

# The REMINDER



NOVEMBER 2023





**First Presbyterian Church and community turned out for our Trunk or Treat. For more pictures, see pages 22 and 23.**

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*Submit news briefs, pictures, or announcements by Nov. 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 MISSION



## The Antioch Partners: Gray Scott

Covenant Partner Gray Scott was commissioned during the worship services at the beginning of October. Gray is the daughter of Lillian and Munford Scott, sister to Beth Player (Whit) and John Scott (Ashley), aunt to Joseph-Caine, Worth, Wesley & Lylli Player and Ford Scott. She is a life-long member of First Presbyterian Church. She said as a young child, around 8 years old, she felt a deep conviction she was supposed to go and share Jesus in a foreign land.



Last month, Gray left for her mission work with The Antioch Partners, a missions sending organization. She is in 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. Through relationships developed at their community centers, Gray will be the hands and feet of Jesus so they can encounter Him. God speed, Gray!

Subscribe to her newsletter here: [gray-scott.epistle.org/subscribe](http://gray-scott.epistle.org/subscribe)

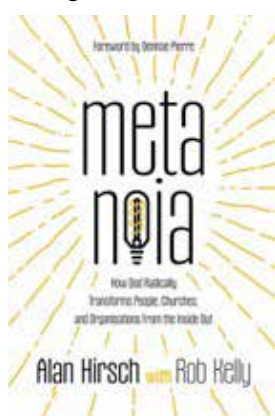
# ‘Mind Blown’

Dear Church Family,

Jesus began His public ministry by proclaiming, “Repent and believe the Gospel” (Mark 1:15).

The word “repent” is from the Greek word “metanoia.” While often translated as “repent,” the word “meta” is a preposition that means “with” and “noia” refers to the life of the mind (as in “noetic”). Thus, when someone “repents and believes” it is a complete life change. They re-think everything about life: How we see meaning, purpose, and what is of value changes completely. One’s basic orientation to the world is completely reconsidered. One definition of metanoia reads, “to change any or all of the elements composing one’s life: attitude, thoughts, and behaviors concerning the demands of God for right living.”

Author Alan Hirsch likes to emphasize this reorientation and re-thinking for the people of God by translating “metanoia” as “mind blown.” His recent book



*Metanoia* sets the theme for our ECO National Gathering at FPC-Greenville, S.C., Jan 29-31. Simply put, given that the American Church is following in the footsteps of the tremendous state of the decline in the European Church, *Metanoia* helps us live into God’s future afresh. It is a call for the Church to wake up and change in hopes of changing its current trajectory.

At the ECO National Gathering, in addition to seeing old friends, making new friendships, having fun (such as riding the mechanical bull in Texas, or enjoying the luau in California), and stellar worship, the teaching options are always excellent. Peruse the National Gathering website ([econationalgathering.org](http://econationalgathering.org)), and you will see there are four breakout sessions: two on Monday, and two on Tuesday. Each day, one breakout session is before lunch at 11 a.m., and one is after lunch (1:30 or 2:30 p.m.). *Each of these four breakout sessions has 10-12 different options.* That is incredible. ECO offers many resources to be lifelong learners who are repeatedly challenged to have their mind blown.

The seminars include areas such as: discipleship and evangelism, church transformation, theology, church business and finance, leadership development, global engagement, church planting, engaging cultural issues, creative arts and worship, youth, and children/family/youth. ...Interested? These sessions are taught by a great variety of practitioners and prominent teachers. Here are a mere six of the sessions being offered:

- **Children/Family/Youth:** *Get Families in Your Doors and Keep Them:* Learn strategies and practical ideas for reaching, welcoming, and embracing families.
- **Discipleship & Evangelism:** *Discipleship Essentials:* Discipleship is at the heart of what it means to be a Christian, yet many struggle. If you want to grow, join us to learn more.
- **Engaging Cultural Issues:** *From Cheap Reconciliation to Racial Justice*
- **Leadership Development:** *Flourish Institute of Theology (FIT) Update* - Learn about our redesigned seminary for the 21st century. Includes a time for Q&A.
- **Theology:** *Gender, Sex, and the Church* - A quick overview, including ideas for pastoral care and church leadership.
- **Creative Arts / Worship:** *Developing a Strategy for Your Worship Ministry*

Our congregation has been a leader in ECO since its inception. I urge you to sign up and come spend a few hours in Greenville on either Monday, Jan. 29, or Tuesday, Jan. 30. You will have a fine taste of the ethos of ECO. I cannot imagine walking away and not feeling refreshed or excited. If a number of us go and take different sessions and come back and share, it would be a blessing to Florence. This teaching and the renewing of the mind will help us to live out our vision: “First Presbyterian Church Florence will be a community of Christ Followers committed to being disciples and making disciples in the way of Jesus.”

Will you join me?

