The REMINDER

NOVEMBER 2026



Reformation Sunday

The church commemorated Reformation Sunday with its 21st year of Kirkin' O' the Tartan at First Presbyterian Church.
For more photos, see page 20.

Missions: The Tabernacle

What an incredible journey through The Tabernacle!

It was a blessing for all of us — both volunteers and visitors alike — as we witnessed the Spirit of God touching countless lives throughout our time at The Tabernacle.

Over the course of the week, we welcomed 3,131 visitors from five different states and even one country! This incredible turnout speaks volumes about the impact we've made together.

The Tabernacle Board extends our heartfelt gratitude to First Presbyterian Church and our 152 dedicated volunteers who worked tirelessly each day. Your commitment and passion have left a lasting impact on all who came through our doors.

A special shout-out goes to our Tabernacle Board members — Joe Carter, Rocky Pearce, Mike Porter, and Donnie Wheeler — whose leadership and support have been instrumental in making this event a success. Thank you for your vision and dedication!

Together, we have created something truly special, and we eagerly anticipate the continued impact of The Tabernacle in the lives of many as we take it to other states. Currently, we are in discussions with five different churches in the Southeast to schedule future visits.

For those who have expressed an interest in contributing to The Tabernacle, you can always write a check to First Presbyterian Church and designate it for The Tabernacle.

Blessings to all!

Carolyn Pearce





Top: Elder and Tabernacle Board member Mike Porter assists a couple at the lampstand as they tour The Tabernacle.
Above: Don and Vicki Hebert make a symbolic offering at the Brazen Altar of Sacrifice.

INDEX

Missions	02	Calendar	12-13
Pastor's Corner, Session Notes	03	Children's Ministry	14-17
AP Nominating Committee	04	Scouting Ministry	18
Church Administration Matters	05	Church News	19-22
Music Ministry	06	Youth Ministry	23
Women in Ministry	07	Contact Info/Living Nativity	24
Child Development Center	8-9		
Remember in Prayer	10		
Birthdays	11		

ON THE COVER: The leads in the procession gather for Kirkin' O' the Tartan on Reformation Sunday.



Kindness in the face of Challenge



Pastor Stuart fishes at the Bread & Fish trunk during the annual Trunk or Treat festivities held October 28.

So many of you have gone out of your way to be kind to Cindy and me as she faces this medical challenge. A mass was removed from her colon that had also lodged itself into her abdominal wall. As I write this, she is in recovery and it is tough. We do not yet know the pathologist's verdict, but we will soon find out. I am doing my best to be a nurse, dog walker, husband, and pastor. Thank you for your prayers and kindness.

Stuart

SESSION *notes*

We feel we are on the cusp of so many things. For one, we will explain our stewardship needs to the entire church in November. We pray that those concerns are allayed in the Congregation's response.

In addition, the APNC continues to look for great candidates. We have had a number of responses and followed up on several of them. God willing, we may have some exciting news in the near future!

Finally, we are considering how we, as a Session, might move into a closer, more collegial group by meeting once a month for breakfast.

All of our work is to help us, as a church, imagine where God would lead us and to walk faithfully in that direction. It is our great pleasure to serve this fantastic congregation.

Pastor Stuart, for the Session

Associate Pastor Nominating Committee



Brandon Blankenship | Janet Brand | Chris Canfield | Karen Jordan | Mike Lavespere | Porter Stewart | Caroline Toniolo

APNC Prayer Request

Lord, guide our Associate Pastor Nominating Committee with wisdom, discernment, and open hearts.

"Let the wise listen and add to their learning, and let the discerning get guidance." – Proverbs 1:5

We seek prayer for and with the committee as they seek to listen to the Lord's direction on candidates, and their initial presentations to us for our Associate Pastor position.
Pray for the blessing of earnestly listening and discerning for the committee as they begin to dive into the details and personalities of the candidates.

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.

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.

SAVE THE DATE: Men's Retreat

Guys, mark your calendar now: **April 16-18 in 2027**. No excuses! This is a weekend reserved for YOU at Hickory Knob State Park in McCormick.

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.



Your Gift Counts

Stewardship Campaign

We tend to associate the word stewardship with giving money. The truth is that it is about so much more. Rightly understood, stewardship is about **giving** our time, talent, *and* treasure in obedience to God's calling on our lives. 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. During November, we will be challenged to understand the importance of stewardship and our growth as disciples. As part of our worship this month, we will watch brief ***"Your Gift Counts"*** video interviews with several of our covenant partners about why they give to the church. Topics will focus on developing a lifestyle of generosity to the church, the importance of teaching our children to give and about generational giving. In the days ahead, all Covenant Partners will receive a letter regarding the importance of financial stewardship as we look to the future. That letter will include **2027 Commitment cards**, which will allow you to make a pledge to financially support the ministry and mission of First Presbyterian Church. This year, we are including a "kid-friendly" commitment card. We hope this will encourage our covenant partners with children to talk with their children about how they can "give" their time, talent, and treasure to the church in age-appropriate ways. Our annual Stewardship Emphasis will conclude with Commitment Sunday on **November 22**. This year, we will include, as Kaiti Bryant calls them, our "youngest disciples" in the commitment service. Families will be encouraged to bring their pledge cards and place them on the communion table as a part of our worship services.

