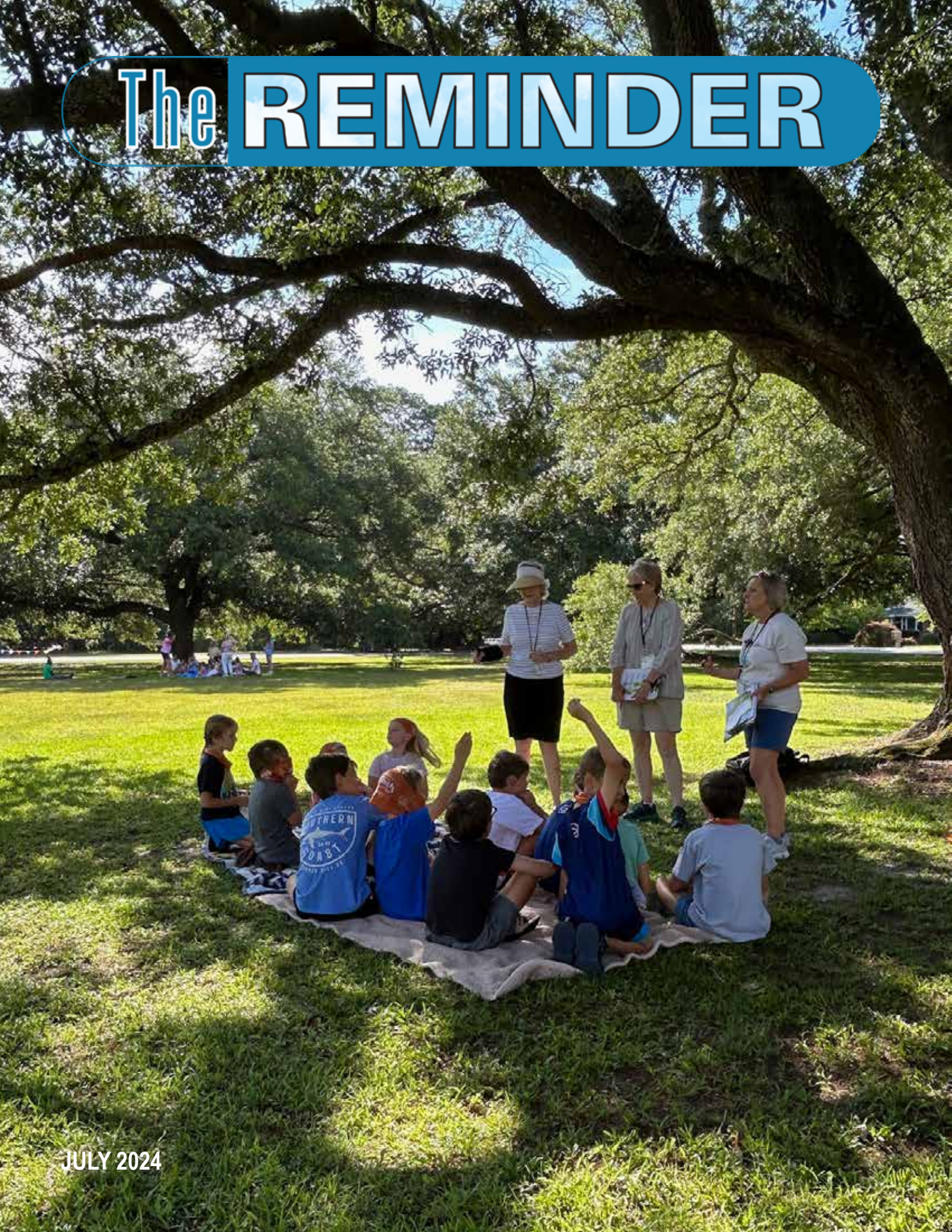


The REMINDER



JULY 2024



ON THE COVER: Children participate in group time during Vacation Bible School. More than 110 children filled the campus with laughter and learning.

IN THIS ISSUE

- 2 Index/Missions Team
- 3 From the Transitional Pastor
- 4 Church Administration Matters
- 5 Congregational Care Assistant
- 6, 7, 18 Vacation Bible School
- 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 Contact information

Submit news briefs, pictures, or announcements by July 21 to Kim Brauss at kbrauss@florencefirst.org. To be added to the mailing list, call the church office at 843-662-2583.



