

# The REMINDER



OCTOBER 2025





**ON THE COVER:** A weekend women's retreat was held in September at the Brand's Beneventum Plantation, where faith and fellowship led the biblical study time. For more information on the next event for the women of the church and ministry circles, visit page 10.

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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:

- **The Care House's Party with a P(o)urpose:**

Thursday, October 16, at Florence Country Club, [thecarehouse.com/party-with-a-purpose](http://thecarehouse.com/party-with-a-purpose)

- **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](mailto:jwheeler007@sc.rr.com).



# SERVEFLO 2025

*ServeFLO is Helping Florence Flourish's annual "season of service," where individuals, businesses, churches, nonprofits, etc., come together to complete various service projects around the Florence area.*

*Join HFF in being the hands and feet of Jesus and volunteer for a project created in an effort to bring about change in the Florence community:*

- **Thy Kingdom Come: A Moment of Prayer** will be held at 5:15 p.m.

Thursday, October 2, at FMU's Performing Arts Center, 201 S. Dargan St. Join for a time to pray that God's Kingdom will be evident and His love breaks out in the area. The 15 minutes of mainly silent prayer will end with a closing of the Lord's Prayer.



- **Foster Care Clothing Closet:** From 9 a.m. to noon Saturday, October 4, the nonprofit is taking donations for toiletry items, organizing clothing, powerwashing the exterior of the house as well as planting containers on the porch. Foster Care Clothing Closet is located at 504 S. Coit St. in Florence.

- **Care Closet Remodel:** The week of October 6, join in a remodeling of a care closet — removing shelves, installing clothing rods, painting and collecting and organizing donation items for students, including toiletries and adult-sized undergarments.

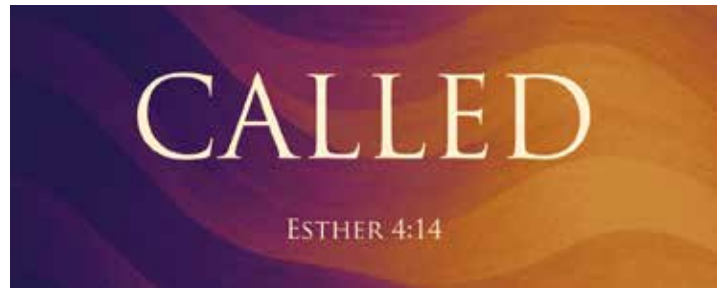
For a complete list of ServeFLO projects this October, visit [serveflo.org](http://serveflo.org).

# Meet Me in Atlanta!

Our denomination has an annual gathering. It is sometimes in California or Colorado or Texas. This year, it is in Atlanta, Georgia. That is not too far from here!

It is always an inspiring time. The worship is fantastic, the fellowship is delightful, the seminars are excellent. So let me ask you: would you please think about joining me?

If you go to the [eco-pres.org](http://eco-pres.org) website, you will see a link at the top for "National Gathering." It is February 3-5. All the information is there. It would be my pleasure to get to know you better and share in this inspiring, wonderful experience. So please: Meet me in Atlanta!

ECO National Gathering: In a world marked by uncertainty, change, and challenge, the words spoken to Esther echo louder than ever: "And who knows but that you have come to your royal position for such a time as this?" (Esther 4:14)

Esther had courage, knew her identity, and was obedient in a critical moment of history. Just as she stepped into her calling with boldness, we too are being summoned to deepen our faith, lead with compassion, and trust in God's sovereign call. We are here on purpose, *for such a time as this*.

## SESSION *notes*

In our October meeting, we spent some time reflecting on how we could invite the Lord to be a central part of our meetings rather than simply go through the agenda. On the other hand, we all like an agenda that moves along!

We were grateful for the excellence of the Mission emphasis this past month. We continue to see the finances going well. To put it exactly, we are "less behind" at this time of year than we normally are, which means we are

going in the red about \$750 per week. That is a far cry from the previous \$5,000 a week, and, God willing, we will come out strong by the end of the year.

With that in mind, we considered the Mission cutbacks and decided to hold on any change to that for now and we will revisit the topic next month.

In general, the Lord is at work, and we, your session, are grateful to be part of such a vibrant and faithful church.



## 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.

# A God-breathed Renewal

**“For I know the plans I have for you,’ declares the Lord, ‘plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future. Then you will call upon me and come and pray to me, and I will listen to you. You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart.’” Jeremiah 29:11-13**

Dear Covenant Partners,

The Pastor Nominating Committee has now been in place since late March. We are over six months into the process. We’ve truly enjoyed an amazing journey together as a committee of this church. We have grown. We have grown together.

We much better understand the realities of our doctrine of being reformed and reforming, of being conformed and conforming, of being saved – justified – and being sanctified. Ours is a journey. Since we already know the destination and its ending in total victory through complete sanctified transformation, it is in these moments we live in now that we realize that our time together IS the point, our fellowship in church IS the point, our faithful support of each other as we engage in this world to ultimately tease out those winsome ways to win others to Christ, in our time of worldly stewardship, all of that, IS the point.

