

The Spire First Presbyterian Church

June 2025

Greenwood, SC

A Message From Our Pastor...

"Find your passion"

There are so many ways to be active in our culture. Far removed are we from the day when all of one's energy is expended on survival. Many of us are not awake before daylight to milk the cows and finish the light of day plowing the fields, only to do it all over again the next day. Instead, most of us have the luxury of having hobbies and special interests. There is no shortage of options for such interests. Even in the smallish town of Greenwood, one can get involved in clubs, sports, and serving opportunities.



Once, on a hike with a friend, we were discussing the joys and stresses of parenting. We both had young children and high hopes for them. My friend told me that he did not have their course in life picked out. He did not want to push them into a profession or lifestyle. He just wanted to see them have a passion in life that would excite and energize them. I have often found that to be a good goal. The problem, however, is that not all passions are constructive and have a positive impact on our world. Jesus warns us against placing our heart where moth and rust can destroy (Matthew 6:19). In other words, be careful to devote yourself to things that will last and lead you well.

One of the great joys of being a pastor is watching people grow their passion for life-giving causes. There are groups within our church that focus on praying for or serving others. After all, the church is not meant for our consumption but for serving and glorifying the creator of the cosmos. Sometimes churches can slide into a rhythm and become complacent and indifferent to the needs of the hurting and vulnerable. Our recent capital campaign was a spark that showed the passion some have for reaching people outside of our present fishers' net. It was good to see a passion that is not self-serving but king-dom-building. Many in our congregation are actively praying for the struggles of people across the globe, not the least of these are the Din family amid war in Pakistan. We are passionately praying for peace.

The challenge I want to issue to our congregation is to pay attention to where you are placing your passion these days. Is the time you spend each week allocated to something meaningful and long-lasting? Are you only serving yourself, or do you consider how you can be a servant to others? Can you go to bed at night confident that the work you did in the fields will yield a crop tomorrow?

Blessings,

Pastor Kyle

SPECIAL SERVICES



We will be celebrating our **High School Graduates** and awarding scholarships during the 10:00 service on June 1st. There will be a reception in the lobby following the service.

Pentecost Sunday is June 8th. Pentecost is a Christian holiday which takes place on the 49th day after Easter Day.

It commemorates the descent of the Holy Spirit upon the Apostles of Jesus while they were in Jerusalem celebrating the Feast of Weeks, as described in the Acts of the Apostles.

Please wear red.





Our **Youth will be commissioned** on June 22nd prior to their mission trip to East Bank, WV (July 6-12)

Sunday, June 15th, is Father's Day. Join us as we celebrate all of the great dads and dad figures in our lives. We will be accepting the Migrant Ministry offering. The funds collected will be used to purchase gift cards for food, as well as daily devotional books (written in Spanish) for each of the workers in the migrant camps. There are approximately 200 men and women in the camps of the two farms. Make your checks payable to FPC and use the brown offering envelope that will be in the pews and please be sure to mark it for Father's Day offering.



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 at 9:00 am.

Camp Fellowship Highlights







Hi! My name is Caroline Smith and I am a current freshman at the University of South Carolina majoring in Advertising with a minor in Art Studio. In my free time I enjoy painting, listening to music, and playing pickleball with my friends. I have experience working with children of all age groups through babysitting and younger siblings. I am so excited to explore and share my faith through children's church using arts and crafts and participating in group activities.

Our 2025 Summer Interns



Hi! I am Lily Collins! I am a lifelong member here at FPC. I just graduated from Greenwood High School and will be attending the University of South Carolina in the fall. I enjoy reading, running, and anything creative. I can't wait to spend the summer doing fun activities and growing the kids' faith!



Hi! My name is Shirley Gardner and I've been an active member of the church my whole life. I graduated from the **Governors School for** Science and Mathematics. I am going to attend the University of Kentucky in the fall, and I plan on majoring in mining engineering. I enjoy riding bikes, hanging out with friends, and doing things with my Girl Scout troop. I'm really excited to be a summer intern this summer!

Don't worry, guys! Dawsey is happy to pitch in and hang out with all you cool dudes when he is able!

