

# The REMINDER

Growing UPWARD  
worshipping and praying

Growing INWARD  
becoming more like Christ

Growing OUTWARD  
sharing the good news

AUGUST 2023



# MOMENT FOR MISSIONS

## Manna House

### ‘Feeding the Souls of the Community’

Located at 450 Jarrott Street, Manna House is a community soup kitchen and food pantry supporting the unity and health of the community with love and spiritual blessings, providing nutritious free meals and food for families in Florence.

Under the direction of Melinda Waddell, Manna House serves over 5,200 meals monthly. Additionally, more than 550 families receive groceries through their pantry. The “Manna Wheels” program serves meals three (3) days/week to 118 homebound seniors and disabled seniors and veterans.

The demand for services at Manna House is on the rise for numerous reasons including: the decrease in SNAP benefits available to their clients and the increase in the homeless population they serve. In June, 45 percent of those served were homeless, largely because of the lack of affordable housing in our area.

Manna House is always in need of donations and volunteers. Suggested pantry item donations include: bottled water, granola bars, fruit cups, pop-top entrees, peanut butter, jelly, canned chicken and tuna, and travel-sized hygiene products for women and men. For more information, contact: Melinda at (843) 667-6077; mannahouseflorencesca@gmail.com.

*“For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat.” Mt. 25:35*

I was hungry and you  
gave me food,  
I was thirsty and you  
gave me something to drink.

Matthew 25:35, NRSV



**A WinShape camper gives a “thumbs up” to show her group is ready for their afternoon skill as campers finish up snack time.**

## IN THIS ISSUE

- 2 Moment for Mission
- 3 From the Senior Pastor
- 4 From the Assistant Pastor
- 5 Church Administration Matters
- 6 Child Development Center
- 7 On Campus
- 8 Church News Briefs
- 9 Fellowship / Women in Ministry
- 10, 11 Calendar
- 12 Remember in Prayer
- 13 Birthdays
- 14 Helping Florence Flourish
- 15-18 Children's Ministry
- 19 Youth Ministry

*Submit news briefs or announcements by Aug. 21 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.*

# The Wilderness of Fear

Dear Church Family,

The greatest commandment is, “To love the Lord your God with all your heart, all your mind, all your soul and all your strength.” Yet, the most repeated command is, “Do not be afraid.” ...Does that strike you? The scriptures often quote God as saying, “Do not be afraid, for I am with you.”

Since this is the most oft-repeated command, surely it applies to all of us. It is very common for us humans to be afraid. Yet, since God is the Almighty, shouldn't His children be the very last ones on earth who would fear? If God is with you, who can be against you? If God is with you, should not that mean by very definition there is no reason to be afraid? Should not the people of God be the most secure – the least afraid – out of all the people of the earth? Yet, there it is again and again: “So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand” (Isaiah 41:10).

What are you afraid of? ... An unknown future? Of failing? Of a lack of control? Of being powerless? Or all alone?

Above the fireplace in the living room in my home is a painting titled, “Streams of Living Water.” A Christian painted it based on Isaiah 43:19, “See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it? I am making a way in the wilderness and streams in the wasteland.” (See the photograph of the painting, nearby.) I like having it in the middle of the living room because God meets us right in the middle of our living. He meets us in the desert – in the wilderness times of life – and He can take what is barren and make it fruitful. God can take what is dead and make it flourish.

The last thing we want when we are wandering in the Wilderness of Fear is to be alone. This is why it is powerful to visit someone in the hospital and to hold their hand. Or to be connected in a small group, with a mentor, or be in a discipling relationship in which we are truly known and meet regularly face-to-face.



It takes maturity not to protect one's image and be vulnerable, yet the fullness of life that it yields is astounding. The only reason that we are able to do this is because of Jesus, our Immanuel – our “God with us.” And it is precisely being in relationship with others in which we become more aware of the God who is with us. “Wherever two or more are gathered in my name, there I am in their midst” (Matthew 18:20).

