

The Spire

First Presbyterian Church

December 2026 Greenwood, SC

A Message From Our Pastor...

Let us Pray…

One of the most powerful ministries of First Presbyterian Church, the Committed Prayers team, marks its 25th anniversary this year. Started on the heels of a church-wide 24-hour prayer vigil for a young man battling cancer, the Committed Prayers held their first official meeting on December 5, 2001. You can read the whole story of that beginning in "It All Began with a Prayer and a Box" in the Book of Prayers that will be available this month. Here I want to highlight several remarkable things about this 25-year-old ministry.

First is the group's deep commitment to strict confidentiality. Some people are so thankful to have someone praying for them that they don't mind anyone knowing about their need. But others prefer to limit the number of those who know what they are facing. Either way, Committed Prayers never broadcasts its intercessory prayer list, and details about persons or situations on the list are never disclosed without permission beyond monthly group gatherings.

When I first joined the effort over ten years ago, no one told me that you don't have to pray over the entire list every day! Instead, the list is organized (and color-coded) by categories of concern: cancer diagnoses & treatments, other health concerns, family concerns, missionaries, etc. Several team members focus their efforts on each category, distributing the effort across the whole group. So, while every concern is prayed over every day, responsibility for the whole list is strategically shared. This is helpful—and ingenious—because some 70-80 concerns comprise the list every week!

Another remarkable thing about this group is its faithful membership: nine members of today's Committed Prayers were there when the group first gathered for concerted prayer in December 2001. Over 25 years, many others have joined the effort, and many have moved on; but the group needs others, especially younger members, to grow the ministry and secure its long-term continuation.

On December 6th, we will observe the Committed Prayers 25th Anniversary in worship, and an anthology of prayers and other prayer resources will be placed in McLees Chapel for those seeking comfort. Meanwhile, we have so much to be thankful for at First Pres!

Advent blessings,

Brad

Brad

SPECIAL SERVICES







Congregational Christmas Party

Sunday, December 6, 2026
4:00 - 6:00 Drop -In
Alexander Hall

Our FPC Church Family is invited to join the staff in celebrating this holiday season together. Join us for a light dinner and fellowship.

Alleluia!



Palmetto Girls Sing Winter Concert 2026

December 13th | 6:00 PM | First Presbyterian Church

Join us for an evening of praise, featuring:
Christmas Messiah for Young Voices
Tickets are available at the door for $10,
visiting our website through the link,
www.palmettogirlssinggreenwood.com
or scanning the QR code below!

PALMETTO GIRLS Sing!

children's ministry
from **The Root Cellar**

Children's Sundays @ 9:30

12/06: Q3: Jesus Shows Us the Way (Jn 14:1-14): with Barksdale

12/13: Holiday: Christmas with Barksdale

12/20: Birthday Party for Jesus in Alex. Hall

12/27: Q3: Jesus is the Vine and Branches (Jn 15:1-17) with the Souters

SHinE

Seeking Him in Everything

Children's Chapel

12/06 - Say What? p. 18
Barksdale

12/13 - When God Says, "Go!" p. 20
Collins

12/20 - God Makes a Promise p. 23
Wright

12/27 - When Waiting Is Hard p. 25
Collins



Youth Sundays@9:30

12/06: 9:20 drop off at Starbucks by the mall; we will bus to church afterward

12/13: 9:20 drop off at new Dunkin'; we will bus to church afterward

12/20: Birthday Party for Jesus in AH

12/27: in the LOFT



Youth Dinner & Auction

Sunday, February 7th

We would appreciate any high dollar items (vacation home rental, gift certicates, baskets, etc.) that you would like to donate. Proceeds will go towards summer mission trips.



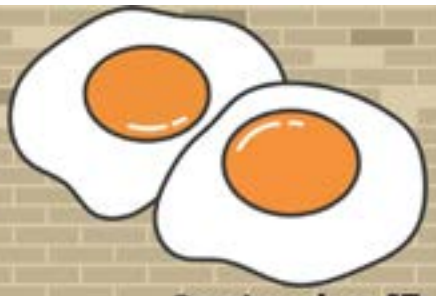
Youth Fundraiser

The Youth of FPC will be selling Christmas ornaments for $20 each through Christmas.