With love in Christ,



# Finding Balance for Life

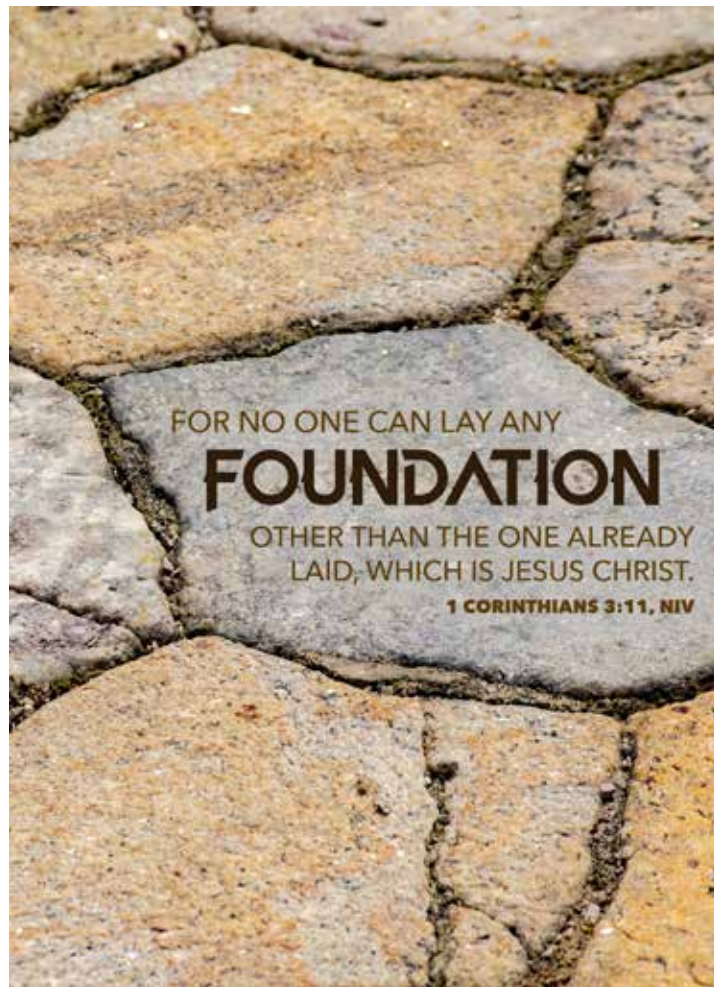
There is a time for EVERYTHING... (Eccl 3:1)

As you read this column, I want you to think about one key concept — BALANCE. Balance is critical to most every activity in which we engage. Even though I coached high school wrestling, I was not a good wrestler. But I remember my first commandment of wrestling, “Keep your balance.” As a wrestler whenever you lose your balance or your weight is not evenly distributed, your weight becomes your adversary, and you will get pinned!

I’m not a good golfer, but I’m learning that when I swing at a golf ball and end up with my body falling away from the ball that the result is UGLY (that’s right capital letters...ugly). Need I go on to talk about baseball “failings” and basketball “airballs” and tennis “miss hits”?!

What’s basic to sports is foundational to life. Balance is the key. Let me try to paint the picture in words.

- When you (me, you, and the rest of us reading this column) finish the church meeting, make a couple of calls in the car on your way home, and get in after the kids are in bed and the dinner is cold ... you’re out of balance.
- When you have strained to keep up with the workload and on Saturday evening you sneak on the computer to finish a few more tasks ... you’re out of balance.
- When you’re sitting on the porch with your spouse as they are catching you up on an encounter which he/she had with a friend and suddenly you hear, “Are you listening to me? Your eyes are shut!” ... you’re out of balance.
- When you’ve diligently kept your commitment to the gym and realized it’s been days since you’ve read a Word from the Lord or spoken a word to the Lord... you’re out of balance.
- When the people closest to you get “leftovers” from you while others at work, church, or the ballfield get your kindness and full attention ... you’re out of balance.



Please note these people and activities are “good things.” But as Paul David Tripp reminds us in his book, *Lead*, balance is lost when “good things become ruling things.” So, my questions to you are: “How’s your balance?” “Are you living your life in such a way that you are maintaining a posture of strength?”

As this Advent season meets us, let’s remember this vital truth found in I Cor 3:11, For no one can lay any other foundation other than the one already laid, which is Jesus Christ.

Keep that “Foundation” and you will maintain “balance” for life.

Love in Christ Jesus,

*Bill*

# 2024 Stewardship Campaign

We tend to associate the word stewardship with giving money. The truth is that it is about so much more. Rightly understood, stewardship is about **giving** our time talent and treasure in obedience to God's calling on our lives. Last month many of you gave time and talent by your involvement with SERVFO. During the month of November, we will be challenged on the importance of stewardship and our growth as disciples. As part of our worship during the month of November, we will hear from our covenant partners about why they pledge. This year we will hear from Cookie Cawthon, Executive Director of Tenacious Grace. Cookie will share how God has and continues to use First Presbyterian Church to minister to the women who come through their program. ...

Later this month, all covenant partners will receive a letter from the Enabling Unit of the Session regarding our 2024 Stewardship Campaign. The letter will include **2024 Commitment** cards, which will allow you to make a pledge to financially support the ministry and mission of First Presbyterian Church. If preferred, covenant partners may also make a pledge using REALM or by using the MAKE A PLEDGE link located at the top of the First Presbyterian Church homepage. Our campaign will culminate with Commitment Sunday on November 19.

