

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

JUNE 2025



ON THE COVER: The Child Development Center celebrated their 4K graduates. For more pictures, see page 21.

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Missions Opportunities

Many from First Presbyterian serve as volunteers in these ministries both as board members and laborers. Weekly volunteers from First Presbyterian are making a difference as they provide medical care, food service, and spiritual guidance in these local ministries. Here are opportunities for involvement:

- **Lighthouse Ministries** – Ongoing volunteer needs include: front office help (answering phones and door, greeting participants), conducting interviews for people in need of services, assisting with data entry, clerical assistance (help with letters and mailings, database management), building maintenance, donation pick-up, Working Mother Education & Support Program volunteers, Strengthening Families Program volunteers, building ramps and handrails, First Friday Services Connect volunteers. Visit lighthouseflorence.org/get-involved to submit a volunteer application.
- **Manna House** – Ongoing volunteer needs include kitchen volunteers and pantry shoppers from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Kitchen Volunteers will help prepare, plate, distribute meals, and help with clean up. Pantry Shopper will guide clients through the pantry and assist them in making healthy food choices. For more information, visit flomannahouse.com/volunteer/
- **My Brother's Keeper** – Volunteers needed: drivers and riders, 2-4 p.m. Saturdays; riders, 2-4 p.m. Wednesdays; Cook team members and packers on Fridays. Contact Janet Brand, 843-615-6969
- **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.
- **House of Hope** – Opportunities at shelters and Mission Mart include: receptionist, meal providers, special Projects, hair stylists, Life Skills teacher, Bible studies, childcare, front desk assistance, drivers, meal preparation, sorting, cleaning donations, donation intake, and house-keeping. Find out more at hofh.org/volunteer/.



Fresh Fruit

One of the glories of living in this part of the world is our fresh fruit. Peaches and strawberries and blueberries are on display in our stores and at many roadside stands. It is a wonderful variety.

This summer, we will enjoy another kind of fruit. In the Book of Galatians, Paul lists these as fruits of the Spirit: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. Each week, we will take a closer look at one or two of these fruits to see how we might prepare our own "soil" for the Spirit to grow that fruit within us.

Let's start today by asking the Lord to bring these things to mind so that we become more the men and women God would have us become.



Spirit

SESSION *notes*

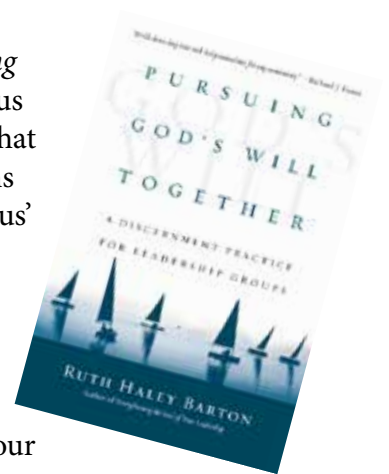


Our May meeting had at least one high and one low. Our high was to hear from our Pastor Nominating Committee on how they are moving forward. You will see PNC chairman Porter Stewart's article in this issue.

Our low was the report that we are losing steam financially. As encouraging as our worship has been, as vital as our fellowship is, we can't seem to move forward in this area.

For our own spiritual growth, we are reading Ruth Hayley Barton's *Pursuing God's Will Together*. She encouraged us to "pray the prayer of indifference." That sounds ... strange. But what she means is, our prayer should be similar to Jesus' prayer: Not my will, but thine.

In that same spirit, we bring this financial update to you. Please prayerfully consider what the Lord is saying to you regarding your financial support of the mission and ministry of First Presbyterian Church. Then allow Jesus' prayer to be yours: Not my will, but thine.



Now is the Time to Straighten the Way

Dear Covenant Partners,

The Pastor Nominating Committee (PNC) is pleased to have this space to share our updates with you. Since the report in the Reminder last month, much has taken place. For easy reference, attention may be given to the Timeline Chart in this issue of the Reminder that follows immediately behind this letter. I will not unduly repeat its information but would like to both contextualize and highlight from it.

The PNC essentially functions like a small group. We dedicate time at each meeting to discuss Scripture and other readings, to pray together, and to engage in conversation. That is to say, we are seeking God's guidance and direction as we dig deeper into His Word; we are gaining perspective from readings of church history and its leaders; we have read the Constitutional and Confessional documents of our ECO denomination; we have intentionally reached out by setting up opportunities for you, our Covenant Partners, to join with us in this search process (through the sharing of the draft Church Information and Pastor Qualifications forms, through the Monday noon prayer hour with us, through announcements and prayers in the worship services, through reaching out to the Fellowship of Elders and the Women in Ministry; through a townhall, with another to come).