Please keep our church officers and strategic planning in your prayers as we are making good progress. We are particularly focusing in on avenues of discipleship, such as the Men's Retreat Aug 18-20. We desire to be disciples and make disciples who do not fear because we live with our God. We want to walk together in the dry, dusty Wilderness of Fear until living waters spring forth.

Also, I have one piece of good news: so much delight has been expressed by so many covenant partners over the one summer worship service that we will continue one service at 10 a.m. through September 3. Summer Sunday School will continue “as is.” Two services will resume after Labor Day on September 10.

May grace and peace be yours,



# Finding Your Identity

**“Mirror, mirror on the wall, who’s the fairest of them all...”** You remember those words of the Evil Queen in Snow White. And all of us familiar with the story would say, “It wasn’t her!”

Let me ask you an important question, “What ‘mirror’ do you use to clearly see and to realistically identify yourself?”

Far too many of us are slaves to the opinions of other people about us. Like starving beggars, we hang onto any word or gesture of affirmation from these “important” people in our lives. It could be a co-worker, a friend, a classmate, or someone we long to be like. But in our minds, these people’s verdicts carry enormous weight on how we see ourselves.

For others of us our identity is shaped by what we do. Our vocation is critical not only in providing a paycheck but also it “validates” us. If we’re successful in our work, then we feel like somebody.

And still others of us build our self-worth upon our “net worth.” What we drive, where we live, how we dress, where we belong are critical markers for determining “who we are.” Those of us in this category live by the mantra, “If I can buy the right things, then I am a worthy person.”

How do we discover the TRUTH about ourselves in a “world of spin” that proclaims, “You are your physical image” ... “You are what others say about you...” “You are what you possess...”?

Reality ... the reality of your identity is found in what God says about you. The truth of God’s Word is the very DNA of your true self. What does God say about you?

Listen to what the Lord says about you, **You have made us a little less than God and crowned us with glory and honor.** (Psalm 8:5)

Elsewhere God says, **I have called you by name, you are Mine.** (Isaiah 43:1)



Let those words sink deeply into your soul. Let them resonate in the innermost part of your very being. May they powerfully shape your view of yourself. Only when you look to Jesus Christ ... only when you allow God’s Word to be your “mirror” will you see yourself clearly.

Have you heard of the “Looking Glass Self Theory”? It basically states, “a person gets his identity in life based on how the most important person in his life sees him.” Jesus Christ looks at you and says, “I love you unconditionally.” “I gave my life for you so that you might have life in all its fullness.”

YOU are special. How do I know? God says.

Love in Christ Jesus,

*Bill*



# Toward a Healthier Church

I recently did a Google search using “definitions of generosity.” The search generated a number of results, but I was drawn to one in particular: “What is the true meaning of generosity?” When I clicked this link, I was taken to a webpage titled **Generosity for Life** (<https://generosityforlife.org/>). I found a number of interesting statements on the subject of generosity and want to share a few of them with you:

- **Generosity *is* a learned character trait that involves both attitude and action** — entailing as a virtue both an inclination or predilection to give liberally and an actual practice of giving liberally.
- **Generosity *is not* a random idea or haphazard behavior but rather, *in its mature form, a basic, personal, moral orientation to life*.** Furthermore, in a world of moral contrasts, generosity entails not only the moral good expressed but also many vices rejected (selfishness, greed, fear, meanness).
- **Generosity** also involves giving to others not simply anything in abundance but rather giving those things that are good for others. **Generosity always intends to enhance the true wellbeing of those to whom it gives.**

Generosity is a theme that runs throughout scripture. We see it in both the Old and New Testament. While looking at the statements about generosity on the *Generosity for Life* website, I was reminded of Paul’s words on generosity to the Corinthians:

“The point is this: whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows bountifully[a] will also reap bountifully. **Each one must give as he has decided in his heart**, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.”  
(2 Corinthians 9:6-7)

These verses summarize the statements about generosity listed above. They also serve as a challenge to each of us as we consider how we are to respond to God’s call on our life with regard to generosity. Generosity is a learned character trait involving attitude and action. It’s not enough to “think” about being generous, we have to “do” generous. Generosity is foundational to our discipleship. “Paul regarded generosity as a proof of the genuine character of Christian love. For Paul, this love is exemplified by Christ who, “though he was


rich, yet for your sake he became poor” (2 Corinthians 8:9) ([www.generosityresearch.nd.edu](http://www.generosityresearch.nd.edu)). Finally, we are called to love our neighbors as ourselves, generosity should be motivated by love for our neighbors. First Presbyterian Church is a generous family of faith with covenant partners who give their time, talent and treasure to support the mission and ministry that we have been called to in our community.

