

# The REMINDER



SEPTEMBER 2023





**More than 50 men enjoyed a great time of fellowship, worship and study at Hickory Knob State Park.**

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*Submit news briefs or announcements by Sept. 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.*

# 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 – Sunday, October 1, at the YMCA
- The Bridge Choir – Sunday, October 1

### WEEK OF OCTOBER 2-6

- Boys & Girls Club, "Lunch & Learn," Opportunity to bake with children,
- October 2-6 – Laura & Erik Marechal
- Care packages for Caregivers, Kelly Hickey
- Paint benches at Lester Elementary School, Laura Marechal

### OCTOBER 5

- American Red Cross Blood Drive – First Presbyterian Church

### OCTOBER 8

- Prayer Walk, Emily Whitehead; followed by Neighborhood Cookout, Alice Caldwell

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

- Folks to caulk, paint, yardwork/landscaping – "gophers"
- Snacks / lunch for workers; Contact: Charlie Caldwell
- Wishlist: HVAC system and possible fencing

### OCTOBER 24

- First Responders/Law Enforcement Luncheon at FPC – Janet Brand

### OCTOBER 25

- Trunk or Treat at FPC

### MONTHLONG

- Host a Neighborhood Cookout or Invite a Neighbor for dinner
- "Home Furnishings & Necessities Drive" – Jayne Boswell
- "The Tech-Wise Family: Everyday steps for putting technology in its proper place" by Andy Crouch (Monthlong Study)
- "Bridge the Community" with Strong Tower Christian Ministry

## SEPTEMBER MISSION OPPORTUNITIES

- Lighthouse Ministries' A Good Neighbor Gala, Sept. 7
- Naomi Project Lunch fundraiser, Sept. 14
- House of Hope's Hope Invitational, Sept. 21
- Mercy Medical Free Clinic's Clay Shootout, Sept. 21

# Connecting

Dear Church Family,

As we are about to begin our **Wednesday nights** together again, please be sure to sign up for our adult small groups, if you have not already. We need a little time to organize the groups. Either call the office or scan the QR code nearby to register for Wednesday night dinners and teachings. Our Fall Wednesday schedule will be:



- **September 6 = Carnival and Cookout Kickoff** (5:30-7:15 p.m.) This evening is purely for everyone to have fun and fellowship together. It will be similar to our other kickoffs, yet this time there will be extra activities available, such as a bouncy house, inflatable obstacle course, face-painting, cotton candy and games. And there may be an opportunity to dunk the pastor ... stay tuned!

- **September 13 & 20 = after dinner** (5:30-6:15 p.m.), the children and youth will go off to their classes. Adults will meet in the Fellowship Hall. We will have two special weeks we are calling **"Home Improvement."** Our teachers will be Dr. Farrah and Mr. Rhett Hughes. Farrah practices behavioral health at Hope Health, and Rhett is a teacher, and they bring deep experience in working with children and youth. These two nights will focus on supporting parents with insight and encouragement. Our parents in the Child Development Center are invited to join us as well.

- **September 27-November 8 =** The adult curriculum will change: Instead of "Home Improvement" we will now gather as one large group for the first 20 minutes (still at 6:15 p.m. in Fellowship Hall). Then, we will spread out around the campus for our small groups. (These are the groups we are using the sign-ups for.) This is the same format as our last series of Wednesday nights, yet this time instead of looking at the Lord's Prayer together, we will study the **10 Commandments**. Jimmy Green, Bill and I will be the teaching team. Small groups will end at 7:15 p.m.

- **November 15 =** There may be one additional installment of "Home Improvement." Stay tuned.

Today we crave authentic friendships more than ever.



The more social media grows, survey after survey reveals more loneliness than ever before. Conversely, Small Groups are a fine way to make connections. It gives us the face-to-face connection we seek. Growing closer to Jesus — deepening our lives of being His disciples — takes time, biblical truth, and committed relationships. Small groups take a step in that direction. If you have never been in a small group and are wondering what it is like, please give me a call and let's talk.

