

The REMINDER

AUGUST 2026

WinShape

Helping Florence Flourish brought the ultimate day camp to First Presbyterian Church, combining fun and friendship centered on Jesus.

More than 230 elementary school and middle school aged children cultivated their skills through creative play, physical activity, and over-the-top intentionality with Jesus and His Word front and center.

For more photos, see page 16.

The Tabernacle

September 26-October 4

Just as the original Tabernacle moved from town to town in the days of the Old Testament, our interactive, life-sized replica travels to areas east of the Mississippi River. It impacts communities by drawing people right into the Bible so that participants sense both the holiness and grace of God. This fall, it will be on campus September 26 - October 4. An individual touring the Tabernacle will learn the significance of the Tabernacle to Israel during the Exodus, and also how "this place of God's presence" foreshadowed Jesus, the Christ, who came and "tabernacled among us."

We invite everyone to participate in this meaningful event. One step inside the Courtyard transports you into Old Testament times and brings you face to face with a replica of the Tabernacle of Moses.

If you'd like to volunteer, please reach out to our team at Tabernacle@florencefirst.org.

A sign-up table also will be available outside after church services every Sunday.

We have posters ready for businesses, schools, and out-of-town churches. Feel free to pick these up after our worship service!

Thank you for your support, and we look forward to seeing you there.



THE TABERNACLE
FULL SCALE REPLICA

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 26, 2026 – SUNDAY, OCTOBER 4, 2026

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
700 Park Avenue (corner of Park Avenue and Cherokee Road)
Florence, South Carolina 29501 • 843.662.2583

HOURS
M-F: 4:00 PM - 7:00 PM
SAT: 9:00 AM - 7:00 PM
SUN: 12:30 PM - 7:00 PM

Large Groups by APPOINTMENT
Monday-Friday
(9:00 am - 4:00 pm)
Deadline to make an appointment:
September 20, 2026
Email: tabernacle@florencefirst.org

For your preferred listening experience, MP3 players available or bring your phone and personal ear buds or headset.

FREE Admission; Parking is paved; Handicapped accessible. The "Tabernacle Courtyard" (150'x75') is on a level, grassy field, and is designed to be walked through individually. To move through all "Seven Stations" takes approximately 50 minutes. A prayerful, awesome, interactive, Bible-teaching experience!

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ON THE COVER: WinShape returned to Florence, bringing more than 220 children to campus for a week of activities full of faith and friendship.



First Presbyterian
FLORENCE SOUTH CAROLINA

Wednesday Night Electives

Two classes will be offered to adults on Wednesdays beginning Sept. 13:

Growing Marriages

Senior Pastor Dr. Stuart and Cindy Bond will lead a class for anyone who is new to marriage and anyone experienced in marriage. The only requirement is you look forward to your marriage growing. We will discuss aspects of relationships from taking a walk to dealing with in-laws.

The format will be a presentation plus discussion between couples and, later, talking as a whole class. Cindy and Stuart have enjoyed counseling couples together and leading seminars for couples for many years. Stuart has a master's degree in Marriage and Family Therapy and has had a private practice in counseling.

The Book of Colossians

Church Administrator Rev. Don Hebert, and Kelly Hickey, Director of Children Ministries, will lead an 8-week video Bible series from Right-Now Media on the [Book of Colossians](#).

This 8-session series will take us through the Book of Colossians to help us form a complete picture of Jesus, how our beliefs about Him influence everything from our corporate worship to our relationships to our attitude toward sin. Now alive in Christ, we can live a life worthy of God instead of falling back into the ways of the world. This class will meet at 6:15 p.m. on Wednesdays in the Jenkins Fellowship Hall.

The Role of Prayer

I met with the Associate Pastor Nominating Committee this week. We were in a discussion on the role of prayer. The theme kept being emphasized: prayer is so central to this task. Prayer helps us wait until the Lord brings the right person. Prayer tunes our hearts toward caring about whoever the Lord has for us. Prayer reminds us who really is in control.

I am simply inviting you to start this road of prayer with us. It will likely take a while. There will probably be some close calls and heartbreak along

the way. But, at some point, the Lord is going to lead us to a man or woman who is a great fit with this staff, a person who will love this church as much as we all do, while also inviting us to grow in some new ways.

I'm praying my little heart out. I ask you to do the same.

In Christ,

Spirit

SESSION *notes*



We noted that our worship this summer and our fellowship in general is joyful these days. We have a sense of the Lord moving and God inviting us to the next step.