These functions have acted to provide spiritual grounding to the PNC. We are a harmonious, unified body, made so through the disciplines of God's work in us, both individually and collectively as a body of believers. In that spirit, we diligently now seek that pastor who would be our next Head of Staff. The work of the PNC in laying the spiritual groundwork has allowed us to quickly "go to press" with ECO. Our ever-faithful fellow traveler and advisor from the Presbytery of South Carolina, Blake Taylor, and our consultant advisors from Knot Navigators, Bill Enns and Dori Little, have all remarked upon the alacrity with which this process has proceeded thus far. Praise be to God for that!

Now is not the time to relent. Now is not the time to relax. Now is not the time to dissipate the preparation and work to date.

Now, in fact, is the time to re-double prayer. Now, in fact, is the time to straighten the way in our own relationships, commitments, participation, and stewardship sacrifices to His Works facilitated and furthered by our local church mission and its programs.

We have gone to the "Job Board." We are posted. Potential candidates for our church pastor call are looking. It is no longer something theoretical for the future. It is at hand. Please pray with us and for our work as the PNC. Please rededicate yourself to this new chapter in the life of our church. As we call, so must we ready ourselves also to be called.

Thank you for your support as we all prepare for a new pastor!

Porter Stewart

The Pastor Nominating Committee includes David Banner, Alice Caldwell, Charissa Canfield, Jim Dameron, David Lake, Laura Marechal, and Porter Stewart.



David Banner



Alice Caldwell



Charissa
Canfield



Jim Dameron



David Lake



Laura
Marechal



Porter
Stewart



First Presbyterian Church

Pastor Nominating Committee Timeline

- Completed
- Planned
- Timing To Be Determined

Organizational Activities



Spiritual Activities



What Does It Mean to be Generous?

The word “generous” is often defined as: open in giving or sharing; willing to give help or support; unselfish. Generous living is not a concept limited to the wealthy, the gifted, or the lucky. Generosity is a lifestyle that stems from a desire to worship God in every area of life.

The principle of generosity is laced all throughout Scripture, and we have the best model and mentor when it comes to seeing it in action — God. He sent His Son, Jesus, as a sacrifice for our mistakes so that way we could spend eternity with Him. That is generosity in action.

Psalm 24:1 says that “the earth is the LORD’s and everything in it, the world, and all who live in it. ...” Everything we have belongs to God and is given to us by Him. He is the owner, and we are His managers. And the people who manage well are often entrusted with more to manage. It doesn’t matter how much we have; it matters what we do with what we’re given.

We will live generously when we view everything we have as a gift from God. And when we do that, our mindsets switch from “This is mine?” to “How can I share?” So, right now, think about how you view the things God has given you. Do you see them as gifts from God to be shared, or as accomplishments and possessions you’ve earned? What is one thing you can start doing today to become more generous?

Facts & Figures

Our **2025 Ministry Action Plan** is approximately \$1.93 million. This is a challenging budget, however, based on a strong response to our 2025 Stewardship campaign last fall and forecast non-pledge giving numbers, the Session felt confident that it is attainable. With that said, the first few months of 2025 have been up and down, which is a typical pattern for this time of the year. To carry out the **Ministry Action Plan** set forth by our pastors, program staff and the various ministry units of the Session, we need to receive contributions of \$37,320 per week. Through mid-May, the average weekly giving is approximately \$5,000 below the average weekly amount needed. Again, while this is a typical pattern for this time of year, it is important that we not become complacent.

We are entering the summer months, and we will see many of our covenant partners heading off for summer trips and vacations. We also will see an increase in expenses as our children’s and youth ministry activities ramp up for the summer.

The good news is that, thanks to the continued faithful support of our covenant partners, we are current in our support of our missionaries and commitments to the local helping organizations that we support.

As we move into the summer months, let me encourage you to include continued financial support of the ministries and mission of First Presbyterian Church in your summer plans. One way that you can do this is through online giving, which allows you to support the ministries of our church even when you are away. To learn more about the online giving option, visit our website, www.florencefirst.org, and click on the online giving link at the top right corner of the home page.



Vic Rockhill



Emily Reed



Leroy Williams

Staff Recognitions

First Presbyterian is fortunate to have a talented and dedicated church staff. This month, we recognize three of our staff on their employment anniversaries.