29 10:00 Children's Sermon & Chapel	22 10:00 Children's Sermon & Chapel	15 10:00 Children's Sermon & Chapel	8 10:00 Children's Sermon & Chapel 5:30-7:30 VBS Picnic	1 10.00 Children's Chapel Baccalaureate & Meet the interns	SUNDAY
30 11:00 - 4:00 Uptown Day pack a lunch & water bottle 2 rd - 5 th	23 12:00 - 3:00 Guys' Day K5 - 5 th \$10	16	9 5:30-7:30 VBS	2 10:30 - 2:30 VBS decorating	MONDAY
	24	17 4:30 - 6:30 Civic Center Playdate & Popsicles all ages	5:30-7:30 VBS	3 10:30 - 2:30 VBS decorating	TUESDAY
	25	18	11 5:30-7:30 VBS	10:30 - 2:30 VBS decorating	WEDNESDAY
	26 8-8 8-8 \$50 3rd - 5th c	19 Carowinds RSVP \$50 Due	5:30-7:30 VBS	on .	THURSDAY
	27 5 th completers	20	13	6 10:00 - 3:00 Trampoline Park & Lunch 2 nd - 5 th completers \$40	UNE 2025
	28	21 5:00 - 9:00 Giris' Night K5-5th \$20			SATURDAY



Church





June 8-12, 2025

5:30 pm - 7:30 pm

Dinner provided each night

Activities include:

- · Bible stories
- Crafts
- Mueic
- Recreation

Register by scanning the QR code or by calling the Main Street or First Presbyterian church office.









First Presbyterian Church VBS Registration Form

Grades: Completed K3 – 5th Grade* Please return to church office.

My child(ren) is registered on Rea	lm.		
Child(ren)'s Name(s) and grade complet	ed:		
My child(ren) is not registered on Child(ren)'s Name(s) and grade complet	red:		
Parent/Guardian	Phone		
Address	E-mail:		
Allergies/Medical Information/Other:			
attention/treatment for my child I give permission for my chi No names will be used.	staff/volunteers to seek medical		
Emergency or dismissal Contact if neede Name			
	ALL REGISTRANTS:		
Events: My child(ren) will participate:	all 4 or just these nights		
Volunteer:Would you like to volunteer?	? If so, any preference?		
Anything else we need to know?			

^{*}Nursery (infant – K2 completers) available for volunteers only. Please complete registration form for nursery children as well.

JUNE YOUTH EVENTS

Monday, June 2nd – **Deadline to RSVP** for the foam party. RSVP by paying \$5 on Realm or to Nan.

Wednesday, June 4th - **Foam Party** at FPC @ 5:00 - 7:00. We will have pizza for dinner. Bring a towel!

Wednesday, June 18th – **Pool Party at Maxwell Springs** (105 Hatchers Pass) @5:00 – 7:00.

Monday, June 23rd - **Deadline to RSVP** for Carowinds. RSVP by paying \$50 per ticket on the Realm or to Nan.

Thursday, June 26th - **Carowinds**We are leaving FPC at 8:00 am with a very tentative return time of 9:00 pm. (Pack a lunch for on the way there & bring money for dinner)



Baccalaureate Sunday

On Sunday, June 1st during 10:00 am worship. Graduates arrive at 9:00 am for practice.



The above picture was taken at our High School Senior Dinner on May 17th. Pictured are, from left to right: Jackson Hamm, Lily Collins, Bess Wieters, Blair McClendon, Daniel Ortiz.

Congratulations to all of our graduating seniors: Erika Jo Buchanan, Hannah Carter, Lily Collins, Shirley Gardner, Jackson Hamm, Liza Evans Justesen, Blair McClendon, Daniel Ortiz, and Bess Wieters



Join us for Carowinds on Thursday, June 26th! RSVP by paying \$50 per ticket by Monday, June 23rd on the Realm event or to Nan. Scan the QR Code above to register.

Students who have completed 3rd grade - 5th grade, as well as youth, are invited to join the interns for a trip to Carowinds.

Departing at 8:00 am with a very tentative return time of 9:00 pm. Drop off and pick up at

First Presbyterian Church (108 E Cambridge Ave)

Cost: \$50 plus extra money for dinner. Pack a lunch to eat before we go in. Free water is available throughout the park.

