

The REMINDER

Growing UPWARD

working hard and playing

Growing INWARD

becoming more like Christ

Growing OUTWARD

making the world a better place



MAY 2023



Our confirmands, their mentors and Children's Ministry Director Kelly Hickey pose for a picture while on their weekend retreat at Look Up Lodge in Travelers Rest. See more pictures on page 18.

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 Church Picnic
- 10, 11 Calendar
- 12 Remember in Prayer
- 13 Birthdays
- 14 Child Development Center
- 15 Child Development Center
- 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.

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

MOMENT FOR MISSIONS

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

ServeFLO - OCTOBER 2023

Have you ever had one of those “Ah-ha” moments that caused you to PAUSE? Maybe you were challenged, convicted, learned something new, changed “course” on something, etc.

Twenty-four years ago this summer I was visiting Erik's cousin in Savannah. Aubree and I were feeding our babies and watching the evening news. When we sat down for dinner, her husband, Edward, asked, “Do you mind if we turn the TV off while we eat?” To which I promptly replied, “No, there's nothing good going on in the world anyway!” As soon as the words came out of my mouth, I wanted to take them back! Ed, a Westpoint graduate who had recently returned from serving our country, politely said in return, “I disagree. I think there's a lot of good going on in the world, I just think very little of it is reported!” His words really challenged me, the Holy Spirit convicted me, and it was a defining moment for me in how I would begin to choose to spend my time. It's been a JOY to set about finding the GOOD, joining it, and at times creating it! We are blessed to be a blessing!

Friends, there is A LOT of GOOD going on in Florence and around the world! I am INVITING you to join us for GOOD in October! We have a wonderful opportunity to join Helping Florence Flourish (HFF) through ServeFLO for the entire month of October! In this annual “season of service,” individuals, businesses, churches, non-profits, and the City of Florence, come together to complete service projects around the area. First Presbyterian has been and continues to be actively involved in building and restoring homes for families in need. We will be building much needed ramps for some of the elderly in our community. Neighborhoods will come together and “break bread” over cookouts and conversations. We will serve lunches to our law enforcement and firefighters, sanitation workers and others and SHOW them our appreciation for their dedication and sacrifice! First Pres will host a blood drive for the community on Oct. 5. We will join with thousands in our area for Community Communion on Saturday, Oct.15, 3-5 p.m. at the YMCA. Our time will include worship, prayer and communion.

MISSIONSFEST – October 16-22, 2023

The Outreach Unit invites you to join with us as we highlight our local and international ministry partners with **MISSIONSFEST, October 16-22**. Throughout the week we will have opportunities to serve, tour, and learn about our local ministry partners, and the weekend will wrap up with a conference, hosting missionaries Sasha Tsutserov, Actionnel Fleurisma, and our own, Courtney and Jeremy Emert!

Contact Laura Marechal: 843-319-4564 or marechalel@hotmail.com. *The opportunities to serve are plentiful, so please plan to come and see, hear and join us for GOOD in Florence and around the world this October! I promise you will be blessed, others will be blessed and our LORD will be glorified!*

Praying Twice

Dear Church Family,

We have so much to be thankful for. From confirmation to high school graduation to the CDC art show, I see joy throughout this place. The music in worship is also outstanding; it points us toward Ephesians 5, and the New Creation – that we might live in the light and not darkness. It exhorts us to sing and make music in our heart to the Lord, always giving thanks...” To sing and make music is a creative process that orders the mind towards God. It evokes the old saying of Saint Augustine, “To sing is to pray twice.” It makes me wonder what tunes might have been used with the earliest songs of the church, such as Ephesians 5:14.

Many things are worth our thanks today that are unfolding and to pray twice about:

First, I am delighted in our confirmands. To give you a snippet: last night the elders asked our sixth-graders about the catechism – and I was amazed at not only how well the confirmands were learning the faith, but also how much fun they simply were to be around! They are learning and growing. The session literally gathered around them and prayed for them. The mentors have poured themselves into our confirmands for months. Thank you! It is cause for the heart to sing.

Second, we are working on strategic planning for the church. It is exciting to be in a place in which we are simply asking the Lord what He wants to show us about the future He has for us. Please pray that the Lord will continue to reveal His will to us and keep us on the right path. He has good things in store for us, and I see many hearts seeking His ways above all else. Hallelujah.

