

The REMINDER



NOVEMBER 2025



ON THE COVER: In its 20th year being celebrated at First Presbyterian Church, covenant partners, including Connie Stewart and grandson Wells, line up for the procession of tartans during Reformation Sunday.

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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:

- Thornwell:** Every year, First Presbyterian Church supports Thornwell by collecting quarters in turkey banks. Once again this year, we'd like to take it a step further by collecting items needed to support Thornwell's mission to see hopeful, healthy, and empowered children and families fulfilling their God-given potential. Throughout November, you can drop off donated items in the bins located in the Narthex, the Welcome Center, and the Tower. Visit [here](#) or scan QR code below to see a full list of needed items.
- Whosoever Community Outreach** – Thank you to the team of volunteers that plated and delivered lunch to area homeless October 12 at Whosoever Community Church. Volunteers included Confirmands Charlotte Tuttle and Thatcher Jordan; Alexis Morris, mentor; Pat Tuttle, mentor; Ronnie Welch; Mark Davis; David Spivey; Shannon and Nigel Watt; Donnie Wheeler; Millie Atchison; and Laura Marechal.



Supply Drive

Hosted by
First Presbyterian Church Florence

Join us this November as we collect supplies to help support children and families at Thornwell!



CHRISTMAS WISH LIST

Scan the QR code to spread holiday cheer and hope this season!



For Such a Time as This

Dear Church Family,

It feels so good to be able to say that now. We were “family” before, but I was more or less the relative who was going to move back to Shallotte, N.C. Now, you have adopted me, as someone told me. And I have adopted you.

Cindy tells me that she knew this was happening back in June. As for me, I thought for sure there would be someone younger and cuter than me. That is the agreement we had —I would steer the ship until someone else took over.

But God, whom the Bible says is rich in mercy, had another idea. When the Committee approached me, Cindy and I sat in our home and said, “Is this the Lord?” After thinking, and praying, and writing about it, after discussing it with some members of the Committee and, then, after a formal interview, we felt it was

the Lord. It is the Lord. As that wonderful phrase goes in Esther, “For such a time as this...”

So many of you have been incredibly encouraging about my selection. I feel even more confirmed today than I did then. And your standing ovation — we might need to do that once a year! What a day!

My installation is going to be at 4 p.m. Sunday, November 23. So that afternoon, I hope you can set aside the time to celebrate God’s goodness with us. The entire event will be preceded by a prayer walk that is described elsewhere in this newsletter.

God’s best to you all! It is good to be part of the family.

In Christ,



SESSION *notes*

At our October meeting, we invited the Deacons to join us for a special report from the Pastor Nominating Committee. As you will read elsewhere, they spoke about the Lord leading them, in Porter’s imagery, full circle back to Pastor Stuart Bond. Another learning, however, was that it is difficult right now to find senior pastors. We will address this in the coming years.

We continue to be blessed by the Congregation’s giving. We have some dreams we will tell you about this

month that will require all of us to step up into God’s plan for our church.

We also gave Blake Taylor a special commendation for his work of aiding us through the transition and into a new day for our church.

In general, the tone was celebratory for what the Lord has provided for this ministry and the future He has for us.



Bond accepts call as Senior Pastor

We are pleased to report that at our Congregational Meeting on Sunday, October 19, following the report and recommendation from our Pastor Nominating Committee, the Reverend Dr. Stuart Bond was called as Pastor/Head of Staff of First Presbyterian Church.

Following that action by the covenant partners, upon the close of the meeting, Pastor Stuart and his wife, Cindy, were welcomed before the assembled Congregation, where they accepted the call with thanks to God and to our Congregation.

Pastor Stuart will be installed as Senior Pastor on Sunday, November 23. Please join us as we gather at 2:30 p.m. in the Welcome Center and break into small groups for a time of corporate prayer, thanking GOD for the gracious gift of Stuart and Cindy Bond joining our covenant family. Those who are able can walk our campus acknowledging the growth we have experienced and praying for wisdom to follow the LORD's guidance in the months and years to come. The installation service will be at 4 p.m.

Formed in March, the committee consisted of David Banner, Alice Caldwell, Charissa Canfield, Jim Dameron, David Lake, Laura Marechal, and Porter Stewart. Blake Taylor also was dedicated to the Church as our Ministry Partner with the Presbytery of South Carolina.

"This was truly a team effort, PNC, Church Staff and Covenant Partners coming together in prayer, seeking God's will in unison," Elder Jim Dameron said.

IN THE PNC'S OWN WORDS

The Pastor Nominating Committee presented its report and recommendation to the congregation. Below are their commentaries regarding their report:

"Interestingly, the PNC having followed the protocols of a search to the "T" or "letter" did not get us a "call" but did prepare us to confidently "let go" for the Holy Spirit. And, yes, it is hard to explain and, unless you are a part of it, to not think, perhaps, that it



Porter Stewart

is even a "real" thing. But it is. And it did happen. I totally never thought of Stuart Bond as a candidate throughout the process until what became its ending. Only after I – and the rest of the PNC – let go of a dependency upon our plans and procedures (having already prepared our hearts for spiritual guidance) did the Spirit powerfully facilitate everything else that led to our call to Stuart. And only then, simultaneously, was the same thing happening on Stuart's side of this call. I really, truly, have the faith and confidence in this season that God has heard the many prayers by, for, and on behalf of the PNC and FPC and is equipping all of us, both personally and collectively, to be that church of realized potential and of powerful witness. Let's get to it."

– Porter Stewart

After several months of Bible study, fellowship, prayer, and doing our "due diligence" as we studied ré-



Alice Caldwell

sumés, sermons, faith statements, interviews and discussions together with the other PNC members, we became aware of the fact that our best candidate

was right here with us already at First Presbyterian. That realization, along with a very direct message from God that I received during prayer time, was a eureka moment for me that convinced me that our journey to a recommendation to call Dr. Stuart Bond was a Holy Spirit driven event.

