

# The REMINDER



JANUARY 2024



## A COVENANT ORDER OF EVANGELICAL PRESBYTERIANS

December 28, 2023

Dear Covenant Partners of First Presbyterian Church Florence,

The new year comes with new beginnings and new challenges, some easier than others. Your church has just worked through a complex and crucial change in Senior Pastor leadership, and we can only imagine what you must be feeling. Is this a good change? Is this a problematic change? What does this all mean? Even change that helps us move in a positive direction can be hard.

First, we assure you that this change came after a thoughtful and deliberate initiative by your Session. Second, they are tired, and they need your support and encouragement as they take the next steps in preparing for new leadership. Third, trust in the Lord. This is His church, and your faith is in Him.

We wanted to explain the recent process of formally dissolving the Senior Pastor relationship. In our denomination, ECO, a congregation meets to vote or 'call' a minister and extend a job offer. Once it is time to dissolve that call, a congregational meeting is not required when a mutually satisfactory parting is agreed upon between the Pastor and the Session. Thankfully, your Session and Dr. Evans were able to come to an agreement that was suitable after he offered his resignation.

When a pastor leaves, it is usually a delicate and difficult situation. We ask that covenant partners not place former pastors in an awkward position by requesting them as your 'friend' to perform the duties of a pastor (funerals, baptisms, weddings). We ask that you instead work with the Transitional Pastor and then the new Pastor. Doing so will allow them to develop relationships and to become established in the congregation. This also gives both the congregation and the departing pastor time to work through any grief which might exist in a pastoral transition. Additionally, the Presbytery asks that departing pastors not participate in the life and worship of the church they are leaving for at least one full year beyond the installation of the new pastor who assumes each departing pastor's role.

The next vital step for First Florence is to engage a Certified Transitional Pastor (CTP). Under ECO polity, the CTP is hired by the Session and has a contract for one year that is renewable or extendable until the church is prepared to call its next Senior Pastor. The Session has already established a search team for the CTP consisting of Jim Dameron, Jayne Boswell, and Ryon Watkins. What is a CTP and how is a CTP different from an Interim? An Interim Pastor keeps things running until a new pastor is found but a CTP collaborates with the officers, staff members, and congregation to assess the current and true health of the church. The CTP will ask questions, listen, and begin to strategize the plan of care for restoration and healing. The CTP will work with all of you to see what needs attention and possible adjustment, what can be addressed now versus later, what needs to be bandaged up, and what needs immediate surgery.

The three of us have all experienced pastoral change on multiple occasions. Some of it has been simple and expected, and some has been complicated and even traumatic. Churches within our Presbytery as well as churches outside our denomination have undergone all manner of pastoral change, so you are



not unique in this regard. Yet we have seen the value of using the Certified Transitional Pastor model for navigating such change in a healthy manner. Saxe Gotha Presbyterian Church in Lexington currently has a CTP, and a few other churches in our Presbytery have also had one during the past few years. As you prepare to have one of your own, we strongly encourage you to do the following: Please pray for each other, and especially for those church members who are upset and/or confused and may be looking for someone to blame. Please reach out to the people in the congregation, those you know and those you do not know, and ask them "How are you really doing?" and then listen to their story. If you may be considering leaving your First Florence church family, please pray again and ask the Lord to guide your steps and actions before doing anything as a gut reaction. Your church needs you now more than ever. When the Certified Transitional Pastor arrives and asks for help, please respond and get involved.

The Ministry Partnership Team (MPT) works with churches in all stages and situations, not only those in conflict. The entire Ministry Partnership Team is praying for First Florence and is committed to working and walking with the church family of First Florence not just in the immediate future, but in the years to come. We look forward to the day when we can rejoice with you as the Lord brings healing and joy, and as you once again experience long term stability after your next Senior Pastor is settled among you.

Blessings and best wishes for the New Year!

Grace and peace,

Rev. Helen Harrison Ham, Current Chair of Presbytery's Ministry Partnership Team (MPT)  
Elder Blake Taylor, Your Session Moderator and Former Moderator for the Presbytery of South Carolina  
Elder Bootsie Wynne, Current Moderator for the Presbytery of South Carolina



**The Chancel Handbell Choir held its Advent concert at the start of the Advent season. The First Presbyterian tradition is rich with melodies from around the globe.**

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



## SESSION UPDATE

As we're looking ahead, we want to keep you informed of the following:

- Bill Cain will be preaching most Sundays until mid-March
- Bill Cain and Mike Fleenor will be providing pastoral care
- Jayne Boswell, Jim Dameron and Ryon Watkins are serving on the transitional pastor search team.

