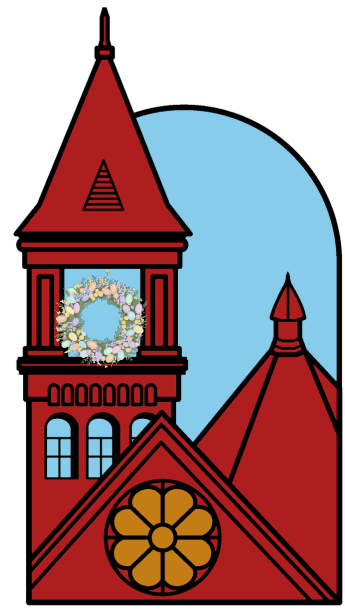


FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
ROCK HILL, SC  
APRIL 2026

# The First Edition

*"He is Risen! He is Risen indeed!"*



I can think of no greater or more important proclamation in our Christian faith.

Sure, it is important to tell others about how Jesus lived and what he taught. It is important to celebrate his birth and commemorate his death. But it is what happened on the first Easter Sunday that validates everything else we say or do. For in the words of Paul from 1 Corinthians 15: "If Christ has not been raised, [our] faith is futile and ...we are of all people most to be pitied."

There are "scholars" who say that the resurrection of Jesus from the dead was a fanciful creation of the early church who were trying to regroup after the loss of their leader. They say the early church made up the story of his coming back to life to keep the movement alive. I find that view unconvincing.

The disciples had deserted Jesus and following his death locked themselves in the upper room in fear of suffering the same fate. Then all of a sudden, they regrouped and began spreading the news of his resurrection (even risking death) with the greatest fervor the world has ever seen.

What changed? Was it a made-up story of the resurrection that motivated them? I think not. Something significant had to have happened to turn these cowering, fearful men and women, into ambassadors for Christ. So, what happened? What changed their fear into a bold, risk-taking faith?

Well, scripture tells us that on the beginning of the third day following his crucifixion, Jesus' disciples discovered the tomb empty. Later on, Jesus appeared, "to Peter, then to the twelve. Then he appeared to more than five hundred brothers and sisters at one time...Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles. Last of all, as to one untimely born, he appeared also to [Paul]." 1 Corinthians 15:5-8.

This passage along with many others makes it clear that the resurrected Jesus appeared to his followers. It was not some ghost but Jesus himself in the flesh. The disciples' first-hand experience of their physically resurrected master wiped away their fear and empowered them to go into all the world with the good news. I believe the only conclusion based on this evidence is that Jesus was in fact resurrected from the dead conquering the power of sin and death.

We believe that in Jesus' resurrection is the promise of our own. Since, we have been united with Jesus in our baptism, and we will also share in his resurrection. However, his resurrection does not only affect our future, it touches our present. Any time that we experience suffering or trouble or even death on our earthly journey, we know that the final word from God is resurrection! LIFE!

Jesus is Alive! Because he lives, our faith is not stuck on what God has done in the past. Our faith flourishes because of what God is doing in the present in the person of the living Savior Jesus Christ.

I would like to invite all of you to join us on Easter Sunday, when we proclaim the greatest news the world will ever here: JESUS IS RISEN, HE IS RISEN INDEED. May God Bless each of you this Easter Season.

Your friend and pastor, *Pastor Lee*

# Announcements

## MAUNDY THURSDAY WORSHIP



APRIL 2, 2026 AT 6:30 PM

www.fpc-rockhill.org  
234 East Main Street, 29730

We welcome you to this solemn observance of Communion as we remember the Supper where Jesus acknowledges that he will be betrayed and that he will die a sacrificial death.

Our solemn mood continues with the increasing darkness—the word “tenebrae” means darkness or shadows.

The solemn mood concludes at the end of the service with the covering the symbols of worship in the Sanctuary—even the departure of the light of Christ (Christ Candle on the communion table).

And we will leave with solemnity, holding the silence until we leave the Sanctuary.

## Easter Morning at FPC

Join us for the Flowering of the Cross, an Artists Showcase, and a Continental Breakfast in Hopkins Hall at 10:00 am!



Bring blooms or greenery from the yard or the grocery floral shop to help adorn the cross in our annual tradition. Enjoy our Artists Showcase in celebration of the creative gifts of God, and a light continental breakfast hosted by the Fellowship Committee.

Sunday School Classes will not meet.

Save your tomato cans and olive oil bottles!  
All sizes needed! Leave the labels on them!  
The decorating team will use them for the

## Italian Night Spaghetti Dinner

on Sunday, April 26th!