– Alice Caldwell

As a pastor's daughter who has gone through the calling and moving process a few times, it was very important to emphasize



Charissa Canfield

the calling for the whole family. What I didn't anticipate is what a privilege it would be to experience the other side of the calling, to see the Spirit's work

on each heart of the PNC members and our congregation as a whole to prepare us for this time. Thank you for the opportunity to share the joy of GOD's work in this place.

– Charissa Canfield

(continued on page 5)

IN THE PNC'S OWN WORDS

Having worked closely with Pastor Stuart since April of 2024, I have observed him exhibit exceptional



Jim Dameron

compassion, exceptional understanding and exceptional love for the people of our church. The Fruit of the Spirit is lived out in his life and ministry: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. I give thanks to God for bringing him to FPCF.

– Jim Dameron

When I consider all that is taking place with Stuart in a part-time role, then I get really excited imagining our future with his Pastoral & Shepherd



Laura Marechal

Leadership Ministry gifts in addition to his preaching, being devoted to us fulltime. Stuart also brings with him Cindy, and I look forward to their ministry

partnership here at First Pres, Florence. The PNC has been prayerful in the process. We have been spirit led in the process. We have been obedient in and faithful to the process. We have been unanimous in the process. Stuart and Cindy have answered the LORD's call. I am thankful for ANSWERED PRAYERS!"

– Laura Marechal

I am honored to have served on the PNC with an incredible group of Christians. The Holy Spirit led us



David Lake

on an exciting journey together that ultimately pointed to the ideal candidate whom we already knew. During a time of transition, Stuart enabled our church to grow

in tangible ways, and I am excited for how God will use Stuart and Cindy's ministry as they become a part of our church family.

– David Lake

Throughout our process of discernment, the PNC Team engaged in keen observation and active listening of candidates who we thought were



David Banner

best served to lead our Congregation. As we learned more about each candidate and progressed in our internal discussions, it became evident

where God was leading us. The passion from the pulpit, commitment to our Covenant Partners, leadership of staff and the genuine love for First Pres Florence was already on exhibit. God chose Dr. Stuart Bond, and we wholeheartedly endorsed it.

– David Banner

Thankful garland

Celebrate the season of gratitude by creating a colorful Thankful decoration.

What you need:

- Construction paper in a variety of fall colors
- Pencil, marker, or crayons
- Yarn, ribbon, or raffia
- Scissors
- Hole punch
- Spray bottle filled with water
- Real leaves (Optional)
- Wooden or plastic beads, cereal with holes (Cheerios, Froot Loops, etc.), or any dried pasta with a hole (Optional)

What you do:

1. Draw or trace leaf shapes onto construction paper.
2. Lay the paper flat and spray with water until the paper is completely wet.
3. Crumple the wet paper into balls.
4. Open the paper and let the sheets dry flat.
5. When dry, cut out each leaf.
6. On each leaf, write the name of one person or thing you're thankful for.
7. Punch a hole in each leaf.
8. Lace the leaves, beads, cereal, and pasta onto the yarn, ribbon, or raffia.
9. Tie the ends and hang your garland.

Give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.

1 Thessalonians 5:18 (NIV)

Stewardship Season

2026 Stewardship Campaign

We tend to associate the word stewardship with giving money. The truth is that it is about so much more. Rightly understood, stewardship is about **giving** our time, talent, and treasure in obedience to God's calling on our lives. During the month of November, we will be challenged on the importance of stewardship and our growth as disciples. As part of our worship this month we will hear from our covenant partners about why they give to support the ministry of First Presbyterian Church. On Sunday, **November 2**, we will kick off our Stewardship Season with a challenge from our Enabling Unit to look to the future. Sunday, **November 9**, we will have our first of two "Why I Give" testimonies from covenant partner David Banner. **November 16** is CDC Sunday, when we will emphasize our church's ministry to children, with a focus on our Child Development Center. This ministry is blessing our community. In fact, several young families have or are joining our church as a result of our ministry to families with young children. Additionally, since stewardship means different things to different people, a panel of covenant partners will share the second "Why I Give" testimony. Our annual Stewardship Emphasis will conclude with Commitment Sunday on **November 23**, when all covenant partners will bring their pledge cards and place them on the communion table as a part of our worship services.

In the days ahead, all Covenant Partners will receive a letter from our new Senior Pastor, Dr. Stuart Bond, with encouragement regarding the importance of financial stewardship as we look to the future. Later this month, all covenant partners will receive a second letter that will include **2026 Commitment** cards, which will allow you to make a pledge to financially support the ministry and mission of First Presbyterian Church. If preferred, Covenant Partners may also make a pledge using REALM or by using the MAKE A PLEDGE link located at the top of the First Presbyterian Church homepage. My prayer during our Stewardship season is that each of us will prayerfully consider how we can follow the call of God found in Malachi 3:10, "**Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. Test me in this,**" says the LORD Almighty, "**and see if I will not throw open the floodgates of heaven and pour out so much blessing that**



you will not have room enough for it."

First Presbyterian Church has been through a season of transition and uncertainty these past two years. With the calling of our new senior pastor/head of staff we are entering a period that is full of opportunity for growth and ministry. Paul's message to the Philippians is a reminder that we, both individually and corporately, need to continue to look forward and follow what God is calling us to be and to do as we move into the future. **Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus. (Philippians 3: 13-14).** As we look to the future, I want to encourage all covenant partners to look at how God has blessed you and ask Him how He wants you to use your time, talent, and treasure to be a blessing to others through the work of First Presbyterian Church.

