

The REMINDER

Growing UPWARD

worshipping and praising

Growing INWARD

becoming more like Christ

Growing OUTWARD

sharing the good news



JUNE 2023



First Presbyterian Church high school seniors gather for a senior recognition dinner at the Pearce farm in mid-May.

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Please submit news briefs or announcements by the 21st of the month to Kim Brauss at kbrauss@florencefirst.org.

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

MOMENT FOR MISSIONS

Mercy Medicine Free Clinic

The Outreach Unit had the privilege of hearing from Brian Lowe, Executive Director of Mercy Medicine, during our recent unit meeting. MMFC shares a rich history with First Presbyterian Church, and this ministry is continuing to provide meaningful service to the community. Brian shared some needs of the ministry, and we ask for your prayers and support for the following areas:

- MMFC is hiring a new bookkeeper, 16-20 hours weekly, to be in the office any days between Monday and Thursday.
- MMFC will be hosting its inaugural clay shooting tournament at Moree's Sportsman's Preserve on September 22, 2023.
- MMFC is in need of more volunteer dentists and oral surgeons to help serve the growing demand for dental care.
- The Darlington Clinic needs a volunteer or paid pharmacy tech on Thursdays from 5 to 7 p.m. to fill prescriptions. Volunteer medical providers, such as MDs, FNP's, PAs and RNs for all three locations (Florence, Darlington and Hartsville) could be put to good use, too.

If you know someone who may be interested in any of these needs, please let us know or you may contact Brian directly at brian.lowe@mercymedicalfc.org, or via his office phone at 843-667-9947.

My Brother's Keeper

My Brothers Keeper is a registered 501(c)(3) that was born in part by Marcus and Cassandra Simmons during the government shutdown of 2018-2019. My Brother's Keeper (BK) provides hot dinners, clean clothes, physical necessities, and spiritual encouragement. Its permanent location is at Trinity annex. From the annex approximately 240 meals are cooked, packaged, and delivered to various parks and hotels in the Florence area.



Marcus and Cassandra Simmons

First Presbyterian Church primarily volunteers on Tuesdays, but help for every day of the week is needed! This is great opportunity for fellowship with members of FPC, other churches, and with people in the community. If you are interested in being a part of the cooking/serving team, please contact Janet Brand, janet81661@aol.com. If you are available to help with pick up and delivery, please contact Mike Lavespere, mlavespere@gmail.com. To keep this ministry up and running, BK also needs monthly financial donors.

Living by Grace

Dear Church Family,

There is a flurry of activity as the school year ends and the summer begins. Amidst all that is happening, there are many things worth giving thanks for. The service last Sunday for our high school graduates was stunning. Between the music, the beauty, and most of all the graduates themselves, it was a memorable day. Thank you to all who worked so hard to make it a beautiful service. It was a joy to see their mentors stand behind them at the service – a memorable image that we “stand with them” and support them during college.

While there is much to celebrate, a lot of busy-ness accompanies it all. This time of year in particular it is far too easy to focus on “doing” and “accomplishing.” For example, we are busy working on strategic planning for the church – and it is going very well. The Officer Nominating Team is also working very hard. Please keep both in your prayers. They are important to the life of our church.

And, it is easy for us to work so hard that it detracts from taking delight in our Lord. In fact, one of the things that I have been thinking about recently is: “Living by grace.” What does that really look like? When we begin the life of faith and we can acknowledge that we are saved by grace. Similarly, at the end of life when we admit our powerlessness we affirm life is all by grace. Yet, in the middle of those two events is the tricky part. We often function as if grace is there for us when we mess up, but most of the time “we got this” all on our own. God, we will let you know if we need help.

And in so doing, striving replaces rest. Performance crowds out praise. Delight is forgotten.

What does “living by grace” look like to you? Do you feel like you see yourself as God sees you? Does service crowd out the fact that God rejoices over you with loud singing (Zephaniah 3:17)?

One way to help us live by grace is by living in meaningful relationships with other Christians. We need other mature believers whom we trust who can reflect



back to us the image of God in us; who can articulate what they see God doing in and through us. Living by grace calls us to be intentional about community: To join a small group. To mentor and be mentored. To share life together remembering that when two or more are gathered in Jesus’ name, there He is in their midst.

