



The Spire

First Presbyterian Church

March 2026

Greenwood, SC

A Message From Our Pastor...

In Like a Lion

March begins this year on the Second Sunday in Lent, the season of the church year which begins on **Ash Wednesday** (this year on February 18) and culminates on Easter Day, when we will again celebrate the Resurrection of the Lord! He is risen! He is risen, indeed!

Again this year, FPC will participate in the community **Lenten Pilgrimage** series of midweek services and simple lunches hosted at various churches (see schedule on page #2). First Pres will host the Lenten service and lunch on Wednesday, March 4. Lunch is served twice, at noon and 1:00 pm, with the worship service at 12:35. These services are a wonderful way to pause each week during Lent, to remain mindful of this holy season, to fellowship with others and experience a variety of worship—and meal!—traditions.

Speaking of traditions, **Holy Week** will begin at FPC with our annual celebration of the palms, remembering Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem on Palm Sunday, March 29. The last Lenten luncheon/service will be hosted by Morris Chapel Baptist Church on Wednesday, April 1.

On April 2, we will have a traditional **Maundy Thursday** evening worship service with communion and the Service of Tenebrae. Through Scripture readings, prayers, and hymns, this service recounts the sufferings of Christ; the descent of darkness at his crucifixion, death, and burial; and our complicity in these dark deeds. The Tenebrae service ends with only one remaining light, the Christ candle, taken out of the sanctuary. The church is stripped of all other light and decoration, remaining in utter darkness for the next three days. This is a powerful service you will not want to miss—Thursday, April 2, 7:00 pm.

The light returns, of course, on **Easter morning!** Our 9:00 am service will be an outdoor “walking service,” culminating in the flowering of the cross on the lawn beside the Chapel. Breakfast and fellowship will be offered at 10:00 in Alexander Hall. At 11:00 worship, we will celebrate in a grand way, with praise and prayer and glorious music, as is our custom. Another Sunday, another spirited celebration not to be missed!

You also don't want to miss your last opportunities to contribute to the church's mission study. Listening sessions continue through mid-March, and the whole process culminates in the **Vision 360 Workshop** on Saturday, March 21, in Alexander Hall. Look for details about that in First Things each week.

Lenten blessings,

Brad

SPECIAL SERVICES

2026 Lenten Services and Lunch Schedule

During Lent, area churches invite the community to worship and have lunch together every Wednesday. Lunch is served twice with a worship service in between seatings. Meals will be served at 12:00 p.m. and 1:00 p.m. Lenten Pilgrimage worship will be from 12:35 p.m. to 1:00 p.m.

The schedule for the 2026 Lenten Pilgrimage series is shown below.

Date	Host
Feb. 18, Ash Wednesday	NO LUNCH, Pilgrimage begins Feb. 25
Feb. 25	Immanuel Lutheran Church
March 4	First Presbyterian Church
March 11	St. Mark UMC, Rivers St. Campus
March 18	First Baptist Church
March 25	Main Street United Methodist Church
April 1	Morris Chapel Baptist Church

\$2 donation to cover the cost of the meal.

A love offering will be accepted at each service to benefit
Greater Greenwood United Ministries.





from **The Root Cellar**

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



Date	Sunday@10	Sundays Childrens Chapel
March 1st & 4th	God is faithful...so we're faithful Michelle Barksdale or Elise Collins	p. 186; A Living Promise; Prayer p. 80 Sarah Pinson, Charles
March 8th & 11th	God is our creator...so we live out our purpose. Kristi Tucker	p. 190; The Unwanted Promise; Prayer p. 83; Merrie Wright, Olivia, Lucy
March 15th and 18th	God is wise ...so we make wise choices. Phyllis Collins	p. 196; The Promised Entry; Prayer p. 88; Luke Penney, Jenna
March 22nd and 25th Intercession	God is joyful ...so we're joyful. Intercession Hood & Caroline Souter	p. 202; The Promised Plot; Prayer p. 90; Cindy Leary
March 29th and April 1st Intercession	Palm Sunday Mrs. Elise Palm Sunday SHinE Choir – 10:30	p. 208; The Promised Servant; Prayer p. 92; Beth Justesen, Quay & Maddie Ray

SHinE Choir Singing Sundays:
March 29, April 26 at 11:00





Near to the Heart of God was written by Cleland Boyd McAfee for the purpose of providing comfort for his brother's family of whom two infant daughters passed within 24 hours of each other due to diphtheria. The family was quarantined and unable to receive comfort from those around them nor were they able to attend the funeral of their daughters. Cleland was grief-stricken for his brother and so he wrote this song, had the choir rehearse, and they went to the grieving household and sang outside their door for them offering what comfort and love they could. Scan the QR code for a lovely version by Fountainview Academy.



