

The REMINDER

Loving with our

HEAD

We are lifelong learners
shaped by God's Word

HEART

We commit to loving God
and loving people

HANDS

We use our God-given gifts
to serve others



MARCH 2025



ON THE COVER: As part of a fundraiser during the Women in Ministry’s Mid-Winter Gathering, youth cooked and served dinner for the event.

IN THIS ISSUE

- 2 Index/Missions Team
- 3 Pastor’s Reflection/Session Notes
- 4 Church Administration Matters
- 5 Congregational Care Assistant
- 6 Women in Ministry
- 7 Music Ministry
- 8, 9 Child Development Center
- 10 Chili Cook-off
- 11 Basketball
- 12,13 Calendar
- 14 Remember in Prayer
- 15 Birthdays
- 16 Church News briefs
- 17-19 Children’s Ministry
- 20, 21 New Covenant Partners
- 22, 23 Youth Ministry
- 24 Contact information



Moment for Missions



LIGHTHOUSE
MINISTRIES

- **Lighthouse Ministries annual barbecue fundraiser** – Monday – Friday, March 17-21, 11 a.m. to 8 p.m. at Holt Brothers BBQ, all proceeds benefit Lighthouse Ministries, a ministry centered around the prevention of homelessness, child abuse, and child neglect in Florence County. To purchase tickets, use QR code or visit www.lighthouseflorence.org/events
- **Evening of Hope (House of Hope annual fundraiser) – March 10** – Florence Center, speaker Jim Kelly, former NFL player for Buffalo Bills; please contact Laura Marechal if interested, marchalel@hotmail.com
- **My Brother’s Keeper** – Volunteers needed: drivers and riders, 2-4 p.m. Saturdays; riders, 2-4 p.m. Wednesdays; Cook team member noon-2 p.m. Tuesdays.
- **Parking Lot Ministry** – Second Saturday every month – three opportunities to serve: 6 a.m. prep and cook; 7:45 a.m. serve food; and 8:30/8:45 a.m. clean-up and wash dishes. Contact Donnie Wheeler, jwheeler007@sc.rr.com.
- **Whosoever Community Outreach** – prepare and deliver lunches, contact Laura Marechal, 843-319-4564.
- **Ten Volunteers needed for Good News Club** – Royall Elementary – Thursday afternoons – For 6 weeks meet with groups of children to teach about the “good news” of the Gospel; if interested, please contact Kaiti Bryant, kbryant@florencefirst.org.



SUBMIT YOUR NOMINATIONS

for Pastoral Nominating
Committee

Forms available in Welcome Center
and Sanctuary

Submission deadline is March 9



Preparations for Easter

As a child, did you give up things for Lent? A friend of mine said that, in her Russian Orthodox home, the rule for Lent was “if it walked, flew or swam” it couldn't be eaten. The idea of giving things up for Lent was to help us focus on what God is calling us towards.

I'm not big on the old tradition. But I am drawn to exploring those things that the Lord is calling us to give up. That's why my series will be “Giving it Up.” We will

explore some of the less tangible things the Lord calls us to give up, like superiority, or control, or enemies.

Let's use this series to give up some things that we no longer need in our life and to take up some things that we could really use to grow stronger spiritually. I will see you Sunday.

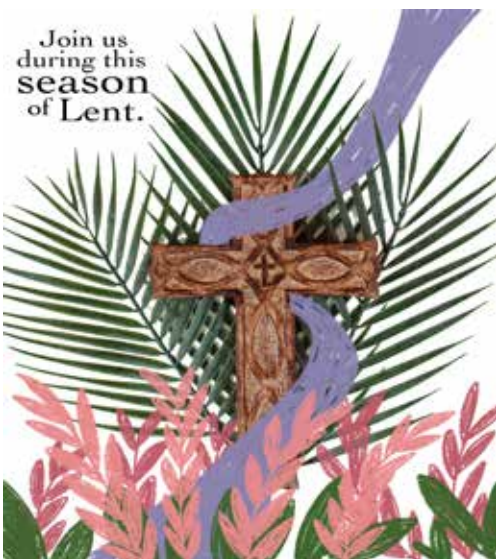
Stuart

SESSION *notes*

This month's Session meeting we made a commitment to think more about our spiritual role as elders. Our text to help guide us on this journey is Ruth Hayley Barton's book *Pursuing God's Will Together: A Discernment Practice for Leadership Groups*.

We were pleased to see that your financial commitment continues to be strong. The programs of the church have been supported as well. We noted the large class of new Covenant Partners joining and thank God for that. Finally, the details of Pastor Stuart's updated contract were agreed to by all parties.

There are a few other elements we are working on, and we will let you know about them as we are able. In short, it is a stable and positive time for our church.



Governing Elders are elected by the congregation to lead the church in life and mission. They are mature followers of Jesus who together seek to understand and do God's will by equipping, teaching, and encouraging all the members of the church. Elders serve a term of three years and serve on committees/teams:

Discipleship and Evangelism

Robert Moore (2025)

Rocky Pearce (2027)

Enabling

Johnny Stoupenos (2026)

Richie Wilhoit (2027)

Fellowship and Stewardship

Jim Dameron (2025)

Jayne Boswell (2026)

Ryon Watkins (2026)

Missions

David Spivey (2026)

Porter Stewart (2027)

Personnel

John Scott (2025)

Worship

Brandon Hylton (Clerk of Session, 2025)

Stuart Snow (2027)

Session approves ministry promotion

First Presbyterian Church is blessed with a very talented and committed staff. I am happy to announce that Kimberly Brauss has been promoted to **Communications Director** for First Presbyterian Church. The promotion was recommended by the Personnel Team and endorsed by the Session at their January meeting. Kim was hired in 2017 as Communications Ministry



Assistant and has served faithfully in that capacity for the past seven years. Kim's education and expertise in journalism and communication has contributed to vast improvements in our ability to promote the ministry and activities of our church both internally and to the greater Florence area. During the COVID

years, Kim regularly produced various videos that served to keep our church connected and inspired during a time when many were prone to discouragement due to the inability to freely gather for worship and fellowship due to quarantines and other restrictions.