YOUTH: Weekdays

EGGS

Exalting God's Glory at Sunrise



Join your fellow middle schoolers for breakfast and a devo before school!
7:00 - 7:30 at mall CFA.
Carpool after.

September 17
October 15
November 19
December 10
January 21
February 18
March 18
April 15
May 20





GRITS

FOR HIGH SCHOOLERS



JOIN YOUR FELLOW HIGH SCHOOLERS
FOR BREAKFAST & A DEVO
BEFORE SCHOOL AT CFA BY THE MALL.
USUALLY ON THE SECOND THURSDAY
7:30 - 8:15
COME WHEN YOU CAN.

GRITS

White Elephant

Thursday, December 10th
7:45 A. M.
111 Pinecrest Drive (the Shirleys)
Breakfast provided
Bring a $10 gift for the White Elephant exchange

Youth At-a-Glance for the Holidays

11/18 - **WNF** Wed 5:30 – 7:00

11/19 - **EGGS** at CFA 7:00 – 7:30
GRITS at Starbucks 7:45 – 8:15

11/22 – Christmas ornament fundraiser in church lobby available through Christmas

Happy Thanksgiving Week - NO SNY or WNF

11/29 - Sundays@9:30 in the LOFT
SNY 5:30 - 7:00 (make your own pizza night!)

12/3 - **GRITS** at Starbucks 7:45 – 8:15

12/6 – **Sundays @ Starbys** at 9:20 – parents drop off and bus will take youth to church afterward for worship

12/10 - **EGGS** at CFA Thursday 7:00 – 7:30
GRITS at the Shirleys at 7:45 am White Elephant Gift Exchange and breakfast

12/13 – **Sundays @ Dunkin'** for youth at 9:20 – parents drop off; bus will take youth to church afterward for worship

12/16 – **Youth Christmas Party** – meet after the half-day of school.
Bring money for lunch and a white elephant purchase from the Hospice store. After the errands, we'll return to the church for a movie on the AH big screen while we play games (Manhunt, Sardines, Ga Ga Ball) and have some Christmas fun together! (Parents – I'll need a bus driver for lunch & shopping).

12/20 - Birthday Party for Jesus in AH at 9:30

EDUCATION & FELLOWSHIP

SUNDAYS @ 9:30

Sojourners Class

12/06
Louie Giglio's Waiting Here For You #2
Philip Bell

12/13
Louie Giglio's Waiting Here For You #3
Bob Roddey

12/20
Louie Giglio's Waiting Here For You #4
Lelion Elledge

12/27
tbd
Jukie Leary

January:
Kaleidoscope
in
Alexander Hall



FISH Class

12/06: Joy to the World #2 with David Gardner

12/13: Joy to the World #3 with the Souters

12/20: Birthday Party for Jesus in AH

12/27: Joy to the World #4 with Brian Pinson

January: Kaleidoscope in Alexander Hall

KALEIDOSCOPE

JANUARY 3, 10, 17, AND 24 AT 9:30 IN ALEXANDER HALL

The Rev. Dr. Cliff Cain, theologian-in-residence at our church, will be leading Kaleidoscope next month in January, 2027. The theme of our study will be the history of the early Church, and the title of the four sessions will be **"From Jewish Sect to State Religion: Early Christianity from Emperor Nero to Emperor Constantine."**

Cliff will explore with us the Jesus movement in the midst of the politics and religions of the Roman Empire, the persecutions of early Christians, and the elevation of Christianity to be the religion of the Empire.

The Christian tradition of which we are a part did not simply begin with the sixteenth century Reformation, but has a much longer history going back to the first century A.D. Come and learn more about the early history of an emerging movement that rose to be the premiere religion of one of the greatest empires the world has ever seen.


You Are Invited to our church family
BIRTHDAY PARTY
FOR JESUS
Sunday, 12/20
9:30 A. M.
Alexander Hall