## 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.

## Thank You Custodial Staff!

A big shout out to Leroy Williams, Wanda Lasane and Rashon Woodard for going the extra mile this summer. They did an excellent job keeping the campus clean during Vacation Bible School, Leadertrek Camp and especially during and after WinShape week when 180 kids plus WinShape staff descended on our campus for five action-packed days! Our custodial staff does a lot of work behind the scenes that contributes to the ministry of First Presbyterian Church. Please join me in thanking Leroy, Wanda and Rayshon for a job well done this summer and for all they do on a regular basis to advance the ministry of our church.



# Excitement fills summer day camps

Greetings from First Presbyterian Child Development Center! Summer is slipping by quickly. We've enjoyed a fun day-camping summer with lots of exciting activities to go with each summer camping theme. Our preschool garden has grown and produced a variety of vegetables and flowers. The children have enjoyed tasting the green peppers, carrots, tomatoes and strawberries.

Soon it will be time for us to put away our summer day camping agenda and gear up a new year of preschool learning fun. Our first day of our 2023-2024, preschool year will be on Monday, August 21. Again, this year as in the past we will welcome Ann Rodgers Chandler, Director of Music at First Presbyterian Church, to our preschool palette as she shares with us her gift of music during preschool music time each week. Kelly Hickey, the church's Children's Ministry Director, and others will be on board for our weekly preschool chapel. The children and staff enjoy these extra-curricular activities and look forward to them each week.

The Florence County Library Bookmobile will be here each month and the children's librarians will read to the children and do a special interactive program of music and movement.

We have an immediate need for more infant and toddler caregivers. If you or someone you know is interested in joining us in this endeavor, we welcome your resume. We currently have full- and part-time positions available. Anyone interested in applying must have a high school diploma to be eligible to work.

Thank you to each of you who support the CDC through your prayers. We appreciate each one as we continue to strive to meet the childcare demands of a rapidly growing area. The need for infant/toddler care in the Florence area continues to grow, and we are doing all that we can here at the CDC to help meet the need.

Blessings,

*Beth*



Our summer CDC neighborhood has enjoyed a fun day-camping summer with lots of exciting activities to go with each summer camping theme.





# 'Home Improvement' Seminars

Parents, all of us could use a little help with our home "maintenance." The pressures of parenting can extract a heavy toll on all of us ... and even the best parents sometimes throw up their arms, hit their knees, and utter this prayer — HELP!

"Help" is on the way. First Presbyterian Church is offering a two-week seminar especially designed to provide insights and encouragement to parents. We are grateful to have the leadership of Rhett and Farrah Hughes to guide us.

Our schedule will look like this:

- Wednesday, Sept. 13, 6:15-7:15 p.m., "Strengthening our Foundations as Parents." Some of the issues addressed will be: responding vs. reacting, maintaining our identity in the midst of our parental responsibilities, and other discussions concerning our call as parents.

- Wednesday, Sept. 20, 6:15-7:15 p.m., "Fostering Healthy Growth in our Children." Key issues such as helping our child regulate emotions, setting appropriate limits and boundaries, and instilling God's Word in our children will be presented.

Join us for dinner at 5:30 p.m. If you have questions, please contact Bill Cain, 407-473-0912.



