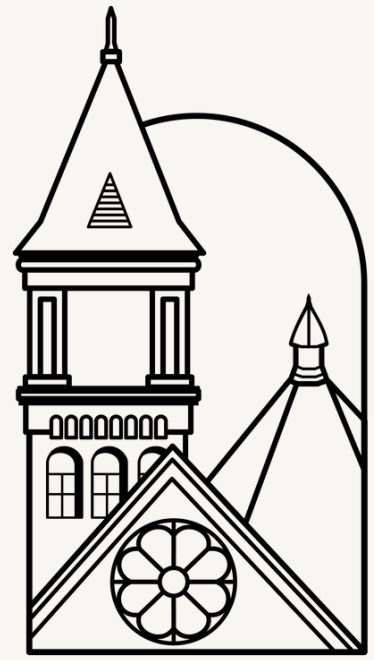


The First Edition



Greetings in the name of Jesus Christ!

One summer a few years ago, I spent the better part of two entire days painting the railing of our Lexington, NC home. With the top and bottom porches, there was over 100 linear feet of railing. Each of the ten sections also had a top and bottom rail with at least seven spindles. It was quite tedious work that required patience and precision as it was all detail work.

Now I am someone who likes a bargain, and I often look for the least expensive option when purchasing supplies. However, when approaching this project, I decided that given the amount of time it was going to take, I wanted to make sure it lasted. So, I got the best outdoor paint I could find. It was \$20 more a gallon than another “good” brand, but it was advertised as more durable and lasting. I also sprung for high quality brushes. I knew I was going to get out of it what I put into it; so, I put in the best. While only time will tell how “durable and lasting” the paint job will be (the new owners will eventually find out), the rails still looked good years later when we sold the house.

I believe this illustrates a truth in life. The results of our efforts are often directly related to the quality of our effort. If we put in average effort, we get average results. If we put in quality effort, we will usually get quality results. This is certainly true with our physical health. If we make exercise a priority and if that exercise is done with quality effort, we will see positive results in our health – things like lower blood pressure, weight maintenance or loss, increase in strength, etc.

This is also true in our spiritual lives. If we approach the practice of our spiritual life with an average effort, we are going to see average results. These results may be adequate when times are average; but when the storms come, we might find our faith not as “durable and lasting.”

This reminds me of Jesus’ parable of the wise and foolish builders. The wise man built his house on the rock – a firm foundation. The foolish man built his house on the sand – a shifting foundation. The foolish man’s house was easier and quicker to build; he didn’t need to dig much of a foundation. Yet, when the storm came, it was the wise man’s house that stood, because that man had put in the quality effort to build a strong foundation.

In this day of fast paced living and competing claims on our time, it is easy to allow the effort in our spiritual lives to be average. The truth is: sometimes average will suffice. Yet, there are many times when it will not. God offers us more than average, and God calls us to more than average.

God wants our best because God has given his best. The results of giving God our best are not only pleasing to God, they rebound back to us. When we give God our best, we are building our house on the rock.

So, I encourage each of you to reflect on ways you can give God your quality effort in worship, in scripture reading, in studying, in serving. I can guarantee that you will be pleased with the results, and you will find yourself more “durable and lasting!”

Grace and peace to you.

Your friend and pastor,

Pastor Lee

Announcements



**August Help for Hope
Breakfast Cereals**

Collections to benefit the clients of Project HOPE

Any brand or variety are needed!
Please leave donations in the narthex bin
by Sunday, August 17.



**FPC's
Blessing of the Backpacks**
Sunday, August 3 at 10am Worship
Students of all ages and teachers may
bring their backs for a special blessing
as we begin the new school year.



**Rise
AGAINST HUNGER
EXPERIENCE**

Rise Against Hunger works in countries worldwide to fight hunger, targeting communities facing high rates of food insecurity.

Join the movement!
Will you join FPC Rock Hill for an exciting, hands-on volunteer opportunity to package meals for global hunger relief? Check out our Rise Against Hunger Experience meal packaging event details below.

Sunday, August 17, 2025

2:00 pm in Hopkins Hall

We will pack 15,000 Meals!

We will need close to 100 people to complete our goal!

OR <http://events.riseagainsthunger.org/FirstPresRockHill2025>

Register here:



**Rally Day at FPC: September 7
Summer Celebration & Fall Kick-Off**

**Breakfast at 10:00 am
in Hopkins Hall!
Bring a covered-dish
breakfast item to share!**

**Worship
will be at
11:00 am!**

Please join us as we
kick off a new school
year of study and faith
formation at FPC!