In fact, several elders considered how the Spirit might work through the Tabernacle. Could it be that the Lord is inviting us to a deeper, more profound connection with Him through this opportunity to serve our community and bring to each of us a sense of his presence?

We coupled that with a ministry that is stirring among us. It is called Journey of Generosity. And yes, it is about money. But there is no request for money. Rath-

er, it is a time to simply consider how we could become more generous in our own lives. And not just monetarily. This is another emphasis that we are developing. It begins in the coming month when the entire Session attends a Journey. Soon enough, you will be invited as well.

I repeat: the Lord is moving. I wouldn't want it any other way.

Spirit



*Now faith is being sure of what we hope for
and certain of what we do not see. - Hebrews 11: 1*

Committee seeks prayer from Covenant Partners

Dear Covenant Partners of First Presbyterian Church, On behalf of the members of the Associate Pastor Nominating Committee (hereafter, the APNC), who are pictured below, we are humbled by your confidence in having called us to serve in this capacity. We will seek to grow together, as we pray together, and as we discern together, all in search of that pastor for whom God is even now laying the foundations of calling to our fellowship. It is, once more, an exciting time in the life of our church to thus be in search for an associate pastor. We ask that you pray for us, for our work together, for that person who will be called into our church ministry as an associate pastor, for each other, for our church, and for our wonderful senior pastor and church staff. We are blessed. May we prayerfully be of blessing, as well. And as we prepare our hearts, all of us, for this season of search, may we be reminded of our honor to be Christ's representatives here, inspired to seek and obey His will in all things, to His glory and His honor.

Having only been commissioned in this task this week, we have much to do to prepare for the active search, the extension of a call, and the denominational details of the finalization of that call that must follow. So, again, we ask for your active participation with us through your prayer as we seek guidance from the Holy Spirit. Please now regularly include the work of this committee in your prayer life: in your alone, quiet time; in your small groups; in Sunday School classes; as you may be given the privilege, in our worship services; in designated church prayer initiatives; in prayer walks to come; and as a matter of daily meditation and sober thought even in the midst of the otherwise busyness of life. And please know that as you pray for us, we will also be praying for you, that God may richly bless you and keep you and equip you to serve faithfully as He so calls you in the life of our church.

Blessings,
Porter Stewart

Associate Pastor Nominating Committee



Brandon
Blankenship

Janet Brand

Chris Canfield

Karen Jordan

Mike Lavespere

Porter Stewart

Caroline Toniolo

*We ask that you pray for us, for our work together,
for that person who will be called into our church ministry
as an associate pastor, for each other, for our church ...*

Living with a trusting heart

Over the past few weeks, I have had several conversations with others that centered around the concepts of gratitude and generosity and *not* with regard to stewardship and giving to the church! I was reminded of something I read in *You Version*, the daily devotional app that I use in my quiet time. I share it with you to see how God uses it to challenge you in the area of gratitude and generosity in your life.

How to Live Generously

What's your most prized possession? It might be the most valuable thing you own, like the house you've worked your whole life to afford. But it could also be a photo of a special time you spent with someone you loved. Or it could be a meaningful gift from a friend.

The value we assign to our "things" is tangled up with our emotions. How we choose to use the things we cherish most reveals our true priorities.

Jesus' death on the cross is one of the greatest examples of God's generosity. Despite knowing we could never repay Him; God didn't hesitate to give up his greatest treasure — His only Son — for us. And through that sacrificial act, He demonstrated what generosity looks like: He gave something precious to Him for the sake of others. He gave because of love.

You don't have to just give financially to practice generosity. Living generously simply acknowledges that God is able to do anything He wants through the gifts He has given you. Your giving may be financial, but it may also be something else, like giving your time to serve at your local church or hosting someone in your home. The possibilities are endless, but the results are consistent: When you honor Him with your giving, it draws you closer to Him and brings Him glory.

Generosity flows out of a thankful and trusting heart. The more you trust God with what you have, the more He starts to entrust you with.

Ultimately, giving will remind you that you are not in control, but you know the One who is in control — and He can provide for all your needs.

So, what do you have to give? Try finding a place where you can invest what you have in some way. Start small or go big. Just start.

