



# The

# REMINDER

AUGUST 2025





**ON THE COVER:** The CDC ended the summer with a pop and a splash with the Hartsville Bubble Guy as he brought a fun way to learn about science to the children. Watching different bubble shapes and sizes being created or even observing how bubbles pop can spark a curiosity of learning. The children enjoyed bubbles galore!

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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:*

- **Helping Florence Flourish** – Hosted on the campus of The Church at Sandhurst, HFF welcomes the **Global Leadership Summit** on August 7-8. The two-day summit offers insights from globally recognized speakers while building stronger connections within the Florence community. For more information, email Jeremy Emert, jemert@helpingflorenceflourish.org. Register here: <https://globalleadership.org/summit/#participate>.
- **ServeFLO** opportunity: Lunch for **Church of Whosoever** on Sunday, October 12. Contact Laura Marechal for more information.
- **Naomi Project:** Lunch fundraiser will be held at St. John's on Thursday, September 18.
- **House of Hope** – Volunteers are needed to help run the **Cooling Station at Whosoever Church** from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. daily during extreme heat. For more information, email jedwards@hofh.org or call 843-667-9000.  
**Hope Invitational** will be held September 11 at Darlington Country Club with best local golfers playing 18 holes to win the jacket. Contact Ella G. Ward for sponsorship or golfing opportunities, eward@hofh.org.
- **Lighthouse Ministries – The Good Neighbor Gala.**  
Tickets are now available for the 8th annual fundraising gala to be held Thursday, September 4, at the Florence Country Club. Be a part of an unforgettable evening filled with dinner, drinks, and uplifting stories from our neighbors whose lives have been impacted by Lighthouse Ministries. Good Neighbor of the Year also will be honored and Good Neighbor Gifts will be presented. For tickets and more information, visit [lighthouseflorence.org/events](http://lighthouseflorence.org/events).
- **Manna House** – Save the Date for **Singing for Suppers** to be held at 6 p.m. September 25 at James Allen Plaza in downtown Florence. 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 shoppers guide clients through the pantry and assist them in making healthy food choices. For more information, visit [flomannahouse.com/volunteer/](http://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.

# Sermon Series to explore Book of Nehemiah

In August, we will begin a new preaching series called "Rebuilding Our Broken World." The series is an exploration of the Book of Nehemiah. We will look at what it takes to see a problem, to seek the Lord as we address those problems, and then rallying those around us to take on the problem, as well.

Along the way we will encounter challengers from the outside and needs and problems that arise from within. I'm so looking forward to leading us on this journey as the Lord opens His Word to all of us!

*Spur*

## SESSION *notes*



In our July meeting, we had the privilege of praying for some members who asked to have hands laid on them. We then considered our study of the book, *Pursuing God's Will Together* by reflecting on the question author Ruth Haley Barton poses.

"Brave leaders who are concerned about spiritual formation and discernment in their setting ask: How is the organizational culture shaping me and all others who work and worship here?"

While we make no claim to bravery, we considered our church culture and spirit, and felt that we are doing well. The Spirit is alive, the care for one another is obvious and the Word is "dwelling among us richly," as the

Bible says. We know there is always room for improvement, but we are thankful to be in this season of our spiritual life together.

We considered the finances of the church. We will send a letter out to be sure all are with us in prayer on this as well as stepping up our support. We are gearing up for the Fall with plans and programs and seeing what the Lord has for us.

We remain in prayer for the person God will bring to our church as our next pastor. Please join us in this, and thank you for doing your part in strengthening our life together.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR



## MEN'S RETREAT

APRIL 17-19, 2026

HICKORY KNOB STATE PARK

Promise: Your relationship to God and others will be CHANGED! For info, contact Bill Cain, 407-473-0912.

Be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. Ephesians 6:10

# PNC in Season of Discernment

Greetings, Covenant Partners!

The Pastor Nominating Committee is having a busy summer season! As had been anticipated in our report last month, we did have our consultant in for meetings with the PNC, for an update to the congregation with availability for questions, for the facilitation of zoom meetings with two “head of staff” pastors (for backgrounding information on those governing models), for attendance at the diaconate meeting in June, for participation in a dinner with the elders, deacons, staff, PNC members, and ONC members, and, finally, for attendance and presentation at the June session meeting.

We made available to the elders form documents for review and comment as we continue the process of search, discernment, and the offer of call. We continue to benefit from our presbytery liaison, Blake Taylor (who, himself, has participated in five pastor search committees over the years). His wisdom and dedication are both an assurance and an inspiration to us all.