Again, this year, covenant partners may also make a pledge using Realm or by using the MAKE A PLEDGE link located at the top of the First Presbyterian Church homepage. My prayer during our Stewardship season is that each of us will prayerfully consider how we can follow the call of God found in Malachi 3:10, *"Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. Test me in this," says the LORD Almighty, "and see if I will not throw open the floodgates of heaven and pour out so much blessing that you will not have room enough for it."*



Kaiti Bryant, program director for Children's Ministry, leads the Message for Young Disciples during worship.

First Presbyterian Church continues moving through a period that is full of opportunity for growth and ministry. Our APNC is at work and covets your prayers as they seek the person that God is preparing to serve as our next Associate Pastor. Paul's message to the Philippians is a reminder that we, both individually and corporately, need to continue to look forward and follow what God is calling us to be and to do as we move into the future. ***Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus (Philippians 3: 13-14).*** As we look to the future, remembering that "your Gift Counts" I want to encourage all covenant partners to look at how God has blessed you and ask Him how He wants you to use your time, talent, and treasure to be a blessing to others through the work of First Presbyterian Church.





Chancel Handbell Choir

ADVENT CONCERT

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 2 - AT 6:30 PM

Join the Music Ministry

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@florencefirst.org, or Praise Team Leader Vic Rockhill at vicrockhill@gmail.com.

REHEARSAL TIMES

TUESDAYS

1:30 p.m. Ladies' Ensemble

WEDNESDAYS

4:45 p.m. Chancel Handbell Choir
6:15 p.m. Children's Choir
7:30 p.m. Chancel Choir

Praise Team: Schedule to be determined.

End of Life ... Let's Talk About It



TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 10
6-7:30 PM

FELLOWSHIP HALL

SHELLEY GANDY, RN
ROBERT MOORE

LIGHT APPETIZERS/REFRESHMENTS

MEN AND WOMEN ARE WELCOME!
RSVPS TO CHURCH OFFICE REQUESTED, NOT REQUIRED

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.

Bread and Fish
Meeting: 9 a.m. Saturday, Nov. 7, Women's Only Classroom
Chairwoman: Peggy Swearingen

Salty Sunday Sisters
Meeting: 12:30 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 8, off campus
Chairwoman: Alexis Morris

Women of Grace
Meeting: 6:30 p.m. Monday, Nov. 9, off campus
Chairwoman: Betsey Moore
Bible Moderator: Charissa Canfield

Joyful Hearts
Meeting: 10 a.m. Tuesday, Nov. 10 Room 100
Chairwomen: Alice Caldwell and Nancy Thompson
Bible Moderator: Betsy Olsen

Soul Sisters
Meeting: Noon Tuesday, Nov. 10 , Price Classroom
Chairwoman: Carolyn Holland
Bible Moderator: Patti Hubbs

Serenity
Meeting: 3 p.m. Tuesday, Nov. 10, Lawson-Rain Chapel
Chairwomen: Linda Smiley and Melanie Neal
Bible Moderator: Tabatha Davis

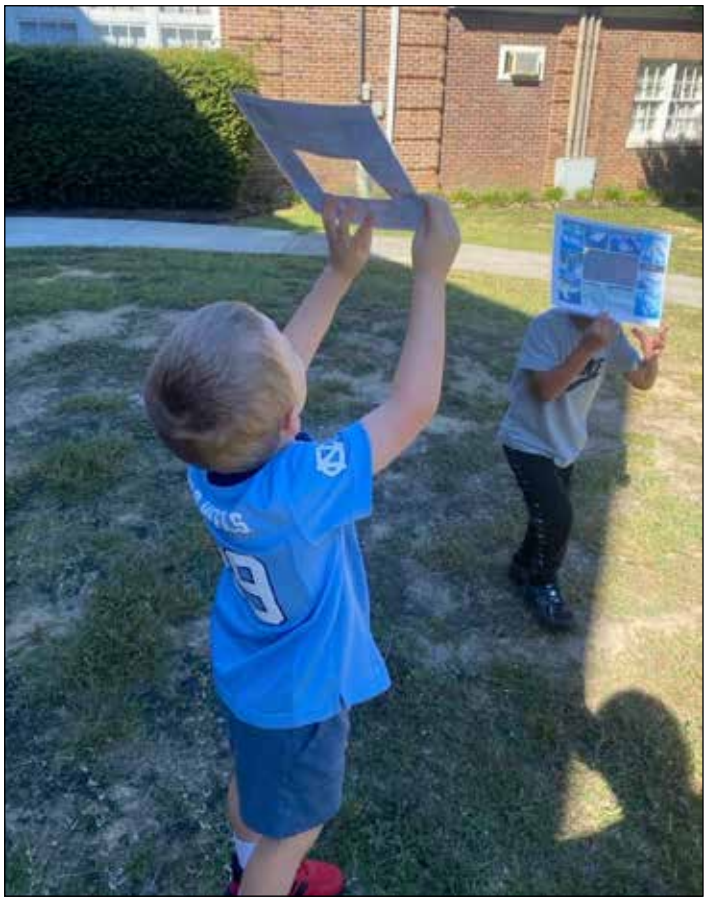
Prayer Warriors
Meeting: 6 p.m. Wednesday, Nov. 11, Women's Only Class
Chairwoman: Amy Williams