As **Communications Director** Kim will cultivate and lead the communications ministry of the church. In addition to the day-to-day tasks of facilitating communications/marketing, including bulletins, newsletters, web design, and social media, she will work with church and ministry leaders to define, develop, and look for creative ways to communicate existing church-wide and ministry programs.

Kim is excited about this new opportunity for service to First Presbyterian Church. Join me in congratulating Kim on her well-deserved promotion to Communications Director.

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.

Campus Parking

If you haven't noticed, attendance in worship and other church activities is increasing. We have plenty of on-campus parking and ample handicap accessible parking in the lot behind the Sanctuary adjacent to the Jenkins Fellowship Hall. We are looking for ways to make a good first impression on our guests, and I think this is a good time for a "hospitality reminder" as it pertains to parking on campus.

Practice "Sacrificial Parking" – As a show of hospitality, I encourage all able-bodied covenant partners to practice "sacrificial parking" and reserve the closer parking spaces for our guests and for those in the congregation with mobility issues.

Park only in designated spaces – This is a safety issue. Drivers and pedestrians need to be able to see and be seen in the church parking lots. Please avoid parking in a manner that blocks or restricts the traffic lanes in the parking lot. Also, please avoid blocking sidewalk access points.

Do not block driveway entrances – This is a particular concern on Park Avenue. When parking, please be sure your vehicle does not extend into the driveway entrance. This is a safety concern for people attempting to enter from or exit onto Park. It could also present an obstacle to first responders (Fire, Medic, Police) in the event of an emergency.

Observe Handicap parking – We have a number of parking spaces marked for use by our members and guest who have significant mobility impairments. Please observe these signs.

2024 Contribution Statements

Statements were emailed in February to covenant partners and others who have made financial contributions to support the ministries of First Presbyterian Church during 2024. Please feel free to contact me or Sonya Hunter if you have questions regarding your contribution statement. Thank you for your continued financial support of First Presbyterian Church.

The Past, Present, and Future

EPHESIANS 2:1-10

As living human beings, we all stand in the present moment. Imagine for a moment that you and I are First century Christians receiving the letter to the Ephesians for the first time. When the letter is read in the worship service, we reflect on our past and present situation as part of the early Christian church. After that reflection we may now ask what does the LORD want us to do? Paul seeks to move toward the last verse of this section of Ephesians: “For we are God’s handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do (Ephesians 2:10).”

We are actually 21st century American Christians hearing and reading the Scripture from Ephesians. Paul reminds the Christians of their past, reflecting on the present mercy and grace of God, which saves and sanctifies. Then there is the reality of the present life, which leads to the future.

We all have experiences with Christ, but everyone’s experience is different. What is your past? Did you grow up in the Church? Did you come to the Church as an adult? Paul knows the past of the people hearing the letter and they have come to follow Christ with an immoral and sinful past. The first three verses of Ephesians 2 describe the forces of sin, which affected those reading this letter.

There are three categories of sin which destroy the life of a non-believer. The description of this life is death. Sin destroys life as it is given to the human. The first category of sin is “following the course of this world (Ephesians 2:2a).” A person who does not follow Christ will follow the present age of sin and death. In my own life, I followed a dream to be an athlete until that dream was unrealized, and I turned to Christ as my Lord instead of my own desires.

The second category of sin is “following the prince of the power of the air (Ephesians 2:2b).” This is a title for Satan or the Devil, the prince of evil. Many fall victim to a series of sins which are immoral and heinous. The third category is humans become “children of wrath (Ephesians 2:3).” The way of Jesus is rejected and humans choose the condemnation of God rather than



choosing God’s grace. This is the bad news. The good news is that humans who have accepted God’s grace are now “alive together with Christ (Ephesians 2:5).” The great transition of life is made because God is “rich in mercy (Ephesians 2:4).”

Just as God raised Jesus from death to life, so now Christians are raised from spiritual death to Spiritual life. Paul uses a word twice in Ephesians 2:5 and Colossians 2:12 which is translated: “make alive together.”

In creative fashion, Paul conveys how Christians now belong to God and are alive eternally. The latter section of this passage contains the Gospel of salvation in Christ by grace. Three times the word grace is used and the literal meaning of the word grace is gift. Artur Weiser in *PSALMS* translates steadfast love as grace. The concept of walking in life ties this passage together. Once humanity walked in sin but now Christians are called to walk in “Christ Jesus for good works.” The result of humanity being called by God is for the accomplishment of good works. The LORD God has a purpose for the Church to help others and to show mercy.

Mike



Mid-Winter Gathering

Women in Ministry held their Mid-Winter Gathering on February 4 in the Jenkins Fellowship Hall. Guest Yvonne Rhodes spoke about Just for Women's Bible studies. The Florence study is held on campus at First Presbyterian — 11 a.m. on Tuesdays. To raise funds for the Youth Ministry's trips, the youth cooked and served the dinner.



Women in Ministry Circles

Bread and Fish	March 8	9 a.m.	Room 100
Joyful Hearts	March 11	10 a.m.	Room 100
Prayer Warriors	March 11	6 p.m.	Lawson-Rain
Serenity	March 11	3 p.m.	Lawson-Rain
SonFlowers	March 11	10 a.m.	Lawson-Rain
Soul Sisters	March 11	noon	Price Room
Salty Sisters	March 9	12:15 p.m.	Off campus
Women of Grace	March 10	6:30 p.m.	Off campus

Friendship Circle

Editor's note: We feature a member in the Friendship Circle, a Women in Ministry group of covenant partners who aren't able to be on campus as often as they wish. This month we feature the late Clara Maxwell.

