



The Spire

First Presbyterian Church

October 2026

Greenwood, SC

A Message From Our Pastor...

A Festive Fall

It may not feel like it outside, but fall is fast approaching at First Pres, and with it a lot of energy and activity. The Pastor Nominating Committee (PNC) has been elected (see last month's SPIRE for details on that). And a committee has been formed to join the Personnel Committee in the search for a new Director of Youth Ministries.

If you've walked around the church campus lately, you probably noticed several spruced-up or repurposed spaces, like the children's area downstairs and the new "parlor" and expanded Conference Room upstairs. Forty-one new windows are being installed in older buildings, and one sanctuary window will be replaced soon.

The excitement of seasonal change is also reflected in our October worship schedule. October 4 is **World Communion Sunday**, always a powerful service at FPC. Expect to see flags from all over the world and to hear parts of the service spoken or sung in different languages. This year one of the mission workers we support, Rev. Shelvis Smith-Mather will preach the service.

Sunday, October 11, will be the annual **Kirkin' o' the Tartan** service, with bagpipes and drums, kilts and sashes—a stirring celebration of our rich Presbyterian heritage rooted in the Kirk of Scotland. This year Rev. Jeff Newlin will preach the Kirkin' service.

October 18 is **Children's Sabbath** Sunday. Our children will participate in many aspects of morning worship, bringing to the service some of the things they've been learning in Children's Church. The fall **Welcome to First Pres!** new members class also begins on the 18th.

Sunday the 25th is **Reformation Sunday**. The new members class continues, and the session will meet that afternoon. On Wednesday, October 28, again this year First Pres will offer a **Fall Fest** program in the side and back parking lots (weather permitting), with games, music, food, trunk-or-treating—all kinds of family fun for the whole neighborhood!

That's a lot to look forward to. Clearly, God continues to bless First Pres season by season, year by year....

Fall blessings,

Brad

SPECIAL SERVICES

*World Communion Sunday
October 4, 2026
The Rev. Shelvis Smith-Mather
will be preaching*



*KIRKIN' OF THE TARTANS SERVICE
Get your tartan ready.
Our Kirkin' Service is set for
October 11, 2026 at 10:30 am.
The Rev. Dr. Jeff Newlin will be preaching.
Rehearsal for Kirkin Participants
will be at 8:45 am*

CHILDREN'S SABBATH

Sunday, October 18, 2026



Reformation Sunday is October 25, 2026 and commemorates the Protestant Reformation and the day Martin Luther posted his 95 Theses on the door of the Castle Church in Wittenberg, Germany, in 1517.



Hymn of the Month for SHine

In 1597, the Catholic King of Spain did not allow Dutch Protestants to gather together for worship. To celebrate their victory, Dutchman Adrianus Valerius wrote “We Gather Together.”

We Gather Together

1. We gath - er to - geth - er to ask the Lord's bless - ing; He chan - cels and
 2. He - side us to guide us, our God with us join - ing, Or - dain - ing, main -
 3. We all do ex - tol Thee, our Lead - er tri - um - phant, And pray that Thou

has - ten His will to make known; The wick - ed op - press - ing now cease from dis -
 tain - ing His king - dom di - vine; So from the be - gin - ning the fight we were
 still our De - fend - er with be. Let thy con - qu - er - ga - tion ex - cept trib - u -

tion - ing; Sing praise - ex to His name; He for - gets not His own,
 win - ning Thee, Lord, wait at our side— all glo - ry be Thine!
 la - tion; Thy name be ev - er praised— O Lord, make us free!

Words: Dutch lyrics trans. by Theodore Baker
 Music: Dutch folk song, trans. by Edward Kremser

KREMSER
 12.11.12.12.



Sundays@9:30

in the Root Cellar

October 4th with Ms. Michelle
October 11th with Ms. Michelle
October 18th with Mrs. Phyllis
October 25th with the Souters



Children's Chapel

Sundays during the sermon
October 4th with Mrs. Elise
October 11th with Mrs. Elise
October 18 is Children's Sabbath, so no chapel
October 25 with Mrs. Merrie



Art Night for all ages!!!

Join us as we create art after dinner.
Supplies provided - wear clothes you
don't mind getting dirty or stained.

