

The REMINDER

OCTOBER 2026

Fall Festival

Elder and confirmand mentor Billy McBride gives Tripp Snow a lift to shoot a basket during the fall carnival as Tripp's mom, Mackenzie Snow, and confirmand Coleman Jeffords look on. The evening was full of fun with dinner, fellowship, inflatables, face painting, and games run by our confirmands and their mentors. For more photos, see page 15.

Living the Word

Dear Friends,

Thank you for the opportunity to serve the LORD through First Presbyterian Church the past nine years. I will be stepping away from the work as Congregational Care Assistant. I have been a pastor/preacher for almost 50 years. I have always felt called to preach and lead worship. Now that I have an opportunity to preach once a month, I will be giving more of my time to that.

I will still attend First Presbyterian Church when not preaching. I will continue teaching and volunteering at First Presbyterian Church. Please call on me if I can serve you in some way as I am able. God bless the ministry of First Presbyterian Church and each of you.

Mike



Above: In this file photo, Rev. Mike Fleenor teaches Children in Worship. Mike and Carol Fleenor moved to Florence to be close to family and joined the church in 2018. Since then Mike, a longtime pastor and preacher, has evaded full-time retirement. Then-Transitional Pastor Bill Cain recruited Mike to be the Congregational Care Assistant, and he has served faithfully. Mike now moves away from that role to take an opportunity to preach monthly.

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ON THE COVER: The fall carnival kicks off Wednesday nights new ministry season.



Experience of Faith

Dear Church Family,

I've heard about the Tabernacle since I started serving at our church. My thought was, it is bold, risky, even quixotic. Now, here we are, hosting a new iteration of the Tabernacle. This structure that has been buffeted by tornado and threatened by fire still stands, refurbished and ready to greet a new set of guests. Like me!

I thank all the volunteers who stepped up to "make it so." I thank Rocky and Carolyn Pearce for their steadfastness. And I thank you, as a church, for supporting a ministry that serves us, to be sure, but also serves the entire community. Together, we are inviting them into an experience of faith. I'm pretty sure that is what we are here for!

Sprat

SESSION *notes*

We had a joint meeting of Elders and Deacons to go over how we will take in-home communion to those who cannot come to the service. If you know of someone who would appreciate that, please let the office know by calling Emily Reed, 843-662-2583.

Afterward, we had our Session Meeting. That is when the entire Session learned that a Covenant Partner has decided to anonymously give \$250,000 to our church.

The news was greeted with a moment of stunned silence, then a time of prayer, and smiles around the table for the rest of our time together. We know there is more for all of us to do, but we also know that you have to stop now and again to simply acknowledge the God of grace. Praise the Lord!

Sprat



SAVE THE DATE

Guys, mark your calendar now ... no excuses! This is a weekend reserved for YOU. Give yourself permission to strengthen your faith, to build your support system, and to simply have FUN!

Our retreat theme will be A BAND OF BROTHERS. But you'll learn more about that later. Right now ... mark your calendar. You're worth it.



ECO posts Associate Pastor Position

Editor's note: Printed here are the pages of the Associate Pastor Nominating Committee documents, soliciting response by interested candidates for consideration for the position of Associate Pastor, approved by the Presby-

tery of South Carolina and posted online by ECO as of September 24. As we move into an expectant season of communications with potential candidates, please pray with us for steady guidance from God's Holy Spirit.

Thank you for your interest in First Presbyterian Church of Florence. We, the Associate Pastor Nominating Committee, love our church and our community, and look forward to welcoming an associate pastor who will encourage, collaborate, and inspire our growing body of covenant partners in Christ.

Associate Pastor

The Associate Pastor of First Presbyterian Church will serve as a vital member of the ministry staff with a focus on family ministry and adult spiritual formation, so that covenant partners are nurtured spiritually, connected in community and growing in Christ-likeness.

I. LEADERSHIP EXPECTATIONS

- Encourage a deep, growing spiritual and missional focus for our covenant partners.
- Participate in assessing, shaping, and implementing strategies and programs that align with our vision, mission, values, and goals.
- Participate in identifying and developing new servant leaders within the church.
- Collaborate to support creative, compelling, and inspiring worship services.
- When directed, assist in overseeing church staff to ensure they fulfill their job requirements.
- Model collegiality and discipleship among the staff.



II. POSITION DESCRIPTION

- Conduct weddings, funerals, and baptisms as needed or requested and provide the necessary pastoral care and counseling.
- Work closely with the Senior Pastor, Pastor of Visitation, and Deacons in performing the congregational care and visitation ministries of the church.
- In consultation with Session, serve in the ECO Presbytery as needed or requested, attend Presbytery meetings and National Gatherings, and participate in ECO national initiatives.



