



The Spire

First Presbyterian Church

July 2026

Greenwood, SC

A Message From Our Pastor...

Many Series

This title is supposed to be creative and punny, but you have to *hear* it to get the pun. My preaching plan for this summer is a series of mini-series, all focusing on **Our Creative God**. We'll be staying in the Revised Common Lectionary but focusing throughout the summer on clusters of readings from different parts of the weekly lections.

We began on Trinity Sunday (May 31) overviewing a six-week series that highlights God's creative work, mostly in and through the life of Abraham and his family, as recorded in the first half of the Book of Genesis.

In July we jump ahead to the New Testament for a three-week miniseries on some of Jesus' **parables**: the sower and soils, the weeds, the mustard seed and leaven, hidden treasure, a pearl and a net. Here we see our creative God as the most inventive teaching rabbi of all time.

The first three Sundays in August will focus on "signs and wonders" Jesus performed: feeding thousands of people, walking on water, healing someone from afar. August has two more Sundays, and the gospel lections in Matthew both take up the question of who Jesus is; specifically, Peter calls him the Christ, the Son of the living God, and Jesus calls himself the Son of Man. We will explore what these various titles mean.

So, all summer long we'll be seeing our creative God in action in an amazing variety of ways. A 6-week miniseries, two 3-week mini-miniseries, and a 2-week micro-miniseries. A summer of many series. When you're in town in June, July, and August, we'll see you at 10:00 am in church!

Summer blessings,

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

Brad

SPECIAL SERVICES

SUMMER WORSHIP HOURS

For the months of June, July, and August we will have one worship service at 10:00 am in the sanctuary. The Sojourners Sunday School Class will meet at 11:00 am in June, "on vacation" in July, 9:00 am in August. All other Sunday School classes will be "on vacation" until September.



Join us Sunday, July 26 for our annual Blessing of the Backpacks where we will pray for our students, teachers, assistants, administrators, and support staff.



KIRKIN' OF THE TARTANS SERVICE

*Get your tartan ready.
Our Kirkin' Service is set
for October 11, 2026 at
11:00 am.*



July 2026 Summer Intern Schedule



Girls Night

Thursday, July 2
5 p.m. - 8 p.m.
Ages 2nd - 5th
Drop off/pick up @FPC
\$20 for dinner at Capris



Free Movie

Wednesday, July 8
10 a.m.
Ages K5- 5th
Bring money for snacks!
Drop off/pick up @ Premiere
Cinema 10
for Dog Man



Riverbanks Zoo

Monday, July 20
8 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Ages 3rd - 5th
\$50
Drop off/pick up @ FPC
RSVP by July 17 12:00 p.m.



Blessing of the Backpacks

Sunday, July 26
During the 10 a.m.
service
Bring your
Backpack!!!



Snow Cones After School

Tuesday, July 28, 5:30
p.m. - 6:30 p.m.
All Ages with parent
discretion
Drop off/pick up @
Pelican's Snoballs-
909 Montague Ave
Bring money for snow
cones!

More Fun to Come...
Details TBD

Please note that age ranges are COMPLETED, not rising. Younger siblings are welcome anytime if accompanied by a parent/guardian.
To RSVP- pay on Realm or to Nan Smith.

August 2026 Summer Intern Schedule



Pool Party

Saturday, August 1
Families come and enjoy!
Details TBD



Golf and Ice Cream

Tuesday, August 4
4:30 p.m. - 8 p.m.
Ages 3rd - 5th
\$20
Drop off/pick up @ FPC

Goodbye



Forewell to Interns

Sunday, August 9
During the 10 a.m. service
Come and wish our Interns well as
they leave for school!

Please note that age ranges are COMPLETED, not rising. Younger siblings are welcome anytime if accompanied by a parent/guardian.
To RSVP- pay on Realm or to Nan Smith.

VBS Highlights



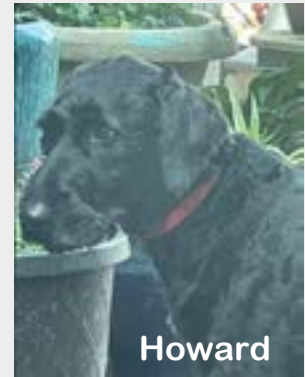
**Over \$400 raised for
The Humane Society!**

Summer Intern Fun!





