

The REMINDER



APRIL 2026



ON THE COVER: Chancel Choir member Emily Lake talks with Sullivyn Jackson ahead of the procession for Palm Sunday’s worship service.

IN THIS ISSUE

2	Index/Missions
3	Pastor’s Reflections/Session
4	Church Administration Matters
5	Congregational Care Assistant
6, 8	Women in Ministry
7	Music Ministry
8, 9	Child Development Center
10, 11	Calendar
12	Remember in Prayer
13	Birthdays
14-17	Children’s Ministry
18	Church News
18	New Covenant Partners
19	Youth Ministry
20	Contact Info, Rummage Sale



EASTER Sunday

Celebrate the Resurrection with us during worship at 9 or 11 a.m. Easter Sunday, April 5. We invite you to cover our wooden cross on the front lawn with fresh flowers from home. This tradition is a symbol of the transition from death to new life; it transforms a symbol of Good Friday into a joyful representation of Jesus’ resurrection.

Missions

Friends Empowering Haiti, Ewo merge

Following its successful inaugural Gathering Together fundraiser, Friends Empowering Haiti and Ewo leaders announced their merger. Co-chairs Sherri Buzard and Eric Nichols said it best, “Like peanut butter and jelly, some things are just better together!”

The two organizations serving the same community are now Konpayon, meaning companion in Haitian Creole. The unified organization represents the next chapter and the commitment in walking with the Bayonnais community through long-term relationship, trust, and shared growth. For more on Konpayon news, visit konpayon.org/blog.



UPCOMING EVENTS

- **Mission Trip:** Covenant Partners Brandon Blankenship, Kimberly and Pack Packard, and Jeremy Emert have the opportunity to go to Southwest Asia, where they will be working with professors and students at a university in the region. They will be part of a team leading an interactive English camp. If you would like to contribute to the mission, please use the QR code at right and select **Southwest Asia Mission Trip** in the Fund drop down.
- **Lighthouse Ministries:** Friday, April 24 – Florence After Five (Downtown Florence)
Lighthouse Ministries will be featured as the nonprofit of the evening. Guests are invited to stop by its tent to learn more about their work, with a special focus on the parenting programs in recognition of Child Abuse Prevention Month.
- **House of Hope** has an urgent need for skilled handymen to assist with several projects across our facilities. These projects are essential to maintaining safe, functional, and welcoming spaces for those served. If you have experience with general repairs, maintenance, carpentry, plumbing, electrical work, or similar skills, we would be incredibly grateful for your support. Even a few hours of your time can make a meaningful impact. Please reach out to Jenna Edwards at 843-667-9000, ext. 413, or jedwards@hofh.org.



Season of Dreaming

I have a new picture in my office. It is a framed, enlarged copy of The Reminder cover from November when Kim Brauss, our Communications Director, captured the moment when so many laid hands upon me and Elder David Banner prayed for me.

We are in a season of dreaming, of planning for a future that is yet to be. What should future staffing look like? Where is the budget headed? How do we best keep our church safe? What is the plan and structure for discipleship? Lots of good questions, all of which are easier to ask than answer.

The good thing about being a Transitional Pastor is I get to ride out of Dodge before most of those questions come to my desk. "That's for the pastor who follows me," I could say. Except now, I am him.

That's one reason I put that picture on my wall. That, and the fact that I see so many people in that picture whom I love, with my wife and daughter sitting in the pew to the right. I want to remember that, although there are a myriad of choices, it is not about the choices. It is about the call. It is about serving a God "who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us." (Ephesians 3:20)



This Easter, remember that, whatever choices you face, you are in the care of Almighty God, the very one who raised Jesus from the dead. Easter means He has the end in mind and He will use our choices for His glory.

Healing and Wholeness Service

On Sunday, April 26, we will have a 3 p.m. service for those who would like to receive prayer for physical or personal healing in the Lawson-Rain Chapel. You may wish to tell others what your concern is or you may wish to only share it with the pastor. Or, you could simply keep it to yourself and just ask for prayer. Whatever the need, we would be glad to honor your situation and lift you in prayer.

Stuart

SESSION *notes*

We took a look at several issues this month. First up was the idea of seeking an Associate Pastor. Should we go ahead with this even if it is not budgeted or do we first need to make the case to the Congregation that it is needed? More to come on that point.

We are planning to re-roof the office area and the Welcome Center. We asked whether we should start the program year earlier to match the public school schedule and decided to continue to look toward possible options for this year and next.



