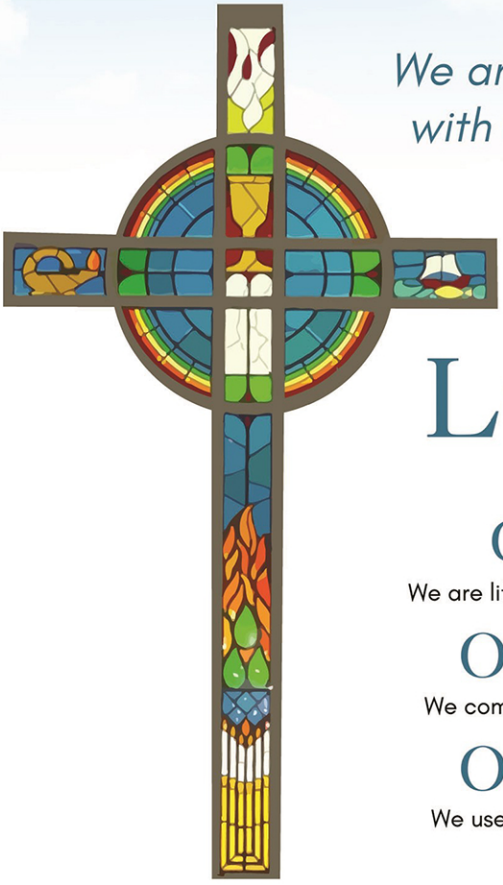
First Presbyterian

FLORENCE ✦ SOUTH CAROLINA

11 a.m. November 15, 2026



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

LOVING *with*

OUR HEAD

We are lifelong learners shaped by God's Word

OUR HEART

We commit to loving God and loving people

OUR HANDS

We use our God-given gifts to serve others

700 Park Avenue ✦ Florence, SC 29501

843.662.2583 ✦ 843.662.1726 Fax

www.florencefirst.org

Enter Reverently. Meditate Quietly. Worship Devoutly.
Leave Gracefully. Serve Christ Faithfully.

Order of Worship

PRELUDE
To God Be the Glory — arr. Tim Doran

GREETINGS

MOMENT FOR MISSION — Jill Cain and Sergio Handal, Jeffrey D. Sutherland Project

INTROIT
Come, Thou Almighty King — ITALIAN HYMN, Felice de Giardini, arr. Dan Bird

Come, Thou Almighty King, Help us Thy name to sing, Help us to praise:
Father all glorious, Over all victorious, Come reign over us, Ancient of Days.
Anonymous

CALL TO WORSHIP

***HYMN OF PRAISE** — No. 21
This Is My Father's World — TERRA BEATA

***AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**
The Apostles' Creed — front of hymnal

***THE GLORIA PATRI**
Glory Be to the Father — GREATOREX, Henry W. Greatorex

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost; as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen, Amen.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION
O God, **when we imagine ourselves, we are faithful to You. And yet, when we actually see ourselves, we are prone to being adrift from how You invite us to live. Forgive us, Lord, for that gap. By Your Spirit, reshape us into people that are becoming more faithful every week, every month, and every year.** (Time of silent prayer and confession.) In Jesus' name, **Amen.**

ASSURANCE OF PARDON
Leader: The psalmist writes, For as high as the heavens are above the earth ...
All: **so great is his love for those who fear him.**
Leader: As far as the East is from the West ...
All: **So far has he removed our transgressions from us.** (Psalm 103:11-12)

ANTHEM
Create in Me a Clean Heart — J. A. Freylinghausen, 1670-1739, arr. Paul Christiansen

Send forth thy light and thy love, O Lord. Fill my heart with thy Holy Spirit.
Lead me, lead me into thy presence and teach me to love thy ways, O Jesus.
Restore unto me the joy of thy salvation, and uphold me with thy free Spirit.
Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me.
Cast me not away from thy presence and take not thy Holy Spirit from me.
Restore unto me the joy of thy salvation, and uphold me with thy free Spirit.
Psalm 43:3, Psalm 51:9, 10

MESSAGE FOR YOUNG DISCIPLES Kaiti Bryant

Children in 3K-first grade are invited to go with a worship caregiver to attend *Children in Worship*. Children who attend *Children in Worship* must check in prior to dismissal from worship by using the QR code. Parents, please pick up your children at *Children in Worship* at the end of the service.

