FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF SPARTANBURG

FIRST NEWS

AUGUST 2023



Baccalaureate 2023

Friends, I pray that these summer months have been a time of rest, slowing down, and going *Godspeed* for you. I am always mindful that summer is often a time of transition for many of us. That is especially true for all our high school graduates (see above) many of whom are now readying themselves for their first semester of college. Likewise, our most recent college graduates (see inside) are entering a new season in their lives as they head out into the world with fresh knowledge – and diplomas – in hand.

Summer is also a time when transition takes place around the church. Over these past two months, First Presbyterian's staff and leadership have been hard at work preparing for the year ahead. As you will find inside this month's edition of First News, upcoming opportunities for fellowship, mission, and growing our faith in Jesus Christ abound! One transition I want to highlight here is the upcoming improvement to our Sunday morning worship schedule. First though, some background...

Last August, I wrote a report to the Session compiling some key themes and

observations that emerged during my first six or so months as your pastor. The main takeaway was that FPC is a thriving family of faith with a clear sense of call to serve God and neighbor through worship, mission, and fellowship. And yet there were also opportunities for us to grow further in how we organize ourselves, welcome our neighbors, and seek to be the hands and feet of Jesus Christ in our community.

Since approving that report, the Session has been hard at work implementing its recommendations. This winter/spring our staff and officers worked with an outside expert to assess our leadership and governance structures, a Signage Task Force is actively exploring ways we can improve both the indoor and outdoor wayfinding signage on our campus (it is easy to get lost around here!), and we have developed both a short- and long-term church communications plan.

Additionally, throughout the first half of this year a Task Force of the Session set out to visit peer congregations in Atlanta, Charlotte, and Columbia to see how they organize their Sunday morning worship services with a special focus on their contemporary worship offerings. The primary goal was

to identify areas to further strengthen our MorningSong service and better coordinate it with FPC's other worship offerings.

From that work have come several key recommendations involving the leadership, planning, and branding for our contemporary worship service. The most visible difference involves tweaking the times of two of our Sunday morning worship services (see back page for the new schedule). This will allow us, on most Sundays, to have one preacher preach in-person across all three services. I am excited about these upcoming changes and grateful for the work of the Task Force in carefully studying and developing their recommendations.

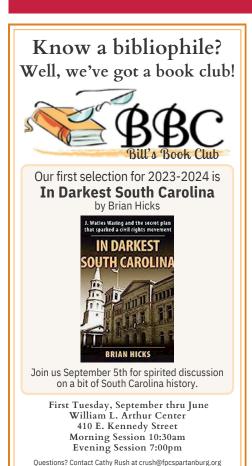
Blessings to you all. See you at church. Invite a friend.

Peace,

Ain

Rev. Alan F. Dyer Senior Pastor

UPCOMING HAPPENINGS







Hosted by Anna Blanton and Jennifer Hoy

Sunday, August 6 2:00-5:00pm

503 Maverick Circle, Spartanburg, 29307

Come celebrate the end of summer with sweet treats, games, and fun!

Kid-friendly event: Arrive in your swimsuits; bring towels, lawn chairs or blankets!

Please RSVP: Text (864) 435-7825 or email <u>bradeyhoy@gmail.com</u>

AUGUST SUMMER SIZZLES



Enjoy a meal together and play for prized

Santhe BINGO and to make your reservation!





BOOK SWAP & COFFEE SHOP

Sunday, August 13

Bring books to swap to the church office by Thursday, August 10



CHURCH FAMILY TRIVIA NICHT!

WED, AUGUST 30 5:30pm in FOGARTIE HALL

Bring your thinking caps and enjoy a dinner & game night for the whole family!

Scan to make your reservation!



RECOGNIZING COLLEGE GRADUATES

Congratulations, Graduates!







