

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF SPARTANBURG

# FIRST NEWS

APRIL 2023



*First Presbyterian Church, Spartanburg Sanctuary Groundbreaking, 1924*

It may or may not surprise you to learn that some of the first phone calls I made back in 2021, when discerning whether God might be calling me to be the next senior pastor of First Presbyterian Church, Spartanburg, were to the past senior pastors of First Presbyterian. At the time, what was most striking to me about those conversations and correspondence with Todd, David, and Tom was the deep love and continued care each of them so clearly feels for this community of believers.

There were no proverbial skeletons in the closet they were eager to warn me away from, no live wires they wanted to be sure I knew not to touch, no red flags they needed to make certain I had not missed. Instead, there was joy and grace in their voices as they spoke about the faithful people and ministry that are First Presbyterian. They continued to rejoice at having been called to serve in this place and wanted the same for whoever God was calling next. For my part, it was a good sign!

Of course, the story of God's love and work here is not limited to just the most recent pastors nor only the past few decades. For 180 years now, the Holy Spirit has been moving in powerful and profound ways through the countless women and men who have called First Presbyterian Church home. Together, our story today is yet another chapter of the much larger story that God has been telling for quite some time in this place.

So why mention any of this? Because later this month on Sunday, April 30\* we are going to gather as a church family for a good, old-fashioned homecoming celebration. This Homecoming Celebration is meant to be an opportunity for us all to give thanks to God for our past, celebrate our present, and look forward with hope-filled hearts to all that is still in store in the future. And, appropriately enough, the theme for our time together is:

**"Rejoicing in our Story."**

In addition to welcoming back Drs. Todd Jones, David Renwick, and Tom Evans

(three of our past senior pastors) for a special Sundayschool hour and worship service at 11:00am, we will also gather for lunch on the front lawn afterwards. I hope you will not only mark your calendars and plan on attending but also take time to consider where God is calling **you** to add your story to the life and faith of the church today.

Easter blessings to you all and hope to see you at church soon.

Peace,

Rev. Alan F. Dyer  
Senior Pastor

\*Appropriately enough: Sunday, April 30, 1843 was the day that eight Presbyterians gathered for the first time and formed a fellowship that soon thereafter would officially become First Presbyterian Church, Spartanburg.



# UPCOMING HAPPENINGS

## Wednesdays @FIRST

FAITH, FOOD, & FELLOWSHIP


**April 5 - No WAF**  
Join us tomorrow instead

« **Thursday, April 6** »

*Maundy Thursday Fellowship Meal at 5:30*

*featuring delectables from*

*Mama Jane's Ice Creams & Coffee Beans*

Sandwich Assortment, Pasta Salad, Potato Salad, Fruit Cup,  
Dessert & Beverage (including  tea)

*followed by*

*Maundy Thursday Service at 6:30 in Fogartie Hall*

**April 12 - Outdoor WAF**

*Cookout & Picnic, then Games-on-the-Green*

Grilled Hamburger, Cheeseburger or Hot Dog, Chili Sauce,  
Mac & Cheese, Greek Salad, Dessert & Beverage

**April 19 - Outdoor WAF** (last WAF until the fall)

*Cookout & Picnic, then more Games-on-the-Green*

Chopped Pork BBQ, BBQ Chicken Legs, Corn on the Cob,  
Baked Beans, Cole Slaw, Dessert & Beverage

**Kid's menus are the same as the Grown-ups**

*Cookouts are BYOC (chair) for outdoor dining,  
or you may dine indoor in Fogartie Hall*

Scan this QR code to make your dinner reservation  
or visit <https://fpcspartanburg.org/grow/waf>

Child \$7, Adult \$10, Senior \$9, Family \$30

Additional charge for to-go orders - \$1 per meal



Plans are underway for our covered dish / pot luck luncheon on **Sunday, April 30th**, on the front lawn! The church will provide the fried chicken and bread, and we're asking the congregation to fill in with the following:

- **Last name A – M:** Side dish – enough for 8 to 10 people (including sandwiches, ham biscuits, green beans, mac & cheese, potato salad, coleslaw, deviled eggs, fruit trays)
- **Last name N – Z:** Dessert - enough for 8 to 10 people (including cakes, pies, cookies)

Please bring your dish in a DISPOSABLE pan or tray. For hot sides, they must be in aluminum. Drop off time is scheduled for **Sunday, April 30th, between 8:30 – 10:30am** under the tent at the intersection of Chestnut and the Family Life Center parking lot. Please note Chestnut Street will be blocked off from Main Street to this intersection (the upper parking lot across from the Chapel will be reserved for handicapped parking).

