

The REMINDER



FEBRUARY 2026



ON THE COVER: Snow covers the church and campus. Extreme cold weather conditions caused worship services to be canceled for two Sundays. Picture by Elder Robert Moore.

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Missions Opportunities

Heartbeat Gala

A Choice to Make Pregnancy Resource Center will have its Heartbeat Gala on Thursday, February 26, at the Southeastern Institute of Manufacturing and Technology. Special guest speaker will be Toni McFadden, founder of the program Relationships Matter and international speaker on the topic of abortion and healthy relationships.



The Heartbeat Gala provides an opportunity for the pro-life community to gather and show support for A Choice to Make Pregnancy Resource Center and its work in the Pee Dee and surrounding areas. A Choice to Make is a Christian, pro-life ministry proclaiming the Gospel of Jesus Christ and providing practical, emotional, and spiritual assistance to women and men who face unplanned pregnancies, promoting alternatives to abortion, post-abortion help, Bible studies, training in parenting skills, and offering support to moms and dads.

Guest speaker Toni McFadden was a scared teenage girl faced with an unplanned pregnancy. She thought the only way out of her darkness was through the doors of an abortion facility.

Author of the book, *Redeemed: My Journey after Abortion*, Toni is a pro-life advocate and international speaker who shares her abortion story of regret with transparency while leaving her listeners with hope.

Doors open at 6 p.m. Program begins at 7 p.m. The SiMT building is located at 1951 Pisgah Road in Florence.

UPCOMING EVENTS

• Evening of Hope, House of Hope of the Pee Dee benefit with guest speaker Bethany Hamilton and musical guest Megan Woods, March 9:

This benefit will be held at the Florence Center with the rising surfing star who became a source of inspiration to millions of people through her story of determination, faith, and hope at the age of 13 when she lost her left arm to a 14-foot tiger shark. General admission tickets to Evening of Hope can be found at Ticketmaster.com. Sponsorships are available, as well, by contacting Julie Maxham, jmaxham@hofh.org.

• Lighthouse Ministries 26th Annual BBQ Fundraiser, March 16-20:

The weeklong event will be held at Holt Brothers BBQ in Florence. This annual event raises vital funds to help individuals and families across Florence County meet their basic needs and find stability during times of crisis.

Each \$12 plate includes barbecue, macaroni and cheese, rice and gravy, green beans, and texas toast. Proceeds from every plate directly support Lighthouse Ministries' programs and services, making a meaningful impact for our neighbors when they need it most. Tickets available for purchase at lighthouseflorence.org/events.

See Where the Lord Leads

Dear Church Family,

Wow. Two weeks where the weather didn't allow us to gather as a church. It seems crazy to think our temperatures could get that low and stay that low!

As you read this, I am with Johnny Stoupenos and David Lake at the National Gathering for ECO in Atlanta. It is like going to a banquet of spiritual input, wonderful worship, and great ideas. I look forward to going, and I look forward to coming back home and bringing you the stories we have to tell.

Closer to home, I want to say "thank you" to all of you who have helped us come out of the financial hole we were in and stand on solid ground. It was a joyous

evening at Session when we could retire all the debt we held and go into the year more than \$40K in the positive. I believe the Lord has only begun to bless our church as we continue to lift up his name and ask the Lord to use us to bless others.

Stay warm, y'all. And stay alert to see where the Lord leads us as a church!

In Christ,



SESSION *notes*

The session met on Tuesday, January 27, in a stated meeting.

Both the session and diaconate were inspired and moved by testimonies given by the new officers. This testimony evening is always considered the best meeting of the year. All session members and most of diaconate were present, but Dr. Stuart Bond could not be there due to illness.

After deacons were dismissed, the Enabling Unit presented the Ministry Action Plan/budget for 2026. There was much discussion but a final vote will not be taken until a called meeting the second week of February. After the vote, the MAP will be presented to the covenant partners.

— Clerk of Session, Alice Caldwell



A Look Back at 2025

The Year in Review

Looking back on 2025, First Presbyterian Church has been blessed in many ways. First and foremost is the call and installation of Dr. Stuart Bond as our Senior Pastor. We are grateful to have him and Cindy with us and look forward to how God will use Stuart to lead us in the coming years. In 2025 we faced some financial challenges, but I am happy to report that through the generosity of our covenant partners we ended the year in a good financial position. We were able to fully fund all of our commitments to the local benevolence agencies, we fully supported our missionary partners, and we were able to pay off our debt. God is good! We had a very good response to our 2026 Stewardship campaign, to date 160 of our covenant partners have pledged nearly \$1,280,000 in support of our Ministry Action Plan for 2026. Our ministry action plan includes funding for the various ministry areas of our church (Children, Youth, Adults and Music/Worship). It also includes funding for our church's mission involvement locally, nationally and global. Additionally, the Ministry Action Plan includes funding for fixed costs (utilities, facilities upkeep, salaries, curriculum, etc.) While not nearly as exciting, this part of the Ministry Action plan is important to the ministry of our church by providing the upkeep of the beautiful facilities, sanctuary and musical instruments as well as salaries for our talented staff who faithfully serve our congregation. By your continued financial support of the ministry of First Presbyterian Church, you are directly involved in life changing work, which is what God has called us to be and do as His disciples.