- Attend Session, pertinent committee and Pastor's meetings regularly.
- Oversee, in coordination with the Head of Staff, the church's service and missions ministries and serve on the Session's Missions Committee.
- Oversee, in coordination with the Head of Staff, the church's discipleship ministries and serve on the Session's Evangelism and Discipleship Committee.
- Serve as the pastoral liaison to the Deacons, working in close partnership with the Moderator.

III. POSITION QUALIFICATIONS

- The position is open to those already ordained by ECO or who are ready, willing and able to be ordained by ECO.
- A Master of Divinity is preferred but a master's degree in a relevant field will be considered.
- Three to five years of experience as a pastor is preferred but equivalent professional experience will be considered.

We invite interested applicants to send a résumé, a cover letter expressing your interest in this calling, and a statement of faith describing your personal faith journey and theological beliefs to apnc@florencefirst.org.



We are called to love God with our head, our heart, and our hands

VISION

A view of God's future for First Presbyterian Church-Florence

First Presbyterian Church-Florence will be a community of Christ Followers committed to being disciples and making disciples in the way of Jesus.

MISSION

The repeatable actions God calls us to do in order to fulfill the Vision

First Presbyterian Church-Florence is called to love God and people with our Head, our Heart, and our Hands.

LOVING *with* OUR HEAD

We are lifelong learners shaped by God's Word

To encourage lifelong learning, we have created a nurturing community with opportunities for spiritual growth for all ages and throughout all stages of life. Our structured programs provide settings for faith-filled connection and learning, whether through Bible drills, Catechism studies, and Bible study for grade-schoolers, or discussion groups, small groups, and retreats for young adults and for adults of all other ages. Offering a diverse range of study formats and meeting times addresses the needs for those interested in learning and engaging outside of Sunday worship.

LOVING *with* OUR HEART

We commit to loving God and loving people

In addition to the fellowship during our study times, we have dinner together on Wednesday nights. Our older members enjoy monthly fellowship, Keenagers, with lunch and an informational program, and a devotional. First Presbyterian has several seasonal churchwide events: Reformation Sunday and a meal, a Fall festival, a Spring/Easter program, and various Christmas events, including caroling to our homebound community.

During the fall, winter, and spring, there are two Sunday worship services. The 9 a.m. service is a contemporary worship with a Praise Team, and at 11 a.m. there is a traditional service with the Chancel Choir and often accompanists. We look forward to consolidating to one service during the summer so that everyone is together, alternating worship styles each Sunday, and following worship with fellowship over lemonade and cookies. Generally, worship attendance includes more than 300 people.



LOVING *with* OUR HANDS

We use our God-given gifts to serve others

We are fortunate to have a beautiful campus and facilities to which we welcome many community ministries. During the week, our [Child Development Center](#) includes 70 children along with 29 staff members in our facility to help with preschool childcare needs in the community. Welcoming new covenant partner families through the CDC the past 7 years is a testament to how our ministry is expanding and is embracing others.

Both as a congregation and individually, covenant partners help financially and voluntarily to give support to a multitude of local and global missions. Having birthed a few local ministries such as House of Hope, Mercy Medicine, and Lighthouse Ministries, we also host their meetings and events on campus. One of those events includes the [WinShape Camps for Communities](#) each July in partnership with [Helping Florence Flourish](#). We share the love and hope that Christ gives to help combat hunger, homelessness, and grief, and we offer friendship.

RECENT HISTORY

As First Presbyterian-Florence has existed for more than 160 years, we continue to be a growing church that is an important part of our community. We have been able to add to our facilities, which now include a gymnasium, the Child Development Center, complete handicapped accessibility, and a recently renovated sanctuary and Welcome Center. In 2012, we joined ECO.

Our church facility is rooted in the heart of the city of Florence, South Carolina, a growing center at the intersections of I-20 and I-95, in a region known as the Pee Dee. Growth continues in downtown redevelopment, arts, education, and medical facilities. Florence is centrally located with easy access to Charleston, the Grand Strand beaches, and the mountains.

[City of Florence: cityofflorence.com](http://CityofFlorence.com)

[Greater Florence Chamber of Commerce: florencechamber.com](http://GreaterFlorenceChamberofCommerce.com)

[Florence School District 1: fls.org](http://FlorenceSchoolDistrict1.org)

This document was finalized by the Associate Pastor Nominating Committee on August 26, 2026, and was approved by the Ministry Partnership Team for the ECO Presbytery of South Carolina on September 24, 2026.



