



The Spire

First Presbyterian Church

August 2025

Greenwood, SC

A Message From Our Pastor...

That time of year...

Summer means different things to different people. For many, it means special time at the lake or beach, or it may mean vacation travel time. For others, summer is the time to catch up on things put off at busier times of year. Like any other time of year, summer can be over-scheduled and frantic. Or it can be a slower, calmer season of more rest and reflection.

The Church has seasons, too, from Advent and Christmas, to Lent and Easter, to the church's birthday at Pentecost. The time after Pentecost—the longest season, which includes summer—takes us up to Advent again.

To help us keep track of the liturgical calendar and, more importantly, to keep us rooted in God's Word all year, Christian churches of all kinds use a lectionary, which is itself a calendar or schedule of Bible readings for the whole year.

Lectionaries have a long history, dating back to at least the fourth century. The Jewish people read from a lectionary that takes them through every verse of the Torah (Genesis-Deuteronomy) every year. Roman Catholics and Orthodox Christians use lectionaries specific to their historic traditions.

Today most Protestant denominations use the **Revised Common Lectionary** (RCL). The lectionary provides four Scripture readings for each Sunday's worship: an Old Testament reading, a Psalm, a gospel reading, and a reading from Acts or the rest of the New Testament. The RCL is organized in three-year cycles. Year A features the Gospel of Matthew; Year B, Mark; and Year C, Luke. Readings from John's gospel are scheduled every year, mostly during the Christmas and Easter seasons.

During this season of transition to new pastoral leadership at First Pres, most Sundays we will be using the lectionary to organize and focus our worship. This is Year C, so this summer we are on the road with Jesus making his way to Jerusalem, as recounted in the Gospel of Luke. Come to worship at 9:00 or 11:00 each week to hear all about it!

I look forward to these many weeks together. Thank you for the many kind expressions of support and encouragement as together we embark on this interim journey.

Blessings,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Brad".

Brad

SPECIAL SERVICES

Worship schedule

*We return to 2 services
beginning Sunday, August 3rd.*

9:00 Worship

10:00 Sunday School

11:00 Worship



KIRKIN' OF THE TARTANS SERVICE

*Get your tartan ready.
Our Kirkin' Service is set
for October 12, 2025 at
11:00 am.*

(No 9:00 service)

UPDATED PROPERTY HIGHLIGHTS



As you can see, we've had a lot of things happening around the church. These are just a few...the kitchen is being renovated and we hope to have it completed by August 1st. The Old Byrd Garden has been cleaned up and showing off new plantings and grass. The Chapel doors have been replaced and painted. And the side lawn is sporting some new plantings and grass. The summer weather hasn't cooperated but any problems that arise will be taken care of.





August

SUMMER INTERN FUN

Friday the 1st

Movie Night!

7:00 – 9:00 P. M.

- KS – 5th grade completers
- meet in Alexander Hall
- popcorn & drinks provided

Wednesday
the 6th

Parent Meeting

for parents of Youth & Children

5:30

- Henry Reynolds room
- children welcome on the playground under intern supervision

Friday the 8th

LOCK-IN

7:00 P. M. – 8:00 A. M.

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

Sunday the 10th

Farewell to Interns
during worship





Dear Parents and Guardians,

You are on the front lines for your children every day shaping them to one day be responsible adults. First Pres is your partner in this journey!

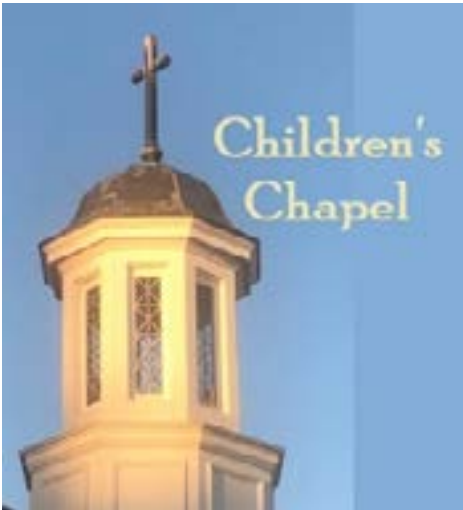
One way we want to help nurture our children is by teaching them about **prayer**. This is a beautiful skill that will last them a lifetime in good and hard times.

Another way we can help partner with you is to teach our children about **God's promises**. The Bible shows us so many things that God promises us and they are all good and uplifting. We all want our children to grow in their faith with our loving God. We know these are the things we rely on when life is confusing.

We also get to partner with you in basic skills like teaching a **respect for the church property and an appreciation for Mr. Vince**. When we talk about and exemplify how to treat the church, we instill in our children what a blessing the church is. Let's model putting our trash where it belongs and not leaving things in the sanctuary. What an opportunity for our children to grow in responsibility.

