

# The REMINDER

Growing UPWARD  
worshipping and praising

Growing INWARD  
becoming more like Christ

Growing OUTWARD  
sharing the good news



APRIL 2023





**In March, our Cub Scouts and Boy Scouts spent the night on the USS Yorktown at Patriots Point Naval & Maritime Museum in Mount Pleasant. For more, see page 8.**

## IN THIS ISSUE

- 2 Moment for Mission
- 3 From the Senior Pastor
- 4 From the Assistant Pastor
- 5 Church Administration Matters
- 6 Music Ministry
- 7 Women in Ministry
- 8 Church News Briefs
- 9 Children's Development Center
- 10, 11 Calendar
- 12 Remember in Prayer
- 13 Birthdays
- 14 Holy Week schedule
- 15 Prayer Service
- 16-18 Children's Ministry
- 19 Youth Ministry

*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 MISSIONS

## Tim and Annette Gulick

This church has supported Tim and Annette Gulick for many years. Tim and Annette have faithfully served God all around the world through ministry that focuses on training and equipping youth leaders. Their efforts have been centered in the Spanish-speaking world, and their website, [paralideres.com](http://paralideres.com), contains tens of thousands of pages of Spanish language resources for youth leaders. Lately, they have branched out into Asia and Africa. They continue to publish educational materials on their website, blog, Youtube channel, Facebook page, and elsewhere. We are proud to support their ongoing efforts to empower and equip youth ministry leaders around the world.

## Moscow Seminary

We have recently received the following email from Sasha Tsutserov, which includes an encouraging testimony from Vladimir Bondarev, a student at the Seminary. Vladimir experienced repentance and conversion to faith in Christ through the work of the Holy Spirit, and he decided to begin a life of ministry. He realized his need for training, however, and through the Moscow Seminary he is growing in his knowledge and ministry skills. This testimony is just another reason we are excited to partner with the ministry work of the Moscow Seminary:

*I am from Ukraine, born and bred – from kindergarten to school to the army. Upon graduation from the Kharkiv Military Academy I was stationed in Irkutsk, Siberia (3,659 miles East of Kyiv, Ukraine).*

*I first heard of the Lord in my early childhood, from my Grandma. She read the Bible to me and taught me to pray. With the Army, it all faded away; I was a rough soldier. But my Mom, the torchbearer in the family, handed me the New Testament. And it worked on me – no more cursing, drinking or smoking! Instead, I was feeding on the Word, breathing in the Spirit, and walking by Faith. Reading the Bible worked opposite ways on me, though. On the one hand, I would find peace and consolation.*

*On the other, I was exposed, pursued by remorse, threaten with divine judgment. As the result, I was torn apart by questions I had no answers. Then missionaries told me the Truth. I repented of my sin, accepted Jesus Christ as my Lord and Savior, was discipled and baptized!*

*And there we were – Diana, my wife, and our five kids – all in ministry. I became pastor and teacher at the World Harvest Bible Church & College. I felt so inadequate for the task, though! And so, I enrolled to the Moscow Seminary. I thought the seminary would fill the gaps. Instead, I realized just how little of the Bible I actually knew and how poor my ministry skills really were – Lord have mercy! I had to start it all from scratch, albeit in ministry. But it is going well. My dream is to replicate the seminary at the college with the view to train missionaries to plant churches. Just like in the Bible, “The things you have heard me say in the presence of many witnesses entrust to reliable people who will also be qualified to teach others.” (2 Timothy 2:2) – so help me God!*

# It's Spring Season

Dear Church Family,

Spring is here. Things are growing, blossoming, full of life – whether we are looking at the azaleas and trees, or considering life in the Lord among us. The more I study Scripture, the more I see how pervasive New Life and New Creation are present throughout the Bible. For example, in a scene that is rooted in the new Covenant Isaiah in chapter 44 urges us to return to the Lord with our whole heart:

“I made you... I will not forget you. I have swept away your offenses like a cloud, your sins like the morning mist. Return to me, for I have redeemed you.

“Sing for joy, O heavens... Burst into song, you mountains, you forests and all you trees,  
For the Lord has redeemed Jacob, he displays his glory in Israel.”

What a multitude of images from new creation! The forests will sing. When we see what God has done in our salvation, not only are we summoned to sing, but the whole creation praises Him. God formed you in the womb, and God is still forming and shaping you. What a beautiful sight to imagine. Sometimes when the good Lord opens our eyes to His Word I think, “how could I have missed this for so long before?” The Gospel is so much more than “going to heaven when I die” – it is about New Life that begins now and includes the renewal of all creation. God is life. His very name is Life – the “I am that I am.”

