

The Spire First Presbyterian Church

July 2025 Greenwood, SC

A Message From Our Pastor...

Eleven and a half years ago, I arrived at the magnificent pulpit of First Presbyte-rian Church of Greenwood, South Carolina, with a passion for sharing the gospel and fire in my belly. My two boys were just 8 and 11 years old. We dove in with heart and soul to become Greenwoodians. I brought the experience and training I had to offer my very best every Sunday and each day in between. I spent countless hours at hospital beds, in living rooms, and at social gatherings. We worked to strengthen an already strong church, and in nearly every way, we succeeded together. We navigated denominational and political issues to defy national membership decline, and we thrived together. We started study and small groups to build community. We finished each of the past 10 years with a financial surplus,



including 2024, with an additional twenty percent. We paid off our debt and finally built an elevator! Now we are completely renovating our kitchen. These are all dreams our congregation has had for decades, and we made them a reality! With that same enthusiasm construction may be in the future.

Throughout our journey, we also encountered life's challenges. We mourned loved ones. We explored new ideas to enhance our programs. We undertook projects that presented more obstacles than achievements, such as the new HVAC system, water leaks, audio-visual and lighting issues, and the playground surface. We confronted a global pandemic and had to adapt swiftly to an online format. And when personal difficulties arose in my own home, you all rallied to support me and my family. Looking back there are things I wish I had said better or not said at all. There were quite a few sermons I wish I had preached better.

Through it all, we have truly journeyed together. All the while, we have remained focused on our mission – Jesus Christ for the world. I know that through the highs and lows of our life together, we and others have grown closer to Him. For all you have done and the opportunity to work alongside you, I am immensely grateful. I share the thankfulness of the Apostle Paul in his letters to churches that supported his work. He said to the church of Thessalonica, "I always give thanks to God for all of you and mention you in my prayers, constantly remembering before our God and Father your work of faith and labor of love and steadfastness of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ." (1 Thessalonians 1:2–3, NRSVue) I honestly can't say it any better. I thank you from the bottom of my heart. You will forever hold a cherished place in my heart and that of my family. Mykal's response to our news was, "Greenwood is my home, and First Presbyterian will always be my church." Amen Mykal, well said. I love you FPC. Thank you for letting me be your pastor.

Blessings,

Pastor Kyle

SPECIAL SERVICES

Join us Sunday, July 20 for our annual Blessing of the Backpacks where we will pray for our students, teachers, assistants, administrators, and support staff.





KIRKIN' OF THE TARTANS

SERVICE

Get your tartan ready.

Our Kirkin' Service is set

for October 12, 2025 at

11:00 am.

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.

We will return to 2 services in August, 9:00 and 11:00 with Sunday School at 10:00.

June 29, 2025

Pastor Kyle's Farewell Sermon 10:00 am

Called Congregational Meeting to Dissolve Pastor Kyle's Pastoral Relationship 11:00 am

Reception in Alexander Hall in appreciation of Pastor Kyle and Christie following Called Congregtional Meeting













SUMMER INTERN FUN

Friday the 1st

Parent Meeting

Henry Reynolds room

· children welcome on the playground under intern

Farewell to Interns

LOCK-IN

during worship

7:00 P. M. - 8:00 A. M.

- 2" 5th completers
 - pizza provided
- bring snacks, drinks to share
 - bring a sleeping bag, pillow, and whatever you need to spend the night.
- Friends welcome!!!







Wednesday the 6th

Movie Night!

7:00 - 9:00 P. M.

for parents of Youth & Children S:30

KS - Sth grade completers
 meet in Alexander Hall

supervision popcorn & drinks provided











VBS Highlights









VBS was so much fun!
We ministered to over 75
children with love from
numerous adult and youth
volunteers from Main St UMC
and First Pres.
Way to go, team!



God is Love! Love Lives Here!



VBS Highlights cont.

























Baccalureate Sunday Congratulations to the class of 2025!



Senior Retreat

Friday, August 15th - Sunday, August 17th
Hendersonville, NC



RSVP by Sunday, August 3rd by paying \$60 on Realm or to Nan.





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.