We want to hear from you. We want to pray for you and your family. We want to grow together. Contact Mrs. Elise or anyone on CE with your ideas, thoughts, prayer concerns, or whatever. You are so loved!

God is good,
Mrs. Elise



Children's Chapel is for children ages 1st – 5th grade because they need a little reading and counting experience to learn how to find hymns and scripture.

These children will exit worship as marked in the bulletin and will enjoy chapel through the sermon and then return to parents at the end of worship.

We will focus on a new hymn every month.

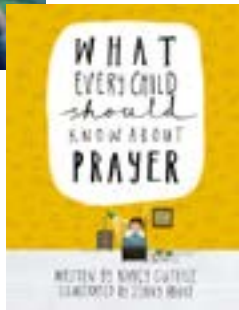
During chapel, our volunteers will be leading your children in the study of God's promises.

These are promises they will remember for life.

Also during chapel, our children will continue learning about prayer.

Did you know we do prayer requests every week?
Our children are so thoughtful!

Ask them at home if they have any prayer requests to share.



Welcome to Sarah Bowen, Director of Children's Music.

Sarah has been closely affiliated with Frist Pres as an organ student of Bob Glick and Administrator of the Festiva concert series. Currently music director/organist at Our Lady of Lourdes and organist at Main Street United Methodist, Sarah will direct our SHinE Children's choirs on Wednesdays from 5:45-6:45, concentrating on Discipleship songs, basic music notation, and fundamentals of singing (matching pitch, correct breathing, etc.).

SHinE begins Wednesday, August 6—meal at 5:30, music and Bible at 5:45-6:45, recreation 6:45-7:00.



August Schedule for Children

Date	Sundays@10	Children's Chapel	SHinE
Fri, Aug 1	Movie Night with the Interns from 7:00 – 9:00 for current K5-5th grades. Popcorn and drinks provided.		
Sun, Aug 3		Promises of God p. 12; The First Promise Prayer p. 14; Psalm 23 Hymn: Every Time I Feel the Spirit	
Wed, Aug 6			5:30 WNF kick-off SHinE: God Creates Us in His Image (Genesis 1) God is creative ...so we're creative
Fri, Aug 8	Summer Intern Lock-In for current grades 3rd – 5th. 7:00 P. M. to 8:00 A. M. Bring a snack to share and a sleeping bag/pillow etc to sleep over. Friends welcome.		
Sun, Aug 10	Last Sunday with Interns	Promises of God p. 18; The Broken Promise Prayer p. 16; Psalm 23 Hymn: Every Time I Feel the Spirit	
Wed, Aug 13	God is the greatest ...and we don't need to be		5:30 SHinE Builders Try to Build a Great Tower (Genesis 11:1-9)
Sun, Aug 17		Promises of God p. 24; A Crushing Promise Prayer p. 18; Psalm 23 Hymn: Every Time I Feel the Spirit	
Wed, Aug 20	God is giving ...so we're giving.		5:30 SHinE Abram Gives Lot the Best Land (Genesis 13)
Sun, Aug 24		Promises of God p. 30; Colorful Promises Prayer p. 20; Psalm 23 Hymn: Every Time I Feel the Spirit	

The graphic features a light blue background with stylized clouds and stars. At the top, a dark blue cloud contains the text 'AUGUST YOUTH EVENTS' in white, bold, bubbly letters with a blue outline. The text is flanked by several four-pointed stars. The bottom of the page is decorated with stylized clouds and stars in shades of blue.

AUGUST YOUTH EVENTS

8/3 – Foam party @ 5:00 – 7:00 @ FPC

8/3 – Parents Meeting @ 5:30 – 6:30

8/6 – WEY @ 5:30 – 7:00

8/10 – Sunday School in the youth room @ 10:00 – 10:45

8/13 – WEY @ 5:30- - 7:00

8/15-8/17 – Senior Retreat

8/20 – WEY @ 5:30- - 7:00

8/21 – EGGS @ 7 @ CFA by the mall
The bus leaves at @7:30 for Westview

8/24 – Sunday School @10:00 – 10:45

8/27 – WEY GOTE @ Mig's @ 5:30 – 7:00

8/27 – High School Night @ Sonic @ 7:00 – 8:00

8/31 – Sunday School @ 10:00 – 10:45



&



Bring a swimsuit and a pool towel! We will have a foam party for the youth and children during the parents meeting!

Foam Party @ 5:00 - 7:00 and Parents meeting @ 5:30 - 6:30.

Parents of youth and children are invited to our parent meeting for the year. We'll go over the yearly plans and introduce some new ideas. Youth are invited to participate at the meeting. Interns will be outside with the children during the meeting.

