



The Spire

First Presbyterian Church

April 2025

Greenwood, SC

A Message From Our Pastor...

This is a busy season for our church. We are in the season of Lent, a season for discernment regarding a building project, a season of programs, music, and more. One thing we are very excited about is the season of confirmation. Confirmation is a rite of passage in the Presbyterian faith that represents a personal decision to choose to be a Christian. The journey begins with baptism. We baptize children as a recognition that God claims us as His own before any action on our part. We belong to God and to His family. When we baptize a child, the minister asks the congregation to pledge their commitment to that child. A couple of weeks ago, I led the children's time and noted that I had baptized almost every child up there. At each of those baptisms, our congregation welcomed them into our church family and committed to nurturing and caring for them. Our members have stepped up over the years, volunteering to teach, serve as table parents, help with Vacation Bible School, and more.



At the beginning of the confirmation class, officers are asked to be mentors for each confirmand. The mentors include Suzanne Bond, Jack Jennings, Amanda Hamm, Kristi Tucker, Becky Gardner, Robbie Sanders, Christie Hite, Yates Brown, Peggy Hammett, Cindy Leary, and Lisa Sanders. Each Sunday, a different member of the congregation leads the class on that week's topic. The various teachers are: Philip and Libby Bell, Brad Christie, Elise Collins, Lily Collins, Charlie Fennell, Andrew Goforth, Sheree Hill, Kyle and Christie Hite, Jukie and Cindy Leary, and Donna Thompson. Raising our children to be people of faith involves the whole church family. We are grateful for these individuals and others who step up to be adoptive parents and friends.

In a couple of weeks, we will celebrate the completion of the seasons we are currently in. It will all come together fittingly with the resurrection of Jesus Christ. As we celebrate the seasons of our church, let us lift up our confirmands in prayer and warmly welcome these youth into our church family: Maryclaire Griffith, Wade Maughon, Mayson Munnerlyn, Keaton Willard, Olivia Wright, Adam Fennell, Isabelle Jenks, Quay Justesen, Ann Logan, Jenna Lucas, and Maddie Ray Shirley.

Blessings,

Pastor Kyle

SPECIAL SERVICES



April 6th is **Confirmation Sunday**. Join us as we celebrate our 11 confirmands as they join the membership of the church.

Palm Sunday is Sunday, April 13th. During the 11:00 service, we will have the children process with palm fronds.



Commitment Sunday is Sunday, April 13th. This will be the congregation's opportunity to finally make their sacrificial commitments to the family life center and the vision of expanded ministry that is behind it. People will be invited to bring their pledge cards forward in sealed envelopes along with their regular offerings.

Maundy Thursday is April 17th. Join us at noon in the chapel for a communion service.



Good Friday is April 18th. Join us for this solemn service beginning at 7:00 pm in our sanctuary.

SPECIAL SERVICES cont.



Easter Sunday is on April 20th. We will do our walk for the early service (9:00 am) outside with the Flowering of the Cross followed by refreshments in Alexander Hall at 10:00 am. Our traditional Easter Service will be at 11:00 am in our Sanctuary. We will be accepting the One Great Hour of Sharing offering during both services.



2025 Lenten Services and Lunch Schedule

During Lent, area churches invite the community to worship and have lunch together every Wednesday. Lunch is served twice with a worship service in between seatings. Meals will be served at 12:00 p.m. and 1:00 p.m. Lenten Pilgrimage worship will be from 12:35 p.m. to 1:00 p.m.

The schedule for the 2025 Lenten Pilgrimage series is shown below.

| Date | Host |
|-------------|-------------------------------------|
| April 2 | Main Street United Methodist Church |
| April 9 | First Presbyterian Church |
| April 16 | Morris Chapel Baptist Church |

\$2 donation to cover the cost of the meal.

A love offering will be accepted at each service to benefit
Greater Greenwood United Ministries.

SPECIAL SERVICES cont.



Presbyterian Women's Sunday is scheduled for April 27th. Ms. Teresa Reed will be delivering our sermon. We will be accepting the Birthday/ Thank offering during this service and installing the new officers for this incoming year.

The following was printed on the cover of The Good Friday Service bulletin on April 5, 1996.....

Good Friday Comes

Amid our best and worst, through all our years,
Good Friday comes.

In all our sorrow, grief, and hidden fears,
Good Friday comes.

One among us lived as God intends
Is cruelly killed, deserted by his friends.

Living as servant, smitten and despised,
Our Savior comes.

Dying to heal the poor and victimized,
Our Savior comes.

Though we like sheep have often gone astray,
God offers us, in Christ, a better way.

Yet do we use the sword instead of love,
And Jesus cries.

Once more deny a loyalty above,
And Jesus cries.

Then when the cock announces day is here,
We join our Lord to weep a bitter tear.

Guilt on our hands we cannot wash away,
Yet Christ forgives.

Though we desert and often disobey,
Yet Christ forgives.

So now we stand before the cross today
In humble trust, invited here to pray.

~ by Lavon Baylor

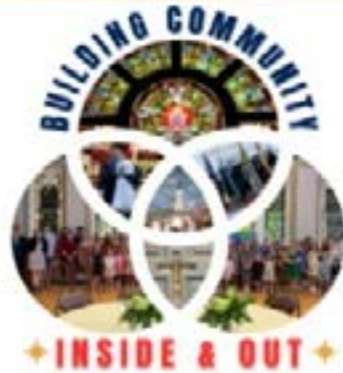
Capital Campaign Timeline

Our faith campaign, "Building Community: Inside and Out," is in full swing.