Clara Maxwell, 104, was a longtime member of First Presbyterian Church, joining in 1985. She spent her last years living in Charlotte with her daughter Betsy and son-in-law Tom.



Clara taught elementary school in Mullins, where she raised her four daughters with husband James Buchan. After his death, she and her husband William Maxwell lived in Florence, where they raised their blended family. She was active in church and enjoyed her friends, her lake house, bridge clubs, dance clubs, Girl Scouts, and needlepoint. Her greatest joy was all the members of her large family.

Clara died January 20, a day after her daughter Betsy. Clara's memorial service was held in Mullins.



Bread and Fish circle meet at the Presbyterian Community.

Love, laughter at the CDC

February was filled with love and laughter as the children learned about emotions, celebrated the 100th day of school, Valentine's Day, focused on the color red and enjoyed dental week with a special guest and a Snow Day! The children also enjoyed time with their families at our first CDC Family Valentine's Dance. We had a wonderful month and look forward to March with joyful anticipation!





MEET THE CDC TEAM

Ms. Haley Moski



ABOUT MS. HALEY

Ms. Haley is our sweet spirited, soft-spoken, baby loving, and does anything that is asked Toddler Assistant! Anytime you see Ms. Haley she is smiling, ready to lend a helping hand and loving on the babies. Ms. Haley is a native of Blackville and joined the CDC team in November. She enjoys spending time with the Lord and reading her Bible. She also enjoys time with friends, family and her little puppy, "Avie." What Ms. Haley enjoys most about working at the CDC is watching the toddlers grow and learn in their development, as well as watching their little personalities grow daily.

HER FAVORITES

FOOD: Seafood
 COLORS: Green
 PLACE: Mountains
 FLOWER: Tulip
 SEASON: Spring





CHILI COOK-OFF


 5:30 P.M. MARCH 12 


MEN VS WOMEN EDITION


CALL FOR ENTRIES


 **BEANS WELCOME:** ALL CHILIS ARE CONSIDERED CHILIS IF CONSIDERED SO BY THE SUBMITTER. THIS INCLUDES CHILIS SUCH AS WHITE, CHICKEN, ETC., BUT RED IS PREFERRED. ALL ARE WELCOME.


 **NAME YOUR CHILI:** COME UP WITH A FUN (G-RATED) NAME FOR YOUR CHILI SUCH AS "ANGEL HEAT" OR "DEACON INFERNO." ON A 3 BY 5 INDEX CARD, INCLUDE CHILI NAME, DESCRIPTION, AND WHETHER CHILI IS HOT, MEDIUM, OR MILD. CONTESTANT'S NAME AND GENDER SHOULD BE ON BACK OF CARD.


 **NO MYSTERY MEAT:** ANY MEATS MAY BE USED. MEATS THAT ARE NOT GROUND HAMBURGER OR GROUND TURKEY MUST BE IDENTIFIED ON THE NAME CARD FOR THE CHILI

 **HOT OR NOT?** ALL ENTRIES CONSIDERED 'HOT' MUST BE IDENTIFIED AS SUCH FOR THE CONSUMING PUBLIC.

 **BRING SOME TO SHARE:** IF POSSIBLE, PLEASE USE A 4-QUART OR LARGER CROCKPOT. INTENT OF COOK-OFF IS FUN, BUT ALSO TO PROVIDE A MEAL FOR FAMILIES ATTENDING THE WEDNESDAY NIGHT PROGRAM

 **DELIVERY ON TIME:** CROCK POTS WITH CHILI READY TO EAT SHOULD BE DELIVERED TO THE KITCHEN BETWEEN 5 AND 5:15 P.M. WEDNESDAY, MARCH 12. JUDGING WILL BEGIN AT 5:30 P.M.

 **WHAT'S MY MOTIVATION?** JUDGES WILL VOTE ON FLAVOR, AFTERTASTE, CONSISTENCY, BLEND OF SPICES, AROMA, AND COLOR. THERE WILL BE PRIZES FOR FIRST, SECOND, AND THIRD PLACE. WE ALSO AVERAGE OUT SCORES TO DETERMINE WHETHER MEN OR WOMEN ARE THE BETTER CHILI COOKS.

 **ENTER BY MARCH 10:** ALL COVENANT PARTNERS OF FIRST PRESBYTERIAN ARE INVITED TO PARTICIPATE. PLEASE CALL, TEXT, OR EMAIL BRANDON HYLTON TO ENTER, 843-319-1937, OR BHYLTON76@GMAIL.COM.

Church League Basketball Champions

First Presbyterian Church concluded Church League Basketball season with tournament finalists and two tournament champions. Congratulations to all the teams and our players, including our 12U and 14U teams on their accomplishments.

We also give our thanks and appreciation to all the head coaches for volunteering this year. We know coaching takes time, energy, and passion, and we thank our coaches for the commitment not only to practices and games, but also to the growth and development that makes an impact on the children's lives.



Our coaches include:

8U-A: Travis Blayton
 8U-B: Matt Dowdell
 10U-A: Rufus Bratton
 10U-B: John Etheridge
 10U-C: Rick Ryan
 12U: Rufus Bratton
 14U: Wesley Player
 17U-A: Hunter Morgan Jr.
 17U-B: Brian Naylor

League Coordinator: Jason Coker



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Scan to set up your **FREE** account!

GIVE HOPE THIS SPRING.

Give blood.