Remembering God's Faithfulness

Facts & Figures

September was an amazing month! After a challenging time when our weekly giving consistently fell behind the amount needed to fund our ministries, the church was experiencing a deficit of \$250,000 in giving over expenses at the end of August. Our covenant partners were made aware of the need and responded! One of our covenant partners stepped forward with a very generous donation that significantly reduced our deficit.

We give thanks to God for this blessing!

With that said, there is still a need for *everyone* to do their part in support of the ongoing ministry and mission of First Presbyterian Church. We are still experiencing a deficit, but this number is in line with what we expect to see coming out of the summer and heading into the fall. Traditionally, contributions in the final three months of the year are very strong. My encouragement is that we continue what started in September and finish strong. The chart below shows a snapshot of our collective giving for the first nine months of 2026.

2026 Ministry Action Plan Summary

Pledge Gifts Received	\$944,648.00
Non-Pledge Gifts Received	\$544,010.00
Miscellaneous Income	\$46,055.00
Total 2026 Ministry Action Plan Receipt	\$1,546,252.00
Average Weekly Need	\$38,424.00
Weekly Average (as of 9/29/26)	\$39,647.00
YTD Surplus (Deficit)	(\$19,562.00)

Stewardship Season

October and November are the months that our staff and leadership begin the planning process for the coming year. It is also the time that we emphasize stewardship and generosity regarding our annual Ministry Action Plan. We began using the term **Ministry Action Plan** several years ago because it indicates that there are ministries we want to do and feel that God is calling us to do. So, we “plan” to do them. This year, those plans include calling an Associate Pastor to come serve with us.

The Ministry Action Plan includes support to our missionaries as well as various local agencies.

These ministries have costs associated and the church relies on the generosity of our covenant partners, to provide the necessary resources to fund them. As we move into our Stewardship Season, please begin to prepare your hearts and minds as to how you will respond to God's faithfulness and blessings. Tithing **provides a regular reminder of your dependence on God**. In times of prosperity, tithing helps you remember that God is the source of all blessings, and it allows you to demonstrate your gratitude for His care. In difficult times, tithing can motivate you to remember God's faithfulness, and it enables you to demonstrate trust in God to provide for all of your needs.

FPC Keenagers

Our Keenagers kickoff the 2026-27 season with an Oktoberfest themed lunch on Tuesday, October 6. Since this is our first meeting, we've got some plans to help us get to know one another. I am excited to be working with our leadership team (Alice Caldwell, Dottie Hail, Emily McLean, Fred Kunz, Genia Tyson, Jill McQuillan, Lee Nunn, Linda Westbrook, and Mary Lynn van Witzenburg). We've got some great things planned for this year and also want to hear from you.

Our Keenagers meet at noon on the first Tuesday of the month (October–May) and is open to adults 55 and older.





Church News

Keenagers to start monthly luncheons

Keenagers will kick off with Octoberfest at noon October 6 in the Fellowship Hall. Program will be a meet and greet, where you will have a chance to identify pictures of the coordinating team. Meal will be German charcuterie board, German-style meatballs, German potato salad, braised red cabbage, green beans, apple kuchen, and Black Forest brownies. Covenant partners 55 and older are welcome to join the fellowship. Cost for lunch is \$7.

Blood drive to be held October 13

First Presbyterian will host a Red Cross blood drive from 12:30 to 5 p.m. Tuesday, October 13, in the fellowship hall. Please help us reach our goal in support of Helping Florence Flourish's ServeFLO.

Staff Recognitions



Ann Rodgers Chandler



Wanda Lasane

First Presbyterian is fortunate to have a talented and dedicated church staff. This month, we recognize two of our staff on their employment anniversaries. Ann Rodgers Chandler is our Director of Music and organist. Ann Rodgers joined the staff of First Presbyterian Church in October 1998. Wanda Lasane is on our custodial staff. Wanda joined our staff in October 2002.

Thank you, Ann Rodgers and Wanda, we are grateful for your respective contributions to the ministry of First Presbyterian Church.

College & Career Sunday School Class

We are excited to announce the College & Career Sunday School Class for adults 18 to 30 years old. Please join us at 10 a.m. September 13 in the Lounge as we study the book of Proverbs.

Women ^{IN} Ministry

WOMEN'S CIRCLES

Women in Ministry invites all women in the church to find a group that fits their schedule and commit to meeting regularly throughout the year. All circles regularly gather the second full week of each month. This month, a couple circles changed meeting times because of the Florence 1 fall break.