2025 Contribution Statements

In the coming days, all covenant partners and others who made financial contributions to support the ministries of First Presbyterian Church during 2025 will receive a contribution statement summarizing your annual giving for 2025. Due to rising postal rates, we will be emailing the contribution statements to the email address we have on file on REALM. Please feel free to contact me or Sonya Hunter if you have questions regarding your contribution statement. Thank you for your continued financial support of First Presbyterian Church.

Christmas Eve Benevolence Offering

At our 2025 Christmas Eve services, FPC contributed over \$18,000 that will be used throughout 2026 to aid with food, housing and utilities to Florence County residents who come to us seeking help meeting the basic needs of life. Thank you for your generosity during the Christmas season and throughout the year.

In Memoriam Panel

The Columbarium Memory Garden adjacent to the Sanctuary is a beautiful addition to our campus. In addition to niches for inurnment of cremains, the columbarium features an "In Memoriam" section. At Easter and Advent covenant partners place flowers in honor/memory of loved ones in the Sanctuary. The In Memoriam section provides an opportunity to permanently remember covenant partners, their spouses, children, as well as the parents of covenant partners, who are deceased and interred elsewhere. Brochures about the Columbarium Memory Garden are available in the Welcome Center. Please contact me or George Beshere if you are interested in reserving a niche or would like more information about the "In Memoriam" section.



Yielding in Love

1 PETER 3

The study of 1 Peter 3 produces two goals. The first is to define submission. The second is to emphasize the relationship of the church with believers through the suffering of Christ.

The wording of “be subject to or submission” is used over 20 times in the New Testament. The Greek word used is *upotasso*. It means to place under. I believe the best definition is “a voluntary yielding in love.” This means the individual chooses to submit to some person as an act of love. 1 Peter uses the word to describe how husbands and wives are to relate to one another. Jesus defines submission with his own life. Jesus submits to God, his Father, by volunteering in love to God and all of humanity, by yielding to violence, because he loves those who murder him. This is a great mystery of Jesus’ work on the cross as his death brings meaning to forgiving human sin. My basic understanding of sin is to ignore God and the teaching of Jesus. We willingly submit to God and Jesus because we realize this is the best way to live. Again, in our studies, I reference the sin of idolatry as the reason Jesus is crucified.

1 Peter 3:1-12 defines God’s will for wives, husbands, and the Church. I assume from the context of the writing in 1 Peter 3:1 and the understanding of the Roman culture of the first century, that women were considered to be of lower authority to men. The Church in Northern Galatia may have a greater population of women believers than male. If a wife lived in a Christ-like way, then she may influence her husband to follow Christ (1 Peter 3:1-2). Sarah is used to illustrate the example of submission.

In one verse Peter gives the characteristics of a Christian husband: “dwell with them” (wives) “with understanding, giving honor to the wife ... and as being heirs together (1 Peter 3:7).” In a controversial statement the wife is called the “weaker vessel.” This has caused debate in the Church. I believe this statement refers to the prohibition of domestic abuse in the home. A husband or wife is not allowed to use violence to ensure submission. This is a sin that causes great harm to the marriage relationship. In 1 Peter 3:8, there is a definition of submission: “having compassion for one another ... tenderhearted ... courteous, not returning evil.”

The topic of the letter changes at 1 Peter 3:13 to unwanted and righteous suffering. The attitude of Jesus and his submission to suffering on the cross illustrates how Christians are to respond to their own suffering. A slave, wife, husband, or disciple are to accept abuse from another person without the retaliation of violence. The slave had no choice but to accept abuse. The spouse does have a choice in our society to leave the situation. The example of Christ is given in 1 Peter 3:18. Jesus destroys the will to violence by allowing himself to be murdered innocently. His example corrects and saves our need for revenge. Jesus’ salvation calls disciples to ignore the temptation to resort to revenge for wrongdoing.

This is a paradox of life on earth. How does Jesus’ suffering and death bring life to humanity? How does our suffering witness to our ability to help others who are suffering? The answer lies in God raising Jesus to life in the resurrection. All humans have the opportunity to choose to be resurrected and defeat death and suffering. Eternal life is a promise of God to all who believe that God overcomes death and sin in the resurrection of Jesus.

David Jeremiah in 1 and 2 PETER lists three purposes of suffering. The first purpose of human suffering for our faith brings understanding to others who are suffering. To overcome suffering with faith in Christ is to be an example of dealing with suffering in patience waiting for the healing from God. The second purpose is the response to suffering indicates that the strength of faith overcomes doubt and fear of death. Faith in Christ realizes death is defeated. The third purpose is all humans have blessings, troubles, and suffering. To suffer is to be human in a fallen state away from God. Faith in Jesus reconciles humans to God. The life promised beyond earthly existence exceeds expectations. Paul exclaims in Philippians 1:21: “for to me, to live is Christ, and to die is gain.” So, we live day by day following Jesus, praying for spiritual gifts to witness and to rejoice in God’s presence even when we suffer. In this living we are witnesses to the power of Jesus’ death and resurrection. Our prayer becomes one of faith: “O LORD, help me to love each one I meet and respond to evil with good.”