At this point, we hope everyone has received a packet containing devotionals and information about the project. We encourage everyone to pray daily, saying, "Dear Lord, what would you do through me to accomplish your vision for our church?" Regardless of your role in this project, we need your prayers for God to guide our church in the work ahead.



First Presbyterian Church



CELEBRATION LUNCH
Sunday, April 6, 2025

Following the 11 AM Worship Service



At the proposed site for the new gym

A Connect Team member will call for an RSVP between Mar 15-18



We are celebrating the joy of giving, of sacrificing together to build a building that will build community inside our congregation and outside in our community, all to the glory of God.



Silent Auction Dinner

**Sunday, April 13th from 6pm -8pm
in Alexander Hall**

Join us for fine dining in support of our youth mission trip to W. Va. in 2025, and other youth trips and activities.

Tickets are \$30 per person and includes dinner plus live and silent auction bidding.

Select fish or pork tenderloin for dinner options when registering on Realm.

Tickets are \$30 per person. RSVP by Wednesday, April 2nd.

**First Presbyterian Church of Greenwood
Attn: Youth Auction
PO Box 426
Greenwood, SC 29648**

Dear Friend:

On Sunday, April 13, 2025, the Youth will hold its bi-annual auction dinner fundraiser in Alexander Hall from 6 - 8 pm. The purpose of this event is to raise funds for our mission trip to West Virginia in July, as well as for many other youth trips and activities.

Your financial donations are tax deductible and you can support our Youth in many ways:

- 1) **Become a Table Sponsor of the dinner!** For just \$125, get your Name or Company Logo placed on a Table of 10 guests and the opportunity to set out your business cards, pamphlets, and merchandise on the table!
- 2) **Donate to the Live Auction!** This would include our larger valued items, such as vacation homes.
- 3) **Donate to the Silent Auction!** This would include gift baskets, gift cards, themed dinners, miscellaneous services, new or like new items, collectibles, etc. for purchase at silent auction through bids.

If you or your business would like to be a Table Sponsor or donate auction items, please return the bottom portion of this page to the church office with your check or items no later than **April 3, 2025**. Please be sure to specify "Youth Auction" on your check/item.

All Sponsors are recognized on the tables, and in a Power Point slide show at dinner!

Purchase your ticket for the dinner on April 13th for your chance to bid on many wonderful items!

Thank you for your support!

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

Individual / Corporate Name: _____

Sponsorship or Donation description: _____

Address: _____

Email: _____

Sponsors, please email your **LOGO in pdf or jpeg** to youth@firstgreenwood.org by **4/3/25**.

****Please return this stub with your payment or items****



Sundays@10

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

| | | | |
|----------|--------------------------------------|------------|----------------------|
| April 6 | 23 - Prophets - God sends messages | Art | Dale |
| April 13 | Lent - Palm Sunday - (SHinE Choir) | Recreation | Elizabeth & Caroline |
| April 20 | Easter Sunday Breakfast | | |
| April 27 | 24 - Ahab and Jezebel - consequences | Recreation | Michelle |

CHILDREN'S CHAPEL

Sunday
 during 11:00
 sermon



| | | |
|----------|------------------------------------|--|
| April 6 | Washed with tears (280) | Beth Justesen-Pruitt, Quay Justesen & Maddie Ray Shirley |
| April 13 | Lent - Palm Sunday - (SHinE Choir) | Cindy Leary & Linsey Anderson |
| April 20 | Easter Sunday | |
| April 27 | The Servant King (286) | Luke Penney, Jenna Lucas, & Liza Justesen |

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

| | | |
|----------|---|-------------------|
| April 2 | 23 - Last supper & foot washing (Jesus washes feet) | LaForge |
| April 9 | 24 - Gethsemane & Crucifixion (Jesus prays and suffers) | Penney |
| April 16 | 25 - Resurrection and Ascension (Jesus defeats death) | Willard & Clark |
| April 23 | 26 - We are all ministers for God | Griffith & Pinson |
| April 30 | End of year Celebration! | |

SHine Choir

SHine Choir will be awesome in April! We will focus on Holy Week and the Resurrection of Jesus.



Our rehearsals on April 2 and April 9 are especially important as we prepare for our last "Singing Sunday" of the school year, April 14, Palm Sunday.

LAST SINGING SUNDAY is April 13

***Please meet in the Children's Choir Room to robe and rehearse at 10:30 on April 13. PLEASE contact Amy Fennell if your child is unable to participate, amyqfennell@gmail.com



Vince Plotczyk

What would we do without our own Vince? He knows where everything is and he is happy to help out most of the time, right, Vince? Vince loves hiking, cooking, and making award-winning wine. We're so thankful for you, Vince!



Easter Egg Hunt

Saturday, April 19th, at 10:30 am.