One of the things I love about being a pastor is sitting down with individuals or couples and hearing what God is doing in their lives. Many times it is true that this counseling happens during either crises or great difficulties; yet, I never find it burdensome. For me, it is a true joy to walk with you during those times. Even though I cannot and do not share what happens during pastoral counseling, I do want to give God thanks today. I have had such meaningful times recently with some of you and it is an honor to be able to speak into each other’s lives at such a profound level of what God is doing. Whenever I see guards go down and people expressing hurts and feelings, and have an openness to see God bring His healing touch, it is always a great joy. It is a window into seeing what it means to live by grace.

Peace,



Becoming Like Christ!

That's right. God's call to YOU (yes, you!) is to become like Him. Listen to the words of God in II Corinthians 3:17-18. Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is there is freedom. And we, who with unveiled faces all reflect the Lord's glory, are being transformed into His likeness with ever-increasing glory, which comes from the Lord, who is the Spirit.

Certainly, this goal begins with God. The Holy Spirit inspires and remakes us. But we play a vital role in "becoming like Christ." We are to work out in our daily lives what God is working in.

HOW? That's the critical question. And the answer is by creating healthy habits in our life — SPIRITUAL DISCIPLINES. Or another way of saying it is, following THE WAYS OF JESUS. When you carefully look at the life of Jesus, you notice a "rhythm" to his life. He taught. He actively helped others. He enjoyed times with a close group of followers. He slept. He prayed. He fasted. He walked (everywhere!), and the list goes on.

Lately, I've been spending a lot of time thinking about "the ways of Jesus" and seeking to model his life in the ways in which I live my daily life. It probably doesn't shock you that, by nature, I'm a classic "type A." I enjoy loading my schedule with things to do. I often live "by the clock." Can't wait to get to the next activity and then, move on. Translation — don't copy my pattern. But join me in deliberately slowing down and taking time to be "Present with God ... Present with people."

Closely associated with "speed of life" is the issue of

"time of life." It saddens me when I see the amount of time that people spend on their "devices." I recently read the average guy spends 10,000 hours playing video games by age 21. (For more information check out Philip Zimbardo's research on "The Demise of Guys.") The average American spend 705 hours on social media and 2,737.5 hours glued to the TV (John Mark Comer *The Ruthless Elimination of Hurry*, p.72).

And here's the "bottom line" — how you spend your days is how you will spend your life! (Anne Lamott)

So here's my advice. You're reading this column in June. Slow down. Put the device away. Enjoy the Lord and people. Walk barefoot (easy for a WV boy to say). Eat some watermelon. Invite the neighbors over. Open up the Bible and read a Psalm or mosey through the book of John. Be still and listen to that voice of God calling in silence, "Welcome home."

If you're interested join me and group of others in a Sunday School class, which will meet at 9 a.m. in the Lawson-Rain Chapel throughout the summer as we study —The Ways of Jesus/Disciplines of the Spirit.

Love in Christ Jesus,

Bill

P.S. Guys, please sign up for the Men's Retreat scheduled for August 18-20 at Hickory Knob State Park by visiting www.florencefirst.org. If you have questions, call me (407-473-0912). Deadline to sign up is Aug. 1.

HAPPY 50TH
Anniversary
FROM YOUR CHURCH FAMILY



Welcome New Staff Members

We have recently added two members to our staff team. Emily Reed is part of our administrative staff and Rayshon Woodard is on our custodial staff. Both have been with us for a little while, but I wanted to take this opportunity to officially introduce them.

Emily Reed – Many of you have already met Emily because she has been with us since January. Emily has been working with us through Olsten Staffing (temp to hire) since January 17, 2023. When our agreement with Olsten Staffing ended in early May, we offered her the full-time position of Ministry Assistant. Over the last several months, Emily has made positive contributions to the day-to-day office operations. Emily has extensive



administrative assistant experience as a legal secretary and with the federal government. Emily is from Virginia, where she has two adult daughters and a granddaughter. Her husband, Jon, works as a building inspector with the City of Florence. They have two dogs, chickens, and live on Indian Drive. If you haven't met Emily yet, let me encourage you to stop in, meet her and welcome her to our ministry staff team.

