



The Spire

First Presbyterian Church

August 2026

Greenwood, SC

A Message From Our Pastor...

Next Steps

For many months here in *The Spire*, we ran a flow chart of the search process for a new senior pastor. The YOU ARE HERE arrow seemed stuck for a long time. Then, in March the Vision 360 Workshop culminated the mission study, and by April the Mission Study Team had finalized the report for Session approval in May. Finally, the arrow was moving.

At a called meeting last month (June 29), the Session developed an action plan to address key findings in the mission study report. They formed *four new working groups* to focus on each item on the report's **Transition To-Do List**. There are five items on the published list—one, about the report itself, is already completed; another, about the Community Life Center (CLC) project, the Session had begun to address last November (2025) by forming a new CLC Committee. The remaining tasks to do before calling a new senior pastor are:

- Grounding the transition process in **prayer** and congregational discernment
- Conducting a **staffing** audit—determining staffing needs, roles, dreams, etc.
- Giving additional attention to **communication**, internal & external
- **Reaching IN** to church members who are no longer fully engaged. (This “to-do” was added by Session.)

Every elder on the Session has signed on to one of these working groups. Now, they are looking to add members of the congregation with particular gifts in any of these critical areas, or members who simply might want to join the effort. These will be short-term commitments, lasting only through the transition to new pastoral leadership, but this work is mission critical and crucial to the success of the pastoral search.

The overall direction of this action plan is to “reboot the beacon” of the church’s vision and mission. If you want to take an active part in the process, contact the church office or any member of the Session about joining one of the new working groups.

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.



CONGREGATIONAL MEETING TO ELECT NEW OFFICERS

AUGUST 16

IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING THE SERVICE

ELDER NOMINEES

Bryan Sherard
Tom Grantham
Jay LaForge
Wayne Carstens
Rich Goodwin
Hood Souter
Janice Elliott
Robbin Goforth
Sarah Pinson
Quay Justesen
Wells Dunlap

DEACON NOMINEES

Kathy Nimmo
Toma Mulkey
Brian Pinson
Brian Hamm
Philip McKinney
Merrie Wright
Lisa Sanders
Rebecca Wise
Adam Fennell
Betty Grantham
Karen Couser

TRUSTEE NOMINEE

Tommy Davis



KIRKIN' OF THE TARTANS SERVICE

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



Truly I tell you, unless you change and become like little children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven".

- Matthew 18:3-5



**Blessing of the
Backpacks
Sunday, 7/26
10:00 worship**

**Teachers & Staff -
bring your bags too!**

August 2026 Summer Intern Schedule



Church Family Work Day!

Saturday, August 1

10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

@FPC

Come volunteer with church family to help around the church and serve together!

See flyer on Page 6 of the Spire for details

Golf and Ice Cream

Tuesday, August 4

4:30 p.m. - 8 p.m.

Ages 2nd - 5th

\$20

Drop off/pick up @ FPC

Adult volunteers needed to drive and participate @ The Range at Cold Springs



Goodbye



Farewell to Interns

Sunday, August 9

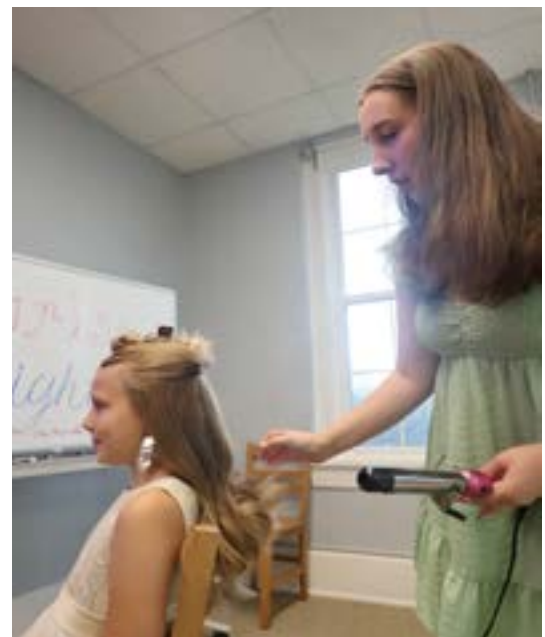
During the 10 a.m. service

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.

Summer Intern Fun!



F P C

Parent Meeting

Sunday, August 9th
in Alexander Hall

6:00 - Parents of Children
ages 0 - 5th grade

(Children invited for
playground fun)

6:30 - Youth & Parents



Lending a hand



Serving Together!

