

# The REMINDER



JUNE 2024



**ON THE COVER:** Children in the Child Development Center maintain and water their garden outside their classrooms.

## IN THIS ISSUE

- 2 Index/Missions Team
- 3 From the Transitional Pastor
- 4 Church Administration Matters
- 5 Congregational Care Assistant
- 6, 7 Helping Florence Flourish
- 8, 9 Child Development Center
- 10, 11 Calendar
- 12 Remember in Prayer
- 13 Birthdays
- 14 Church News briefs
- 15-18 Children's Ministry
- 19 Youth Ministry
- 20

*Submit news briefs, pictures, or announcements by June 21 to Kim Brauss at [kbrauss@florencefirst.org](mailto:kbrauss@florencefirst.org). To be added to the mailing list, call the church office at 843-662-2583.*



# Moment for Missions

✝ **Child Evangelism Fellowship Inc. & Good News Clubs** raised over \$30,700 during its 7th annual Benefit shoot for all area Good News Clubs at our local chapter. The funds stay in South Carolina, and help the ministry to reach more children inside and outside the local public elementary schools, and for all summer ministries and missionaries reaching children this summer.

✝ **Presbyterian Communities** Mother's Day Love Offering yielded \$1,180 in donations from covenant partners to support the ministry of Presbyterian Communities of South Carolina to older adults. The monies raised are used solely to provide charitable care for residents who can no longer pay for the full cost of their care.

✝ **Naomi Project** – *In the meantime, it's a MEAN time* – this play was performed at our church on Saturday, April 20. More than 160 guests attended and over \$5,300 raised to date; there were 20 volunteers. Thanks to First Pres for use of CLC!

## Supporting Local Missions

• **My Brother's Keeper in need of volunteers**

Drivers and riders — 2 to 4 p.m. Saturday

Riders — 2 to 4 p.m. Wednesday

Cooking team member — noon to 2 p.m. Tuesday

Contact Laura Marechal for more information, 843-319-4564.

• **The Manna House:** Volunteers needed to help run the new client choice pantry smoothly. Shift hours are 8:30 to 11:30 a.m. Monday, Wednesday, or Friday. Greeters/intake welcome clients, check or add clients in computer system, and shoppers take clients through pantry to select items, assist in choices and bagging groceries as clients leave. Contact Kimberly Christmas, 843-667-6077.

• **Naomi Project:** Volunteers needed for Naomi Day to support domestic abuse survivors, from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. Friday and Saturday, June 7 and 8. Register online at [www.naomiproject.com](http://www.naomiproject.com).

• **Whosoever Communities Outreach:** Lunch for 35-40 people needed on Sundays following worship at 2:30 p.m. Sign up online: [www.junebugscare.org/whosoever/](http://www.junebugscare.org/whosoever/)



# God still at work

We had our monthly Session meeting on Tuesday, May 28. You can read a summary of that meeting below. I want to begin my piece here by sharing how I began my Pastor's Report:

"First of all, what a great time it has been for me, personally, and for our church! This past month has truly been a celebration of the ministries of this church even during a year that had its challenges. The message I take away is that God is still at work and we are all blessed to be part of something as dynamic and loving as First Presbyterian, Florence."

Really, when you think of the Confirmation Class, the Children's Ministry, the new Covenant Partner's Class — there has been a lot going on!

Meanwhile, we have had dynamic and powerful worship services, where God has spoken to our hearts.

James keeps on challenging us in our walk with Christ. It was a privilege to lead you in honoring those who had fallen in service to our country.

And this only scratches the surface. Take, for example, the amazing organization and planning that has gone into the Women's Ministry of this church. Very impressive.

I do have something I want to share with you. I have a new initiative beginning in June. I am asking people to sign up at various times to speak with me about the church. I will form you into groups of not more than 10. I want to get a feel for where we are as a church body. Watch for the chance to sign up and come have a conversation with me. I welcome it!



## Notes from the May Session Meeting

It was reported that our income is strong. We had a slower start in January but that seems to be evening out. There was discussion of the timing for "one service" Sundays with a special emphasis on these end-of-the-year events such as confirmation, graduation and the children's program taking the lead on a worship service.

Pastor Stuart laid out some goals for himself, one of which is to get a good sense of where we are as a church. He is planning to ask Covenant Partners to meet with him and share your views on our church's strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats. Look for more information in the coming weeks.

## SESSION *notes*

In addition, your Session is taking on several initiatives to prepare themselves for the upcoming pastoral search, including taking a special class and exploring options for some outside input.

By the way, if you would like to see a copy of the church's budget, please contact the office and we will send it to you online or in hard copy.

Have a great summer!

*The Session of First Presbyterian*

# Generosity in action

One of the resources I use for my daily quiet time is an app called **You Version**. Each day, there is a scripture passage, a short video, and other resources that encourage reflection on the verse(s) of the day. This one challenged me. I share it with you to see how God uses it to challenge you.

## What Does It Mean to Be Generous?

The word “generous” is often defined as: open in giving or sharing; willing to give help or support; unselfish. Generous living is not a concept limited to the wealthy, the gifted, or the lucky. Generosity is a lifestyle that stems from a desire to worship God in every area of life.

