



The Spire

First Presbyterian Church

January 2025

Greenwood, SC

A Message From Our Pastor...

Have you ever heard or read of someone saying, “God told me to...” and wondered why you are not special enough to have God speak to you? Some use this statement to imply that there is a back-and-forth conversation from mouth to ear, as though God is hanging out in their living room. You may have thought, “I pray to God and invite God into my living room, but all I get is silence.” If so, you find yourself among most people who seek God.



The Bible is full of stories about people hearing and communicating with God. As we read, these stories beckon us to wonder how we can also hear God. One of the most common questions I get as a pastor is how to know what God wants them to do and how to hear God’s voice. A very small few are so attuned to God’s voice that they feel like God speaks to them every day. Indeed, God does speak to us every day, but it takes an effort on our part to stay tuned to God’s frequency.

In the Pastor’s Bible Study this winter, we will use a LifeGuide Bible Study entitled *Listening to God* by Carolyn Nystrom. Each Wednesday evening, we will open the stories of Biblical figures who have heard from God and discover the secrets of opening our own line of communication. If you would like to take this journey with us, have questions, or want a study guide reach out to the church office.

Blessings,

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

Pastor Kyle

SPECIAL SERVICES



Join us Sunday, January 5th, at 10:00 for our annual congregational meeting where you will vote on the 2025 Nominating Committee, the Pastors Terms of Call, and Pastor Kyle will give the State of the Church.

During the 11:00 service we will install our new officers for 2025. We will have communion during both services on this first Sunday of 2025.

Community Thanksgiving Service Highlights



Christmas @ First Pres & Live Nativity Highlights



4 Christmas Caroling and Cocoa Highlights





Birthday
Party
 FOR
JESUS



Sunday,
December 22

10:00

Alexander Hall
Breakfast compliments
of the Fellowship Team
Festivities compliments
of the Christian
Education Team



Sundays@10

Children K3 (potty-trained) - 5th grade
 Meet in the Gathering Room in the *Root Cellar*
 10:00 – 10:45 A. M.

Jan. 5	13 - Joshua and the Promised Land - God fulfills his promises in his timing	Media	Explore the Promised Land maps and images
Jan. 12	Rahab and Jericho - God calls the unlikely	Drama	Reenact the battle of Jericho
Jan. 19	15 - Ruth and Naomi and Boaz - God uses the unlikely foreigner	Art	Glean wheat and then glue to your basket
Jan. 26	16 - Samson - even the strong have weakness - only God can fill	Recreation	Journey through Samson's battles, riddle, and hair cut then end

CHILDREN'S CHAPEL

Sunday's
 during 11:00
 sermon



Jan. 5	Let's go! (208)	Luke Penney	Liza Evans Justesen
Jan. 12	A little girl and a poor frail lady (214)	Sarah Pinson	Jamie & Ruby Ortiz
Jan. 19	How to pray (222)	Merrie Wright	Olivia Wright
Jan. 26	The Singer (228)	Beth Justesen	Quay Justesen & Maddie Ray Shirley



Wednesdays
5:15 - 7:00
For children K3
(potty-trained) - 5th

**Wednesday evenings are for church family!
God equips us for life when we grow deep roots as children!**

Jan. 8	14 - Roman Centurion & Bleeding Woman (Jesus heals)	Campbell/Anderson
Jan. 15	15 - Good Samaritan parable (take care of each other)	Wright/Jenks
Jan. 22	16 - Woman at the Well (Jesus doesn't hold your mistakes against you)	LaForge
Jan. 29	17 - Prodigal Son parable (Jesus will always take you back)	Penney

SHinE Choir

Thank you for allowing your child to sing in SHinE Choir! We truly get to SHINE in December as we celebrate the birth of Jesus. Please make our rehearsals and worship services a priority. Email Amy if your child cannot participate (amyqfennell@gmail.com).

Worship Time!

December 24, Christmas Eve- The service begins at 5:30.
We will meet in the music room at 5:00 to prepare.



Amy Fennell has been sharing her passion and love of music with our children for years.

We are so blessed to have had her unparalleled music expertise in combination with her genuine compassion for our children.

Amy, there is no one like you!

Please join me in thanking Amy for her time spent joyfully pouring into our children for all these years.





