

FIRST NEWS

MARCH 2023



2023 FPC Dominican Republic Mission Team



The picture to the left was taken during my last trip to the Holy Land back in 2019. It is a view from under the great dome of the Church of the Holy Sepulcher in Jerusalem. For many Christians, this church represents one of the holiest places in the world. Pilgrims from across the globe stand in line for hours for the chance to crouch low through a narrow opening and momentarily touch their fingers to the well-worn stone where it is traditionally thought that Jesus was crucified and raised.

In a sense, that is what the season of Lent is all about. The forty days that began last month on Ash Wednesday, and that continue through Holy Week, are an invitation to embark on a spiritual pilgrimage of sorts. Lent beckons each of us to enter into an intentional time of crouching low, looking inward, and reflecting on those places in our lives and in the world around us where new life might yet be possible.

And so as you peruse this month's First News, I encourage you to consider where you can join your church family on the Lenten journey this year. The numerous opportunities for fellowship, worship, learning, and service contained within are more than just events on a calendar. They tell the story of where and how God is leading us all together down this long and – at times – winding path we call faith. They are an invitation to deeper discipleship and Christian witness for one another and for the world in which we live.

Blessings to you on the journey,

Rev. Alan F. Dyer
Senior Pastor



UPCOMING HAPPENINGS

Wednesdays @FIRST

FAITH, FOOD, & FELLOWSHIP

March 1

Pastor John Daniel's Choice

Shepherd's Pie, Green Beans with Garlic Butter,
Salad Bar, Bread, Dessert & Beverage

March 8

Pork Tenderloin, Sweet Potatoes, Creamed Corn,
Salad Bar, Bread, Dessert & Beverage

March 15

Irish Stew, Mashed Potatoes, Broccoli with Cheese Sauce,
Salad Bar, Irish Soda Bread, Dessert & Beverage

March 22

Creamy Ranch Chicken and Noodles, Green Beans,
Salad Bar, Bread, Dessert & Beverage

Weekly Kid's Menu

Chicken Tenders with Dipping Sauces,
Mac & Cheese, Fruit Cup,
Dessert & Juice Box

March 29

Breakfast for ALL ... Eggstravaganza!

Breakfast Casseroles, French Toast Sticks, Bacon,
Sausage Gravy and Biscuits, Fruit Bar, Beverage

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

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

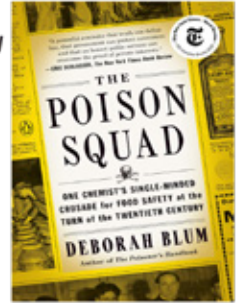
Additional charge for to-go orders - \$1 per meal



March 7th

The Poison Squad
by Deborah Blum

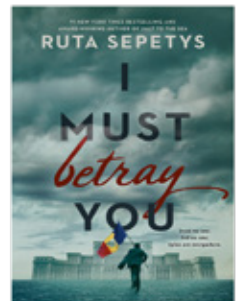
The dramatic true story of how food was made safe in the United States. Young men hired as food tasters to determine which foods were good or not, poison or not.



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.



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

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH HOMECOMING

SAVE THE DATE:
APRIL 30, 2023
MORE INFO TO COME!



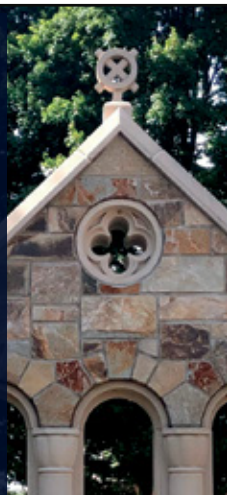
YOU ARE CORDIALLY INVITED TO THE 2023 ENDOWMENT DINNER

MARCH 21, 2023
5:30PM IN FOGARTIE HALL

JOIN US FOR A FREE DINNER AND DISCUSSION
OF THE FPC 1843 ENDOWMENT FUND.

LEARN ABOUT THE LEGACY FELLOWSHIP AND HOW
YOU CAN SUPPORT THE MISSIONS, MINISTRIES,
AND FACILITIES OF FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH.

DEADLINE TO REGISTER
IS MARCH 13



Acts 2:46 DINNERS

FELLOWSHIP WITH FAITH FRIENDS

SUNDAY, MARCH 26
LUNCH 12:30 - 2:00PM OR
DINNER 5:30 - 7:30PM



DAY BY DAY ... THEY WERE TAKING THEIR
MEALS TOGETHER WITH GLADNESS AND
SINCERITY OF HEART. [ACTS 2:46](#)

YOU ARE INVITED TO JOIN A SMALL GROUP OF
10-12 CHURCH FOLKS FOR A MEAL TOGETHER.
SO YOU CAN HAVE A PROPER VISIT RATHER THAN
A RUSHED HELLO. HOPEFULLY, THESE STAND-ALONE
EVENTS WILL PROMOTE NEW CONNECTIONS
AND DEEPER FRIENDSHIPS.

IN MARCH, THERE WILL BE A LUNCH GROUP,
IF THAT WORKS BETTER FOR YOU. FOR THE DINNERS,
YOU WILL AGAIN HAVE THE CHOICE TO BE IN
AN INTERGENERATIONAL (22 Y.O. - 102 Y.O.)
OR YOUR "SAME DECADE" GROUP. YOUR HOST WILL
REACH OUT THE WEEK BEFORE WITH THEIR ADDRESS
AND THE MENU, AND EVERYONE WILL BRING
SOMETHING FOR THE MEAL. THIS OPPORTUNITY
IS OPEN TO ALL. THE MORE THE MERRIER!

RESERVATIONS ARE DUE BY NOON ON
MONDAY, MARCH 13.

QUESTIONS?
CONTACT ANSLEY PAGE
(APAGE@FPCSPARTANBURG.ORG)



JOY Fellowship

THURSDAY, MARCH 9

Come join the fun as our JOY (Just Older Youth) Fellowship goes on their first excursion of 2023!

First stop will be the Upcountry History Museum in Greenville to see the traveling exhibit "Kenny Rogers Photographs America."

For our second stop, we will explore the stunning new Grand Bohemian Hotel in downtown Greenville. Then we'll be off to lunch at a local restaurant before taking the bus back home.

We always have fun, and hope you will come along with us!

Make your reservation before Thursday, March 2 by contacting Joanie Shackleton (jshackleton@fpcspartanburg.org / 864-208-2132)

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

LENTEN FOCUS WORDS

FOLLOWING JESUS THROUGH
EVERYTHING WE READ

WEEK 1

February 26- March 4
Unconditional Love

WEEK 2

March 5-11
Compassion

WEEK 3

March 12-18
Wisdom

WEEK 4

March 19-25
Growth

WEEK 5

March 26-April 1
Forgiveness

For this Lenten Season, our children will look for themes we see in the Bible in everything they read. Each week will focus on a different theme from our Sunday School lesson:

- **Unconditional love** from the Prodigal Son
- **Compassion** from the Good Samaritan
- **Wisdom** from the Two Houses
- **Growth** from the Sower and the Seed
- **Forgiveness** from The Last Supper

Children will look to see God's love reflected in other stories they read. Each week offers the opportunity to earn a treat!

SAVE THE DATE!

JUNE 5TH-8TH

VBS

HERO HOTLINE

CALLED TOGETHER TO SERVE GOD!

Look for a special email that will allow our church family to register **March 12-26** for this year's Vacation Bible School. Your child or grandchild will not want to miss this fun week of learning about the heroes of the Bible and how we can be God's heroes, too!



Our 3rd and 4th graders received a special Bible that has been personalized by family and friends. This group will spend the month of March learning Bible skills with Pastor Craig during the Sunday School hour.



YOUTH & CAMPUS MINISTRIES



Save
the Dates

CONFIRMATION SUNDAY
APRIL 23

and

BACCALAUREATE SUNDAY
MAY 21

11AM SANCTUARY



STEPHEN MINISTRY

Have you ever...

- Felt that your life has turned upside down and you are overwhelmed?
- Felt completely alone and discouraged?
- Been a caretaker to your aging parents?
- Lost a loved one and had a hard time seeing the light?
- Lost your job and had to start over?

Did you know that **Stephen Ministry is here for you?** If you have ever wondered what Stephen Ministry is, we provide someone to care, to listen, to share God's love with you to help you through the confusion, stress or loneliness that you may be experiencing. And in the midst of this confidential, one-to-one, caring relationship, God's healing love comes pouring through! If going through a difficult time, call us. **We have a Stephen Minister ready to help!**

To inquire about receiving a Stephen Minister, please call the church office (864-583-4531) and ask for **Joanne Hull or Beth Cecil**. If you are interested in learning more about Stephen Ministry, contact **Dana Halliday (864 237-0330 | danahalliday1@charter.net)**

Our Stephen Ministers are ready to care for you!



**STEPHEN
MINISTRY**

HOLY WEEK & EASTER



Palm Sunday
April 2

On Palm Sunday, the palm crosses need to be handed out to the congregation before each of the services and events that day. We are in need of **volunteers** to distribute palm crosses and waving palms before MorningSong at 8:45 and the Traditional Services at 8:45 and 11:00. This is an excellent opportunity for families to participate together.



Interested?

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



Easter Sunday
April 9



We need volunteers to help decorate the traditional flower cross between the Chapel and the Sanctuary, as well as hand out flowers and assist those who brought flowers to place them and tidy up the area.

Interested?

Contact LeAnne Thurmond Holcombe
(864-621-0213 or leanne.thurmond@gmail.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

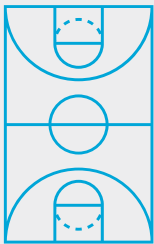
BOOTCAMP CLASSES



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

FREE PLAY TIME

FRIDAY, MARCH 17
9:00AM-2:00PM IN THE GYM



SCHOOLS MAY BE CLOSED, BUT **WE'RE NOT!**

OUR COURTS WILL BE OPEN FOR
BASKETBALL, VOLLEYBALL,
RUNNING, AND GENERAL FREE PLAY!



CHILDREN 12 AND UNDER MUST BE SUPERVISED BY A PARENT OR GUARDIAN.

TO OUR COACHES, PARENTS, AND PLAYERS...

THANK YOU
FOR AN INCREDIBLE SEASON
OF CHURCH BASKETBALL!



MUSIC MINISTRY

Mostly Mozart

Chamber Singers Concert
Featuring Soloists and Orchestra

Thursday, March 16
7:00pm in the Sanctuary

Conducted by Holt Andrews & Jeff Kuntz





PASTORAL CONCERNS

(THROUGH JANUARY 20, 2023)

IN MEMORIAM

Daisy Winslow
Saturday, February 4, 2023

Martha Estelle Ivey Tiller
mother of Martha Foster
Sunday, February 5, 2023

John Pressley Jennings
Wednesday, January 18, 2023

WEDDINGS

Congratulations to:

Mr. and Mrs. William J. Ledbetter II (Lawson Elizabeth Harris) who were married on **February 11, 2023**

Mr. and Mrs. Nicholas A. Caggiano (Page Ferrier Morehead) who were married on **February 25, 2023**

WELCOME OUR NEW MEMBERS!



**Daniel, Claudine, Noah,
David, and Mark Feig**



Nell Glover



Kay Gordon



Danielle Halliday



Nancy Hanna



**Mary Anne and
Brian Larkin**



**William Pope
(Husband of Hunter Pope)**



**Brian, Jennifer, Matilda,
and Henry Sanders**



Bill Scott



Blake and Katie Shelby



**Jon Wilkins (Husband of
Melissa, Father of Charles)**



MINISTRY OF MISSIONS

You're Invited to the

FAITH INITIATIVE TO END CHILD POVERTY Quarterly Learning Meeting

Tuesday, March 7
12:00pm - 2:00pm
Mt. Moriah Baptist Church
(445 S Church St, Spartanburg, SC 29306)

Speaker:
Scott Neely



The Shepherd's Center of Spartanburg (that is housed on the second floor at First Presbyterian) has a new Executive Director, **Amy C. Vernon**, and Administrative Assistant, **Lynn Cogdill**. The Shepherd's Center of Spartanburg is a non-profit organization providing recreational, fitness, health, and life-long learning opportunity for active seniors age 50+ in our community. For 44 years this program, begun by FPC Church Member Betty Walpole, has offered quality programs aimed at improving both mental and physical health. Our seniors enjoy a variety of wellness activities together with educational and social opportunities. If you are interested in becoming a member or volunteering or supporting this wonderful initiative, please contact the Shepherd's Center Office (864-585-1999 / shepherdscrsptbg@att.net).

We would also love for you to stop by and visit anytime! You can see what exciting things are going on by visiting our website www.spartanburgshepherdcenter.org or our Facebook page The Shepherd's Center of Spartanburg. We are thankful for our partnership with First Presbyterian and look forward to serving our senior community in Spartanburg for years to come!



DOMINICAN REPUBLIC MEDICAL MISSION TRIP



FEBRUARY 4-11, 2023



Lent



AT FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH SPARTANBURG

PALM SUNDAY

APRIL 2

8:45AM
MORNINGSONG
(FOGARTIE HALL)

8:45AM
TRADITIONAL
(CHAPEL)

11:00AM
TRADITIONAL
(SANCTUARY)

MAUNDY THURSDAY

APRIL 6

5:30PM
DINNER
(FOGARTIE HALL)

6:30PM
WORSHIP SERVICE
(FOGARTIE HALL)

A SERVICE REMEMBERING
JESUS' LAST SUPPER WITH
HIS DISCIPLES BEFORE HIS
CRUCIFIXION.

GOOD FRIDAY

APRIL 7

12:00PM
MIDDAY PRAYER
(CHAPEL)

7:00PM
TENEBRAE
(SANCTUARY)

JOIN US FOR WORSHIP AS
WE COMMEMORATE THE
CRUCIFIXION AND DEATH
OF JESUS CHRIST.

First Presbyterian Church
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