Church family
Work Day
August 1st 10-12

Come volunteer with your church family and get
some things done like:

- polyurethaning the boat in the Noah's Ark Courtyard
- packing up books to donate
- moving chairs
- cleaning playground equipment
- setting up books in the new children's "library" in the basement
- organizing and shelving blocks in the basement
- cleaning out a storage area
- setting up an art area in the basement
- setting up a kitchen area in the basement
- setting up an under water area in the basement
- freshening up the youth area

YOUTH: Notes from the Loft



How Can I live my best life?

In 2007, a British guy called Christopher Hitchens wrote a best-selling book called, God Is Not Great: How Religion Poisons Everything. Lots of people believe that's true. They think we'd be better off without religion. But since Hitchens wrote his book, a lot of evidence has come out to show that he was wrong! People who go to church at least once a week are happier, healthier, and longer lived than people who don't. Harvard professor Tyler VanderWeele is a world expert on the subject. He says that rather than religion being poisonous, going to church every week is like drinking a magical medicine.

excerpt from 10 Questions Every Teen Should Ask (and Answer)
About Christianity by Rebecca McLaughlin



Secret Angel Ministry

Secret Angels at FPC exist to encourage and support young adult members in the 4 transitional years past high school. We do this in a variety of ways using guidelines set up by the Secret Angel Committee. The guidelines below have been revised to reflect fairness and balance. We hope you will participate by volunteering to be a Secret Angel.

If you are a young adult, we hope you will complete the Secret Angel information form which can be found in the church office. The form will also be mailed to eligible young adults and a digital form emailed where emails are available.

The goal of FPC's Secret Angels is to let these young members know they are being prayed for and thought about. Monthly cards are encouraged. We do not want to send the message that money and gifts are needed to feel supported and loved. We also want each person to feel it is equal and fair. Any monetary gift, such as cards, should be limited to twice a year and \$15 each.

Young adult members must have completed high school or received a GED and be within 4 years of receiving their high school diploma. Attending a college or university is not a requirement, as it was in past years.

Secret Angel volunteers should use the church's address as the return address when mailing a package or card so the volunteer can remain a secret. Church's Address: P.O. Box 426, Greenwood, SC 29648.

Volunteers-YOU-will make a difference with our prayers, communication, and our love. Small gestures can make a huge difference.

If you would like to volunteer to be a Secret Angel or have any questions, reach out to Lynn Mack, lynnmack12@gmail.com, cell: 864-980-6345.



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

Summer Sojourners - Henry Reynolds (Room 110)

11:00 in June

Vacation in July

9:00 in August

FISH (Fellowship In Service to Him) – Room 205



Bible 101

A Four-Part Lecture Series
4:00 P. M. at Westminster Pres

Coming this month! **Westminster Presbyterian** is sponsoring a four-part lecture series entitled Bible 101, and you're invited! This is not a Bible study but an opportunity to learn about the Bible and get answers to your questions regarding authors, structure, order, translations, and much more. Whether you are a seasoned Bible reader or brand new to the Bible, there will be things to learn. While there may be some overlap in material, each 45 minute session is designed to stand alone and will have opportunity for Q & A. Sessions will be in **WPC's Fellowship Hall**. Please plan to come, spread the word and bring a friend!

Sunday, 8/23

Introduction and Basic Bible Facts
Brian Purcell, MPM (Westminster PC)

Sunday, 8/30

Literary Genres and Devices
Rev. Dr. Brad Christie (First PC)

Sunday, 9/6

No session for Labor Day weekend

Sunday, 9/13

Translations and the Canon
Rev. Phillip Dennis (Ware Shoals PC)