A Living Hope

1 PETER, 2 PETER, JUDE

Biology is divided into botany and zoology. It is the study of living things, plants, and animals. Zoa is the Greek word for live. In the New Testament zoa is used seven times to refer to things that God gives life to. It is used four times in 1 Peter: first as a living hope (1 Peter 1:3), second as a living word (1 Peter 1:23), and then twice as living stones (1 Peter 2:4 and 1 Peter 2:5). I believe Peter is calling the Church to be a living presence in the world bringing hope to our broken world.

This year the Women In Ministry are studying 1 Peter and 2 Peter. I will be using these letters along with Jude to help them with their study and in the Reminder each month. The women chose a study book written by Dr. David Jeremiah, *1 PETER AND 2 PETER*, to guide this study.

The New Testament is divided into the four Gospels, ACTS as the history of the early Church, the letters of Paul, the Revelation of Jesus Christ, and the general or catholic (universal) letters. First Peter, 2 Peter, and Jude are included in the general letters.

First Peter calls the recipients of the letter to resist persecution and to stay true to the Good News. This Good News is received from the testimony to Jesus by the Apostles and teachers in the Church. I agree with David Jeremiah that Peter the Apostle wrote both 1 Peter and 2 Peter. Even though he does not include Jude in his study, I will discuss Jude with the second chapter of 2 Peter as it appears this is a commentary on Jude. The main theme of the letters is to provide hope in the midst of living in a Roman world. The Church includes new believers in Jesus as the Messiah. The anticipation of Jesus' return and its delay also produced anxiety and doubt in God's faithfulness. The believers are to live holy lives, yet live in acceptance of Roman authority. They are to endure the persecution of the Roman authority.

Most Jewish Christians and Gentile Christians did not suffer an overall persecution because they were Christians. They may suffer persecution if the Roman authorities realized the believer would not pledge allegiance to Rome and the Roman Empire.

There are several issues that affect our understanding of 1 and 2 Peter. One is the immediate second coming of Jesus was anticipated. Another issue is the difference in faith by each of the two branches of the early Church: Jewish Christians and Gentile Christians. A third issue

is understanding how the Church exists in a culture of unbelievers. This issue continues into our present time in the United States. The early Church in the Roman culture is different than our culture, but there are similarities. This subject will concern us as Citizens of the United States and as believers. David Jeremiah identifies this concern: "Although we live on this earth and seek to be productive members of society, we have to always remember that we are really just pilgrims passing through on our way to heaven." A fourth issue we will be concerned with is understanding the importance of the Christian roots in Jewish culture and religion.

There are many ways to divide 1 Peter into an outline. I would recommend a four-part structure.

1. The Holy People of God (Chapters 1:1-2:10)
2. Living in a Non-Christian World (Chapters 2:11-3-12)
3. Do Not Fear Suffering (Chapters 3:13-4:19)
4. Shepherding the Flock of God (Chapter 5:1-14)

The greeting of 1 Peter (Chapter 1:1-2) identifies the theme of the rest of the letter. The author is Peter, who identifies himself as "an apostle of Jesus Christ." Peter was well known by the earliest Christians. The letter is written to the "parepidamos," which is translated as pilgrim, exile, stranger, or sojourner. It is a person living in a place not of origin. The believers had been scattered to other parts of the world as persecution of Jewish Christians displaced them from Jerusalem after the stoning of Stephen (Acts 6 and 7). The areas named in 1 Peter were provinces in Northern Galatia. Peter uses a Hebrew concept of being elect as the people of God. The people of God in Peter's eyes are both Jewish Christians transplanted to Northern Galatia and Gentile Christians converted from that region. A trinitarian formula is given for the effect of the witness to Jesus. God meant for them to be included in the people of God. They are made holy (sanctified) by the Spirit for the purpose of obedience. It is the sacrifice of Jesus that enables the recipients of the letter to be the people of God. Two aspects of Early Christianity are extended to these believers, grace and peace. I would extend to all, these gifts from Christ. May grace (the unconditional love of God) be yours so that you may live in peace even when anxiety threatens you.



Art, fine motor skills fill October

October was a fun month full of learning, games, crafts, chapel, music, and more. The older 2s through 4K focused on art. They learned about art in the Netherlands, Spain, Italy, and France. The younger children learned shapes, colors, letters, and worked toward strengthening their fine motor skills. In addition, our CDC families enjoyed FPC's Trunk or Treat, and the children had a blast Trick or Treating with the FPC staff and painting pie pumpkins. It's truly a gift to be a part of such a special place and to watch the children learn and grow.





MEET THE CDC TEAM

DESTINY ENGLISH



ABOUT MS. DESTINY

Ms. Destiny is our outgoing, tell-it-like-it-is, willing to do what's necessary, baby-loving, sweet, strong, and courageous Infant 1 teacher.

Ms. Destiny is a native of Lamar and joined the staff in November 2022. She enjoys being around family and friends. What she likes most about working at the CDC are the children and the bond that has grown among her, the children, and their parents.

HER FAVORITES

FOOD: White rice
 COLOR: Black
 FLOWER: Gladiolus
 PLACE: Home
 SEASON: Summer



Women's Event

Fall Soup Social

6 p.m. November 11

Speaker Stewart Billingsly

What does the Bible say about codependency? Join us for soup, fellowship, and a teaching from Stewart Billingsly on this relevant topic. For more information contact Janet Brand, janet81661@aol.com.

Dictionary

codependency



co•de•pend•en•cy

noun

excessive emotional or psychological reliance on a partner, typically one who requires support on account of an illness or addiction.

"the tie that binds most of us together in this trap called codependency"



Women in Ministry Circles

Find a group that fits your schedule and commit to meeting regularly throughout the year. All circles gather the second full week of each month.