Salty Sunday Sisters

Meeting: 12:30 p.m. Sunday,
Oct. 4, off campus

Chairwoman: Alexis Morris

Women of Grace

Meeting: 6:30 p.m. Monday,
Oct. 12, off campus

Chairwoman: Betsey Moore

Bible Moderator: Charissa Canfield

Joyful Hearts

Meeting: 10 a.m. Tuesday, Oct. 13
Room 100

Chairwomen: Alice Caldwell and
Nancy Thompson

Bible Moderator: Betsy Olsen

Soul Sisters

Meeting: Noon Tuesday, Oct. 13,
Price Classroom

Chairwoman: Carolyn Holland

Bible Moderator: Patti Hubbs

Serenity

Meeting: 3 p.m. Tuesday, Oct. 13,
Lawson-Rain Chapel

Chairwomen: Linda Smiley and
Melanie Neal

Bible Moderator: Tabatha Davis

Prayer Warriors

Meeting: 6 p.m. Wednesday,
Oct. 14, Women's Only Class

Chairwoman: Amy Williams

Wednesday Night Women

Meeting: 6 p.m. Wednesday, Oct. 7,
church parlor

Chairwoman: Laura Marechal

Moderator: Emily Whitehead

Disciples

Meeting: Noon Thursday, Oct. 22,
off campus

Chairwoman: Janet Brand

Moderator: Kimberly Packard

Bread and Fish

Meeting: 9 a.m. Saturday, Oct. 10,
Room 100

Chairwoman: Peggy Swearingen



Lord, Hear Our Prayer

MAY GOD BE GRACIOUS TO US AND BLESS US AND MAKE HIS FACE SHINE UPON US. PSALM 67:1



SYMPATHY

Mary Ann Nash, loss of sister Lynnette Dunaye
Henry Rose, loss of cousin Virginia Rose
Whittington

SICK & RECOVERING

Berta Allen
Aubrey Crawford
Evans Holland
Mary Kirkpatrick
Dave and Linda Lawson
Linda Smiley
Ginger Sullivan
Ronnie Welch

EXTENDED CARE

Bethea

Margaret Baroody

North Carolina

Ginger Owen

Lowman Home

Mac King

Presbyterian Community

Nell Oliver

The Manor

Betty Bell
Joyce Floyd

HOUSEHOLDS

Flock 1: John and Ashton Pennstrom, Anna Lee,
Ella Kate, Charlotte, and Meredith
Flock 2: Brittany Tanner
Flock 3: Denise and Mac King
Flock 4: Nancy Harwell
Flock 5: Stuart and Susan Snow
Flock 6: Brandon and Brittany Matthews, Brady,
Bennett, and Blake
Flock 7: Landis and Hannah Lane, Eleanor,
Wallace and Alden
Flock 8: Margaret Baroody

STAFF

Cris Baker
Leroy Williams

MEMORIALS

Bob McLean

MILITARY DEPLOYMENT

Jon Carroll

ELDERS

Johnny Stoupenos
Richie Wilhoit

DEACONS

Henry Rose
Rhett Spencer

MISSIONS

Helping Florence Flourish, ServeFLO
Empower Believers Connections, Chandan Sah

WOMEN IN MINISTRY

Carolyn Holland
Patti Hubbs

TEACHERS

Liz Andrews
Taylor Early

CDC STAFF

Mrs. Jennifer
Ms. Sarah
Mrs. Kelly A.

FLOWERS IN THE SANCTUARY

October 4: Communion
October 11: Lisa Dozier
October 18: Ann Spearman
October 25: Hunter Burch