Toward a Healthier Church

Each year First Presbyterian Church asks our covenant partners to make a pledge to financially support the ministry and mission of the church in our community and around the world through our Ministry Action Plan. This year the **2026 Ministry Action Plan** approved by the Session totaled \$1.98 million. As we come to the end of the summer, we find ourselves in a familiar situation, where we have seen a decline in giving during the summer months. Our staff and ministry leaders are to be commended for being good stewards of what has been given. As the summer ends and children head back to school and life "returns to normal," let me remind you to consider the financial commitment you've made to support First Presbyterian Church. By now you should have received a contribution statement for January – June. These statements are intended to serve as a reminder of the commitments made to support the mission and ministry of First Presbyterian Church. As you review your statement, let me encourage you to reflect on what you see and respond as God prompts your heart.



Stephen and the Trinity

ACTS 6-8, MATTHEW 28:16-20

We read in the Acts of the Apostles, Chapters 6-8, the martyrdom of Stephen. Stephen is not one of the 12 apostles, but I believe he is an eyewitness to the resurrection of Jesus. He is a powerful preacher and witness to Jesus. He is accused of preaching that Jesus predicted the destruction of the temple. I believe Jesus replaced the temple as the dwelling place of God. The learned leaders of the synagogue of the Freedmen debated with Stephen and sought to silence him. The synagogue of the Freedmen was a Greek speaking Jewish group who held the traditions of Moses were authoritative. The seventh chapter of Acts is a sermon by Stephen to the synagogue leaders detailing the history of the Jewish people. Stephen offends the Leaders by saying: "Yet the Most High does not dwell in houses made with human hands (Acts 7:40)."

Stephen, as he faces his death by stoning, has an experience with the three persons of God. I believe in the Scriptures this is a clear way of describing the Christian doctrine of the Trinity. Stephen is described as "filled with the Holy Spirit." He looks up into heaven and sees "the glory of God and Jesus standing at the right hand of God (Acts 7:55)!"

The doctrine of the Trinity includes God, Jesus, and the Holy Spirit. The Doctrine of the Trinity is a philosophical way to explain who God is. Dr. Shirley Guthrie in his book *Christian Doctrine* says, "The language of the doctrine is the language the ancient church, takes not from the Bible but from classical Greek philosophy."

The great thinkers of the early church were both philosophers and theologians who sought to explain how the God of the Jewish faith was One and was experienced by the Christians as Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. The doctrine of the trinity and the doctrine of the nature of Jesus became two ideas that has controlled theological thinking since the beginning of the Church. The experience of Stephen does not philosophically explain God's nature, but he dies experiencing the Trinity. How do we as Christians experience God? God is experienced as Father or LORD, or the Father of Jesus. Then God is experienced as Christ or Son understanding Jesus as the incarnation of God on earth. The Father loves the world so much as God gives Jesus to redeem

humanity. God is then experienced in the Holy Spirit as humans are indwelt by the Spirit. In modern terms we experience the Father as Creator, Jesus Christ as Redeemer, and the Holy Spirit as Guide. Jesus conveys the true nature of God as Loving Creator Father. I like to say Jesus shows us the personality of God as Love. The Holy Spirit reveals this same personality as we willingly seek to love as Jesus loved. Sometimes I use the word God to mean the entire trinity, God as Father, God the Christ, and God the Spirit. Other times I use the word God to mean only the Father. In the Psalms, God is referred to as the LORD, which is a translation of the Hebrew — Yahweh or Jehovah. Also the Psalms use the word God, which is translated as El or Elohim.

The Doctrine of the Trinity is less of a doctrine and more the way I experience God in the world. God as three in one holds me together. George Hendry, a well-known theologian of the twentieth century defines the trinity as "in Christ we have God with us, and in the Holy Spirit we have God in us, without He (God) ever ceasing to be God over us (Guthrie page 102)"

We sing "God in three persons, blessed Trinity." The passage from Matthew 28:16-20 is known as the Great Commission. The Church baptizes in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. This passage reflects a Church tradition as the Church's mission to enter the world making converts or disciples. The Church is to baptize, teach, and remember the authority and promise of Jesus.

The Great Commission represents the great promise that sustains each Christian and the Church. (Matthew 28:16-20). Our accepting our role as the Church is our promise to God. We break our promise to God and fail to keep our commitment. This is our sin. God never fails in God's promise to the Church and us, so that God will always be with us. The Trinity is a complex doctrine of the church and the New Testament writers. Over the past 21 centuries the church and theologians have found this doctrine helpful in describing their faith: God is known in three persons: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. The doctrine of the Trinity comes with the greatest promise God can make, to always be with us.



Scouting Ministry

Hunter Morgan Jr. led our Scouts on a canoe camping trip on Lake Jocassee, July 8-11. Scout meetings resume for the new school year at 7 p.m. on Monday, August 24, for boys in sixth-12th grades in the scout meeting room. Contact Scoutmaster Luke Scott, 843-621-3203, if you have questions about our scouting ministry. Cub Scout meetings resume on Sunday, August 23, at 618 Plum Drive. We have dens for boys in grades 5K-second that meet from 2:30 to 3:30 p.m. and dens for boys in grades third-fifth that meet from 4 to 5 p.m. If you have questions about our Cub Scouting ministry, which is partnered with Central United Methodist, contact Jack Hofler, jack.hofler@gmail.com.



WOMEN IN MINISTRY

ice cream social

Cool off with sweet treats, laughter, and summertime fun.

SUNDAY, AUGUST 30

4 TO 6 P.M.

JENKINS FELLOWSHIP HALL

*Everyone is
invited!*

Join the women of the church
for our kickoff event:

- Bible study intro
- Find a circle



Summer fun consumes July

During the month of July, the children enjoyed a fabulous time diving into our camping theme. They learned about the animals you might see while camping, setting up tents, sleeping bags, the stars, the moon and that Jesus is with us everywhere we go. We also celebrated the Fourth of July with a fabulous and festive parade. The children were dressed in their Fourth of July attire, marched around the fountain with about 90 onlookers. We ended the month with pajama day, a giant water slide, and Kona Ice. As always, July was filled with lots of fun, laughter, love, and adventures.





MEET THE CDC TEAM



MS. ANTWAIN'NYA MCDOWELL

Ms. Ny is our quiet, fun-loving, beautiful, smiling, baby-loving, sweet Infant I Assistant. She joined our team in March. She is a Florence native. She enjoys shopping, spending time with family, and going to church. What she loves most about working at the CDC is the fact that she gets to work with the babies, seeing them smile and happy every day. She also loves the bond she has made with her co-workers: "We are literally like family."

HER FAVORITES

FOOD: Chicken
 COLOR: Pink
 FLOWER: Rose
 PLACE: Home
 SEASON: Winter



SUNDAY

MONDAY

TUESDAY

WEDNESDAY



2 Communion Sunday Traditional service, 10 a.m.	3 CDC Advisory Board, 4 p.m. Worship Team, 5 p.m.	4 	5 Youth Group, 5:30 p.m.
9 Promotion Sunday Contemporary service, 10 a.m. Parent, Confirmand, and Mentor Lunch, 11:15 a.m.	10 Enabling Team, 5:30 p.m.	11 College Ministry Adhoc Team, 4 p.m. Youth Ministry Team, 5 p.m. College and Career Meet Up: Local Motive, 7 p.m.	12 Veterans Brunch, 8 a.m. Missions Team, 12:15 p.m. Youth Group, 5:30 p.m. Chancel Choir Rehearsal, 7 p.m. 
16 Traditional service, 10 a.m. Confirmation Retreat Youth: Back-to-School Party, 2 p.m. 	17	18 Evangelism & Discipleship Meeting, noon Diaconate Meeting, 6 p.m.	19
23 Contemporary service, 10 a.m.	24 Boy Scouts, 7 p.m.	25 Session, 6:30 p.m.	26 Youth Group, 5:30 p.m. Chancel Choir Rehearsal, 7 p.m.
30 Youth: Parent Meeting, 9 a.m. WiM Ice Cream Social, 4 p.m.	31 Boy Scouts, 7 p.m.		

THURSDAY

FRIDAY

SATURDAY

AUGUST

WEEKLY

SUNDAYS

- Sunday School, 9 a.m.
- Combined Worship, 10 a.m.
- Lemonade and Cookies, 11 a.m.

MONDAYS

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

TUESDAYS

- Staff meeting, 10 a.m.

WEDNESDAYS

- Youth Group, 5:30 p.m.

THURSDAYS

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

And I pray that you, being rooted and
established in love, may have power,
together with all the Lord's holy people,
to grasp how wide and long and high
And deep is the love of Christ.

Ephesians 3:17-18, NIV



1

Youth: Whitewater Rafting

6

Youth: F.E. Pop's, 7 a.m.
Global Leadership Summit
HFF's First Thursday Prayer,
5:15 p.m. All Saints' Church

7

Global Leadership Summit



8

Parking Lot Mission, 6 a.m.

13

Youth: F.E. Pop's, 7 a.m.

14

Confirmation Retreat

15

Confirmation Retreat



20

Youth: F.E. Pop's, 7 a.m.
CDC Parent Open House,
5:30 p.m.



21

22

27

Youth: F.E. Pop's, 7 a.m.
Tiles for Tots, 6 p.m.



28

29



Lord, Hear Our Prayer

O LORD, I CALL TO YOU; COME QUICKLY TO ME. HEAR MY VOICE WHEN I CALL TO YOU. PSALM 141:1



SYMPATHY

Emily McLean and family for the loss of husband
and father Bob McLean

Alva Whitehead and Harriett Whitehead and
family for the loss of their sister
Maria Whitehead

SICK & RECOVERING

Aubrey Crawford
Mary Kirkpatrick
Dave and Linda Lawson
Linda Smiley
Ginger Sullivan
Ronnie Welch

EXTENDED CARE

Bethea

Margaret Baroody

The Manor

Betty Bell
Joyce Floyd

Lowman Home

Mac King

Presbyterian Community

Nell Oliver

HOUSEHOLDS

Flock 1: Heather and Hughes Page, Oliver and
Aubrey

Flock 2: Virginia and Rhett Spencer

Flock 3: Daniel and Lucy Hubbs, Elijah and
Sarah-Beth

Flock 4: Justin and Amanda Green

Flock 5: David and Ansley Sanderson, Katon,
Murray and Ebbie

Flock 6: Carlee Linke, Owen Adams and
Harland Wyatt

Flock 7: Betsy Johnson

Flock 8: Carol and Dave Banner

STAFF

Ann Rodgers Chandler
Christina "Taiter" Garrett

MEMORIALS

Bob McLean
Bob Silver

ELDERS

Alice Caldwell
Chris Scott

DEACONS

Sandra Davidson
Ed Sprenger

MISSIONS

A Choice to Make
The Emerts

WOMEN IN MINISTRY

JoDee Etheridge
Tara Newton

TEACHERS

Ashley Bratton
Beth Brown
Haley Jackson

CDC STAFF

Ms. Annette
Mrs. Lynn
Mrs. Zaria

FLOWERS IN THE SANCTUARY

August 2: Communion

August 9: Elizabeth McLean, Betsy Olsen, and
Karen Jordan

August 16: Susan Snow

August 23: Open

August 30: Open

*Do you have someone you would like to honor by
placing flowers in the sanctuary?
Contact Genia Tyson at 843-992-8904.*

August BIRTHDAYS

AUGUST 1

Ella Naylor
Watson Tolson

AUGUST

Caden Bulliner
Michael Frost
Kathy Grace
Rhett Spencer
Wallace Vaught

AUGUST 4

Jane Ames
Casey Coker

AUGUST 5

Rob Hall

AUGUST 6

Katelyn Courtney
Jake McKay

AUGUST 7

Tabatha Davis

AUGUST 8

Sandra Anderson
Rufus Bratton
Erin Patton
Peggy Swearingen
Brittany Tanner

AUGUST 9

Chris Canfield
Donna Crockett
Lena Foxworth
Jackson Mazingo
Mary Caroline Vaught

AUGUST 10

Caulder Christian
Lincoln Emert

AUGUST 11

Chris Johnson
Joe Pearce
Amy Williams

AUGUST 12

Marshall Campbell
Carol Crom
Donna Green
Scott Ham

AUGUST 13

Sherrill Fussell
Lynette Gaddy
Andrew Halus
Blakely Hyman

AUGUST 14

Ellen Fails
Anna Parsons Fast
Taylor Knudsen
Brittany Matthews
Jim Moore
Brewer Tolson

AUGUST 15

Tamara Hoefer
Carlee Linke
John Shurman

AUGUST 16

Janet Brand
Joey Hall
Pam Jenkins
Dave Lake
Yvette Mbangowah

AUGUST 17

Jason Ifabnui
Kaitlin Langmo
Frank Lee
Emmett Straus
Brian Wallace

AUGUST 18

Evans Holland
Stuart Snow

AUGUST 19

Carson Munn
Colton Westbrook

AUGUST 20

Charissa Canfield
Mary Blanche Fowler
Dan Hicks
Betsy Johnson
Moses King
Fred Kunz
Phil Moore
Pack Packard
Jeff Singletary

AUGUST 21

Charlie Ervin
Mary Jane Holland
Gregg Jones
Wit Poston

AUGUST 22

Catherine Canfield
Kent Caudle
Ella Kate Pennstrom

AUGUST 23

Joe Commander
Charlie Grace
Cindy Johnson

AUGUST 24

Martha Dusenbury
Brett Green
Sarah Ella Hardee
Ellen Grace Marechal
Porter Stewart

AUGUST 25

Lane Gilpin
Patti Hubbs
Ronnie Welch

AUGUST 26

Andrea Chewning
Sallyann Frost
Kimberly Packard
Andi Rae Straus
McCall Swink

AUGUST 27

Dakota Hawkins

AUGUST 28

Carolyn Caudle
Loeffler Tolson
Ryon Watkins

AUGUST 29

Farrel Peters
Rod Jernigan
Virginia Spencer

AUGUST 30

Stuart Bond
Amanda Dale
Tillman Johnson
Peggy Moore
Lillian Scott
Michael Westbrook

AUGUST 31

Faris Cooper

God-wink Connections at VBS



Dear Church Family,

One of the things that humbles me most in ministry is when someone takes the time to tell me how much they appreciate something happening in our Children's Ministry. Whether it's a comment about Vacation Bible School, Sunday School, Children's Sunday, or one of our summer events, those kind words always mean so much to me.

But they also remind me of something important — I could never do it alone.

I once heard, during a ministry podcast, that leading a ministry is a lot like being an air traffic controller at an airport. The air traffic controller's job is to coordinate everything and keep all the moving pieces working together safely and efficiently. But if they're directing air traffic, they can't also be flying the planes, loading the luggage, checking in passengers, fueling the aircraft, or greeting travelers at the gate. It takes dozens of people, each serving in a different role, to make the airport run successfully. Children's Ministry is much the same.

Every Sunday, every event, every VBS, every trip, and every lesson is made possible because so many people generously give their time, talents, and hearts. From teachers and youth helpers to parents, volunteers, church staff, and those who faithfully pray behind the scenes, each person plays an important role in helping our children know and grow in the love of Christ.

So when someone compliments our Children's Ministry, I receive it with a grateful heart—but I also know it belongs to so many others. Thank you for serving, encouraging, praying, giving, and believing in the next generation. Together, we are creating a place where children are known, loved, and pointed to Jesus.

As we begin another ministry year, I couldn't be more excited for all that God has in store. I look forward to serving alongside such an incredible team of volunteers as we continue planting seeds of faith and watching God work in the lives of our children. Thank you for making this ministry what it is.

In Christ's love,
Kaiti

New Children's Ministry Check-In Procedures Beginning August 9

To help provide a safe and secure environment for every child, we'll be implementing new check-in procedures beginning Sunday, August 9.

Nursery

- Member families will have pre-printed name stickers available each Sunday—one for your child's back and one for their diaper bag (if needed).
- First-time visitors will complete a sticker with their child's name and parent/guardian information for both the child and diaper bag.

Sunday School (2K–First Grade)

- Teachers will use class rosters and attendance sheets to check children into class each Sunday.
- If a visitor attends, parents will be asked to complete a Visitor Card with their contact information and their child's information.
- For the safety of our youngest children, if a teacher does not personally know the adult picking up a child, they may ask to see a photo ID and verify it matches the parent or guardian listed on the class roster or Visitor Card before releasing the child.

Children in Worship (3K–First Grade)

- Parents will check their child in by scanning a QR code located throughout the Sanctuary and at the Sanctuary entrances before Children in Worship begins.
 - The digital check-in form provides teachers with an up-to-date attendance list, emergency contact information, allergies, and any special notes they may need to know.
 - If a teacher does not personally know the adult picking up a child, they may ask to see a photo ID and verify it matches the name used during the digital check-in before releasing the child.
- Thank you for partnering with us as we work to provide a safe, welcoming, and well-organized environment for every child in our Children's Ministry.



Children's Sunday School Schedule

Sunday School returns on August 9 at 9 a.m. During August, while the church continues with one worship service, Sunday School will meet, followed by worship at 10 a.m. Beginning Sunday, September 13, Sunday School will return to its regular 10 a.m. hour and continue through April.