What is it we earnestly seek? Or rather, who is it? Remember back to our worksheets that are now reposted on the ECO job-board. In our next pastor, we seek a leader who is an inspiring disciple of Jesus Christ, a compelling leader who is mission driven, focused on a felt sense of vision for the ministries of this church. Our leader will proclaim the Scripture such that our hearts will quicken, and our souls be stirred. Our leader will love us and shepherd us, will moderate our

session with wisdom and as an inspiration, and will be a mentor and role model among our staff as their head of staff.

With such a pastor, we seek to further positivity, harmony, peacefulness, resolution, steadfastness, and servant hearts among all of us. We pray for – and are fully expectant of – a God-breathed renewal of His felt spiritual presence among us. In all of this we await that power of transforming renewal for our church. Really, we seek nothing more or less than what we are promised as God’s church. This we understand. This we pray for: a next pastor who “gets it.”

What does that look like? When might we, in fact, see that? But of course, the answer for each of us is in our own hands already. Are we each expectantly preparing ourselves for our next chapter in our journey? Will it put us in those places where our God-given gifts and talents are truly enriching us, even as we give of ourselves to our neighbors? Are our hearts at peace? Are we living in the joy of the fullness of life? I hope so, because if so, the Lord is ready with his plans for us as the scriptural passage above has stated.

This then is what we seek. We pray that this pastor, this next person to lead us, this servant leader, has now been readied for our church by the Holy Spirit.

*Our Father in Heaven, now establish your servant leader here according to Your plans for us that we might reorganize ourselves through the leadership of this pastor, and then, we ask, that you powerfully enable us to attend to the great works that those plans of yours have reserved just for us.*

With love and blessings,  
Porter

## 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



# Continuing September's Trend

## Facts & Figures

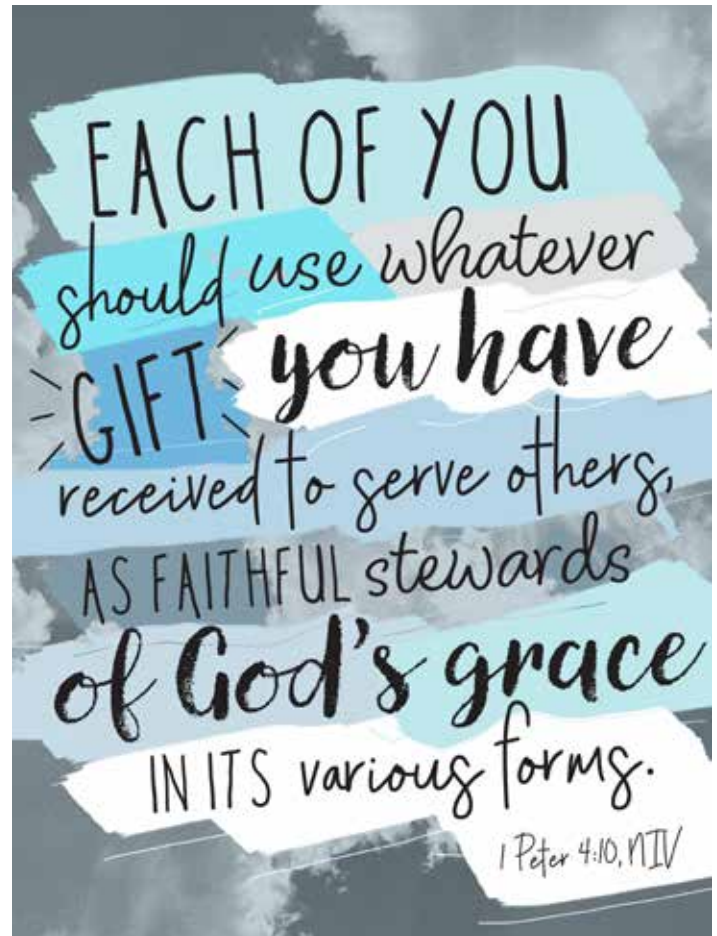
Our 2025 Ministry Action Plan is approximately \$1.93 million. To carry out the **Ministry Action Plan** set forth by our pastor, program staff and the various ministry units of the Session, we need to receive contributions of \$ 37,320.00 per week. After a challenging time when our weekly giving consistently fell behind the amount needed. Our covenant partners were made aware of the need, and you responded! August was an exciting month as we saw our covenant partners step up in a strong way. We slashed a \$161,000 deficit at the end of July to an approximately \$22,000 deficit at the end of August. We are still seeing strong financial support in September. While still at a deficit, this number is in line with what we expect to see heading into the fall. Traditionally, contributions in the final three months of the year are very strong. My encouragement is that we continue what was started in August and finish strong. The chart below shows a snapshot of our collective giving for the first nine months of 2025.