Third, you may have noticed that I am a “tad” excited about leading a pilgrimage to Greece and Turkey next year, May 21 to June 1, 2024. The first half of the trip is “In the Footsteps of Paul,” as we will explore Greece including places like Corinth, Athens, and Philippi. The second half of the trip will be in Turkey “In the Footsteps of John” as we visit the churches of Revelation. Yet, above all, the whole trip will be “In the Footsteps of Jesus” as we ask our Lord to walk with us and beside



us – that as we smell the smells and see the sites and touch the ground where our forebearers helped birth the faith, we will become closer to the Lord and one another as we learn. His word comes alive in new ways. It will be a memorable time in which we are pilgrims, not tourists. As such, we will not travel as strangers; we will meet as a small group ahead of time to prepare our hearts for the journey together. So, I ask you: Do you feel called to go? What are the desires of your heart? Sing a new song.

Finally, please browse through these pages and gain a greater sense of what is going on in our church family. I cannot write all the things that our elders and deacons do, but they have been most faithful in their service. It has been a joy to meet jointly each month with prayer and teaching before breaking off into our separate meetings. We are “being” the church before we do the work of the church. Strong church officers are vital to the life of any congregation... Has the Lord laid someone on your heart to nominate for the next class of church officers? Please pray for the Office Nominating Committee as they begin to do their work now that you have elected the committee.

Sing to the Lord in your heart. Sing to the Lord in Worship for Ephesians 5 tells us it is the sign of a Spirit-led life. It is like praying twice.

Peace,

A Message for Men

Women, you are invited into this conversation

I have called you FRIENDS. (words of Jesus in John 15:15)

Last night I finished meeting with some outstanding small group leaders who have been instrumental in leading many of you in our Wednesday evening “small group study of The Lord’s Prayer.” The overwhelming consensus was, “Bill, so many people in our group told us how much that they enjoyed getting to know some other folks better.”

After the meeting I walked to my car and gazed up to a beautiful steeple aglow with a setting sun and uttered a prayer, “Thank you, Lord, for a wonderful experience of people being with one another and with You.”

I wasn’t surprised by the message of the small group leaders because we were simply embracing a God-designed reality — we were created by the Lord for relationships.

Men, hear me. You and I need one another. And far too often, we fall into a cultural pattern of trying to do life by ourselves. Studies reveal that most men over the age of 35 have no authentic friends! That’s incredibly sad ... and that’s not the way God wants us to live ... especially as He brings us into relationship with Himself.

A confirmed “loner” by the name of C.S. Lewis for years lived a socially isolated life. Then, he met Jesus Christ and his view of people changed. Listen to his words:

“My happiest hours are spent with three or four old friends tramping together ... and sitting up until the wee hours ... there’s no sound I like better than laughter.” Then he concluded, “Friendship is the greatest of worldly goods ... sacrifice almost everything you have to live where you can be near your friends.”

Guys (and gals) we are better when we are together with one another and the Lord. Let me encourage you (and in some cases, “push you”) to allow yourself to move closer to other Christ-Following men. If you want some help in doing so, please contact me.

Put on your calendar this date — August 18-20. Our Men’s Retreat begins on Friday night, August 18, and will conclude Sunday morning, August 20. We will be at Hickory Knob State Park. Our theme will be, “Becoming a Man of God.” It will be a wonderful opportunity to renew friendships and make some new friends.

Love in Christ Jesus,



Global Leadership Summit

Leadership is so critical to your life and mine. God continually challenges me to grow in my understanding and practice of leadership. From home to office to the playing field to school...and to church LEADERSHIP plays a critical role.

Please do yourself a favor and make time to attend The Global Leadership Summit, which will be hosted (we are one of the video sights) at First Presbyterian

Church on August 3-4. Leaders such as Patrick Lencioni, Francesca Gino (Harvard Business School), Dave Ramsey, and a host of others will be provide us with two days of insights into leadership.

If you have questions, please contact me (Bill Cain — 407-473-0912). If you register between now and May 3 the price is \$139. You may go to www.globalleadership.org to learn more and register.