The principle of generosity is laced all throughout Scripture, and we have the best model and mentor when it comes to seeing it in action — God. He sent His Son, Jesus, as a sacrifice for our mistakes so that way we could spend eternity with Him. That is generosity in action.

**Psalm 24:1** says that “the earth is the LORD’s and everything in it, the world, and all who live in it...” Everything we have belongs to God and is given to us by Him. He is the owner, and we are His managers. And the people who manage well are often entrusted with more to manage. It doesn’t matter how much we have; it matters what we do with what we’re given.

We will live generously when we view everything we have as a gift from God. And when we do that, our mindsets switch from “This is mine?” to “How can I share?” So, right now, think about how you view the things God has given you. Do you see them as gifts from God to be shared, or as accomplishments and possessions you’ve earned? What is one thing you can start doing today to become more generous?

**SCHOOL’S OUT!** Which means summer is here! As we head into the summer months, attention turns to family vacations, summer camps and other activities. As you plan for summer, be sure to include continued support of the church in your plans. Many of our covenant partners set up online giving through REALM

and other e-giving vehicles. Online giving allows you to support financially the ministries of our church even when you’re not able to be present. Thank you for your continued faithful support of the ministry and mission of First Presbyterian Church.

**On May 15, 2024**, First Presbyterian Church lost a valued staff member. The church staff lost a well-liked and respected co-worker, but most of all, a dear friend. Her smile and laughter will be greatly missed by all who knew her. Our prayers go out to the family and friends of Gwen Durant during this time of loss. Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayers.

## In Memory



**Gwen Durant**  
**March 2, 1961 – May 15, 2024**

# The Message of Jesus

How many times on a Sunday morning do we hear the name, Jesus? I have never counted how many times the name of Jesus is repeated from my sermon. As a preacher-pastor, when I use the name of Jesus, I make many assumptions that we all believe about Jesus.

In *The Beginning of Christianity*, author Clarence Craig has a chapter titled: “The Kingdom of God and The Sign of its Coming.” In this chapter, he seeks to identify Jesus of Nazareth and the central message of Jesus. Jesus believed the LORD God reigned over the nations of the world. In other words God was King. Jesus also believed God’s will was made known in the Hebrew Scriptures, our Old Testament. As Christians, we believe Jesus is the Christ or Messiah, the anointed personal messenger of God. The LORD God was incarnated in Jesus. Jesus reveals the true nature of God. The second paragraph of the Apostles’ Creed outlines the basic belief of the Church.

In the Gospel of Mark, readers find Jesus introduced as one who took up the ministry of John the Baptist after his arrest. Jesus’ message is summarized as “the time is fulfilled, and the Kingdom of God has come near; repent, and believe in the good news (Mark 1:15).” What does Jesus mean by the Kingdom of God? In Matthew’s Gospel: the Kingdom of Heaven is used instead of the Kingdom of God because the name of God is so respected that it cannot be said aloud.

There is no doubt in the faith of Jesus that God is over all the world. God is king and reigns as sovereign LORD. Jesus as a Jewish person was raised and taught by his father and mother in the ways of the Torah or Law and in the local synagogue. God as king had

created the world. God was to be respected and worshipped as the giver of life. The person who wishes to be righteous takes the yoke of the Law to obey. Jesus uses this metaphor as a symbol of obeying the teaching of Jesus. “Take my yoke upon you and learn from me... for my yoke is easy and burden is light (Matthew 11:29-30).”

Jesus is an apocalyptic thinker influenced by the contemporary thought of his day that the day of the LORD was near. The prophets through the history of Israel had predicted a day of judgment for the world. This day was close in the minds of devout Jews and Jesus and even in the works of Paul. The judgment of God is changed from condemnation to salvation as the individual repents and trusts in the promises of the Kingdom of God.

Very early in my thinking, study and living in the church, I realized the Church was not the Kingdom of God. Jesus’ concept as conveyed in the Gospels was much greater than what existed on earth. God was creator and members of the Kingdom agree to follow God’s law revealed in the Scripture. The inclusion of a person in the Kingdom creates a striving or seeking for more of the benefits of the Kingdom. The Kingdom of God is received as a gift. It is the great pearl worth everything of value in a person’s life. The Kingdom of God is so important that it must be sought after as the most important aspect of life: “Seek first the Kingdom of Heaven and God’s righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well (Matthew 6:33).”

*Mike*

## MEN’S RETREAT: AUGUST 23-25

No excuses — put it on your calendar right now! This year’s retreat at Hickory Knob State Park promises a wonderful time filled with inspiration. Randy Pope, the founding pastor of Perimeter Presbyterian Church in Atlanta, will be our speaker. For more info, contact Bill Cain, 407-473-0912. To sign up, visit Realm using the QR code, our website, [florencefirst.org](http://florencefirst.org), or contact Kim Brauss in the church office, [kbrauss@florencefirst.org](mailto:kbrauss@florencefirst.org).





Helping Florence Flourish is a network of individuals, congregations, and ministries that work together as one for the city to address the brokenness of our community for the sake of God's mission. Areas of concentration include: restoration of the family, racial bridging, educational partnership, care for the homeless, and prayer. We are better together!

