

# The REMINDER



APRIL 2024



**ON THE COVER:** Children search for eggs during the annual Easter Egg Hunt held at the Whitehead's farm.

## IN THIS ISSUE

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

*Submit news briefs, pictures, or announcements by April 21 to Kim Brauss at [kbrauss@florencefirst.org](mailto:kbrauss@florencefirst.org). To be added to the mailing list, call the church office at 843-662-2583.*



# Moment for Missions

*Upcoming events supporting local missions:*

- **Child Evangelism Fellowship (Good News Club)** – Clay Shoot on May 11 at Moree's Game Preserve in Society Hill.
- **Child Development Center:** Art Show at 6 p.m. April 11, starts in the Jenkins Fellowship Hall
- **Naomi Project:** "In the Meantime, it's a MEAN time," April 20 at First Presbyterian Church in the CLC. Doors open at 1 p.m. Food served at 1:30 p.m. and play starts at 3 p.m. Tickets can be purchased at both Lula's locations or online, [www.naomiproject.com/event-details-registration/in-the-meantime-is-a-mean-time](http://www.naomiproject.com/event-details-registration/in-the-meantime-is-a-mean-time)



## A Message from Actionnel Fleurisma

Greetings, Friends and Partners in God's ministry!

Many of you have seen the news and have shared your concern for Haiti. I wanted to give you an update. There are two things I can truly tell you all about:

1 - "Let's not allow anything to prevent us from praising our Lord" was the topic of our sermon Sunday, March 3. Psalm 34. Church looks stronger and worshippers seem to be more regularly attending services.

2 - In spite of the fact that all schools in Gonaïves, Saint-Marc, Port Au Prince, and other parts of the country have been closed since December, the schools at OFCB have been gathering every day from Monday through Saturday. The elementary schools at each campus have not missed a day. There was one week in February where the 7th, 8th, 10th, and 11th graders missed because we were not able to get teachers to the main campus to teach their classes.

In times where there is a shortage of everything, the folks in Bayonnais have stood together supporting one another more deeply. We are also thankful for your love and support. The international airports in the country have been shut down since March 7. We hope to see them open again soon so that Yolande and I can travel to the U.S. as planned to visit with you and your churches.

I have been very reserved or quiet regarding what the country of Haiti has been dealing with. We have chosen to stay silent and reserved because we have been confused. We have been trying to understand how brothers and sisters could use destruction as a means to solve political issues. We are all in the same boat, living in the same country. We still do not understand and probably, we will not ever. ...

What is the hope for Haiti?

1- Evangelism. 2- Education. 3- Job creation. 4- A stable government with strong leadership.

Please continue to pray for Haiti and for Bayonnais.  
Actionnel Fleurisma

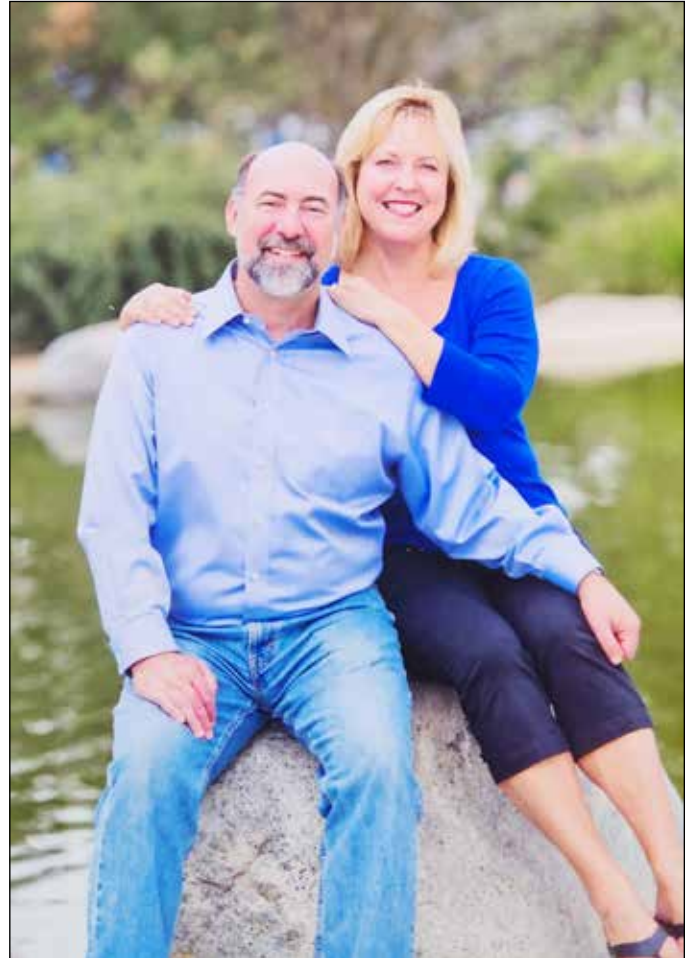
# Bond to minister as transitional pastor

The Reverend Dr. Stuart Bond comes to us from ministries along the West Coast, the Northeast and, recently, North Carolina. He has two master's degrees (Divinity and Counseling) and a Doctorate in Ministry. He and Cindy raised a blended family of four kids: Tyler, Brynn, Geoff, and Andrew. They are also the proud grandparents of three boys: Liam, Luke, and Clay. Cindy and Stuart live with their one, furry child — Max, a labradoodle.