Wednesday Night Women
Meeting: 6 p.m. Wednesday, Nov. 11, church parlor
Chairwoman: Laura Marechal
Moderator: Emily Whitehead

Disciples
Meeting: Noon Thursday, Nov. 12, off campus
Chairwoman: Janet Brand
Moderator: Kimberly Packard

Children enjoy fall fun at the Center

We had a fun and busy October at the CDC! Our classrooms were filled with lots of learning, laughter, and excitement as our children continued to learn and grow. Our curriculum theme for October was Weather and Seasons, and our children enjoyed exploring the changes that come this time of year. In addition, the 4K students were busy working on their letters, numbers, and early math skills, while our younger children strengthened their fine and gross motor skills through fun, hands-on activities and play. We enjoyed a special visit from the library, Ms. Kaiti leading chapel, and Amazing Athletes have been here keeping our little ones active and moving! We have also had so much fun celebrating fall with FPC's Trunk or Treat and our own trick-or-treating festivities with FPC's staff! We enjoyed celebrating birthdays with some of our precious children and wonderful staff members, too! Another highlight of the month was our Spaghetti Dinner Fundraiser, where we sold an incredible 445 tickets! We are so thankful for the love and support of our church families and community. Our staff also enjoyed a wonderful Staff Development Day filled with training, cleaning, role-playing, lots of laughter, and opportunities to learn and grow together as a team. We are so grateful for our dedicated teachers and staff who pour their hearts into loving and caring for these precious children each day. What a blessing it is to see God's love shining through all that happens here at the CDC!









CDC neighborhood









MEET THE CDC TEAM



BRIANA KNOTTS

Ms. Briana is one of our newest staff members. She fit right in and instantaneously became part of the CDC family. Every day Ms. Briana shows us her beauty inside and out. She has a huge heart and a loving spirit. Ms. Briana is serving in the 2KA class as an assistant. She is a native of Lamar and enjoys thrift shopping and being with her children and family. What Briana likes most about working at the CDC is feeling so welcomed by everyone and truly feeling the presence of the Lord when she's here.

HER FAVORITES

COLOR: Pink
FLOWER: Rose
PLACE: TJ Maxx, Walmart
SEASON: Spring
FOOD: Chicken Alfredo



SYMPATHY
Bridgette Coates, loss of her father, Ben Parker
Barb Rosenlund, loss of her husband, Gerry

SICK & RECOVERING
Berta Allen
Cindy Bond
Aubrey Crawford
Evans Holland
Mary Kirkpatrick
Dave and Linda Lawson
Mary Ann Nash
Linda Smiley
Ginger Sullivan
Ronnie Welch

EXTENDED CARE
Bethea
Margaret Baroody

Lowman Home
Mac King

The Manor
Betty Bell
Joyce Floyd

North Carolina
Ginger Owen

Presbyterian Community
Nell Oliver

HOUSEHOLDS
Flock 1: Vic and Ashley Rockhill, Katie, Belle, and Michael, Colton, and Caroline Westbrook
Flock 2: Nancy Thompson
Flock 3: Dave and Emily Lake, Crosland, Susanna, and Stanton
Flock 4: Michael and Kim Hawkins, Dakota
Flock 5: George and Bonnie Stuber
Flock 6: Rob and Sonya Molnar, Kelly, Kaitlyn, and John
Flock 7: Mike and Jean Lavespere
Flock 8: Jan and Marilyn Bays

BIRTH
Christopher Langmo Jr., born September 13, son of Kaitlin and Christopher Langmo

BAPTISMS
John McCollough Lewis, son of John and Amy Lewis
Anna Leah Montgomery, daughter of Steven and Lauren Montgomery
Laney Frances Spearman, daughter of Bryan and Madisen Spearman

MILITARY DEPLOYMENT
Jon Carroll

ELDERS
Jayne Boswell
Ryon Watkins

DEACONS
Hunter Burch
Richard Genoble

MISSIONS
My Brother's Keeper
Jim Truesdell, Frontier Fellowship

WOMEN IN MINISTRY
Missie Demory
Genia Tyson

TEACHERS
Mary Glenn Eldridge
Christi Gasque

CDC STAFF
Mrs. Byrd
Ms. Caroline

STAFF
Christina "Taiter" Garrett
Don Hebert

FLOWERS IN THE SANCTUARY
November 1: Communion
November 8: Betsy Johnson
November 15: Dorothy Sampson
November 22: Laura Marechal
November 29: Advent
Do you have someone you would like to honor by placing flowers in the sanctuary?
Contact Genia Tyson at 843-992-8904.

