



The Spire

First Presbyterian Church

January 2026

Greenwood, SC

A Message From Our Pastor...

What's Ahead [?]

In last month's SPIRE (and in this month's on page 21) I outlined the mission study process, which is the next step toward searching for the church's next called and installed pastor. This month, on January 5, 12, & 19, the session's Administration Team will meet with David Brown, Consulting Coordinator with Pinnacle Leadership Associates, to map the path ahead through the mission study. By the end of this month, we will hear about the many opportunities for everyone to weigh in on the state of the church and its future. Then we'll know who to look for to lead the church into that future.

As the mission study launches, I want to remind you of the Advent message from Isaiah 7:10-16. King Ahaz's refusal to ask for a sign from God expedited the downfall of the kingdom of Judah. First Pres is not facing military assault—thank God!—but today every church's future is threatened by many other things beyond our control. At times like this, and especially at times of leadership transition, the church attains its greatest clarity when it sticks to what it believes God is calling it to do, *“even at the risk of losing social prominence or relevance.”* So says pastor James Freeman (*emphasis mine*). “When the church veers off in a direction of its own...,” Freeman continues, “when it puts even survival ahead of God's will, the path becomes murky.”

Sheer survival is not really an issue for First Pres—again, thank God! But we do face uncertainties about the future and, anyway, we want to do more than just survive. We want to thrive, to be everything God intends for this church, everything God established this church to be! So, how will we know what God is calling us to do—maybe which risk(s) to take, which things to keep or change, which direction(s) to pursue? The mission study is designed to help us figure out what's ahead. But each of us can also do what wicked King Ahaz would not: **Ask God for a sign.** God will honor such a request. If we let him, God will show us with perfect clarity what's ahead. Because—remember the sign of Immanuel—God is with us, in this New Year and forever!

Blessings for 2026!

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

Brad

SPECIAL SERVICES

New Officer Installation

During the service on January 4th, our new officers for 2026 will be installed.

Below you will see their name with the committee they will be serving on.

Please reach out and express your support.

Elders

Michelle Barksdale - Christian Ed

* Martha Ann Davis - Nominating

* Bill Dixon - Financial Oversight

Lisa Goff - Worship

* Dwight Fleming - Youth

* Sam Leaman - Admin

Josh Lott - Buildings & Grounds

Claire McCoy - Missions & Outreach

* Fred Murphy (1-Year) - Financial Oversight

Charles Scott (1-year) - Youth

Boyd Yarbrough - Personnel

* Has served as officer prior

Deacons

* Sally Anderson (2-Year) - Chancel

Trey Lightsey - Men of the Church

Ellen Lumley - Fellowship

Bryson McCurry (1-Year) - Youth

* Darryl McLeod - Music

Ginger Rogers - Ushers

* Judy Sieckman - Chancel

Rhetta Smith - Noah's Ark

* Jon Scott - Stewardship

* Donna Thompson - Congregational Care

Trustee

* Yates Brown

NO EARLY SERVICE

There will not be a 9:00 service from Nov. 30th - Jan. 4th.

We will resume with our two services on Jan. 11th, 2026.

It is a tradition at First Presbyterian Church to recognize all the littlest Presbyterians born each year. We call this the Cradle Roll. This year the Cradle Roll will be called on Sunday, January 11th, during the 11:00 a.m. service. For 2025, we welcomed 3 precious children into our church family of faith.

Katherine Annie Cathcart

Born July 15th

Daughter of Manning and Jennifer Cathcart

Reece Layne Miller

Born July 16th

Son of Amelia Scott and Brice Miller

Elizabeth Manning Cathcart

Born August 12th

Daughter of Jack and Kelsey Cathcart



2026 CRADLE ROLL
January 11, 2026

Hanging of the Greens Highlights



Christmas @ First Pres Highlights





For children K3 (completely potty-trained) – 5th grade
From 10:00 – 10:45

Sundays@10 for K3-5th graders

Join us in The Root Cellar as we learn
about God, His world, & His people

<p>JANUARY 4TH</p> <p>NEW BEGINNINGS WITH MICHELLE BARKSDALE</p>	<p>JANUARY 11TH</p> <p>GOD IS KIND, SO WE'RE KIND WITH KRISTI TUCKER</p>
<p>JANUARY 18TH</p> <p>GOD IS OUR PROVIDER SO WE DEPEND ON HIM WITH PHYLLIS COLLINS</p>	<p>JANUARY 25TH</p> <p>GOD IS GENEROUS SO WE'RE GENEROUS WITH HOOD & CAROLINE SOUTER</p>

Sundays@10



For the month of January, during chapel, our children will be singing...

How Great Thou Art

In 1885, Carl Boberg witnessed an awe-inspiring thunderstorm. Have you ever witnessed the power of a good thunderstorm? After the storm, the sun came out and birds started chirping. The experience inspired Boberg to write a poem about it – O Great God. It became a hymn in Russia.

Later, in the 1930s, the hymn was translated into English by missionaries Stuart and Mercy Hine, who added the 4th verse reflecting the grief of war refugees.