NATIVITY
REHEARSAL
SANCTUARY
DECEMBER 24TH
READERS: 10:00
CHILDREN: 10:30



Profiles In Faith

St. Nicholas was an early Christian bishop who is thought by scholars to have been born in Asia Minor in 270 A.D. during the time of the Roman Empire. Known for his generosity, he had a habit of secretly giving gifts to people. Legend has it that he once saved three sisters from servitude by dropping a bag of gold coins through a window in their house on three different nights to provide dowries for them. After his parents died in an epidemic, Nicholas is said to have distributed their wealth to the poor. Not only was St. Nicholas generous, he was a man of courage. One early story tells of him saving three innocent men who had been condemned to death. As they were about to be executed, St. Nicholas stepped forward and pushed the executioner's sword to the ground. At one point in his life, St. Nicholas traveled to Palestine where he is said to have lived in a crypt near Bethlehem close to where the birth of Jesus is believed to have taken place. Over the crypt now stands the Church of St. Nicholas. Down through the ages, St. Nicholas' generosity has inspired people throughout the world. He was the patron saint of children and would place coins in the shoes of those who left them out for him in their foyers. Baskets of food and clothing were left anonymously for the poor by nuns of France and Belgium during medieval times. This practice inspired the gift giving which takes place on December 6th, St. Nicholas Day, which is celebrated in many Christian countries. St. Nicholas is honored in many Lutheran Churches as well as the Episcopal Church, and the Church of England today.

NEW MEMBERS



Steve & Debbie Douglass



Wayne & Prudy Gersch



Elaine Hunter



Charles Thomas



Freddie McAlhany & Ruthie
Not pictured: Jack & Will

NOAH'S ARK NEWS






We spread the cuteness during our Halloween parade and enjoyed trick or treating with the First Presbyterian Church staff. Thank you to everyone who was able to participate to help make this tradition extra fun this year! We have so much to be thankful for here at the Ark. Our children have had lots of fun events happening over the last month. Our three- and four-year-old children sang a few fun Thanksgiving songs for our parents prior to our Thanksgiving feast. The children enjoyed popcorn chicken, mac and cheese, fruit salad, dinner rolls, and chocolate chips cookies from our local Publix. We are thankful for all our Noah's Ark children and families. We are also so thankful for our 2026-2027 Noah's Ark Sponsors. Because of them, we were able to provide the Noah's Ark staff with The Pantry Shop gift cards to show our gratitude for them this holiday season!







Our last day of school for 2026 will be on Tuesday, December 15th. We will return to school on Tuesday, January 5, 2027. Registration for the 2027-2028 school year will begin the second week in January. Please reach out to Lauren Trantham in the Noah's Ark office for more information about registering your little one. We would love for you to join us!

MISSIONS/OUTREACH

MONTHLY MISSION SPOTLIGHT
Greenwood Pathway House

The History of how Pathway House has evolved from a basic Homeless Shelter to a Christian Life-Change Program

Twelve years ago Pathway House began full time shelter operations on its Panola Ave campus, and the intervening period since then bears witness to God's hand at work here. Clients and staff alike have learned and grown during that dozen years, and the ministry as a whole has evolved as well.

Pathway's early focus was on providing shelter and basic needs to the sizable number of homeless men in Greenwood at that time, many of whom suffered from chronic addiction. That focus began to expand in 2016 with construction of our facility for homeless women—and more recently with Pathway Village, its twelve cottages serving single parents with children of all ages. Our original capacity for enrollments has increased more than tenfold.

We have now enrolled just shy of 4,000 individuals, with nearly 400 being children. That volume of clients has yielded a wide range of observational data and broad experience that our staff has drawn upon in developing and refining our methods and techniques.

Prayerfully, and over time, we have improved and revised our methods to maximize our clients' success. We discovered, as many others have, that simply making people comfortable in their dysfunction can swiftly morph into "enabling", which carries a variety of ills and disrupts spiritual growth. So, in recent years, we've moved away from a conventional shelter model and into that of a program—a Christian life-change program.

Our staff works to develop a trusting relationship with each client to determine the root causes of their homelessness. We then address the relevant issues through trauma-specific counseling, life skills classes, discipleship, and training that targets critical thinking, personal accountability, and internal transformation through faith.

Story concludes on following page

While shelter remains a component of what we do, our current approach emphasizes a goal of truly elevating our clients by guiding them through meaningful life change in the spirit of Romans 12:2. The phenomenal success stories of the last several years show so many of our clients now living on their own, thriving in ways they never thought possible. It must also be said that they all share one thing in common: they left Pathway House following Jesus Christ.

Anthony Price, Executive Director and written by Chuck Taylor, Chief of Staff

<u>Romans 12:2:</u> Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.