November BIRTHDAYS

NOVEMBER 1
Cathy Bazen
Heather Williams

NOVEMBER 2
Cameryn Brown
Marian Howard
Lisa Jernigan

NOVEMBER 3
Prince Asongwed
Cailin Foxworth
Levi Ham
Sue Shin
Alan Thomas

NOVEMBER 4
Mason Ansley
Margaret Baroody
Rhett Hughes
Wesley Snow
Gracie Tolson

NOVEMBER 5
Carolyn Holland
Patrick Hunt
Henley Thompson

NOVEMBER 6
Stephen Christian
Alcy Lee
Liam McGowan
Brian Naylor
Rocky Pearce

NOVEMBER 7
Nancy Moore

NOVEMBER 8
Brandon Hylton
Susie McLellan
John McMillian
Landon Watkins

NOVEMBER 9
Joe Blanton
Ginny Casstevens
Cheryl DeGraw
Ansley Sanderson

NOVEMBER 10
Gresham Hindman
Jane Matthews
Ivan Morris

NOVEMBER 11
Joseph Commander
Michael Hawkins
Haley Jackson
Wells McBride

NOVEMBER 12
Queen Eliana Ashwingwnui
Trae Allison
Mary Frances Moore
Pat Patton
Hunter Sims

NOVEMBER 13
Ashton Pennstrom
Paul Welch

NOVEMBER 14
Paige Alexander
Dave Banner
Grier Toniolo

NOVEMBER 16
Brooke Langston
Jane Shurman
Lisa Westmoreland

NOVEMBER 17
Ella Rawlinson

NOVEMBER 18
Brian Kim
Wesley Player
Carrigan Spearman

NOVEMBER 19
Tom Gasque
Meghan Swink

NOVEMBER 20
Allie Hickey
Rick Hoefer
Colton Miles
Hampton Naylor
Anna Lee Pennstrom
Duncan Tyson

NOVEMBER 21
Charlie Bazen
Sheila Cockfield

NOVEMBER 22
Curt Boswell
Sandra Davidson
Breeden Grantham
Rainey Josey
Hannah King

NOVEMBER 23
Sullivan Carmichael

NOVEMBER 24
John Early
Maggie McNeil
Connie Stewart

NOVEMBER 25
Kendall Jackson
Alexis Morris
Mary Ann Nash
Kate Stokes

NOVEMBER 26
Liz Andrews

NOVEMBER 27
Don Hebert
Walter Johnson
Taylor Powell

NOVEMBER 28
Tom Pantos
Anna Spivey

NOVEMBER 29
Christina 'Taiter' Garrett
Maymie Lou Spearman
Whitt Tolson

NOVEMBER 30
Drew Knudsen
Chris Scott
Jane Slagle

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY
1 Communion Sunday Daylight Saving Time Contemporary Service, 9 a.m. First Connections, 10 a.m. Sunday School, 10 a.m. Traditional Service, 11 a.m. Living Nativity meeting, noon Youth: Small Groups, 5 p.m.	2 Girl Scouts, 4:30 p.m. Worship Team, 5 p.m.	3 Election Day Keenagers, noon JFH 	4 Wednesday Dinner, 5:30 p.m. Youth Group, 5:30 p.m. Educational classes, 6:15 p.m.
8 Contemporary Service, 9 a.m. First Connections, 10 a.m. Sunday School, 10 a.m. Traditional Service, 11 a.m. New Officer Training, noon WiM Salty Sisters, 12:30 p.m. Living Nativity rehearsal,1 p.m. Youth: Small Groups, 5 p.m.	9 CDC bookmobile, 9 a.m. WiM Women of Grace, 6:30 p.m. off campus	10 WiM Joyful Hearts, 10 a.m. Room 100 WiM Soul Sisters, noon WiM Serenity, 3 p.m. LR Enabling Team, 5:30 p.m. End of Life ... Let's Talk, 6 p.m.	11 Veterans Day Veterans Brunch, 8 a.m. Missions Team, 12:15 p.m. Wednesday Dinner, 5:30 p.m. Youth Group, 5:30 p.m. Educational classes, 6:15 p.m. WiM Prayer Warriors, 6 p.m. WiM Wednesday Night Women, 6 p.m.
15 Contemporary Service, 9 a.m. First Connections, 10 a.m. Sunday School, 10 a.m. Traditional Service, 11 a.m. New Officer Training, noon Living Nativity rehearsal,1 p.m. Youth Fall Retreat	16 CDC Board Meeintg, 4 p.m. Girl Scouts, 4:30 p.m. Youth Ministry Team, 5 p.m.	17 Evangelism & Discipleship Meeting, noon JFH Diaconate Meeting, 6 p.m.	18 Friendsgiving with PADD, 5:30 p.m. JFH Wednesday Night finale, 5:30 p.m. Youth Holiday Market
22 Contemporary Service, 9 a.m. First Connections, 10 a.m. Sunday School, 10 a.m. Traditional Service, 11 a.m. Youth: Small Groups, 5 p.m.	23	24 Session, 6:30 p.m.	25 Men's Ministry Lunch, noon 
29 First Sunday of Advent Contemporary Service, 9 a.m. Sunday School, 10 a.m. Traditional Service, 11 a.m. Living Nativity rehearsal,1 p.m. Youth: Outdoor Movie, 5 p.m.	30 		

Let the peace

THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
5 Youth: F.E. Pop's, 7 a.m.	6 J & J Leadership Lock-in	7 J & J Leadership Lock-in WiM Bread & Fish, 9 a.m. Women's Only Classroom
12 Youth: F.E. Pop's, 7 a.m. WiM Disciples, noon 	13 Youth Fall Retreat 	14 Parking Lot Mission, 6 a.m. Youth Fall Retreat
19 CDC Thanksgiving program, 5:30 p.m. CLC 	20 CDC closed	21 
26 Thanksgiving CDC and church office closed 	27 CDC and church office closed	28

of Christ rule in your hearts … and be thankful.