Chaperones/drivers are usually needed in addition to the interns. Please reach out to our summer interns to volunteer.







Secret Angel Ministry is better than EVER!

Secret Angels at FPC exist to encourage and support young adult members in the 4 transitional years past high school. We do this in a variety of ways using guidelines set up by the Secret Angel Committee. The guidelines below have

been revised to reflect fairness and balance. We hope you will participate by volunteering to be a Secret Angel.

If you are a young adult, we hope you will complete the Secret Angel information form which can be found in the church office. The form will also be mailed to eligible young adults and a digital form emailed where emails are available. You may quickly access and complete the form via the QR code provided below.

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

Young adult members must have completed high school or received a GED and be within 4 years of receiving their high school diploma. Attending a college or university is not a requirement, as it was in past years.

Secret Angel volunteers should use the church's address as the return address when mailing a package or card so the volunteer can remain a secret. Church's Address: P.O. Box 426, Greenwood, SC 29648.

Volunteers-YOU-will make a difference with our prayers, communication, and our love. Small gestures can make a huge difference.

If you would like to volunteer to be a Secret Angel or have any questions, reach out to Lynn Mack, lynnmack12@gmail.com, cell: 864-980-6345.





Sundays@10 for Adults!

Sojourners - Henry Reynolds (Room 110) will meet at 9:00 during June and July.





Ready with the Reason - VBS for Adults 2025

Has someone ever said that they wish their life was more like yours or that they wish they had what you seem to have? Has someone ever asked you why you are a Christian or why you believe what you do?

1 Peter 3:15 says, "Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have." The technical word for such an answer is *apologetics*, and **Adult Vacation Bible School** this year will present an introduction to Christian apologetics.

We will look at foundational principles and big questions that non-believers or skeptics often raise about: the existence of God, the problem of evil, the divinity of Jesus, the reliability of the Bible, and more. And for each topic we will introduce a specific approach for talking about (or otherwise sharing) what we believe as Christians.

We will also consider specifically how to talk about our *Presbyterian* beliefs. We'll look at distinctives of the Reformed and Presbyterian tradition that bear on witness and evangelism (which is not what we're best known for \mathfrak{C})

Each evening of Adult VBS—**Sunday-Thursday, June 8-12, 5:30-7:00**—we will add a practical piece to your apologetic toolkit, so that you will always be ready to tell anyone about the difference that being a Christian makes in your life.

Join us for the cookout on Sunday at 5:30. Please bring a side dish to share. We will have snacks and beverages Monday-Thursday.

To help us prepare, if you plan to attend Adult VBS 2025, please let us know by contacting Dr. Brad Christie (brad@firstgreenwood.com) or Lea Jones at 229-5814, office@firstgreenwood.com or in person at the church office.

Congrats Grads!

2025 Noah's Ark Preschool Graduates



We are so proud of each one of you! You have grown so much through your years at Noah's Ark. We pray that you take the foundation you've received here at the Ark and thrive in your next season. Remember, you are a child of God- wonderfully made, dearly loved, and precious in His sight. There is no one else like you!

MISSIONS/OUTREACH

MONTHLY MISSION SPOTLIGHT Thornwell Family Campus Supply Drive

Please consider donating any of the below items to benefit Thornwell Children's Home.

Please have any items in the church office by noon on Friday, June 6th.



Needed Supply List

Becca Dobbins

864-923-5127 bdobbins@thornwell.org

CLOTHING

- Bras and Training Bras (all cup sizes)
- Slip-on Shoes, all sizes and colors (brands like Crocs and Vans)
- Socks
- Sports Apparel (shirts, shorts, sweatshirts of all sizes)
- Sunglasses
- Underwear (teen boy and girl sizes)

FOOD

- Bottled/Canned Drinks, (teas, waters, Gatorade-Zero, Sodas that are 'Zero' - ex: Coke Zero)
- Bulk snacks chips, cookies, crackers, party size candy, popcorn (please, no peanuts or peanut butter)
- Condiments such as ketchup, mustard, Mayo, ranch dressing, hot sauce, BBQ sauce, grated parmesan, pancake syrup
- Individually wrapped snacks such as healthy granola bars, chips, crackers, Takis, fruit snacks
- Starbucks house blend K-Cup coffee pods