Senior Retreat

Friday, August 15th - Sunday, August 17th

Hendersonville, NC



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



We will meet on Thursday, August 21st



Volunteers Needed for Youth Activities

If you are interested and able to host, chaperone,
lead a devotion, or drive for a youth activity this fall,
email Jade Green at youth@firstgreenwood.com
or scan the QR code below to sign up.



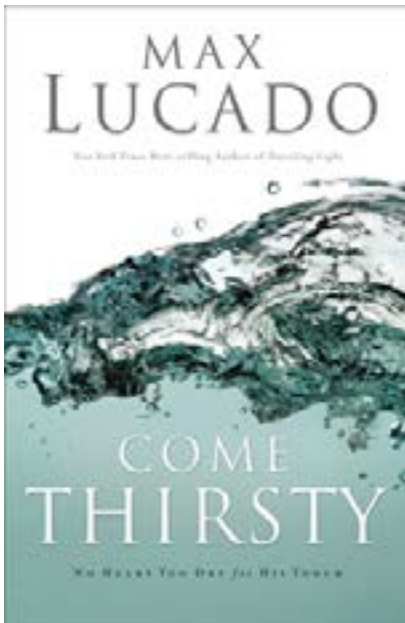






**Sundays@10
for Adults!
10:00 am**

Sojourners - Henry Reynolds (Room 110)



What image best describes your heart? A water-drenched kid in front of an open fire hydrant? Or a bristled desert tumbleweed?

You're acquainted with physical thirst. Stop drinking and see what happens. Coherent thoughts vanish, skin grows clammy, and vital organs shut down. Deprive your body of necessary fluid, and it will tell you.

Deprive your soul of spiritual water, and it will tell you. Dehydrated hearts and desperate messages. Snarling tempers. Waves of worry. Growing guilt and fear. Hopelessness. Resentment. Loneliness. Insecurity.

But you don't have to live with a dehydrated heart. God invites you to treat your thirsty soul as you would treat your physical thirst. Just visit the WELL and drink deeply.

- Receive Christ's **work** on the cross,
- The **energy** of his Spirit,
- His **lordship** over your life,
- And his unending, unfailing **love**.

Come thirsty and drink the water of life.

FISH (Fellowship In Service to Him) – Room 205



Imagine what life would be like if you had PERFECT faith.

In this video-based Bible study, pastor and best-selling author Andy Stanley builds a biblical case for five things God uses to grow BIG faith.

Imagine how different your outlook on life would be if you had absolute confidence that God was with you. Imagine how differently you would respond to difficulties, temptations, and even good things if you believed with certainty that God was in all of it and was planning to leverage every circumstance for good.

This pack includes one DVD and one Participant Guide, filled with helpful discussion starters, video overviews, a useful Leader's Guide and much more. When used together, they provide a powerful catalyst for spiritual growth.

Sessions include:

1. Big Faith
2. Practical Teaching
3. Providential Relationships
4. Private Disciplines
5. Personal Ministry
6. Pivotal Circumstances

Thursday, August 7

6:30 P. M.

at Patti Gagstetter's home
117 Gunnery Ct West
in Grand Harbor

Ladies Night Out!

Bring an appetizer or
dessert to share.
BYOB if other than tea,
lemonade, water.

