

The

# REMINDER



FEBRUARY 2024





**ON THE COVER:** Program Director for Children's Ministry Kaiti Bryant leads the CDC children in song during chapel, which is held on Wednesday mornings.

## IN THIS ISSUE

- 2 Index/Missions Team/Study
- 3 From the Assistant Pastor
- 4 Church Administration Matters
- 5 Congregational Care Assistant
- 6 News Briefs
- 7 Women in Ministry
- 8 Child Development Center
- 9 Bible Drill
- 10, 11 Calendar
- 12 Remember in Prayer
- 13 Birthdays
- 14 Board of Deacons
- 15-17 Children's Ministry
- 18 Youth Ministry
- 19 RightNow Media
- 20 Men's Backpack/Hike

*Submit news briefs, pictures, or announcements by Feb. 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.*



**First Presbyterian**  
FLORENCE SOUTH CAROLINA

# Moment for Missions

- **February 11, 9 a.m. & 11 a.m. worship services** – Whosoever Community Outreach – Chris Franco
- **A Choice to Make “Heartbeat Gala”** – February 15, SiMT; contact: Janet Brand (843-615-6969)
- **Moscow Seminary** – Sasha Tsutserov, President – March 7 – speaking to Rocky Pearce's Bible study
- **House of Hope “Evening with Jeff Foxworthy”** – Monday, March 11, Florence Center
- **LightHouse Ministries Holt Bros BBQ** – Wednesday, March 20 – Wednesday night meal at church
- **Helping Florence Flourish**
  - **Winshape Camps** – July 1-5, First Presbyterian Church
  - **Global Leadership Summit (GLS)** – August 8-9, First Presbyterian Church
  - **ServeFLO** - October

## BECOMING A MAN OF GOD BECOMING A WOMAN OF GOD

### Wednesday Night Study Series for Adults



Join us for our Winter Wednesday Series, which focuses on men and women from the Bible from whom we can learn so many life lessons. Kathy Griffin leads our women to consider life lessons from such women as Eve, Mary Magdalene, Sarah, and Mary the Mother of Jesus. Bill Cain leads our men to look at such men as Abraham, Nehemiah, Joseph, and Paul.

This series will continue for eight Wednesday nights. Each night will consist of 30 minutes of teaching and then there will be 30 minutes allotted for small groups for women and small groups for men to discuss together insights gleaned.

Married, single, young, old, male, female ... all of us have the opportunity to grow into the Man or Woman God is calling us to be.

# Spiritual Discipline

*TRAIN YOURSELF TO BE GODLY. (I Tim 4:7)*

I love the way *The Message* translates this verse and verse 8. **Exercise daily in God — no spiritual flabbiness, please! Workouts in the gymnasium are useful, but a disciplined life in God is far more so, making you both fit today and forever.**

I'm writing this article before Lent descends upon us. Many people think Lent is a time of austerity and self-sacrifice. We think about things that we can give up for God. Frankly, I don't believe God is impressed by our giving up certain foods or drinks. (Although a separation from our "devices" might bring a smile from the Lord!)

I want to challenge you to prayerfully consider **ADDING** a habit to your life. Would you consider spending 20 minutes with the Lord either before you start your day or at the conclusion of your day. Let me rephrase the challenge. Spend 20 minutes with the Lord **EVERY DAY** leading up to Easter (March 31).

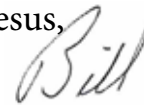
Some of our Covenant Partners have given us a great gift to help us. Each of you will receive

a copy of *The Lenten Way* devotion booklet. Every day a Covenant Partner has written a reflection from God's Word and their experience. Use their insights as a springboard into your relationship with Jesus Christ through the power of the Holy Spirit.

I believe God wants YOU to be fit. The Lord desires our souls to be vibrant, alive, and open to God working in us and through us. Why am I challenging you to get "Spiritually Fit"? Because your soul, that special part of you that makes you ... YOU ... will never die. The goal is best expressed in I Peter 1:9, **"For you are receiving the end result of your faith, the salvation of your souls."**

See you in the "gym."

Love in Christ Jesus,



P.S. MEN'S HIKE DATE CHANGE: FRIDAY, APRIL 26 - SUNDAY, APRIL 28. Join Hunter Morgan (and me) for a hike on Mount Rogers, Va. This will be a great time for guys to have fun together and grow together as *Men of God*. *Registration is limited; contact Bill Cain ASAP.*

---

## MEN'S HIKE • APRIL 26-28

Guys, mark your calendar for April 26-28 to join Hunter Morgan on a hike along the Appalachian Trail at Mount Rogers, Va. Registration will be limited. Contact Bill Cain ASAP to sign up.

## MEN'S RETREAT • AUGUST 23-25

No excuses — put it on your calendar right now! This year's retreat at Hickory Knob State Park promises a wonderful time filled with inspiration. Randy Pope, the founding pastor of Perimeter Presbyterian Church in Atlanta, will be our speaker. For more info on both events and to sign up, contact Bill Cain, 407-473-0912.