Moment for Missions

The Antioch Partners: Gray Scott

Covenant Partner Gray Scott was commissioned during the worship services at the beginning of October. Gray soon after left for her



mission work with The Antioch Partners, a missions-sending organization. She works in Barcelona with Arab Ministries in Spain. Arab Ministries in Spain works with the Arab migrant community in and around Barcelona to meet their practical, psychological and social needs. Through relationships developed at their community centers, Gray helps be the hands and feet of Jesus so they can encounter Him.

Gray will be speaking during the Missions Moment in July. Subscribe to her newsletter here: <https://gray-scott.epistle.org/subscribe>

Supporting Local Missions

- Covenant Partner **Kimberly Packard** is returning to Erbil, Kurdistan, Aug 22-September 5.

If anyone is interested in joining her, there are available spots. Call Kimberly for more information, 843-992-1425. Please keep Kimberly and her team in your prayers.

- **House of Hope:** Volunteers are needed to help at the cooling center during the heat of the day. This will be indoors at Whosoever Church, adjacent to Courtney McGinnis Graham Community Shelter, 535 S. Church St. Volunteers will greet and monitor guests, pass out water, engage in positive discussions, etc. Contact Jenna Edwards at jedwards@hofh.org or 843-667-9000, ext. 413, if interested. Hours are from noon to 4 p.m.

- **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.

God is Near

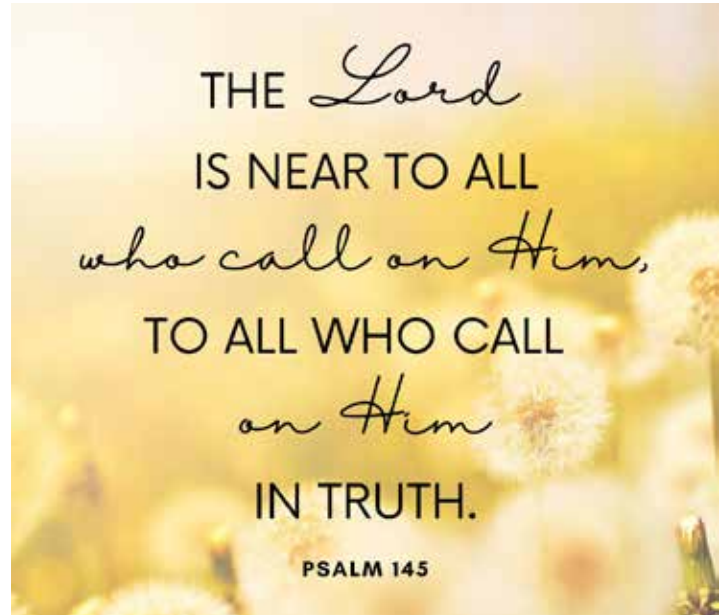
Dear First Presbyterian,

As I write to you, the summer is already a third over! Perhaps more than a third if by “summer” we mean that time when school is out. I learned recently that school begins in Florence in August. May the Lord protect the AC units!

There have been so many good things happening in the life of our church. VBS went smoothly and was a blessing to our kids and their leaders. Thank you, Kaiti, Kelly, and Laura Anne!

One aspect of that was the idea of “God sightings,” where we see the Lord’s hand in unexpected ways. I liked that idea so much that we did it at the joint devotion of Deacons and Elders. I asked them to identify a God sighting that had happened to them recently. It started out quietly, and then the whole room exploded in conversations about how they had seen the Lord, from rainbows to somehow getting our family on the right New York train. In ways large and small, the Lord has been at work.

The thing about God sightings is that they are not revealing something new. In fact, the Lord has always been there. Psalm 145 says, “The Lord is near to all who call on him, to all who call on him in truth.”



Take a moment this week — right now, as you are reading this! — to ask yourself where the Lord was evident in this past week or month. Where have you seen His hand at work but perhaps had not noticed it was the Lord until now?

I wish you all a summer (and a life) of God sightings.

In Christ,

Pastor Stuart



Notes from the June Session Meeting

Report from Session

The most important thing we discussed in our June meeting is how we can best prepare for the next steps for our church and for the upcoming Pastor Nominating Committee. We interviewed a person with

SESSION *notes*

expertise in these areas as a consultant who may be an excellent resource for our church going forward. The Session is currently doing our due diligence checking references and thinking through the best use of our financial resources at this time.

Pray for a wise decision on our part, and pray knowing that the Lord holds not only the present but also the future of our church in his hand.