Rayshon Woodard – As with Emily, many of you may have already met Rayshon. He joined our custodial



staff in March of this year. His position is part-time. He primarily works evenings and on a rotating Sunday schedule with Leroy and Wanda. Rayshon is a native of Kingstree and is a 2007 graduate of Kingstree High School and attended Morris College. He is also an Associ-

ate in the produce department with Walmart on Irby Street. He is married and his wife, Kristen, is a nurse and works as a unit manager with a nursing facility in Scranton. They live in Florence. Please introduce yourself to Rayshon and welcome him to our staff.

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 two panels and are working on a third one. Each panel contains eight (8) names, currently we have three names meaning that we need five 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. Many of our covenant partners may not be aware of this way to memorialize a beloved family member. If you would like more information about the "In Memoriam" section or, are interested in reserving a niche please contact George Beshere, Steve Grady 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.

SCHOOL'S OUT!

Which means summer is here! As we head into the summer months, attention turns to family vacations, summer camps and other activities. As you plan for summer, be sure to include continued support of the church in your plans. Many of our covenant partners have set up online giving through REALM and other e-giving vehicles. Online giving allows you to financially support the ministries of our church even when you're not able to be present. Thank you for your continued faithful support of the ministry and mission of First Presbyterian Church.

Have a great summer!

Spring Handbell Concert



Thank you to those who came to hear our talented Chancel Handbell Choir! It is such a treasure to celebrate the spring season with such music.

Women in Ministry opportunities

Thanks again for being a part of Women in Ministry. You each serve such an important role. Circles will not meet during the summer, but we look forward to starting back in the fall.

We do have two summer volunteer opportunities. Please see the links below to sign up to help for VBS snacks for volunteers and if you can help out with WinShape volunteer opportunities. Happy Summer!!!

[VBS Snacks for Volunteers \(June 12-15\)](#)

[WinShape Volunteer Opportunities/Sign-up](#)

Many heartfelt thanks to all you, Circle Leaders, Team Leaders, and Bible Moderators! I could not have done it without you!!! I thank our Dear Lord for each of you -for your help and support.

In Him,
Amy



Don't Miss WinShape!

Helping Florence Flourish welcomes WinShape Camp back to First Presbyterian from July 10 to July 14! As part of the Chick-fil-A program, campers completing grades 5K-fifth grade gather for a week of life-changing, memory-making experiences ranging from sports to creative play to worship! Cost is \$230 per camper and multi-sibling discounts, as well as scholarships are available (email chandley@helpingflorenceflourish.org for details). Learn more and register for this week at <https://camps.winshape.org/day-camps/florence-sc/>.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

Helping Florence Flourish needs volunteers for WinShape Camps coming July 10-14 to First Presbyterian Church in Florence! Volunteer any day or hours based on your availability. You'll have a ball and make a difference!

If you're 15 years old and older, we have a job for you! Volunteers must have completed the ninth grade and



those above the age of 18 will be provided a free background check.

Get volunteer details at <https://camps.winshape.org/volunteer/>! Email Dottie, our Volunteer Coordinator, at handleydv@gmail.com if you have any additional questions.

We hope you'll join us!



Church News

Sunday School classes to be held over summer

This summer, Sunday School opportunities continue for children and adults.

Covenant Partners are invited to join a summer Bible study of the “Ways of Jesus: Spiritual Disciplines.” You can come and go around your schedule throughout the summer because the studies don’t build on one another. If you have questions, please call Bill Cain, 407-473-0912.

The Pilgrim Class, taught by Munford Scott and Cary Andrews, will continue to meet throughout the summer as it always has. It meets in the Pilgrim Classroom.

And throughout June, Summer Sunday school will be offered for children at 9 a.m. in the CLC. Mrs. Kelly and friends will lead a combined children’s class. Should you have any questions, please contact Kelly Hickey, khickey@florencefirst.org.

Let’s join to strengthen the most important part of our body — our soul.

Fellowship outing to be held at RiverRats

First Presbyterian is going kayaking in June at RiverRats. Please join us at 1 p.m. June 25. The fellowship unit along with covenant partner Heather Page, whose family owns the outfitter, are planning a 5-mile, 2.5 hour trip down Lynches River. Cost is \$30 for ages 13+; \$20 for ages 8-12; and under 8 is free.

Cost is \$20 for adults if you have your own kayak. Register online here: <http://www.riverratsc.com/#intro> (Click Book Online now! and select the Book button for First Presbyterian Church.) You also can email Heather Page (heatherfpage@yahoo.com) or call (843-687-4236) to register if you have your own kayak or if you have any questions.