Wednesday evenings in March

Date	Story	Craft	Teacher
03/04	The story about Palm Sunday	Resurrection Eggs: Purple (bright purple egg) Donkey & Palm (light green egg)	Hood Souter
03/11	The story about the Last Supper, the friend who betrays Jesus, & the Garden of Gethsemane	Resurrection Eggs: Coins (bright pink egg) Praying Hands (bright green egg) Rooster (light yellow egg)	Jay LaForge
03/18	The story about the crucifixion	Resurrection Eggs: Crown of Thorns (light blue egg) Cross & Nails (light orange egg) Spear (bright yellow egg)	Brian Pinson
03/25	The story of the resurrection	Resurrection Eggs: white fabric (light pink egg) and empty (light purple egg)	Jason Willard

Shrove Tuesday and Ash Wednesday Highlights



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH PRESENTS

Mission ~~Impossible~~

For with God, all things are possible. - Luke 1:37



May 31st - June 4th, 2026

5:30 - 7:30 P. M.

Dinner provided at no cost.

Register by calling 864-229-5814

or via this QR code:



YOUTH



MARCH YOUTH EVENTS

3/1 – **Sunday School** @10:00 – 10:45

3/1 – **SNY** at the Bell's (512 Lodge Dr) @5:00 – 6:30

3/4 – **WEY** @5:30 – 7:00

3/7 – **Pine straw delivery** @ FPC @ 8:45 - until. Help needed for deliveries.

3/8 – **Sunday School** @10:00 – 10:45

3/8 – **SNY** at the Mill House (237 Maxwell Ave) @5:00 – 6:00.

3/11 – **WEY** @5:30 – 7:00

3/15 – **Sunday School** @10:00 – 10:45

3/15 - **SNY** @ FPC @ 5:00-6:30

3/18 – **WEY** @5:30 – 7:00

3/19 – **EGGS** at CFA by the mall @ 7. The bus leaves for Westview @ 7:30.

3/22 – **Sunday School** @10:00 – 10:45

3/29 – **Sunday School** @10:00 – 10:45



Meet our youth intern!

Mallory Sprague is a junior at Lander University where she is studying Psychology. She grew up in Greer and her favorite memory from youth group was weekend retreats! She enjoys spending time with her family and cat.



Youth Sunday

April 12th



During 11:00 Worship
Practice at 10:00

SENIOR DINNER

Class of 2026

SATURDAY, MAY 2ND FROM 5:00 - 7:00
AT INN ON THE SQUARE

GUARDIANS, PLEASE JOIN US IN CELEBRATING THE CLASS OF 2026! WE HAVE A ROOM RESERVED FOR THE DINNER. MEALS CAN BE ORDERED FROM THE CAMBRIDGE CHOPHOUSE OR THE FOX AND THE HOUND LOUNGE.

WE ARE GIFTING THE GRADUATES THEIR DINNER.
RSVP ON REALM OR TO JADE BY WEDNESDAY, APRIL 22ND.



*If your college student
would like to apply to be a
summer intern at FPC,
please get an application from
Elise. Due by March 15.*



LENTEN DEVOTIONAL

2026

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

PO BOX 426 / 108 E. CAMBRIDGE AVE

GREENWOOD, SC 29648 / 29646

Hard copies of the Lenten Devotional are available in the front lobby.
Electronic version can be found on the website.

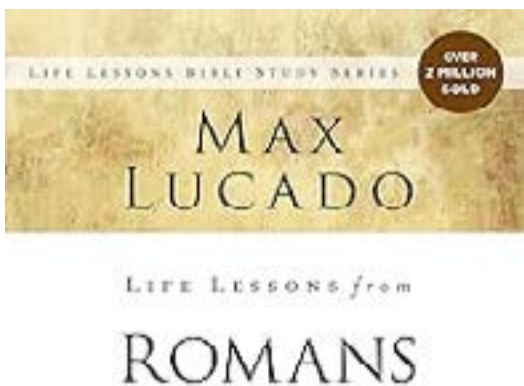


**Sundays@10
for Adults!
10:00 am**

Sojourners - Henry Reynolds (Room 110)

and

FISH (Fellowship In Service to Him) – Room 205



In this profound epistle, Paul explores all the wrong directions and takes us to the only right one. The wrong solutions are pleasure and pride, and the correct solution is Christ Jesus. Join beloved author Max Lucado as he dives into the book of Romans to consider in Paul's words everything from practical instruction for a growing church to the very core of the Christian faith.

As you read, study, journal, and discuss the book of Romans, watch for these key themes that Max will unpack throughout the book:

- All people are in need of a relationship with God.
- God has prepared for that relationship through his own sacrifice.
- Faith is the requirement of that relationship.
- Forgiveness is available from God for anyone.



First Presbyterian Church Endowment 2026 Annual Report to the Congregation

What is the Endowment:

The Endowment is an incorporated arm of the church that oversees the investment and distribution of funds given by individuals to the church for specific and non-specific purposes. Beginning in 1986, the Endowment has managed funds received from the sale of property, wills, direct contributions, and sale of personal property. The Endowment Bylaws state that the purpose of the Endowment is to provide support and benefit, principally in the form of financial assistance to FPC for conducting its religious, charitable, educational, and other related exempt purposes.

There are two funds within the Endowment, the Unrestricted Fund, and the Restricted Fund. The Unrestricted Fund is the largest, having \$2,902,404 as a 2025 year-end balance. The Restricted Fund has \$1,808,094 for a total cash balance of both funds of \$4,710,498. The Restricted Fund has thirteen categories within the fund with specific guidelines from the donor on how the funds are to be spent. Most funds have a limit on the amount that can be disbursed in a year. Six of these funds pertain to financial aid for students to attend college, nursing school, full time seminary, or Camp Fellowship. Other funds are restricted to use for Christian Education, Music/Arts, Missions/Outreach, sanctuary flowers, and Building and Grounds.

