

# The REMINDER



OCTOBER 2023





Plenty of fun was had at the church cookout. Many lined up to dunk our willing senior pastor. Thank you to all who participated and volunteered in the booths. For more pictures, see page 18.

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Submit news briefs or announcements by Oct. 23 to Kim Brauss at [kbrauss@florencefirst.org](mailto:kbrauss@florencefirst.org). To be added to the mailing list, call the church office at 843-662-2583.

# MOMENT FOR MISSIONS

## 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. Questions? Please check with ServeFLO FPC representatives Janet Brand, 843-615-6969, and Laura Marechal, 843-319-4564.*

### OCTOBER 1

- Community Communion – 4 p.m. Sunday, October 1, at the YMCA.
- The Bridge Choir – Sunday, October 1

### WEEK OF OCTOBER 2-6

- Boys & Girls Club, "Fall Festival," Games and festivities, Thursday, October 5, 9 a.m. to noon, Laura Marechal, [marechalel@hotmail.com](mailto:marechalel@hotmail.com)
- Paint benches at Lester Elementary School, Laura Marechal, 843-319-4564

### OCTOBER 5

- American Red Cross Blood Drive, 1:30 to 5 p.m. – First Presbyterian Church. Register at [redcrossblood.org](http://redcrossblood.org) or contact Kim Brauss, 843-662-2583.

### OCTOBER 8

- Prayer Walk, 4 p.m. Drs. Bruce & Lee Foundation Library – Emily Whitehead, [emily.s.whitehead@gmail.com](mailto:emily.s.whitehead@gmail.com); followed by Neighborhood Cookout, 5 p.m., Alice Caldwell, [alicecaldwell@icloud.com](mailto:alicecaldwell@icloud.com)

### SATURDAYS, OCTOBER 14, 21 & 28, QUEEN OF MCQUEEN

- Folks to caulk, paint, yardwork/landscaping – "gophers"
  - Snacks/lunch for workers, Laura Marechal, 843-319-4564
  - Monetary donations for HVAC system, flooring, fencing
- Contact: Charlie Caldwell, [alicecaldwell@icloud.com](mailto:alicecaldwell@icloud.com)

### OCTOBER 15

- Care Packages for Caregivers. Packing will be held at 3 p.m. Sunday at First Presbyterian Church. Call Kelly Hickey for more information, 843-662-2583.

### OCTOBER 24

- First Responders/Law Enforcement Luncheon at FPC, 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. – Janet Brand, 843-615-6969

### OCTOBER 25

- Trunk or Treat at FPC with Strong Tower

### MONTHLONG

- Host a Neighborhood Cookout or Invite a Neighbor for dinner – See Laura Marechal for yard signs, 843-319-4564
- "Home Furnishings & Necessities Drive" – Jayne Boswell, [boswell.jayne@gmail.com](mailto:boswell.jayne@gmail.com)
- "The Tech-Wise Family: Everyday steps for putting technology in its proper place" by Andy Crouch (Study) – E. Whitehead, [emily.s.whitehead@gmail.com](mailto:emily.s.whitehead@gmail.com)

# The Vision: Discipleship

Dear Church Family,

For a number of months, the strategic planning team has been hard at work (Patricia Fast, Laura Marechal, Robert Moore, Bill Cain and myself). We have been sharing our work with all the church officers during our monthly joint meetings. On July 22, Rocky and Carolyn Pearce graciously hosted all the officers at their farm for a strategic planning retreat as well.

As spiritual leaders, we are not seeking a “good idea” and then asking the Lord to bless it; instead, we began with what does the Lord want? What is God doing so that we can hop on board? As Henri Nouwen puts it, “The mystery of leadership ... means to be led.”

The **Vision Statement** – what we believe God led us to write:

**“First Presbyterian Church Florence will be a community of Christ Followers committed to being disciples and making disciples in the way of Jesus.”**

This is precisely what Jesus commanded us to do in Matthew 28: “Go make disciples of all nations...” Our home denomination of ECO is also a tremendous gift in this regard. It provides many ways to equip us in being disciples and in making disciples. If you’d like a taste of what ECO has to offer, please take a day to attend the National Gathering at First Presbyterian Church of Greenville, Jan 29-30. I have signed up.

The second step after writing the vision statement naturally would be: “How will we get there?” What are the repeatable actions we can take to be and make disciples? I love how our ECO Synod Executive Dana Allin sums it up in his book *Simple Discipleship*: Since Jesus said to love God with all of our heart, mind, soul, and strength and to love our neighbor as ourself, the two greatest commands, then perhaps this is the essence of being a disciple. Dana uses the alliteration of “head, heart, hands” as a memorable way to say “heart, mind, soul and strength.”

