

The REMINDER



MAY 2026



ON THE COVER: Our 2026 class of 17 confirmands met with the elders during their Confirmation Banquet and will be welcomed into the church on May 3.

IN THIS ISSUE

2	Index/Ministry
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



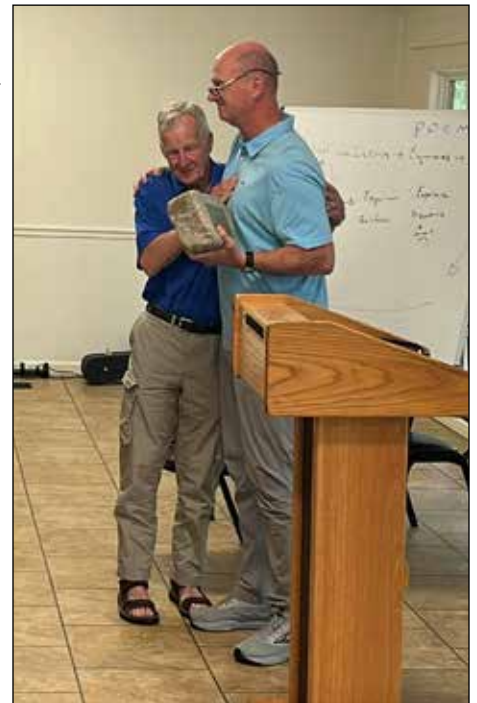
Special Honor for Bill Cain

On Sunday morning at the Men's Retreat, Erik Marechal led the men in an appreciation for the ministry of Bill Cain. Bill was presented with a cornerstone with an engraved plaque that read:

Cornerstone Recognition for Discipleship Presented to Bill Cain

For his witness and commitment to the men and ministry of First Presbyterian Church, Florence
Then this verse from Isaiah 28:
See, I lay a stone in Zion, a tested stone, a chosen and precious cornerstone for a sure foundation; the one who trusts will never be dismayed.

Well done, Pastor Bill! Thank you for your continued service to the Lord here at First.



Reflections on the Men's Retreat

The first thing to know is that it is a serious hike to get out to Hickory Knob State Park. That is probably good, because whatever obligations you left behind are out of reach, now. We are here for the weekend.

Friday night is our start. We have a barbecue dinner out on the lawn. We go to our meeting with music and prayer and a great introduction to our new friends who came and our guest speakers. Plus, it is our first time in small groups.

Saturday comes rolling in with its ample breakfast, another excellent meeting, a group gathering and then ... whatever you want to do. From golf to skeet shooting to kayaking to simply catching some z's in your (surprisingly nice) room. Then it is back to that lawn and more great food, a rousing time of singing, some joking around and then a key talk to help us center. One more small group, then time sitting up way too late talking and telling stories.

Sunday brings our breakfast and a service where we come before the Lord as men who are a little more grounded, a little more clear on our next steps with the Lord than when we came.

One of the guys put it this way: "I wasn't exactly sure what to expect this past weekend but it proved to exceed what I had imagined. It has been a spiritual catalyst. Raw and honest sharing, men building each other up in Christ ... it has bolstered my faith, moving me forward in my process and freed me into a fuller submission to God."

I will see you who came, and those who have yet to come, next year!

Stuart



About 50 men listen to a guest speaker during the Men's Retreat weekend in April. The retreat, organized by Bill Cain, was held at Hickory Knob State Park.

Special Bonus Event for Men

Gentlemen, mark your calendars for Friday, May 15, 6:30-8:30 p.m. Darrell Frick and Ned Erickson were our speakers at this year's Men's Retreat. They will be joining us for an evening to reconnect with those who came on the retreat and greet any friends we bring with us.

Call the church or email Kim Brauss (kbrauss@florencefirst.org) to let us know you and a buddy can come by May 14. We will have dinner ready for you. The event is at Hunter Morgan's place, 925 Lake Redwing Drive, Darlington. See you there!

SESSION *notes*

We continued to think through our study book *Lasting Impact* by Carey Nieuwhof (He also has a podcast, etc., if you would like to get to know him.). This chapter was on how hard it is for people to get to church because of work, shared custody, etc., and we need to celebrate the wins when we can get someone there. We also brainstormed a bit on how we can reach across the genera-

tions to get connected with one another. Pray for us as we take Saturday, May 2, for a day-long retreat to lay out our next steps as we envision the future of First Presbyterian Church's ministry. Pray, too, how the Lord might use you in terms of serving and leading us into what he has in store for all of us.