Salty Sunday Sisters

Meeting: 2 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 9,
Evelyn Childers' home

Chairwoman: Alexis Morris

Women of Grace

Meeting: 6:30 p.m. Monday, Nov. 17,
Japonica Lane

Chairwoman: Betsey Moore

Bible Moderator: Charissa Canfield

Joyful Hearts and Sunflowers

Meeting: 10 a.m. Tuesday, Nov. 11,
Room 100

Chairwomen: Alice Caldwell and
Nancy Thompson

Bible Moderator: Betsy Olsen

Soul Sisters

Meeting: Noon Tuesday, Nov. 11,
Price Classroom

Chairwoman: Carolyn Holland

Bible Moderator: Patti Hubbs

Serenity

Meeting: 3 p.m. Tuesday, Nov. 11,
Lawson-Rain Chapel

Chairwoman: Linda Smiley

Bible Moderator: Tabatha Davis

Prayer Warriors

Meeting: 6:30 p.m. Wednesday,
Nov. 12, church campus

Chairwoman: Amy Williams

Wednesday Night Women

Meeting: 6:15 p.m. Wednesday,
Nov. 12, Parlor

Chairwoman: Laura Marecal

Bible Moderator: Emily Whitehead

Disciples

Meeting: Noon Thursday, Nov. 13,
off campus

Chairwoman: Janet Brand

Bible Moderator: Kimberly Packard

Bread and Fish

Meeting: 9 a.m. Saturday, Nov. 8,
Room 100

Chairwoman: Peggy Swearingen



Benjamin Woods in Concert on November 6

Benjamin Woods will perform a piano recital of works of Beethoven and Brahms at 7:30 p.m. Thursday, November 6, at First Presbyterian Church. The concert is free and open to the public.

As a pianist, Woods has presented many faculty recitals at FMU, chamber music and solo concerts at numerous other colleges and universities and performances at community concert series and festivals. He has been featured as a guest soloist with the Florence Symphony Orchestra and with the Florence Masterworks Choir. Woods also has performed concertos with conductor

John Paul and members of the Mississippi Symphony Orchestra and with Nicholas Smith and the South Carolina Philharmonic Orchestra.

Woods was selected as one of 12 national finalists in the U.S. Information Agency's Artistic Ambassador Competition and one of 10 finalists in the Beethoven International Piano Competition.

Now a professor emeritus of music at FMU, Woods received the dual distinctions of being named one of the FMU board of trustees' Research Scholars and receiving the J. Lorin Mason Distinguished Professor Award.

Get involved in Music Ministry

Musically gifted? Be part of the ministry that lifts up, encourages, and leads the body of Christ through song in worship. Rehearsal times listed below:

Tuesdays

1:30 p.m. Ladies' Ensemble

Wednesdays

5 p.m. Chancel Handbell Choir

6:15 p.m. Children's Choir

7:30 p.m. Chancel Choir

Praise Team: Schedule to be determined.



If you're interested in joining the music ministry, please call Ann Rodgers Chandler, Director of Music, at the church office, 843-662-2583, or Vic Rockhill, Praise Team Leader, vicrockhill@gmail.com.

SUNDAY

MONDAY

TUESDAY

WEDNESDAY



2

Daylight Saving Time ends
Living Nativity Meeting, noon
Youth: Small Groups, 5 p.m.



3

Visitation for Janie Ray,
1 p.m.
Service for Janie Ray, 2 p.m.
CDC Advisory Team, 4 p.m.

4

Just for Women Bible Study,
11 a.m.
Keenagers, noon
CDC Music Time, 3 p.m.
Worship Team Meeting, 5 p.m.

5

SPIT Meeting, noon WOC
Wednesday Night Dinner,
5:30 p.m.
WiM Moderating Team,
5:30 p.m.
Youth Group, 5:30 p.m.
Wednesday Activities, 6 p.m.
WiM Coordinating Team, 6 p.m.

9

Confirmand-Mentor Lunch,
noon
New officers' training, noon LR
Living Nativity rehearsal for
sixth grade, 1:15 p.m.
WiM Salty Sunday Sisters,
2 p.m. off campus

10

Enabling Team Meeting,
5:30 p.m.



11

**VETERANS
DAY**

Staff Retreat, 10 a.m.
WiM Joyful Hearts/Sonflowers,
10 a.m. Room 100
WiM Soul Sisters, noon Price
WiM Serenity, 3 p.m. LR
Women's Event, 6 p.m.

12

Veterans Brunch, 8 a.m.
Missions Team, 12:15 p.m.
Wednesday Dinner, 5:30 p.m.
Holiday Market, 5:30 p.m. CLC
Wednesday Activities, 6 p.m.
WiM Wednesday Night Women,
6:15 p.m. Parlor
WiM PrayerWarriors, 6:30 p.m.

16

CDC Sunday, 11 a.m.
Holiday Market, before and
after worship services
Living Nativity rehearsal for
sixth grade, 1 p.m.
Youth: Small Groups, 5 p.m.

17

CDC Book mobile, 9 a.m.
WiM Women of Grace,
6:30 p.m. off campus



18

Evangelism & Discipleship
Team meeting, 1:30 p.m.
CDC Music, 3 p.m.
Fellowship Team Meeting,
5:30 p.m.

19

Personnel Team Meeting,
8:15 a.m.
Friendsgiving with PADD,
Confirmands, 5:30 p.m. JFH



23

Holiday Market
Prayer Walk, 2:30 p.m.
Installation Service, 4 p.m.
Youth: Small Groups, 5 p.m.

24

Girl Scouts, 4:30 p.m.
CDC staff meeting, 6 p.m.

25

CDC Music, 3 p.m.
Diaconate, 5:30 p.m.
Session, 6:30 p.m.