2025 Ministry Action Plan Summary

Pledge Gifts Received	\$968,272.00
Non-Pledge Gifts Received	\$371,674.00
Miscellaneous Income	\$49,459.00
Total 2025 Ministry Action Plan Receipts	\$1,389,405.00
Average Weekly Need	\$37,320.00
Weekly Average (as of 9/22/25)	\$36,563.00
Weekly Average Surplus (Deficit)	(\$757.00)

## Stewardship Season

October and November are the months that our staff and leadership begin the planning process for the coming year. It is also the time that we emphasize stewardship and generosity regarding our annual Ministry Action Plan. Our staff and leadership have begun preparing the 2026 Ministry Action Plan. We began using the term **Ministry Action Plan** several years ago because it indicates that there are ministries we want to do and feel that God is calling us to do. So, we “plan” to do them. Those ministries have costs associated and the church relies on the generosity of you, our cove-



nant partners, to provide the necessary resources in addition to various church ministry programs (pre-school, children, youth, adults, and an extensive music ministry), the Ministry Action Plan includes support to our missionaries (Emerts, Carol Crom, Gray Scott, and others), as well as providing support to the local agencies (House of Hope, Light House Ministries, Mercy Medicine, Tenacious Grace, A Choice to Make, etc.) As we move into our Stewardship Season, please begin to prepare your hearts and minds as to how you will respond to God's faithfulness and blessings. Tithing **provides a regular reminder of your dependence on God.** In times of prosperity, tithing helps you remember that God is the source of all blessings, and it allows you to demonstrate your gratitude for His care. In difficult times, tithing can motivate you to remember God's faithfulness, and it enables you to demonstrate trust in God to provide for all of your needs.

# The Church in a Hostile World

EPHESIANS 6:10-24

The LORD God created the world and loves the world. When we say the world we are including human beings and the entire creation of living things. John 3:16 declares, "God so loved the world. ..." So why is the world hostile to the coming of Jesus? Why does Paul in Ephesians think we need armor to combat the Devil, evil and sin in the world? Human beings have made the wrong decisions and have rebelled against God's wisdom and guidance.

The Church are those people in the world who seek to follow God's way in Jesus. I believe the world will be redeemed and will return to the created state of Genesis, chapter 1, and Eden. In that state it will be even better than Eden (I reference *EVEN BETTER THAN EDEN* by Nancy Guthrie, which was last year's Women in Ministry study book.). Until then, the Church seeks to partner with God to redeem the world. Ephesians 6:10-20 calls the Christian to struggle with powers beyond human ability. The Church must rely upon the protection of God. Paul calls for Christians to put on the armor of God. The Church can resist the evil power of Satan listed as "the principalities, the powers, world rulers of this present darkness, spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places (Ephesians 6:12)."

The listing of the armor is filled with Old Testament imagery of the final days. The armor of the Roman soldiers is spiritualized to be a model for the Christian. The belt is a sign of preparedness, the truth of God. The breastplate protects the heart and chest. This is the righteous protection of what is vital in living. The shoes are used to march against the enemy. The shield catches the arrows that seek to destroy the life of the wearer. The helmet represents the salvation of the LORD. It is the emblem of belonging to God. The sword is the weapon of offense to attack the enemy. The sword is the word of God representing the Old Testament power to resist and defeat evil. No piece of armor represents prayer, but it is the most important way to defeat evil. Prayer is always done in the Spirit (Ephesians 6:21). All God's people, the followers of Christ, are to be prayed for. Paul asks for prayer. By prayer, the Church is united in the spiritual war against evil.



The final section of Chapter 6 (verses 21-24) includes the introduction of Tychicus. He may have been with Paul when the letter was written. He is the encourager. Paul's final words request peace and grace from God and Jesus Christ to the Church

There seems to be evil acts in our time that defy human understanding. Jesus never advocated violence toward those who crucified him. Certainly in the collaborations between the Jewish Religious Leaders and Roman Empire, we can perceive the same evil Paul describes in Ephesians. It is the combined sin of much human evil that seeks the kill and destroy. As I finish my months of thoughts about God's Word in Ephesians, I pray for the grace to overcome hate and for peace to come to our world. I would urge you to pray for grace and peace. May "grace be with all who love our Lord Jesus Christ with love undying (Ephesians 6:24)."

*Mike*



# New School Year, New Experiences

On September 2, we kicked off the new preschool year jumping into our new Experience Early Learning curriculum focusing on A to Zoo. We also enjoyed Chapel starting back, which is led by Ms. Kaiti, and music led by Mrs. Ann Rodgers. The Book Mobile also returned, and we celebrated Grandparents Day with 112 grandparents in attendance. It's been a great start to the new preschool year!







# MEET THE CDC TEAM

**Jennifer Sharpe**



## ABOUT MRS. JENNIFER

Mrs. Jennifer is our sweet, friendly, quiet, fun-loving, flip flop wearing (even in the cold), loving her babies, 2KA teacher. Mrs. Jennifer is a native of Florence and joined the staff in August 2021. She enjoys spending time with her family, including her husband, her 4-year-old son, and their dog, Romeo. Mrs. Jennifer is an avid South Carolina Gamecock and Carolina Panthers fan. She enjoys hanging out and watching football on the weekends.

## HER FAVORITES

FOOD: Pizza  
COLOR: Purple  
FLOWER: Daisy  
PLACE: Mountains  
SEASON: Winter



# Save the Date

Women's Event  
6 to 7:30 p.m.  
November 11

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.