Our **next First Connections** class for those who would like to become a covenant partner, or to simply learn more about us, will take place during October in the Fellowship Hall during the Sunday School hour. You are warmly invited to attend. Please let the office know if you are coming.

Finally, I would like to encourage you to attend the next **ECO National Gathering**. It meets once a year, and rotates between the West Coast, East Coast and Midwest. In 2024, it will be right here in South Carolina. First Presbyterian Church of Greenville will host it January 29-31, and sign-ups begin September 1. I am so pleased we are an ECO congregation. Come experience how much it has to offer. You will be refreshed by the worship, the teaching, friends and the fun!

Grace and peace,

# Purposeful Living

*I have come not to be served but to serve  
and to give my life... (Mark 10:45)*

These words capture the “calling card” of Jesus and succinctly summarize his mission. But these words are also a “recipe” for a faithful, purposeful life with Jesus for you and me.

The most important lesson I learned in college was NOT in class!!! You heard me right. I was an “RA” (resident assistant) in a large dormitory for upperclassmen & women. Every year we were given a party for the residents of each floor. But one year a group of residents on my floor decided, “Let’s throw a Christmas party for the families of the coal miners who are on strike this year and have little income.” The idea took on “wings.” Students offered to meet with families, learn their needs, and purchase gifts. Decorations, refreshments (non-alcoholic!), games, and music were planned and provided. That night Santa Claus made his appearance, gifts were opened, and THEN one of the upper classmen read the Christmas story from the Gospel of Luke...and all of this happened at a large, very secular university.

Late that night when I returned to my room, there was a note on my door. I opened it and read, “Bill, thank you for tonight. It was the best experience I’ve ever had in college.” I couldn’t have agreed more.

WHY? That’s the essential question. It was meaningful because inadvertently we had tapped into a truth of how God intended for us to live. We are to serve others. That’s it. The simply profound truth of life is living outside of ourselves and actively showing the love and compassion of Jesus to others. We did it that night and it’s been a lesson I’ve never forgotten and tried to practice.

So, I want you to join me in dedicating October to SERVING OTHER PEOPLE WITH THE LOVE AND COMPASSION OF JESUS CHRIST. We’re calling it “SERVEFLO.” Let me give you a few suggestions:

- Invite a neighbor whom you don’t know well to dinner or organize a “block neighborhood” cook-out.



Use this occasion to simply get to know your neighbor better and show them the love of Jesus through hospitality.

- Call Helping Florence Flourish, Lighthouse Ministry, House of Hope and ask them what service projects are available.
- Use your “Holy imagination” and think of people who you could serve. I know of a church who organized groups to meet our sanitation workers at the conclusion of their day and provide them with refreshments as a way of saying “thank you.” The workers were overwhelmed by this expression of gratitude.

We are also encouraging our youth and children to join in our October emphasis on “serving others with the love of Jesus.”

If you need some help in identifying people or ways to serve, please call me (407-473-0912) or Laura Marechal or Janet Brand. I believe that when you join in serving others, your day will end with a, “Thank You, Lord. That was one of the best days of my life.”

Love in Christ Jesus,

*Bill*

# Thoughts on Stewardship

*"Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms." (1 Peter 4:10)*

Stewardship is not just about money. There are two phrases in the verse above that make this clear. The author says, "use whatever gift you have received" and "in its various forms." God has given each of us gifts of time, talent and treasure and He wants us to be good stewards of what we've been given. Unfortunately, being a good steward doesn't necessarily come naturally. On our Men's Retreat last month, there was a focus on developing good habits. Take a look at your habits. How are you using what God has given you? What do you need to change in order to be a good steward? Be thankful for all you have and ask God to show you what it means to: "use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as a faithful steward."

## Supporting Your Church in Your Later Years

I have had conversations recently with two of our Covenant Partners who are in the 70-plus age bracket. The conversations were about the IRS rule regarding **required minimum distributions (RMDs)**. **Mandatory distribution** refers to the minimum amount of money an individual must withdraw from certain types of tax-advantaged retirement accounts each year in order to avoid tax penalties. This rule goes into effect the year an individual turns 72 years old. These withdrawals will be included in your taxable income. There is another rule, the **qualified charitable distribution (QCD)** rule, which allows traditional IRA owners to deduct their required minimum distributions on their tax returns if they give the money to a charity. First Presbyterian Church is a registered 501c3 charitable organization. Contact your financial advisor to learn more about the QCD rule and how you might take advantage of it to support the ministry of First Presbyterian Church.