In many places I see a very intentional seeking of the Lord's will. There is a season for everything, says Ecclesiastes 3. A time to be born and a time to die, a time to plant and a time to uproot. A time for every season under heaven. And today we are in the Spring season. Spiritually, things are springing forth and taking shape. We are eagerly and expectantly watching to see what the Lord is bringing forth.

I greatly enjoyed our time together in both small groups and the large group for the Lord's Prayer on these past Wednesday nights. Please continue to pray



... fear not,  
*for I am with you;*  
be not dismayed,  
*for I am your God;*  
I will strengthen you,  
I will help you,  
I will uphold you  
with my righteous right hand.

Isaiah 41:10

that we might clearly see and faithfully follow God's future for us. Please pray for our church officers, and our strategic planning team that is eagerly listening.

There are many things going on today that fill these pages, but I would like to draw your attention to one last thing: Homebound Communion. Starting this month, we will be visiting and serving communion to our homebound with regularity. If you would like communion, or are aware of someone who does, please contact the church office. Church officers will work together and visit on the same Sundays that we celebrate this sacrament in worship together (i.e. the first Sunday of every month). What a privilege to share.

Things are in motion. It is Springtime. What is emerging in you? May the Lord bring forth something beautiful this Easter season.

Peace,



# The Gift of the Lord

His name was Wayne. But everyone knew him as “Tree.” I met him years ago after an Atlanta Hawks pre-season basketball game. A member of the team had invited me and my son to go into the locker room and meet some of the players. We approached this guy sitting on a chair and my friend said, “I’d like you to meet Wayne but everyone knows him as Tree.” And when Wayne stood up, I realized his nickname fit. That guy was so tall that I was almost looking at his kneecaps! Wayne “Tree” Rollins was over 7 feet tall. You couldn’t overestimate “Tree’s” size but how often do you and I make people (and more importantly, their opinions) way TOO BIG. The account of Easter is one dominated by the theme of: people worrying more about what other people think than considering what God desires.

Consider in Mark 11 when the religious leaders engaged Jesus in a battle of wits. Jesus asked these religious “scholars,” “What do you believe about John the Baptist?” These powerful leaders balked at answering. Why? Listen to verse 32, “They FEARED the people...” Suddenly these leaders who loved to pontificate about most anything would not state their opinion because the people revered John the Baptist and John the Baptist had revered Jesus Christ!

Later in John 12, we read that many people among the religious leaders of that time ADMIREED Jesus but they shunned from saying anything publicly. (Or as my grandmother would say, “What’s the matter? The cat got your tongue?”) Why? Why the silence of their convictions??? John 12:42-43 gives the reason for their silence, “...for fear they would be put out of the synagogue; for they loved human praise more than praise from God.”

But before we get too “high and mighty” in condemning these religious leaders, let’s be honest. How many times have you made decisions in your life because you were afraid of what people may think? How many times have you allowed your choices of what you wear, who you hang around with, where you go, what you say, how you spend money ... to try to fit in or be accepted by people?! Frankly, I’ve been guilty and so have you.

I’ve recently been reading a book, “WHEN PEOPLE ARE BIG...And God is small,” which has made me



more aware of my need to “fit in” with others ... at the expense of being faithful to God. Following Jesus doesn’t mean that you have to be “weird,” anti-social, or alienate people. Jesus Christ frees us to be the person that we were created to be and to meet people where they are and to love them where they are. This Lord gives us the gift of being an Ambassador for him as we engage others without using them to validate ourselves! WOW ... what a gift ... the gift of the Lord breaking us free from the prison of “people pleasing” to God honoring.

Where can you start? Two simple suggestions:

- #1 Be aware of the people whom you are with or cross your path. Focus on them (not yourself!). Smile at them. Engage them with the love of Jesus.
- #2 Easter is coming. It is a time when many, many people think about a place to worship on Easter Sunday. Invite them! Your co-workers, your neighbors, your “gym buddies” ... the list is long. Don’t be afraid of what they may think, your invitation will please the Lord.

Blessed Easter. Jesus Christ is risen and He makes all the difference in the world.