*Save  
the Dates*

# Working for the Lord

In church life, we sometimes hear people say, “I’m just a volunteer,” as if what they are doing is not important. For whatever reason, we tend to place more importance on some roles than we do on others. The apostle Paul recognized this tendency in the early church, which prompted him to write:

**“So, neither the one who plants nor the one who waters is anything, but only God, who makes things grow. The one who plants and the one who waters have one purpose, and they will each be rewarded according to their own labor. For we are co-workers in God’s service; you are God’s field, God’s building.”**  
(1 Corinthians 3:7-9)

Paul reminded the Christians at Corinth, and these words remind us that each person is called to a task and that we are to do what God has called us to do. If we do what we are called to do, the “God who makes things grow” will bless our efforts and use them to build His kingdom. Paul also reminds us that we are “co-workers with God, which means we should never say, “I’m just a ...” We need to hear and apply these words of Paul: “Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for human masters, since you know ... It is the Lord Christ you are serving.” (Colossians 3:23-24)

## Christmas Eve Benevolence Offering

At our 2023 Christmas Eve services, FPC contributed nearly \$10,586.00 that will be used throughout 2024 to aid with food, housing and utilities to Florence county residents who come to us seeking help meeting the basic needs of life. Thank you for your generosity during the Christmas season and throughout the year.

## 2024 Stewardship Campaign Update

To date, 148 covenant partners have pledged **\$1,185,600.00** in support of our 2024 Ministry Action Plan. The average pledge for 2024 is \$8011.00 compared with \$7,580.00 for 2023. Your pledge is important because it helps the church staff and leadership as they plan for the various programs, activities, and ministry opportunities. While we emphasize stewardship annually, the fact remains that GENEROSITY is

and should be a lifestyle for all believers. There is still time for you to make a commitment to contribute to the mission and ministry of First Presbyterian Church in 2024. Pledges can be made on-line by visiting the church website, [www.florencefirst.org](http://www.florencefirst.org), click the “Make a Pledge” link at the top of the page. This will take you to a page where you can complete a secure and confidential pledge form. You can also make a pledge using the REALM app on your mobile device, log-in to REALM and, select the “Giving” icon then select “Pledge” and follow the prompts. Thank you for your continued generosity as we look forward to what God will do in and through First Presbyterian Church in the coming year!

## Volunteers Needed

We need volunteers to assist with answering the telephone, greeting guests, and assisting with a variety of clerical tasks. We have openings in the morning (9 a.m. – noon) and in the afternoon (noon – 3 p.m. If you have some extra time on your hands, we’d love to talk with you about helping out. Please contact me by phone (843) 662-2583 or [dhebert@florencefirst.org](mailto:dhebert@florencefirst.org).

## In Memoriam Panel

The Columbarium Memory Garden adjacent to the Sanctuary is a beautiful addition to our campus. In addition to niches for inurnment of cremains, the columbarium features an “In Memoriam” section. At Easter and Advent covenant partners place flowers in honor/memory of loved ones in the Sanctuary. The In Memoriam section provides an opportunity to permanently remember covenant partners, their spouses, children, as well as the parents of covenant partners, who are deceased and interred elsewhere. Brochures about the Columbarium Memory Garden are available in the Welcome Center. Please contact me or George Beshere if you are interested in reserving a niche or would like more information about the “In Memoriam” section.



# Work in the Kingdom

PSALM 92; MATTHEW 13:44-46;  
MATTHEW 20:1-16

The parables of Jesus are fascinating and troubling at the same time. They provide the keys to being a disciple of Jesus. We pray in the LORD'S PRAYER: "Your Kingdom come, Your will be done on earth as in heaven."

God's Kingdom can be discovered in Jesus' description of the Kingdom of Heaven (God's kingdom) in the parables recorded in Matthew. I am very blessed to have been a disciple in the kingdom for 58 years. Much of that time was spent in employment of the Church. I believe what Jesus is saying in three of the parables about the Kingdom is that our work in the Kingdom brings great fulfillment, purpose, and joy.

"The Kingdom of Heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which is found by a person who in joy goes and sells all he has and buys that field."

"The Kingdom of Heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls, who finding one pearl of great value went and sold all that he had and bought it. (Matthew 13: 44-46)."

These two parables illustrate the great privilege a person has to belong to the Kingdom. Jesus gives the Kingdom as a gift.

Illustrating the work in the Kingdom is the parable of the laborers in the vineyard. The vineyard represents the Kingdom. The work in the vineyard is a gift to the laborer and is more important than the wage earned. No matter how long or how little time spent working in the kingdom the laborer receives the salvation given by God's generosity.

## Work of the Kingdom

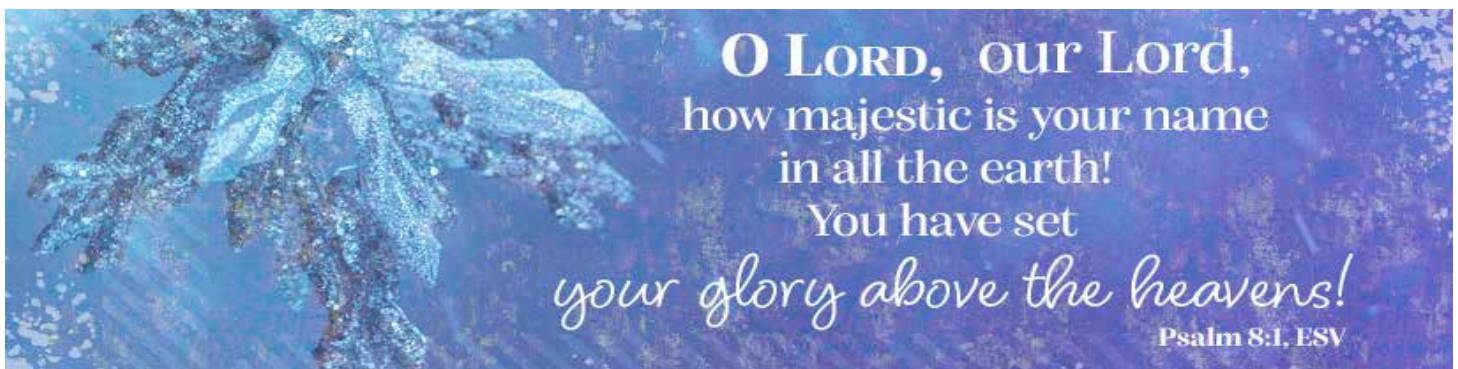
I was asked to give some of my time to work at First Presbyterian Church for a second time in my retirement. This work is special and is done as a response to the gift of salvation given to me by the LORD. God's voice through Psalm 92 was especially clear to me as I contemplated this call to work at First Presbyterian Church. Psalm 92:4 says: "For You, O LORD, have made me glad by Your work; at the works of Your hands I sing for joy."