October 8th
6:00 - 7:00 P. M.
Alexander Hall

First Pres Gwd

We need goodies & volunteers for our annual Fall Fest!

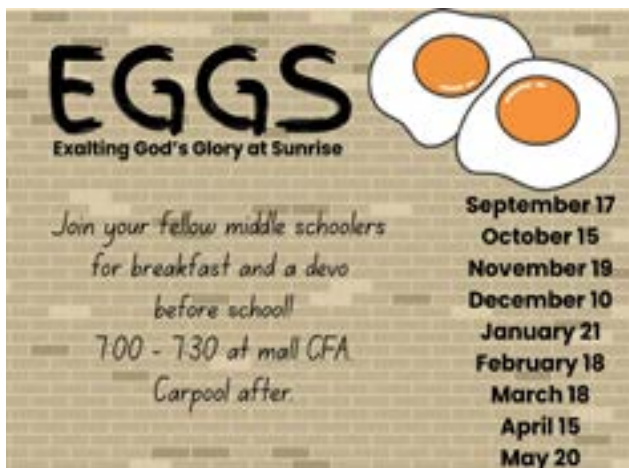
October 28th

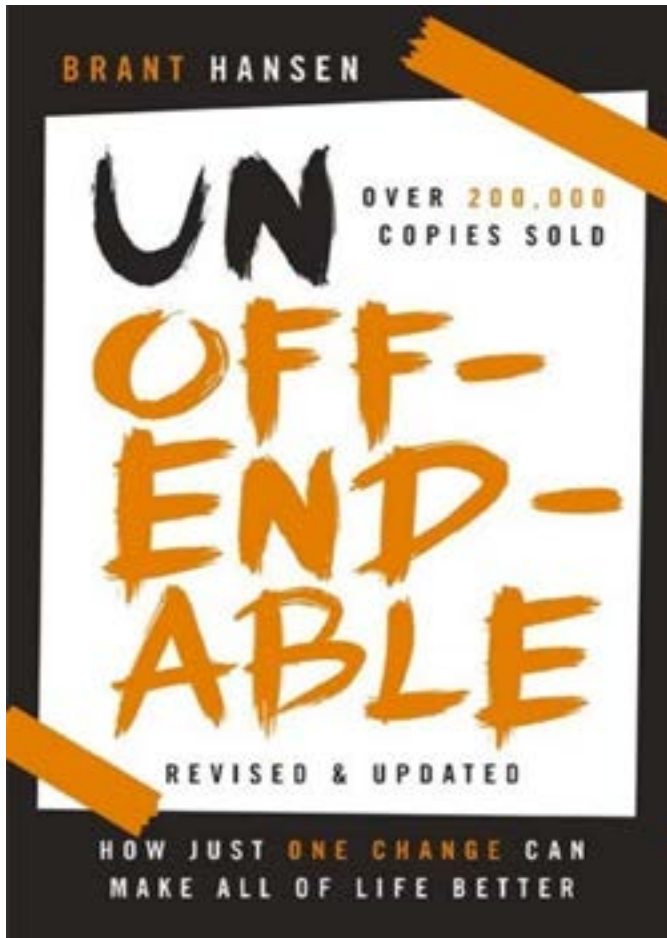
**We need candy and baked good donations.
We need people to decorate trunks for our trunk or treat.**

**We need volunteers to help set up,
and clean up, and during.**

**Contact Michelle Barksdale asap.
mobarksdale@icloud.com**

YOUTH: Weekdays





Youth SS at 9:30 in the 3rd floor LOFT

Learn how to live your life in a way that's unoffendable!

Bring friends.

You do not want to miss this!

10/4 - Dale Culbertson

10/11 - Robbie & Lisa Sanders

10/18 - Luke Penney

10/23 - Elise Collins

Coffee & Snacks available

*Sunday Night Youth
in the 3rd floor LOFT
5:30 - 7:00
dinner, activities
& Bible study*



Secret Angel Ministry

Secret Angels at FPC exist to encourage and support young adult members in the four transitional years beyond 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. Please return your form to the church office or email it to Lynn Mack (lynnmack12@gmail.com). Or, you may quickly access and complete the form online via the QR code provided below.

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 gift cards, should be limited to twice a year and no more than \$25 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.

