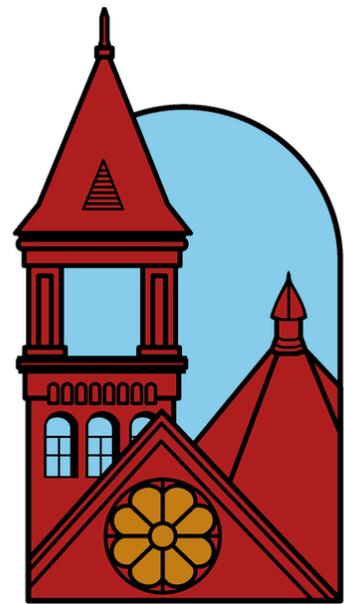


FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
ROCK HILL, SC
FEBRUARY 2026

The First Edition



*“Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God;
everyone who loves is born of God and knows God”
1 Jn 4:7.*

In just a few weeks, we will once again observe St. Valentine's Day. Its roots are in the ancient Roman festival of Lupercalia, a fertility celebration commemorated annually on February 15. Around 496 A.D., Pope Gelasius I recast this pagan festival as a Christian feast day declaring February 14 to be St. Valentine's Day. So, while we can joke that Valentine's Day was created by the greeting card industry, it really does predate our contemporary observance by more than 1000 years.

As the song goes, “Love is a Many-Splendored Thing,” and it truly is - whether that love is between a husband and wife, a parent and a child, siblings, or friends. Yet, what is even more splendid is the love that God has for us. In the first letter of John we read, “God’s love was revealed among us in this way: God sent his only Son into the world so that we might live through him. 10 In this is love, not that we loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins.” 1 Jn 4:9–10.

God so loved us that he sent his only son to this world so that we might be reconciled to God through Jesus. We have been pursued by a loving God who provided a way for us to be forgiven, so that we might enjoy eternal fellowship with God. Truly, God is love!

John further elaborates that “since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another” 1 John 4:11. Our love for others grows out of God’s love for us. It is not based on how we feel about other people; instead, it is grounded on the action of God in history in the person of Jesus. We love because God loves.

Now, just as God’s love is about action, so ours needs to be as well. John exhorted his readers, “let us love, not in word or speech, but in truth and action” 1 Jn 3:18. As you approach Valentine's Day this week, I encourage you to express your love with concrete action. Flowers, candies, and cards are great, but remember that love enfolded by action is the model God gave us. Use your imaginations and actively share your love. I would also challenge you not to limit your loving action to just someone in your normal circle. Look for someone who may seem unlovable, and share the active, sacrificial love of Jesus with them.

I wish all of you the full blessings of our loving heavenly Father who loved us so much that he gave us Jesus!

Grace and peace to you.
Your friend and pastor,
Pastor Lee

Announcements



SOUPER BOWLSM OF CARING
EST. 1990
tacklehunger.org

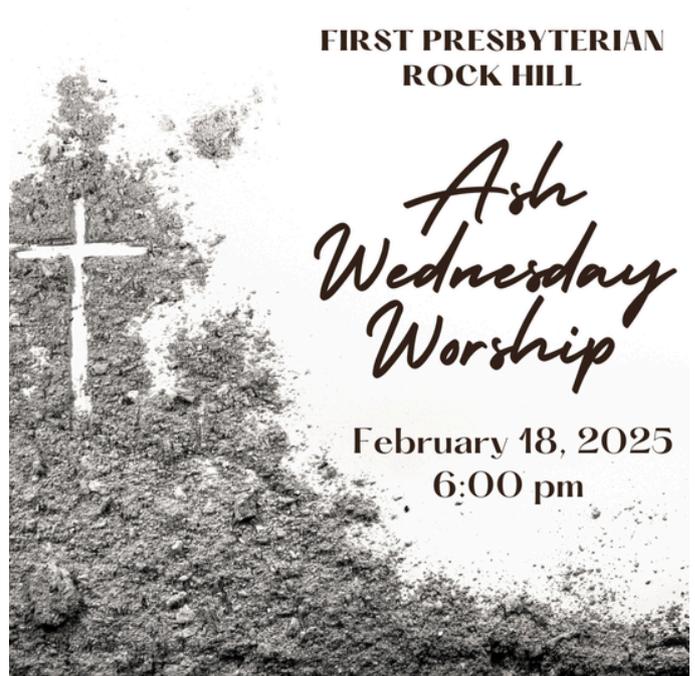
Sunday, February 8
Together, let's tackle hunger in Rock Hill!
Bring your specialty chili, soup, or dessert to share. Beverages & condiments will be provided.