Other discussions included how we care for those who are part of our church family but cannot attend because of illness or infirmity and how we can gently ask if people who we have not seen for a while are still with us.

These and other issues are part of any growing, dynamic church as we both explore new horizons and give great care to each of our members. If we can be of support to you, please let an elder, a deacon or a staff member know your need. It would be our joy to see what we can do and lift you in prayer.

Our Provision and God's

Facts & Figures

Our 2026 Ministry Action Plan is approximately \$1.96 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 \$37,683.00 per week. The chart below shows a snapshot of our collective giving for the first three months of 2026.

2026 Ministry Action Plan Summary

Pledge Gifts Received	\$342,958.00
Non-Pledge Gifts Received	\$83,438.00
Miscellaneous Income	\$21,481.00
Total 2026 Ministry Action Plan Receipt	\$459,426.00
Average Weekly Need	\$37,683.00
Weekly Average (as of 3/31/26)	\$35,340.00
Weekly Average Surplus (Deficit)	(\$2,343.00)

The weekly average receipts are slightly lower than our weekly need due largely to the fact that we missed Sundays earlier this year due to inclement weather. Overall, our giving through the first quarter (January – March) is running slightly more than \$50,000 ahead of the same period last year. This is very encouraging. The church relies on the generosity of you, our covenant partners, to provide funding for our music/worship ministry (Chancel Choir, Praise Team, Chancel Handbell, and various ensembles). Your giving enables us to provide quality ministry activities for preschool, children, youth, and adults. Additionally, your gifts to First Presbyterian Church go out “into all the world” supporting international missionaries serving in Moscow, Haiti, India, and Spain. Your gifts also support local benevolence agencies (Lighthouse Ministries, Mercy Medicine, Tenacious Grace, A Choice to Make), that serve our neighbors in Florence County.

As we move into the second quarter, please continue your faithful support of First Presbyterian Church. In preparing this article I found this about tithing: 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.



You will be enriched
in every way to be
generous in every way,
which through us will
produce thanksgiving
to God.

2 Corinthians 9:11

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. First Presbyterian Church is blessed with many generous covenant partners who faithfully support the church's ministry and mission. Thank you for your continued support.

Living in the Church and in the World

1 PETER 5

The New Testament gives advice to the modern church as the church seeks to be faithful to God in today's world. Modern Christians seek to understand I Peter as it relates to living in today's church.

As Peter writes to the church of his day, he understands persecution threatens the existence of this new movement in the Roman world. The fifth chapter of 1 Peter divides into two sections. The first deals with advice to the Church. The second deals with resisting the Devil and the evil in our world. This chapter uses wording that is unique in the New Testament. The root word for elders is *presbyteros*. Presbyterian churches are governed by elders.

Peter identifies himself as an elder and a witness to Christ. Two negative characteristics the elder needs to overcome is serving by compulsion and seeking dishonest gain. Being an elder or a leader means setting a Christlike example. He uses a unique word in 1 Peter 5:4 for Jesus Christ: Chief Shepherd. The word is *archjipoimav*, which is also used in Hebrews 13:20. Peter quotes Proverbs 3:34 to emphasize the need for humility by the elder. If Christ submitted to the torture of the Romans, then humility in service to God's people is urged by Peter. He urges obedience in humility as he warns of the immediate coming of Christ.

Author David Jeremiah in his book *1 and 2 PETER* asks this question: "Why is it important for Christians to recognize the devil is real and at work in the world?" He references Paul in Ephesians 6:12 as the Church struggles "against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of the age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places." There is a power of evil at work in this world. This power is the Devil, called Satan, the Adversary, the Dragon, the Serpent, and the Fallen Angel in various places in the Bible. How do Christians perceive the power of evil at work in the world? Powerful people such as political leaders, entertainers, athletes, and social media influencers can sway popular culture toward evil. These influences seek to control the behavior of human beings. The spiritual battle waged against the Church and Christians is led by the devil who is the opponent or enemy of God. Peter uses unique words to describe this enemy. One meaning is as an accuser in a lawsuit. The word for devil is *diabolos* from which the idea of dia-



bolical is translated directly into English. The devil is a liar, a deceiver. The two characteristics used to combat the devil are self-control and alertness. The Church is to stand firm in the faith. Peter chooses the word for brotherhood to describe the Church. This term is unique to I Peter and is used twice (1 Peter 2:17 and 1 Peter 5:9). The word in Greek is *adelphai* and means a group of fellow believers.