## 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, October 12, off campus

**Chairwoman:** Alexis Morris

### Women of Grace

**Meeting:** 6:30 p.m. Monday, Oct. 20, off campus (Japonica Lane)

**Chairwoman:** Betsey Moore

**Bible Moderator:** Charissa Canfield

### Joyful Hearts and Sunflowers

**Meeting:** 10 a.m. Tuesday, Oct. 21, Room 100

**Chairwomen:** Alice Caldwell and Nancy Thompson

**Bible Moderator:** Betsy Olsen

### Soul Sisters

**Meeting:** Noon Tuesday, Oct. 14, Price Classroom

**Chairwoman:** Carolyn Holland

**Bible Moderator:** Patti Hubbs

### Serenity

**Meeting:** 3 p.m. Tuesday, Oct. 14, Lawson-Rain Chapel

**Chairwoman:** Linda Smiley

**Bible Moderator:** Tabatha Davis

### Prayer Warriors

**Meeting:** 6:30 p.m. Wednesday, Oct. 8, church campus

**Chairwoman:** Amy Williams

### Wednesday Night Women

**Meeting:** 4 p.m. Sunday, Oct. 15, Parlor (former Session room)

**Chairwoman:** Laura Marecal

**Bible Moderator:** Emily Whitehead

### Disciples

**Meeting:** Noon Thursday, Oct. 9, off campus

**Chairwoman:** Janet Brand

**Bible Moderator:** Kimberly Packard

### Bread and Fish

**Meeting:** 9 a.m. Saturday, Oct. 11, Room 100

**Chairwoman:** Peggy Swearingen



## Save the Date: Thursday, November 6



### Benjamin Woods in Concert

First Presbyterian Church will hold a free community concert on Thursday, November 6, with Dr. Benjamin Woods, renowned concert pianist and professor emeritus at Francis Marion University.

Woods studied piano at Lamar University in Beaumont, Texas, and earned his master's degree at Midwestern University in Wichita Falls and doctorate at the University of South Carolina while working at Francis Marion College as an assistant professor of music. His New York debut was made at Carnegie Recital Hall in

1985. Woods served as music director/conductor of the Florence Symphony Orchestra from 1996 to 2002.

As pianist, he presented many faculty recitals at Francis Marion University, chamber music and solo concerts at many universities, and performances at community concert series, festivals, and with the Florence Masterworks Choir and Florence Choral Society. He also performs with his wife, Sherry Woods, violist, and their children, Christopher Woods, violinist, and Adrienne Woods, cellist.

### 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](mailto:vicrockhill@gmail.com).*

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY
28	29 	30	1 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.
5 Communion Sunday First Connections, 10 a.m. Youth: Wheeldateens! 5 p.m. 	6 Just for Women Bible Study, 11 a.m. House of Hope Men's Life Recovery Graduation, 7 p.m.	7 InterVarsity Staff Retreat, 8:30 a.m. Keenagers, noon CDC Music Time, 3 p.m. Worship Team Meeting, 5 p.m.	8 No Wednesday Night dinner, activities (Florence 1 break) WiM Prayer Warriors, 6 p.m.
12 Called Session Meeting for new members, 10 a.m. Confirmant-Mentor Lunch, noon WiM Salty Sunday Sisters, 2 p.m. off campus Youth: Small Groups, 5 p.m.	13 Enabling Team Meeting, 5:30 p.m. 	14 WiM Soul Sisters, noon Price Evangelism & Discipleship Team meeting, 1:30 p.m. WiM Serenity, 3 p.m. LR	15 Veterans Brunch, 8 a.m. Missions Team, 12:15 p.m. Wednesday Night Dinner, 5:30 p.m. Youth Group, 5:30 p.m. Wednesday Activities, 6 p.m. WiM Wednesday Night Women, 6 p.m. Parlor
19 Youth: Apple Picking Weekend Trip	20 CDC Book mobile, 9 a.m. WiM Women of Grace, 6:30 p.m. off campus	21 WiM Joyful Hearts/Sonflowers, 10 a.m. Room 100 Red Cross Blood Drive, 12:30 p.m. CDC Music, 3 p.m. Fellowship Team Meeting, 5:30 p.m.	22 Personnel Team Meeting, 8:15 a.m. Youth Group, 5:30 p.m. (Pumpkins & Costumes) Wednesday Night Dinner, 5:30 p.m. Wednesday Activities, 6 p.m.
26 Reformation Sunday Worship Service, 10 a.m. Lunch, 11:15 a.m. Youth: Small Groups, 5 p.m. (No Sunday School)	27 Girl Scouts, 4:30 p.m. CDC staff meeting, 6 p.m.	28 CDC Music, 3 p.m. Diaconate, 5:30 p.m. Session, 6:30 p.m.	29 Trunk or Treat, 5:30 p.m. 



**THURSDAY****FRIDAY****SATURDAY****OCTOBER****WEEKLY****SUNDAYS**

- Contemporary Worship Service, 9 a.m.
- Sunday School, 10 a.m.
- Traditional Worship Service, 11 a.m.
- Embracing God's Word, 5:30 p.m.