## MOMENT FOR MISSION: Missions Team

1. David Spivey will be joining our Team as new elder. WELCOME David!
2. Sally Dameron will be joining our team as new deacon. WELCOME Sally!
3. Debbie Jackson will be rolling off our team, but is excited to still be involved with Fellowship of Elders. Thank you, Debbie, for your leadership and participation on our team!
4. Kimberly Packard's Mission Trip has been postponed and rescheduled for January 25 through February 8. Please keep this team in your prayers!
5. Welcome home, Gray! Ministry partner, Gray Scott, is home for a few weeks extending her VISA! She is enjoying her "Call" in Barcelona and looks forward to returning later in January 2024.



## Winter Session Series

**BECOMING A MAN OF GOD  
BECOMING A WOMAN OF GOD**

**Wednesday Series beginning January 17**

Join us for our Winter Wednesday Series, which will focus on men and women from the Bible from whom we can learn so many life lessons. Kathy Griffin will be leading our women to consider life lessons from such women as Eve, Mary Magdalene, Sarah, and Mary the Mother of Jesus. Bill Cain will be leading 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 that God is calling us to be.

# Build up your life in Jesus

*Continue to work out your own salvation ... for it is God who works in you. (Phil 2:12-13)*

Let me confess again: "I'm a workout snob." Like many of you, I observe that January attendance in the local gyms swells and I am thankful for these new year "resolutions" being put into practice. But I'm a skeptic and I do wonder, "Will it last?"

Let me propose to you a "workout" regime that I pray will become a part of your lifestyle. Engage your heart, your mind, and your hands into growing your relationship with Jesus Christ. Immediately some of you are pushing back. "Bill, I thought that I was saved by GRACE. If Jesus Christ saves me then I don't have to do anything." That's a fair statement. But it's false.

Yes, your relationship with Jesus Christ is a result of God's grace, not your works. However, your continuing maturing and growth as a Christ Follower is in partnership with the Lord through the presence of the Holy Spirit. As one writer said, **GRACE IS OPPOSED TO EARNING BUT GRACE IS NOT OPPOSED TO EFFORT.**

Let me suggest a few "EFFORTS" for you to put into practice. Worship regularly. Pray daily. Read God's Word daily and allow God's truth to shape your attitudes and actions. Serve others using the gifts God has bestowed upon you. Surround yourself with a few Christ Followers with whom you can share life. Those are all good practices to begin ... now!

I want to help you! Beginning on Wednesday, January 17 we are starting classes on Becoming a Man of God (I'll be leading it) and Becoming a Woman of God (led by Kathy Griffin). We will supplement those classes with small group opportunities. Please consider attending.

**MEN!!!** Mark your calendar right now. Hunter Morgan is planning a Men's Hike/Backpack at Mount Rogers (VA) on Friday, May 3, till Sunday, May 5. Registration is limited so contact me ASAP.

**MEN'S RETREAT** is scheduled for August 23-25 at Hickory Knob State Park. Randy Pope, the founding pastor of Perimeter Presbyterian Church in Atlanta, will be leading. Randy is a seminary friend of mine and an outstanding leader of men.

Women, stay tuned for some opportunities that will be for you.

As we move into a new year, let this be the time that you build into your life some healthy "workouts" that will build up your life in Jesus Christ.

Love in Christ Jesus,



P.S. Mike Fleenor and I will be handling Pastoral Care until the Transitional Pastor arrives. Please contact us when needs arise.

P.P.S. I will be in the office on Monday, Tuesday, and Friday mornings, as well as when needed. Don't hesitate to call me, 407-473-0912.

*Save the Dates*

## **MEN'S BACKPACK/HIKE • MAY 3-5**

Guys, mark your calendar for May 3-5 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."

Registration will be limited.