Love in Christ Jesus,

*Bill*



# Columbarium Memory Garden a place to pause

Many of you regularly place poinsettias or lilies in the Sanctuary in memory of a loved one (spouse, child, or parent) at Christmas and Easter. Others place flowers in the sanctuary in memory of a loved one on special days (birthdays, etc.) Many of our covenant partners may not be aware of another, more permanent way to memorialize a beloved family member. 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. I recently had a conversation with a covenant partner who said, “I wasn’t aware that we had this until I started walking the church property for exercise. I sometimes pause in the Columbarium Garden to rest.” We had a nice chat, and he said he wanted to have his wife’s name added to the wall. We have filled two panels and are working on a third one. Each panel contains eight (8) names, currently we have 3 names meaning that we need 5 more to fill out the panel. The “In Memoriam” is another way to remember those who meant so much and are no longer with us. 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.

I recently read an article by Thom Rainer in Outreach Magazine titled “**7 Surprising Post Pandemic Trends.**” In the article he says, “It’s a tricky thing to find a precise beginning and ending point to a pandemic. We could accept the declaration from the World Health Organization that COVID-19 began on March 11, 2020. The ending date is even more of a challenge to discern. For our purposes, we look at post-pandemic as that time when churches started regathering in person.” Rainer lists what he calls “7 surprising trends” in his article, I found three to be of interest as it pertains to our church.

**1. Interest in evangelism is increasing.** Rainer states, “More churches are responding in obedience to the Great Commission. But we are also aware that Cultural Christians are not returning to church. If a church



wants to reach people, evangelism is a necessity.” First Presbyterian Church is not “sitting back” waiting for people to come to us. Through small groups, ministry activities and personal relationships, our covenant partners are reaching out to our community for Christ.

## **2. Church finances held well longer than expected.**

The article stated that giving has not declined rapidly with the cessation of government support and the onset of higher inflation. During the pandemic, when churches were seeing decreased giving, some by as much as 90%, our covenant partners faithfully supported the ministry and mission of the church financially and with their time and talents.

## **3. Church revitalization has become an accepted discipline and practice much faster than expected.**

Before the pandemic “shut things down,” our church leaders were beginning to look to the future that God has for us. Now as we are moving out of the shadow of the pandemic, there is a renewed interest on the part of the church leaders (elders, deacons, and staff) to seek God and His plan for this church.

I have observed each of these trends outlined by Thom Rainer unfold before my eyes here at FPC. However, unlike Rainer, I am not surprised. First Presbyterian Church has a long history of leadership in our community. It is no surprise that as we have faced the adversity of the pandemic and related challenges, our covenant partners have risen to the challenge. Thanks be to God for what He has done and continues to do through First Presbyterian Church and each of YOU its covenant partners.

I am thankful to be in ministry with you!

# Spring Handbell Concert

6:30 p.m. Wednesday, May 3



Come hear the handbells at 6:30 p.m. Wednesday, May 3, 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.

## Flowers in the Sanctuary

Do you have a friend or relative you would like to honor? Sign up to place flowers in the Sanctuary. Contact Genia Tyson ([genia\\_tyson@hotmail.com](mailto:genia_tyson@hotmail.com) or 843-665-0295). Please leave your name, number, and date you wish to reserve.



# Spring Celebration

with guest speaker Dawn Smith Jordan

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

Life Service Award Recipient  
Named

Please invite a friend and bring  
a salad to share

## UPCOMING EVENTS

**Wednesday, April 5:** Bible  
Moderator's Meeting, 5 p.m.

**Week of April 8-11:**  
Circle of Friends Meetings:  
Session 7-Anxious Reader —  
The Bible is our weapon in the  
fight against anxiety.  
(Various times and locations  
listed below)



## Women in Ministry Circle of Friends

Women in Ministry's aim is to strengthen our relationship with God and build each other up in the body of Christ.

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	April 8	9 a.m.	Room 100
Joyful Hearts	April 11	10 a.m.	Room 100
Prayer Warriors	April 11	6:30 p.m.	Lawson-Rain Chapel
SonFlowers	April 11	10 a.m.	Lawson-Rain Chapel
Soul Sisters	April 11	noon	Price Classroom
Serenity	April 11	3 p.m.	Lawson-Rain Chapel
Women of Grace	April 10	6:30 p.m.	3002 Japonica Lane
Sunday Salty Sisters	April 16	4 p.m.	FPC Church Parlor





# Church News

## Movie night to be held April 5

We are going to show the movie *The Passion of the Christ* at 6:30 p.m. Wednesday, April 5, in the CLC. No dinner will be served, but there will be a snack. The movie is rated R, and youth can only attend with a parent. It's rated R for the violence (torturing of Jesus). For the Focus on the Family Review, please visit [www.pluggedin.com/movie-reviews/passionofthechrist/](http://www.pluggedin.com/movie-reviews/passionofthechrist/)

## Keenagers' lunch to feature Florence mayor

Keenagers' luncheon will be at noon Tuesday, April 4, in the fellowship hall. Lunch will be ham, sweet potatoes, broccoli with cheese sauce, rolls and dessert. The guest speaker will be Florence Mayor Teresa Myers Ervin. We welcome all who are 55 and older to join us for food, fellowship, and fun. Cost is \$6 for lunch.

