



The Spire

First Presbyterian Church

July 2024

Greenwood, SC

A Message From Our Pastor...

Many childhood dreams are built on the fairytales we heard growing up. Kings and queens, princes and princesses fill the storylines of Disney movies and television series. “Oh to be rich and powerful” we say. Some may move their focus from Camelot to grand ambitions within a career. The stories we watched showed a spectacular image of reaching the top. One person who had it all and found himself at the top was King Solomon. He inherited his crown and grew the wealth and power of his people. He could have everything he ever wanted, but something was missing. Something huge was missing. As expressed in his words in Ecclesiastes, all of this work still left him empty inside. “Vanity, all is vanity” he says as he laments reaching the top and still not fulfilled in life.

In the first nine verses of Ecclesiastes 3, he names the different seasons we go through in our lives. Things come and go, and nothing ever changes. All of the wealth and power in the world did not give him any more happiness than the pauper on the street. But God shows up in verse 10, and his whole demeanor changes. Over the next few verses, he begins to see where we find meaning in life.

First, King Solomon directs our attention to an inheritance far surpassing the one he received from King David’s throne. In Eccl. 3:10, he acknowledges the gift of life bestowed upon us by God. Often, we become consumed by the burdens and tasks of our daily lives, overlooking the abundant gifts we have been given. At the top of this list is the promise that we are heirs to God’s immense wealth. We are, in essence, royalty (2 Cor. 5:20). Yet, what makes our inheritance truly remarkable is that this wealth is eternal, immune to the ravages of time. The gifts God bestows upon us are everlasting, a testament to His unwavering love and care.

Second, “God has made everything suitable for its time; moreover, he has put a sense of past and future into their minds.” (Eccl. 3:11) We often get so focused on our present circumstances that we lose sight of the eternity ahead of us. All of the problems we face will eventually be behind us. In due time, God will accomplish all of His purposes. Sometimes, we just need to wait for the good to unfold before us.

Thirdly, King Solomon reminds us that God desires us to live joyfully in the present. The knowledge that the troubles of today will be overshadowed by the beauty of tomorrow should invigorate us to seize the day. “I know that there is nothing better for them than to be happy and enjoy themselves as long as they live; moreover, it is God’s gift that all should eat and drink and take pleasure in all their toil.” (Eccl. 3:12-13)

When we struggle to see beyond the monotony of our days and troubles, God wants us to see bigger across a larger piece of time. See the gifts God has showered us with. See the future as bright. Feel the joy from all of God’s many blessings and live in the fullness of the Good News found in Jesus Christ.

Blessings,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'K. Kyle'.

Pastor Kyle

SPECIAL SERVICES

SUMMER WORSHIP HOURS

For the months of June, July, and August we will have one worship service at 10:00 am in the sanctuary.

Sunday School (the Sojourners class) will meet 9:00 am



Sunday, July 14

Andrew Goforth will be delivering our message.

We will also have our mission trip commissioning service for our youth traveling to Elizabeth City, NC, July 14-20.

Join us Sunday, July 21 for our annual Blessing of the Backpacks where we will pray for our students, teachers, assistants, administrators, and support staff.



Children's Ministry



Summer Weekly Children's Ministry Opportunities:



Children 1st - 5th grade

Join us in the chapel during the 10:00 worship sermon as we learn about participating in worship for children.

For Summer Intern Fun check out the info on the next couple of pages!



Sundays during the sermon.

Children will be escorted to the Chapel for a worship time with singing, learning how to use a hymnal and Bible, scripture, and a short lesson. Then they will return to you during the last hymn or for communion.



June Highlights



July Events Calendar

Please note age ranges are **COMPLETED**, not rising. Younger siblings are welcome anytime if accompanied by a parent/guardian/babysitter.

*To RSVP - pay on realm or to Nan Smith



Summer Intern Fun



Big Air Trampoline Park

Tuesday, July 2nd

11 a.m. - 3 p.m.

*RSVP by Monday 6/24

Cost \$50 (includes lunch)

Ages 1st - 5th

Baby's Brunch

Drop off your baby for a baby brunch while mom and dad go out for some lunch.