The **2024 Commitment** card will look a little different that those from previous years. Many of us are visual learners and pictures, diagrams and graphs help us grasp ideas and concepts. On the back of the card there is a chart designed to help each of us understand what our individual giving level looks like in comparison to a tithe (10%). The chart has ranges of weekly giving (Lower, Middle, Upper, Tithe (10%) and Beyond a Tithe) for various income levels. My prayer is that you use this as a tool to prayerfully consider how we can follow the call of God found in Malachi 3:10

*"Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. Test me in this," says the LORD Almighty, "and see if I will not throw open the floodgates of heaven and pour out so much blessing that you will not have room enough for it."*



There is much going on in our community, our country and the world that is creating a heightened level of anxiety and uncertainty for many. Philippians 4:6-7 is one of my favorite verses. Paul writes: ***Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.*** Philippians 4:6-7 is one of many verses that assures us of God's presence, regardless of the circumstances we face. In his letter to the church at Corinth, Paul writes: ***"Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver."*** (2 Corinthians 9:7) As we look to the future, I want to encourage all covenant partners to look at how God has blessed you and ask Him how He wants you to use your time, talent, and treasure to be a blessing to others through the work of First Presbyterian Church.

# Marriage Improvement Seminar to be held

One of the best gifts that you can give to your child(ren) is a good marriage! (It's also a wonderful gift to yourself...and your spouse!!)

Let the truth of that statement sink in. How you relate to your spouse can impact the health of your child, the learning capacity of your child, the way your child communicates to others, your child's peace, and a host of other factors in your child's development. What your child sees and hears between you and your spouse molds their life ... for better or worse!

But don't forget another benefit of healthy communication between you and your spouse. It ignites your love for your spouse and intimacy flourishes in the atmosphere of healthy communication.

On Wednesday evening, November 15, at 6:15, in the Jenkins Fellowship Hall, Jill and Bill Cain will be leading a seminar on "Communication & Intimacy." With 50 years of marriage and lots of trials and errors, they've profited by learning how to listen to one another and to respond appropriately to one another.

You are invited and encouraged to join them on November 15. Dinner is served at 5:30 and activities for children are provided, too.

Grandparents and older married couples I (Bill Cain) am also addressing this invitation to you, too. We're never too old to strengthen our marriage bonds. If you have questions, please call me (407-473-0912).



## Church News

### 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. On Nov. 15, the final Wednesday night of teachings this fall, there will be a Marriage Improvement seminar presented by Dr. Bill Cain.

Dinners planned are:

- Nov. 1: Soup and Grilled Cheese
- Nov. 8: Chili, Baked Potatoes by the Boy Scouts
- Nov. 15: Chicken Pot Pie and Salad

### Hanging of the Greens

Women in Ministry members will hold the Hanging of the Greens from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. on Monday, November 27. The women need all the help they can get! If anyone has questions, please text or call Kathryn Scott at 843-621-1497 or Beverly Everton at 919-741-2747.

### Keenagers to get a history lesson

Keenagers will meet at noon Tuesday, November 7, in the Jenkins Fellowship Hall. Program speaker will be Carlanna Henrick, American history professor at Francis Marion University and the Governor's School. She will be speaking on government and matters of faith. Meal, provided by Fred Kunz, will be fried turkey, sweet potato casserole, dressing, gravy, green beans and dessert. Everyone 55 or older is invited to attend. Please join us for food, fun, and fellowship. Cost of lunch is \$6.

Come out for fun and fellowship.

### Drop-in for CDC director Beth Hepler

There will be a drop-in for CDC parents at 6:30 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 30, to say farewell to our retiring CDC director Beth Hepler.

Beth helped First Presbyterian Church get the CDC up and running since its inception. After more than seven years as director of the center, Beth will be retiring at the end of the month.

### Ministry to encourage college students

The Women in Ministry would like to encourage our church's college students throughout the school year. If you have a child in school, please send his or her name, address, and email address to Meredith Banner by email, [meredithbanner@yahoo.com](mailto:meredithbanner@yahoo.com).



# SAVE THE DATE

## Advent Handbell Concert on December 6



Ring in the Advent season at 6:30 p.m. Wednesday, December 6, in the Sanctuary with our talented Chancel Handbell Choir! The First Presbyterian tradition is rich with Christmas melodies from around the globe. Dinner will be held at 5:30 p.m. ahead of the concert in the Sanctuary. The meal will be ham, mac and cheese, green beans, and dessert. Please RSVP for the dinner to the church office, 843-662-2583.

## Women in Ministry Fall Gathering

Come enjoy a meal and fellowship with each other. We will start dinner at 6 p.m. Tuesday, November 14, and then begin writing notes to our college students.

At 6:45 p.m., we will be having our group lesson on pages 21-28 of our Titus book (Lesson 2~ Titus 1:1-4).

After the whole group, we will divide into small groups with our circles to discuss questions in our book.

~All Women are Invited. Please bring a friend!!!