Did you know that George Beverly Shea sang this hymn as a theme song for Billy Graham's radio broadcasts starting in 1957?

A favorite of many, *How Great Thou Art* is a beautiful classic.

**O Lord, my God, when I in awesome wonder consider all the worlds
thy hands have made. I see the stars. I hear the rolling thunder.
Thy power throughout the universe displayed.
Then sings my soul, my Savior God to thee. How Great thou art.
How great thou art. Then sings my soul, my Savior God to thee.
How Great thou art. How great thou art.**



SHine

WEDNESDAYS FROM 5:15 - 7:00

January 7: David Is Kind to Mephibosheth (2 Samuel 9)
Parent volunteers: Pinson & Patrick

January 14: God Provides Food for Elijah (1 Kings 17:1-6)
Parent volunteers:

January 21: A Widow Shares Her Last Bread (1 Kings 17:8-16)
Parent volunteers: Souter & Dunlap

January 28 - God Comforts Elijah (1 Kings 19)
Parent volunteers: Penney & Rendall

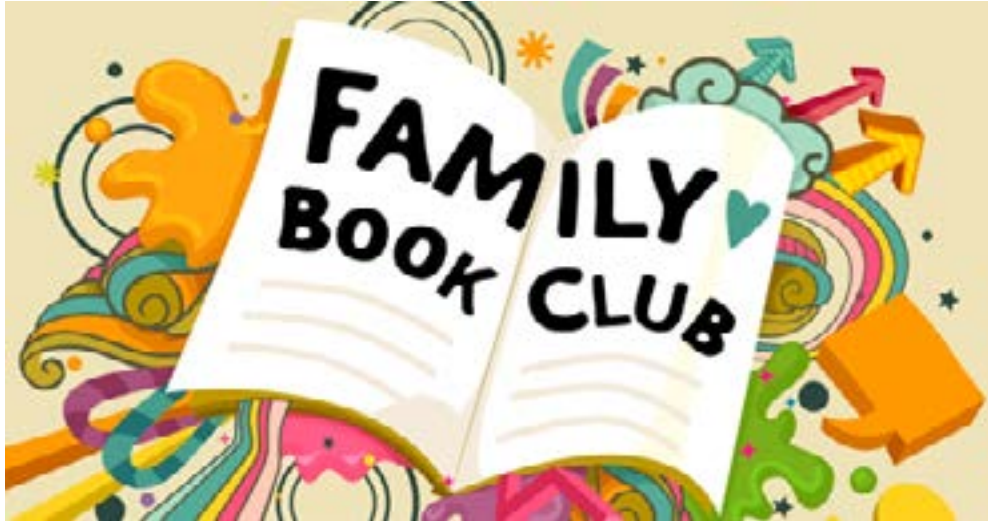


SHine Choir Singing Sundays: Mar. 29, Apr. 26 at 11:00



SHine Service

For the months of January and February, we encourage families to collect canned protein products for the Food Bank.



Join us for a family book club!

We are encouraging families to read aloud together

The Magician's Nephew by C. S. Lewis.

Be sure to get a copy of the Book Club Guide
for some extra family fun.





YOUTH HIGHLIGHTS



Youth Christmas Party



January

Youth Events

1/4 - **Sunday School** @10:00-10:45

1/7 - **WEY** @5:30 - 7:00

1/11- **Sunday school** @10:00 - 10:45

1/11 - **SNY Bowling** at Expo 300 @5:00 - 6:00.
RSVP by paying \$12 by Sunday, December 11th. Pizza included!

1/14 - **WEY** @5:30 - 7:00

1/15 - **EGGS** at CFA by the mall @7 :00. The bus will leave for Westview @7:30.

1/18 - **Sunday school** @10:00 - 10:45

1/18 - **GOTE** at Panera @12:30 - 1:30. Meet at Panera after Church. Bring money for lunch.

1/21 - **WEY** @5:30 - 7:00

1/25 - **Sunday School** @10:00-1045 with T Carter

1/28 - **WEY** @5:30 - 7:00

1/31 - **Youth Ski Trip** @10:00 am - 10:00 pm. RSVP by paying \$62 for a slope pass and reserving any rental gear needed on Realm or to Nan by Thursday, January 15th.

SNY BOWLING

Sunday, January 11th @5:00 - 6:00
at Expo 300.

RSVP by January 11th by paying \$12
on Realm or to Nan.
Pizza included!



LUNCH

Youth

Sunday, January 18th
GOTE at Panera
after Church @12:30 - 1:30



YOUTH SKI TRIP 2026

SATURDAY, JANUARY 31ST

MEET AT FPC AT 10:30 AM FOR THE BUS AND PICK UP FROM FPC AT 10:00 PM.

RSVP BY PAYING \$62 ON REALM OR TO NAN BY THURSDAY, JANUARY 15TH.

EACH SLOPE PASS COST \$62. PLEASE SELECT IF THERE IS ADDITIONAL RENTAL GEAR NEEDED. SKI AND HELMET RENTAL IS AVAILABLE ON THE REALM EVENT. PACK A LUNCH TO EAT ON THE WAY THERE AND BRING MONEY FOR FOOD AT THE LODGE.