## HOME IMPROVEMENT

**JOIN US SEPT. 13 & 20**

**DINNER AT 5:30 P.M.  
PARENTING SEMINARS FOLLOW.**

**CALL BILL CAIN FOR QUESTIONS.  
407-473-0912.**

## Get involved in Music Ministry

### Tuesdays

Ladies' Ensemble (Ladies of all ages)

### Wednesdays

Chancel Handbell Choir

Preschool Choir

Children's Choir

Praise Team Rehearsal

Chancel Choir Rehearsal



*If you're interested in joining the music ministry, please call Ann Rodgers Chandler, Director of Music, at the church office, 843-662-2583.*



# Church News

## Golf tournament gives putting purpose

Please join us to celebrate the life of Daniel Snow at the inaugural *Scramble For Daniel* on August 26 at the Country Club of South Carolina. The tournament will be a four-player team scramble format. Cost is \$100 per person. Deadline to register is July 31. Scan QR code to register.



Proceeds will be donated to a registered 501(c)3 charity dedicated to suicide prevention and awareness.

## Congregational Meeting to be held

There will be a Congregational Meeting at 9:40 a.m. Sunday, August 13, in the Sanctuary to receive the report of the Officer Nomination Committee for Elders and Deacons and to elect church officers for the class of 2026.

## GriefShare meetings to start in September

It hurts to lose someone you love. Find help at GriefShare. GriefShare is a friendly, caring group of people who will walk alongside you through one of life's most difficult experiences. We will begin a new 13-week cycle of GriefShare at 6:30 p.m. Monday, September 11, in the Pilgrim classroom. You'll find it to be a warm, caring environment. For more information, please contact Susan Snow at 843-229-5633.

## Let's beat our blood donation record

On Thursday, October 5, we're hosting a Red Cross blood drive, and this time, it is held as part of Helping Florence Flourish's ServeFLO. We are being challenged out of need to support more patients.

At our most recent blood drive, we collected 16 pints. At our most successful drive, we worked to collect over 34 pints of blood. It is heartening to know that together we can accomplish so much good.

Contact Kim Brauss in the church office to register or volunteer, 843-662-2583 or [kbrauss@florencefirst.org](mailto:kbrauss@florencefirst.org).



## Cole Rabon earns Eagle Scout award

First Presbyterian Church's Cole Rabon earned his Eagle Scout award in July.

Cole is the 16-year-old son of Bryan and Tena Rabon. A court of honor for Cole will be planned for a later date.

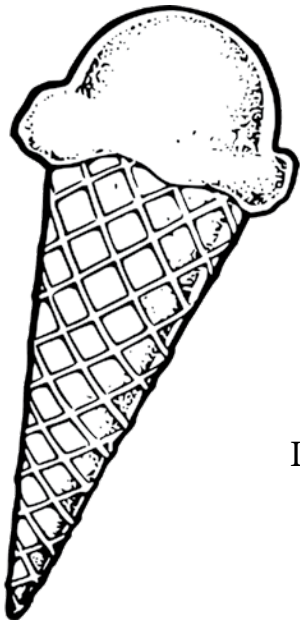
Also in July a group of 16 scouts and leaders visited the National Scout Jamboree, went whitewater rafting and caving in West Virginia.

Boy Scout meetings will start back on Monday night, August 21, for sixth- through 12th-graders led by Brandon Hylton, [bhylton76@gmail.com](mailto:bhylton76@gmail.com).

Cub Scout meetings start back on Sunday afternoon, August 27, at Central United Methodist Church for first- through fifth-graders. For more information, check with den leader Jack Hofler, [jack.hofler@gmail.com](mailto:jack.hofler@gmail.com).

Pursue  
righteousness, godliness,  
FAITH, love, steadfastness,  
gentleness.  
1 Timothy 6:11 ESV





SAVE THE DATE

*Women in Ministry  
Ice Cream Social*

SUNDAY, AUGUST 27

Ladies, please join the Women in Ministry for our kickoff event  
at 4 p.m. Sunday, August 27, in the Christian Life Center.

We will have a special speaker,  
and we will introduce our Bible study for the new year!



*Save the Date*  
**CHURCH**  
*Family*  
**DAY**

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 24

Be sure to mark your calendars for FPC's Family Day at the Cabin at Old Spur in Timmonsville. We will gather at 11 a.m. for outdoor worship, a congregational picnic, fellowship, and games. There will be something for everyone. Please bring blankets and chairs.