1:30-5:30 p.m. March 4
Lawson-Rain Chapel

RedCrossBlood.org

SUNDAY

MONDAY

TUESDAY

WEDNESDAY



<p>2 Communion Sunday</p> 	<p>3</p>	<p>4 Keenagers, noon JFH Red Cross Blood Drive, 1:30 p.m. Lawson-Rain</p> 	<p>5 Bible Moderators, 5 p.m. Wednesday Night Dinner & Children's Classes Ash Wednesday service, 6:15 p.m.</p> 
<p>9 Daylight Saving Time Children's Sunday Planning Meeting, noon WiM Salty Sisters, 12:15 p.m. off campus Youth: Small groups</p> 	<p>10 CDC Book mobile, 9 a.m. Girl Scouts, 4:30 p.m. Worship mtg, 4:30 p.m. Enabling team, 5:30 p.m. Women of Grace, 6:30</p>	<p>11 WiM Sonflowers, 10 a.m. Joyful Hearts, 10 a.m. JFW Bible Study, 11 a.m. Soul Sisters, noon SPIT meeting, 1:30 p.m. Serenity, 3 p.m. Prayer Warriors, 6:30 p.m.</p>	<p>12 Veterans Brunch, 8 a.m. Missions Team Meeting, 12:15 p.m. Wednesday Night Dinner Wednesday Night Classes</p>
<p>16 Congregational Meeting, 10:40 a.m. Sanctuary Youth: Spring Getaway Children's Sunday Planning Meeting, noon</p>	<p>17 HAPPY ST. PATRICK'S DAY!</p> 	<p>18 Discipleship and Evangelism, 1:30 p.m. Fellowship Team, 5:30 p.m.</p>	<p>19 Personnel Team Meeting, 8:15 a.m. Wednesday Night Dinner Wednesday Night Classes</p>
<p>23 Youth: Small Groups, 5 p.m. Men's Wild Game Dinner, 5:30 p.m. CLC</p> <p>30 Children's Sunday Planning Meeting, noon</p>	<p>24 Girl Scouts, 4:30 p.m.</p> <p>31</p>	<p>25 Youth: Senior Breakfast, 7 a.m. Lula's Downtown Diaconate, 5:30 p.m. Session, 6:30 p.m.</p>	<p>26 Wednesday Night Dinner Wednesday Night Classes</p>

MARCH

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. CLC
- Men's Bible Study, 7 p.m. (203)

TUESDAYS

- Men's Prayer Meeting, 7 a.m.
- CDC Music, 10:30 a.m.
- Just for Women Bible study, 11 a.m.
- Ladies' Ensemble, 1:30 p.m.

WEDNESDAYS

- CDC Chapel, 9:45 a.m.
- Small Group Bible Study, 10 a.m.
- Wednesday Night Dinner, 5:30 p.m.
- Youth Group, 5:30 p.m.
- Wednesday Night Classes, 6 p.m.
- Chancel Choir Rehearsal, 7:30 p.m.

THURSDAYS

- Men's Bible Study, 7 a.m.
- Youth Coffee, 7 a.m. F.E. Pop's
- Women's Bible Study, 10:30 a.m.
- Good News Club, 1:30 p.m.
- Praise Team Rehearsal, 6 p.m.

WEDNESDAY DINNER MENU

- March 5: Chicken Alfredo, corn, garlic bread, sheet cake
- March 12: Chili Cook-off, cornbread muffins, brownies
- March 19: Curry chicken and rice, string beans, dessert
- March 26: Tacos/Taco salad, rice, taco toppings, dessert

THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		1 Youth: K1 Speed and Crazy Mason 
6 Youth: Coffee @ F.E. Pop's Good News Club, 1:30 p.m. Royall Girl Scout Leaders Meeting, 6:30 p.m. 	7 	8 Parking Lot Mission, 6 a.m. WiM Bread & Fish, 9 a.m. Room 100
13 CDC Donuts for Dad's Youth: Coffee @ F.E. Pop's Women's Bible Study, 10:30 a.m. Good News Club, 1:30 p.m. 	14 CDC closed for cleaning Youth: Spring Getaway, 2 p.m. departure 	15 Jay Reece service, 2 p.m. Youth: Spring Getaway
20 Spring begins Youth: Coffee @ F.E. Pop's Good News Club, 1:30 p.m. 	21 	22
27 Youth: Coffee @ F.E. Pop's Good News Club, 1:30 p.m. 	28	29 

Sympathy

Sheila Mozingo, loss of her son, Alexander Mozingo
Jackson Mozingo, loss of his father, Alexander Mozingo
Michele Naylor, loss of her mother, Ann O'Donnell
Tallon Temple, loss of his mother, Frances Temple
Family and friends of Butch Welch Jr.

Extended Care

Lowman Home

Mac King

The Manor

Joyce Floyd
Marie Jordan
Maria Whitehead

Presbyterian Community

Clariann Kellam

Memorial

Judy Hoover Henegar
Ann O'Donnell, mother of Michele Naylor

Military

Jon Carroll
Andrew Stewart

Births

Alden Louise Lane, daughter of Hannah and Landis Lane

Households

Flock 1: Tag and Shelley Gandy
Flock 2: Margaret and Wendell Jones
Flock 3: Daniel, Lucy, Elijah, and Sarah-Beth Hubbs
Flock 4: Frank and Emily Hodges
Flock 5: Hope and Evan Hanna
Flock 6: Gary, Mary Allyson, Mary Anna, Wyatt, Hale, Franklin, Graham and
Masters Emerson
Flock 7: Bob and Marie O'Harra
Flock 8: Richard and Kathryn Hopkins

Flowers in the Sanctuary

March 2: Communion
March 2 9: Janie Ray
March 2 16: Ellen Pearson
March 23: Ginger Sullivan
March 30: Open

Sick & Recovering

Aubrey Crawford
Steve Edwards
Roger Gulick
Barbara Maffett
Bob McLean
Peggy Taylor

Elders

Johnny Stoupenos
Ryon Watkins

Deacons

Meredith Banner
Rhett Spencer

Missions

Good News Club
Moscow Seminary

Women in Ministry

Betsey Moore
Patti Vassy

Teachers

Kara Morgan
Caroline Toniolo

Staff

Mike Fleenor
Vic Rockhill

CDC Staff

Mrs. Byrd
Mrs. Della
Ms. Antonisha

Lord, Hear
Our Prayer



Do you have a friend or relative you would like to honor?
Sign up to place memorial flowers in the Sanctuary.
The next few months have openings. Please contact Genia Tyson
(genia_tyson@hotmail.com or 843-992-8904). Please leave your
name, number, and date you wish to reserve.