Reminder

RSVP for Mission Trip 2026 by paying a \$50 deposit by Thursday, February 19th.

See you there

Got it



Scan the QR code to register



The King's Kids A Royal Celebration



Saturday, February 21st from 2:00 - 4:00 at FPC.

Dress up as royalty!

Come ready for games, crafts, a bouncy castle, light refreshments and fun, all in celebration that you are a part of God's family.

Hosted by the Youth!

RSVP by paying \$15 per ticket on Realm or to Nan by Monday, February 9th.



All proceeds will go towards the youth mission trips and activities.



Young Adults Highlights



Thank you to the Learys and Lotts for hosting such a wonderful Christmas party for the young adults. We appreciated the delicious baked spaghetti and banana pudding, the fun Christmas games, and the great prizes. The young adults' highlight of the night was getting to feed the animals, especially Penelope, the pig, mini marshmallows.



Salt Shakers

Dinner Club

Coming Back in 2026 ~ More info soon



Kaleidoscope 2026

SURPRISED BY THE BIBLICAL HOPE AFTER DEATH

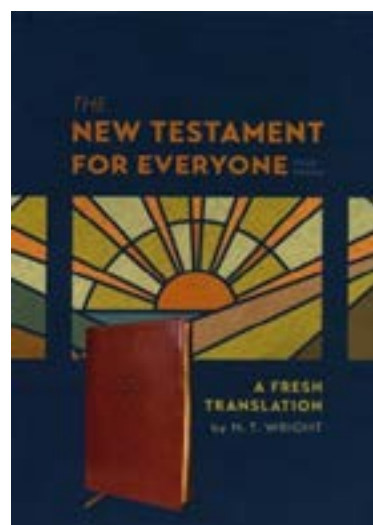
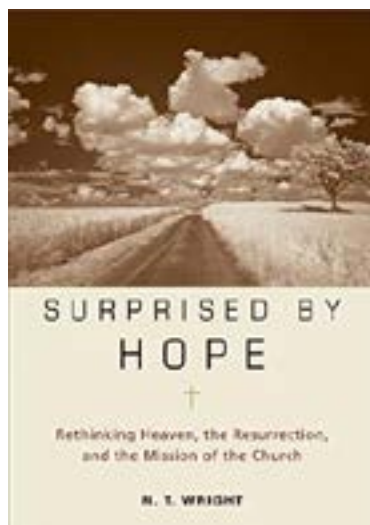
Taught by Jeff Newlin

**4 Sunday mornings, Jan 4-25, 10:00-10:45 am in Alexander Hall
Single Gathering for all Adult Sunday School Classes & Everyone Else**

We say every week that we believe in the “resurrection of the body,” but what does that mean? Most people are surprised to learn what the Bible actually teaches about Jesus’ resurrection and ascension, as well as the promise of our own resurrections and what this all means for our Christian lives today.

The class will be a study of a book entitled, “Surprised by Hope,” by N.T. Wright, the most influential New Testament scholar in the world today. A limited number of copies of the book will be available for sale, as well as limited copies of N.T. Wright’s translation of the New Testament, which is strongly recommended. Copies may also be purchased online at Christianbook.com or Amazon.

If you’re interested, here’s what both books look like:





Wednesday Night Fellowship

5:15 – Gather - Children on the playground;
adults and youth in AH

5:25 – Dinner for children (pay \$5 weekly or by semester/year)

5:30 – Dinner for adults and youth (\$10)
RSVP by Monday or request to be added to the weekly list.

5:45 – Prayer for everyone

6:00 programming: Women in the Conference Room (206), Men in the FISH class (205), Children (The Root Cellar); Youth (the Loft) and Pastor's Bible study in the Henry Reynolds room (110) at 6:15.

Menus:


January 7, 2026: RING IN THE NEW YEAR: Roasted Pork, Sweet Potatoes, Black eyed Peas, Greens, and Cornbread

January 14, 2026: Chicken Stew, Broccoli,
Fruit, and Hush Puppies

January 21, 2026: Meatball Stroganoff,
Green Beans, and Pineapple Casserole

January 28, 2026: Fried Fish, French Fries,
and Cole Slaw

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




Everyday Moments



Presbyterian Women News

WOMEN OF THE CHURCH

A New Year, A New Beginning, A Faithful Journey ~ With Jesus

As we step into a new year, we're reminded that God is always at work creating new beginnings. The calendar may turn, but the deeper invitation is spiritual—

to pause, reflect, and realign our hearts.

Scripture tells us that God's mercies are new every morning, and the New Year is a beautiful reminder that no matter what the past year held, we are met today with fresh grace, renewed hope, and the promise of God's faithful presence.

This year, let our new beginning start with Jesus. When we place Him at the center—of our plans, our decisions, and our daily rhythms—we build our future on a firm foundation. As we move forward, may we seek Him first, trusting that He walks with us into every unknown. With Christ leading the way, this New Year becomes more than a fresh start—it becomes a faithful journey filled with purpose, peace, and joy.

I invite you to join me and other ladies of our church on a faithful journey.