MUSICAL MEDITATION

Holy is the Lord HOLY IS THE LORD
Franz Schubert

Holy, holy, holy, holy is the Lord.
Holy is the Father, holy is the Son, holy is the Spirit: blessed Three in One.
Isaiah 6:3

PRAYER FOR GOD'S PEOPLE Elder David Spivey

MOMENT FOR STEWARDSHIP

PRESENTATION OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS

Tell Me the Story of Jesus arr. Mary McDonald

*The Doxology OLD HUNDREDTH

Praise God from whom all blessings flow; Praise Him, all creatures here below;
Praise Him above, ye heavenly host: Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

SERMON Dr. Stuart Bond

An Open Letter to Anonymous
Acts 20:33-35
(Pew Bible pages 1101-1102)

***HYMN OF RESPONSE** No. 466
Take My Life and Let It Be HENDON

***BENEDICTION**

***CHORAL RESPONSE**

Amen Danish melody

Amen. Amen. Amen.

***POSTLUDE**

Joy and Thanksgiving arr. Louise Stairs

This morning's worship is led by
Dr. Stuart Bond, Senior Pastor
David Spivey, Elder
Kaiti Bryant, Program Director for Children's Ministry
The Chancel Choir
Evelyn Childers, organ
Dr. Curt Boswell, director

*Congregation is invited to stand if able.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The flowers today are given in loving memory of Robert Glenn Bell Jr. by his children, Dorothy and Glenn, his grandchildren, and his great-grandchildren.

Welcome guests! If you're visiting us for the first time this morning, we would like to give you a small gift. As you leave the sanctuary, deacons (with name tags on) will have a Jesus Calling book ready for you. We are glad you're with us.

Lord, Hear Our Prayer. Those in need of prayer include Berta Allen; Aubrey Crawford; Evans Holland; Mary Kirkpatrick; Dave and Linda Lawson; Mary Ann Nash; Ginger Owen; Lyllian Scott; Linda Smiley; Ginger Sullivan; and Ronnie Welch.

November is our Stewardship Emphasis month. "Your Gift Counts" is the theme, and we will be looking at how God calls each of us to give, as we are able, to support the ministry and mission of First Presbyterian Church. Giving is an act of worship and discipleship and involves giving our time, talent and treasure. Commitment Sunday will be November 22, when we will collect commitment cards for 2027. Please give prayerful consideration to how God would have you give to support and expand the ministries of First Presbyterian in 2027. As our giving increases, so do the ministries of our church. Thank you for your continued support of the ministry and mission of our church.

Stay Connected in Prayer! Sign up to receive occasional Associate Pastor Nominating Committee updates and weekly prayer reminders by text message. Text **START** to 864-514-8431 and stay connected with our church community.

Wednesday Night: Dinner begins at 5:30 p.m. Dinner this week is tacos, Mexican corn, salad, and cookies. Educational programming begins at 6 p.m. for children and 6:15 p.m. for adults. Youth Group begins at 5:30 p.m.

Holiday Market: Youth have made creative and fun gifts for Christmas this year. Their first open market will be held from 5 to 6:15 p.m. Wednesday in the CLC. The market also will be available after the 9 and 11 a.m. services on December 6, 13, and 20. Proceeds from the market help offset the cost of big summer trips.

Calling all Men of the Church, please join us at noon Wednesday, November 25, in the Fellowship Hall for the monthly "Hey Buddy," a Men's Fellowship Group luncheon. Lunch (fried turkey for sandwiches) will be provided at a cost of $5 to be paid at the door, and our guest speakers will be Jon Weiss Jr. and a few other gentlemen from the House of Hope. RSVP is not required but requested. Men are welcome to bring family members in town for the holiday. If you have any questions, contact: Travis Blayton, 803-360-3796; Jason Coker, 843-260-4786; or Chris Scott, 803-606-2500.

Hanging of the Greens: Women in Ministry members will decorate the church from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. Monday, November 30, and 9 to 10 a.m. Tuesday, December 1. Volunteers are needed and welcomed! For more information, contact Ashton Pennstrom, ashtonpennstrom@gmail.com.



CHURCH BUS CHALLENGE UPDATE

*After Dr. Stuart Bond's beginning pledge, our covenant partners accepted the challenge and have raised **$87,200** of the $95,000 to purchase a church bus.*

To donate, scan the QR code and select Bus Fund in the drop down menu.

Thank You for Your Support!

Associate Pastor Nominating Committee Prayer Request

"For still the vision awaits its appointed time; it hastens to the end — it will not lie. If it seems slow, wait for it; it will surely come; it will not delay." — Habakkuk 2:3



We seek prayer for and with the committee this week as we are entering a season of relative stillness as we await the movement of the Lord in regards to our Associate Pastor position. Pray for the blessing of stillness for the committee to wait on the Lord and His timing.
We also request a focused effort to corporally pray together for the APNC and their efforts. Mondays at noon, please pause and send up prayers for the committee and their work, should your schedule allow. If not at this designated time, please include the APNC in your regular prayer time. Thank you.