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

October BIRTHDAYS

OCTOBER 1

Margaret Mimms
Tiffany Straus

OCTOBER 2

Sarah Dozier
Thatcher Jordan

OCTOBER 3

Theresa Garris
James Whitehead

OCTOBER 4

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

OCTOBER 5

Shand Josey
Stan Lehmans

OCTOBER 6

Ellie Blankenship
Ralph Bratcher
Lane Dowdell
John Early
Hugh Ervin

OCTOBER 7

Lana Lehmans
Alex Lewis
Will Lewis
Billy Patrick

OCTOBER 8

Reames Evans
Bruce Hubbs

OCTOBER 9

John Etheridge
Oliver Page
Barb Rosenlund
Charlotte Tuttle

OCTOBER 10

Nancy Collins
Patricia Fast

OCTOBER 11

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

OCTOBER 12

Bryon Frost
Barbara Green
Carson Harwell

OCTOBER 13

Grace Bostwick
Vica Fuller
Lydia King
Michael Pullmann

OCTOBER 14

Ford Campbell
Justin Green
Danny Jones
Lucas Morgan
Nancy Poston

OCTOBER 15

Jan Bays
Carey Hindman
Pat Tuttle

OCTOBER 16

John Hofler
Henry Rose

OCTOBER 17

Mary Harper Armstrong
Jim Berton

OCTOBER 18

Christy Douglas
David Frost
Anna Grace Hubbs
Bailey Hylton
Charley Hylton

OCTOBER 19

Eleanor Lane
McLean Ryan
Alison Thompson
Cooper Wallace

OCTOBER 22

James Genoble
Richard Granger
Elizabeth Lee
Sarah Wheeler

OCTOBER 23

Yong Shin

OCTOBER 24

John Harrell
Kelly Hickey

OCTOBER 25

Laura Berton
Quincy Kennedy
Zane Morris
John Pennstrom
Mona Zakhour

OCTOBER 26

Jay McLaurin

OCTOBER 27

Jim Bertram
Jeannie Brodie
Caleb King
Richard Shurman
Stephen Thompson

OCTOBER 28

Julie Thomas

OCTOBER 29

Jayne Boswell

OCTOBER 30

Evan Hanna
Teresa James
Gray Warner

OCTOBER 31

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

SUNDAY

MONDAY

TUESDAY

WEDNESDAY

			
4 Communion Sunday Contemporary Service, 9 a.m. Sunday School, 10 a.m. Traditional Service, 11 a.m. The Tabernacle Experience, 12:30 p.m. WiM Salty Sisters, 12:30 p.m. Youth: Small Groups, 5 p.m.	5 Worship Team, 5 p.m. 	6 Keenagers, noon JFH	7 Wednesday Dinner, 5:30 p.m. Youth Group, 5:30 p.m. Educational classes, 6:15 p.m. WiM Wednesday Night Women, 6 p.m.
11 Contemporary Service, 9 a.m. Sunday School, 10 a.m. Traditional Service, 11 a.m. Youth: Wheeldateens! 5 p.m.	12 Enabling Team, 5:30 p.m. WiM Women of Grace, 6:30 p.m. off campus	13 InterVarsity retreat, 8:30 a.m. WiM Joyful Hearts, 10 a.m. Room 100 WiM Soul Sisters, noon Price classroom Red Cross Blood Drive, 12:30 p.m. JFH WiM Serenity, 3 p.m. LR Helping Hands Meeting, 5 p.m.	14 Veterans Brunch, 8 a.m. Missions Team, 12:15 p.m. WiM Prayer Warriors, 6 p.m. Chancel Choir Rehearsal, 7:30 p.m. (No dinner or classes)
18 Contemporary Service, 9 a.m. Sunday School, 10 a.m. Traditional Service, 11 a.m. Children's Ministry Meeting, noon WOC Youth: Small Groups, 5 p.m.	19 College and Youth Team Meeting, 4:30 p.m. WOC Girl Scouts, 4:30 p.m.	20 Church Staff Retreat, 9 a.m. Diaconate Meeting, 6 p.m.	21 Wednesday Dinner, 5:30 p.m. Youth Group, 5:30 p.m. Educational classes, 6:15 p.m. Chancel Choir Rehearsal, 7:30 p.m.
25 Reformation Sunday Worship Service, 10 a.m. Congregational Lunch, 11 a.m. (after worship) Youth: Paintball, 12:30 p.m.	26 	27 Session, 6:30 p.m.	28 Men's Ministry Lunch, noon Wednesday Dinner, 5:30 p.m. Trunk or Treat, 6 p.m. Chancel Choir Rehearsal, 7:30 p.m.

THURSDAY

FRIDAY

SATURDAY

1

Youth: F.E. Pop's, 7 a.m.
The Tabernacle Experience,
4 p.m.

2

The Tabernacle Experience,
4 p.m.

3

The Tabernacle Experience,
9 a.m.



WEEKLY

SUNDAYS

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

MONDAYS

- CDC Chapel, 9:30 a.m.
- Prayer Group, 2:30 p.m.
- Selah Yoga, 5:30 p.m.
- Boy Scouts, 7 p.m.
- Men's Bible Study, 7 p.m.

TUESDAYS

- Staff meeting, 10 a.m.
- Just for Women Bible Study, 11 a.m.

WEDNESDAYS

- Youth Group, 5:30 p.m.
- Wednesday dinner, 5:30 p.m.
- Wednesday programs, 6 p.m.
- Chancel Choir Rehearsal, 7:30 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.