This will be his fourth calling as a Transitional Pastor. "I love the role of being a Transitional Pastor," Stuart says. "It is that place where a church is on the brink of a new chapter in its story. It is also a place to explore how we can do a little work to get ourselves ready to receive a new pastor. We see where we can strengthen our ministry to insure the success of his or her call to First Presbyterian in Florence."

Pastor Stuart will be with us part of the week and, of course, on Sundays. "Cindy and I have retired to Shalotte. But my last call was to a church outside of Fayetteville, North Carolina. It was actually farther away than this. I enjoyed my part-time work there, and the Lord was able to use it for His glory and the church's strengthening."

Take a moment to welcome Pastor Stuart when you can. He is also available by email ([dr.stuartbond@gmail.com](mailto:dr.stuartbond@gmail.com)), phone and text (518-321-8055).




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## From the Transitional Pastor Search Team

What is a Transitional Pastor Search Team? Why was it formed? How was it formed?

In early January 2024 in compliance with ECO policy, the Session formed a Transitional Pastor Search Team to find a Certified Transitional Pastor or, CTP. The search team consists of three Ruling Elders: Jayne Boswell, Jim Dameron, and Ryon Watkins. This team was charged with the responsibility of finding a Certified Transitional Pastor to serve as Senior Pastor/Head of Staff while we search for a permanent Senior Pastor/Head of Staff. Through the Office of Ecclesiastical Support, our denomination provides a service to all ECO churches, which includes an in-depth training program for retired pastors who are interested in becoming certified in transitional ministry. Believing this is a

specialized area of church ministry, ECO designed a certification program to assist churches in various circumstances of transition usually involving the replacement of a Sr Pastor/Head of Staff.

In January, using ECO's resources, we began to review potential CTP candidates. After a lengthy process of reviews, virtual and in person interviews and a lot of prayer, we are pleased to present Dr. Stuart Bond as our Interim Certified Transitional Pastor. In addition to being a gifted preacher and teacher, Dr. Bond is experienced in all areas of transitional ministry. You can see more about him in the article above. His first Sunday leading worship will be Sunday, April 7. Please join us in welcoming and agreeing to pray for Dr. Bond as he serves us during this time of transition.

# Using God's gifts

So, now it's time for me to practice what I've preached!

WORSHIP

+

2

After Easter, I will be stepping away from Pastoral responsibilities and into the life of being a Covenant Partner at First Presbyterian. Just like you, I'm planning on regularly WORSHIPPING. I'm also going to use God's gifts to teach a Sunday School class, mentor some young men, and continue to speak into the lives of men (SERVING). Finally, I'm relationally connected to 2 small groups, a SS class, and many of you who regularly pray for me and encourage me as a Husband, a Father, a Grandfather, and a Child of God (FELLOWSHIP).

Would you join with me in committing yourself as a Christ Follower to worship, fellowship, and learning? WORSHIP + 2 is a powerful pattern to shape your own life and impact the lives of others.

I'm excited for our new Transitional Pastor. I know how hard it is to come to a new place, try to establish friends, and begin to guide a congregation. This individual will have my prayers and support. Jill and I are here because of the way you embraced me in 2017-18 when I was the Interim (Transitional) Pastor. Now, continue to be who you are and support this person.

I will be your friend. I will be your Brother in Christ. I will always encourage you in your walk with Jesus. But someone else will be your pastor. Let's honor those boundaries.

Words cannot fathom the depth of my love and gratitude for you. Jill and I are so grateful for you being a part of our life and allowing us to be a part of this Family of Faith at First Presbyterian.

Love in Christ Jesus,

*“As iron sharpens iron, so one person sharpens another.”  
Proverbs 27:17*

## 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, contact Bill Cain, 407-473-0912. To sign up, visit Realm, our website, [florence-first.org](http://florence-first.org), or use the QR code.



# Transition is a part of life

One of the things I enjoyed about living in Louisville, Kentucky, when I was attending seminary was that the four seasons were clearly defined (Winter, Spring, Summer, and Fall). Each season lasted a number of weeks and there was usually a gradual transition from one to the other. It's unlike seasons in South Carolina, where we can have all four in one day: Winter at 6 a.m., Spring at 10 a.m., Summer at 2 p.m. and Fall around 4:30 p.m.! Just as the seasons transition, we all experience transition in our lives, sometimes those transitions are gradual and sometimes they are sudden.

