  
March 26: Ginger Sullivan

## Sympathy

Debbie Peek, loss of her mother-in-law

Lord, Hear  
Our Prayer



## Sick & Recovering

Stan Bergstrom  
Steve Grady  
Jimmy Green  
Aubrey Crawford

## Elders

Jim Dameron  
Allen Griffin

## Deacons

Jeannie Beshere  
Tommy Walker

## Missions

Tenacious Grace  
Actionnel Fleurisma

## Women in Ministry

Ashley Bratton  
Cille Scott

## Teachers

Charissa Canfield  
Amy Williams

## Staff

Leroy Williams  
Wanda Lasane

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.



# March BIRTHDAYS

**MARCH 2**

Michael Coker  
Gwen DuRant  
Jan Green  
Sullivan Johnson  
Maggie Jones

**MARCH 3**

Karen Silver

**MARCH 5**

Billy McBride  
Amanda McLaurin  
Boyd Moree  
Maggie Reames  
Hattie Kaye Scott  
Ed Sprenger

**MARCH 6**

Denise Alvey  
Mary Wallis Vaught

**MARCH 7**

Matthew Dowdell

**MARCH 8**

Brooklynne Clancy  
Karen Johnson

**MARCH 9**

Amelia Abernathy  
Phillip Leach

**MARCH 10**

Klay Kennedy

**MARCH 11**

Sloan Bankson  
June Chang-Kim  
Kaitlyn Molnar

**MARCH 12**

Hal Campbell  
Madison Hindman  
Daniel Hubbs  
Martha Tyson  
Anna Watt

**MARCH 13**

Anna Berry  
Whit Dozier  
Grace Munn  
Julianne Newton  
Michael Nunn  
Emily Patton

**MARCH 14**

Carson Jeffords  
Marcia McNeil

**MARCH 15**

Weave Whitehead

**MARCH 16**

Bankston Wallace

**MARCH 17**

Ford Hofler  
Wilson Josey

**MARCH 18**

Levi Hayes

**MARCH 19**

Joyce Dalsbo  
Steven Halus  
Marla Kunz

**MARCH 20**

Beth Brown  
Hunter Grace Bulloch  
Cannon Coker  
Elizabeth Fast  
Sonya Molnar

**MARCH 21**

William Duncan  
Ronald Hayes  
Merrell Kennedy  
Anne Evans Scott

**MARCH 23**

Libbie Reames

**MARCH 24**

Susan Bankson  
Ashleigh Bulliner  
Elizabeth Frost  
Ann Spearman

**MARCH 25**

Noah Johnson  
Jean Lavespere  
Jeremy Williams

**MARCH 26**

Jack Banner  
Mike Fleenor  
Nell Oliver

**MARCH 27**

Jane Heath  
Bob Olsen

**MARCH 28**

Kathryn Crawford  
Mary Ervin  
Judy Henegar  
Stone Lewis

**MARCH 29**

Berta Allen  
Megan Matthews  
Mary McMillian

**MARCH 31**

Gamble Dozier  
Warren Montgomery



# MEN'S WILD GAME DINNER

Men are asked to bring a wild game  
dish to share with the group.

MARCH 5  5:30 PM



Jenkins Fellowship Hall  
RSVP by March 1 to Brandon Hylton,  
bhylton76@gmail.com  
or 843-319-1937





# BOARD OF DEACONS

**Deacons** are elected by the congregation to lead the church in service and love. The Deacons are mature followers of Jesus who assist the elders by encouraging and stimulating the connection and care between people in the church and the extension of that to the community. They also lead the church in cultivating hospitality (greeting, ushering at worship, and fellowship gatherings), and pastoral care for covenant partners.

The Congregation is divided into **Flocks** so the Deacons can tend to our covenant partners. Every Flock also has an Elder assigned to it. David Spivey is the Moderator. Donnie Wheeler is the Vice Moderator. Elizabeth McLean is the secretary. Jeannie Beshere is over Worship. Karen McBride is over the Shepherd's Ministry.

