

# FIRST NEWS

OCTOBER 2023

Am I the only one who finds it hard to believe that October is already here? This is always one of my favorite months of the year, filled with college football, changing leaves, cooler temperatures, Halloween décor, and, of course, baseball playoffs (go Braves!). But it is also a significant month in the life of the church as we are each invited to reflect on how we can support our ministry together in the year to come.

Our stewardship efforts this year are an invitation to consider how each one of us can play a role in Living Out God's Story here at First Presbyterian Church Spartanburg. The Bible is full of stories of ordinary people exhibiting extraordinary faithfulness – the same is true here. We are a congregation committed to sharing the transformative love of Jesus Christ with others. It is a story that is told on Sunday mornings and Wednesday nights and in Bible

studies throughout the week. It is also being written in the myriad of ways we provide for both the physical and spiritual needs of neighbors near and far.

None of this is possible without your generosity. Earlier this year, the Session unanimously approved a stewardship goal for 2024 of \$3.46 million which represents an almost 10% increase in the church budget over 2023. The majority of this increase is intended to support additional mission and outreach efforts in the year to come. The Dyer Family intends to increase our giving in order to help make this expanded vision for telling God's story possible. Will you join us?

Last year, the number of members making a financial pledge grew by over 10% from 388 households to 428 households. That level of generosity has allowed the church to go deeper and farther in its ministry this year.

Now imagine what is possible if we can continue that growth into 2024! If you have never made a pledge before, would you consider doing so this year? Each and every pledge makes a positive difference and enables the church to plan more confidently and responsibly.

Friends, God's story is still being written. First Presbyterian Church exists to proclaim that good news every day by sharing the love of Jesus Christ in our community and across the world. By supporting that work with gifts of time, talent, and treasure you add your story to the Story unfolding all around us. Thank you for answering that call!

Peace,



Rev. Alan F. Dyer  
Senior Pastor



LIVING OUT GOD'S STORY



Scan to Pledge!

## STEWARDSHIP COMMITMENT SUNDAY OCTOBER 29, 2023

Please prayerfully consider your 2024 pledge to First Presbyterian Church.  
Your faithful giving helps the ministries of our church thrive.  
Bring your pledge cards on October 29!



# UPCOMING HAPPENINGS

## Wednesdays @FIRST

FAITH, FOOD, & FELLOWSHIP

### October 4

#### Pastor Joanne's Choice

BBQ Pork, Baked Apples, Homemade Mac & Cheese, Baked Beans, Cole Slaw, Salad Bar, Bread, Dessert & Beverage

#### Kid's Corner

Corn Dogs, Homemade Mac & Cheese, Fruit Cup, Cookie & Juice Box

### October 11

Greek Chicken, Greek Potatoes, Green Beans (Greek & Southern), Spanakopita, Salad Bar, Bread, Dessert & Beverage

#### Kid's Corner

Pizza, Homemade Mac & Cheese, Fruit Cup, Cookie & Juice Box

### October 18

Baked Spaghetti with Meat Sauce, Zucchini Sauté, Salad Bar, Bread, Dessert & Beverage

#### Kid's Corner

Chicken Tenders, Dipping Sauces, Homemade Mac & Cheese, Fruit Cup, Cookie & Juice Box

### October 25

Break-Feast for All! Ham & Cheese Casserole (GF), Sausage Casserole, Bacon, Sausage Gravy, Biscuits, Chicken n' Waffles, Fruit Bar, Dessert & 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



## COVENANT CONNECTIONS

### A NARRATIVE TIMELINE OF THE BIBLE

WEDNESDAYS AT FIRST // UNTIL DECEMBER 2023  
6:15-7:00PM IN FOGARTIE HALL

We tend to hear the story of the Bible in a piecemeal fashion – a story about Paul in Sunday School, a story about Moses in a sermon, a story about Abraham in a Bible study, and then a story about Jesus in a devotional. But how do all those stories fit together? This fall at Wednesdays at First, we will be exploring how these individual stories connect into a **single narrative timeline** that enriches our understanding of each of those stories, and allows us to see beyond the trees of individual disconnected stories to the great forest of God's redemptive work in history.

## HOLY LAND 2024

### INTEREST MEETING

MONDAY, OCTOBER 2  
5:00PM | PURNELL ROOM

First Pres is organizing a trip to the Holy Land in Fall 2024 to visit Biblical sites. If you are interested in possibly going, come hear all the details.