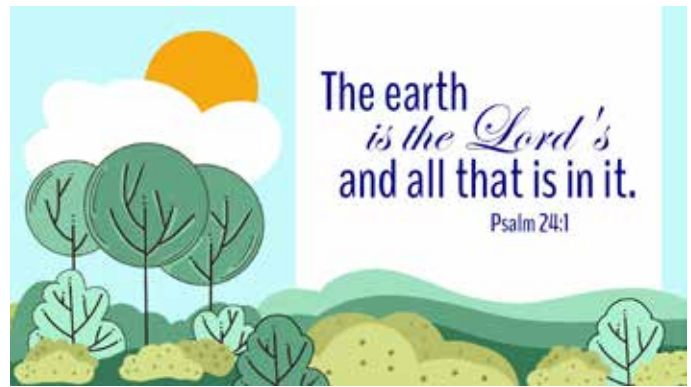
Investing as Faithful Stewards

For most of us, the words invest, investing, or investments are associated with money and financial matters. The primary definition of invest is: “to expend money with the expectation of achieving a profit or material result by putting it into financial plans, shares, or property, or by using it to develop a commercial venture.” So, it is no wonder that when we hear the word invest, our thoughts immediately go to things such as the stock market, financial advisors, 401(k) and retirement accounts. The word invest has a secondary definition that is: “to provide or endow someone or something with (a particular quality or attribute).” I want to look at this definition as it pertains to the ministry of First Presbyterian Church.

Sunday, May 3, will be Confirmation Sunday. On that day, we will recognize and welcome 17 Confirmands as covenant partners in our church. Since last September this group of sixth graders has been involved in the confirmation process of our church, which includes catechism class, two retreats, and a mentoring program that pairs the confirmands with an adult covenant partner (mentor). The mentor is not someone who has all the answers but rather someone who is willing to share his/her journey of faith with another person who is an apprentice in the faith. Through this process, catechism leaders and mentors have invested in the lives of these young people. I have had the privilege to be a mentor to three different confirmands over the past few years. Many of you who have mentored confirmands through the years will understand that the return on investment is watching a young person grow and mature in their faith and understanding of God.

The catechism leaders and mentors are only a few of the people who have invested in the lives of the confirmands. When a child is baptized into our congregation, the covenant partners are asked if they will nurture and support the child as they grow in faith. Nursery workers, Sunday School teachers, VBS leaders, Wednesday night study leaders and others have invested in the lives of these young people along the way.

First Presbyterian Church is blessed with covenant partners who understand and are involved in the secondary definition of investing both in our church and in the community. Through leading a small group, teaching a Sunday School class, or involvement in one of the many benevolence agencies we support, our



covenant partners are investing in the lives of people. The return on these investments will not show up on a quarterly earnings statement in an investment portfolio. It will be found in changed lives.

There is a tendency to think of stewardship strictly in terms of money. However, when it comes to Christian stewardship, it is far more than money — it’s your life! Aspects of Christian stewardship is life lived in Christ, the life of discipleship. It takes seriously the psalmist’s affirmation that “the earth is the Lord’s and all that is in it” (Ps. 24:1). Faithful stewards are always growing. They never graduate from the school of discipleship. Christ calls his disciples to be always on the cutting edge of life. As we are nurtured in our faith, we grow in our understanding of what it means to have “the mind of Christ.” As our senses and sensibilities are stimulated by the Holy Spirit, we grow as stewards and mature as obedient disciples. We truly have far more resources given to us by God than we even realize. So, in what ways are you stewarding the resources (time, talent, and treasure) given to you?

Financial Update

Weekly giving continues to be good; however, through the first quarter of 2026 our expenses are exceeding revenue by approximately \$4,500.00 per week. This is a typical pattern but one the staff and Session is monitoring closely. As we move into the summer, please remember the commitment you have made to support the ministry and mission of First Presbyterian Church.