*232 Brookfield Drive in Gatewood
(or if bad weather, at the church in the basement)*





YOUTH



SKI TRIP 2025





Stay Posted on Upcoming Youth Events

4/2 – **WEY @ 5:30 – 7:00**

4/6 – **Confirmation Sunday @ 11:00 – arrive @ 10:00 for practice**

4/6 – **Sunday School @10:00 – 10:45**

4/6 – **SNY at the Episcopal Church @ 4:00 – 6:00**

4/9 – **WEY @ 5:30 – 7:00**

4/13 – **Sunday School @10:00 – 10:45**

4/13 – **Silent Auction & Dinner in Alexander Hall @ 6:00 – 8:00 –
Youth volunteers needed**

4/16 – **WEY @ 5:30 – 7:00**

4/17 – **EGGS at the CFA by the Mall @ 7:00 – the bus will leave for
Westview at 7:30**

4/20 – **EASTER Sunday school details?**

4/23 – **WEY GOTE at Mig's @ 5:30 – 7:00**

4/23 – **High School Night @ 7:00 – 8:00**

4/27 - **Sunday School @10:00 – 10:45**

4/27 – **Pool Party at TBD @ 4:00 – 6:00**

Confirmation Sunday

**Sunday, April 6th at 11 am Worship
Practice begins at 10 am**



Confirmands Left to Right: Adam Fennell, Quay Justesen, Wade Maughon, Maddie Ray Shirley, Ann Logan, Keaton Willard, Maryclaire Griffith, Mayson Munnerlyn, Jenna Lucas, and Olivia Wright. Not pictured: Isabelle Jenks



**Can you Guess
the
Confirmand?**






We will meet on Thursday, April 17th

Youth Mission Trip
Summer 2025

East Bank, WV
July 6th-12th



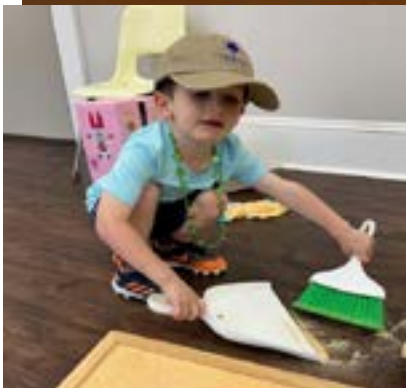
RSVP by Thursday, May 1st by paying a \$50 nonrefundable deposit on Realm or to Nan



YOUNG ADULTS

Young Adult Class meets in room 206 with Bob & Sadie Erwin or Robbie & Lisa Sanders

Church Sightings in March

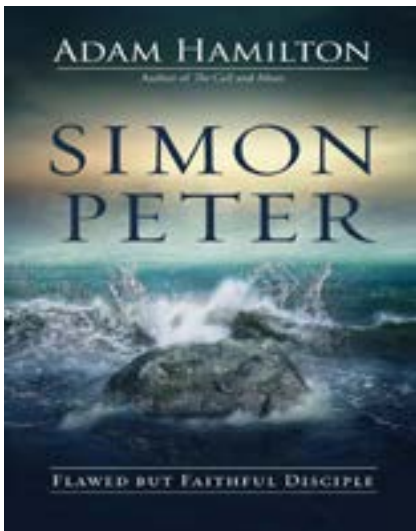




**Sundays@10
For Adults!**

10:00

Sojourners - Henry Reynolds (Room 110)



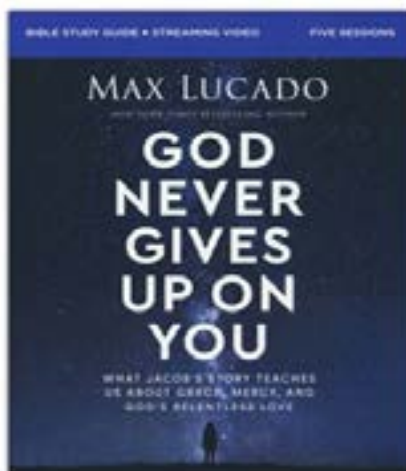
Simon Peter--an ordinary fisherman who heard an extraordinary call. He left everything to follow his teacher and possessed a passion that would change the world. That's one way to describe Peter. Here's another: poor, uneducated, quick-tempered, and full of doubts and fears. Doesn't even sound like the same man.

And that's the point of *Simon Peter*, a new book and six-week adult Bible study by Adam Hamilton. Peter was just an ordinary guy who heard and followed God's extraordinary call.

Discover how you, too, have special gifts, talents, and abilities that God can use to make a difference today. In addition to the Leader Guide and DVD components for adult studies, corresponding youth and children's resources, sold separately, can be used to create a churchwide study. Chapters Include: The Call of the Fisherman Walking with Jesus in the Storm Bedrock or Stumbling Block? "I Will Not Deny You" From Cowardice to Courage The Rest of the Story

FISH (Fellowship in Serving Him) – room 205

2024 ECPA Christian Living Book of the Year Winner



Ever wonder if you've stumbled one too many times for God to use someone like you? Could you benefit from an encounter with God's unending, unbending, unswerving love and devotion?

If your answer is yes, it's time for you to see how God's grace transformed Jacob's life. And if you feel undeserving of God's grace, this book will serve as a refresher course on God's perfect plan to use imperfect people to do great things.

God Never Gives Up on You is for the strugglers among us and the fumbler within us. For those of us who are part saint, part scoundrel; we mean well, but we don't always do well. We have breakthroughs and breakdowns, often in the same hour. We need no reminder of our failures. But where can we find examples of God's steadfast grace?