RSVP to the church
by noon on Wednesday,
August 6



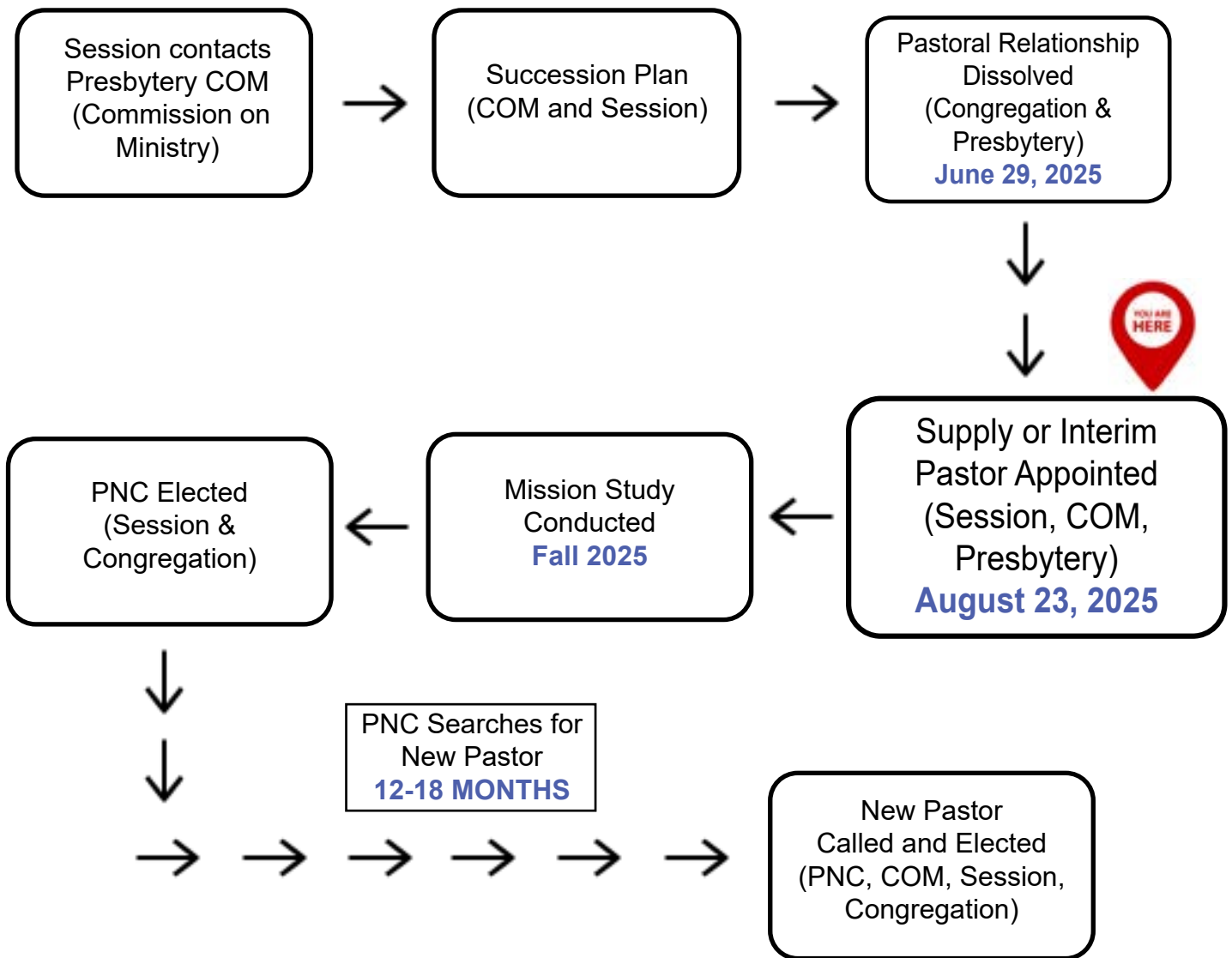
A simple, childlike faith in a Divine
Friend solves all the problems that
come to us by land or sea

— Helen Keller —

AZ QUOTES

MOVING FORWARD

Flow Chart for New Pastor Search



Pastor Search Process Explanation

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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 a special 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 at least 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!

FROM TRINITY PRESBYTERY...

When a pastoral position with a congregation ends, there are bonds of affection between the minister and members of the church that continue to be cherished. Relations of friendship continue, but the pastoral relationship does not. In order to avoid awkward situations and to encourage the new pastoral relationship that will be established, the Presbytery establishes the following guidelines.

When a pastor resigns from a pastorate, retires from service, or becomes pastor Emerita/us, Trinity Presbytery urges that minister to decline invitations such as weddings, baptisms, funerals, hospital visitation or counseling from his/her former congregation members. Active or inactive church members should not request that a former pastor perform pastoral duties. If, in spite of this policy, an invitation is extended or accepted, former pastors, associate pastors and other ministers "shall not provide their pastoral services to members of their former congregation without the invitation of the moderator of the session." G-2.0905. This policy of Trinity Presbytery is intended to help former ministers and the congregations who love them prepare to embrace the next chapter in their lives, and to clear the way for the next installed pastor to minister to the needs of the congregation entrusted to his/her care.

While avoiding participation in any funerals, weddings, baptisms, etc., of former parishioners is difficult, it should be remembered that if the first invitation is accepted, reasons to refuse other requests will be very difficult to substantiate. If the circumstances of the minister's departure make it advisable for the health of the congregation, the Session may elect to allow the departing pastor to perform any weddings that were approved prior to the Pastor's resignation/announcement of retirement. However, baptisms, funerals, weddings planned following the pastor's announcement of departure, and other pastoral duties should be refused by the departing pastor.



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.

5:45 – 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:

August 6th: **UNVEILING OF THE NEW KITCHEN!** Hamburger/hotdogs and all the fixins' and a HOMEMADE ICE CREAM bar for dessert

August 13th: COLD PLATE COMBO: Chicken Salad, Tuna Salad, Fruit Salad, Pasta Salad, Assorted Bread & Crackers

August 20th: Pot Roast, Rice & Gravy, Green Beans

August 27th: Shrimp Creole over Rice and Roasted Vegetables

Pastor's Bible Study will resume at Wednesday Night Fellowship, beginning August 6 at 6:15 in the Henry Reynolds Room. Each week we will discuss the lectionary passages used in Sunday's worship services. Wednesday night study will provide an opportunity to reflect on, respond to, even critique the Sunday sermon; but also to get behind and beyond the sermon. As time and interest permit, we will consider connections between the various lectionary readings, especially those not emphasized on Sunday.