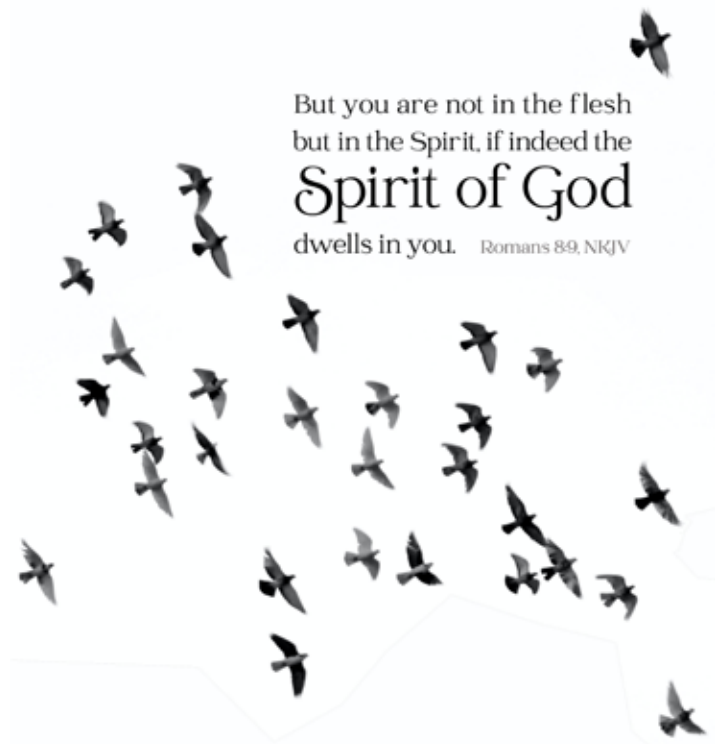
Faithful Investments Change Lives

For most of us, the words invest, investing or investments are associated with money and financial matters. The primary definition of invest is: “to expend money with the expectation of achieving a profit or material result by putting it into financial plans, shares, or property, or by using it to develop a commercial venture.” So, it is no wonder that when we hear the word invest, our thoughts immediately go to things such as the stock market, financial advisors, 401k and retirement accounts. The word invest has a secondary definition that is: “to provide or endow someone or something with (a particular quality or attribute). I want to look at this definition as it pertains to the ministry of First Presbyterian Church.

Sunday, May 7, will be Confirmation Sunday. On that day, we will recognize and welcome nine Confirmands as covenant partners into our church. Since last August this group of sixth-graders has been involved in the confirmation process of our church, which includes catechism class and a 13-week mentoring process, where the confirmands are paired with an adult covenant partner (mentor). The mentor is not someone who has all the answers but rather someone who is willing to share his/her journey of faith with another person who is an apprentice in the faith. Through this process, the catechism leaders and mentors have invested in the lives of these young people. I have had the privilege to be a mentor to three different confirmands over the past few years. Many of you have mentored confirmands through the years will understand that the return on investment is watching a young person grow and mature in their faith and understanding of God.

The catechism leaders and mentors are only a few of the people who have invested in the lives of the confirmands. When a child is baptized into our congregation, the covenant partners are asked if they will nurture and support the child as they grow in faith. Nursery workers, Sunday School teachers, VBS leaders, Wednesday night study leaders and others have invested in the lives of these young people along the way.

First Presbyterian Church is blessed with covenant partners who understand and are involved in the secondary definition of investing both in our church and in the community. Through leading a small group,



teaching a Sunday School class, GriefShare ministry or involvement in one of the many benevolence agencies we support, our covenant partners are investing in the lives of people. The return on these investments will not show up on a quarterly earnings statement in an investment portfolio; instead, it will be found in changed lives.

There is a tendency to think of stewardship strictly in terms of money. However, when it comes to Christian stewardship, it is far more than money — it's your life! Aspects of Christian stewardship is life lived in Christ, the life of discipleship. It takes seriously the psalmist's affirmation that “the earth is the Lord's and all that is in it” (Ps. 24:1). Faithful stewards are always growing. They never graduate from the school of discipleship. Christ calls his disciples to be always on the cutting edge of life. As we are nurtured in our faith, we grow in our understanding of what it means to have “the mind of Christ.” As our senses and sensibilities are stimulated by the Holy Spirit, we grow as stewards and mature as obedient disciples. We truly have far more resources given to us by God than we even realize. So, in what ways are you stewarding the resources (time, talent, and treasure) given to 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.

Don't Miss WinShape!

Helping Florence Flourish welcomes WinShape Camp back to First Presbyterian from July 10–14! 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!