Colossians 3:15 ESV



WEEKLY

SUNDAYS
- Combined Worship, 9 a.m.
- Sunday School, 10 a.m.
- Traditional Worship, 11 a.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
- Chancel Handbell Choir Rehearsal, 4:45 p.m.
- 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

November 4: Chili, corn bread, salad, brownies

November 11: Baked potato bar, salad, pastry desserts

November 18: Tacos, Mexican corn, salad, cookies

Making Room

Dear Church Family,

As we prepare to enter one of the busiest seasons of the year, I can already feel our calendars filling up! Between Thanksgiving gatherings, Christmas shopping, decorating, baking, school programs, church activities, and Christmas parties, the list seems never-ending. Before we know it, the holidays have come and gone, and we wonder where the time went. In the middle of all the excitement, I want to encourage you to slow down, take a breath, and remember the words of Psalm 46:10, "Be still, and know that I am God." Sometimes I think we get so busy preparing for the holidays that we forget to make time for the One we are celebrating.

And to all the mamas out there, I especially want to encourage you! So often, we are the ones making sure everyone else has what they need, that memories are made, traditions are carried on, and everything gets done. We give so much of ourselves that there is often very little left at the end of the day. You know how they tell us on an airplane to put our oxygen mask on first before helping someone else? We need to remember that in our everyday lives, too. We cannot keep pouring into everyone else without taking time to fill ourselves. God never intended for us to go through life running on empty. He gave us the beautiful gift of Sabbath, a time to rest, enjoy His presence, and remember that we don't have to do it all. Rest is not something we have to earn after everything on our list is finished. It is a gift from God, who loves us and knows exactly what we need.

One of the things I have been learning lately is that Sabbath is about so much more than taking a day off. It is about making room for God, enjoying the blessings He has given us, and trusting Him enough to put everything else aside. What a beautiful gift we can give our children and families when we teach them the importance of slowing down and spending time with God. My prayer for all of us this holiday season is that we won't become busy making everything special that we miss what makes it special in the first place. May we find time to rest, laugh, love, worship, and simply enjoy being together. And most importantly, may we remember to be still and make room for the One who is the greatest gift of all.

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 sixth graders, with the angel choir made up of children in 3K–fifth grade.

Rehearsals will take place on the front steps of the sanctuary unless otherwise noted.

REHEARSAL SCHEDULE

Sixth grade and parents meeting	Sunday, November 1, noon Lawson-Rain Chapel
Sixth grade only Cast Rehearsal	Sunday, November 8, 1 to 2 p.m.
Sixth grade only Cast Rehearsal	Sunday, November 15, 1 to 2 p.m.
No Rehearsal	**Sunday, November 22**
Rehearsal for Angel Choir and Cast	**Sunday, November 29, 1 to 2 p.m.**
Dress Rehearsal for Angel Choir and Cast	**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.

Trunk or Treat













Church family and community turned out for the annual Trunk or Treat. Paul and Tabatha Davis won Best Trunk out of 21 participating. Trunk or Treaters had to find mini Jesuses hiding in a forest-filled trunk. We want to say a huge thank you to everyone who donated candy or hosted a trunk for our Trunk or Treat! We're so grateful for a community that helps make these special events possible.

Fall favorite upon us

Dear Church Family,

It's hard to believe November is already here! As we enter this season of Thanksgiving, I can't help but think about how much we have to be grateful for. One of the things I am most thankful for is the opportunity to watch our children grow in their faith and see the joy and excitement they bring to our church family. I am also so grateful for the wonderful teachers, volunteers, and families who help make Children's Ministry such a special part of our church.

As we spend this month reflecting on our blessings, we are also getting closer to one of the most wonderful times of the year—Advent and the celebration of Jesus' birth! I love seeing Christmas through the eyes of our children. Their excitement and wonder are such sweet reminders of how amazing the Christmas story really is. Long before Jesus was born in Bethlehem, God had promised to send a Savior, and Christmas reminds us that God always keeps His promises.

My prayer for our children and families this November is that we take time to enjoy the little blessings around us, give thanks for all God has done, and begin preparing our hearts for the miracle of Christ's birth. What a wonderful gift we have to look forward to celebrating!

In Christ's love,

Kaiti Bryant

The Ten Commandments



Eight-year-old Sullivan Jackson tells the story of the 10 commandments to the preschool children during Children in Worship on a recent Sunday.

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.

Parents' Night Out: Camping under the Stars

Friday, December 11
5:45–9 p.m.
Infants–Fifth Grade

An inside Camping Under the Stars Event!

Parents, enjoy a night out while your children join us for a fun-filled indoor camping adventure! We'll bring the magic of summer camp to a cozy winter night with camp games and cheers, crafts, s'mores, a talent show, and a special showing of The Star!