SAVE THE DATE
for this fun event in Hopkins Hall after worship!

Who will win our soup, chili, and dessert cook-off?
Which team will we vote to win?

Don't miss our annual SOUPER BOWL EVENT on Sunday, February 8 immediately after the morning worship service. Bring your specialty chili, soup, or dessert to Hopkins Hall beginning at 10:00am. We hope you'll enter the friendly competition but it's not a requirement. Beverages, cornbread, and condiments will be provided. A panel of judges will decide and announce the 2026 winners for the chili, soup, and dessert categories. Bragging rights go to the first-place winner in each of the 3 categories and a place on our Souper Bowl Award plaque. (Last year's winners are pictured below)

Our Youth will help collect Donations that will support the Dorothy Day Soup Kitchen, a local organization we serve with on the 4th Thursday of each month. Which team do we think will win the Super Bowl?! Ready, Set, Let's Tackle Hunger in Rock Hill and enjoy the food and fun together!



**FIRST PRESBYTERIAN
ROCK HILL**

*Ash
Wednesday
Worship*

February 18, 2025
6:00 pm



**SUNDAY,
FEBRUARY 22
AT 10:30AM
IN THE VERDERY
CHAPEL**

**Session Meeting
to Receive New
Members**

If you are interested in joining FPC, the Session will receive new members at 10:30am in the Verdery Chapel on Sunday, February 22. Reach out to Pastor Lee or Kara if you are interested in joining.



**Annual
Congregational
Meeting**

**Sunday, February 22
immediately following
the 11:00 am
worship service.**

February Birthdays

- 3 Jamie Allen**
- 4 Bill Abernathy, Gary Johnson, Sara Jurado**
- 6 Angela Harris**
- 9 Lee Goodner**
- 12 Robert Pender**
- 13 Jillian Smith, Cecily Zelinski**
- 14 Eileen Barrett, Betsy Curley**
- 15 Cooper Theberge, Grayson Theberge, Kenzie Theberge**
- 16 Hildegard Liewald**
- 17 Bill Lehman, Don Rogers, Lynn Vargus**
- 21 Susan Demchak**
- 22 Wren Stevenson**
- 23 Sutton Harper**
- 25 Libba Faircloth**
- 27 Vickey Dodge**
- 28 Walter Czacak, Julia Kate Keener**



Thank you to everyone who made my January 11th Installation so special! Pastor Lee's support to get to this point cannot be stated enough. And for your presence at the service, your generosity in yet another reception, and your words of affirmation as I step into this official role - thank you seems inadequate. It's a joy to now officially serve as your Associate Pastor for Family Ministries! My work with the youth energizes me and I am humbled to be entrusted to help lead this congregation with integrity and love. For the days ahead for all of us, I am eager and give thanks to God.

-Kara

Server Schedules

FEBRUARY DEACONS ON CALL

Heather Dellinger, Allen Katz, Carolyn Johnson

FEBRUARY ELDERS/DEACONS

- 1 Chip Hutchison, Dave Keely
- 8 Jimmy Campbell, Margaret Joiner
- 15 Bo Redmond, Kathy James
- 18 Julia Nichols, Steve Roberts (Ash Wed.)
- 22 John Blackwelder, Jennifer Abernathy

FEBRUARY MONITORS/GREETERS

- 1 Matt Goodner
- 8 Rod Hicks
- 15 Jimmy Campbell
- 18 NEED
- 22 NEED

FEBRUARY WORSHIP CARE

- 1 Elizabeth Rollins
- 8 Wendy Blanchard
- 15 Diane Hicks
- 22 Joanne Edwards

FEBRUARY ACOLYTES

- 1 Henry Goodner, Jamison Deese
- 8 Penelope Zelinski, Cecily Zelinski
- 15 Mason Goodner, Millie Goodner
- 22 Taylor Chubb, Alexander Roberson

COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Sunday, February 1

10:00 am - Mission & Outreach (on Zoom)

Monday, February 9

5:30 pm - Property

Tuesday, February 3

6:00 pm - Deacons

Tuesday, February 10

5:15 pm - Worship

Sunday, February 8

1:30 pm - Christian Education

Wednesday, February 11

6:30 pm - Finance

Sunday, February 15

Noon - Worship

Tuesday, February 17

6:00 pm - Session

Church Office Hours

Monday - Wednesday:

9:00 am to 4:00 pm

Thursday:

9:00 am to 3:00 pm

Friday: Closed

Fellowship and Congregational Life

FPC BASKETBALL

2025-2026 SEASON

We have 8 children & youth basketball teams playing through the York County Christian Basketball Association. Thank you to Kia Hicklin for coordinating and for all our coaches!