Women's Ministry Event

MAHJONG

Open Play

Novice - Intermediate - Advanced Tables
6 - 8 p.m. Monday, February 23
Lawson Rain Chapel

Free! Register by February 20 using QR code.
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: 2:30 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 8,
Evelyn Childers' home

Chairwoman: Alexis Morris

Women of Grace

Meeting: 6:30 p.m. Monday, Feb. 9,
Japonica Lane

Chairwoman: Betsey Moore

Bible Moderator: Charissa Canfield

Joyful Hearts

Meeting: 10 a.m. Tuesday, Feb. 10,
Room 100

Chairwomen: Alice Caldwell and
Nancy Thompson

Bible Moderator: Betsy Olsen

Soul Sisters

Meeting: Noon Tuesday, Feb. 10
Price Classroom

Chairwoman: Carolyn Holland

Bible Moderator: Patti Hubbs

Serenity

Meeting: 3 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 10
Lawson-Rain Chapel

Chairwoman: Linda Smiley

Bible Moderator: Tabatha Davis

Prayer Warriors

Meeting: 6:30 p.m. Wednesday,
Feb. 11, Women's Only Classroom

Chairwoman: Amy Williams

Wednesday Night Women

Meeting: 6:15 p.m. Wednesday,
Feb. 11, Parlor

Chairwoman: Laura Marecal

Bible Moderator: Emily Whitehead

Disciples

Meeting: Noon Thursday, Feb. 12
off campus

Chairwoman: Janet Brand

Bible Moderator: Kimberly Packard

Bread and Fish

Meeting: 9 a.m. Saturday, Feb. 14
Women's Only Classroom

Chairwoman: Peggy Swearingen



Emily Lake teaches children during a Wednesday night lesson. If you're interested in joining the music ministry, please contact Ann Rodgers Chandler, Director of Music, achandler@florencefirst.org, or Vic Rockhill, Praise Team Leader, vicrockhill@gmail.com.

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

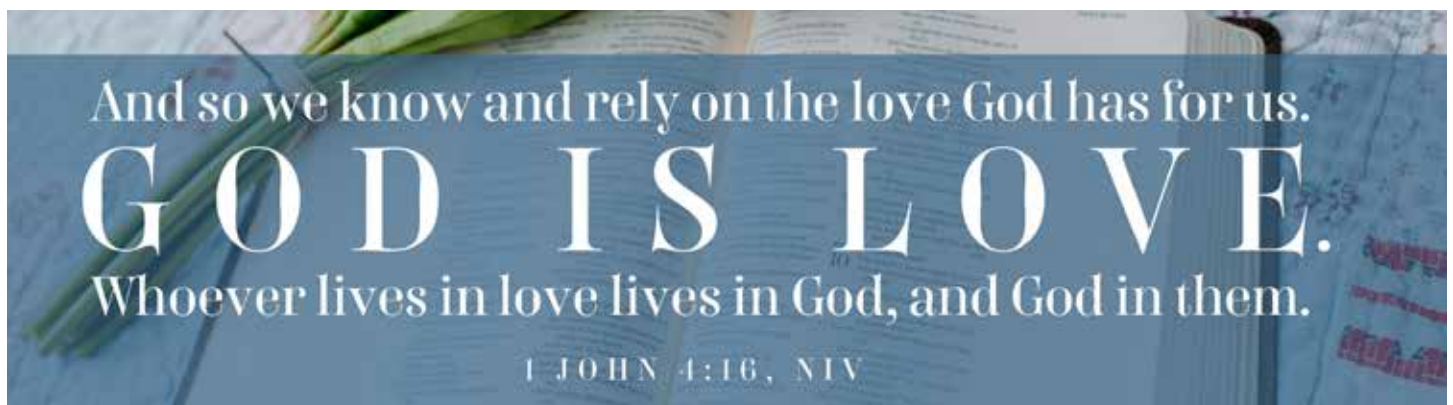
Wednesdays

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.



Community appreciation

January was full of laughter, learning, and love. Our children focused on community helpers as they learned about firemen, dentists, police officers, plumbers, chefs, and other helpers. The children also enjoyed Muffins with Moms, devotional, chapel, music, building bonds with friends and so much more! The CDC children are the sweetest and smartest kids! The staff of the CDC appreciates the opportunity to be a part of such a special and meaningful ministry. Thank you FPC!



CDC and FPC Family Valentine Dance

Thursday, February 12
5-7 p.m.