GAMES, SPORTS, OUTDOORS

- Books, Toys, Arts/Crafts, Puzzles for infant to four-year-old
- Craft Supplies, Canvases all sizes, Scrapbooking Items
- Dry Erase Markers
- Games: UNO, Yahtzee, Apples to Apples
- Soft, Cuddle Toys appropriate for infants

HOUSEHOLD ITEMS

- Aluminum foil
- Bath Towel and Washcloth Sets
- · Beach/Pool Towels
- Bed Pillows and Pillowcases
- Cleaning Supplies, Clorox/Lysol wipes
- Clear Reusable Water Bottles (clear bottles required by schools)
- 'Fragrance Free/Eco' Laundry Detergent and Dryer sheets
- Dish Soap
- Kitchen Dish Rags, Towels, and Potholders
- Liquid Pump Hand Soap
- Mixing Bowl Sets
- Muffin and Brownie Pans
- Pizza Cutter
- Pizza Pan, 16-inch
- Plastic Tumbler Cups (clear or solid colors)
- Solid Color Bathroom Rugs and Shower Mat Sets
- Solid Color Plastic Shower Curtains

PERSONAL CARE ITEMS

- African American Hair Products (Brands: Aunt Jackie's, Camille Rose, Mielle Organics)
- · Body Spray
- Bonnets
- Chapstick
- Cotton Rounds
- Deodorant, Antiperspirant
- Edge Combs
- Face Wash
- Feminine Hygiene Products (Liners, Pads, Tampons)
- Hairbrushes
- Liquid Body Wash
- Lotion (fragrance-free, sensitive skin)
- Razors, Shaving Cream
- Shampoo and Conditioner Sets
- Sunscreen (fragrance-free, sensitive skin)

SCAN TO SEE AMAZON LIST



New items only. Used items will not be accepted.

AS A CHRISTIAN MINISTRY, OUR MISSION IS TO PROVIDE SAFE AND NURTURING ENVIRONMENTS WHERE WE EDUCATE, EQUIP, AND SUPPORT CHILDREN AND FAMILIES TO THRIVE.

ENDOWMENT UPDATE

The Endowment Committee approved several requests during the May 12th quarterly meeting.

- Over \$30,000 in scholarship funds will be awarded to our high school graduates and former qualified graduates at our Baccalaureate Sunday service on June 1st.
- Support for the mission field is a historical and long-standing aspect and outreach for our congregation. Approval to award \$25,000 to match \$17,000 of other funds will be funneled to support the work of our Din family in Pakistan. The funds will support the first phase of developing a Technical Center for the education & training of students that will improve their opportunities of escaping poverty and lives of near enslavement in the brickyards.
- Designs and proposals were presented for the renovation of the original Byrd Garden, located between the Fellowship Hall, the education wing and music rooms of the church. Additional information will be provided prior to the release of \$25,000 for the project.

Many of our congregation's members receive the Thornwell Life publication from Thornwell Children's Home in Clinton, SC. The recent article entitled: 'Spreading Seeds of Generosity', acknowledged First Presbyterian of Greenwood Endowment's recent support in providing funds in December 2024 for machinery attachments to be used with a donated Caterpillar 973 dozer loader. This will greatly assist in the renovation of their Lush Acres Farm that help support the work of Thornwell.





Presbyterian Women News WOMEN OF THE CHURCH

The Honorary Life Membership this year was awarded to Anna Welborn. Donna Thompson nominated Anna for this award and below are some of the reasons Anna was awarded this special honor.

Anna has been a faithful and involved member of First Presbyterian Church for 45 years. Anna has a heart for service. Some highlights of Anna's service to FPC include:

- Serving 2 terms as Elder, Being a trained Stephen Minister
- Serving both on the Pastor Search Committee and Associate Pastor Search Committee
- Established the Sojourners Sunday School Class 43 years ago
- Served as Moderator of the Women's Coordinating Team for 2 years, and has been a long-time member of Circle 4.