1 Peter 5:10-11 is a doxology ending the thought of the perseverance of the Church in the midst the suffering caused by the persecution of the Roman government. Final greetings are issued at the end of the chapter. Silvanus (Silas) may have written 1 Peter as dictated to him by Peter. Babylon is a code name for Rome and Mark is also with Peter. Hence the idea of the closeness of the Gospel of Mark with the eyewitness testimony of Peter.

Mike

MOTHER / DAUGHTER / FRIEND TEA PARTY

**Wednesday, April 15
5:30 to 7 p.m. in the CLC**

Join us for tea, a light dinner, dessert,
and entertainment ...
all provided by the FPC Youth.
RSVP by using QR code or call the church
office, 843-662-2583, by April 10.



Donations will be graciously accepted by
the Youth Group to support their missions.



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, April 12,
Evelyn Childers' home

Chairwoman: Alexis Morris

Women of Grace

Meeting: 6:30 p.m. Monday,
April 13, Japonica Lane

Chairwoman: Betsey Moore

Bible Moderator: Charissa Canfield

Joyful Hearts

Meeting: 10 a.m. Tuesday, April 14,
Room 100

Chairwomen: Alice Caldwell and
Nancy Thompson

Bible Moderator: Betsy Olsen

Soul Sisters

Meeting: Noon Tuesday, April 14,
Price Classroom

Chairwoman: Carolyn Holland

Bible Moderator: Patti Hubbs

Serenity

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

Chairwoman: Linda Smiley

Bible Moderator: Tabatha Davis

Prayer Warriors

Meeting: 6:30 p.m. Wednesday,
April 8, WOC

Chairwoman: Amy Williams

Wednesday Night Women

Meeting: TBD, Parlor

Chairwoman: Laura Marecal

Bible Moderator: Emily Whitehead

Disciples

Meeting: Noon Thursday, April 9,
off campus

Chairwoman: Janet Brand

Bible Moderator: Kimberly Packard

Bread and Fish

Meeting: 9 a.m. Saturday, April 11,
Women's Only Classroom

Chairwoman: Peggy Swearingen

Spring Handbell Concert



Celebrate spring with the Chancel Handbell Choir in concert. The group will perform at 6:30 p.m. Wednesday, April 29. Come hear the sounds of the season with our talented group of musicians.



WOMEN'S HIKE

2 to 4 p.m. Sunday, April 26
High Hill Creek Bike and Run Park
2502 Prosperity Way, Florence
RSVP on Realm or to Janet Brand

- Various distances
- Subs and drink provided
- Bring a soccer chair
- Free!



Exciting March

March has been full of excitement and learning. Some of the children have traveled around the world. They visited Niagara Falls, the Statue of Liberty, Mount Rushmore, and more. Others have been learning to write their numbers, learning colors and shapes and classes enjoyed St. Patrick's Day. In addition, the children and staff have been working on art pieces for this year's annual art show fundraiser. We have also taken the initiative to celebrate our hard-working staff each month. During the month of March, we enjoyed an ice cream social. This month we are looking forward to Potluck Easter Dinner. Great things are happening at the CDC and it's a gift to be a part of it.





CDC Art Show

FPC's Child Development Center
Annual Art Show Fundraiser
Mark your calendars!
6 p.m. Thursday, April 16

Festivities will begin in the fellowship hall with the children singing before we move to the "Art Gallery" in the Christian Life Center. Each child in the Child Development Center has created 4 pieces of art that will be for purchase. Each class has created an art piece to auction off in our silent auction. Bids will begin as soon as we enter the "Art Gallery." All bids MUST be in writing by 6:45 p.m. The winners will be announced at 6:50 p.m. We hope you will come to support this amazing ministry. It will be a night full of fun, food, and fellowship!



Friends of the CDC

In 2025, First Presbyterian Church established an ongoing, fundraising program called the Friends of the CDC. This program will help continue the viable ministry of the Child Development Center. This fundraising effort supports yearly operating expenses, which include curriculum, food, salaries, programs, classroom supplies, and more. These expenses are a crucial part of what is needed so that we can provide quality care and impeccable learning experiences for children in the community. In addition, these gifts will support buildings, grounds, and equipment, i.e. playground equipment, shading for the playground, tablets for classrooms, other technological needs, transportation needs, and more.

Will you help to ensure the ongoing ministry of the Child Development Center for future generations? It is our hope that you will give generously to the Child Development Center and consider making the CDC an annual part of your offering to God and planned estate giving. We are super excited for the future of the CDC and appreciate any gift given. Any questions, please contact Kelly Hickey at 843-799-1263.