Lisa Yarbrough

Coordinating Team Moderator

First Presbyterian Church of Greenwood



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

Circle 3 will meet Monday, January 12th, at 10:30 am, in the Henry Reynolds Room.
Contact Kappy May 864-554-7434 or Kathy Snyder 864-941-1838

Circle 4 will meet Monday, January 5th, at 11:00 am, at Montague's.
Contact Carol Umphress 770-316-5010

Circles 5 will meet Tuesday, January 13th, at 12:30 pm, in Alexander Hall.
and includes lunch & childcare.
Contact Meg Stevens 993-7536 or Michelle Barksdale 864-344-2450

Circle 6 will meet Monday, January 5th, at 7:00 pm in the Barksdale Room.
Contact Jessica Willard (jesswillard81@gmail.com, 993-5980) or
Nickie Murphy (famurphy01@aol.com, 205-317-5347)

Circle 7 will meet Tuesday, January 13th, at 10:30 am at the home of Betsy Collins.
Contact Becky Bryson 223-2998.

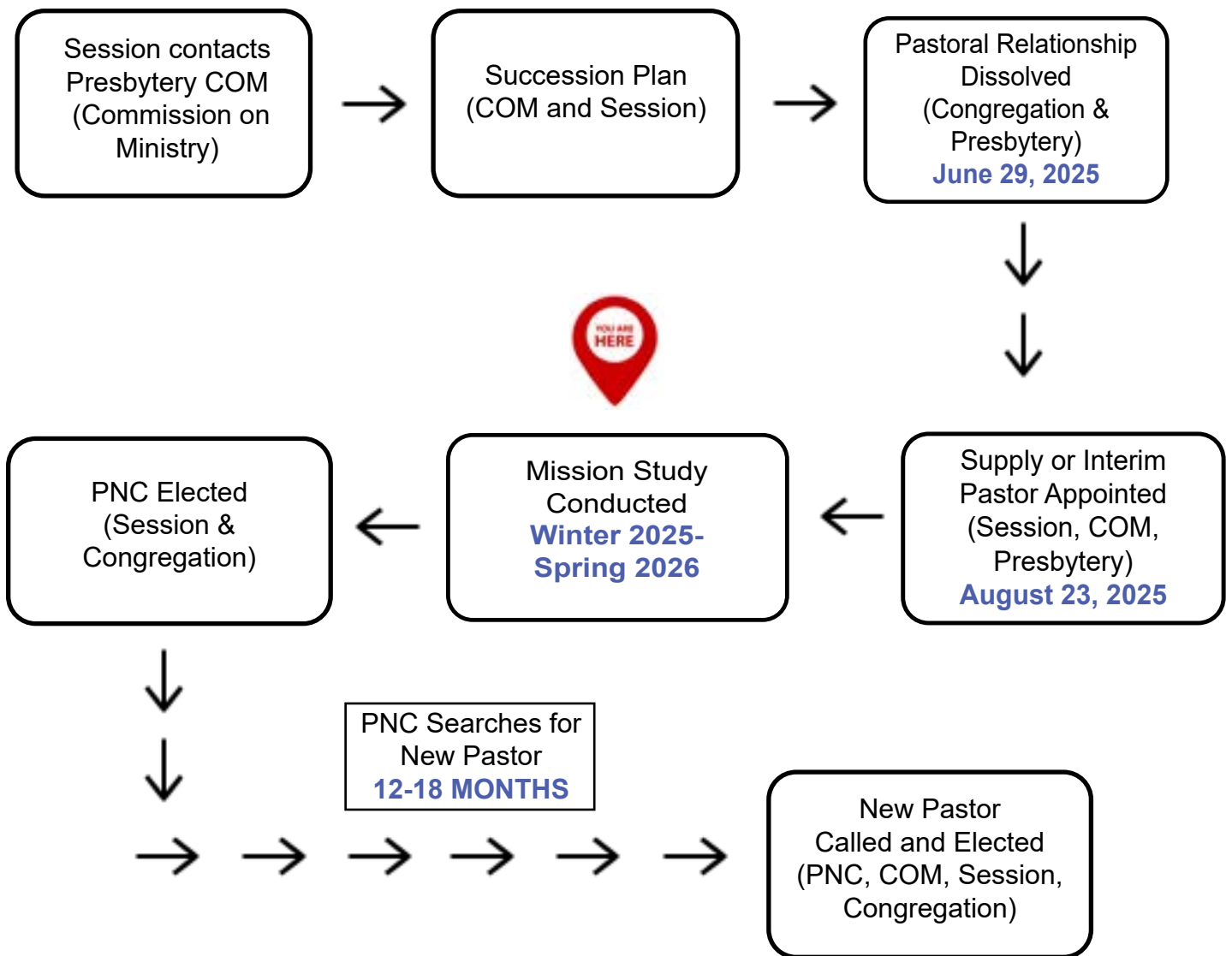
Circle 8 will meet on Tuesday, January 6th, at 11:30 am, at the home of Betty Williams.
Contact Betty Williams 993-0466.



Circle #4
Super Bowl Sale
Go to page 25 for all
of the information

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.

On August 23, Presbytery approved Brad Christie.