Human beings are the work of God's hands. We sing for joy when we are used by God to enable others to realize the gift of the Kingdom; salvation and eternal life. The last verses of Psalm 92 convey a great truth about the Kingdom of God. "The righteous flourish like the palm tree ... (92:12)."

The image of a growing tree is used extensively in the Bible. I wish to be a living presence in the Kingdom. The living tree "still bring forth fruit in old age... (92:14)." Regardless of our age the work of the Kingdom can be done.

I am thankful for this opportunity. I prayerfully hope I can help others find a purpose in their work in the Kingdom. Let us give thanks as we find the gracious gift of belonging to the Kingdom. Our faith is a precious gift, which gives eternal life.

*Mike*







# Church News

## Keenagers' lunch to feature musical program

Keenagers' luncheon will be at noon Tuesday, February 6, in the fellowship hall. Meal will be beef stew, rice, greenbeans, rolls, and banana pudding. The program will be provided by the CDC children, and the music program will feature singer will feature Dr. Fran Coleman and Ann Rodgers Chandler, our Director of Music. We welcome all who are 55 and older to join us for food, fellowship, and fun.

## GriefShare to begin new session

GriefShare will start its new 13-week session on Monday, February 12. GriefShare is a place where grieving people find healing and hope. Led by those who have experienced grief and healing, participants who have lost a loved one learn how to walk the journey of grief while being supported along the way. GriefShare is open to anyone who has experienced the death of a loved one. We meet on Monday nights at 6:30 p.m.

## Ash Wednesday service to be held

We will celebrate Ash Wednesday and the season of Lent with a worship service in the sanctuary at 6:15 p.m. Wednesday, February 14. Ash Wednesday marks the start of Lent, an intentional season that focuses on Christ's life, ministry, sacrifice, and resurrection.

## A Choice to Make's Heartbeat Gala

A Choice to Make's gala will be held Thursday, February 15, at the SiMT building. Special guest speakers will be Alan and Lisa Robertson, members of the Duck Dynasty Clan. Please join us for a night of fellowship celebrating what God is doing at A Choice to Make. Email Janet Brand if you'd like to attend, janet81661@aol.com.

## Red Cross blood drive yields 11 units

Thank you to all who supported the blood drive January 23. We were able to collect 11 pints of blood, but missed our goal of 18. We hope to see you at our next blood drive on Tuesday, March 26.



## Scouts attend winter camp

The Scouts of Troop 477 had a good time attending winter camp at Camp Barstow this past December. Camp Barstow is located on over 300 acres along the banks of Lake Murray in Saluda County.

## Men's Wild Game Dinner to be held

The Men's Ministry will hold its Wild Game Dinner. Dinner will be held at 5:30 p.m. Sunday, March 10. The guest speaker will be Glen Ward, a professional humorist and inspirational speaker. Men are asked but not required to bring a Wild Game or other dish.

## Just for Women Bible Study

Just for Women Bible Study meets on Tuesdays through February 27 and resumes March 12 in the CLC at First Presbyterian Church. The group's study is: *A Study of Embracing Our Brokenness 'Kintsugi.'*

## Rosemond parenting event to be held

The Parent Guild of All Saints' Episcopal Day School will host speaker John Rosemond, America's Parenting Guru, for an incredible event where the joys and challenges of parenting with love and leadership will be explored. This in-person gathering will take place at 6:30 p.m. February 6, in the sanctuary of First Presbyterian Church, 700 Park Ave. Discover effective strategies, gain valuable insights, and connect with fellow parents in a supportive environment. General admission is \$10.

Visit the All Saints' Episcopal Day School facebook page or <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/parenting-with-love-and-leadership-tickets-789267399037> to purchase tickets. For more information, email Niki Sansbury, president of the All Saints Parents Guild, NikiCSansbury@gmail.com.

# Mid-Winter Gathering



**Women in Ministry** gather for the Mid-Winter Gathering on Tuesday, January 30, for fellowship. They wrote letters to our college students, learned more about Helping Florence Flourish from Regina Peterson and studied the Titus Study.

## Women in Ministry Circles

The lesson and page numbers for February circle Bible study: Lesson 5 Titus 2:1-10 *Practicing Godliness* on pages 47-55.

Bread and Fish	February 10	9 a.m.	Room 100
Joyful Hearts	February 13	10 a.m.	Room 100
Prayer Warriors	February 13	6 p.m.	Lawson-Rain Chapel
Serenity	February 13	3 p.m.	Presbyterian Community
SonFlowers	February 13	10 a.m.	Lawson-Rain Chapel
Soul Sisters	February 13	noon	Price Classroom
Sunday Salty Sisters	February 18	3 p.m.	Parlor
Women of Grace	February 12	6:30 p.m.	3002 Japonica Lane



# *New Year full of fun, music, experiments*

We have had a great start to 2024. The children are enjoying music with Mrs. Ann Rodgers, Chapel with Ms. Kaiti, devotionals, singing and prayer with Mrs. Kelly and Mrs. Shurrie. On the warmer days, the Infant class enjoyed getting fresh air and sunshine, while the toddlers enjoyed outdoor- time with friends. The Infant2 Class showed us their creative side with painting while the 2KB Class had fun with Mrs. Byrd as they enjoyed a Fizzing Candy Cane experiment. The 2KA class had fun making snow while the 3K class and 4K class celebrated the 100th day of school.