March BIRTHDAYS

MARCH 2

Michael Coker
Jan Green
Sullivan Johnson
Maggie Jones

MARCH 3

Karen Silver

MARCH 5

Billy McBride
Amanda McLaurin
Boyd Moree
Maggie Reames
John Richey
Hattie Kaye Scott
Ed Sprenger

MARCH 6

Denise Alvey
Mary Wallis Vaught

MARCH 7

Matthew Dowdell

MARCH 8

Brooklynne Clancy
Karen Johnson

MARCH 9

Amelia Abernathy
Phillip Leach

MARCH 10

Klay Kennedy

MARCH 11

June Chang-Kim
Kaitlyn Molnar

MARCH 12

Hal Campbell
Madison Hindman
Daniel Hubbs
Martha Tyson
Anna Watt

MARCH 13

Whit Dozier
Grace Munn
Julianne Newton
Mike Nunn
Emily Patton

MARCH 14

Carson Jeffords
Marcia McNeil

MARCH 15

Weave Whitehead

MARCH 16

Bankston Wallace

MARCH 17

Ford Hofler
Wilson Josey

MARCH 18

Levi Hayes

MARCH 19

Joyce Dalsbo
Steven Halus
Marla Kunz

MARCH 20

Beth Brown
Hunter Grace Bulloch
Cannon Coker
Elizabeth Fast
Sonya Molnar

MARCH 21

William Duncan
Ronald Hayes
Merrell Kennedy
Anne Evans Scott

MARCH 22

Pam Meharg

MARCH 23

Libbie Reames

MARCH 24

Ashleigh Bulliner
Elizabeth Frost
Hope Hanna
Ann Spearman

MARCH 25

Dan Abernathy
Noah Johnson
Jean Lavespere
Jeremy Williams

MARCH 26

Jack Banner
Brandon Blankenship
Mike Fleenor
Nell Oliver

MARCH 27

Jane Heath
Bob Olsen
Jude Packard

MARCH 28

Kathy Crawford
Mary Ervin
Stone Lewis
Allyson Pittman

MARCH 29

Berta Allen
Megan Matthews
Mary McMillian
Ted Moore

MARCH 31

Gamble Dozier
Warren Montgomery
Terry Rardon



Church News

Keenagers to feature musical program

March Keenagers will be held at noon Tuesday, March 4, in the Jenkins Fellowship Hall. Program will be a musical presentation provided by Director of Music Ann Rodgers Chandler. On the menu is shepherd's pie, broccoli salad, Irish carrots, garlic bread, and pistachio pudding delight. All those 55 and older are invited. Please join us for food, fun, and fellowship. Lunch costs \$6.

Ash Wednesday service to be held

Ash Wednesday service will be held at 6:15 p.m. Wednesday, March 5, in the sanctuary. Ash Wednesday marks the start of Lent, an intentional season focusing on Christ's life, ministry, sacrifice, and resurrection. Our Family Night meal will be served and Children's Ministry activities will meet as usual.

Adult Combined Sunday School

Please join us at 10 a.m. Sunday, March 16, in the fellowship hall for an Adult Combined Sunday School with guest speaker Sasha Tsutserov. First Presbyterian supports the ministry at the Moscow Seminary, where Sasha trains ministers. There are nearly 600 full-time student-ministers studying to spread the Word in Russia, Ukraine, Belarus, Moldova, and the rest of the former Soviet Union.

Fellowship of Elders dinner meeting

A message to Elders — You should have each received a "Save The Date" for our Dinner Meeting at 6 p.m. Monday, April 7. We will meet in the Jenkins Fellowship Hall to enjoy a nice meal and time together. Please plan to be there! Even though we have "rolled off" of the Session, we are all still Elders. It is encouraging to see how so many of you have stayed involved in our church and the community. Thank you for your service!

Let's come together for food and fellowship with our current Session and our Pastor. Let us consider how we may spur one another on....encouraging one another. Hebrews 10:23-25.

Contact Debbie Jackson or Janet Brand with any questions or suggestions. We look forward to seeing you on April 7!

Staff Recognition



First Presbyterian is fortunate to have a talented and dedicated church staff. This month, we recognize our Church Administrator, Don Hebert.

Don joined our staff in March 2014. Thank you, Don, we are grateful for your ongoing contributions to the ministry and mission of First Presbyterian Church.

Call for nominations for Pastor Nominating Committee

The ad hoc committee for selecting the Pastor Nominating Committee welcomes and encourages your participation in the nominating process. If you have a name(s) of a covenant partner you would like the committee to consider for the Pastor Nominating Committee, please use the forms available in the Welcome Center and Sanctuary. Deadline for submission has been extended to March 9.

