



The Spire

First Presbyterian Church

May 2025

Greenwood, SC

A Message From Our Pastor...

Jesus' ministry consisted of teaching, healing, and feeding people. His miracles drew large crowds that followed him. Traveling along the road "to the villages of Caesarea Philippi, Jesus asked his disciples, 'Who do people say that I am?' They told him that several guesses had been expressed: 'John the Baptist; and others, Elijah; and still others, one of the prophets'. Their answer was not uninformed; some had heard about Jesus from others, some had witnessed firsthand, and everyone was trying to understand who he was. Their guesses are not too dissimilar to our own as we hear about Jesus in church, in books, and from other people. We construct an informed picture of who this man was who walked the earth two thousand years ago. Some people participate in a church community to learn more and live as he lived, to love and care for our neighbors. As Jesus continued to walk with his disciples, he asked a follow-up question, one that I believe is what he really wanted to know. "He asked them, "But who do YOU say that I am?" (Mark 8:27-29) In this question lies the ultimate desire of God. It peels back the layers of one's faith, beyond mere knowledge of something, to expose one's personal relationship with God.



Easter is a beautiful celebration of victory when defeat seemed imminent. Millions celebrate the victory through song and ritual. But eventually, the question is before us, "Who do YOU say Jesus is?" Do you commune with him daily in prayer and study? Do you accept his call to put others before yourself? Do you lean on God's strength and allow the worries of your day to pass by without much effect? Easter is great, but ultimately, God wants your heart and gives you the most incredible gift this world has ever known: life. I pray we can all walk closer with Jesus this Easter season and make him a companion on our journey.

Blessings,

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

Pastor Kyle

SPECIAL SERVICES



ANNUAL CAMP FELLOWSHIP SERVICE & LUNCH

Sunday, May 18th

11:00 service followed by lunch, fun, and fellowship.

Families with last names A-L, please bring a side.

Families with last names M-Z, please bring a dessert.

We will provide the meat! Lifeguard on duty 12:00 - 2:30.

If you have a boat to share, we'd love it! Bring friends!

9:00 Service will be in the Sanctuary.

Sunday, May 11th is Mother's Day. Please join us as we celebrate all of our mothers, mothers-to-be, and mother figures. We will be accepting the Presbyterian Communities special offering that will benefit residents who, through no fault of their own, have outlived their financial resources and need assistance to remain in Presbyterian Communities.



SUMMER WORSHIP HOURS

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

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

Easter Highlights



Easter Egg Hunt Highlights





Sundays@10

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

| | |
|--------|--|
| May 4 | 25 - Jonah - obedience with Cindy Leary |
| May 11 | 26 - Daniel - when faith is tested with Mrs. Elise |
| May 18 | 27 - Esther - who knows that you weren't made for such a time as this? with Mrs. Elise |
| May 25 | 28 - Isaiah - prophecy - promise for the future with Mrs. Elise |

CHILDREN'S CHAPEL

Sunday
 during 11:00
 sermon



| | |
|--------|---|
| May 4 | Sarah Pinson and Jenna |
| May 11 | Merrie Wright and Olivia |
| May 18 | Beth Justesen-Pruitt, Quay and Maddie Ray |
| May 25 | Cindy Leary and Linsey Anderson |

SHine

Seeking Him in Everything



SHine Choir


Dear SHine Choir (formerly known as LOGOS Choir),

Thank you for the honor of teaching you about God the Father, Son and Holy Spirit through music! I started my journey with you in 2002! Many of the singers from that time are now married and have children! I'm not sure of the total number of years

I was able to sing with you, but I think it was 18 or 19. What a blessing each and every chorister has been to me. You may not remember everything we learned together, but I hope you took with you scripture and knowledge that you will carry with you and call upon on difficult days or on days when you just feel like praising God. You allowed me to be a part of your growth as a Christian and as a musician.

Thank you! I love you all!

~ Mrs. Amy



We have Summer Interns!

Please send us
your ideas, hopes,
and suggestions for
summer intern fun!

dce@firstgreenwood.com



Sunday, June 8th – PICNIC & festivities

Bring a side or dessert to go with burgers and dogs.

We'll have live music, a Bible story,
and lots of fun and fellowship starting at 5:30.

Where bright colors! Bring friends! Free!

Monday, June 9th – Thursday, June 12th,

we'll host VBS at both churches from 5:30 – 7:30.