In Him, Amy

**Wednesday, November 8**

5 p.m.: Bible Moderator's Meeting

6 p.m.: CT Meeting

**November Circle Meetings**

**Tuesday, November 14**

All Circles Gathering @ 6 p.m. CLC ~Fall Gathering~

Bread and Fish	November 11	9 a.m.	Room 100
Joyful Hearts	November 14	10 a.m.	Presbyterian Home
Prayer Warriors	November 14	6:30 p.m.	Lawson-Rain Chapel
SonFlowers	November 14	10 a.m.	Lawson-Rain Chapel
Soul Sisters	November 14	noon	Price Classroom
Serenity	November 14	1 p.m.	Lawson-Rain Chapel
Women of Grace	November 13	6:30 p.m.	3002 Japonica Lane
Sunday Salty Sisters	November 19	4 p.m.	FPC Church Parlor

# Blessings are Bountiful

November is here. A time to pause and be thankful for the blessings of this life.

As we move forward into November, the 3K and 4K classes will be busy getting ready for their annual Thanks-Lunch, which will be held in early November in the CLC. Each child will invite their parents and others to join them for lunch at school on this special day. Before the luncheon the children will help prepare stone soup to be served at the lunch. We begin this activity by telling the story of stone soup. In the story, two soldiers are walking home from the war. They arrive at a small town, where they go from door to door asking the villagers for something to eat. After no luck they eventually settle in the town square, where they build a small fire and place a big pot of water over it and a large stone. As each villager comes by, a soldier stirs the water and remarks how good it would taste if they only had one onion or one carrot, one potato, a soup bone, etc. With each addition from a villager, the soup really does begin to smell hearty and soon there is enough soup to feed the whole town. During our stone soup activity, each child will bring one vegetable to school and will help prepare it for the soup. This is an excellent lesson in sharing and is an activity that is enjoyed each year.

Learning to share is a lesson which will affect our children for the rest of their lives. Young children learn sharing by practicing taking turns to play with a favorite toy or learning to wait their turn for an activity. When one comes to realize that there are others in this world besides themselves, they are beginning to learn the concept of sharing. Working together we can meet the needs of all involved.

Early each morning the CDC preschool classes meet in the hallway outside of the Fellowship Hall and have a time of prayer. This is quick check in and good morning time. We always include a short prayer offered by one of our CDC Staff. It is important for adults to model thankfulness for young children. We are thankful to



## RETIREMENT RECEPTION

There will be a drop-in for CDC parents at 6:30 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 30, to say farewell to our retiring CDC director Beth Hepler.

God for many things and children learn as they listen to us express ourselves to a living God.

November is a time to be thankful and to think of the blessings of this life. As my time here at First Presbyterian draws to an end, I am reminded of the many ways our Lord has blessed my time here. I have been blessed to have served here at the First Presbyterian Child Development Center for the past 7+ years. Meeting so many of you and being an active part of what our Lord has done through the child development ministry has brought much joy to my life. Thank you for allowing me this privilege. I will always cherish the friendships and memories that we have shared.

Blessings,



*Beth*





## *Reformation Sunday*



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY
29	30	31 	1 Wednesday Night Dinner Wednesday Night Classes
5 Worship, 9 and 11 a.m. Sunday School, 10 a.m. Youth: Small Groups 3rd-5th Field trip, noon Living Nativity Rehearsal (sixth grade), 3 p.m.	6 Stewardship Meeting, 8:30 a.m.  Girl Scout Brownie Meeting, 4:30 p.m.	7 Keenagers, noon JFH  	8 Veterans Brunch, 8 a.m. Personnel Unit, 8:15 a.m. Outreach Unit, 12:15 p.m. Bible Moderators, 5 p.m. Children's Ministry, 5 p.m. Wednesday Night Dinner Wednesday Night Classes WiM Coordinating Team
12 1st-2nd Field Trip, noon Living Nativity Rehearsal (sixth grade), 3 p.m. Wholeness & Healing Service, 4 p.m. Youth: Small Groups, 5 p.m.	13 Worship Unit, 12:30 p.m. Boy Scout Celebration of Tim Fisher, 5 p.m. Enabling Unit, 5:30 p.m. WiM Women of Grace, 6:30 p.m. Girl Scouts, 7 p.m.	14 WiM Sonflowers, 10 a.m. Joyful Hearts, 10 a.m. JFW Bible Study, noon Soul Sisters, noon Serenity, 1 p.m. All Circles Gathering, 6 p.m. Prayer Warriors, 6:30 pm	15 Last of the Wednesday Night Dinners for fall Wednesday Night Classes Marriage Improvement Seminar
19 Living Nativity Rehearsal (sixth grade), 3 p.m. 6th grade Field trip, 4 p.m. 	20 Discipleship Meeting, 4:30 p.m. WOC  Youth: RSVP for Pizza & Praise	21 Fellowship Unit, 5:30 p.m.	22 Youth: No Events  
26 Youth: Pizza & Praise, 5 p.m. 	27 Hanging of the Greens, 6 p.m. Girl Scouts, 7 p.m.  	28 Session and Diaconate, 6:30 p.m.	29