MISSIONS/OUTREACH

MONTHLY MISSION SPOTLIGHT Project Linus

Project Linus has made blanket deliveries to two summer camps for children with special needs. Nine BLANKETEERS traveled to Columbia, to Camp Cole to give 120 homeless children their blankets. These children live in shelters or are in foster care. They were so excited to be at camp!



We each met with the children assigned to a particular cottage and told them about Linus. You can see the camp counselors carrying the bags of blankets for us to each cottage. It is always so rewarding to watch the children look over all the blankets and make their choice... some know right away and others have to try them on and struggle to decide. They can't believe that they can take the blankets with them at the end of camp, and the Camp Director later told us they were so proud to show them to their caregivers when they were picked up at the end of camp.

In June, BLANKETEERS from our support group in McCormick gave 47 blankets to youngsters at a camp for children with autism. This was a new camp for us and we were so pleased that we were able to serve them this summer, as well.

Your support through the Missions and Outreach Team makes a big difference to what we are able to do, not just through camps, but all year long, to the 28 agencies in the 5 counties we serve, as well as to individual children we learn about. BLANKETEERS donate their time, materials and amazing talent, but we are all encouraged to know that this church values their efforts with financial support. Thank you.

MISSIONS/OUTREACH cont.

Girl Scout Troop 1185

Five Girl Scouts graduated from high school this past May and are reaching the end of their time as Girl Scouts.

Pictured left to right:

Charlotte Craig, 13-year Girl Scout, Lander University

Rachel Rusche, 4-year Girl Scout, Winthrop University

Izzy LaBounty, 11-year Girl Scout, Winthrop University

Kaitlyn Clary, 11-year Girl Scout, University of South Carolina

Shirley Gardner, 13-year Girl Scout, University of Kentucky



Troop 1185 is going strong and we are currently accepting girls who are entering K5, 11th, & 12th grade.

The younger girls will meet at 6 and the older at 7 on Mondays.

Please contact Becky Gardner with questions.

Cub Scout Pack 921 & Boy Scout Troop 313

Boys who are entering K5-5th grade are invited to join Cub Scout Pack 921.

Boys in 6th-12th grade can join Boy Scout Troop 313.

Both groups meet on Mondays at First Presbyterian Church at 6:30 pm.

Contact David Gardner for more information.

MISSIONS/OUTREACH cont.

Eric Gardner, World Witness Missionary Intern

Eric was commissioned as a World Witness Missionary Intern on Sunday, July 13th, at First Presbyterian Columbia. He is embarking on a church planting project in the Paris area and expects to be there for several years.

Eric grew up in FPC and great appreciates everyone's prayers and support. You can sign up for his newsletter by scanning this QR code. Eric is the oldest son of David and Becky Gardner.



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.

MISSIONS/OUTREACH cont.

Dear Friends,

Warmest greetings from Pakistan! We pray that you all are doing well and that you are growing stronger in the Lord. We want to share with you all that God has been doing through SOW ministries in the past few months. Your prayers and support are everything to us and make all this possible.

Pastors' Training

Asher trained 35 pastors from remote villages of Sindh in three days. We've been praying for that area for a while. Some pastors were from very isolated areas, eager to learn and to grow. It was deeply humbling to see their thirst and passion to serve their people.

Three New Sewing Centers Opened!

We are so excited to share that ****three new sewing centers**** have been launched in June and July. These centers are more than just classrooms; they are safe spaces for women to learn skills, share their hearts, and experience dignity. For many of them, this is the first time they've been told, "You matter." These centers are sowing seeds of transformation.

Voice for the Voiceless: Empowerment of Women

In July, we hosted a woman's training gathering called Voice for the Voiceless. Eighty-five women participated, and honestly, we were blown away by the turnout. Stories were shared, tears were dried, and hope was restored. Women departed with the words, "Now I know I have a voice, and I have value in God's eyes."

Medical Camp - July 21

We are going to have a medical camp on July 21 for the villagers in the brick kilns and the families who don't have regular medical access. We are praying to reach 200 people with a simple checkup, medication, and prayer.

Technical Training Center:

God has placed a vision on our hearts to build a Technical Training Center for youth on the use of brick kilns. We believe every young person deserves a chance to learn a skill, dream a new dream, and walk out of slavery into freedom.

We are thankful to share that land has already been donated for this center! This is a huge step forward, and we are filled with hope. Now, we are praying and trusting God for the resources needed to construct the building. Please join us in prayer that God will provide all the necessary funds, materials, and labor to make this dream a reality. This center will be a beacon of hope and a place where new stories of freedom will begin.