No one is more suited to help assure you of God's grace than Jacob. He was less a prodigy and more a prodigal. Strong on savvy. Weak on conscience. Jacob took advantage of his famished brother and pulled the wool over the eyes of his dying father, yet God never turned his back on Jacob. And he won't turn his back on you. If you are ready to start counting on God's grace and believe he never gives up on you, this book is for you.



VBS 2025
June 8-13

Children
& Youth

VBS for everyone!

- Opening session with live music and worship songs
 - Rotations: Bible, dinner, craft, recreation
 - Nightly Special Ending Surprise
- Service Project: Coin Collection for the Din family/ministry in Pakistan
 - We need youth helpers and adult leaders
 - We need decorators (decorating June 2-5)
 - Need service hours - come & get them with us!



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:

April 2nd: Hamburger steaks, baked potatoes, broccoli, garlic bread

April 9th: BBQ, baked beans, chips

April 16th: Chicken, mashed potatoes, mixed vegetables

April 23rd: Pork chops, sweet potatoes, broccoli & carrots

April 30th: Hamburgers & Hot-dogs and all trimmings!
This is our last WNF until the fall.

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

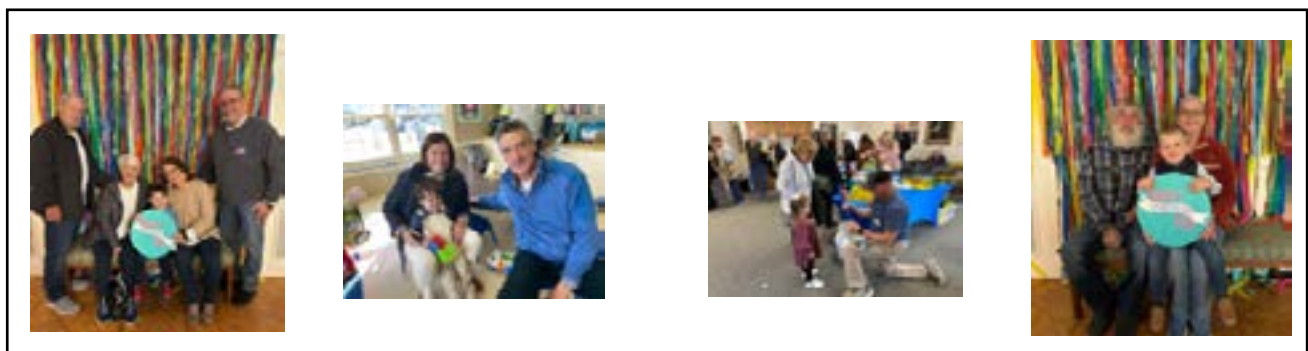


Intreat Highlights

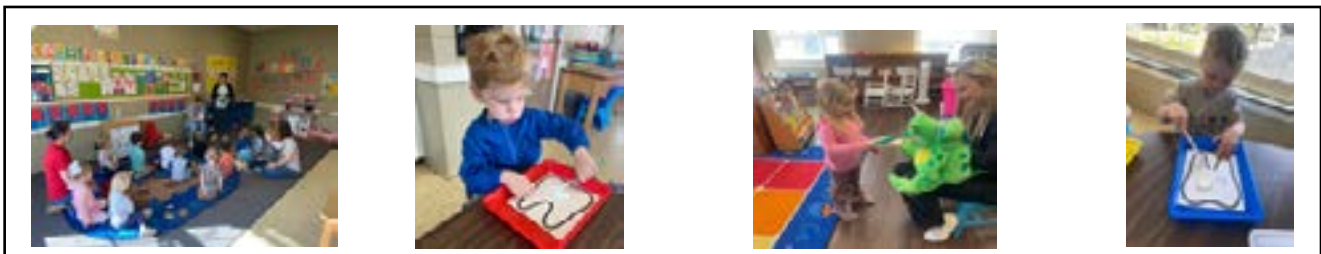


Noah's Ark News

Wonderful things are happening at the Ark this month. We were excited to welcome our grandparents and other special friends in for a fun time at Grandparents Day. We are thankful for their support with our Silent Auction Baskets and our Teddy Bear fundraiser. With our earnings, we plan to buy air purifiers for each of our classrooms. Our hope is this addition will help us fight off germs and sickness in our preschool. We are excited to host our upcoming Chairty Walk in honor of the Children's section at the Public Library. Mrs. Jody is so supportive of our program, and we are honored to pour back into the wonderful things she does for the children of our community. Join us for our Charity Walk on April 23rd at 11am and consider donating to this wonderful cause.



The children have been busy learning about dental health this month. We had a visit from the dentist and discussed the importance of brushing our teeth at least twice a day and how to maintain a healthy mouth. Our four-year-old class focused on the letter V. Voilet, Mrs. Michelle's service dog, made a special appearance for Show and Share on Friday in Mrs. Amanda and Mrs. Jules' class. What a fun way to celebrate the letter V! Our younger age groups have been practicing with their fine motor skills and have discussed the story of Moses in the Bible this month. We welcome Springtime with the story of Easter.



MISSIONS/OUTREACH

MONTHLY MISSION SPOTLIGHT The Din Family

Asher and Samar Din and their two daughters are still in Pakistan and are working to spread the Gospel. Samar is having several health issues including allergies, high fever, high blood pressure and elevated uric acid levels. They have asked for prayers. Asher wrote, "Your prayers mean a lot to us, and we appreciate any encouragement you can offer as we navigate these health concerns. She (Samar) is committed to improving her health and returning to a more active role in our work for God's kingdom."