Place your clean cans and bottles in the Kitchen or on the Italian Night table in the Narthex.



An Acolyte Training will be held on Sunday, April 26 at 9:15 am. The training is for current acolytes and those entering 3rd grade in Fall 2026 and older. Please contact Sheryl Smith if you will be attending or have any questions.

# April Birthdays

- 1 Paul Horne
- 2 Anna Roberson
- 3 Deena Campbell, Henry Goodner, Rod Hicks
- 7 T.J. Comer, Anne Kendall, Mira Olson
- 8 Kaitlyn Stevenson
- 9 Paul Hemphill, Ryan Baker
- 11 Butch Blanchard, Gracie-Belle Lewis
- 12 Jane Williams, Susannah Hayes
- 13 Nora Stevenson
- 14 Jacob Harris
- 15 Patrick Alexander, Mimi Goodner, Joanne Edwards, Joseph Hunsucker
- 17 Brynn Park
- 18 Sherry Flowers
- 19 Derek Harper
- 20 Cathy Kayser
- 22 Ned Stafford
- 25 Bo Redmond
- 26 John Demchak, Carol Butler, Jamison Deese
- 27 Reese Elston
- 28 Michele Murdoch
- 29 Taylor Chubb, Betty Johnson, Se Murdoch, Ashley Platts
- 30 Parker Joiner

## COMMITTEE MEETINGS

### **Tuesday, April 7**

6:00 pm - Deacons

### **Wednesday, April 8**

6:30 pm - Finance Committee

### **Sunday, April 12**

12:15 pm - Mission & Outreach

### **Monday, April 13**

9:00 am - Property (BYO Breakfast)

6:00 pm - Nominating Committee

### **Sunday, April 19**

12:15 pm - Christian Ed.

### **Monday, April 20**

6:00 pm - Nominating Committee

### **Tuesday, April 21**

6:00 pm - Session

# Server Schedules

## **APRIL DEACONS ON CALL**

Margaret Joiner, Steve Roberts,  
Jonathan Nichols

## **APRIL ELDERS/DEACONS**

2 Maundy Thursday:

John Blackwelder, Kathy James

5 Cynthia Johnson, Dave Keely

12 John Abernathy, Joan Musselwhite

19 Ann Hunsucker, Steve Roberts

26 Jimmy Campbell, Carolyn Johnson

## **APRIL MONITORS/GREETERS**

2 Maundy Thurs.: Mike Hunsucker

5 Eric Park

12 Kinch Edwards

19 Mike Hunsucker

26 John Blackwelder

## **APRIL WORSHIP CARE**

5 Joanne Lehman

12 Elizabeth Cycak

19 Liz Briggs

26 Megan Keener

## **APRIL ACOLYTES**

2 Maundy Thursday: Henry Goodner

5 Ben Williams, Henry Goodner

12 Taylor Chubb, Jamison Deese

19 Millie Goodner, Mason Goodner

26 Keaton Esposito, Alexander Roberson

## **Church Office Hours**

### **Monday – Wednesday:**

9:00 am to 4:00 pm

### **Thursday:**

9:00 am to 3:00 pm

**Friday:** Closed



**The Church Office will be closed  
on Easter Monday, April 6.  
It will reopen on  
Tuesday, April 7 at 9:00 am.**

# Fellowship and Congregational Life

## Retirees Lunch

Thursday, April 9- Noon  
Red Bowl Restaurant

The speaker will be Sharon Floyd of the Better Bound Bookstore and Youth Development.  
*No reservations are needed.*



## Ladies Night Out



*Fratelli's*

975 Market St.  
in Baxter Village

TUESDAY, APRIL 14 AT 6:00 PM

To carpool, meet at 5:30 pm behind Family Trust/Warren Norman at the corner of India Hook and Celanese.

Make reservations with Linder Tucker by Monday, April 13 at 6:00 pm.

## Mahjong Class at FPC

Do you want to learn how to play Mahjong?  
A Beginners Class will be on Monday, April 20 in Hopkins Hall.  
5:30 pm - Bring an appetizer to share.  
6:00 pm - Instruction begins.  
Sets will be provided.

Use the QR code to register and for more info!



SAVE THE DATE!

## Spring Fling

FRIDAY, MAY 1, 2026

FPC will be hosting the Exceptional Students from our local high schools at a Spring Festival. Contact Ann Hunsucker or Kara Wheeler to help with this wonderful event.