OPPORTUNITIES
FOR YOUTH



Tuesday, July 7th

Humane Society of Greenwood
10:00 – meet at the church to carpool over.
Bring \$ for lunch
together afterward.



**Got Ideas
regarding Youth, College,
& Young Adults?
Contact Elise or Amanda Hamm.**

**Dates, time preferences, projects,
topics, mentors . . .**

Reach out today!



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

Summer Sojourners - Henry Reynolds (Room 110)

11:00 in June

Vacation in July

Sojourners Social

July 12 at 5:00

at the home Dwight & Alice Jo Dickey

9:00 in August

FISH (Fellowship In Service to Him) – Room 205



THINGS TO DO



Thursday, July 9
Ladies Night Out
Meet at church by the
columbarium & walk
over to the BBQ Fest
together

Friday, July 10th

7:00 Young Adults

7:00 Date Night

Meet at columbarium then walk over to BBQ Fest

Sunday, July 19

11:15 A. M.

Summer Book Club at
Eggs Up

Higher Grounds Café
by Max Lucado

Thursday, July 23

6:30 P. M.

Ladies Night Out

Montague's

DID YOU KNOW?

We are updating the library and the former Godly Play room to make two more usable meeting spaces. Be on the lookout!

We floored the attic above the choir room so that we have more storage space for the Scouts and Noah's Ark as well as other groups in the church.

During VBS, our children raised over \$400 for the Humane Society

We were happy to feed almost 400 people over the course of VBS week!

PEOPLE Needed

Volunteers for youth on Sunday or Wednesday evenings to engage our youth

Sundays@10 volunteer to facilitate conversations with our youth for one month or longer!

Drivers for the church bus for various events.

Chapel leader for our children for one month of the year.

Sundays during late worship sermon only.

Sundays@10 volunteer to teach our children for one month.

FEEL FREE TO PARTNER UP AND VOLUNTEER AS A TEAM!

Reach out to Elise!

MISSIONS/OUTREACH

MONTHLY MISSION SPOTLIGHT Missionary Jim McGill



One of the missionaries that our church has supported for many years is Jim McGill. Formerly a missionary with the PC(USA), Jim has begun his journey with the Reformed Church of America (RCA). Jim offers technical guidance, supports project implementation, and partners with churches and local leaders in urban and rural East Africa to create sustainable development and lasting WASH (Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene) solutions. He also is aiding in broader Reformed Church of East Africa (RCEA) evangelism and outreach activities. The RCEA has asked Jim to assist building WASH capacity with their partner communities and institutions.

In Eldoret, Jim's primary base, he has begun meeting the church leaders, educators, health-care workers, and community representatives regarding their WASH issues and to discuss potential work plans and schedules for WASH with the RCEA.

Jim recently traveled to Nairobi to begin to establish a network for RCA WASH partners in Kenya. During his recent visit to the Masaai lands, he was able to see wells drilled with support from RCA partnerships. While these wells provide reliable access to clean water for families and schools, the community is asking for assistance to increase the usage of water from this most valuable resource. One well, called the "Peace Well" successfully ended conflict between two groups who have been historically competing over water needed by their cattle.

Jim's work in Kenya helps advance the mission of the church, which has a unique opportunity to speak truth, promote health, and affirm the God-given dignity of every person.

Faith Home
**Christmas
in July**
Fundraiser Banquet

Featuring Hank Parker
and the Faith Home Choir

Bassmaster Champion & TV Host

A delicious meal will be served

JULY 30th, 2026 | 6:30 - 8^{PM}
Northside Baptist Church • Greenwood

**Mu&ic
for Ministry**
Fundraiser

Greater Greenwood United Ministry

“12 Annual Music for Ministry”

Saturday, August 22, 2026

New Covenant Church

1509 Woodlawn Road

5 -7:30 p.m.