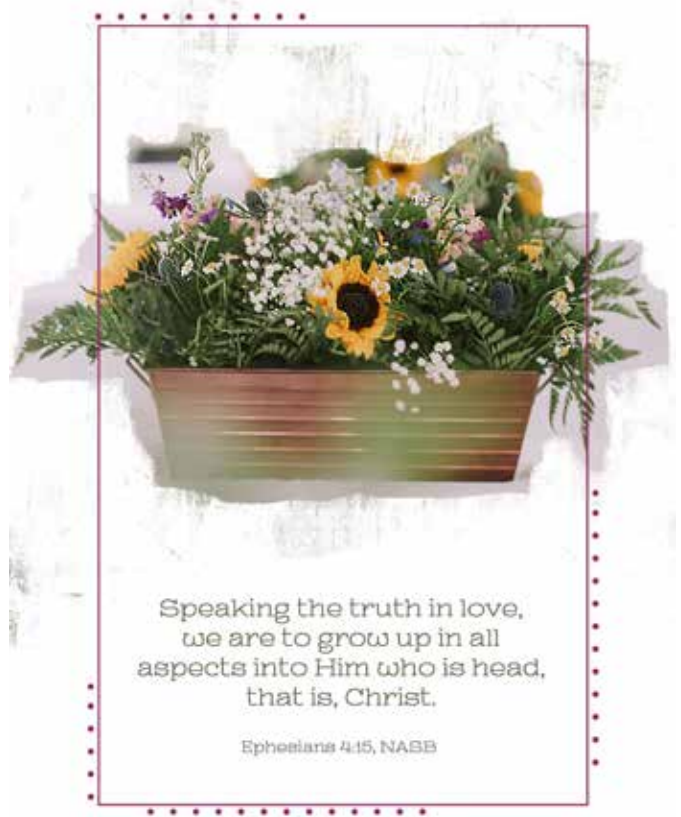
Emily Reed, our Ministry Assistant joined our staff in May 2023. Vic Rockhill has been our Praise Team leader since May 2021. Leroy Williams, Head Custodian, joined our staff in May 2022. Thank you, Emily, Vic, and Leroy, we are grateful for each of you and your contributions to the ministry of First Presbyterian Church.

Practical Living in the Church

Ephesians 4:1-16

In the first three chapters of Ephesians the plan of God for the churches is charted. In the final three chapters, the way the Christians in the first century church are to live in community is detailed. We can think of Ephesians chapters 4-6 as guidelines for living. Ephesians 4:1-16 perform as a transition from the purpose of the Church to the fulfilling of that purpose. This section is bracketed by two sayings that explain how a Christian is to live. First, the Christian is called “to lead a life worthy of the calling to which you have been called (Ephesians 4:1).” Four times in the Pauline letters does this phrase occur to explain the purpose of life: in Philippians 1:27, “only let your manner of life be worthy of the gospel of Christ”; in Colossians 1:10, “to lead a life worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing to him”; and in I Thessalonians 2:12, “to lead a life worthy of God, who calls you into his kingdom and glory.” Second, in Ephesians 4:15, Christians are called to speak “the truth in love” and to grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ.” These two sayings summarize the complete purpose of how a person is to serve God in the world. We seek to lead a worthy life depending on the Holy Spirit leading us to maturity as a disciple of Jesus. In beautiful language, the virtues similar to the fruit of the Spirit in Galatians 5 are listed. There are four virtues listed in Ephesians: humility, patience, loving one another, and unity of the Spirit. Beginning at verse 4 is a creed expressing what is meant by unity. The creed has a rhythm of one. The word one is repeated seven times indicating that the Church is unified in a Trinity composed of Spirit, the Lord Jesus Christ, and God the Father. The various denominations of Christianity need to study and verify what is believed in common. The Church is founded by the Spirit of our Lord Jesus. The Church practices faith in Jesus and the LORD God. The Church baptizes as a sign that a person belongs to God. Even though baptism has produced controversy between denominations, baptism is required to participate in the eucharist, the Lord’s Supper. Every Church identifies in the one hope of reconciliation at our resurrection to God the Creator.

Ephesians 4:7 is best understood to refer to the gift of the Holy Spirit given at Pentecost. “But grace was



given to each of us according to the measure of Christ’s gift.” Psalm 68:18 is used to show God always has had a plan to give humans the gifts to build the Church on earth. It is the gifts (grace) of Christ that are given to each person. The words for grace and gift are the same (xaris). I believe ambiguity is used here to show that whatever the Church needs to mature has been received. A reference is made to Psalm 68:18 in which the LORD gifts the people. I believe that because Christ gives these gifts to the Church, he descends to earth at Pentecost with the Spirit to birth the Church. Christ in the Spirit gave the gifts to the Church with the Spirit. A listing of the early organizations of the Church is given to do three things for the Church, first to equip the Church, second to equip the Church for the work of ministry and third to build the body. All these gifts are given to attain unity. The maturity of individuals and the leadership is the goal of God the Father, the Christ and the Holy Spirit. With these gifts the Christians as the Church are now ready to undertake the work of reconciliation in the world.

Mike

CDC Neighborhood

May has been filled with tears and joy as we celebrated our 4K graduating class. We also enjoyed a field trip to Timrod Park with a picnic. In addition, the children had fun on a scavenger hunt, working in the garden, and ending the school year with lots of fun-filled activities, including field day, water day, bouncy house and pizza party. It's been a bittersweet month, and we are so thankful for the wonderful memories made.

CDC Needs Your Help

We are always in need of plastic grocery bags, toilet paper rolls, and paper towel rolls. If you would like to donate any of these items, please drop them off by the CDC office.