## Staff Anniversaries

First Presbyterian is fortunate to have a talented and dedicated church staff team. We recognize Darryl Evans and Kimberly Brauss on their respective employment anniversaries. Darryl was called as our pastor in August 2019. Kim is our Communications Assistant

and joined our staff in September 2017. Thank you, Darryl, and Kim, we are grateful for your individual contributions to the mission and ministry of First Presbyterian Church.

## Campus Safety

Safety on our campus is a high priority. We want to ensure that the children in our CDC, our covenant partners and the many guests that visit our church for worship and other activities are as safe as possible. As we move into our "regular" schedule of activities for the fall, we want to make our campus safer while maintaining an open and inviting atmosphere for our covenant partners and guests. There are things that each of us can do to enhance safety on our campus. Let me encourage you to remember the following basic safety tips:

- 1 – Lock your car and do not leave valuables (purses, phones, iPads, etc.) in plain sight.
- 2 – When leaving the building, particularly after dark, practice the "buddy system."
- 3 – If you are the last person leaving, be sure that the door closes and locks behind you. This is particularly important if you are in the building outside of normal hours (weekends and evenings).
- 4 – Do not block doors open. There are certain doors that will remain locked in order to control access to our buildings. Most of these doors are in remote areas of the building and are not "regular" entrances.
- 5 – Familiarize yourself with the location of AED (automated external defibrillator device) and first aid kits. They are located outside the sanctuary near the flower room; outside the kitchen near the CLC and in the upstairs Children's hallway.
- 6 – If you see something that "doesn't look right," let someone know about it (an usher, custodian, staff member, etc.) Additionally, we have an off-duty Florence County Sheriff deputy on campus each Sunday morning and Wednesday evening who is willing and able to assist you if you see something that "doesn't look right."







# Worship Service Update



The Session has decided to continue our combined worship service through the month of September. Throughout the summer months, it has been evident to the Session that there has been an overwhelming sense of the Holy Spirit within our worship service. We feel that having the congregation all together, followed by opportunities of continued fellowship after the service with refreshments, have made the Sunday worship experience exciting and fulfilling and afforded our Covenant Partners the ability to proclaim the glory of God through a variety of music and worship experiences. The Session believes that further exploration of potentially making this a permanent change is war-

ranted and we will be seeking the guidance of the Holy Spirit during this time and welcome you as Covenant Partners to contact the members of the Session on the Worship Unit (Rufus Bratton, 843-992-4987 and email [jrb@aikenbridges.com](mailto:jrb@aikenbridges.com); and Jim Dameron, 843-287-2041 and [Dameronjh@aol.com](mailto:Dameronjh@aol.com)) or Darryl Evans, 704-773-1901, with any questions.

\*Please note Sunday School will still resume on September 10 as originally planned with a start time of 9 a.m. and this will not affect the Worship Service arrangements for September 24 that includes a traditional service at 9 a.m. in the sanctuary and the 11 a.m. family service at the Frost Farm.



## Church News

### Florence 1 recognizes Foxworth

Florence School District 1 recognized teachers of the year at its schools for the new school year. Covenant Partner Jennifer Foxworth is the music teacher at Royall Elementary School. Foxworth, concertmaster at the Florence Symphony Orchestra, also plays the violin with the Chancel Choir.



### GriefShare meetings start in September

It hurts to lose someone you love. Find help at GriefShare. GriefShare is a friendly, warm 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. September 11 in the Pilgrim classroom. You'll find it to be a caring environment. For more information, contact Susan Snow at 843-229-5633.

### Thank you from staff

Our custodians Leroy Williams and Rayshon Woodard extend their thankfulness to everyone for their patience and care while they waxed the floors.