MEET THE CDC TEAM

Mrs. Stacy Smith

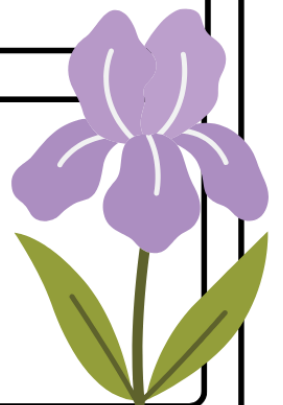


ABOUT MRS. STACY

Mrs. Stacy is our creative, resourceful, full of energy, never stopping, kid-loving and God-fearing 4K teacher. A native of Florence, Mrs. Stacy enjoys painting, music, arts and crafts, bubble baths, and dancing with her children on the wii. What Mrs. Stacy likes the most about working at the CDC are the children. They are her heart. She also enjoys the wonderful staff. She feels at home at the CDC. Her favorite part is how God is working!

HER FAVORITES

FOOD: Chicken
COLORS: Purple
PLACE: Olive Garden
FLOWER: Iris
SEASON: Fall



SUNDAY

MONDAY

TUESDAY





WEDNESDAY

	 <p>A lot can happen in <i>seven days.</i></p>		<p>1 WiM Bible Moderators, 5 p.m. Wednesday Dinner, 5:30 p.m. Youth Group, 5:30 p.m. Wednesday Closing Program, 6 p.m. WiM Coordinating Team, 6 p.m. Boy Scouts class, 7 p.m.</p>
<p>5 Easter Flowering the Cross</p> 	<p>6 Easter Monday CDC, church office closed</p> 	<p>7 Keenagers, noon JFH</p> 	<p>8 Veterans Brunch, 8 a.m. Missions Team, 12:15 p.m. Prayer Warriors, 6:30 p.m. Boy Scouts class, 7 p.m.</p>
<p>12 Youth: Parent Meeting, 10 a.m. Children's Sunday planning, noon CLC Confirmand Mentor Lunch, noon JFH WiM Salty Sisters, 2 p.m. Youth: Small Groups, 5 p.m.</p>	<p>13 Girl Scout troop meeting, 4:30 p.m. Enabling Team, 5:30 p.m. WiM Women of Grace, 6:30 p.m. off campus</p>	<p>14 WiM Joyful Hearts, 10 a.m. WiM Soul Sisters, noon WiM Serenity, 3 p.m. WinShape leadership planning meeting, 5:30 p.m.</p>	<p>15 WiM Tea Party, 5:30 p.m. CLC Youth Group, 5:30 p.m. Boy Scouts class, 7 p.m.</p>
<p>19 Children's Sunday Planning, noon CLC Men's Retreat Youth: Small Groups, 5 p.m.</p>	<p>20</p>  <p>CDC staff meeting, 6 p.m.</p>	<p>21 Evangelism & Discipleship, noon WOC Diaconate Meeting, 6 p.m.</p>	<p>22 Boy Scouts class, 7 p.m.</p>
<p>26 Congregational Meeting, 10:40 a.m. Women's Hike, 2 p.m. Healing and Wholeness Service, 3 p.m. LR</p>	<p>27 Girl Scouts, 4:30 p.m. Confirmation Banquet, 6 p.m.</p>	<p>28 Session, 6:30 p.m.</p> 	<p>29 Spring Handbell Concert, 6:30 p.m. Boy Scouts class, 7 p.m.</p>

THURSDAY

FRIDAY

SATURDAY

<p>2 Maundy Thursday Youth: F.E. Pop's, 7 a.m. Good News Club, 2 p.m. Girl Scouts Leaders, 6:30 p.m. Maundy Thursday service, 7 p.m.</p>	<p>3 Good Friday CDC closed</p>	<p>4</p> 
<p>9 WiM Disciples, noon</p>	<p>10</p> 	<p>11 Parking Lot Mission, 6 a.m. WiM Bread & Fish, 9 a.m. Women's Only Classroom</p>
<p>16 Youth: F.E. Pop's, 7 a.m. CDC art show, 6 p.m. FMU Choir Concert, 7:30 p.m.</p>	<p>17 Men's Retreat</p> 	<p>18 Men's Retreat Girl Scouts World Thinking Day, 10 a.m. CLC</p>
<p>23 Youth: F.E. Pop's, 7 a.m.</p>	<p>24</p> 	<p>25</p>
<p>30</p>		

APRIL

WEEKLY

SUNDAYS

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

MONDAYS

- CDC Chapel, 9 a.m.
- 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.
- CDC Music Time, 3 p.m.

