

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF SPARTANBURG

FIRST NEWS

APRIL 2022



There is usually a moment in every wedding I officiate where I invite everyone to take a big deep breath. I tell the bride and groom to take those few seconds to look around and soak it all in. The moment they have been looking forward to and preparing for and – let's be honest – stressing about for months has finally arrived. All the details and menu tastings and hard guest list decisions (“Do we *have* to invite Cousin Ned?”) are all behind them now. All that is left is the here and the now. At its best, that deep breath is permission for everyone to collectively let their hearts and minds finally and fully settle into the beautiful present.

So... deep breath.

For nearly a year and a half, the family of faith that is First Presbyterian Spartanburg has been on a whirlwind journey of discerning where God is calling you next and who God is calling to help lead you in that faithful work. And for much of that time God has been working in the same way on my heart. In fact, as I look back now, I realize that the lead up to the start of our time together has been not unlike what most couples experience in the lead up to the big day – lots of planning, lots of menu tastings (your PNC knows how to eat!), a healthy dose of stress at times, and some very real grief, too, as we say goodbye to friends and a church we love.

But now, as I draw in that deep breath, I can feel my heart and mind finally and fully settling into the beautiful present. And as I look around and soak it all in, the main thing I am feeling is an overwhelming sense of excitement. Friends, I am so excited to finally be here and to begin getting to know you all. I am eager to start hearing what it is you love about this church – what draws you to this community week after week, year after year. And I am hopeful, too, to know what your hopes and prayers and aspirations are for what FPC can yet be. To that end, my only agenda for these first few months is to simply listen and learn and connect. There are lots of good plans in the works to help make that easy for all of us to do, so be sure to keep an eye out in upcoming church communications for details.

Finally, I want to close with a word of deep gratitude. The welcome you all have shown the Dyer Family has truly been overwhelming. We are so grateful for all of your kind notes, offers to help, and friendly hellos. We feel your love and are so grateful for it! Please continue to hold our family in prayer as we gradually make the transition – with Erin and the boys remaining on St. Simons through the end of the school year. There will be a good bit of back and forth between now and then, but by God's grace, some extra-large cups of coffee, and more than a few deep breaths, we will make it.

Blessings to you all. See you at church. Invite a friend.

Peace,



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WHAT'S HAPPENING AT FPC

RECREATION NEWS

Personal training sessions are available and free to church members.
Contact Colleen Darrall at cdarrall@fpcspartanburg.org to schedule your session!

Gym Hours

Monday-Thursday (7:00am-8:00pm)
Friday (7:00am-2:00pm)

Classes

Bootcamp

Mon/Wed/Fri (7:15am & 9:15am)
Tu/Th (12:15pm)
Yoga - Wednesday (8:15am)

VBS 2022



Online registration:
April 1 - May 15.

**REGISTER
HERE!**



June 27-30, 9 am - 12 pm
Rising 4K - 6th grade

Come explore how God's great light shines and how we can reflect that light too! We will explore Adventure Island to find lanterns that light our way - love, trust, faith, joy, hope. Discovering clues in the Old and New Testament and exploring art, recreation, music and science, kids will arise and shine God's light! Plus have lots of fun with friends!

With your questions or to volunteer, please contact:
Beth Thompson (elizabethafowlersc@hotmail.com),
Suzy Cole (suzyboulwarecole@gmail.com), or
Pastor Ansley (apage@fpcspartanburg.org).



EVENTS HAPPENING AT FPC

YOUNG ADULT FELLOWSHIP EVENT

COME FELLOWSHIP WITH US AND MEET PASTOR ALAN!

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 20TH

5:30-7:30PM

FR8YARD (UPPER DECK)

APPETIZERS WILL BE PROVIDED

FR8YARD IS FAMILY-FRIENDLY FOR THOSE
WHO CHOOSE TO BRING CHILDREN

Easter Sunrise Service and Fellowship

Sunday, April 17th

6:30am - 7:15am

This year's Sunrise Service, led by Rev. Craig Foster, will be held in the Columbarium.

Sunrise Service Fellowship will be held in
The Perrin Room from 7:15am - 8:30am

Beverages - Coffee, Water, Orange Juice - and
Early Morning Breakfast Items (muffins,
doughnuts, etc)

JOY FELLOWSHIP

Spring Luncheon

Thursday, April 28
11:30AM - Fogartie Hall

RSVP: 864-208-2132 or
jshackleton@fpcspartanburg.org

April 10th at 6pm
The First Presbyterian Chamber Singers

present

Reflections

A musical meditation on Lent, Holy Week and Easter

featuring

Orchestra and Soloists

Celebrate Palm Sunday and Easter

Opportunities to help enhance our church family Easter experience

Palm Cross Workshop

Help make crosses from palm fronds for Palm Sunday
Wednesday, April 6, 3:00-5:00 - Large Private Dining Room

Palm Sunday

Distribute Palm crosses before MorningSong at 8:45
and the Traditional Services at 8:45 and 11:00.

Easter Sunday

Help decorate the traditional flower cross between the
Chapel and Sanctuary. Hand out flowers. Assist those
who brought flowers place them. Tidy up the area.

Contact LeAnne Thurmond Holcombe to sign up (864-621-0213 or leanne.thurmond@gmail.com)



5PM

DINNER

April 6

BBQ Beef Brisket, Pulled Chicken
BBQ, Cole Slaw, Vegetable Du
Jour, Roll, Dessert and a
beverage.

KID'S MENU

Chicken fingers, mac
and cheese, fruit cup,
dessert, and a juice box

*Last WAF
for awhile.

APRIL 6

PROGRAMS

Wednesdays @FIRST

FAITH, FOOD, & FELLOWSHIP

PREORDER DINNER AT
FPCSPARTANBURG.ORG/WAF

\$9 FOR ADULTS

\$8 FOR SENIORS (AGES 55+)

\$6 FOR CHILDREN

\$27 FAMILY MAXIMUM

WAF Schedule

5:00pm – 6:30pm WAF Dinner

6:15 pm – 7:15pm Christian
Recreation for Children

6:30 – 7:15pm WAF Fellowship

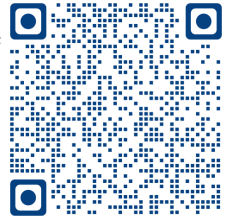
7:30pm – 9:00pm Chancel Choir
Rehearsal



From the Peace and Justice Taskforce

Racial Healing Circles are conversations that honor and value each person's humanity, better reflect our common humanity, and build mutually respectful relationships across racial difference to bring about racial healing and repair in communities. They were developed as part of the Truth, Racial Healing, and Transformation (TRHT) framework by Dr. Gail Christopher, who was the City of Spartanburg's MLK Unity Celebration keynote speaker in 2020 just before the pandemic closed everything down. As she puts it, "A racial healing circle is not just a conversation, not just a safe space. It is an experience that engages the heart and requires the heart to be open and expansive. It re-affirms the humanity in all of us. It is a commitment to acknowledging that unconscious bias lives in all of us, and it is the spiritual work of affirming and loving ourselves."

To date, about 150 people in Spartanburg have participated in one. Please join us. To learn more and to register, point your smartphone's camera at this square (QR code).



MISSIONS

Witness Season Update!

Thanks to your generosity, we raised **\$39,746** during Witness Season to help Angels Charge Ministry purchase reliable transportation for the women in their program. See thank-you note below from Pastor Nannie Jefferies, founder and director:

To the First Presbyterian Church members of all ages,

Your kindness and your belief in being servants of our Lord is so inspiring. The women of Angels Charge Ministry, their families, and myself are grateful as well as thankful for your love in Christ. The outward expression shown helps to ease the discomfort life often brings. The caring to reduce poverty and isolation is very empowering to teach how to give back to the community, especially the community in which they live.

We will continue to help the women in our community to have a better way to a new life, because of your support. We are learning the value and significance of lifting others up as in, Psalms 91: 11-12, "For He shall give His angels charge over you, to keep you in all your ways. They shall bear you up in their hands, lest you dash your foot against a stone." You have lifted up this ministry to help women not continue to dash a foot upon a stone. Words cannot express our gratitude for your gifts.

Thank you and blessing unto you all!





CHILDREN'S MINISTRY: GROWING WITH JESUS

In Sunday School, our elementary classes are listening, discussing, and moving as they soak up faith. You'll find classes on treasure hunts and up playing games. Our preschoolers play and listen to Bible stories in circle time. Plus, they enjoy a video each week that brings the story to modern day and adds some wonderful silly time. Children's Worship has found a good routine and some new friends. Fun and sweetness!

Wednesdays at First's Recreation and Bible Time continues to be a ton of fun playing with friends, talking about Jesus, and learning theology with the Belonging to God catechism. (Yes, theology like--who we are (beloved children of God), where we belong (to God), what makes it so (grace) and how to love God. We talk about big things like when a friend doesn't believe in God and how we can welcome new folks.) Plus, there's always a silly video!

UPDATE: There will be a Spring Break Bonus WAF Children's Rec and Bible Time April 6, so staycation families hope to see you!

If you have any questions, please reach out to Pastor Ansley (apage@fpcspartanburg.org), Ansley Page. Let the little children come and know the love of Jesus deep in their hearts!



Above: Java and Jesus

Right: Confirmands serving at Neighborhood Meal Ministry



SUNDAY, APRIL 24

CONFIRMATION SUNDAY

11 AM SANCTUARY

Please join us in welcoming this year's Confirmands as members of First Presbyterian Church!

Confirmands and their families will receive more information via email regarding a breakfast being held at 10 AM in the gym.





PASTORAL CONCERNS

IN MEMORIAM

Mannon R. "Mike" Turner
Tuesday, February 22, 2022
Husband of Ann Turner

Lenna MacLean Moore Fulmer
Monday, March 14, 2022
Wife of Dr. J. Sidney Fulmer
Mother of Jamie Fulmer

William Ross Sturm
Monday, March 21, 2022
son of Marilyn and Kevin Sturm

Glen R. Melton
Wednesday, March 23, 2022
husband of Peggie Melton
father of Libby Pressley

I am the resurrection and life. Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live. John 11:25

CHRISTIAN SYMPATHY

Christian sympathy is extended to:

Jason Lynch, on the death of his father, **Albert Manning Lynch, Sr**

Bregman Camby on the death of his brother, **John Thorne Camby**

Susan Polson, on the death of her father, **Tom Bryson**

BAPTISMS

The Sacrament of Baptism was administered to:

Eleanor Baker Boles, daughter of **Laura and Baker Boles**, on February 27, 2022

Madison Grace Conzett, daughter of **Christine and Chris Conzett**, on February 27, 2022

Olin Cleveland Calicutt, son of **Leslie and Russ Calicutt**, on March 20, 2022

WEDDINGS

Congratulations to:

Mr. and Mrs. Ira Brooks Cochran (Mary Stroupe), who were married on March 12, 2022

Mr. and Mrs. John Murphy (Rosie) who were married on March 19, 2022

BIRTHS

Congratulations to:

Maryanna and Forest Lindman on the birth of their son, **James Thomas Lindman**, born Monday, February 28, 2022

Rachel and Cobb Howell on the birth of their daughter, **Madison Gray Howell**, born Thursday, March 17, 2022

Thank You from Lewis & Bunny

Dear Friends,

Bunny and I are so grateful for the time we have had to share in ministry with you at First Presbyterian Church. Fourteen months have come and gone so quickly. On our last Sunday, we were overwhelmed by the beautiful reception and by the gracious words, notes, and cards from so many of you. Your grace, kindness, and hospitality have touched us deeply and given us memories that we will treasure forever. We will miss you, but the bonds of friendship remain. We look forward to visiting with you in the future and seeing you in Montreat. I know that you will extend to Alan Dyer and his family the same warm welcome and support that you extended to us. I am excited for the future of First Church as you begin a new chapter in your life together within the church and in your service to Christ in the larger community and world. Know that our prayers are with you.

With deep appreciation,

Lewis Galloway

WELCOME OUR NEW MEMBERS!



Leah and Patrick
Anderson



Teresa Key;
Pictured with her
husband Jimmy Key
who was already a
memeber.



Honey
Hutchinson



Holy Week

At First Presbyterian Spartanburg

Palm Sunday

Sunday April 10, 2022

8:45 am: Worship in the Sanctuary (Traditional) and Fogartie Hall (MorningSong).

The children will participate in a palm procession during the MorningSong Service.

9:45 am: Sunday School

11:00 am: Worship in the Sanctuary (Traditional).

The children will participate in a palm procession at the beginning of the Service.

Maundy Thursday

Thursday, April 14, 2022

7:30pm in the Sanctuary

A service of readings in darkness with communion, remembering Jesus' Last Supper with his disciples before his crucifixion.

Good Friday

Friday, April 15, 2022

Worship Service, 12:15pm
in the Sanctuary

The Good Friday service is an annual tradition at First Presbyterian.

Easter

Sunday, April 17, 2022

6:30 am: Sunrise Service in the Columbarium

After the service, make your way to The Perrin Room for a time of Fellowship. Hot Cross Buns will be served.

8:45 am: Worship in the Sanctuary (Traditional) and Fogartie Hall (MorningSong).

10:00am Adult/Youth Sunday School and Children's Sunday School (3K- 5th grade)

10:00 am: A time of Fellowship on the Front Lawn.

10:15am Hot Cross Buns (Front Lawn)

11:00 am: Worship in the Sanctuary (Traditional).

Cross of Flowers // Front Lawn

The Cross of Flowers is an annual First Presbyterian Easter event. Members and guests are invited to place flowers in the rough-hewn cross, which is erected by the Sanctuary Guild on the Lawn of the church, as they come to worship on Easter.

First Presbyterian Church
393 East Main Street
Spartanburg, SC 29302-1917

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