

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
ROCK HILL, SC
AUGUST 2026



The First Edition

Greetings in the name of Jesus!

As you read this, all that is left of the summer is August; and before long, we will start up all our fall programs. I am not sure where the time has gone!

I hope each of you has had the opportunity to rest and to do something meaningful over the summer months. I certainly enjoyed my time with our youth on their mission trip to the Dominican Republic in June, and I was blessed to attend the wedding of a family friend in Colorado Springs.

In the weeks to come, here are some things to look forward to:

- On August 2nd we return to 11:00 a.m. worship and will be “blessing the backpacks” during the service. Each student is encouraged to bring his or her backpack so that we can bless it for the coming school year. We will also pray for our children, youth, and teachers returning to school. The Sacrament of the Lord’s Supper will be celebrated.
- On August 9th we will be receiving new members into the life of the church at 10 a.m. in the chapel.
- On August 16th we will be kicking off the fall education program of the church with our “Rally Day Breakfast” at 10:00 a.m. This morning marks the return of Sunday morning learning!
- On August 23rd the youth who went on the mission trip this summer will lead worship and share about their experiences in the Dominican Republic. That afternoon we will pack 15,000 meals for RISE AGAINST HUNGER in Hopkins Hall.

Other activities returning in August:

- Our Adult Choir, the Children’s Choirs, and the Handbell Choir will start their rehearsals. Each group is looking for new participants! If you would be interested in finding more information about our music program, please reach out to Dr. Don.
- The Wednesday evening Men’s Bible Study will start August 19th, and they will be studying the book “Half Truths” by Adam Hamilton.
- I will conclude my series of sermons on “What’s Good About the Church?”

It is such a joy to be part of a spiritually vibrant and active church, and I look forward to seeing you in worship and around town! Grace and peace to each of you.

Your friend and pastor,

Pastor Lee

The Worship Time returns to 11:00 am on Sunday, August 2!!!

Announcements

BLESSING OF THE BACKPACKS

**Sunday, August 2
11:00 am Worship**

Students and teachers may bring their backpacks for a special blessing as we begin a new school year.

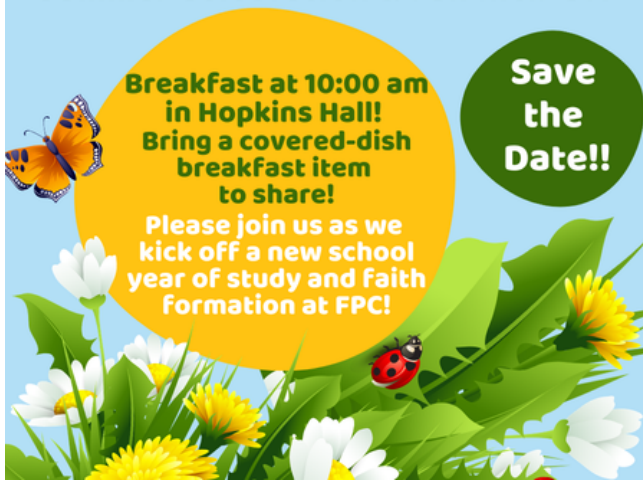


Rally Day at FPC: August 16 Summer Celebration & Fall Kick-Off

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

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

**Save
the
Date!!**



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.



Worship



Teach



Serve



Fellowship



New Members Class and Reception

We will have a "FPC 101" Class on Sunday, August 2 at 10:00 am for those interested in joining our congregation.

On Sunday, August 9, we will have a Reception of New Members at 10:00 am. They will be held in our Verdery Chapel. Attendance is not required at both sessions to join FPC. Reach out to Pastors Lee and Kara for more information.

FPC SERMON SERIES

Greetings in the Name of Jesus!

Starting on July 26th through August 16th, Pastor Lee will be preaching a series of sermons entitled "What's Good About the Church?."

He will look at four specific ministries that are unique to the church and how they make the church good for our culture.

We hope you will join us on Sundays as we look at:
Worship, Caring, Serving, and Good News!