**MONDAYS**

- Weekly Prayer, noon
- 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. (203)

**WEDNESDAYS**

- Staff Meeting, 2 p.m.
- Youth Group, 5:30 p.m.
- Dinner, 5:30 p.m.
- Chancel Handbell Rehearsal, 5:30 p.m.
- Wednesday programs, 6 p.m.
- Chancel Choir Rehearsal, 7 p.m.

**THURSDAYS**

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

**DINNERS****October 1:** Pizza, salad, dessert**October 8:** No dinner**October 15:** Taco bar/salad, dessert**October 22:** Creamy pasta with chicken, broccoli, and cake squares**October 29:** Trunk or Treat: Hot dogs, chips, dessert

2

Youth: Coffee, F.E. Pop's,  
7 a.m.  
Women's Bible Study,  
10:30 a.m.  
Girl Scouts, 6:30 p.m.

3

4

9

WiM Disciples,  
noon off campus

10

CDC closed for training

11

Parking Lot Mission  
WiM Bread & Fish, 9 a.m.  
Room 100

16

Youth: Coffee, F.E. Pop's

17

Youth: Apple Picking  
Weekend Trip  
High School Boys Bible Study,  
6:45 a.m.

18

Youth: Apple Picking  
Weekend Trip

23

Youth: Coffee, F.E. Pop's

24

25

Youth: Carowinds, 8 a.m.

30

Youth: Coffee, F.E. Pop's

31

Halloween



### **SYMPATHY**

Bruce Hubbs, loss of his father, Samuel L. Hubbs  
Bonnie Stuber, loss of her sister, Joyce Kirven

### **SICK & RECOVERING**

Aubrey Crawford	Bob McLean
Steve Edwards	Janie Ray
Keith Jones	Maggie Reece
Barry Jenkins	Sidney Ruff
Dave and Linda Lawson	Ginger Sullivan

### **EXTENDED CARE**

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

### **HOUSEHOLDS**

Flock 1: Danny and Grayson Jones  
Flock 2: Jill McQuillan  
Flock 3: David McLean  
Flock 4: Gary and Pam Meharg  
Flock 5: Brian, June Chang-Kim, and Eric Kim  
Flock 6: Richard and Wanda Granger  
Flock 7: Mike and Jean Lavespere  
Flock 8: Gerry and Barb Rosenlund

### **FLOWERS IN THE SANCTUARY**

October 5: Communion  
October 12: Lisa Dozier  
October 19: Open  
October 26: Hunter Burch

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**

Fran Curtis  
Samuel L. Hubbs, Bruce Hubbs' father  
Martha Tyson

### **ELDERS**

John Scott  
Ryon Watkins

### **DEACONS**

Lynn Porter  
Tommy Walker

### **MISSIONS**

Sasha Tsutserov, One Missions Society  
Helping Florence Flourish

### **WOMEN IN MINISTRY**

Vicki Hebert  
Ashley Scott

### **TEACHERS**

Kelly Hickey  
Mike Lavespere

### **STAFF**

Mike Fleenor  
Vic Rockhill

### **CDC STAFF**

Mrs. Stacy  
Mrs. Mariah



# October BIRTHDAYS

**OCTOBER 1**

Margaret Mimms  
Tiffany Straus

**OCTOBER 2**

Sarah Dozier  
Thatcher Jordan

**OCTOBER 3**

Theresa Garris  
James Whitehead

**OCTOBER 4**

Kohl Duncan  
Wendell Jones  
Wanda LaSane  
Caden McKay  
Marlene Pantos  
Diane Rouse

**OCTOBER 5**

Shand Josey  
Stan Lehmans

**OCTOBER 6**

Ellie Blankenship  
Ralph Bratcher  
Lane Dowdell  
Hugh Ervin

**OCTOBER 7**

Lana Lehmans  
Alex Lewis  
Will Lewis  
Billy Patrick

**OCTOBER 8**

Reames Evans  
Bruce Hubbs

**OCTOBER 9**

John Etheridge  
Oliver Page  
Barb Rosenlund  
Charlotte Tuttle

**OCTOBER 10**

Nancy Collins  
Patricia Fast

**OCTOBER 11**

Caleb Edwards  
Laura Anne Hofler  
Tena Rabon  
David Spivey  
Bill Truman  
Ruth Watts

**OCTOBER 12**

Bryon Frost  
Barbara Green  
Carson Harwell

**OCTOBER 13**

Grace Bostwick  
Vica Fuller  
Lydia King  
Michael Pullmann

**OCTOBER 14**

Ford Campbell  
Justin Green  
Danny Jones  
Lucas Morgan  
Nancy Poston  
Bob Silver

**OCTOBER 15**

Jan Bays  
Carey Hindman  
Pat Tuttle

**OCTOBER 16**

John Hofler  
Henry Rose

**OCTOBER 17**

Mary Harper Armstrong  
Jim Berton

**OCTOBER 18**

Christy Douglas  
David Frost  
Anna Grace Hubbs  
Bailey Hylton  
Charley Hylton