WEDNESDAYS

- Youth Group, 5:30 p.m.
- Boy Scouts class, 7 p.m.
- 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.



Lord, Hear Our Prayer

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



SYMPATHY

Sam Dozier, loss of his father, Larry Dozier
Jason Newton, loss of his mother, Deborah Newton
Scarlett Sims, loss of her grandfather Phil Grant
Linda Westbrook, loss of her brother Robert Stiefel

SICK & RECOVERING

Aubrey Crawford
Donna Fields
Rainey Josey
Quincy Kennedy
Dave and Linda Lawson
Bob McLean
Lalla Saleeby
Ginger Sullivan
Mary Lynn van Witzenburg

EXTENDED CARE

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

APRIL HOUSEHOLDS

Flock 1: Jay and Amanda McLaurin, Reese
Flock 2: Whit and Beth Player, Joseph Caine, Worth, Wesley, and Lyli
Flock 3: Win and Allison Hallman, Seth Hallman, Amanda, Lauren, and Grace Bostwick
Flock 4: Gail Gallagher
Flock 5: Sheila Mazingo
Flock 6: Matthew and Emily Hyman, Blakely, Linley
Flock 7: Jim and Marsha Fincher
Flock 8: Jane Ames

MEMORIALS

Larry Dozier
Bob Silver

ELDERS

Johnny Stoupenos
Richie Wilhoit

DEACONS

John Etheridge
Cathy Lee

MISSIONS

Naomi Project
Konpayon

WOMEN IN MINISTRY

Laura Marechal
Emily Whitehead

TEACHERS

Rob Hall
Jack Hofler

STAFF

Mike Fleenor
Wanda Lasane

CDC STAFF

Mrs. Stephany
Mrs. Jennifer

FLOWERS IN THE SANCTUARY

April 5: Easter lilies
April 12: Easter lilies
April 19: open
April 26: Betsy Olsen

Do you have a friend or relative you would like to honor? Contact Genia Tyson at 843-992-8904.

April BIRTHDAYS

APRIL 1

Michelle Babb
Maddy Duncan
Tag Gandy

APRIL 2

Janna Buckner
Lane Josey
Jenna MacLennan
Doug Stover

APRIL 3

Marty Coates
Elizabeth McLean
Bonnie Stuber

APRIL 4

Evelyn Childers
Brandon Fuller
Ronnie Hucks
Emily Grace Kennedy
April Munn

APRIL 5

Rylie Hughes
Whit Player
Cole Rabon
Wills Urquhart

APRIL 7

Rufus Bratton
Perry MacLennan
Shannon Watt
Matt Marechal
Leslie Rutten

APRIL 8

Nicky Carter
Paula Jackson
David McLean
Marla Slaughter

APRIL 9

Will McLean

APRIL 10

Charlie Caldwell
Don Grantham

APRIL 11

Cary Andrews
Amy Lewis

APRIL 12

Quentin Johnson
Linda Smiley

APRIL 14

Isla Campbell
Sara Johnson
Patrick Morgan

APRIL 15

Shawn Armstrong
Ashley Bratton

APRIL 17

Mark Davis
Jeremy Emert
Maddux Langston
Margaret Lee
Alice Mbeng
Tom Moore

APRIL 18

Farrah Hughes
John Molnar
Liam Scott

APRIL 19

Steve Grady
Robert Moore
Reid Sturgeon
Huck Thompson
Stephen Witt

APRIL 20

Bruce Burch
Jim Fincher
Hollis Richey
Tallon Temple

APRIL 21

Guy Thompson

APRIL 22

Wade Courtney
Woods Courtney
Kit Fulmer
Seth Hallman
Melanie Moore
Franklin Reames
Samantha Truman

APRIL 23

Sullivyn Jackson

APRIL 24

Eve Asongwed
Holly Campbell

APRIL 25

Harriett Whitehead

APRIL 26

Beth Abernathy
Miguel Awemu
Carson McMillian

APRIL 27

Parker Ansley
Bob Barrett
Daniel Jordan
Betsy Olsen
JB Pittman

APRIL 28

Gary Pletan
Gayden Tyler

APRIL 29

Christopher Garris
Bern Lavespere

APRIL 30

Susan Hofler
Alissa Wartens
Katherine Ryan



Dear FPC Family,

During the past four weeks, our Wednesday night parenting class discussed the concept of walking in truth in love. One particular lesson focused on the concept of truthful conversation. Although it is not always easy to walk in truthful conversations, it is a spiritual act, allowing us to connect with others more deeply. When we communicate authentically, we walk in the example set by Christ, who was both truthful and loving. There is something to be said about open and honest communication when we sprinkle the delivery in love. It builds respect and trust. And through heartfelt conversations we can minister to those around us, our children, our families, our co-workers, church family, friends, and more.