*Simple Discipleship* was read by all the church officers and I appreciate how the book is how it can show anyone how to take their next concrete step forward

in their own personal life of discipleship. *Simple Discipleship* goes hand-in-hand with our recently adopted

**Mission Statement:**

**“First Presbyterian Florence is called to love God and people with our Head, our Heart, and our Hands.”**

- **Loving God with our “Head.”** Lifelong learners who are shaped and renewed daily by God’s Word.
- **Loving God with our “Heart.”** Relationships are vital and life sustaining. We are connected to the Lord and in life-giving community with other Christ Followers. Worship is a primary means to sustain and strengthen our relationship to the Lord God.
- **Loving God with our “Hands.”** Every Christ Follower is engaged in ministry using their God-given gifts. More to come later on strategic planning. As we move forward in “being disciples and making disciples.”

Finally, I have had a number of comments on the “Joshua Jar” from one of my recent children’s lessons. Simply put, imagine a cookie jar that has the words “Joshua Jar” painted on it. It has a few pretty stones inside with a note on which is written:

*“In the Book of Joshua, God leads his covenant people from the deserts of Sinai into the promised land of Canaan, from aimless wandering to a place of purposeful living. Before God’s people could enter the land of Canaan they had to pass through the Jordan River – not over nor around it. God stopped the river’s flow to remind the people of their past redemption out of Egypt and the future grace that would be theirs in the land.*

*The Lord commanded Joshua to lead the people in storing stones of remembrance. It was as if they would tell anyone who asked, ‘God miraculously brought us in his providence and goodness, and we’ve got the stones to prove it.’*

*Use this jar and the stones to store up the memory of God’s faithfulness and grace to you – not just for you but also for your children.”*

A Joshua Jar is something that stones are added to over time, and it is to be taken out and enjoyed periodically to recall and celebrate the faithfulness of God with the next generation. It makes a great gift for a couple who is about to be married.

With love in Christ,

# Allow Jesus to Guide Us

*“Why do you call me ‘Lord, Lord’  
and do not do what I say?” (Luke 6:46)*

There is one aspect of life which Jesus Christ will not share! Most everything which you ask of the Lord, Jesus will graciously grant. But one thing Jesus will not share is — HIS LORDSHIP. Jesus Christ reserves the right to direct our lives and that’s a hard truth for us to swallow.

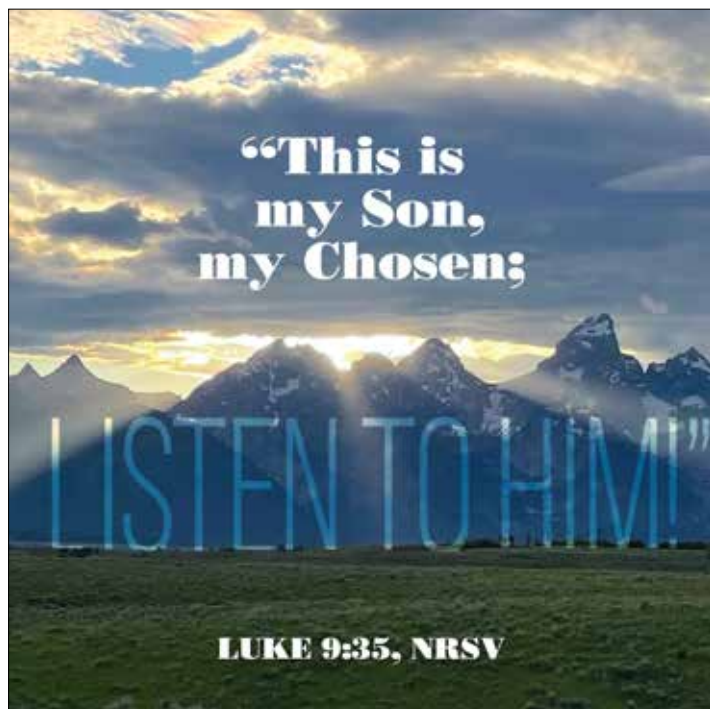
Recently, I walked into a local restaurant and you could not miss a sign on each table which boldly asked the question, “Is it ever acceptable to cut in line?” Underneath the question rested the answer, “Absolutely ... just take your seat, get your phone ... and order LIKE THE BOSS YOU ARE.” The message was clear, “You are the boss and you are in control. Get what you want, when you want it.” That, my friend, is a lie and unfortunately, it’s a lie that many of us live by.

It’s a novel idea for a restaurant. It’s horrible advice for how we are to live each day. Jesus follows his question about Lordship with a wise directive, “These words I speak to you are not mere additions to your life, homeowner improvements to your standard of living. They are foundation words, words to build a life on.” (Lk 6:47 The Message translation)

Many of you this month have made some sacrificial choices to serve OTHERS through one of the Serve-FLO events or suggestions. You have sacrificially cared for others and directed your attention to them and not yourself. God bless you ... that’s allowing the Lordship of Jesus to guide.

This month many of you will be challenged to consider how Jesus wants us to use money. Many of you will choose to take the advice of Jesus and offer a pledge of the money that God has given to you to the ministry of the Lord through First Presbyterian. That’s wonderful — you’re learning about the Lordship of Jesus over your finances.