We are super excited about this year's dance as First Presbyterian Church families and First Presbyterian CDC families come together to enjoy one another while making memories. There will be child-friendly hors d'oeuvres, a photo op, music, and a time for children and families to dance, laugh, and love. We hope you will join us in the CLC. RSVP is required for the free event. Please email Kelly Hickey at khickey@florencefirst.org by Monday, February 9, with the number of people who will attend from your family. Any questions, please call 843-799-1263.



MEET THE CDC TEAM



MS. SARAH CAREY

Ms. Sarah is our funny, yet, serious, outgoing, fun-loving 3K teacher assistant. Ms. Sarah joined the CDC family in August 2025. She enjoys walks, watching medical shows, traveling, eating, making jokes, and taking photos. What she likes most about working at the CDC is dancing and laughing with the children and having an administration team that's great at communicating. She also likes her supportive and loving co-workers. In addition, she is thankful for the opportunity to advocate and love on every child God created!

HER FAVORITES

FOOD: Curry
COLOR: Red and blue
FLOWER: Orchid
PLACE: Georgetown & Pawley's Island
SEASON: Fall. "It's not too hot nor too cold and the perfect time for my wedding!"



SUNDAY

MONDAY

TUESDAY

WEDNESDAY

1



2

Groundhog Day
Worship Team Meeting, 5 p.m.



3

Keenagers, noon JFH
Mission Meeting, 6 p.m. LR



4

WiM Bible Moderators, 5 p.m.
Wednesday Dinner, 5:30 p.m.
Wednesday Programs, 6 p.m.
WiM Coordinating Team, 6 p.m.

8 Scout Sunday

First Connections, 10 a.m. JFH
Confirmands: St. Luke's, 10 a.m.
Confirmand Mentors lunch,
11:15 a.m. JFH
WiM Salty Sunday Sisters,
2 p.m. off campus
Youth ski trip return, 5 p.m.
Youth Super Bowl party, 6 p.m.

9

CDC Advisory Team, 4 p.m.
Girl Scouts, 4:30 p.m.
WinShape planning meeting,
5:30 p.m.
WiM Women of Grace,
6:30 p.m. off campus

10

WiM Joyful Hearts, 10 a.m.
WiM Soul Sisters, noon
WiM Serenity, 3 p.m.
Enabling, 5:30 p.m.



11

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

15

First Connections, 10 a.m. JFH

16

Presidents Day



17

Evangelism & Discipleship,
1:30 p.m. WOC
Diaconate, 6 p.m.

18

Ash Wednesday
Wednesday Dinner, 5:15 p.m.
Ash Wednesday Service,
6:15 p.m.



22

First Connections, 10 a.m. JFH
Youth: Small Groups, 5 p.m.

23

Girl Scouts, 4:30 p.m.
Women's Event: Mahjong,
6 p.m. Lawson-Rain Chapel



24

Session, 6:30 p.m.

25








Wednesday Dinner, 5:30 p.m.
Wednesday Programs, 6 p.m.

THURSDAY

FRIDAY

SATURDAY

FEBRUARY

5 Youth: F.E. Pop's, 7 a.m. Faith in Motion Men's Bible study, 7:45 a.m. Youth ski trip, noon Good News Club volunteers meeting, 2 p.m. Girl Scouts leaders, 6:30 p.m.	6 High School boys Bible study, 6:45 a.m. Youth ski trip	7 Youth ski trip 
12 Youth: F.E. Pop's, 7 a.m. Faith in Motion Men's Bible study, 7:45 a.m. WiM Disciples, noon CDC & FPC Valentine's Dance, 5 p.m. 	13 	14 Valentine's Day Parking Lot Mission, 6 a.m. WiM Bread & Fish, 9 a.m. Women's Only Classroom 
19 Faith in Motion Men's Bible study, 7:45 a.m.	20 CDC closed: Staff Training	21 
26 Youth: F.E. Pop's, 7 a.m. Faith in Motion Men's Bible study, 7:45 a.m. Good News Club, 2 p.m. 	27 	28

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.

TUESDAYS

- Staff meeting, 10 a.m.
- Just for Women Bible Study, 11 a.m.
- Ladies' Ensemble, 1:30 p.m.
- CDC Music Time, 3 p.m.

WEDNESDAYS

- Family Night Dinner, 5:30 p.m.
- Youth Group, 5:30 p.m.
- Wednesday Night Electives, 6 p.m.
(No classes on Ash Wednesday)
- Chancel Choir Rehearsal, 7:30 p.m.

THURSDAYS

- Men's Bible Study, 7 a.m.
- Youth Coffee, 7 a.m.
- Faith in Motion men's study, 7:45 a.m.
- Women's Bible Study, 10:30 a.m.