## Inaugural FPC Women's Retreat



*Girls Just Want to Have Fun!*

*Divine Laughter, Humor, and Wellbeing - Finding Joy in Life and Scripture*

**May 29 - 31, 2026 - SC Inn at Montreat**

led Rev. Pressley Cox, Associate for Shared Mission & Ministry (Foothills Presbytery)  
with musical leadership by Mollie Zehmer

Arrive Friday in time for a 6:00 pm dinner reservation. Sessions will be held on Saturday through mid-afternoon with free time in Black Mountain before dinner and evening activities.

We will conclude with worship on Sunday morning.

\$50 deposit holds your space. Priority registration through April 12 for those attending FPC.

After April 12, remaining spaces will be open for friends of FPC.

\$100/person with a shared room or \$125/person for a private room (shared bath.)

Registration includes continental breakfasts on Saturday and Sunday, plus lunch and dinner on Saturday.

Price increases \$25/person in April. Scholarships are available! Contact Kara to ask about a scholarship.

If you have any questions about our schedule or plans, you can reach out to the planning team:

Janelle Chubb - [jchubb@rhmail.org](mailto:jchubb@rhmail.org)  
Beverly Keely - [bevkeely@gmail.com](mailto:bevkeely@gmail.com)  
Kara Wheeler - [kwheeler@fpcrockhill.org](mailto:kwheeler@fpcrockhill.org)  
Brooke Zehmer - [zehmerjb@rss.k12.nc.us](mailto:zehmerjb@rss.k12.nc.us)

Use QR code for the Registration form.

Please pay with check in the offering plate, the Church Office, or through the church website:

[www.fpc-rockhill.org/give](http://www.fpc-rockhill.org/give).

Memo line: Women's Retreat



# Christian Education

## Sunday School – Sundays at 10:00 am

**Classes will NOT meet on Easter Sunday!**

**Nursery – Room 111** Growing in Grace & Gratitude (Caroline Bender, Nursery Assistant)

**Children – Room 117:** Milestone Ministry (Margaret Joiner & Jennifer Abernathy)

**Youth – Room 118:** Milestone Ministry (Libba Faircloth, Anna Roberson, Jimmy & Kia Hicklin)

**Crossroads – Room 217:** Milestone Ministry (Keith & Susan Roberson)

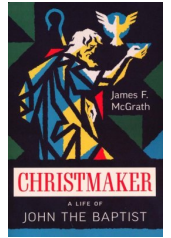
**Seekers – Room 226:** *Romans* (Bob Ballard, Christy Goodner, Bob Norwood)

**New Covenant Berean – 220:** Mission & Social Justice in Being Reformed Series (Joe Hardy, Paul Horne, Kathy James, Robert Pender)

## Small Groups

**Men's Bible Study** – Wednesdays at 6:30 pm *Christmaker: A Life of John the Baptist* by James McGrath.

**Rock of Ages** – 2nd/4th Tuesdays at 6:30 pm – Colossians



## ***Children, Youth, and Crossroads Sunday School April Memory Verse and Lessons***

"Therefore, go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you.

And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."-- Matthew 28:19-20

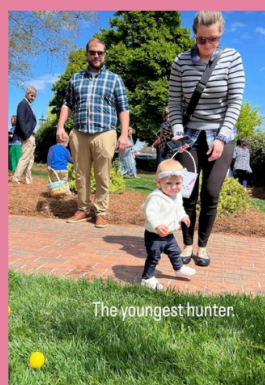
**April 5 and 12:** No Sunday School (Spring Break)

**April 19:** Lesson 93 – Road to Emmaus and Doubting Thomas

**April 26:** Lesson 94 – The Great Commission and Ascension



**FPC Easter  
Egg Hunt**



# Youth Ministry at FPC

## Local Summer Mission Trip with Presbyterian College (now open to all youth!)

Mon., July 6 to Thurs., July 9  
Registration closes April 15.  
Cost is \$15 + Mon. lunch

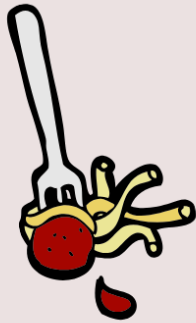
## Youth Group in April & May

April 19: All Youth Mission Night at 5:00 pm  
May 3: Practice for Youth Sunday  
May 17: End of Year Party at 5:00 pm

## Spaghetti Fundraising Dinner & Silent Auction

April 26, 2026 • 5:30 PM

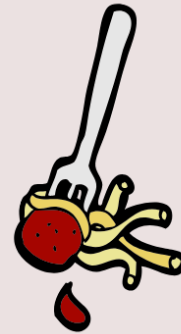
First Presbyterian Church  
234 East Main Street, 29730  
Hopkins Hall



*To Benefit our High  
School Mission Trip to  
the Dominican Republic*

Adults \$15/Children \$8

100% of ticket sales will go to FPC  
for the High School Mission Team's  
Trip to the Dominican Republic  
with Mission Emanuel.