Because of the generosity of our congregation, they were able to provide 150 pairs of shoes to children working in brick kilns. One child named Amina stood out during the initiative.

When she received her new shoes, her eyes lit up with joy. She had been walking barefoot every day as she helped her family at the kiln. As she slipped her feet into the shoes for the first time, tears streamed down her cheeks—not from sadness, but from pure happiness. "I can finally run without hurting my feet!" she exclaimed with a radiant smile. This small gift not only protected her feet, but also restored her dignity and hope for a brighter future.

Asher continues to preach and train pastors. He trained 30 pastors in February.

They are excited about the progress at the sewing centers. They have been thriving beyond their expectations, providing skill development and income opportunities for many women in the community. They plan to open two new sewing centers in March!

Future Goal: To establish a primary, middle school, and a technical training center for a brick kiln community. There are 180 children (85 families) at this location. Education is the best thing that can help and empower these families and help them to break the general cycle of bondage labor.



First Presbyterian Church Endowment 2025 Annual Report to the Congregation

What is the Endowment:

The Endowment is an incorporated arm of the church that oversees the investment and distribution of funds given by individuals to the church for specific and non-specific purposes. Beginning in 1986, the Endowment has managed funds received from the sale of property, wills, direct contributions, and sale of personal property. The Endowment Bylaws state that the purpose of the Endowment is to provide support and benefit, principally in the form of financial assistance to FPC for carrying out its religious, charitable, educational, and other related exempt purposes.

There are two funds within the Endowment, the Unrestricted Fund, and the Restricted Fund. The Unrestricted Fund is the largest, having \$2,918,836 as a 2024 year-end balance. The Restricted Fund has \$1,655,130 for a total cash balance of both funds of \$4,573,966. The Restricted Fund has thirteen categories within the fund with specific guidelines from the donor on how the funds are to be spent. Most funds have a limit on the amount that can be disbursed in a year. Six of these funds pertain to financial aid for students to attend college, nursing school, full time seminary, or Camp Fellowship. Other funds are restricted to use for Christian Education, Music/Arts, Missions/Outreach, sanctuary flowers, and Building and Grounds.

Most applications received by the Endowment are funded from the Unrestricted Account. There is a restriction in the Bylaws that Unrestricted funds cannot be used for maintenance and operations, capital outlay or debt service of the church. To provide an opportunity for members to contribute to the Endowment to address the physical needs of the church, a Restricted Building and Grounds and Equipment fund was established and funded in 2017. A minimum of \$25,000 is required to establish a restricted account.

The yearly budget is set according to the Bylaws to be a percentage of the market value of the unrestricted assets as of December 31st of the previous year not to exceed 8% during any calendar year. The 2025 budget was set at \$116,000 at the February 24th meeting of the Endowment.

2024 Projects funded from the Unrestricted Account

| UNRESTRICTED FUNDS | APPROVED | USE |
|---------------------------------|------------------|---|
| M/O request supplies for meals | \$ 4,400 | Meal packing/Rise Against Hunger |
| M/O request mission trip to NC | \$ 5,700 | Youth/adult subsidy for July trip |
| M/O request Faith Home bldg | \$ 15,000 | Assist in \$380,000 expansion of campus |
| Worship/Music PGS additional \$ | \$ 2,548 | Cost to rent motorcoach in NY |
| Noah's Ark scholarship | \$ 2,050 | Tuition assistance for 2 teachers' kids |
| M/O request for Camp Fellowship | \$ 10,000 | Support of Uganda Children's Choir |
| M/O Thornwell Lush Farms | \$ 12,000 | Bulldozer for farm |
| M/O Burton Center | \$ 10,000 | Greenhouse for clients |
| M/O Kenya Missions | \$ 22,348 | Support of Kenya Mission and Bibles |
| Youth Mission trip | \$ 5,000 | 2025 Mission trip to Ohio |
| Music organ repair | \$ 974 | Balance of Sept request-part restricted |
| | \$ 90,020 | |

2024 Scholarships and projects funded from Restricted Accounts

| RESTRICTED FUNDS | SPENT |
|-------------------------------|------------------|
| Leary CE | \$ 1,386 |
| Byrd Garden | \$ 1,586 |
| Townsend flowers | |
| Art/Music | \$ 2,276 |
| | \$ 5,248 |
| | |
| SCHOLARSHIPS | |
| Haskins | \$ 16,000 |
| Churchill | \$ 500 |
| Barksdale | \$ 3,000 |
| | \$ 19,500 |
| TOTAL RESTRICTED SPENT | \$ |

If you are interested in learning more about the Endowment or have questions, please feel free to contact any of the Endowment Committee members. There are five Trustees who are elected annually by the congregation for a five-year term. A session representative is approved from each class and one at large member to serve 3-year terms.