But don’t let your giving be limited to money. You are gifted with specific talents that God can use in so many



ways here. I just heard about several young men who are teaching our elementary children in our Sunday School. I’m so proud of those men who understand the Lordship of Jesus and are giving of their time and abilities. Consider finding ONE area in our congregational life to serve the Lord. (If you need help, give me a call and let’s talk.)

The sooner you realize that you are not “the Boss,” the better. The more that we allow the Lordship of Jesus and the words of Jesus to control how we use money and time; how we view other people, how we understand our sexuality; how we lead; and how we serve; we are “like the person who built their house on a foundation of rock. When a flood came, the torrent struck the house but could not shake it because it was well built.”

Jesus Christ is the Lord. His plan works, not mine nor yours.

Love in Christ Jesus,

*Bill*

# Faithful support key to year end giving

In the coming days, you will be receiving quarterly contribution statements reflecting individual giving through the first 9 months of 2023 (January-September). Your contribution statement is intended to serve as a reminder of the commitment made to faithfully support the ministries of First Presbyterian Church. Due to the increasing bulk mail postage rates, contribution statements will be emailed to all covenant partners and guests who have contributed to the mission and ministry of First Presbyterian Church through September 30, 2023. The statements will be sent to the email we have on file in REALM. If we do not have an email address on file, a printed statement will be mailed. In order to carry out the Ministry Action Plan set forth by our pastors, program staff and the various ministry units of the Session, we need to receive contributions of \$35,520.00 per week. The chart below shows a snapshot of our collective giving for the first nine months of 2023.

**2023 Ministry Action Plan Summary**

<b>Pledge Gifts Received</b>	\$871,271.00
<b>Non-Pledge Gifts Received</b>	\$277,100.00
<b>Miscellaneous Income</b>	\$46,224.00
<b>Total 2023 Ministry Action Plan Receipts</b>	\$1,194,595.00
<b>Weekly Average (as of 9/28/23)</b>	\$30,631.00
<b>Weekly Average Surplus (Deficit)</b>	(\$4,889.00)

As the chart shows, our average weekly giving is running below the average weekly amount needed. The good news is that we are current in our support of our missionaries and our commitment to the helping organizations that we support. We have been able to do this thanks to the continued faithful support of our covenant partners. As we move through the remainder of 2023, let me encourage you to include continued financial support of the ministries and mission of First Presbyterian Church in your plans. One way that you can do this is through online giving, which allows you to support the ministries of our church even when you are away. To learn more about the online giving

option, visit our website [www.florencefirst.org](http://www.florencefirst.org) and click on the online giving link at the top right corner of the home page. You may also make a gift and view your giving history through REALM. Thank you for your faithful support, both financially and with your time and talent, of First Presbyterian Church.

## Stewardship Season

October and November are the months that our staff and leadership begin the planning process for the coming year. It is also the time that we emphasize stewardship and generosity regarding our annual Ministry Action Plan. Tithing **provides a regular reminder of your dependence on God**. In good times, tithing helps you remember that God is the source of all blessings, and it allows you to demonstrate your gratitude for His care. In hard times, tithing motivates you to remember God's faithfulness, and it enables you to demonstrate trust in God to provide for all of your needs. I came across the following quote recently in an article on stewardship by Ann A. Michel of the Lewis Center for Church Leadership. In the article she writes:

**"Generous God, generous people - The whole testimony of scripture is a witness to the generosity of God. God's acts in creating the world, calling forth a people, forging a covenant, sending a Savior, and empowering the church are all acts of divine generosity. But it doesn't take a biblical scholar to know that our God is a giving God because people experience God's generosity. They know the wondrous gifts of creation, of life itself, of the material bounty of the earth, and of the spiritual gifts of love, grace, and forgiveness. And I sense that this feeling of awe and gratitude is a natural religious impulse for many people. The simple foundational belief that God has given to us and in gratitude we give back to God and others is at the core of a sound theology of giving."**

Please begin to prepare your hearts and minds as to how you will respond to God's faithfulness and blessings.







# Church News

## The School Foundation recognizes Pearce

The School Foundation honored Rocky Pearce as the 2023 Distinguished Graduate at its 23rd Annual School Foundation Celebration Gala in September. Pearce, a covenant partner at First Presbyterian, is a lifelong resident of Florence who graduated from McClenaghan High School. At 31 years of age, he was elected mayor of Florence, becoming Florence's youngest mayor. Congratulations, Rocky!



## Commissioning of Gray Scott

On October 1, Covenant Partner Gray Scott will be commissioned during the worship services. Gray will be leaving in early October for her mission work with The Antioch Partners, a missions sending organization. She is being sent to Barcelona, Spain to work with Arab Ministries in Spain. Arab Ministries in Spain works with the Arab migrant community in and around Barcelona; meeting their practical, psychological and social needs. God speed, Gray!