Saturday, July 6th

11 a.m. - 1 p.m.

Ages 0-3



Riverbanks Zoo

Tuesday, July 9th

8 a.m. - 5 p.m.

*RSVP by Monday 7/1

Ages 1st - 5th

Cost \$50 (includes lunch and attractions)



Church Lock In

Friday, July 12th-13th

7 p.m. - 8 a.m.

Ages 1st - 5th

Bring sleeping bag and snacks, dinner is paid for.



VBS

Wednesday, July 10th and

Wednesday, July 17th

5 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.

Ages K3 - 5th

Bring \$5 for dinner.

Fire and Ice

Tuesday, July 16th

2 p.m. - 4 p.m.

Bring money for snow cones.

All ages



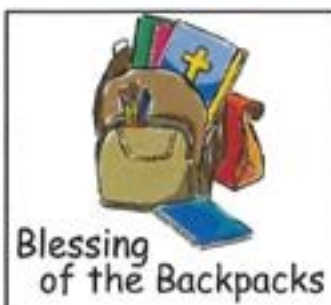
Free Movie

Thursday, July 18th

11 a.m.

Bring Money for snacks.

All Ages



Blessing of the Backpacks

Blessing

of the Backpacks

Sunday, July 21st

10 a.m.

Bring your backpacks for a blessing.



Summer Intern Fun

Other Special Dates

Rally Day! (Celebration Sunday)

September 8th

**Come join us for
breakfast at 10:00 as
we recognize our
children and youth as
they start new grades.**

Worship on the water

We'll still have services at FPC,
but if you want to worship on
the water this summer,
Brad preaches **July 14**
and Elise preaches **Aug 18**.



If you've never registered your child on Realm before . . .

**Please go to realm to enroll your child(ren)/youth
ages infant - 12th grade for the year!**

**It will take a moment but then you are all done for the year and we have all the
info we need to keep your child(ren) as we nurture them here at FPC!**



Register for VBS

Color of the Day, Meal, and Special Evening Event
5:00 - 7:30
(ages K3 - 5th)

- June 5 - wear red - eat nuggets - firetruck hose down
- June 19 - wear green - eat pizza - snowcone truck
- July 10 - wear blue - eat spaghetti - Canine Team visit
- July 17 - wear yellow - eat tacos - Curtis the Camel visit

5th graders will be doing service projects with the interns!!!





Carowinds Highlights



YOUTH

June Highlights

We love staying busy this summer! In June, we celebrated the start of summer with a night swim, enjoyed sharing our summer plans as we went out to eat at Panera, received volunteer training at the Humane Society, supported our very own youth members performing in the Wizard of Oz, and had fun in the sun at our youth pool party!



JULY 2024						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
30	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
			VBS @ 5 pm - 7:30 pm			
14 Mission Trip to Elizabeth City, NC	15	16	17	18	19	20
			VBS @ 5 pm - 7:30 pm			
21	22	23	24	25	26 Senior Retreat to Montreat	27
28	29	30	31 Parents Meet and Greet @ 6 pm	1	2	3



We have many awesome activities we are looking forward to this summer!

2024 AUGUST

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
				1	2	3
4 ★ Sunday Night Youth Group @ The Lake In McCormick Meet at Church @5:30	5	6	7 Wednesday Night Youth Group @ 5:30 - 7:00 @FPC	8	9	10
11 Sunday Night Youth Group @6-8	12	13	14 Wednesday Night Youth Group @ 5:30 - 7:00 @FPC	15 Eggs @CFA by the mall @7 Lock In @ 7 pm - 8 am @FPC	16	17
18 Sunday Night Youth Group @6-8	19	20	21 Wednesday Night Youth Group @ 5:30 - 7:00 @FPC	22	23	24
25 Sunday Night Youth Group @ 6 - 8	26	27	28 GOTE Wednesday Night Youth Group @ 6 - 7 @Migs	29	30	31



Volunteers for Youth Group:

Please register on Realm if you are interest in volunteering for

- Sunday School @ 10:00 am – 10:45 am
- Sunday Night Youth @ 6:00 pm – 8:00 pm
- Hosting and dinners for Sunday nights
- Wednesday Night Youth @ 5:30 pm – 7:30 pm

Secret Angel Ministry



Secret Angels at FPC exist to encourage and support young adult members in the 4 transitional years past high school. We do this in a variety of ways using guidelines set up by the Secret Angel Committee. These guidelines have been revised to reflect fairness and balance. We hope you will participate as a Secret

Angel using these guidelines:

Our ultimate goal is to let these young members know they are being prayed for and thought about. Monthly cards are encouraged. We don't want to send the message that money and gifts are needed to feel supported and loved. We also want each person to feel it is equal and fair. Any monetary gifts, such as gift cards, should be limited to twice a year and \$15 each.

Young adult member must have completed high school or received GED. You do not have to be attending college like in the past. We also want to include young adult members who are attending college whether it be locally or away. Young adult member must be within 4 years of receiving high school diploma.

Use the church's address as the return address when you mail a package (P. O. Box 426, Greenwood, SC 29648) so you can remain a secret.

You will make a difference with our prayers, communication, and our love. Small gestures can make a huge difference!

Young adults wishing to be paired with a Secret Angel, please complete the form that can be found in the front office or contact the front office at 229-5814.

If you would like to be a Secret Angel or have any questions, reach out to Mary Ann Wright at home, 538-0447 or cell, 337-1197.

Mykal's Head Shaving Highlights



Wednesday Night Fellowship

We encourage fellowship and dinner at Mig's Wednesdays in June and July between 5:30 and 7:00.

Or make your own plans with church family!



Sundays@10 for Adults!

9:00 in June, July, and August

Sojourners - Henry Reynolds (Room 110)

July

Adam Hamilton's

Wrestling With Doubt: Finding Faith

July 7th	Adam Hamilton: Wrestling With Doubt: Finding Faith #3	Philip Bell
July 14th	Adam Hamilton: Wrestling With Doubt: Finding Faith #4	Bob Roddey
July 21st	Adam Hamilton: Wrestling With Doubt: Finding Faith #5	Lelion Elledge
July 28th	Adam Hamilton: Wrestling With Doubt: Finding Faith #6	Jukie Leary

FISH: Fellowship in Service to Him (room 205)

Will be on vacation for the summer.

Be ready to kick back off in August!



Thursday
July 18
Montague's
at 6:30

MISSIONS/OUTREACH

MONTHLY MISSION SPOTLIGHT



BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS OF THE LAKELANDS REGION

We are having a blast at Summer Camp and have close to 100 members signed up for camp between Greenwood and Saluda. We also have about 45 youth each week in the Teen Center.

With your generosity and support, along with a few other generous donors, we are providing support to about 35 youth from the Phoenix Place Apartments. We are picking the members up at the apartments in the mornings and taking them back home at the end of the camp day. The members have been participating in all sorts of enriching activities. So far they have visited Wyatt Farms, Jumping Jax, and are eagerly preparing for an exciting trip to the Children's Museum as well as to do some planting in our community garden. Our Saluda Camp is participating in the Summer Reading Series at the Saluda County Library, and they were recently wowed by a magician!!

Our teens are also fully engaged and are participating in a Workforce Development series curated by SC Department of Employment and Workforce. In mid-June they had a chance to meet and engage with the three Superintendents from Greenwood 50 and 52, and Ware Shoals. The Superintendents came to the Teen Center and participated in a workforce activity with the teens. Next they will visit the Abbeville Medical Center, and their culminating event for the series is a trip to visit the Boeing and Dominion Energy plants in Charleston on July 10, 2024. Additionally, they are traveling to Carowinds on June 28, 2024. On Tuesdays & Thursdays they have art with the Arts Center of Greenwood and are learning to use pottery wheels.

In the Class of 2024, we had 3 graduating Seniors!!! They now join the official ranks as Boys & Girls Clubs Alumni!!