Leading an Exceptional Life

2 PETER :1-15

Leading an exceptional life is about accepting our salvation as a free gift from God through Jesus and then following Jesus in obedience. This process is called sanctification. I would share with you a quote from *The Way of Wisdom* by Courtney Doctor and others: “One of the great mysteries of God is the relationship between his sovereignty and our responsibility. While salvation belongs entirely to the LORD, the lifelong process of sanctification — how we increase in godliness and holiness — involves our participation. However, even our participation is dependent on and fueled by God’s grace! Like I said, it’s a mystery.”

2 Peter is written at a time when the anticipation of Christ’s return was understood to be imminent. The Christian movement was also infiltrated with false teachers who used the message of salvation through Jesus for greedy gain and prestige. 2 Peter calls for the follower of Christ to be loyal to the teachings of Jesus and to discern the truth from the Church’s leaders.

As the three chapters of 2 Peter are read and studied, please keep in mind two thoughts: (1) Jesus would be returning to judge the world soon; (2) human beings have a responsibility to partner with the Holy Spirit to increase in godliness.

In David Jeremiah’s book, *1 and 2 Peter*, he calls the reader to be “Leading an Exceptional life” as he studies 2 Peter 1:1-15. After identifying himself as an apostle, Peter writes to those who have received the faith and greets them with: “May grace and peace be yours in abundance in the knowledge of God and Jesus our Lord (2 Peter 1:2).”

The goal and purpose of life is stated as godliness. The word for godliness occurs three times in 2 Peter (2 Peter 1:3, 2 Peter 1:6 and 2 Peter 3:11). I believe godliness and the goal of righteousness are the same. The LORD desires for God’s people to be like Christ and to be righteous. Jesus says in Matthew 5: “Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness for they will be filled (Matthew 5:6)” and “Unless your righteousness exceeds that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never enter the Kingdom of Heaven (Matthew 5:20).”

The righteousness of Christ has been placed upon his followers as they are made righteous through Jesus.

In 2 Peter 1:12-13, Peter reminds his readers that he will soon be with Christ. He calls his body a tent:



“Knowing that shortly I must put off my tent.”

Peter desires for the church to be godly, righteous, and to live a sanctified life. I believe the key to Peter’s advice is to follow the path of sanctification outlined in 1 Peter 1:5-7. “These things” in 1 Peter 1:15 are the process of sanctification: faith to virtue to knowledge to self-control to perseverance to godliness to kindness and finally to love (See *1 and 2 Peter* on page 102-103.). The challenge to the follower of Christ is to be intentional in the pursuit of a sanctified or exceptional life.

Mike



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, May 3,
Evelyn Childers' home

Chairwoman: Alexis Morris

Women of Grace

Meeting: TBD

Chairwoman: Betsey Moore

Bible Moderator: Charissa Canfield

Joyful Hearts

Meeting: Spring Celebration

Chairwomen: Alice Caldwell and
Nancy Thompson

Bible Moderator: Betsy Olsen

Soul Sisters

Meeting: Noon Tuesday, May 12,
Price Classroom

Chairwoman: Carolyn Holland

Bible Moderator: Patti Hubbs

Serenity

Meeting: 3 p.m. Tuesday, May 19
Lawson-Rain Chapel

Chairwoman: Linda Smiley

Bible Moderator: Tabatha Davis

Prayer Warriors

Meeting: 6:30 p.m. Wednesday,
May 13, WOC

Chairwoman: Amy Williams

Wednesday Night Women

Meeting: 6 p.m. May 13, Parlor

Chairwoman: Laura Marechal

Bible Moderator: Emily Whitehead

Disciples

Meeting: Noon Thursday, May 14,
off campus

Chairwoman: Janet Brand

Bible Moderator: Kimberly Packard

Bread and Fish

Meeting: Spring Celebration

Chairwoman: Peggy Swearingen

Seasonal Sounds



The Chancel Handbell Choir's Spring Concert celebrated the spring season and was dedicated in memory of Lalla Saleeby, a charter member of The Chancel Handbell Choir of First Presbyterian Church. Lalla faithfully performed in every concert since the series started in 2007. A true appreciator of music, Lalla was a devoted supporter of the music program. We are grateful for our dear friend, her joie de vivre, and her devoted passion for the art of handbell ringing.