MEET THE CDC TEAM

Ms. Nasha Daniels



ABOUT MS. NASHA

Ms. Nasha is our fun-loving, full of life, energetic, outgoing, loves to bake, never meets a stranger, 2K assistant teacher. She joined the staff in May 2024. Nasha is a native of Florence and enjoys cooking, singing, and healing others' inner spirit. What she loves most about working at the CDC is "having a hand in our future."

HER FAVORITES

FOOD: Steak
COLORS: Blue
FLOWER: Magnolia
Place: Beach or Mountains
SEASON: Winter



Sympathy

Family of Peggy Taylor
Vica Fuller, loss of her infant daughter

Extended Care

Lowman Home
Mac King

The Manor
Glenn and Betty Bell
Joyce Floyd
Marie Jordan
Maria Whitehead

Presbyterian Community
Clariann Kellam
Nell Oliver

Memorial

Peggy Taylor

Military

Andrew Stewart

Households

Flock 1: Cordie, Mary Frances, and Ellis Jones
Flock 2: Fred and Marla Kunz
Flock 3: Sally King
Flock 4: Marian Howard
Flock 5: John and Susan Hofler
Flock 6: Sherrill Fussell
Flock 7: Betsy Johnson
Flock 8: Jim and Sarah Moseley

Baptisms

Lena Foxworth
Zachary Warnix
Luke Williams

Flowers in the Sanctuary

June 1: Communion
June 8: Open
June 15: Bobby Ray
June 22: Open
June 29: Open

Lord, Hear
Our Prayer



Sick & Recovering

Aubrey Crawford
Becky Fincher
Quincy Kennedy
Nancy MacDonald
Bob McLean

Elders

Jim Dameron
Porter Stewart

Deacons

Lynn Porter
Stephanie Spivey

Missions

My Brother's Keeper
Sasha Tsutserov

Women in Ministry

Janet Brand
Kimberly Packard

Teachers

Ashley Bratton
Emily Lake

Staff

Kaiti Bryant
Kelly Hickey

CDC Staff

Ms. Brittany
Ms. Lottia

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.

June BIRTHDAYS

JUNE 1

Love Asongwed
Donna Collins
Jim Dameron
Landis Lane
Emily McLean
Melanie Sprenger

JUNE 2

George Henderson
Coleman Jeffords

JUNE 3

Bill Cain

JUNE 4

Courtney Emert
Bryan Harwell

JUNE 5

Matthew Hyman
Cile MacLennan
Brittany Miles

JUNE 6

Margaret Charles
Eli Gaddy
Gerry Rosenlund

JUNE 8

George Beshere
Drew Caudle
Drake DuRant

JUNE 9

Harper Etheridge
Mary Jernigan

JUNE 10

Addie Bulloch
Abigail Tuttle

JUNE 11

Troy Lamb

JUNE 13

Emily Hodges
Jon Lewis
Gary Meharg
Betsey Moore
Mary Tiller Rabon
Thomas Ray
Anna Reames
Celia Urquhart

JUNE 14

Gray Scott
Katherine Watts

JUNE 15

Merrette Dowdell
Marty Hucks
Isla Pittman
Ebbie Sanderson
Tommy Spencer

JUNE 16

Ken Charles
Carter Hardee
Beverly Harrell
Bobby Henegar
Eric Kim
Cathy Lee
Susan Snow
Gordon Weatherford
Hunter Welch

JUNE 17

Breeden DuBose
Grace DuBose
Charles Lamb
Hunter Morgan Jr.
Edmund Whitehead

JUNE 18

Jo Lynn Bratcher
McKenzie Lehmans
Collins McBride
Addison Suggs
Abi Urquhart

JUNE 19

Hunter Burch
Ansley Moore
Gil Vassy

JUNE 20

Lila McMillan

JUNE 22

Amelia Anne Brown
Mary Grady
Alaina Naylor
Heather Page
Ashley Scott
McCall Swink

JUNE 23

Wells Armstrong
Lauren Bostwick

JUNE 24

David DuBose Jr.
Robin Stoupenos

JUNE 25

Justin Dozier
Ida Whitehead

JUNE 26

Alan Floyd
Emily Hyman
Bryan Rabon

JUNE 27

Ford Allison
Weatherly Tiller
Genia Tyson

JUNE 28

Cindy Coward
Larry Davidson
Richard Genoble
Ford Mimms
Web Mimms
Johnny Stoupenos
Ellen Wilhoit