If you would like to provide a dessert, please email Tabatha Davis at [tabathasd@yahoo.com](mailto:tabathasd@yahoo.com).

In addition, to RSVP please email Emily Reed at [ereed@florencefirst.org](mailto:ereed@florencefirst.org) by September 17.

We are excited about this opportunity and look forward to growing closer together.

Should you have any questions please contact Kelly Hickey at [khickey@florencefirst.org](mailto:khickey@florencefirst.org) or (843) 662-2583.

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY
30	31	1	2 YOUTH: RSVP today for White Water Rafting Center, Aug. 19
6 CHILDREN: Teachers meeting, 11 a.m. YOUTH: Wheeldateens! 5-7 p.m. EGW series, 5:30 p.m. 	7	8	9 Veterans Brunch, 8 a.m. Personnel Unit, 8:15 a.m. Outreach Unit, 12:15 p.m. Children's Ministry, 5 p.m. Youth Group, 5:30 p.m.
13 SIXTH GRADE: Deadline to register for kickoff retreat	14 Enabling Unit, 5:30 p.m. Worship Unit, 12:30 p.m.	15 Fellowship Unit, 5:30 pm	16
20 Men's Retreat YOUTH: Wheeldateens! 4-6 p.m. 	21 Discipleship Unit, 4:30 p.m. CDC first day of school Boy Scouts 	22 Session & Diaconate, 6:30 p.m.	23 Youth Group, 5:30 p.m.
27 YOUTH: Parent Meeting, 9 a.m. Women in Ministry Kickoff, 4 p.m. 	28 Boy Scouts	29	30 Youth Group, 5:30 p.m.



THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
3 Helping Florence Flourish Global Leadership Summit	4 Helping Florence Flourish Global Leadership Summit	5
10	11	12 Parking Lot Mission 
17	18 Men's Retreat	19 YOUTH: White Water Rafting Center, 8 a.m. - 7 p.m. (RSVP by Aug. 2) 
24	25	26 Scramble for Daniel 
31		



### WEEKLY

#### MONDAYS

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

#### WEDNESDAYS

- Small Group Bible Study, 10 a.m.

#### THURSDAYS

- Men's Bible Study, 7 a.m.
- Youth Coffee, 7 a.m.
- Bible Study, Room 202

#### SUNDAYS

- 9 a.m. Adult Sunday School
- 9 a.m. Children Sunday School
- 10 a.m. Worship Service

#### UPCOMING EVENTS

- Sunday, Sept. 10: Two Worship Services; Promotion Sunday during 11 a.m. service
- Sunday, Sept. 24: Church Family Day with worship, lunch, fellowship and games at the Cabin at Old Spur in Timmonsville
- Wednesday, Oct. 25: Trunk or Treat
- Monday, Nov. 27: Hanging of the Greens
- Tuesday, Dec. 12: Living Nativity
- Wednesday, Dec. 13: Living Nativity
- Wednesday, Dec. 27: Take down decorations

## Extended Care

**Lowman Home**  
Mac King

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

**Presbyterian Community**  
Ann Cash  
Clariann Kellam

## Sympathy

Amy Graham, loss of her father, Frankie Jackson  
Ashley Hylton, loss of her cousin Adam Ward  
Rocky Pearce, loss of his uncle Wallace Moye

Lord, Hear  
Our Prayer

## Households

FLOCK 1: Weave, Emily, Amelia, Weaver, Hugh and James Whitehead  
FLOCK 2: Alva and Ida Whitehead  
FLOCK 3: Bob and Karen Silver  
FLOCK 4: Carey, Jill, Gresham, and Madison Hindman  
FLOCK 5: Maria Whitehead  
FLOCK 6: Connie and Porter Stewart  
FLOCK 7: Barbara, Jimmy, Ben and Lily Green  
FLOCK 8: Donna and Scott Collins

## Memorials

Anna Vassy  
Martha Ruff

## Baptism

Meredith Faye Pennstrom, daughter of John and Ashton Pennstrom

## Sick & Recovering

Betty and Glenn Bell  
Aubrey Crawford  
Kelly Hickey  
Jake Lewis  
Todd Moseley  
Mary Ann Nash  
Janie Ray  
Rosanne Saunders