## **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, contact Bill Cain, 407-473-0912.

# Build up your life in Jesus

In the last few days, I've heard a number of folks say, "I'm glad Christmas is over!" I know that they are referring to the hustle and bustle of the season. But in reality, Christmas is not over. In fact, Christmas is not the ending, rather it is the beginning. It's the beginning of a journey for Jesus that will culminate with his crucifixion, death, and resurrection. The Christ child was a gift from God to us. The Child was and is the means by which God reconciles sinful mankind to himself. The psalmist writes:

*"Sing to the LORD a new song,  
for he has done marvelous things;  
his right hand and his holy arm  
have worked salvation for him.  
2 The LORD has made his salvation known  
and revealed his righteousness to the nations.  
3 He has remembered his love  
and his faithfulness to Israel;  
all the ends of the earth have seen  
the salvation of our God."* (Psalm 98:1-3)

So, you see Christmas is not over, the journey is just beginning. What will you do with the "gift" as we move into a new year? My prayer is that each of us will follow God's leadership and seek to be the people He has called us to be at home, school, work and in our community.

## Staff Transition

We welcome Kaiti Bryant as **Program Director for Children's Ministry**. She is a native of Bennettsville (Clio). As Program Director for Children's Ministry, Kaiti will work under the leadership and supervision of Kelly Hickey, *Director of Children's Ministries*, to develop, coordinate, and oversee a ministry for pre-school and elementary students and their families that will help them become fully devoted followers of Jesus Christ. Most recently, Kaiti served as Director of Youth Ministry at Unity Presbyterian Church, Fort Mill. Additionally, Kaiti was the Program and Administration Assistant for Kelly Hickey when she was Director of Programming at Camp Pee Dee in Bennettsville. We welcome Kaiti to the First Presbyterian Church staff team!

## 2024 Stewardship Campaign Update

To date, 143 covenant partners have pledged \$1,119,200.00 in support of our 2024 Ministry Action Plan. 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 online 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!

## 2023 Contribution Statements

All covenant partners and others who have made financial contributions to support the ministries of First Presbyterian Church during 2023 will receive a contribution statement summarizing your annual giving for 2023. The IRS requires that we provide this information *no later* than January 31. **2023 contribution statements will be mailed on or around January 15.** Thank you for your continued financial support of First Presbyterian Church.

## Thank you, Campbell Frost

Campbell Frost has been our sound technician since October 2020. During that time, he has worked behind the scenes setting up sound equipment for our weekly worship services and ensuring the quality of the audio for our online worship services. Campbell is in his senior year at Francis Marion University and is leaving to pursue other opportunities in his field of study. Thank you, Campbell, for a job well done.





# MID-WINTER



# gathering

You're invited, Ladies!

Come fellowship with the women  
of First Presbyterian Church

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Tuesday, January 30, 2024

5:30 p.m. Fellowship Time in the CLC

6 p.m. Soup and Sandwich Supper

6:30 p.m. Local Missions Spotlight

6:50 p.m. Titus Study Update

For childcare, RSVP to [kbryant@florencefirst.org](mailto:kbryant@florencefirst.org) by Jan. 23.

The aim of Women in Ministry is to strengthen our relationships with God and with each other. Through prayer, Bible study, and fellowship, let us be nurtured and empowered to be His light to our families, our church, and to this world.

*Remind the people to be subject to rulers and authorities, to be obedient, to be ready to do whatever is good, to slander no one, to be peaceable and considerate, and always to be gentle toward everyone.*

*Titus 3:1-2*

## Women in Ministry

|                      |            |           |                    |
|----------------------|------------|-----------|--------------------|
| Bread and Fish       | January 13 | 9 a.m.    | Room 100           |
| Joyful Hearts        | January 9  | 10 a.m.   | Room 100           |
| Prayer Warriors      | January 9  | 6 p.m.    | Lawson-Rain Chapel |
| Serenity             | January 9  | 3 p.m.    | Lawson-Rain Chapel |
| SonFlowers           | January 9  | 10 a.m.   | Lawson-Rain Chapel |
| Soul Sisters         | January 9  | noon      | Price Classroom    |
| Sunday Salty Sisters | January 14 | 3 p.m.    | Off campus         |
| Women of Grace       | January 8  | 6:30 p.m. | 3002 Japonica Lane |

# Christmas Celebration



Dear Church Family,

It is with a grateful heart I write to you from the Child Development Center office. I am so honored and thankful for this opportunity. We have an amazing staff, wonderful parents, and the most precious children. I know God has great plans for us. As we embark on this new journey together, I would greatly appreciate you praying for all of us. My deepest desire is for each of us, our church family and the CDC family to love God with our whole hearts as He guides us into the future.