So, what is the purpose of these meetings and communications on our side in this season? Just this: we seek openness, harmony, understanding and shared purpose. We desire that at a time of calling, both we and our new pastor will be clear as to roles and responsibilities, understanding, nonetheless, that a process also must have room to evolve as it develops. Basically, with those gifts and talents and resources granted to us by our Maker, we seek to blend, strengthen, harmonize,

extend and maximize, according to our understanding of missions and ministry within our Reformed practices. We seek to live together in a church in His Will, that frees those gifts and talents to best serve others – and each other. What best enables and will not inadvertently inhibit?

In short, all of this is simply to say, we are deep into the season of discernment. We seek in a pastor the person whom the Holy Spirit will equip, who will inspire us and lead us in those ways that will uniquely address our freshly discerned sense of ministry and missions that we have engaged in together.

Yes, given all of the process outlined above, we sought to prepare properly for this journey. Since then, we have begun conversations with respondents to our posted Church Information Form at ECO. We are but one-half of that process of discernment. It will be the Holy Spirit that will join us with a pastor in a proposed calling for your endorsement.

We ask you continued prayers. Waiting is most difficult in our world. But in the realm of spirituality, active waiting upon the Lord in prayer and consultation with Him is where we find His will. We rest in that.

May we all continue to make straight our way. His will be done.

Porter Stewart

## Pastor Nominating Committee



David Banner

Laura Marechal

Porter Stewart

David Lake

Jim Dameron

Alice Caldwell

Charissa Canfield



# First Presbyterian Church Pastor Nominating Committee Timeline

Completed

Planned

Timing To Be Determined

## Organizational Activities



\*PNC = Pastor Nominating Committee

\*\*Church Information Form & Job Description



## Spiritual Activities





# ‘Come, Follow Me’

## Toward a Healthier Church

First Presbyterian Church can be characterized in many ways. One thing that has amazed me through my 11 years as your church administrator is the generosity of the covenant partners. Throughout the years, I’ve had conversations with peers and colleagues regarding church finances, stewardship, and benevolence giving. I’ve heard stories of extreme generosity but more often than not, the stories are not exactly “glowing.” I have always been happy to share examples of how First Presbyterian Church and our covenant partners consistently go above and beyond when it comes to financial stewardship and support of the ministry and mission of our church. I am always quick to point out the church’s support of local benevolence agencies and our support of missionaries in the field at home and abroad. Our church is currently facing a challenge in that our giving (income) simply is not meeting our needs (expenses). Let me point out that this is not unique to FPC. A recent survey shows that charitable giving to religious organizations has dropped by nearly half since the 1980s. The Session recently made a difficult decision to reduce our financial support to local benevolence agencies serving our community. The *hope* is that this will be a temporary measure and that the church will be able to fully fund the support of these agencies by year end. I’m currently reading *Practicing the Way: Be with Jesus Become Like Him Do As He Did* by John Mark Comer. As the title suggests, the premise of the book is that being a follower of Christ, a disciple, impacts every area of our life. For Comer it is about Jesus transforming our lives as we “apprentice ourselves” to Jesus. In the preface of the book, Comer writes: “Three of the most important words ever spoken in the long annals of human history: Come Follow me (Matthew 4:19). Contrary to what many may assume, Jesus did not invite people to convert to Christianity. He didn’t even call people to become Christians (keep reading...): he invited people to apprentice under him into a whole new way of living. To be transformed.”

“Transformation is possible *if* we are willing to arrange our lives around the practices, rhythms and truths that Jesus himself did, which will open our lives to God’s power to change. Said another way, we can be transformed *if* we are willing to apprentice ourselves to Jesus.”



Applying this to our current challenge, our “apprenticeship” to Jesus should affect our stewardship of time, talent and treasure. As summer vacations end and we get back into our “routines” let me encourage you to look for ways that you can “apprentice yourself” to Jesus by evaluating your financial support to the ministry of First Presbyterian Church. Our church has faced financial challenges in the past and has always responded to the challenge. Session is confident that our covenant partners will rise to meet this challenge, as well. Let me encourage you to respond as God prompts your heart.