The Church's address: P.O. Box 426, Greenwood SC 29648-0426



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

If you would like to volunteer to be a Secret Angel or have any questions, contact Lynn Mack –

email: lynnmack12@gmail.com
cell phone: 864-980-6345



The Personnel Committee has started the Director of Youth Ministries Search Committee. The slate has been completed:

Robbie Sanders, Linsey Anderson, Merrie Wright,
Elise Collins, Sarah Pinson, MaryClaire Griffith,
Bryson McCurry, and Jenna Lucas



Sojourners - Henry Reynolds (Room 110)

10/04	Adam Hamilton's <i>Forgiveness</i> #4	Philip Bell
10/11	Guest Speaker	David Gardner
10/18	Max Lucado's <i>Tame Your Thoughts</i> #1	Lelion Elledge
10/25	Max Lucado's <i>Tame Your Thoughts</i> #2	Jukie Leary

FISH (Fellowship In Service to Him) Meeting in Room 205/6

10/04	Adam Hamilton's <i>Forgiveness</i> #1	Gardner
10/11	Kirkin'	Souter
10/18	Adam Hamilton's <i>Forgiveness</i> #2	Collins
10/25	Adam Hamilton's <i>Forgiveness</i> #3	Pinson





Rooms 205 and 206 have been opened up. We are waiting for an accordion type divider so the rooms can be used separately when needed. This room is lovely and will house larger groups including teams needing a big table set up.



The library is being spruced up. We have gone through the books to update and specialize in those books we think will be of interest and use. Keep us posted on what you would like to see. A big shout out to Frank & Penny Cannon, Tina Corley, Barb Miller, and Sandy Mishak for all their help in this and other endeavors!



YOU ARE INVITED TO OUR

FALL *Festival*

MUSIC . FOOD . DRINK
TRUNK-R-TREAT
COSTUME CONTEST
CAKE WALK

28
OCT

FREE
ENTRY

5:30
PM

First Presbyterian Church
108 East Cambridge Avenue
Greenwood, SC 29646



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

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

October 7: Family Christmas Art Night! \$5.00 per person -- Spaghetti Night

October 11: BBQ Chicken, Brown Rice, Cheesy Corn Casserole

Shine Menu: Chicken Nuggets

Dress Like a Preacher night

October 18: Shrimp Gumbo

Shine Menu: Breakfast

Wear Bright Colors

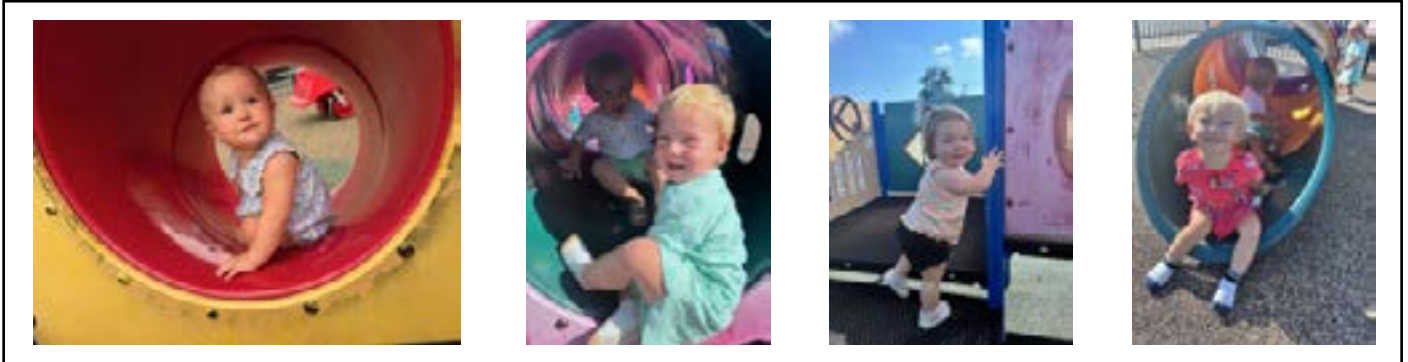
October 25: Fall Fest! -- Hamburgers
and Hotdogs!