Sunday, August 23, 2026

3:00 pm in Hopkins Hall

**We will pack 15,000 Meals!
We will need close to 100 people
to complete our goal!**

Register with the
QR Code:



When you are registering, there is no need to make a contribution. FPC's Mission Endowment has made a gift to Rise Against Hunger for our event.

August Birthdays

1 Ken Holt, Claire Stevenson
2 Christie Kay
4 Emma Kirksey
6 David Chubb
7 Ashley Stevenson
8 Shannon Huggins, Richard Kay, Caroline Kay, Madison Roberts
11 Lettie Owen
14 Natalie Ojalehto
15 Theresa Quandt
20 Cynthia Johnson, Jordan Olson
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, Barb Kurz
28 Nancy Gainey, Bob Ballard, Bobby Williams, Lindsey Skinner, Ward Janicke, Tim Gockel
29 Rhett Keener
30 Kia Hicklin
31 Craig Wilkerson, Jr.

COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Sunday, August 2

9:30 am – Mission & Outreach Committee

12:00 pm – Christian Ed. Committee

Tuesday, August 4

6:00 pm – Deacons

7:00 pm – Finance & Stewardship Committee

Sunday, August 9

12:00 pm – Security Team Meeting

Monday, August 10

9:00 am – Property Committee

Tuesday, August 18

6:00 pm – Session

Hunger Outreach Program (HOP)

HOP Meetings will not meet
the month of August.

Dorothy Day Soup Kitchen

Join us on Thursday, August 27
at 10:00am. Contact Wendy Blanchard to help.

Server Schedules

AUGUST DEACONS ON CALL

Kathy James, Joan Musselwhite,
Cameron Lawson

AUGUST ELDERS/DEACONS

2 Ann Hunsucker, Steve Roberts
9 Jimmy Campbell, Carolyn Johnson
16 Paul Horne, Betsy Forrest
23 Susan Roberson, Cameron Lawson
30 Ann Hunsucker, Sherry Hutchison

AUGUST MONITORS/GREETERS

2 Mike Hunsucker 9 Alan Johnson
16 Bob Ballard 23 Jimmy Campbell
30 Chris Wheeler

AUGUST WORSHIP CARE

2 Elizabeth Rollins 9 Michele Murdoch
16 Diane Hicks 23 Megan Keener
30 Diane Hale

AUGUST ACOLYTES

2 Taylor Chubb, Keaton Esposito
9 Rhett Keener, Brynn Kirksey
16 Cecily Zelinski, Penelope Zelinski
23 Mary Catherine Wheeler, Ellis Williams
30 Amelia Skinner, Charlie Cycak



Dear Church Family,

Words can not express how grateful we are for all the expressions of sympathy shown to our family following the loss of our dear mother, Donna Martin.

Thank you for the flowers, memorials, cards, meals and the beautiful reception. We know there were many hands involved.

Most of all thank you for the many prayers and for loving our mother.

With much appreciation and love,

The Family of Donna J. Martin



Campbell Allyse was born on June 30 to Bo & Brooke Hutchison.
Kathryn "Ruthie" Ruth was born on July 29 to Sarah & Cameron Lawson.

Congratulations!

Fellowship and Congregational Life



Coming Soon!

RETIREES LUNCH

**will return on Thursday, September 10
at 12 noon in Hopkins Hall!**

Boxed lunches from an area restaurant
will be served with tea and lemonade.
Payment will be day-of with cash/check.
Special programs each month.

**Contact Jonna in the Church Office
at jeichorn@fpcrockhill.org or
803-328-2467 if you would like to
help with set-up and hosting duties.**

**Watch for updates in the
Weekly E-News & Sunday Bulletins.**

**FPC Montreat
Family Weekend
October
16-18, 2026**



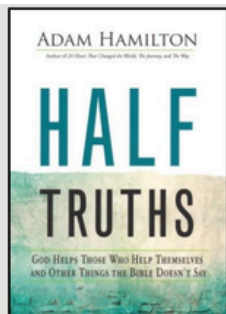
Registration is OPEN for our 2026 family
retreat. A room in the Inn is \$100/night and
\$140/night if you need 2 rooms for your family.

Six apartments are available (priority if
staying 3 nights and *first come - first serve*
through July 31) at \$140/night.