We'll have music, Bible, recreation, skits,
a service challenge, crafts & dinner. **FREE!**

Register today!

Register your friends today!

Volunteers, sign up today!

Youth, sign up today!

And don't forget about the secret after surprises each evening!

YOUTH



Confirmation Class of 2025





May Youth Events!

5/1 – RSVP Deadline for the high school mission trip

5/4 - Sunday School @ 10 in the youth room

5/11 - Mother's Day Flower Shop @ 10 in the youth room

5/12 - RSVP Deadline for Senior Dinner

5/14 - Pelicans @ 6-7

5/15 - EGGS at CFA by the mall. The bus will leave for Westview at 7:30.

5/17 - Senior Dinner at Montague's @ 6

5/21- Sand Volleyball at Lander University @ 6-7 Drop Off & Pick up at Centennial Hall. (320 Stanley Ave)

5/21 - Highschool Night at Sonic @7-8

5/25 - Sunday School @10 in the youth room

5/29 - Pool Party @ 5:00 – 6:30 at the Moseley home across the street from the church. Bring a towel.



We will meet on Thursday, May 15th

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***



Secret Angel Ministry

There are some very special Angels at First Presbyterian and during the school year they touch the lives of the First Pres college students who attend school out of the Greenwood area through cards, gifts, or other thoughtful ways. While these angels have remained secret during the school year it is time to let the First Presbyterian family know who these angels are. Listed below are the names of these angels and the student they were paired with for the school year with a heartfelt thank you for the love and support they have shown each student. They truly are a blessing to each student.

Secret Angel

Cindy Leary
 Circle #3
 Circle #3
 Circle #4
 Circle #4
 Circle #5
 Circle #5
 Dr. Marion Smith
 Elizabeth Noffsinger
 Hunter Bell
 Jane Sutton
 Kris Teeter
 Libby Bell
 Martha Ann Davis
 Tamara McLeod

Student

Shirley Gardner
 Ellie DuBose
 Thomas Rouse
 Michael Gardner
 Nealie Nix
 Ava Hamm
 Amelia Scott
 Emma Collins
 Sam Wieters
 Aubrey Scott
 Nora Jones
 Mykal Hite
 Laura Margaret Fennell
 Jenna DuBose
 Margaret Stevens



Congratulations to Charlie Fennell!
He set the Greenwood High School
record for the full mile in four
minutes and thirty-seven seconds!



We celebrated Jackson Hamm's senior
night soccer game! Go #24!

Senior Dinner

On Saturday, May 17th

@ 6:00 @ Montague's

*Guardians, please join us in celebrating the
Class of 2025!*



Senior Dinner on Saturday, May 17th @
6:00 at Montague's. Guardians, please
join us in celebrating the class of 2025!
We are having salad and chicken alfredo
for dinner. We are gifting the graduates
their dinner. RSVP payment is only
needed for guardians. RSVP by paying
\$25 per guardian on the Realm event
or to Nan by Monday, May 12th.



Youth Auction and Dinner 2025

*Thank you to everyone for
supporting our Youth!*

*We raised over \$10,000!
God is good!*





Young Adult Class
meets in room 206
with Bob & Sadie Erwin or
Robbie & Lisa Sanders on
Sunday mornings
at 10:00 am



**Sundays@10
for Adults!**

10:00

Sojourners - Henry Reynolds (Room 110)



FISH (Fellowship in Serving Him) – room 205

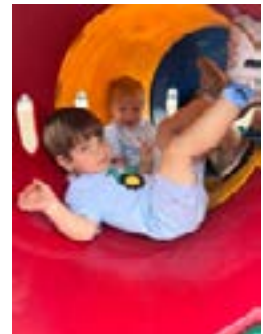


Embrace God's Relentless Love Today

With *God Never Gives Up on You*
as your guide toward a life marked
by grace, forgiveness, and transformation.

Noah's Ark News

These last months of school are PACKED full of FUN!! We haven't stopped learning either! Children have grasped the story of Easter and have enjoyed lessons on how our God is FAITHFUL and how He wants us to practice SELF CONTROL. Teachers have been preparing keepsake crafts for our upcoming Muffins for Moms event, and we are planning to spoil our teachers for Teacher Appreciation Week- which is the first full week in May. Noah's Ark wouldn't be as wonderful without our AMAZING staff!