## Elders

Tabatha Davis  
Jeremy Williams

## Deacons

Everett McMillian  
Frances Rogers

## Missions

Manna House  
ServeFLO

## Women in Ministry

Ashley Bratton  
Ashton Pennstrom

## Teachers

Emily Lake  
Erin Patton

## Staff

Gwen DuRant  
Don Hebert

## Flowers in the Sanctuary

August 6: Communion  
August 13: Open  
August 20: Susan Snow  
August 27: Elizabeth McLean, Betsy Olsen,  
& Karen Jordan

Do you have a friend or relative you would like to honor?  
Sign up to place memorial flowers in the Sanctuary.  
Open dates for the remainder of the year include August 13,  
September 17, October 15 and October 22.  
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.



# August BIRTHDAYS

**AUGUST 1**

Ella Naylor

**AUGUST 3**

Caden Bulliner  
Michael Frost  
Kathy Grace  
Rhett Spencer  
Wallace Vaught

**AUGUST 4**

Jane Ames  
Casey Coker  
Bob O'Harra

**AUGUST 5**

Rob Hall

**AUGUST 6**

Jake McKay  
Jerry Neal

**AUGUST 7**

Tabatha Davis

**AUGUST 8**

Sandra Anderson  
Rufus Bratton  
Erin Patton  
Brittany Reames  
Peggy Swearingen

**AUGUST 9**

Chris Canfield  
Donna Crockett  
Lena Foxworth  
Jackson Mzingo  
Mary Caroline Vaught

**AUGUST 10**

Caulder Christian  
Lincoln Emert

**AUGUST 11**

Chris Johnson  
Joe Pearce  
Amy Williams

**AUGUST 12**

Marshall Campbell  
Carol Crom  
Donna Green  
Scott Ham

**AUGUST 13**

Sherrill Fussell  
Lynette Gaddy  
Andrew Halus  
Blakely Hyman

**AUGUST 14**

Ellen Fails  
Anna Parsons Fast  
Taylor Knudsen  
Brittany Matthews  
Jim Moore

**AUGUST 15**

Tamara Hoefer  
Mary Louise McIntyre  
John Shurman

**AUGUST 16**

Janet Brand  
Joey Hall  
Dave Lake  
Yvette Mbangowah

**AUGUST 17**

Frank Lee  
Jay Reece  
Emmett Straus  
Brian Wallace

**AUGUST 18**

Evans Holland  
Stuart Snow

**AUGUST 19**

Carson Munn  
Colton Westbrook

**AUGUST 20**

Charissa Canfield  
Dan Hicks  
Betsy Johnson  
Moses King  
Fred Kunz  
Phil Moore  
Pack Packard  
Jeff Singletary

**AUGUST 21**

Charlie Ervin  
Mary Jane Holland  
Gregg Jones  
Wit Poston

**AUGUST 22**

Catherine Canfield  
Kent Caudle  
Ella Kate Pennstrom

**AUGUST 23**

Joe Commander  
Charlie Grace  
Cindy Johnson

**AUGUST 24**

Martha Dusenbury  
Brett Green  
Sarah Ella Hardee  
Ellen Grace Marechal  
Porter Stewart

**AUGUST 25**

Lane Gilpin  
Patti Hubbs  
Ronald Welch

**AUGUST 26**

Sallyann Frost  
Andrea Mzingo  
Kimberly Packard  
Andi Rae Straus  
McCall Swink  
Phyllis Williams

**AUGUST 27**

Dakota Hawkins

**AUGUST 28**

Carolyn Caudle  
Betsy Harris  
Heather Taylor  
Ryon Watkins

**AUGUST 29**

Farrel Marie Godwin  
Rod Jernigan  
Virginia Spencer

**AUGUST 30**

Tillman Johnson  
Peggy Moore  
Lyllian Scott  
Michael Westbrook

**AUGUST 31**

O'Neill Edwards  
Faris Griffith



## ***WinShape delivers the fun, faith and fellowship***

Dear First! Thank you so much for your engagement with WinShape this year. We had over 180 children registered and it was a beautiful array of kids from all over Florence. We could not have done it without you though. So many of you were engaged giving time and energy. Over 50 of you helped out! And your campus is the best place in Florence for this camp! The Lord did amazing things and your generosity made it possible. Thank you! — Rev. Chris Handley, Helping Florence Flourish