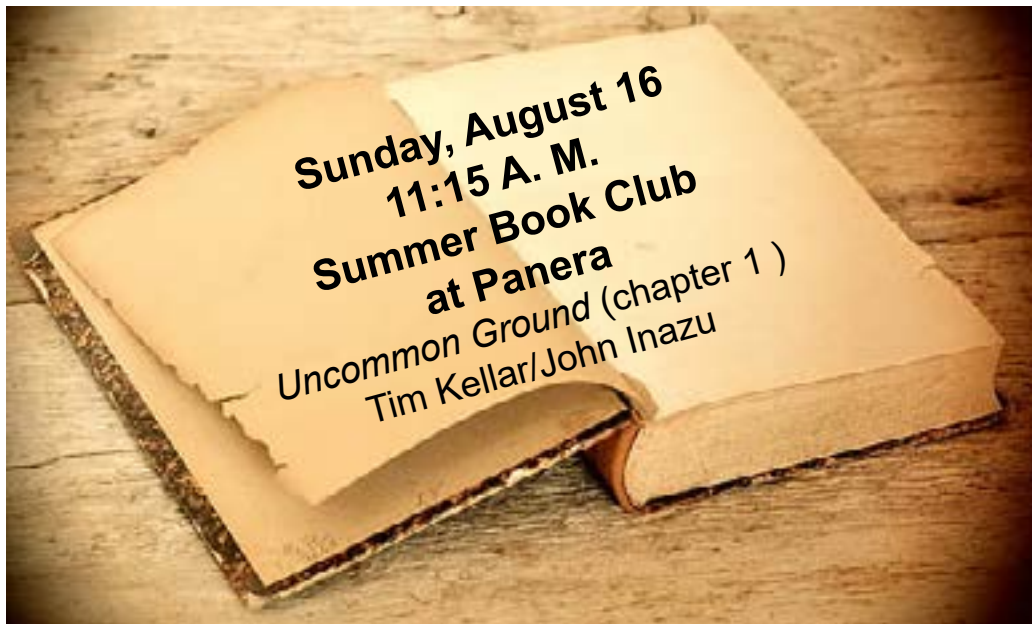
Sunday, 9/20

What Presbyterians Believe and Tools for Study
Rev. Caroline Dennis (Westminster PC)

THINGS TO DO



*Thursday, August 13th
Bring an appetizer & carpool
to Patti Gagstetter's
117 Gunnery Ct W
Ninety Six*



**Sunday, August 16
11:15 A. M.
Summer Book Club
at Panera
Uncommon Ground (chapter 1)
Tim Kellar/John Inazu**



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

For the month of August, every night is Family Night. Cost is \$5 per person and all programming is in Alexander Hall!

August 12: Get to Know You Bingo!
Taco Bar including quesadillas

August 19: Game Night!
Chicken Tenders & nuggets, watermelon

August 26: Communication Night!
Breakfast including cereal and fruit!

Please RSVP by noon of each week or be
added to the permanent list!

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





The basement is getting a facelift after the flooding. Be on the lookout for an open house!

The library is a work in progress. Thank you for your patience as we update!

Did you know we have had summer interns for over 20 years now!

Noah's Ark is back in session. Be on the lookout to help donate supplies for their school year!

MISSIONS/OUTREACH

MONTHLY MISSION SPOTLIGHT **Piedmont Agency on Aging Breaks Ground** **on a New Meals on Wheels Kitchen**

The Piedmont Agency on Aging held a groundbreaking ceremony on July 14 for a new Meals on Wheels kitchen. The new kitchen is designed to expand food preparation and delivery services for seniors in Abbeville, Greenwood, Laurens, and Saluda counties.

The over 7,000 square foot building will be built at the agency's executive offices at 808 S, Emerald Road. Construction is expected to take about nine months. This new kitchen will replace the Agency's existing Nutrition Center that was built in 1992 when the facility served two counties and was used to prepare about 250 meals per day.

The agency now prepares about 550 meals each day serving residents who are 60 and older. Meals are prepared for group dining clients, transportation clients, and home-delivery clients. About 400 meals are prepared daily for home-delivered meal clients. First Presbyterian Church has several volunteers who help deliver Meals on Wheels.

The organization is pursuing grants and community support to reduce the amount it must borrow. First Presbyterian Church has supported this agency in the past through Endowment grants for kitchen equipment. Some equipment from the existing kitchen can be moved into the new facility rather than being replaced.





Meals on Wheels operates Monday-Friday and is always in need of volunteers to help deliver meals. Routes are generally 10 miles or less, and take approximately 30-45 minutes. Call (864) 223-0164 for more information.

**Music
for Ministry**
Fundraiser
Brother Greenwood United Ministry

"12 Annual Music for Ministry"
Saturday, August 22, 2026
New Covenant Church
1509 Woodlawn Road
5 -7:30 p.m.



Connect with youth on Sunday or Wednesday evenings. You need each other!

Facilitate conversations with our youth for one month or longer Sundays@10

Connect by driving the bus for different church events - only when you are able

Connect by reading a story to our children during chapel one month of the year.

Connect with our children Sundays@10 for one month out of the year.

FEEL FREE TO
PARTNER UP
AND
VOLUNTEER
AS A TEAM!

Reach out to
Elise!

THE KING'S BRASS



INNOVATIVE AND ENTERTAINING

Wednesday, July 29, 2026 7:00 PM

Concert is free and open to the public

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

108 East Cambridge Avenue ♦ Greenwood, SC 29646 ♦ 864-229-5814

firstgreenwood.com

Presented by



"This project is funded in part by the South Carolina Arts Commission which receives support from the National Endowment for the Arts and the John and Susan Bennett Memorial Arts Fund of the Coastal Community Foundation of SC."