Current Endowment members are:

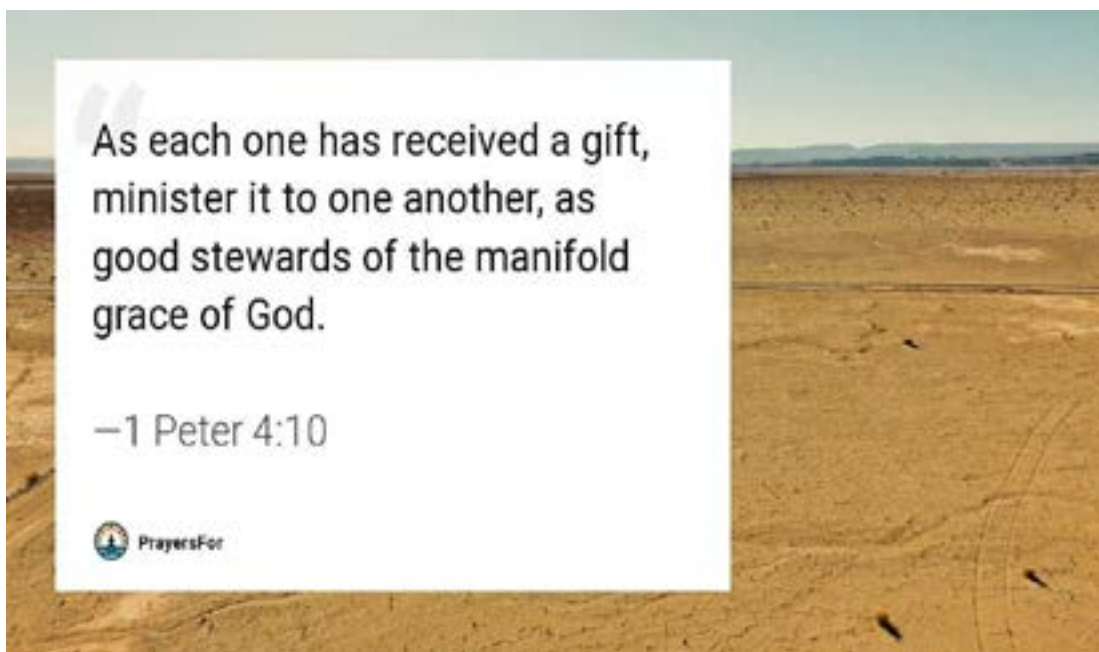
- 5th Year Trustee Jukie Leary, Chair
- 4th Year Trustee David Gardner
- 3rd Year Trustee Laine Orcutt
- 2nd Year Trustee Carson Penney
- 1st Year Trustee Liza Logan
- 3rd Year Session Louise Sligh
- 2nd Year Session Jack Jennings
- 1st Year Session Merwin Rogers
- At-Large (2025) Adam Eichelberger

- Ruth LaForge, Secretary (non-voting)
- Emily Rouse, Treasurer (non-voting)
- Dr. Kyle Hite, Staff contact (non-voting)

STEWARDSHIP

The ways on how one can become a good steward according to Biblical teachings.

- Recognize that everything belongs to God and approach all resources, talents, and opportunities with a mindset of managing them on behalf of the Creator. The perspective shifts focus from ownership to stewardship, encouraging faithful and wise use of all entrusted.
- Develop a habit of generosity by giving time, talents, and financial resources to support the church's work, help the needy, and further the mission of God's kingdom. Generosity reflects the nature of God and strengthens one's stewardship role.
- Practice wise financial management by budgeting, saving, and avoiding unnecessary debt, ensuring that resources are used efficiently and effectively to honor God and support personal and communal needs.
- Cultivate a lifestyle of humility and service, looking for opportunities to use personal skills and abilities to benefit others and contribute to the community, reflecting Jesus' example of sacrificial love and service.
- Remain accountable by seeking wise counsel, being transparent in dealings, and preparing to give an account of how resources have been managed, demonstrating integrity and responsibility in stewardship actions.



Church History for the Month: Elizabeth Blake Hospital

by Andrew Goforth



Nearly thirteen years after it was first organized, our church embarked on its first building project. By 1896, our congregation had outgrown its original building, built in 1875. In April of 1896, W. H. Bailey, F. B. Cobb, and G. A. Barksdale were appointed in a Congregational meeting to raise funds "for the erection of a new church building."¹ By May of 1897, the congregation had raised \$12,000 to pay for the new \$15,000 sanctuary.² Construction began the following year.

Around the same exact time that our church began construction on the sanctuary that became Alexander Hall, builders finished work on a brand-new hospital in Soochow, China.³ This new hospital was funded entirely by John Rennie Blake, a retired professor and member of our church. Prof. Blake was born in Greenwood in 1825 as the son of William N. Blake and Elizabeth W. Blake. As a young boy, Prof. Blake attended Clear Springs Academy under the leadership of James Leslie and later, the University of Georgia, graduating in 1846. Prof. Blake then began a very successful career in education after first serving as personal tutor for the family of South Carolina Governor James H. Hammond. Prof. Blake eventually secured the chair of the science department at Stewart College in Memphis, Tennessee. After Stewart College was devastated by the Civil War, Prof. Blake served as a long-time professor at Davidson College in North Carolina, where he would eventually retire in 1885. Upon retiring, Prof. Blake returned to Greenwood and became an active member in our church.

The Elizabeth Blake Hospital in Soochow, China, named after both Prof. Blake's mother and wife (both shared the name Elizabeth), was built entirely from Prof. Blake's donations. At the time of Prof. Blake's death in 1900, the hospital had served over five thousand patients. In the wake of Prof. Blake's death, our church began to actively support the hospital. In 1901, our church committed to sponsoring a missionary at the hospital.⁴ Our church and the hospital maintained a very close relationship, with missionaries from the hospital often serving as guest speakers in our church, until 1937. In 1937, the Japanese army invaded China, and shortly afterward occupied Soochow. The hospital was shut down and destroyed shortly after.