Games

Bible

Live Worship
Music

5th Grade
Service
Projects

Crafts

Friends
Welcome

Snacks

Nightly
Features

K3-K5th
Completers

2025 VBS: God is Love!

June 8-12, 2025

5:30-7:30 P. M.

We're going to talk about how everything good and loving is from God.

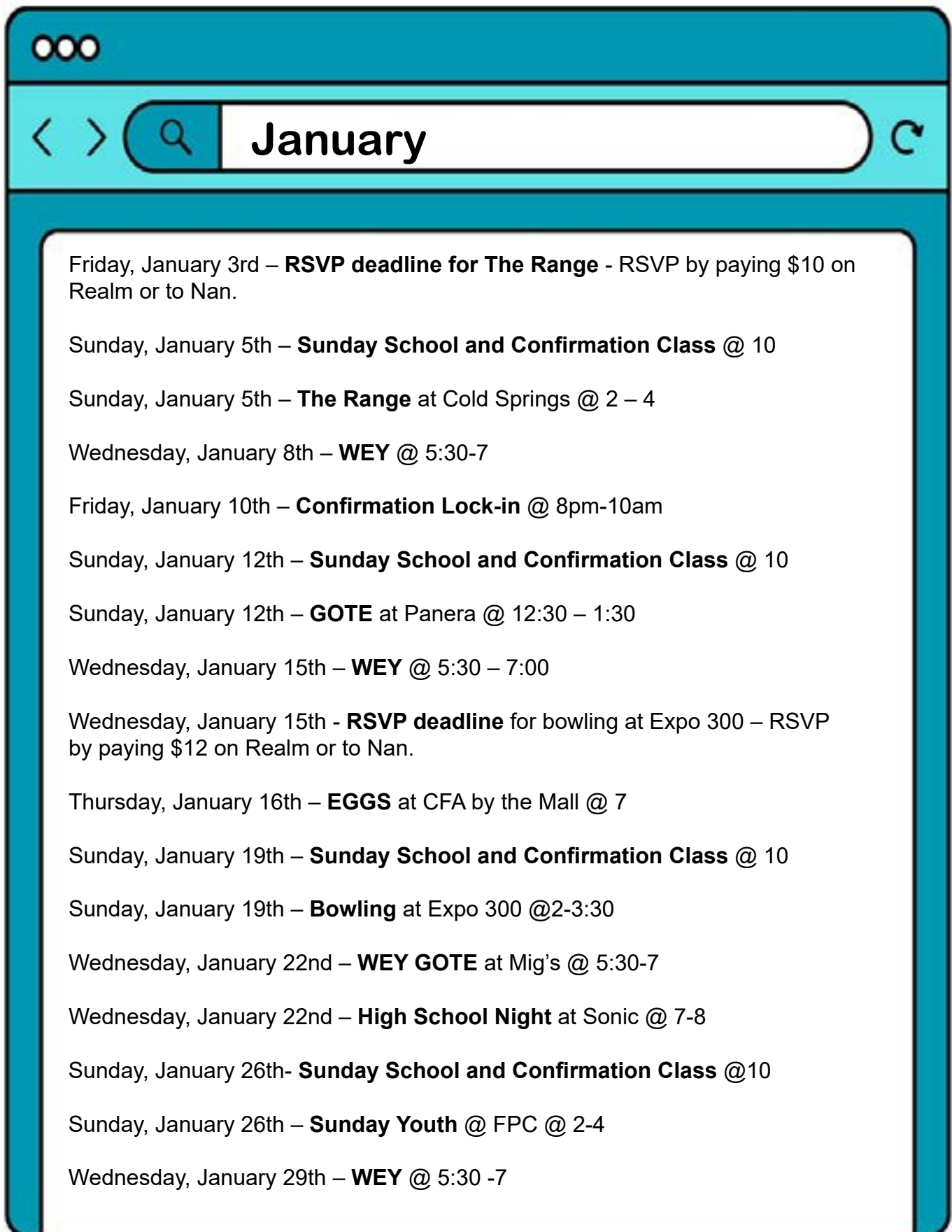
And this is how we can live as well.

We'll learn from the Bible and put our love into action.

- Michelle Barksdale and Janice May are coordinating VBS.
- Kristi Tucker is helping to write our curriculum.
- We need adult volunteers for Bible, recreation, snack, & craft.
- We'll be having our special surprise after VBS each evening.
- We need volunteers to be crew leaders for the children.
- 5th graders will be doing service projects all week and need a volunteer.
- We're hoping to have live worship songs for our opening and closing sessions and will need musicians.

YOUTH





Friday, January 3rd – **RSVP deadline for The Range** - RSVP by paying \$10 on Realm or to Nan.

Sunday, January 5th – **Sunday School and Confirmation Class @ 10**

Sunday, January 5th – **The Range** at Cold Springs @ 2 – 4

Wednesday, January 8th – **WEY @ 5:30-7**

Friday, January 10th – **Confirmation Lock-in @ 8pm-10am**

Sunday, January 12th – **Sunday School and Confirmation Class @ 10**

Sunday, January 12th – **GOTE** at Panera @ 12:30 – 1:30

Wednesday, January 15th – **WEY @ 5:30 – 7:00**

Wednesday, January 15th - **RSVP deadline** for bowling at Expo 300 – RSVP by paying \$12 on Realm or to Nan.

Thursday, January 16th – **EGGS** at CFA by the Mall @ 7

Sunday, January 19th – **Sunday School and Confirmation Class @ 10**

Sunday, January 19th – **Bowling** at Expo 300 @2-3:30

Wednesday, January 22nd – **WEY GOTE** at Mig's @ 5:30-7

Wednesday, January 22nd – **High School Night** at Sonic @ 7-8

Sunday, January 26th- **Sunday School and Confirmation Class @10**

Sunday, January 26th – **Sunday Youth @ FPC @ 2-4**

Wednesday, January 29th – **WEY @ 5:30 -7**

FPC Confirmation 2025

7th & 8th graders

Tentatively 10:00 – 10:45 a. m. in the youth room unless otherwise noted

Date	Topic	Facilitator
January 5	Welcome! Why? Bible Basics.	Jade Green & Elise Collins
January 10-11 Retreat	* The Stories of Genesis and Exodus * The Ten Commandments * The History of Israel	* Elise Collins * Jade Green * Andrew Goforth
January 12	Cherished Passages and Characters of the Old Testament	Jukie & Cindy Leary
January 19	The Gospels	Donna Thompson
January 26	Moments and Miracles in the Life of Jesus	Philip & Libby Bell
February 2	Cherished Stories of the New Testament	Lily Collins & Charlie Fennell
February 9	The Sayings and Parables of Jesus	Luke & Carson Penney
February 16	The Early Church	Andrew Goforth
February 23	Youth Sunday	
March 2	Worship, Sacraments, and the Life of the Congregation	Kyle Hite
March 9	The Body of Christ	Brad Christie
March 16 (Optional)	World Religions	Elise Collins or Cliff Cain
March 23 (Optional)	Doubts and Questions Help You Grow! Q & A Session	Kirstin Sherrer
March 30	10:00 - Faith Statement Practice 5:30 - Faith Statements to Session	Andrew Goforth
April 6	10:00 - Confirmation Sunday Preparation and Pictures 11:00 - Service	Jade Green and Elise Collins

If your child will be absent for a session, please contact Jade to make arrangements to make it up prior to the next session.



Middle Schoolers meet on the
3rd Thursday at 7:00 am
near the mall. Carpool to school.



EGGS:
Exalting a Great God
at Sunrise

We will meet on January 16th!
The van will leave at 7:30 for Westview.

**The Range at
Cold Springs**

Sunday, January 5th
@ 2:00 - 4:00

**Pick up & drop
off at FPC**

**RSVP by Friday,
January 3rd by paying
\$10 on Realm or to Nan**

Two white golf balls on wooden tees, positioned at the bottom of the green background.

Hanging of the Greens Highlights





**Sundays@10
for Adults!**

10:00

Jan. 5th - Congregational Meeting in the Sanctuary

Jan. 12, 19, 26 - in Alexander Hall for Kaleidoscope

Kaleidoscope in January 2025

“Thin Spaces”



A Photography Exhibit in Alexander Hall Featuring 38 Photos by The Rev. Dr. Cliff Cain

“Thin Spaces” are the moments in our personal experiences and in particular locations when God seems to break-through, when the extraordinary becomes apparent in the ordinary, when the spiritual penetrates the everyday, when the sacred infiltrates human sights and sites.

These photographs from all around the world will be accompanied by guidebooks which describe the photographs, provide some scriptural references, and engage in theological reflection. Everyone is invited to stop-by when convenient and “self-guide” through the Exhibit.

“Thin Spaces” will open on Sunday, January 5th,
and run through Sunday, January 26th.

Lectures at 10:00 a.m. during the consolidated Sunday School hour on January 12th, January 19th, and January 26th will examine three persons who exemplify finding the divine in the “thin spaces”—Francis of Assisi, Hildegard of Bingen, and Pope Francis.





Wednesday Night Fellowship

5:15 – Gather - Children on the playground;
adults and youth in AH

5:30 – Dinner for adults and youth (\$10)
RSVP by Monday or request to be added to the weekly list.

5:40 – Dinner for children (pay \$5 weekly or by semester/year)

5:55 – Prayer for everyone

6:00 programming Women in the Conference Room (206), Men in the FISH class (205), and Pastor's Bible study in the Henry Reynolds room (110); Children (The Root Cellar); Youth (the Loft)

Menus:

January 8: RING IN THE NEW YEAR! Roasted pork, sweet potatoes, black-eyed peas, greens, cornbread

January 15: EGGSTRAVAGANZA: Scrambled eggs, sausage and gravy biscuits, grits, fruit

January 22: Chicken stew,
broccoli, cornbread

January 29: CHINESE NEW YEAR:
Crispy Orange Chicken, rice, egg
rolls, carrots

“No matter how simple
the meal might be, 
the most important thing is
everyone sharing time
with one another,
creating memories.”



MISSIONS/OUTREACH

MONTHLY MISSION SPOTLIGHT The Burton Center



First Presbyterian Church has helped The Burton Center in several ways over the years. It all began when the PW Thank Offering awarded a \$25,000 grant for a Sensory Park on the grounds that Endowment later supported. FPC has since provided fencing around their 1.5 acre fishing pond, funding toward the purchase of a 15 passenger van, helping fund a campus security system, and most recently helping to complete the project of installing cameras in their 53 vehicles. Our Sojourners Sunday School Class provides Christmas gifts for three BC individuals each year. The Burton Center is grateful to our church for our support.

Thank You Message from Greater Greenwood United Ministries

Rosemary Bell, the Executive Director of GGUM, sent a thank you letter to the individuals and groups from our church who gave financial support. GGUM was blessed to provide the following assistance in their parking lot the week after the storm:

- * 17,000 pounds of canned food (completely emptying their emergency food pantry)
- * Hygiene and dental kits, and children's books
- * 625 cases of water
- * 630 hot meals



They are very grateful for the faithful support from our members as we walk together to assist "the least of these in our community."

MISSIONS/OUTREACH cont.

UPDATE ON THE TEEN CENTER

From Sabrina Miller

(Executive Director, Boys & Girls Clubs of the Lakelands Region)

The Teen Center is going well. We had some flooding during the hurricane that left us without power and services until late October.

Nonetheless during the hurricane we partnered with local entities to ensure our members were still fed each day and also helped the county distribute 8K MRE's, 4K bottles of water, and also toilet paper, trash bags, and treats for members of the community.

And although we lost furnishings and had some mold issues, we are happy to be serving members once again.

We have begun serving rising 6th graders in our Teen Center in an effort to provide a true continuum of service for the members we serve in our Be Great Academy school based programs. So far we have enrolled 34 6th graders and 21 7th graders. We believe providing services to them at this critical junction in their lives will help to decrease suspension rates, increase academics, and also teach some much needed social and emotional skills as they head into middle school.

The Teen Center was nominated and was a Top Ten Finalist for the Furman University Riley Institute What Works Award. The award is for community based organizations that demonstrate strong partnerships with the surrounding school districts and make a positive impact in the lives of children. We are super proud to have been considered.

On October 24, we celebrated Lights on Afterschool which is a nationally recognized day wherein the promise and power of afterschool is highlighted. Our members traveled to Columbia for a larger celebration the week prior and we celebrated at the Teen Center on the 24th. We held an Open House and displayed art work and other mementos as well as provided information for parents and community members to showcase what our members do during afterschool.



Our members sent off approximately 50 shoeboxes that will be given to needy children in the USA and throughout the world.

Shoeboxes ordered on-line are specifically packed for sending to children in other countries.

Church History for the Month: A Legacy of Joint Sunday School Classes

by Andrew Goforth

January is a very important month in the history of our Sunday School program. For many years, it has been in the month of January that our various adult Sunday School classes, and occasionally the Youth class, have come together into one large, combined Sunday School class in Alexander Hall. This joint class, nicknamed *Kaleidoscope*, is exciting both in terms of breaking out of the normal weekly Sunday School routine and in terms of the annual tradition that it has become. When viewed through the lens analyzing the development of our Sunday School program over the many years, *Kaleidoscope* signifies a brief and temporary return to "the old ways of doing things."

In its very earliest stage of development our congregation was merely one large joint Kaleidoscope-like Sunday School class. In 1850, under the leadership of Rev. John McLees, Rock Church bought the old Presbyterian High School building from the Greenwood Educational Association and converted it into a Sunday School outpost for members of Rock Church that lived near the town square. After renovations, the old High School building became known throughout early Greenwood as the Chapel, hosting afternoon church-school classes. Reports describe McLees preaching at Rock Church Sunday mornings, then commuting on horseback to the Chapel where he taught afternoon classes and led evening worship services for many years. The Chapel was originally a one room school building and later enlarged to three rooms through the additions of two wings on either side of the original building, which were used to for separate boys' and girls' classes, while the original room served as gathering place where worship services and other meetings could also be held. Because of the lack of space in the Chapel, Sunday School would have grouped the adults together, very closely resembling our modern-day *Kaleidoscope*. Over many years, the Rock members meeting for this Sunday School class eventually grew ready to formally separate from Rock Church, and in April of 1883 formally organized First Presbyterian Church of Greenwood.

The use of Alexander Hall as the *Kaleidoscope* Sunday School room is also ripe with historical significance. When built as our former sanctuary in 1899, there was a large Sunday School room connected to the former sanctuary and separated by sliding wooden doors, which would be opened for use as overflow seating during worship services or closed for use as a Sunday School Hall. Surrounding this Sunday School Hall were many smaller rooms that would house smaller Sunday School classrooms, architecturally modeled after the Akron Plan pattern found in many older churches across the country. In the early years after completion, adults would meet in this Sunday School Hall for a short session that introduced the main theme and then would separate the large class into smaller classes in the surrounding rooms. When our former sanctuary was renovated into the Fellowship Hall in 1959, the sliding wooden doors were removed, and the old Sunday School Hall was converted into the kitchen, while the smaller surrounding Sunday School classrooms were either retained as Sunday School rooms or converted into storage rooms.

For decades, the sounds of strong, solid, sturdy Biblical teaching have permeated the walls of Alexander Hall. This month, as we gather for our annual *Kaleidoscope* class, we join the countless number of people that have similarly walked through the doors of Alexander Hall and sat under spiritually nourishing and edifying instruction. In the annual *Kaleidoscope* class, it is our prayer that while we remember "the old ways" of conducting Sunday School, ways that gave birth to our church, our hearts would be stirred and our lives would be transformed to further shine the light of Christ into the hearts of those from every tongue and of every place.



Presbyterian Women News

WOMEN OF THE CHURCH

WHAT IS A PRESBYTERIAN WOMAN?

God borrows from many creatures to make a *Presbyterian Woman*.

- God - takes the voice of a meadowlark
- The stubbornness of a mule
- The curiosity of a cat
- The spryness of a grasshopper and
- The strength of a pack horse - to create a *Presbyterian woman*

A *Presbyterian Woman* can be found anywhere:

- She can be found in the church choir
- She's often found in the church office and
- On Sundays, she will be found in the Sunday School program.
- She is also found in board rooms, behind a cash register
- Or at a school P.T.O function
- She quilts, bakes, knits and volunteers at the hospital
- She even bowls!

A *Presbyterian Woman* is

- Comfort with a casserole in her hand
- She is service cleaning up after a luncheon
- She is compassion with a pledge card in her purse.
- She is friendship with a cheerful smile on her face and
- She is very hungry for knowledge, armed with a Bible and a study book

Church Sessions include Presbyterian Woman.

Church secretary's slave for them.

Husbands despair for them and

Heaven protects them.

A Presbyterian Woman is a dreamer and a worker, dreaming great dreams for her children, her church and her country and she's working to make those dreams come true. She's a link with the past, a powerful force in the present and an investment in the future.

From: Cornucopia of Prayer, Praise, Projects, Programs by Presbyterian Women of Presbytery of Giddings

Lisa Yarbrough
CT Moderator

PW COORDINATING TEAM MEETING
Monday, January 25, 2025 ~ 10:00 am ~ Henry Reynolds Room

²⁰**Circle 1** will meet on Tuesday, January 7th, at 10:30 am, at Wesley Commons.
Contact Jean Mabe 941-7817.

Circle 3 will meet Monday, January 13th, at 10:30 am, in the Henry Reynolds Room (110).
Contact Rebecca Wise 554-6993 or Gigi Smith 554-8177

Circle 4 will meet Monday, January 6th, at 11:00 am, at The Alcoves.
Contact Marilyn Towne 229-6990

Circle 5 will meet Tuesday, January 14th, at 12:30 pm, in Alexander Hall.
and includes lunch & childcare.
Contact Meg Stevens 993-7536 & Tara Gibson, 773-991-3374

Circle 6 will meet Monday, January 6th, at 7:00 pm in the Barksdale Room (122).
Contact Jessica Willard (jesswillard81@gmail.com, 993-5980) or
Nickie Murphy (famurphy01@aol.com, 205-317-5347)

Circle 7 will Tuesday, January 7th, at 10:30 am, at the home of Betsy Collins.
Contact Becky Bryson 223-2998 & Jill Koczwarra (570) 344-3192.

Circle 8 will meet on Tuesday, January 7th, at 11:30 am, in the Barksdale Room (122).
Contact Betty Williams 993-0466.



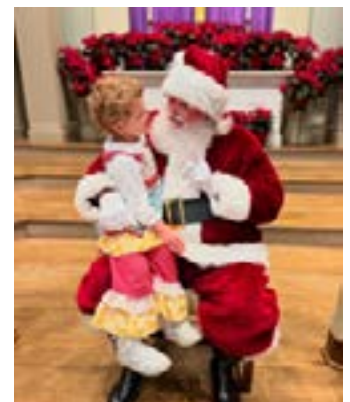
*I've learned that
people will forget
what you said,
people will forget
what you did, but
people will never
forget how you
made them feel.*

**MAYA
ANGELOU**

inspire 99

Noah's Ark News

We had a wonderful time with Santa and Mrs. Claus and are so thankful for Mrs. Martha Ann for reminding us of the true meaning of Christmas. As we begin 2025, we will review our Fruits of the Spirit and focus on Gentleness in Chapel for the month of January. Tuesday, January 14th, Noah's Ark will host a Spirit Morning with Shipley's Donuts from 6am-12pm. Stop by for a coffee and to help support our preschool! Let them know you're there for Noah's Ark!



It's that time of the year again! Noah's Ark 2025-2026 Registration will begin for First Presbyterian Church members on Monday, January 13th. Please see Lauren in the Noah's Ark office for more information or visit the Noah's Ark tab on the church's website. We will host Open Registration for the public beginning on Monday, January 27th, so be sure to secure your spot! We would love for your little one to join our program!



From the highly revered church music authority, Yoda: “Do or do not. There is no try” (except in singing or ringing—anybody is WELCOME to try!)

For centuries a healthy percentage (over 10%) of church-goers have found joy in serving their congregations by applying their musical gifts (talents that are inherent) and musical abilities (skills that can be learned). The latter, skills that can be learned, have been the overwhelming bulk of music-making leadership since Old Testament times. That’s a long history!

No choir singer will ever be asked to sing by themselves, and no ringer will ever be expected to ring an entire piece alone. Music Ministry is a TEAM SPORT!!

Every team has practice (at least weekly) to hone the skills, and music is no different. Singers and Ringers are NOT expected to arrive with all the notes, rhythm, or techniques. We work hard and find that it is so worthwhile! And then we get a few privileges:

- Best seats in the house
- Being on the TEAM
- Your own robe (free of charge)
- Natural production of endorphins (the “happy” hormone)
- Service to your brothers and sisters
- Offering of praise the Lord Jesus Christ
- Evangelism without even trying!