***“Each of you must bring a gift in proportion to the way the LORD your God has blessed you.”***

***Deuteronomy 16:17***

## You Ought to Be in Pictures!

New covenant partners have joined and families have grown since our last pictorial church directory five years ago. That is why we are excited to announce that we are partnering with Universal Church Directories to publish a new pictorial directory. We will be photographing all families during the week of September 24-27. Save the dates and look for information on signing up for your photography session. We want to see your smile!

# Choose Light over Darkness of Evil

EPHESIANS 5:3-20

All people make decisions and choices every day. Ephesians 5:3-20 urges new Christians to choose good represented by light instead of choosing to do something that hurts another human being. Sometimes choices are made and their outcome is unknown whether it is good or evil. As children we choose to obey parents or to disobey parents. As Christians we choose to obey Christ or to disobey Christ. When I was a teenager and began to drive and date without chaperons, my parents told me to be home by midnight. I remember the words, and I repeated them to my children: "Nothing good happens after midnight."

The ethical teaching of Ephesians 5:3-20 uses several metaphors to illustrate how Christians are to live after the initial commitment to follow Jesus. Our choices are to be influenced by the Holy Spirit. The image of walking is used extensively in the fourth and fifth chapters of Ephesians. A title for Ephesians chapters 4-6 could be: "How to lead a worthy life." The Christian is called to "walk in love (Ephesians 5:2)", and then to walk in wisdom (Ephesians 5:15). The metaphor of walk means to live a human life and a human journey from birth to death. Another metaphor applied to living is "walk as children of light (Ephesians 5:8)." There is a distinction between light and darkness. This is a simple comparison. Light means to seek God's way in Christ. Darkness means to seek evil and to worship oneself as an idolator. Evil people love themselves and reject the wisdom God offers in Christ.

This contrast carries easily into our American culture. Being and doing evil manifests as the violence human beings do as they destroy and kill. Being and doing good is shown by Jesus and those who follow Jesus' example of loving one another. John's Gospel understands Jesus as light exposing the evil of sin: "People loved darkness rather than light because their deeds were evil (John 3:19)."

In our walk as we live as Christians are we willing to expose the darkness in our lives? Identifying darkness may be the first step to eliminating it in our lives. Ephesians 5:3-20 clearly identifies the old way of life and calls the new Gentile believers to choose light and life over darkness and death.

In the latter part of this section a distinction is made between wise and unwise. The wise person makes the most of time (Ephesians 5:16). This is something I strive to do. I hold myself accountable if I feel I am wasting time. A translation of "making the most" as redeeming the time helps me in seeking to be diligent in following the advice of Ephesians. Time as living is redeemed by resisting evil and walking in the light.

A final metaphorical comparison is made between being drunk and filled with the Spirit. Alcoholic beverages are called spirits. The contrast between the two is that drunkenness draws us away from God and the Holy Spirit pulls us toward God. The Spirit enables authentic worship to speak of God in all manner of physical voice and singing. Worship produces joy in a Christian, and joy comes from being grateful or thankful.

Ephesians 5:3-20 is bracketed by calls to be thankful. Thanksgiving is a key to authentic living in Christ. The Gentiles in Ephesus are to give up their old ways of worshipping idols and living selfishly and turn to a new way of following Christ. The journey in Christ changes from darkness to light, evil to good, drunkenness to being filled with the Spirit, and from foolishness to wisdom. In the modern lives of Christians there is a movement or journey or walk to be more like Christ. The coming of Jesus transforms our knowledge of God to a living faith of knowing and seeking God's will and way. We live in gratitude to Jesus and to God the Father. Thanksgiving fills time and space as we worship and honor God. The Church unites in worship, joy, and thanksgiving as Christians speak, sing, and make melody in the LORD.



# Parade of Celebrations

We had a lot of fun in July. The children and staff kicked off the month with our Fourth of July parade for parents and grandparents. We enjoyed several water days, the Old Fashion Italian Ice and Popsicle truck, an inflatable obstacle course, inflatable water slide, the Hartsville Bubble Guy, snow cones, Kona Ice, and so much more. We had fun celebrating the end of the summer and sadly saying goodbye to some of the students and families who are starting new schools. Although they will no longer walk through the halls of the CDC, they will forever be etched onto our hearts.







# MEET THE CDC TEAM

**Mrs. Kendra Gaskins**



## ABOUT MRS. KENDRA

Mrs. Kendra is our dedicated, most loving, nurturing, detail-oriented, and doesn't-miss-a-beat Infant 1 teacher. She joined the staff in June 2022. Kendra is a native of Coward and enjoys cooking, gardening, anything water-related, and time with family. What she loves most about working at the CDC is the kids: "You could have the worst day, and they'll make you smile."