JUNE 30









Sally Dameron
Gail Gallagher
Tammy Moore
Susan Perrou

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY
1 Sunday School, 9 a.m. Worship Service, 10 a.m. Lemonade & Cookies, 11 a.m. Peggy Taylor Memorial, 2 p.m. Youth Summer Kickoff, 5 p.m.	2 Just for Women Summer Gathering, 8:30 a.m. Weekly Prayer, noon Sanctuary Youth: Brunch at Buc-ee's, 10:30 a.m. meet at church	3 Treasured Tuesday, 7:30 a.m. Ripley's Aquarium Worship Team Meeting, 5 p.m. Masterworks concert, 7 p.m.	4 Wonderful Wednesday, 7:30 a.m. EdVenture Small Group Bible Study, 10 a.m. Youth: Day at the Beach, 8 a.m. to Folly Beach
8 Sunday School, 9 a.m. Worship Service, 10 a.m. Lemonade & Cookies, 11 a.m.	9 CDC Bookmobile, 9 a.m. Weekly Prayer, noon Sanctuary Red Cross Blood Drive, 1 to 5:30 p.m. JFH Enabling Team, 5:30 p.m. PNC Meeting, 5:30 p.m. Youth: Senior Trip, June 9-15	10 Evangelism and Discipleship, 1:30 p.m. WOC 	11 Veterans Brunch, 8 a.m. Youth: Neptune Island, 9 a.m. Small Group Bible Study, 10 a.m. Missions Team, 12:15 p.m. VBS volunteer training, 5:30 p.m.
15 Sunday School, 9 a.m. Worship Service, 10 a.m. Lemonade & Cookies, 11 a.m. VBS meeting, 2 p.m. 	16 Vacation Bible School, 9 a.m. WinShape meeting, 4:30 p.m. PNC Meeting, 5:30 p.m. 	17 Vacation Bible School, 9 a.m. Fellowship Team, 5:30 p.m.	18 Personnel Team, 8:15 a.m. Vacation Bible School, 9 a.m. Small Group Bible Study, 10 a.m. Youth: Picnic, 1 p.m.
22 Praise Team Rehearsal, 9 a.m. Worship Service, 10 a.m. Youth: Fun in the Son, June 22-27 	23 WinShape leaders meeting, 4:30 p.m. PNC Meeting, 5:30 p.m. CDC staff meeting, 6 p.m.	24 Diaconate, 5:30 p.m. Session, 6:30 p.m.	25 Youth Group, 5:30 p.m.
29 Sunday School, 9 a.m. Worship Service, 10 a.m. Lemonade & Cookies, 11 a.m.	30 WinShape, 8 a.m. 	1 WinShape, 8 a.m.	2 WinShape, 8 a.m.

THURSDAY

FRIDAY

SATURDAY

<p>5</p> <p>Youth: F. E. Pop's, 9 a.m. Thundering Thursday, 9 a.m. RiverRat's</p>	<p>6</p> <p>Sprenger Wedding Rehearsal</p>	<p>7</p>  <p>Sprenger Wedding</p>
<p>12</p> <p>Youth: F. E. Pop's, 9 a.m. VBS volunteer training, 5:30 p.m.</p>	<p>13</p> 	<p>14</p> <p>Parking Lot Mission, 6 a.m.</p>
<p>19</p> <p>Youth: F.E. Pop's, 8 a.m. Vacation Bible School, 9 a.m.</p> 	<p>20</p> 	<p>21</p> 
<p>26</p> <p>Youth: F.E. Pop's, 9 a.m.</p> 	<p>27</p> 	<p>28</p>
<p>3</p> <p>WinShape, 8 a.m. CDC Fourth of July Parade</p>	<p>4</p> <p>CDC, church office closed WinShape, 8 a.m.</p> 	<p>5</p>

JUNE

WEEKLY

SUNDAYS

- Adult Sunday School, 9 a.m.
- Worship Service, 10 a.m.
- Lemonade and Cookies, 11 a.m.

MONDAYS

- Weekly Prayer, noon Sanctuary
- Prayer Group, 2:30 p.m.
- Selah Yoga, 5:30 p.m. CLC
- Men's Bible Study, 7 p.m. (203)

TUESDAYS

- Just for Women Bible study, 11 a.m.
- Ladies' Ensemble, 1:30 p.m.

WEDNESDAYS

- Small Group Bible Study, 10 a.m.
- Youth Group, 5:30 p.m.
- Chancel Choir Rehearsal, 7 p.m.

THURSDAYS

- Men's Bible Study, 7 a.m.
- Youth Coffee, 9 a.m. F.E. Pop's
- Women's Bible Study, 10:30 a.m.

Spring Celebration honors Green, highlights OM Ships

The Women in Ministry's Spring Celebration highlighted faith, friendships, and ministry on May 6 with the presentation of the Life Service Award and guest speaker Julie Knox with Operation Mobilisation.

Jan Green received the Life Service Award. Her faithfulness to the young and old, Keenagers, as well as the women of the church matches the energy in which she keeps in step with the Spirit. Throughout the years teaching at First Presbyterian Church, Jan has taught third- and fourth-graders during Sunday School and has mentored many Confirmants for their next steps in their spiritual journey.