Next month, be on the lookout for pictures of our sweet 2K – 4K children singing for the Keenager monthly luncheon.

There are so many wonderful things happening in the CDC. Thank you, Lord, and thank you, FPC, for your continued prayers and support.

Grace and peace,  
Kelly





# 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 January and February, we have learned and will be learning the following:

## New Testament

- Books of the Gospels (Matthew, Mark, Luke and John)
- Book of NT History (Acts)
- Books of Paul's Letters (Romans, I and II Corinthians, Galatians, Ephesians, Philippians, Colossians, I and II Thessalonians, I and II Timothy, Titus and Philemon)
- Books of General Letters (Hebrews, James, I and II Peter, I, II and III John, Jude)

## Location of Key Passages

- The Sermon on the Mount: Matthew 5-7
- The Parable of the Sower: Mark 4:1-20
- The First Lord's Supper: Luke 22:15-20
- The Crucifixion: John 19

## Scripture Verses

- Matthew 5:16

Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven.

- John 3:16

For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life.

- Romans 8:28

And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God and are called according to His purpose.

- Romans 12:1

I beseech you therefore brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service.

- Colossians 3:23

And whatsoever ye do, do it heartily, as to the Lord, and not unto men.

- II Timothy 1:7


For God has not given us the spirit of fear, but of power, and of love and of a sound mind.



## CDC Neighborhood

Our 4K Class, at left, celebrated the 100th day of school. Below, Mrs. Byrd and the 2K class complete a candy cane science experiment.



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY
28 	29  <small>1 CORINTHIANS 13:4</small>	30	31  <small>1 JOHN 1:7</small>
4 EGW, 5:30 p.m. Youth: Small Groups, 5 p.m.	5 Boy Scouts, 6:30 p.m. First Aid Training, 7 p.m. Girl Scouts, 7 p.m.	6 Keenagers, noon Legacy of Faith Meeting, 4 p.m. Rosemond event, 6 p.m. First Aid Training, 7 p.m.	7 Bible Moderators, 4 p.m. Wednesday Night Dinner, 5:30 p.m. WiM Coordinating Team, 6:30 p.m.
11 Youth: Super Bowl Party, 6 p.m. @ the Hylton's 	12 Worship Team, 12:30 p.m. Enabling Team, 5:30 p.m. GriefShare, 6:30 p.m. WiM Women of Grace, 6:30 p.m.	13 WiM Sonflowers, 10 a.m. Joyful Hearts, 10 a.m. Soul Sisters, noon Serenity, 3 p.m. Prayer Warriors, 6:30 p.m.	14 <b>Ash Wednesday</b> <b>Valentine's Day</b> Veterans Brunch, 8 a.m. Personnel Team, 8:15 Outreach Team, 12:15 Children's Ministry, 5 p.m. Wednesday Night Dinner Ash Wednesday service, 6:15 p.m.
18 WiM Salty Sisters, 4 p.m. Youth: Taiter Time, 4 p.m. 	19 <b>Presidents Day</b> Discipleship Team, 4:30 Boy Scouts, 6:30 p.m. GriefShare, 6:30 p.m. Girl Scouts, 7 p.m. 	20 Fellowship Team, 5:30	21 Wednesday Night Dinner and programs FCA setup, 7:30 p.m.
25 Guest Brunch, 10 a.m. Youth: Small Groups, 5 p.m.	26 CDC Advisory Board, 5 p.m. CDC Staff Meeting, 6 p.m. GriefShare, 6:30 p.m.	27 Legacy of Faith Meeting, 4 p.m. Session and Diaconate, 6:30 p.m.	28 Wednesday Night Dinner / Basketball Banquet and programs 



## THURSDAY

## FRIDAY

## SATURDAY

## FEBRUARY

## WEEKLY

## SUNDAYS

- 9 a.m. Contemporary Worship
- 10 a.m. Sunday School
- 11 a.m. Traditional Worship
- EGW, 5:30 p.m.

## MONDAYS

- Prayer Group, 2:30 p.m.
- 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.
- Just for Women study, noon CLC
- 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 classes, 6:15 p.m.
- Chancel Choir Rehearsal, 7:30 p.m.

## THURSDAYS

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

## WEDNESDAY DINNER MENU

Feb. 7: Taco bar and dessert  
 Feb. 14: Grilled hamburgers with lettuce and tomato, corn dogs, baked beans, chips, dessert  
 Feb. 21: Breakfast for Dinner  
 Feb. 28: Basketball Banquet: Chicken strips, potato wedges, slaw, ice cream bar

1 Girl Scouts Leaders Mtg	2 <b>Groundhog Day</b> HS Boys Study, 6:45 a.m. Youth: RSVP for Spring Getaway 	3
8 Youth: Coffee @ F.E. Pop's 	9 Evangelism Team, 11:30 Youth: Camping & Glamping Trips, Friday - Sunday 	10 Parking Lot Mission WiM Bread & Fish, Room 100
15 Youth: Coffee @ F.E. Pop's	16 <b>LOVE</b> YOUR neighbor AS YOURSELF. <i>Mark 12:31</i>	17
22 Youth: Coffee @ F.E. Pop's FCA banquet, 6:30 p.m.	23	24 
29 Youth: Coffee @ F.E. Pop's  LEAP YEAR		