Much love,  
Kelly







# Church News

## Boy Scout events for January

As we step into the new year, mark your calendars for the following January events:

- **January 8: Troop Meeting**
- **January 20-21: Snow Skiing Trip at Sugar Mountain (North Carolina)**  
Prepare for an exhilarating weekend of snow skiing at Sugar Mountain. Details regarding the trip will be discussed in the troop meeting.
- **January 22: Troop Meeting**
- **January 29: Court of Honor Ceremony**  
Join us in celebrating the achievements of our Scouts at the Court of Honor Ceremony. This event is a testament to their hard work and dedication.

## Embracing God's Word

The non-denominational Bible study begins its new session Sunday. Join us on Sunday, January 7, at 5:30 p.m. to begin our study of the books of 1 & 2 Thessalonians. The apostle Paul wrote two letters to the Thessalonians to settle their hearts and minds, and to guide them in confusing times. In this six-lesson study you will learn how to walk in a manner worthy of Christ that will give you confidence when He returns.

Embracing God's Word is a non-denominational, community-wide Bible study held at First Presbyterian Church. Register online at <https://embracinggodsword.com/>. The cost of \$10 is payable online during the registration process or in person on January 7.

## Thank you to deacons, elders

A special thank you to our elders and deacons who have faithfully served us. Rotating off are Elders Tabatha Davis, Allen Griffin, Jack Hofler, Mike Nunn, and Deacons Michele Lewis, Ellen Pearson, Emily Whitehead, Luke Scott, and David Spivey.

The new slate of officers can be read on page 14.

## A Special Prayer Walk

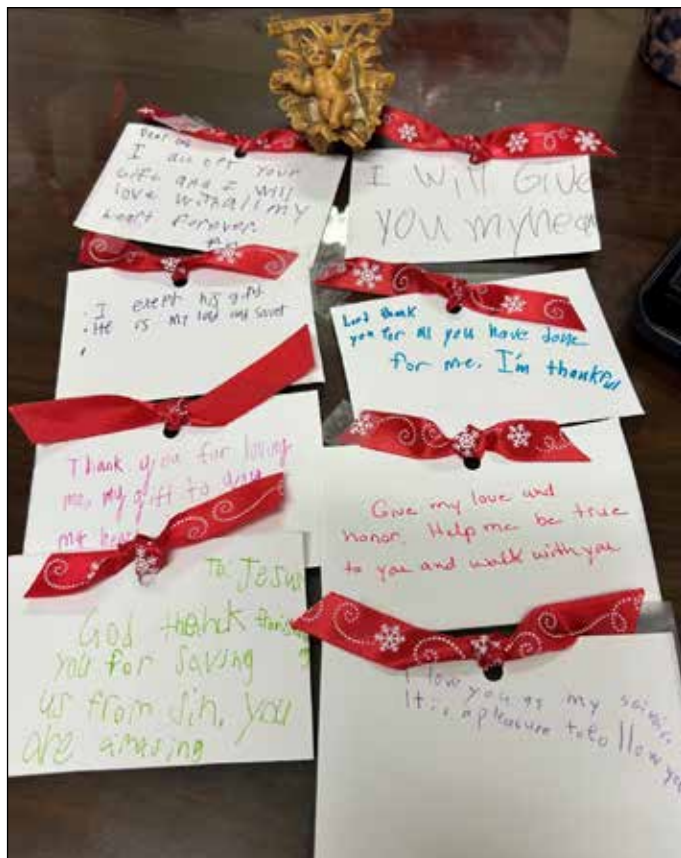
Join us for dinner at 5:30 p.m. Wednesday, January 10, and a night of prayer for the whole family. Dinner will be baked chicken, baked rice, mixed vegetables, and dessert. After dinner, we will split into small groups for a prayer walk around campus.




## Drop-in to be held for Darryl Evans

Dr. Darryl Evans's last message at First Presbyterian Church Florence was on Christmas Eve, December 24, 2023, and his service to us concluded on January 1, 2024. We will be showing our appreciation with a Drop-In on Saturday afternoon, January 27, 2024, at the Florence Country Club, 3:30 p.m. – 5:30 p.m. Mark your calendar and plan to attend this farewell event.