Our four-year olds participated in Piedmont Tech's Literacy Day. They were entertained with various crafts, read-alouds, and thoughtful lessons implemented by the student teachers at the college. It's such a fun experience for everyone and we are honored to be invited to participate each year. Teachers are concluding the year with lesson plans all things Spring. From hatching larva into butterflies, to playing in dirt full of LIVE worms, our children have had so many hands-on learning experiences to wrap up another wonderful year at the Ark!



MISSIONS/OUTREACH

MONTHLY MISSION SPOTLIGHT

Eric Gardner



Eric Gardner
Church Planting Intern

May 2025
ericg@worldwitness.org
Email Update Sign-up:



REFORMED CHURCH PLANTING IN PARIS



GREENWOOD TO FRANCE

I had the privilege of growing up in Greenwood, SC. I discerned a call to missions during college when I served as a summer intern in Lithuania with World Witness, a Presbyterian missions agency. Now, I am excited that the Lord has opened a door for me to serve in France, a country whose language I have been studying for 7 years because of a coin flip. I pray that the land of Jean Calvin would be a bastion for the Gospel in the 21st century and beyond.

Right now, I am trying to raise another \$3,000 per year to cover my living and ministry expenses. Would you consider making a one time or recurring gift?

Ways to Give:

www.worldwitness.org/missionary/gardner

Make checks payable to World Witness. In the memo line, write "Gardner."

You can mail checks to World Witness directly at the address below.

Thank you!

CHURCH PLANTING IN FRANCE

Lord-willing, I will join a team of 7-8 church planters in Paris in Summer 2025. Our goal will be to plant 4 Reformed churches in the Greater Paris area in the next 10 years. We will start out as interns working under Samuel Foucachon, a native French pastor. Samuel will train us at La Chapelle de Nesle, a French Reformed church that he planted in central Paris in 2012. The interns will also receive a seminary education from La Faculté Jean Calvin, a Reformed seminary in France. Once we have finished seminary, we will be split up into pairs to plant churches on the North, South, East, and West sides of Paris.



2024 PARIS OLYMPICS

The Opening Ceremony to the 2024 Paris Olympics publicly mocked our faith. Really, it was a \$100 million advertisement for the need to send missionaries to France. These 4 church plants are a way for us to turn the other cheek and repay evil with good.

Shared with permission

WORLD WITNESS • 918 S. Pleasantburg Drive, Suite 218 • Greenville SC 29607 • 864-233-5226 • worldwitness.org



Presbyterian Women News

WOMEN OF THE CHURCH

I want to express my heartfelt gratitude to all the incredible ladies at First Presbyterian Church. You embody grace, strength, and compassion in everything you do. Your unwavering faith, service, and support uplift our community in profound ways, and you continually inspire those around you. Whether through your words, actions, or prayers, you remind us of the power of love and unity. Thank you for all that you represent—your dedication, kindness, and devotion make our church a brighter and stronger place for all. We hope ladies who are not in a circle will pray about joining one next year. We are blessed.

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

2025-2026 PW Coordinating Team and Circle Leaders

| | |
|------------------------------|--|
| Moderator: | Lisa Yarbrough |
| Moderator Elect: | Meg Stevens |
| Vice Moderator: | Louise Sligh |
| Secretary | Cindy Leary |
| Treasurer: | Sandy McCord |
| Devotionals: | Rebecca Wise |
| Historians: | Lynda Thurman, Anna Welborn |
| Mission Committee: | Glenda Davis |
| Search Committee | Sally Anderson, Kappy May |
| Spiritual Enrichment/Babies: | Kellar Lightsey, Ray Steifle |
| Culinary Committee: | Betsy Collins, Cathy Mays |
| Bereavement Committee: | Martha Ann Davis, Betty Williams, Co-Chairs, Betsy Collins, Hunter Bell |
| Retreat/Intreat | Patti Gagstetter |
| Circle 1: | Jean Mabe |
| Circle 3: | Kappy May, Kathy Snyder, Co-Leaders |
| Circle 4: | Carol Umphress, Leader |
| Circle 5: | Meg Stevens, Michelle Barksdale, Tara Gibson, Co-Leaders |
| Circle 6: | Nickie Murphy, Jessica Willard |
| Circle 7: | Becky Bryson, Jill Koczwar |
| Circle 8: | Betty Williams |

Circle 1 will meet on Tuesday, May 6th, at 10:30 am, at Wesley Commons.
Contact Jean Mabe 941-7817.