Join Us in Prayer

Please pray

For strength, and wisdom for our team.

For complete funding for the new training facility.

For open hearts and divine appointments in each place we enter.

If you would like to join our monthly newsletter, please email us at: ashersamar01@gmail.com so we can add you to our monthly newsletter list.

MISSIONS/OUTREACH cont.

11 YEARS Music for Ministry Fundraiser

Sponsor or Donate
through our
website at
Greater Greenwood
United Ministry

Saturday, August 23, 2025
5:00 – 8:00 p.m.

New Spring Church (1306 SC-72 Bypass NE)

Features of this year's event include:

- Christian concert featuring music by partner churches offering contemporary and gospel music, and praise dancing

- Fat Daddy's Barbecue-Dinner
- G Frank Russell Culinary
- Arts Students-Dessert
- Community Impact in 2024
- Live Auction
- Silent Auction

Event tickets

\$30.00 per person through Eventbrite.com or at GGUM.

Don't miss out on this exciting fundraiser!
Walk beside GGUM as God's work
continues in Greenwood, South Carolina.



Visit www.greatergreenwoodunitedministry.org for more info.

MISSIONS/OUTREACH cont.

Faith Home
Benefit Concert
Featuring

*Joseph
Habedank*

AUGUST 10TH

6:00 PM

DOORS OPEN AT 5:30 PM

Rice Memorial Baptist Church
1975 Hwy 72 West
Greenwood, SC 29649



*Admission is FREE
Love offering will be collected*

All proceeds will be given to the
Faith Home Transition House



James W. Johnson

by Andrew Goforth



This month, we will pick up in our series of entries on the pastors of our church, highlighting the ministry of the seventh pastor of our church, Rev. James W. Jackson, who came to our church in December of 1926.¹ Rev. Jackson arrived at our church on the heels of a very fruitful season of growth for our church, one that included the construction of our education building in 1924. When our previous minister, Rev. MacLean, accepted a call to Ginter Park Presbyterian Church in Richmond, Virginia in April 1926, our church immediately began searching for our next pastor.² By September of that year, our church extended a call to Rev. James W. Jackson, who was then serving the First Presbyterian Church of Tallahassee, Florida.³ Rev. Jackson arrived in Greenwood in December and was formally welcomed to Greenwood in an evening union service on Sunday, December 5, which also welcomed the newly arrived Rev. William H. Garrett, the new pastor at Main Street Methodist.⁴ The welcoming service, hosted by our church, is described as one of "the largest that has ever attended a church service in Greenwood." Rev. Jackson was officially installed as the pastor of our church on Sunday, January 9, 1927, with our sixth pastor, Rev. J. B. Green, to deliver the sermon for the installation service.⁵

During his time as the pastor of our church, Rev. Jackson became a very well-known speaker and was invited to give a variety of addresses to various organizations in the community, beginning with an address given to the cadets of the Bailey Military Institute in May 1927.⁶ In 1930, Rev. Jackson received a Doctor of Divinity degree from Presbyterian College and was selected to deliver their commencement address during the spring commencement exercises.⁷ During his time in Greenwood, Dr. Jackson was also elected as the president of the Greenwood Kiwanis Club.⁸ Dr. Jackson served our church for just over four years. On January 18, 1931, he announced his resignation as the pastor of our church, having accepted a call to serve as the pastor of First Presbyterian Church of Columbia, S.C.⁹

Today, our church is in a period of transition, very similar to the time prior to Dr. Jackson's arrival in Greenwood and shortly after his departure for Columbia. As we begin the search process for our next senior minister, let us be encouraged by knowing that our church has navigated similar times before and, more importantly, observing that God has taken care of our church in the past. Let us continue to pray for Pastor Kyle's ministry in Florida, and for the future ministry of the next pastor that God is bringing to our church.

¹ "Church Notices." *The Index-Journal*, December 4, 1926.

² "Farewell Service to Mr. MacLean." *The Index-Journal*, April 19, 1926.

³ "Rev. J. W. Jackson is Called Here." *The Index-Journal*, September 13, 1926.

⁴ "Great Throng at Union Service." *The Index-Journal*, December 6, 1926.

⁵ "Rev. J. W. Jackson Installed Today." *The Index-Journal*, January 9, 1927.

⁶ "Baccalaureate to Bailey Cadets by Rev. J. W. Jackson." *The Index-Journal*, May 29, 1927.

⁷ "Confers Degree on Mr. Jackson." *The Index-Journal*, March 7, 1930; "Baccalaureate by Mr. Jackson." *The Index-Journal*, May 28, 1930.

⁸ "Rev J. W. Jackson Kiwanis Head." *The Index-Journal*, December 2, 1927.