Deadline to register is June 21. Bring a picnic lunch ahead of time if you’d like to enjoy the scenery. Best to bring sun protectant, change of clothes, something to stay hydrated. Each boat has an area for a small soft cooler. RiverRats is located at 2740 Indigo Landing Road in Scranton.



Scouts go fishing!

Our Cub & Boy Scout ministries ended this school year with an afternoon of fishing and a demonstration by a group of HAM radio operators. The fishing was great and the Scouts cleaned and ate fish, hot-dogs and hamburgers before the end-of-the-year awards campfire with song leader Dr. Weave Whitehead.

Cub Scout meetings for boys in first through fifth grades will resume after a summer break on Sunday afternoon, August 27, and our Scouts BSA for sixth-through 12th-graders will resume Monday night meetings on August 28.

Our Scouts BSA have a busy summer of camping planned that includes Camp Barstow summer Scout camp and Philmont Scout ranch backpacking in June and whitewater rafting on the New River in West Virginia in July.

Non-denominational Bible study to be held

Embracing God’s Word, a non-denominational Bible study teaching with women’s, men’s and couples’ small groups, will study Parables from 5:30 to 7 p.m. several Sundays during the summer — June 4, June 25, July 16, July 23, July 30, and August 6 at First Presbyterian Church. Contact Janet Brand, janet81661@aol.com, for more information.

Red Cross Blood Drive

A Red Cross Blood Drive will be held from 1:30 to 5:30 p.m. Thursday, June 8, on campus. To schedule an appointment, use the Blood Donor app or call Kim Brauss in the church office, 843-662-2583.

— Submit news briefs by June 22 to Kim Brauss, kbrauss@florencefirst.org or call 843-662-2583.

THE GLOBAL LEADERSHIP SUMMIT

HELD AT FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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Across the world, hundred of thousands of leaders like **YOU** are gathering for one event—The Global Leadership Summit.

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the Summit will empower you
to lead **WISELY**, to lead **BOLDLY**,
and to **LEAD WHERE YOU ARE.**

REGISTER TODAY!

GlobalLeadership.org/Summit

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY
<p>4</p> <p>Traditional Worship EGW Summer Series, 5:30 p.m. CLC</p> <p>YOUTH: Pizza & Praise, 5 p.m.</p> 	<p>5</p> <p>YOUTH BOYS: RSVP due for lunch (June 6 at Myami)</p> <p>YOUTH: RSVP due for Neptune Island (June 7) ServeFLO Recruitment Lunch, 11 a.m.</p>	<p>6</p> <p>CHILDREN: Terrific Tuesdays, 1-4 p.m.</p> 	<p>7</p> <p>YOUTH: Neptune Island. Meet at church at 9 a.m. Cost is \$25</p> <p>RSVP helping with VBS</p> <p>CHILDREN: Wonderful Wednesdays</p>
<p>11</p> <p>Contemporary Worship Pastor Breakfast, 9 a.m.</p> <p>YOUTH: Wheeldateens, 5p.m.</p> <p>CHILDREN: Deadline to sign up for summer field trips VBS meeting, 2 p.m.</p> 	<p>12</p> <p>Vacation Bible School, 8:45-11:45 a.m.</p> <p>Worship Unit, 12:30 p.m. LR</p> <p>Enabling Unit, 5:30 p.m.</p> <p>Women's Only Class</p>	<p>13</p> <p>Vacation Bible School, 9-11:45 a.m.</p> 	<p>14</p> <p>Veterans Meeting, 8 a.m.</p> <p>Vacation Bible School, 9-11:45 a.m.</p> <p>Youth: Lunch at Moe's, 1 p.m.</p> <p>Outreach Unit, 12:15 p.m.</p> <p>Pilgrim Class</p>
<p>18</p> <p>Traditional Worship</p> <p>CHILDREN: RSVP for Terrific Tuesday's Swan Lake field trip</p>	<p>19</p>	<p>20</p> <p>CHILDREN: Terrific Tuesdays, Swan Lake, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.</p> <p>Fellowship Unit, 5:30 p.m.</p> 	<p>21</p> <p>YOUTH: Tie-Dye Party, noon to 2 p.m. Lunch provided. Bring item to tie-dye.</p> <p>CHILDREN: Wonderful Wednesdays, EdVenture, 7:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.</p>
<p>25</p> <p>Contemporary Worship</p> <p>YOUTH: Wheeldateens, 5 p.m.</p> <p>EGW Summer Series, CLC</p> 	<p>26</p> <p>YOUTH: Junior High overnight @ the beach. Completed seventh- and eighth-graders will go to the beach for two days.</p>	<p>27</p> <p>YOUTH SENIOR BOYS: RSVP lunch on June 28</p> <p>CHILDREN: Terrific Tuesdays, 1-4 p.m.</p> <p>Session, Diaconate Dinner & Meeting, 6 p.m.</p>	<p>28</p> <p>YOUTH SR BOYS: Lunch at Miyami, 1 p.m.</p> <p>CHILDREN: Wonderful Wednesdays, 1-4 p.m.</p>