Communion

will be served August 3 and 31.

Deacon's Fund Offering

will be collected on August 3.

August Birthdays

- 1 Ken Holt, Claire Stevenson
- 2 Christie Kay
- 6 David Chubb
- 7 Ashley Stevenson
- 8 Shannon Huggins, Richard Kay, Caroline Kay
- 11 Donna Martin, Lettie Owen
- 14 Natalie Ojalehto
- 15 Theresa Quandt
- 20 Cynthia Johnson
- 21 Andy Cloninger, Sara Curry, David Esposito
- 23 Reeves Williams, Eric Park
- 25 Julia Nichols, Carroll Terry, Matt Goodner
- 26 Jase Johnson
- 27 David Richardson, Tom Hickman, Mike Hunsucker, Walt Williams
- 28 Nancy Gaaney, Bob Ballard, Bobby Williams, Lindsey Skinner, Ward Janicke, Tim Gockel
- 29 Rhett Keener
- 30 Kia Hicklin
- 31 Craig Wilkerson, Jr.

Server Schedules

AUGUST DEACONS ON CALL

Christy Goodner, Kathy James, Joan Musselwhite

AUGUST ELDERS/DEACONS

- 3 Mary Anne Sheppard, Joan Musselwhite
- 10 Elizabeth Owen, James Crean
- 17 Mimi Goodner, Beth Janicke
- 24 Butch Bailey, Diane Hicks
- 31 Chris Wheeler, Sue Munn

AUGUST MONITORS/GREETERS

- 3 Chris Cycak
- 10 Bob Ballard
- 17 Matt Goodner
- 24 Rod Hicks
- 31 Eric Park

AUGUST ACOLYTES

- 3 Jamison Deese, Henry Goodner
- 10 Cecily Zelinski, Penelope Zelinski
- 17 Millie Goodner, Mason Goodner
- 24 Taylor Chubb, Alexander Roberson
- 31 Amelia Skinner, Ben Williams

AUGUST WORSHIP CARE

- 3 Natalie Harper
- 10 Megan Keener
- 17 Mary Alice Owen
- 24 Liz Briggs
- 31 Diane Hicks

COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Sunday, August 3

11:00 am - Christian Ed.

Tuesday, August 5

6:00 pm - Deacons

Monday, August 11

5:30pm - Property

Sunday, August 17

9:00 am - Mission/Outreach

Wednesday, August 20

6:30 pm - Finance

Tuesday, August 19 OR 26

6:00 pm - Session



Hunger Outreach Program (HOP): The HOP Ministry will not meet in August.

Mark your calendar for September 23!

Dorothy Day Soup Kitchen: Join us on Thursday, August 28 at 10:00am.

Contact Wendy Blanchard to help.

Fellowship and Congregational Life

LADIES NIGHT OUT



TUESDAY, AUGUST 12 AT 6:00 PM

921 Mt. Gallant Rd., Rock Hill

Meet in the parking lot behind the Family Trust/Warren Norman building at the corner of

Celanese and India Hook Road



by 5:30 pm to CARPOOL.



NOTIFY LINDER TUCKER BY MONDAY, AUGUST 11 AT 6PM TO MAKE RESERVATIONS.

FPC Fitness Groups

The Walking Group meets Tuesdays & Thursdays at 8:30 am at the Hopkins Hall entrance.



Pickleball Courts are open for play on Thursdays at 5:00 pm in Hopkins Hall gym.



Seniors Exercise Class meets Tuesdays & Thursdays at 4:00 pm in Hopkins Hall for all skill levels. \$10/month.



Yoga (all levels) meets Wednesdays at 6:00 pm in the Gaston Room.



Ladies Out to Lunch

Ladies Out to Lunch meets every Sunday after worship at the back Main Street corner of the church.

You are invited to join us for good food, fellowship & fun! Questions? Contact Linder Tucker.

Welcome New Members To FPC



James, Carrie, Landon, Bentley & Hudson Roberts



Lynn Vargus



Sherry Flowers



Brooke, Coleman, William & Keely Grace Nies

SUNDAY FLOWERS

We have some **open dates** for the next few months on the 2025 Sanctuary Flower Chart:

**September 28,
October 5, 19, 26**

If you would like to provide flowers for one of these dates, please reach out to Allen Katz **OR** sign up on the Flower Chart outside the Church Office.