## Congregational meeting to be held

A congregational meeting will be held at 10:40 a.m. Sunday, April 23, in the Sanctuary. The purpose of the meeting is to (1) Approve amendments to the By Laws regarding The Officer Nominating Committee; and (2) to elect members from the congregation to serve on the Officer Nominating Committee for Elders and Deacon.

## Red Cross blood drive

Thank you to those who came out in support of the blood drive. A total of 14 pints were collected. One pint of blood can save up to three lives. We appreciate your time, generosity and dedication to helping others.

## Call for Tents for VBS

Plans are underway, and we need your help. We will need 10 to 12 pop up/tailgating tents for VBS. These tents will help us transform the Christian Life Center into Babylon. If you have a tent we can use this summer, would you please contact Kelly Hickey, [khickey@florencefirst.org](mailto:khickey@florencefirst.org), or Laura Anne Hofler, [lahofler@gmail.com](mailto:lahofler@gmail.com).

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



## Scouts spend night on USS Yorktown

In March, our Cub Scouts and Boy Scouts spent the night on the USS Yorktown in Mount Pleasant. World War II's famous "Fighting Lady" is the centerpiece of Patriots Point Naval & Maritime Museum. Over 50 Scouts and parents slept where the sailors slept on the historic aircraft carrier.

Also in March, Hunter Morgan Jr. talked with the Scouts and showed photos from his summer backpacking 2,650 miles from Mexico to Canada on the Pacific Crest Trail.

Scouts attended court at the Florence Judicial Center and talked with a judge to complete the Law merit badge. Others learned the importance of money management as they worked on Personal Management merit badge with a financial planner.

And lastly, last month Scouts helped with a blood drive to complete the Health Care Professions merit badge that was taught by MUSC medical school student and Eagle Scout Matthew O'Brien.

In April, Hunter Morgan will lead our Scouts on a Sparkleberry Swamp paddle trip after they camp at Poinsett State Park and hike part of the Palmetto Trail. Parents with questions about our scouting ministry can contact Scoutmaster Brandon Hylton, [bhylton76@gmail.com](mailto:bhylton76@gmail.com), or Troop Committee chairman Weave Whitehead, [alva\\_weaver@yahoo.com](mailto:alva_weaver@yahoo.com).





# Spring full of gardening and the arts

Spring has sprung and the children seem to all have spring fever! They are enjoying being outside now that the weather is warmer.

The 3K class has started weeding our preschool garden area, and we plan to start planting soon. It will be up to the children in the 3K and 4K class to water and weed the garden and eventually start picking the veggies. The children squeal with delight when the plants start growing and the first harvest begins. We hope to once again, taste some of our homegrown vegetables at snack time.

There is much activity within the classrooms as the teachers and children are preparing for our annual Art Show & Sale, which will be held the week of April 17. The children's art will be on display that week during our regular business hours and on Thursday evening, April 20, the parents and grandparents will purchase the art by donation. Every child enrolled in the center will have art on display. Plan to drop by that week to see what the children have made.

On May 4, we will honor our 4K Graduates at their graduation, which will be held in the Lawson-Rain Chapel. The graduation will consist of a short program put on by the children and their teachers. Each child will be recognized and presented with a 4K preschool diploma and a Bible.

As the spring turns to summer, our preschool teachers will be planning themed summer day camps to give the children a fun, less structured summer. We will continue with hands-on learning through various summer camping themes and age-appropriate activities.

Before we know it, the time will arrive to begin our 2023-2024, preschool program in mid-August. We are currently taking applications for children who will be three or four years of age on or before September 1, to join our preschool classes. Our 2K classes are full for the next year. Anyone wishing to enroll their 3- or 4-year-old child in preschool for this fall, may do so by contacting us through the Child Development Center office at 843-799-1263.