2026 Santa Paws



Hospice & Palliative Care of the Piedmont Foundation

Festival of Trees

Saturday, December 5th
10 AM - 5 PM
Sunday, December 6th
1 PM - 5 PM

Admission
$5/Adult
$1/Child (12 and under)

First Baptist Church
Grace Street

Hospice & Palliative Care of the Piedmont Foundation's

Santa Stroll

Be a Claus for a Cause!
2026 Santa Paws

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 5TH AT 9 AM

5K RUN & WALK

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH | GRACE STREET

HTTPS://BIT.LY/2026SANTASTROLL

Care of the Piedmont FOUNDATION

Presbyterian Women



Isaiah 9:6 “For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given…”

May this Christmas season remind each of us that the greatest gift was not found under a tree but was given to us in a manger.

Circles have been busy this month with our Bible Study “A Look at First Corinthians”, including some lively discussions, good food, and lots of fellowship. Many circles have collected funds and goods for our ongoing missions and ministries both local and worldwide. Presbyterian Women at First Presbyterian support many benevolences with our monthly giving such as Burton Center, Faith Home for Women, Camp Fellowship, Greater Greenwood United Ministries, Healthy Learners, Here for a Reason, Meals on Wheels, Mission Haven, and Thornwell Children’s Home. We also support Worldwide Missionaries: Eric Gardner, Drs. Peter and Emily Goodwin, Bishop and Mrs. Manasseh Mankuleiyo, and Asher and Samar Din. Remember during this Christmas season to prayerfully consider giving to and supporting those less fortunate. May we look beyond our own blessings and find opportunities to share with others. The greatest gift we can give is the love of Jesus, shared through love and generosity.

Blessings,
Meg Stevens
Moderator

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: 1st 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) in homes

Dates to remember for Presbyterian Women:
Annual Women’s retreat in Hendersonville, NC: January 22-24, 2027
First Presbyterian Church hosts Lenten Luncheon: Wednesday, March 10, 2027
Women’s Sunday (announcement of Honorary Life Member recipient and collection of Birthday and Thank offerings): March 14, 2027
Women’s Loyalty Dinner: March 16, 2027



January 22-24, 2027
Hendersonville, NC
at Kanuga Conference Center

Salt Shakers

MONTHLY DINNER CLUB



JANUARY
FEBRUARY
MARCH

SIGN UP TODAY AND GET
"SHAKEN UP" FOR DINNER!

FORMS AVAILABLE IN THE CHURCH LOBBY.
DUE BY DECEMBER 27TH.

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 - December 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.

Winter Concert- Featuring “Christmas Messiah for Young Voices”
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!

“Alleluia” is the theme of our Winter Concert. “Alleluia” means to praise the Lord. We have many reasons to do so, every day. This sacred music concert will feature songs with the words “Alleluia” and “Hallelujah.” The first portion of the concert features sacred music that is related to the theme, but not necessarily considered Christmas music. The second portion of the concert will feature famous choruses from the Christmas portion of Handel’s Messiah, arranged appropriately for young voices. Be ready to hear favorites such as “For Unto Us a Child Is Born,” “Glory to God,” and of course, “The Hallelujah Chorus.”

November Reflections
* In November, Palmetto Girls Sing had a Saturday workshop with guest artist Deirdre Welborn of Anderson University. Ms. Welborn is a Body Mapping Expert, and she taught the girls about how to understand their bodies in relation to their performance as a singer. She also led us in a rehearsal of two pieces for our Winter Concert.
* On Monday, November 23, we sang at the Community Thanksgiving Service at Main Street Methodist Church.

Plans for December!
In addition to our Winter Concert, PGS will perform at the PJ Party for Santa at the Arts Center. We will also have our annual social and go Christmas caroling. We will resume our rehearsals on the first Monday in January.

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 pray for our experience there as well as for our hearts as we prepare!

Fundraising Goals
While we are very grateful for the support we have received, we still need to raise $5,000 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!

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:

_____

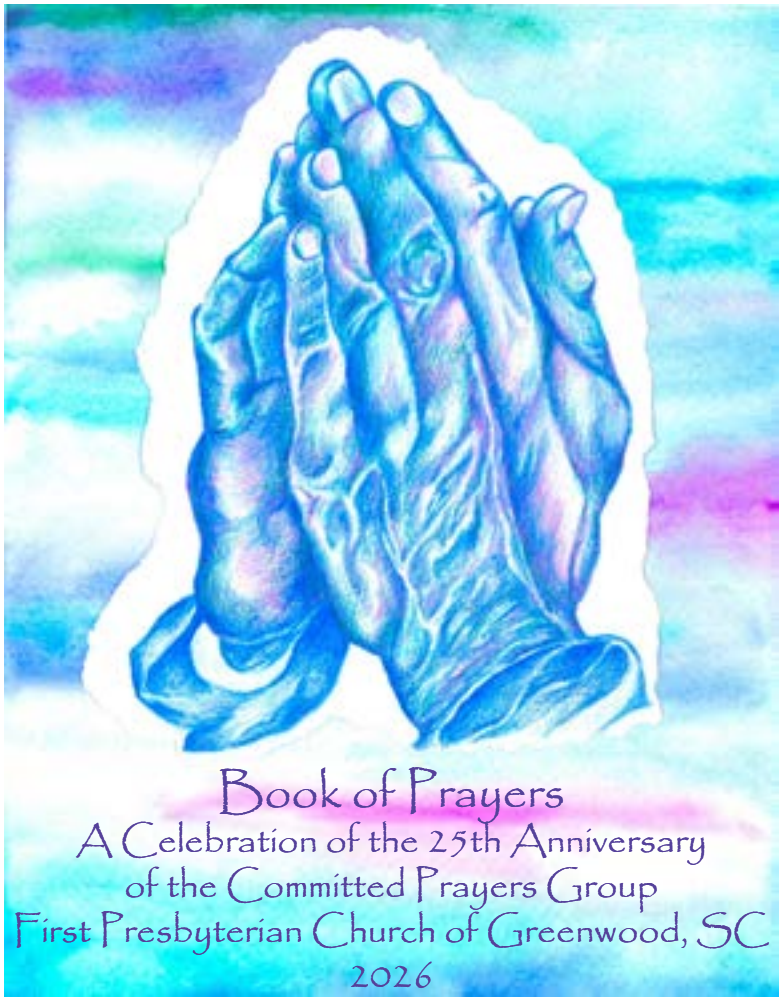
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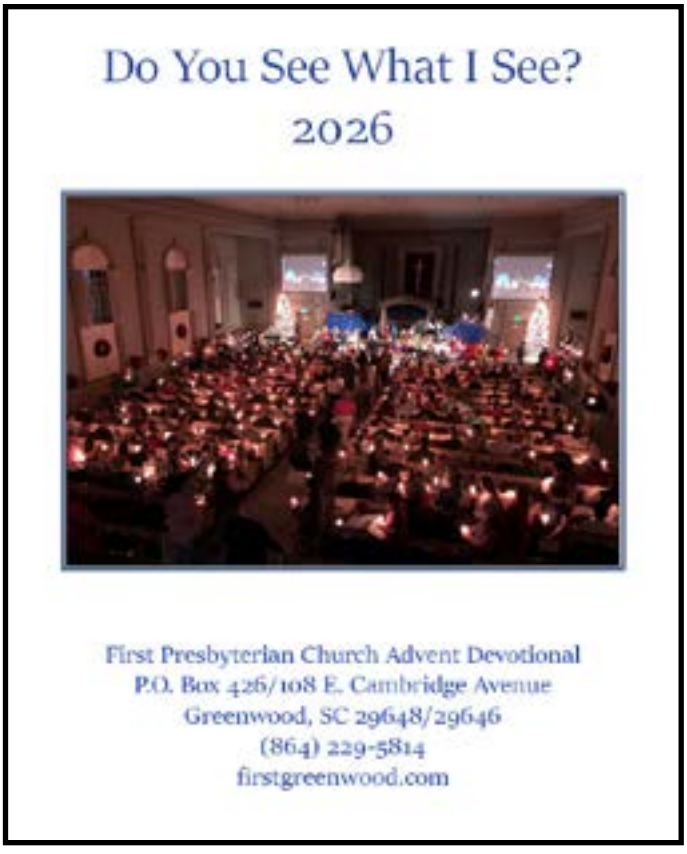
ADVENT HAPPENINGS

Sunday, November 29	Hanging of the Greens Rehearsal (9:00, Sanctuary) Hanging of the Greens Service (10:30)
Wednesday, December 2	Bob Glick presents *Handel and His Messiah* (5:30 pm, Alexander Hall)
Sunday, December 6	Congregational Christmas Party (4:00-6:00, Alexander Hall)
Wednesday, December 9	Sojourners Christmas Party (4:00-6:00, Tom & Betty Grantham's)
Saturday, December 12	May's Open House (5:00-8:00, Rick & Janice May's)
Sunday, December 13	PGS Winter Concert (6:00 pm, Sanctuary)
Sunday, December 20	Birthday Party for Jesus (9:30 am, Alexander Hall)
Thursday, December 24	Nativity Service Rehearsal (Readers 10:00; Children 10:30, Sanctuary) Church offices close at noon Nativity service (5:30, Sanctuary) Candlelight service of Lessons & Carols (7:00 pm, Sanctuary)
Friday, December 25	MERRY CHRISTMAS!
Monday, December 28	Church offices closed
Thursday, December 31	Church offices close at noon
Friday, January 1	HAPPY NEW YEAR!



Book of Prayers will be available on Sunday, December 6th. Copies will be placed in the front lobby for you take home. Others copies will be placed in the Chapel for your use.

"Do You See What I See" Advent Devotional available Sunday, November 29, 2026 in the front lobby and on the website.



GENERAL CHURCH INFORMATION

Items of Interest

We will celebrate the **Lord's Supper** on Sunday, December 6, 2026.

Deadline for the January issue of The Spire is Monday, December 14, 2026.

Christmas Joy Offering will be accepted on Sunday, December 20th. Each year during the Advent and Christmas season, we lift up past, present, and future leaders of the church. God has blessed the church with incredible leadership in every time and place, but those leaders often need to be supported by their communities as well. This Offering provides support for at-risk children, youth and young adults, leadership development for people of color, Presbyterian church workers and their families in their time of need and leadership development and education for communities of color at Presbyterian-related schools and colleges equipping communities of color.

Church offices will be closed from noon on Thursday, December 24 through Monday, December 28th.



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.

TEAM MEETINGS

The **Endowment** will meet Monday, December 14th, at 5:30 pm, in the Barksdlae Room (Room 122).

The **Financial Oversight Committee** will meet Wednesday, December 16th, at 12:00 noon in the Barksdale Room (Room 122).

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

Missions/Outreach Committee will meet Sunday, December 13th, at 11:45 am in the Barksdlae Room (Room 122).

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

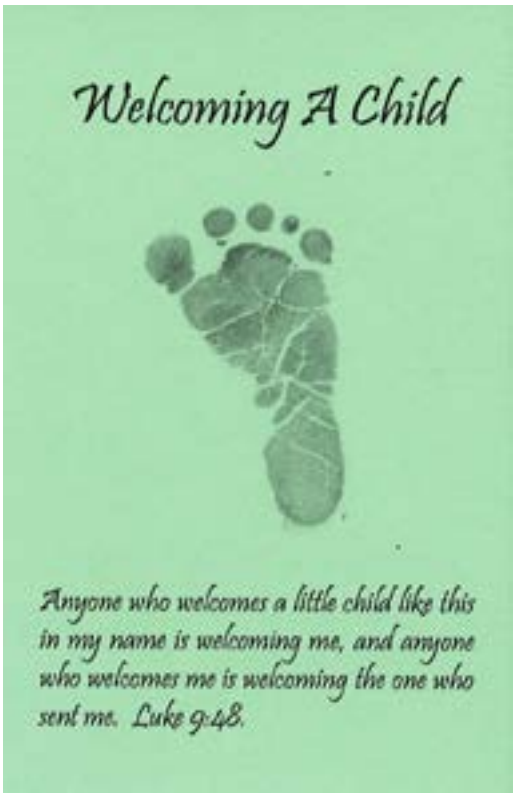
STEWARDSHIP

THE OFFERING OF OURSELVES

The alms for which your generosity is asked are nothing exterior to the sacrament, but a part of it. If you were living in the day of the ancient Church, you would be bringing not money, but cakes of bread and flasks of wine. All would be placed upon the altar, part would be consecrated for the Eucharist, the remainder would be given to the sick and poor. Now you bring money. But your money is still presented along with the bread and wine, and it still means the same thing. The offering is your offering; it is you yourselves who are laid on the altar to be consecrated, and to be made the body of Christ. Your gift is a token of yourself. I break the bread for the death of Christ, and we are all sacrificed to God in Christ's death, dying in Him to our own will, and receiving Christ our true life in communion.

Austin Farrer
The Crown of the Year
(as printed in the FPC bulletin Nov. 17, 1996)





We have another baptism coming up this month. Look for these baptism wish cards in the pew racks and leave them a special note in the offering plate on this special day.

FROM THE FINANCIAL OFFICE

CONTRIBUTIONS FROM YOUR INVESTMENT PORTFOLIO OR BANK

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

2027 OFFERING ENVELOPES

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

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

From the Home Communion and Visitation Team. . .

Our Committee needs your help. . .please let us hear from you! If you are at home or in a retirement community and no longer able to drive, or if you are restricted by health challenges from attending regular Church events, we would like to visit you. We are the Home Communion and Visitation Committee, a subcommittee of the Diaconate Congregational Care Committee. This is a "behind the scenes" group of FPC members who visit, send cards, and serve communion to our Church Family. . .we consider it an honor and privilege to support and show concern for members through this ministry.

BUT, our Committee needs to hear from YOU! If you would like us to add your name to our list of members served, please contact Lea at the Church Office or phone Barb Robinette (864.337.6778) or Donna Thompson (864.993.5435), Chairs of the Committee. If you know of members who might benefit from this ministry, please contact those people and ask them (or their caretakers) to get in touch with us. We need ALL Church members to be the eyes and ears of our Committee. . .your help will assist us in better serving our Church Family.

Members of the Home Communion and Visitation Team: Donna Cowan, Hunter McClintock, Toma Mulkey, Barb Robinette, Kathy Snyder, Craig Stuckey, Donna Thompson, Marilyn Towne, Anna Welborn, Betty Williams, and Mary Ann Wright



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.



Music Director Steve Skinner has announced his retirement, effective January 31, 2027. Steve will continue to direct musical activities through Christmas Eve. In January he will take some well-deserved time away for continuing education and preparations for retirement.

Christ caring for people through people

STEPHEN MINISTRY

MINISTRY OF CARING

In Matthew 25 we read, "For I was hungry, and you gave me food; I was thirsty, and you gave me drink; I was a stranger, and you took me in; I was naked , and you clothed me; I was sick, and you visited me; I was in prison, and you came to me." One of the ways our congregation offers this ministry is through the Stephen Ministry program. In January, FPC will begin training members for doing caring work. Would you like to learn to help others while growing in your understanding of yourself? If so, talk with Brad Christie or one of our current Stephen Ministers.



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, November 29	Hanging of the Greens Rehearsal (9:00 am, Sanctuary) Hanging of the Greens (10:30, Sanctuary) First Sunday of Advent
Wednesday, December 2	Bob Glick presents a talk on Handel's *Messiah* (5:30 pm, Sanctuary)
Sunday, December 6	Second Sunday of Advent Communion Congregation Christmas Party (4-6:00 pm, Alexander Hall)
Wednesday, December 9	Sojourners Christmas Party (4-6, Tom & Betty Grantham's) Caroling (5:30 pm)
Saturday, December 12	May's Open House (Drop-In beignning at 5:00 pm, 127 East Cambridge Ave.)
Sunday, December 13	Third Sunday of Advent Baptism PGS Winter Concert (6:00 pm, Sanctuary)
Sunday, December 20	Fourth Sunday of Advent Birthday Party for Jesus (9:30 am, Alexander Hall) Christmas Joy Offering accepted
Thursday, December 24	Natitvity Service Rehearsal (Readers 10:00; Children 10:30, Sanctuary) Church offices close at noon Nativity service (5:30, Sanctuary) Candlelight service of Lesson & Carols (7:00 pm, Sanctuary)
Friday, December 25	MERRY CHRISTMAS!
Monday, December 28	Church offices closed
Thursday, December 31	Church offices close at noon
Friday, January 1	HAPPY NEW YEAR!
Sunday, January 3	Communion Kaleidoscope (9:30 am, Alexander Hall) Installation of Officers (10:30, Sanctuary) Congregational Meeting (11:30 am, Sanctuary)
Sunday, January 10	Baptism of the Lord Sunday Confirmation begins (9:30 am) Kaleidoscope (9:30 am, Alexander Hall) Cradle Roll (10:30, Sanctuary)



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