## FLOCK 1

### Deacons

Emily Whitehead: emily.s.whitehead@gmail.com

Nabil Cotran: nabino@aol.com

Jason Coker: jason@cokerdirect.com

### Elders

Tabatha Davis: tabathasd@yahoo.com

John Scott: johnmscott3@hotmail.com

## FLOCK 2

### Deacons

Ellen Pearson: bigelpt@aol.com

Greg Cleveland: gcleveland55@gmail.com

Merette Dowdell: merretel@gmail.com

### Elder

Rob Hall: robert\_hall1552@yahoo.com

## FLOCK 3

### Deacons

David Spivey: spiveys\_@outlook.com

Elizabeth McLean: ELBMcLean@aol.com

Lynn Porter: lynn.portersc@gmail.com

### Elders

Robert Moore: horsewizard@aol.com

Jack Hofler: jack.hofler@gmail.com

## FLOCK 4

### Deacons

Walt Burch: waltburch78@yahoo.com

Jeannie Beshere: JGBeshere@aol.com

Tommy Walker: NG4S@bellsouth.net

### Elder

Jeremy Williams: jpww1644@gmail.com

## FLOCK 5

### Deacons

Jim Moseley: jmoseley145@gmail.com

Karen McBride: komcbride@live.com

Rhett Hughes: Rhettthughes@yahoo.com

### Elders

Rufus Bratton: jrb@aikenbridges.com

Mike Nunn: mikenunn82@gmail.com

## FLOCK 6

### Deacons

Michele Lewis: michelemlewis72@gmail.com

Donnie Wheeler: jwheeler007@sc.rr.com

Cille Scott: cille.scott@gmail.com

### Elders

Jim Dameron: dameronjh@aol.com

Brandon Hylton: bhylton76@gmail.com

## FLOCK 7

### Deacons

Luke Scott: Luke.Scott@nucor.com

Mary Lynn Williamson: mw421613@gmail.com

Frances Rogers: fboydrogers@gmail.com

### Elder

Allen Griffin: agrif0421@gmail.com

## FLOCK 8

### Deacons

Everett McMillian: everett.mcmillian@gmail.com

Daniel Jordan: djordan1502@gmail.com

### Elder

Laura Marechal: marechalel@hotmail.com

# SUMMERTIME, SUMMERTIME, SUM, SUM, SUMMERTIME!

It won't be long before we will be saying, "I can't believe Summer is here!" To help families plan accordingly, the below schedule has been put together for children 3K – 5th grade.

We will meet on campus each "on campus" week from 1 to 4 p.m. During our time together, children will enjoy games, crafts, snacks, Bible Stories and more as we build our relationship with God and one another. Field trips are also planned each month. More details will be available soon. In the meantime, please call Kelly Hickey, 843-662-2583, with any questions or for more information. Don't forget to mark your calendars!!

## TERRIFIC TUESDAYS

(3K, 4K, 5K)

JUNE 6: On Campus  
 JUNE 13: VBS  
 JUNE 20: Trip to Swan Lake, Sumter  
 JUNE 27: On Campus  
 JULY 4: Holiday – NOT meeting  
 JULY 11: WinShape Camp for 5K (3K & 4K NOT meeting)  
 JULY 18: Neptune Island  
 JULY 25: End of Summer Party

## THUNDERING THURSDAYS

(4th – 5th grades)

JUNE 8: On Campus  
 JUNE 15: VBS  
 JUNE 22: Trip to SC Aquarium, Charleston  
 JUNE 29: On Campus  
 JULY 6: Holiday – NOT meeting  
 JULY 13: WinShape Camp  
 JULY 20: Trip to Frankie's Fun Park, Columbia  
 JULY 27: End of Summer Party

## WONDERFUL WEDNESDAYS

(1st – 3rd grade)

JUNE 7: On Campus  
 JUNE 14: VBS  
 JUNE 21: Trip to Edventure, Columbia  
 JUNE 28: On Campus  
 JULY 5: Holiday – NOT meeting  
 JULY 12: WinShape Camp  
 JULY 19: Trip to the Zoo, Columbia  
 JULY 26: End of Summer Party



## Vacation Bible School is on its way!

### Mark Your Calendars

Monday, June 12 – Thursday, June 15

During VBS, we will discover the bustling town of Babylon; meet Daniel and hear how he and his friends fare as captives in Babylon and we will get to see, hear, touch and taste what it might have been like to live in Bible times. Stay tuned! More information will be coming soon.



# Children's Ministry



Dear Church Family,

As we enter the Lenten season, I have been thinking about the sacrifice Jesus made because He loves us! Honestly, it's hard for me to wrap my head around. Jesus loves us so much; He willingly gave up His life so that we can live with Him forever. What a sacrifice!! As I have reflected on this incredible love, I have given much thought to the most common practices during Lent – to give something up and/or to take something on. These practices are to remind us of the sacrifice Jesus made! This year, I am at a place where I really want to sacrifice something that is extremely hard and meaningful. Therefore, I have chosen to give up my unhealthy eating habits and take on walking 10,000 steps a day, five days a week for six weeks. This will be a huge commitment and sacrifice! Yet, compared with what Jesus did it is NOTHING!!! I am choosing to share this with you, my church family, because I will need your prayers! This will not be easy. I will struggle and I will fall, yet I know it's where God is leading, and I want to follow! To God be the glory!