## Sympathy

Betty Lee Gandy and family, loss of her granddaughter  
Rosanne Saunders, loss of her husband, Freddie

## Extended Care

### Lowman Home

Mac King

### The Manor

Joyce Floyd  
Julie Hughes  
Marie Jordan  
Maria Whitehead

### Presbyterian Community

Clariann Kellam

## Memorials

Max Barker  
Dr. & Mrs. Clarence Davis  
Edith Hicks  
Jay Pearson  
Bobby Wallace

## Honorariums

Dave & Carol Banner  
Tommy Walker

## Baptism

Emilie Bruce Sanderson, daughter of David and Ansley

## February Households

FLOCK 1: Butch Carroll  
FLOCK 2: Michael Coker  
FLOCK 3: Steven, Caroline, Grier and Tripp Toniolo  
FLOCK 4: Ken and Debbie Jackson  
FLOCK 5: Hal and Melaine Campbell  
FLOCK 6: Heather, Chris, Ella and Gray Warner  
FLOCK 7: Rainey and Shand Josey  
FLOCK 8: Jeremy, Courtney, Jude, Lincoln, Olivia Emert

## Sick & Recovering

Aubrey Crawford  
Linda Lawson  
Barbara Montgomery  
Todd Moseley

## Elders

Rob Hall  
John Scott

## Deacons

Stephanie Spivey  
Ed Sprenger

## Missions

Lighthouse Ministries  
Actionnel Fleurisma

## Women in Ministry

Ashton Pennstrom  
Peggy Swearingen

## Teachers

Kathy Griffin  
Ellen Wilhoit

## Staff

Gwen DuRant  
Emily Reed



Lord, Hear  
Our Prayer

## Flowers in the Sanctuary

February 4: Communion  
February 11: Ellen Wilhoit  
February 18: Lynn Porter  
February 25: WiM

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.



# February BIRTHDAYS

**FEBRUARY 1**

Buddy Brand

**FEBRUARY 2**

Ross McMillian  
Worth Player  
Cathy Welch

**FEBRUARY 3**

Eliza Blanton  
Allison Hallman  
Amy Graham  
George Stuber

**FEBRUARY 4**

Maddelle Christian  
Zach Hall  
Adele Weatherford

**FEBRUARY 5**

Philip Baugh

**FEBRUARY 6**

Heather Warner

**FEBRUARY 7**

Jeannie Beshere  
Floyd Goodstein

**FEBRUARY 8**

Ellison Banner  
Shelley Hucks  
Michele Naylor  
Thomas Rogers  
Hampton Weatherford

**FEBRUARY 9**

Glenn Bell

**FEBRUARY 10**

Heyward Hanna  
Dave Lawson

**FEBRUARY 11**

Brian Fast  
Mike Weatherford

**FEBRUARY 12**

Sloan Evans  
R. Justin Hardee  
Keith Jones  
Cheryl Pullmann

**FEBRUARY 13**

Ashley Hylton  
Kevin Rawlinson

**FEBRUARY 14**

Hale Emerson  
Wyatt Emerson  
Sheila Mozingo

**FEBRUARY 15**

JoDee Etheridge  
Joseph Caine Player

**FEBRUARY 16**

Van Ervin

**FEBRUARY 17**

Andy Brodie  
Hal Fuller  
Debbie Jackson  
Christina Jeffords  
Brian Urquhart

**FEBRUARY 18**

Sarah Moseley  
Mary Courtney Rogers

**FEBRUARY 19**

Shelley Gandy  
Billy Harrington  
Lisa Collins  
Frances Rogers  
Rick Ryan

**FEBRUARY 20**

William Campbell  
Ethan Hall  
Terry Hunt  
Reese McLaurin

**FEBRUARY 21**

Sally King  
Becka Tuttle

**FEBRUARY 22**

Andrew Nance  
Renda Lyle  
Mary Anna Emerson

**FEBRUARY 24**

Maria Whitehead  
Hayden Lewis  
Andy Truman

**FEBRUARY 25**

Aubrey Crawford  
Brandon Frost  
Ann Moore  
Kathryn Scott

**FEBRUARY 26**

Yarrow Babb  
Michael Foxworth  
Lily Green  
Lily Packard

**FEBRUARY 27**

Celine Cotran  
Kathy Griffin  
Kim Hawkins  
Natalie Patton

**FEBRUARY 28**

Karen Blankenship

**FEBRUARY 29**

George Evans



# BOARD OF DEACONS

**Deacons** are elected by the congregation to lead the church in service and love. The Deacons are mature followers of Jesus who assist the elders by encouraging and stimulating the connection and care between people in the church and the extension of that to the community. They also lead the church in cultivating hospitality (greeting, ushering at worship, and fellowship gatherings), and pastoral care for covenant partners.

The Congregation is divided into **Flocks** so the Deacons can tend to our covenant partners. Every Flock also has an Elder assigned to it. Donnie Wheeler is the Moderator. Daniel Jordan is the Vice Moderator.