Come try! Maybe you’re dusting off an ability you gained some time ago, maybe you are looking for “something.” It’s all good. Give me a call (814 464-6046), or just show up.

Choir: Wednesdays 7 – 8:30 in room #124 (“Choir Room”)

Bells: Sundays 4:15 – 5:15 in room #125 (“Bell Choir”)

Note about Bells—elementary music reading skills make the learning curve easier, and thousands have learned ALL of their music reading skills from playing in a bell choir.

We invite YOU to join our team of music-makers!

Steve

Palmetto Girls Sing!



Mission Statement of 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!



Would you like to donate to Palmetto Girls Sing? Any amount is so helpful! You may donate to a scholarship for a particular girl, or make a donation to benefit all of the girls.

Name _____

Gift Amount _____ Date _____

I would like my gift to help provide a scholarship. _____



2024-2025 SEASON

Sunday, October 6,
4:00 PM

The Carolina Baroque Trumpet Ensemble

The Carolina Baroque Trumpet Ensemble is composed of trumpet performers and scholars from across the Carolinas who specialize in performance on historic natural trumpets, known today as “Baroque Trumpets” because of the instrument’s celebrated usage during the Baroque period (c. 1600-1750). Joined by leading Baroque trumpeter and international performing and recording artist Kathryn Aducci, the CBTE will present a concert of fanfares and processions from the 17th and 18th Centuries on replica period instruments.

Sunday, December 15
7:00 PM

Christmas @ First Pres

Presented by the music ministries of First Presbyterian Church, Sing Noel is performed by choirs, handbells, and congregation. Anthems and carols engage the audience with melodies of the season. Join us for music that will bring joy to all this holiday!

Sunday, February 23
4:00 PM

A Pageant of Keyboards

Be our guest for a collaboration of local keyboardists! Stanley Colbert, Steven Skinner, and Tim Walters utilize five keyboards to create a rhapsodic collage.

Sunday, March 16
4:00 PM

Modern Choral Classics

In its annual concert honoring the diverse heritage of recent composers, the Greenwood Festival Chorale presents modern choral standards. Director Mr. Steven Skinner leads the chorale in its musical offerings to the community throughout the year. For auditions, contact steve@first-greenwood.com or see the Greenwood Festival Chorale website at www.gwdfestivalchorale.com.

MY GIFT TO SUPPORT THE 2024-2025 FESTIVA ARTS SERIES

FRIEND: \$50-\$99 \$ _____; **SPONSOR:** \$100-\$599 \$ _____; **PATRON:** \$500-\$999 \$ _____; **ANGEL:** \$1,000 + \$ _____

Name: _____

Mailing Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____

ZIP: _____ Telephone: _____

Email: _____

Please complete this form and mail it to:

First Presbyterian Church

P.O. Box 426, Greenwood, SC 29648

or leave it in the church office. Your check payable to
FPC is tax deductible.

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.

Sunday, December 22	Fourth Sunday of Advent Communion during early service Christmas Joy Offering accepted Birthday Party for Jesus (10:00 am, Alexander Hall)
Tuesday, December 24	Nativity Service Rehearsal (10:30 am, Sanctuary) Church offices close (12:00 noon) Nativity Service (5:30 pm, Sanctuary) Candlelight Service (7:00 pm, Sanctuary)
Wednesday-Friday December 25-27	Church offices closed
Tuesday, December 31	Church offices close (12:00 noon)
Wednesday, January 1	Church offices closed
Sunday, January 5	Communion during both services Annual Congregational Meeting (10:00 am, Sanctuary) Installation of Officers (11:00 service, Sanctuary)
Friday-Saturday January 10-11	Confirmation Retreat
Sunday, January 12	Kaleidoscope (10:00 am, Alexander Hall) Cradle Roll (11:00 service)
Sunday, January 19	Kaleidoscope (10:00 am, Alexander Hall) Diaconate (5:30 pm, Henry Reynolds Room)
Monday, January 20	Office Closed
Friday-Sunday January 24-26	Women's Retreat
Sunday, January 26	Kaleidoscope (10:00 am, Alexander Hall) Session (5:30 pm, Henry Reynolds Room)

Our Christian prayers and sympathies are extended to Norene Gale and her family on the passing of her husband, Ron Gale, on December 7, 2024. We share with them the joy of the promise of resurrection and eternal life.