Thanks to each of you for all you do to make the great summers that lead to Great Futures possible!

Sabrina Miller, Executive Director

Our church has financially supported the Boys and Girls Club located at the STARZ 24 Teen Center through the Mission/Outreach budget and Endowment funds.

MISSIONS/OUTREACH cont.



Faith Home's Christmas in July Fundraiser

July 18, 6:30 p.m.-8:00 p.m.

Northside Baptist Church—Fellowship Building

Individual tickets are \$35 each

The program for the evening will feature music by the Faith Home Choir and a special guest; testimony from Faith Home alumni, Christy Hood; and a delicious dinner prepared by Faith Home's very own Culinary Crew!

All proceeds from this event will directly benefit Faith Home. They extend a warm invitation to individuals, churches, and businesses to participate in this meaningful cause.

For more information or to become a Table Host, please visit our website or contact us on Facebook at Faith Home Friends. You can also call Faith Home directly at 864-223-0694 and ask for James. You may also contact Glenda Davis for information.

They thank you for your support, and let's make this an evening of fun, food, and Christian fellowship.

MISSIONS/OUTREACH cont.



Thank you, First Pres, for donating so many goodies as part of the Presbytery Cluster's Supply Drive for Thornwell.

We were able to share a trunk load of donations!!! Well done! (Shout out to Glenda for transporting.) Cindy Leary and Glenda Davis attended the luncheon. Staff at Thornwell were so very, very appreciative of all the donations.

They said many times that "We couldn't do any of this without you."



Did you know:

Open year-round is Thornwell's farm market which features many specialty items from all over the state, as well as the meat, eggs, and produce grown on their farm!

Location & Hours

Find Us At:

LushAcres Farm
1875 W. Maple St. Ext.
Clinton, SC 29325

Market Hours:

Sunday-Closed
Monday through Saturday
- 9AM to 6PM



**YOUTH
GROUP MISSION TRIP
TO ELIZABETH CITY, NC**

We are collecting donations for a specific need in Elizabeth City, NC. Please donate new socks of any size by Sunday, July 7th for the youth to bring with them on their mission trip. Donations can be placed in the basket in the lobby.

Presbyterian Women News

WOMEN OF THE CHURCH



"All good things must come to an end."

We've all heard the saying hundreds of times. I discovered the expression stems from a poem by Geoffrey Chaucer, author of *The Canterbury Tales*. The poem is titled "Troilus and Criseyde" and he wrote it in the 1380s. How about that? Who knew?!

Many believe the saying to be true. I posit that while the saying may be true most of the time, it is not true all of the time. For instance, yes, my time serving our church as Moderator of Presbyterian Women is coming to an end. Yes, I definitely consider it to have been a very good thing. The good news is, though, the goodness is not ending.

I served with a group of wonderful dedicated women. Each brought a different experience, viewpoint, and skill that, together, allowed us to accomplish many good things on behalf of the women of the church and our church family. The joy and friendship we shared, the fun we had, and the blessings I received by serving with this group of faithful talented women will continue to bless me throughout my life.... and that's a good thing.

There is another outstanding group of both new and returning PW Coordinating Team members made up of the officers, committee leaders, and circle leaders ready to serve for the new 2024-2025 term beginning in August. These members were elected and then installed in April during our Women's Sunday worship service. Many of our women church members are members of a women's circle where all enjoy wonderful fellowship, inspiring Bible study, and meaningful mission projects. I would like to invite you to join a circle if you have not yet or rejoin if your schedule permits. Contact the church office for information.

I am deeply grateful to have had the opportunity to serve as PW Moderator these past two years. My term ends at the end of this month. It was an honor and a blessing to be a part of something so positive. I pray that I was worthy of the task.

Thank you PW Coordinating Team! To God be all glory, honor, and praise.

Anna Welborn

Moderator, Presbyterian Women

Date to Remember:

First PW Coordinating Team meeting of the new 2024-2025 term is set for Monday, Aug. 26, 10:00, in the Henry Reynolds room.