## FLOCK 1

### Deacons

Nabil Cotran: nabino@aol.com  
 Jason Coker: jason@cokerdirect.com  
 Ellen Wilhoit: r4wilhoit@aol.com

### Elders

John Scott: johnmscott3@hotmail.com  
 Ryon Watkins: rwatkins11@sc.rr.com

## FLOCK 2

### Deacons

Greg Cleveland: gcleveland55@gmail.com  
 Sally Dameron: dameronsm@aol.com  
 Merette Dowdell: merretel@gmail.com

### Elder

Rob Hall: robert\_hall1552@yahoo.com

## FLOCK 3

### Deacons

Elizabeth McLean: ELBMcLean@aol.com  
 Lynn Porter: lynn.portersc@gmail.com  
 Stephanie Spivey: cntrygrl\_@outlook.com

### Elders

Robert Moore: horsewizard@aol.com  
 David Spivey: spiveys\_@outlook.com

## FLOCK 4

### Deacons

Joe Carter: drjoecarter@aol.com  
 Jeannie Beshere: JGBeshere@aol.com  
 Tommy Walker: NG4S@bellsouth.net

### Elder

Jeremy Williams: jpw1644@gmail.com

## FLOCK 5

### Deacons

Rhett Hughes: Rhettthughes@yahoo.com  
 Karen McBride: komcbride@live.com  
 Weber Mimms: Webermimms@gmail.com

### Elder

Rufus Bratton: jrb@aikenbridges.com

## FLOCK 6

### Deacons

Hunter Morgan Sr.: Hmredwing@gmail.com  
 Cille Scott: cille.scott@gmail.com  
 Donnie Wheeler: jwheeler007@sc.rr.com

### Elders

Jim Dameron: dameronjh@aol.com  
 Brandon Hylton: bhylton76@gmail.com

## FLOCK 7

### Deacons

Frances Rogers: fboydrogers@gmail.com  
 Ed Sprenger: sprengered@gmail.com  
 Mary Lynn Williamson: mw421613@gmail.com

### Elder

Johnny Stoupenos: jstoupenos@aol.com

## FLOCK 8

### Deacons

Sandra Davidson: 85davidson@gmail.com  
 Daniel Jordan: djordan1502@gmail.com  
 Jim Moseley: jmoseley145@gmail.com

### Elders

Jayne Boswell: boswell.jayne@gmail.com  
 Laura Marechal: marechalel@hotmail.com



# Children's Ministry Corner



Dear Church Family,

I had no idea when I accepted the position to serve as the Director of Children's Ministries how much I would love working in the CDC. It is truly a gift and passion!

During the process of discerning where God was calling, I remembered at a very young age I wanted to be "the old women in the shoe." I had two dreams: one was to have my own dance studio and the other was to run a daycare. Never in my wildest dreams did I think any of my dreams would come true, BUT GOD DID!

God keeps showing me over and over, how to use, invest and grow the talents and abilities He has blessed me with. I am truly grateful, extremely excited and know that He is not done!

Since my time working with the incredible CDC team, I have learned a lot! One of my MANY favorite things is our morning devotion. Each morning our 2K – 4K classes line up in the hallway for a time of singing, devotional and prayer. I get to start each day with precious faces, angelic voices, and wonderful conversations. The other day we were talking about how God is the King of the earth and how He made everything. I asked the children, what else did God make? When all of a sudden Ben Hofler, who is 2, yelled out, "ME!" It was so sweet and heartfelt! God is so good!

Thank you so much for this amazing opportunity to serve in the CDC and oversee our Children's Ministry. I know without a shadow of a doubt, seeds are being planted! May God use us to help them flourish and grow.

Much love,

*Kelly*

Dear Church Family,

I'm delighted to share that February marks my first month at FPC, and I am truly grateful to be part of such a wonderful church community. The warmth and hospitality extended by everyone made my initial weeks truly special. While there are still many of you whom I haven't had the pleasure of meeting, I am genuinely looking forward to it. While my primary focus is on Children's Ministry, let's remember we're all God's children, and I'm eager to get to know each one of you!

In Christ's love,

*Kaiti*

## Children's Ministry Check-In System

To help strengthen our ability to know each child by name, to know special needs or allergies, and/or to know who may pick up children, parents of second-grade children and younger are required to check-in their child(ren).

To check-in you will need to download the Kidmin App onto your smartphone. The QR code will take you to the app. Creating an account and adding your children is a quick process. Check-in opens 30 minutes prior to start time. The easiest way is using the app before you arrive at church. Another option is to use the desktop computer at the check-in kiosk, which is in the Tower. Any questions, please contact Kaiti Bryant, kbryant@florencefirst.org.



## Children in Worship Helpers

Calling all young volunteers in grades fourth to 12th: Join us as Children in Worship Helpers on Sunday mornings! If you'd like to participate, please contact Kaiti Bryant before February 11 at (843) 662-2583 or kbryant@florencefirst.org. We look forward to your involvement!

## Mark Your Calendars!

### Easter Egg Hunt

4-5 p.m. Sunday, March 24

The Whitehead's Farm, 175 W. Pocket Road  
Bring your Easter basket and the whole family!

As we gear up for this amazing event, we need help. The Children's Ministry Team is looking for individuals who would be willing to provide at least 2 dozen boiled and decorated eggs for the hunt. We need at least 800 boiled eggs (about 67 dozen) We will collect eggs Sunday morning, March 24. Coolers will be available outside the kitchen area at the CLC for you to place the eggs. If you are interested, please contact Kaiti Bryant.

# Confirmand Service Project

As the Confirmands and Mentors are meeting, please pray for them as they begin this amazing journey spending time together and growing in their relationship with the Lord.

On Sunday, March 24, sixth-grade Confirmation students are encouraged to join Ms. Kaiti and friends for a Christian Service Project. Students will have the opportunity to serve FPC's children and families as they help hide 67 dozen eggs for the Easter Egg Hunt.