Spring Celebration



Thank you to all that attended our Spring Celebration. Our Speaker, Dawn Smith Jordan, was very inspirational. Congratulations to Betsey Moore, our Life Service Award winner. The proceeds from our love offering will go to WinShape and Gray Scott.

Women in Ministry Happenings

Wednesday, May 3

- Bible Moderators Meeting: 4 p.m.
- Coordinating Team (CT) Meeting, 5 p.m.

Week of May 8-14: Circle of Friends Meetings,
(Session 8 - Anxious Together)

Bread and Fish	May 13
Joyful Hearts	May 9
Prayer Warriors	May 9
SonFlowers	May 9
Soul Sisters	May 9
Serenity	May 9
Women of Grace	May 8
Sunday Salty Sisters	May 21

May Bible Study Focus: God's Word

Session 8 - Anxious Together ~ Community is our lifeline in the fight against anxiety.

Session Eight: Let us consider one another in order to provoke love and good works. Not neglecting to gather together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging each other, and all the more as you see the day approaching. Hebrews 10:24-26

9 a.m.	Room 100
10 a.m.	Off Campus
6:30 p.m.	Lawson-Rain Chapel
10 a.m.	Lawson-Rain Chapel
noon	Price Classroom
3 p.m.	Lawson-Rain Chapel
6:30 p.m.	3002 Japonica Lane
4 p.m.	FPC Church Parlor



Church News

Keenagers end season with The Manor lunch

May Keenagers, the final meeting for the season, will be held at noon Tuesday, May 2, at The Manor Club House. Meal will be grilled chicken breast, baked beans, potato salad, rolls, and ice cream. All those 55 and older are welcome to join us for good fellowship and fun.

Congregation elects committee, OKs by laws

The congregation voted April 23 to approve the amendments to the By Laws regarding the Officer Nominating Committee. Elected to the Officer Nominating Committee for Elders and Deacons include Laura Marechal (chair), Brandon Hylton, Daniel Jordan, Frances Rogers, Amy Williams, Kathryn Scott, Janet Brand, Robin Stoupenos, Lillian Scott, and Ronnie Welch.

Staff recognitions

First Presbyterian is fortunate to have a talented and dedicated church staff. This month, we recognize three of our staff on their employment anniversaries. Gwen DuRant, our Financial Assistant joined our staff in May 2015. Vic Rockhill has been our Praise Team leader since May 2021. Leroy Williams, Head Custodian, joined our staff in May 2022. Thank you, Gwen, Vic, and Leroy, we are grateful for each of you and your contributions to the ministry of First Presbyterian Church.

Veterans Group to meet at Veterans Village

Our next Veterans Group Meeting will be Wednesday morning, May 10, at the Florence Veterans Village. Time and details TBD.

Workday for McQueen Street house project

Please join us in Helping Florence Flourish! HFF is sponsoring a house project at 415 N. McQueen St. We are working to get the house livable for a local mom of 3. The next workday will be at 9 a.m. Saturday, May 6. If you would like to help, please reach out to Charlie Caldwell (843) 992-9447 or Rob Hall (843) 319-5254 and let us know!



Scouts paddle Sparkleberry at Poinsett

Hunter Morgan led our scouts on a paddle of Sparkleberry swamp last month while camping at Poinsett State Park in Sumter County.

Before going camping, our scouts helped with the BEDS ministry building beds for kids without beds in the Florence area.

In May, our scouts will have a fishing campout and paddle on the Lynches River.

Five Eagle Scouts earned during the past year will be awarded their metals at a May 15 court of honor in the fellowship hall.



Call for Tents for Vacation Bible School

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, would you please email Kelly Hickey, khickey@florencefirst.org, or Laura Anne Hofler, lahofler@gmail.com.