THURSDAY**FRIDAY****SATURDAY**

<p>1</p> <p>YOUTH: Lunch at Buc-ee's, 11:30 a.m.- 2 p.m. YOUTH: RSVP for Pizza & Praise (June 4), and Carowinds (June 2)</p>	<p>2</p> <p>YOUTH: Carowinds Amusement Park, 8 a.m. to 7 p.m. VBS Registration Deadline</p>	<p>3</p> <p>Barnes-Lyle Wedding and Reception Green Flute Recital, 12:30 p.m. LR</p> 
<p>8</p> <p>Red Cross Blood Drive CHILDREN: Thundering Thursdays, 1-4 p.m. YOUTH: Junior High Boys Lunch, 1 p.m. Miyami</p> 	<p>9</p>	<p>10</p> <p>Parking Lot Mission, 6 a.m. Jobs 4 Life Celebration, 2 p.m.</p>
<p>15</p> <p>Vacation Bible School, 9-11:45 a.m.</p>	<p>16</p> <p>YOUTH: Carowinds Water Park, Cost is \$45. 8 a.m. to 6 p.m.</p> 	<p>17</p>
<p>22</p> <p>CHILDREN: Thundering Thursdays, SC Aquarium, 7:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.</p> 	<p>23</p>	<p>24</p>
<p>29</p> <p>CHILDREN: Thundering Thursdays, 1-4 p.m.</p> 	<p>30</p>	

**WEEKLY****MONDAYS**

- Morning Exercise Class, 8:30 a.m. CLC
- Strategic Planning Meeting, 8:30 a.m. Women's Only Class
- Prayer Group, 2:30 p.m. (LR)
- Selah Yoga, 5:30 p.m. (CLC)
- Men's Bible Study, 7 p.m. (203)

TUESDAYS

- Morning Exercise Class, 8:30 a.m. CLC

WEDNESDAYS

- Small Group Bible Study, 10 a.m.
- Praise Team Rehearsal, 5:45 p.m.
- Chancel Choir Rehearsal, 7 p.m.

THURSDAYS

- Men's Bible Study, 7 a.m.
- Youth Coffee, 9 a.m. F.E. Pop's
- Morning Exercise Class, 8:30 a.m. CLC
- Bible Study, Zoom, Room 202

SUNDAYS

- 9 a.m. Sunday School
- 10 a.m. Worship Service
- 11 a.m. Cookies & Lemonade

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

Doug Cooper, Faris Griffith's brother
Sybil Miles Coward, Kim Ryan's mother
John Flake, Debbie Harwell's father

Households

FLOCK 1: Don, Ruth, Katherine, Mary and Sara Watts
FLOCK 2: Wallace and Mary Caroline Vaught
FLOCK 3: Yong and Sue Shin
FLOCK 4: Chad and Levi Hayes
FLOCK 5: Donnie Wheeler
FLOCK 6: Brian, Michele, Ella, Alaina and Hampton Naylor
FLOCK 7: Cindy and Elizabeth Coward
FLOCK 8: Sheila Cockfield

Flowers in the Sanctuary


June 4: Communion
June 11: Mathes family
June 18: Bobby Ray
June 25: Open

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
or 843-992-8904). Please leave your name, number, and
date you wish to reserve.