18 Palmetto Girls Sing, Season 12- August 2026

Palmetto Girls Sing, an outreach of First Presbyterian Church, is in its 12th season. With 55 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.



Closing Season 11- Appalachian Festival of Young Voices

Wow! What a wonderful experience our girls had at the Appalachian Festival of Young Voices in Charleston, West Virginia. 20 members of Palmetto Girls Sing joined with choir members from California, Colorado, Virginia, West Virginia, Indianapolis, South Carolina and Washington, DC. Highlights included:

- ♦ Daily rehearsals with the other choirs
- ♦ Individual performances from each choir
- ♦ A night of storytelling about Harriet Tubman and the Underground Railroad
- ♦ A night of square dancing with a live band and a caller
- ♦ A visit to the West Virginia State Museum on the grounds of the Capitol
- ♦ A private coaching session with Dr. Rollo Dilworth, our composer and conductor
- ♦ A workshop with a blue grass band
- ♦ A final concert with all singers, a string band, and an orchestra
- ♦ A huge, farewell dance party.

The trip was extremely meaningful for the girls. They loved meeting and singing with singers from other states. Everyone grew musically, deepened their skills as a musician, and made new friends. Our girls represented FPC, Greenwood, and the State of South Carolina very well! Thank you to all who participated in concerts, donated to our group and expressed your well wishes.

Opening Season 12

We have had a wonderful response to our open call for auditions this year! We have now started Season 12 with great retention from Season 11 and at least 20 new members in Season 12. Our season begins with a "Kick-Off" on Monday, August 3 for parents and singers, and regular rehearsals begin on Monday, August 10. Look for a photo of our Season 12 membership in the September Spire.

Big News!

Palmetto Girls Sing has now received three invitations to sing internationally. We have decided that the time is right to give our singers this opportunity. June 11-18, 2027, we will travel to Rome, Italy to participate in the Rome Choral Festival. We are combining with the Carolina Youth Chorale from Myrtle Beach to represent our state in this festival. We will also collaborate with the Pensacola Children's Choir and other choirs from the United States. Dr. Alex Gartner will be our conductor for the festival and concert in Rome. After the festival, we will travel to Siena, Florence, and Assisi. In Florence, we will give a second concert with the Carolina Youth Chorale. We are very excited, and a little nervous about our first adventure outside of the USA. What an amazing opportunity for these girls. Please begin praying about our experience there and heart as we prepare! Please consider giving the PGS so that we can make the trip affordable for any girl who wants to attend. And, please make plans to hear us sing!

Love,

Amy



GENERAL CHURCH INFORMATION

RECENT HOSPITALIZATIONS:

(Home unless noted)

David Brown

Bob Willy -- WC Rehab

Thurmond Bishop -- Anderson

Our Christian prayers and sympathies are extended to Mary Keith Rodgers and her family on the passing her mother, Suzie Davis, on June 26, 2026; and to the family of Julie Cooner upon her passing on June 27, 2026. We share with them the joy of the promise of resurrection and eternal life.



Congratulations to Tucker and Kaitlyn Bell on the birth of their son, James Hudson Bell, born June 24, 2026. Grandparents are John & Beth Bell.



Other Items of Interest

We will celebrate the **Lord's Supper** during the 10:00 service on Sunday, August 2, 2026.

Deadline for the September issue of The Spire is Monday, August 17, 2026.

TEAM MEETINGS

The **Admin Committee** will meet Sunday, August 2, at 5:00 pm in the Conference Room (Room 206).

Buildings & Grounds will meet Monday, August 10, at 5:15 pm, in the Barksdale Room (Room 122).

The **Christian Education Committee** will meet Sunday, August 9, at 5:00 pm, in Alexander Hall.

The **CLC** will meet Thursdays, August 6, 13, 20, and 27 at 6:00 pm, in the Barksdale Room (Room 122).

The **Committed Prayers** group will meet Monday, August 31, at 4:30 pm, in the Chapel.

The **Diaconate** will meet Sunday, August 16, at 5:30 pm, in the Henry Reynolds Room (Room 110).

The **Home Communion/Visitation Committee** will meet Thursday, August 13, at 10:00 am, in the Barksdale Room (Room 122).

The **Missions/Outreach Committee** will meet Sunday, August 9, at 4:30 pm, in the Henry Reynolds Room (Room 110).

Presbyterian Women Coordinating Team will meet Monday, August 24th, at 10:00 am, in the Henry Reynolds Room (Room 110).

The **Session** will meet Sunday, August 23, at 5:30 pm, in the Henry Reynolds Room (Room 110).