WEDNESDAY NIGHT DINNERS

October 7: German ham and noodle
casserole, green beans, salad,
pretzel rolls

October 14: No dinner, classes

October 21: Pancakes, fruit, and bacon

October 28: Trunk or Treat, burgers,
hotdogs, baked beans, slaw, salad

8

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



9

10

Parking Lot Mission, 6 a.m.
WiM Bread & Fish, 9 a.m.
Women's Only Classroom

15



16

CDC closed



17



22

Youth: F.E. Pop's, 7 a.m.
WiM Disciples, noon
CDC Spaghetti Dinner
fundraiser, 4:30-6 p.m.

23



24

29

30

CDC trick or treat, 10 a.m.

31

Halloween



Living in the Ordinary

Dear Church Family,

I recently have had the privilege of teaching our Faith in Motion Sunday School class. One of our conversations has really stuck with me. As parents, we are all trying to find that balance between work, school, homework, sports, activities, church, and simply having enough time to breathe! In the middle of all of that, it can be easy to wonder whether we are doing enough to help our children grow in their faith. But I was reminded, sometimes it isn't about adding another thing to our schedule, it's about being intentional with the moments we already have. Our children are watching us. They are learning how we respond when we are frustrated, how we love others, how we pray, how we handle hard days, and whether we make room for God in our everyday lives. Over the next month, I would like to encourage you to

sit around the dinner table a little longer. Put the phones down and talk. Ask your child about their day and really listen. Pray together in the car. Tell them what God is teaching you. Let them see you choose kindness, forgiveness, patience, and faith.

Deuteronomy 6 reminds us that we are to talk about God as we go about our everyday lives. Those ordinary moments may be some of the most important moments we ever have. Our children don't need perfect parents — they need parents who are present and who let their faith be seen.

Always remember faith is caught as much as it is taught. What our children see in us may be what they remember long after they forget what we told them.

Much love,
Kelly



Living Nativity

Join us for this year's Living Nativity on Tuesday, December 8, and Wednesday, December 9. The story of Christ's birth will be brought to life by our 6th graders, with the angel choir made up of children in 3K–5th grade.

REHEARSAL SCHEDULE

Sixth grade and parents meeting
Sixth grade only Cast Rehearsal
Sixth grade only Cast Rehearsal
No Rehearsal
Rehearsal for Angel Choir and Cast
Dress Rehearsal for Angel Choir and Cast

Sunday, November 1, noon Lawson-Rain Chapel
Sunday, November 8, 1 to 2 p.m.
Sunday, November 15, 1 to 2 p.m.
Sunday, November 22
Sunday, November 29, 1 to 2 p.m.
Sunday, December 6, 4:30 to 5:30 p.m.

Meet at 6 p.m. on Tuesday, December 8, and Wednesday, December 9, in the Fellowship Hall before both reenactments.

We hope everyone will participate. Should you have any questions or need additional information, please contact Kaiti Bryant, kbryant@florencefirst.org or 843-662-2583.

Carnival fun



There was fun for all ages on September 9 as the Wednesday Night ministry launched another season with the annual fall carnival. Our confirmands and their mentors ran the games and food stations for the church community.



Fall favorite upon us

Dear Church Family,
September always feels like the month when the rhythm of a new ministry year really begins to settle in. Sunday School classrooms are full again, our Wednesday Night Children's Program is underway, and throughout the week our church is filled with children learning, laughing, singing, asking questions, and growing together in their faith.

One of my favorite things about this time of year is seeing how quickly these spaces begin to feel like little communities of their own. Children learn their teachers' names, friendships grow, routines become familiar, and week by week they are surrounded by adults who are showing them that they are known, loved, and an important part of their church family. And none of that happens by accident.

It happens because so many people choose to show up for our children — teaching a Sunday School lesson, helping on a Wednesday night, leading Children in Worship, serving behind the scenes, or simply taking the time to learn a child's name and make them feel welcome.

As we head into October, we have even more opportunities to come together, including one of our favorite nights of the year, **Trunk or Treat!** My hope is that in all the fun, candy, and costumes, the children who walk onto our campus — and the families who come with them — experience what I hope our own children experience every week: **this is a place where they are welcomed, cared for, and loved.**

Thank you for continuing to make First Presbyterian a place where our children can know they belong and, most importantly, can grow to know the love of Christ.

In Christ's love,
Kaiti Bryant

First Presbyterian's **TRUNK OR TREAT**

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 28

5:30 TO 7:15 PM

*Come join our church family and community for an evening
of food, candy, fun, and fellowship*

**5:30 PM – DINNER IN THE CLC
6 PM – TRUNK OR TREAT BEGINS***

*For everyone's safety, the Trunk or Treat parking area by the church offices will be closed off until it officially opens at 6 p.m.