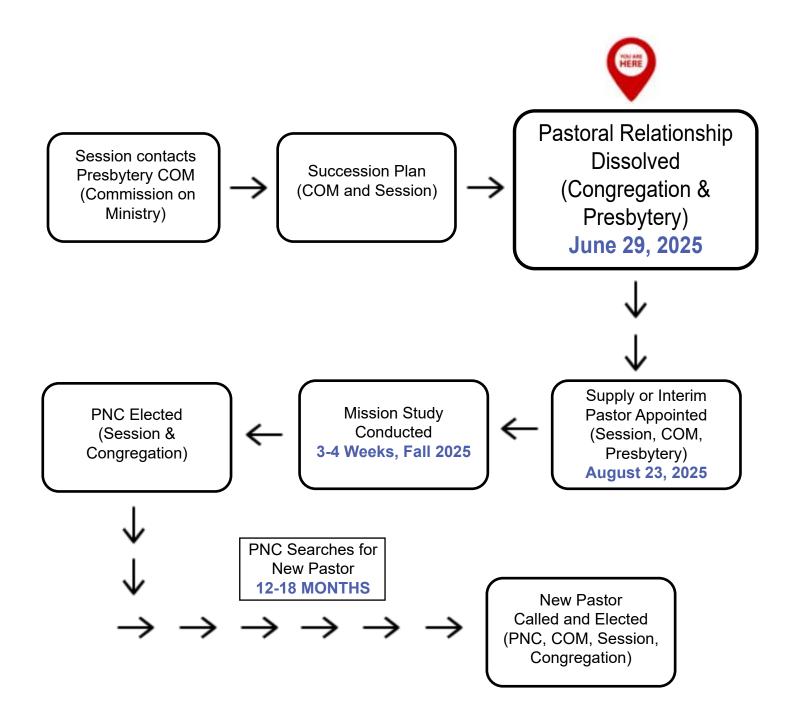
SHinE Families

Don't forget we are looking for a new SHinE Choir Director.

Please let Steve Skinner or Nickie Murphy know of any suggestions. They also have the job description if you would like to see it.

MOVING FORWARD

Flow Chart for New Pastor Search



Pastor Search Process Explanation

The weeks and months ahead stand to be exciting as First Pres searches for its next called and installed pastor. Here's how the process will go.

When Kyle accepted another call in late May, he notified Session leadership and Trinity Presbytery's Commission on Ministry (COM). On June 1, the Session formally accepted Kyle's resignation and agreed to pursue the possibility of Brad Christie leading the church through the transition period. To date, Session leaders have met with Brad to discuss the succession plan, and COM has appointed moderator Gina Brinson as liaison. From this point, the FPC Session will work closely with Gina (pron. "Jenna") through the rest of the process.

The Session is asking COM to approve Brad's serving as interim pastor through the whole search process. Hopefully, that arrangement will be approved at the August 23 presbytery meeting.

COM and the Session will collaborate on a mission study, probably in early fall. This study will produce a clear picture of where the church is now and a vision for moving forward with new pastoral leadership. Once the mission study is completed, the Session, through its Nominating Committee, will recommend a Pastor Nominating Committee (PNC) for approval by the congregation.

The PNC will publish a detailed description of the church and its vision. They will then receive and review applications from ministers seeking a call to such a church. Eventually, the PNC will interview a short list of top candidates and confer with COM about terms of call for the new pastor, who will then be presented to the congregation for approval.

The search for a new pastor entails many important steps, which cannot be rushed. The PNC will consult with COM throughout the process and report regularly to the congregation. The entire process typically takes a year to 18 months to complete.

Clearly, we need to keep this whole transitional season in fervent, concerted prayer! God is good. And God has good things in store for FPC. Thanks be to God!

MISSIONS/OUTREACH

MONTHLY MISSION SPOTLIGHT Piedmont Agency on Aging



Piedmont Agency on Aging is a private, non-profit, 501c3 organization, serving the Abbeville, Greenwood, Laurens and Saluda areas of South Carolina. Our mission is to provide services and programs for seniors.