We are currently hiring for part-time openings for after-noon staff in our infant and toddler classrooms. Anyone 18 or over with a high school diploma is eligible to apply. Resumes may be emailed to [bhepler@florencefirst.org](mailto:bhepler@florencefirst.org)

Thank you again for your continued support and prayers for this Child Development Center ministry. Every day we are striving to meet the childcare needs of young families in the Florence area.





Blessings,

*Beth*



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY
<p>2</p> <p><b>PALM SUNDAY</b>            Children process with palms, 11 a.m.            Egg Hunt: Whiteheads' Farm, 4 p.m.            Youth: Small Groups</p> 	<p>3</p> <p>CDC Advisory meeting, 5 p.m.</p> 	<p>4</p> <p>Noon: Keenagers</p>	<p>5</p> <p>Children's Ministry Meeting, 5 p.m.            Youth Group, 6 p.m.            Movie Night in CLC, 6:30 p.m.  <i>The Passion of Christ (R)</i></p>
<p>9</p> <p><b>EASTER SUNDAY</b>            Flowering of the Cross</p> 	<p>10</p> <p><i>Office, CDC closed</i>            Worship Unit: 12:30 LR            Discipleship Meeting: 4:30 p.m., WOC            WiM Women of Grace: Off Campus            Florence 1 spring break</p>	<p>11</p> <p>WiM Circle Meetings            Joyful Hearts, 10 a.m., 100            Sonflowers, 10 a.m. LR            Soul Sisters, noon, Price            Serenity, 3 p.m. LR            Prayer Warriors, 6:30 p.m. LR</p>	<p>12</p> <p>Veterans Brunch, 8 a.m.            Personnel Unit, 8:15 a.m.            Outreach Unit, 12:15 p.m.</p>
<p>16</p> <p>First Connections I, 10 a.m. fellowship hall            Youth: Small Groups</p>	<p>17</p>	<p>18</p> <p>Fellowship Unit, 5:30 p.m.</p>	<p>19</p> <p>Youth Group, 6 p.m.</p>
<p>23</p> <p>Congregational Meeting, 10:40 a.m.            First Connections II            Youth: Small Groups</p>	<p>24</p>	<p>25</p> <p>WiM Spring Celebration</p> <p>Session/Diaconate: 6 p.m. JFH</p> 	<p>26</p> <p>Youth Group, 6 p.m.</p>
<p>30</p> <p>First Connections III            PKs: Sixth grade, 3:30 p.m.            Youth: Life Skills, 5 p.m.</p>			



THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		<p>1</p> <p>9 a.m.: Girl Scout World Thinking</p> <p>Youth: Carowinds, leave at 8:30 a.m.</p>
<p>6</p> <p>Youth: Coffee at F.E. Pops, 7 a.m.</p> <p>Maundy Thursday service, 7 p.m.</p> 	<p>7</p> 	<p>8</p> <p>Parking Lot Mission, 6 a.m. (HopeHealth)</p> <p>WiM Bread &amp; Fish: 100</p>
13	14	15
<p>20</p> <p>Youth: Coffee at F.E. Pops, 7 a.m.</p> <p>CDC Art Show, 6-8 p.m. Welcome Center</p> 	<p>21</p>	<p>22</p> <p>Youth: Earth Day event</p> <p>Confirmation Retreat, April 22 and 23</p> 
<p>27</p> <p>Youth: Coffee at F.E. Pops, 7 a.m.</p>	28	29



## BAPTISMS

- April 23, 11 a.m. Eloise Pittman
- April 30, 9 a.m. Cailin Foxworth; 11 a.m. Blakely & Linley Hyman

## WEEKLY

## MONDAYS

- Morning Exercise Class, 8:30 a.m. CLC
- Strategic Planning Meeting, 9 a.m. Darryl's
- Prayer Group, 2:30 p.m. (LR)
- Selah Yoga, 5:45 p.m. (CLC)
- GriefShare, 6:30 p.m. (Pilgrim)
- Boy Scouts, 6:30 p.m. (Scouts)
- Men's Bible Study, 7 p.m. (203)

## TUESDAYS

- Men's Prayer Breakfast, 7 a.m.
- Morning Exercise Class, 8:30 a.m. CLC
- CDC Music, 11 a.m. (JFH)
- JFW Bible Study, noon (CLC)

## WEDNESDAYS

- CDC Chapel, 10 a.m.
- Handbells Rehearsal, 5 p.m.
- Praise Team Rehearsal, 5:45 p.m.
- Chancel Choir Rehearsal, 7:30 p.m.