⁹ "Accepts Call to Columbia." *The Index-Journal*, January 19, 1931.



Presbyterian Women News

WOMEN OF THE CHURCH

**Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come:
the old has gone, the new is here!
2 Corinthians 5:17**

The below article is from the book:
Fighting Words by Ellie Holcomb

I don't know about you, but I get so excited about those moments of the year that offer a new start. Sometimes it's the beginning of a new year. Other times, it's the summer, where families get a fresh experience of spending time together. In other cases, it's the fall, where the school calendar picks back up in August and everyone gets their binders, notebooks, and bookbags, ready to discover what a brand-new school year holds. Sometimes my birthday feels like a fresh start, or simply the changing of the seasons...those first warm spring days when the flowers start blooming or those first crisp days of fall.

These moments in our yearly calendar remind me that God always gives us a fresh start, but also that He loves us enough to keep moving us forward from where we once were like we talked about Phil. 1:6. He's never just repeating the same season over again with nothing to show for it. Instead, He's always moving us onward and upward, transforming us into the image of His Son, even when it doesn't feel like it. He promises that the "old you" has gone - who we once were apart from Christ isn't how God sees us anymore - and that the new creation, the person we were always meant to be, is now here because of Jesus. And more than that, we keep becoming more and more like Him over time. I love that He is continuously making us new and loving us into the best version of ourselves.

Grateful for the reminder that we are new creations. We aren't the "old" us anymore! No matter how loud lies might be that say otherwise, God's Word speaks a louder Word. If anything or anyone tries to tell us different, let's see these fighting words today: the old has gone, the new has come!

- What times of year feel like a "new start" for you?
- How did God take you from being an old creation to a new one?
- When do you most often need the reminder that the "old you" is not how God sees you anymore? How might you help yourself remember the truth of this verse in those moments?

At First Presbyterian Church, we will begin starting up each of our Circles and you are invited to start trying out different circles. Please see the list and ask any questions. We look forward to all the new things we will do this year. Come join the fun.

PW COORDINATING TEAM MEETING

Monday, August 25, 2025 ~ 10:00 am ~ Henry Reynolds Room

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

CIRCLE LEADERS

2025-2026

CIRCLE 1 – FIRST TUESDAY, 10:30 AM

Jean Mabe--Leader and Treasurer.....864-941-7817

CIRCLE 3 – SECOND MONDAY, 10:30 AM

Kappy May--Co-Leader.....864-554-7434

Kathy Snyder--Co-Leader.....864-941-1838

Alice Jo Dickey--Treasurer.....864-993-5503

SARA SMITH CIRCLE 4 - FIRST MONDAY, 11:00 AM (LUNCH)

Carol Umphress--Leader.....770-316-5010

Marilyn Towne--Treasurer.....864-554-2527

EVONNE LITTLE CIRCLE 5 – SECOND TUESDAY, 12:30 PM (LUNCH & CHILDCARE)

Michelle Barksdale--Co-Leader.....864-344-2450

Tara Gibson--Co-Leader.....733-991-3374

Meg Stevens--Co-Leader.....864-993-7536

Laine Orcutt--Treasurer.....864-993-1838

PEGGY GREGG CIRCLE 6 – FIRST MONDAY, 7:00 PM (REFRESHMENTS)

Nickie Murphy--Co-Leader.....205-317-5347

Jessica Willard--Co-Leader.....864-993-5980

CIRCLE 7 – FIRST TUESDAY, 10:30 AM (REFRESHMENTS)

Becky Bryson--Leader.....864-223-2998

Jill Koczwarra--Treasurer.....570-344-3192

CIRCLE 8 – FIRST TUESDAY, 11:30 AM

Betty Williams--Leader and Treasurer.....864-993-0466

What/Why Music “Ministry”?



notes

Why does music have such a prominent slice of our church life? Is it

- To play songs we like?
- To sing songs we know (and therefore, like)?
- To set the mood?

These are good descriptions for Spotify, but not quite adequate to justify a Music Ministry.

What do you think about the somewhat cerebral?

- To ascribe worth to the Almighty
- To give thanks for Supernatural blessing
- To petition God for stuff or outcomes

These certainly seem worthy, but again, not comprehensive enough to justify a Music Ministry

How about these practical applications?

- To train up our children and youth in worship knowledge/skills
- To encourage full-throated participation in worship
- To use music in teaching essentials of our faith
- To consider aspects referenced in parts 1 & 2 above

Ah, now we're approaching justification for a music program pointed toward Christian Discipleship!

It's about what we need as well as what we like, it is about acquiring life-long worship skills. It is developing innate abilities for the purpose of serving and encouraging others

Skills: abilities that can be learned like singing, understanding, participating

Innate abilities: Talents to be honed and used

Discernment: the ability to distinguish between temporal/eternal, sentimental/objective, worthwhile/worthless

Wow! Can any of this be realized? One proven path is by education, practice, rehearsals, literature, beauty, and discipline. Well, we know what that takes!