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

<b>2</b> Youth: Coffee @ F.E. Pop's Girl Scouts Leaders Meeting, 6:15 p.m.	<b>3</b> Youth: RSVP for Fall Rtreat	<b>4</b> 
<b>9</b> Youth: Coffee @ F.E. Pop's CDC: Thanksgiving lunch 	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b> Parking Lot Mission WiM Bread & Fish, Room 100 
<b>16</b> Youth: Coffee @ F.E. Pop's 	<b>17</b> Youth: Fall Retreat, 1 p.m.	<b>18</b> 
<b>23</b> Happy Thanksgiving! Church Office, CDC closed Youth: No Events Florence Turkey Trot, benefiting the Emerts, 8:30 a.m. at Briggs Elementary School	<b>24</b> Church Office, CDC closed 	<b>25</b>
<b>30</b> Youth: Coffee @ F.E. Pop's CDC Parent Drop-in, 6:30 p.m. 	<b>1</b> Children: Parents' Night Out, 5:30 to 10 p.m. 	<b>2</b>

**WEEKLY****SUNDAYS**

- 9 a.m. Contemporary Worship
- 10 a.m. Sunday School
- 11 a.m. Traditional Worship

**MONDAYS**

- 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.
- Handbells Rehearsal, 5 p.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**

Nov. 1: Soup and Grilled Cheese

Nov. 8: Chili, Baked Potatoes  
by the Boy Scouts

Nov. 15: Chicken Pot Pie and Salad

Dec. 6: Ham, Mac and Cheese,  
Green Beans, Dessert  
(RSVP to church office)

## Extended Care

**Lowman Home**  
Mac King

### The Manor

Joyce Floyd  
Julie Hughes  
Marie Jordan  
Maria Whitehead

**Presbyterian Community**  
Clariann Kellam

## Sympathy

Family and friends of Ann Cash  
Family and friends of Edith Hicks

## Sick & Recovering

Aubrey Crawford  
Betty Lee Gandy  
Todd Moseley  
Janie Ray

## Elders

Rufus Bratton  
Jim Dameron

## Deacons

Cille Scott  
Luke Scott IV

## Missions

Poetice International  
Sasha Tsutserov

## Women in Ministry

Alice Caldwell  
Marian Howard

## Teachers

Brian Fast  
Pat Tuttle

## Staff

Betsy Johnson  
Emily Reed

Lord, Hear  
Our Prayer

## Households

FLOCK 1: Furman and Jeannie Brodie  
FLOCK 2: Chris, Charissa, and Catherine Canfield  
FLOCK 3: Ed and Melanie Sprenger  
FLOCK 4: Ann Houck  
FLOCK 5: Cary and Liz Andrews  
FLOCK 6: Tallon, Meg, John Wyatt and Stirling Temple  
FLOCK 7: Marty and Ronnie Hucks  
FLOCK 8: Larry and Sandra Davidson

## Honorarium

Ann Rodgers Chandler, for 25 years of service

## Memorials

Frank Ellington  
Edward James Hickey, Sr., Jamie Hickey's father  
Donnie Roessler, Linda Smiley's brother  
Bernard Taylor, Tabatha Davis' grandfather

## Flowers in the Sanctuary

November 5: Communion  
November 12: Gracelyn Elmendorf  
November 19: Betsy Johnson  
November 26: Ann Spearman

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.





# November BIRTHDAYS

## NOVEMBER 1

Cathy Bazen  
Anna Nunn

## NOVEMBER 2

Cameryn Brand  
Marian Howard  
Lisa Jernigan  
Lalla Saleeby

## NOVEMBER 3

Cailin Foxworth  
Levi Ham  
Sue Shin  
Alan Thomas

## NOVEMBER 4

Margaret Baroodly  
Rhett Hughes  
Wesley Snow

## NOVEMBER 5

Carolyn Holland  
Patrick Hunt  
Henley Thompson

## NOVEMBER 6

Liam Brand  
Stephen Christian  
Alcy Lee  
Brian Naylor  
Rocky Pearce

## NOVEMBER 7

Nancy Moore

## NOVEMBER 8

Brandon Hylton  
Susie McLellan  
John McMillian  
Landon Watkins

## NOVEMBER 9

Joe Blanton  
Ginny Casstevens  
Cheryl DeGraw  
Ansley Sanderson

## NOVEMBER 10

Gresham Hindman  
Jane Matthews  
Ivan Morris

## NOVEMBER 11

Joseph Commander  
Michael Hawkins  
Haley Jackson  
Wells McBride  
Janie Ray

## NOVEMBER 12

Trae Allison  
Mary Frances Moore  
Pat Patton  
Hunter Sims

## NOVEMBER 13

Ashton Pennstrom  
Paul Welch

## NOVEMBER 14

Paige Alexander  
Dave Banner  
Grier Toniolo

## NOVEMBER 15

Fran Curtis

## NOVEMBER 16

Wynde Edwards  
Brooke Langston  
Jane Shurman  
Lisa Westmoreland

## NOVEMBER 17

Ella Rawlinson  
Keegan Taylor

## NOVEMBER 18

Brian Kim  
Wesley Player  
Carrigan Spearman

## NOVEMBER 19

Tom Gasque  
Meghan Swink

## NOVEMBER 20

Christie Henderson  
Rick Hoefer  
Colton Miles  
Hampton Naylor  
Anna Lee Pennstrom  
Duncan Tyson