Save the Date: Promotion Sunday is August 9

Join us as we celebrate children moving up to their new Sunday School classes! During the 10 a.m. worship service, we will:

- Present Bibles to our **2K children** as they move from the nursery into Sunday School.
- Present Bibles to our **first graders**.
- Recognize and present Bibles to our new **Sixth Grade Catechism and Confirmation Class** as they begin this important step in their faith journey.

We look forward to celebrating these milestones together as a church family!

Children's Ministry Family Directory

The Children's Ministry Team would like to create a Children's Ministry Family Directory through Realm to help our leaders, volunteers, and church family connect names with faces — especially for new families joining us!

We would love to have your most recent family photo. Please log in to Realm and upload your photo any time before August 23. Or — to make it a little easier — plan to stop by our Photo Booth upstairs in the Children's Pod on one of the following Sunday's before or after Sunday school: August 9, 16, and 23.

We'll have someone ready to guide you in a quick, friendly picture for you and FPC!

Please note, if you had your family photo taken for the most recent church directory, you do not need to have your photo retaken.

Thank you for helping us keep our ministry family connected and welcoming.

Should you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact Ms. Kaiti, kbryant@florencefirst.org.

Eternal treasures

Dear Church Family,

Recently, I have been seeing and hearing the verse Matthew 6:21, "For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also." As most of you know, when I see or hear something over and over, I believe it is the Lord trying to get my attention.

As I reflect on this scripture, I'm reminded of how deeply our hearts are connected to the things we value most. Jesus' words invite us to pause and consider: What are we truly treasuring, and how is it shaping our hearts — and the hearts of our children?

In a world that often measures worth by possessions, achievements, or appearances, this verse gently redirects our focus toward eternal treasures — faith, love, kindness, and the relationships God has entrusted to us. As parents, we have the incredible privilege of modeling what it is to store-up treasures in heaven, not just in our words, but in the way we live each day. When we choose to invest our time in listening to our children, our energy in serving others, and our resources in ways that honor God, we are teaching them that the most valuable things in life cannot be bought or taken away. These moments become seeds planted in their hearts. Seeds that will grow into a lifelong understanding of what truly matters.

As we begin a new church school year, I challenge you: to store-up treasures in heaven; to show your children the importance of being in relationship with God; to invest time; energy and resources on things that honor God; and to intentionally focus on your treasure and where your heart is.

Much love,
Kelly

Wednesday Night Children's Programs

We are so excited to kick off our Wednesday night programs for children, starting September 16! All children from 3K through fifth grade are invited to join us each week for age-appropriate learning, worship, and fun.

- 3K–5K: Exploring the Younger Kid Catechism and learning Books of the Bible in creative, hands-on ways.
- First–Third Grade: Children's Choir, where kids will learn songs that help them remember Bible verses and have opportunities to sing during worship throughout the year.
- Fourth–Fifth Grade: Diving deeper into Scripture through our exciting and interactive Bible Drill class.

WinShape Camp



WINSHAPE BY THE NUMBERS

At WinShape, camp is the place where friendships take root, Jesus and His Word are front and center, and the fun is nonstop. The week at Florence involved:

- 238** campers, including:
 - 23** foster children
 - 13** East Florence Mission
 - 11** Hispanic children from Cross Cultural Impact
- 42** congregations represented
- 7** salvations
- 60** volunteers
- 31** WinShape staff

Confirmation kicks off with lunch, retreat

Confirmation Lunch

11: 15 a.m. Sunday, August 9, Fellowship Hall

Our 2026–2027 Confirmands, their parents, and mentors are invited to join us for our Confirmation Kickoff Lunch on Sunday, August 9, immediately following Lemonade and Cookies in the Fellowship Hall.

Lunch will be provided as we introduce mentors and confirmands, review the year's schedule and expectations, and share what to expect as we begin this exciting journey of faith together.

Kickoff Retreat

August 14–16 at Camp Longridge

Confirmands are invited to join us for our annual Confirmation Kickoff Retreat at Camp Longridge on August 14–16! This fun-filled weekend is designed to help confirmands build relationships with one another and their mentors while beginning their Confirmation journey through worship, small groups, recreation, and meaningful conversations about faith. Cost is \$200.

Registration is now open. Use QR code or register on [Realm](#).



2026–2027 Sunday School Team & Classroom Locations

We're excited to return to individual grade-level classrooms this year! We are so thankful for the many volunteers who faithfully invest in the lives of our children each week. Below are this year's classrooms and teaching teams.