Walking in truth in love has been instilled in my heart for many years. Sometimes, I honestly get mad when I hear the truth. You know why? Because the truth tends to hurt. Yet, I am extremely grateful for all those who have walked in truth in love in my life, and who continue to do so. If I did not have them, I would not be challenged, I wouldn't grow nor would I understand the concept of walking in truth in love.

May God lead each of us to walk in truth in love even when it's hard!

Much love,
Kelly

“The wise of heart is called discerning, and sweetness of speech increases persuasiveness.” – Proverbs 16:21

Dear Church Family,

As I look back on March, I find myself so grateful for the many ordinary moments that made up such a meaningful month in our Children's Ministry. There was a lot of movement — busy Sundays, full classrooms, and joyful noise — but also so many quiet moments where faith was being shaped in simple, steady ways.

With spring now here, we're seeing signs of growth all around us — flowers blooming, trees filling back out, and yes ... even the pollen covering everything in sight. It's a season that reminds us just how much can grow in a short amount of time. And as our school year begins to wind down, I'm so thankful that we are still seeing that same kind of growth within our children here at church. That is such a gift and a blessing.

I saw it this month in the way children listened a little more closely to the stories of Jesus, in the way they prayed for one another, and in the way they are beginning to understand what it means to be part of this church family. Those moments may seem small, but they are exactly where growth is happening.

Throughout March, we also began walking with our children through the season of Lent — helping them see that Easter is not just a celebration, but a story of love that unfolds step by step. It has been so special to watch them begin to connect those pieces and carry that understanding with them.

Thank you for continuing to pour into the lives of our children and for being a church that supports them so faithfully. It is such a joy to serve alongside you.

In Christ's love,
Kaiti Bryant

VBS Summer 2026: June 15-18

Registration is open! Visit myvbs.org/fpc-vbs-2026 or scan the QR code to register your child or sign up to volunteer. Registration will close on June 1. Join us in Rome, where children will step into the world of the early church and discover what it meant to follow Jesus during the time of Paul. VBS is open to children who have completed 5K through fifth grade (based on the grade they complete by June). Children ages 3K-4K may attend if a parent or grandparent is volunteering during the week. A nursery also will be available for children of parent volunteers.



CHILDREN'S MINISTRY IN BRIEF



Sunday School

Starting May 3 through June, we'll have Summer Sunday School at 9 a.m. in the POD area for the Sunday School classes upstairs for all children. There will be no Sunday School on Children's Sunday – May 10.



Easter Egg Hunt

A heartfelt thank you to everyone who generously donated eggs for our Easter Egg Hunt. The joy on the children's faces was truly priceless. Your support helped make this event memorable for all.

Skate into Summer: Children's Family Event

Join us from 10:30 to 12:30 p.m. Saturday, May 16, as we celebrate the beginning of summer with fun-filled family skating at Skateland! We've reserved Skateland for a morning of fellowship & fun! We also will be providing pizza and drinks!



Children's Sunday

Sunday, May 10 | 10 a.m. Combined Service

This Mother's Day, our children will keep a beloved tradition alive by leading the entire worship service — from greeting and ushering to singing, praying, and more!

Planning Sessions (Third–Fifth Grade)

Third- through fifth-graders are invited to join Miss Kaiti for an April 12 planning session to prepare for Children's Sunday. Sessions will meet with lunch in the CLC, immediately following the 11 a.m. service until 1:30 p.m.

Practices (First–Fifth Grade)

Starting Sunday, April 19, all children in first–fifth grade will begin rehearsals to practice together. Practices will take place in the CLC, immediately following the 11 a.m. service until 1:30 p.m. Lunch will be provided.

Practice dates:

- April 19
- April 26
- May 3

Special Dress Rehearsal in the Sanctuary:

Wednesday, May 6 | 5:30–6:15 p.m.

(No meal provided.)

If you have any questions, please contact Kaiti Bryant. We are so excited to see our children lead worship in this meaningful and joyful way!