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## **SERVEFLO 2023 OPPORTUNITIES**

*Join Helping Florence Flourish for ServeFLO 2023 “A Season of Service” – all of October! Teams and individuals will fan out across Florence and complete various service projects throughout the entire month. Stay tuned for details on these projects and the launch! Questions? Please check with ServeFLO FPC representatives Janet Brand, 843-615-6969, and Laura Marechal, 843-319-4564.*

**GET INVOLVED! IT'S TIME TO SERVE!**  
**SERVEFLO**

- Community Communion – Sunday, October 1
- The Bridge Choir – Sunday, October 1
- Boys & Girls Club, “Lunch & Learn,” October 2-6 – Laura & Erik Marechal
- Host a Neighborhood Cookout
- “Home Furnishings & Necessities Drive” – Jayne Boswell
- Lester School Beautification Project – October 2-6
- Home Refurbishment Project(s) – Alice & Charlie Caldwell
- First Presbyterian Church Florence Neighborhood Cookout
- HFF Flourishing Families – “Restore the Family” – Emily Whitehead
- “The Tech-Wise Family: Everyday steps for putting technology in its proper place” by Andy Crouch
- The Tabernacle Experience
- First Responders/Law Enforcement Luncheon – Janet Brand
- “Bridge the Community” with Strong Tower Christian Ministry
- American Red Cross Blood Drive – First Presbyterian Church, October 5
- Invite a Neighbor – “IAN”



# Children's Ministry



Summer 2023 has been amazing! We had a wonderful time traveling to Myrtle Beach, Hartsville, Charleston, Columbia, and Sumter. We have enjoyed ice cream, Gaga Ball, pool parties, Vacation Bible School, go-carts and more. God has blessed us abundantly! Thank you to all who helped make the summer ministries possible. God used you in a mighty way! To all the parents, thank you for trusting us with your precious children. They are a gift from God!

Much love,  
Kelly

## Sunday School

Beginning Sunday, August 6, Sunday School will be offered at 9 a.m. through September 3. Mrs. Kelly and friends will lead a combined children's Sunday School class in the CLC like we had during the month of June.

## Children's Sunday School Teachers Meeting

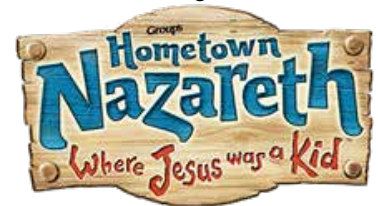
On Sunday, August 6, immediately following worship, FPC's children's Sunday School teachers will meet with Kelly Hickey to discuss the new church school year. We will meet in the Fellowship Hall.

## Mark Your Calendars: Promotion Sunday

On Sunday, September 10, children will be promoted to their new Sunday School class. The classes are as follows:

2K	Room 124 C downstairs
3K	Room 113 C downstairs
4K	Room 119 B downstairs
5K	Room 204 A upstairs
1st Grade	Room 204 B upstairs
2nd Grade	Room 204 C upstairs
3rd Grade	Room 204 D upstairs
4th Grade	Room 206 upstairs
5th Grade	Room 205 upstairs
6th Grade	Room 209 upstairs

In additions, first-graders will be given Bibles during the 11 a.m. worship service and the sixth grade Catechism/Confirmation Class will be recognized.



## VBS Summer 2024

Monday, June 17 – Thursday, June 20  
Be sure to mark your calendars.