Questions? Contact Ansley Page at [apage@fpcspartanburg.org](mailto:apage@fpcspartanburg.org).



## ANNIVERSARY DINNER

Thursday, October 19  
6:00pm in Fogartie Hall

YEARS OF  
STEPHEN  
MINISTRY

RSVP by  
October 13



## Retirement Conversations

OVER LUNCH  
W/ PASTOR JOANNE

Oct 16 | Nov 13

12:00-1:30pm  
Large Private Dining Room

Join Pastor Joanne for lunch and conversation  
about life after retirement!



Scan the QR Code to  
register for one (or both)  
of the available dates!

## YOUNG ADULTS MINISTRY

### YOUNG ADULTS FOOD & FELLOWSHIP

AT THE BREEDEN'S PAVILION

● SUNDAY, OCTOBER 15 | 4:00-6:00PM ●

171 Twin Pond Drive  
Spartanburg, SC 29307

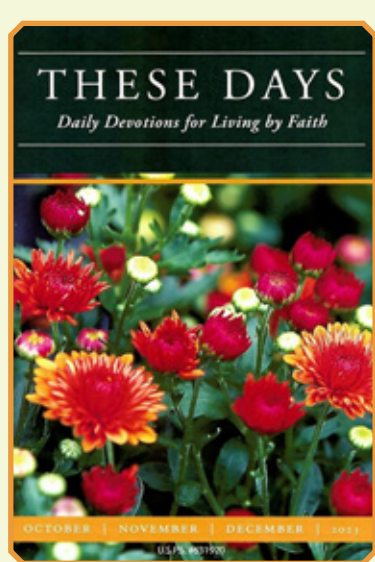
**Fun for all ages!** We have BBQ and activities for kids.  
If you'd like to fish, bring fishing poles and bait!

RSVP TO JANE BREEDEN

TEXT (864) 590-4783 OR EMAIL [JANE BREEDEN5@GMAIL.COM](mailto:JANE BREEDEN5@GMAIL.COM)







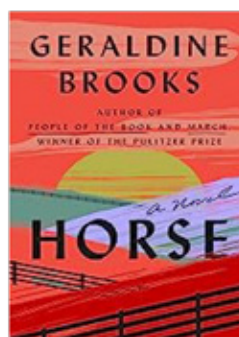
October-December  
edition of  
*These Days*  
Now available  
throughout the church!



**October 3rd**

**Horse**  
by Geraldine Brooks

Based on the remarkable true story of the record-breaking thoroughbred Lexington. A story of art and science, love and obsession and our unfinished reckoning with racism.



**November 7th**

**The Most They Ever Had**  
by Rick Bragg

The mill rewarded the hard-working, but punished the careless. These real-life stories brilliantly evoke the hardscrabble lives of those who lived and died by an American cotton mill.

**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 E. KENNEDY ST.  
SPARTANBURG, SC 29302

CONTACT: CATHY RUSH AT CRUSH@FPCSPARTANBURG.ORG

**SPARKLE CITY  
TRANSPARENT  
MEN'S BREAKFAST**

**SATURDAY, OCTOBER 7  
8:30AM  
LARGE PRIVATE  
DINING ROOM**

The Sparkle City Transparent Men (SCTM) are meeting for breakfast, fellowship, and Bible study. All men in the church and community are invited to attend.

SCTM has one overriding objective - to build solid friendships across racial lines - and those who invest the time succeed in doing so.

Please join us!

**QUESTIONS?**

**CONTACT  
JIMMY EDWARDS  
(864-415-4999)**

## J.O.Y. FELLOWSHIP

### JOY Fellowship TRIP TO MONTREAT THURSDAY, OCTOBER 26

Join the Just Older Youth Fellowship for a tour of the Montreat Historical Foundation, the Presbyterian Heritage Center (as well as their FPC-related materials), along with a driving tour of the Montreat Conference Center. The day will conclude in Black Mountain with lunch at a local restaurant.

Registration deadline: Friday, October 20

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

### JOY Fellowship FRIENDSGIVING

November 20 | 12:00pm in Fogartie Hall

*A churchwide potluck celebration!*  
Guests are encouraged to bring their favorite side dish.

## FEATURED STUDIES

### Tickled Pink

Women's Study  
**Back Stories of the Bible**

**Tuesdays, 9:15-10:30am (ends Nov 7)**

### CHRISTIANS IN THE MAKING Advent Study

### LIGHT of the WORLD

A BEGINNER'S GUIDE to ADVENT  
by AMY-JILL LEVINE

**Wednesdays, October 25-November 15**

We welcome all who would like to read with us.  
We meet at 10:00am in the Purnell Room.



# CHILDREN'S MINISTRY



Rally Day was *full* of excitement and energy!

With **over 100 children** dancing, learning, eating, and playing together, old connections were strengthened and seeds of new relationships were planted. Our community continues to grow and to be enriched each new season and it is a **JOY** to witness. A huge **thank you** to all the volunteers who made Rally Day such a success!

With Sunday School classes and WAF children's programming now in full swing, the momentum and energy is contagious and it is clear that this is going to be a wonderful year for our children at First Pres Spartanburg.



# YOUTH MINISTRY

FPC YOUTH

HELP US WELCOME



**Grace deMaine**

Associate Director of Youth Ministry

[gdemaine@fpcspartanburg.org](mailto:gdemaine@fpcspartanburg.org)

## HOT OFF THE PRESSES!

THE '23 - '24  
YOUTH BOOKLET

With important info about:

PROGRAMS

TRIPS

COMMUNICATION



Pick up your copy in the hallway outside the Perrin Room.  
Or scan the QR code for a digital version!





# RECREATION MINISTRY

## Bootcamp Class



Mon / Wed / Fri - 9:15am  
on the Walking Track

## Yoga Class



Mon / Wed - 8:15am  
in the Activity Room (\$5/class)

## Gym Orientations



Mon & Fri - 10:00am  
in the Equipment Room

## Pickleball



Tuesdays - 1:00-3:00pm  
& 5:30-7:30pm



## CHURCH BASKETBALL RETURNS



XXXXXX

Registration Open  
October 2 - 30

Open to Grades 1-12, boys and girls, members *and* non-members!

XXXXX Scan the QR Code to register,  
XXXXX or visit [fpcspartanburg.org/basketball](https://fpcspartanburg.org/basketball)  
XXXXX



## BASKETBALL COACHES NEEDED

FOR THE 2023 SEASON!



ADULTS OF **ALL AGES** ARE  
INVITED TO HELP COACH  
THESE WONDERFUL  
YOUNG ATHLETES!



INTERESTED? CONTACT COLLEEN  
[CDARRALL@FPCSPARTANBURG.ORG](mailto:CDARRALL@FPCSPARTANBURG.ORG)



# HEALTH MINISTRY

## VACCINATION CLINIC & BONE DENSITY / SKIN SCREENING

**TIME TO PRE-REGISTER!**

**OCTOBER 10**

**5:00-7:00PM**

(DRIVE-THRU, FLU ONLY,  
NO SCREENINGS)

**&**

**OCTOBER 11**

**5:00-7:00PM**

(DURING WAF)

**VACCINES:** FLU (REG & HIGH DOSE), PNEUMONIA, TDAP, SHINGLES

PENDING DISTRIBUTION, THE **NEW COVID-19 BOOSTER** MAY BE AVAILABLE FOR BOTH EVENTS

**CONTACT BETH CECIL TO REGISTER**

**[BCECIL@FPCSPARTANBURG.ORG](mailto:BCECIL@FPCSPARTANBURG.ORG) | 864-208-2136**





## PASTORAL CONCERNS

(THROUGH SEPTEMBER 25, 2023)

### IN MEMORIAM

**Beverly Cohen Huntley**  
*Sister of Kathy Willard*  
Friday, August 25, 2023

### CHRISTIAN SYMPATHY

**Christian sympathy is extended to:**

Art and Terri Mills, on the death of their daughter, Traci Renee' Welden;  
Susan Oldham, on the death of her mother, Bobbie Underwood Hall.

## WELCOME OUR NEW MEMBERS!



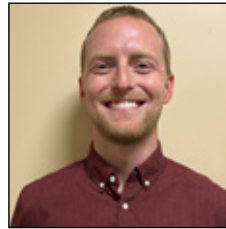
**Emery Carr**



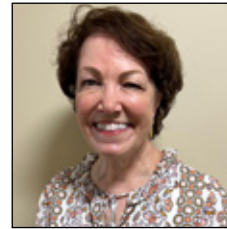
**Hubert and  
Michelle Huang**



**Stephanie Kyle**



**Bryce Leedham**



**Martha McMillin**



**Audrey Neumann**

# THE STORIES THAT SHAPE US

*Advent 2023 Devotional Book*

This Advent we are reflecting on the biblical stories that have shaped us. Some of them will be from before Jesus was born, and some will come from afterwards. Some of those stories may not even seem very "Christmasy". But if the one who came in a manger is indeed Emmanuel, "God with us," then all of these stories about how God is with us, can be Advent stories!

And so we invite you to share a favorite Bible story and why that Bible story is important to you. You might reflect on how you relate to the story, how it challenges you, how it inspires you, or how it tells you something about who you are or who God is.

Interested in learning more? Visit [www.fpcspartanburg.org/stories](http://www.fpcspartanburg.org/stories).



# MISSIONS



## Thornwell's Visit to FPC

On August 29th, FPC members and friends gathered for lunch to hear about Thornwell's variety of programs, as well as children's successes. The programs at Thornwell are designed to help young residents, and often their families, develop strategies and discover new methods designed to meet their needs.

Four Thornwell employees, including the CEO Myron Wilkins, filled our hearts, our minds, and our emotions with tales that provided insights and understanding about the goals of Thornwell. Many competent, caring hands made the day a success.

Attendees even carried home a jar of jam from Thornwell's Lush Acres Farm. The lucky ones got T.O.E. jam. Really!

**Save the Date: FPC Bus Tour of Thornwell**  
**November 1, 2023 | 9:15am-2:30pm**

Meet at the Family Life Center parking lot at 9:15am.  
Lunch plans to be determined.

Registration deadline **October 27.**

Sign up at [fpcspartanburg.org/thornwell](https://fpcspartanburg.org/thornwell), or contact Ian Ritchings ([iritchings@fpcspartanburg.org](mailto:iritchings@fpcspartanburg.org) | 864-208-2139).



## Volunteers Needed!

We are in need of volunteers for our 2023 Winter Warmth Mission, where we distribute winter coats to children in need across Spartanburg County.

Jobs include setting up on **November 10**, assisting with distribution on **November 11**, parking lot attendants, and more!

**Scan the QR Code to volunteer for our largest annual mission!**

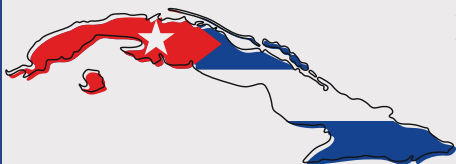


## Dominican Republic Medical Mission Trip

**February 3-10, 2024**



**Registration Open!**  
Scan the QR Code to register.



Please pray for our partners in Cuba, and for **Holt Andrews, Kevin Demark, and David Foy** as they travel to Santa Clara on **October 4-7** to do the development visit for the Living Waters water system!

This trip is a result of the **2023 Witness Season** project this year.





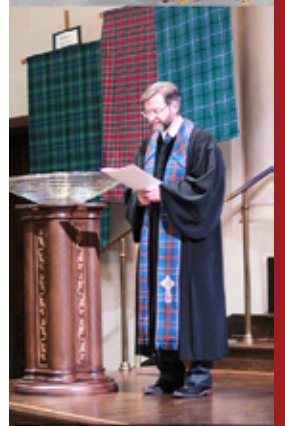
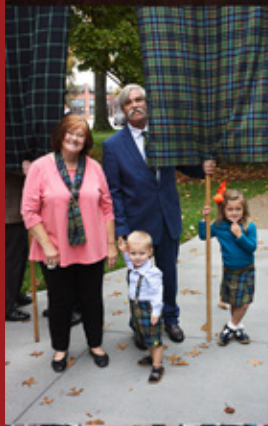


# KIRKIN' O' THE TARTANS

**SUNDAY, OCTOBER 29  
8:30 & 11:00AM | SANCTUARY**

Join us for our annual service, harkening back to the Scottish roots of the Presbyterian Church.

In our Kirkin' service, we remember ancient times, as well as past and present kith and kin, while asking God's help and blessings in the future. The service will feature a procession of bagpipes and tartans, followed by a time of fellowship and refreshments on the church lawn.



*If you are a Tartan Banner owner and would like to participate in the 8:30am or 11:00am Kirkin' o' the Tartans service, please watch your **Weekly eNews** for a link to sign up to participate.*

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Spartanburg, SC 29302-1917  
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