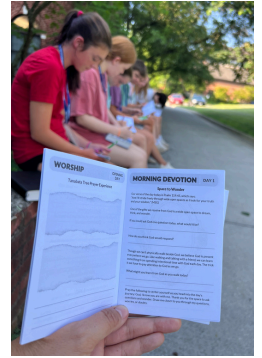
Dear FPC Family,
My thanks for all the cards, texts, phone calls, flowers, gift card, food and most importantly the prayers during this transition period I'm having. I am truly blessed to belong to such a loving and caring church. May God bless each of you.

Jean Horton

Christian Education

Summer Celebrations

We are grateful for everyone who made our Marketplace happen on May 17 and we celebrate with our kids who participated in Passportkids and our youth who served at HOPE of Rock Hill and Passportmissions. Thanks to all our chaperones who made these opportunities possible.



We will present Bibles to our 1st Graders during 10:00 am worship on Sunday, August 10.



Church Library Update

We are transitioning our library catalog to a new online database that we hope to release in September! If you have any library books at home, please return them to the baskets in either the upstairs or downstairs libraries so that we can get these books added to our new database. We appreciate the work of Betsy Forest, Linda Mika, Michele Murdoch, Anna Roberson, and Kate Roberson to make this happen.



Pray for our college students who begin another year of college this month:



The Citadel

Jacob Baker



University of SC

Ellison Briggs



Coastal Carolina

Grace Gresham



Clemson

Caroline Baker

Rose Faircloth

Dixon Murdoch

Coleman Nies

Kaitlyn Stevenson

Nora Stevenson



Hillsdale College

Kate Roberson

We will be participating in the Winthrop Convocation Picnic on Monday, August 25. Please reach out to [Kara Wheeler](#) if you would love to take the lead and help on any of our College Ministry happenings.

Mission and Outreach

HOPE for Rock Hill and FPC!!

The Cyscak family wanted to give back to the community this summer, so they planned and hosted a grilled hot dog lunch to raise money to support HOPE for Rock Hill. Chris and Elizabeth took Charlie and Walter shopping for the supplies. Everyone in the family had a role on the day of the lunch: Chris was the grill master; Charlie took orders and served; Elizabeth took the money; and Walter was the greeter! It was a smooth operation and highly successful! With the money they raised, Chris and Elizabeth took the boys shopping to purchase cereal for the August HOPE donations. They purchased 64 boxes of cereal and have money remaining to buy peanut butter and jelly for next month! Hats off to the Cyscaks for not only supporting the cause, but also for teaching their young boys to be aware of those who are less fortunate and to have hearts to help others.



READING BUDDIES PROGRAM

Did you know that the FPC Mission Committee began a partnership with Northside Elementary School of the Arts last year to be Reading Buddies? We show up and read with an assigned student – with the goal of helping them develop a love of reading. The reading days/times are 7:30 to 8:00 am on Tuesday and/or

Thursday mornings. This early time helps to set the students up for a GREAT day at school.

Would you be interested in this opportunity? There is a volunteer process required with Rock Hill Schools that we would need to start ASAP. Please reach out to Elizabeth Rollins for more information.

Diane Hicks and Kara Wheeler were reading buddies last year and can answer your questions.

Dominican Republic Mission Trip!

Pastor Lee will be taking a group from our church to the Dominican Republic on October 10-17, 2025.

We will be hosted by Mission Emanuel – a Dominican/American partnership ministry located in the Dominican Republic focused on transforming a community through the power of Jesus Christ. The ministry is geographically headquartered in the small villages of Cielo and Nazaret, located on the western edge of Santo Domingo. The ground cost is \$1250 which includes 6 nights, all meals, transportation, and a t-shirt. Air fare is currently running around \$550. We do have designated money to offset some of the cost for participants.

Reach out to [Pastor Lee](#) for info!



Thanks for all the wonderful volunteers at FPC who host families experiencing homelessness.

**Our next opportunity is
September 13-20, 2025.**

We need overnight hosts, dinner providers, and greeters to open the building, visit with our guests and help other volunteers.

Please consider how you might serve.

Use this QR code or see
the sign-up sheet in the narthex
to volunteer. Contact Kathy
Pender for more information.



Congregational Care

We pray for others because Jesus has taught us to.

We share each other's burdens and seek God's comfort.