Toward a Healthier Church

Stewardship is about more than money. But clearly monetary giving is the starting point. In the Old Testament we read: *“Each of you must bring a gift in proportion to the way the LORD your God has blessed you.”* (Deuteronomy 16:17)

Ministry Action Plan

Each year First Presbyterian Church asks our covenant partners to make a pledge to financially support the ministry and mission of the church in our community and around the world through our Ministry Action Plan. The **2024 Ministry Action Plan** approved by the Session totaled \$1.99 million. That translates to a weekly need of \$38,343.00 to fund fully the ministries of First Presbyterian Church for 2024. In addition to various church ministry programs (preschool, children, youth, adults and an extensive music ministry) the Ministry Action Plan includes support to our missionaries (Emerts, Carol Crom, Gray Scott and others) as well as providing support to the local agencies (House of Hope, Light House, Mercy Medicine, Tenacious Grace, A Choice to Make, etc.) Thus far in 2024 our **actual** weekly receipts are averaging \$31,028.00. Despite this deficit, First Presbyterian Church is current in our support of our missionaries. Additionally, our staff and ministry leaders are to be commended for being good stewards of what has been given as they continue to plan and implement ministry activities. With that said, we are in the summer months when we often see a decline in giving as thoughts turn to vacation and other activities. As you enjoy the summer activities, let me remind you to remember the financial commitment you’ve made to support first Presbyterian Church. Contribution statements for January – June will be mailed in early July. These statements are intended to serve as a reminder of the commitments made to support the mission and ministry of First Presbyterian Church. When you receive your statement, let me encourage you to reflect on what you see and respond as God prompts your heart.

Christian stewardship

Christian stewardship involves giving of our time, talent, and treasure, all of which are gifts we’ve received from God. We read in *1 Peter 4:10*: “Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as

faithful stewards of God’s grace in its various forms.” This verse encourages believers to use their diverse gifts in service to one another, reflecting the manifold grace of God. As evidenced by last months’ Vacation Bible School, our weekly music ministry, and numerous others, God has blessed First Presbyterian Church with many gifted and talented people. Each covenant partner plays an important role in advancing the name of Jesus throughout our community. Thank you for doing your part.

Ways to Give!

Did you know that we now offer **TEXT to Give** to our Covenant Partners and guests? It is simple and can be done any time and from anywhere. From your mobile device, simply text **Florencefirst** to **73256** and you will receive a link to our online giving site where you can make a secure donation to support the mission and ministry of First Presbyterian Church. Please note that standard text messaging rates will apply. Additionally, you may give online using REALM, as well as by visiting the church website and clicking on the GIVE ONLINE link at the top of the home page.

Welcome Sonya Hunter

We are happy to welcome Sonya Hunter to our staff in the Finance Office. Sonya is a native of Florence and has two adult daughters. Both live in Florence. She earned an associate degree in Small Business Management at Florence-Darlington Technical College. She is actively involved in her church New Life Church, Florence, where she has been working part-time as their financial secretary since 2012. We welcome Sonya to our staff team. Please stop in to say hello when you have an opportunity.



The Church as a Boat

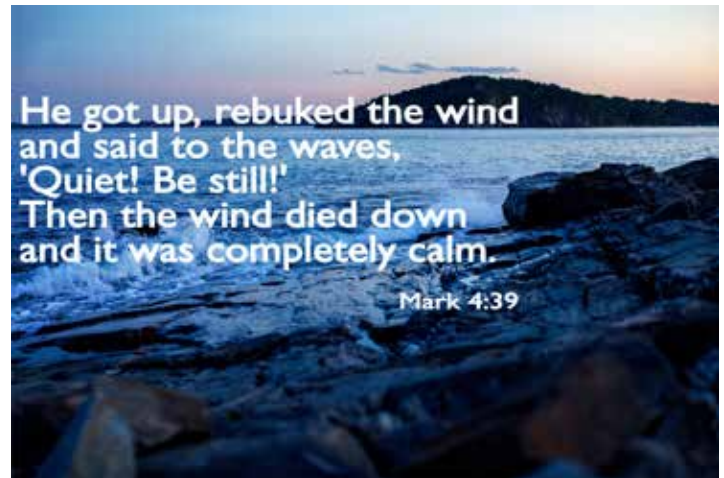
In the Gospel of Mark, some of the parables of Jesus are recorded in chapter four. At the end of the chapter Mark adds the stilling of the storm at sea. This event is recorded also in Matthew and Luke, but each author uses it at a different place in their Gospel. All three tell of Jesus using the boat to teach from.