## Staff recognitions: Chandler, Lasane

First Presbyterian is fortunate to have a talented and dedicated church staff. This month, we recognize two of our staff on their employment anniversaries. Ann Rodgers Chandler is our Director of Music and Organist. Ann Rodgers joined the staff of First Presbyterian Church in October 1998. Wanda Lasane is on our custodial staff. She joined our staff in October 2002. Thank you, Ann Rodgers and Wanda; we are grateful for your contributions to the ministry of FPC.

## Lighthouse Ministries honors Marechals

Lighthouse Ministries recognized Laura and Erik Marechal as Good Neighbors of the Year recently at its sixth annual fundraising gala. The Marechals, also elders with our church, were celebrated for all their contributions spreading Christ's love at Lighthouse Ministries and the community. Congratulations!



## Just for Women Bible Study

Just for Women meets from noon to 1 p.m. Tuesdays in the CLC at First Presbyterian Church. Leaders Kathy Griffin and Sarah Hinson are teaching the nine-week session. Lessons cover "What Does True Faith Look Like in a Believer" and "How We Grow in Relationship with God."

## Wednesday Nights at First Presbyterian

Wednesday Nights at First Presbyterian begin with dinner service at 5:30 p.m. Programs begin at 5:30 p.m. for Youth, 6 p.m. for Children, and 6:15 p.m. for Adults.

The new Adult Elective on the Ten Commandments runs through Nov. 8.

Dinners planned are:

- Oct. 4: Chicken and broccoli pasta Alfredo with Caesar salad
- Oct. 11: Southern breakfast by the Parking Lot Team
- Oct. 18: Pork tenderloin, potatoes, vegetable
- Oct. 25: Trunk or Treat: hamburgers and corn dogs

## Keenagers kicks off season with luncheon

Luncheon will be held at noon Tuesday, October 3, in the Jenkins Fellowship Hall. Speaker will be Bryan Braddock from the House of Hope.

Meal will be glazed ham, pineapple casserole, copper pennies, green beans with potatoes, rolls and dessert, prepared by Mike Morgan. Cost for lunch is \$6. Everyone 55 or older is invited to attend. Come out for fun and fellowship.

— Email briefs to [kbrauss@florencefirst.org](mailto:kbrauss@florencefirst.org).

# Get involved in Music Ministry

## Tuesdays

1:30 p.m. Ladies' Ensemble (Ladies of all ages)

## Wednesdays

5 p.m. Chancel Handbell Choir

Preschool Choir

Children's Choir

7:30 p.m. Chancel Choir Rehearsal

## Sundays

Praise Team 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.*



## Women in Ministry opportunities

This year in a circle, we will be studying the book of Titus. We are hoping you can join us for circle. Please see which day and time would work for you. Please get with Emily Whitehead or Amy Williams if you need to get plugged into a circle.

In Him,  
Amy

October 4	Bible Moderators Meeting	5 p.m.
October 4	CT Meeting	6:30 p.m.
October 9-15	Circle Meetings	See Below

— Moderator Amy Williams can be reached at [asfwilliams@gmail.com](mailto:asfwilliams@gmail.com) and Co-Moderator Emily Whitehead, [emily.s.whitehead@gmail.com](mailto:emily.s.whitehead@gmail.com).

Bread and Fish	October 14	9 a.m.	Room 100
Joyful Hearts	October 10	10 a.m.	Room 100
Prayer Warriors	October 10	6:30 p.m.	Lawson-Rain Chapel
SonFlowers	October 10	10 a.m.	Lawson-Rain Chapel
Soul Sisters	October 10	noon	Price Classroom
Serenity	October 10	3 p.m.	Lawson-Rain Chapel
Women of Grace	October 9	6:30 p.m.	3002 Japonica Lane
Sunday Salty Sisters	October 15	4 p.m.	FPC Church Parlor



# Autumn activities abound at the center

Fall is here. Each morning with the cooler weather the children are outside for play time. October is always a favorite month at the CDC. Among other seasonal activities this month, the CDC children will be busy making fall crafts and going on nature walks around the campus. The pre-school classes will do hands-on science activities as they explore the inside of pumpkins and taste fall foods.

In mid-October, we will have our annual fall festival in the CLC and our staff will provide fun game booths for the children and then interact with them as they engage in these age-appropriate hands-on activities. This is always a fun fall festival experience for our CDC children and staff. Later in the month, we will make silly Halloween hats and find our way down the hallway for our annual Halloween walk through to the church offices and “trick or treat” with the church staff. This is always a fun event, and the church staff top off the event by dressing up in their fun Halloween costumes to pass candy out to the children from their office doors.

On Saturday afternoon, October 28, the 2K, 3K and 4K preschool children are invited to a Victorian Tea hosted by the CDC. The children will invite their mothers and grandmothers to join them for this fun afternoon. This event will take place in the CLC and promises to be an exciting time.

Thank you for those who have given to our ongoing needs. These are items that we use on a daily basis, and we appreciate all donations. There is a clear container outside of the CDC offices for any donations.