Register with Kara! More details to come!



**THE CONGREGATIONAL LIFE COMMITTEE
INVITES YOU TO BE A PART OF THIS
ENRICHING TIME OF FELLOWSHIP!**



**FPC Men's
Bible Study
Wednesdays
6:30 pm
starting August 19**

*They are simple phrases. They sound Christian—like something
you might find in the Bible. We've all heard these words.
Maybe we've said them. They capture some element of truth,
yet they miss the point in important ways.
Join Adam Hamilton in this 6-week Bible study to search for
the whole truth by comparing common Christian clichés
with the wisdom found in Scripture.*

The clichés include:

Everything happens for a reason.

God helps those who help themselves.

God won't give you more than you can handle.

God said it, I believe it, that settles it.

Love the sinner, hate the sin.

Study books are available in the Church Office.
Requested donation of \$10/book to help offset the cost.
Contact Terry Dodge for more information.

Mahjong

Interested in playing mahjong?

Join us at the church on Wednesday,
August 12 at 6:30 pm.

No instruction will be given at this event.

Join the What's App FPC Mahjong
Community for announcements here:



Pickleball

If there's enough interest, players meet
at the church to play pickleball on
Thursdays at 5:00 pm.

Join the What's App FPC Pickleball
Community for announcements here:



Yoga Class

**Classes will NOT be held every week
in the summer months!!
Use the Sign-Up Genius QR code
below to let Susan know
when you will attend!**



**Wednesdays at 6:00 pm
in the Gaston Room**

Join us for a gentle yoga practice
for all levels, beginner through advanced.
All are welcomed to attend.
The class is led by Susan Demchak, YT-200.

Seniors Exercise Class:

Join us on Tuesdays & Thursdays at 4:00 - 4:45 pm.

Cost: \$10/month. All skill levels welcome.

The Walking Group meets at 8:30 am outside the
church at the Hopkins Hall entrance. Join us on
Tuesday and Thursday mornings.

Christian Education

Sunday School classes begin on August 23 at 10:00 am.

If you are not connected to a Sunday School class and would like more information on our classes and studies, join us for our August 16 Rally Day Breakfast at 10:00 am to learn more!

Youth Families Lunch & Meeting

Families with youth are invited to stay after Worship for a pizza lunch on August 16 to learn more about youth activities for this 2026-27 school year. We will also share information about our confirmation plans for this year, as well as our dates for youth group and other activities.

This is an important meeting for both parents and youth! We hope to see you on the 16th!

Reach out to Kara for more information!

The August 23 11:00 am Service to be Led by the DR Mission Team!

Our youth mission team did not go to the Dominican Republic alone.

We went with your generous financial support and prayers.

The team is very excited to share our experiences with you on August 23.

1st Grade Bibles

1st Graders will receive a Bible from the church in 11:00 am in Worship on Sunday, August 30.

If you would like your child to receive a Bible, please reach out to Kara.

Church Family,

Whether or not you have a child in school, I hope these past two months have provided you extra time with loved ones. This summer I was able to laugh in Montreat with the women of our church, travel to Nashville with Chris & Mary Catherine to visit my Mom as she recovered in rehab from a fall, help lead our high school youth mission team as we served in the Dominican Republic, and serve with our Middle Schoolers at the Presbyterian College Mission Experience.

Shared experiences and time to linger and talk are a gift. This summer, I hope you shared stories of your faith with others - - that you contemplated the stories of Scripture that are formative for you and those people in your life who influenced your faith. Through the power of the Holy Spirit, these stories of our faith both lived and what we read in Scripture transform us.

I'm especially eager to hear the reflections of our mission team in worship on August 23rd.

As much I appreciated this summer, I'm ready for the school year to begin. We'll mark this new school year for our students and educators with our Blessing of the Backpacks in worship this Sunday, August 2 at 11:00 am. And as our new church year begins, I hope you'll be ready to be a part of the formative life of the church and be a part of a Sunday School class, small group Bible Study, or join a committee of the church. Our covered dish Rally Day breakfast at 10:00 am on Sunday, August 16, is the perfect opportunity to learn more about how you can be more rooted in the life of the church and your own faith journey.