FEBRUARY DINNERS

- Feb. 4: baked ziti, salad, bread, and brownies
- Feb. 11: chicken tenders, green beans, mac and cheese, rolls, and banana pudding
- Feb. 18: vegetable soup, grilled cheese sandwiches, and cookies
- Feb. 25: hamburgers and hotdogs with chili, tomato and lettuce, fries, and ice cream sandwiches



SYMPATHY

Evelyn Childers, loss of her sister, Della Powers
Bruce Crawford, loss of his father, Eugene
Stephanie Spivey, loss of father, James Cook

SICK & RECOVERING

Aubrey Crawford
Rainey Josey
Clariann Kellam
Quincy Kennedy
Dave and Linda Lawson
Bob McLean
Lalla Saleeby
Bob Silver
Ginger Sullivan
Zack Turner
Phyllis Williams
Mary Lynn van Witzenburg

EXTENDED CARE

Lowman Home
Mac King

**Presbyterian
Community**
Clariann Kellam
Nell Oliver

The Manor
Betty Bell
Joyce Floyd
Maria Whitehead

HOUSEHOLDS

Flock 1: Jenna and Perry MacLennan, Cile, Pierce
Flock 2: Carolyn and Rocky Pearce
Flock 3: Carol and Mike Fleenor
Flock 4: Beverly and Jeff Everton
Flock 5: Laurel and Steve Migliore, Grace, Anna
and James
Flock 6: Anna Grace Hubbs and Praneeth Tagaram
Flock 7: Lisa and Sam Dozier, Sarah, Meredith
Flock 8: Paige and Chris Alexander, Gracyn and
John Joseph

ELDERS

Alice Caldwell
Chris Scott

DEACONS

Mark Davis
Matt Dowdell

MISSIONS

Lighthouse Ministries
The Antioch Partners, Gray Scott

WOMEN IN MINISTRY

Tabatha Davis
Jan Green

TEACHERS

Whitney Richey
Emily Witt

STAFF

Don Hebert
Sonya Hunter

CDC STAFF

Ms. Annette
Ms. Zaria
Mrs. Ashlyn

FLOWERS IN THE SANCTUARY

February 1: Communion
February 8: Ellen Wilhoit
February 15: Lynn Porter
February 22: Women in Ministry
*Do you have a friend or relative you would like
to honor? Contact Genia Tyson at 843-992-8904.*

February BIRTHDAYS

FEBRUARY 1

Buddy Brand

FEBRUARY 2

Ross McMillian
Worth Player
Cathy Welch

FEBRUARY 3

Eliza Blanton
Allison Hallman
Amy Graham
George Stuber

FEBRUARY 4

Maddelle Christian
Zach Hall
Adele Weatherford

FEBRUARY 5

Philip Baugh

FEBRUARY 6

Heather Warner

FEBRUARY 7

Jeannie Beshere
Floyd Goodstein

FEBRUARY 8

Ellison Banner
Shelley Hucks
Michele Naylor
Thomas Rogers
Hampton Weatherford

FEBRUARY 10

Heyward Hanna
Dave Lawson

FEBRUARY 11

Brian Fast
Mike Weatherford

FEBRUARY 12

Sloan Evans
Justin Hardee
Keith Jones
Cheryl Pullmann

FEBRUARY 13

Ashley Hylton
Kevin Rawlinson

FEBRUARY 14

Hale Emerson
Wyatt Emerson
Sheila Mozingo

FEBRUARY 15

Lyn Ashwingwnui
JoDee Etheridge

FEBRUARY 16

Van Ervin
Joseph Caine Player

FEBRUARY 17

Andy Brodie
Hal Fuller
Debbie Jackson
Christina Jeffords
Crosland Lake
Brian Urquhart

FEBRUARY 18

Sarah Moseley
Mary Courtney Rogers

FEBRUARY 19

Shelley Gandy
Billy Harrington
Lisa Collins
Frances Rogers
Rick Ryan

FEBRUARY 20

William Campbell
Ethan Hall
Terry Hunt
Reese McLaurin

FEBRUARY 21

Sally King
Becka Tuttle

FEBRUARY 22

Andrew Nance
Renda Lyle
Mary Anna Emerson

FEBRUARY 24

Maria Whitehead
Hayden Lewis
Andy Truman

FEBRUARY 25

Aubrey Crawford
Brandon Frost
Ann Moore
Bennett Richey
Kathryn Scott

FEBRUARY 26

Yarrow Babb
Michael Foxworth
Lily Green
Lily Packard

FEBRUARY 27

Celine Cotran
Kathy Griffin
Kim Hawkins
Natalie Patton

FEBRUARY 28

Karen Blankenship

FEBRUARY 29

George Evans



Dear Church Family,

With Valentine's Day right around the corner, I wonder: Is love in the air? I couldn't help but smile as that question crossed my mind. My answer, of course, love is in the air, for God is love and God is everywhere!

As you and your children begin preparing for Valentine's celebrations, I hope you will consider celebrating God's love with them. This time of year, is a wonderful time to teach children about love and what love looks like. You could start by asking them, what does love mean to you? When I asked my 16-year-old daughter, she responded, "When you really care about something/someone and you show it." I asked one of the CDC children who's 3 years old. His response, "Hugging my daddy and mama." When asking an adult, they responded, "Having a strong emotional bond with someone that you care for deeply." What about you? What does love mean to you?