Sympathy

Faris Griffith, loss of her brother
Debbie Harwell, loss of her father
Hal Campbell, loss of his sister
Maymie Lou Spearman, loss of her brother

Lord, Hear
Our Prayer



Sick & Recovering

Aubrey Crawford
Kelly Hickey
Todd Moseley

Elders

Robert Moore
John Scott

Deacons

Cille Scott
Donnie Wheeler

Missions

Mercy Medicine
My Brother's Keeper

Women in Ministry

Tabatha Davis
Lynn Porter

Teachers

Kathy Griffin
Rob Hall

Staff

Kelly Hickey
Christina "Taiter" Garrett

June BIRTHDAYS

JUNE 1

Donna Collins
Jim Dameron
Landis Lane
Emily McLean
Melanie Sprenger
Butch Turner

JUNE 2

George Henderson
Coleman Jeffords

JUNE 3

Bill Cain

JUNE 4

Courtney Emert
Bryan Harwell

JUNE 5

Matthew Hyman
Cile MacLennan
Brittany Miles

JUNE 6

Margaret Charles
Eli Gaddy
Gerry Rosenlund

JUNE 7

Marshall Benton

JUNE 8

George Beshere
Drew Caudle

JUNE 9

Harper Etheridge
Mary Jernigan

JUNE 10

Addie Bulloch
Abigail Tuttle

JUNE 11

Troy Lamb

JUNE 13

Emily Hodges
Jon Lewis
Betsey Moore
Mary Tiller Rabon
Thomas Ray
Anna Reames
Celia Urquhart

JUNE 14

Gray Scott
Katherine Watts

JUNE 15

Merrette Dowdell
Marty Hucks
Isla Pittman
Tommy Spencer

JUNE 16

Ken Charles
Carter Hardee
Beverly Harrell
Bobby Henegar
Eric Kim
Cathy Lee
Susan Snow
Gordon Weatherford
Hunter Welch

JUNE 17

Breeden DuBose
Grace DuBose
Charles Lamb
Hunter Morgan
Edmund Whitehead

JUNE 18

Jo Lynn Bratcher
McKenzie Lehman
Collins McBride
Addison Suggs
Abi Urquhart

JUNE 19

Hunter Burch
Ansley Moore
Lyn Ortiz
Gil Vassy

JUNE 20

Lila McMillan
Cammie Moree

JUNE 22

Amelia Anne Brown
Mary Grady
Alaina Naylor
Patrick Ortiz
Heather Page
Ashley Scott

JUNE 23

Lauren Bostwick
Frank Ellington

JUNE 24

David DuBose
Robin Stoupenos

JUNE 25

Justin Dozier
Ida Whitehead

JUNE 26

Alan Floyd
Emily Hyman
Bryan Rabon

JUNE 27

Dawn Benton
Weatherly Tiller
Genia Tyson

JUNE 28

Cindy Coward
Larry Davidson
Richard Genoble
Johnny Stoupenos
Ellen Wilhoit

JUNE 30

Scarlett Cranford
Sally Dameron
Tammy Moore
Susan Perrou

Summer camps underway at the Center

Greetings from the Child Development Center! Our summer session is underway, and we have switched from our preschool curriculum to a less structured day camping theme. For the last week, the children have been learning all about camping through our Camp About theme. They have enjoyed nature walks, scavenger hunts, s'mores and many age-appropriate camp crafts. In early June, we will begin our next day camping adventure titled, Commotion in the Ocean. This three-week camp will focus on sea life and which aquatic animals live in the ocean. We will read books about visiting the ocean, learn to walk like a crab and do other hands-on, age-appropriate ocean crafts.

Our preschool garden is planted, and we have several plants beginning to grow. The older classes are taking turns weeding and watering the garden. The children get excited when new sprouts push through the dirt and we look forward to the time we can start picking and tasting our vegetables.

We have a few openings in our fall 4K preschool class and if you or someone you know is looking for preschool for their child, we would be happy to have them join us here at First Presbyterian. Applications can be obtained in our CDC office or by calling 843-799-1263 for more information. We continue to look for new faces for our teaching staff and anyone interested in applying for part-time hours may email their resume to bhepler@florencefirst.org.

Thank you again for all the ways you support the child development center ministry through your prayers. We know our God is glorified by each one.
Blessings,

Beth



Vacation Bible School is on its way!

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

Preschool VBS is available for volunteers' kids 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. Registration will close June 2.

VBS Sunday: On 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, khickey@florencefirst.org or Laura Anne Hofler, lahofler@gmail.com.