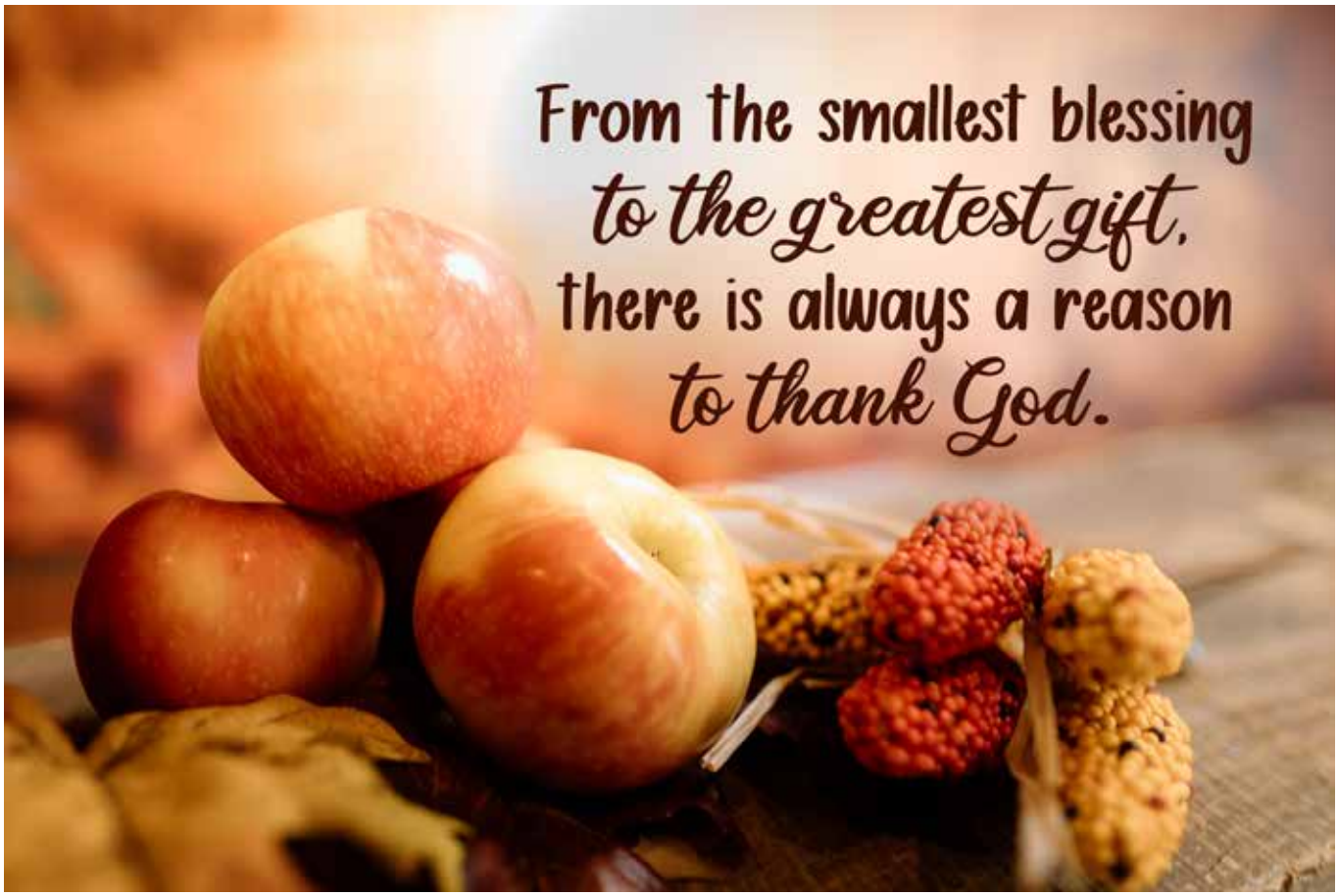
Campers will gather under twinkling stars to discover how God gave us the gift of light and how Jesus is the greatest gift of all — the Light of the World!

Children are encouraged to wear their favorite pajamas and bring a blanket and pillow for movie time.

Registration deadline is December 7!

Sign up today to reserve your child's spot for a night of fun, friendship, and Christmas adventure!









From left to right: Scout Adviser Tim Fisher; Alex's mother, Noha Cotran; Scout Alex Cotran; his father, Nabil Cotran; Parks Supervisor Joseph Hyman-Shilow; and Celine Cotran, Alex's sister.

Cotran earns Eagle Scout

Congratulations to covenant partner Alex Cotran, Troop 477's newest Eagle Scout. Alex is the son of Nabil and Noha Cotran. He is a high school senior and president of the student body at the Governor's School for Science and Mathematics. Alex created a stained pine bench as his Eagle Scout project for a Florence park. He, another Scout, and a couple friends took an afternoon to build the pieces. And they installed it to overlook Jebaily Park.

"There is a lot more to it than just the time building the bench," said longtime Scout adviser Tim Fisher, pointing out the project involved hours of paperwork, preparation, and coordination with the city.

Alex was recently selected as a National Merit semi-finalist and Indian Waters September Scout of the Month. And he is student council president at the Governor's School in Hartsville.

This past summer Alex was selected to participate in the GSSM's international research program in Germany, where he conducted research in laser physics with applications for aerospace and energy infrastructure.



VBS Summer 2027

Save the Dates! June 14-17

Church News

Keenagers luncheon to feature professor

Keenagers will meet at noon Tuesday, November 3, in the Jenkins Fellowship Hall with guest speaker history professor Dr. Carlanna Hendrick. Meal will be turkey, dressing, rice and gravy, corn pudding, spinach and cranberry salad, pineapple cranberry relish, and pecan pie. All covenant partners 55 and older are welcome to join for food, fun, and fellowship. Meal cost is $7.

First Connections classes in November

Learn more about life with the Lord and life at First Presbyterian Church. You are invited to join us for our new members class the first four Sundays in November. We will meet at 10 a.m. between services in the Jenkins Fellowship Hall.