Circle 3 will meet Monday, May 5th, at 11:00 am, at Montagues.
Contact Rebecca Wise 554-6993 or Gigi Smith 554-8177

Circle 4 will meet Monday, May 5th, at 11:00 am, at Montague's.
Contact Marilyn Towne 229-6990

Circles 5 will meet Tuesday, May 13th, 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, May 5th, at 7:00 pm at Montague's.
Contact Jessica Willard (jesswillard81@gmail.com, 993-5980) or
Nickie Murphy (famurphy01@aol.com, 205-317-5347)

Circle 7 will meet Tuesday, May 6th, at 10:30 am at the home of Cathy Mays.
Contact Becky Bryson 223-2998 & Jill Koczwar (570) 344-3192

Circle 8 will meet on Tuesday, May 6th, at 11:30 am, at the home of Betty Williams.
Contact Betty Williams 993-0466.

PW COORDINATING TEAM MEETING
Monday, May 19, 2025 ~ 10:00 am ~ Henry Reynolds Room
Note this is the 3rd Monday of the month.



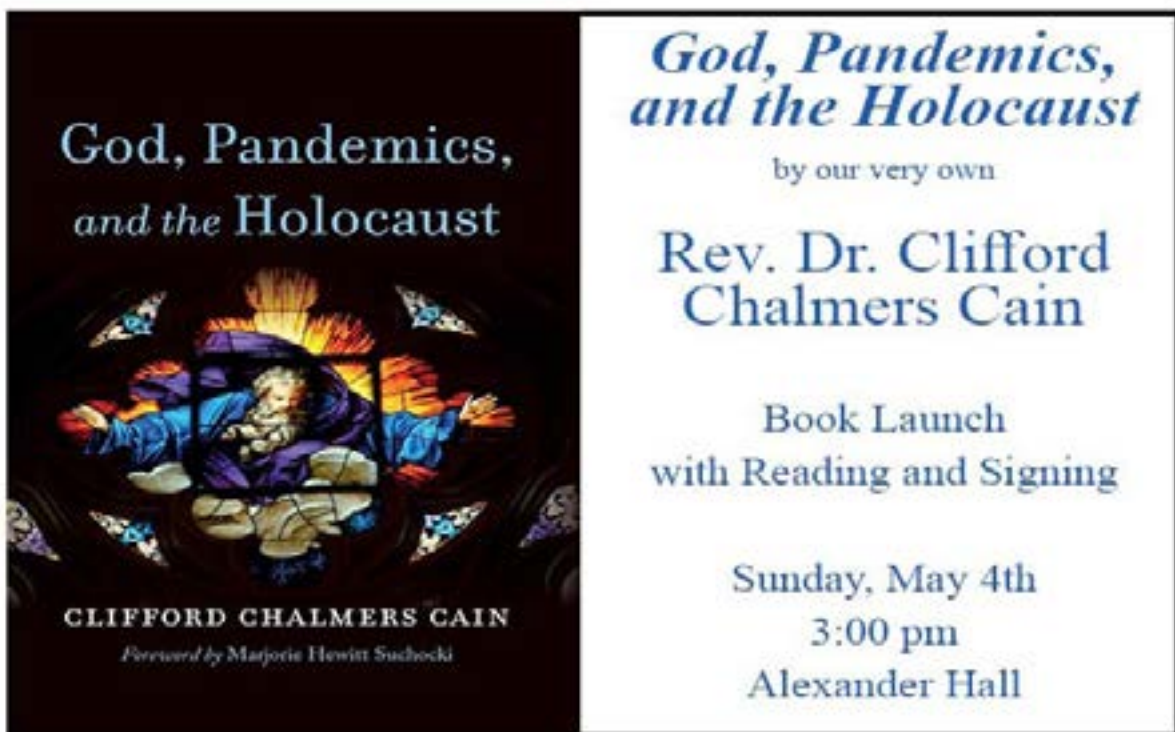
STEWARDSHIP

LEARN WHAT GOD VALUES

Part of our responsibility as stewards is to use what God gives us wisely. We need to apply our resources, skills, gifts, and time in ways that matter to God. So if we want to be good stewards, we need to care about the things that move God. Through the example of Jesus, it should be abundantly clear that God cares about people—particularly the poor, the vulnerable, and the destitute. God also wants to redeem the world through the gospel, and he's commanded us to play a part in that (Matthew 28:16-20).