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

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN *Spring* PICNIC




FOLLOWING 10 AM COMBINED WORSHIP
SUNDAY, MAY 7

PLEASE BRING YOUR FAVORITE SALAD, VEGETABLE, STARCH OR DESSERT
BRING BLANKETS AND CHAIRS IF DESIRED FOR SEATING

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

700 Park Avenue, Florence, South Carolina



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY
	1	2 Keenagers at The Manor Confirmation Banquet, 5:30 p.m.	3 Family Dinner, 5:30 p.m. Handbell Concert, 6:30 p.m. Session, 5:15 p.m. LR WiM CT meeting, 6:15 p.m. LR Youth welcome dinner, 6 p.m. (The Lounge)
7 Confirmation Sunday Combined Service, 10 a.m. Church Picnic, 11 a.m. Youth: Top Golf, 1:30 p.m.	8 Worship Unit: 12:30 LR Enabling, 5:30 p.m.: WO WiM Women of Grace: Off Campus CDC staff appreciation week	9 WiM Circle Meetings Joyful Hearts, 10 a.m. Sonflowers, 10 a.m. LR Serenity, 3 p.m. LR Soul Sisters, noon Prayer Warriors, 6:30 LR Piano Recital, 5:30 p.m.	10 Veterans Brunch, TBD Personnel Unit, 8:15 a.m. Outreach Unit, 12:15 p.m. Youth Group: 6 p.m.
14  Youth: Wheeldateens! 	15 Troop 477 - Eagle Scout Court of Honor, 4-8 p.m. JFH Discipleship Meeting: 4:30 p.m., WOC	16	17 Assistant Pastor search team, 5 p.m. Youth Group: 6 p.m. Graduation Dinner, 6:30 p.m. off campus
21 Senior Sunday (11 a.m.) Trinity Baccalaureate Service, 4 p.m. WiM Salty Sisters, 4 p.m. Youth Small Groups, 5 p.m.	22	23 Fellowship Unit, 5:30 p.m. Session/Diaconate: 6 p.m. JFH	24 Youth Group: 6 p.m.
28 Summer schedule begins: One Worship Service, 10 a.m.	29 Church office closed 	30 YOUTH: Senior Girls RSVP for lunch	31 Senior High Girls Lunch: Top Hat Special-Teas, 1 p.m.

THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
4 CDC graduation, 6:30 p.m.	5 Welch-Tolson rehearsal	6 Welch-Tolson wedding, 6 p.m.
11 The CARE House Community Meeting - Tentative, 6 p.m. CLC & JFH	12	13 Parking Lot Mission, 6 a.m. (HopeHealth) WiM Bread & Fish, 9 a.m. Room 100
18 Salvation Army dinner, 6 -9 p.m.	19	20
25 Youth Coffee, 9 a.m. (time change for summer) Youth: Magnolia Mall food court, 1 p.m.	26	27



WEEKLY

MONDAYS

- Morning Exercise Class, 8:30 a.m. CLC
- Strategic Planning, 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.
- Youth Group (May 10, 17 and 24)
- Chancel Choir Rehearsal, 7:30 p.m.

THURSDAYS

- Men's Bible Study, 7 a.m. Room 202
- Youth Coffee, 7 a.m. FE 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
- 10 a.m. Worship Service May 7 & 28
- 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

Ann Rodgers Chandler
Selah Yoga Ministry

Baptism

Eloise James Pittman, daughter of J.B. and Allyson Pittman
Cailin Foxworth, daughter of Michael and Jennifer Foxworth
Blakely Ann and Linley Jewel, daughters of Matthew and Emily Hyman

Households

FLOCK 1: Brent, DeAnn, Weatherly and Laura Tiller
FLOCK 2: Alicia and Bill Truman
FLOCK 3: John, Ashley, Ford Scott
FLOCK 4: Michael and Kim Hawkins
FLOCK 5: Adele and Mike Weatherford
FLOCK 6: Hunter, Kara, Hunter, Patrick and Lucas Morgan
FLOCK 7: Matthew McGowan, Kendall Brand-McGowan, and Liam Brand
FLOCK 8: Stephen, Maddelle, Bryce and Caulder Christian

Flowers in the Sanctuary

May 7: Communion
May 14: Betsy and Bob Olsen
May 21: Elizabeth and Joe McLean
May 28: Pam and Mike Morgan

Sympathy

John and Beverly Harrell, loss of their daughter
Kim Ryan, loss of her mother

Lord, Hear
Our Prayer



Sick & Recovering

Aubrey Crawford
Kelly Hickey
Todd Moseley
Betsy Olsen

Elders

Jim Dameron
Allen Griffin

Deacons

Rhett Hughes
Michele Lewis

Missions

Helping Florence Flourish
Actionnel Fleurisma

Women in Ministry

Amy Williams
Carolyn Holland

Teachers

Rhenda Barnes
Alexis Morris

Staff

Ann Rodgers Chandler
Beth Hepler

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.