Much love,  
Kelly

## Presbyterian Kids (PKs)

Join Mrs. Kelly and friends from 3:30 to 5 p.m. in the CLC. The schedule is below:

March 12	1st – 2nd Grade
March 26	3rd – 5th Grade
April 2	Easter Egg Hunt for all (4 -5 p.m.)
May 14	1st – 2nd Grade

Any questions, please call Mrs. Kelly at (843) 662-2583.

## Mark Your Calendars

### Fourth Grade Bible Drill Parent Presentation

On March 8, immediately following Wednesday night programs, fourth-grade parents are invited to the fourth grade Bible Drill Parent Presentation in the Jenkins Fellowship Hall. This program is scheduled to begin at 7:15 p.m. Should you have any questions or need more information please contact Ellen Wilhoit,

r4wilhoit@aol.com, or Alexis Morris, nnnminusone@gmail.com.

## Wednesday Night Closing Program

March 29, 2023

On March 29, from 6:15 to 6:45 p.m., the preschool and elementary children will lead us in a closing program. Children will sing songs they have learned in choir, share what they have learned about the Lord's prayer and the fourth- and fifth-graders will present what they have learned in their Bible Drill Class. Please be sure to mark you calendars for this great event!

## Easter Egg Hunt

When: Sunday, April 2

Time: 4 – 5 p.m.

Where: The Whitehead's Farm, 175 West Pocket Road

What to Bring: Your Easter Basket & the whole family!

As we gear up for this amazing event, we need help. The Children's Ministry Team is looking for individuals who would be willing to provide at least 2 dozen boiled and decorated eggs for the hunt.

We need at least 800 boiled eggs (about 67 dozen). We will collect eggs Sunday morning, April 2. Coolers will be available outside of the kitchen area at the CLC for you to place the eggs. If you are interested, please contact Kelly Hickey.

## Summer Intern

FPC will be accepting applications for a Children's summer intern. This position will be under the direction of Kelly Hickey. We are looking for a college student who:

- Loves working with children (3K – 5th grade).
- Loves the Lord and wants to share God's love with children.
- And who is available to work 20 hours a week for 10 weeks.

If you are interested, please apply to Kelly Hickey by March 22. Email Kelly at khickey@florencefirst.org to receive an application.

# Sixth-grade Ministry

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

March 5	Food & Fellowship with Mrs. Kelly and Friends, 3:30 – 5 p.m. in the CLC
April 2	Easter Egg Hunt Service Project
April 22-23	Confirmation Retreat
April 25	Confirmands to Meet with Session – Catechism Review, 6 p.m.
April 27	Confirmation Faith Statements Due
April 30	Food & Fellowship with Mrs. Kelly and Friends, 3:30 – 5 p.m. in the CLC
May 3	Confirmation Banquet Dinner
May 7	Confirmation Sunday

### Confirmand Service Project

On Sunday, April 2, sixth-grade Confirmation students are encouraged to join Mrs. Kelly and friends for a Christian Service Project. Students will have the opportunity to serve FPC's children and families as they help hide 67 dozen eggs for the Easter Egg Hunt. Immediately following worship, the students will help load up the Easter Eggs and travel to the Whitehead Farm on the Church bus. Upon our arrival, we will enjoy a time of food and fellowship before hiding the eggs. Students and families are more than welcome to stay for the Egg Hunt, which begins at 4 p.m. Please be sure to contact Mrs. Kelly, [khickey@florencefirst.org](mailto:khickey@florencefirst.org), by Sunday, March 26, to sign up and/or if you have any questions.



Jan Green mentors Confirmand student Henley Thompson.

### Confirmation Retreat

April 22 – 23, 2023

On April 22, the Confirmation Class will be traveling to Look Up Lodge in Travelers Rest for our annual Confirmation Retreat. This will be a wonderful time of spiritual growth, fellowship, and fun! The cost is \$100, which includes lodging, four meals, activities and transportation. Please note payment is due by Sunday, April 9. Checks should be made payable to First Presbyterian Church and marked "Confirmation Retreat." Please turn in all payments to Mrs. Kelly.