## Gifts for Jesus

One of our children's Sunday School classes had a birthday party for Jesus on December 24. Before the party started the teachers asked: "What gift are you going to give Jesus?" Below are their gifts. To God be all the Glory!!



| SUNDAY   | MONDAY   | TUESDAY  | WEDNESDAY  |
|--|--|--|--|
| <b>31</b><br>One service, 10 a.m.<br>   | <b>1</b><br>  | <b>2</b><br>Keenagers, noon JFH  | <b>3</b><br>Bible Moderators, 4 p.m.<br>WiM Coordinating Team<br>Youth: Passion Conf.<br>(18-25 years)<br>Children's Ministry, 5 p.m.  |
| <b>7</b><br>Confirmands & Mentors<br>Breakfast, 9 a.m.<br>One service, 10 a.m.<br>New officers ordination<br>Churchwide Xmas Tree<br>Bonfire, 5 p.m. TBD<br>EGW, 5:30 p.m. | <b>8</b><br>Worship Unit, 12:30 p.m.<br>Girl Scouts Brownie<br>Meeting, 4:30 p.m.<br><br>WiM Women of Grace,<br>6:30 p.m.<br>Boy Scouts, 6:30 p.m. | <b>9</b><br>WiM Sonflowers, 10 a.m.<br>Joyful Hearts, 10 a.m.<br>JFW Bible Study, noon<br>Soul Sisters, noon<br>Serenity, 1 p.m.             | <b>10</b><br>Veterans Brunch, 8 a.m.<br>Outreach Unit, 12:15 p.m.<br>Wednesday Dinner, 5:30<br>Campus Prayer Walk<br>Youth: <a href="#">RSVPs due for iceskating and camping</a> |
| <b>14</b><br>WiM Salty Sisters,<br>3:30 p.m. off campus<br>Youth: Small Groups,<br>5 p.m.  | <b>15</b><br>MLK Jr. Day<br>(Office closed)<br>                 | <b>16</b><br>JFW Bible Study, noon<br>Enabling Unit, 5:30 p.m.<br>Fellowship Unit, 5:30<br>Discipleship Meeting,<br>4:30 p.m. WOC            | <b>17</b><br>Personnel Unit, 8:15 a.m.<br>Wednesday Night Dinner<br>and programs resume<br>Dinner: Spaghetti bake,<br>salad rolls, dessert                                       |
| <b>21</b><br>Youth: Parent Meeting,<br>4 p.m.<br>Youth: Movie & Game<br>Night, 5 p.m.  | <b>22</b><br>Boy Scouts, 6:30 p.m.<br>Girl Scouts, 7 p.m.  | <b>23</b><br>JFW Bible Study, noon<br>CDC Advisory, 5 p.m.<br>Session and Diaconate,<br>6:30 p.m.  | <b>24</b><br>Wednesday Night Dinner<br>and programs<br><br>Dinner: Beef enchilada<br>casserole, Spanish rice,<br>sour cream, salsa,<br>lettuce salad, dessert                    |
| <b>28</b><br>Youth: Small Groups,<br>5 p.m.  | <b>29</b><br>Girl Scouts Brownie<br>Meeting, 4:30 p.m.<br>Boy Scouts Court of<br>Honor Ceremony<br><br>ECO National Gathering<br>in Greenville     | <b>30</b><br>JFW Bible Study, noon<br>Women in Ministry<br>Mid-Winter Gathering,<br>5:30 p.m.<br><br>ECO National Gathering<br>in Greenville | <b>31</b><br>Wednesday Night Dinner<br>and programs<br><br>Dinner: Chili night<br><br>ECO National Gathering<br>in Greenville  |

| THURSDAY   | FRIDAY   | SATURDAY   |
|--|--|--|
| <b>4</b><br>Youth: Passion Conf.<br>Girl Scouts Leaders Mtg  | <b>5</b><br>Youth: Passion Conf.<br>RSVP Churchwide Xmas<br>Tree bonfire (Jan. 7)                | <b>6</b><br>Boy Scout Annual<br>Banquet, 5:30 p.m.<br>                   |
| <b>11</b><br>Youth: Coffee @ F.E. Pop's<br>Evangelism Team, 11:30<br> | <b>12</b>  | <b>13</b><br>Parking Lot Mission<br>WiM Bread & Fish,<br>Room 100  |
| <b>18</b><br>Youth: Coffee @ F.E. Pop's  | <b>19</b>  | <b>20</b><br>Boy Scouts ski trip<br>                                   |
| <b>25</b><br>Youth: Coffee @ F.E. Pop's<br>                         | <b>26</b><br> | <b>27</b><br>Youth: Ice Skating at the<br>White-Water Rafting<br>Center, 1-10 p.m.<br>Drop in for Darryl Evans,<br>3:30-5:30 p.m. Florence<br>Country Club |
|   |  |  |

# JANUARY

## 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. LR
- Selah Yoga, 5:30 p.m.
- Boy Scouts, 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
- Dinner, 5:30 p.m.
- Youth Group, 5:30 p.m.
- Children's classes, 6 p.m.
- Winter Series, 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

### SATURDAYS

- Praise Team Rehearsal, 10 a.m.