COM and the Session will now collaborate on a mission study, possibly 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!

Moving Forward

We're about to advance the **You Are Here** marker on our transition timeline (see opposite page). At their November joint meeting with the diaconate, the session unanimously approved a proposed **Consultant-Led Mission Study Process** for our church. The consulting group working with us is Pinnacle Leadership Associates based in Chapin, SC. David Brown, not our member David Brown but Consulting Coordinator at Pinnacle, will be our lead consulting partner. David has consulted nationwide for some 30 churches of various denominations, including Shandon Presbyterian Church in Columbia. We are in faithful, capable hands with David.

The mission study will encompass three broad phases. In **Phase One**, David will meet with the Mission Study Team (see below) and church staff to set expectations and map out a timeline and plan for the rest of the study. Also during this phase, the whole congregation will participate in a series of assessments that will produce much of the data needed for the study. Eventually, analysis of this data will be most helpful to the Pastor Nominating Committee (PNC).

Phase Two will feature a series of listening sessions that culminate in what Pinnacle calls a Vision 360 Workshop. The whole church will be invited to participate in this retreat weekend, where David and the study team will guide everyone through feedback sessions focusing on the church's past, present, and future. The work of this phase—the feedback and collective discernment that develops through this time—will be at the heart of the final mission study report. And, again, the heart of that report will shape much of the PNC's work.

Phase Three produces the final version of the mission study report. Once completed, the report will be presented to the full session for approval. The report then will be presented to the congregation and to Trinity Presbytery's Committee on Ministry.

The plan is for the session's Administrative Committee to form the core of the Mission Study Team. But there is room on the team for anyone else who might want to be part of this crucial effort. If you're interested, please contact Brad (brad@firstgreenwood.com) or Mark Abell, Administrative Committee chair (mark.abell@lonza.com).

Blessings,



Brad

First Presbyterian Church
Greenwood, SC

2026 ANNUAL WOMEN'S RETREAT



IS STILL WRITING YOUR STORY

God is still writing your story . . .

- nurturing Bible study
- engaging fellowship among women
- meals you don't have to cook or clean up
- free Time
- worship on Sunday

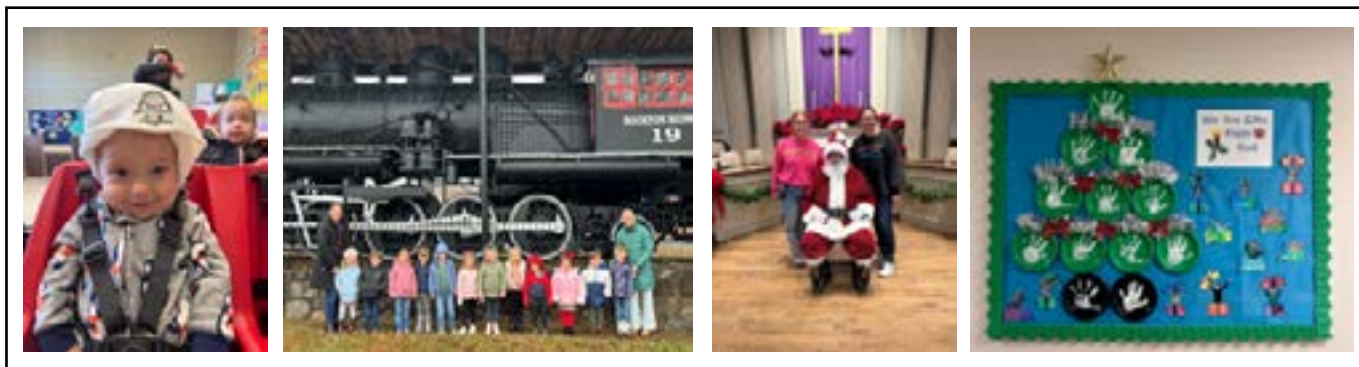
**January 23 - 25,
2026**

Kanuga Retreat Center, NC

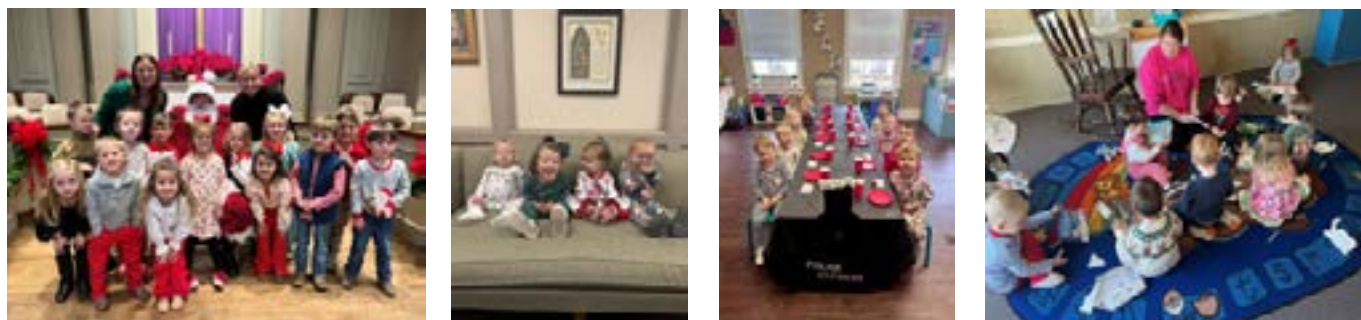
**For More Information or
to register: 864-229-5814**



Noah's Ark News



It's hard to believe we wrapped up the first part of the school year already. Time is flying because we are having so much fun! Teachers will start the New Year with new concepts like hibernation and seasons. We will also celebrate the 100th day of school with lots of fun activities like counting to 100 by 10s! We will be preparing for our annual Charity Walk in February, and we are excited to celebrate Dr. Suess's birthday with a fun Spirit Week.