Thank you again for your continued support to this ongoing childcare ministry. You are appreciated.

Blessings,

*Beth*





# *Celebrating our Edith on her 100th birthday*

*October 20, 1923*







**For your longevity  
For your uniqueness  
For your creativity  
For your unselfish commitment  
to your family and friends  
For your dedication to our church  
For your support of missions  
at home and abroad  
For your unwavering faith in our God  
And for the dearest privilege of all,  
seeing Christ in you.  
O, Lord, we give you thanks.  
Amen.**

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY
<b>1</b> Worship, 9 and 11 a.m. Sunday School, 10 a.m. First Connections, 10 a.m. (fellowship hall) Community Communion, 4 p.m. YMCA Officer Training, 6 p.m. (Lawson-Rain Chapel)	<b>2</b> No Youth events this week because of fall intercession 	<b>3</b> Keenagers, noon JFH 	<b>4</b> ServeFLO Package Sorting, 1-3 p.m. CLC WiM Bible Moderators Wednesday Night Dinner Wednesday Night Classes WiM Coordinating Team
<b>8</b> Congregational Meeting, 9:40 a.m. First Connections, 10 a.m. (fellowship hall) Prayerwalk, 4 p.m. Neighborhood Cookout, 5 p.m.	<b>9</b> Worship Unit, 12:30 p.m. Girl Scout Brownie Meeting, 4:30 p.m. Enabling Unit, 5:30 p.m. WiM Women of Grace, 6:30 p.m.	<b>10</b> WiM Circle Meetings: Sonflowers, 10 a.m. Joyful Hearts, 10 a.m. Soul Sisters, noon Serenity, 3 p.m. Prayer Warriors, 6:30 pm JFW Bible Study, noon Ladies Ensemble, 1:30	<b>11</b> Veterans Brunch, 8 a.m. Personnel Unit, 8:15 a.m. Outreach Unit, 12:15 p.m. Children's Ministry, 5 p.m. Wednesday Night Dinner Wednesday Night Classes
<b>15</b> First Connections, 10 a.m. (fellowship hall) ServeFLO Package Assembling, 3 p.m. Officer Training, 6 p.m. (Lawson-Rain Chapel) Youth: Apple Picking trip Youth: Small Groups	<b>16</b> Discipleship Unit, 4:30 p.m. WOC	<b>17</b> JFW Bible Study, noon Fellowship Unit, 5:30 p.m. WOC	<b>18</b> Wednesday Night Dinner Wednesday Night Classes Youth: Pumpkin Carving 
<b>22</b> First Connections, 10 a.m. (fellowship hall) Youth: Small Groups, 5 p.m.	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b> Session & Diaconate, 6:30 p.m. First Responders/Law Enforcement lunch, 11 a.m. FPC	<b>25</b> Trunk or Treat, 5:30 p.m. 
<b>29</b> Reformation Sunday Youth: Paintball, 1:30 - 5:30 p.m. Youth: Small Groups, 6 p.m.	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b> Happy Halloween! 	<b>1</b> Wednesday Night Dinner & Programs, 5:30 p.m.



**THURSDAY****FRIDAY****SATURDAY**

<b>5</b> ServeFLO: Boys & Girls Club Fall Festival, 9 a.m. Red Cross Blood Drive, 1:30-5:30 p.m. Girl Scout Leaders Mtg, 6:15 p.m.	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>12</b> Youth: Coffee @ F.E. Pop's 	<b>13</b> Youth: Apple Picking trip (Leave at 4 p.m.) CDC Fall Festival	<b>14</b> Parking Lot Mission WiM Bread & Fish, Room 100 Youth: Apple Picking trip ServeFLO: Queen of McQueen
<b>19</b> Youth: Coffee @ F.E. Pop's	<b>20</b> Missions Dinner at Blackwater Farms, 6 p.m. 	<b>21</b> ServeFLO: Queen of McQueen
<b>26</b> Youth: Coffee @ F.E. Pop's	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b> CDC Tea ServeFLO: Queen of McQueen 
<b>2</b>  <small>DEUTERONOMY 8:3-7, NASV</small>	<b>3</b> Keep these words that I am commanding you today in your heart. Recite them to your children and talk about them ....	<b>4</b>

**WEEKLY****SUNDAYS**

- 9 a.m. Contemporary Worship
- 10 a.m. Sunday School
- 11 a.m. Traditional Worship
- 5:30 p.m. Embracing God's Word

**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.
- Boy Scouts, 6:30 p.m.
- Men's Bible Study, 7 p.m. (203)
- GriefShare, 6:30 p.m.

**TUESDAYS**

- Ladies' Ensemble, 1:30 p.m.

**WEDNESDAYS**

- Small Group Bible Study, 10 a.m.
- Wednesday Dinner, 5:30 p.m.
- Youth Group, 5:30 p.m.
- Praise Team Rehearsal,  
5:45 p.m.
- Children's Classes, 6 p.m.
- Adult class, 6:15 p.m.
- Chancel Choir Rehearsal, 7:30

**THURSDAYS**

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

**WEDNESDAY NIGHT DINNERS**

- Oct. 4: Chicken and broccoli pasta  
Alfredo with Caesar salad
- Oct. 11: Southern breakfast
- Oct. 18: Pork tenderloin, potatoes,  
vegetable
- Oct. 25: Hamburgers, corn dogs.

## Extended Care

**Lowman Home**  
Mac King

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

**Presbyterian Community**  
Ann Cash  
Clariann Kellam

## Households

FLOCK 1: Amy Wood  
FLOCK 2: Suzanne Cain  
FLOCK 3: Maymie Lou Spearman  
FLOCK 4: Carolyn Holland  
FLOCK 5: Isam and Mona Zakhour  
FLOCK 6: Ginger Sullivan  
FLOCK 7: Don and Vicki Hebert  
FLOCK 8: Emily Davidson

## Memorials

Herbert Ames  
Frank K. Ellington III

## Baptism

Erin Reese McLaurin, daughter of Jay and Amanda McLaurin

## Commission

Gray Scott, The Antioch Partners

## Flowers in the Sanctuary

October 1: Communion  
October 8: Lisa Dozier  
October 15: Jean Mobley  
October 22: Cissy Hicks  
October 29: Hunter Burch

## Sympathy

Sheila Mozingo, loss of her sister Janice

Lord, Hear  
Our Prayer



## Sick & Recovering

Aubrey Crawford  
Todd Moseley  
Janie Ray

## Elders

Jack Hofler  
Laura Marechal

## Deacons

Michele Lewis  
Donnie Wheeler

## Missions

Helping Florence Flourish

## Women in Ministry

Emily McLean  
Martha Nance

## Teachers

Carol Fleenor  
Rob Hall

## 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](mailto:genia_tyson@hotmail.com) or  
843-992-8904). Please leave your name, number, and date  
you wish to reserve.



# October BIRTHDAYS

## OCTOBER 1

Margaret Mimms  
Tiffany Straus

## OCTOBER 2

Sarah Dozier  
Thatcher Jordan

## OCTOBER 3

Theresa Garris  
James Whitehead

## OCTOBER 4

Kohl Duncan  
Wendell Jones  
Wanda LaSane  
Caden McKay  
Marlene Pantos  
Diane Rouse  
Rosanne Saunders

## OCTOBER 5

Stan Lehmans  
Shand Josey

## OCTOBER 6

Ellie Blankenship  
Lane Dowdell  
Hugh Ervin  
Ralph Bratcher

## OCTOBER 7

Lana Lehmans  
Billy Patrick  
Alex Lewis  
Will Lewis

## OCTOBER 8

Poppy Mikulecky  
Reames Evans  
Bruce Hubbs

## OCTOBER 9

John Etheridge  
Ann Collins Josey  
Oliver Page  
Barb Rosenlund  
Charlotte Tuttle

## OCTOBER 10

Nancy Collins  
Patricia Fast

## OCTOBER 11

Caleb Edwards  
Laura Anne Hofler  
Tena Rabon  
David Spivey  
Bill Truman  
Ruth Watts

## OCTOBER 12

Bryon Frost  
Barbara Green  
Carson Harwell

## OCTOBER 13

Grace Bostwick  
Vica Fuller  
Lydia King  
Michael Pullmann

## OCTOBER 14

Bradford Campbell  
Justin Green  
Danny Jones  
Lucas Morgan  
Nancy Poston  
Bob Silver

## OCTOBER 15

Carey Hindman  
Pat Tuttle  
Jan Bays

## OCTOBER 16

John Hofler  
Henry Rose

## OCTOBER 17

Jim Berton

## OCTOBER 18

Christy Douglas  
David Frost  
Anna Grace Hubbs  
Bailey Hylton  
Charley Hylton  
Chris Williams

## OCTOBER 19

Eleanor Lane  
Katherine Ryan  
Alison Thompson  
Cooper Wallace

## OCTOBER 20

Hank Henderson  
Edith Hicks

## OCTOBER 22

James Genoble  
Richard Granger  
Elizabeth Lee  
Myrna Simmonds  
Sarah Wheeler

## OCTOBER 23

Yong Shin

## OCTOBER 24

John Harrell  
Kelly Hickey

## OCTOBER 25

Laura Berton  
Quincy Kennedy  
Bob McLean  
Zane Morris  
John Pennstrom  
Mona Zakhour

## OCTOBER 26

Jay McLaurin

## OCTOBER 27

Jim Bertram  
Jeannie Brodie  
Caleb King  
Richard Shurman  
Stephen Thompson

## OCTOBER 28

David Hubbs  
Julie Thomas

## OCTOBER 29

RJ Lee  
Jayne Boswell

## OCTOBER 30

Christopher Warner  
Teresa James

## OCTOBER 31

Pierce MacLennan  
Brittany Mimms  
Will Patton  
Randi Ryan  
Anna Shurman  
Hugh Whitehead  
Eliza Wilhoit



# CHURCH DAY *Family*

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 24

THE CABIN AT OLD SPUR, TIMMONSVILLE



Plenty of fun was had at the Church Family Day held at the Cabin at Old Spur. It was complete with the outdoor worship time, congregational picnic, fellowship and games, including kickball — children vs. adults. The children won!



# Children's Ministry



Dear Church Family,

One of the many things I have enjoyed since being back at FPC is serving on the Discipleship Unit. I am so appreciative of the people who serve on this team, the work they do and the relationships that are forming. I also enjoy our book studies. We are currently reading Chip Ingram's book, *True Spirituality: Becoming a Romans 12 Christian*.

In my recent reading, I was reminded of Jesus' command: "A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this all men will know that you are my disciples if you love one another. -John 13:34-35 NIV

As I read this passage, I realized that I saw an amazing example of this love recently in our toddler nursery. A couple of Sundays ago, a visitor brought her toddler to the nursery for the first time. Upon his arrival, Wallace Lane, son of Landis and Hannah Lane, immediately walked up to the visitor and welcomed him with baby babble. It was by far one of the sweetest things I have seen. As I watched Wallace greet our visitor, I saw the love of Jesus being mirrored by a 20-month-old disciple of Jesus. May we, Jesus' disciples, love one another as Jesus loved us.

Much love,

*Kelly*

## Children's Ministry Check-In System

One of the most important duties we have at FPC is to make sure our children are safe. Part of this initiative was established several years ago with a Child Protection Policy. This policy states, anyone who works with children and/or youth must have a background check completed every two years and Awareness training completed every five years. In addition, plans are underway to incorporate a check-in system for children in second grade and under. We are setting up FPC's new Check-in System. Our hope is to launch the system in October. Kelly Hickey will be contacting parents with second-graders and under to share more information about the new and needed Check-in system.

## ServeFLO 2023 – Community Event 'Families on Mission' For Children 3rd – 5th grade and their parents

On Sunday October 15, children 3rd – 5th grade and their parents are invited to help pack Care Packages for care givers. We will meet at 3 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. Our hope is to encourage area medical personnel (nurses, doctors, technicians) with a care package to let them know how much they are appreciated. With over 2,000 care givers in Florence daily, our goal is to pack at least 2,500 care packages.

There are many ways you can help us reach our goal:

1) Supplies are needed for the care packages. An amazon list has been created with the number of items needed. Please visit: [https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/3RZ9Q67STZBQF?ref=wl\\_share](https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/3RZ9Q67STZBQF?ref=wl_share) to purchase items for this outreach.

If you purchase items locally, you can drop them off at the Church Office, Monday – Thursday, 9 a.m. – 5 p.m.

2) Help us secure the items needed by sharing the above link with friends, family members, co-workers, etc.

3) On Wednesday, October 4, volunteers are needed to sort items for care packages, as well as assemble encouraging notes for each item in the package. We will gather in the CLC from 1 to 3 p.m.

4) On Sunday, October 15, beginning at 3 p.m., third-through fifth-grade children and their parents will gather in the Fellowship Hall to pack care packages for care givers.

5) Near the end of October, the team will need help with distributing Care Packages. More details will be available closer to the time of distribution.

If you are interested in helping, please register through <https://serveflo.org/>. Any questions, please reach out to Kelly Hickey, at (843) 662-2583.



# TRUNK OR TREAT

Join Us for Fun, Games & Treats!

**OCT 25**  
**5:30-7 PM**

- 5:30 PM DINNER IN CLC
- 6 PM GAMES ON LAWN
- 6:30 PM TRUNK OR TREAT

Be sure to mark your calendar! Dinner is at 5:30 p.m. in the CLC.

We will be having hamburgers and hotdogs.

At 6 p.m. children and families will enjoy activities and games on the lawn in front of the sanctuary.

At 6:30 p.m. the Trunk or Treat will begin.

Children are encouraged to wear costumes but nothing scary.

Decorated Trunks: We hope to have many trunks this year.

Please contact Kelly Hickey by October 15 to sign up.

Please note trunks need to be decorated in biblical themes.

Please contact Kelly Hickey, [khickey@florencefirst.org](mailto:khickey@florencefirst.org)  
or 843-662-2583, with any questions or concerns.

# Thornwell Offering

During November, we will be collecting a special offering for Thornwell: Building Families Together. As a part of this effort, on Sunday, November 5, we will be distributing turkey banks to our children to take home and fill and return to the church on Sunday, November 19. As our children participate in this ministry, they will learn how their Thanksgiving gift can open a world of possibilities for the children at Thornwell; how it can provide a Christian home and education for children in need; how it can help develop new programs, buy new clothes, and pay for school materials. Please help us in supporting this ministry.