In thinking about transition, I was recently reminded of a quote by Chuck Swindoll: "Life is 10% what happens to you and 90% how you react to it." Swindoll is an author and an educator. He emphasizes the importance of our attitudes in life, and how each morning when we wake up, we have a choice as to which attitude we will choose to embody that day. For Swindoll, attitudes are "more important than facts," "more important than the past, than education, than money, than circumstances, than failures, than successes." They are more important than what people think, say, or do, "than appearance, giftedness, or skill." According to Swindoll, attitude can "make or break a company ... a church ... a home." These words are a reminder to us as our church continues through this time of transition.

As important as Swindoll's words may be, God's promise found in Jeremiah 29:11 is of far greater importance.

**"For I know the plans I have for you,"  
declares the LORD, "plans to prosper you and not  
to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future."  
(Jeremiah 29:11)**

As we look to the future each of us, individually and corporately as First Presbyterian Church, needs to hear and claim the promises of God.

## 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).

## Don't Be a Victim

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

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



# All Our Hope

My mother had one sister named Hope, and she was a favorite aunt. She was good to me and was like a second mother. One of my favorite memories was going on picnics with my mother, Aunt Hope and my cousin. Every time I read the word hope in the Bible I think of her.

My favorite contemporary hymn is *All My Hope Is In Jesus* by Crowder. The chorus of the song expresses how I feel about Jesus being my Savior and Lord.

All my hope is in Jesus  
Thank God my yesteryear's gone,  
All my sins are forgiven,  
I've been washed by the blood.

The words for hope occur over 1,100 times in the Old and New Testaments. The main thought of Lent is our hope is in the resurrection of Jesus. That is a promise for each person who listens to and believes in the saving power of Jesus. My hope is for eternal life as a result of my resurrection. The concept of hope is basic to living as a follower of Jesus. Psalm 42 and 43 are one poem in the Hebrew Scriptures. It creates an atmosphere of hope. The theme of the Psalm is the thirsting and seeking for God. In the midst of distress and the feeling of God being absent, the writer repeats this thought three times:

Why are you cast down, O my soul, and why are you disquieted within me? Hope in God, for I shall again praise him, my help and my God (Psalm 42:5, 42:11, and Psalm 43:5).

Hope is the emotion that replaces despair and fear. Hope is closely aligned to Faith. Faith overcomes doubt and assures us that God loves and shows mercy to all humanity. The Creator God is our Father, our Abba which is best translated as Daddy.

In his letters, Paul gives Christians hope in the resurrection of Jesus. In Romans 8:24, Paul defines hope as the patience to wait for what we cannot see. I believe

he is speaking about our hope in the resurrection of Jesus. In his letter to the Corinthians, Paul seeks to answer their question about what happens at death. Their friends and loved ones are dying and Jesus has not returned. The 15th chapter of I Corinthians is Paul's explanation of the Christian's hope in believing because Jesus is resurrected that all the faithful will be resurrected.

If for this life only we have hoped in Christ, we are of all people to be pitied. But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who have died (I Corinthians 15:19-20).

Late in the writings of the New Testament, the letter to Timothy has the words of Paul describing Christ Jesus as "our hope."

Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the command of God our Savior and of Christ Jesus our hope (I Timothy 1:1).

The total ministry and eternal promise of Jesus is our hope for eternal life. A follower of Jesus must spend their entire earthly life seeking and thirsting for God through Jesus. It is the New Testament's witness to Jesus as the Christ or Messiah which gives the clearest view of the nature of God.

The image of a deer longing for flowing streams is a beautiful symbol of the way a person seeks to be filled with God. We not only seek to know God but we are to seek to allow God to be in us. The LORD God desires to fill us with the Holy Spirit. What a wonderful truth of life! When we long for or when we seek God: God comes to us in Jesus and fills us with the Holy Spirit. All our hope is in Jesus because our hope is fulfilled as the Holy Spirit in us witnesses to Jesus as the Messiah.

*Mike*

WOMEN IN MINISTRY'S  
**SPRING**  
*Celebration*  
**DINNER**

This time-honored tradition celebrates our faith, friendships, and ministry, including our Life Service Award Recipient. Our guest speaker will be Cookie Cawthon, founder of Tenacious Grace.

Nursery will be provided with RSVP to the church office, 843-662-2583, by Monday, April 22.

TUESDAY      30      AT 6 PM  
 APRIL  
 2024

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



843-662-2583



700 Park Avenue, Florence



## Friendship Circle

*Editor's Note: Monthly we will feature a member of the Friendship Circle, a Women in Ministry group of covenant partners who are homebound.*

For those of you that don't know Martha Tyson, she has been an active member of First Presbyterian since 1948. She is from Kenley, N.C. Her son Duncan Tyson and daughter-in-law Genia are also members. She was a member of Circle 3, but now the Soul Sisters claim her. She watches the services online. Since she sees you each Sunday through our live worship broadcasts, we thought you should see her.