As previous recipient Betsy Olsen said in introducing Jan, "She is a true spiritual leader in our church. ... She empties herself to become what is required."

Julie Knox spoke about OM's mission to see vibrant communities of Jesus-followers among the least reached. Julie is a former journalist for the British Broadcasting Corporation BBC whom God called to leave her career as a war reporter to bring the news of how He is at work around the world. OM's international mission movement was started almost 70 years ago by three American students who were passionate that everyone in the world should have the opportunity to hear the gospel at least once. OM now has more than 5,000 workers representing over 130 nationalities engaged in a range of creative ministries — which are supplied with Christian literature from a base in Florence. For more on OM, visit www.om.org/eng/ships.



Survey for Women in the Church

Women in Ministry is transitioning! If you are a woman 18 or older and attend First Presbyterian Church, then we would like to hear from you!

Please take 5 minutes to fill out this brief survey by June 29 — online or by hard copy. Hard copies are available in the church office and Welcome Center.



Fill the survey out online by scanning the QR code.



SUMMER WORSHIP

SCHEDULE

COMBINED SERVICES RUN THROUGH AUGUST

JOIN US AT 10 A.M. SUNDAYS FOR COMBINED WORSHIP.
SUNDAY SCHOOL FOR CHILDREN WILL BE AT 9 A.M. IN JUNE.

MAY 4 - AUGUST 31
SEPTEMBER 7

10 AM COMBINED WORSHIP
TWO WORSHIP SERVICES RESUME



Pictured from left to right are Eagle Scouts William Grantham, Brantley Broach, Hugh Whitehead, Will Arthur, Hugh Granger, Ben Carter, Joshua Weber, David Frost, and Brett Granger.

Nine Boy Scouts earn Eagle Scout award

Scoutmaster Brandon Hylton was the emcee for nine members of our scouting ministry receiving Eagle Scout awards in a ceremony in the CLC on May 19.



It took a combined 85 years of scouting for these nine Scouts to earn their Eagles Scout

rank. Most all started as Cub Scouts. They have traveled to New Mexico backpacking at Philmont, been sand sledding at the Great Sand Dunes National Park, backpacking on the Appalachian Trail, weeklong boundary waters canoe trips, snow

skiing trips, water skiing trips, and paddle trips on the Little Pee Dee and Lynches rivers.

They visited National and World Scout jamborees in West Virginia, been caving in West Virginia and whitewater rafting in both North Carolina and West Virginia, spent the night on the Yorktown aircraft carrier, spent the night at Riverbanks Zoo and camped at Disney's Fort Wilderness campground. They swam with the manatees at Crystal River and camped on the beach of the N.C. Outer banks Cape Lookout National Seashore.

They attended many weeks at summers scout camp, camped in the Great Smokey Mountains National Park and spent countless weekend camping trips at state parks and family farms.

Eagle Rank Requirements

Some of the Eagle Scout award requirements include:

- Being active in the troop for at least six months as a Life Scout.
- As a Life Scout, demonstrating Scout Spirit by living the Scout Oath and Scout Law.
- Earning a total of 21 merit badges.
- As a Life Scout, planning, developing, and providing leadership to others in a service project helpful to any religious organization, school, or community.

Children's Ministry Corner

Dear Church Family,

A few weeks ago, a dear friend shared words of wisdom with the CDC Moms and Staff Bible study group. As I read her text, the words spoke volumes. It was as if God Himself was speaking reminding me that I matter. He created me and I am His! At that moment, I knew I needed those words of truth, His truth. I needed them then and I need them now. I also know this truth isn't just for me. It's for YOU, too. May God's truth be engrained in your heart forever!

"Your presence on this earth matters more than you know. You bring something no one else can – a unique voice, a special light, a heart that has touched others in ways you may never see. You are needed, valued and deeply important."

Author unknown

Much love,
Kelly



Children's Sunday: Thank You!

A heartfelt thank you to everyone who helped make Children's Sunday so special! We are especially grateful to Ashley Bratton, Allie Hickey, Laura Anne Hofler, and Emily Lake for their time, energy, and support in preparing and guiding our children. And a very big thank you to Mark Davis, the creative force behind our incredible ark! He worked so hard to bring it to life, and it truly made the story of Noah unforgettable. We are so thankful for each of you!

Dear Church Family,

There are some moments in ministry that stay with you — and Children's Sunday was one of those moments.

On Mother's Day, our children stood before the congregation and led worship with such boldness, heart, and joy. Whether they were reading Scripture, acting out the story of Noah's Ark, or offering prayers for God's people, they reminded all of us what it looks like to follow Jesus with childlike faith.

One of the most meaningful moments of the service, in my opinion, was the Prayer for God's People. What made it so powerful was that the children came up with it themselves — every name, every cause, every person and place came straight from their hearts.