## LIVING NATIVITY

The Living Nativity will be held Tuesday, December 12, and Wednesday, December 13. The Nativity is performed by FPC's sixth-graders along with the angel choir that includes the 3K – 5th grade classes. Angel Choir Practices will be held on Wednesday nights beginning in November from 6 to 6:25 p.m. Mrs. Ann Rodgers Chandler, Stuart Snow, and Bruce Hubbs will lead the 5K – fifth-graders while Mrs. Emily Lake leads the 3K and 4K class.

The practice schedule is as follows:

6th Grade Only Parent meeting/Cast Practice	Sunday, November 5th	3:00 – 4:00 pm
6th Grade Only Cast Practice	Sunday, November 12th	3:00 – 4:00 pm
6th Grade Only Cast Practice	Sunday, November 19th	3:00 – 4:00 pm
NO Practice	Sunday, November 26th	
Practice for Angel Choir & Cast	Sunday, December 3rd	3:00 – 4:00 pm
Dress Rehearsal for Angel Choir & Cast	Sunday, December 10th	4:30 – 6:00 pm

We hope everyone will participate. Should you have any questions or need additional information, please contact Kelly Hickey, [khickey@florencefirst.org](mailto:khickey@florencefirst.org).



## CHILDREN'S CHURCH 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
October 1	9:00 am	Kelly Hickey	Amy Brown Lewis
	11:00 am	Kara Morgan	Ellen Wilhoit
October 8	9:00 am	Laura Anne Hofler	Ellen Pearson
	11:00 am	Kara Morgan	Becka Tuttle
October 15	9:00 am	Caroline Genoble	Bonnie Stuber
	11:00 am	Kara Morgan	Beth Brown
October 22	9:00 am	Caroline Genoble	Jill Cain
	11:00 am	Kara Morgan	Jan Green
October 29	10:00 am	Kara Morgan	Marla Slaughter



# *Church Cookout*





# Service opportunities fill October calendar

September was a busy month! We participated in the annual “Messy Games” at St. John’s, helped at the Wednesday night kick-off carnival, and started small groups again. We have new pictures that have been added to the youth room and hallway, including a fun collage of our summer trips & events.

We are looking forward to a very fun Fall, filled with service opportunities, apple picking, paintball, and studying the 10 Commandments on Wednesday nights. Youth parent packets (including the year-round calendar) have been mailed out. If you did not receive one, please let Taiter know.

## UPCOMING OCTOBER EVENTS

**Sunday School** (1, 8, 15, & 22) 10 a.m. Light breakfast served.

**Helping Florence Flourish / ServeFLO Community Communion** (October 1) 4 p.m. Join us as people from across the city will commune together through worship, prayer & holy Communion. We will meet at the YMCA soccer fields.

**Wednesday Night Youth Group** (4, 11, 18 & 25) 5:30 p.m. \$5 dinner provided by the church.

October 18 – Youth will help serve dinner. We will have a costume & pumpkin carving contest!

October 25 – Youth will participate & help with Trunk or Treat!

**Coffee at F.E. Pops** (5) 9 a.m. and (12, 19 & 26) 7 a.m.

**Helping Florence Flourish / ServeFLO Prayer Walk & Neighborhood Picnic** (8) 4 p.m. Please meet at the Dargan St. side of the Florence Co. Library to begin the prayer walk. We will end at Timrod Park, where we will eat and fellowship with members of the community.

**Small Groups** (15 & 22) 5-7 p.m. AND (29) 6-8 p.m. Dinner provided.

**Apple Picking Trip** (Oct. 13-15) Leave at 3:30 p.m. We will travel to Hendersonville, N.C. (staying in Greenville) for the weekend to go apple picking. On our way up, we will stop at the State Fair in Columbia. There will be a 7-acre corn maze, jumping pillow, apple cannon, & apple cider donuts for our picnic



dessert! Youth will need to bring money for fair food & rides, and lunch on the way home. Cost will be \$60 or \$100 for two (sibling or friend). Please sign up & pay by Monday, October 2.

**Paintball** (29) 1:30 – 5:30 p.m.

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

## SAVE THE DATE!

**Fall Retreat** (November 17-19) Leave at 1 p.m.

We will travel to Montreat, N.C. The cost will be \$125. Youth will need to bring money for two meals on the road & any shopping money they need for downtown Black Mountain. If there are multiple siblings or friends that join us, each will get \$25 off their trip. Please sign up & pay by Friday, November 3.



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

#### CHURCH STAFF

Senior Pastor and Head of Staff

Assistant Pastor

Director of Music/Organist

Praise Team Leader

Music Assistant

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. Betsy Johnson

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



## Church Cookbook

A First Presbyterian Church Cookbook is being created, and we would love your best family recipes you are willing to share! We would love to include appetizers, breads, sides, main dishes, and desserts.

Please submit recipes with instructions to Kimberly Brauss in the church office. Email Kim at [kbrauss@florencefirst.org](mailto:kbrauss@florencefirst.org) or drop a copy off at the office.

Extended deadline for recipes is Oct. 5. Please include your name with your recipe as well as a brief sentiment about the dish.

Help make this initiative a success!