There will be **7 people** who will serve on the Pastor Nominating Committee, as outlined below:

- **2 of the 7** will be sitting elders (nominated by the Session)
- **1 of the 7** will be a sitting deacon (nominated by the Diaconate)
- **4 of the 7** will be at-large FPC members (nominated by the congregation)

Anyone submitting a nomination must first ask the prospective nominee for their approval before submitting their name. It is important to recognize that any name placed in the nomination box has a real possibility of being selected. Prayerfully consider each name placed on the ballot and be sure to give nominees sufficient time to consider their willingness to serve.

To help the committee consider the person's qualifications, please comment on the candidate by using the general guidelines on the form, which the denomination suggests for your consideration of nominees.

Nominations can be placed in the boxes in the Welcome Center or Sanctuary, mailed to the church or given to a member of the ad hoc committee, which includes:

Jayne Boswell, Johnny Stoupenos, Merrette Dowdell, Cille Scott, and Betsey Moore.

Children's Ministry Corner



Dear Church Family,
Have you heard the phrase, “If God brings you to it, He will bring you through it?”

I don't know about you but some days, I wonder, will I get through this? Especially when it comes to raising children. I have experienced firsthand: one day they are super sweet and loving and then all of a sudden, I look at them and think, who are you?

There have also been times when I have no clue how something is going to work out, especially when it isn't working out on paper. I find myself asking: “How will this work Lord?”

Most recently, I was working on a project that I was extremely excited about when suddenly it came to a halt. I felt like a blown-up balloon being released flying all over the room.

What about you? Have you experienced disappointment? Have you wondered how am I going to get through this? Lord, why?

If you are like me, in these moments, it's extremely important to remember, if God brought me to it, He will certainly bring me through it!

I may not understand the why or the how, yet I hold onto the fact that God is in control, as well as the reminder from Proverbs 3:5-6 (my life verse):

*Trust in the Lord with all your heart
and lean not on your own understanding;
in all your ways submit to him,
and he will make your paths straight.*

There are so many things in life that are hard! There are things I do not understand and areas where I do not know how it will unfold or come together.

Yet, the one thing I know, God has a plan. We, you and me, are all here for a reason. God has a purpose for each one of us even when it does not make sense. So, remember, whatever God brings you to, trust Him. Lean on Him! Do not lean on what you know or understand, for our ways are not His ways. Know in your heart that God can use all things for good for those who believe in Him. Regardless of what it looks like right now! He loves you more than you can ever imagine, and he will see you through!

Much love,
Kelly

Dear Church Family,

As we enter the **season of Lent**, a time of reflection on Jesus' love and sacrifice, I'm excited to share something that beautifully connects to this season—**First Presbyterian's new role in leading the Good News Club at Royall Elementary!**

Starting the last Thursday in February and continuing for six weeks, we have the opportunity to **bring the Gospel to over 100 children**, some of whom may have never heard about Jesus before. Some of these children come from our church, while others may not have a church home at all. This semester, we'll be **teaching them about the life of Jesus** — His love, His miracles, His sacrifice, and ultimately, the hope He brings.

Lent is a time when we remember **why Jesus came** — to bring Good News to the world. What better way to live that out than by **sharing His story with children** who may be hearing it for the first time? Just as Jesus welcomed the little children, we now have the opportunity **to invite them into His story, His love, and His grace.**

Please join me in praying for these children, their families, and our volunteers as we step into this new ministry. May the seeds planted in this season grow into a lifelong faith in Jesus!

In Christ's Love,

Kaiti

Summer intern post open

First Presbyterian will be accepting applications for a Children's Ministry summer intern. This position will be under the direction of Kaiti Bryant. 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.
- is available to work 20 hours a week for 10 weeks.

If you are interested, please apply to Kaiti Bryant by March 22. Email Kaiti at kbryant@florencefirst.org to receive an application.

Mark Your Calendars: Children's Sunday, May 11

This Mother's Day, our children will lead the entire 11 a.m. worship service — from greeting and ushering to singing, praying, and more! If your child would like to participate in this special service, please contact Kaiti Bryant to sign up, kbryant@florencefirst.org.

Planning Sessions for Third–Fifth Graders

Starting Sunday, March 9, third–fifth graders are invited to join Miss Kaiti and Miss Kelly for planning sessions to prepare for Children's Sunday. These sessions will take place upstairs in the Fourth Grade Classroom, immediately following the 11 a.m. worship service until 1:30 p.m. Lunch will be provided.

Planning Dates (3rd–5th Grade Only):

March 9, March 16, and March 23

Practices for First–Fifth Graders

Starting Sunday, March 30, all children in first–fifth grade will join rehearsals to finalize preparations and practice as a group.

These rehearsals will meet in the CLC (Christian Life Center) immediately following the 11 a.m. worship service until 1:30 p.m.

Lunch will be provided.

Practice Dates (1st–5th Grade):

March 30, April 27, and May 4

If you have any questions, please contact Kaiti Bryant, kbryant@florenefirst.org.

We are so excited to see our children lead worship in this special way!



Skate into Summer

Children's Family Event
Skateland
Saturday, May 17
10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.



Children in Worship Leader Schedule

Children in Worship is held after the Message for Young Disciples for children in 3K-5K. It 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
March 2	9 a.m.	Kara Morgan	Jane Ames
	11 a.m.	Kaiti Bryant	Marla Slaughter
March 9	9 a.m.	Kara Morgan	Amy Lewis
	11 a.m.	Kaiti Bryant	Martha Nance
March 16	9 a.m.	Caroline Toniolo	Connie Stewart
	11 a.m.	Kaiti Bryant	Ashley Hylton
March 23	9 a.m.	Kara Morgan	Linda Smiley
	11 a.m.	Kaiti Bryant	Sloan Evans
March 30	9 a.m.	Kara Morgan	Bonnie Stuber
	11 a.m.	Kaiti Bryant	Scott Ham



Confirmation Retreat

On April 4, the Confirmation Class, with their Mentors, 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, five meals, activities, and transportation. Please note registration & payment is due by Sunday, March 30. Checks should be made payable to First Presbyterian Church and marked "Confirmation Retreat." Please turn in all payments to Kaiti Bryant.