**OCTOBER 19**

Eleanor Lane  
McLean Ryan  
Alison Thompson  
Cooper Wallace

**OCTOBER 22**

James Genoble  
Richard Granger  
Elizabeth Lee  
Myrna Simmonds  
Sarah Wheeler

**OCTOBER 23**

Yong Shin

**OCTOBER 24**

John Harrell  
Kelly Hickey

**OCTOBER 25**

Laura Berton  
Quincy Kennedy  
Bob McLean  
Zane Morris  
John Pennstrom  
Mona Zakhour

**OCTOBER 26**

Jay McLaurin

**OCTOBER 27**

Jim Bertram  
Jeannie Brodie  
Caleb King  
Richard Shurman  
Stephen Thompson

**OCTOBER 28**

Sandy Stephens  
Julie Thomas

**OCTOBER 29**

Jayne Boswell

**OCTOBER 30**

Evan Hanna  
Teresa James  
Gray Warner

**OCTOBER 31**

Pierce MacLennan  
Will Patton  
Randi Ryan  
Anna Shurman  
Hugh Whitehead  
Eliza Wilhoit



Dear CDC Family,

Over the last week or two, the word BREATHE has continuously come up in conversations, devotionals, songs, as well as spoken to me from friends. When something like this happens, I begin wondering, Lord, is that you speaking? It never ceases to amaze me how God speaks.

As I began to reflect on the word breathe, I couldn't help but think about you, especially parents. How well are you doing with breathing?

I can honestly say, I am not doing so well. I am quickly moving from this task to the next and to the next. It seems like I do not have time to breathe. I need to make sure laundry is clean, meals are provided, ball practice and games are attended, dogs are fed, house is clean, yard work is complete, bills are paid, I get to work, homework is done, emails are answered, respond to text, phone calls are returned, etc., etc., etc.! There seems to be NO time to breathe! But is that true? Is there really NO time for me to breathe? Someone once told me, we make time for the things we want to do. So then, the real question: Do I want to breathe? Well, of course, I do. I think the majority of us do.

Well, I finally listened and made time to breathe. I got away. I enjoyed sitting in the midst of God's beautiful creation, watching earth's reflection in calm waters, listening to the sounds of nature while escaping from all the noise life brings. And what did I gain? Peace! Time to be still and spend time with God! Time to sit and just be. Time for just me, and time to feel His peace!

During Jesus' ministry, Jesus would go, and go and go, and yet He would also withdraw to a quiet place to pray and spend time with God. His example should encourage us to do the same. We should and need to take time to disconnect from our surroundings, from those things that tend to drain us, and reconnect to the one who can recharge us. For we are His. He wants us to draw near to Him. So, what will you do? Will you make time to breathe?

Much love,  
Kelly

Dear Church Family,

October brings with it crisp air, busy schedules, and the excitement of fall traditions. In the midst of it all, I'm reminded of the words from Ecclesiastes 3:1: "There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under the heavens."

This season invites us to slow down, notice God's presence, and remember that He is at work in every season of our lives.

In Children's Ministry, we see this truth lived out as children learn, grow, and share their joy with us each week. Whether it's through Bible stories, Wednesday night programs, or special events such as Trunk or Treat, these moments remind us that God continues to shape young hearts in beautiful ways.

As we journey through this fall season together, may we be encouraged to trust God's timing, lean into community, and celebrate the ways He is at work among us.

In Christ's love,  
Kaiti Bryant

## Trunk or Treat on October 29

Join us for our annual Trunk or Treat — a free evening filled with candy, costumes, dinner, and fellowship for the whole church family!

This year we're bringing back our 2nd Annual Costume Contest — so come dressed in your best (no scary costumes, please!) and sign up when you arrive. We'll also have our Best Trunk Contest for those hosting trunks. Both contest winners will take home a Golden Pumpkin! Starting October 1, you can:

- Donate candy and non-candy items. Bins will be in the Narthex on Sundays and in the CLC on Wednesday nights. Donations are due by Sunday, October 26.
- Host a decorated trunk! Our goal is 20 trunks, each with a Christ-centered theme. Sign up using the QR code.





# LIVING NATIVITY

Mark your calendars to join us for this year's Living Nativity on Tuesday, December 9, and Wednesday, December 10. The story of Christ's birth will be brought to life by our sixth-graders along with the angel choir made up of children in 3K–5th grade.

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](mailto:kbryant@florencefirst.org).



## 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
October 5	9 a.m.	Kaiti Bryant	Linda Smiley
	11 a.m.	Kelly Hickey	Ashley Hylton
October 12	9 a.m.	Kaiti Bryant	JoDee Etheridge
	11 a.m.	Kelly Hickey	Ellen Wilhoit
October 19	9 a.m.	Kaiti Bryant	Kaiti Bryant
	11 a.m.	Kaiti Bryant	Jan Green
October 26 (Reformation Sunday)	10 a.m.	Kaiti Bryant	Kelly Hickey & Gracie Tolson



# FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH LEAGUE BASKETBALL

## REGISTRATION DATES

- October 6: Church members
- October 13: Nonmembers
- Deadline: October 24

## TEAMS

- All teams are co-ed
- 8U to 17U

## FEE

\$35 per player

SIGN UP ONLINE AT  
FLORENCEFIRST.ORG

Don't forget to sign up for a basketball team with First Presbyterian. Registration opens **October 6** for FPC members wishing to play and October 13 for nonmembers. Registration deadline is October 24.