## HER FAVORITES

FOOD: Mexican  
COLORS: Pink  
FLOWER: Magnolia  
PLACE: Lake  
SEASON: Spring



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY
<b>27</b> Adult Sunday School, 9 a.m. Worship Service, 10 a.m. Lemonade & Cookies, 11 a.m.	<b>28</b> Weekly Prayer, noon Sanctuary PNC Meeting, 5:30 p.m. 	<b>29</b> 	<b>30</b>
<b>3</b> Adult Sunday School, 9 a.m. Praise Team Rehearsal, 9 a.m. Worship Service, 10 a.m. Lemonade & Cookies, 11 a.m. 	<b>4</b> Weekly Prayer, noon Sanctuary CDC Bible Study, 12:15 p.m. 	<b>5</b> Worship Team Meeting, 5 p.m.	<b>6</b> Bible Drill Boot Camp, 5:30 p.m. Youth Group, 5:30 p.m. Chancel Choir Rehearsal, 7 p.m.
<b>10</b> Adult Sunday School, 9 a.m. Worship Service, 10 a.m. Lemonade & Cookies, 11 a.m. Confirmation Meeting, 11:15 a.m. in Lawson-Rain Youth: Pool Party, 2 p.m.	<b>11</b> Weekly Prayer, noon Sanctuary Enabling Team, 5:30 p.m.	<b>12</b> 	<b>13</b> Veterans Brunch, 8 a.m. Missions Team, 12:15 p.m. Bible Drill Boot Camp, 5:30 p.m. Youth Group, 5:30 p.m.
<b>17</b> Adult Sunday School, 9 a.m. Praise Team Rehearsal, 9 a.m. Worship Service, 10 a.m. Lemonade & Cookies, 11 a.m.	<b>18</b> Weekly Prayer, noon Sanctuary 	<b>19</b> Evangelism and Discipleship, 1:30 p.m. WOC Fellowship Team, 5:30 p.m.	<b>20</b> Personnel Team, 8:15 a.m. Bible Drill Boot Camp, 5:30 p.m. Youth Group, 5:30 p.m. Chancel Choir Rehearsal, 7 p.m.
<b>24</b> Adult Sunday School, 9 a.m. Worship Service, 10 a.m. Lemonade & Cookies, 11 a.m. Ice Cream Social, 4 p.m. <b>31</b> Adult Sunday School, 9 a.m. Worship Service, 10 a.m. Lemonade & Cookies, 11 a.m.	<b>25</b> Weekly Prayer, noon Sanctuary	<b>26</b> Diaconate, 5:30 p.m. Session, 6:30 p.m.	<b>27</b> Bible Drill Boot Camp, 5:30 p.m. Youth Group, 5:30 p.m.



## THURSDAY

## FRIDAY

## SATURDAY

<p>31</p> <p>Youth: F. E. Pop's, 7 a.m.</p>	<p>1</p>	<p>2</p> 
<p>7</p> <p>Youth: F. E. Pop's, 7 a.m. Global Leadership Summit</p>	<p>8</p> <p>Global Leadership Summit</p>	<p>9</p> <p>Parking Lot Mission, 6 a.m.</p>
<p>14</p> <p>Youth: F.E. Pop's, 7 a.m.</p> 	<p>15</p> <p>Confirmation Retreat Youth Rafting Trip</p> 	<p>16</p> <p>Confirmation Retreat Youth Rafting Trip</p> 
<p>21</p> <p>Youth: F.E. Pop's, 7 a.m. CDC Open House, 5:30 p.m.</p>	<p>22</p> 	<p>23</p> 
<p>28</p> <p>Youth: F.E. Pop's, 7 a.m.</p> 	<p>29</p> <p>High School Boys Bible Study, 6:45 a.m.</p>	<p>30</p>

AUGUST

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

## WEDNESDAYS

- Bible Drill Boot Camp, 5:30 p.m.
- Youth Group, 5:30 p.m.