CDC activities full of life, learning

The CDC had a great time during April as we celebrated Easter and learned about baby animals. During the month of May, our focus will be on Pond Life and Wildlife. We have a special visit planned from Black Creek Wildlife Center.

We are also gearing up for our 4K Graduation on May 14. It's a bittersweet time. In addition, the staff will kick off the end of the year with Field Games, a picnic in the park, water day, and pajama day. It's hard to believe the 2025-26 school year is coming to an end. We are truly grateful for all God is doing in and through us. The CDC is a gift. Thank you, First Presbyterian, for such a very special ministry!



First Presbyterian Night with the Flamingos

What better way to celebrate the conclusion of our Vacation Bible School week than a night at the ballpark? All VBS families, CDC families, and the entire congregation are invited to Carolina Bank Field to see the Florence Flamingos play the Tri-City Chili Peppers.

- When: Friday, June 19
- Time: The game starts at 7 p.m., and gates open at 6 p.m. Children wishing to participate in the on-field games between innings should arrive early to sign up.

- Cost: Your \$17.50 ticket includes a Flamingos hat and all-you-can-eat dinner (unlimited burgers, hot dogs, chicken sandwiches, chips, cookies, and Coca-Cola products/water).

- Purchase your ticket at this [link](#) or use the QR code. You will receive e-tickets to show on your phone or print. Stop by the box office for your concessions wristband and hat. It's going to be a home-run finish to a wonderful week with Paul in Rome.



MEET THE CDC TEAM



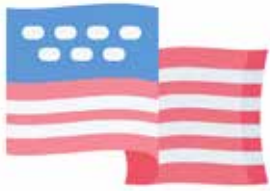
MS. ANNETTE WILLIAMS

Ms. Annette is our fun-loving, nurturing, outgoing, devoted and caring, never complaining Infant 2 teacher. A native of Georgetown, Ms. Annette enjoys time at the beach, having good fun with friendly people, cooking, working out to stay fit and healthy, traveling and trying new experiences. What Ms. Annette likes most about working at the CDC is watching children interact with one another. She loves seeing her babies in Infant 2 smile because it makes her smile. She enjoys the staff who are so friendly and respectful. Ms. Annette also enjoys giving her best each day to make sure the babies are happy and safe.

HER FAVORITES

FOOD: Fried chicken and pizza
 COLOR: Red
 FLOWER: Cherry blossom
 PLACE: The beach
 SEASON: Fall



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY
			
<p>3 Confirmation Sunday Combined Worship, 10 a.m. Church Picnic, 11 a.m. Children's Sunday Planning, 11:45 a.m. WiM Salty Sisters, 2 p.m.</p>	<p>4 CDC Advisory Team, 4 p.m. WOC Worship Team, 5 p.m. WOC</p>	<p>5 Keenagers, noon Poynor</p> <div style="text-align: center;">  </div>	<p>6 House of Hope volunteer luncheon, noon JFH WiM Bible Moderators, 5 p.m. Youth Group: Confirmand Welcome Dinner, 5:30 p.m. WiM Coordinating Team, 6 p.m. Boy Scouts class, 7 p.m.</p>
<p>10 Children's Sunday</p>	<p>11 Garden Club council meeting, 10 a.m. Girl Scout troop meeting, 4:30 p.m. Enabling Team, 5:30 p.m. Eagle Scout Court of Honor, 6:30 p.m. JFH</p>	<p>12 WiM Soul Sisters, noon Evangelism & Discipleship, noon WOC WiM Spring Celebration, 6 p.m. WinShape leadership planning meeting, 5:30 p.m.</p>	<p>13 Veterans Brunch, 8 a.m. Mission Team, 12:15 p.m. WiM Wednesday Night Women, 6 p.m. WiM Prayer Warriors 6:30 p.m. CLC Youth Group, 5:30 p.m.</p>
<p>17 Graduation Sunday Youth: Breakfast for Graduates, 9 a.m. JFH Piano and Violin Recital, 2:30 p.m. JFH Trinity Baccalaureate, 4 p.m.</p>	<p>18</p>	<p>19 Evangelism & Discipleship meeting, noon WOC Diaconate Meeting, 6 p.m. Becky Brown Piano Recital, 6:30 p.m.</p>	<p>20 Youth Group: Senior Night, 5:30 p.m.</p>
<p>24 Youth: Top Golf, 1 p.m. (sign up by May 6)</p> <p>31 Adult Sunday School Teachers Connection, 11 a.m. LR</p>	<p>25 Memorial Day CDC, church office closed</p> <div style="text-align: center;">  </div>	<p>26 Session, 6:30 p.m.</p> <div style="text-align: center;">  </div>	<p>27 Small Group Bible Study, 10 a.m. WOC</p>