## THURSDAYS

- Men's Bible Study, 7 a.m.
- Youth Coffee, 7 a.m. F.E. Pop's
- Morning Exercise Class, 8:30 a.m. CLC
- Bible Study, Zoom, Room 202

## SUNDAYS

- 9 a.m. Contemporary Service
- 10 a.m. Sunday School
- 11 a.m. Traditional Service

# 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

**Honorarium**  
Brandon Hylton

## Memorial

Mary Lee Cundiff  
Jill Ellington

## Baptism

Margaret Mimms, daughter of Weber and Brittany Mimms  
Graham Rabon, daughter of Bryan and Tena Rabon

## Households

FLOCK 1: McCall, Meghan, McCall and Turner Swink  
FLOCK 2: Nancy Thompson  
FLOCK 3: Rosanne and Freddie Saunders  
FLOCK 4: Justin and Amanda Green  
FLOCK 5: Martha Tyson  
FLOCK 6: Grady and Nancy Moore  
FLOCK 7: Buddy and Janet Brand  
FLOCK 8: Evelyn Childers

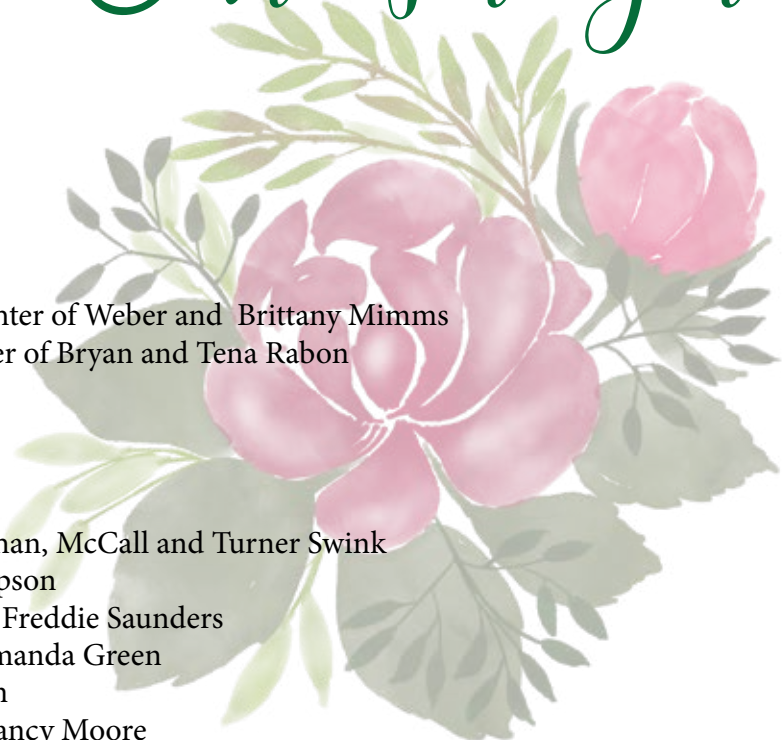
## Flowers in the Sanctuary

April 2: Communion  
April 9: Easter Lilies  
April 16: Easter Lilies  
April 23: Kathy Grace  
April 30: Betsy Olsen

## Sympathy

Karen Blankenship, loss of her mother, Dina Ekis Hart  
Maddelle Christian, loss of her mother, Joan Bryce  
Frank Ellington, loss of his wife, Jill  
Rob Molnar, loss of his cousin Michelle Perez  
Meghan Swink, loss of her grandmother, Mary Lee Cundiff

Lord, Hear  
Our Prayer



## Sick & Recovering

Stan Bergstrom  
Aubrey Crawford  
Jimmy Green  
Sarah Moseley  
Todd Moseley, Jim's son

## Elders

Robert Moore  
John Scott

## Deacons

Karen McBride  
Jim Moseley

## Missions

Tim and Annette Gulick  
Moscow Seminary

## Women in Ministry

Ashley Scott  
Genia Tyson

## Teachers

Jan Green  
Ellen Wilhoit

## Staff

Christina Garrett  
Kelly Hickey

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). Please leave your name, number, and date you wish to reserve.