James 1:27 says, "Religion that God our Father accepts as pure and faultless is this: to look after orphans and widows in their distress and to keep oneself from being polluted by the world." If we use what we have to serve and care for people in need, we're on the right track.

There are countless passages of Scripture showing us what God values, plus a wide range of ways that we can be good stewards by pouring our efforts and our resources into those things.





Guest Conductor/Composer- Palmetto Girls Sing 10th Anniversary Festival!

Palmetto Girls Sing is hosting a 10th Anniversary celebration May 30-June 1.

Some of our alumni are joining current members for a special weekend of singing, growing, and reconnecting. We have a guest clinician and composer, Tom Shelton, from Rider University (Westminster Choir College) to lead our rehearsals, and direct a newly commissioned piece for our anniversary.

Palmetto Girls Sing is Turning 10!



A HUGE thank you to the members and staff of First Presbyterian Church for hosting Palmetto Girls Sing as an outreach of this congregation. In our ten years, we have served over 200 girls from Greenwood, Ninety Six, Ware Shoals, and Abbeville. We have traveled to Atlanta, Myrtle Beach, New Orleans, and twice to New York City. Through this program, friendships have been formed, confidence has been built, knowledge and skills have been grown, and girls have drawn closer to God through music and relationships. **Celebrate with us by attending our concert on June 1 at 4:00 PM. The concert is free! Let's fill the sanctuary!**

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. _____



Tom T. Shelton, Jr. is a native of Greensboro, N.C. and a graduate of the University of North Carolina at Greensboro, where he earned both a Bachelor of Music Education and Master of Music in Choral Conducting. He is Associate Professor of Sacred Music at Westminster Choir College. Focusing on children's and youth music at Westminster, he teaches classes in conducting, sacred music and music education. In addition, he is the director of Children's and Youth Choirs at Princeton United Methodist Church. He is also conductor of the Westminster Neighborhood Children's Choir.

Mr. Shelton has a passion for music education in all areas: church, school, and community. He taught middle school choral music in Winston-Salem/Forsyth County for 18 years. During that time he was selected Teacher of the Year for both Atkins Middle School and Kernersville Middle School. In 1999 the North Carolina Music Educators Association presented him with the North Carolina Middle School Music Teacher of the Year award.

Mr. Shelton is an active member of the American Choral Directors Association. Past ACDA leadership positions have included serving as national president, Southern Division president (2011-2012), National R&S chair for Middle School/Junior High Choirs (2007-2009) and North Carolina president (2005-2007). Mr. Shelton has conducted festivals and honor choirs for elementary, middle school and high school students in 20 states and abroad, including the ACDA Central Division Junior High Honor Choir as well as All State Choirs in Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, Missouri, New Jersey, North Carolina and South Carolina. This past May, he was invited to conduct a Treble Choir Festival in Carnegie Hall, New York City. His compositions have been published by Choristers Guild, Colla Voce Music, GIA Publications, Heritage Music Press, Hinshaw Music Company, Santa Barbara Music Press, and Walton Music.

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.

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|--------------------------------|--|
| Sunday, May 4 | Communion during both services Cliff Cain's Book Launch (3:00 pm, Alexander Hall) |
| Sunday, May 11 | Mother's Day |
| Friday, May 16 | Noah's Ark Graduation (10:30 am, Sanctuary) |
| Saturday, May 17 | Trinity Presbytery Meeting (9:30 am, Westminster, Gwd) High School Senior Dinner (6:00 pm, Montagues) |
| Sunday, May 18 | Worship with Baptism (9:00 am, Sanctuary) Worship & Covered Dish Lunch (11:00 am, Camp Fellowship) |
| Monday, May 26 | Memorial Day Church offices closed |
| Friday-Sunday May 30-June 1 | PGS Choral Festival |
| Sunday, June 1 | Communion 10:00 Summer Worship Services begin Baccalaureate Service Meet our Summer Interns PGS Concert (4:00 pm, Sanctuary) |
| Sunday, June 8 | Pentecost Sunday |
| Sunday-Thursday June 8-12 | VBS (5:00-7:30 pm) |
| Tuesday, June 10 | Staff Planning Day Greenwood Festival Chorale Concert (7:00 pm, Sanctuary) |
| Sunday, June 15 | Trinity Sunday Father's Day |
| Thursday, June 26 | Carowinds (all day) |
| Friday, July 4 | Church offices closed |
| Sunday, July 6 | Communion |
| Sunday, July 27 | Session (5:30 pm, Henry Reynolds Room) |