Immediately following worship, the students will help load up the Easter Eggs, go out for lunch and travel to the Whitehead Farm on the Church bus to hide the eggs.

Students and families are more than welcome to stay for the Egg Hunt, which begins at 4 p.m. Please be sure to contact Kaiti Bryant by Sunday, March 17, to sign up and/or if you have any questions. More information coming soon.



## WinShape Camps

WinShape Camps is THE place to spend your summer. Save the dates for WinShape day camp held at First Presbyterian Church: July 1-5.

Each part of the day provides campers new opportunities to learn more about the Bible, deepen their faith, and grow in character. Every summer we bring a new, epic theme designed to help them learn new truths daily they'll remember the rest of their lives. Register today at [campregistration.winshape.org!](http://campregistration.winshape.org!)

## Summertime, Summertime, Sum, Sum, Summertime

Yes, it's February, but it won't be long before we will be saying, "I can't believe Summer is here!" To help families plan accordingly, please see the below summer schedule. More details will be available soon.

### Treasured Tuesdays (Completed 3K – 5K)

June 4	Riverbank Zoo, Columbia
June 11	On Campus
June 18	VBS
June 25	On Campus
July 2	WinShape Camps
July 9	Edventure, Columbia
July 16	On Campus
July 23	Neptune Island, Hartsville

### Wonderful Wednesdays (Completed 1st – 2nd)

June 5	Neptune Island, Hartsville
June 12	On Campus
June 19	VBS
June 26	On Campus
July 3	WinShape Camp
July 10	Aquarium, Myrtle Beach
July 17	On Campus
July 24	Pool Party

### Thundering Thursdays (Completed 3rd – 5th Grade)

June 6	Wonder Works Myrtle Beach
June 13	On Campus
June 20	VBS
June 27	On Campus
July 4	WinShape Camps
July 11	Frankie's Fun Park
July 18	On Campus
July 25	Pool Party





# VBS 2024: Journey to Hometown Nazareth

Be sure to mark your calendars! This summer Vacation Bible School will be held from Monday, June 17, through Thursday, June 20.

Join us for VBS as we embark on a journey to Hometown Nazareth, where Jesus spent his childhood! Through the perspective of his mother, Mary, we'll delve into stories from Jesus' early years to young adulthood. Get ready to experience, firsthand, the sights, sounds, textures, and flavors of what life might have been like in Jesus' Hometown. Stay tuned for more details!



## Children's Sunday

### Children's Sunday

May 12

9 and 11 a.m. Worship Services

On Sunday, May 12, (Mother's Day) our children will have an opportunity to lead worship from beginning to end. The children will greet, usher, sing, pray, and more. If your child is interested in being a part of the worship service on May 12, please contact Kaiti Bryant at 843-662-2583 by February 25.

In addition, beginning on Sunday, March 3, children in third – fifth grade

are invited to join Ms. Kaiti and Mrs. Kelly to begin planning and preparing for Children's Sunday.

We will meet immediately following the 11 a.m. worship service until 1:30 p.m. Lunch will be provided. Below are the tentative meeting dates: March 10, April 7, April 14, April 28, and May 5.

May 5 will be a rehearsal from 3 to 4 p.m. for all children who participate. Should you have any questions, please contact Kaiti Bryant at (843) 662-2583.



## Children in Worship Leader, 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
February 4	9 a.m.	Susan Snow	Amy Brown Lewis
	11 a.m.	Erin Patton	Eliza Spencer
February 11	9 a.m.	Susan Snow	Taiter Garret
	11 a.m.	Erin Patton	Becka Tuttle
February 18	9 a.m.	Susan Snow	Alexis Morris
	11 a.m.	Erin Patton	Sloan Evans
February 25	9 a.m.	Susan Snow	Hannah Lane
	11 a.m.	Erin Patton	Laura Marechal

# Small Groups starts with new semester

January was a blur! We kicked off the month with our annual Christmas tree bonfire. Thank you to everyone who joined us, brought food, or donated a tree. We followed that with a polar plunge at The Frost home. A big thank you to both families for allowing us to use their homes.

We enjoyed a game night, coffee, ice skating, participated in the family prayer night, and enjoyed watching the youth boys win a few basketball games.

Small groups started back and this semester we are reading *Praying Like Monks, Living Like Fools: An Invitation to the Wonder & Mystery of Prayer* by Tyler Staton. This is a five-session series, where the youth will deepen their knowledge of prayer and its power.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

**Coffee at F.E. Pops** (1, 8, 15 & 29) 7 a.m. – Until

**Sunday School** (4, 11, 18, 22 & 25) 10 – 10:50 a.m.  
Light breakfast served.

**Small Groups** (4 & 25) 5 – 7 p.m.

Dinner provided. All groups meet at the church, except Junior & Senior girls will meet at Amy Williams house (510 Pine St).

**Wednesday Night Youth Group** (7, 14, 21 & 28) 5:45 – 7:30 p.m.

Food, games, Bible study & fun! \$5 dinner provided by the church.

**Camping / Glamping Trips** (9-11)

The boys will go camping in Pisgah, N.C. Mandatory meeting on Wednesday, January 24, at 7:15 pm. They will leave at 7 a.m. Feb. 9. The girls will go glamping in Monroe, N.C. They will leave at 1:30 p.m. Feb. 9. Both trips are \$75.

**Super Bowl Party** (11) 6 – 10 p.m.

The big game, plus little games & prizes! Drinks provided. Everyone will bring an appetizer to share. Bring a friend! Meet at The Hylton's house (2706 Trotter Road).