Most applications received by the Endowment are funded from the Unrestricted Account. There is a restriction in the Bylaws that Unrestricted funds cannot be used for maintenance and operations, capital outlay or debt service of the church. To provide an opportunity for members to contribute to the Endowment to address the physical needs of the church, a Restricted Building and Grounds and Equipment fund was established and funded in 2017. A minimum of \$25,000 is required to establish a new restricted account.

The yearly budget is set according to the By-Laws to be a percentage of the market value of the unrestricted assets as of December 31st of the previous year not to exceed 8% during any calendar year. The 2026 budget of \$116,000 was approved at the February 16th meeting of the Endowment.

2025 Projects funded from the Unrestricted Account

Unrestricted Funds	Approved	Use
M/O missionary support Eric Gardner	\$20,300	One time expense for set in France
Worship-Palmetto Girls Sing	\$3,500	10 year anniversary festival
Din technical center M/O	\$25,000	Build Technical training center Pakistan
Burton Center van M/O	\$15,000	15-Passenger van replaced burned out van
Kenya Faith Missions M/O	\$42,000	Purchase a 4-wheel drive vehicle
Youth	\$1,700	Deposit for 2026 work camp
Budget increase & purchase Wingard/ Witt property	\$117,500	Partner for purchase of property
PGS trip	\$5,000	2026 WV trip
Total approved	\$230,000	
Balance uncommitted	\$3,500	

2025 Scholarships and projects funded from Restricted Accounts

Restricted Funds	Spent
Byrd Garden	\$25,498
Townsend Flowers	\$286
Buildings & Grounds	\$13,696
Art/Music	\$3,526
Family Life Center	\$13,568
Haskins College Scholarship	\$16,000
Barksdale College Scholarship	\$5,000
Churchill College Scholarship	\$875
Anderson/Scott Seminary Scholarship	\$2,500
Kinback Nursing/Engineering Scholarship	\$2,415

If you are interested in learning more about the Endowment or have questions, please feel free to contact any of the Endowment Committee members. There are five Trustees who are elected annually by the congregation for a five-year term. A session representative is approved from each class and one at large member to serve 3-year terms.

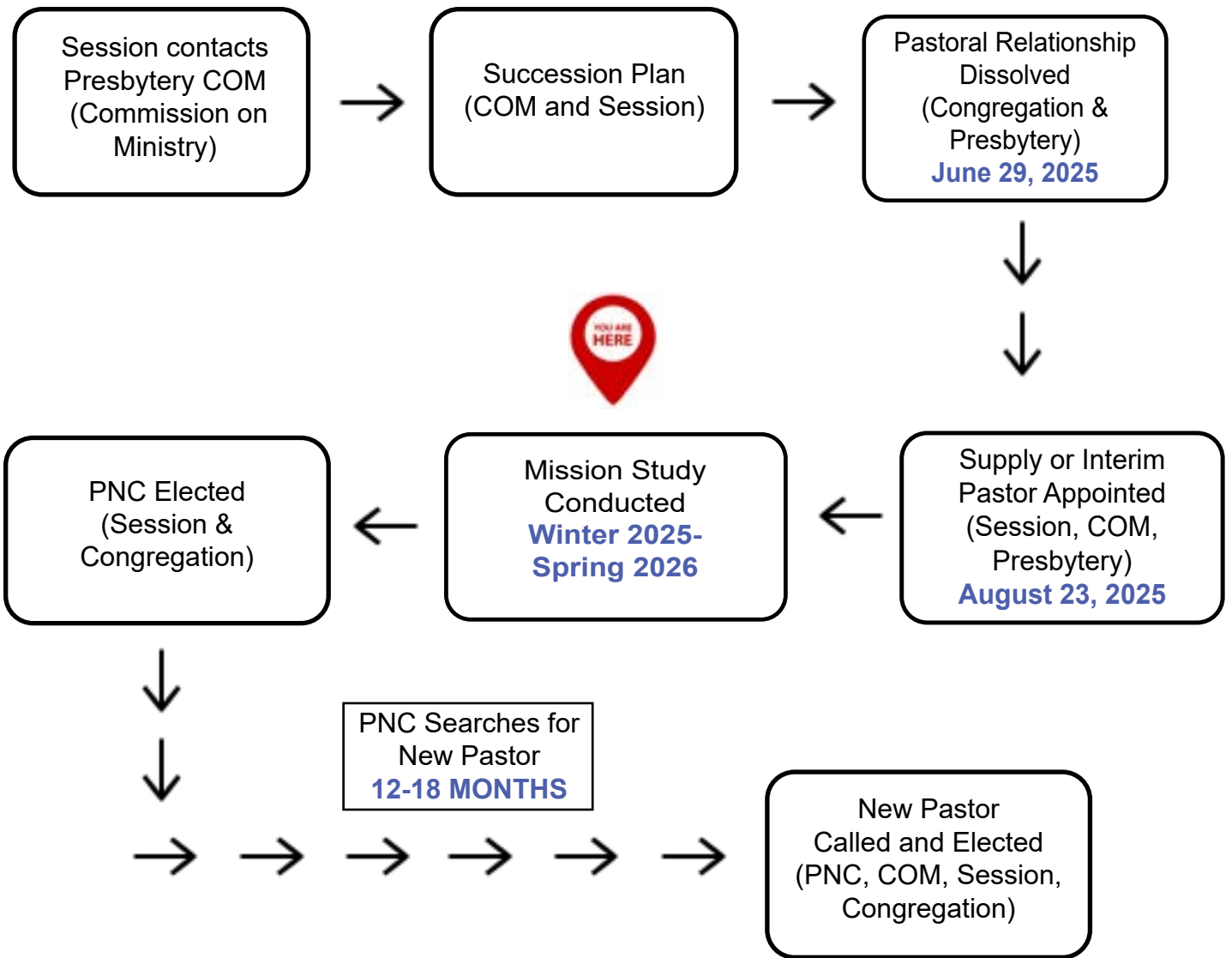
Current Endowment members are:

- 5th Year Trustee David Gardner
- 4th Year Trustee Laine Orcutt
- 3rd Year Trustee Carson Penney, Chair
- 2nd Year Trustee Liza Logan
- 1st Year Trustee Yates Brown
- 3rd Year Session Jack Jennings
- 2nd Year Session Merwin Rogers
- 1st Year Session Sam Leaman
- At-Large (2028) Adam Eichelberger

Ruth LaForge, Secretary (non-voting)
Emily Rouse, Treasurer (non-voting)
Dr. Brad Christie, Staff contact (non-voting)

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 ¹⁵ 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



Presbyterian Women News

WOMEN OF THE CHURCH

Women's Loyalty Dinner

Thursday, March 12 at 6pm in Alexander Hall

Please join us for a very special treat on March 12 as we celebrate women. Teaser: think flowers, think pink, think crystal, think little gift, think dinner, think beautiful message and think the men of the church will be serving us. All of this will happen at our Loyalty Dinner. Our guest speaker is Njango Mankuleiyo.

Sign up is in the church office. There is a folder for you to sign your name and place your \$15 check. If you would like to bring a guest to the dinner, please do. The more the merrier.

Announcements

Honorary Life Membership The anonymous committee has selected our next Honorary Life Member. Our member will be announced at our Sunday, March 15 worship service at 11:00 am.

A **special offering** will be collected and divided between the Birthday and Thank Offering projects that support a wide variety of life-changing mission programs both nationally and internationally.

Voting by the congregation for 2026-2028 PW Coordinating Team members will take place on Sunday, March 8 after the 9 am service and before the 11 am service. There will be two places to vote: 1. Front lobby and 2. Back lobby. Voting is not only for circle members, but it is for ALL the women of the church.

Ballot:

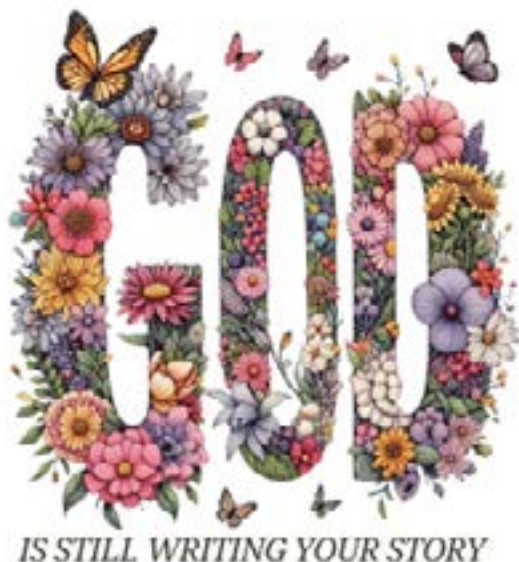
CT Moderator: Meg Stevens
Vice Moderator: Linda Stevens
Secretary: Peggy Hammett

PW COORDINATING TEAM MEETING
Monday, March 23, 2026 ~ 10:00 am ~ Henry Reynolds Room

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

*"She is clothed with strength and dignity; she can laugh at the days to come.
She speaks with wisdom, and faithful instruction is on her tongue." - Proverbs 25-26*

Wednesdays



5:30 dinner for \$10 (Must RSVP)
6:00 sessions in Alexander Hall & breakouts

March 4 – Hopes, Dreams, and Interlopers
March 11 – Who's In Charge?
March 18 – Let Go Already!
March 25 – My Story, God's Glory

Carpool encouraged!

Circle 4 Souper Bowl Sale

Because of your generous support of our recent Souper Bowl Sale, we raised \$2121! We are thrilled to now use this money for our missions and projects. We appreciate the many kind words and enthusiasm from you about your food purchases, and we appreciate each one of you!

Thank you for helping us help so many others!

Circle 1 will meet on Tuesday, March 3rd, at 10:30 am, at Wesley Commons.
Contact Jean Mabe 941-7817.