Meals on Wheels provides daily, home-delivered meals to individuals in need of proper nutrition. Piedmont Agency on Aging is the primary **Meals on Wheels** provider in the Greenwood, Abbeville, Laurens and Saluda County commu-

nities. *Meals on Wheels* will either provide a hot, frozen, or shelf stable meal to frail and vulnerable seniors in these areas. Homebound seniors see an immediate benefit from *Meals on Wheels* through improved nutrition and physical stamina. Most of these individuals receive visits daily from volunteers. *Meals on Wheels* supports the senior's ability to remain independent and at home for as long as possible.

In addition to **Meals on Wheels**, the agency also offers meals at five congregate nutrition centers each weekday serving an average of 100 seniors a day. Approximately 115 individuals a day are served through our transportation program, which provides a ride to medical appointments, dialysis treatment, the grocery store and to our senior centers.

We serve around 650 meals a day from our kitchen at 111 Reynolds Park Drive.

Plans are underway to build a larger, updated kitchen at our Executive offices located at 808 South Emerald Road, just down the road from the current kitchen. As we have grown from two to four counties, the kitchen space is needed to streamline production and expand for growth. We are currently waiting to finalize plans to bid for contractors.

First Presbyterian's Involvement:

Our church has supported the *Meals on Wheels* program in several ways. Endowment funds provided a Gas Convection Steamer in 2020 and a commercial refrigerator in 2023, and the Mission/Outreach budget provided a sink heater in 2023.

Several members of FPC are weekly volunteers who deliver *Meals on Wheels*, and additional volunteers are needed.

Are you looking for a way to serve others?

Do you have a couple spare hours one weekday morning each week? If so, please consider becoming a volunteer to deliver *Meals on Wheels*.

For information, call Diane, the volunteer coordinator at 864-223-2233.

MISSIONS/OUTREACH cont.

KENYA FAITH MISSIONS



On April 15 Mrs. Njango Mankuleiyo, the wife of Bishop Manasseh Mankuleiyo, traveled to Kenya for a three-week mission trip. She was the featured guest speaker at the Annual Youth Conference with over 600 youth attending. She spent one afternoon session of Q & A with youth addressing topics of faith issues, relationships, traditional arranged marriages, educational opportunities, and job training. Another afternoon was spent in a women's fellowship and prayer meeting, followed by visitation and praying with families

who had lost loved ones. Njango was invited and preached at an African Inland Church (AIC), where she met Joyce, an AIC evangelist. Joyce lost her eyesight following surgery in Nairobi. Njango referred her to Tenwek, a Christian Mission Hospital in Bomet, Kenya, where she had additional eye surgery which restored her vision.

The mission vehicle which Endowment provided in 2018, now has 271,916 miles on it. After numerous repairs it finally broke down and Njango had to cancel her final speaking engagement. Nevertheless, she was very grateful for the opportunity to go on this mission, and she sincerely thanks First Presbyterian and KFM for making it possible.

PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY

Do you know of someone who would benefit from a crocheted/knitted lap blanket or prayer shawl? These donations have been lovingly made by members (and non-members) of our church and have been prayed over and are for anyone who is experiencing a difficult time. Contact the front office if you would like to provide us with the name of someone who would like to receive one of these items.



KNIT. CROCHET. PRAY.



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:

Moderator Elect:

Vice Moderator:

Secretary

Treasurer:

Meg Stevens

Louise Sligh

Cindy Leary

Sandy McCord

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,

Betsy Collins, Hunter Bell

Retreat/Intreat Patti Gagstetter

Search Committee: Kappy May/Sally Anderson

Circle 1: Jean Mabe

Circle 3: Kappy May, Kathy Snyder

Circle 4: Carol Umphress

Circle 5: Meg Stevens, Michelle Barksdale
Circle 6: Nickie Murphy, Jessica Willard
Circle 7: Becky Bryson, Jill Koczwara

Circle 8: Betty Williams



What are you proud of?

Me—never ending a sentence in a preposition!

Are you good at driving? How about a passable reader/writer? Maybe your baking is legendary, or you've developed a "knack" for mechanics/art/organization or keyboarding.

All of these are SKILLS that can be learned—just like singing. Yet so many seem to think that singing is a mysterious ability that you either have or don't. I've got good news—nearly everybody (well into the upper 90th percentile) can be taught to sing. It appears to be more natural if you have parents who sang to you (interestingly, the quality of parents' singing has no bearing on its efficacy). But music educators for centuries have not concentrated on honing the skills of only the uber-talented but bringing the joy of music-making to people of average/below average/above average abilities. Also, study after study (as a matter of fact ALL studies) has shown significant improvement in other academic disciplines when the student studies and PARTICIPATES in music.