### WEDNESDAY DINNER MENU

- Jan. 10: Baked chicken, baked rice, mixed vegetables, dessert
- Jan. 17: Spaghetti bake, salad rolls, dessert
- Jan. 24: Beef enchilada casserole, Spanish rice, sour cream, salsa, lettuce salad, dessert
- Jan. 31: Chili night



## Sympathy

Friends, family of Rosalyn Davis  
Jamie Hickey, loss of his mother, Sandy  
Ginger Owen, loss of her brother, Norman Burch  
Ellen Pearson, loss of her husband, Jay  
Robin Stoupenos, loss of her father, Max Barker  
Mary Caroline and Wallace Vaught, loss of their son Brad  
Brian Wallace, loss of his father, Bobby

## Extended Care

### Lowman Home

Mac King

### The Manor

Joyce Floyd  
Julie Hughes  
Marie Jordan  
Maria Whitehead

### Presbyterian Community

Clariann Kellam

## Memorials

Edith Hicks  
Ann Cash  
Jay Pearson

## Honorariums

Ann Rodgers Chandler  
Christa Godwin  
Betsy Johnson  
Stuart Snow  
Phyllis Williams

## Birth

Sarah-Beth Estela Hubbs,  
born December 4 to Daniel and Lucinda Hubbs

## Households

FLOCK 1: Shawn, Ashleigh and Caden Bulliner  
FLOCK 2: Greg, Tomi Jean, Grace and Jack Cleveland  
FLOCK 3: Peggy Taylor  
FLOCK 4: Danny and Susie Jackson  
FLOCK 5: Hunter, Laura, Hunter Grace and Addie Bulloch  
FLOCK 6: Brian and Christy Wallace  
FLOCK 7: Keith Jones  
FLOCK 8: Debbie Elliott

## Sick & Recovering

Aubrey Crawford  
Kathryn Hopkins  
Linda Lawson  
Barbara Montgomery  
Todd Moseley

## Elders

Jayne Boswell  
David Spivey

## Deacons

Joe Carter  
Sally Dameron

## Missions

Helping Florence Flourish  
Gray Scott,  
The Antioch Partners

## Women in Ministry

Ashley Bratton  
Caroline Genoble

## Teachers

Emily Lake  
Erin Patton

## Staff

Kaiti Bryant  
Kelly Hickey



Lord, Hear  
Our Prayer

## Flowers in the Sanctuary

January 7: Communion  
January 14: Mary Jane & Evans Holland  
January 21: Mary Allyson Emerson  
January 28: Maymie Lou 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 or 843-992-8904). Please leave your name, number, and date you wish to reserve.

# January BIRTHDAYS

**JANUARY 2**

Bill Duncan  
Jude Emert  
Meg Lewis  
Mike Morgan

**JANUARY 3**

Joyce Fincannon  
Tom Lewis  
Allison McElveen

**JANUARY 4**

Joe Carter  
Ravyn Miles  
Rayshon Woodard

**JANUARY 5**

Wallace Lane  
Grady Moore  
Mike Watts

**JANUARY 6**

Beah Carter  
Grace Singletary  
Samuel Jennings Stokes

**JANUARY 7**

Bryce Christian  
Shep Jackson

**JANUARY 8**

Bryan Spearman

**JANUARY 9**

Russell James  
Lylli Player  
Rhett Spencer III  
Turner Swink

**JANUARY 11**

Joe Eason

**JANUARY 12**

Brown Johnson  
Katon Sanderson  
Murray Sanderson  
Hanna Shin  
Ginger Sullivan  
Donnie Wheeler