Circle 3 will meet Monday, March 9th, 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, March 2nd, at 11:00 am, at Montague's.
Contact Carol Umphress 770-316-5010

Circle 5 will meet Tuesday, March 10th, 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, March 2nd, 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, March 3rd, at 10:30 am at the home of Jill Koczwara.
Contact Becky Bryson 223-2998.

Circle 8 will meet on Tuesday, March 3rd, at 11:30 am, at the home of Betty Williams.
Contact Betty Williams 993-0466.

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN IN TRINITY PRESBYTERY
ANNUAL GATHERING

Saturday, March 21, 2026

Seven Oaks Presbyterian Church
530 St. Andrews Road, Columbia, SC 29210
10:00 AM - 2:00 PM



Onsite registration opens @ 9:00 am
Worship Service starts @ 10:00 am

Worship Leader: The Rev. Brooklynn Smith

**Speakers: Elizabeth Harris, Seven Oaks Presbyterian
Ann Smoak, Ashland Methodist
David Jenkins, McGregor Presbyterian**

Learn about the wonderful things happening at Seven Oaks Presbyterian in partnership with community members and other local churches. The Love Revolution and the Clothing Closet are two of the missions they are involved in. The Love Revolution is a group of committed parishioners and community members that partner with local grocery stores to feed the hungry and food insecure in the neighborhood. The Clothing Closet collects donated coats and other clothing items to help those in need.

The offering taken during the worship service will be donated to the Love Revolution and the Clothing Closet to help them with their mission work. Offering checks to support these missions should be made payable to PW of Trinity Presbytery.

Representatives from Camp Fellowship, Thornwell, Presbyterian Communities, and Mission Haven will be on site.

THIS MEETING IS OPEN TO ALL WOMEN OF PRESBYTERIAN CHURCHES

REGISTRATION FOR PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN ANNUAL GATHERING

**DEADLINE FOR REGISTRATION MARCH 9, 2026
\$35 by March 9, 2026; \$40 at door (includes lunch)**

NAME: _____

CHURCH NAME: _____ CLUSTER #: _____

EMAIL ADDRESS: _____ CONTACT PHONE #: _____

MAIL REGISTRATION FORM WITH CHECK, PAYABLE TO: **PW of TRINITY PRESBYTERY**

MAIL TO:

MARY FUHRMAN, TREASURER
109 CEDAR COURT
LAURENS, SC 29360

Make copies as needed.



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:

March 4th: BBQ Chicken, brown rice, fried okra

March 11th: Country Fried Steak, mashed potatoes, green beans

March 18th: Corned Beef and Cabbage, potatoes, carrots

March 25th: Spaghetti Dinner
(\$5 per person/\$15 for families)

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

MISSIONS/OUTREACH

MONTHLY MISSION SPOTLIGHT GREENWOOD PATHWAY HOUSE



Greenwood Pathway House is a 501c3 Christian ministry that serves homeless men, women, and single parents with children from Greenwood and Abbeville counties. Pathway House offers a safe place to stay and professional support to meet the mental, physical, relational, and spiritual needs of their clients.

Pathway House provides trauma-specific services designed to address the root causes of homelessness. Through the transformative grace of Christ, clients are equipped to build a functional life, post-trauma, so they can overcome homelessness permanently.

Pathway Thrift Store provides clothing for their clients and the income from the store goes directly to provide food, utilities, and services for their clients. It is open Tuesday to Saturday from 10:00 a.m. until 6:00 p.m.

First Presbyterian Church supports Greenwood Pathway House through the Missions/Outreach budget. In 2021, an Endowment grant provided a cottage in the campus village for homeless families.

To learn more, visit www.gwdpathway.org

2025 Ministry Report

Ministry Activity

360 different people served
80 children
241 adults
39 seniors
15 veterans
62,286 meals served

Eternal Change

44 people decided to follow Jesus
29 people were baptized
265 hours of Bible study

Life Change

676 Life-Change Goals completed
107 people got a home
98 people got a job
96 skills classes completed
66 people serving others

Community Change

\$4,729,592 of economic contribution
\$1,739,938 of medical cost savings
10 trauma training sessions

MISSIONS/OUTREACH cont.



WORLD LEPROSY DAY 2026

THANK YOU to our very generous congregation for the World Leprosy Day offering of \$2613.25 which will be sent to Hope Rises International (formerly American Leprosy Missions) as they work with their Christian partners around the world to bring physical healing, enduring hope, and the love of Christ to people suffering from leprosy and other related neglected tropical diseases (NTDs). - Dr. Rich Goodwin

KENYA MISSION REPORT

Bishop Manasseh Mankuleiyo safely returned to Greenwood after his 3-month mission to Kenya. Upon his arrival in Kenya, he purchased a used Toyota Land Cruiser with a grant from our Endowment. With the vehicle loaded with cartons of Maasai language Bibles, he traveled to rural parts of Kenya as far west as Uganda and south to Tanzania distributing over 300 Bibles. In December he ordained 140 ministers, including some from Tanzania and the northern border of Kenya. During his mission he was interviewed on Christian radio and TV stations in Kenya.