THURSDAY

FRIDAY

SATURDAY

MAY

WEEKLY

	<p>1 Rummage Sale First Look, 5 p.m. CLC</p>	<p>2 Rummage Sale, 7 a.m. Session Retreat</p>
<p>7 Girl Scout Leader Meeting, 6:30 p.m.</p>	<p>8 </p>	<p>9 Parking Lot Mission, 6 a.m.</p>
<p>14 Youth: FE. Pop's, 7 a.m. WiM Disciples, noon CDC 4K Graduation, 6 p.m. JFH Deadline to register for Children Ministry's field trips</p>	<p>15 Charli Moore piano recital, 7 p.m.</p>	<p>16 Skate into Summer, 10:30 a.m. Skateland Charli Moore piano recital, 11 a.m. and 3 p.m.</p>
<p>21 Youth: FE. Pop's, 7 a.m.</p>	<p>22 </p>	<p>23 </p>
<p>28 Youth: FE. Pop's, 9 a.m. </p>	<p>29</p>	<p>30</p>

SUNDAYS

- Sunday School, 9 a.m.
- Combined Worship, 10 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.
- CDC Music Time, 3 p.m.

WEDNESDAYS

- Youth Group, 5:30 p.m.
- Parenting Class, 6:15 p.m.
- Boy Scouts class, 7 p.m.
- Chancel Choir Rehearsal, 7 p.m.

THURSDAYS

- Men's Bible Study, 7 a.m.
- Youth Coffee, 7 a.m. (9 a.m. May 28)
- Faith in Motion men's study, 7:45 a.m.
- Women's Bible Study, 10:30 a.m.



Lord, Hear Our Prayer

LISTEN TO MY PRAYER, O GOD, DO NOT IGNORE MY PLEA; HEAR ME AND ANSWER ME. PSALM 55:1



SYMPATHY

Pam Morgan, loss of her brother
Marie O'Harra, loss of her husband, Bob
Family of Lalla Saleeb

SICK & RECOVERING

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

EXTENDED CARE

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

HOUSEHOLDS

Flock 1: Gwen Misurella
Flock 2: Bryan and Tena Rabon, Cole, Mary Tiller,
and Graham
Flock 3: Mark and Anne Hanna, Heyward, Lizzie
Flock 4: Christa and Drew Godwin
Flock 5: Rachel Odom
Flock 6: Russell and Teresa James
Flock 7: Richard and Caroline Genoble, Richard,
Kate, and James
Flock 8: Sandra Anderson

FLOWERS IN THE SANCTUARY

May 3: Communion
May 10: Children's Sunday
May 17: Elizbaeth and Joe McLean
May 24: Pam and Mike Morgan
May 31: Open

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

MEMORIALS

Larry Dozier, father of Sam Dozier
Erich Fowler, grandson of Mary Caroline
and Wallace Vaught
John R. Hastings, brother of Pam Morgan
Bob Silver

ELDERS

Jayne Boswell
Ryon Watkins

DEACONS

Sally Dameron
Stephanie Spivey

MISSIONS

Manna House
One Challenge International

WOMEN IN MINISTRY

JoDee Etheridge
Tara Newton

TEACHERS

Charissa Canfield
Allyson Pittman

STAFF

Kimberly Brauss
Emily Reed

CDC STAFF

Ms. Allie
Mrs. Byrd
Ms. Caroline
Ms. Nini

May BIRTHDAYS

MAY 2

Suzanne Carney
Amy Dozier
Baker Myers

MAY 3

Amanda Bostwick
Sarah Elizabeth Rainwater

MAY 4

Noha Cotran
Melanie DuBose
Cissy Hicks
Mya-Rose Losah
Gwen Misurella

MAY 5

Ann Rodgers Chandler
Patti Vassy

MAY 6

Ellen Pearson
Scarlett Sims

MAY 7

Barbara Meeks

MAY 8

Mac Burch
Carolyn Pearce
Katie Rockhill
Peete Smiley

MAY 9

Camp Blanton
Jennifer Foxworth
Christi Gasque
Anne Hanna
Hayes Hofler
Liam Hughes