Please keep these young people in your prayers as they continue this incredible journey, growing together in faith and deepening their relationship with the Lord.

Confirmands

William Campbell
Avery Etheridge
Lena Foxworth
Gracie Hickey
Gregg Jones
Milly Slaughter
Huck Thompson
Zachary Warnix
Luke Williams



Mentor

Robert Moore
Jan Green
Ellen Wilhoit
Amy Williams
Paul Davis
Caroline Genoble
John Scott
Mike Lavespere
David Spivey



Vacation Bible School June 16 – 19



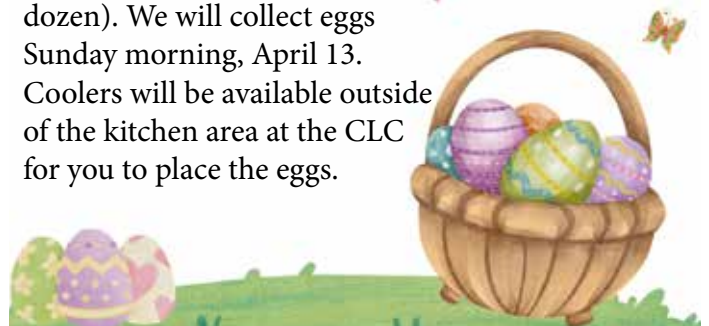
Be sure to mark your calendar! Registration opens April 2 for this summer's Vacation Bible School. Join us in June as we embark on Joseph's journey.

Easter Egg Hunt

4 – 5 p.m. Sunday, April 13
The Whitehead's Farm
175 West 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, April 13. Coolers will be available outside of the kitchen area at the CLC for you to place the eggs.



Confirmation Service Project

On Sunday, April 13, sixth grade Confirmation students are encouraged to join Miss Kaiti and friends for a Service Project. Students will have the opportunity to serve First Presbyterian's children and families as they help hide over 60 dozen eggs for the Easter Egg Hunt. Immediately following worship, the students will help load up the Easter Eggs and travel to the Whitehead Farm on the church bus. Upon our arrival, we will enjoy a time of food and fellowship before hiding 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, April 4, to sign up and/or if you have any questions.



New Covenant Partners

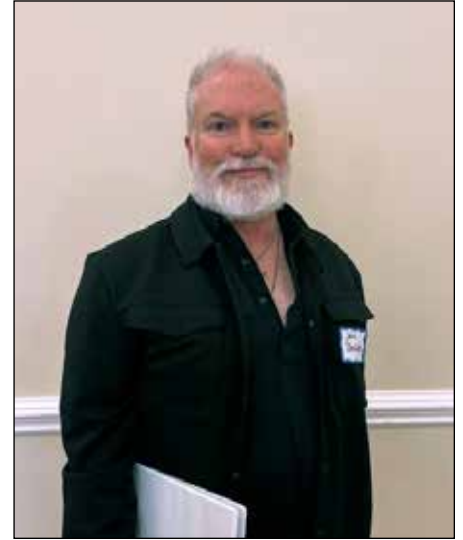
The First Connections class will be introduced to the church and become Covenant Partners on March 2. Please welcome our newest members to our congregation.



Blue and Cait Anderson have lived in Florence for 12 years. The new parents welcomed Jude in December.



Jake and Abby Ansley moved to Florence for work in 2016. They have two young boys, Mason and Parker.



John Boulware and his family have been in Florence for 6 years. He is married to Catherine and celebrated 26 years of marriage in December.



Josh and Katelyn Courtney have twins. Katelyn is a native Florentine.



Chris DuRant moved to Florence from Sumter with his late wife, Gwen. He has two adult children, Drake (Erin) and Babs (Brian) Neumann, and two grandchildren.



Drake and Erin DuRant moved to Florence last year to be with his parents. Drake is originally from Florence; Erin is from Florida.

New Covenant Partners



Chris and Kaitlin Langmo moved to Effingham a couple years ago for work, and they family in Kingstree.



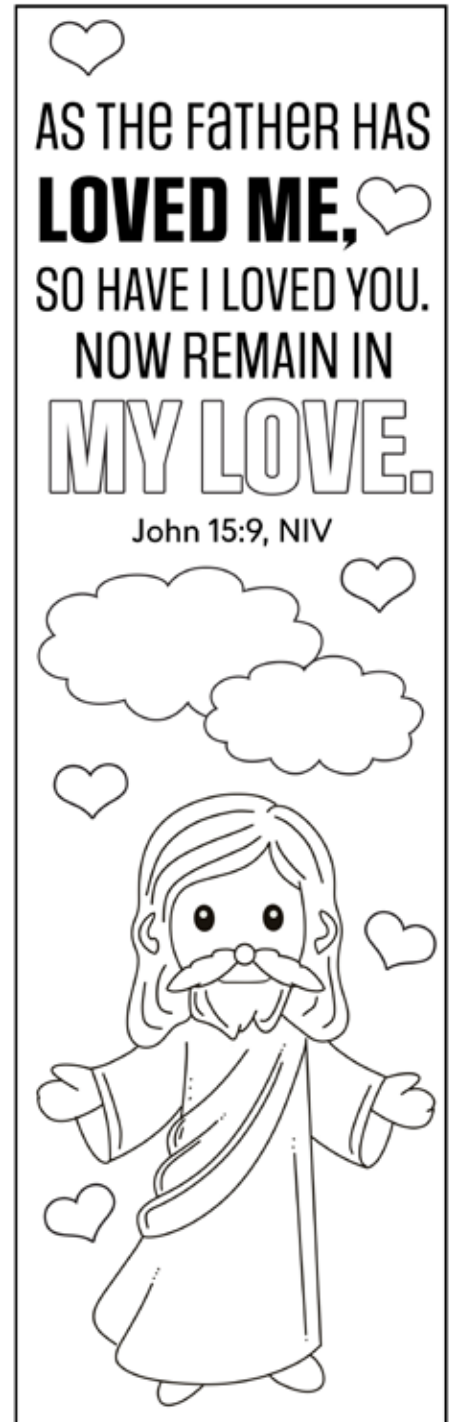
Baker and Kristen Myers have lived in Florence for 10 years. They have two girls, 5-year-old Emma and 1-month-old Claire.