Noah's Ark News

We hope everyone is enjoying their summer break. We are looking forward to our first day of school on July 31st. We are excited to welcome two new members to our Noah's Ark staff for the 2024-2025 school year. Julianne Smith will be joining us as our Four-Year-old assistant and Grae Markward will be joining us as a Two-Year-Old assistant.



My name is Julianne Smith. I'm originally from Abbeville, SC and moved to Greenwood nine years ago after graduating from Lander University. My husband, Tripp, and I have a sweet baby girl, Evie. We have two dogs, Maxwell and Sully, and a cat named Biscuit. I've been caring for children for almost nine years and have loved every bit of it! I love spending time with family, going to the beach, and relaxing while watching one of my favorite shows.

Hey y'all! I'm Grae Markward, and I'm so excited to join the Noah's Ark team. I'm 29 years old, married to my fantastic husband, Austin, and together we have an energetic and curious 3-year-old son named Shepard.

We're proud members of St. Mark United Methodist Church, where we love participating in various community activities. When I'm not chasing after Shepard, I run my own painting business. I've always had a passion for creativity, which I've shared through teaching gymnastics, tumbling, and private art lessons. Watching kids learn and grow through these activities has been such a joy for me.

Since Shepard was born, I've been lucky enough to stay home with him, and now I'm thrilled to bring my experience and enthusiasm to the preschool classroom. I believe learning should be fun and filled with creativity, and I can't wait to bring that spirit to our students every day.

I am looking forward to getting to know all of you and having a fantastic time together!





Palmetto Girls Sing!

21

Girls in grades 4-12 are invited to audition for Palmetto Girls Sing. Palmetto Girls Sing is a girls' choir that serves girls in grades 4-12 in Greenwood, SC and its surrounding areas. Palmetto Girls Sing seeks to enrich the lives of girls through diverse and high quality choral music. An emphasis is placed on the joy of singing and its importance in our world. Palmetto Girls Sing offers girls opportunities

for personal, social, spiritual, and artistic growth as the girls learn vocal technique, vocal health, music reading, and performance skills. Palmetto Girls Sing presents its music, both sacred and secular, to the glory of God. As an outreach of First Presbyterian Church, Palmetto Girls Sing is a non-profit organization.

We have an official Palmetto Girls Sing website!
Visit us at www.palmettogirlssinggreenwood.com!

Registration is Open for the 10th Season of Palmetto Girls Sing

10 Seasons! How did we get here so fast! Visit our website to register for Season 10!

Palmetto Girls Sing!

Join us for our Tenth Season!

Palmetto Girls Sing is a girls' choir that serves girls in grades 4-12 in Greenwood, SC and its surrounding areas. Palmetto Girls Sing seeks to enrich the lives of girls through diverse and high quality choral music.

Interview and Audition Dates: May 29, June 27, and July 19 | 4-6 pm

New Opportunities } Artistic Growth } Choral Music } Friendship } Fun

New York Bound

We appreciate your prayers as we traveled to New York City, June 20-24. We had 25 girls participating in the trip. Be on the lookout for pictures in next month's Spire!

DATES TO REMEMBER

Please keep in mind that these events/happenings/places are not set in stone. Keep watch in the bulletin, next month's *Spire*, and the Pastor's Update for more current information.