**JANUARY 13**

David Crockett  
Vic Rockhill

**JANUARY 14**

Sadie Nunn

**JANUARY 15**

Stephanie Rawlinson

**JANUARY 16**

Joe McLean

**JANUARY 17**

Butch Carroll  
Hannah Lane  
Jayce Newton  
Rachel Odom

**JANUARY 18**

Josh Osterhout  
Charlotte Pennstrom  
Whitney Suggs  
Zack Turner

**JANUARY 19**

Scott Collins  
Gracelyn Elmendorf  
Will Evans  
Dorothy Harris

**JANUARY 20**

Emily Carter  
Susie Miles  
Lucy Moore

**JANUARY 21**

Becky Fincher

**JANUARY 23**

Neal Fulmore  
Kathy Hayes  
Mills Nunn  
Munford Scott  
Ed Turner

**JANUARY 24**

Tommy Walker  
Richie Wilhoit

**JANUARY 25**

Brad Campbell  
Judy Fuller  
Jess Nance

**JANUARY 26**

Jake Lewis  
Karen McBride

**JANUARY 27**

Claire Goodstein  
Linda Lawson  
Joe McLean  
Anna Packard

**JANUARY 28**

Christa Godwin

**JANUARY 29**

Weaver Whitehead

**JANUARY 30**

Sims Bratton  
Letty Hall  
Susanna Lake  
Lori Stokes

**JANUARY 31**

Houlton Losah  
Eliza Spencer  
Alva Whitehead



# 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. Donnie Wheeler is the Moderator. Daniel Jordan is the Vice Moderator.  
Every Flock also has an Elder assigned to it.

## 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

### Elder

Laura Marechal: marechalel@hotmail.com





# Children's Ministry Corner



Dear Church Family,

As the new year arrives, I must say I am thankful for new beginnings. I am thankful for the new opportunity to serve as the Director of Children's Ministries. I am thankful for completing my first week working with the CDC Staff. They are truly amazing! I am also thankful Kaiti Bryant, FPC's new Program Director of Children's Ministry will be arriving January 2. We have lots of new beginnings, and I am so thankful to be a part of it. I love my church family!

Much love,

*Kelly*

Hi everyone! I am excited to announce that I have taken on the role of Program Director of Children's Ministry at First Presbyterian. Collaborating with Kelly Hickey, my main focus



involves developing, coordinating, and overseeing the ministry for preschool and elementary students, creating an environment that nurtures both the children and their families.

My journey has been profoundly influenced by my love for Jesus and a genuine passion for working with children. This dedication was ignited during my collaboration with Kelly at Camp Pee

Dee, an experience that has paved the way for our current and exciting partnership.

Before joining First Presbyterian, I had the privilege of serving as the Youth Director at Unity Presbyterian Church in Fort Mill for three fulfilling years. Now, in my capacity as Program Director of Children's Ministry, I am excited to channel my energy into working with younger children.

Outside of church, I find joy in returning to my hometown, Clio, where a significant portion of my family resides. Additionally, I cherish moments spent diving into a good book, savoring a cup of coffee, or strumming tunes on my ukulele. I am very excited about this new chapter and the prospect of leading our Children's Ministry with unwavering passion. I look forward to fostering an environment where young hearts can flourish on the path of following Jesus.

Grace and peace,

*Kaiti*

## Living Nativity

A HUGE thank you to everyone who helped with this year's Living Nativity. It takes MANY hands to accomplish this amazing First Presbyterian tradition. To God be the glory!

## Mark Your Calendars

Confirmation Breakfast will be held at 9 a.m. Sunday, January 7.

Confirmants, Parents, Siblings, and Mentors will gather for Session 1: Getting Acquainted. Should you have any questions, please contact Kelly Hickey at [khickey@florencefirst.org](mailto:khickey@florencefirst.org).

## Attention Parents!

### 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. Please note 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](mailto:kbryant@florencefirst.org).

## Mark Your Calendars!

### Easter Egg Hunt

Sunday, March 24

More information is coming soon.

### VBS Summer 2024

Monday, June 17 – Thursday, June 20

Be sure to mark your calendars!