# April BIRTHDAYS

**APRIL 1**

Michelle Babb  
Maddy Duncan  
Tag Gandy  
Sara Goodstein

**APRIL 2**

Matt Goodstein  
Lane Josey  
Jenna MacLennan  
Doug Stover

**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  
Shannon Watt  
Matt Marechal  
Leslie Rutten

**APRIL 8**

Nicky Carter  
Paula Jackson  
David McLean  
Marla Slaughter

**APRIL 9**

Will McLean

**APRIL 10**

Charlie Caldwell

**APRIL 11**

Cary Andrews  
Amy Lewis

**APRIL 12**

Quentin Johnson  
Linda Smiley

**APRIL 14**

Isla Campbell  
Sara Johnson  
Patrick Morgan

**APRIL 15**

Ashley Bratton

**APRIL 17**

Mark Davis  
Jeremy Emert  
Maddux Langston  
Margaret Lee  
Tom Moore

**APRIL 18**

Farrah Hughes  
John Molnar  
Liam Scott

**APRIL 19**

Steve Grady  
Robert Moore  
Huck Thompson

**APRIL 20**

Bruce Burch  
Michael Mikulecky  
Tallon Temple

**APRIL 21**

Guy Thompson

**APRIL 22**

Kit Fulmer  
Seth Hallman  
Charlie Jordan  
Melanie Moore  
Franklin Reames  
Samantha Truman

**APRIL 23**

Sullivyn Truman

**APRIL 24**

Holly Campbell

**APRIL 25**

Harriett Whitehead

**APRIL 26**

Beth Abernathy  
Carson McMillian

**APRIL 27**

Bob Barrett  
Daniel Jordan  
Betsy Olsen  
JB Pittman

**APRIL 28**

Gary Bray  
Gary Pletan  
Gayden Tyler

**APRIL 29**

Christopher Garris  
Beth Hepler  
Bern Lavespere  
Laura Tiller

**APRIL 30**

Susan Hofler  
Alissa Wartars  
Katherine Ryan



# EASTER *celebration*

PLEASE JOIN US AS WE PREPARE FOR EASTER.

Our Maundy Thursday Service will be at 7 p.m.

Palm Sunday and Easter Services will be held at 9 and 11 a.m.

APRIL  
2, 6 & 9

You're invited to celebrate our family Easter Egg Hunt on Palm Sunday at the Whitehead's farm at 4 p.m. Then, on Easter Sunday, decorate the Cross with flowers from home as we celebrate the promise of Easter.

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

700 Park Avenue | Florence, SC  
843-662-2583 | [florencefirst.org](http://florencefirst.org)



# *Filling our hearts with prayer*



*How good and pleasant it is when God's people live together in unity! Psalm 133:1.*  
Members of First Presbyterian Church, Strong Tower and Lamb's Chapel exemplified this verse as we came together for a meal and a time of worship and prayer during a Wednesday night event on March 22.

# 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

(Completed 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

## 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

## THUNDERING THURSDAYS

(4th and 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



## Vacation Bible School is on its way!

Monday, June 12 – Thursday, June 15  
 (Completed 5K-5th Grade)

Preschool VBS is available for volunteers only. Children 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.

Online Registration is OPEN! Visit [www.myvbs.org/florencefirst](http://www.myvbs.org/florencefirst). Registration will close on May 31.



**VBS Sunday:** On Sunday, June 18, children who participate in VBS are invited to join us for FPC's VBS Sunday, a time when the children will help lead worship. We are super excited about this opportunity. Any questions, please contact Kelly Hickey or Laura Anne Hofler, [lahofler@gmail.com](mailto:lahofler@gmail.com).



# Children's Ministry



Dear Church Family,

I am so thankful to be a part of such a wonderful church. I constantly thank God for the opportunity to serve on staff, as well as thank Him for each of you. I realize there are many of you who I have not had an opportunity to meet, yet I am hopeful we will. Even though my focus is Children's Ministry, we are all children of God and I want to know you, too.

May you and your families have a Happy Easter!

Much love,

Kelly

## Palm Sunday Processional

On Sunday, April 2, children are invited to join our Palm Sunday Processional at the 11 a.m. worship service. Please plan to meet Mrs. Kelly at 10:45 a.m. outside the Sanctuary. Any questions, contact Kelly Hickey.

## Easter Egg Hunt

When: Sunday, April 2, from 4 to 5 p.m.

Where: At the home of Weave and Emily Whitehead,  
175 W. Pocket Road, Florence

What to Bring: Your Easter basket and the whole family!

Please make plans to join us for a time of fellowship and fun!

## Presbyterian Kids (PKs)

1st – 5th grade

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

April 2	Easter Egg Hunt at the Whitehead's
April 30	6th Grade
May 14	1st – 2nd Grade

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

## Wednesday Nights

As Wednesday nights end for the 2022-2023 Church School year, the Children's Ministry Team would like to thank everyone who made Wednesday nights possible! There are many to thank beginning with the staff, to our chefs and kitchen volunteers, and our teachers and leaders. We could not have done it without you. Thank you for working so hard to take care of so many!