“No matter how simple
the meal might be,

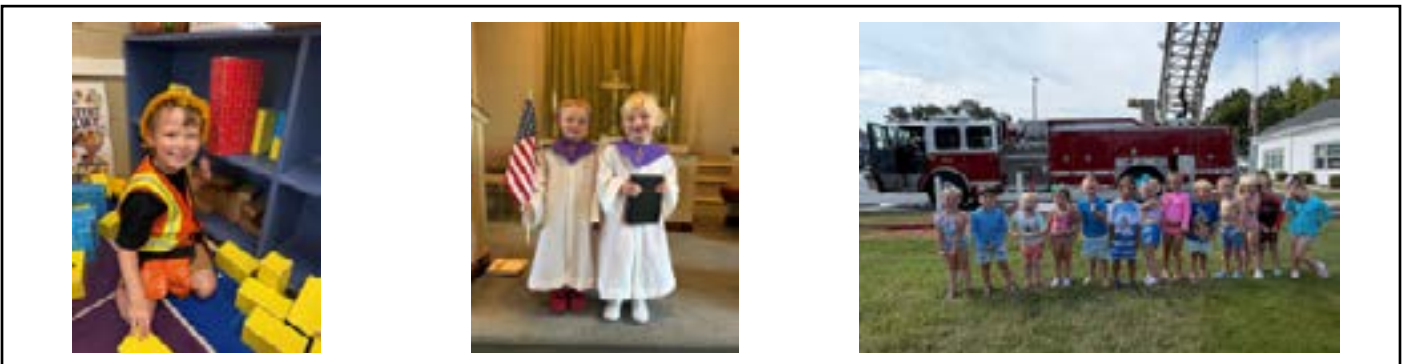


the most important thing is
everyone sharing time
with one another,
creating memories.”





It's been a hot month at the Ark. Luckily, The Northwest Volunteer Fire Department came to spray the playground and cool us off. The children enjoyed playing with Mr. Jacob during their set PE time playing in the water. We are thankful for our local fire fighters! The One-, Two-, and Three-year-old classrooms have had lots of hands-on experiences learning about the farm. They got to sit on a real tractor, meet a chicken, ride a horse, and pet a cow. Our three-year-olds even pretended to milk a cow. How fun!



We have been discussing the Fruit of the Spirit Patience in Chapel this month. This is a hard concept to learn. The children are learning that God is not a magician and that sometimes unanswered prayers are a part of God's plan for us. We are continuing to collect non-perishable items for the local food bank and our weekly Acolytes enjoy counting the items collected and telling their class our total for the week. We take pride in helping the children become cheerful givers through Chapel.

MISSIONS/OUTREACH

MONTHLY MISSION SPOTLIGHT SOW Ministries

Asher and Samar Din have prepared a video highlighting their work in Pakistan with the SOW Ministries.

They established SOW Ministries in 2014 for *Sowing the Seeds of Hope* for those in remote areas of Pakistan who live in hopelessness. This video shows the changes that are taking place.

You may view this video by opening this website:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=009_GpHT5R0

The Dins are most appreciative of support from our congregation by individuals and by Missions/Outreach and Endowment



MISSIONS/OUTREACH

WORLD COMMUNION SUNDAY

OCTOBER 4, 2026

World Communion Sunday, this year on October 4, is a day many Protestant churches come together to promote Christian unity and celebrate Communion together. The sanctuary will be decorated with flags of nations where we have a connection or support the Christian missionaries and programs in that country. Our guest preacher this year is the Reverend Shelvis Smith-Mather. He has been serving with his wife, Rev. Nancy Smith-Mather, in East Africa for almost two decades. They are graduates of The Westminster School in Atlanta; Furman University, and Emory University's Candler School of Theology.



The Smith-Mathers, both ordained PC(USA) ministers from the Greater Atlanta Presbytery, were married and took their first ordained calls in Kenya in 2008. In 2011 they were reassigned to the new nation of South Sudan. Although S. Sudan separated from Sudan, civil unrest has continued for many years resulting in thousands of people being killed or displaced to refugee camps.