## NOVEMBER 21

Charlie Bazen  
Sheila Cockfield

## NOVEMBER 22

Hannah King  
Rainey Josey  
Curt Boswell  
Sandra Davidson

## NOVEMBER 23

Sullivan Carmichael

## NOVEMBER 24

Maggie McNeil  
Connie Stewart

## NOVEMBER 25

Kendall Jackson  
Alexis Morris

Mary Ann Nash  
Kate Stokes

## NOVEMBER 26

Liz Andrews

## NOVEMBER 27

Don Hebert  
Walter Johnson  
Hailey Mikulecky  
Taylor Powell

## NOVEMBER 28

Tom Pantos  
Anna Spivey

## NOVEMBER 29

Christina 'Taiter' Garrett  
Maymie Lou Spearman

## NOVEMBER 30

Drew Knudsen  
Chris Scott  
Jane Slagle

# Florence Turkey Trot benefits Poetice International

By Kimberly Brauss

In 1896, the first Turkey Trot was held at a YMCA in Buffalo, New York. It was a 5-mile course, and every year since, that Turkey Trot has been held. In fact, it's the oldest continuous footrace in North America. Since 1896, not only has the Turkey Trot in Buffalo grown in participants — capping at 14,000 — but also the popularity of such races blossomed across the East Coast and across the nation.

The craze hit South Carolina — Charleston's was established in 1914. Most cities have picked up the tradition of getting an exercise in before the holiday feast.

More than 11 years ago, Covenant Partner Stephen Thompson took the initiative when a couple events aligned. First, a friend of his with festivals and promotions in Myrtle Beach talked with him about Thanksgiving being the biggest 5K race day in the country and Florence didn't have one. Second, Stephen and his wife, Alison, were in a small group at church with Jeremy and Courtney Emert, who were readying to become missionaries. Stephen took the call to be the Florence race organizer and made the Emerts the beneficiaries so Jeremy would receive funds to help work with women who were abused and teaching them how to sew. The Emerts, with Poetice International, have worked for Poetice in Zambia since 2014. Jeremy is a pastor and is in Houses Oversight and Development. Courtney is Worship Team Lead.

"What a blessing it has been to our family and ministry to have the support of the annual Thanksgiving Turkey Trotters for the last 10 years," Courtney said. "The hard work and commitment of the event's sponsors and participants encourage us and spur us on to continue the work that God's called us to in Zambia, Africa! Blessings on this year's event!"

"We have a good community of people doing it every year," said Stephen, who co-owns Local Motive in Florence. "There's out of town folks in to see family and runners of all skill sets – from Clemson University cross country team members to parents with strollers to walkers – that have participated."

Stephen said the race has grown over the years. The first year they partnered with House of Hope and had a 5K and 10K, and they had a hundred people race. Since then it's been a 5K and growing in numbers — last year they had a few hundred participants.



Florence Turkey Trot proceeds are donated to Poetice International, where First Presbyterian Church Covenant Partners Jeremy and Courtney Emert work in Zambia.

## WANT TO TROT?

Florence Turkey Trot (5K) and Gobbler Dash (50 yards)

8:30 a.m. Briggs Elementary School

Registration is only available online:

[runsignup.com/Race/SC/Florence/FlorenceTurkeyTrot5K](https://runsignup.com/Race/SC/Florence/FlorenceTurkeyTrot5K)

Strollers, runners, and walkers WELCOME!

No dogs allowed on race course.

Race Swag includes: Shirt,

5K-Finisher Medal,

Dash-Finisher gift

Registration closes Thanksgiving morning at 8:15 a.m.

Gobbler Dash is free but participants must register online.

Packet Pickup Information: Race morning near the start line from 7 to 8:15 a.m. Park in Briggs Elementary Parking Lot.



There's prizes for everyone, and there's prizes for first, second and third place among the age groups. And there's gift baskets to the two overall winners.

Stephen said he would love to see the race get past the 450 mark of runners. Participants register online. Early bird rates are \$45. After Nov. 20, the price increases.

"For 11 straight years it's the volunteers that are the mechanism that makes it happen," Stephen said.

Among the dedicated volunteers, the timing team, the company that helps put the race together, and the Briggs Elementary School and neighborhood folks, the race is a success. It's gaining a lot of momentum, Stephen said. "It gives me confidence to put it on this year and years to follow."