Staff Recognition

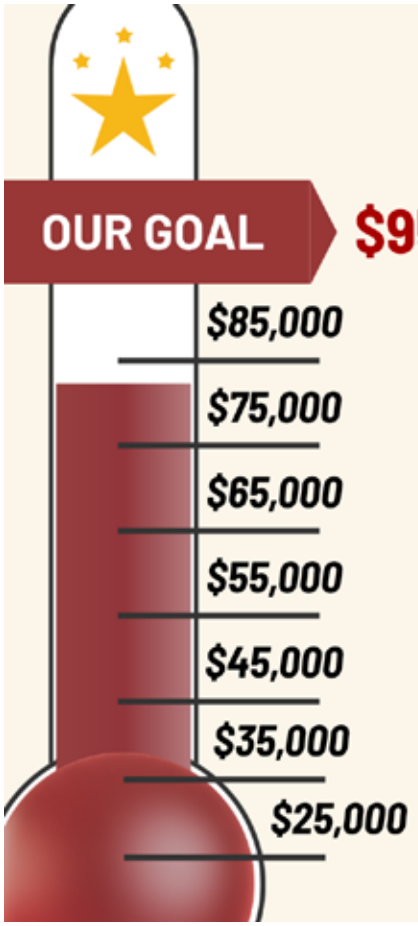


Christina Garrett

First Presbyterian is fortunate to have a talented and dedicated church staff. This month we recognize Christina "Taiter" Garrett on her employment anniversary. Christina is our Director of Youth Ministries. She first joined our staff as an intern in 2006 and has served in that role and as a youth ministry assistant at various times through the years. Christina was hired as full-time Director of Youth Ministries in November 2020. Thank you, Christina, we are grateful for your ministry.

November is 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.



CHURCH BUS CHALLENGE UPDATE

*After Dr. Stuart Bond's beginning pledge, our covenant partners accepted the challenge and have raised **$82,200** 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!



Reformation Sunday celebration













The combined service on October 25 commemorated the start of the Protestant Reformation, a movement that changed Christianity and Europe in the 1500s. A few hundred people gathered for worship, which included the Kirkin' O' the Tartan and a Reformation Sunday lunch.



'Hey Buddy' launches with Josey testimony

It was a packed house for the inaugural FPC Men's Ministry "Hey Buddy" luncheon October 28. More than 65 men enjoyed a sandwich lunch and were inspired by the testimony of Rainey Josey.

The "Hey Buddy" lunches are offered the last Wednesday of the month at noon in the fellowship hall. Details about the November meeting are forthcoming. If you have any questions, contact: Travis Blayton, 803-360-3796; Jason Coker, 843-260-4786; or Chris Scott, 803-606-2500.