Thursday-Friday July 4-5	Church offices Closed
Sunday, July 7	Worship Service with Communion (10:00, Sanctuary)
Sunday, July 14	Youth Mission Trip Commissioning (10:00 service) Andrew Goforth preaching
Sunday-Saturday July 14-20	Youth Mission Trip
Sunday, July 21	Blessing of the Backpacks Stated Meeting of the Session (5:30 pm, Henry Reynolds Room)
Sunday, July 28	Dr. Brad Christie preaching
Wednesday, July 31	Parent Meeting (6:00 p.m., Alexander Hall)
Sunday, August 4	Worship Service with Communion (10:00, Sanctuary)
Wednesday, August 7	Wednesday Night Dinner & Activities start back
Sunday, August 11	Dr. Brad Christie preaching
Sunday, August 18	Stated Meeting of the Diaconate (5:30 pm, Henry Reynolds Room)
Saturday, August 24	Trinity Presbyterian mtg. (9:30 am, South Aiken Presbyterian Church)
Sunday, August 25	Congregational Meeting to Elect Officers (10:40 am, Sanctuary) Stated Meeting of the Session (5:30 pm, Henry Reynolds Room)
Sunday, September 1	Worship Service with Communion (9:00 and 11:00) Sunday School (10:00)
Monday, September 2	Church offices closed
Sunday, September 8	Celebration Sunday (10:00 am, Alexander Hall)
Sudnay, September 22	Stated Meeting of the Session (5:30 pm, Henry Reynolds Room)
Sunday, October 6	World Communion Sunday Worship Service with Communion (9:00 and 11:00)
Sunday, October 13	Kirkin' of the Tartans Service (11:00 am, Sanctuary)

GENERAL CHURCH INFORMATION

RECENT HOSPITALIZATIONS:

(Home unless noted)

Gloria Dougherty -- SRH

Bob Todd -- SRH

Ava Hamm -- Greenville

Paul Rogers

Sheila Rogers (Elise Collins' mother)

Julie Cooner

Diane Fradella

Our Christian prayers and sympathies are extended

to Sheree Hill and her family on the passing of her mother, Barbara M. Johnson, of Aiken on June 16, 2024. We share with them the joy of the promise of resurrection and eternal life.



Congratulations to David & Kay Post on the birth of their great grandchildren, Henry Thomas and Hannah Louise Smith, born June 6. Parents are Master Sgt. Keith & Michelle Smith of NE.



TEAM MEETINGS

The **Financial Oversight Committee** will meet Wednesday, July 17, at 12:00 noon in Alexander Hall.

The **Session** will meet Sunday, July 21st, at 5:30 p.m. in the Henry Reynolds Room (Room 110).

Please note that the place, time, and date of these meetings are subject to change.

Other Items of Interest

We will celebrate the **Lord's Supper** during service on **July 7 2024**.

Deadline for the August issue of *The Spire* is Monday, July 15, 2024.

The church offices will be closed Thursday and Friday, July 4-5.

During the months of June, July, and August we will have only one service on Sunday mornings at 10:00 am.

WE ARE GETTING A LIFT!!!

Through the end of July, the stairway from the main level down to the basement (the kid's area) and up to the Alexander Hall level will be closed and the new lift will be installed. It will look similar to the picture to the left. We appreciate your patience and cooperation during this time and we apologize for any inconvenience this may cause.



THE SPIRE - (USPS 736-430) is published monthly by the First Presbyterian Church, 108 E. Cambridge Ave., PO Box 426, Greenwood, SC 29648-0426. Periodicals paid at Greenwood, SC. POST-MASTER: Send address changes to First Presbyterian Church, PO Box 426, Greenwood, SC 29648-0426.

@

Phone: (864) 229-5814 Fax: (864) 229-3489
Office hours: M-Th 8:00-4:00 and Fr 8:00-12:00 noon

e-mail: office@firstgreenwood.com
website: firstgreenwood.com

Senior Pastor

The Rev. Dr. Kyle Hite

Parish Associate

The Rev. Dr. Brad Christie

Theologian in Residence

The Rev. Dr. Cliff Cain

Director of Christian Education

Mrs. Elise Collins

Director of Music Ministries

Mr. Steve Skinner

Director of Youth & Young

Adult Ministries

Miss Jade Green

Music Associate/Organist

Mr. Timothy Walters

Audio/Visual

Mr. Adrian Yorick

Administrative Secretary

Mrs. Lea Jones

Financial Administrator

Ms. Nan Smith

Sexton

Mr. Vince Plotczyk

Noah's Ark Director

Mrs. Lauren Trantham

Church Treasurer

Mrs. Laine Orcutt

Clerk of Session

Dr. Brad Griggs

Moderator of Deacons

Ms. Carol Umphress

Moderator of Presbyterian Women

Mrs. Anna Welborn

Chair of Endowment

Dr. Jukie Leary