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
April 5	9 a.m.	Kaiti Bryant	JoDee Etheridge
	11 a.m.	Charissa Canfield	Jan Green
April 12	9 a.m.	Kaiti Bryant	Allyson Pittman
	11 a.m.	Charissa Canfield	Becka Tuttle
April 19	9 a.m.	Kaiti Bryant	Eliza Spencer
	11 a.m.	Charissa Canfield	Margaret Jones
April 26	9 a.m.	Kaiti Bryant	Abby Ansley
	11 a.m.	Charissa Canfield	Jill Cain



Palm Sunday



Children start Holy Week with the procession of palms during Palm Sunday's 11 a.m. worship service, and later they were on the hunt during the Easter Egg Hunt held at the Whitehead's farm.



Summertime Adventures

Summer is around the corner, and we are so excited about the adventures planned for our children! Our Treasured Tuesdays, Wonderful Wednesdays, and Thundering Thursdays are back — with several exciting new additions this year. Registration is required for all trips, and space is limited. Be sure to sign up early and note the deadlines below!



Tuesday, June 2 – Neptune Water Park (Hartsville)
Cost: \$45 per child | Deadline: April 13
Meet at 9:15 a.m. | Return at 3 p.m.

Our youngest adventurers will enjoy a fun-filled day at Neptune Water Park! We will have a private cabana reserved for our group in the Piratesville Splash Pad area, giving us a shaded place to rest and regroup. Lunch at Kraken's Kitchen is included in the price. Register by logging into Realm or using QR code.



Wednesday, June 3 – Pirate's Voyage (Myrtle Beach)
NEW THIS SUMMER!
Cost: \$40 per child | Deadline: April 13
Meet at 1:30 p.m. | Return at 7:30 p.m.

We'll attend the 3:30 p.m. show featuring pirates, acrobatics, mermaids, and high-energy excitement — along with a full pirate feast that is included in the cost! Register by logging into Realm or using QR code.



Thursday, June 4 – Neptune Water Park (Hartsville)
Cost: \$45 per child | Deadline: April 6
Meet at 9:15 a.m. | Return at 3 p.m.

We'll spend the day enjoying the water slides and attractions at Neptune. Our group will have a private cabana near the slides where children can rest and reapply sunscreen throughout the day. The cost includes each child's choice of lunch from the park.



Save the Dates for the July trips

Registration and more info on Realm

TREASURED TUESDAYS

Tuesday, July 7 – Dino Park (Myrtle Beach) –
NEW THIS SUMMER!
Cost: \$25 per child | Deadline: May 4
Meet at 8 a.m. | Return at 3 p.m.

WONDERFUL WEDNESDAYS

Wednesday, July 8 – Flip Factory Zone (Columbia) –
NEW THIS SUMMER!
Cost: \$50 per child | Deadline: May 4
Meet at 12:30 p.m. | Return at 6:30 p.m.

THUNDERING THURSDAY

Thursday, July 9 – Frankie's Fun Park (Columbia) –
A Yearly Favorite!
Cost: \$65 per child | Deadline: May 4
Meet at 10:15 a.m. | Return at 5 p.m.

New Covenant Partners



Cindy Bond



Doug Carney



Lyall and Stephen Grantham



Pam and Henry Jenkins



Lisa Smith



Ed Turner

Benefits of Covenantal Partnership

On Sunday, March 8, our church welcomed eight new covenant partners to the congregation. Becoming a covenant partner is important not only to the congregation but even more importantly for the covenant partner, as they are positioned to receive encouragement, support, and correction that the Lord promises to those who share spiritual fellowship. In committing to the cause of a life lived in and through Jesus Christ, members grow in Christian community together to become more Christlike.



Church News

Keenagers program features the Bonds

Keenagers will meet at noon April 7 in the Jenkins Fellowship Hall. Meal will be roasted sweet Vidalia pork loin, scalloped potatoes, French green beans, simple arugala salad, and lemon mousse. Program will be “The Life and Times of Cindy and Stuart Bond” from our very own senior pastor and wife. All covenant partners 55 and older are welcome to join for food, fun, and fellowship. Cost of meal is \$6.

Congregational Meeting to be held

A Congregational Meeting will be held at 10:40 a.m. Sunday, April 26, in the sanctuary for the purpose

of electing four Covenant Partners to serve on the Officer Nominating Committee (ONC). Nominations will be taken from the floor during the meeting. The ONC consist of 10 members (2 Elders, 2 Deacons, 2 Women in Ministry (WIM) representatives and 4 Covenant partners). The ONC reviews nominees made by the Congregation and ask these people to prayerfully consider serving as future Elders and Deacons. A final slate of 12 officers (4 Elders and 8 Deacons) will be presented to the congregation for affirmation. Prior to nominating a Covenant Partner to serve on the ONC, please confirm his/her willingness to serve on the committee. Please note that per current ONC bylaws, individuals serving on the ONC will not be considered for service as an Elder or Deacon during the period in which they are committee members. Childcare will be available for 3K and older in the CLC.