## THURSDAYS

- Men's Bible Study, 7 a.m.
- Youth Coffee, 7 a.m. F.E. Pop's



# Lord, Hear Our Prayer

HEAR MY CRY, O GOD; LISTEN TO MY PRAYER. PSALM 61:1



## SYMPATHY

Family and friends of Marie Jordan  
Jule Eldridge, loss of his father  
Warren Montgomery, loss of his uncle  
Alex Tolson and Andrew Tolson,  
loss of their grandfather

## SICK & RECOVERING

Cathy Bazen  
Aubrey Crawford  
Bobby Henegar  
Bob McLean  
Ginger Sullivan

## EXTENDED CARE

<b>Lowman Home</b>	<b>The Manor</b>
Mac King	Glenn and Betty Bell
<b>Presbyterian</b>	Joyce Floyd
<b>Community</b>	Maria Whitehead
Clariann Kellam	
Nell Oliver	

## HOUSEHOLDS

Flock 1: Gregg, Michelle, Gregg and Maggie Jones  
Flock 2: Bob and Emily McLean  
Flock 3: Christopher and Kaitlin Langmo  
Flock 4: Tyler Jackson  
Flock 5: Kendall, Haley, Sullivyn and Shep Jackson  
Flock 6: Betty Lee Gandy  
Flock 7: Rainey and Shand Josey  
Flock 8: John, Whitney, Bennett and Hollis Richey

## BIRTH

Harry Edward Spencer, born June 25, 2025,  
son of Eliza and Rhett Spencer

## BAPTISM

Claire Helen Myers, born January 21, 2025,  
daughter of Baker and Kristen Myers

## MEMORIALS

Marie Jordan  
Peggy Taylor  
Stuart Bond's father, Dr. John W.L. Bond, MD  
Christa Godwin's father, Rev. Dr. Anthony Gavalas

## ELDERS

Stuart Snow and Richie Wilhoit

## DEACONS

Weber Mimms and Hunter Morgan

## MISSIONS

Jim Truesdale, Frontier Fellowship  
Thornwell Home

## WOMEN IN MINISTRY

Vicki Hebert  
Susie Jackson

## TEACHERS

Jim Dameron  
Robert Moore

## STAFF

Don Hebert  
Wanda Lasane

## CDC STAFF

Ms. Kelly  
Mrs. Shurrie  
All the children of the CDC and their families

## FLOWERS IN THE SANCTUARY

August 3: Communion  
August 10: Open  
August 17: Susan Snow  
August 24: Open  
August 31: Open

Do you have a friend or relative you would like  
to honor? Sign up to place flowers in the Sanctu-  
ary. Please contact Genia Tyson at 843-992-8904.



# August BIRTHDAYS

## AUGUST 1

Ella Naylor  
Watson Tolson

## AUGUST 3

Caden Bulliner  
Michael Frost  
Kathy Grace  
Rhett Spencer  
Wallace Vaught

## AUGUST 4

Jane Ames  
Casey Coker  
Bob O'Harra

## AUGUST 5

Rob Hall

## AUGUST 6

Katelyn Courtney  
Jake McKay  
Jerry Neal

## AUGUST 7

Tabatha Davis

## AUGUST 8

Sandra Anderson  
Rufus Bratton  
Erin Patton  
Brittany Reames  
Peggy Swearingen

## AUGUST 9

Chris Canfield  
Donna Crockett  
Lena Foxworth  
Jackson Mozingo  
Mary Caroline Vaught

## AUGUST 10

Caulder Christian  
Lincoln Emert

## AUGUST 11

Chris Johnson  
Joe Pearce  
Amy Williams

## AUGUST 12

Marshall Campbell  
Carol Crom  
Donna Green  
Scott Ham

## AUGUST 13

Sherrill Fussell  
Lynette Gaddy  
Andrew Halus  
Blakely Hyman

## AUGUST 14

Ellen Fails  
Anna Parsons Fast  
Taylor Knudsen  
Brittany Matthews  
Jim Moore

## AUGUST 15

Tamara Hoefer  
Carlee Linke  
John Shurman

## AUGUST 16

Janet Brand  
Joey Hall  
Dave Lake  
Yvette Mbangowah

## AUGUST 17

Jason Ifabnui  
Frank Lee  
Emmett Straus  
Brian Wallace

## AUGUST 18

Evans Holland  
Stuart Snow

## AUGUST 19

Carson Munn  
Colton Westbrook

## AUGUST 20

Charissa Canfield  
Mary Blanche Fowler  
Dan Hicks  
Betsy Johnson  
Moses King  
Fred Kunz  
Phil Moore  
Pack Packard  
Jeff Singletary