GENERAL CHURCH INFORMATION

RECENT HOSPITALIZATIONS:

(Home unless noted)

Ryan Griffith

Kay Dukes

Elby Hoyt -- GRRH

Philip McKinney

Our Christian prayers and sympathies are extended to John Fradella and his family on the passing of his wife, Diane Fradella, on April 4, 2025; and, to Nicole Munnerlyn and her family on the passing of her grandmother, Nita Conner, on April 25, 2025. We share with them the joy of the promise of resurrection and eternal life.



Other Items of Interest

We will celebrate the **Lord's Supper** during both services on **May 4, 2025**.

Sunday, May 11th, is Mother's Day. We will be accepting the Presbyterian Communities special offering. This offering will benefit residents who, through no fault of their own, have outlived their financial resources and need assistance to remain in Presbyterian Communities.

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

The church offices will be **closed Monday, May 25th.**

TEAM MEETINGS

The **Admin Committee** will meet Monday, May 19th, at 5:00 pm, in the Barksdale Room (Room 122).

The **Buildings & Grounds Committee** will meet Monday, May 12th, at 5:15 pm, in the Barksdale Room (Room 122).

The **Diaconate** will meet Sunday, May 18th, at 5:30 pm, in Alexander Hall.

The **Endowment** will meet Monday, May 12th, at 5:00 pm, in the Conference Room (Room 206).

The **Missions/Outreach Committee** will meet Sunday, May 11th, at 4:30 pm, in the Henry Reynolds Room (Room 110).

The **Presbyterian Women Coordinating Team** will meet Monday, May 19th, at 10:00 am, in the Henry Reynolds Room (Room 110).

The **Session** will meet Sunday, May 18th, at 5:30 pm, in the Henry Reynolds Room (Room 110).

Stephen Ministry will meet Wednesday, May 14th, at 4:30 pm, in the Barksdale Room (Room 122).

The **Worship Committee** will meet Tuesday, May 13th at 5:30 pm, in the Barksdale Room (Room 122).

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

GENERAL CHURCH INFORMATION cont.

I want to express my sincere appreciation to all of the women who helped with our recent Lenten Luncheon. Whether you prepared food, helped in the kitchen, served the food or helped clean up after the luncheon, you did a wonderful job. You managed to serve over 200 people without a glitch. We received compliments on the food, the place settings (using real plates and stainless) and our service. I also want to say thank you to Josh Lott who prepared the soup (his own recipe) and worked in the kitchen for two days and to Vince for all he always does to make things work. All of you made First Pres look like a class act.

*Thank you,
Betsy*

SUMMER WEDNESDAY NIGHT FELLOWSHIP

For the months of May, June, and July Wednesday Night Fellowship will be at Mig's beginning at 5:30 pm. We hope to see you there!



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED! For the Sanctuary Committee

Duties include making sure the items in the pew racks are neat and replenished as needed, dusting the pews, and polishing the offering plates. You will be paired with a partner(s) for a one month commitment, doing it once a week for that month. If interested or would like more information, contact the front office.



On Saturday, May 10, 2025, at 10:30 AM, Hospice & Palliative Care of the Piedmont will host our 26th annual live butterfly release! The Friends of Hospice Committee sponsors this special occasion.

The event is held in honor and memory of special friends and family in our lives. The live butterflies are available for purchase at the cost of \$15 each. A lovely note card will be sent to the person that you honor on your form... or a card to the family of the person that you are remembering. All forms must include complete addresses so that we may send the cards.

To purchase butterflies, visit <https://bit.ly/2025ButterflyCelebration> or scan the QR code above. For more details about The Butterfly Celebration, call Hospice & Palliative Care of the Piedmont at 864-227-9393.



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

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

Senior Pastor

The Rev. Dr. Kyle Hite

Parish Associate

The Rev. Dr. Brad Christie

Theologian in Residence

The Rev. Dr. Cliff Cain

Director of Christian Education

Mrs. Elise Collins

Director of Music Ministries

Mr. Steve Skinner

Director of Youth & Young
Adult Ministries

Miss Jade Green

Music Associate/Organist

Mr. Timothy Walters

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