## WiM Happenings

### UPCOMING EVENTS

Week of April 14: Circle of Friends Meetings (see below)

For April, we will be focusing on Lesson 7 - Chapter 3:1-11 (pages 65-73). Answers will be discussed during our circle meetings.

Please let Amy Williams (asfwilliams@gmail.com) or Emily Whitehead (emily.s.whitehead@gmail.com) know if you would like to get plugged into a circle. We'd love to have you!

PLEASE SAVE THE DATE: TUESDAY, APRIL 30, ~ Spring Celebration at 6 p.m. in the CLC

## Women in Ministry Circles

Bread and Fish	April 30	6 p.m.	Spring Celebration
Joyful Hearts	April 16	10 a.m.	Room 100
Prayer Warriors	April 16	6 p.m.	Lawson-Rain Chapel
Serenity	April 16	3 p.m.	Lawson-Rain Chapel
SonFlowers	April 16	10 a.m.	Lawson-Rain Chapel
Soul Sisters	April 16	noon	Price Classroom
Sunday Salty Sisters	April 21	3 p.m.	Off campus
Women of Grace	April 14	6:30 p.m.	3002 Japonica Lane

# Springtime creativity abound at the CDC

What a GREAT and FUN month! We enjoyed Dr. Suess week, which included Wacky Wednesday, Pajama Day, and a whole lot of fun. We enjoyed celebrating St. Patrick's Day and looking for leprechauns. The staff had a fun-filled training/cleaning/workday full of shenanigans and laughter. We launched enrollment for the 2024-25 school session for current students through our new Child Management Software, Brightwheel. The children and staff have been working hard on art projects for the Art Show. Plus, the children enjoyed dying Easter Eggs for FPC's Easter Egg Hunt, as well as celebrating their own Easter party and egg hunt. What a blessing it is to be a part of the CDC family. It brings so much joy!

## CDC Art Show

Please plan to join us at 6 p.m. April 11 for our annual Art Show. This year we have a special treat. The children will be singing before the art gallery is revealed. We will begin in the Jenkins Fellowship Hall. We hope you will make plans to join us as we bring the church and school together.

## CDC Picture Day

On Monday, April 29, and Tuesday, April 30, the CDC will have picture day. We can't wait to see everyone's smiles!

## 4K Graduation

Plans are underway for graduation. It will be held at 6 p.m. Thursday, May 16, in the Jenkins Memorial Fellowship Hall. It's bittersweet, but we are excited to celebrate this milestone with the students and their families.



The CDC staff and children enjoyed Dr. Suess week, which included Wacky Wednesday, Pajama Day, and a whole lot of fun.





# MEET THE CDC TEAM

Mrs. Chasity Adams








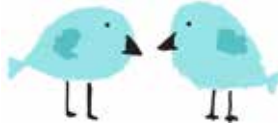



## ABOUT MRS. CHASITY

Mrs. Chasity joined the CDC team in January 2018 and worked in the Toddler class. Since that time, Mrs. Chasity has served in many roles, including her current role as Site Manager. She is a vital part of our team who wears many hats and always has a smile on her face. She is a native of Bennettsville and enjoys listening to music and dancing. What Mrs. Chasity loves most about working at First Presbyterian CDC is watching the children grow and working with the staff.

## MY FAVORITES

FOOD: Soul food  
 COLOR: Yellow  
 PLACE: Home Sweet Home  
 SPORT: Basketball  
 FLOWER: Sunflower  
 SEASON: Summer



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY
<p>31 Easter</p> 	<p>1 Easter Monday April Fools' Day Church office, CDC closed Florence 1 spring break</p>	<p>2 Keenagers, noon JFH</p> 	<p>3 No Youth Group</p>
<p>7 Children's Sunday planning, noon Youth: Small groups</p> 	<p>8 Worship Team, 12:30 p.m. Girl Scouts Brownie, 4:30 p.m. Enabling Team, 5:30 p.m. Boy Scouts, 6:30 p.m. Youth: RSVP Carowinds</p>	<p>9 CDC art show set up WiM Sonflowers, 10 a.m. Joyful Hearts, 10 a.m. Soul Sisters, noon Serenity, 3 p.m. Prayer Warriors, 6:30 p.m.</p>	<p>10 CDC art show set up Veterans Brunch, 8 a.m. Outreach Team, 12:15 p.m. Youth Group, 5:30 p.m.</p> 
<p>14 Youth: Dodgeball practice Children's Sunday planning, noon</p>	<p>15 Discipleship Team, 4:30 p.m. College of Elders Dinner, 6:30 p.m. WiM Women of Grace, 6:30 p.m.</p>	<p>16 Fellowship Team, 5:30</p>	<p>17 Personnel Team, 8:15 Outreach Team, 12:15 Youth Group, 5:30 p.m. Men's Backpack Meeting, 6:30 p.m. LR</p>
<p>21 Confirmation Retreat Youth: Dodgeball tournament, 3 p.m. at Central UMC</p> 	<p>22 Girl Scouts Brownie, 4:30 p.m. House of Hope men's recovery graduation, 5 p.m. WinShape Leadership Meeting, 5:30 p.m. Boy Scouts, 6:30 p.m.</p>	<p>23 Session and Diaconate, 6:30 p.m. JFH</p>	<p>24 Youth Group, 5:30 p.m.</p> 
<p>28 Men's Hike Youth: Parent Meeting, 10 a.m. and 4 p.m. Children's Sunday planning, noon Youth: Wheeldateens! 5 p.m.</p>	<p>29 CDC Picture Day Confirmation Banquet Girl Scouts Boy Scouts</p> 	<p>30 CDC Picture Day Girl Scouts; Boy Scouts WiM Spring Celebration, 6 p.m.</p> 	<p>1 Family Dinner, 5:30 p.m. Handbells Concert, 6:30 p.m.</p> 

THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
4	5 	6 
11 Youth: Coffee @ F.E. Pop's Evangelism Team, 11 a.m. CDC Art Show, 6 p.m. 	12 	13 Parking Lot Mission Youth: Carowinds Naor 
18 Youth: Coffee @ F.E. Pop's 	19 Confirmation Retreat 	20 Confirmation Retreat Florence Music Festival Naomi Project Play 
25 Youth: Coffee @ F.E. Pop's Piano Recital, 5:30 p.m.	26 Men's Hike 	27 Men's Hike Florence Music Festival
2 	3 	4



# APRIL

## WEEKLY

### SUNDAYS

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

### MONDAYS

- Prayer Group, 2:30 p.m.
- 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.
- Chancel Handbell Rehearsal, 5 p.m.
- Youth Group, 5:30 p.m.
- Praise Team Rehearsal, 5:45 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

### UPCOMING EVENTS

- May 1: Spring Handbell Concert
- May 5: Confirmation Sunday and Church Picnic
- May 12: Children's Sunday
- May 19: High School Seniors recognition
- May 26: One Worship Service, 10 a.m. Contemporary

## Extended Care

**Lowman Home**  
Mac King

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

**Presbyterian Community**  
Clariann Kellam

## Memorials

Jean Waters

## Expectant Families

Amy and John Lewis  
Brittany and Weber Mimms  
Allyson and J.B. Pittman

## Military

Andrew Stewart, deployed

## Households

FLOCK 1: Patrick and Rebecca Clancy, Jacqueline, Brooklynee,  
and Taylor Powell

FLOCK 2: Jim and Sally Dameron

FLOCK 3: Lindsey Banister

FLOCK 4: Dave and Emily Lake, Stanton, Crosland, Susanna

FLOCK 5: Joyce Dalsbo

FLOCK 6: Ronnie and Frances Welch

FLOCK 7: Mike and Jean Lavespere

FLOCK 8: Joyce Fincannon

## Flowers in the Sanctuary

April 7: Communion/Easter Lilies

April 14: Open

April 21: Open

April 28: Open

Lord, Hear  
Our Prayer

## Sick & Recovering

Aubrey Crawford  
Gwen DuRant  
Barbara Maffett  
Todd Moseley

## Elders

Jayne Boswell  
Ryon Watkins

## Deacons

Weber Mimms  
Hunter Morgan

## Missions

Actionnel Fleurisma  
Gray Scott

## Women in Ministry

Marian Howard  
Betsy Moore

## Teachers

John Eldridge  
Jack Hofler

## Staff

Stuart Bond  
Don Hebert

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.

# April BIRTHDAYS

**APRIL 1**

Michelle Babb  
Maddy Duncan  
Tag Gandy  
Sara Goodstein

**APRIL 2**

Matt Goodstein  
Lane Josey  
Jenna MacLennan  
Doug Stover

**APRIL 3**

Elizabeth McLean  
Bonnie Stuber

**APRIL 4**

Evelyn Childers  
Brandon Fuller  
Ronnie Hucks  
Emily Grace Kennedy  
April Munn

**APRIL 5**

Rylie Hughes  
Whit Player  
Cole Rabon  
Wills Urquhart

**APRIL 7**

Rufus Bratton  
Perry MacLennan  
Shannon Watt  
Matt Marechal  
Leslie Rutten

**APRIL 8**

Nicky Carter  
Paula Jackson  
David McLean  
Marla Slaughter

**APRIL 9**

Will McLean

**APRIL 10**

Charlie Caldwell

**APRIL 11**

Cary Andrews  
Amy Lewis

**APRIL 12**

Quentin Johnson  
Linda Smiley

**APRIL 14**

Isla Campbell  
Sara Johnson  
Patrick Morgan

**APRIL 15**

Ashley Bratton

**APRIL 17**

Mark Davis  
Jeremy Emert  
Maddux Langston  
Margaret Lee  
Alice Mbeng  
Tom Moore