Teams are based on age as of September 1, 2025. No player who plays school ball at any level is eligible to play in 12U, 14U, or 17U.

- If you have questions or if any church members would like to volunteer to coach, please contact Jason Coker, 843-260-4786 or [jason@cokerdirect.com](mailto:jason@cokerdirect.com)
- No late registrations accepted. League plans to cap number of teams in each division. Sign up immediately to ensure a spot on a team.



## Wednesday Nights Children's Program

Wednesday night fun and learning for children begins with dinner at 5:30 p.m. and activities at 6 p.m. Each week, children in **3K–5th grade** are invited to grow in their faith through age-appropriate lessons, worship, and fellowship.

### • 3K–5K: Beginning Catechism

Our youngest group will explore the Beginning Catechism for Younger Children — simple questions and answers that teach big truths about God. Through songs, stories, and hands-on activities, they'll learn who God is, what He has done, and how much He loves them.

### • First–Third Grade: Children's Choir

This group will be part of our new Children's Choir, where kids will learn songs that help them memorize Bible verses and grow in worship. They'll also have opportunities to share their voices in Sunday worship services throughout the year, helping them see how their gifts can serve the whole church.

### • Fourth–Fifth Grade: Bible Drill

Our oldest group will dive deeper into Scripture through an engaging and interactive Bible Drill class. With games, challenges, and activities, they'll learn how to navigate the Bible, memorize key passages, and grow confident in using God's Word as a guide for their daily lives.



**VBS Summer 2026: Save the Date!**

**June 15-18, 2026**







**JOIN US AT**

**FIRST PRESBYTERIAN**

**for our**

**trunk or**

**TREAT**

**WEDNESDAY**  
**OCTOBER 29**  
**5:30-7:15 PM**

**WEAR YOUR**  
**NON-SCARY**  
**COSTUMES**  
**AND JOIN US**  
**FOR FAMILY FUN!**

**ENTER TO WIN A GOLDEN PUMPKIN!**  
**COSTUME CONTEST & TRUNK CONTEST**

  
**SIGN UP TO**  
**HOST A TRUNK**





## Scouts campout features Coast Guard visit

Troop 477 recently enjoyed a fun-filled campout at Mingo Lodge, where Scouts worked on outdoor skills, fellowship, and watersports. The highlight of the trip was a visit to the Coast Guard station in Georgetown, where Scouts got an up-close look at search and rescue operations and learned about life in the Coast Guard. Troop 477 meets at 7 p.m. every Monday in the Fisher Scout Room. New Scouts are always welcome. Contact Scoutmaster Brandon Hylton for more information.







### Keenagers kicks off with musical event

October Keenagers will be held at noon Tuesday, October 7, in the Jenkins Fellowship Hall. Welcome everyone 55 and older for food, fun, and fellowship. Program will be music from our past with special guests. Meal will be \$6: barbecue, slaw, baked beans, tossed green salad, rolls, and banana pudding. Come and join us!

### Congregation approves new slate of officers

During the Congregational Meeting on September 28, covenant partners elected church officers for the class of 2028. Elders elected were Janet Brand, Alice Caldwell, Billy McBride, and Chris Scott. Deacons elected were Brandon Blankenship, Charissa Canfield, Mark Davis, Matt Dowdell, John Etheridge, Cathy Lee, Lee Nunn, and Pack Packard. Officers will be installed and ordained in January.

### 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.

### 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.

Dr. Stuart Bond and Dr. Bill Cain each offer adult classes at 6 p.m. Wednesdays this fall while the children and youth have their program. Pastor Stuart teaches *Becoming a Healthy Disciple: Ten Traits of a Vital Christian*. Bill Cain speaks to a question that deserves our full attention: What is the MOST IMPORTANT GIFT you can give to your child? His latest class is *Family Discipleship: Discovering and Developing Your Most Important Role as a Parent*.