Anna's ministry extends from the Church into the community through her work with a variety of organizations. In the past, she has served on the boards of the United Way, Hospice, YMCA, Arts Council of Greenwood, and the Community Theater. She is presently involved in the Greenwood Women's Care, Self Regional Hospital Special Gifts Committee, and the Friends of Healthy Learners.

Anna, thank you for all you do for others.

Our guest preacher was Teresa Reed. 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 and serving as Designated Supply Pastor at Providence Presbyterian Church in West Columbia. She preached a beautiful service.

"The best way to find yourself is to lose yourself in the service of others."

— Mahatma Gandhi

I would like to thank all the ladies that have been serving our church and our communities both near and far. You have been a delight to work with this year and I look forward to next year. We have lots to give and I appreciate all of you giving of yourselves.

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

WOMEN'S SUNDAY HIGHLIGHTS





PALMETTO GIRLS SING! PRESENTS

OTH ANNIVERSARY CHORAL CONCERS



FEATURING SPECIAL GUEST COMPOSER

June 1st | 4:00 PM
Free Concert
First Presbyterian Church
Greenwood, SC

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.

Friday-Sunday PGS Choral Festival

May 30-June 1

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 VBS (5:30-7:30 pm)

June 8-12

Tuesday, June 10 Staff Planning Day

Greenwood Festival Chorale Concert (7:00 pm, Sanctuary)

Sunday, June 15 Trinity Sunday

Father's Day

Sunday, June 22 Youth Mission Trip Commissioning

Thursday, June 26 Carowinds (all day)

Friday, July 4 Church offices closed

Sunday, July 6 Communion

Sunday-Saturday

July 6-12

Youth Mission Trip (East Bank, WV)

Sunday, July 20 Blessing of the Backpacks

Sunday, July 27 Session (5:30 pm, Henry Reynolds Room)

Sunday, August 3 Communion during both services (We return to 2 services)

Sunday, August 17 Diaconate (5:30 pm, Henry Reynolds Room)

Saturday, August 23 Trinity Presbytery Mtg (9:30 am, First Presbyterian, Aiken, SC)

Sunday, August 24 Dr. Cliff Cain preaching

Session (5:30 pm, Henry Reynolds Room)

GENERAL CHURCH INFORMATION



Other Items of Interest

We will celebrate the Lord's Supper during our one service on June 1, 2025.

Summer Service hours begin Sunday June 1st. We have only one service on Sunday mornings at 10:00 for the months of June and July.

Sunday, June 15th, is Father's Day. Join us as we celebrate all of the great dads and dad figures in our lives. We will be accepting the Migrant Ministry offering. The funds collected will be used to purchase gift cards for food, as well as daily devotional books (written in Spanish) for each of the workers in the migrant camps. There are approximately 200 men and women in the camps of the two farms. Make your checks payable to FPC and use the brown offering envelope that will be in the pews and please be sure to mark it for Father's Day offering.

Deadline for the July issue of *The Spire* is Monday, June 16, 2025.

The Staff will be away on Tuesday, June 10th for our annual **Staff Planning Day**.

RECENT HOSPITALIZATIONS:

(Home unless noted)
Elby Hoyt -- Moved in with is daughter
Rebecca Wise
Marsha Whittington -- Wesley Commons Rehab

TEAM MEETINGS

The **Committed Prayers Group** will meet Monday, June 2, at 4:30 pm, in the Chapel.

The **Home Communion** and **Visitation Committees** will meet Thursday, June 12th, at 10:00 am, in the Barksdale Room (Room 122).

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

Remember who you are.
Don't compromise for anyone, for any reason.
You are a child of the Almighty God. Live that truth.

LYSA TERKEURST

GENERAL CHURCH INFORMATION cont.



We are tentatively scheduled to start with the grounds update in the next few weeks. This means the entire west lawn, in front of chapel and Old Byrd will be inaccessible due to demo and reseeding.



Our Kitchen renovation will begin on Monday, June 16th and will hopefully be completed by Friday, August 1st. We appreciate your patience during this transition.

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!



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

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 Iade 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
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