Did God give you a heart to praise Him? Or that vague feeling you should be doing something? Give singing a try! How?

Schedule music lessons (free) with me.

Come to choir – no solos (unless you want to try one), plenty of singers who joy in mentorship. (Wednesdays 7-8:15 in the Choir Room, Room #124)

Would you rather hit something at the right time? Handbells are the route for you—usually only two notes to keep track of. Some basic music reading ability helpful. Sundays at 4:15 in the Bell Room, Room #125 behind the sanctuary.

Palmetto Girls Sing is such a terrific example—Amy Fennell takes a group of talented girls and through awesome teaching forms them into uber-competent ensemble and skilled singers! Perhaps you know a girl who should sing with PGS: https://www.palmettogirlssinggreenwood.com/

As our church enters a different season our Music Ministry could use some more participants. Our weekly (every week!) rehearsals are a rock. Join us on that rock!

Steve Skinner
Director of Music Ministries

PGS Festival Highlights



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, June 29 Pastor Kyle's Farewell Sermon

Called Congregational Meeting (11:00, Sanctuary)

Reception (11:15, Alexander Hall)

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)

Monday, September 1 Church Offices Closed

Sunday, September 7 Communion during both services

Sunday, September 14 Congregational Meeting to Elect Officers (10:40 am, Sanctuary)

Sunday, Septmber 21 Officer Training (3:00 pm, Henry Reynolds Room)

Sunday, September 28 Officer Training (3:00 pm, Henry Reynolds Room)

Session (5:30 pm, Henry Reynolds Room)

Sunday, October 5 World Communion Sunday

Communion during both services

Officer Training (3:00 pm, Henry Reynolds Room)

Sunday, October 12 Kirkin' Service (11:00 service)

Officer Training (3:00 pm, Henry Reynolds Room)

GENERAL CHURCH INFORMATION

RECENT HOSPITALIZATIONS:

(Home unless noted) Marsha Whittington

Our Christian prayers and sympathies are extended to Steve White and his family on the passing of his mother. We share with them the joy of the promise of resurrection and eternal life.

TEAM MEETINGS

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

The **Session** will meet Sunday, July 27th at 5:30 pm, in the Henry Reynolds Room (Room 110).

The **Worship Committee** will meet Tuesday, July 8th, at 5:45 p.m. on the Barksdale Room (Room 122).

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

Other Items of Interest

We will celebrate the Lord's Supper during our one service on July 6, 2025.

We have only one service on Sunday mornings at 10:00 for the months of June and July. Sojourners Sunday school Class will meet at 9:00. Nursery available from 9:45-11:00.

Deadline for the August issue of *The Spire* is Wednesday, July 16, 2025.

The church offices will be **closed** on Friday, July 4th.

We have several available dates in August on the **Flower Calendar.** Please call the front office if you would like to put flowers in the church one Sunday for a loved one.

ATTENTION NEW OFFICERS

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

We will hold a Congregational Meeting to elect new officers on Sunday, September 14th, at 10:40 am.

NEW OFFICER TRAINING

Training for new officers will begin on Sunday, September 21st and will continue on Sundays, September 28, October 5th and 12th. All classes will be at 3:00 in the Henry Reynolds room (Room 110).

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING
SUNDAY,
JUNE 29, 2025
11:00 A.M.
FOR THE PURPOSE OF:
DISSOLVING PASTORAL
RELATIONSHIP WITH
THE REV. DR. KYLE HITE

GENERAL CHURCH INFORMATION cont.



We are in the middle of a grounds update.
This means the entire west lawn, in front of chapel and Old Byrd will be inaccessible due to demo and reseeding.



Our Kitchen renovation has begun and will hopefully be completed by Friday, August 1st. We appreciate your patience during this transition.

JULY						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
	215240	1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

SUMMER WEDNESDAY NIGHT FELLOWSHIP

Wednesday Night Fellowship will continue at Mig's for the month of July at 5:30 pm. We hope to see you there!

Wednesday activities at church will start back August 6th.



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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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
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