MEN'S RETREAT **"Becoming a Man of God"** **August 18-20** **Hickory Knob State Park**

Calling all Men ... please register now for a wonderful weekend of inspiration, friendship, and fun. The theme of our weekend will be "Becoming a Man of God" and will be led by Bill Cain and a friend of his from Lebanon, Ohio, Jim VandeGrift. Jim was a legendary high school football coach and athletic director who continues to impact the lives of many through his faith in Jesus Christ.

This is a weekend designed for YOU ... filled with opportunity to grow spiritually, to connect relationally, and to have lots of fun together. We're intentionally building into our weekend time to relax and play! Hiking, fishing, skeet shooting, archery, horseshoes, cornhole, and (of course) an afternoon



"Golf Scramble" at an onsite beautiful golf course all await YOU. So, do yourself a favor and sign up NOW.

Registration will be limited to 60 men. We will be staying on site in "motel type" rooms with two men to a room. The cost for the weekend will be \$145, which includes two nights lodging and dinner (cookout) on Saturday evening. Golf, skeet, and archery are additional fees.

To register, go to our website or call Kim Brauss, 843-662-2583. If you have questions, call Bill Cain, 407-473-0912. Deadline to sign up for the retreat is August 1.

Summertime, Summertime

It won't be long before we kick-off summer! It's going to be a blast! Please note important details for each group.

Terrific Tuesdays for completed 3K, 4K and 5K

On **June 6**, we will meet on campus from 1 to 4 p.m. We will kick-off in the Christian Life Center (the gym) for a time of fun, food, fellowship, and faith building. During the week of **June 12**, we will enjoy traveling to Babylon to meet Daniel and his friends as we enjoy a fun filled VBS week. Please be sure to register online. On **June 20**, we will meet at the church at 9 a.m. to travel to Swan Lake in Sumter. We will walk the trails, see beautiful swans, enjoy a picnic lunch, and play on the playground. We will return to the church at 3 p.m. Everyone will need to bring a bag lunch with their name on it and their car seat. **All participants must sign up on or before June 18.**

On **June 27**, we will meet on campus from 1 to 4 p.m. beginning in the Christian Life Center (the gym).

Wonderful Wednesdays for COMPLETED 1st – 3rd

On **June 7**, we will meet on campus from 1 to 4 p.m. We will kick-off in the Christian Life Center (the gym) for a time of fun, food, fellowship, and faith building. During the week of **June 12**, we enjoy a fun-filled VBS week.

On **June 21**, we will meet at the church at 7:30 a.m. to travel to Edventure in Columbia. We will return at 4 p.m. The cost of the trip is \$15. Everyone will need to bring a bag lunch with their name on it. **Participants must sign up on or before June 11.** On **June 28**, we will meet on campus from 1 to 4 p.m. We will kick-off in the Christian Life Center (the gym).

Thundering Thursdays for COMPLETED 4th – 5th

On **June 8**, we will meet on campus from 1 to 4 p.m. We will kick-off in the Christian Life Center (the gym) for a time of fun, food, fellowship, and faith building. During the week of **June 12**, we will enjoy a fun-filled VBS week. Please be sure to register online. This year fifth-graders will enjoy a Mission Focus week during VBS. They will travel off campus each day to work on a specific mission project.



FIELD TRIPS

To participate in the field trips, each child must have a First Presbyterian Church Medical/Liability Form completed. Forms will be emailed upon registration. Questions? Please call Kelly Hickey at 843-662-2583.

TERRIFIC TUESDAYS

JUNE 6: CLC	JULY 4: Not meeting
JUNE 12: VBS	JULY 11: Not meeting
JUNE 20: Swan Lake	JULY 18: Neptune Island
JUNE 27: CLC	JULY 25: Party

WONDERFUL WEDNESDAYS

JUNE 7: CLC	JULY 5: Not meeting
JUNE 12: VBS	JULY 12: Winshape Camp
JUNE 21: EdVenture	JULY 19: Riverbanks Zoo
JUNE 28: CLC	JULY 25: Party

THUNDERING THURSDAYS

JUNE 8: CLC	JULY 6: Not meeting
JUNE 12: VBS	JULY 13: WinShape Camp
JUNE 22: Aquarium	JULY 20: Frankie's Fun Park
JUNE 29: CLC	JULY 27: Party

On **June 22**, we will meet at the church at 7:30 a.m. to travel to the SC Aquarium in Charleston. We will return at 4 p.m. The cost of the trip is \$30. **All participants must sign up on or before June 11.**

On **June 29**, we will meet on campus from 1 to 4 p.m. We will kick-off in the Christian Life Center. Questions? For details, deadlines, costs, please call Kelly Hickey at 843-662-2583 or email khickey@florencefirst.org.