Our Prayer Ministry accepts your prayer requests. You may provide as much or as little information as you wish and know that prayers will be offered. The Prayer Ministry is a part of the Diaconate as a confidential means of prayer request for FPC members and immediate family members. Due to confidentiality, prayer requests through the Prayer Ministry are not made public to the congregation without the permission of the person the prayer request is for.

Contact Prayer Ministry Coordinator, Vickey Dodge, to submit a prayer request.

Please keep these members in your prayers:

Joys: Delaine and Julia Roberts in celebration of their 60th wedding anniversary on July 16.

Sympathy: Karen Hickman in the death of her brother, Mark Moose, on May 8.

Betsy Forrest in the death of her sister-in-law, Jane Thomas, on June 2.

Shirley Burton in the death of her son, David Burton, on June 4.

Butch Blanchard in the death of his brother, Zale Blanchard, on June 10.

Health Concerns: Worth Kendall, Mary Tice, Shirley Burton, Beth Easley, Michele Horne, Keira Esposito, Rev. Dr. Barry Lambert, , Ashley Platts, Nancy Lowery, Colleen Lathan, Jean Horton, Linda Bradshaw

Friends & Family Members: Keira Esposito

Member of the Military: Jacob Harris - Navy

Pastoral Care: If you or someone you know has a pastoral need, please contact the Church Office at 803-328-2467, firstpresrh@gmail.com, or a deacon on call.

First Presbyterian Church Rock Hill

Property Committee Work Request

Date Requested: _____
Requested by: _____ Phone: _____
Site Location: _____
Description of Request: _____

Please place your request in Mailbox #1 for the Property Committee.

Thank you!

**The Property Committee has a
NEW Work Request card!**

**Cards can be found on the bulletin board
near the Church Office.**

Rock Hill Music Club presents:

Palmetto Voices Spiritual Ensemble

With pre-concert talk by our
Conductor and Artistic Director
Dr. Sonja Sepúlveda.

6:30pm Saturday August 16th

Oakland Avenue Presbyterian Church
Rock Hill, SC

Tickets: \$25 per person

Purchase tickets at
www.rockhillmusicclub.org or at
the door. Proceeds to benefit the Rock Hill
Music Club scholarships for Winthrop University and
York County High School Seniors majoring in music.

*Palmetto Voices
Spiritual Ensemble*

The Palmetto Voices Spiritual Ensemble is a professional choir that strives to sustain both the legacy and vision of the Concert Spiritual. This program will feature African music, Negro Spirituals, and Gospel, all central parts of this unique American art form. Please join us for an interactive concert with audience participation.

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

234 EAST MAIN STREET

POST OFFICE BOX 1011

ROCK HILL, SC 29731

As a diverse family of believers in Jesus Christ, our mission is to glorify God by celebrating and sharing God's renewing and transforming love as:

We worship the living God with joy and thanksgiving.

We teach the Word of God to deepen our faith and to grow in our love for Jesus Christ.

We serve others through sharing the gifts of the Holy Spirit.

We fellowship to enrich and energize our life together as a congregation.

We nurture and embrace all God's children.

Members of the Session

Class of 2025

Butch Bailey
Terry Dodge
Mimi Goodner
Mary Anne Sheppard
Chris Wheeler

Class of 2026

John Abernathy
Jimmy Campbell
Scott Harris
Elizabeth Owen
*Susan Roberson, clerk

Class of 2027

Paul Horne
Ann Hunsucker
Chip Hutchison
Julia Nichols
Sheryl Smith

Members of the Diaconate

Class of 2025

James Crean
Vickey Dodge
*Christy Goodner, moderator
Diane Hicks
Sue Munn

Class of 2026

Jennifer Abernathy
Heather Dellinger
Kathy James
Margaret Joiner
Dave Keely

Class of 2027

Beth Janicke
Allen Katz
Joan Musselwhite
Steve Roberts

*Wayne Terry, treasurer

Staff

Rev. Dr. A. Lee Zehmer
Senior Pastor
lzehmer@fpcrockhill.org

Rev. Kara Wheeler
Director of Family Ministries
kwheeler@fpcrockhill.org

Dr. Donald M. Rogers
Director of Music

M. L. Marley
Organist

Jonna Eichorn
Administrative Assistant
jeichorn@fpcrockhill.org

Robyn Brown
Financial Secretary
rbrown@fpcrockhill.org

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