## Sunday School

Sunday, May 22, will be the last Sunday school hour for the 2022-2023 Church school year. Thank you to all of the teachers who have volunteered! You have been a gift to so many!

Beginning Sunday, May 28, Summer Sunday school will be offered at 9 a.m. through June. Mrs. Kelly and friends will lead a combined class in the CLC for children, 3K-fifth grade. Should you have any questions, please contact Kelly Hickey, [khickey@florencefirst.org](mailto:khickey@florencefirst.org).

## FPC Looking to Hire Nursery Staff

FPC has been blessed with 17 babies, 2 years old and younger! As we continue to grow, the Children's Ministry Team understands the need for more nursery staff. Therefore, a recommendation was made and approved for FPC to hire a few of our youth who love children and who are interested in working two Sundays a month and other times, if needed.

The guidelines are as follows:

- youth must be at least 16 years old.
- youth will be required to work with an adult and never alone.
- youth would need to apply for the position.
- and go through an interview process.

If you are at least 16 years old and interested in applying, please call Kelly Hickey at (843) 662-2583 as soon as possible.

# Sixth-grade Ministry

## Calendar of Events

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 2	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 eggs for the Easter Egg Hunt. Immediately following worship, the students will load up the Easter Eggs, grab a bite to eat at Wholly Smokin' Downtown and then travel to the Whitehead Farm on the Church bus. Upon our arrival, we will enjoy a time of fellowship before hiding the eggs. Students and families are more than welcome to stay for the Egg Hunt, which begins at 4 p.m.



Confirmand student Mary Lachlan Campbell and her mentor, Amy Williams, serve dinner during a recent Wednesday night.

## Confirmation Retreat

April 22-23

On April 22, the Confirmation Class will be traveling to Look Up Lodge in Travelers Rest, South Carolina 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. Check 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>
April 2	9:00 am	Laura Anne Hofler	Holly Campbell
	11:00 am	Erin Patton	Laura Marechal
April 9	9:00 am	Laura Anne Hofler	Christie Henderson
	11:00 am	Erin Patton	Becca Tuttle
April 16	9:00 am	Laura Anne Hofler	Bonnie Stuber
	11:00 am	Erin Patton	Suzanne Cain
April 23	9:00 am	Laura Anne Hofler	Patricia Fast
	11:00 am	Erin Patton	Cathy Lee
April 30	9:00 am	Laura Anne Hofler	Amy Dozier
	11:00 am	Erin Patton	Beth Brown



# Activities keep youth busy with fun, learning

March was such a fun month! The youth helped serve food one Wednesday night, played paint-ball, enjoyed a night of desserts, traveled to Dreher Island State Park for our Spring Getaway, attended the Wednesday night prayer service, prepared and served an ice cream bar for the church, and dyed Easter eggs for the annual hunt.

We are having a great time being together, and we are gearing up for a busy summer so be on the lookout for our calendar of events this month. I am excited for Thomas Davis to join us as our Summer Intern, beginning in May! Several church members have recently mentioned wanting to provide a snack, meal, or their house for a youth event. If you are also interested in helping in this way, please let Taiter know.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

**Sunday School** (April 2, 9, 16, 23 & 30) 10 – 10:50 a.m. Light breakfast served.

**Small Groups** (April 2, 16 & 23) 5– 7 p.m. Dinner provided. All groups meet at the church, except Junior & Senior girls will meet at Amy Williams house (511 Pine St.).

**Wednesday Night Youth Group** (April 5, 19, & 26) 5:45 – 7:30 p.m. Dinner provided.

**Coffee at F.E. Pops** (6, 13, 20 & 27) 7 a.m.-Until; 9 a.m. on April 13

**Carowinds** (April 1) Leave at 8:30 a.m. Cost will be \$35. Bring money for one meal on the road and one at Carowinds. Date may change to the April 29 based on the park's opening schedule. Bring a friend!

**Earth Day Event** (April 22) Time & Locations TBD.

Join us as we plant flowers and a trees! We will also choose an area of Florence to pick up trash. Lunch provided. More details to follow.

**Parent Meeting** (April 23): 10 a.m. Fellowship Hall for current youth and confirmand parents

**Life Skills** (April 30) 5 – 7 p.m. Dinner provided.



There will be NO YOUTH EVENTS on the evenings of April 9 or 12.



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

Custodian

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

Mr. Rayshon Woodard

## 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:

