



# The Spire

## First Presbyterian Church

February 2025

Greenwood, SC

### A Message From Our Pastor...

Wildfires on the west coast. Hurricanes on the east coast. Winter storms in the north. Someone drives into a crowd of people in the south. Turn on the news and learn of wars, political battles, and health warnings. Does it ever feel like the world is shaking around you? That is because it is. We live in a broken and hurting world. Some seize the storyline by claiming this is “the end of times.” The truth is that humanity has always faced challenges. There have always been catastrophic events and wars. What may be different today is that we are informed of global issues in real time.

The real news today is how people respond to tragedy without the assurance of faith. Many in our society believe that the practice of religion is antiquated and unnecessary in the modern world. But as a person of lifelong belief in a great God, I wonder what protective wing those people nestle into amid difficult times. We know that “though the earth should change, though the mountains shake in the heart of the sea; though its waters roar and foam, though the mountains tremble with its tumult. God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble. Therefore we will not fear.” Psalm 46:1–3 (NRSV) That should be the real news today. Yes, difficult events will come, but it is not the event that defines you, it is how you face it. And when you face it in the protective shelter of the almighty God, you will not falter.

In addition, what our faith teaches us is that we not only stand on the solid rock, but we are also to care for people struggling to find that rock for themselves. We can share the great stories of the fiery furnace and Daniel in the lion’s den. We can be the good Samaritan. We can pray for miracles, and love like Jesus himself. Because when we live into our faith, the troubles of our world only make us stronger.

Blessings,

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

Pastor Kyle

# SPECIAL SERVICES



## Sunday, February 2nd

We will offer communion during both services and will receive new members during the 11:00 service.



## February 9, 2025

### NOAH'S ARK SUNDAY

During the 11:00 service, our Noah's Ark Preschool will lead worship with speakers and the children singing.



## February 16, 2025

We will celebrate the many Scout troops that we host here at FPC.

**The Girl Scouts will be selling Girl Scout cookies.**

All Girl Scouts are welcome to participate in the service.

Please contact Becky Gardner if interested, 980-7308.



## Youth Sunday February 23, 2025

Our youth will lead in worship.

We will also have youth in the lobby selling pinestraw.

# SPECIAL SERVICES

Join us as we celebrate the Arts this month  
with two very special performances.

The first one features Mother-Daughter Duo, Sopranos, Dr. Valerie Francis & Imani Sarai Francis accompanied by Dr. Wilfred Delphin, will perform a program of solo arias and duets from various operas, art songs, spirituals and a few selections of gospel music. Sunday, February 2, 4pm.

The concert is free and open to the public and is sponsored by the Greenwood Museum.



The second performance is hosted by Festiva.

## **A Pageant of Keyboards**

Sunday, February 23, 2025 4:00 PM

Be our guest for a collaboration of local keyboardists! Stanley Colbert, Steven Skinner, and Tim Walters utilize five

keyboards to create a rhapsodic collage.





## Sundays@10

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

Feb. 2 with Mrs. Elise	17 - Hannah, Eli, and Samuel - God calls us	Drama	Act out Hannah, Samuel, and Eli
Feb. 9 with Mrs. Elise	SHinE Choir 18 - King Saul - we can lose our way	Media	Explore kings of Israel
Feb. 16 with Ms. Michelle	19 - David and Goliath - God gives us strength - have faith	Art	David and Goliath and the sling shot and 5 stones
Feb. 23 with Mrs. Cindy	20 - David as King - how to have a heart for the Lord even when we mess up	Drama	Dance party

## CHILDREN'S CHAPEL

Sunday's  
 during 11:00  
 sermon



Feb. 2	The Captain of the storm (236)	Cindy Leary	Linsey Anderson
Feb 9	Filled Full! (244) (SHinE Choir sings)	Luke Penney	Liza Evans Justesen
Feb 16	Treasure Hunt! (250)	Sarah Pinson	Jamie & Ruby Ortiz
Feb 23	The Friend of the little children (256)	Merrie Wright	Olivia Wright



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

Feb 5	18 - Calming a Storm and Walking on Water	Willard/Clark
Feb 12	19 - Zaccheus (Jesus invites us by name)	Griffith/Pinson
Feb 19	20 - Mary and Martha (Jesus and priorities)	Dunlap
Feb 26	21 - Lazarus dies (Jesus feels)	Campbell/Anderson

## SHinE Choir

SHinE Choir is back in full swing! In January, our music and scripture focused on Jesus as "The Light of the World."

In February, we will focus on the love of God through songs and Bible stories. We will learn two songs from our hymnal, "Open the Eyes of My Heart" and "Jesu, Fill Us with Your Love."

### Singing Sundays

February 9

April 16

\*\*\*Please meet in the Children's Choir Room to robe and rehearse at 10:30 on these Sundays.  
 PLEASE contact Amy Fennell if your child is unable to participate.



### David Epps

David is our fearless table parent for our guys table. These guys have a great time together and David is a great table parent.

David is the dad of Holden and Sadie and we are so grateful to have him as part of our weekly SHinE team!



# YOUTH



# february 2025

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
						1
2 Sunday School & Confirmation Class @ 10 SNY @ Floyd's 4-6	3	4	5 WEY @ 5:30-7	6	7	8 Girls Retreat @ 8:30 pm - 9:00 am (Carpool to church)
9 Sunday School & Confirmation Class @ 10 Dinner at The Mill House 4-5	10	11	12 WEY @ 5:30-7	13	14	15
16 Sunday School & Confirmation Class @ 10 SNY @ FPC 4-6	17	18	19 WEY @ 5:30-7	20 EGGS @ CFA by the mall @ 7	21	22
23 Youth Sunday @ 11 (arrive @ 10) SNY @ Mulkey's 4-6	24	25	26 WEY @ Migs 5:30-7 High School Night @ Sonic 7-8	27	28	







*Youth*  
**SKI TRIP**

**SATURDAY, MARCH 1ST  
AT CATALOOCHEE SKI AREA**

Meet at FPC at 10:30 am for the bus  
and pick up from FPC at 10:00 pm.

RSVP by paying \$60 on Realm or to Nan  
by Tuesday, February 11th.

Each slope pass costs \$60. Please select if there is  
additional rental gear needed.

Pack a lunch to eat on the way there and bring money for  
snacks and dinner on the way back.



# Confirmation Lock-in Highlights



# Pine Straw Fundraiser

The youth of First Presbyterian Church are selling bales of Pine Straw as a fundraiser for their mission trip to East Bank, WV, and other youth trips/activities.

Bales are \$6.50 each including home delivery!  
Bales will be delivered on Saturday, March 8, 2025.

No order is too large or too small!  
Please consider ordering your spring pine straw from us.

Make checks payable to First Presbyterian Church  
or pay through the Realm event  
Payments must be received by February 28th

## ***Youth Mission Trip*** ***Summer 2025***



***East Bank, WV***  
***July 6th - 12th***

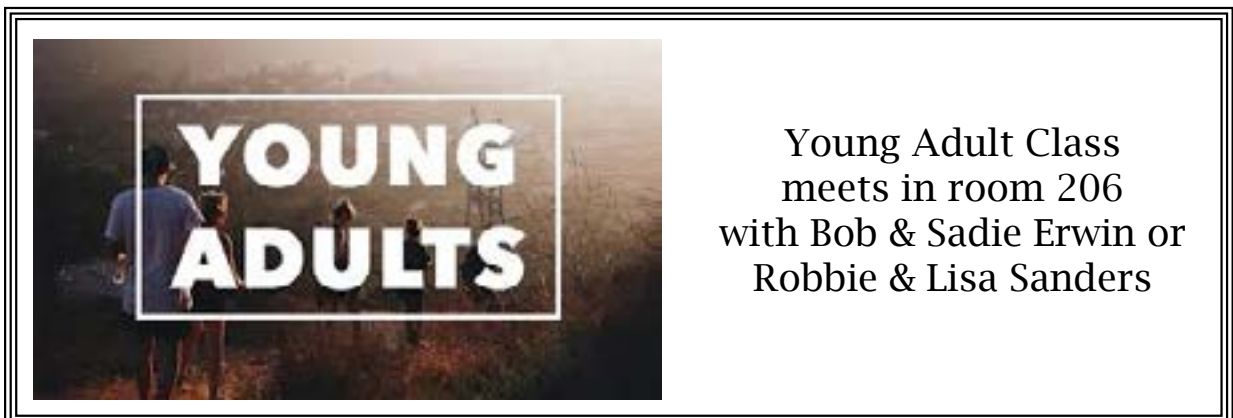


***RSVP by Thursday, May 1st by***  
***paying a \$50 nonrefundable***  
***deposit on Realm or to Nan***





*We will meet on February 20th!  
The van will leave at 7:30 for Westview.*

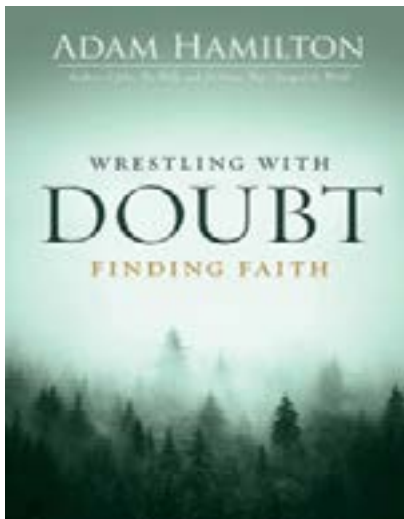




## Sundays@10 For Adults!

10:00

### Sojourners - Henry Reynolds (Room 110)



Everyone has doubts. Where is God when bad things happen? Does God hear our prayers? Is there a heaven? How can we know? Often, we treat such questions as the enemy of faith. But uncertainty doesn't mean our belief is lacking. Doubt can be a path to a deeper, richer encounter with God.

In *Wrestling with Doubt, Finding Faith*, join best-selling author and pastor Adam Hamilton as he discusses some of our most significant sources of doubt and shows how a steady trust in God can emerge from them.

You will delve into questions like:

“Does God exist? How can I know?”

“Is the Bible true?”

“Why do prayers go unanswered?”

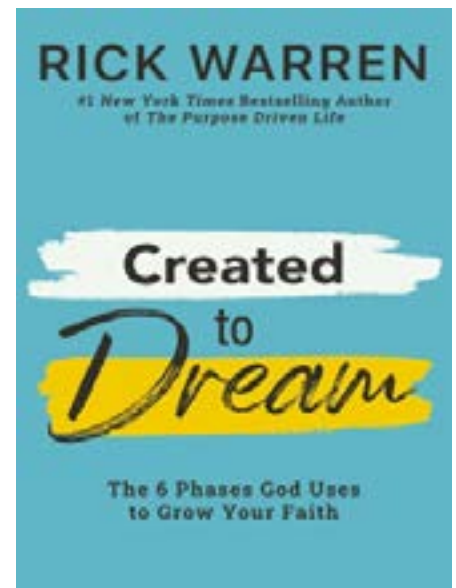
### FISH (Fellowship in Serving Him) – room 205

A great dream is a statement of faith. Whether you dream of creating something beautiful or accomplishing something incredible, your dream is the first step God uses to develop your spiritual maturity and change your life. The Bible is full of stories of people whose God-given dreams became reality—but to get there, they had to take a journey of faith.

In *Created to Dream*, beloved author of *The Purpose Driven Life* Rick Warren reveals how God uses six phases to develop your spiritual maturity while fulfilling the dreams he gives you. Each phase is a test of your faith, bringing you closer to your goal:

- Phase 1: **Dream**—God puts an exciting dream in your heart.
- Phase 2: **Decision**—You make the decision to go after the dream.
- Phase 3: **Delays**—God allows delays to get you ready for the dream.
- Phase 4: **Difficulties**—You face problems that grow your character.
- Phase 5: **Dead Ends**—You hit an impasse that God uses to deepen your faith further.
- Phase 6: **Deliverance**—God fulfills the dream, sometimes in ways you hadn't expected or imagined.

Knowing these six biblical phases of faith will allow you to stop wondering if you'll succeed or what you're doing wrong and begin looking instead for God's way forward so that you can be prepared for all that God has dreamed for your future.





## KALEIDOSCOPE LECTURES

If you missed one, or want to hear it again, below are the links to Rev. Dr. Cliff Cain's Kaleidoscope lectures on Thin Spaces for our Kaleidoscope series.

These videos are also available on our Youtube Channel under the Playlists Highlights and Kaleidoscope or by clicking on the links below:

**January 12, 2025 -St. Francis of Assisi:**

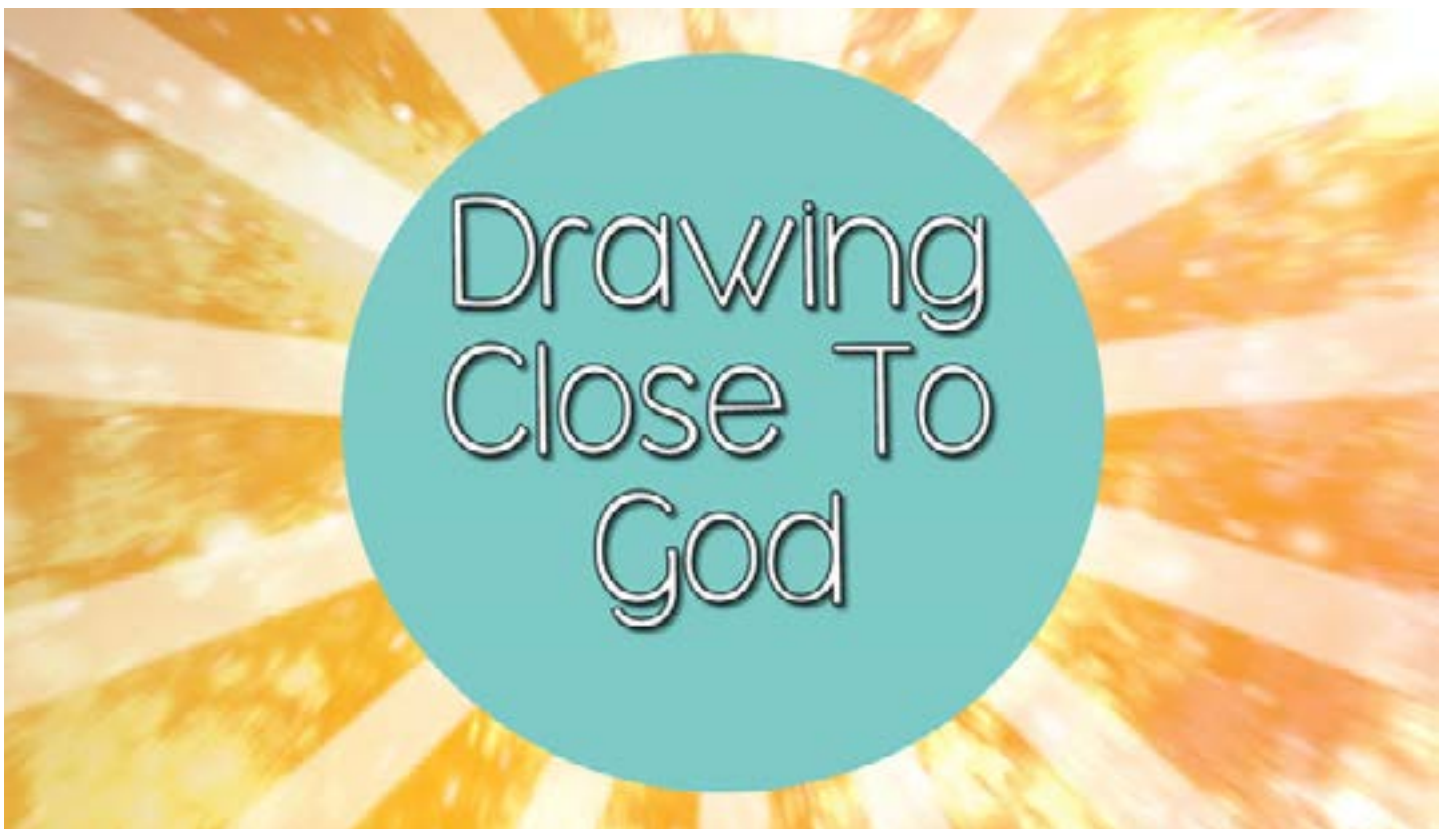
<https://youtu.be/Jw1G-kwR8f4>

**January 19, 2025 – St. Hildegard**

<https://youtu.be/wCQrEzOCH8U>

**January 26, 2025 – Pope Francis**

[https://youtu.be/P30dY\\_VxVRE](https://youtu.be/P30dY_VxVRE)



## ***LENTEN DEVOTIONAL BOOKLET***

Lent starts on Ash Wednesday, which is March 5th. Do you have an experience or thoughts you would like to share for our church family devotional?

If so, please email it to Elise at [dce@firstgreenwood.com](mailto:dce@firstgreenwood.com) by February 12th.

# Women's Retreat Highlights







## 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:

February 5th: Super Bowl Tailgate Menu: Meatball subs, sausage & peppers subs, and corn dogs, chips and nachos, veggies

February 12th: Valentine Dinner Special

February 19th: Fried chicken,  
potatoes, green beans

February 26th: Spaghetti, pear  
salad, salad, garlic bread

“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

### Thornwell Bells



#### THORNWELL BELLS GIFTS BROUGHT JOY

Thank you to all who provided gifts for the Thornwell Bells this Christmas. We had two cars loaded with gifts that were delivered to Thornwell. (Thank you Glenda Davis and Judy Sieckman for delivering them to Thornwell!) In addition, many gifts which were delivered by Amazon.

Becca Dobbins, Thornwell's Community Engagement Coordinator, organized the Wish Lists for Thornwell this year. Here are her remarks:

*"Christmas was truly magical for our children this year! The kids were absolutely thrilled with their gifts. We are so grateful for everything you and your church have done for Thornwell. Thank you for making this holiday season so special for our children!"*

Dear FPC,

I am thrilled to share the happy news that, thanks to friends near and far, I have now raised **ALL** the money needed to procure my next service dog! To those of you who supported my fundraising efforts and donated, thank you! I am grateful beyond words for your kindness and love. I often get questions about the process so I thought I'd provide some answers.

Inquiring minds want to know: *What kind of dog will you be receiving?* At this point, I know only that my new companion will be a Labrador retriever; I don't know—and it doesn't matter to me one bit—what color or gender the dog will be. *Do you get to name the dog?* It depends. The dogs already in training have names. But I had the opportunity to provide a list of names I like. If The Service Dog Institute determines that the best fit for my needs is to train a puppy from birth, then my future helper might have one of the names I provided. *When will you receive your dog?* The entire training process takes about a year. I will begin handler training six months after the dog's training begins. So, I estimate that match day—when I officially meet my new friend—will be this summer, followed by the pup's graduation and homecoming in the fall.

Thank you again for your encouragement, first as I grieved Oscar and now as I embark on this new chapter!

Yours in Christ,  
Luke Christie



# MISSIONS/OUTREACH cont.

## DIN UPDATE FROM PAKISTAN

December, which turned out to be a wonderfully busy month for us. We celebrated Christmas with family, and it was a delight to have my cousin's wedding right before Christmas. My brother and his wife traveled all the way from England to join us for both the wedding and Christmas, making it even more special. The girls truly enjoyed the Pakistani wedding traditions that spanned almost a week, and it was a joy to see them engaging themselves in this new cultural experience.



Throughout December, we engaged in several ministry Christmas programs. We provided warm clothing, some cash support, and shared cooked meals with 50 widows. One young girl who lost her husband in October and is now caring for four children particularly touched our hearts. We also provided sweaters and shoes to 500 children during Christmas.

Additionally, we had a meaningful Christmas program with the sewing centers and literacy centers. I am excited to share some of the accomplishments from 2024 that were possible due to your support and prayers.

By providing necessary resources, education, and support, 24 centers have empowered 274 individuals to read and write, enabling them to read the Bible.

Ten sewing centers transformed the lives of 156 women from slums and brick kilns, equipping them with the skills to sew and start working from the comfort of their own homes.

Our pastor training initiative saw 400 pastors complete their training this year. We have established 7 Roshni schools located within the brick kiln communities, bringing education directly to where it's needed most, currently serving 248 students at the Roshni Brickkiln Schools.

### 2025 Goals

The goals for 2025 are to reach the most needed communities in the deep southern Punjab. There are hundreds of brick kilns that do not have any school nearby. Hundreds of children need education that shall break the cycle of bondage labor. Most importantly, through the education of children, it will open doors to establish relationships (with parents and other family members) and a strong foundation for DMM in the unreached areas.

Establishing 20 new sewing centers.

Training 800 pastors.

Thank you for your continued support and belief in our mission.

Blessings,  
Samar Din

# MISSIONS/OUTREACH cont.



29 November 2024

First Presbyterian Church Greenwood  
 Kyle Hite & David Hyde, Outreach  
 PO Box 426  
 Greenwood SC 29648-0426  
 Email: kyle@firstgreenwood.com

Dear Kyle & David,

Thank you for your gift of \$ 2000.00. from the Mission & Outreach Committee. Tropical Storm Sara affected Nicaragua a great deal, considering it was just a tropical storm and not a hurricane. With this rainy season, Nicaragua has received lots of water so that when Sara hit, there was nowhere for the water to go. Two people died and over 300 homes were flooded. Also, Sara hit during harvest season, so the damage from the downpour is still being assessed. Your gifts help in floods, heat, drought, etc. Thank you.

This month, the Nueva Vida clinic staff worked with a medical delegation organized by Global Health Exchanges, a nonprofit organization based in Alaska. We have a history with many of these volunteers spanning 15 years. They stayed at Casa Ben Linder.

With their specialists, our Nueva Vida Clinic staff, plus other volunteers, we sponsored a health fair and saw a total of 1,013 patients over three days:

- 288 patients in general medicine (seen and treated)
- 55 for ultrasounds
- 148 for eye tests and given corrective lenses
- 150 for EKGs (tests for the heart)
- And 171 for laboratory tests including H. Pylori (a stomach bacteria that can cause ulcers and cancer. 50% tested positive and were given the month's regimen of four different meds to kill the bacteria). H pylori is common in tropical climates and as a result Nicaragua has high rates of stomach cancer.
- 65 dental patients for restorative care or extractions
- 81 for dental hygiene (cleanings)
- 55 women for OB/GYN including PAPs (cancer screening)

The delegation also traveled to El Porvenir, the organic coffee cooperative on a remote mountain. There they saw a total of 109 patients:

- 10 for dental hygiene
- 12 extractions (18)
- 35 children, mostly viruses
- 24 adult medicine, including 2 with pneumonia
- 28 gynecology including 9 PAPs
- And the vet castrated 3 pigs.

Farmer Shares organic coffee from El Porvenir and Las Diosas (a women's cooperative) is finally at Little River Roasters in SC. If you need a present for a coffee drinker, think about buying some from us! <https://www.farmershares.com/shop>

Due to sanctions on Nicaragua, a funding source has pulled promised matching funds to help with the aquaponics project and the DIVINE project even though our work does not in any way violate the ridiculous illegal sanctions imposed on Nicaragua. As a result, we are trying to raise \$10,000 to begin the DIVINE project for Giving Tuesday [ <https://www.jhc-cdca.org/blog/a-divine-project/> ]. That will be a start.

And we are looking for funds for the 60 promised aquaponics systems for families that need to improve nutrition.

On the 7th of December, Nicaragua celebrates Purisima, a Catholic Feast Day celebrating the conception of Mary without sin. Individuals, businesses, churches, but mainly the government goes all-out on altars to Mary and handing out food, treats, household goods, toys etc. Nicaragua celebrates this holiday in a bigger way than anywhere else in the world.

Soon after Purisima, the country begins to wind down. Schools are out for their year-end break, it's harvest time, coffee picking, and fixing up leaks in the roofs or anything else. Workers will have received their 13th month bonus (by law). We give two weeks vacation at this time because patient demand for clinic services is lower.

We wish you blessed Holy Days of the ones you celebrate, Happy Holidays, and time to spend with those you love. Thank you for all you've done for this work.

Gratefully,

*Kathleen*

*Merry Christmas!*

Kathleen Murdock, For the Community, the Staff and The Board of Directors

Center for Development in Central America  
 Jubilee House Community, Inc.  
 De km. 11, Carr. Nueva a León, 1.6 km. Abajo  
 Ciudad Sandino 15700, MGA, NICARAGUA  
 Phone: 011-505-2269-8001

Donation Address: 4376 Pennington Rd, Rock Hill SC 29732-8159  
 EIN 56-1252307  
 Email: [jhc@jhc-cdca.org](mailto:jhc@jhc-cdca.org)  
[www.jhc-cdca.org](http://www.jhc-cdca.org)

Center for Development in Central America  
 Jubilee House Community, Inc.  
 1019 Troy Medlin Rd, Monroe  
 North Carolina 28112 USA  
 US Skype: 1-865/465-9222

# MISSIONS/OUTREACH cont.



Presbyterian Mission  
**Presbyterian  
 Disaster Assistance**



OUT OF CHAOS, HOPE

November 2024

22557

First Presbyterian Church  
 P. O. Box 426  
 Greenwood, SC 29648-0426

Dear Friends,

In these busy days of holy days and holidays, of family and church budget planning, I write simply to say thank you for making Presbyterian Disaster Assistance a priority in the midst of many opportunities to give and serve. Your gift of \$3,100 on 10/29/2024 for DR000169 Disaster Relief—U.S. Hurricane Response - Hurricane Helene Relief is deeply needed and greatly appreciated, and I am privileged to speak this word of gratitude on behalf of those for whom your generosity brings renewed hope and joy in the wake of disaster and its aftermath.

The last four months of the calendar year, as fall yields to Thanksgiving and the Christmas season, always seem full with opportunities and obligations. But we people of faith keep time in a different way! All Saints, the Reign of Christ, and the hopeful, mysterious days of Advent and Christmas remind us that we are a people whose choices—for giving, for engaging our time and our talents—do not happen in a vacuum.

We are, as scripture says, surrounded by a great cloud of witnesses, those who have built a generous foundation upon which we stand, and those who stand in need of our support. Your generosity brings relief and supports recovery among the vulnerable—persons like the holy Child and his mother, who, together with Joseph, wandered in search of shelter, fled persecution in their home country, and became refugees in Egypt.

Your faithful gifts have brought Christ's compassion to those impacted by Hurricane Helene, from which the widespread devastation continues to challenge recovery efforts, and to the people of Lebanon, where your support has provided hope and practical assistance amid ongoing crises, as well as many other communities affected by disasters. When you do it unto the least of these, as Jesus told his disciples in Matthew 25, you give gifts to Christ, and make the coming of his reign a reality.

It is a privilege to serve together in a Church that works toward the vision of the tree of life in the midst of the City, whose leaves are for the healing of the nations, even as we wait for One whose life, death, and resurrection is both the beginning and end of our story.

In Christ's Peace,

The Rev. Edwin González-Castillo  
 Coordinator, Presbyterian Disaster Assistance

[pda.pcusa.org](http://pda.pcusa.org)

O: (502) 569-5839 | TF: (800) 728-7228 x5839  
 100 Witherspoon Street | Louisville, KY 40202





# Presbyterian Women News

## WOMEN OF THE CHURCH

### Love Shines Through Our Presbyterian Women

Love is the cornerstone of faith and community, a reflection of God's grace that binds us together in meaningful relationships. Within the church, love is expressed through worship, fellowship, and the unwavering support of one another as members of the body of Christ. It is through acts of service—whether extending a helping hand to the needy, collecting items in need, preparing meals, offering a listening ear, or lifting others in prayer—that love transforms into action. The church thrives when it becomes a vessel of Christ's love, encouraging its members to reach out and serve, both within its walls and beyond, as a testament to God's goodness.

For women balancing work and service, the journey is a unique and sacred calling. In their workplaces, women embody Christ's teachings through diligence, integrity, and compassion, shining His light in every role they fulfill. At the same time, their contributions to the church and community illustrate the power of service rooted in love. Whether mentoring young believers, leading ministries, or quietly supporting others through prayer, their dedication reflects an inspiring blend of faith and action. Love knows no bounds and that faith can flourish in every facet of life.

#### **Presbyterian Women Statement of Purpose:**

Forgiven and freed by God in Jesus Christ, and empowered by the Holy Spirit, we commit ourselves to nurture our faith through prayer, and Bible study, to support the mission of the church worldwide, to work for justice and peace and to build an inclusive community of women that strengthens the Presbyterian Church (USA) and witnesses to the promise of God's Kingdom.

Please visit our circles to see what the circles do as far as study, fellowship, and service to those in need. Everyone is welcome.

Lisa Yarbrough  
CT Moderator

PW COORDINATING TEAM MEETING  
Monday, February 24, 2025 ~ 10:00 am ~ Henry Reynolds Room



**Circle 1** will meet on Tuesday, February 4th, at 10:30 am, at Wesley Commons.  
Contact Jean Mabe 941-7817.

**Circle 3** will meet Monday, February 10th, 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, February 3rd, at 11:00 am, at Sweet Catherine's in Fountain Inn  
Meet at the church at 9:45 am to carpool  
Contact Marilyn Towne 229-6990

**Circles 5 and 7** will meet Tuesday, February 11th, at 12:30 pm, in Alexander Hall.  
and includes lunch & childcare.  
Circle 5: Contact Meg Stevens 993-7536 & Tara Gibson, 773-991-3374  
Circle 7: Contact Becky Bryson 223-2998 & Jill Koczvara (570) 344-3192.

**Circle 6** will meet Monday, February 3rd, 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 8** will meet on Tuesday, February 4th, at 11:30 am, in the Barksdale Room (122).  
Contact Betty Williams 993-0466.



## **Church History for the Month: The Natural Gas Shortage of '77**

by Andrew Goforth

The winter of 1976-1977 was colder than most on record. For majority of the United States, the last half of January and the first half of February never saw the temperature rise above freezing. A combination of higher use and improper distribution of natural gas used for heating across the United States led to a national shortage.

People all over the country felt the immediate impact of the natural gas shortage as many factories temporarily closed, leaving some without jobs. The congregation of First Presbyterian Church also felt the impact of the gas shortage. Because our church facility relied on natural gas for heating, the national shortage threatened the possibility of not being able to gather for worship. Session held a called meeting on January 30, 1977, approving a plan to accept an offer by First Baptist Church to use their sanctuary for the entire month of February. First Baptist Church's sanctuary, which was heated by oil instead of natural gas, allowed our congregation, as well as the congregation of Main Street Methodist Church (whose sanctuary was, like ours also heated by gas) to continue Sunday Morning Worship without using the much-needed natural gas.

The Index-Journal article for Saturday, February 5, 1977, reported many Sunday worship cancellations for nearby churches. This article also described the worship schedules for the three churches, with First Presbyterian worshipping on February 6 and 13 at 9:00 AM, while Main Street Methodist would worship at 10:15 AM, and First Baptist would utilize the 11:30 AM worship time. For the last two Sundays of the month, First Presbyterian and Main Street would flip worship times, while First Baptist kept the later service time. The article also announced protocols such as the use of First Baptist's chapel for choir warm-ups as well as guidelines to avoid traffic congestion in between services.

"A Theology for Wise Pessimists" was the sermon title for the first service on February 6, delivered by Rev. John T. Conley. The Session met after the worship service at 11:05 AM in our Session Room and continued to accept new members into our congregation. According to the Index-Journal, the thermostat was set at 55 degrees. As February continued, several Sunday School classes met in our church following the worship service at First Baptist, although chilled by the 55-degree thermostat standard. Eventually, an unnamed member requested Session to consider adjusting the indoor temperature to 65 degrees, which was approved. Session continued to hold meetings in or church, both called and stated, and hosted joint meetings with the Diaconate throughout February.

The Natural Gas Shortage of 1977 provides just one example of people's determination to not allow worldly hinderances to get in their way of worshipping our incredible God. Because our God delivered us from the captivity of sin through the sacrifice of Jesus Christ, He deserves our highest praise. This month, as we reflect on the challenges faced by those before us, let us continue to model their determination every time that we gather for worship.

# Noah's Ark News



New Year, same GREAT preschool. We are starting off 2025 with "snow" much fun! Classes are busy learning about Hibernation, weather, Winter, cause and effect, and number recognition. In Chapel we are discussing our fruit of the spirit: Gentleness. God wants us to be gentle with our actions and our words. We are discussing Joseph's colorful coat and the importance of loving our neighbor. We also celebrated our 100th day of school!

Registration is open to the public and spots are filling up at the Ark. If you are interested in enrolling your little one, please see Lauren in the Noah's Ark office or email [noahsark@firstgreenwood.com](mailto:noahsark@firstgreenwood.com) for more information. We are excited to continue our tradition of Grandparents' Day and will host "Grits with Grandparents", a new twist on this precious tradition, on February 21st. Be on the look out for our silent auction baskets in the church lobby!



# Palmetto Girls Sing!



## Palmetto Girls Sing 10th Anniversary Festival Help Needed

Palmetto Girls Sing is hosting a 10th Anniversary celebration May 30-June 1. We are inviting all of our alumni back for a special weekend of singing, growing and reconnecting. We have a guest clinician and composer coming from Westminster Choir College to lead our rehearsals, and a newly commissioned piece for our anniversary is almost ready!

We need your help! Our fall fundraising efforts fell short of our goal, and we still need to raise a few thousand dollars in order to keep costs reasonable for our festival participants. How can you help? There are several ways!

- You can volunteer to help with meals during our festival.
- You can support our Mardi Gras Bake Sale on March 2 and 3.
- You can purchase a ticket for our Spring Concert on April 27.
- You can become a patron of our choir. Any amount helps!



\*\*\*\*\*  
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](mailto:steve@first-greenwood.com) or see the Greenwood Festival Chorale website at [www.gwdfestivalchorale.com](http://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, February 2	Communion during both services Receive New Members (11:00 service) New Members Luncheon (12:00 noon, Alexander Hall) Museum Concert (4:00 pm, Sanctuary)
Sunday, February 9	Noah's Ark Sunday
Saturday, February 15	Trinity Presbytery Meeting (9:30 am, Eastminster PC, Columiba)
Sunday, February 16	Scout Sunday Girl Scouts selling Girl Scout cookies
Sunday, February 23	Youth Sunday Festiva (4:00 pm, Sanctuary) Session (5:30 pm, Henry Reynolds Room)
Saturday, March 1	Youth Ski Trip
Sunday, March 2	Communion during both services PGS Bake Sale
Tuesday, March 4	Shrove Tuesday Pancake Dinner (5:30 pm, Alexander Hall)
Wednesday, March 5	Ash Wednesday Lenten Lunch & Service (12:00 noon, First Baptist Church) Ash Wednesday Service (6:00 pm, Alexander Hall)
Saturday, March 8	Change Clocks Pinestraw Delivery
Sunday, March 9	First Sunday of Lent
Wednesday, March 12	Lenten Lunch & Service (12:00 noon, Immanuel Lutheran Church)
Sunday, March 16	Second Sunday of Lent Festiva (4:00 pm, Sandtuary) Diaconate (5:30 pm, Henry Reynolds Room)
Wednesday, March 19	Lenten Lunch & Service (12:00 noon, Greenwood ARP Church)
Sunday, March 23	Third Sunday of Lent

# GENERAL CHURCH INFORMATION

*Our Christian prayers and sympathies are extended to* Betsy Collins and her family on the passing of her brother Gary Heeseman on January 5, 2025. We share with them the joy of the promise of resurrection and eternal life.

2025						
FEBRUARY						
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	

PathoCoffee.com

## VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

We are looking for substitute counters that can come periodically on a Tuesday. Any questions, reach out to Nan Smith, 229-5814 or [finance@firstgreenwood.com](mailto:finance@firstgreenwood.com)

## Other Items of Interest

We will celebrate the **Lord's Supper** during both services on **February 2, 2025**.

**Deadline for the March issue of *The Spire* is Wednesday, February 12, 2025.**

## TEAM MEETINGS

The **Buildings & Grounds Committee** will meet Monday, February 10th, at 5:15 pm, in the Barksdale Room (Room 122).

The **Christian Education Team** will meet Sunday, February 9th, at 6:00 pm, in the Barksdale Room (Room 122).

The **Committed Prayers Team** will meet Monday, February 24th, at 4:30 pm, in the Chapel.

The **Congregational Care Committee** will meet Tuesday, February 11th, at 11:00 am, in the Barksdale room (Room 122).

The **Endowment** will meet Monday, February 24th, at 5:00 pm, in the Conference Room.

The **Home Communion Committee** will meet on Tuesday, February 11th, at 10:00 am, in the Barksdale Room (Room 122).

The **Missions/Outreach Committee** will meet Sunday, February 9th, at 4:30 pm, in the Henry Reynolds Room (Room 110).

The **Presbyterian Women Coordinating Team** will meet Monday, February 24th, at 10:00 am, in the Henry Reynolds Room (Room 110).

The **Session** will meet Sunday, February 23rd, at 5:30 pm, in the Henry Reynolds Room (Room 110).

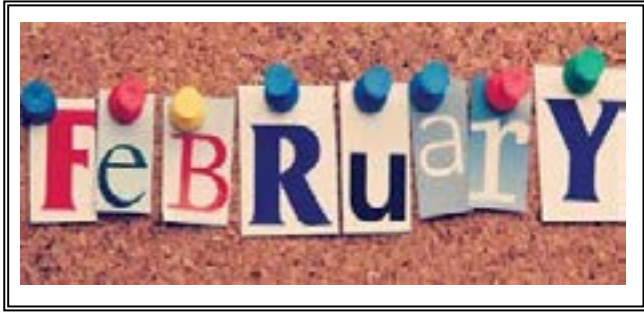
**Stephen Ministry** will meet Wednesday, February 12th, at 4:30 pm, in the Barksdale Room (Room 122).

The **Visitation Committee** will meet Thursday, February 13th, at 11:00 am, in the Barksdale Room (Room 122).

The **Worship Committee** will meet Tuesday, February 11th at 5:30 pm, in the Barksdale Room (Room 122).

The **Youth Team** will meet Sunday, February 9th, at 12:15 pm, at Panera.

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



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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

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Mr. Lelion Elledge

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Chair of Endowment

Dr. Jukie Leary