### Staff Recognitions

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

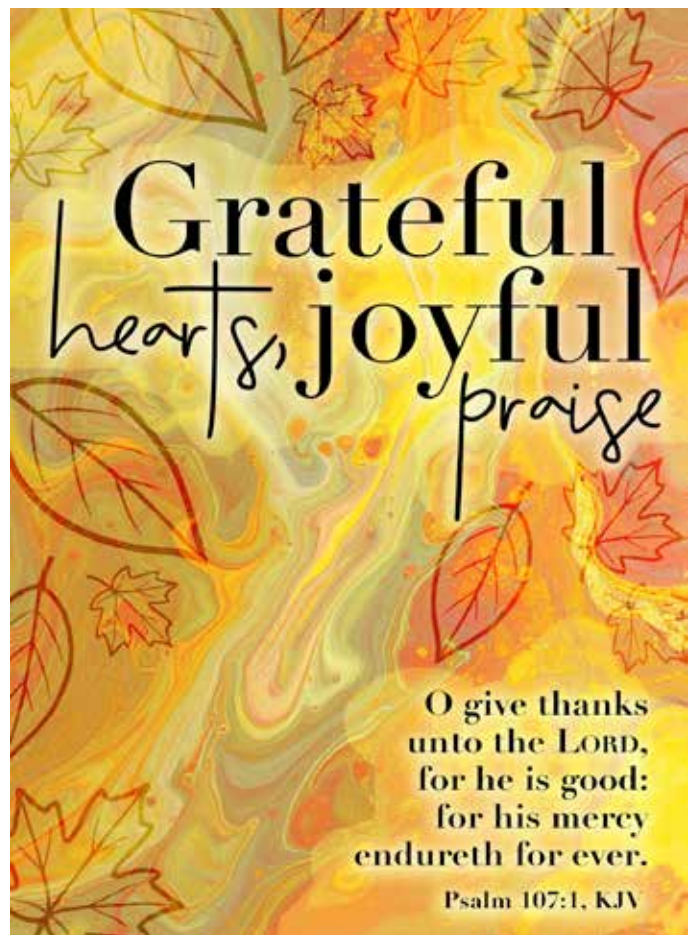


Ann Rodgers Chandler is our Organist/Director of Music. Ann Rodgers joined the staff of First Presbyterian Church in October 1998.

Wanda Lasane is on our custodial staff. Wanda joined our staff in October 2002. Thank you, Ann Rodgers and Wanda, we are grateful for your respective contributions to the ministry of First Presbyterian Church.



— Submit news briefs to Kim Brauss in the church office, [kbrauss@florencefirst.org](mailto:kbrauss@florencefirst.org).





# REFORMATION SUNDAY

COMMEMORATING  
A MOVEMENT  
THAT CHANGED  
CHRISTIANITY

- ◆ The Reformation was a religious movement in the 1500s that aimed to reform the Catholic Church
- ◆ It led to the creation of new Christian churches, called Protestant churches.
- ◆ On Reformation Sunday, First Presbyterian Church marks the movement with the Kirkin' o' the Tartans to celebrate Scottish heritage and a lunch following the **10 a.m. worship service on October 29.**
  - ◆ **Kirkin' o' the Tartans:** To celebrate family, there is a procession of tartans during the 10 a.m. worship service.
  - ◆ **Reformation Lunch:** Come enjoy a lunch with your church family after the service.



CHURCH PICTORIAL DIRECTORY



## MAKEUP SESSIONS

We're growing, and we'd like to capture our growth.

**WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 15**

For those who were unable to get pictures made in September, schedule your photography session online at [www.ucdir.com](http://www.ucdir.com).

Log in after clicking Photography Session Sign-Up

by using username sc311 and photos as the password.

You can call Kimberly Brauss or Emily Reed in the church office to set up an appointment or provide other assistance, as well, 843-662-2583.





# Youth start new season of Service Projects

September was filled with messy games, a ministry fair, missions fair, Wednesday night kick-off, a bike ride, and coffee. We started small groups again, where we are watching and discussing season 5 of *The Chosen*.

Thank you to everyone who stopped by our table at the Ministry Fair or signed up to help us this year. We are always looking for drivers or someone to provide a meal for Small Groups or breakfast.

Youth are participating in service projects this semester and next semester on Wednesday nights. Several youths will lead a service project, figure out the details or materials needed, and help execute it. Please let Taiter know if you have an idea of anything we can help with in the church or community.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

**Wednesday Night Youth Group** (October 1, 15, 22, and 29) 5:30 – 7:15 p.m.

Food, raffles, and service projects! \$7 dinner provided by the church.

October 1: \*HELPING FLORENCE FLOURISH / SERVEFLO PRAYER WALK\*

October 22: \*PUMPKIN CARVING and COSTUME NIGHT\*

October 29: \*TRUNK OR TREAT\* Youth will participate.

**Coffee at F.E. Pop's** (October 2, 16, 23, and 30) 7 a.m. – Until

**Sunday School** (October 5, 12, 19, and 26) 10 – 10:50 a.m. Light breakfast served.

**Wheeldateens!** (October 5) 5 – 7 p.m.  
Come ride bikes with us! Water and snacks provided. Bring a friend!

**Small Groups** (October 12 and 26) 5 – 7 p.m.  
Dinner provided.

**Apple Picking Trip** (October 17-19) Leave at 3 p.m. We will travel to Jeter Mountain Farm in Hendersonville, N.C., to go apple picking. We will be



staying in Landrum and camping on private property. Attractions include an apple cannon, hayride, playground, coffee shop, and apple cider donuts. Youth will need to bring money for one meal on the road. Cost will be \$75. Bring a friend!

Please sign up and pay by Wednesday, October 1.

**Carowinds** (October 25) 8 a.m. – 8 p.m.

Join us as we spend the day riding roller coasters, playing games, and eating the best pretzels in the world! Cost is \$45 for your ticket to get in. Youth will need to bring money for two meals on the road.



700 PARK AVENUE, FLORENCE, SC 29501  
843-662-2583  
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. GREG THOMAS



# *Reformation Sunday*

Worship Service at 10 a.m. Sunday, October 26  
Church Lunch follows

Celebrating the tradition that grounds our faith