In addition to preaching in different churches, he was a featured speaker at several conferences. Bishop Manasseh's next mission is scheduled for August 2026. Manasseh's wife, Njango Mankuleiyo, will be speaking at our upcoming 2026 Loyalty Dinner on March 12. She will be traveling to Kenya in April to speak at the Annual Youth Conference and minister to the Maasai women.

"Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations,..." Matthew 28:19

MISSIONS/OUTREACH cont.



Dear friends and family at First Pres:

I hope that this update finds you well. I am writing to tell you how my first six months in France have gone: the successes, challenges, and ways in which God has been at work.

Thanks to the financial support from FPC's Endowment and Missions & Outreach Committee and numerous individuals who generously support me, I was able to move to France on July 23rd. From the first day, the Lord's kindness was evident to me. For example, I was able to find an apartment and sign a lease within five days of arriving. This is no easy feat in France—many landlords here do not rent to foreigners. Finding an apartment in under a week was nothing short of a miracle.

As I continue to prepare for a future pastoral ministry, I led Bible studies for our Young Professionals group (we often have 20+ people in attendance) and helped prepare the Christmas concert. We had an orchestra of 20 musicians and a choir. I helped rehearse the choir, played clarinet, and arranged a Christmas carol for bagpipes. There were over 180 people in attendance—for comparison, our church only has 50-60 members. We even ran out of chairs. One of the visitors was a Jewish man who said that our concert was the first time he had ever heard the Old Testament prophecies about the promised messiah applied to Jesus.

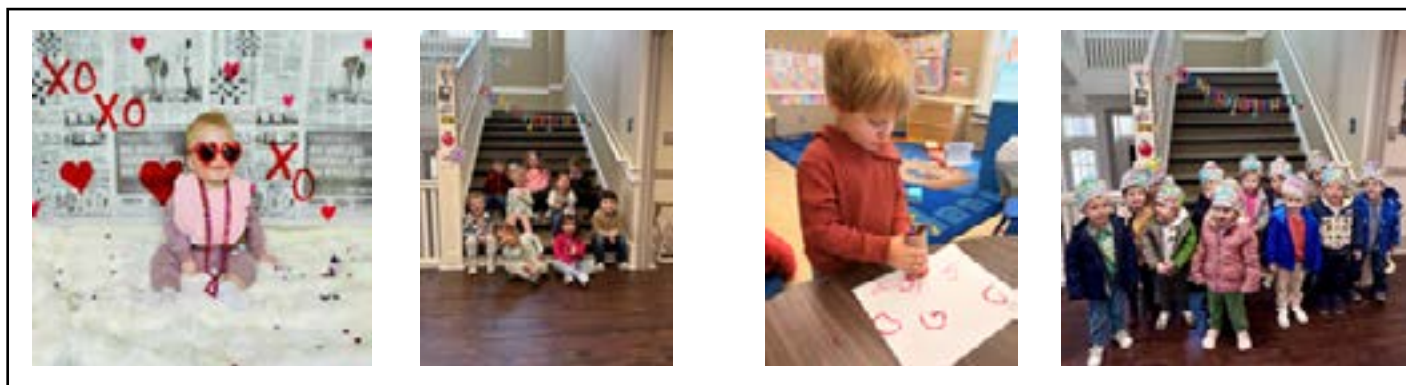
In France, fewer than 8% of the population weekly attends a worship service. Christians (and especially Protestants) are a minority. We pray that these concerts would be an effective way to reach people who would not otherwise come to church.

We have many exciting things planned for 2026: more outreach concerts, renovations on a building that we recently purchased, and a visit from several members of the Charlotte Youth Symphony Orchestra in June. I am also going to start preaching in French soon. The Lord was very good to us in 2025, and I trust that he has good things in store for 2026.

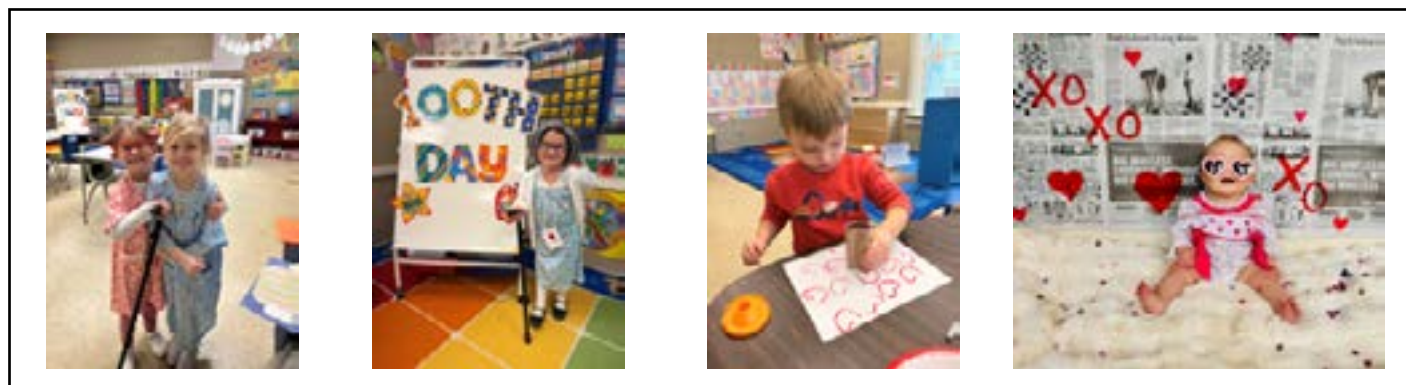
Thank you all, and may the Lord be with you.