### Let's beat our blood donation record

On Thursday afternoon, October 5, we're hosting a Red Cross blood drive, and this time, it is being held as part of ServeFLO. We are being challenged out of need to support more patients. At our most recent drive, we collected 16 pints. At our most successful drive, we collected 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.

### Child development director to retire

Beth Hepler announced her plans to retire after 7 years as the Director of the First Presbyterian Church Child Development Center. Beth was hired in February 2016 and was instrumental in equipping the center, selecting curriculum, as well as hiring and training staff for the center which opened in August 2016. Beth and her staff worked tirelessly to provide safe, quality care for the children



in the center throughout the COVID pandemic. Beth and her staff have touched the lives of over 200 children and families in the seven years the center has been in operation. Beth's retirement date will be November 30. We will plan a time to recognize and thank Beth for her faithful service closer to her retirement date. In the meantime, when you see Beth thank her for all she has done and continues to do in and through the Child Development Center.

# 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

September 6	Bible Moderators Meeting	4:30 p.m.
September 6	CT Meeting	5:30 p.m.
September 10-12	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	September 9	9 a.m.	Room 100
Joyful Hearts	September 12	10 a.m.	Room 100
Prayer Warriors	September 12	6:30 p.m.	Lawson-Rain Chapel
SonFlowers	September 12	10 a.m.	Lawson-Rain Chapel
Soul Sisters	September 12	noon	Price Classroom
Serenity	September 12	3 p.m.	Lawson-Rain Chapel
Women of Grace	September 11	6:30 p.m.	3002 Japonica Lane
Sunday Salty Sisters	September 10	4 p.m.	FPC Church Parlor



# Preschool full of fun, education activities

Greetings from the CDC!

Last month we finished up our summer camps and quickly switched gears to begin our 2023-2024, preschool year which began in late August. We have an exciting school year of preschool planned with lots of fun activities on the horizon. We are happy to have some of our core teachers returning to teach our four preschool classrooms. This year we have added some new faces to our teaching staff and are thankful for their help in supporting each group. It takes many hands to keep young children on track to learning and growing.

Our annual Sneak-a-Peek Open house will be held from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. Thursday, September 21, in the CDC area. We hope all of our CDC families will attend and bring their children along. This is a chance to meet all of our teachers and visit your child's classroom. A CDC Calendar of events will be available the evening of open house so that you may be aware of what is coming up and mark your calendars accordingly. We have a good childcare program and a good reputation in our community with a very long waiting list for future availability. If anyone that you know may wish to put their child on our waiting list for future space in our center, they may do so by emailing our CDC Secretary, Mrs. Debbie Peek, at [dpeek@florencefirst.org](mailto:dpeek@florencefirst.org). To keep your child's waiting list form current we ask that you email Debbie once every 3 months letting us know that you are still in need of care for your child. When we have an opening in a classroom, we always fill from our waiting list first.

Thank you for the many ways that you support the CDC with your prayers. We appreciate your willingness to undergird this important child development center ministry. Every day we are reaching young families in our community by offering quality childcare, while parents work or attend school.

Blessings,

*Beth*



Snapshots from our first days of preschool day at the Child Development Center





# EURASIA TRIO



QIAO CHEN SOLOMON, VIOLIN  
MARTIN GUEORGUIEV, CELLO  
PAOLO ANDRÉ GUALDI, PIANO

**IN CONCERT**

**Thursday, Sept. 14, 2023, at 7:30 p.m.**

**First Presbyterian Church**



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY
27	28	29	30
			
<b>3</b> 10 a.m. Worship Service 	<b>4</b> LABOR DAY HOLIDAY <i>CDC and church office closed</i>	<b>5</b> Ladies Ensemble, 1:30 p.m.  CDC CPR Training, 5:30 p.m. Discovery Class	<b>6</b> WIM Bible Moderators, 5 p.m. Wednesday Night Kickoff, 5:30 p.m. Catechism Parent Meeting, 5:30 p.m. WIM Coordinating Team, 6:30 p.m. Lawson-Rain
<b>10</b> 10 a.m. Worship Service, Promotion Sunday Youth: Small Groups, 5-7 p.m. EGW, 5:30 p.m. 	<b>11</b> PATRIOT DAY Enabling Unit, 5:30 p.m. Worship Unit, 12:30 p.m. GriefShare, 6:30 p.m. Pilgrim Classroom WiM Women of Grace, 6:30 p.m. off campus	<b>12</b> WIM Circle Meetings: Sonflowers, 10 a.m. Joyful Hearts, 10 a.m. Serenity, 3 p.m. Prayer Warriors, 6:30 pm Fellowship Unit, 5:15 pm JFW Bible Study, noon	<b>13</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 & Programs, 5:30 p.m. Home Improvement, 6:15 Handbells, 5 p.m.
<b>17</b> Worship Service, 10 a.m. Sunday School, 9 a.m. Church Officer Training, 9 a.m. WIM Salty Sisters, 4 p.m. Yth Small Groups, 5 p.m. EGW, 5:30 p.m.	<b>18</b> Discipleship Unit, 4:30 p.m. WOC GriefShare, 6:30 p.m. 	<b>19</b> Session & Diaconate, 6:30 p.m.	<b>20</b> Wednesday Night Dinner, 5:30 p.m. Home Improvement Seminar, 6:15 p.m. JFH 
<b>24</b> 9 a.m. Traditional Service  Church Family Day in Timmons ville, 11 a.m. Contemporary Service Church Officer Training, 6 p.m. EGW, 5:30 p.m.	<b>25</b> GriefShare, 6:30 p.m.	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>  Wednesday Night Dinner & Programs, 5:30 p.m.  Ten Commandments class begins, 6:15 p.m. JFH



## THURSDAY

## FRIDAY

## SATURDAY

31	1	2
This is the day the Lord has made		
7 Youth: Coffee, 7 a.m. @ F.E. Pop's 	8 Sixth Grade Kickoff Retreat, Camp Longridge 	9 Parking Lot Mission WIM Bread & Fish, 9 a.m. Room 100 Private Event: 5 p.m. LR 
14 Eurasia Trio, 7:30 p.m. Sanctuary 	15 United Way Annual Day of Caring: CLC	16
21 CDC Openhouse, 6:30 p.m. 	22	23 AUTUMN BEGINS 
28 	29	30



## WEEKLY

## SUNDAYS

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

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

## TUESDAYS

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

## WEDNESDAYS

- Small Group Bible Study, 10 a.m.
- Wednesday Dinner, 5:30 p.m.
- Wednesday Elective, 6:15 p.m.
- Chancel Choir Rehearsal, 7 p.m.

## THURSDAYS

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

## UPCOMING DATES

- Oct. 5: Red Cross Blood Drive
- Oct. 13-15: Youth Apple Picking
- Oct. 25: Trunk or Treat
- Oct. 22: Missions Fest
- Oct. 29: Reformation Sunday

## WEDNESDAY NIGHT DINNERS

- Sept. 6: Hamburgers, Hotdogs, Chips
- Sept. 13: Spaghetti, Salad, Bread
- Sept. 20: Chicken Casserole and Vegetable
- Sept. 27: Tacos

## Extended Care

**Lowman Home**  
Mac King

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

**Presbyterian Community**  
Ann Cash  
Clariann Kellam

## Sympathy

Family of Frank K. Ellington III  
Perry MacLennan, for the loss of his father

## Sick & Recovering

Aubrey Crawford  
Susie Jackson  
Margaret Jones  
Todd Moseley  
Janie Ray

## Elders

Jeremy Williams  
Brandon Hylton

## Deacons

Rhett Hughes  
Karen McBride

## Missions

Frontier Fellowship  
Lighthouse Ministries

## Women in Ministry

Linda Smiley  
Ellen Pearson

## Teachers

Ashley Bratton  
Kathryn Scott

## Staff

Bill Cain  
Darryl Evans

Lord, Hear  
Our Prayer



## Households

FLOCK 1: Debbie Wilson  
FLOCK 2: Jackie Williams  
FLOCK 3: Sonny, Marla, Mason and Milly Slaughter  
FLOCK 4: Emily and Frank Hodges  
FLOCK 5: Phyllis Williams  
FLOCK 6: Doug and Mary Stover  
FLOCK 7: Allen and Kathy Griffin  
FLOCK 8: Bruce, Kathy, Aubrey and Seth Crawford

## Memorials

Frank K. Ellington III

## Flowers in the Sanctuary

September 3: Communion  
September 10: Joyce Dalsbo  
September 17: Open  
September 24: Barbara Maffett

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 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.



# September BIRTHDAYS

## SEPTEMBER 1

Barbara Copeland  
Emily Lake  
Jimmy McLellan

## SEPTEMBER 2

Tyler Jackson

## SEPTEMBER 3

Devon Bowen  
Lisa Dozier  
Karen Jordan  
Clara Maxwell

## SEPTEMBER 4

Stan Bergstrom  
Blaine Carter  
Chad Hayes  
Clariann Kellam  
Bob Whitesides

## SEPTEMBER 5

Elizabeth Blanton  
Peggy Cagle  
Kathryn Hopkins  
Michelle Jones  
Cathy Patrick

## SEPTEMBER 6

Jeff Everton  
Betty Gandy  
Sarah Porter

## SEPTEMBER 7

David Douglas  
Kathy Hatfield

## SEPTEMBER 8

Morgan Banner  
Alex Cotran  
Paul Davis  
Lee Nunn  
John Scott

## SEPTEMBER 9

Anne Floyd  
Hunter Morgan  
Pearce Scott  
Don Watts

## SEPTEMBER 10

Carol Fleenor  
Caroline Garris  
Ken Knudsen

## SEPTEMBER 11

Betty Bell  
Debbie Harwell  
Jason Newton

## SEPTEMBER 12

Mac King  
Jo Ann Patton

## SEPTEMBER 13

Danny Jackson  
Mary Watts

## SEPTEMBER 14

Bradford Brown  
Stanton Lake

## SEPTEMBER 15

Chuck Collins  
Mark Hanna  
Carly Lewis

## SEPTEMBER 16

Matt Dowdell  
Chris Evans  
Thomas Hemmingsen  
Jeanne Watts

## SEPTEMBER 17

Mason Slaughter

## SEPTEMBER 19

Joyce Floyd  
Edward Henderson  
Peggy Taylor  
Sara Watts

## SEPTEMBER 20

Marilyn Bays  
Jason Coker  
Darryl Evans  
Aubrey Page  
Milly Slaughter

## SEPTEMBER 21

Jessica Carmichael  
Greg Cleveland  
Kate Genoble  
Richard Genoble  
Brandon Matthews  
Richard Ryan

## SEPTEMBER 22

Rebecca Clancy  
Sadie Sims

## SEPTEMBER 23

John Ivey Brown  
Mary Lachlan Campbell  
Caroline Westbrook

## SEPTEMBER 24

John Joseph Alexander  
Stan Gaddy  
Zane Miles

## SEPTEMBER 25

Annie Abernathy  
Jill Cain  
Beverly Davis  
Al Gilpin  
Grayson Jones

## SEPTEMBER 26

Ben Carter  
Avery Etheridge  
Hudson Kennedy  
Brady Matthews

## SEPTEMBER 27

Grace Cleveland  
Jack Cleveland  
Collins Coker  
Graham Rabon  
Pam Turner

## SEPTEMBER 28

Lendi Watkins

## SEPTEMBER 29

Furman Brodie  
Forde Emerson  
Dottie Hail  
Linley Hyman  
Laura Purvis  
Jeremy Straus

## SEPTEMBER 30

Ella Hylton  
Sara King  
Ginger Owen  
Luke Scott IV  
Chuck van Witzenburg





# CHURCH FAMILY DAY

**11 A.M. SUNDAY, SEPT. 24**

**THE CABIN AT OLD SPUR**

We will gather at 11 a.m. for outdoor worship,  
a picnic, fellowship and games.

Bring blankets and chairs.

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

RSVP to Emily Reed by Sept. 17  
[ereed@florencefirst.org](mailto:ereed@florencefirst.org)





# Children's Ministry



Dear Church Family,

Chris Handley with Helping Florence Flourish heard that I am the person to recruit pop up/tailgate tents. He recently reached out asking if I would help recruit as many tents as possible for ServeFLO's Community Communion worship service. The service will be held on Sunday, October 1, at the YMCA.

I am looking forward to our community coming together to worship and celebrate Communion as one. I am also grateful for the opportunity to help. Would you be willing to help me? I am hoping we can recruit at least 30 tents. If you have a tent that can be used, would you please bring it to my office no later than Sunday, September 24? Be sure to write your name on it. Also, if you have a family member or friend who has a tent, would you recruit it, too? I am thankful for any help. Please call me at (843) 662-2583 with any questions.

Much love,

*Kelly*

## 6th Grade Kick-off Retreat

**September 8 – 10, 2023**

**Cost \$100**

On Friday, September 8, we will meet at 4:30 p.m. to travel to Camp Longridge in Ridgeway. We will meet in the church office parking lot. We will return Sunday morning in time for Sunday school and our worship service. Please be sure to contact Kelly Hickey with any questions.



## VBS Summer 2024

Monday, June 17 – Thursday, June 20

Be sure to mark your calendars.

## Sunday School — Promotion Sunday

The new church school year will begin on Sunday, September 10. This is also known as Promotion Sunday. Children will begin their new Sunday School classes. We are excited for the new year. Please note the classes and teachers:

### Downstairs Classes

2K	Room 24 C	Ashley Bratton, Brittany Mimms, and Kathryn Scott
3K	Room 113 C	Karen Jordan and Ida Whitehead
4K	Room 119 B	DeAnn & Brent Tiller and Susan Snow

### Upstairs Classes

5K	Room 204 A	Amy Dozier, Sloan Evans, and Allyson Pittman
1st Grade	Room 204 B	Janet Brand, Scott Ham, and Merrell Kennedy
2nd Grade	Room 204 C	Chris Evans, Brian Fast and Pat Tuttle
3rd Grade	Room 204 D	Patricia Fast, Emily Jordan, Christie Henderson, and Becca Tuttle
4th Grade	Room 206	Leslie Brodie, Jan Green, Robin Reed, and Alison Thompson
5th Grade	Room 205	JoDee Etheridge, Caroline Genoble, Christina Jeffords, and Marla Slaughter
6–8th Grade	Room 209	Hunter Burch, Lisa Dozier, Laura and Erik Marechal, Emily & Weave Whitehead

In addition, first-graders will be given a Bible during the worship service and the Sixth grade Catechism/Confirmation Class will be recognized.

A HUGE SHOUT OUT to Chris Evans, Brian Fast, Scott Ham, Erik Marechal, Pat Tuttle and Weave Whitehead for their willingness to teach our Sunday School classes this year. Oh, what a gift you will be! It is so important for our children to have male teachers. There are not enough words to begin to express our gratitude! Thank you so much, and thank you, Lord, for moving in their hearts!!



## 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 – 6 p.m. Dinner  
6 – 6:30 p.m. Playground/Games  
6:30 – 6:50 p.m. Preschool Music  
6:50 – 7:15 p.m. Preschool Class Lesson

### 1st - 5th Grade Schedule

5:30 – 6 p.m. Dinner  
6 – 6:20 p.m. Children's Choir  
6:20 – 7:15 p.m. Class

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

### DINNER SCHEDULE FOR SEPTEMBER

*The planned menu for September Wednesday Night Dinners are:*

<b>SEPT 6</b>	<b>Hamburgers, Hotdogs, Chips</b>
<b>SEPT 13</b>	<b>Spaghetti, Salad, Bread</b>
<b>SEPT 20</b>	<b>Chicken Casserole and Vegetable</b>
<b>SEPT 27</b>	<b>Tacos</b>



# Adults can learn Bible Drill passages

Adults, join the Bible Drill students in learning on your own the Books of the Bible, Scripture verses and the location of Key Passages!