## AUGUST 21

Charlie Ervin  
Mary Jane Holland  
Gregg Jones  
Wit Poston

## AUGUST 22

Catherine Canfield  
Kent Caudle  
Ella Kate Pennstrom

## AUGUST 23

Joe Commander  
Charlie Grace  
Cindy Johnson

## AUGUST 24

Martha Dusenbury  
Brett Green  
Sarah Ella Hardee  
Ellen Grace Marechal  
Porter Stewart

## AUGUST 25

Lane Gilpin  
Patti Hubbs  
Ronnie Welch

## AUGUST 26

Sallyann Frost  
Andrea Chewning  
Kimberly Packard  
Andi Rae Straus  
McCall Swink  
Phyllis Williams

## AUGUST 27

Dakota Hawkins

## AUGUST 28

Carolyn Caudle  
Betsy Harris  
Sam Nunn  
Heather Taylor  
Loeffler Tolson  
Ryon Watkins

## AUGUST 29

Farrel Marie Godwin  
Rod Jernigan  
Virginia Spencer

## AUGUST 30

Stuart Bond  
Amanda Dale  
Tillman Johnson  
Peggy Moore  
Lyllian Scott  
Michael Westbrook

## AUGUST 31

Faris Cooper

# WOMEN'S MINISTRY

## *Ice Cream Social*

4 PM SUNDAY, AUGUST 24  
CHRISTIAN LIFE CENTER

Please join the women of First Presbyterian Church for our  
kickoff event with guest speaker Beth Behling.

We also will introduce  
our Bible study for the new year!

To have your name entered into a raffle  
for some great gifts, RSVP to the church office  
by August 21, 843-662-2583.

RSVP not required.



REGISTRATION IS OPEN

## FIRST PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN'S RETREAT

KNOWING GOD

SEPTEMBER 12-14, 2025  
GEORGETOWN, SOUTH CAROLINA

ONE-DAY OPTION FOR SEPTEMBER 13







# Church News

## Bible Drill 'Boot Camp' for Adults

Calling any adults who are up for the challenge that the fourth and fifth graders participate in: Bible Drill. Join us for a one-month class to locate quickly every book in the Bible, learn key passages, and store up God's word in your heart. The key passages and verses are different from the ones learned last year.



Class will meet from 5:30 to 7 p.m. on Wednesdays in August. Please reach out to Ellen Wilhoit, [r4wilhoit@aol.com](mailto:r4wilhoit@aol.com), or Alexis Morris, [nnnminu-sone@gmail.com](mailto:nnnminu-sone@gmail.com), if you are interested.

## New Bible study to start for CDC moms, staff

On Monday, August 4, a new CDC Moms and Staff Bible Study will begin. We will meet on Mondays from 12:15 to 1 p.m. This study will not require homework or any prep work. Each week there will be a different topic, so it's OK to miss a week or two. The hope is to provide time for moms and staff to be in the Word, to breathe, to laugh, and to grow together as we grow with the Lord. If you are interested, please join us meet upstairs in the Youth room above the Tower/CDC Entrance.

## Leaving a Legacy: The Most Important Gift

What is the MOST IMPORTANT GIFT you can give to your child(ren)? It's a question that deserves our full attention. We can do many things wrong as parents and survive. But this is an issue essential to our child's well-being throughout their entire life. Their sense of IDENTITY and PURPOSE is wrapped around this issue.

On Wednesday evening, September 17, we begin a 7-week class on "Leaving a Legacy." This class is open to all parents, regardless of the age of your child(ren). If you have questions about the class, please contact Bill Cain, 407-473-0912 or email [wvcain50@gmail.com](mailto:wvcain50@gmail.com). Spoiler alert: If the only legacy you're planning on leaving is Money ... it won't be ENOUGH!



Boy Scouts stop at the Thomas Knob Shelter while backpacking in June on the Appalachian Trail at Mount Rogers National Recreation Area in Whitetop, Virginia. Seated from left to right are Hunter Morgan Jr., Noah Morris, James Whitehead, and Charley Hylton. Standing are David and Grant Love.

## Cub Scouts, Scouts BSA to start new season

Cub Scouting fun starts back for a new year on Sunday afternoon August 24 at 618 Plum Drive. Children in 5K - second grade will meet from 2:30 to 3:30 p.m.

Third - fifth graders will meet from 4 to 5 p.m.

Our Cub Scouting ministry is a combined ministry with Central United Methodist Church. If interested in Cub Scouts, contact Jack Hofler at [jack.hofler@gmail.com](mailto:jack.hofler@gmail.com).