**Rain Plan:** Please drop off your food at Fogartie Hall.

Hope to see everyone at our Homecoming celebration with your favorite special dish!



## Easter

APRIL 9, 2023

**SUNRISE SERVICE**  
6:30AM | COLUMBARIUM  
(FELLOWSHIP TO FOLLOW)

**FELLOWSHIP  
ON THE LAWN**  
10:00AM | FRONT LAWN

**REGULAR WORSHIP SCHEDULE**  
(BOTH TRADITIONAL SERVICES IN SANCTUARY)

## Flower Baskets

WITH BOY SCOUT TROOP 2



**March 27 - April 16**  
**Delivery May 13**

**\$25 per basket**

**Proceeds support scout activities and education**

**To purchase, look for the sale table at WAF, contact any Troop 2 Scout, or call Melissa Pickens (864-497-2363)**







# THE GREAT PRESBYTERIAN PICTURE PUSH



WE ARE UPDATING CHURCH MEMBER PHOTOS IN OUR ONLINE PICTORIAL DIRECTORY – “[SHELBY](#)”. OUR GOAL IS TO GET A RECENT PICTURE OF EVERY MEMBER IN SHELBY BY MID-APRIL.

ON SELECT [SUNDAYS](#) AND [WEDNESDAYS](#), WE HAVE PHOTO STATIONS SET UP IN THE [FLC LOBBY](#) AND IN THE [PERRIN ROOM](#) FOR US TO TAKE PICTURES OF YOU AND/OR YOUR FAMILY. NO NEED TO DRESS UP – [COME AS YOU ARE!](#) ADDITIONAL PHOTO TIMES WILL BE HELD DURING WAF (ALL DATES AND TIMES CAN BE FOUND AT [FPCSPARTANBURG.ORG/GPPP](#).)

ALREADY HAVE A GOOD FAMILY PHOTO? FEEL FREE TO SUBMIT YOUR PHOTO ONLINE. ON THE CHURCH HOMEPAGE, CLICK ON THE “[GREAT PRESBYTERIAN PICTURE PUSH](#)” LOGO AND THEN CLICK THE RED BUTTON.





## JOY Fellowship

Trip to Chimney Rock Village & Burntshirt Vineyards

**Thursday, April 20**

Contact Joanie Shackleton to reserve your spot!  
([jshackleton@fpcspartanburg.org](mailto:jshackleton@fpcspartanburg.org) / 864-208-2132)





**April 4th**

***I Must Betray You***  
by Ruta Sepetys

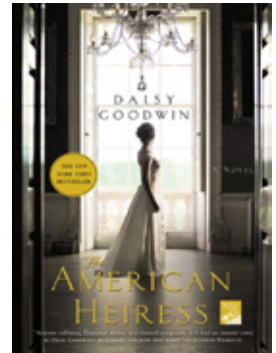
A gut-wrenching, startling, historical thriller about communist Romania and the citizen spy network that devastated a nation.



**May 2nd**

***The American Heiress***  
by Daisy Goodwin

Beautiful Cora Cash of Newport Rhode Island suddenly finds herself Duchess of Wareham, married to Ivo, the most eligible bachelor in England. However, nothing is quite as it seems.



**COME, JOIN THE LIVELY DISCUSSIONS**  
FIRST TUESDAY OF THE MONTH (SEPTEMBER THRU JUNE)  
MORNING SESSION 10:30AM – EVENING SESSION 7:00PM  
WILLIAM L. ARTHUR CENTER  
410 KENNEDY ST.  
SPARTANBURG, SC 29302  
CONTACT: CATHY RUSH AT [CRUSH@FPCSPARTANBURG.ORG](mailto:CRUSH@FPCSPARTANBURG.ORG)

## CHILDREN'S MINISTRY



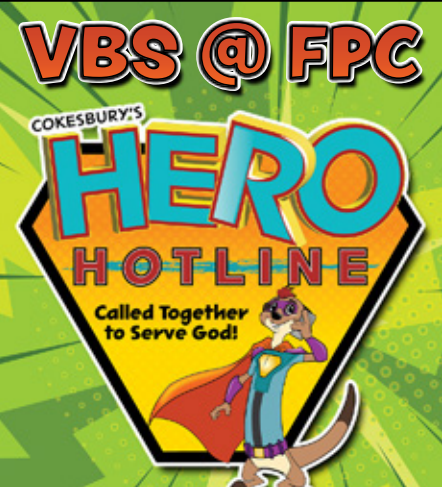
### MONTREAT, NC PLAY DATES

**JUNE 24TH & JULY 15**

For rising 4k to rising 6th grade  
**10am-3pm**


Rock-hopping in the creek!  
Robert Lake Park Playground!  
Bill Wilde Youth Center Games!

save the date(s)  
more information to come



**VBS @ FPC**  
COKEBURY'S  
**HERO HOTLINE**  
Called Together to Serve God!  
**June 5-8**

**Scan to Register!**



**Volunteers Needed!**  
**Contact Kara Clark**  
**If You Can Help!**



# YOUTH & CAMPUS MINISTRIES

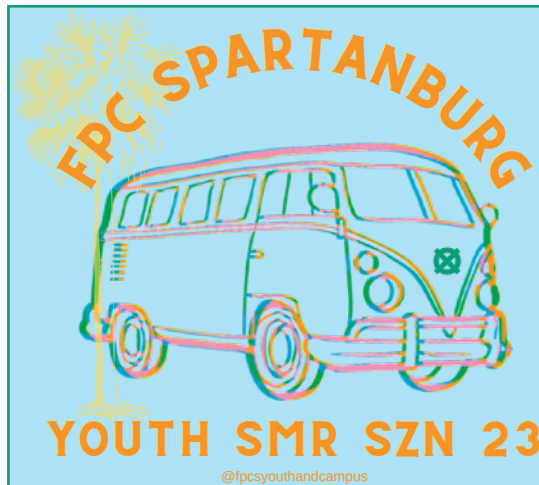
*Save the Dates*

CONFIRMATION SUNDAY  
APRIL 23

and

BACCALAUREATE SUNDAY  
MAY 21

11AM SANCTUARY



## HEY YOUTH!

Summer is right around the corner and we have some awesome activities in the works! Stay tuned for more info on:

- GREENVILLE DRIVE GAME
- GRADUATED HS SENIORS NIGHT
- PAINTBALL
- BOWLING/ARCADE TRIP
- MOVIE NIGHT
- MIDDLE SCHOOL MISSION WEEK
- MONTREAT YOUTH CONFERENCE

## YOUNG ADULT MINISTRY

### UPCOMING EVENTS

#### FELLOWSHIP AT FR8YARD

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 26

WAF ENDS THE WEEK BEFORE, SO COME JOIN US THE FOLLOWING WEEK FOR FELLOWSHIP AND APPETIZERS AT FR8YARD! DROP BY THE UPPER LEVEL BETWEEN 5:30-7:30PM AND INVITE A FRIEND! (KID-FRIENDLY, IF SUPERVISED)

#### FELLOWSHIP HOSTED BY BLANTONS/HOYS

SUNDAY, AUGUST 6

WITH HOT DOGS, BOUNCE CASTLES, AND MORE! STAY TUNED FOR MORE INFORMATION!

#### MONTREAT WOMEN'S CONFERENCE

AUGUST 11-13

FEATURING KEYNOTE SPEAKER KATE BOWLER. OUR CHURCH HAS RESERVED 28 SPOTS, AND WE'D LOVE TO HAVE SEVERAL YOUNG ADULTS HELP FILL THEM! WE'VE ALSO DISCUSSED THE IDEA OF A BOOK STUDY WITH ONE OF KATE'S BOOKS IN THE SUMMER, SO BE ON THE LOOKOUT FOR MORE INFO IN THE FUTURE!

#### FELLOWSHIP ON THE BREEDENS' FARM

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 15

MORE INFORMATION TO COME!

### DINNER & DEVOTION

SUNDAY, APRIL 23 | 5:30 - 7:30PM

AT FOUR LEAF

(1478 OLD SPARTANBURG HIGHWAY PACOLET, SC 29372)

IF YOU'RE 30-50 (OR ON THE EDGE),  
LEAVE THE KIDS AT HOME AND JOIN US!

BBQ DINNER BY CRIBB'S CATERING

RESERVATIONS REQUIRED BY FRIDAY, APRIL 14.  
\$25 PER PERSON.



QUESTIONS? CONTACT FRAZIER WILSON OR MARY GRACE CLOSE  
(FRAZIER.WILSON@GMAIL.COM) (WOODSMG@HOTMAIL.COM)





# RECREATION MINISTRY

## GYM HOURS



MON-THURS | 7:00AM-8:00PM  
FRIDAY | 7:00AM-2:00PM  
SATURDAY | 7:00AM-12:00PM

## YOGA CLASSES IN THE ACTIVITY ROOM



MON/WED | 8:15AM  
\$5 PER CLASS

## BOOTCAMP CLASSES



MON/WED/FRI  
7:15AM (ON ZOOM)  
9:15AM (ON THE TRACK)

# MUSIC MINISTRY



## SPECIAL MUSIC WEEKEND MAY 5-7, 2023

We are excited to welcome internationally known composer Dan Forrest to our campus the first weekend in May. Dan will be working with our Chancel Choir and Chamber Singers, and will accompany the Chancel Choir at the 11:00 AM worship service on May 7. That afternoon, the Chancel Choir, Chamber Singers and orchestra will present a festival concert of Dan's music, featuring his celebrated *Requiem for the Living*.

Dan will also be our guest for a special adult Sunday School class on May 7, where he will discuss how his Christian faith influences his compositions. For more information please contact Holt Andrews ([rhandrews@fpcspartanburg.org](mailto:rhandrews@fpcspartanburg.org)).



## CHILDREN'S CHOIR MARCH 22, 2023





# PASTORAL CONCERNS

(THROUGH JANUARY 20, 2023)

## IN MEMORIAM

**Alice Welborne Gentry**  
Sunday, February 26, 2023

**Gladys Padgett Amick**  
*Mother of Linda Harrison*  
Friday, March 3, 2023

**Matthew James McLeskey**  
*Son of Jason and Michelle McLeskey*  
Monday, March 6, 2023

## CHRISTIAN SYMPATHY

**Christian sympathy is extended to:**

Gordan France, on the death of his father, Haywood Gordon France, Sr.

## BAPTISMS

**The Sacrament of Baptism was administered to:**

**Madeline DeWalt Rubel**, daughter of **Jennifer and James Rubel**, on March 12, 2023  
**James Hewitt Caggiano**, son of **Sidney and Christopher Caggiano**, on March 12, 2023  
**Emma Caroline Lindsey**, daughter of **Meredith and Wade Lindsey**, on March 19, 2023  
**Liam Jameson Perry**, son of **Elizabeth and Kyle Perry**, on March 26, 2023

## BIRTHS

**Congratulations to:**

**Manning and John Fairey**, on the birth of their daughter, **Floride Manning Fairey**, on Monday, February 27, 2023

## WELCOME OUR NEW MEMBERS!



**Patsy Farmer**



**Marty Richards**





## Witness Season 2023: THANK YOU!

On behalf of the International Missions Committee, please accept our heartfelt gratitude for your generosity in funding the 2023 Witness Season Project, a water filtration system for the Iglesia Presbiteriana-Reformada Santa Clara, our sister congregation in Cuba. As I write in mid-March, the total amount raised has exceeded our goal of \$30,000 by nearly \$12,000, giving us a nice cushion for future maintenance of the filtration system! A First Presbyterian team consisting of Kevin DeMark, Holt Andrews, and David Foy is scheduled to attend the Clean Water U training offered by Living Waters for the World in late April. Afterward, we look forward to being able to set a timeline for the onsite installation as soon as we are able to arrange it.

**Thank you** for participating in this important project that will provide clean drinking water for the church as well as the surrounding community, greatly enhancing the quality of life for many Santa Clara residents. It brings me great joy to be associated with a congregation that so generously shares its resources with our less-fortunate brothers and sisters, both local and international.

- Patti Foy, Chair, International Missions



### AN UPDATE FROM THE FAITH INITIATIVE TO END CHILD POVERTY

We recently had a wonderful quarterly gathering for the Faith Initiative to End Child Poverty. On March 6th, **over sixty people** representing various congregations and community partners gathered at Mount Moriah Baptist Church to share a meal together and to dialogue with one another. During this time, newly appointed director Scott Neely shared with the group the newest action plan for the FIECP and how people can be involved in the efforts. There was great energy and enthusiasm in the room, and we look forward to continuing this work together.

Please mark your calendar for the next quarterly gathering, which will take place on **Tuesday, June 6th from 12-2pm**, and then looking further ahead, please plan to attend our next **Poverty Summit on Thursday, October 19th**. If you are not currently on the email list, but you would like to receive updates, please contact Scott Neely at [neelysj@gmail.com](mailto:neelysj@gmail.com).



*Save the Date:*  
**SECOND ANNUAL  
DAY OF SERVICE**  
Saturday, October 14 (8:30am - 1:00pm)





REJOICING  
IN OUR STORY

APRIL 30, 2023

**PANEL OF FORMER MINISTERS**

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9:45AM | FOGARTIE HALL

**ONE WORSHIP SERVICE**

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11:00AM | SANCTUARY

**LUNCH ON THE LAWN**

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12:00PM | FRONT LAWN

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

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