HOST A TRUNK!

Help us reach our goal of **30** trunks this year!
Decorate a trunk and help us welcome the
many children and families.

Trunk Sign Up QR Code:

Or email Kaiti with your trunk theme
& number of parking spaces needed.



CANDY! CANDY!

Help us keep all 30 trunks stocked by donating candy.
Bins for donations are located in the Narthex on Sundays,
CLC on Wednesdays, and the church office during the
week. Thank you for helping make Trunk or Treat a fun
and welcoming night for all!



Scouting Ministry: Night at the Ballpark



Scouts participated in Scout Night at the Columbia Fireflies baseball game and campout in the outfield after the game. Kids ran the bases, watched a Harry Potter drone show, and everyone watched the movie Sandlot with popcorn and sodas as they camped out in the outfield.

Parents of boys in grades 6-12 interested in our scouting ministry should contact Scoutmaster Luke Scott at 843-621-3203 or visit a Monday night Scout meeting in the Scout meeting room from 7 to 8 p.m.




American Red Cross

**SHARE A
SLICE OF LIFE.**

Give blood.



Blood Drive **First Presbyterian Church**

Fellowship Hall
700 Park Ave
Florence, SC 29501

Tuesday, October 13, 2026
12:30 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.



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**Fall into the habit of donating! Get a \$15 e-gift card
when you come to give blood Sept. 21-Oct. 18.**



Scan to schedule
an appointment.



Learning through painting, play

September was such a sweet month in our preschool! Our little ones were busy learning all about themselves and the amazing bodies God created, drawing self-portraits, practicing letters, colors and numbers, and building those important fine- and gross-motor skills. We've made memories through Grandparents' Day, Picture Day, painting, play, and growing new friendships. Most of all, it has been a joy to watch their little personalities shine and see how much they are learning and growing each day. Thank you, church family, for loving and supporting our children and preschool ministry. It truly means so much!





MEET THE CDC TEAM



MS. OLIVIA HANNA

Ms. Olivia is our beautiful, fun-loving, fashion-flowing, energetic, child at heart, devoted 3K assistant. She joined our team in June. She is a native of Guatemala. She enjoys shopping, traveling, trying new things and enjoys going to the gym. What Olivia likes most about working at the CDC is building relationships with the children and watching them learn and grow alongside an amazing team.

HER FAVORITES

COLOR: Pink
FLOWER: Roses
PLACE: The beach
SEASON: Summer
FOOD: Surf and Turf





FIRST PRESBYTERIAN
**CHILD DEVELOPMENT
CENTER**

**\$10
each**

Spaghetti Dinner

FUNDRAISER

Provided by
Stefano's

 **THURSDAY,
OCTOBER 22, 2026
4:30 – 6:00 PM**

 **First Presbyterian Church
700 Park Avenue
Florence, SC 29501**

Tickets are available
in the CDC Office.
Please see
Kelly Hickey.

Meal Includes:
Spaghetti • Salad • Bread • Dessert

TAKE OUT ONLY
CURBSIDE SERVICE AVAILABLE



100% of the proceeds benefit
First Presbyterian Child Development Center.



Inaugural Monthly

MEN'S LUNCHEON



**NOON WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 28
JENKINS FELLOWSHIP HALL**

 Featuring inspiring guest speaker Rainey Josey 



Please join us to kick off a men's new monthly luncheon series.
Lunch will be provided at a cost of \$5.
RSVP not required but preferred to help us get a head count.
RSVP using QR code or by calling the church office, 843-662-2583.

QUESTIONS? CONTACT
TRAVIS BLAYTON,
JASON COKER, OR CHRIS
SCOTT
(USE QR CODE TO
OBTAIN CONTACT INFO)



Join the MUSIC MINISTRY



USE YOUR GIFTS. WORSHIP TOGETHER.

Musically gifted? Be part of the ministry that lifts up, encourages, and leads the body of Christ through song in worship.

If you're interested in joining the music ministry, please call Ann Rodgers Chandler, Director of Music, at the church office, 843-662-2583, or email achandler@flor-encefirst.org, or Praise Team Leader Vic Rockhill at vicrockhill@gmail.com.

Rehearsal times listed below:

Tuesdays

1:30 p.m. Ladies' Ensemble

Wednesdays

5 p.m. Chancel Handbell Choir

6:15 p.m. Children's Choir

7:30 p.m. Chancel Choir

Praise Team: Schedule to be determined.