**APRIL 18**

Farah Hughes  
John Molnar  
Liam Scott

**APRIL 19**

Steve Grady  
Robert Moore  
Huck Thompson

**APRIL 20**

Bruce Burch  
Jim Fincher  
Hollis Richey  
Tallon Temple

**APRIL 21**

Guy Thompson

**APRIL 22**

Kit Fulmer  
Seth Hallman  
Charlie Jordan  
Melanie Moore  
Franklin Reames  
Samantha Truman

**APRIL 23**

Sullivyn Truman

**APRIL 24**

Eve Asongwed  
Holly Campbell

**APRIL 25**

Harriett Whitehead

**APRIL 26**

Beth Abernathy  
Miguel Awemu  
Carson McMillian

**APRIL 27**

Bob Barrett  
Daniel Jordan  
Betsy Olsen  
JB Pittman

**APRIL 28**

Gary Pletan  
Gayden Tyler

**APRIL 29**

Christopher Garris  
Bern Lavespere  
Laura Tiller

**APRIL 30**

Susan Hofler  
Alissa Warters  
Katherine Ryan

## Summer Adult Bible Drill class to be offered



Adults, would you like to become more familiar with God's Word? The fourth- and fifth-graders learn the books of the Bible by division, learn the location of Key Passages and hide Scripture in their heart through the Bible Drill curriculum. Alexis Morris and Ellen Wilhoit would like to offer a brief Bible Drill class for adults this summer. It would meet once a week for 4 weeks. (The specific dates have not been determined yet.) Please let us know if you are interested in attending. Also, if you have any questions, please reach out to Alexis, [nnnminusone@gmail.com](mailto:nnnminusone@gmail.com), or Ellen, [r4wilhoit@aol.com](mailto:r4wilhoit@aol.com).



## Church News

### Keenagers' lunch to feature Mercy Medicine

Keenagers' luncheon will be at noon Tuesday, April 2, in the fellowship hall. Program will be presented by Mr. Wayne Jackson from Mercy Medicine. Lunch will be barbecued chicken, brown rice, green beans, and dessert. Cost is \$6. We welcome all who are 55 and older to join us for food, fellowship, and fun.

### Fellowship of Elders Dinner to be held

All ECO Elders should have received an invitation for our Dinner Meeting at 6 p.m. Monday, April 15. We will meet in the Jenkins Fellowship Hall to enjoy a nice meal and time together. Please plan to be there! There are about 80 of us now. Even though we have "rolled off" of the Session, we are all still Elders. It is encouraging to see how you have stayed involved in the church and the community since the end of your term on the Session. Let's gather for food and fellowship with our current Session and our Pastor. If you have your Elder name tag, please wear it. Email Debbie Jackson, [djacksonlawyer@gmail.com](mailto:djacksonlawyer@gmail.com); Laura Marechal, [marechalel@hotmail.com](mailto:marechalel@hotmail.com); or Janet Brand, [janet81661@aol.com](mailto:janet81661@aol.com), with any questions or suggestions. We look forward to seeing you! Regrets only by April 10 to Kim Brauss in the church office, 843-662-2583 or [kbrauss@florencefirst.org](mailto:kbrauss@florencefirst.org).

### Meet the Author event to be held

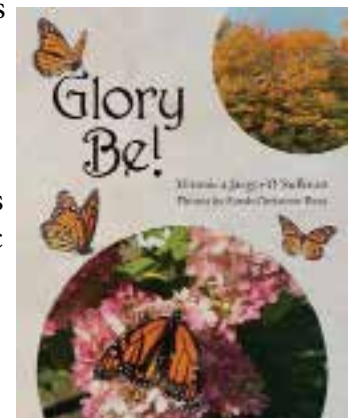
Mark the date, April 11, at 3:30 p.m. in the Lawson-Rain Chapel to hear author Veronica O'Sullivan discuss her first children's book, *Glory Be!*, a story inspired by two magical friendships that began in third grade.

*Glory Be!* "opens our eyes to the mystery and magic of nature and reminds us to look for ways to support each other," according to O'Sullivan.

Join us April 11 as

O'Sullivan talks with us about friendship and the importance of connecting to the community that surrounds us.

For more information, contact Genia Tyson, 843-992-8904, or on Realm.



### WinShape Camp coming to Florence

Have the summer of a lifetime close to home!

WinShape Camps for Communities is returning to Florence at First Presbyterian Church the week of July 1-5! This is a next level summer camp experience where kids can have fun and learn more about Jesus. Registration is open. The first 50 campers to register receive a \$35 discount off the camp fee of \$185 for the first child! Multi-sibling discounts are available. The address to register is: <https://camps.winshape.org/day-camps/florence-sc-2/>. If you have any questions, please contact Dave Lake (803-837-1432) or Alexis Morris (843-813-5202).