Alex and Gracie Tolson moved to the area 4 years ago. They have two children: 3-year-old Loeffler and 6-month-old Brewer.



Andrew and Hannah Tolson are from the area. Hannah was a member of First Presbyterian as a child. The couple has two children, Watson Anson (WA), 18 months, and Whitt, 2 months.



COLOR THE BOOKMARK & THEN CUT IT OUT. ↪

Youth activities full of engaging fun

February was packed with so many fun events! We enjoyed outdoor ice skating at the White-Water Center in Charlotte, and our annual Super Bowl Party at The Hylton's. Congratulations to all our church league basketball teams, especially to the youth who played and the coaches who led them.

The youth participated in two fundraisers: the Women in Ministry's Mid-Winter Gathering and Parent's Night out on Valentine's Day. Thank you so much to everyone who has donated and encouraged the youth in their hard work as they raise money to help offset the cost of their big summer trips. And thank you to all our covenant partners who stepped in to help where we needed extra hands.

Our ski trip was wonderful. Shout out to Courtney Emert and Dusty Williams for joining us this year. We can't wait to travel back to Winterplace, West Virginia, again next year. Wahoo!

UPCOMING EVENTS

K1 Speed and Crazy Mason (March 1) 9 a.m.

We will travel to North Myrtle Beach for indoor go-kart racing. Cost is \$65. Pizza and drinks included. Youth will need to bring money for Crazy Mason.

Sunday School (March 2, 9, 16, 23, and 30) 10 a.m.

Light breakfast served.

Wednesday Night Youth Group (March 5*, 12, 19, and 26) 5:30 – 7:15 p.m.

Food, games, Bible study and fun! \$7 dinner provided by the church.

ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE (March 5)* Youth will attend.

Coffee at F.E. Pop's (March 6, 13, 20, and 27) 7 a.m.

Small Groups (March 9 and 23) 5 – 7 p.m.

Dinner provided. All groups meet at the church.

Spring Getaway (March 14-16) Leave at 2 p.m.

We will travel to Dreher Island State Park (Chapin) and spend time in God's word through quiet times, small groups, and worship. There will be team games, canoes, time around the campfire and more! Cost will be \$75.



If there are multiple siblings or friends that join, each will get \$25 off their trip. Youth will need money for one meal on the road.

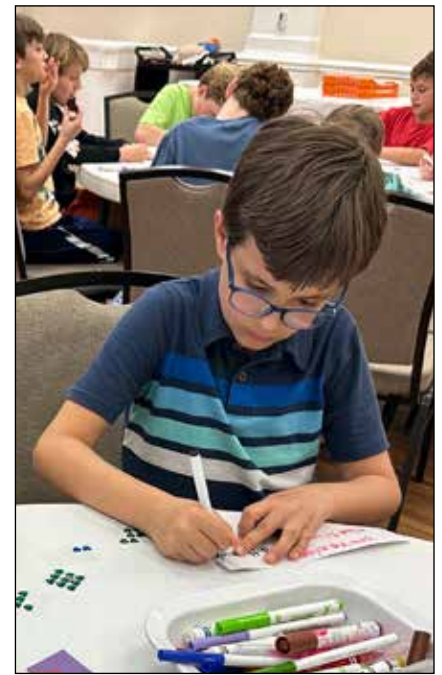
Please sign up and pay by Friday, March 7.

Senior Breakfast (March 25) 7 a.m.

****LULA'S DOWNTOWN (160 S. Dargan St.)****

Senior's will meet for a time of food and fellowship before school. Location will change each month.

Fundraising and fellowship





700 PARK AVE., FLORENCE, SC 29501
 PHONE: 843-662-2583
 FAX: 843-662-1726
 www.florencefirst.org

CHURCH STAFF

Transitional Pastor	Dr. Stuart Bond
Director of Music/Organist	Mrs. Ann Rodgers Chandler
Praise Team Leader	Mr. Vic Rockhill
Music Assistant	Ms. Betsy Johnson
Congregational Care Assistant	Rev. Mike Fleenor
Director of Youth Ministry	Ms. Christina "Taiter" Garrett
Director of Children's Ministries	Mrs. Kelly Hickey
Program Director of Children's Ministry	Ms. Kaiti Bryant
CDC Assistant Director/Church Nursery Coordinator	Mrs. Shurrie Marks
Church Administrator	Rev. Don Hebert
Communications Director	Ms. Kimberly Brauss
Financial Assistant	Ms. Sonya Hunter
Ministry Assistant	Mrs. Emily Reed
Lead Custodian	Mr. Leroy Williams
Housekeeping	Ms. Wanda Lasane
Custodian	Mr. Rayshon Woodard

CHILI COOK-OFF

 5:30 P.M. MARCH 12 

MEN VS WOMEN EDITION

CALL FOR ENTRIES BY MARCH 10

ALL COVENANT PARTNERS ARE INVITED TO PARTICIPATE. PLEASE CALL, TEXT, OR EMAIL BRANDON HYLTON TO ENTER, 843-319-1937, OR BHYLTON76@GMAIL.COM.