# Join Bible Drill students in learning key 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! During the months of October and November, we have learned and will be learning the following:

## Old Testament

- Books of Poetry (Job, Psalms, Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, Song of Solomon)
- Books of Major Prophets (Isaiah, Jeremiah, Lamentations, Ezekiel and Daniel)
- Books of Minor Prophets ( Hosea, Joel, Amos, Obadiah, Jonah, Micah, Nahum, Habakkuk, Zephaniah, Haggai, Zachariah, Malachi)

## Scripture Verses

- Proverbs 3:5-6

Trust in the Lord with all thine heart and lean not on thine own understanding. In all Thy ways acknowledge Him and He shall direct Thy paths.

- Proverbs 15:1

A soft answer turneth away wrath but grievous words stir up anger.

- Isaiah 40:8

The grass withereth, the flower fade th: but the Word of our God shall stand forever.

- Nahum 1:7

The Lord is good, a stronghold in the day of trouble; and he knoweth them that trust in him.

- Luke 6:37

Judge not and ye shall not be judged: condemn not and ye shall not be condemned: forgive and ye shall be forgiven.

- Luke 11:9

And I say unto you, Ask and it shall be given you; seek and ye shall find; knock and it shall be opened unto you.

## Location of Key Passages

The Greatness of God: Isaiah 40

The Temptation of Jesus: Matthew 4:1-11

## One Table Florence: A Thanksgiving Celebration to Give Thanks to God

Florence is gearing up for a heartfelt and enriching tradition, as One Table Florence, a community Thanksgiving lunch, prepares to make its debut at Timrod Park. This event is dedicated to giving thanks and promises to be a celebration of gratitude, unity, and the power of faith.

The event's primary focus is on giving thanks for the abundance we have and sharing that gratitude with others in our community.

With a growing list of churches joining as partners, including First Presbyterian Church, One Table Florence will serve as a beautiful testament to the power of faith and community. Families, friends, neighbors, and strangers are invited to gather under the open sky at Timrod Park, not only to share a delicious Thanksgiving meal but also to join in collective prayers and expressions of thanks.

## ON THE WEB

For more information on volunteering, visit:  
<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0849AAAC2CA1FDC70-44499508-onetable#/>

*You're invited to our free community meal*

# ONE TABLE Florence



**Thanksgiving Day**  
 Thursday  
**NOV 23**  
 11:00am - 1:00pm  
 Timrod Park  
 Florence, SC  
 Cost: **FREE**

**“More than just tables  
 You'll find a togetherness  
 that warms the heart”**

# Kelly's Corner



## CHILDREN'S MINISTRY



Dear Church Family,

I recently shared the Discipleship Unit has been reading the book *True Spirituality: Becoming a Romans 12 Christian* by Chip Ingram. This book has been wonderful. It has challenged me in ways that I have never been challenged. It has made me stop and ask myself questions that led to some deep reflection. It has challenged me to take off my mask so that I can be pure. I don't think this means without stain or blemish, but to be real, vulnerable, and authentic. I want to be real, vulnerable, and authentic with you, my church family.

You see, I struggle with being overweight. There are days when I am so embarrassed to stand in front of you. Days when I don't want to leave my house. Days when I look in the mirror in complete disgust. The crazy thing is no one knows I think this way. I wear a mask. I pretend to be okay on the outside when on the inside I am struggling. Have you been there? Pretending everything is okay when on the inside you're a mess? If we are honest, we all do at some point in time. That's why I felt moved to share my struggle with you. You see, I trust that I can be vulnerable with you because we are family. We are brothers and sisters in Christ. God brought us together. God wants us to be real, vulnerable, and authentic with Him and with one another.

I pray that First Presbyterian Church is a safe place for you. A place where you can take off your mask. A place where you know you are loved, cherished, and adored knowing you are God's child and we are all in this together.

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 December. Kelly Hickey will be contacting parents with second-graders and under to share more information about the new and needed Check-in system.



### Field Trips for First- through Sixth-Graders

Over the summer, a couple of children asked about planning a field trip to Bucee's. *Well, guess what!?!?* We are going to Buc-ee's! Field Trips will be as follows:

**Third – Fifth Grade** will travel on Sunday, November 5, immediately following the 11 a.m. worship service. We will return at 2 p.m. Sign up required by Wednesday, November 1.

**First – Second Grade** will travel on Sunday, November 12, immediately following the 11 a.m. worship service. We will return at 2 p.m. Sign up required by Wednesday, November 8.

**Sixth Grade** will travel on Sunday, November 19, immediately following Living Nativity Rehearsal and will return at 5:30 p.m. Sign up required by Wednesday, November 15.

All participants will need to bring money for food, snacks and/or shopping. Please contact Kelly Hickey to sign up or with any questions.



# 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 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
<b>NO Practice</b>	Sunday, November 26th	
Practice for <b>Angel Choir &amp; Cast</b>	Sunday, December 3rd	3:00 – 4:00 pm
<b>Dress Rehearsal for Angel Choir &amp; Cast</b>	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).