The image of the Church as a boat surviving the storm at sea through the act of Jesus stilling the storm reveals to me truths about the Christian life. In the Bible the sea represents chaos. God creates the world and all living things from the nothingness and chaos of water. The Church finds itself in a society and world as a group of Jesus' followers seeking to represent the love of God to the world.

The world can be viewed as the realm of chaos and the Church witnesses to the truth and love in Christ. The Church can be assured that Jesus is with us just as He was with the disciples in the boat. Another challenging fact is that Jesus is asleep in the back of the boat. In Mark, the disciples refer to Jesus as Teacher: "Do you not care if we perish (Mark 4:38)." In Matthew, the disciples identify Jesus as Lord: "Save, Lord, we are perishing (8:25)." In Luke, Jesus is identified as "Master (8:24)." The fear and doubt of the disciples is expressed as a question to Jesus: "Do you not care?"

In the midst of a storm in our life we may let fear and doubt control us. Jesus is with us and Jesus does care. Jesus asks the disciples: "Have you no faith?" The chaos of the world, the trouble in our own family, or struggling with unemployment can threaten our faith in the love and care Jesus has for us. Disease and illness can threaten us also. Much of the danger and struggle in living is out of our control. It is important to have faith, to trust that Jesus will help us. We all have storms in our life. We can be assured that Jesus is with us and seeks to love us through the storm. Our storm may even be calmed or we may be required to persevere through the storm. The Church is called to acknowledge Jesus is with us and to call people to have faith that the storm will cease in time.

Psalm 107 relates how God delivers four groups of people through troubles. Each group calls out to God,



and they are delivered first and then offer thanksgiving to God. The last group are the sailors. The troubled sea threatens them but as they call to the Lord, the storm ceases and they thank the Lord. The action of God and Jesus are the same to still the storm and ease the anxiety of the sailors. The Church identifies Jesus as God's Messiah come to earth. The Church is the people of God who witness that Jesus has the power over the storm. Jesus has power over nature, even the wind and sea obey him. Jesus is the only one sent from God who can calm the chaos of our world and establish the kingdom of God. An old Gospel song captures the identity of Jesus as the "Master of the Sea."

WHEN HE REACHES DOWN HIS HAND,
BILLOWS CEASE AT HIS COMMAND,
WIND AND WAVES OBEY HIS WILL.
WHEN HE SAYS TO THEM, "BE STILL"
WHAT MAN IS THIS THEY ALL DID SAY,
THAT THE WIND AND SEA OBEY,
HE'S THE ONE WHO SAILS WITH ME.
HE'S THE MASTER OF THE SEA.

Mike

Vacation Bible School: Hometown Nazareth





Summer full of fun activities

The Child Development Center children are having a BLAST so far this summer! We have enjoyed outdoor games, picking vegetables from our garden, making worms out of pipe cleaners, attending Vacation Bible School, meeting barnyard animals, and so much more. It's amazing to be a part of such a special place.





MEET THE CDC TEAM

Mrs. Christina Wukela



ABOUT MRS. CHRISTINA

Mrs. Christina joined the First Presbyterian CDC in November. She's been serving in the Toddler classroom, where the children love her and call her "Nini." A native of James Island, she enjoys spending time with family, watching movies, and painting her nails. What Mrs. Christina loves most about working at the Center is the kiddos - watching them grow, develop, and achieve milestones. She enjoys how the children light up to greet her. Mrs. Christina also loves learning from other teachers and their teaching styles.

MY FAVORITES

FOOD: Mac and cheese











COLORS: Purple and green

PLACE: Tennessee

SPORT: Gymnastics

SEASON: Fall



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY
<p>30</p>  <p>a new day is coming</p>	<p>1</p> <p>WinShape Camps</p> 	<p>2</p> <p>WinShape Camps</p>	<p>3</p> <p>WinShape Camps CDC July Fourth Parade, 10:30 a.m.</p>
<p>7</p> <p>9 a.m. Sunday School 10 a.m. Worship Service Cookies & Lemonade 11 a.m. Sunday School Youth: Wheeldateens!</p> 	<p>8</p> <p>Worship Team, 12:30</p>	<p>9</p> <p>Treasured Tuesdays: EdVenture, 7:30 a.m.</p> <p>Youth: RSVP for brunch</p>	<p>10</p> <p>Wonderful Wednesdays: Aquarium, 7:30 a.m. Pool Party RSVP Youth: Brunch at Venus, 10 a.m.</p>
<p>14</p> <p>9 a.m. Sunday School 10 a.m. Worship Service 11 a.m. Cookies & Lemonade 11 a.m. Flourishing Church class 11 a.m. Sunday School Youth Prayer Retreat</p>	<p>15</p> <p>Discipleship Team, 4:30 p.m. Enabling Team, 5:30 p.m.</p>	<p>16</p> <p>Treasured Tuesdays: CLC, 1-4 p.m. Fellowship Team, 5:30</p> 	<p>17</p> <p>Personnel Team, 8:15 Youth: Tie-Dye Party, noon Outreach Team, 12:15 p.m. Wonderful Wednesdays: CLC, 1-4 p.m. Children's Ministry Team</p>
<p>21</p> <p>9 a.m. Sunday School 10 a.m. Worship Service Cookies & Lemonade 11 a.m. Sunday School 11 a.m. Flourishing Church class</p> 	<p>22</p> <p>Youth (Junior High): The Great Escape</p> 	<p>23</p> <p>Treasured Tuesdays: Neptune Island, 9 a.m. Youth Junior High: The Great Escape</p> 	<p>24</p> <p>Veterans Brunch, 8 a.m. Wonderful Wednesdays: Pool Party, 1-4 p.m. Youth: The Great Escape</p> 
<p>28</p> <p>9 a.m. Sunday School 10 a.m. Worship Service Cookies & Lemonade 11 a.m. Sunday School 11 a.m. Flourishing Church class</p>	<p>29</p> 	<p>30</p> <p>Diaconate, 5:30 p.m. Session, 6:30 p.m.</p>	<p>31</p> <p>Youth: Back-to-School Bash, 4-7 p.m.</p> 

THURSDAY

FRIDAY

SATURDAY

JULY

WEEKLY

SUNDAYS

- Praise Team Rehearsal, 8:15 a.m.
 - Sunday School, 9 a.m.
 - Worship Service, 10 a.m.
 - Sunday School, 11 a.m.
- 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.

4
Church office and CDC closed for holiday
WinShape Camps



5
CDC closed for holiday
WinShape Camps


6
Wonderful Wednesdays:
RSVP for aquarium trip
Thundering Thursdays:
RSVP Deadline for Frankie's Fun Park

11
Thundering Thursdays:
Frankie's Fun Park, 9:30 a.m.
Youth: Coffee, F.E. Pop's, 9 a.m.
Youth Prayer Retreat

12
Youth Prayer Retreat




13
Parking Lot Mission
Youth Prayer Retreat



18
Youth: Coffee, F.E. Pop's Evangelism Team Meeting, 11:30 a.m.
Thundering Thursdays: CLC, 1-4 p.m.
RSVP for Pool Party
Treasured Tuesdays: Neptune Island RSVP

19 20



25
Youth: Coffee, F.E. Pop's at 9 a.m.
Youth: The Great Escape
Thundering Thursdays: Pool Party, 1-4 p.m.



26
Youth: Great Escape

27
Youth: The Great Escape

Cast all your anxiety on him because he cares for you.

1 Peter 5:7

Sympathy

Alexis Morris, loss of her brother John Peter "Pete" Sperr
Johnny Stoupenos, loss of his mother, Betty

Extended Care

Lowman Home
Mac King

The Manor
Joyce Floyd
Marie Jordan
Maria Whitehead

Presbyterian Community
Clariann Kellam

Memorials

Gwen DuRant
Todd Moseley, son of Jim and Sarah Moseley
Betty Stoupenos, mother of Johnny Stoupenos

Expectant Families

Brittany and Weber Mimms

Military

Andrew Stewart, deployed

Households

FLOCK 1: Cordie and Mary Frances Jones
FLOCK 2: Dusty and Rachel Williams, Duncan, Reese, and Luke
FLOCK 3: Bill and Jill Cain
FLOCK 4: Madisen Nichol
FLOCK 5: Steve and Laura Migliore, Grace, James, and Anna
FLOCK 6: Carlee Linke, Owen and Harland
FLOCK 7: Donna Fields
FLOCK 8: John and Whitney Richey, Bennett and Hollis

Flowers in the Sanctuary

July 7: Communion
July 14: OPEN
July 21: Barbara Meeks
July 28: Marion Howard

Sick & Recovering

Aubrey Crawford
Joyce Dalsbo
Roger Gulick
Dottie Hail
Barbara Maffett
Brittany Matthews

Elders

Jayne Boswell
Brandon Hylton

Deacons

Nabil Cotran
Sandra Davidson

Missions

House of Hope
Gray Scott,
Antioch Partners

Women in Ministry


Janet Brand
Emily Whitehead

Teachers

Alexis Morris
Ellen Wilhoit

Staff

Kaiti Bryant
Kelly Hickey



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 or 843-992-8904). Please leave your name, number, and date you wish to reserve.

July BIRTHDAYS

JULY 1

Belle Rockhill
Julia Watkins

JULY 2

William Bratton
Derek Hemmingsen
Pessy Losah
Weber Mimms

JULY 3

Tate Allison
Harriett Gilpin
Avery Hucks
Harper Suggs
Frances Welch

JULY 4

Natalie Hall
Louise King

JULY 5

Lucy Hubbs
Ken Jackson
Erik Marechal

JULY 6

Amelia Carter
Emma Carter
Kate Carter
Bobby Garris
Mary Kirkpatrick
Benjamin Lewis
Weston Lewis
Tripp Toniolo

JULY 7

Wanda Granger
Richard Hopkins
Susie Jackson
Wendy Singletary
Guy Slagle
Stirling Temple

JULY 8

Leslie Brodie
Emily Jordan
Maggie Reece

JULY 11

Frank Hodges
Rob Lewis
David Spearman

JULY 12

John Hofler
Sammie Kennedy
Luke Poston
Susan Rhea

JULY 13

Nabil Cotran
Ann Houck

JULY 14

Gregg Jones
Barbara Maffett
Hunter Moore

JULY 15

Eiley Foxworth
Robbie Suggs

JULY 16

Pat Conyers
Emily Witt

JULY 17

Mac Gandy
Jessica Garris
Mitchell Green
Margaret Lee
Jim Moseley

JULY 18

Robert Miles
Pam Morgan

JULY 19

Landen Turner
Blakely Witt

JULY 20

Nancy Harwell
Marty Taylor

JULY 21

Marsha Fincher
Denise King
Mike Porter
Freeman Williams

JULY 22

Jimmy Green
Martha Nance
Rob Molnar

JULY 23

Martha Blanton
Walt Burch
Alice Caldwell

JULY 24

Beth Player
Ford Scott
Kim Ryan
Christy Wallace

JULY 25

Shawn Bulliner
Emily Davidson
Alicia Truman
Elizabeth Tuttle

JULY 27

Troy Mbunu
Michael Miles
Duncan Williams

JULY 28

Margaret Jones
Caleb King
Hannah Moree

JULY 29

Bruce Crawford
David DuBose
Thomas Hardee
Laura Outz

JULY 30

Thomas Davis
Vicki Hebert
Jill McQuillan
David Sanderson

JULY 31

Seth Crawford
Palmer Jones
Marie Jordan

Women's Retreat



On the first Saturday in June, more than 20 women from First Presbyterian gathered for a retreat in Georgetown. Led by Beth Behling and Janet Brand, the women spent the day participating in Bible teaching sessions by Beth, small group discussions, individual prayer time, and exploring, relaxing, and boating at Beneventum Plantation.



Church News

Small group meetings for Flock 1

Attention Flock 1, Pastor Stuart would like to speak to you! Pastor Stuart has three openings for a small group from Flock 1 to reflect upon the strengths and areas of growth for our church: 3 and 6 p.m. Sunday, July 28, as well as 6 p.m. Monday, July 29. Please contact Emily Reed at ered@florencefirst.org to choose a time.

Spots available for CDC 4K Class

Beginning August 12, the CDC will have 11 spots open in our 4K class for the 2024-2025 school year. If you know anyone who is looking, please ask them to reach out to us as soon as possible. We also would appreciate your help with spreading the word.

Summer Worship continues

There will be one worship service at 10 a.m. on Sundays throughout the summer. Two Sunday worship services will resume Sunday, September 8.

Blood drive yields 12 units

Thank you to all who volunteered during the Red Cross Blood Drive. While the goal was not met, it was successful in collecting 12 units.

Children's Ministry Corner



Dear Church Family,

I recently participated in a continuing education workshop for the Child Development Center. During my time at the event, I was reminded that we are the AL-PHA! Meaning, anyone who works with children from infant through preschool is considered their beginning.

We are called to teach them, love them, encourage them, and empower them, while they are young. We all have a purpose, and those of us who teach in the classrooms, rather it's in the Center, in Sunday school, in Children in Worship, in the public school system, etc., we have been called to make a difference in children's lives. We have an opportunity to help build the foundation on which they will stand.

It is my hope and dream that we, First Presbyterian Church and First Presbyterian Child Development Center, inspire, support, love, and nurture all of the precious children God has placed in our lives. May He use us to make a difference in their lives, as they make a difference in ours. What a gift the Lord has given us!

Much love,
Kelly



Dear Church Family,

What an incredible June at FPC! From Treasured Tuesdays at the Zoo to Wonderful Wednesdays at Neptune Waterpark and Thundering Thursdays at WonderWorks, our children have had a summer packed with adventure and fun.

And let's not forget Vacation Bible School – Hometown Nazareth, where Jesus was a kid! We explored Mary's perspective on Jesus' life, played games in the Hometown Fun Field, got creative at the Marketplace, sang joyful songs, and so much more. It was a week filled with laughter, learning, and growing in faith.

None of this would have been possible without the dedication and support of our incredible volunteers. Your time, energy, and enthusiasm made a profound difference in the lives of our children and families. Thank you for being a part of this journey with us!

As we look ahead to the rest of summer, let's continue nurturing those precious connections with God and each other. May we cherish every moment of sunshine, every opportunity to learn and grow, and every reminder that God is with us, guiding us always.

Let's carry with us the words from Romans 8:31: "If God is for us, no one can stand against us." What a powerful reminder that with God on our side, we have nothing to fear.

In Christ's love,
Kaiti

Children's Ministry summertime events

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)

On **July 9**, we will meet at 7:30 a.m. at the church to travel to the EdVenture in Columbia. We will return at 4 p.m. Please pack a bag lunch with your child's name on it.

Link to Register: <https://onrealm.org/florencefirst/PublicRegistrations/Event?linkString=MWIwMGQ-xODYtOWRhNy00ZjhmLWJkNTAtYjE5NDAXm-mRkNTQy>

The cost of the trip is \$25 per participant. Participants must sign up on or before July 6.

On **July 16**, 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.

On **July 23**, we will meet at 9 a.m. at the church 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 towel
- water shoes
- dry clothes

Link to Register: <https://onrealm.org/florencefirst/PublicRegistrations/Event?linkString=ODExYWMzZ-jEtMTE4Yi00N2VjLTI1ZjktYjE5NTAxNGFhNTc0>

The cost of the trip is \$30 per participant. All participants must sign up on or before July 18.

Wonderful Wednesdays (Completed First – Second grades)

On **July 10**, we will meet at the church at 7:30 a.m. to travel to Ripley's Aquarium of Myrtle Beach. We will return at 4 p.m. Registration link: <https://onrealm.org/florencefirst/PublicRegistrations/Event?linkString=Z-jMyNTZkNzctMDRmZi00YmFILThZTctYjE5NDAXmzYzMGZk>

The cost of the trip is \$30 per participant. All participants must sign up on or before July 6.

On **July 17**, 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.

On **July 24**, we will end the summer with a pizza and pool party. We will meet from 1 to 4 p.m. at the home of Merrette and Matt Dowdell (700 Greenway Drive). Registration link:

<https://onrealm.org/florencefirst/PublicRegistrations/Event?linkString=N2ExOTJiMDctOTJlOC00ZWY4L-WFkOWQtYjE5NTAxNGUwM2U3>

Participants must sign up on or before July 18.

Kaiti Bryant's Contact Information
Program Director of Children's Ministry
Phone: 843-662-2583
Email: kbryant@florencefirst.org

Summertime events



Thundering Thursdays (Completed Third – Fifth grades)

On **July 11**, we will meet at the church at 9:30 a.m. to travel to Frankie's Fun Park in Columbia. We will enjoy go carts, laser tag, the Drop Zone, the arcade and more. We will return at 4 p.m.

The cost of the trip is \$65 with food included.

Registration link:

<https://onrealm.org/florencefirst/PublicRegistrations/Event?linkString=ZTE5ZmMxY2ltNzQ5Yi00MzMjMjM4-ljZTItYjE5NDAxMzc3MjM4>

Participants must sign up on or before July 6.

On **July 18**, 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.

On **July 25**, we will end the summer with a pizza and pool party. We will meet from 1 to 4 p.m. at the home of Kathy and Allen Griffin (1814 Brigadoone Lane).

Registration link:

<https://onrealm.org/florencefirst/PublicRegistrations/Event?linkString=Zjg4MwIwMDMtZGlxOC-00MjJkLTkzNDItYjE5NTAxNTFmNDUx>

Participants must sign up on or before July 18.



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. 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, as well as to help students make an informed and personal commitment to their faith.

Sunday School

There will be NO Sunday school for children during July. We thoroughly enjoyed the time spent together in June. More information for Fall 2024 is coming soon!

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
July 7	10 a.m.	Kaiti Bryant
July 14	10 a.m.	Kaiti Bryant
July 21	10 a.m.	Kaiti Bryant
July 28	10 a.m.	Kelly Hickey

VBS: Journey to Hometown Nazareth

A heartfelt thank you to everyone who volunteered their time, donated snacks or tents, and any other way you helped to support our Vacation Bible School this year. Your contributions made a tremendous difference and helped create a memorable and meaningful experience for our children. We deeply appreciate your dedication and generosity!

Thank you to the congregation for your generosity with the VBS quarter collection the past three Sundays. We put together many rolls of coins to bless our neighbors. Thanks to the many bills included in the offering, we expanded our mission project to include supplies for Blessing Bags for the homeless, which the younger children put together. In addition, VBS families donated laundry supplies throughout the week. Our fourth- and fifth-graders traveled to laundromats, the House of Hope Men's Shelter, and the HOPE Village delivering these gifts. We appreciate your support in helping our children learn about loving our neighbors.



Youth busy with full and fun-filled June

June was busy and filled with a lot of time outdoors. The youth enjoyed a trip to Neptune Island, floating down the Little Pee Dee River, and riding bikes. Many of the youth volunteered at VBS. We also had a Lock In, and have pretty much recovered from it.

Several of the senior high students traveled to St. Simon's Island, Georgia, where they participated in Fun in the Sun. We spent time in the word, worship, playing games, spending time on the beach, and family time each night.

We are looking forward to another busy month filled with fun trips and fellowship. A big thanks to Hunter Morgan Jr., Paige Alexander, and my sister, Lamonda Garrett, for helping with trips and events last month.

UPCOMING EVENTS

WinShape Camp (8 a.m. - 5 p.m.) July 1-5
Campers and volunteers can both register online. First Presbyterian youth will only need to pay the \$25 deposit when they register and then get \$25 off the full price. This will make your total in the end \$199 instead of \$224.

Wheeldateens! (July 7) 5 – 7 p.m.
Come ride bikes with us! Water and snacks provided.

Brunch @ Venus (July 10) 10:30 a.m. – noon
Youth will need to bring money for their meal. Please RSVP by Wednesday, July 9.

Coffee at F.E. Pop's (July 11, 18 & 25) 9 a.m. – Until

Prayer Retreat (July 11-14) 11 a.m.
We will travel back to Blowing Rock, North Carolina. Youth will learn to pray by themselves, in pairs and in groups. This will be a wonderful time together as we study God's word by reading it, journaling it & praying it. We will also pray specifically for the upcoming school year. More details coming soon!

Tie-Dye Party (July 17) Noon – 2 p.m.
Please bring the item(s) you would like to tie-dye. Lunch provided.



The Great Escape (July 22-27) **Junior High trip**
(Current seventh- and eighth-graders)

We will travel to Adventure Ocoee in Ocoee, Tennessee. Activities include a wave pool, lazy river, zip line, paintball, and so much more! Add on great teaching, outstanding worship, small groups, and family time where you can dig deeper with your group. Cost is \$400.

Back to School Bash (July 31) 4 – 7 p.m.
Join us as we end our summer with outdoor games and fun! Bring a towel and clothes you can get messy and wet. Dinner provided. Bring a friend!

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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
Financial Assistant	Ms. Sonya Hunter
Ministry Assistant	Mrs. Emily Reed
Lead Custodian	Mr. Leroy Williams
Housekeeping	Ms. Wanda LaSane
Custodian	Mr. Rayshon Woodard