During the planning stages, when I asked the children who and what they wanted to include in the prayer, I was astounded by the number of people and causes they named. Honestly, I thought it might be too much — that we'd need to trim the list. But then I paused and realized how beautiful it is that these children pray with such trust in God — believing there is no limit to what they can bring before Him. Their faith doesn't hesitate. To them, there's no such thing as too much to ask of God.

The skit they performed told the story of Noah's Ark, pointing us to our theme of "Trusting in God." Noah trusted when no one else did. And through that trust, God saved him — not just for that moment, but as part of a much bigger plan.

At the end of the skit, the children reminded us:

"There was only one way to be saved from the flood... you had to go through the door of the ark. And there is only one way to be saved from our sin — through Jesus."

That truth still holds today. Whether we're building an ark, saying a prayer, or stepping into the unknown, **Jesus is our Door — and He is always faithful.**

As we head into a summer full of new adventures in Children's Ministry, I carry that message with me — and I hope you do, too. We'll be learning, growing, and trusting in God through summer events and VBS, and I can't wait to see how God continues to move.

Thank you for cheering on these amazing kids and helping them grow in their faith — they are watching, learning, and leading in ways that inspire us all.

In Christ's love,
Kaiti

Summertime, Summertime, Sum, Sum, Summertime

Please note: For your child to participate, you will be required to complete an FPC Medical/Liability Form. Forms will be emailed to you once you have signed up. Contact Kaiti Bryant with questions or for more information.

First Steps Fellowship (Nursery to 2K with Parents)

June 11	Bubbles & Babies
July 16	Popsicles at the Playground

Treasured Tuesdays (Completed 3K – 5K)

June 3	Aquarium, Myrtle Beach
June 17	Vacation Bible School
July 1	WinShape Camp (5K) (not meeting)
July 8	Neptune Island, Hartsville

On Tuesday, July 8, we will meet at the church at 9 a.m. to travel to Neptune Island in Hartsville. We will return to the church at 3 p.m. Everyone needs to wear their bathing suit (no bikinis) under their clothes and bring:

- a towel
- water shoes
- dry clothes
- a bag for wet clothes
- sunscreen



Cost of the trip is \$35 per child. Lunch is included in the cost of the trip. All children must sign up by July 2. Use the QR code or link to register:

<https://onrealm.org/florencefirst/PublicRegistrations/Event?linkString=MTg0MDNmMTUtZmMy-NC00ZWY4LWJmNGMtYjJlNDAwZmE4Y2Nh>



Thundering Thursdays (Completed 3rd – 5th Grade)

June 5	RiverRat's, Scranton
June 19	Vacation Bible School
July 3	WinShape Camp (not meeting)
July 10	Frankie's Fun Park, Columbia

On Thursday, July 10, we will meet at the church at 9:30 a.m. to travel to Frankie's Fun Park in Columbia. We will enjoy go-carts, laser tag, the Drop Zone, the arcade and more. We will return at 4 p.m.



Wonderful Wednesdays (Completed 1st – 2nd)

June 4	EdVenture, Columbia
June 18	Vacation Bible School
July 2	WinShape Camp (not meeting)
July 9	Riverbanks Zoo

On July 9, we will meet at the church at 7:30 a.m. to travel to Riverbanks Zoo in Columbia. We will return at 4 p.m. We also will enjoy Waterfall Junction at the Botanical Gardens. Everyone needs to wear their bathing suit (no bikinis) under their clothes and bring:

- a towel
- water shoes
- dry clothes
- bag for wet clothes
- Sunscreen



Cost of the trip is \$30 per child. Lunch is included in the cost. All children must sign up by July 2. Use the QR code or link to register: <https://onrealm.org/florencefirst/PublicRegistrations/Event?linkString=Z-TU2YmMzNTItN2JlZi00OTg3LThiNTMtYjJlNDAw-ZmNiNmM3>

The cost of the trip is \$65 per child. Lunch is included in the cost of the trip. All children must sign up by July 2.

Use the QR code or link to register: <https://onrealm.org/florencefirst/PublicRegistrations/Event?linkString=N-jU2ODg4YWUtN2MwYS00MjNkLTh-mODUtYjJlNDAwZmQ3NjZi>



Tents needed for VBS

Vacation Bible School is just around the corner, and we couldn't be more excited!

This year, children will travel back in time to **ancient Egypt** to experience the story of **Joseph** — his trials, his triumphs, and how God was with him every step of the way.

Registration is now closed, and we are thrilled to welcome over 100 children to this amazing week of faith, fun, and discovery!

As we prepare to transform the Christian Life Center into an Egyptian marketplace, we are still in need of **10–12 pop-up or tailgating tents**. If you have one we can borrow **between June 10 and June 19**, please contact **Kaiti Bryant**, kbryant@florencefirst.org. Your support helps bring this immersive experience to life!