Ultimately, the best place to find the answer is in the Bible. God not only told us what love is, he showed us. The Bible says in John 3:16-17, "For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through Him." Wow! That's real love! Not to mention, "We love because He first loved us." 1 John 4:19 In my opinion, the greatest gift we have been given is the gift of love! Love is not just a feeling; it is the foundation upon which all our beliefs rest. The greatest commandment is love. Love bridges our relationship with God and with one another. God calls us to love Him with all our heart and soul, and in turn, to extend that love to our neighbors. Embracing this love is crucial for our spiritual growth. Love is the core of who we are in Christ, it informs our actions, shapes our decisions, and guides us in ways that reflect God's goodness.

May our children, grandchildren, and great-grands know His love, share His love and allow it to shine through us each and every day.

Much love,
Kelly

Dear Church Family,

February often draws our attention to love, and it reminds me that the deepest kind of love is the one we practice every day.

In Children's Ministry, I see this love lived out in small but powerful ways — a kind word to a friend, a prayer offered for someone else, a helping hand without being asked.

These moments remind me that love isn't just something we feel; it's something we show. My prayer this month is that we would continue to reflect Christ's love through patience, kindness, and care for one another — especially in the ordinary moments where love matters most.

Thank you for being a church family that shows our children what it looks like to love like Jesus.

In Christ's love,
Kaiti Bryant



VBS Summer 2026
Save the Date!
June 15-18

Registration opens April 2. For more information, contact Kaiti Bryant, kbryant@florencefirst.org.



First Presbyterian Church families and First Presbyterian Child Development Center families are invited to join us for a fun and joy-filled Family Valentine's Dance! This special evening is a wonderful opportunity for families to come together to dance, laugh, and make sweet memories.

The night will include child-friendly hors d'oeuvres,

music, and a photo opportunity for families to capture the fun. The dance will be held in the CLC/Gym (please enter through the Tower).

There is no cost to attend, but RSVP is required so we can plan accordingly. Use QR code or email Kelly Hickey at khickey@florencefirst.org.

We can't wait to celebrate with you and your family!

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
February 1	9 a.m.	Caroline Toniolo	Kaiti Bryant
	11 a.m.	Kara Morgan	Patricia Fast
February 8	9 a.m.	Caroline Toniolo	Kaiti Bryant
	11 a.m.	Kara Morgan	Patricia Fast
February 15	9 a.m.	Caroline Toniolo	Allyson Pittman
	11 a.m.	Kara Morgan	
February 22	9 a.m.	Caroline Toniolo	Kaiti Bryant
	11 a.m.	Kara Morgan	Becka Tuttle



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 faith through age-appropriate lessons and fellowship.

- **3K–5K: Beginning Catechism**

Our youngest group will explore the Beginning Catechism for Younger Children — through songs, stories, and hands-on activities, they'll learn about God 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 remember Bible verses. They'll also have opportunities to sing during worship throughout the year.

- **Fourth–Fifth Grade: Bible Drill**

Our oldest group will dive deeper into Scripture through an engaging class. They'll learn how to navigate the Bible, memorize key passages, and grow confident in God's Word as a guide for daily life.

Our 2026 Confirmands began their classes and Catechism journey in September, and we are excited to recognize this special year as they prepare to be confirmed with the Session and celebrated during Confirmation Sunday at 10 a.m. May 3 combined worship service. Please keep these young people in your prayers as they continue this incredible journey, growing together in faith and deepening their relationship with the Lord.

Confirmands

Braelyn Brand
Will Bratton
Bradford Brown
Eleanor Early
Jule Eldridge
Graham Emerson
Masters Emerson
Anna Parsons Fast
Benjamin Floyd
Thatcher Jordan
Grace Migliore
Oliver Page
Liam Scott
Sadie Sims
Turner Swink
Stirling Temple
Charlotte Tuttle

Mentors

Jan Green
Jeremy Emert
Billy McBride
Ellen Wilhoit
Brian Fast
Jim Dameron
Jim Dameron
Margaret Jones
Richie Wilhoit
Pat Tuttle
Kathryn Scott
Matt Dowdell
Pack Packard
Charissa Canfield
Robert Moore
Stuart Snow
Alexis Morris

EASTER EGG HUNT

4-5 p.m. Sunday, March 29
The Whitehead's Farm, 175 W. Pocket Rd.

Children and families are invited to join us for our **annual Easter Egg Hunt**—a fun-filled afternoon celebrating the joy of Easter! Be sure to bring your **Easter basket** and the **whole family** as we gather for this beloved tradition.

As we prepare for this exciting event, we need your help! We invite members of the congregation to support the hunt by providing **at least two dozen boiled and decorated eggs**. Our goal is 800 boiled eggs (approximately 67 dozen) to make this event extra special for our children.

Eggs may be dropped off Sunday morning, March 29. Coolers will be available outside the kitchen area in the CLC for dropoff. Thank you for helping make this joyful Easter tradition possible for our children and families — we can't wait to celebrate together!