Rev. Shelvis, a University of Oxford graduate, helped develop a peace institute through RECONCILE that trains leaders nationwide. Currently, he serves as the RECONCILE Peace Institute Advisor, working with Sudanese and South Sudanese colleagues to ultimately bring peace to both countries. Rev. Nancy managed the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)'s South Sudan Peace and Education Project, a significant denomination-supported initiative that worked with South Sudanese partners to improve literacy rates in a nation that once had one of the highest illiteracy rates in the world. She and their four children now reside in Charleston, SC where she serves in communications for the Reformed Church in America.

There will be reception in the lobby immediately following the service to give everyone a chance to speak with Rev. Smith-Mather.



Presbyterian Women

“He has made everything beautiful in his time.” Ecclesiastes 3:11

Like the trees in autumn, a woman of faith knows that letting go is not the end- it is trusting God with what comes next. In every season, He is making something beautiful. Consider this truth as we enter a new season together, and as we begin our Presbyterian Women year of fellowship and Bible study.

First Presbyterian Circles enjoyed their first meetings of the year in September. All circles are participating in the study written by our very own Elise Collins called “A Look at First Corinthians”. Each month Elise will post a study guide on our First Presbyterian Church Facebook page. Follow along on Facebook or come to Circle for Bible study, fellowship, and fun.

When Paul wrote his first letter to the Corinthians, did you know that the city of Corinth was a thriving, and wealthy city on an isthmus between two seas? Corinth was a busy trade route that was home to many people from different cultures, speaking different languages who came from different economic backgrounds? This diversity brought challenges, and as a brand-new church, Corinth struggled. Paul wrote this letter to the Christian church in Corinth around A.D. 54-55 to encourage and direct them as the Corinthian church dealt with divisions, disputes, and immorality. Our Bible study this year will focus on Paul’s first letter to the Corinthians. If you missed the first lesson, it is not too late to join for the next lesson. If you are not in a circle, find one that suits your schedule and come join in the fun and fellowship!

Here is a list of our Circles at FPC and when they meet:

First Presbyterian Church Circles and meeting days/times:

Circle 1: 1st Tuesday of each month at 10:30am at Wesley Commons.

Circle 3: 2nd Monday of each month at 10:30am

Sara Smith Circle 4: 2nd Monday of each month at 11:00am (lunch)

Evonne Little Circle 5: 2nd Tuesday at 12:30pm in Alexander Hall (lunch)

Peggy Gregg Circle 6: 1st Monday 7:00pm (refreshments)

Circle 7: 1st Tuesday 10:30am (refreshments)

Dates to remember for Presbyterian Women:

World Communion Sunday: October 4, 2026

Annual Women’s Retreat in Kanuga, NC: January 22-24, 2027

First Presbyterian Church hosts Lenten Luncheon: Wednesday, March 10, 2027

Women’s Recognition Sunday (announcement of Honorary Life Member recipient and collection of Birthday and Thank offerings): March 14, 2027

Women’s Loyalty Dinner: March 16, 2027

Happy Fall, friends. Hope to fellowship with you soon.

Blessings,
Meg Stevens
Moderator

Walking by Faith, Tripping Constantly, Filled by the Holy Spirit.

First Presbyterian Church

Women's Retreat

January 22-24, 2027

Kanuga Conference Center, Kanuga, NC



Profiles in Faith - Corrie ten Boom

Born in Haarlem, Netherlands, in 1892, Corrie ten Boom was the daughter of a watchmaker and a housewife. Corrie had three older siblings, including a beloved sister, Betsie. The Ten Boom family were Calvinist Christians in the Dutch Reformed Church. They were active in their community and lived well in Haarlem until May of 1940. Then the Nazis invaded the Netherlands and began persecuting the Jewish people.



Corrie's family became involved in the Dutch Resistance and began allowing Jews to take refuge in their home where they had a secret hiding place. It is estimated that about 800 Jews were saved by the Ten Boom family. Eventually the ten Booms' activity became known to the Nazis, and they were arrested in February 1944. Corrie, Betsie, and their father Casper were imprisoned. Casper died 10 days later. Corrie and Betsie were sent first to a political concentration camp and then to the infamous Ravensbruck Camp. The conditions under which they lived and the treatment they received were extremely brutal. In addition to little food and water, hard planks for beds, and overcrowded shelter, they were often besieged by mosquitos. Betsie praised God and thanked him for the mosquitoes! The mosquitos kept the cruel guards from coming inside, allowing Betsie and Corrie to read to their fellow inmates from a small Bible they had smuggled into the prison. In the direst of circumstances, they rejoiced in God's word. As time went on Betsie's health declined, and she became very weak. One cold winter morning all of the women in the shelter were called outside by a male guard to exercise. Betsie faltered in her exercise and received a stinging blow from the whip of the guard. Several days later she died.