MAY 10

Libby Fuller
Lee Gandy
Ella Warner
Lilly Williams

MAY 11

Caroline Babb
Kimberly Brauss
Melaine Campbell
Carol Duncan
Barbara Montgomery

MAY 12

Robin Halus

MAY 13

Travis Blayton
Gibson Lewis

MAY 14

Henry Blayton
Breck Granger
Thomas Rogers

MAY 15

Stephanie Spivey
Leroy Williams

MAY 16

Julian Fowler
John Hail
Lizzie Hanna

MAY 17

Daniel Asongwed
Emma Blanton
Allison Johnson

MAY 18

Holden Carter

MAY 19

Daniel Dale
Meredith Dozier
Jack Hofler

MAY 21

Sasha Hall
Donald Heath
Andy Jeffords
Mackenzie Snow

MAY 22

Grace Migliore
Penn Packard
Mary Lynn
van Witzenburg

MAY 23

Emma Myers
Harland Wyatt

MAY 24

Carol Banner
Kelly Molnar

MAY 25

Ruth Bertram
Lynn Porter
Sonny Slaughter
Austin Tyler

MAY 26

Jim Frederick
Ben Green
Jim Poston
Zip Vassy

MAY 27

Madison Sturgeon

MAY 28

Graham Emerson
Masters Emerson
Beverly Everton

MAY 29

Caroline Early
Jones Evans

MAY 30

Tomi Jean Cleveland
Henry Fast
Danielle Guinn
Hunter Scott

MAY 31

Erin Lewis
Emily Reed



Dear FPC Family,
Have you noticed how often things change? It's inevitable. Everything changes from our age, our friends, our roles, our children, their attitudes, our jobs, our health, our relationships — everything.

I know from my own personal experience that change can be extremely difficult, and most of the time, I want to resist it.

One particular time was during the “tween” years. Those sixth and seventh grade years when my girls were in between being a child and a know-it-all teenager. I can remember a time or 12 when I looked at them wondering, “Who are you? And what did you do with my sweet daughter?” Have you been there? If not, get ready; that change is coming.

There was also a season of change when I was in between work. I had a strong sense from the Lord that I was to quit my current position without having something to fall back on. I knew without a shadow of a doubt it was what I was supposed to do, so I did. I just knew God would call me back into ministry. Well guess what? It didn't happen. Not the way I needed it to. It was only part time. Then I was offered a position at an accounting firm, a huge change, one I absolutely did NOT want! Yet, I knew I had to in order to take care of my family. I accepted the position, but truth be told, I was kicking and screaming. The people I worked with were amazing, but the job was so boring. I did not like the change! The change was actually hard. But lo and behold, God used it to bring me back to FPC!

There are so many stories regarding change in my life. Some harder than others, yet through it all God was there with me. Just like He is with you!

We all experience change. It's unforeseeable in life. Yet, the one thing that will never change is Jesus! “Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever.” Hebrews 13:8 I do not know where I would be without Jesus! So regardless of what change is taking place today, or the changes that are still to come, always remember to “Trust God from the bottom of your heart; don't try to figure out everything on your own. Listen for God's voice in everything you do, everywhere you go; he's the one who will keep you on track”. Proverbs 3:5-6 - The Message.

Much love,
Kelly

Dear Church Family,

May always seems to arrive with so much energy. The school year is wrapping up, calendars are packed, and families are moving in every direction with programs, performances, graduations, and all the celebrations that come with this season. It is busy — but it is also such a sweet time of transition.

In Children's Ministry, I love this time of year because it gives us a chance to look back and see just how much growth has happened.

The children who were once shy are now eager to answer questions. Friendships have formed. Confidence has grown. Faith has been strengthened in ways both big and small. Those quiet moments of growth are some of the greatest blessings to witness.

As we move closer to summer, there is also a sense of excitement for what is ahead. Summer trips, VBS, and all the special moments that come with a new season are right around the corner. There is something refreshing about summer — a chance to step out of the normal routine, make memories, and enjoy time together in new ways.