Scouts BSA for grades 6-12, (formerly Boy Scouts) meetings are also starting back after an exciting summer of scout camps, backpacking on the Appalachian trail and backpacking in the Rocky Mountains at Philmont Scout ranch in New Mexico.

Contact Scoutmaster Brandon Hylton ([bhylton76@gmail.com](mailto:bhylton76@gmail.com)) for information on visiting a Monday night (7-8 p.m.) meeting.

## Save the dates for church directory photos

It's time for us to update our pictorial church directory. You're invited to be a part of it. We will have photography sessions September 24-27. More information will be published as soon as it's available.

## Men's Retreat to be held in April 2026

Save the Date for the Men's Retreat that will be held April 17-19, 2026, at Hickory Knob State Park. Promise: Your relationship with God and other men will be changed! For more information, please contact Bill Cain, 407-473-0912.



Dear Church Family,

As most of you know I've had some personal struggles over the past year which included the end of my marriage. Although times were extremely hard, I never lost faith. I know I am not alone. Many of us struggle. The bottom line is struggles will come and go. It's a part of life. Yet, one important key to helping us get through the things we face is knowing God is with us every step of the way.

During my times of struggles and hurt, I continuously sought God asking for His guidance. I must admit during my divorce there was a time when I was angry. I could not understand why it didn't work out. Why did it have to be this way? Why couldn't you fix it, Lord? Although I was mad, I knew God wanted to hear why I was angry. He wanted me to tell Him everything I was feeling and acknowledge it. It is what He wants from us.

As I have shared many times, my life verse is Proverbs 3:5-6, Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge Him and He will make your paths straight.

Ultimately, we are called to TRUST! Whether it's relationship struggles, concerns about your job, health issues, or not knowing whether you are doing the right thing as you parent. Trust is the key!

I am learning as I love the Lord with my whole heart and lean on Him, I am going to be okay and so will you. For I know the plans God has for us is far greater than anything we can think of or imagine! In addition, for the things we do not understand, we need to remind ourselves daily it's not meant for us to understand. God knows so we don't have to. Although I have been through some difficult things in life, my heart is filled with gratitude! I am so thankful for all God has done and look forward with joyful anticipation to what's to come.

Please be encouraged, knowing that no matter what you may be going through, TRUST! Know God loves you! He wants to hear all the details of your life, the struggles and the joys. He is with you always and He will help you through it all. It's a choice to love God, to trust God, and lean on Him! When you do, and I am speaking from personal experience, it truly makes a difference!

Much love,  
Kelly

Dear Church Family,

What an incredible summer it's been! From the sunny shores of Myrtle Beach to the bustling fun of Columbia, we've packed our days with laughter, joy, and unforgettable memories.

We've licked blue ice cream until our tongues matched, zoomed around in Go Karts, petted stingrays, rode carousels, and soaked in the wonder of Vacation Bible School. Each moment has reflected God's abundant goodness and grace.

I want to extend a heartfelt thank you to everyone who helped make this summer so meaningful. Your prayers, time, and enthusiasm made all the difference!

A special shout-out goes to our amazing summer intern, Ella Hylton. Watching her grow as a leader in the very church she's called home for years has been such a blessing. Her joyful presence and care for our children made every event and trip extra special.



Ella Hylton

To the parents — thank you for sharing your children with us. They are true gifts from God, and it's been a joy to spend the summer with you.

As we look ahead, may the joy, wonder, and connection we've felt this summer continue to shape our journey of faith. With God leading the way, there's no limit to the blessings ahead — for this new school year and beyond.

In Christ's love,  
Kaiti



# Confirmation season is starting

**Parent & Confirmand Meeting**  
**Sunday, August 10**  
**11:15 a.m. in the Lawson-Rain Chapel**  
**Following Lemonade & Cookies**

Parents of rising sixth graders are invited to join us for an important meeting about the upcoming 2025–2026 Confirmation year. We'll provide an overview of what Confirmation is all about, walk through the schedule, and discuss expectations for the journey ahead. We are excited for this season of faith development for our sixth graders!



**Confirmation Kickoff Retreat**  
**August 15–17**  
**Camp Longridge, Ridgeway**  
**Cost: \$185**  
**Registration Deadline: August 10**

We're kicking off the Confirmation year with a week-end retreat at Camp Longridge in Ridgeway! Rising sixth graders will enjoy a fun-filled weekend of swimming, team-building activities, and meaningful conversations about Catechism, Confirmation, and the power of the Gospel. It's the perfect way to begin this exciting faith journey together!