May BIRTHDAYS

MAY 1

Wanda Hill

MAY 2

Suzanne Cain
Amy Dozier

MAY 3

Amanda Bostick
Sarah Elizabeth Rainwater

MAY 4

Noha Cotran
Melanie DuBose
Cissy Hicks
Mya-Rose Losah
Gwen Misurella

MAY 5

Ann Rodgers Chandler
Patti Vassy

MAY 6

Ellen Pearson
Scarlett Sims

MAY 7

Barbara Meeks

MAY 8

Mac Burch
Carolyn Pearce
Katie Rockhill
Peete Smiley

MAY 9

Camp Blanton
Jennifer Foxworth
Christi Gasque
Anne Hanna
Hayes Hofler
Liam Hughes

MAY 10

Libby Fuller
Lee Gandy
Ella Warner
Lilly Williams

MAY 11

Caroline Babb
Carter Brand
Kim Brauss
Melaine Campbell
Carol Duncan
Barbara Montgomery

MAY 12

Robin Halus

MAY 14

Breck Granger
Thomas Rogers

MAY 15

Stephanie Spivey
Leroy Williams

MAY 16

John Hail
Elizabeth Anne Hanna

MAY 17

Emma Blanton
Allison Johnson

MAY 19

Donna Grubb
Jack Hofler
Meredith Dozier

MAY 21

Sasha Hall
Andy Jeffords
Donald Heath

MAY 22

Penn Packard
Mary Lynn van Witzenburg

MAY 24

Kelly Molnar
Carol Banner

MAY 25

Ruth Bertram
Hank Moree
Lynn Porter
Sonny Slaughter
Austin Tyler

MAY 26

Jim Frederick
Jim Poston
Ben Green
Zip Vassy

MAY 27

Madison Sprenger

MAY 28

Graham Emerson
Masters Emerson
Beverly Everton

MAY 30

Henry Fast
Tomi Jean Cleveland
Danielle Guinn
Hunter Scott

MAY 31

Erin Lewis
Emily Reed

Graduation Celebration

Hip, Hip, Hooray, It's time for 4K Graduation Day!

We are happy to announce that we have a wonderful group of children graduating 4K and flying off to kindergarten soon.

Kudos to all of our CDC Teachers and Staff who have been influential in encouraging these children. Several children in this group came to our center as infants. A special thank you to our 4K Teachers, Mrs. Nelselina Fulmore, (Miss Erika) for her constant love, guidance and encouragement for each child. Miss Erika joined our teaching team in late September. She has been a blessing ever since with her willingness to serve in this capacity. Along with Miss Erika we are grateful to Ms. Gabbyrelle Bittle, one of our part-time college students who has helped in 4K this year.

Our annual CDC Art Show was held recently with a record attendance of parents, grandparents and others. We were happy to see such a nice turn out and appreciate the support for our program. As always, the children did an excellent job with their art.

The next few weeks will be a busy time at our center. To coincide with their birthdays and development, many of the children will move up to the next age group. Our summer session will begin in mid-May and will finish in August. For the summer session, we will switch from our preschool curriculum to a less structured day-camping theme, with different hands-on, age-appropriate experiences for each group.

I hope many of you will have time to relax and enjoy this summer with your children and grandchildren. After all, they are only little once in a lifetime.

Blessings,

Beth

What do you want to be when you grow up and why?



"A doctor because my Dad is a doctor and I love my Dad, so I want to be a doctor."

Shiloh Benevento



"I don't know yet. ... I do know for sure that I don't want to be a mermaid ... because I don't want to be eaten by a shark."

Sullivan Carmichael



"A dance teacher ... because they help little kids know how to dance."

Lula Gray Dowling



"A dentist because my Mom is a dentist."

Elizabeth Fast



"A yard person ... they get to cut grass!"

Hank Henderson

Graduation Celebration

What do you want to be when you grow up and why?



A teacher ... just because!

Madyson Holte



A farmer because they plant vegetables.

Emersyn Lail



A veterinarian because they take care of animals.

Rylee Porter



I don't know yet. I guess I'll be a fireman because they get to put out the fires.

Eesa Wicker



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.

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.** Also, *for your child to participate, you will be required to complete an FPC Medical/Liability Form. Forms will be emailed to you once you have signed up.*

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 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 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.** Also, for your child to participate, you must complete an FPC Medical/Liability Form. Forms will be emailed to you once you have signed up.

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 traveling to Babylon to meet Daniel and his friends as we 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.

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.** Also, for your child to participate, you must complete an FPC Medical/Liability Form. Forms will be emailed to you once you have signed up.

On **June 29**, we will meet on campus from 1 to 4 p.m. We will kick-off in the Christian Life Center (the gym). Questions? Please call Kelly Hickey at 843-662-2583.

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.

Children's Ministry



Dear Church Family,

It is with great excitement I get to announce the Children's Ministry Summer Intern for Summer 2023.

This year's intern is near and dear to my heart. It's someone I have known all my life. He is funny, extremely kind-hearted, and never meets a stranger. His name is Mr. Archie. He is my Daddy! I am so excited he will be joining us this summer. God has used him in a mighty way to help me become the person I am today. I am so grateful he will be by my side helping us pour God's word and His love into the children. What a gift! Much love,

Kelly



Sunday School

Sunday, May 22, will be the last Sunday school for the 2022-2023 Church school year. Thank you to all the teachers who have helped us continue to seek and grow in our relationship with Jesus! You are a gift to us!

Beginning Sunday, May 28, Summer Sunday school will be offered at 9 a.m. through the month of June. Mrs. Kelly and friends will lead a combined class in the CLC for children. Should you have any questions, please contact Kelly Hickey, 843-662-2583.

6th Grade Ministry Calendar of Events

May 2 Confirmation Banquet Dinner
May 7 Confirmation Sunday

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.
- interview process is required.

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

CHILDREN'S CHURCH UPDATED VOLUNTEER SCHEDULE

Children's Church meets in the Children's Chapel for *Children in Worship*. This 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>
June 4	10 a.m.	Kelly Hickey	Patricia Fast
June 11	10 a.m.	Erin Patton	Kathryn Scott
June 18	10 a.m.	VBS Sunday	No Children In Worship
June 25	10 a.m.	Susanne Cain	Amy Dozier

Confirmation Retreat



CONFIRMANDS

Gracy Alexander
Mary Lachlan Campbell
Cailin Foxworth
Liam Hughes
Bailey Hylton
Charley Hylton
Graham Rabon
Henley Thompson
Colton Westbrook

MENTORS

Carol Fleenor
Amy Williams
Charissa Canfield
Mike Fleenor
Ellen Wilhoit
Don Hebert
Karen McBride
Jan Green
Richie Wilhoit

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 on May 31.



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.

Springtime wrap up

April was a slow month for the youth. Spring break was a nice pause in the busyness of the school year. We had an Earth Day event, where we planted flowers, vegetables and herbs. Since the weather has been so nice, our biking group Wheeldateens! started back.

We are wrapping up our small groups and excited to begin the summer. The schedule is packed with weekday and weekend events. There was a parent meeting April 23, where the parents received the summer schedule. A packet also has been mailed out to each youth family with the schedule and other information important for the summer.

If anyone has a bicycle they would like to donate or sell, please let Taiter know. We have some youth in need who would like to take part in our Wheeldateens! group.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Confirmand Welcome Dinner (May 3) 6 – 7:30 p.m.
We will meet in The Lounge upstairs (above the CLC). A small group of current youth will help welcome them. We will also share about all the different trips & events we do throughout the school year & summer. We will play a fun game to end the night.

Coffee at F.E. Pops (May 4, 11 & 18) 7 a.m. – Until
AND (May 25) 9 a.m.

Sunday School (May 7, 14, 21 & 28) 10 a.m.
Light breakfast served.

Top Golf (May 7) 1:30 – 7 p.m.
Cost is \$45 a person & includes dinner. *Please RSVP by Wednesday, May 3.*

Youth Group (May 10, 17 & 24) 6-7:30 p.m.
Food, games, Bible study & fun! Dinner provided.

Graduation Sunday (May 21) 11 a.m.
Please join us during the traditional service as we recognize our graduating seniors.

Wheeldateens! (May 21) 5 – 7 p.m.
Come ride bikes with us! Snacks & water provided.



Lunch at the Mall Food Court (May 25) 1 p.m.
Join us at the mall for lunch on the last day of classes! Bring a friend!

Senior High Girls Lunch (May 31) 1 p.m.
Current 9–12th grade girls will meet at King Jefe. Bring a friend! *Please RSVP by May 30.*



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



WinShape Camp, July 10-14



Join us! Read page 6 for details!