Just as our forebearers embarked on a period of discernment almost a hundred and thirty years ago, we too are embarking on a period of discernment of our own. As we listen for God's guidance on how He intends for us to expand our missional capabilities here in Greenwood, so may we imitate those who came before us a hundred and thirty years ago, keeping our hearts open to the many ways that our church can also expand our capability for outreach in parts of the world that we may never see with our own eyes. As we reflect on the ministry and history of the Elizabeth Blake Hospital in Soochow, China, may we more fervently keep our Chinese brothers and sisters in Christ in our constant prayers, along with the many missionaries entrusted with preaching the saving grace of the Resurrection of Jesus Christ in a country hostile to the Good News of the Gospel.

¹ "Another New Church Movement." *Greenwood Daily Journal*, June 4, 1896.

² "Presbyterian Church." *Greenwood Daily-Journal*, May 13, 1897.

Image: "Death of Prof. Blake." *Evening Index* (Greenwood, S.C.), June 14, 1900

³ "Death of Prof. Blake." *Evening Index* (Greenwood, S.C.), June 14, 1900

⁴ Local and Special News." *Evening Index* (Greenwood, S.C.), November 6, 1901.



Presbyterian Women News

WOMEN OF THE CHURCH

Women's Sunday
April 27, 2025
11:00 am Service

Every April we look forward to a special Sunday, our Women's Sunday Worship Service. This service is when we honor the women of the church through women's participation in the worship service. The announcement of the PW Honorary Life Member Award, recognitions of the new 2025-2026 PW officers, circle leaders, and committee leaders and the acceptance of the PW Birthday/Thank offering supporting our national and international mission projects are all done during this service. We have been blessed that our congregation has generously supported these missions for many years.

Our congregation is in for a special treat on Women's Sunday, April 27, 2025.

Teresa Reed will be delivering our message. Teresa lives in Winnsboro, SC with her husband Steve. They will celebrate 33 years of marriage in May. They have three adult children and three grandchildren. Teresa enjoys spending time with her family and scrapbooking with her best friend. Teresa is a graduate of Erskine Theological Seminary and the University of South Carolina. She is currently serving in validated ministry as a Chaplain at Prisma Health Richland in Columbia.

Also on Women's Sunday we will be honoring some of our past Moderators. Many have graciously agreed to take part in the service of worship. The Honorary Life Membership award will be presented to a very deserving person, and this is the day that Presbyterian Women install their new slate of officers.

To add to the joyful day, a special offering will be collected and divided between the Birthday and Thank Offering projects that support a wide variety of life-changing mission programs both nationally and internationally.

Lisa Yarbrough ~ Moderator, Presbyterian Women
864.313.5511 ~ yarbroughsc@gmail.com

PW COORDINATING TEAM MEETING
Monday, April 28, 2025 ~ 10:00 am ~ Henry Reynolds Room

Circle 1 will meet on Tuesday, April 1st, at 10:30 am, at Wesley Commons.
Contact Jean Mabe 941-7817.

Circle 3 will meet Monday, April 14th, 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, April 7th, at 11:00 am, at Montague's.
Contact Marilyn Towne 229-6990

Circles 5 will meet Tuesday, April 8th, 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, April 7th, 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 meet Tuesday, April 1st, at 10:30 am at the home of Lou Noel.
Contact Becky Bryson 223-2998 & Jill Koczwarra (570) 344-3192

Circle 8 will meet on Tuesday, April 1st, at 11:30 am, in the Barksdale Room (122).
Contact Betty Williams 993-0466.



MEN OF THE CHURCH

A TASTE OF THE
MASTER'S

GOLF OUTING

April 5th
12:30PM

The Range
at Cold
Springs,
Abbeville

Entry
\$20/Person

9-hole
Scramble

Sign-up in the Lobby
or
text Jay LaForge
(864) 554-1986

Palmetto Girls Sing!

Palmetto Girls Sing Spring Concert
Sunday, April 27 at 6:00 PM
First Presbyterian Church Sanctuary



Tickets for our Spring Concert will go on sale on April 1!
Visit our website to purchase tickets,
www.palmettogirlssinggreenwood.com

Palmetto Girls Sing 10th Anniversary Festival!

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, Tom Shelton, coming from Rider University (Westminster Choir College) to lead our rehearsals, and a newly commissioned piece for our anniversary is almost ready!

THANK YOU!

Thank you for supporting our fundraising efforts this year! Our Mardi Gras Bake Sale was a tremendous success. We also appreciate our patrons and the Endowment of First Presbyterian Church for helping us fund our 10th Anniversary Choral Festival.