Registration for the 2026-2027 school year begins this month. Enrollment for currently enrolled students, their siblings, and First Presbyterian church members will begin on Monday, January 12th, 2026. Registration information is available on the church's website. Hard copies of the current Registration form are available in the Main Office of the church, as well as the Noah's Ark office.

Contact Lauren Trantham, Director, with any additional questions at noahsark@fistgreenwood.com or at 864-229-0902. We would love for your little one to join our Noah's Ark family in the upcoming school year!

MISSIONS/OUTREACH

MONTHLY MISSION SPOTLIGHT

World Leprosy Day

On Sunday, January 18, there will be a Minute for Missions for World Leprosy Day, a day we join churches in the USA and around the world to raise the awareness of leprosy and offer our financial support to restore health and dignity to individuals affected by leprosy and other neglected tropical diseases.

American Leprosy Missions has faithfully served people suffering from leprosy for 120 years, and this past year ALM transitioned to a new name, Hope Rises International (HRI). This new name reflects their expanding global mission, but their focus has not changed. Leprosy remains the major part of their work, and their mission statement is unchanged - to be a channel of Christ's love to patients affected by leprosy and other neglected tropical diseases, helping them to heal in body and in spirit, and restored to lives of dignity and hope.

Hope Rises International works closely with local churches and other Christian ministries to heal disease, proclaim the gospel, and restore people to their communities.

During the Minute for Missions on January 18th there will be a short video of the Hope Rises International Ministry. The loose offering that day will support HRI programs to bring health, dignity, and the hope of Christ to those in need. Checks for HRI may also be sent to the church office made out to FPC and designated "HRI". *"The blind receive sight, the lame walk, those who have leprosy are cleansed...and the good news is proclaimed to the poor."* - Luke 7:21

- Dr. Rich Goodwin

MISSIONS/OUTREACH cont.



Circle 4 (Sara Smith Circle) Souper Bowl Sale

Friday, Feb. 6th - Pick up of Preorders -
10:00–11:30 Alexander Hall

Sunday, Feb. 8th - Lobby, before & after services,
of possible offerings

We're so excited about our upcoming Souper Bowl Sale!
This year, we are having PRE-ORDERS ONLY of SOUPS & CASSEROLES!

Order between Jan. 1st - Jan. 11th! Get your orders in early, because orders will be filled as they come in. We have 8 x 8 and 9 x 13 sizes of casseroles available-please specify.

We have a limited number of items, and we do not want you to miss out! You may also pre-order snacks, and we will have a few of these for sale also on Super Bowl Sunday morning, Feb. 8th, in the lobby, before & after services. You can't beat having snacks for the game & supper for Monday night!

Frozen Soups by the Quart: 1. Chicken Stew, 2. Taco, 3. Tomato Basil, 4. Vegetable Beef, 5. White Chicken Chili

All soups are \$15, with the exception of Tomato Basil, which is \$12

Frozen Casseroles: 1. Baked Spaghetti, 2. Beef Noodle Casserole, 3. Meat Lasagna, 4. Sausage/Egg/Cheese Quiche (pie size only), 5. Sausage Breakfast Frittatas 1 dozen
8 X 8 Size - \$16; 9X13 - Size - \$30; Quiches and one dozen frittatas are each \$16.

Fresh Casseroles: 1. Beef Rice Casserole, 2. Chicken/rice/green bean Casserole (Paula Deen), 3. Chicken Spaghetti

(These need to be cooked soon- possibly Saturday night or Sunday lunch.)

8 X 8 Size - \$16; 9 X 13 Size - \$30

Snacks/Dips/Spreads: Sara Smith's Pimento Cheese (\$10 pt.), Ranch Chex Mix (\$8 qt. bag), Sausage Balls, (\$6/dz in bag), Sweet Scrabble Chex Mix (\$12 qt. bag)

Dips to heat & enjoy: Buffalo Chicken Dip (\$13- 8 x 8), Hot Dog Chili (\$10 pt.), Sausage Rotel Dip, (\$13 qt.), Layered Mexican Dip (\$13 - 8 x 8)

To order, please call or text Martha Ann Davis at (864) 993-8569. **Orders will be accepted Jan. 1st - Jan. 11th only. No early or late orders!** We usually sell out quickly. You will be notified if your order can or cannot be filled. **Cash & personal checks only!** All proceeds will be used for missions and projects. Thank You!

MISSIONS/OUTREACH cont.