Stephen Ministry will meet Wednesday, August 12, at 4:00 pm, in the Barksdale Room (Room 122).

The **Worship Committee** will meet Tuesday, August 11, at 5:45 pm, in the Barksdale Room (Room 122).

The **Youth Committee** will meet Sunday, August 9, at 7:00 pm, in the Youth Room.

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



FUNERAL/MEMORIAL SERVICE PLANNING

Have you given any thought to pre-planning your funeral/memorial service and in doing so, giving yourself and your family peace of mind? We can help you with that.

We have developed a worksheet that will help you and your loved ones to be a little more prepared for when the time comes.

What scripture would you like read at your service?

What hymns would you like to be sung?

There are several other questions that you may not think about that we will need to know. This will not only help you and your family but it will aid us as well.

If you would like a copy of the Funeral/Memorial Worksheet, please pick up a copy located in the magazine rack to the right of the desk in the front lobby, contact the front office at 229-5814, or office@firstgreenwood.com.

We do ask that once you have completed this form, to please return a copy to us for our records.

On Wednesday, September 2nd, Funeral Planning will be a part of the Wednesday night programming. Be on the lookout for more information.



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), narkan (for drug overdose), and a wrist blood pressure cuff. A separate basket contains supplies for a diabetic emergency.

STAFF E-MAIL ADDRESSES

The Rev. Dr. Brad Christie
Interim Pastor
brad@firstgreenwood.com

Lea Jones
Office Administrator
office@firstgreenwood.com

Nan Smith
Financial Administrator
finance@firstgreenwood.com

Elise Collins
Director of Christian Education
dce@firstgreenwood.com

The Rev. Dr. Cliff Cain
Theologian-in-Residence
cliff.cain@westminster-mo.edu

Steve Skinner
Director of Music Ministries
steve@firstgreenwood.com

Sarah Bowen
Director of Children's Music
festiva@firstgreenwood.com

Lauren Trantham
Director of Noah's Ark
noahsark@firstgreenwood.com

Juston Erskine
Building Superintendent
juston@firstgreenwood.com

CHURCH INFORMATION

First Presbyterian Church

Mailing address: P. O. Box 426
Greenwood, SC 29648

Physical Address: 108 East Cambridge Ave.
Greenwood, SC 29646
864-229-5814
firstgreenwood.com



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.



Did you know there is a group of church members who come together in the chapel to pray once each month? The Committed Prayers group lifts up to God our church, our community, our state, and people throughout the world. The needs are many. Praying together is a powerful, wonderful experience! As we pray for others, we grow closer to God and to each other. We invite you to join us on the last Monday of each month at 4:30 p.m. in the chapel.

Betsy Collins (facilitator), Libby & Philip Bell,
Janie Bowen, Joyce Brown, Penny & Frank
Cannon, Brad Christie, Elise Collins, Sandra
Cobb, John Eichelberger, Susie & Rich Goodwin,
Scottie Jeffries, Robbin Goforth, Peggy
Hammett, Toma Mulkey, Missy
Richardson, Nancy Wilson

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 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 Parent Meeting (Children 6:00, Youth 6:30, Alexander Hall)
Wednesday, August 12	Wednesday Night Dinner and Kick-Off (5:30 pm, Alexander Hall)
Sunday, August 16	Congregational meeting (11:00, Sanctuary) Summer Book Club (11:15 am, Panera) Diaconate (5:30 pm, Henry Reynolds Room)
Wednesday, August 19	Wednesday Night Dinner & Programming--Get to Know You (5:30 pm, Alexander Hall)
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)
Wednesday, August 26	Wednesday Night Dinner & Programming--Communication (5:30 pm, Alexander Hall)
Sunday, September 6	Communion Officer Training (2:00 pm, Henry Reynolds Room)
Monday, September 7	Church offices closed
Sunday, September 13	Officer Training (2:00 pm, Henry Reynolds Room)
Sunday, September 20	Officer Training (2:00 pm, Henry Reynolds Room)
Thursday, September 24	Noah's Ark Fall Festival Program (6:00 pm, Sanctuary)
Saturday, September 26	Here4AReason 5K (Greenwood Uptown Market)
Sunday, September 27	Officer Training (2:00, Henry Reynolds Room) Session (5:00, Chapel)



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.

@

Phone: (864) 229-5814 Fax: (864) 229-3489
Office hours: M-Th 8:00-4:00 and Fr 8:00-12:00 noon

e-mail: office@firstgreenwood.com
website: firstgreenwood.com

Interim Pastor

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. Meg Stevens
Chair of Endowment
Mrs. Carson Penney