After WW II was over and Germany was defeated, Corrie became a world evangelist. At an event in Munich Germany, a man approached Corrie and extended his hand. It was none other than the cruel Nazi guard who had beaten Betsie. He told Corrie he had become a Christian and asked for her forgiveness. Corrie told herself she could not shake this man's hand or forgive him; however, she knew that she must obey God, shake the guard's hand, and forgive him. "Jesus, help me" she prayed silently. Then she slowly began moving her hand and placed it in the outstretched hand of the guard. She said, "I forgive you brother! With all my heart!" With Jesus Corrie did what she could not do by herself.

Forgiveness is many times a difficult thing; however, it is possible for all who trust in Jesus Christ.
"I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me" Phillipians 4:13



notes

Needed: quality grand piano for Alexander Hall.
 The Clavinova that has served so nobly for many years is
 nearing the end of its useful life.

A quality grand piano (Yamaha, Kawai, Steinway, etc.) of at least 6' would be
 a wonderful instrument for AH, and have a lifespan of 50-75 years (!!).

Contact Steve Skinner steve@firstgreenwood.com for more info.



2026-2027 SEASON

Sunday, September 13
4:00 PM

Swamptooth

Drawing from a vast depth of internal talent, Swamptooth plants one foot firmly in the traditions of bluegrass, keeping a uniquely Southern string sound close to their hearts while bravely progressing the genre beyond its boundaries. Coupling a high-energy, relentless bluegrass sound with the steadfastness of professional, experienced troubadours, Swamptooth embodies an indelible appeal that can ignite the passion of nearly any audience who happens across their path.

Saturday, October 24
7:30 PM

Rivertree Singers

Step into a luminous soundscape shaped by a thousand years of sacred tradition. Sacred Radiance: A Millennium of Choral Music invites listeners to encounter the enduring beauty of cathedral repertoire. Under the direction of Dr. Warren Cook, Rivertree Singers brings clarity, warmth, and expressive depth to this expansive collection. Join us for an evening of reflection, resonance, and radiant

Sunday, November 15
4:00 PM

A Choral Thanksgiving (Ticketed Event)

Greenwood Festival Chorale presents exquisitely crafted choral arrangements and festive settings of thanks including Bless This House, Now Thank We All Our God, We Gather Together, and John Rutter's incomparable For the Beauty of the Earth. Paul Fleckenstein, graduate of the famed Westminster Choir College, accompanies the Greenwood Festival Chorale for this program and will also present two organ solos: Richard Purvis' Thanksgiving, and Sigrid Karg-Elert's Nun Danket Alle Gott. Paul hails from Wilmington, DE, and was college roommates with GFC Artistic Director, Steve Skinner.

Sunday, February 21
4:00 PM

The Sounds of Paris

Greenwood native and clarinetist, Eric Gardner, currently serves as a missionary in France. This afternoon, he will musically transport you to the country he loves with a program including works by Debussy and Ravel, as well as some "hidden gems" of the French repertoire.

Sunday, April 18
4:00 PM

Tim and Friends

Tim Walters takes the stage in a program of classical, gospel, and jazz fusion. He will be joined by friends who will "knock your socks off" with their gospel artistry. Bring a few "shout outs" for Tim in our now traditional improvisation.

MY GIFT TO SUPPORT THE 2026-2027 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 12- October 2026

Palmetto Girls Sing, an outreach of First Presbyterian Church, is in its 12th season. With 57 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.

Plans for the Fall!

- * In October, we will have our Fall Social. The girls always look forward to this time together.
- * In November we will sing twice! On November 14 we will sing for a Child Evangelism Fellowship 5K, honoring our military
- * On November 23, we will sing at the Community Thanksgiving Service at Main Street Methodist Church. The service begins at 7:00 PM.
- * Our Winter Concert is Sunday, December 13 at 6:00 PM. Tickets are \$10, and the event will be a fundraiser for our trip to Italy. Our goal is 300 guests at our concert. We would LOVE to see you there! Please watch your Spire for information on how to buy tickets!