26

CDC closes at 2 p.m.
Youth Group, 5:30 p.m.



30

Living Nativity rehearsal, 1 p.m.
Youth: Movie Night, 5 p.m.

THURSDAY

FRIDAY

SATURDAY

NOVEMBER

WEEKLY

SUNDAYS

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

MONDAYS

- CDC Bible Study, 12:15 p.m.
- Prayer Group, 2:30 p.m.
- CDC Bible Study, 5:15 p.m.
- Selah Yoga, 5:30 p.m.
- Men's Bible Study, 7 p.m.

WEDNESDAYS

- Youth Group, 5:30 p.m.
- Dinner, 5:30 p.m. (Nov. 5 & 12)
- Chancel Handbell Rehearsal, 4:45 p.m.
- Wednesday programs, 6 p.m.
- Chancel Choir Rehearsal, 7:30 p.m.

THURSDAYS

- Men's Bible Study, 7 a.m.
- Youth Coffee, 7 a.m.
- Women's Bible Study, 10:30 a.m.
- Good News Club, 2 p.m.

DINNERS

November 5: Chili, baked potatoes, corn bread, dessert

November 12: Lasagna, salad, bread, dessert

		1 Youth: Eastern Carolina Agricultural Fair, 10:30 a.m.
6 Youth: F.E. Pop's, 7 a.m. Women's Bible Study, 10:30 a.m. HFF event, noon Lawson-Rain Benjamin Woods Recital, 7:30 p.m. 	7 High School Boys Bible Study, 6:45 a.m. Glenn Bell's service, reception, 11 a.m. Youth: Fall Retreat, 1 p.m. (Sign up by November 3)	8 Parking Lot Mission WiM Bread & Fish, 9 a.m. Room 100 
13 Youth: Coffee, F.E. Pop's HFF event, noon Lawson-Rain CDC Spaghetti Dinner, 6 to 8 p.m. 	14 	15
20 Youth: Coffee, F.E. Pop's CDC Thanksgiving Program, 5:30 p.m. 	21 High School Boys Bible Study, 6:45 a.m.	22 
27 CDC, church office closed 	28 CDC, church office closed	29



SYMPATHY

Betty Bell, for the loss of her husband, Glenn Bell
Family and friends of Janie Ray
Peggy Swearingen, for the loss of her father

SICK & RECOVERING

Kent Caudle	Bob McLean
Aubrey Crawford	Ginger Sullivan
Dave and Linda Lawson	

EXTENDED CARE

Lowman Home	The Manor
Mac King	Betty Bell
Presbyterian	Joyce Floyd
Community	Maria Whitehead
Clariann Kellam	
Nell Oliver	

HOUSEHOLDS

Flock 1: Gregg and Michelle Jones, Gregg, Maggie
Flock 2: Warren and Barbara Montgomery
Flock 3: Joe and Elizabeth McLean
Flock 4: Madisen Nichol
Flock 5: Dave and Linda Lawson
Flock 6: Bryon and Debbie Harwell
Flock 7: Cathy Lee
Flock 8: Porter and Connie Stewart

FLOWERS IN THE SANCTUARY

November 2: Communion
November 9: Open
November 16: Open
November 23: Laura Marechal
November 30: First Sunday of Advent

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

MEMORIALS

Dr. John W.L. Bond
Maria Helena "Marlene" Vankorb Highsmith
Samuel L. Hubbs, Bruce Hubbs' father
Joyce Kirven
Martha Tyson

ELDERS

Robert Moore
David Spivey

DEACONS

Meredith Banner
Cille Scott

MISSIONS

The Antioch Partners, Gray Scott
Thornwell

WOMEN IN MINISTRY

Carolyn Holland
Betsy Olsen

TEACHERS

Rob Hall
Jack Hofler

STAFF

Kaiti Bryant
Christina "Taiter" Garrett

CDC STAFF

Mrs. Stacy
Ms. Allie
Ms. Frances

November BIRTHDAYS

NOVEMBER 1

Cathy Bazen
Heather Williams

NOVEMBER 2

Cameryn Brown
Marian Howard
Lisa Jernigan
Lalla Saleeby

NOVEMBER 3

Prince Asongwed
Cailin Foxworth
Levi Ham
Sue Shin
Alan Thomas

NOVEMBER 4

Mason Ansley
Margaret Baroody
Rhett Hughes
Wesley Snow
Gracie Tolson

NOVEMBER 5

Carolyn Holland
Patrick Hunt
Henley Thompson

NOVEMBER 6

Liam McGowan
Stephen Christian
Alcy Lee
Brian Naylor
Rocky Pearce

NOVEMBER 7

Nancy Moore

NOVEMBER 8

Brandon Hylton
Susie McLellan
John McMillian
Landon Watkins

NOVEMBER 9

Joe Blanton
Ginny Casstevens
Cheryl DeGraw
Ansley Sanderson

NOVEMBER 10

Gresham Hindman
Jane Matthews
Ivan Morris

NOVEMBER 11

Joseph Commander
Michael Hawkins
Haley Jackson
Wells McBride

NOVEMBER 12

Trae Allison
Mary Frances Moore
Pat Patton
Hunter Sims

NOVEMBER 13

Ashton Pennstrom
Paul Welch

NOVEMBER 14

Paige Alexander
Dave Banner
Grier Toniolo

NOVEMBER 16

Brooke Langston
Jane Shurman
Lisa Westmoreland

NOVEMBER 17

Ella Rawlinson
Keegan Taylor

NOVEMBER 18

Brian Kim
Wesley Player
Carrigan Spearman

NOVEMBER 19

Tom Gasque
Meghan Swink

NOVEMBER 20

Allie Hickey
Rick Hoefer
Colton Miles
Hampton Naylor
Anna Lee Pennstrom
Duncan Tyson