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
June 1	10 a.m.	Kaiti Bryant
June 8	10 a.m.	Kaiti Bryant
June 15	10 a.m.	Kaiti Bryant
June 22	10 a.m.	Kaiti Bryant
June 29	10 a.m.	Kelly Hickey



WinShape Camps

WinShape Camps for Communities is returning to Florence at First Presbyterian Church the week of June 30 – July 4! This is a next level summer camp experience, where kids can have fun and learn more about Jesus. Multi-sibling discounts are available. Register at camps.winshape.org/day-camps/florence-sc-2/.

Our Graduating Seniors

Our High School Seniors graduation is a time to reflect and celebrate in the life of our Church. There are many memories held by their Sunday School Teachers, Scout Leaders, Youth Leaders, and Confirmation Mentors who have invested and helped shape their lives for the future.



Catherine Canfield

Daughter of
Charissa and Chris Canfield
Mentor: Cynthia Knudsen
Catherine, graduating from
Wilson High School,
will be attending
N.C. State University



Michael Frost

Son of
Brandon and Bryon Frost
Mentor: Hunter Morgan Sr.
Michael, graduating from
Trinity Collegiate School,
will be attending The Citadel



Allie Hickey

Daughter of
Kelly Hickey and Jamie Hickey
Mentor: Alexis Morris
Allie, graduating from
South Florence High School,
will be attending
Francis Marion University



Rylie Hughes

Daughter of
Farrah and Rhett Hughes
Mentor: Jan Green
Rylie, graduating from
West Florence High School,
will be attending
Florence-Darlington
Technical College



Penn Packard

Son of
Kimberly and Daniel Packard
Mentor: Brandon Blankenship
Penn, graduating from
Winson Academy and
Classical Conversations,
will be attending
The Citadel



Cole Rabon

Son of
Tena and Bryan Rabon
Mentor: Rufus Bratton Jr.
Cole, graduating from
Trinity Collegiate School,
will be attending
The Citadel



Ella Rawlinson

Daughter of
Stephanie and Kevin Rawlinson
Mentor: Sally Dameron
Ella, graduating from
South Florence High School,
will be attending
Presbyterian College



Landon Watkins

Son of
Lendi and Ryon Watkins
Mentor: Don Hebert
Landon, graduating from
West Florence High School,
will be attending
Kennesaw State University

Graduation Celebrations at First Presbyterian



Two graduating classes were celebrated in May. Our Child Development Center held a graduation for the 4K class moving onto kindergarten. The church celebrated our graduating high school seniors with a breakfast and during worship, and the youth group celebrated them with a dinner. Congrats!



Celebrating Graduates' Senior Year in Youth Group



Youth honor graduates, welcome Confirmands

May was filled with many fun activities and plenty of celebrations for our graduating seniors. We welcomed the Confirmands into the youth group, held a pickleball tournament, and honored our seniors both on Sunday morning and during Wednesday night youth group. We have a very busy summer ahead. Please be sure to check out the calendar below for June and all the events we have planned. Freeman Williams is our intern this summer. Say hello when you see him around.

Upcoming Events

Summer Kickoff (June 1) 4-7 p.m.

Join us for a special night where we kick-off the summer with a pool party! Youth are welcome to bring a friend. Meet us at the Dowdell's house (700 Greenway Drive).

Brunch at Buc-ee's (June 2) 10:30 a.m. – 1 p.m.

We will meet at the church and travel to Buc-ee's to grab brunch. Youth will need to bring \$15-\$20 for their meal. Bring a friend!

Folly Beach (June 5) 8 a.m.

We will enjoy a day at the beach near Charleston. Cost is \$10. Bring a friend and money for one meal on the road.

Please let Taiter know ASAP if you would like to go.

11th and 12th Grade Trip to New York City (June 9-15) 8 a.m.

The trip will be part mission and part fun. We will partner with a Christian organization while we are there in hopes of advancing the Gospel in the big city. We will also enjoy a Broadway show, Central Park, other famous sites, and delicious food!

Neptune Island (June 11) 9 a.m. – 4 p.m.

Cost is \$30. Bring a friend & money for lunch. Please sign up and pay by Wednesday, June 4.

Coffee at F.E. Pop's (June 12 and 26) 9 a.m.

Vacation Bible School (June 16-19) 8 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.
Please RSVP to volunteer at VBS to Taiter or Ms. Kaiti by ASAP.



Fun in The Son (June 22-27) **Senior High trip**

We will travel to St. Simon's Island. Mornings include quiet times, the large group session, and seminars. You will have free time to relax and enjoy the beach. A variety of recreation activities and tournaments will be organized for each afternoon. The evening schedule will include dinner, a counselor meeting, the large group session, and family time. Cost is \$350. Spaces are limited so please let Taiter know ASAP if you would like to go.



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	Ms. 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



SAVE THE DATE
APRIL 17-19, 2026
HICKORY KNOB STATE PARK