Rome Choral Festival

From 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 as well as our hearts as we prepare! Please consider giving to PGS so that we can make the trip affordable for any girl who wants to attend. And, please make plans to hear us sing!

Grant from the Endowment

We would like to say a HUGE thank you to the Endowment of First Presbyterian Church for financial support for our Rome Choral Festival. What a blessing!

Grant from the Greenwood Community Foundation

We would also like to thank the Greenwood County Community Foundation. We applied for a grant through GCCF and received \$5,000 to help with the Rome Choral Festival. We are so appreciative!

Fundraising Goals

While we are very grateful for the support we have received, we still need to raise \$12,500 to meet our goal for the Rome Choral Festival. You can help us by attending one (or all) of our three concerts this year. Or, we are looking for individual patrons and business sponsors. Would you consider being a patron/sponsor? We will also host a couple of fundraisers. Please watch for information about those. Thank you!

Love,

Amy

Patron/Business Sponsor Form

Please complete this form and mail it to the church or give it to Nan Smith, attention, Amy Fennell. Checks can be made to First Presbyterian Church with Palmetto Girls Sing in the memo line. It is also possible to donate through the First Presbyterian Church website. Just use the pull down bar to designate the funds for PGS. Thank you!

Name (as you would like to see it in our concert programs):

Amount _____

Mailing Address:



NEW MEMBERS CLASS

FIND OUT MORE ABOUT OUR CHURCH

9:30 am, in the Barksdale Room (Room 122)
Sunday mornings October 18, 25 and November 1, 8
You will be received into membership on November 8
with a luncheon following in Alexander Hall.

Please contact the front office if you are interested,
229-5814 or brad@firstgreenwood.com.

WOULD YOU LIKE TO RECEIVE A BULLETIN/SERMON TRANSCRIPT/CD OF THE SERMON EACH WEEK?

For anyone not able to attend on Sunday mornings,
we will gladly mail you a bulletin, sermon transcript,
and/or CD of each week's service.

Just reach out to the front office and let us know.

Committed Prayers' 25th Anniversary

23

In 2001, the Committed Prayers group was initiated by Susie and Rich Goodwin and Candace Ramseur. Over the years we have prayed for thousands of people, and this fall we are celebrating our 25th anniversary! We invite you to celebrate with us. We would like to collect the time-tested prayers that have meant the most to YOU and publish them to share with the congregation. Prayers might include requests for healing, those who are grieving, everyday matters, any type of difficulty or crisis, and prayers of thanksgiving and praise to God. . . prayers about anything you wish. (Please be sure to list the source for prayers you have not composed.) We would need your prayers to be dropped off or emailed to the church office by October 15.

To kick this off, there will be a time for adults and children to write prayers during Wednesday Night Fellowship on September 30. Cards will be available for you to write the prayers on. These prayers do not have to be composed by you. You may submit any prayer that is meaningful to you. (Again, please be sure to list the source for prayers you have not composed.) Future plans include a new section of books on prayer in the church library as well as information in the McLees Chapel to enhance one's prayer experience. Listen out for more information about Committed Prayers' 25th Anniversary!

Praying Together

In celebration of 25 years of our intercessory prayer ministry, we invite you to create or share a prayer that has been meaningful to you.

Ideas:

- Prayers for our spouse or children or parents.
- Prayers for the sick, the lost, or the hard to forgive.
- Prayers for the world, our church, our neighbor.
- Prayers for the lonely, the hurting, the aging.
- Prayers for our inner and outer battles, fears, & joys.
- Prayers of praise for nature, loves, & wonders.

Please be sure to site where your submission came from if you didn't write it yourself.

Due by Oct 15th -
to Lea Jones or Betsy Collins



GENERAL CHURCH INFORMATION

RECENT HOSPITALIZATIONS:

(Home unless noted)

Thurmond Bishop

Mike Mishak

David Brown

Our Christian prayers and sympathies are extended to the family of George Brockenbrough upon his passing on September 4, 2026. We share with them the joy of the promise of resurrection and eternal life.

ALL COMMITTEES

that normally meet in the Henry Reynolds Room will now meet in the Conference Room (Room 206).

Tables will stay set up in the Conference Room. You will be able to come in the Alexander Hall door.

If you would like to meet in a different room, please contact the front office.



Other Items of Interest

We will celebrate the **Lord's Supper** on Sunday, October 4, 2026.

Deadline for the November issue of The Spire is Thursday, October 15, 2026.

TEAM MEETINGS

Buildings & Grounds will meet Monday, October 12, at 5:15 pm, in the Barksdale Room (Room 122).

The **Christian Education Committee** will meet Sunday, October 11, at 6:00 pm, in the Barksdale Room (Room 122).

The **CLC** will meet Thursdays, October 1, 8, 15, 22, and 29 at 6:00 pm, in the Barksdale Room (Room 122).

The **Committed Prayers** group will meet Monday, October 26, at 4:30 pm, in the Chapel.

Congregational Care Committee will be Tuesday, October 13, at 10:00 am, in the Barksdale Room (Room 122).

The **Diaconate** will meet Sunday, October 18, at 5:30 pm, in the Conference Room (Room 206).

Financial Oversight will meet Wednesday, October 21, at 12:00 noon, in the Barksdale Room (Room 122).

The **Home Communion/Visitation Committee** will meet Thursday, October 8, at 10:00 in the Barksdale Room (Room 122).

The **Missions/Outreach Committee** will meet Sunday, October 11, at 4:30 pm, in the Conference Room (Room 206).

Presbyterian Women Coordinating Team will meet Monday, October 26, at 10:00 am, in the Conference Room (Room 206).

The **Session** will meet Sunday, October 25, at 5:30 pm, in the **Conference Room (Room 206)**.

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

The **Youth Committee** will meet Sunday, October 11, at 11:45 am, at Panera.

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.



We will be trying out a temporary coffee bar in the front lobby in September. If we have a good response, we'll make it more a permanent fixture. Please be sure to watch your little ones as we will have HOT liquids and we don't want them to get burned.



Congratulations to Lisa Buchanan on graduating summa cum laude and receiving her Bachelor of Science: Healthcare Administration degree from Liberty University.



Christ caring for people through people

**STEPHEN
MINISTRY**

Stephen Ministry New Class

We will be offering Stephen Ministry Training in January 2027. If you think you may be interested in becoming a Stephen Minister or have questions, please contact Rev. Brad Christie. We welcome new Stephen ministers and training is a wonderful experience for all of us.



Prayers

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, October 4	World Communion Sunday Rev. Shelvis Smith-Mather preaching
Sunday, October 11	KIRKIN' OF THE TARTAN SERVICE Rev. Dr. Jeff Newlin preaching
Sunday, October 18	Children's Sabbath Sunday New Members Class (9:30 am, Barksdale Room) Diaconate Meeting (5:30 pm, Conference Room)
Wednesday, October 21	Men's Bible Study & Breakfast (7:00 am, Alexander Hall)
Saturday, October 24	Festiva (7:30 pm, Sanctuary)
Sunday, October 25	Reformation Sunday New Members Class (9:30 am, Barksdale Room) Session Meeting (5:30 pm, Conference Room)
Wednesday, October 28	Fall Fest
Saturday, October 31	Happy Halloween! Change Clocks
Sunday, November 1	All Saints Recognition Communion New Members Class (9:30 am, Barksdale Room)
Saturday, November 7	Service and Reception for George and Pat Wilson (Time TBD, Sanctuary and Alexander Hall)
Sunday, November 8	Veterans Recognition Sunday New Members Class (9:30 am, Barksdale Room) Receive New Members (10:30) New Members Luncheon (11:45 am, Alexander Hall)
Sunday, November 15	Stewardship Sunday Festiva (4:00 pm, Sanctuary)
Sunday, November 22	Christ the King Sunday Joint Officer Lunch and Meeting (11:45 am, Alexander Hall) Baptism Accepting Thornwell Children's Home Offering
Monday, November 23	Community Thanksgiving Service (7:00 pm, Main Street UMC)



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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

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Mr. Philip Bell

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Mrs. Meg Stevens

Chair of Endowment

Mrs. Carson Penney