Eric Gardner

Noah's Ark News



Our children enjoyed a few snow days at home during the last month. Teachers worked hard on Valentine's keepsake crafts and we celebrated the 100th day of school with lots of fun activities. In Chapel, our three- and four-year-old children learned about God's love for us and how we cannot measure how much God loves us. Our Bible verse was "Love your neighbor." Children discussed the "golden rule" -- treat others how we would like to be treated. We spoke about ways to spread God's love through kindness. We found joy in raising money for our Charity Walk and are looking forward to our upcoming Spring Program.



Noah's Ark still has a few available spots for the 2026-2027 school year. There are a couple of Nursery spots available and a few Three-year-old spots still available. Please spread the word! For more information, visit the Noah's Ark tab on the church's website or reach out directly to Lauren Trantham in the Noah's Ark office. We would love for your little one to join our Noah's Ark family!



“To music, or not to music—that is the question!”

Greenwood opportunities abound—making choice inevitable. The challenge is making the right choice, which MIGHT be a spur-of-the-moment “I think I like this better than that.” These are the easy ones--plain and simple!

But WATCH OUT! You may be giving up something of great value in exchange for a mere lint ball of no value. Without thinking, I have done this many times and have been so sorry!

Mark 8:36-37 “And what do you benefit if you gain the whole world but lose your own soul? Is anything worth more than your soul?”

A question that may be helpful in evaluating which way to go when presented with a choice is “What will bring my family closer to Jesus?”

I have asked that question, and often to my shame, I have chosen unwisely—and I did it in open and conscious defiance! Other times, that question has clarified a situation, and I chose wisely. Many years ago, I was scheduled to play the piano for the service our church provided for the Long Beach City Mission. That same weekend, I had won a 3-day trip to London. At the time, my life was sorely in need of spiritual food (which often comes in the form of Godly service), and I chose to forego the trip. At the time, I wondered if I had gone insane! Looking back, I see that God accomplished healing in me (and the person to whom I gave the trip had a marvelous time!). I’ll take long-term healing over 72 hours of entertainment (20 of which were on a plane) any day—what a deal!

There are sometimes other factors to consider, but the most important is “which activity will bring my family closer to Christ?” Keep the important and eternal in mind. Don’t trade everlasting glory for a ball of lint.

It could be that the avenue of singing and giving glory to God is the right choice. 25
Of course, there are other avenues in addition to singing, but the Word of God is clear
in its commands:

Psalm 96

- ¹ Sing to the Lord a new song;
sing to the Lord, all the earth.
- ² Sing to the Lord, praise his name;
proclaim his salvation day after day.
- ³ Declare his glory among the nations,
his marvelous deeds among all peoples.
- ⁴ For great is the Lord and most worthy of praise;
he is to be feared above all gods.
- ⁵ For all the gods of the nations are idols,
but the Lord made the heavens.
- ⁶ Splendor and majesty are before him;
strength and glory are in his sanctuary.
- ⁷ Ascribe to the Lord, all you families of nations,
ascribe to the Lord glory and strength.
- ⁸ Ascribe to the Lord the glory due his name;
bring an offering and come into his courts.
- ⁹ Worship the Lord in the splendor of his holiness;
tremble before him, all the earth.
- ¹⁰ Say among the nations, "The Lord reigns."
The world is firmly established, it cannot be moved;
he will judge the peoples with equity.
- ¹¹ Let the heavens rejoice, let the earth be glad;
let the sea resound, and all that is in it.
- ¹² Let the fields be jubilant, and everything in them;
let all the trees of the forest sing for joy.
- ¹³ Let all creation rejoice before the Lord, for he comes,
he comes to judge the earth.
He will judge the world in righteousness
and the peoples in his faithfulness.



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 15
(Corrected Date)
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.



During February, Palmetto Girls Sing was very busy preparing for our Coffeehouse Cabaret! We want to thank the staff, endowment and congregation of First Presbyterian Church for supporting us in our fundraising efforts this year.



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.