Confirmand and Youth Service Project

Confirmands and youth are invited to join Miss Kaiti for a special service project on Sunday, March 29. Students will serve our church's children and families by helping hide over 60 dozen eggs for the Easter Egg Hunt. Immediately following worship, students will help load the eggs, enjoy lunch and fellowship together at Cook Out, and then travel by church bus to the Whitehead Farm to hide the eggs. Students and families are welcome to stay for the Easter Egg Hunt at 4 p.m. Please contact Kaiti Bryant, kbryant@florencefirst.org, by Sunday, March 22 to sign up or with any questions.



Men's Retreat: Search for Significance

In our home growing up with my older brother, there was a doorframe with lines in pencil. These lines represented our height at a certain age. I ALWAYS wanted my line to be higher than my brother's. But reality was a cruel teacher ... my brother was (and IS) taller than me.

What "lines" do you use to measure yourself? All of us have certain standards that we use to measure our worth. This year's Men's Retreat is going to center on how God views our significance. I promise a weekend

of inspiration and seeing yourself in a whole new way.

The retreat is scheduled for APRIL 17-19 at Hickory Knob State Park. Please register today on Realm using the QR code or at the church office. If you have questions, call me 407-473-0912.



Love in Christ Jesus,
Bill

P.S. I'm STRONGER & BETTER LOOKING than my brother!!



Keenagers' program to include CDC children

Keenagers will meet at noon Tuesday, February 3, in Jenkins Fellowship Hall. Program will be presented by the CDC children, and Jane Heath will speak on "When Your Hearing Goes." Meal will be Marry Me Chicken over pasta, roasted asparagus, Caesar salad, and red velvet cake. Cost of lunch is \$6. All covenant partners 55 and older are invited. Please join us for food, fun, and fellowship.

Wednesday Nights at First

On Wednesday nights, First Presbyterian offers dinner and programs for all ages. Dinner service and Youth Group start at 5:30 p.m. Children's programs start at 6 p.m. Adult programs start at 6:15 p.m.

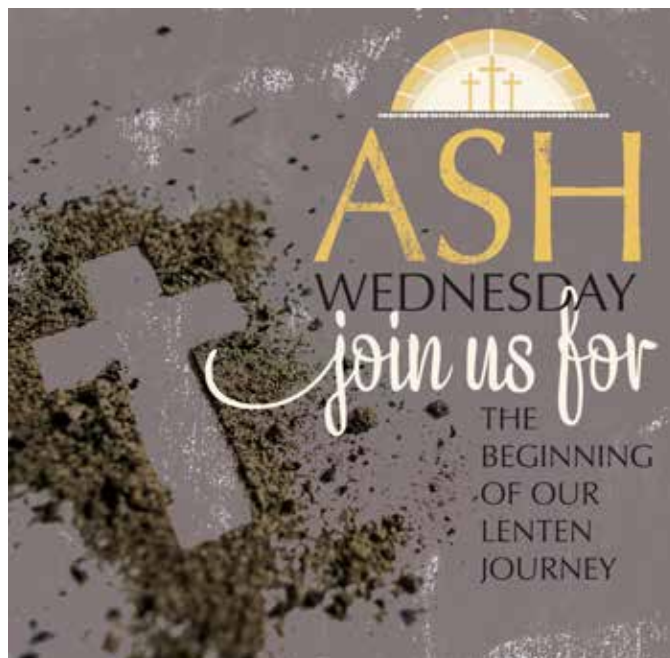
We offer two classes for adults this season. Pastor Stuart Bond leads a study on the *Book of Luke* and Kelly Hickey leads a class on parenting. With Pastor Stuart, we'll dig through the text to enhance your Sunday morning experience, as he'll be preaching from Luke. Join him in the Lawson-Rain Chapel after Wednesday dinner.

Kelly, director of Children's Ministries, will lead *Parenting One on One*, an interactive class digging through

scripture, learning ways to parent differently, and engaging with one another. Parenting is the hardest job in the world, and it really takes a village. Come join the village in the Jenkins Fellowship Hall on Wednesday nights to see where God leads.

Ash Wednesday service to be held

Ash Wednesday service will be held at 6:15 p.m. Wednesday, February 18, in the sanctuary. Ash Wednesday marks the start of Lent, an intentional season focusing on Christ's life, ministry, sacrifice, and resurrection. Our Family Night meal will be served but Children's Ministry activities will not meet. There will be a nursery for children 2 and younger.





BOARD OF DEACONS

Deacons are elected by the congregation to lead the church in service and love. The Deacons are mature followers of Jesus who assist the elders by encouraging and stimulating the connection and care between people in the church and the extension of that to the community. They also lead the church in cultivating hospitality (greeting, ushering at worship, and fellowship gatherings), and pastoral care for covenant partners.

The Congregation is divided into **Flocks** so the Deacons can tend to our covenant partners. Ed Sprenger is the Moderator. David Lake is the Vice Moderator. If you're unsure the flock you're in, then call the church office, 843-662-2583, or speak to a deacon wearing blue nametags at Sunday worship services.