Their game schedules are posted at: <http://yorkcountycba.blogspot.com/>

Retirees Lunch

Thursday, February 12- Noon
Red Bowl Restaurant

Our speaker will be Sharon Floyd of the Better Bound Bookstore and Youth Development.

No reservations needed.



Ladies Night Out



Tuesday, February 10
at 6:00pm
129 Caldwell St.
Rock Hill

Notify Linder Tucker by Monday, February 9 at 6:00pm to make reservations.

PICKLEBALL CLINIC
FPC – HOPKINS HALL
THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 5
5:00 PM



A Pickleball Clinic with LaVern Hovey, a certified instructor in Rock Hill, will be held on February 5 at 5:00 pm in Hopkins Hall. The clinic is 90 minutes long and costs \$20 per person. Contact Chip Hutchison if you would like to register for the clinic.

FPC Fitness Groups

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



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



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



Yoga Classes Wednesdays at 6:00 pm.



Our FPC Night at Winthrop Coliseum on Jan 28 was great fun! Thanks to Tom Hickman for his support in organizing this fellowship!

Christian Education

Sunday School – Sundays at 10:00 am

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

Younger PKS Room 112: Milestone Ministry (Margaret Joiner)

Children Room 117: Milestone Ministry (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) *Everyday Epiphanies* by James Harnish

Women's Bible Study (Tuesdays, at 10:00 am) *Twelve Women of the Bible: Life-Changing Stories for Women Today*

Lenten Study (Mondays at 7:00pm beginning February 23rd) A study on Matthew 25 – led by Dave Keely Let Dave know of your interest in participating.

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

Youth Group (select Sunday evenings) – Parables of Jesus (Kara Wheeler)

College (select Monday evenings) – Parables of Jesus (Kara Wheeler)

Milestone Ministry Sunday School for FPC Families

Children, Youth, and Crossroads Sunday School Memory Verse and Lessons

February

“By this everyone will know that you are disciples, if you have love for one another.”

– John 13:35

February 1 – No Sunday School – Snow Day

February 8 – John the Baptist & Jesus' Baptism (Matthew 3:13-17; Luke 3:21-22)

February 15 – Jesus in the Wilderness (Matthew 4:1-10; Luke 4:1-13)

February 22 – No Sunday School – Winter Intercession

Presbyterian Kids

Passportkids Registration Now Open: Camp for children Grades 3-5 at Montreat Conference Center July 6-9. Cost is \$200. Scholarships are available. \$50 deposit. Limited spaces are available. Register with Kara by Feb 8.



A huge thank you to our Middle Schoolers who were able to help us keep our commitment to Bethel Men's Shelter in providing a meal on Sunday evening, Jan 25 by making sandwiches and packing brown bags on Friday, January 23rd.

Youth Ministry at FPC

Trip Signups Are Happening Now!

Spring Mission Trip - All Youth (Grades 6 - 12)

Friday, March 20 (depart church at 3:30 pm) to Sunday, March 22 (return by 5:00 pm)

We will be serving with Charleston Youth Mission Co. and staying at the Charleston-Atlantic Presbytery offices. There are only 24 spaces.

Deposit \$25 - Total cost \$125

Additional money for 2 meals on the road will be needed.

March 20 is a teacher workday for Rock Hill Schools. If this departure time will be a problem for your family, please let Kara know.

We need 2 additional chaperones for this trip. Contact Kara to help!

High School Mission Trip (Grades 9 - 12)

Saturday, June 26 to Friday, July 3

Serving with Mission Emanuel in Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic

***Passport Needed ***

Deposit \$50 - total cost will be no more than \$400.

Most likely it will be closer to \$200 - or less due to donations and a spring fundraiser.

Middle School Mission Trip (Grades 6-8 completed)

Monday, July 6 to Thursday, July 9

Presbyterian College Middle School Mission Experience

Deposit \$15 - total cost \$150. Money for lunch on Monday will also be needed.

The majority of each day will involve hands-on mission projects with local service partners. Church groups will stay together with their adults for these service projects.

Church groups are responsible for their own transportation between PC and the mission sites. Evenings will involve fellowship/recreation time.

We need one additional chaperone for this trip. Contact Kara to help!