Three reasons to join us (in some way, weekly)

1. Our God deserves our whole-hearted devotion*
2. Our God has requested our worship*
3. Our God demands recognition from His followers*

*clear, unambiguous, and numerous Old Testament and New Testament verses available on request

If you are a singer, if you would rather hit things, if you want to “improve your serve”, there is a place in our Music Ministry for you.

Choir: Children Wednesdays at 5:45; Adults Wednesdays at 7 (in the choir room)

Bells: Sundays at 4:15 (in the Bell room)

“Improve your serve” by appointment

Joyfully,

Steve Skinner

Director of Music Ministries

steve@firstgreenwood.com

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, August 3	Communion during both services (We return to 2 services) Parents Meeting & Foam Party (5:30 pm, Henry Reynolds Room)
Wednesday, August 6	Wednesday Night Fellowship and activities start back
Friday-Sunday August 15-17	High School Senior Retreat (Hendersonville, NC)
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) Festiva (4:00 pm, Sanctuary)
Sunday, September 21	Dr. Jeff Newlin preaching Officer Training (3:00 pm, Henry Reynolds Room)
Thursday, September 25	Healthy Learners Spelling Bee (6:00 pm, Emerald High School)
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, no early service) Officer Training (3:00 pm, Henry Reynolds Room)
Sunday, October 19	Children's Sabbath Sunday Diaconate (5:30 pm, Henry Reynolds Room)
Sunday, October 26	Session (5:00 pm, Sanctuary) New Officers give their faith statements

GENERAL CHURCH INFORMATION

RECENT HOSPITALIZATIONS:

(Home unless noted)

Bob Willy

George McKee

Kay Dukes

Our Christian prayers and sympathies are extended to Kela Dunlap and her family on the passing of her sister, Abby Davis, of Laurens, SC on July 6, 2025; to Robbin Goforth and her family on the passing of her mother, Phyllis Calamas of Newberry, SC on July 14, 2025; and to Luther Clark and his family on the passing of his brother, Howard Clark of New Cumberland, PA on July 15, 2025. We share with them the joy of the promise of resurrection and eternal life.



Congratulations to Amelia Scott and Brice Miller on the birth of their son, Reece Layne Miller, born July 16, 2025. Grandparents are Jon and Andrea Scott and great-grandparents are Larry and Missy Richardson.

Other Items of Interest

We will celebrate the **Lord's Supper** during both services on **August 3, 2025**.

Deadline for the September issue of The Spire is Monday, August 11, 2025.

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. Also, would you be interested in taking over the organization of the Flower Calendar each year? Reach out to the front office for more information.

TEAM MEETINGS

The **Admin Committee** will meet Monday, August 18th, at 5:00 pm, in the Barksdale Room (Room 122).

The **Buildings & Grounds Committee** will meet Monday, August 11th, at 5:15 p.m. in the Barksdale Room (Room 122).

The **Christian Education Team** will meet Sunday, August 10th, at 6:00 pm, in the Barksdale Room (Room 122).

The **Committed Prayers Team** will meet Monday, August 25th, at 4:30 pm in the Chapel.

The **Congregational Care Team** will meet Monday, August 4th, at 2:00 pm, in the Barksdale Room (Room 122).

The **Diaconate** will meet Sunday, August 17th, at 5:30 pm, in the Henry Reynolds Room (Room 110).

The **Home Communion/Visitation Committee** will meet Thursday, August 14th at 10:00 am in the Barksdale Room (Room 122).

The **Missions/Outreach Committee** will meet Sunday, August 10th, at 4:30 pm, in the Henry Reynolds Room (Room 110).

The **Session** will meet Sunday, August 24th at 5:30 pm, in the Henry Reynolds Room (Room 110).

Stephen Ministry will meet Wednesday, August 13th, at 4:30 pm, in the Barksdale Room (Room 122).

The **Worship Committee** will meet Tuesday, August 12th, at 5:45 p.m. on the Barksdale Room (Room 122).

The **Youth Team** will meet Sunday, August 24th, 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.

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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).



AUGUST 2025						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					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						

FAMILY LIFE CENTER UPDATE

During the last Session meeting before summer break, the Family Life Center Committee made a presentation.

To date we have \$2.985 million pledged and we hope to have a complete set of plans from the architects in the next six months.

The project and the need to better understand the financial implications were discussed in detail. The FLC Committee was approved to move forward clarifying for the congregation the proposed FLC's mission and its operational costs once built. More information to follow as our committee continues to research and follow through with the Session's approved next steps. Continue to pray for this committee as we see God's purpose for our church through this process.



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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
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