# Confirmation 2024 is Underway!

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

## Confirmands

John Joseph Alexander  
Sims Bratton  
Bruce Burch  
Dohnia Elizabeth Galloway  
Lane Dowdell  
Meredith Dozier  
Kate Genoble  
Richard Genoble  
Lizzie Hanna  
Carson Jeffords  
Ben Lewis  
Collins McBride  
Reese McLaurin  
Anna Packard  
Katie Rockhill  
Harper Suggs  
McCall Swink  
John Wyatt Temple  
James Whitehead

## Mentor

Rob Hall  
Paul Davis  
Jim Dameron  
Kathryn Scott  
Tabatha Davis  
Laura Marechal  
Amy Williams  
Billy McBride  
Caroline Genoble  
Karen McBride  
Richie Wilhoit  
Ellen Wilhoit  
Ashley Bratton  
Jan Green  
Laura Ann Hofler  
Charissa Canfield  
Robert Moore  
Stuart Snow  
Robert Moore



## Summertime, Summertime, Sum, Sum, Summertime

Yes, it's January, 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 Camp              |
| 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 Camp             |
| July 11 | Frankie's Fun Park        |
| July 18 | On Campus                 |
| July 25 | Pool Party                |



# Wednesday Night dinner, programs to resume

Wednesday Night dinner and programs will resume January 10.

We are looking forward with great excitement to our Wednesday nights for all ages. January 10 will be a night of prayer for the whole family. On Wednesday, January 17 our children's program for 3K-5th grade will start back. Please note a nursery is available for 2K and under. Questions, please call Kaiti Bryant, 843-662-2583.

The program schedule:

## **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

6:25 – 7:15 p.m. Class

## Mark Your Calendar!

### **Children's Sunday May 10 10 a.m. Worship Service**

On Sunday, May 10, (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 10, please contact Kaiti Bryant at 843-662-2583 by February 25.

In addition, beginning on Sunday, March 3, children in

3rd – 5th 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 April 5.

April 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) 6625-2583.

## 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.

| <b>Date</b> | <b>Time</b>       | <b>Teacher</b>                          | <b>Assistant/Helper</b>                |
|-------------|-------------------|---|--|
| January 7   | 10 a.m.           | Kelly Hickey                            | Kaiti Bryant                           |
| January 14  | 9 a.m.<br>11 a.m. | Tiffany & Jeremy Straus<br>Kelly Hickey | Bonnie Stuber<br>Ashley Hylton         |
| January 21  | 9 a.m.<br>11 a.m. | Tiffany & Jeremy Straus<br>Kelly Hickey | Patricia Fast<br>Marla Hanna Slaughter |
| January 28  | 9 a.m.<br>11 a.m. | Tiffany & Jeremy Straus<br>Kelly Hickey | Christie Henderson<br>Margaret Jones   |



# Holiday fun prepares Youth for new semester

December was busy! We had our annual progressive dinner white elephant Christmas party, jumped at Defy, worked on items to sell at our Holiday Markets, finished up small groups, helped serve at the Living Nativity, made ornaments, swapped cookies, and helped pack lunches at Help4Kids.

We are gearing up for a great semester filled with old favorites and new adventures. The Lord blessed us with a full and fun year, and we are excited to see what He does next.

Thank you so much to everyone who purchased or donated to the youth summer trips during our Holiday Markets. We are so thankful for a church body who loves us well.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

**Coffee at F.E. Pops** (4, 11, 18 & 25) 7 a.m. – Until

**Sunday School** (7, 14, 21 & 28) 10 – 10:50 a.m.  
Light breakfast served.

**Church-wide Christmas Tree Bonfire** (7) 5 – 7 p.m.  
Location will be at the Whiteheads (Fore Road). You can drop off your trees at the church (behind the offices, beside the shed) or bring them day of. Potluck dinner. Please bring a dish to share! Please RSVP by Friday, January 5.

**Wednesday Night Youth Group** (10, 17, 24 & 31) 5:30 – 7:30 p.m.  
Food, games, Bible study & fun! \$5 dinner provided by the church.

**Parent Meeting** (21) 4 p.m.

Join us as we go over the remaining school year calendar, any Summer updates, or changes, and allow an opportunity for questions, concerns & conversation.

**Movie & Game Night** (21) 5 – 7 p.m.  
Dinner provided.

**Ice Skating at the White-Water Rafting Center** (27)  
1 – 10 p.m.  
Every Fall, the Upper Pond of the whitewater system



converts into a one-of-a-kind ice-skating experience open to all ages and experience levels. Cost is \$25. Youth will need to bring money for hot chocolate and one meal on the road. Please sign up and pay by Wednesday, January 10.

**Small Groups** (28) 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.).









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

MAY 3-5 • 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.