### UPCOMING EVENTS

- **Kingdom Race Theology** — next meeting will be held, June 7 at First Presbyterian Church
- **Pastor Gatherings** — breakfast at 7 a.m. and lunch at noon every third Tuesday of the month. Next gathering will be June 18 at Grace Baptist.
- **WinShape Camp** — July 1-5 held at First Presbyterian Church. Sign up for campers: [camps.winshape.org/day-camps/florence-sc-2/](https://camps.winshape.org/day-camps/florence-sc-2/)

This is a next level summer camp experience, where kids can have fun and learn more about Jesus. Registration is open. Multi-sibling discounts are available. If you have any questions, please contact Dave Lake (803-837-1432) or Alexis Morris (843-813-5202).

There are plenty of opportunities to volunteer during the week at WinShape — from licensed nurses to recreation crew to Bible Study & Skills Assistants. Sign up here: <https://campregistration.winshape.org/wscvolunteer/volunteer>.

- **Clothes:** We are still in need of volunteers to wash WinShape Team members clothes. Clothes need to be picked up in the CLC on Saturday, June 29, in the afternoon and returned to the CLC stage on Sunday before worship. Contact Sandra Davidson at 704-785-1756 or 85davidson@gmail.com.
- **Snacks:** For those of you who would like to help prepare snacks for WinShape Camp, please meet at 9:30 a.m. Wednesday, June 26, in Room 100. Contact Sandra Davidson if you are able to come.
- **Lunch Prep:** Volunteers are needed to help make lunches for the WinShape Team, volunteers and some campers, from 9 to 11 a.m. July 1-4. Please contact Betsey Moore at 843-260-8922 or [bmoore9778@aol.com](mailto:bmoore9778@aol.com).



## THE GLOBAL LEADERSHIP SUMMIT

- **The Global Leadership Summit** — You're invited to join thousands of other visionaries and leaders August 8 and 9 held at First Presbyterian Church. Participants will be challenged by world class speakers such as Mike Krzyzewski "Coach K," Erwin Raphael McManus, Craig Groeschel, and more! No matter your position, The Global Leadership Summit will empower you with skills.
- Top 3 reasons to make professional development a priority — for you and your team:
1. Employees stay longer at companies that invest in them. According to ClearCompany, 94 percent of employees report they'd stay at a company longer if their companies invested in them.
  2. Professional development increases productivity. According to HR Digest, companies that invested in staff development saw a 24 percent increase in productivity.
  3. Professional development increases job satisfaction. Forbes says, "intrinsic motivators, like professional growth opportunities, are more important than extrinsic factors, such as compensation and work-life balance, to an employee's sense of being cared for at work."
- When organizations invest in their employees, satisfaction, loyalty, and productivity all rise.
- For more information, call 843-407-2417.



# The Queen of McQueen project



## Dedicated volunteers rehabilitate home for Florence family

On May 11, Helping Florence Flourish held a celebration and house dedication for a family that it has worked with since 2022.

Volunteers with the nonprofit started renovating the uninhabitable property located at 415 N. McQueen St. in September 2022. House of Hope, a nonprofit with a mission to provide safe haven for the homeless in Florence, gave the property to a Florence woman with three children. The project, “The Queen of McQueen,” was spearheaded by First Presbyterian’s Charlie Caldwell with significant help from over 40 different volunteers. The South Florence High School track team, a mission team from Kings Academy, the HVAC class from Florence-Darlington Technical College, along with many covenant partners from First Presbyterian helped make this possible, said Rev. Chris Handley, executive director of HFF.

“These volunteers made it possible for Aaliyah Washington and her three children to move in on May 4,” Handley said.

Covenant Partners who volunteered for this project include: Jan Bays, Brandon Blankenship, Bill Cain, Alice Caldwell, Charlie Caldwell, Greg Cleveland, Faris Cooper, Mark Davis, Joe Eason, John Etheridge, Brian Fast, Patricia Fast, Tim Fisher, Bryce Gibson, John Hail, Rob Hall, Dottie Handley, Danny Jones, Landis Lane, Laura Marechal, Amanda McLaurin, Jay McLaurin, Bob McLean, Emily McLean, Jacob Mikulecky, Weber Mims, Tom Moore, Alexis Morris, Pack Packard, Tom Pantos, Lance Powers, Hunter Sims, David Spearman, Jeremy Straus, Donnie Wheeler, Chris Williams, and Richie Wilhoit.





# End of school year fun

May was a bittersweet month for the CDC. We enjoyed tons of fun as the school year came to an end, but we are certainly going to miss our sweet 4K graduates. Some will be with us through the summer, and some will leave at the end of May and some in between. We wish all of them the very best as we pray for their future and their relationship with the Lord.

As summer begins, we will have several new families joining the CDC family. We are looking forward to their arrival and can't wait to shower them with God's love. We are also looking forward to our 3K and 4K children joining First Presbyterian Church for Vacation Bible School. We are super excited about making new friends. We are truly grateful for all the Lord is doing!



Springtime was full of many events, including Moment for Moms and the graduation ceremony for the 4K class.





# MEET THE CDC TEAM

**Mr. Kwame Adams**



## ABOUT MR. KWAME



Kwame is one of our dedicated, hard-working, and will be there every time you call floaters. He joined the CDC team in May 2023. He is a native of Bennettsville and enjoys basketball, movies, video games, and chilling. What Kwame loves most about working at First Presbyterian CDC is "the wonderful atmosphere and the children." They love him, too!

## HIS FAVORITES

- FOOD: Chicken wings
- COLOR: Blue
- PLACE: Beach
- SPORT: Basketball
- SEASON: Summer



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**SUNDAY**


**MONDAY**

**TUESDAY**

**WEDNESDAY**

26	27	28	29
		<p><i>Every time I think of you, I give thanks to my God.</i></p> <p>PHILIPPIANS 1:3</p>	

<p><b>2</b> 9 a.m. Sunday School 10 a.m. Worship Service 11 a.m. Cookies &amp; Lemonade 5 p.m. Youth: Taiter Time LeaderTreks</p> 	<p><b>3</b> LeaderTreks</p>	<p><b>4</b> Treasured Tuesdays: RiverBanks Zoo, 7:30 a.m. LeaderTreks</p> 	<p><b>5</b> <b>VBS registration closes</b> Wonderful Wednesdays: Neptune Island, 9 a.m. Youth: Neptune Island <b>Youth: Lock-in deadline</b> LeaderTreks</p> 
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<p><b>9</b> 9 a.m. Sunday School 10 a.m. Worship Service 11 a.m. Cookies &amp; Lemonade 5 p.m. Wheeldateens!</p> 	<p><b>10</b> Worship Team, 12:30 Red Cross Blood Drive, 1:30-5:30 p.m. Discipleship Team, 4:30 p.m. Enabling Team, 5:30 p.m. <b>Youth: FLOAT deadline</b></p>	<p><b>11</b> Treasured Tuesdays: CLC, 1-4 p.m.</p>	<p><b>12</b> Outreach Team, 12:15 p.m. Wonderful Wednesdays: CLC, 1-4 p.m. Children's Ministry Team Youth: FLOAT, 9 a.m.</p>
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<p><b>16</b></p> 	<p><b>17</b> Vacation Bible School</p> 	<p><b>18</b> Vacation Bible School Fellowship Team, 5:30</p>	<p><b>19</b> Vacation Bible School Veterans Brunch, 8 a.m. Personnel Team, 8:15 Youth Group, 5:30 p.m.</p>
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<p><b>23</b> 9 a.m. Sunday School 10 a.m. Worship Service Youth: Fun in the Son</p> <p><b>30</b> 5 p.m. Wheeldateens!</p>	<p><b>24</b> Youth: Fun in the Son (Senior High Trip)</p> 	<p><b>25</b> Treasured Tuesdays: CLC, 1-4 p.m. Youth: Fun in the Son Diaconate, 5:30 p.m. Session, 6:30 p.m.</p>	<p><b>26</b> Wonderful Wednesdays: CLC, 1-4 p.m. Youth: Fun in the Son</p>
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**THURSDAY**

**FRIDAY**

**SATURDAY**

# JUNE

**WEEKLY**

**SUNDAYS**

- Praise Team Rehearsal, 8:15 a.m.
  - 9 a.m. Sunday School
  - 10 a.m. Worship Service
- Note: One worship service runs through Sept. 1*

**MONDAYS**


- Prayer Group, 2:30 p.m.
- Selah Yoga, 5:30 p.m.
- Men's Bible Study, 7 p.m. (203)

**WEDNESDAYS**

- Small Group Bible Study, 10 a.m.
- Youth Group, 5:30 p.m.
- Chancel Choir Rehearsal, 7 p.m.

**THURSDAYS**

- Men's Bible Study, 7 a.m.
- Youth Coffee, 9 a.m.
- Bible Study, Room 202

<p>30</p> 	<p>31</p>	<p>1</p> <p><i>Women's Retreat</i></p> 
<p>6</p> <p>Thundering Thursdays: WonderWorks, 7:30 a.m. Youth: Coffee, F.E. Pop's, 9 a.m. LeaderTreks</p>	<p>7</p> <p>Youth: Lock-in, 10 p.m. to 7 a.m. Saturday LeaderTreks</p>  <p>Youth Lock-In</p>	<p>8</p> <p>Parking Lot Mission, 6 a.m.</p>
<p>13</p> <p>Youth: Coffee, F.E. Pop's, 9 a.m. Evangelism Team Meeting, 11:30 a.m. Thundering Thursdays: CLC, 1-4 p.m.</p>	<p>14</p>  <p>FLAG DAY</p>	<p>15</p>
<p>20</p> <p>Vacation Bible School Youth: Coffee, F.E. Pop's at 9 a.m.</p> 	<p>21</p>	<p>22</p>
<p>27</p> <p>Youth: Fun in the Son Youth: Coffee, F.E. Pop's at 9 a.m. Thundering Thursdays: CLC, 1-4 p.m.</p> 	<p>28</p> <p>Youth: Fun in the Son</p>	<p>29</p>

## Sympathy

Family of Gwen DuRant  
Family of Chris Morris  
Jim and Sarah Moseley, loss of his son Todd

## Extended Care

**Lowman Home**  
Mac King

**The Manor**  
Joyce Floyd  
Marie Jordan  
Maria Whitehead

**Presbyterian Community**  
Clariann Kellam

## Memorials

Gwen DuRant  
Todd Moseley

## Expectant Families

Brittany and Weber Mimms

## Births

James Bryan "Ford" Pittman IV, born May 9, son of JB and Allyson Pittman  
Gibson Peden Lewis, born May 13, son of Amy and John Lewis

## Military

Andrew Stewart, deployed

## Households

FLOCK 1: Tamanjong Akongnui and Homebeline Ashwingwnui,  
David Achegenui, Jason Ifabnui, and Miguel Awemu  
FLOCK 2: Daniel Asongwed and Alice Mebeng, Love, Eve, Prince  
FLOCK 3: Travis and Erin Blayton, William, Henry  
FLOCK 4: Gail Gallagher  
FLOCK 5: Hanna Hope  
FLOCK 6: Jeff Collins  
FLOCK 7: Stephen and Emily Witt, Blakely, Reese  
FLOCK 8: Ernest Njilin

## Flowers in the Sanctuary

June 2: Communion  
June 9: OPEN  
June 16: Bobby Ray  
June 23: OPEN  
June 30: OPEN

## Sick & Recovering

Aubrey Crawford  
Joyce Dalsbo  
Steve Grady  
Barbara Maffett

## Elders

Robert Moore  
Jeremy Williams

## Deacons

Jim Moseley  
Daniel Jordan

## Missions

Good News Club  
Kimberly Packard,  
Kurdistan trip

## Women in Ministry

Alicia Truman  
Genia Tyson

## Teachers

Erin Patton  
Kathryn Scott

## Staff

Christina "Taiter" Garrett  
Don Hebert

Lord, Hear  
Our Prayer



Do you have a friend or relative you would like to honor? Sign up to place memorial flowers in the Sanctuary. The next few months have openings. Please contact Genia Tyson ([genia\\_tyson@hotmail.com](mailto:genia_tyson@hotmail.com) or 843-992-8904). Please leave your name, number, and date you wish to reserve.



# June BIRTHDAYS

## JUNE 1

Love Asongwed  
Donna Collins  
Jim Dameron  
Landis Lane  
Emily McLean  
Melanie Sprenger

## JUNE 2

George Henderson  
Coleman Jeffords

## JUNE 3

Bill Cain

## JUNE 4

Courtney Emert  
Bryan Harwell

## JUNE 5

Matthew Hyman  
Cile MacLennan  
Brittany Miles

## JUNE 6

Margaret Charles  
Eli Gaddy  
Gerry Rosenlund

## JUNE 7

Marshall Benton

## JUNE 8

George Beshere  
Drew Caudle

## JUNE 9

Harper Etheridge  
Mary Jernigan

## JUNE 10

Addie Bulloch  
Abigail Tuttle

## JUNE 11

Troy Lamb

## JUNE 13

Emily Hodges  
Jon Lewis  
Gary Meharg  
Betsey Moore  
Mary Tiller Rabon  
Thomas Ray  
Anna Reames  
Celia Urquhart

## JUNE 14

Gray Scott  
Katherine Watts

## JUNE 15

Merrette Dowdell  
Marty Hucks  
Isla Pittman  
Ebbie Sanderson  
Tommy Spencer

## JUNE 16

Ken Charles  
Carter Hardee  
Beverly Harrell  
Bobby Henegar  
Eric Kim  
Cathy Lee  
Susan Snow  
Gordon Weatherford  
Hunter Welch

## JUNE 17

Breeden DuBose  
Grace DuBose  
Charles Lamb  
Hunter Morgan Jr.  
Edmund Whitehead

## JUNE 18

Jo Lynn Bratcher  
McKenzie Lehmans  
Collins McBride  
Addison Suggs  
Abi Urquhart

## JUNE 19

Hunter Burch  
Ansley Moore  
Lyn Ortiz  
Gil Vassy

## JUNE 20

Lila McMillan  
Cammie Moree

## JUNE 22

Amelia Anne Brown  
Mary Grady  
Alaina Naylor  
Patrick Ortiz  
Heather Page  
Ashley Scott  
McCall Swink

## JUNE 23

Lauren Bostwick

## JUNE 24

David DuBose Jr.  
Robin Stoupenos

## JUNE 25

Justin Dozier  
Ida Whitehead

## JUNE 26

Alan Floyd  
Emily Hyman  
Bryan Rabon

## JUNE 27

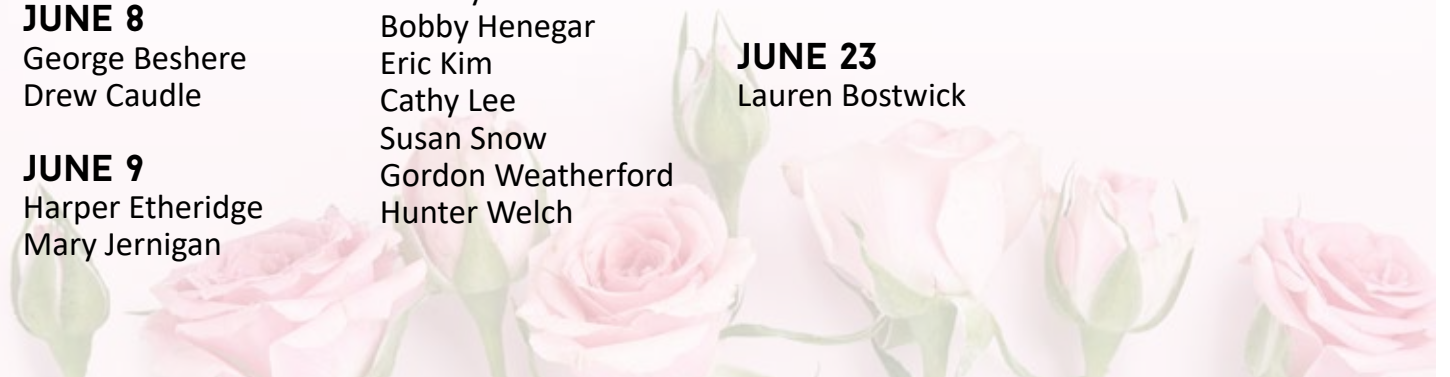
Ford Allison  
Dawn Benton  
Weatherly Tiller  
Genia Tyson

## JUNE 28

Cindy Coward  
Larry Davidson  
Richard Genoble  
Johnny Stoupenos  
Ellen Wilhoit

## JUNE 30

Sally Dameron  
Gail Gallagher  
Tammy Moore  
Susan Perrou





# Church News

## Bible Drill 'Boot Camp' for Adults

Join us and gain a better understanding of the books of the Bible, Key Passages, and memory verses. We meet on Wednesday nights from 5 to 6:30 p.m., including June 5, 12, 26. Please let Ellen Wilhoit, [r4wilhoit@aol.com](mailto:r4wilhoit@aol.com), or Alexis Morris, [nnnminusone@gmail.com](mailto:nnnminusone@gmail.com), know you plan on attending.



## Call for officer nominations

The Officer Nominating Committee welcomes and encourages your participation in the nominating process for elders and deacons of First Presbyterian Church.

If you have a name(s) of someone you would like the committee to consider, please use the form available in the Welcome Center and the Narthex.

Return forms to any member of the committee; mail to the church office, 700 Park Ave., Florence, 29501; email [ereed@florencefirst.org](mailto:ereed@florencefirst.org); or place in the box in the Narthex or Welcome Center. Deadline for nominations is June 16.

## Missions Team Survey

Please take a minute to fill out the survey of current ministry partners of First Presbyterian Church. Use the link, <https://forms.gle/9PacZKLNJDWgT58H6>, to indicate which of the following ministries you have supported in the last year and place a check under how you have participated.

— To submit content for the newsletter, please contact Communications Assistant Kimberly Brauss at [kbrauss@florencefirst.org](mailto:kbrauss@florencefirst.org) or 843-662-2583. Deadlines fall on the 21st of each month.



## Rabon earns rank of Eagle Scout

Cole Rabon, son of Tena and Bryan Rabon, was named an Eagle Scout at the recent Eagle Scout Court of Honor on May 20.

Cole, a rising senior at Trinity Collegiate School, started his scouting career in 2019 in Troop 477 under the leadership of Scoutmaster Tim Fisher. Cole has served as senior patrol leader and is a member of the Order of The Arrow.

For his Eagle Scout Project, he partnered with Florence School District 1 and The Farm to build 10 raised flower beds. Cole, along with his family and other Scouts, built the boxes to house vegetables and flowers that students will learn about growing plants for years to come.

The Eagle Scout rank is the highest and most prestigious achievement a Scout can earn, and only about 6 percent of Scouts BSA members achieve it. It's a lifelong achievement that can take years of work and leadership skills to earn.



# Children's Ministry Corner



Dear Church Family,

I heard the term a few weeks ago "Maycember." When I heard it, I was like YESSSS! May was busy; it was like December and so good.

It started with Confirmation Sunday, Teacher Appreciation Week, Moments for Moms, Children's Sunday, VBS Planning, 4K Graduation, End of the Sunday School Year Talent Show, Field Day, Field trip to Timrod Park, Obstacle Course Day, and a Water Day with Kona Ice. The children (FPC and CDC children) had a wonderful time during the month of May.

As I reflect, I realize I am no longer running a marathon. I can slow down, take my time, and not rush. Why is it so hard? Sometimes, I think activity and busyness are a part of my DNA. It feels unnatural when I try to slow down. I feel like I need to be doing something. So, what do I do, I turn to scripture:

*"Be still and know that I am God."* Psalm 46:10

*"Slow down, take a deep breath. What's the hurry? Why wear yourself out? Just what are you after anyway?"*  
Jeremiah 2:25-35 (The Msg)

*"Better is the end of a thing than its beginning, and the patient in spirit is better than the proud in spirit."* Ecclesiastes 7:8 (NKJV)

*"But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you. Therefore, do not be anxious about tomorrow, for tomorrow will be anxious for itself. Sufficient for the day is its own trouble."* Matthew 6:33-34 (ESV)

*"But they who wait for the LORD shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings like eagles; they shall run and not be weary; they shall walk and not faint."* Isaiah 40:31 (ESV)

I am learning that slowing down takes work. Stopping and just breathing deep takes practice. It's not easy, yet as I read and reflect on God's word, it helps. Maybe that is why God says so clearly in Psalm 46:10 "Be still and know that I am God."

I am breathing in His grace and doing my best to take time to slow down. I hope you are, too!

Much love,  
Kelly

Dear Church Family,

Wow, May sure was a whirlwind, wasn't it? Especially for those that have children or work with children! Among all the end-of-school festivities, planning for summer adventures, and everything else on our plates, it's been go, go, go!

But you know what? It's also been incredibly rewarding. At FPC, we've had Confirmation Sunday, Children's Sunday, the Sunday School Talent Show, and we've been buzzing with excitement preparing for Summer Trips and Vacation Bible School. It's been a blast!

Now, as we ease into the summer months, I'm feeling a fresh burst of energy and excitement for what lies ahead. Here's to sunny days, laughter, safe travels, and that wonderful sense of peace that comes from knowing God is with us every step of the way.

Let's keep nurturing those precious connections between our children and God, as well as with each other. We've got so much in store this month, and I hope you find time to savor every moment of it. As we dive into this new season, let's hold onto these words from Exodus 33:14: "The Lord replied, 'My Presence will go with you, and I will give you rest.'"

It's such a comforting reminder that we're never alone, and that God's love is always there to guide us. In Christ's love,

Kaiti



# Summertime events in the Children's Ministry

Please note: For your child to participate, you will be required to complete an FPC Medical/Liability Form. Forms will be emailed to you once you have signed up.



## Treasured Tuesdays (Completed 3K – 5K)

For children who have completed 3K-5K, on Tuesday, **June 4**, we will meet at the church at 7:30 a.m. to travel to Riverbanks Zoo & Garden in Columbia. We will return at 4 p.m. We also will enjoy Waterfall Junction at the Botanical Garden.

Everyone needs to wear their bathing suit (no bikinis) under their clothes and bring:

- a bagged lunch with name on it
- a towel
- water shoes
- dry clothes
- car seat

The cost of the trip is \$25.

Register and pay by using the QR code here:



On **June 11**, we will meet on campus from 1 to 4 p.m. We will kick off in the Christian Life Center (the gym) for a time of fun, food, fellowship, and faith-building.

During Vacation Bible School the **week of June 17**, we will embark on a journey to Hometown Nazareth, where Jesus spent his childhood! Registration closes June 5.

On **June 25**, we will meet on campus from 1 to 4 p.m. We will kick off in the Christian Life Center (the gym) for a time of fun, food, fellowship, and faith building.

### Treasured Tuesdays July Events

July 2	Not Meeting
July 9	EdVenture, Columbia
July 16	On Campus
July 23	Neptune Island, Hartsville

## Wonderful Wednesdays (Completed 1st – 2nd grades)

For children who have completed first and second grades, on **June 5** we will meet at the church at 9 a.m. to travel to Neptune Island in Hartsville. We will enjoy Piratesville, the preschool splash pad. We will return to the church at 3 p.m.

Everyone needs to wear their bathing suit (no bikinis) under their clothes and bring:

- a bagged lunch
- a towel
- water shoes
- dry clothes

The cost of the trip is \$30 per participant.

Register and pay by using the QR code here:



On **June 12**, we will meet on campus from 1 to 4 p.m. We will kick off in the Christian Life Center (the gym) for a time of fun, food, fellowship, and faith building.

During Vacation Bible School the **week of June 17**, we will embark on a journey to Hometown Nazareth, where Jesus spent his childhood! Registration closes June 5.

On **June 26** we will meet on campus from 1 to 4 p.m. We will kick-off in the Christian Life Center (the gym) for a time of fun, food, fellowship, and faith building.

### Wonderful Wednesday July Events

July 3	Not Meeting
July 10	Aquarium, Myrtle Beach
July 17	On Campus
July 24	Pool Party



# Summertime events



## Thundering Thursdays (Completed Third – Fifth grades)

For children who have completed fourth and fifth grades, on **June 6**, we will meet at the church at 7:30 a.m. to travel to the Wonder Works in Myrtle Beach. We will return at 4 p.m. Please pack a bagged lunch with your child's name on it. The cost of the trip is \$30. Registration and pay by using the QR code here:

On **June 13**, we will meet on campus from 1 to 4 p.m.

We will kick-off in the Christian Life Center (the gym) for a time of fun, food, fellowship, and faith building.

During Vacation Bible School **the week of June 17**, we will embark on a journey to Hometown Nazareth, where Jesus spent his childhood! Please be sure to register online.

On **June 27**, we will meet on campus from 1 to 4 p.m. We will kick-off in the Christian Life Center (the gym) for a time of fun, food, fellowship, and faith building.



## Thundering Thursday July Events

July 4	Not Meeting
July 11	Frankie's Fun Park
July 18	On Campus
July 25	Pool Party



## Confirmation – Attention Youth!

We invite any youth who hasn't been through Confirmation but is interested in spiritual growth and becoming a covenant partner of the church to reach out to Kaiti Bryant, program director of Children's Ministry, at [kbryant@florencefirst.org](mailto:kbryant@florencefirst.org). We would love for you to join the Confirmation journey for the 2024-2025 program year.

The Confirmation program is an important step in learning key teachings and our purpose as Christians. Confirmation, Catechism classes, and mentoring will be held in part as a rite of passage, a chance to build community, understand theology and the significance of joining the church, as well as to help students make an informed and personal commitment to their faith.

## Children in Worship Leader, Volunteer Schedule

Children's Church for children 3K-5K meets in the Children's Chapel for *Children in Worship*. This program, held after the Message for Young Disciples, is designed to teach children about worship and allow children to experience Bible stories while learning in their own special worship center.

Date	Time	Teacher	Assistant/Helper(s)
June 2	10 a.m.	Kaiti Bryant	TBD
June 9	10 a.m.	Kaiti Bryant	TBD
June 16	10 a.m.	Kelly Hickey	TBD
June 23	10 a.m.	Kelly Hickey	TBD
June 30	10 a.m.	Kaiti Bryant	TBD

# Children's Sunday: David and Goliath



This amazing group of children worked hard planning and preparing for our first Children's Sunday. These first-through fifth-graders led the entire worship service at both 9 and 11 a.m. They did an incredible job as God led them every step of the way in telling the story of David and Goliath. Thank you to everyone who joined us on Mother's Day. We hope you enjoyed it, and remember, with God on your side, there's nothing to fear!

## VBS: Journey to Hometown Nazareth

9 a.m. to 11:45 a.m.

Monday, June 17 – Thursday, June 20

Children registered for Vacation Bible School will embark on a journey to Hometown Nazareth, where Jesus spent his childhood! Through the perspective of his mother, Mary, we'll delve into stories from Jesus' early years to young adulthood. Get ready to experience the sights, sounds, textures, and flavors of what life might have been like in Jesus' Hometown.

Register online at <https://www.myvbs.org/florencefirstVBS>.

Register online to volunteer, as well! **Registration closes Wednesday, June 5.**



### Tents for VBS village

We need 10 to 12 pop-up/tailgating tents for VBS. These tents will help us transform the Christian Life Center into Nazareth.

If you have a tent we can use, please contact Kaiti Bryant, [kbryant@florencefirst.org](mailto:kbryant@florencefirst.org), or Laura Anne Hofler, [lahofler@gmail.com](mailto:lahofler@gmail.com).





# Blur of May events make way for summer kick off

May was a blur! We kicked things off with the church-wide picnic and a Cinco de Mayo party. We enjoyed dinner and tennis at the park. The confirmand class were welcomed into the youth group with a special dinner, and we rode bikes around town. Our summer events have started with our annual trips to Moe's and Buc-ee's. We are looking forward to a fun and busy summer.

Last month we also celebrated our graduating seniors. They enjoyed a brunch, were recognized during church, and at youth group. We will miss all our graduates and wish them the best in their future endeavors. Special thanks to Emily Whitehead for all her help with the graduation events.

Reminder: Youth will not meet for Sunday school this summer. In its place, we will meet once or twice a month for lunch and fellowship.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### Summer Kick-Off (June 2) 5 – 7 p.m.

Join us as we kick off the Summer with a time of food, fellowship, and games. Meet at Taiter's house at 909 Mohawk Drive. Bring a friend!

### Neptune Island (June 5) 9 a.m. – Until

Cost is \$30. We will meet at the church at 9 am. Bring a friend and money for lunch.

### Coffee at F.E. Pop's (June 6, 13, 20, and 27) 9 a.m. – Until

Come enjoy the coffee bar and fellowship.

### LOCK IN! (June 7-8) 10 p.m. – 7 a.m.

Check in will begin at 10 p.m. There will be games, relays, prizes, and SURPRISES! We will have breakfast the next morning and end at 7 a.m. Cost is \$20. Bring a friend! Please sign up and pay by Wednesday, June 5.

### Wheeldateens! (June 9 and 30) 5 – 7 p.m.

Come ride bikes with us! Snacks & water provided.

### FLOAT (June 12) 9 a.m. – 4 p.m.

We will canoe and kayak down the river! Cost is \$10 per person. Bring a friend!  
Please sign up and pay by Monday, June 10.



### Vacation Bible School volunteering (June 17-20) 8 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

Please let Taiter, Kaiti, or Kelly know if you can help with VBS as soon as possible.

### Fun in The Son (June 23-28) \*\*Senior High trip\*\*

We will travel to St. Simon's Island. Mornings include quiet times, the large group session, and seminars.

There will be free time to relax and enjoy the beach. A variety of recreation activities and tournaments will be organized for each afternoon. The evening schedule will include dinner, the large group session, and family time.

Cost is \$400. Space is limited so please let Taiter know ASAP if you would like to go.





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CHURCH STAFF

Transitional Pastor	Dr. Stuart Bond
Director of Music/Organist	Mrs. Ann Rodgers Chandler
Praise Team Leader	Mr. Vic Rockhill
Music Assistant	Ms. Betsy Johnson
Congregational Care Assistant	Rev. Mike Fleenor
Director of Youth Ministry	Ms. Christina "Taiter" Garrett
Director of Children's Ministries	Mrs. Kelly Hickey
Program Director of Children's Ministry	Ms. Kaiti Bryant
CDC Assistant Director/Church Nursery Coordinator	Mrs. Shurrie Marks
Church Administrator	Rev. Don Hebert
Communications Assistant	Ms. Kimberly Brauss
Ministry Assistant	Mrs. Emily Reed
Lead Custodian	Mr. Leroy Williams
Housekeeping	Ms. Wanda LaSane
Custodian	Mr. Rayshon Woodard