Presbyterian Women News

WOMEN OF THE CHURCH

It has been such an honor and privilege to serve as the Coordinating Team Moderator for the past two years. The friendships I have made and the opportunity to work alongside these amazing women as we strive to make a difference in the lives of others have truly been a blessing.

I have witnessed firsthand the dedication, compassion, and unwavering faith of this team. These God-loving women inspire not only one another but also so many throughout our church and our community through their willingness to serve with joyful hearts. I am sincerely grateful to each member of the Coordinating Team for making my role both rewarding and enjoyable.

As Scripture reminds us, *"Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms."* (1 Peter 4:10)

Now it is time to pass the baton to **Meg Stevens**, who will serve as our next Coordinating Team Moderator. I know she will lead with grace, wisdom, and enthusiasm, and I look forward to watching all that God has planned through her leadership. Also joining Meg as part of the board will be **Lynda Thurman** as Vice Moderator and **Peggy Hammett**, as Secretary. Together, they will make a wonderful team.

Thank you to our congregation for your encouragement, prayers, and support throughout these past two years. It has been a joy to serve, and I know the future of our Coordinating Team is in very capable hands. As we continue our mission together, may we always remember that there is no greater joy than serving God by serving others.

Lisa Yarbrough

**CT Officers-Committees-Circle Leaders-Treasurers
2026-2027**

NAME	OFFICE
Meg Stevens	Moderator
Lynda Thurman	Vice Moderator
Peggy Hammett	Secretary
Sandy McCord	Treasurer
Lynda Thurman	Co-Historian
Anna Welborn	Co-Historian
Betsy Collins	Culinary Chairman
Cathy Mays	Culinary
Keller Lightsey	Spiritual Enrichment/Babies
Ray Steifle	Spiritual Enrichment/Babies
Martha Ann Davis	Bereavement Co-chair
Betty Williams	Bereavement Co-chair
Betsy Collins	Bereavement
Hunter Bell	Bereavement
Patti Gagstetter	Retreat/Intreat
Rebecca Wise	Devotion Leader
Glenda Davis	Mission Committee
Sally Anderson	Search Committee
Kappy May	Search Committee
Jean Mabe	Circle 1
Kappy May	Circle 3 Co-Leader
Kathy Snyder	Circle 3 Co-Leader
Alice Jo Dickey	Circle 3 Treasurer
Carol Umphress	Circle 4
Marilyn Towne	Circle 4 Treasurer
Michelle Barksdale	Circle 5 Leader
Laine Orcutt	Circle 5 Treasurer
Jessica Willard	Circle 6 Co-Leader
Nickie Murphy	Circle 6 Co-Leader
Becky Bryson	Circle 7 Leader
Jill Koczwar	Circle 7 Treasurer



Festiva presents The King's Brass!

Wednesday, July 29, The King's Brass will present a spectacular collage of concert music, hymn-based tunes, and popular selections.

This 7 pm concert will involve audience participation as well as some entertaining antics rarely experienced in church!

These 8 brass players, plus accompanist will "blow your socks off" with stunning arrangements and antiphonal effects.

There will also be a sing-along of epic proportions!

We are in need of several home stays for the artists (likely for July 28th and 29th). Would you share some non-smoking accommodations and breakfast with our guests? Contact festiva@firstgreenwood.com if you can host.

**Palmetto Girls Sing
Season 12 Registration is
NOW OPEN!**



Audition Dates

May 28
4-6 PM

June 18
4-6 PM

July 23
4-6 PM

To register your rising 4th - 12th grader,
scan the QR code or visit our website at
www.palmettogirlssinggreenwood.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 First Things email for more current information.