## SAVE THE DATES!

### ATTENTION PARENTS!!!

#### Parent's Night Out

On Friday, December 1, from 5:30 to 10 p.m., children, infant – 5th grade, are invited to enjoy pizza, snacks, games, crafts, story time, a movie and more. The purpose of this event is to give parents a night to themselves. Don't miss out on this wonderful ministry! Please contact Kelly Hickey by November 26 to sign up! **If you do not sign up by the deadline, your children will not be able to participate.**



#### Christmas Caroling Wednesday, December 20

Children (5K– 6th Grade) & Youth are invited to join Mrs. Kelly, Taiter and friends to go Christmas Caroling. We will meet at 3 p.m. in the Church Office parking lot and return at 5 p.m. This is a wonderful way to share Christ's hope, peace, joy, and love. We hope many will join us. Please contact Kelly Hickey by Sunday, December 17, to sign up or if you have any questions.

# New Covenant Partners



ALLISON, Tara and Trae



FINCHER, Becky

FOWLER, Mary Blanche  
(and Julian)

McQUILLAN, Jill



MOORE, Ann



NUNN, Sam and Mills



STEPHENS, Sandy and Frank

New Covenant Partners were received into the church during the service on Reformation Sunday, October 29.



## 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
November 5	9:00 am	Laura Anne Hofler	Linda Smiley
	11:00 am	Charissa Canfield	Alice Caldwell
November 12	9:00 am	Laura Anne Hofler	Kelly Hickey
	11:00 am	Charissa Canfield	Leslie Rutten
November 19	9:00 am	Laura Anne Hofler	Jane Ames
	11:00 am	Charissa Canfield	Laura Berton
November 26	9:00 am	Laura Anne Hofler	Jenna MacLennan
	11:00 am	Charissa Canfield	Kelly Hickey



# Autumn season filled with fruitful service

October has flown by! The youth stayed very busy with attendance at the Helping Florence Flourish and ServeFLO Community Communion, and prayer walk. They helped pass out flyers advertising the cookout at Timrod Park that followed. We traveled to the Upstate for our annual apple picking trip, making a stop at the S.C. State Fair on the way up. We enjoyed a fun-filled day picking apples, eating apple cider donuts, and hiking to a waterfall.

We helped serve dinner one Wednesday night and had a costume and pumpkin carving contest. We participated in Trunk or Treat, played paintball, met for coffee, and continued to enjoy small groups.

A big welcome and thank you to Hunter Morgan, Jr. for helping lead the senior high guys small groups and coming to coffee on Thursday mornings. He will be helping plan and lead the guys camping trip for February.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

**Wednesday Night Youth Group** (1, 8, 15 & 29) 5:30 – 7:30 p.m. Food, games, Bible study & fun!

**Coffee at F.E. Pops** (2, 9, 16 & 30) 7 a.m. – Until

**Sunday School** (5, 12, 19 & 26) 10 a.m. – 10:50 a.m. Light breakfast served.

**Small Groups** (5 & 12) 5 – 7 p.m.

Dinner provided. All groups meet at the church, except Junior & Senior girls will meet at Amy Williams house (511 Pine St.).

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

We will travel to Montreat, N.C. 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.

**Pizza & Praise** (26) 5 – 8 p.m.

Join us for a time of food, fellowship, prayer & praise. Please meet at 626 Camellia Circle. Bring a friend! Please RSVP by Monday, November 20.

**\*\*There will be NO YOUTH EVENTS on November 22 & 23\*\***





# ServeFLO: Season of Service

## SERVEFLO 2023 BY THE NUMBERS

*First Presbyterian covenant partners supported Helping Florence Flourish's ServeFLO 2023 "A Season of Service" throughout October! Here's a snapshot at how our community answered the call of service.*

### NAOMI PROJECT LUNCH

- 1,150+ dinners sold • \$11,340 raised

### AMERICAN RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVE

- 16 units collected • 27 registered • 19 people presented

### COMMUNITY COMMUNION

- 550 people • More than 23 churches participated
- Two Covenant Partners sang in the 40-member choir

### BOYS & GIRLS CLUB

- An elder and covenant partner helped with the "Fall Festival" of about 75 kids. A dozen other adults and 6-8 older kids helping.

### PRAYER WALK

- More than 10 First Presbyterian Church families, couples walked with Christina "Taiter" Garrett and youth from the ministry.

### TIMROD COOKOUT

- 15+ First Pres families • Youth Group participation
- 5 Families from Timrod neighborhood
- 15-20 "park friends" • 8 ServeFLO supporters

### QUEEN OF MCQUEEN STREET

- Group of 6 people each Saturday (about 10-12 total throughout the month) • Interior of house was sanded and painted • Electrical work completed • \$6,000 received to refurbish

### CARE PACKAGES FOR CAREGIVERS

- 500 Care Packages created by 50+ volunteers at First Pres

### FIRST RESPONDERS LUNCHEON

- 25 volunteers helped serve about 190 meals

### HOME FURNISHINGS & NECESSITIES DRIVE

- Received about \$4,000 worth of clothing and a queen bed with bedding

### THE TECH-WISE FAMILY STUDY

- 70 parents attended the Tech Wise Parenting dinner and book study





# ServeFLO: Season of Service





# TRUNK OR TREAT







Trunk or Treat was held Wednesday, October 25. It was complete with dinner of hamburgers, corn dogs, games and activities on the front lawn, and trunk or treating.





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#### 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