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, March 30 | Fourth Sunday of Lent Session Meeting (5:30 pm, Chapel. Confirmands give their faith statements) |
| Wednesday, April 2 | Lenten Lunch & Service (12:00 noon, Main Street United Methodist Church) |
| Sunday, April 6 | Fifth Sunday of Lent Communion during both services Confirmation Sunday Confirmation reception (12:00 noon, front lobby) Capital Campaign Celebration Luncheon (After church on the back lawn) |
| Wednesday, April 9 | Lenten Lunch & Service (12:00 noon, Alexander Hall) |
| Sunday, April 13 | Palm Sunday Capital Campaign Commitment Sunday Presbyterian Women Officer Voting Youth Auction & Dinner (6:00 pm, Alexander Hall) |
| Wednesday, April 16 | Lenten Lunch & Service (12:00 noon, Morris Chapel Baptist Church) |
| Thursday, April 17 | Maundy Thursday Communion Service (12:00 noon, Chapel) |
| Friday, April 18 | Good Friday Service (7:00 pm, Sanctuary) |
| Saturday, April 19 | Easter Egg Hunt (10:30 am, 232 Brookfield Dr., Gatewood) |
| Sunday, April 20 | Easter Sunday Worship Walk & Flowering of the Cross (9:00 am, outside Alexander Hall) Refreshments (10:00 am, Alexander Hall) Worship Celebration (11:00 am, Sanctuary) |
| Monday, April 21 | Church offices closed |
| Wednesday, April 23 | Noah's Ark Charity Walk (11:00 am) |
| Sunday, April 27 | Women's Sunday (11:00 am, Sanctuary) Session (5:00 p.m., Henry Reynolds Room) Palmetto Girls Sing Concert (6:00 pm, Sanctuary) |
| Sunday, May 4 | Communion during both services Cliff Cain's Book Launch (3:00 pm, Alexander Hall) |

GENERAL CHURCH INFORMATION

RECENT HOSPITALIZATIONS:

(Home unless noted)

Jane Anderson

Kay Dukes

Karen Jennings

Our Christian prayers and sympathies are extended to the family of Kevin Raddin upon his passing on March 4, 2025; and, to the family of Jeanette Craig upon her passing on March 16, 2025. We share with them the joy of the promise of resurrection and eternal life.

| APRIL 2025 | | | | | | |
|------------|--------|---------|-----------|----------|--------|----------|
| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
| | | 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 | | | |

Other Items of Interest

We will celebrate the **Lord's Supper** during both services on **April 6, 2025** and during the maundy Thursday on **April 17, 2025**.

Deadline for the May issue of *The Spire* is Wednesday, April 14, 2025.

The church offices will be **closed Monday, April 21st**.

TEAM MEETINGS

The **Buildings & Grounds Committee** will meet Monday, April 14th, at 5:15 pm, in the Barksdale Room (Room 122).

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

The **Committed Prayers Team** will meet Monday, April 28th, at 4:30 pm, in the Chapel.

The **Congregational Care Committee** will meet Monday, April 7th, at 10:00 am, in the Barksdale Room (Room 122).

The **Financial Oversight Committee** will meet Wednesday, April 23rd, at 12:00 noon, in Alexander Hall.

The **Home Communion Committee** will meet Thursday, April 10th, at 10:00 am, in the Barksdale Room (Room 122).

The **Missions/Outreach Committee** will meet Sunday, April 13th, at 4:30 pm, in the Henry Reynolds Room (Room 110).

The **Presbyterian Women Coordinating Team** will meet Monday, April 28th, at 10:00 am, in the Henry Reynolds Room (Room 110).

The **Session** will meet Sunday, April 27th, at 5:00 pm, in the Henry Reynolds Room (Room 110).

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

The **Visitation Committee** will meet Thursday, April 10th, at 11:00 am, in the Barksdale Room (Room 122).

The **Worship Committee** will meet Tuesday, April 8th at 5:30 pm, in the Barksdale Room (Room 122).

The **Youth Team** will meet Sunday, April 13th, 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.

STAFF E-MAIL ADDRESSES

The Rev. Dr. Kyle Hite
Senior Pastor
kyle@firstgreenwood.com

Lea Jones
Office Administrator
office@firstgreenwood.com

Nan Smith
Financial Administrator
finance@firstgreenwood.com

Elise Collins
Director of Christian Education
dce@firstgreenwood.com

Jade Green
Director of Youth and Young Adult Ministries
youth@firstgreenwood.com

The Rev. Dr. Brad Christie
Parish Associate
brad@firstgreenwood.com

The Rev. Dr. Cliff Cain
Theologian-in-Residence
cliff.cain@westminster-mo.edu

Steve Skinner
Director of Music Ministries
steve@firstgreenwood.com

Lauren Trantham
Director of Noah's Ark
noahsark@firstgreenwood.com

CHURCH INFORMATION

First Presbyterian Church

Mailing address: P. O. Box 426

Greenwood, SC 29648

Physical Address: 108 East Cambridge Ave.

Greenwood, SC 29646

864-229-5814

firstgreenwood.com



Easter Lily sales will begin Sunday, March 30th and go through Monday, April 14th. Cost is \$22 each. Order forms are in the lobby and payment must accompany the order form. Please place your completed order form and payment in the offering plate or turn in to the front office. You may also contact the front office to place your order and pay through Realm.



ARE YOU FRAZZLED?

Have you or someone you know been sick or hospitalized?

Are you or someone you know homebound?

Are you or someone you know completely frazzled?

Please let the church office know so that we can visit with you, offer home communion, pray for with you, or set you up with a Stephen Minister.

We are here for you.

Feel free to contact the front office or one of our ministers.



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Office hours: M-Th 8:00-4:00 and Fr 8:00-12:00 noon

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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

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

Mr. Lelion Elledge

Moderator of Presbyterian Women

Mrs. Lisa Yarbrough

Chair of Endowment

Dr. Jukie Leary