Even in the busyness, I hope this season reminds us to slow down enough to notice where God is working. Sometimes the most meaningful growth happens in the middle of the fullest seasons.

Thank you for continuing to support, encourage, and pray for our children and families. It is such a joy to serve alongside you.

In Christ's love,
Kaiti Bryant



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 May 10, Children's Sunday.



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!

Practices (First–Fifth Grade)

Children in first–fifth grade will have rehearsal together. Practice on May 3 will take place in the CLC, immediately following the 10 a.m. service and picnic until 1:30 p.m. Lunch will be provided. There will be a special dress rehearsal in the Sanctuary from 5:30 to 6:15 p.m. Wednesday, May 6. (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!

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.



Confirmation Sunday

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 on May 3 at the 10 a.m. 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.



Braelyn Brand
Mentor Jan Green



Will Bratton
Mentor
Jeremy Emert



Bradford Brown
Mentor
Billy McBride



Eleanor Eearly
Mentor
Ellen Wilhoit



Jule Eldridge
Mentor
Brian Fast



Graham Emerson
Mentor
Jim Dameron



Masters Emerson
Mentor
Jim Dameron



Anna Parsons Fast
Mentor
Margaret Jones



Benjamin Floyd
Mentor
Richie Wilhoit



Thatcher Jordan
Mentor
Pat Tuttle



Grace Migliore
Mentor
Kathryn Scott



Oliver Page
Mentor
Matt Dowdell



Liam Scott
Mentor
Pack Packard



Sadie Sims
Mentor
Charissa Canfield



Turner Swink
Mentor
Robert Moore



Stirling Temple
Mentor
Stuart Snow



Charlotte Tuttle-
Mentor
Alexis Morris



“I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.”
John 8:12

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, July 7 – Dino Park in Myrtle Beach
Cost: \$25 per child | Deadline: May 14
Meet at 8 a.m. | Return at 3 p.m.

Dino Park is an interactive dinosaur adventure experience where children can explore life-sized dinosaur exhibits, dig for fossils, and enjoy hands-on fun. We have booked the park exclusively for our group from 10 a.m. to noon! Children should bring a bagged lunch, which we will eat together at the park. Each child also will receive a 3D Make-A-Dino Kit to take home — and we'll stop for a surprise ice cream treat on the way home!

QR code to [register](#).



Thursday, July 9 – Frankie's Fun Park in Columbia
Cost: \$65 per child | Deadline: May 14
Meet at 10:15 a.m. | Return at 5 p.m.

One of our most anticipated trips each year! Children will receive the highest group package at Frankie's, including multiple attractions such as go-karts, mini golf, arcade games, and more. Lunch will be provided upon arrival so everyone is ready for a full afternoon of fun. Link to [register](#).



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

Children will enjoy the Ultimate Package experience, which includes trampolines, ninja courses, climbing walls, and more! The price includes required grip socks and food during our visit. Because of our schedule, we ask that children eat lunch beforehand, as food will be served later in the afternoon.

QR to [register](#).



WinShape Camps

June 29 - July 3 at First Presbyterian

WinShape Camps returns to First Pres, June 29 - July 3. Cost for the camp is \$225. Register for the camp here: <https://camps.winshape.org/day-camps/florence-sc-2/>.

There are three valuable ways to help support the mission of the camp. Volunteers are needed to prepare snack bags before the start of camp, assemble lunch bags for the volunteers during camp, and to wash laundry for the WinShape staff. If you are interested in assisting with any of these opportunities, please contact the covenant partner coordinating: Snack Coordinator Sandra Davidson (85davidson@gmail.com, 704-785-1756); Lunch Coordinator Lynette Gaddy (lynetteTGaddy@gmail.com, 843-409-3903); and Laundry Coordinator Becka Tuttle (sbleton83@yahoo.com, 843-607-6905). Thank you for your support and willingness to serve.





Church News

Staff Recognitions

First Presbyterian is fortunate to have a talented and dedicated church staff. This month, we recognize three



Emily Reed



Vic Rockhill

of our staff on their employment anniversaries. Emily Reed, our Ministry Assistant joined our staff in May 2023.

Vic Rockhill has been our Praise Team leader since May 2021.