Saturday, February 28	PGS Coffeehouse Cabaret (7:00 pm, Alexander Hall)
Sunday, March 1	Second Sunday of Lent Communion during both services Listening Sessions (9:00-5:00, Conference Room)
Monday, March 2	Presbyterian Women Loyalty Dinner RSVP Deadline
Wednesday, March 4	Lenten Service & Lunch (First Presbyterian Church) Womens Intreat (6:00 pm, Alexander Hall) Listening Session (6:00 pm, via Zoom)
Thursday, March 5	Listening Session (12:00 noon, via Zoom)
Saturday, March 7	Pine Straw delivery Change clocks
Sunday, March 8	Third Sunday of Lent
Wednesday, March 11	Lenten Service & Lunch (St. Mark UMC, Rivers St. Campus) Womens Intreat (6:00 pm, Alexander Hall)
Thursday, March 12	Presbyterian Women Loyalty Dinner (6:00 pm, Alexander Hall)
Sunday, March 15	Fourth Sunday of Lent Presbyteiran Women's Recognition Sunday Baptism (11:00 service) Festiva (4:00 pm, Sanctuary) Diaconate (5:30 pm, Henry Reynolds Room)
Monday, March 16	GHS Choral Concert (6:00 pm, Sanctuary) Vision 360 Workshop RSVP Deadline
Wednesday, March 18	Men's Bible Study & Breakfast (7:00 am, Alexander Hall) Lenten Service & Lunch (First Baptist Church) Womens Intreat (6:00 pm, Alexander Hall)
Saturday, March 21	Vision 360 Workshop (9:00 am - 2:00 pm, Alexander Hall)
Sunday, March 22	Fifth Sunday of Lent Vision 360 Congregational Update Sumamry Session (5:30 pm, Henry Reynolds Room)
Wednesday, March 25	Lenten Service & Lunch (Main Street UMC) Womens Intreat (6:00 pm, Alexander Hall)
Sunday, March 29	Palm Sunday

GENERAL CHURCH INFORMATION

RECENT HOSPITALIZATIONS:

(Home unless noted)

Ann Heironimus -- SRH

Jane Anderson -- Wesley Commons Rehab.

Martha Erwin -- Wesley Commons Rehab.

Gerald Pitts

Our Christian prayers and sympathies are extended to the family of June Stabile upon her passing; to the family of Elinor Miller on her passing on January 10, 2026; to Adam Bacot and his family on the passing of his father and former Associate Pastor, Rev. Dr. John Bacot, on January 24, 2026; and to Bebe Fasbender and her family on the passing of her husband, Vern Fasbender, on January 24, 2026; to Bob Roddey and his family on the passing of his sister, Clary Phipps of Montreat, NC, on February 7, 2026; We share with them the joy of the promise of resurrection and eternal life.



Congratulations to Josh & Phyllis Lott on the birth of their grandson, William Campbell Lott, born January 29, 2026. Parents are Cooper & Leah Lott of Raleigh, NC; and, to Ty & Julia Christian on the birth of their son, Harris Evers Christian, born February 20, 2026. Grandparents are Richard & Pattie Christian.

Other Items of Interest

We will celebrate the **Lord's Supper** during both services on **March 1, 2026**.

Deadline for the April issue of The Spire is Monday, March 16, 2026.

TEAM MEETINGS

The **Buildings & Grounds Committee** will meet Monday, March 9th, at 5:15 p.m. in the Barksdale Room (Room 122).

The **Christian Ed Committee** will meet Sunday, March 8th, at 6:00 pm, in the Barksdale Room (Room 122).

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

The **Diaconate** will meet Sunday, March 15th, at 5:30 pm, in the Henry Reynolds Room (Room 110).

The **Missions Study Team** will meet Sunday, March 1st, at 5:00 pm, in the Conference Room (Room 206).

The **Missions & Outreach Committee** will meet Sunday, March 8th, at 4:30 pm, in the Henry Reynolds Room (Room 110).

The **Presbyterian Women Coordinating Team** will meet Monday, March 23rd, at 10:00 am, in the Henry Reynolds Room (Room 110).

The **Session** will meet Sunday, March 22nd, at 5:30 pm, in the Henry Reynolds Room (Room 110).

Stephen Ministry will meet Wednesday, March 11th, at 4:00 pm, in the Barksdale Room (Room 122).

The **Worship Committee** will meet Tuesday, March 10th, at 5:45 p.m. in the Barksdale Room (Room 122).

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

GENERAL CHURCH INFORMATION cont.



Easter Lily sales will begin Sunday, March 1st and go through Monday, March 23rd. Cost is \$24 each. Order forms are in the lobby and payment must accompany the order form. Please place your completed order form and payment in the offering plate or turn in to the front office. You may also contact the front office to place your order and pay through Realm.

Daylight Saving Time
Change your clocks
on Saturday,
March 7th



Welcoming A Child



Anyone who welcomes a little child like this in my name is welcoming me, and anyone who welcomes me is welcoming the one who sent me. Luke 9:48.

Lucy Mink, granddaughter of Lynne Elliott, will be baptized during the 11:00 service on March 15th. Please be sure to write a note to the infant and/or the family. These Baptism Wish cards can be found in the pew racks.



EMERGENCY SUPPLIES CABINET

Located in the front desk cabinet in the front lobby, we have several baskets containing emergency supplies. One basket contains a first aid kit, Lifevac (for choking), narcain (for drug overdose), and a wrist blood pressure cuff. A separate basket contains supplies for a diabetic emergency.

GENERAL CHURCH INFORMATION cont.

**Volunteers
needed**

**VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!
for USHERING ON
SUNDAY MORNINGS**

We are in need of ushers
for both services!
Please contact the front office
if you're interested.



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
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.

STAFF E-MAIL ADDRESSES

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Mr. Steve Skinner

Director of Youth & Young

Adult Ministries

Miss Jade Green

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Church Treasurer

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Mr. Mark Abell

Moderator of Deacons

Mr. Philip Bell

Moderator of Presbyterian Women

Mrs. Lisa Yarbrough

Chair of Endowment

Mrs. Carson Penney