NOVEMBER 21

Charlie Bazen
Sheila Cockfield

NOVEMBER 22

Curt Boswell
Sandra Davidson
Rainey Josey
Hannah King

NOVEMBER 23

Sullivan Carmichael

NOVEMBER 24

Maggie McNeil
Connie Stewart

NOVEMBER 25

Kendall Jackson
Alexis Morris
Mary Ann Nash
Kate Stokes

NOVEMBER 26

Liz Andrews

NOVEMBER 27

Don Hebert
Walter Johnson
Taylor Powell

NOVEMBER 28

Tom Pantos
Anna Spivey

NOVEMBER 29

Christina 'Taiter' Garrett
Maymie Lou Spearman

NOVEMBER 30

Drew Knudsen
Chris Scott
Jane Slagle



Dear Church Family,

Over the past couple of months, the CDC children and I have been singing the song, *I love you Jesus*. Have you heard of it? It's sung to the tune of *Jesus Loves Me*. The lyrics are as follows:

*Jesus, Jesus, I love you. Yes, I really, really do.
Jesus, Jesus, I love you. Yes, I really, really do.
I love you, Jesus, I love you, Jesus, I love you, Jesus,
I really, really do.*

As I reflect on these lyrics, I wonder what does it mean to really love Jesus? I decided to ask several people of various ages. Below are some of the responses:

"To really love Jesus is to show love to one another and 'if you love me, you will keep my commandments.'"
John 14:15

"Loving Jesus fills you with love, hope, comfort, and trust in all things that you encounter through your life's journey."

"For me personally, really loving Jesus is showing love for everyone no matter the circumstances. Jesus is love, and if we as Christians know Jesus and have Him in our hearts then we must show that love to others, as well. Jesus said, 'A new command I give you: love one another. As I have loved you so you must love one another.'" John 13:34

"To really love Jesus is to feel His presence and love at all times knowing that we love because 'He first loved us.'"

"Means, I feel like I'm never alone."

"Loving Jesus means loving who He loved and cared for – being a Christ-bearer by allowing His love to flow through me."

"You love Jesus when you make Him the most important part of your life."

What about you? How would you answer this question?

As we continue to sing this song with the CDC children, I pray we will all really love Jesus! It is only because of Him we are able to love.

Much love,
Kelly Hickey

Dear Church Family,

As we enter November, the season of Thanksgiving, I'm reminded that gratitude isn't meant to live in just one month of the year — it's meant to shape our hearts every day. Working with our children, I'm constantly reminded of how naturally they live this out.

Each week when we gather and I ask, "What do you want to pray for today?", I'm amazed by their answers. They thank God for their pets, for the sunshine, for their favorite snacks, and for friends on the playground. They get excited about moments that many of us as adults might overlook — the ordinary, everyday gifts that make up a life full of God's goodness.

Their joy and wonder remind me of what Jesus meant when He told us to have childlike faith. It's a faith that sees beauty in small things, trusts without hesitation, and finds gratitude not just on the big days, but in the quiet, simple moments in between. My prayer this month is that we, too, would slow down enough to notice those everyday blessings — the laughter of children, the warmth of community, and the steady faithfulness of God in every season. May we learn from our youngest disciples to find joy and thanksgiving in all things.

In Christ's love,
Kaiti Bryant



LIVING NATIVITY

Mark your calendars to join us for this year's Living Nativity on December 9 and 10. The story of Christ's birth will be brought to life by our sixth-graders along with the 3K–fifth grade angel choir. Rehearsals will take place on the front steps of the sanctuary unless otherwise noted. The rehearsal schedule is as follows:

Sixth Grade & Parents Meeting	Sunday, November 2, after 11 a.m. service in Lawson-Rain Chapel
Sixth Grade Only Cast Rehearsal	Sunday, November 9, at 1:15-2:15 p.m.
Sixth Grade Only Cast Rehearsal	Sunday, November 16, at 1-2 p.m.
NO Practice	Sunday, November 23
Rehearsal for Angel Choir & Cast	Sunday, November 30, at 1-2 p.m.
Dress Rehearsal for Angel Choir & Cast	Sunday, December 7, at 4:30-6 p.m.

We hope everyone will participate. Should you have any questions or need additional information, please contact Kaiti Bryant, kbryant@florencefirst.org.



Parents' Night Out!

5:45–9 p.m. Friday, December 12

Registration closes December 9 — Secure your spot with QR code

Parents, enjoy a relaxing evening while your kids have a Christmas adventure at church! Children from nursery to fifth grade will experience their very own Christmas Drive-In Movie Night, complete with:

- Building and decorating their own cardboard "cars" to sit in
- Pizza, games, crafts, and story time
- A showing of *The Star: The Story of the First Christmas*
- A short Bible lesson on our journey to Jesus



This special evening gives parents a break while kids enjoy a safe, fun-filled night celebrating the true meaning of Christmas.

Children in Worship Leader and Volunteer Schedule

During Sunday worship, following the Message for Young Disciples, our 3K–5K children are invited to *Children in Worship*. This program is designed to help young children engage with worship and experience Bible stories in an age-appropriate way, all within their own special worship space.