CLASS	ROOM	TEACHERS
2K	124C (Downstairs)	Ashley Bratton, Haley Jackson, Beth Brown
3K	119B (Downstairs)	Karen Jordan, Susan Snow
4K	119C (Downstairs)	Liz Andrews, Taylor Early, Mary Glenn Eldridge
Kindergarten (5K)	204A	Eliza Spencer, Emily Witt, Tiffany Straus, Emily Hyman
First Grade	204B	Ashton Pennstrom
Second Grade	204C	Connie Stewart, Bridgette Coates, Kitty Daniels, Mary Blanche Fowler
Third Grade	204D	Patricia Fast, Emily Jordan, Heather Page, Becka Tuttle
Fourth Grade	205	Jan Green, Leslie Broadie
Fifth Grade	211 (Upstairs – CLC)	Christina Jeffords, JoDee Etheridge, Karen McBride
Sixth Grade	212 (Upstairs – CLC)	Pat Tuttle, Brian Fast, Renda Barnes
Confirmation & Catechism		

Thank you to each of our incredible teachers for sharing their time, talents, and love for Christ with the children of First Presbyterian Church. We are looking forward to a wonderful year of learning and growing together!

Youth Summertime Adventures



Youth Wrap Up Summer Activities

July was a beautiful month! The youth enjoyed a prayer retreat in the mountains, spending time in God's word and learning how to be specific when talking to God. We floated down the Little Pee Dee River on canoes. A big thank you to Emily Whitehead and Hunter Morgan Jr. for helping lead those trips. We wrapped up our full and fun summer with a day at Shark Wake Park, brunch at Venus Pancake House and tie-dyed some T-shirts and socks. Our Bible Reading Club met a few times, and we look forward to continuing it in the fall.

Catherine Canfield and Penn Packard have done an excellent job as the summer interns. They both taught lessons for the junior high Bible study and shared their testimonies with the youth. We are so thankful they chose to serve at the church this summer.

UPCOMING EVENTS

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

August 5, 12, and 26

Food, raffles, games, and service projects! Dinner provided.

August 5: Open Gym

August 12: Celebrate the Interns

August 26: Curriculum Kick-Off!

Coffee at F.E. Pop's: 7 a.m. August 6, 13, 20, and 27

White Water Center: 8 a.m. – 8 p.m. August 1

We will travel to Charlotte to enjoy a day of rafting, rock climbing, ropes courses, zip-lining and more! Cost is \$75, plus money for two meals on the road. Bring a friend!

Back to School Pool Party: 2 to 5 p.m. August 16)

Meet us at The Frost's (Beaverdam Road) for swimming, games and snacks! Bring a friend!

Parent Meeting: 9 a.m. August 30

Please join us as we go over the schedule for September 2026 – August 2027. The Youth Ministry and Leadership Teams will be there, as well. Please bring your questions and concerns. Youth are welcome to join.





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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
COMMUNICATIONS DIRECTOR
PRAISE TEAM LEADER
MUSIC ASSISTANT
CONGREGATIONAL CARE ASSISTANT
CDC ASSISTANT DIRECTOR/NURSERY COORDINATOR
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
MS. KIMBERLY BRAUSS
MR. VIC ROCKHILL
MS. BETSY JOHNSON
REV. MIKE FLEENOR
MRS. SHURRIE MARKS
MS. SONYA HUNTER
MRS. EMILY REED
MR. LEROY WILLIAMS
MS. WANDA LASANE
MR. CRIS BAKER



Tiles for Tots

AN EVENING BENEFITING
First Presbyterian Church
Child Development Center
Supporting the children. Strengthening our community.



THURSDAY
AUGUST 27, 2026
6:00 – 8:00 PM



LAWSON-RAIN CHAPEL
First Presbyterian Church



BRING YOUR
2026 NATIONAL
MAHJONG
LEAGUE CARD



JOIN US FOR AN EVENING
OF MAHJONG, FELLOWSHIP,
FUN & SUPPORTING
OUR CHILDREN!



LIGHT SNACKS
& DRINKS
PROVIDED



FELLOWSHIP,
FUN & FRIENDLY
COMPETITION



DEADLINE TO REGISTER: AUGUST 20, 2026

TICKETS
\$30
PER PERSON
RESERVED TABLE
(4 PLAYERS)
\$110
PER TABLE

SCAN HERE
TO PAY



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Reserve your space!

Email kbrauss@florencefirst.org
to reserve your space.