Children's Ministry



Dear Church Family,

Recently, I have been wondering how I will ever be able to truly express my family's heartfelt gratitude for the way you have surrounded us during my surgery and recovery. The love you have poured into my family has been breathtaking. There are not enough words to express how you have touched our lives.

John 13:34-35 says, "A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples if you love one another."

First Presbyterian Church, you are truly Jesus' disciples! We felt Jesus' love through your prayers, the delicious meals, your encouraging notes, cards, and phone calls and so much more.

Thank you for loving us and showing us true discipleship.

We love you!
Kelly

Sunday School

Beginning Sunday, May 28, Summer Sunday school will be offered at 9:00 a.m. through the month of June. Mrs. Kelly and friends will lead a combined class in the CLC for children 3K – 5th grade. Should you have any questions, please contact Kelly Hickey.

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 contact Kelly Hickey at (843) 662-2583 as soon as possible.



CHILDREN'S CHURCH UPDATED VOLUNTEER SCHEDULE

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

Date	Time	Teacher	Assistant/Helper
July 2	10 a.m.	Kelly Hickey	TBD
July 9	10 a.m.	Susan Snow	Tiffany Strauss
July 16	10 a.m.	Kelly Hickey	TBD
July 23	10 a.m.	Caroline Genoble	Amy Brown Lewis
July 30	10 a.m.	Kelly Hickey	Jan Green

Welcome, Summer!



Thomas Davis

May was an exciting month! We welcomed the confirmand class with a special dinner, played Top Golf, celebrated our graduating seniors, enjoyed a night of games, food and fellowship with the youth from St. John's, and met for lunch at the mall to celebrate the end of the school year.

Thomas Davis, son of Tabatha and Paul Davis, is our summer intern. He will be participating in our weekly events and trips for

June and July. Thomas is a rising sophomore at High Point University, where he is on the golf team. We are excited and thankful to have him with us.

If anyone has a bicycle, they would like to get rid of or sell, please let Taiter know. We have some youth who would like to participate in Wheeldateens! and need one.





JUNE EVENTS

Coffee at F.E. Pops (June 1, 8, 15, 22 & 29) 9 a.m.-Until

Lunch at Buc-ee's (June 1) 11:30 a.m. – 2 p.m.
We will meet at the church and travel to Buc-ee's to grab lunch and then hang out at the church for a little while. Bring a friend and \$15-\$20 for your meal.

Carowinds Amusement Park (June 2) 8 a.m.–7 p.m.
Cost will be \$35. Bring money for one meal on the road and one at Carowinds.

Pizza & Praise (June 4) 5 – 7 p.m.
Join us as we kick off the Summer with a time of food, fellowship, prayer & praise. Please meet at 626 Camellia Circle. Bring a friend!

Neptune Island (June 7) 9 a.m. – Until
Cost is \$25. We will meet at the church at 9 am. Bring a friend & money for lunch.

Junior High Boys Lunch (June 8) 1 p.m.
Current 6–8th grade boys will meet at Miyami. Bring a friend!

Wheeldateens! (June 11 & 25) 5 – 7 p.m.
Come ride bikes with us! Snacks & water provided.

Lunch at Moe's (June 14) 1-3 p.m. Bring money for your meal and bring a friend!

Carowinds Water Park (June 16) 8 a.m. – 6 p.m.
Cost is \$45. Bring a towel, sunscreen & money for lunch (\$25). Bring a change of clothes.

Tie-Dye Party (June 21) Noon to 2 p.m.
The first day of Summer calls for tie dye! Please bring something to tie-dye. Lunch provided.

Junior High Overnight @ the Beach (June 26-27)
Current 7th- & 8th-graders will go to the beach for two days. We will spend time on the beach & in God's word together.

Senior High Boys Lunch (28) 1 p.m.
Current 9–12th grade boys will meet at Miyami. 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

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



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