FLOCK 1

Deacons

2026: Ellen Wilhoit, r4wilhoit@aol.com
 2027: Kathryn Scott, kescott1003@gmail.com
 2028: Mark Davis, mascda@gmail.com
 Elders: Chris Scott, chris@plccommercial.com
 Ryon Watkins, rwatkins@sc.rr.com

FLOCK 2

Deacons

2026: Sally Dameron, dameronsm@aol.com
 2027: Laura Anne Hofler, lahofler@gmail.com
 2028: Charissa Canfield,
 charissa@candesignonline.com
 Elder: Rocky Pearce, rocky@pearceinvestments.com

FLOCK 3

Deacons

2026: Stephanie Spivey: cntrygrl_@outlook.com
 2027: David Lake, david10lake@gmail.com
 2028: Brandon Blankenship,
 bblankenship326@gmail.com
 Elder: David Spivey, spiveys_@outlook.com

FLOCK 4

Deacons

2026: Joe Carter, DrJoeCarter@aol.com
 2027: Lisa Dozier, lisa.dozier2000@gmail.com
 2028: Pack Packard, packfunk@gmail.com
 Elders: Alice Caldwell, alicecaldwell@me.com
 Richie Wilhoit, r4wilhoit@aol.com

FLOCK 5

Deacons

2026: Weber Mimms, webermimms@gmail.com
 2027: Hunter Burch, hunterwburch@gmail.com
 2028: Lee Nunn, lhnunn@yahoo.com
 Elders: Billy McBride,
 wfm3@carolincaconstructioninc.com
 Stuart Snow, dussnow@aol.com

FLOCK 6

Deacons

2026: Hunter Morgan, hmredwing@gmail.com
 2027: Rhett Spencer, trhett2@gmail.com
 2028: John Etheridge, John@plccommercial.com
 Elder: Porter Stewart, pstewart@mcgowanlaw.com

FLOCK 7

Deacons

2026: Ed Sprenger, sprengered@gmail.com
 2027: Richard Genoble,
 Rgenoble@lowryassoc.com
 2028: Cathy Lee,
 margaretandrjsmom@gmail.com
 Elders: Janet Brand, janet81661@aol.com
 Johnny Stoupenos, jstoupenos@aol.com

FLOCK 8

Deacons

2026: Sandra Davidson, 85davidson@gmail.com
 2027: Henry Rose, hsrose1302@aol.com
 2028: Matt Dowdell, matthewdowdell5@gmail.com
 Elder: Jayne Boswell, boswell.jayne@gmail.com

New Year

January was a wonderful slow start to the new year. The youth enjoyed our annual Christmas tree bonfire at the Whitehead's. A big thank you to them for hosting us and helping get trees out there. And also, another big thank you to Pack Packard and Zeb Johnson for gathering so many trees again for us.

We've also enjoyed traveling to Conway for 810 bowling, coffee, and dinners and games at youth group. We are very excited about our ski trip this month and winter break.

Please be on the lookout for an updated spring and summer schedule to be posted in Band. Youth will need to sign up for summer trips soon. We are working on a rummage sale in April for fundraising money to offset more of the cost for trips.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Sunday School (February 1, 8, 15, and 22) 10 a.m.
Light breakfast served.

Small Groups (February 22) 5-7 p.m.
Dinner provided.

Wednesday Night Youth Group (February 4, 11, and 25) 5:30-7:15 p.m.
Food, raffles, and service projects! \$7 dinner provided by the church.

Coffee at F.E. Pop's (February 5, 12, and 26) 7 a.m.

Ski Trip to Winterplace (February 5-8) Leave at noon Thursday. We will travel to West Virginia for two full days of skiing and snowboarding. Spots are VERY limited. Cost is \$375, plus money for two meals on the road.

Super Bowl Party (February 8) 6-10 p.m.
Join us for the big game! Drinks provided. Everyone will bring an appetizer to share. We will meet at the Genoble's house.

Service Opportunity

During the month of February, the youth will be collecting the following items to be donated to



The Manna House: peanut butter (16 oz. jars), jelly (no jars), cans of soup (no tomato), mashed potatoes, grits, oatmeal, boxes of pasta (any type), canned meals (ravioli, spaghetti, chili), 1-2-pound bags of rice, 1-2-pound bags of dried beans.

Save the Date!

Spring Getaway (March 13-15) Leave at 2 p.m. for Dreher Island State Park in Chapin. We will spend time in God's word through quiet times, small groups, and worship. There will be team games, canoes, time around the campfire, and more! Cost will be \$85. If there are multiple siblings or friends that join, each will get \$25 off their trip. Youth will need money for two meals on the road. Please sign up and pay by Friday, March 7.



700 PARK AVENUE, FLORENCE, SC 29501
843-662-2583
FLORENCEFIRST.ORG

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. CRIS BAKER



Ash Wednesday Service

6:15 p.m. February 18
in the Sanctuary

Family night meal service will begin at 5:15 p.m.
Classes will not meet but a nursery will be
available for children 2 and younger.