Sunday, July 5	Communion
Monday, July 6	Church office closed
Thursday, July 9	Ladies Night Out (6:30 pm, BBQ Festival)
Friday, July 10	Date Night (7:00 pm, BBQ Festival) Young Adults (7:00 pm, BBQ Festival)
Sunday, July 12	Sojourners Social (5:00 pm, at the Dickey home)
Sunday, July 19	Summer Book Club (11:15 am, Eggs Up)
Monday, July 20	Riverbanks Zoo
Thursday, July 23	Ladies Night Out (6:30 pm, Montague's)
Sunday, July 26	Blessing of the Backpacks (10:00 service) Session (5:30 pm, Henry Reynolds Room)
Wednesday, July 29	Festiva (7:00 pm, Sanctuary)
Sunday, August 2	Communion
Sunday, August 9	Farewell to Interns
Wednesday, August 12	Wednesday Night Dinners return
Sunday, August 16	Summer Book Club (11:15 am, Eggs Up) Diaconate (5:30 pm, Henry Reynolds Room) Parent Meeting (Time TBD)
Saturday, August 22	Presbytery Meeting (9:30 am, Upper Long Cane, Abbeville) Music for Ministry (5:00 pm, New Covenant)
Sunday, August 23	Session (5:30 pm, Henry Reynolds Room)
Sunday, September 6	Communion Officer Training (3:00 pm, Henry Reynolds Room)
Monday, September 7	Church offices closed
Sunday, September 13	Officer Training (3:00 pm, Henry Reynolds Room)
Sunday, September 20	Officer Training (3:00 pm, Henry Reynolds Room)

GENERAL CHURCH INFORMATION

RECENT HOSPITALIZATIONS:

(Home unless noted)
David Brown -- SRH

Our Christian prayers and sympathies are extended to the family of Elizabeth Pinson of Alpharetta, GA, upon her passing on May 17, 2026; to David and Kelly Hastings and their family on the passing of their son, Nicholas Hastings on May 23, 2026; to Ann Cox and her family on the passing of her sister, Ruth Martin, on May 27, 2026; to Bob Erwin and his family and the passing of his wife, Martha Erwin on May 29, 2026; to the family of Jerrie Butler of Winter Haven, FL upon her passing on May 31, 2026; and to the family of Jane Anderson upon her passing on June 19, 2026. We share with them the joy of the promise of resurrection and eternal life.

TEAM MEETINGS

Buildings & Grounds will meet Monday, July 13, at 5:15 pm, in the Barksdale Room (Room 122).

The **CLC** will meet Thursdays, July 2, 9, 16, 23, and 30 at 6:00 pm, in the Barksdale Room (Room 122).

Congregational Care will meet Monday, July 20, at 10:00 am, in the Barksdale Room (Room 122).

Financial Oversight Committee will meet Wednesday, July 22, at 12:00 noon, in the Barksdale Room (Room 122).

The **Session** will meet Sunday, July 26, at 5:30 pm, in the Henry Reynolds Room (Room 110).

The **Worship Committee** will meet Tuesday, July 14, at 5:45 pm, in the Barksdale Room (Room 122).



Congratulations to Sophie and Elliott Layne on the birth of son, Henry Thomas Layne, born April 26, 2026. Grandparents are Bubba & Menke Harvin and great-grandmother is Cecilia Reynolds; and to Rhetta and Blake Smith on the birth of their son, Boone Christian Smith, born June 5, 2026. Grandparents are Richard & Pattie Christian.

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

Other Items of Interest

We will celebrate the **Lord's Supper** during the 10:00 service on Sunday, July 5, 2026.

Deadline for the August issue of The Spire is Wednesday, July 15, 2026.

The church offices will be closed Monday, July 6th.

July 2026						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
28	29	30	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	1



THE SPIRE - (USPS 736-430) is published monthly by the First Presbyterian Church, 108 E. Cambridge Ave., PO Box 426, Greenwood, SC 29648-0426. Periodicals paid at Greenwood, SC. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to First Presbyterian Church, PO Box 426, Greenwood, SC 29648-0426.

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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

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

Building Superintendent

Mr. Juston Erskine

Sexton

Mr. Vince Plotczyk

Noah's Ark Director

Mrs. Lauren Trantham

Church Treasurer

Mrs. Laine Orcutt

Clerk of Session

Mr. Mark Abell

Moderator of Deacons

Mr. Philip Bell

Moderator of Presbyterian Women

Mrs. Lisa Yarbrough

Chair of Endowment

Mrs. Carson Penney