## Thank you to our intern extraordinaire

We were so blessed to have Ella Hylton serve as our 2025 Children's Ministry Intern this summer! At 17 years old, Ella is a rising senior who hopes to attend Presbyterian College or USC to pursue a career in occupational therapy. She has a heart for children and loves being on the water, riding her bike, and going on youth trips.

Some of her favorite memories from this summer include our Wonderful Wednesday trip to Riverbanks Zoo with the first and second graders — and of course, beating Ms. Kaiti in a Go-Kart race at Frankie's Fun Park with the third through fifth graders during Thundering Thursday!

## Sunday School resumes in September

Please note there will be no Sunday School during August. We look forward to welcoming everyone back in the fall for a new year of learning and growing in faith together!

## Children in Worship Leader Schedule

*Children in Worship* is held after the Message for Young Disciples for children in grades 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
August 3	10 a.m.	Kaiti Bryant
August 10	10 a.m.	Kelly Hickey
August 17	10 a.m.	Kelly Hickey
August 24	10 a.m.	Kaiti Bryant
August 31	10 a.m.	Kaiti Bryant





# WinShape Camps for Communities



This year WinShape Camps for Communities welcomed the most children ever served out of the 7 summers it has run on the First Presbyterian campus with just under 200 campers. The 22-member staff from out of state helped campers set sail on their journey with the Lord, while 70 other local volunteers assisted. There were more volunteers this year than any other year. Thirty-two congregations were represented among the campers while several children did not have a church home. Campers cultivated their God-given skills and talents in a mix of indoor and outdoor moments all while learning about Jesus. We had the “Best Week Ever.”





# Camps, retreat round out summer

July was beautiful and busy! Freeman and several of the youth helped serve with WinShape Camps for Communities at the beginning of the month. The youth enjoyed a trip to Shark Wake Park, brunch at Venus, Neptune Waterpark, lunch at Moe's, thrifting, and our annual FLOAT. Big thanks to Hunter Morgan Jr. for leading us again.

We traveled back to the mountains for our prayer retreat and had a wonderful time learning different ways to pray. Shout out to Merrette Dowdell for traveling with us and helping serve.

The junior high attended The Great Escape in Florida at Southwind. It was a great time for the kids to connect with the Lord, each other, and new friends from other churches. It was one for the books!

## UPCOMING EVENTS

**Wednesday Night Youth Group** (August 6, 13, and 27) 5:30 – 7:15 p.m.

Food, games, Bible study & fun! Dinner provided.

**Coffee at F.E. Pop's** (August 7, 14, 21, and 28) 7 a.m.

**Back-to-School Pool Party** (August 10) 2-5 p.m.  
Meet us at The Williams' house (2689 Trotter Road) for an afternoon of swimming, games, and food! Bring a friend!

**White Water Rafting** (Chattooga River) (August 15-17) \*SENIOR HIGH ONLY\*

Leaving from the church at 2 p.m. August 15, we will travel and stay in Sky Valley, Ga. Cost is \$135. More details to follow!

**Parent Meeting** (August 24) 9 a.m.

Please join us as we go over the schedule for September 2025 – August 2026. Packets of information will be given out. Please bring your questions and concerns. Youth are welcome to join. Light breakfast will be served.



## Williams interns with Youth Group

*Editor's Note: Freeman Williams, son of Amy and Jeremy Williams, assisted Youth Director Christina "Taiter" Garrett with the Youth Ministry over the summer.*

Youth group is a place where I grew my relationship with Christ and felt most at home. I was so thankful for an opportunity to be with the youth again.

I really enjoyed this summer. I had an opportunity to lead a Bible study with the senior high boys. It was my first time leading one, and I enjoyed our discussions every week with each new topic. I got to meet new kids, talk to them and connect with them on trips and other youth events.

My favorite trip this summer was Freeman Williams The Great Escape. Even with a small group, this trip created such great memories and moments. I especially enjoyed being able to offer advice and encouragement during group times throughout the week.

I hope I left a lasting impression and impact on people. I am so thankful for the youth group and for this opportunity to be with them this summer.

This fall, I will be returning to The Citadel early for my sophomore year to teach and mentor freshmen for their Challenge Week and the rest of their year. Lastly, I want to say thank you to Taiter for being such a great leader and friend.

Thank y'all for having me,  
Freeman





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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  
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