THIS CERTIFICATE IS PROUDLY PRESENTED TO THE FOLLOWING FRIENDS & FAMILY OF FIRST PRESBYTERIAN, IN RECOGNITION OF COMMENCEMENT IN THE YEAR TWO THOUSAND AND TWENTY-THREE:

M. Fawyer Ballance SCHOOL OF VISUAL ARTS, MANHATTAN

Eleanor Joyce Crescenzi-Hoyt
PORTLAND STATE UNIVERSITY, OREGON

Wells Laney

Anne Dobson Ball UNIVERSITY OF THE SOUTH, SEWANEE

Evan Elizabeth Gaubert UNIVERSITY OF THE SOUTH, SEWANEE

Christopher Carter Latham

Benjamin Robinson Pickens IV Alexis McKenzie Reinhardt

THE CITADEL CLEMSON UNIVERSITY

James Menchen Camp UNIVERSITY OF THE SOUTH, SEWANEE

Harley A. Graham UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

Laura Bryant Palmer, Ph. D
UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH CAROLINA

Brice Waters

TO EVERY SINGLE ONE OF OUR GRADUATES: GREAT JOB! WE ARE SO PROUD OF YOU!

WEEKDAY SCHOOL

SUBSTITUTES NEEDED!



The Weekday School at FPC is looking for a few more substitute teachers for the 2023-2024 school year.

If you are interested in being a substitute at our wonderful Weekday School, or know someone who would be great, please contact Kris Graham at (kgraham@fpcspartanburg.org/864-706-0460).

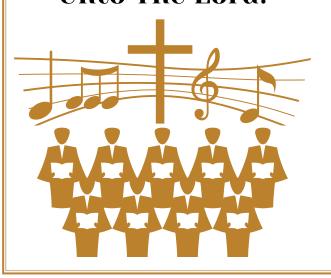
YOUTH **MINISTRY**



MUSIC MINISTRY



Make A Joyful Noise Unto The Lord!



Adult Choirs at First Presbyterian



Chancel Choir

Sings for 11:00am Sanctuary Worship Service and Special Events.



Chamber Singers

Offer concerts throughout the year.



Genesis Choir

Sings for 8:30am Chapel Service.



Handbell Choir

Rings at Traditional Worship on a scheduled basis.

For information on participating, contact **Holt Andrews** rhandrews@fpcspartanburg.org || (864) 208-2134











Music Classes for Young Children



First Steps in Music[®]
program nurtures
your child musically
and promotes
one-on-one time
singing and playing
with your child!

Newborns through Age 3 and their Parents can experience music and movement together!



Fun
Games
Learning
Lullabies
Movement
Rhythms
Songs



Online registration opens August 1st Classes begin mid-September

To sign up visit
fpespartanburg.org/firststeps
or sean the QR code



Small intimate class size. Spaces are limited!

For more information contact Marcia Andrews mandrews@fpcspartanburg.org ~ (864) 208-2135



Children's Choirs are shining brighter than ever; check out the all-star lineup...

Joyful Sound (4k) Angel Chatter (5k-Grade 1)
Taught by Debbie Keiser Taught by Martha Bean

LightShine (Grades 2-5)
Taught by Marcia Andrews & March Moody

Registration opens August 1st

Sign up by scanning the QR code or visiting fpcspartanburg.org/childrenschoir



The fun starts September 13th at 5:00pm



RECREATION MINISTRY

Gym Hours



Sunday: Closed Mon-Thurs: 7am-8pm Friday: 7am-2pm Saturday: 8am-12pm

Bootcamp Classes



Mon/Wed/Fri 7:15am (Zoom) 9:15am (In-person)

Yoga Classes



Mondays & Wednesdays 8:15am in the Activity Room

Pickleball



Tuesdays & Thursdays 1:00 - 3:00pm

HEALTH MINISTRY

BLOOD DRIVE



Save the Date: November 5

To be eligible, please refrain from giving blood after September 9.

SAVE THE DATES

VACCINATION CLINIC SKIN / BONE DENSITY SCREENING

OCTOBER 10 (DRIVE-THRU, FLU ONLY)

OCTOBER 11

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL 2023























PASTORAL CONCERNS

(THROUGH JULY 18, 2023)

IN MEMORIAM

Barbara Pence Folmar Mother of Teri Mills Sunday, June 18, 2023

CHRISTIAN SYMPATHY

Christian sympathy is extended to:

Katherine Van Vleet, on the death of her mother, Anne Page Irwin Lee; Betsy McKee, on the death of her mother, Clarice Hayes Stroup; Joe Sims, on the death of his mother, Faye Lange.

WEDDINGS

Congratulations to:

Mr. and Mrs. Douglas Brian Baker (Terry Glennon) who were married on June 11, 2023 Mr. and Mrs. Samuel Price Parrott (Steely Claire Russell) who were married on July 8, 2023

BAPTISMS

The Sacrament of Baptism was administered to:

Catherine Elizabeth Conzett, daughter of Christine and Christopher Conzett, on June 11, 2023

BIRTHS

Congratulations to:

Allie and Adam Nelson, on the birth of their son, Bishop Michael Nelson, on Wednesday, June 7, 2023 Sidney and Chris Caggiano, on the birth of their daughter, Katherine Adele Caggiano, born Friday, July 14, 2023



SAVE THE DATE FOR OUR SPECTACULAR CELEBRATION!

OCTOBER 19, 2023

Join us for a dinner honoring all past and present Stephen Ministers. More information to follow.

You Can Play an Important Role in Our Stephen Ministry!

...Because you may know of a friend, neighbor, co-worker, or relative who is going through a difficult time and who could benefit from the focused care, encouragement, and support of a Stephen Minister.

Stephen Ministers provide confidential one-on-one care, we listen and share God's love with you to help you through your crisis.

Contact us at the church office (864-583-4531) or Dana Halliday (864-237-0330/danahalliday1@charter.net) We can talk with you about how we can connect the person you know with one of our Stephen Ministers. It's a great way for you to show how much you care!

WELCOME OUR **NEW MEMBERS!**



Terry Baker (Wife of Doug Baker)





Jackie Taylor (Wife of Bob Taylor)



James & Sally Winfrey



LOCAL MISSIONS



Do you want to change institutional racism?

This 8-session program invites participants to formulate their own Christian-rooted responses to racism in their churches, workplaces, and communities

JustFaith is an intensive, small-group process for Christians looking to deepen their faith and connect their faith with action. Participants will explore how their faith should inform their response to their learning, as well as discern action steps for working toward racial equity in their own communities.

The Faith and Racial Justice program is a 9-week program with 2-hour long sessions that includes prayer, study, reflection, and dialogue. Though not a traditional Bible Study, JustFaith uses the lens of the Gospel to help participants deepen their understanding through reading books, watching videos, and engaging in small group discussion.

More info at justfaith.org.

From a recent participant at First Presbyterian: "The JustFaith experience removed many blinders for me-- recognition of our history of inequity and coming face to face with my privilege. Looking at issues of race through the lens of my faith, scripture, and prayers opened my heart and mind to be aware of the continued work needed in me."

First Presbyterian is planning to offer a JustFaith group that will run **September-November**.

If interested, please contact Pastor Leslie Lang for more information.





Founded in 1975, Thornwell is a diverse non-profit ministry across Florida, Georgia, and South Carolina. Thornwell is focused on "building tomorrow's families" and believes in empowered communities in which all people can experience both life and love in abundance. Thornwell addresses the welfare of children not as a singular event but as a comprehensive, ongoing cycle of services and support designed to help children and families – no matter what stage of life they're in, through a continuum of care.

Thornwell has three program service areas: Care Services (Foster Care, A.C.C. Residential Care, Transitional Living Services), Academic Services (Child Development Center, Read Right and Learning Center) and Family Services (Building Families and Strengthening Families).

Come learn more about Thornwell.

You're invited to join us for a FREE informational luncheon!

Where: First Presbyterian Church When: Tuesday, August 29 at Noon

Use the QR Code below to RSVP, or go to fpcspartanburg.org/thornwell



NEW SUNDAY WORSHIP SCHEDULE

BEGINNING AUGUST 6

8:30AM

EARLY WORSHIP in the Chapel

9:00AM

CONTEMPORARY WORSHIP in Fogartie Hall

10:00AM

SUNDAY SCHOOL
Gathering Time @ 9:45am

11:00AM

TRADITIONAL WORSHIP in the Sanctuary

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

Electronic Service Requested

Nonprofit Organization U.S. Postage PAID
Permit No. 15
Spartanburg, SC 29306