BIBLES 4 KENYA

Bishop Manasseh's Mission to Kenya

First Presbyterian Church of Greenwood has been blessed since 2007 to partner with Bishop Manasseh Mankuleiyo and spread the Gospel Message in Maasailand, located in southern Kenya and northern Tanzania. Bishop Manasseh, a Greenwood resident for 20 years, was born in Kenya, is a member of the Maasai Tribe, and the son of a Presbyterian pastor. He travels to Kenya for 4-6 months a year, to evangelize, preach, lead ecumenical conferences, train and ordain pastors, distribute Bibles, and establish new churches.



A major part of his ministry since 2018 has been to travel to rural areas and distribute Maasai language Bibles in Maasailand. To date over 9000 Bibles have been distributed.

The Bibles have been a source of light, hope, and guidance for individuals, families, and entire communities. At First Presbyterian, along with supporting Bishop Manasseh's missions, we provide funds to purchase the Maasai Bibles. There are still many areas in Kenya that have not been reached, and countless men, women, and children are still waiting for the opportunity to own their own Bible.

You can help this mission by purchasing a Maasai Bible by one of the following ways:

- 1.) Leave cash or a check in the offering plate on Sunday mornings with the form below. Be sure to write Kenya Bible in the memo line.
- 2.) Drop off cash or a check with this form by the front office.
- 3.) Go online to the church's website, firstgreenwood.com, and go to the "Giving" tab. Be sure to check "Kenya Bibles" in the drop down box. There is a place for you to put a name and if it's in honor or memory of someone.

Name _____

Phone Number _____

Payment: Cash _____ or Check _____ Amount _____

In Honor of or In Memory of _____

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 First Things email for more current information.

Thursday-Friday December 25-26	Church offices closed
Sunday, December 28	Andrew Goforth preaching No 9:00 Service
Wednesday, December 31	Church offices close at noon
Thursday-Friday January 1-2	Church offices closed
Sunday, January 4	Kaleidoscope (10:00 am, Alexander Hall) Worship with Communion (11:00) Installation of New Officers (11:00 service) Congregational Meeting (12:00ish, Sanctuary) (No 9:00 Service)
Sunday, January 11	Baptism of the Lord Sunday Return to two worship service (9:00 am and 11:00 am) Kaleidoscope (10:00 am, Alexander Hall) Cradle Roll (11:00 service)
Sunday, January 18	Brian Purcell preaching Accepting Leprosy offering Kaleidoscope (10:00 am, Alexander Hall) Diaconate (5:30 pm, Henry Reynolds Room)
Monday, January 19	Church offices closed
Friday-Sunday January 23-25	Ladies Retreat
Sunday, January 25	Kaleidoscope (10:00 am, Alexander Hall) Session (5:30 pm, Henry Reynolds Room)
Saturday, January 31	Youth Ski Trip
Sunday, February 1	Communion during both services
Friday, February 6	Circle #4 Souper Bowl Pre-Sale (9-3:00, Alexander Hall)
Sunday, February 8	Youth Sunday Circle #4 Super Bowl Sale (Before and after service, Lobby)



2025-2026 SEASON

Sunday, September 14
4:00 PM

The Golden Age of the Trumpet: Music for Trumpet and Strings

Transport yourself to the Baroque era through the sound of period strings, harpsichord, and trumpets, all tuned to replicate music as it was heard in that time! Trumpeters Cody Beard, Robbie Collins and Noa Miller appear with the North Carolina Baroque Orchestra Chamber Ensemble in this lineup of Italian, French, Czech, and Bohemian composers from the late 1600s to the late 1700s.

Sunday, December 14
4:00 PM (Corrected Time)

Christmas @ First Pres

The Greenwood Festival Chorale collaborates with the choirs of First Presbyterian Church in "Angels We Have Heard on High." Join us with your family and friends for a moving performance of holiday music.

Sunday, February 23
4:00 PM

Pageantry of Keyboards

Stanley Colbert, Steven Skinner, and Tim Walters return to the keyboards at First Presbyterian Church for another rip-roaring keyboard extravaganza! Enjoy hearing your favorite sacred and popular melodies dazzle under the creativity of these artists!

Sunday, March 15
4:00 PM

Modern Choral Classics

In its annual spring concert honoring the diverse heritage of contemporary composers, the Greenwood Festival Chorale presents modern choral selections. Director Mr. Steven Skinner leads the chorale in its musical offerings to the community throughout the year. For auditions, contact steve@firstgreenwood.com.

MY GIFT TO SUPPORT THE 2024-2025 FESTIVA ARTS SERIES

FRIEND: \$50-\$99 \$____; **SPONSOR:** \$100-\$599 \$____; **PATRON:** \$500-\$999 \$____; **ANGEL:** \$1,000 + \$____

Name: _____
Mailing Address: _____
City: _____ State: _____
ZIP: _____ Telephone: _____
Email: _____

Please complete this form and mail it to:
First Presbyterian Church
P.O. Box 426, Greenwood, SC 29648
or leave it in the church office. Your check payable to
FPC is tax deductible.