## 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
August 6	10 a.m.	Kelly Hickey	Archie Boone
August 13	10 a.m.	Kelly Hickey	Archie Boone
August 20	10 a.m.	Kelly Hickey	Archie Boone
August 27	10 a.m.	Kelly Hickey	Archie Boone



## Wednesday Night dinner kicks off with cookout Sept. 6

You are invited to FPC's Wednesday Night Supper Kickoff Carnival!! Festivities begin at 5:30 p.m. and will end at 7:15 p.m. There will be activities for all ages, including inflatables, face painting, corn hole, hamburgers, and much, much more!

We are looking forward with great excitement to our Wednesday nights children's programs. Classes will start on September 13. All 3K – fifth-grade children are invited to join us. Children 3K – third grade will study The 10 Commandments while fourth- and fifth-graders attend our amazing Bible Drill class.

The schedule is as follows:

### 3K – 5K Schedule

5:30 p.m. – 6 p.m. Dinner

6 p.m. – 6:30 p.m. Playground/Games

6:30 pm – 6:50 pm Preschool Music

6:50 pm – 7:15 pm Preschool Class Lesson

### 1st - 5th Grade Schedule

5:30 p.m. – 6 p.m. Dinner

6 p.m. – 6:20 p.m. Children's Choir

6:20 p.m. – 7:15 p.m. Class

Should you have any questions, please contact Kelly Hickey, [khickey@florencefirst.org](mailto:khickey@florencefirst.org).

### UPCOMING EVENTS

**Sunday, September 24**

**Church Family Day**

*Worship, lunch, fellowship and games at the Cabin at Old Spur in Timmonsville*

**Wednesday, October 25**

**Trunk or Treat**

**Tuesday, December 12**

**Living Nativity**

**Wednesday, December 13**

**Living Nativity**



# Summertime, Summertime

*God blessed us with an amazing summer full of faith, friendships and field trips!*







## **Sixth Grade Kickoff Retreat**

September 8 – 10, 2023

Cost \$100

On Friday, September 8, we will travel to Camp Longridge in Ridgeway. During our time together we will enjoy fun and fellowship while talking about the upcoming year with Catechism, Confirmation, and the importance of the Gospel. In addition, we will swim,

enjoy team building activities and more. We will return Sunday morning in time for Sunday School and our 11 a.m. worship service. The deadline to register is Sunday, August 13. Please be sure to contact Kelly Hickey to sign up, [khickey@florencefirst.org](mailto:khickey@florencefirst.org).

## **Sixth Grade Sunday School News**

Beginning on Sunday, September 10, the sixth-grade class will start meeting with the seventh- and eighth-graders in Room 209 for Middle School Sunday School. We are looking forward to this new structure for Sunday School and are excited about the future of this ministry.



# Summer Finishes With Retreats



July was a great month! The youth met for brunch, lunch, coffee, bike rides, and had a youth room work-day. We painted and moved things around to make room for some new furniture, wall art, and games.

The senior high youth were able to go to Fun in the Sun again, and we had a wonderful time. The youth who went enjoyed great worship and talks in the morning and evening, quiet times each morning, time on the beach, playing sports with new friends, and family time each night.

Several of the youth were able to help with WinShape again this year. We enjoyed our first prayer retreat and wrapped up the summer with a pool party. It was a busy summer, and it was so good!

## AUGUST EVENTS



**Wheeldateens!** (August 6) 5 – 7 p.m. and (August 20) 4 – 6 p.m. Come ride bikes with us! Snacks & water provided.

**Youth Group** (August 9, 16, 23 & 30) 5:30 – 7:30 p.m. Food, games, Bible study & fun! \$5 dinner provided by the church.

**White Water Rafting Center** (Aug. 19) 8 a.m. – 7 p.m.

We will travel to Charlotte and spend the day at the White-Water Rafting Center. All Access Passes will cost \$75 per person. Bring a friend and money for lunch.

Please RSVP by August 7.



**Parent Meeting Drop-In** (August 27) 9 a.m.

Please drop in between 9 and 10 a.m. to get the youth schedule for September 2023 – May 2024. Packets of information will be given out. Please bring your questions and concerns. Youth are welcome to stop by as well. Light breakfast served.





700 PARK AVE., FLORENCE, SC 29501

PHONE: 843-662-2583

FAX: 843-662-1726

[www.florencefirst.org](http://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