Leroy Williams

Leroy Williams, Head Custodian, joined our staff in May 2022.

Thank you, Emily, Vic, and Leroy, we are grateful for each of you and your contributions to the ministry of First Presbyterian Church.

Keenagers to take educational tour of Poynor

The Keenagers luncheon on Tuesday, May 5, will be held at the Poynor School of Healthcare Innovation. Lunch will be provided to attendees at no charge!

Please plan to come and hear from Dr. Richard O'Malley about the Poynor workforce development programs and other exciting developments happening in Florence One Schools.

Following Dr. O'Malley's remarks, Mrs. Trish Caulder, retired McClenaghan High School teacher and Poynor School Director, and now current FIS board vice chair, will conduct a building tour for interested attendees. You will not want to miss this event! Parking is on the south side of the building (Park Street entrance), entering the building there at ground level.

Congregation finalizes committee seats

Officer Nominating Committee: The following individuals were selected to serve on the Officer Nominating Committee for 2026:

Elders: Billy McBride and Johnny Stoupenos

Deacons: Mark Davis and John Etheridge

Women in Ministry: Jill Cain and Casey Coker

At Large: Jeff Collins, Jan Green, Jim Moseley, and Hunter Sims

Ex officio: Stuart Bond

The ONC will be taking nominations from May 10 to May 31 for Officers (4 Elders & 8 Deacons) to serve in the Class of 2029. Officer Nomination Forms and collection boxes will be in the Narthex and the Welcome Center during this period.

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

Scouting Ministry

Last month, after a day at the U.S. National Whitewater Center rafting, zip lining, climbing wall, and mountain biking our Scouts camped at Kings Mountain State Park in Blacksburg and earned an historic trails award while learning about the 1780 battle at Kings Mountain that turned the tide in the American revolution.

In May, our Scouts will take a paddle trip with Creek Rats on the Lynches River and four new Eagle Scouts will be honored: Charlton Ervin, Charley Hylton, Luke Arthur, and Davis Love.



Youth start summer season with Rummage Sale

April kept us busy as bees! We enjoyed being outside for Wheeldateens!, our Second Annual Pickleball tournament, and spending a day at Carowinds. Thank you to Karen McBride for coming along with us. We also wrapped up our small group study of spiritual gifts at the Whitehead's. We enjoyed a scavenger hunt, dinner, and discussion outside.

The youth enjoyed a wonderful evening of cooking and serving for the Women in Ministry Tea Party. Thank you to everyone who came out to support us, and thank you to Kimberly Packard and Janet Brand for helping us pull it all off.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Rummage Sale 7 a.m. – 2 p.m. May 2

The youth are holding a rummage sale at the church in the CLC. All proceeds will go to benefit youth summer trips.

Wednesday Night Youth Group 5:30 – 7:15 p.m.

May 6, 13, and 20

Food, raffles, Bible study, and service projects! Dinner provided.

May 6: *CONFIRMAND WELCOME DINNER*

May 20: *SENIOR NIGHT*

Coffee at F.E. Pop's 7 a.m. May 7, 14, and 21, and 9 a.m. May 28

Breakfast for Graduates 9 a.m. May 17

Graduating Seniors and their families will meet in the Fellowship Hall and enjoy breakfast together before the church service. Juniors will help serve.

Graduation Sunday (May 17) 10 a.m.

Join us during the combined worship service as we recognize and celebrate our graduating seniors. Graduates should wear their caps and gowns.

Top Golf (May 24) 1– 7 p.m.

We will travel to Myrtle Beach. Cost is \$45 (dinner included in price). Bring a friend!

Please sign up & pay by Wednesday, May 6.



The Youth Group set up a Pinwheel Garden through The Care House to stand with children in the community against child abuse. April is Child Abuse Awareness Month. The youth also served at the Women in Ministry's Tea and kicked off Wheeldateens! in April.





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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

Spring Picnic

SUNDAY, MAY 3, AT 11:15 AM

Join us for a picnic at church after the combined worship
and make some memories with your church family.



The church will provide meat and drinks for the picnic.
Please bring your favorite salad, vegetable, starch, or dessert.

There will be drop-off tables outside the Sanctuary.
Bring blankets and chairs if desired for extra seating.