# Children's Ministry Corner



Dear Church Family,

Is anyone else shocked that April is here? I feel like we just kicked off the school year, yet Spring Break is just around the corner. In the blink of an eye, my children will be grown and gone. I wish time would slow down; yet, I am so grateful for each moment I am given. I have been thinking lately about life. Life can be so hard, yet so good. I was sharing with the CDC staff last week that no matter what comes our way, we know God has us. There will always be hard things. Everyone goes through it. It's how we grow. I asked them, "How does a farmer grow his crop?" They answered, "rain, sun, etc." Then finally someone said, "fertilizer." Then I asked, "What is fertilizer?" Someone answered, "POO!" I exclaimed, "YES and the only way we can grow is to go through poo!" They laughed yet understood the analogy. I don't know about you, but sometimes I tell the Lord, "I am tired of growing," but truthfully, I am grateful for the opportunities. It's not easy, but I know I am not going through it alone. He is with me every step of the way, and as hard as it can be sometimes, I know I can learn from it.

"Rejoice always, pray continually, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus." 1 Thesalonians 5:16-18

Much love,

*Kelly*

Dear Church Family,

As I reflect on my time since joining you in January, I am filled with gratitude for the warm welcome and the vibrant spirit of our Children's Ministry. It's been a privilege to step into this role and serve alongside such a dedicated and loving community. I am continually thankful to God for this opportunity to contribute to our shared mission.

A heartfelt thank you to everyone who has supported and enriched our Children's Ministry. Your dedication, love, and enthusiasm are the heart of this ministry. Thank you for creating a nurturing and joyful environment for our children to grow in faith.

Though I've primarily been involved in Children's Ministry, I see myself as part of our larger church family. We are all God's children, and I cherish every opportunity to connect more deeply with each 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) using KidMin.

You can use the Kidmin App by downloading it to your smartphone and creating an account.



The easiest way is to check in is to use the app before you arrive at church. Check-in opens 30 minutes prior to start time. 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.

## Sunday School Talent Show

As we wrap up another wonderful Sunday School year on May 19, we extend heartfelt thanks to our teachers for their invaluable contributions. Your commitment enriches countless lives, and we're deeply grateful for your service! Don't miss our Intergenerational Sunday School Talent Show at 10 a.m. Sunday, May 19, in the CLC. It'll be a joyous occasion as teachers are working with their classes on what to share. Looking ahead there will be NO children's Sunday school on May 26. Beginning Sunday, June 2, throughout June and August, Ms. Kaiti, and Mrs. Kelly, will lead Summer Sunday School, a combined class for children 3K-5th grade. We will meet at 9 a.m. in the CLC.

## Wednesday Nights

As Wednesday nights ended for the 2023-24 Church School year, the Children's Ministry Team thanks everyone who made Wednesday nights possible! There are many to thank, beginning with the staff, our chefs and kitchen volunteers, and our teachers and leaders. We could not have done it without you. Thank you for working so hard to take care of so many!

# Summertime, Summertime, Sum, Sum, Summertime

It's time to make plans for the summer. To help you plan accordingly, please see the below summer schedule. More details will be available soon. Contact Kaiti Bryant with questions or for more information.

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

June 4	Riverbanks Zoo, Columbia
June 11	On Campus
June 18	Vacation Bible School
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	Vacation Bible School
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	Vacation Bible School
June 27	On Campus
July 4	WinShape Camps
July 11	Frankie's Fun Park
July 18	On Campus
July 25	Pool Party

## Summer Internship

First Presbyterian Church is accepting applications for a Children's summer intern. We are looking for a college student who:

- Loves working with children (3K – 5th grade).
- Loves the Lord and wants to share God's love with children.
- And who is available to work 20 hours a week for 10 weeks.

If you are interested, please apply to Kaiti Bryant by April 22. Email Kaiti at [kbryant@florencefirst.org](mailto:kbryant@florencefirst.org) to receive an application.

## Confirmation Retreat

April 19 - 21  
Camp Longridge

On April 19, the Confirmation Class will be traveling to Camp Longridge in Ridgeway for our annual Confirmation Retreat. This will be a wonderful time of spiritual growth, fellowship, and fun! The cost is \$150, which includes lodging, four meals, activities, and transportation. Please note payment is due by Sunday, April 9. Checks should be made payable to First Presbyterian Church and marked "Confirmation Retreat." Please turn in all payments to Kaiti Bryant.

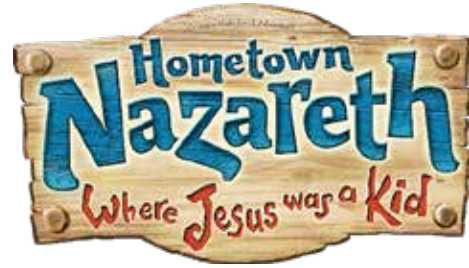




# VBS 2024: Journey to Hometown Nazareth

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 Mother's Day, Sunday, May 12, our children will have an opportunity to lead worship from beginning to end. The children will greet, usher, sing, pray, and more.