Date	Time	Teacher	Assistant
November 2	9 a.m.	Jenna McLennan	Eliza Spencer
	11 a.m.	Charissa Canfield	Margaret Jones
November 9	9 a.m.	Jenna McLennan	Kaiti Bryant
	11 a.m.	Charissa Canfield	Patricia Fast
November 16	9 a.m.	Jenna McLennan	Peggy Swearingen
	11 a.m.	Charissa Canfield	Ellen Wilhoit
November 23	9 a.m.	Jenna McLennan	Allyson Pittman
	11 a.m.	Charissa Canfield	Ashley Hylton



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

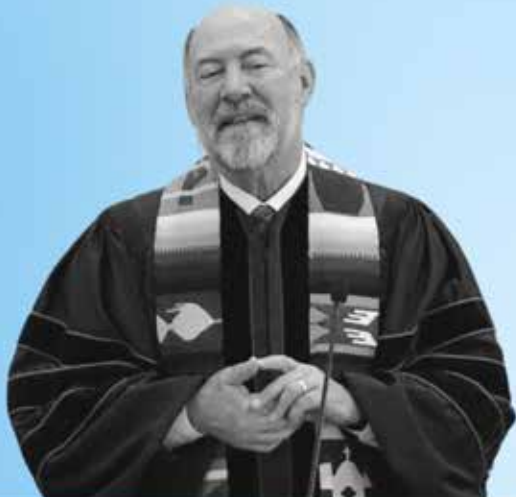
Installation Service

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 23

- 2:30 P.M. PRAYER WALK
- 4 P.M. SERVICE
- RECEPTION TO FOLLOW

PASTOR
STUART BOND

FLORENCEFIRST.ORG

A portrait of Pastor Stuart Bond, a man with a grey beard and balding head, wearing a black clerical robe with a patterned stole. He is standing with his hands clasped in front of him.

Please join us at 2:30 p.m. Sunday, November 23, as we gather in the Welcome Center and break into small groups for a time of corporate prayer, thanking GOD for the gracious gift of Stuart and Cindy Bond joining our covenant family. Those who are able can walk our campus acknowledging the growth we have experienced and praying for wisdom to follow the LORD's guidance in the months and years to come.

Reformation Sunday



Reformation Sunday, the last Sunday in October, marks the occasion in 1517 when Martin Luther posted his 95 theses in Germany. As Pastor Stuart said, “God is still at work. ... Let’s allow this Reformation Sunday to speak to our hearts and take the journey back to our first love. Let the Reformation be something that is not just for the church. Let it be for your own soul, as well.” If you would like to participate next year in the procession and adopt a tartan, please contact Weave Whitehead.

Trunk or Treat fun



A huge thank you to everyone who donated candy and non-candy items for our Trunk or Treat! Thanks to your generosity, we had plenty for everyone, and the children had an absolute blast! Congratulations to repeat winner Wells McBride for Best Trunk and Ebbie Sanderson for Best Costume. We're so grateful for a community that helps make these special events possible.

Christmas

Caroling

Celebrate the spirit of Christmas caroling with the youth, spreading Christ's hope, peace, joy, and love!

4 p.m. Wednesday, December 17

- Meet in the church office parking lot
- Return at 5:30 p.m.
- Children in 3K–sixth grade, Parents, and Youth are invited to join Ms. Kaiti, Taiter, and friends for an afternoon of caroling
- Sign up by contacting Kaiti Bryant, kbryant@florencefirst.org

New Covenant Partners



Andrew and Janna
Buckner



Nick Carter



Janice and Craig Coward



Missie Demory



John and Taylor Early



Mary Glenn and Jule
Eldridge III



Mary Beth, Kelly,
and Allie Hickey



Mackenzie and Wesley
Snow

Please welcome to our congregation our new covenant partners from the fall First Connections class.

Andrew and Janna (Jay-na) Buckner moved to the area for Andrew's job, with Janna joining after their wedding two years ago.

Nick Carter is from Florence and has a 4-year-old son, Holden.

Jan and Craig Coward grew up in Florence and moved back last year to be close to family.

Missie Demory moved to Florence five years ago. She is married to David and has an uncle in the area.

John and Taylor Early are Darlington natives and moved to Florence several years ago. They have three children, Elle, John, and Caroline.

Mary Glenn and Jule Eldridge have lived in Florence for more than 25 years. They have three children, Jule, Thomas, and Mary Margaret.

Kelly Hickey is our CDC director and Director of Children's Ministries. Her girls Allie and Mary Beth also join sister Gracie, who was confirmed last year.

Mackenzie and Wesley Snow have two children, Tripp



Reid Sturgeon



Charles and Heather
Williams

and Emilia. Wesley is a Florence native and son to Stuart and Susan Snow.

Newlywed Reid Sturgeon joins wife Madison (Sprengr) and her nuclear family here. They were married in June.

Charles and Heather Williams moved to the Florence four years ago, and they have two daughters, Madison and Evelyn Anne.



Keenagers to honor veterans

November Keenagers will be held at noon Tuesday, November 4, in the Jenkins Fellowship Hall. Come hear some fascinating stories of several of our veterans and beautiful patriotic music. Enjoy a bountiful Thansksgiving feast and good company. Welcome everyone 55 and older. Meal will be \$6. Come and join us!

CDC Spaghetti Dinner Fundraiser

The annual CDC fundraiser will be held from 6 to 8 p.m. Thursday, November 13, in the CLC/Gym. Supporters are welcome to eat in or take out. Tickets are available for \$15 a plate. The goal is to sell 350 tickets this year. We welcome your help with selling tickets. Please contact Kelly Hickey to sell or purchase tickets.

CDC Moms and Staff Bible Study

The CDC has two groups that meet on Mondays. One meets from 12:15 to 1 p.m. and the other meets from 5:15 to 6 p.m. Each group meets in the youth room, Room 207. The goal of this ministry 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 in meeting amazing, godly women, who are hungry for the Lord, come join us. Please contact Kelly Hickey for more information.

Staff Recognitions

First Presbyterian is fortunate to have a talented and dedicated church staff. This month we recognize Christina “Taiter” Garrett



on her employment anniversary. Christina is our Director of Youth Ministries. She first joined our staff as an intern in 2006 and has served in that role and as a youth ministry assistant at various times through the years. Christina was hired as full-time Director of Youth Ministries in November 2020. Thank you, Christina, we are grateful for your ministry.