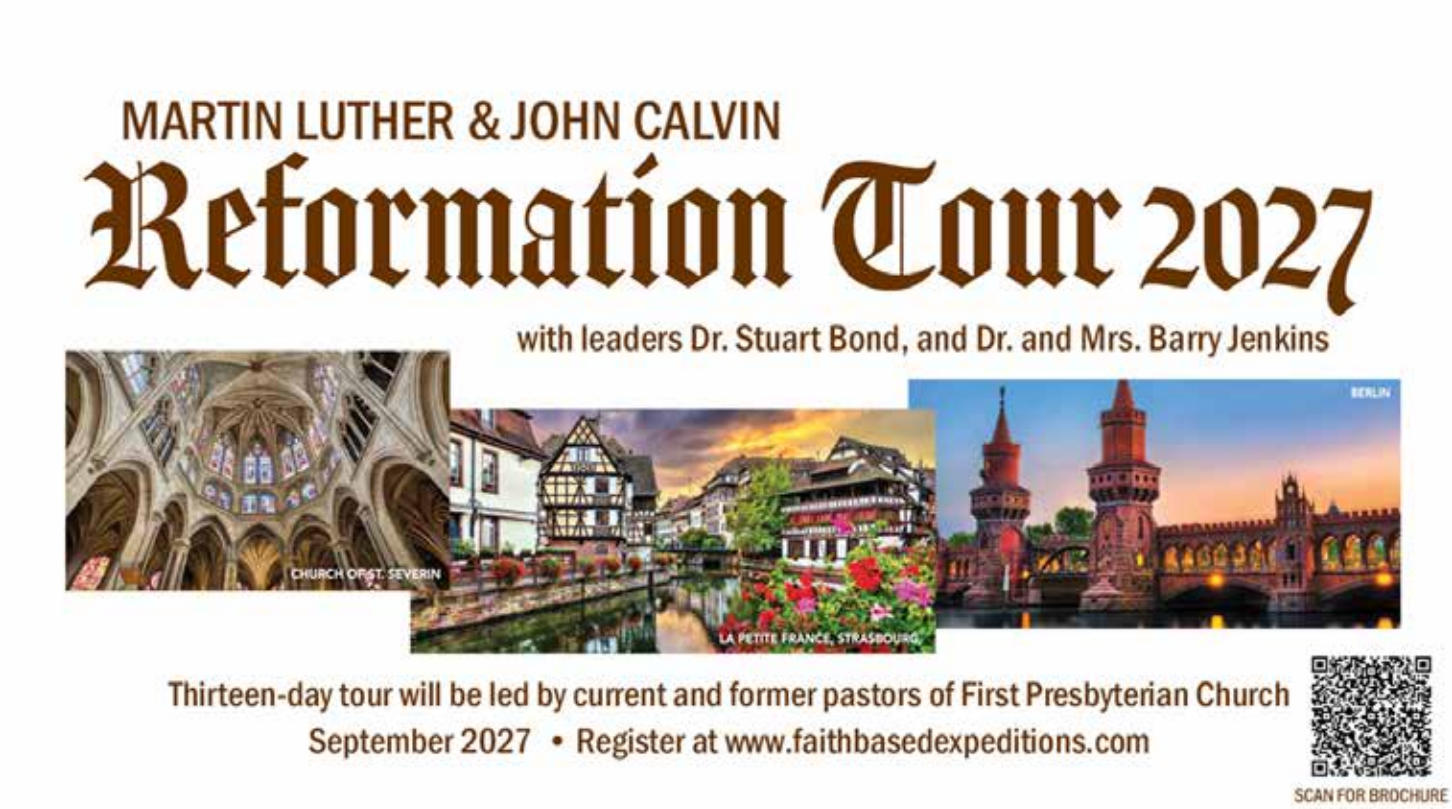
Iron sharpens Iron

A small group of women were brought together when one saw a task to be completed. They took an hour on a recent Friday to clean up sticks on the church campus.

"And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another — and all the more as you see the Day approaching." — Hebrews 10:24-25









Music at the Farm

An afternoon of music will be held Sunday, November 8, at Blackwater Farms. The Lindsley Brothers, related to Covenant Partners Cheryl and Michael Pullmann, will be in Florence to play at the Pecan Festival, and are extending their talents to an intimate get together.

Praise Team leader Vic Rockhill also will be performing.

Join the Pullmanns at the farm by bringing your own lawn chairs and refreshments for a time of music and fellowship.

Blackwater Farms is located at 2026 South Firetower Road.

Get a sample of The Lindsley Brothers' sound as they play the Pecan Festival at 2 p.m. Saturday, November 7, on the Pecan Pub Stage. The Pecan Pub Stage, an area open for adults 21 and older, is located on South Dargan Street across from the Waters Building.

Fall Retreat to follow October fun

October was a fun month! The youth enjoyed day-tripping to Charlotte, playing paintball, carving and painting pumpkins, a costume contest, helping with Trunk or Treat, and preparing for our Holiday Market fundraiser.



Our holiday market this year will focus on several specific items. We will, of course, have our cookie jars available. We will also be debuting a Christmas ornament. Please let Taiter know if you would like to volunteer to help make items for the fundraiser.

We are looking forward to our upcoming Fall Retreat to Montreat, N.C. Please let Taiter know if you would be interested in being a chaperone for the trip or providing a meal, drinks or snacks for it.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Sunday School (November 1, 8, 15, 22, and 29)
10 a.m. Light breakfast served.

Small Groups (November 1, 8, and 22) 5 – 7 p.m.
Dinner provided.

Wednesday Night Youth Group (November 4, 11, and 18) 5:30 – 7:15 p.m.
Lessons, raffles and games! $7 dinner provided by the church.
November 18: *HOLIDAY MARKET FUNDRAISER*

Coffee at F.E. Pop's (November 5, 12, and 19)
7 a.m.

Fall Retreat (November 13-15)
Leave at 1 p.m. Friday and return 4 p.m. Sunday. We will travel to Montreat, N.C. Cost will be $225 (Price will go down as more people sign up). Youth will need to bring money for two meals on the road and spending money for time in downtown Black Mountain.
Please sign up ASAP ($100 non-refundable deposit).



Holiday Market (November 18)
The youth will be selling Christmas gifts and decorations for people to buy/donate toward their 2027 summer trips.

Outdoor Movie Night (November 29) 5-7:30 p.m.
Join us as we watch a movie, eat s'mores and make memories! Location TBD. Drinks and snacks provided. Bring a friend!

First Presbyterian
FLORENCE SOUTH CAROLINA

ECO
A Covenant Order of Evangelical Presbyterians

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CHURCH STAFF

SENIOR PASTOR	DR. STUART BOND
CHURCH ADMINISTRATOR	REV. DON HEBERT
DIRECTOR OF MUSIC/ORGANIST	ANN RODGERS CHANDLER
DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES	KELLY HICKEY
DIRECTOR OF YOUTH MINISTRY	CHRISTINA GARRETT
PROGRAM DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN'S MINISTRY	KAITI BRYANT
COMMUNICATIONS DIRECTOR	KIMBERLY BRAUSS
PRAISE TEAM LEADER	VIC ROCKHILL
MUSIC ASSISTANT	BETSY JOHNSON
CDC ASSISTANT DIRECTOR/NURSERY COORDINATOR	SHURRIE MARKS
FINANCIAL ASSISTANT	SONYA HUNTER
MINISTRY ASSISTANT	EMILY REED
LEAD CUSTODIAN	LEROY WILLIAMS
HOUSEKEEPING	WANDA LASANE
CUSTODIAN	CRIS BAKER



Living Nativity

Join us on Tuesday, December 8, and Wednesday, December 9, at 6:30 p.m. for this year's **Living Nativity**, where 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.