We need ushers for both the 9:00 and 11:00 services. Please contact the front office if interested.

Other Items of Interest

We will celebrate the **Lord's Supper** during both services on **January 5, 2025**.

Deadline for the February issue of *The Spire* is Monday, January 13, 2025.

The church offices will be closed on January 1st and January 20th.

The church offices will also be closed from noon on Christmas Eve through the rest of the week. If you would like to drop off your year-end pledge or your 2025 pledge card, feel free to do in the secure mailbox at the front entrance of the church going into the lobby. We will be open Monday, December 30th from 8am-4pm and Tuesday, December 31st from 8 am-12:00 noon.

TEAM MEETINGS

The **Buildings & Grounds Committee** will meet Monday, January 13th, at 5:15 pm, in the Barksdale Room (Room 122).

The **Christian Education Team** will meet Sunday, January 12th, at 6:00 pm, in the Barksdale Room (Room 122).

The **Committed Prayers Team** will meet Monday, January 27th, at 4:30 pm, in the Chapel.

The **Diaconate** will meet Sunday, January 19th at 5:30 pm in the Henry Reynolds Room (Room 110).

The **Men of the Church** will meet Tuesday, January 7th, at 5:30 pm, in the Henry Reynolds Room (Room 110).

The **Missions/Outreach Committee** will meet Sunday, January 12th, at 4:30 pm, in the Henry Reynolds Room (Room 110).

The **Noah's Ark Staff** will meet Wednesday, January 9th, at 12:15 pm, in the Henry Reynolds Room (Room 110).

The **Presbyterian Women Coordinating Team** will meet Monday, January 27th, at 10:00 am, in the Henry Reynolds Room (Room 110).

The **Session** will meet Sunday, January 26th, at 5:30 pm, in the Henry Reynolds Room (Room 110).

Stephen Ministry will meet Wednesday, January 9th, at 4:30 pm, in the Barksdale Room (Room 122).

The **Youth Team** will meet Sunday, January 12th, at 12:15 pm, at Panera.

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

GENERAL CHURCH INFORMATION cont.

FROM THE FINANCIAL OFFICE

CONTRIBUTIONS FROM YOUR INVESTMENT PORTFOLIO OR BANK

If you plan to give contributions from your investment portfolio or from your bank directly to the church, please let Nan Smith in the financial office know. Nan can be reached at 864-229-5814 or finance@firstgreenwood.com. Stock and other direct transfers often come with no additional information about the donor's identity.

2025 OFFERING ENVELOPES

Offering envelopes are available in the hallway between the two lobbies. If you do not see yours or would like to start using offering envelopes, please contact Nan Smith in the financial office. These offering envelopes are mailable. There is no need to put them in another envelope to mail them, just put a stamp on them. If you give online or once a year, and would like to discontinue receiving the envelopes, please return them to Nan with a note letting her know.

Note that your envelope number may have changed. If you use offering envelopes, be sure to use the ones for the current year. As more people start giving electronically, we are ordering fewer offering envelopes, and your envelope number may have changed.

NEW MEMBERS CLASS

We will be holding a New Members Class beginning Sunday, January 19th, at 10:00 in the Barksdale Room (Room 122) and continuing on Sunday mornings, January 26th, and February 2nd. You will be received into church membership during the 11:00 service on February 2nd. If you would like to participate in this class or have any questions, please contact the front office (229-5814 or office@firstgreenwood.com) or talk with Dr. Brad Christie.

2025						
JANUARY						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

NEW OFFICER INSTALLATION

New Officers, you will be installed during the 11:00 service on January 5, 2025.

It is very important that you are in attendance for this service. Please be sure to stop by the front office so we can take your picture that will be posted in the lobby.



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website: firstgreenwood.com

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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

Music Associate/Guitarist

Mr. Stephan Botchie

Audio/Visual

Mrs. Tamara McLeod

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. Lisa Yarbrough

Chair of Endowment

Dr. Jukie Leary