Wednesday Nights at First Presbyterian

Join us for weekly family meals held at 5:30 p.m. on Wednesdays before our educational programming for all ages that begins at 6 p.m. The cost of meals is \$7/person with a \$30 family maximum. Dinner menu is on the calendar, page 13. Our final Wednesday night for the season is on November 12.

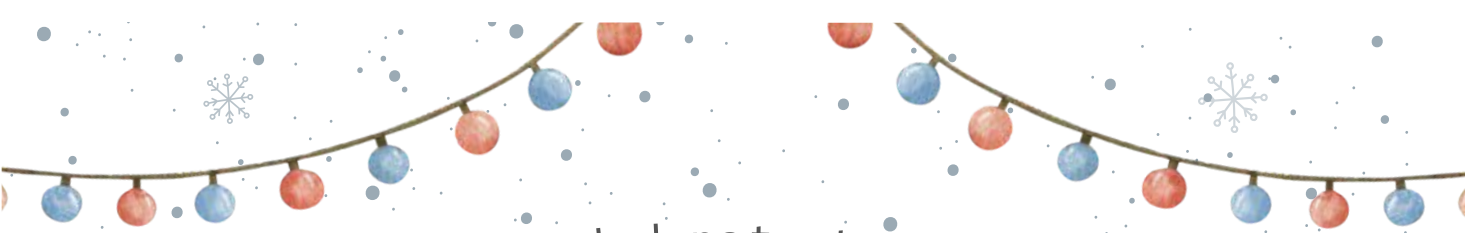
Help us get in touch with our students

The Women in Ministry would like to encourage our church's college students throughout the school year.

If you have a child in college or graduate school, please send name, address, and email address to Tara Newton, tarabecknewton@gmail.com.

— Submit news briefs to Kim Brauss in the church office, kbrauss@florencefirst.org.





Let's celebrate together!

HOLIDAY *Market*

Please join us for a Merry
Christmas Market
of gifts and decorations
created by the Youth Group

NOVEMBER 12, 16, & 23

Proceeds support
Youth Group Summer Trips

Shopping / Crafts



Holiday Market returns, supports Youth trips

October flew by! We enjoyed a prayer walk around the church, riding our bikes, small groups, prepping for our holiday market, pumpkin carving, and participating in trunk or treat.

We traveled back to Landrum for our annual apple picking trip. We enjoyed camping, spending time outside, eating apples, noticing the good things around us, and worshipping together. A big thank you to The Laing family for hosting us again and to Caroline Genoble for going on the adventure with us.

Please be on the lookout for our Holiday Market gift guide coming out this month. We are excited about all the new and old favorite gifts we are making to help you shop for the special people in your life and help support the youth in raising money for their Summer 2026 trips.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Eastern Carolina Agricultural Fair (November 1)
10:30 a.m. – 2 p.m.

We will meet at the church. Cost is \$10. Youth will need to bring money for food and games. Bring a friend!

Sunday School (November 2, 9, 16, 23, and 30)
10 – 10:50 a.m.
Light breakfast served.

Small Groups (November 2, 16, and 30) 5 – 7 p.m.
Dinner provided.

Wednesday Night Youth Group (November 5, 12, and 19) 5:30 – 7:15 p.m.
Food, raffles, and service projects! \$7 dinner provided by the church.
November 5: *OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD SHOESBOXES*
November 12: *HOLIDAY MARKET FUNDRAISER*

Coffee at F.E. Pop's (November 6, 13, and 20) 7 a.m. – Until



Fall Retreat (November 7-9) Leave at 1 p.m.
We will travel to Montreat, N.C. Cost will be \$125. Youth will need to bring money for two meals on the road and any spending or shopping money they need for downtown Black Mountain. If there are multiple siblings or friends that join us, each will get \$25 off their trip.
Please sign up and pay by Monday, November 3.

Holiday Market (November 12, 16, and 23)
The youth will make more Christmas gifts and decorations for people to buy/donate toward their summer trips. More information to follow!

Campfire and Outdoor Movie Night (November 23)
5-8 p.m.
Join us as we make s'mores and memories! Meet at The Thompson's house. Drinks and snacks provided. Bring a friend!



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CHURCH STAFF

SENIOR PASTOR
DIRECTOR OF MUSIC/ORGANIST
PRAISE TEAM LEADER

MUSIC ASSISTANT
CONGREGATIONAL CARE ASSISTANT
DIRECTOR OF YOUTH MINISTRY

DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES

PROGRAM DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

CDC ASSISTANT DIRECTOR/CHURCH NURSERY COORDINATOR

CHURCH ADMINISTRATOR

COMMUNICATIONS DIRECTOR

FINANCIAL ASSISTANT

MINISTRY ASSISTANT

LEAD CUSTODIAN

HOUSEKEEPING

CUSTODIAN

DR. STUART BOND
MRS. ANN RODGERS CHANDLER

MR. VIC ROCKHILL

MS. BETSY JOHNSON

REV. MIKE FLEENOR

MS. CHRISTINA "TAITER" GARRETT

MS. KELLY HICKEY

MS. KAITI BRYANT

MRS. SHURRIE MARKS

REV. DON HEBERT

MS. KIMBERLY BRAUSS

MS. SONYA HUNTER

MRS. EMILY REED

MR. LEROY WILLIAMS

MS. WANDA LASANE

MR. GREG THOMAS



Spaghetti Dinner

NOVEMBER 13 • 6-8 PM

\$15 a plate • eat in or carry out

Spaghetti fundraiser for the Child Development Center
To buy or help sell tickets, contact Director Kelly Hickey,
843-799-1263 or khickey@florencefirst.org