Congregation approves new slate of officers

During the Congregational Meeting on September 27, covenant partners elected church officers for the class of 2029. Elders elected were Jim Dameron, Brian Fast, Karen Jordan, and Alexis Morris. Deacons elected were

Chris Alexander, Ashley Bratton, Taylor Early, Gail Gallagher, Emily Jordan, Peggy Moore, Tara Newton, and Emily Witt. Officers will be installed and ordained in January.



Reformation Sunday
Sunday, October 25
Celebrating the tradition that grounds our faith
Celebration begins at 10 a.m. Sunday
with the Kirkin' o' the Tartans.
Church lunch follows.
Tartan pick up at 9:30 a.m. in fellowship hall
for tartan donors and families who would like
to process for the worship service.

The poster features a central illustration of a man in historical attire, likely a Reformation figure, within an ornate frame. The background is a textured, parchment-like surface with faint architectural details.



OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD

Help make holidays brighter

Pack a Box. Share a Smile. Spread His Love!

Let's come together this Christmas season to bless children around the world through Operation Christmas Child! Fill a simple shoebox with fun toys, school supplies, personal care items, and special surprises that will bring joy to a child and share the love of Jesus.

Every shoebox is more than a gift — it's an opportunity to show a child they are loved, remembered, and prayed for.

Let's make this Christmas a little brighter for children around the world!

Please stop by the display table in the Welcome Center to pick up information about the shoeboxes.

This is a wonderful mission project for Sunday school classes, circles, Bible studies, and families

All packed shoeboxes MUST be returned to the church by Thursday, November 12.

Please contact Kelly Hickey at 843-662-2583 or email her at khickey@florencefirst.org for more information.



PACK A BOX

Fill shoeboxes to bless children. Check out the display in the Welcome Center. Deadline: November 12.



Students connecting with fall activities

September flew by! The youth have been enjoying youth group, small groups, and morning coffee at F.E. Pop's. We had our annual Messy Games at St. John's and participated in The Tabernacle. A big thank you to Paige Alexander, Charissa Canfield, Rob Hall, Brian Fast, Thomas Davis, and Amelia Whitehead for helping lead Wednesday nights and small groups this semester. The students are really connecting with the leaders and the curriculum. We're studying Ephesians and Philippians, learning about Paul's missionary work and spreading the Gospel while in prison. We are looking forward to a fun fall. We will be busy pumpkin carving, helping with trunk or treat, playing paintball, spending the day at Carowinds, and creating items for the upcoming holiday market.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Coffee at F.E. Pop's (October 1, 8, 22, and 29) 7 a.m.

Sunday School (October 4, 11 and 18) 10 a.m.
Light breakfast served.

Small Groups (October 4 and 18) 5–7 p.m.
Dinner provided.

Wednesday Night Youth Group (October 7, 21, and 28)
5:30 – 7:15 p.m.
Lessons, raffles, and games! \$7 dinner provided by the church.
October 21: *PUMPKIN CARVING and COSTUME CONTEST*
October 28: *TRUNK OR TREAT* Youth participate.



Wheeldateens! (October 11) 5–7 p.m.
Come ride bikes with us! Water and snacks provided.
Bring a friend!

Paintball (October 25) 12:30–6 p.m.
We will meet at the church and go to Pee Dee Paintball in Timmonsville. Cost is \$45. Snacks and water provided. Bring a friend!
Please sign up and pay by Wednesday, October 21.

Carowinds (over fall break) 8 a.m.–8 p.m.
Join us as we spend the day riding roller coasters, playing games, and eating the best pretzels in the world! Cost is \$45 for the ticket. Youth will need to bring money for two meals on the road.
Please sign up and pay by Wednesday, October 7.

Save the Date: Fall Retreat, November 13-15, in Montreat, N.C.



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
COMMUNICATIONS DIRECTOR
PRAISE TEAM LEADER
MUSIC ASSISTANT
CDC ASSISTANT DIRECTOR/NURSERY COORDINATOR
FINANCIAL ASSISTANT
MINISTRY ASSISTANT
LEAD CUSTODIAN
HOUSEKEEPING
CUSTODIAN

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

MARTIN LUTHER & JOHN CALVIN Reformation Tour 2027

with leaders Dr. Stuart Bond, and Dr. and Mrs. Barry Jenkins



CHURCH OF ST. SEVERIN



LA PETITE FRANCE, STRASBOURG



BERLIN

Thirteen-day tour will be led by current and former pastors of First Presbyterian Church
September 2027 • Register at www.faithbasedexpeditions.com



SCAN FOR BROCHURE