For the month of September, we will be learning the following:

## Old Testament:

- ♦ Books of Law (Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, Deuteronomy) Books of OT History (Joshua, Judges, Ruth, I and II Samuel, I and II Kings, I and II Chronicles, Ezra, Nehemiah, Esther)



## Scripture Verses:

- ♦ Genesis 1:1 In the beginning, God created the heaven and the earth.
- ♦ Exodus 20:12 Honor thy father and thy mother that thy days may be long upon the land which the Lord thy God giveth thee.
- ♦ Psalm 118:24 This is the day which the Lord hath made; we will rejoice and be glad in it.
- ♦ Psalm 119:105 Thy word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path.

## Location of Key Passages:

- ♦ The Ten Commandments: Exodus 20:3-17
- ♦ A Psalm of Praise: Psalm 100

## Children's Check-In System Coming Soon

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. FPC's policy is that anyone who works with children and/or youth must have a background check completed every two years, as well as Awareness training completed every five years. In addition, plans are in place to incorporate a check-in system for children in second grade and under. We are in the process of setting up FPC's new Kidmin App Check-in System. This system will be user-friendly and well worth the effort spent getting it up and running. More information will be coming soon. Our hope is to launch this new system on October 1. Should you have any questions, please contact Kelly Hickey.

## ServeFLO 2023 'A Season of Service'

During October, teams and individuals will fan out across Florence to complete service projects throughout the month. FPC's children's ministry team is working toward providing service projects for children in third through sixth grade. This will be a great opportunity for children to serve as well as meet other children in our community. Plans are coming together for the week of October 2-6. Please mark your calendar. More information will be coming soon. Any questions, please call Kelly Hickey.



## 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
September 3	10 a.m.	Kelly Hickey	Archie Boone
September 10	10 a.m.	Susan Snow	Christie Henderson
September 17	10 a.m.	Kelly Hickey	Archie Boone
September 24	10 a.m.	Susan Snow	Bonnie Stuber

# '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.**



Sunday Evenings | 5:30 pm - 7 pm | September 10 - October 22

Register online at [EmbracingGodsWord.com](http://EmbracingGodsWord.com)

Women's, men's, & couples groups

Hosted by First Presbyterian Church





# Gearing up for the new year



August was a slower, but fun month as youth have started back with school. We finished painting our game room, went on bike rides, met for coffee, and played all day at the White-Water Rafting Center in Charlotte. A big thank you to Charissa Canfield for helping lead the trip.

We are gearing up for a fun and busy school year with plenty of fun trips and events planned. There will be repeat favorites and new experiences this year, including a weekend apple picking trip and a camping trip.

Thomas Davis was with us all summer as our youth intern, and he served us well. He helped lead trips, organize, prepare, and clean up events. He spent a lot of time taking guys to lunch and dinner. He will be missed! Please join us in praying for Thomas to be a light on the campus of High Point University this year.



## SEPTEMBER EVENTS

**Sunday School** (10, 17 & 24) 9 a.m. Light breakfast served.

**Wednesday Night Kick Off** (6) 5:30 p.m. Youth will help run games at this event. \$5 dinner provided by the church.

**Coffee at F.E. Pops** (7, 14, 21 & 28) 7 a.m. – Until

**Small Groups** (10 & 17) 5 – 7 p.m. Dinner provided.

**Youth Group** (13, 20 & 27) 5:30 – 7:30 p.m. Food, games, Bible study & fun! \$5 dinner provided by the church.

**Family Day** (24) 11 a.m. Join us for worship, lunch & games at the Cabin at Old Spur. Bring blankets and chairs. RSVP to Emily Reed by Sept. 17.

## SAVE THE DATE!

**Helping Florence Flourish Community Communion** (October 1) 4 p.m. We will meet at the YMCA soccer fields for worship. More details to come!

**Apple Picking Trip** (October 13-15) We will travel to Hendersonville, N.C., for the weekend to go apple picking. On our way up, we will make a stop at the State Fair in Columbia for a few hours. Cost TBD. More details to come!







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#### 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



## Church Cookbook

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

Deadline for recipes is September 29. Please include your name with your recipe as well as a brief sentiment about the dish if you would like.