*Tickets are on sale now with Team Members  
and in the Church Office.  
Thank You For Your Support!*



## 2025-26 FPC Basketball End of Season Lunch!




# Mission and Outreach

What does the Lord require of you?  
*...to do justice*

One Great Hour of Sharing has been a catalyst for love for over 75 years.

Every gift makes a difference in the life of the most vulnerable of God's people.

We are the Church, together.



*FPC will receive this offering on Easter Sunday, April 5.*



## April Help for Hope Jars or Cans of Fruit!

Collections to benefit the clients of Project HOPE

Any brand & any variety (peaches, pears, oranges, fruit cocktail, applesauce, etc.) are needed & appreciated. Bring donations to the Narthex bin by Sunday, April 19.

**Thank you for your generous contributions of grits during the month of March!**  
**68 packages of grits were given for the clients of HOPE of Rock Hill.**



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

Our next opportunity is  
**April 26 - May 3, 2026.**

We will 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.

**You may use the QR code to sign-up to volunteer with Family Promise.**



## Save the Date!!

We will serve at the  
**Plentiful Harvest Kitchen**  
on Sunday, May 31!

Shifts are available from 2-4 pm to cook and 4-6 pm to serve and clean-up, with 3-4 volunteers per shift.

If you are interested in this opportunity, please reach out to Jennifer Abernathy at [Jennifer.Abernathy@pauldavis.com](mailto:Jennifer.Abernathy@pauldavis.com)

**Dorothy Day Soup Kitchen**  
Join us at the DDSK on Thursday, April 23! Reach out to Wendy Blanchard for info!

**Hunger Outreach Program (HOP)**  
The HOP Ministry will meet at 2:30 pm on April 28 in Hopkins Hall!



## ROLLIN' ROCK HILL PAINT DAY APRIL 18, 2026

FPC has an opportunity to help a Rock Hill family by painting their house on Saturday, April 18.

We encourage you to be a part of our FPC team for this great community event. Questions? Contact Richard Quandt at [rwq.qbg1@gmail.com](mailto:rwq.qbg1@gmail.com) / 612-747-0378 or Ken Roberts at [kr Roberts0631@gmail.com](mailto:kr Roberts0631@gmail.com) / 803-984-2679.

All ages and skills welcome.

# 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:***

**Sympathy:** Nancy Jones on the death of her brother, Sam Smith, who passed away on March 5.

**Health Concerns:** Worth Kendall, Mary Tice, Shirley Burton, Beth Easley, Michele Horne, Keira Esposito, Rev. Dr. Barry Lambert, Ashley Platts, Nancy Lowery, Jean Horton, Will Read, Donna Martin, Allen Tice

**Friends & Family Members:** Keira Esposito, 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, firstpresh@gmail.com, or a deacon on call.



If you would like a copy of an updated Friends & Family Directory for FPC, please reach out to the Church Office and one can be printed for you.



**Member of the Military**

Jacob Harris - Navy  
Stationed in Japan

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



**University of SC**

Ellison Briggs



**Coastal Carolina**

Grace Gresham

**Hillsdale College**

Kate Roberson



**College**  
Ministry



*Pray for our college students.*

**The Citadel**

Jacob Baker



**Clemson**

Caroline Baker, Rose Faircloth  
Dixon Murdoch, Coleman Nies  
Kaitlyn Stevenson, Nora Stevenson



# FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

234 EAST MAIN STREET

POST OFFICE BOX 1011

ROCK HILL, SC 29731



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*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

\*Robert Pender, treasurer

## Members of the Diaconate

### Class of 2026

Jennifer Abernathy  
Heather Dellinger  
Kathy James  
Margaret Joiner  
Dave Keely

### Class of 2027

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

### Class of 2028

Cameron Lawson  
Carolyn Johnson  
Jonathan Nichols  
Richard Quandt  
Betsy Forrest

## Staff

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

Rev. Kara Wheeler  
Associate Pastor of  
Family Ministries  
kwheeler@fpcrockhill.org

Dr. Donald M. Rogers  
Director of Music

M. L. Marley  
Organist

Angela Harris  
Director of Cherub Choir

Ashley Platts  
Director of Handbell Choirs

Jonna Eichorn  
Administrative Assistant  
jeichorn@fpcrockhill.org

Robyn Brown  
Financial Secretary  
rbrown@fpcrockhill.org

**Church Office: 803-328-2467**

**firstpresrh@gmail.com**

**www.fpc-rockhill.org**