— Submit church news to Kimberly Brauss, kbrauss@florencefirst.org.

Youth kick off spring with getaway, service project

March weather had us ready for summer! The youth spent lots of time outside, dyed eggs, and helped hide them for the annual Easter Egg Hunt at the Whiteheads'. We wrapped up our service project for The Manna House. Thank you so much to everyone who donated food items!

We traveled back to Dreher Island State Park for our Spring Getaway and had a wonderful time. The weather was beautiful! We took a cold dip, sunset pics, spent lots of time outside, made s'mores, and enjoyed time in God's word. A big thank you to Kimberly and Penn Packard for helping lead and serve.

Our next Parent Meeting will be on April 12 during the Sunday School hour. Be sure to check out the calendar on the Band app for the remaining spring trips and events.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Wednesday Night Youth Group (April 1, 15, 22, and 29) 5:30 – 7:15 p.m. Food, raffles, and service projects! \$7 dinner provided by the church.

April 15: *WOMEN IN MINISTRY TEA PARTY (FUNDRAISER)*

April 22: *EARTH DAY* Picnic and bike ride (Wheeldateens!)

April 29: *PICKELBALL TOURNAMENT*

Coffee at F.E. Pop's (April 2, 16, 23, and 30) 7 a.m.

Sunday School (April 5, 12, 19, and 26) 10 a.m.
Light breakfast served.

Day Trip to Charleston (April 11) 8 a.m.

Travel with us to Charleston as we hang out downtown, go to Folly Beach, and eat yummy food.

Parent Meeting (April 12) 10 a.m.

Join us as we go over the summer calendar and allow an opportunity for questions, concerns, and conversation. Youth are welcome to join.

Small Groups (April 12 and 19) 5 – 7 p.m.
Dinner provided.



Carowinds (April 25) 8 a.m. – 8 p.m.

Cost will be \$45. Youth will need to bring money for two meals on the road. Bring a friend!

Please sign up and pay by Wednesday, April 1.

Wheeldateens! (April 26) 5 – 7 p.m.

Come ride bikes with us! Snacks and water provided.



First Presbyterian
FLORENCE SOUTH CAROLINA



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

CHURCH STAFF

SENIOR PASTOR
CHURCH ADMINISTRATOR
DIRECTOR OF MUSIC/ORGANIST
DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES
DIRECTOR OF YOUTH MINISTRY
PROGRAM DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN'S MINISTRY
PRAISE TEAM LEADER
MUSIC ASSISTANT
CONGREGATIONAL CARE ASSISTANT
CDC ASSISTANT DIRECTOR/NURSERY COORDINATOR
COMMUNICATIONS DIRECTOR
FINANCIAL ASSISTANT
MINISTRY ASSISTANT
LEAD CUSTODIAN
HOUSEKEEPING
CUSTODIAN

DR. STUART BOND
REV. DON HEBERT
MRS. ANN RODGERS CHANDLER
MS. KELLY HICKEY
MS. CHRISTINA GARRETT
MS. KAITI BRYANT
MR. VIC ROCKHILL
MS. BETSY JOHNSON
REV. MIKE FLEENOR
MRS. SHURRIE MARKS
MS. KIMBERLY BRAUSS
MS. SONYA HUNTER
MRS. EMILY REED
MR. LEROY WILLIAMS
MS. WANDA LASANE
MR. CRIS BAKER

RUMMAGE SALE

SATURDAY, MAY 2 | 7 AM - 2 PM

- | | | |
|------------------|-------------|---------------------------|
| BOOKS | ELECTRONICS | BOOKBAGS |
| FURNITURE | HOUSEWARES | OUTDOOR GEAR |
| TOOLS | JEWELRY | GAMES & MOVIES |
| TOYS | PURSES | RECORDS |

FIRST LOOK FOR FIRST PRES*

FRIDAY, MAY 1 | 5 - 7 PM

*\$10 entry fee for covenant partner exclusive access

The Youth Group also seeks donations for any of the above categories by April 26. for more information, contact Taiter Garrett, tgarrettflorencefirst.org.