## CHILDREN'S CHURCH UPDATED VOLUNTEER SCHEDULE

Children's Church meets in the Children's Chapel for *Children in Worship*. This amazing program held after the Message for Young Disciples is for children ages 3K-5K. It is designed to teach children about worship and allow children to experience Bible stories while learning in their own special worship center.

<u>DATE</u>	<u>TIME</u>	<u>LEADER</u>	<u>ASSITANT/HELPER</u>
March 5	9:00 am	Susan Snow	Ashton Pennstrom
	11:00 am	Catherine Canfield	Alexis Morris
March 12	9:00 am	Susan Snow	Kathryn Scott
	11:00 am	Catherine Canfield	Alexis Morris
March 19	9:00 am	Susan Snow	Scott Ham
	11:00 am	Catherine Canfield	Alexis Morris
March 26	9:00 am	Susan Snow	Haley Jackson
	11:00 am	Catherine Canfield	Alexis Morris



# Superbowl, skiing, small groups round out February

February was a slower month for the youth, but we still had lots of fun! We had our annual Super Bowl party at The Hylton's house this year. A big thank you to them for letting us invade their home. Small groups are going well, and we are enjoying our new study, *Encountering God* (for teenagers).

We stayed in Blowing Rock, NC, and went on a ski trip to Sugar Mountain and Beech Mountain. Everyone had a great time. Big thank you to Kim Brauss, and Kaleb and Lauren Griffin for helping lead the trip.

Our next big event is Spring Getaway. We will go back to Dreher Island, where time seems to stand still. Please read below for more information. You don't want to miss this trip!

## UPCOMING EVENTS

**Sunday School** (March 5, 12, 19 & 26) 10 – 10:50 a.m. Light breakfast served.

**Small Groups** (March 12 & 26) 5 – 7 p.m. Dinner provided. All groups meet at the church, except Junior and Senior girls will meet at Amy Williams' house (511 Pine St.)

**Wednesday Night Youth Group** (March 1, 8, 15, 22 & 29) 5:30 – 7:30 p.m. \$5 dinner provided by the church.

March 1: Youth will serve dinner

March 15: \*POTLUCK\* Bring a dish to share!

March 22: Youth will prepare and ice cream bar

**Coffee at F.E. Pops** (March 2, 9, 16, 23 & 30) 7 a.m. – Until

**Paintball** (March 5) 2 – 6 p.m.

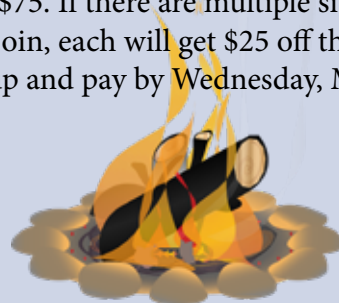
We will go to Pee Dee Paintball. Cost will be \$45. Snacks & water provided. Bring a friend!



## SPRING GETAWAY

**Spring Getaway** (March 17 – 19) We will leave at 2 p.m. for Dreher Island State Park in Chapin. We will spend time in God's word through quiet times, small groups and worship. There will be team games, canoes, time around the campfire and more!

Cost will be \$75. If there are multiple siblings or friends that join, each will get \$25 off their trip. Please sign up and pay by Wednesday, March 1.





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

Assistant Pastor

Director of Music/Organist

Praise Team Leader

Director of Youth Ministry

Children's Ministry Director

Child Development Center Director

CDC Assistant Director/Church Nursery Coordinator

Church Administrator

Financial Assistant

Communications Assistant

Ministry Assistant

Lead Custodian

Housekeeping

Dr. Darryl Evans

Dr. Bill Cain

Mrs. Ann Rodgers Chandler

Mr. Vic Rockhill

Ms. Christina "Taiter" Garrett

Mrs. Kelly Hickey

Mrs. Beth Hepler

Mrs. Shurrie Marks

Rev. Don Hebert

Mrs. Gwen DuRant

Ms. Kimberly Brauss

Mrs. Emily Reed

Mr. Leroy Williams

Ms. Wanda LaSane

## EASTER LILIES AND PALMS



Remember or honor a loved one this Easter as we herald the remembrance of our risen Lord with a profusion of lovely palms, lilies, and greenery to accompany our worship. Your gift of \$10 should be turned into the church office, along with your loved one's name, and your name and phone number by Monday, April 3.

#### CIRCLE ONE:

In memory / honor of \_\_\_\_\_

Given by:

Phone:

