

FIRST NEWS

SUMMER 2023



Homecoming Panel with Former Pastors (April 30, 2023)

I had quite the surprise one evening last month when I went to water the hanging plant just outside the back door of our home. As I began to pour the water, a small bundle of feather and beak and, if I may say so, astounding ferocity launched itself out of the plant nearly hitting me square in the face. Needless to say: not what I was expecting! Upon closer inspection I discovered that my surprise avian attacker had been carefully constructing a nest deep within the plant, which now held five or six tiny, speckled eggs.

As a family, we spent the next few weeks watching through the kitchen window as the eggs hatched and the baby birds squawked and one-by-one they each grew and eventually “flew the roost.” It was a fun

reminder for us about the natural rhythms of life that come with the changing seasons. As spring yields to summer new things are born, new opportunities arise, and, with a little encouragement, we are invited to stretch our wings and try new things.

Similarly, the summer months here at First Presbyterian abound with new rhythms and new life. This is especially true in our summer worship and combined Sunday School where we will spend June and July exploring during what it means to slow down and go Godspeed, which is a word that comes from the old English phrase God Spede - meaning “may God flourish you”. To live at Godspeed means to be present to where we are, and present to who surrounds us.

My prayer is that these summer months may be a period for God to flourish all of us through the life and faith we share together as a church family. And so, as you peruse the pages of this edition of First News, know that every opportunity contained within is open to each and every person. Whether in worship, fellowship, learning, or mission, perhaps we too might be surprised by the new – and sometimes unexpected – life that springs forth when we take a moment to water our faith!

God Spede,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Alan".

Rev. Alan F. Dyer
Senior Pastor



UPCOMING HAPPENINGS

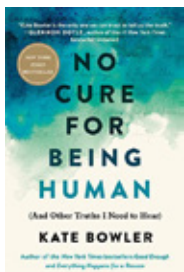
SUMMER STUDIES A-PLENTY!



Summer Book Study for All *Mere Christianity* by C.S. Lewis

Thursday Mornings (June 1 - July 13)
10:00 - 11:00am in the Arthur Center

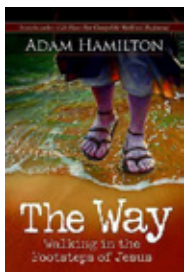
Interested in reading one of C.S. Lewis' finest books with a group? Come join us! If you're interested, please contact Leslie Lang (llang@fpcspartanburg.org).



Younger Women's Summer Study *No Cure for Being Human* by Kate Bowler

Monday Evenings (June 5, 12, & 26)
6:00 - 7:30pm on Donna Pulliam's Porch

If you'd like to be added to the email list, please contact Leslie Lang, Donna Pulliam, or Carter Smith.



Summer Women's Bible Study *The Way: Walking in the Footsteps of Jesus* by Adam Hamilton

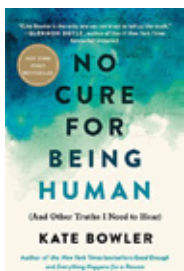
Wednesdays (June 21 - July 26)
7:00pm in the Arthur Center

A comprehensive and easy-to-read walk through the themes of Jesus's ministry. Perfect time to connect and grow in faith! Mark your calendars, order your book, and RSVP to Ansley Page (apage@fpcspartanburg.org).



Book Discussion for Moms & Dads *Bags: Helping Your Kids Lighten the Load* by Chris Sasser

Come take the opportunity to join other parents to reflect on today's kid pressures of performance, comparison, and individuation. For the parents of older elementary - college age. RSVP to Ansley Page if you are curious or interested so we can find dates and times to suit.



Book Study for All Readers and Thinkers *No Cure for Being Human* by Kate Bowler

Join Ansley Page for a few summer evenings to discuss the latest from Kate Bowler. This church history professor wrestles with cliché and truth as she reflects on the evolution of her faith after her stage 4 cancer diagnosis at 35. RSVP to Ansley if you are curious or interested so we can choose suitable dates.

College Graduate Recognition

GIVE A SHOUT-OUT TO THE CLASS OF 2023!

We would like to recognize our members who have graduated from college or graduate school in the **August** edition of **First News**.

If you or a member of your family graduated this past winter or spring, please contact Ian Ritchings (iritchings@fpcspartanburg.org) by **Monday, July 10** with the Graduate's Name and the University.

YOUNG ADULTS SUMMER EVENTS

WIRED WEDNESDAYS

Wednesday Mornings, starting June 14
Around 9:30am at Fretwell

Kid-friendly time for fellowship, prayer, and coffee! All are welcome - pop in when you can!

BACK-TO-SCHOOL FELLOWSHIP

Sunday, August 6
Hosted by the Blantons and Hoys

Save the date and be on the lookout for more information!



MUSIC IN JULY

FOR THE MONTH OF JULY, THERE WILL BE ONE WORSHIP SERVICE AT 11:00AM IN THE SANCTUARY, WITH EACH SUNDAY INCORPORATING A DIFFERENT GENRE OF MUSIC!

JULY 2	 AMERICAN MUSIC 
JULY 9	 JAZZ  WITH JOHN MOODY & FRIENDS
JULY 16	 ACOUSTIC  WITH SPECIAL EMPHASIS ON TAIZE
JULY 23	 BLUEGRASS  WITH THE MORNINGSONG WORSHIP TEAM
JULY 30	 GLOBAL MUSIC 

COME JOIN US AS WE WORSHIP THE LORD IN A VARIETY OF STYLES THIS SUMMER!

SUMMER SUNDAY SCHOOL

GODSPEED

A Combined Adult Sunday School Class

Sundays in June & July

This summer, through our joint Adult Sunday School class and worship, we will slow down to explore the kind of life and relationships into which God invites us. Join us for this study entitled "Godspeed" written by Julie and Matt Canlis and featuring video from N.T. Wright and Eugene Peterson. Gather in Fogartie Hall at 10:00am each Sunday* in June and July as your pastors lead us in seeking to "slow down in order to catch up with God."

Come as often as you are able!

**There will be no Sunday School on July 2*

Children's Sunday School June 4 - End of August

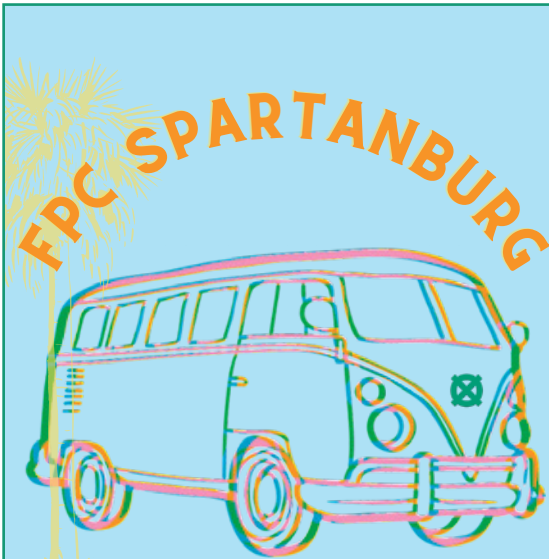
Nursery Regular time & location

3k - 5k Regular time & location

Upstairs Classes Combined class
(Just finished 1st - 5th Grade) at 10:00am in
the back of
Fogartie Hall




YOUTH MINISTRY



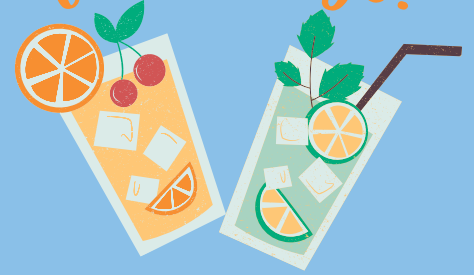
FPC SPARTANBURG
YOUTH SMR SZN 23
@fpcsyouthandcampus

- 6/4 - GREENVILLE DRIVE
- 6/7 - SENIOR NIGHT
- 6/15 - BOWLING
- 6/20 - PAINT BALL
- 6/28 - YOUTH OLYMPICS
- 7/6 - MOVIE NIGHT
- 7/10-7/13 - MS MISSION WEEK
- 7/22-7/29 - HS MONTREAT YOUTH CONFERENCE



Use code to sign up!

Thirsty Third Thursdays!



THURSDAY, JUNE 15 & JULY 20
5:30 - 7:00PM
FRETWELL (101 FRETWELL ST.)

COME ENJOY SIPS AND NIBBLES WITH FELLOW PARENTS OF TWEENS, TEENS, COLLEGIATES AND EMPTY NESTERS!

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY



**Sunday
June 4th**
come to church dressed
as a **superhero!!**

After the 11am service, make sure to stop by the summer sizzle for a SUPER treat and to pick up your VBS shirt!



SAVE THE DATE!
Summer Sizzle
♦ RALLY DAY ♦
SEPTEMBER 10, 2023
MORE DETAILS TO COME!

Montreat, NC Play Dates

June 24th & July 15th

10:00am-3:00pm

For rising 4k to rising 6th grade

Don't miss this special playtime in the beautiful Montreat mountains. Join us June 24th, July 15th, or BOTH!

You can drop your kid(s) off and then sit on a porch, go for a hike, shop/eat/drink in charming downtown Black Mountain, explore Asheville, or anything else you can pack into 5 hours!

Children need to bring a packed lunch, water bottle, bathing suit, towel, sunscreen (already applied is best), closed-toed shoes for the creek, and a change of clothes.

We are going to have a BLAST!

Play Dates are FREE, but please register by using the QR Code.





4K through 5th Grade
Children's Choirs
meet Wednesdays at 5:00

Registration for Children's Music Programs opens August 1st.

Stay tuned...
(pun intended)



Newborn thru 1 year meet
Sundays from 4:30 - 5:00

2 & 3 year olds meet
Sundays from 5:15 - 5:45 or
Wednesdays 5:10 - 5:35
(Wednesday class is open to FPC Members only)

RECREATION MINISTRY

THE GORGE

A ZIPLINE CANOPY ADVENTURE

SATURDAY, JUNE 10

Join us for an exhilarating canopy tour in Saluda, NC with **epic views**, **three rappels**, and an awesome **sky bridge**!

This fun event is open to families with children 10 year of age and older.

Group rate, reservation required.
Reach out to Colleen Darrall for more info!
(cdarrall@fpcspartanburg.org)

GREEN RIVER

ADVENTURES

SATURDAY, JULY 8

Take a guide-assisted river trip down a three-mile section of the Lower Green River in Saluda, NC! These easily navigable rapids are perfect for anyone **ages 5 and up** (no experience needed)!

Pre-registration required.
Contact Colleen Darrall to sign up,
or if you have any questions!

PICKLEBALL

@ FPC

TUESDAYS & THURSDAYS
12:30 - 2:30PM

BEGINNING THE FIRST WEEK OF JUNE (6/6)

EQUIPMENT AVAILABLE AT FLC DESK
FOR NEW PLAYERS

BRING A BUDDY, WALK A P.A.L.

Thursday Morning **P.A.L.** Trail Days
June 1 & 15; July 6 & 20

Come explore a new trail each week, led by Colleen Darrall.
Families and children are always welcome!



GO TAKE A HIKE!

Come be part of a Saturday group hike
this summer!

Explore the God's creation through trails in the
area, and maybe even hike through Montreat!

Meet some new friends and enjoy
lunch together afterwards!

Interested? Reach out to Colleen Darrall
for more information!

HEALTH MINISTRY

BLOOD DRIVE

at FPC



June 25
8:00 - 1:00

In the
FLC
Parking Lot

SAVE THE DATES

VACCINATION CLINIC
SKIN / BONE DENSITY SCREENING

OCTOBER 10 & OCTOBER 11
(DRIVE-THRU, FLU ONLY)





PASTORAL CONCERNS

(THROUGH MAY 25, 2023)

IN MEMORIAM

Paul Allen Dunbar
Wednesday, May 3, 2023

Douglas Martin O'Brien
Monday, May 1, 2023

Rhonda Carol Young
Mother of Rob Hammett
Saturday, May 6, 2023

CHRISTIAN SYMPATHY

Christian sympathy is extended to:

Rhonda Dickerson, on the death of her mother, Daphne Friar;
John Hill, on the death of his mother, Elizabeth Hill;
Michael Keiser, on the death of his mother, JoAnn Faust;
Shirley Wicker, on the death of her son, Edwin Grey Wicker;
Charles Reid, on the death of his mother, Kay Reid.

BAPTISMS

The Sacrament of Baptism was administered to:

Georgia Louise Smith, daughter of **Hannah and Mills Smith**, on May 14, 2023

BIRTHS

Congratulations to:

Millie and Tanner Oldham, on the birth of their daughter, **Margaret Ellis "Mae" Oldham** on Friday, April 28, 2023

Mary Kathryn and Justin Ward, on the birth of their son, **George McAlister Ward** on Saturday, May 13, 2023

Mary Caroline and John Seager, on the birth of their daughter, **Emma Claire Seager** on Thursday, May 25, 2023

KIRKIN' O' THE TARTANS

First Presbyterian Church will hold its annual Kirkin' o' the Tartans Worship Service on **Sunday, October 29, 2023**. At our Kirkin' service, we remember ancient times, as well as past kith and kin, while asking God's help and blessings in the future through special music and a procession of bagpipes and tartans.

The tartan fabrics are ordered from Scotland, so we need your order and payment by Friday, July 21. The cost of a banner is \$150.

Some clans have multiple patterns available. If you want a particular pattern, please indicate below. Otherwise, we will order the most common pattern for the clan.

At the conclusion of the service, the tartan banners will be given to the sponsor for storage or display until the next Kirkin'. Only the staffs and banner stands will remain at the church.

Questions? Contact Martha Bean (mtbean@icloud.com)

2023 Kirkin' o' the Tartans Banner Sponsorship Form

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: () _____ - _____ Email: _____

Clan Tartan: _____ Pattern: _____

Please forward this form
and check for \$150 to:

First Presbyterian Church - Kirkin' Fund
Attn: Lynise Clarke
393 East Main St. Spartanburg, SC 29302

Banners can also be
ordered online by
using this QR Code:



Or, go to
[fpcspartanburg.org/
kirkinorder](https://fpcspartanburg.org/kirkinorder)

WELCOME OUR NEW MEMBERS!



**Tom and Jan
Blexrud**



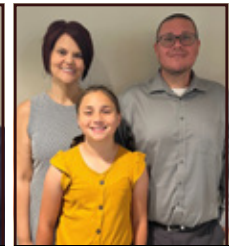
Mark Ferguson



**Brandon, Lora,
and Lilli McKillop**



**Randy and Cathy
Mulkey**



**John, Lacey, and
Brianna Webber**



MISSION OPPORTUNITIES



When Jon and I first heard the word "Thornwell," we thought about Thanksgiving turkeys, White Gifts, and even when Thornwell was a home for orphans. However, it is so much more. The diverse ministry at Thornwell is committed to finding solutions to help heal, strengthen, and empower children and families. In 2019, we attended a luncheon at First Presbyterian Church and learned of multiple ways to support this important cause.

Then, we felt a personal calling to get involved in their foster care program. Thornwell assisted us in becoming licensed foster parents. They visited monthly and made a connection with our foster son, and provided gifts and items he needed while in our care. Fostering has greatly opened our eyes to those in need, and forever changed our family. Thornwell's mission is for every child to feel seen, loved, and valuable.

- Colleen and Jon Darrall

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Save the date for our next Thornwell Luncheon at First Presbyterian Church:

Tuesday, August 29, 2023

Stay tuned for more details!



**PRESBYTERIAN
DISASTER ASSISTANCE**
OUT OF CHAOS, HOPE

Do you want to help disaster survivors without leaving home?

The SC Presbyterian Disaster Assistance team is looking for people who want to learn how to help others impacted by natural disasters by training them to use a program called *Crisis Cleanup*.

"CrisisCleanup is a collaborative disaster work order management platform that improves coordination, reduces duplication of efforts, improves efficiency, and improves volunteers' experience."

Volunteers can be anyone who can use a computer, a phone and has the willingness to listen to survivors tell their story as they seek help from volunteer work groups who are responding to the disaster. As a *Crisis Cleanup* (CC) volunteer you complete an online "form" on the CC website for each survivor you speak with, which will then alert work teams as to who needs what kind of help/assistance. Once trained, volunteers are asked to commit to **at least 1 hour/day (usually for 2-3 weeks)** calling survivors of a disaster and inputting their information into the *Crisis Cleanup* software.

If you are interested in learning more, you can contact **Sally Dyer** (sbdyer@gmail.com) or speak to **Leslie Lang**. A time to meet and learn more about the *Crisis Cleanup* program will be scheduled for those interested in learning more.



SUMMER *Sizzle*

Sunday, June 4



Popsicles & VBS Kickoff

Sunday, June 25



Undies & Sundaes*

Sundays in July



**Perrin Room Fellowship
(before every service)**

Wed, August 2



Church Family Bingo

Sunday, August 13



Books & Backpacks

Sunday, August 27



Lemonade on the Lawn

Wed, August 30



Church Family Trivia

**Come join us for fun and
fellowship, all summer long!**

***Bring a new pack of underwear (in children's, men's or women's sizes) to donate, and cool off with sundaes in the Social Hall**

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

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