Keenagers will meet at noon Tuesday, December 1, in the Jenkins Fellowship Hall. Meal will include pork tenderloin, ranch potatoes, French green beans, salad, and dessert. All covenant partners and guests 55 and older are welcome to come. Meal cost is $7. Entertainment will be provided by the staff. Come join the fun!

Christmas Centerpieces: Join the Women in Ministry for a seasonal workshop from 6 to 7:30 p.m. Tuesday, December 1, in the fellowship hall. Materials will be provided. Bring your own container or pick one. Light refreshments will be served, and there will be a Christmas lesson. Cost is $5. Register using QR code or call the church office, 843-662-2583.

Handbell Concert: Ring in the Advent season at 6:30 p.m. Wednesday, December 2, with our talented Chancel Handbell Choir! This is a First Presbyterian Church tradition rich with Christmas melodies from around the globe.

Living Nativity: Join us for this year's Living Nativity at 6:30 p.m. Tuesday, December 8, and Wednesday, December 9. The story of Christ's birth will be brought to life by our sixth graders, with the angel choir made up of children in 3K–fifth grade.

Parents Night Out: Friday, December 11, 5:45 to 9 p.m. for infants-fifth graders. Parents, enjoy a night out while your children join us for a fun-filled indoor camping adventure. We'll bring the magic of camp to a cozy winter night with camp games and cheers, crafts, s'mores, a talent show, and a special showing of The Star! Campers will gather under twinkling stars to discover how God gave us the gift of light and how Jesus is the greatest gift of all — the Light of the World! Registration deadline is December 7!

Lessons & Carols: At 11 a.m. Sunday, December 13, please join us in the Sanctuary for a service that tells the story of the fall of humanity, the promise of the Messiah and the birth of Jesus through nine short readings from Genesis, the prophetic books and the Gospels, along with the singing of Christmas carols, hymns, and choir music.

Stewardship Update: First Presbyterian Church relies on the generosity of our covenant partners to fund our ministry activities. The information below is a snapshot of our giving through the end of October. Giving for October was better; however, our average monthly giving is below our monthly budget need.

Monthly Giving Need	October Giving	YTD Surplus/(Deficit)
$163,667	$155,120	($57,289)

CALENDAR

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 15

9:00 AM Contemporary Worship Service
10:00 AM First Connections: Jenkins Fellowship Hall
10:00 AM Sunday School
11:00 AM Traditional Worship Service
12:00 PM Children's Ministry Team Meeting: Women's Only Classroom
12:00 PM New Officer Training: JFH
1:00 PM Living Nativity rehearsal (sixth grade cast only)
3:30 PM 8U Basketball practice: CLC
4:30 PM 10U Basketball practice: CLC

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 16

9:30 AM CDC Chapel
10:00 AM CDC Thanksgiving Program Rehearsal: CLC
2:30 PM Prayer Group: Price Classroom
4:00 PM CDC Board Meeting
4:30 PM Girl Scouts: Scout Room
5:00 PM Youth Ministry Team Meeting
5:30 PM Selah Yoga: CLC
7:00 PM Boy Scouts: Scout Room
7:00 PM Men's Bible Study: Room 203

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 17

7:00 AM Men's Prayer Meeting: Room 100
10:00 AM Staff meeting
11:00 AM Just for Women Bible Study: CLC
12:00 PM Evangelism & Discipleship Meeting
1:30 PM Ladies Ensemble Rehearsal
2:45 PM CDC Thanksgiving Program Rehearsal: CLC
5:30 PM 8U Basketball practice: CLC
6:00 PM Diaconate Meeting

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 18

10:00 AM CDC Thanksgiving Program Rehearsal: CLC
4:45 PM Chancel Handbell Choir Rehearsal
5:00 PM Holiday Market: CLC
5:30 PM Wednesday Night Dinner: tacos, Mexican corn, salad, cookies
6:15 PM Wednesday Night Programming
7:30 PM Chancel Choir Rehearsal

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 19

7:00 AM Men's Bible Study: Lawson-Rain Chapel
7:00 AM Youth: Coffee at F.E. Pop's
7:30 AM Men's Book Study: WOC
8:00 AM Faith in Motion Men's Bible Study
10:30 AM Women's Bible Study: WOC
5:30 PM CDC Family Thanksgiving
6:00 PM 10U Basketball team practice

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 22 Commitment Sunday

9:00 AM Contemporary Worship Service
10:00 AM First Connections: JFH
10:00 AM Sunday School
11:00 AM Traditional Worship Service
3:30 PM 8U Basketball practice: CLC
5:00 PM Youth: Small Groups

ECO
A Covenant Order of Evangelical Presbyterians