Palmetto Girls Sing, Season 11

Palmetto Girls Sing, an outreach of First Presbyterian Church, is in its 11th season. With 50 girls enrolled in the program, we are excited about the opportunities that are ahead of us. The "Grace Notes Choir" is for girls in grades 4-6, and the "Lyrics Singers" are our 7th-12th grade girls. We meet each Monday night in the sanctuary and choir room at First Presbyterian Church.



December Community Service

Palmetto Girls Sing had the opportunity to give back to our community in December. The Grace Notes provided a skit and music for the PJ Party with Santa at the Museum. The Lyric Singers provided music for the Hospice Festival of Trees. All singers went caroling at Emerald Gardens on Monday, December 22! What a great season we had!

Let Heaven and Nature Sing!- Winter Concert

"The Girls in Blue" gave a beautiful concert to a wonderful crowd on Monday, December 15 in our sanctuary. We hope you were able to make it!

January News

Rehearsals will be in full swing on Monday, January 5! We are preparing for a special event on Saturday, February 28!

Coffee House Cabaret!

Palmetto Girls Sing will host a fundraiser on Saturday, February 28. The girls will present favorite selections from musicals and movies. You don't want to miss this! A variety of desserts and warm beverages will be served. Tickets and seating are limited. See the February Spire for information on how to reserve your seat! Funds raised will assist us with our trip to West Virginia in June.

Patron Name (as it should appear in our Winter Concert Program)

Mailing Address _____

Donation Amount _____

Thank you from Palmetto Girls Sing!

GENERAL CHURCH INFORMATION

RECENT HOSPITALIZATIONS:

(Home unless noted)

Ann Heironimus -- SRH

Jane Anderson -- Wesley Commons Rehab.

Jim Sherrer

Jane Wood

Martha Erwin -- Wesley Commons Rehab.

Michelle Barksdale -- SRH

janet Adamson -- SRH

Bob Todd

Our Christian prayers and sympathies are extended to Ann Woolston and her family on the passing of her husband, Tim Woolston, on December 14, 2025. We share with them the joy of the promise of resurrection and eternal life.

NEW OFFICERS INSTALLED

The New Officers will be installed during the 11:00 service on January 4, 2026.

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

We will hold our annual congregational meeting on Sunday, January 4, 2026 at the conclusion of the 11:00 service. The purpose of this meeting is to vote on the 2026 Nominating Committee.

I just would like to say thank you for all the prayers, cards, flowers, and support during this very difficult time. I greatly appreciate everyone reaching out to me by phone calls, text message, or through mail. Violet will be missed by all. Thank you again for all the love.

Kindly, Michelle Barksdale

TEAM MEETINGS

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

The **Committed Prayers Team** will meet Monday, January 5th and January 26th, at 4:30 pm, in the Chapel.

The **Congregational Care Team** will meet Monday, January 26th, at 2:00 pm, in the Barksdale Room (Room 122).

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

The **Financial Oversight Committee** will meet Wednesday, January 21st, at 12:00 noon, in the Barksdale Room (Room 122).

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

The **Presbyterian Women Coordinating Team** will meet Monday, January 26th, at 10:00 am, in the Henry Reynolds Room (Room 110).

The **Session** will meet Sunday, January 25th, at 5:30 pm, in the Henry Reynolds Room (Room 110).

Stephen Ministry will meet Wednesday, January 14th, at 4:00 pm, in the Barksdale Room (Room 122).

The **Worship Committee** will meet Tuesday, January 13th, 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.

GENERAL CHURCH INFORMATION cont.



FROM THE FINANCIAL OFFICE

CONTRIBUTIONS FROM YOUR INVESTMENT PORTFOLIO OR BANK

If you plan to give contributions from your investment portfolio or from your bank directly to the church, please let Nan Smith in the financial office know. Nan can be reached at 864-229-5814 or finance@firstgreenwood.com. Stock and other direct transfers often come with no additional information about the donor's identity.

2026 OFFERING ENVELOPES

Offering envelopes are available in the hallway between the two lobbies. If you do not see yours or would like to start using offering envelopes, please contact Nan Smith in the financial office. These offering envelopes are mailable. There is no need to put them in another envelope to mail them, just put a stamp on them. If you give online or once a year, and would like to discontinue receiving the envelopes, please return them to Nan with a note letting her know.

Note that your envelope number may have changed. If you use offering envelopes, be sure to use the ones for the current year. As more people start giving electronically, we are ordering fewer offering envelopes, and your envelope number may have changed.

Other Items of Interest

We will celebrate the **Lord's Supper** during the **11:00 service on January 4, 2025**.

Deadline for the February issue of The Spire is Tuesday, January 20, 2025.

The church offices will **close at noon** on Christmas Eve and will remain closed on Thursday and Friday. We will have this same schedule the following week for New Year's.

We will have only one service (11:00) on January 4, 2026. We will return to two services (9:00 and 11:00) on January 11, 2026.

Sunday, January 18th, we will be accepting a special offering that will benefit **Hope Rises International** (formerly known as American Leprosy Missions). See article on page 24 for more information about HRI.



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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

Director of Children's Music

Ms. Sarah Bowen

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