Yes-the slower mornings, the unhurried bedtimes, and the extra time to just be have been a gift.

But to everything there is a season... so happy school year to all who celebrate!

With love and gratitude,

Kara

P.S. - I know that in a couple of months, I'll be ready for a pause to the school year routine - and our church family retreat in Montreat on October 16-18 will be what is needed!

We still have room and if you haven't considered being a part of the weekend, reach out - I hope you will be.

Mission and Outreach



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 16.



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

**Our next 2026 opportunity is:
August 2 - 9.**

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

Please use the QR code to see how you may serve.



Plentiful Harvest Kitchen and Food Bank at Covenant Presbyterian has a daily mission outreach opportunity. They have teams who pick up groceries from several different grocery stores in town and bring them to the church for the Covenant Food Bank. Other area agencies come to the Food Bank daily and pick up for their clients.

Covenant PC is in need of a few more team members who can join these weekly efforts.

A truck is needed for the pick ups.

If you are interested in learning more about this opportunity, please call the Covenant Presbyterian office at 803-366-8223, Monday -Thursday, 8:00 am to 2:00 pm.



Café Justo Is back!

Our supply has been replenished after months of shipping delays! Cost is \$12.50 for a one pound bag. Decaf coffee is still on the way. See an order form in the Narthex or Dave Keely (dfkeely3@gmail.com) with any questions.

Sunday Flowers

We have **open dates** on the 2026 Sanctuary Flower Chart:

August 16
September 6 & 27
October 11 & 25
November 1 & 29
December 27



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.



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, Betsy Forrest, to submit a prayer request.

Please keep in your prayers:

Sympathies: The family of Dora Bowman who died on June 30 and the family of Donna Martin who died on July 9.

Health Concerns: Worth Kendall, Mary Tice, Shirley Burton, Beth Easley, Michele Horne, Keira Esposito, Ashley Platts, Nancy Lowery, Colleen Lathan, Manfred Liewald, Allen Tice, Patti Cloninger, Jean Horton, Sam Curry, Eddie Gainey, and Alvane Deal

Friends & Family Members: Thomas Powell, Rye Andrews, Tori Jablonka, Melissa Westbrook

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.



Member of the Military

LTJG Jacob Harris

Navy-Stationed in Japan

**Reach out to the Church Office
for his mailing address!**

Our FPC College Students



University of SC

Ellison Briggs
Elizabeth Briggs
Natalie DiStasio

Coastal Carolina

Grace Gresham

Hillsdale College

Kate Roberson

Clemson

Jacob Baker
Rose Faircloth
Coleman Nies

Kaitlyn Stevenson

Nora Stevenson

Anna Roberson

*Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything
by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your
requests be made known to God. And the peace of God,
which surpasses all understanding, will guard your
hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.*

-Philippians 4:6-7



Sing for Joy Join The Choir!

NOW is a terrific time to join Chancel Choir!

With recent retirements from the choir,
we have a number of spots to fill in all sections.
No formal audition is required but previous
experience singing in a choir is preferred.

**Beginning August 2, the choir rehearses
at 10:15 a.m. for the 11:00 a.m. Worship Service.**

**On August 16, we will return to our
regular rehearsal time of 9:30 a.m.**

If you are interested, please contact Don Rogers at
rogersdm@comporium.net or 803.448.3975.

Come join a wonderful group of dedicated singers
who offer their time & talents to God through music!

Soli Deo Gloria!

To God alone be Glory!



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 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

Class of 2028

Clair Roberts
Bo Redmond
John Blackwelder
Cynthia Johnson
Rob Joiner

Members of the Diaconate

Class of 2026

Jennifer Abernathy
Heather Dellinger
Kathy James
Margaret Joiner
Dave Keely

Class of 2027

*Beth Janicke, moderator
Sherry Hutchison
Allen Katz
Joan Musselwhite
Steve Roberts

Class of 2028

Cameron Lawson
Carolyn Johnson
Jonathan Nichols
Richard Quandt
Betsy Forrest

*Robert Pender, treasurer

Staff

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

Rev. Kara Wheeler
Assoc. Pastor 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

Church Office

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