## Save the Date!

**Spring Getaway (March 1-3) Leave at 2 p.m. for Dreher Island State Park in Chapin**

We will spend time in God's word through quiet times, small groups & worship. There will be team games, canoes, time around the campfire & more! Cost will be \$75. If there are multiple siblings or friends that join, each will get \$25 off their trip. Youth will need to bring money for one meal on the road.

*Please sign up & pay by Friday, February 2.*





rightnow MEDIA

# Free Access to +25,000 Bible Study Videos

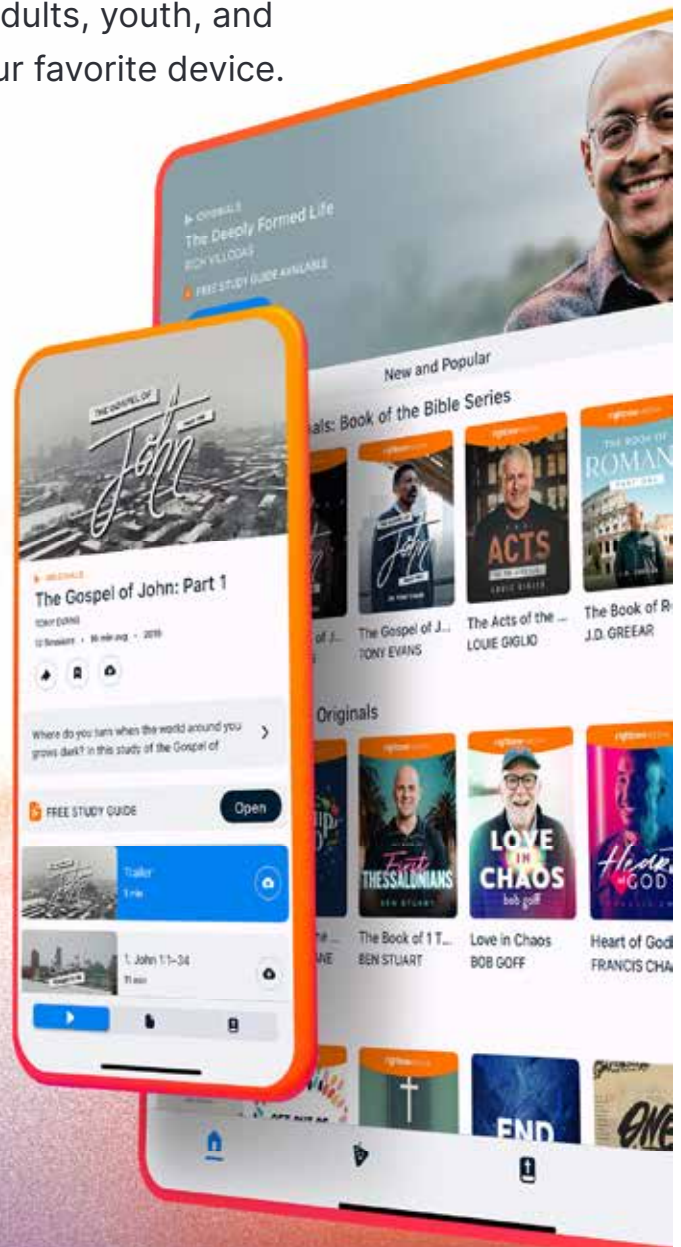
Every person in our church has free access to biblical video series for adults, youth, and kids— now streaming on your favorite device.

## Get Free Access

1. Visit <https://www.rightnowmedia.org/Account/Invite/FPCFlorence> or contact Kim Brauss in the church office: [kbrauss@florencefirst.org](mailto:kbrauss@florencefirst.org) or 843-662-2583 to get the link emailed to you.
2. Create your free account.
3. Download the app for your device and start browsing!
4. Or scan the QR code below.

### QR Code Access

Scan this QR code to sign up or click the link in the email to create your free account!



androidtv

firetv



Roku



700 PARK AVE., FLORENCE, SC 29501

PHONE: 843-662-2583

FAX: 843-662-1726

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

#### CHURCH STAFF

Assistant Pastor  
Director of Music/Organist  
Praise Team Leader  
Music Assistant  
Congregational Care Assistant  
Director of Youth Ministry  
Director of Children's Ministries  
Program Director of Children's Ministry  
CDC Assistant Director/Church Nursery Coordinator  
Church Administrator  
Financial Assistant  
Communications Assistant  
Ministry Assistant  
Lead Custodian  
Housekeeping  
Custodian

Dr. Bill Cain  
Mrs. Ann Rodgers Chandler  
Mr. Vic Rockhill  
Ms. Betsy Johnson  
Rev. Mike Fleenor  
Ms. Christina "Taiter" Garrett  
Mrs. Kelly Hickey  
Ms. Kaiti Bryant  
Mrs. Shurrie Marks  
Rev. Don Hebert  
Mrs. Gwen DuRant  
Ms. Kimberly Brauss  
Mrs. Emily Reed  
Mr. Leroy Williams  
Ms. Wanda LaSane  
Mr. Rayshon Woodard



## MEN'S BACKPACK/HIKE

APRIL 26-28 • LIMITED REGISTRATION

Mark your calendar to join Hunter Morgan on a hike  
along the Appalachian Trail at Mount Rogers, Va.

A great time for guys to get away, have fun,  
enjoy the beauty of God's creation, and  
grow together as "Men of God."

For more information,  
call Bill Cain,  
407-473-0912.