Children in first through fifth grades are invited to join Ms. Kaiti and Mrs. Kelly in 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 meeting dates: 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
April 7	9 a.m.	Sasha Hall	Kaiti Bryant and Gracie Hickey
	11 a.m.	Caroline Genoble	Leslie Rutten and Collins McBride
April 14	9 a.m.	Sasha Hall	Patricia Fast and Lane McDowell
	11 a.m.	Caroline Genoble	Scott Ham and Reese McClaurin
April 21	9 a.m.	Sasha Hall	Peggy Swearingen and Avery Etheridge
	11 a.m.	Caroline Genoble	Laura Berton and Carson Jeffords
April 28	9 a.m.	Sasha Hall	JoDee Etheridge and Mary Beth Hickey
	11 a.m.	Caroline Genoble	Ida Whitehead and Gracie Hickey

# Getaways and God's word fill springtime

March was packed with so many good things. We kicked the month off with a Spring Getaway at Dreher Island State Park. We enjoyed time outside, made reverse tie-dyed T-shirts, jumped in the cold lake, ate s'mores around a campfire, and enjoyed time in God's word.

The rest of the month was filled with plenty of fun events, including dying Easter eggs for the church-wide hunt, serving dinner, a prayer and worship night at St. John's Church with their youth group, and a paintball trip.

We are enjoying a slower season these next few months before the busyness of summer begins. Parents, please be on the lookout for more information about our summer trips and events.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

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

**Small Groups** (April 7) 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** (April 10, 17 & 24)  
5:45 – 7:30 p.m.

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

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

**Carowinds** (April 13) 8 a.m. – 7 p.m.

Cost will be \$45. Youth will need to bring money for two meals. Bring a friend!

Please sign up & pay by Monday, April 8.

**Dodgeball Tournament** (April 21) 3-6 p.m. \*Times may vary\*

We will compete against other churches in Florence. Meet at Central United Methodist Church at 2:30 p.m. to get signed in and ready. We will practice between now and then. Dates and times will be sent out soon. Please let Taiter know if you would like to play. Cost is \$15.



**Parent Meeting** (April 28) 10 a.m. AND 4 p.m.  
Join us as we go over the Summer calendar, and allow an opportunity for questions, concerns & conversation. A special welcome to the rising seventh-grade parents!

**Wheeldateens!** (April 28) 5 – 7 p.m.  
Come ride bikes with us! Snacks & water provided.



### The Great Escape: Southwind

July 16-21

Southwind is located along beautiful Long Lake at the edge of the 420,000-acre Ocala National Forest. In addition to its beauty, Southwind has plenty to offer. Activities include a water recreation area, paddle boards, canoes, high ropes, beach volleyball, basketball, disc golf, and much more. Our passion is the Gospel and our desire is to partner with you to make your time here meaningful and memorable with great teaching, outstanding worship, small group and family time where you can dig deeper with your group.



### Fun In the Son: St Simons

June 23-28

FITS: St Simons will be held at Epworth by The Sea. This gorgeous riverfront campus on St. Simons Island, Ga., has lots to offer from bunkhouse and hotel-style accommodations to plenty of recreation including swimming pool, basketball and tennis courts, and rec field for so much more! With the beach only minutes away, at Epworth by The Sea you will experience the Fun In the Son camp you know and love so well with an even greater opportunity for community and fellowship between campers, leaders, and churches.

*Sign up ASAP, as spots for each trip are limited. Cost for each trip is \$400, down from \$450. We are working on another fundraiser to make the trip cost less. Please do not let the price keep you from signing up. For more information on both trips, please visit [ycmhome.org](http://ycmhome.org).*



"AS WATER REFLECTS  
THE FACE, SO ONE'S LIFE  
REFLECTS THE HEART."  
PROVERBS 27:19

## WOMEN'S RETREAT

SATURDAY, JUNE 1  
BENEVENTUM PLANTATION  
GEORGETOWN, SC

Retreat will include:

- 3 Bible teaching sessions by Beth Behling
- Small group discussions
- Individual prayer time
- Morning coffee/sweets, lunch, & dinner
- Free time mid-day for exploring, relaxing, or boating

**Cost: \$50**

Register by May 24:

<https://bit.ly/4aj08SP>



NOTE: For the sanctity, continuity, and intimacy of this experience, it is required participants attend the whole day.



700 PARK AVE., FLORENCE, SC 29501

PHONE: 843-662-2583

FAX: 843-662-1726

www.florencefirst.org

### CHURCH STAFF

Interim Transitional 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. Stuart Bond

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

## Save the Date

**Spring Handbells Concert  
6:30 p.m. Wednesday, May 1**