Youth Group in February

Sunday, February 1

Snow Day - No Youth Group

Sunday, February 8

12:00 pm: Souper Bowl Lunch after Church

6:00 pm: Super Bowl Party in Youth Room until Halftime

(bring a drink or snack to share)

Sunday, February 15

5:00 to 6:00 pm - All Youth Group Mission Night at Oakland Baptist Ministry Center (across Charlotte Ave from Earth Fare)

Sunday, February 22

Winter Intercession - No Youth Group

University of SC

Ellison Briggs



Coastal Carolina

Grace Gresham

Hillsdale College

Kate Roberson



Pray for our college students.

The Citadel

Jacob Baker



Clemson

Caroline Baker, Rose Faircloth

Dixon Murdoch, Coleman Nies

Kaitlyn Stevenson, Nora Stevenson



Mission and Outreach



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

Our next opportunity is
March 8 -14, 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.

The March signup sheets are in the Narthex on Sundays OR you may use the QR code to register.



Dorothy Day Soup Kitchen

Join us at the DDSK on Thursday, February 26!
Reach out to Wendy Blanchard for info!

Hunger Outreach Program (HOP)
The HOP Ministry will meet at 2:30 pm on February 24 in Hopkins Hall!



ROLLIN' ROCK HILL PAINT DAY APRIL 14 & 18, 2026

FPC is sponsoring a "Rollin' Rock Hill" team on Saturday, April 18. We will spruce up a Rock Hill home that needs a little "love." All levels of experience are welcome.

House prep day is Tuesday, April 14.
Painting day is Saturday, April 18.

Call or text Richard Quandt (612-747-0378) or Ken Roberts (803-984-2679) to become a part of one or both teams.



February Help for Hope **DRIED BEANS!**

Collections to benefit the clients of Project HOPE

All kinds of bagged beans (navy, red, pinto, black-eyed peas, kidney, etc.) are needed. The beans will be delivered to HOPE of Rock Hill the week of February 15.

January Help for HOPE Thank You!

Our congregation generously donated 312 cans of soup for the clients of HOPE of Rock Hill. Again, it was the largest contribution since we began our collections in 2017! On behalf of the Mission & Outreach Committee and the clients of HOPE of Rock Hill, thank you for your continued kindness and generosity.

The Oakland Baptist Church
Ministry Center

We have an opportunity to partner with Oakland Baptist Ministry Center in helping them sort their clothing and essential home donations on Tuesday mornings. If you are interested in being a part of this team, please reach out to Kara Wheeler, Tom Hickman, or Richard Quandt.

Save the Date for our Plentiful Harvest Kitchen Duties: March 22 & 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.

Covenant handles the menu and we provide the workers. This is a service that is not only a blessing to those the meals are served to but also through the time of fellowship with FPC folks that you may not get to know otherwise. If you are interested in this opportunity, please reach out to

Jennifer Abernathy at
Jennifer.Abernathy@pauldavis.com

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: Melissa Granacher in the death of her sister-in-law, Toni Granacher

Fred Faircloth in the death of his brother and Freddy Faircloth in the death of his uncle, Cameron Faircloth

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, Will Read, Linder Tucker

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, firstpresrh@gmail.com, or a deacon on call.



Member of the Military

Jacob Harris - Navy
Stationed in Japan

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

MUSIC MINISTRY AT FPC

**There's a place for you in the Music
Ministry at FPC!**

THE CHANCEL CHOIR

**Rehearses Sunday mornings from
9:30 - 10:45 a.m. in Room 214**

Don Rogers, director

**Prepares anthems for every Sunday in
addition to special services**

(e.g., Maundy Thursday,

**Advent/Christmas Cantata, Christmas
Eve, etc.).**

**Tenors and altos especially needed,
but all voices are welcome!**

THE CHILDREN'S CHOIRS

Rehearsals on Sundays at 5:00 pm.

**The Cherub Choir is for age 4 through
Grade 1 with Angela Harris, director.**

**The Covenant Choir is for Grades 2 - 5 with
Don Rogers, director.**

THE HANDBELL CHOIR

**Rehearses Sunday afternoons at 3:30 p.m.
in Room 224**

**Ashley Platts - Director of Handbell Choirs
Open to all High School Students & Adults.**

Additional ringers are always welcome!



The Banquet Table of the Lord

Preparing Communion is such a gift!

While preparing the table with the embroidered linen, filling the cups in the silver trays, cutting the gluten free bread so that all may celebrate, placing the chalice and pitcher and the loaf to be broken, is a time of deep reflection. To think of Christ's sacrifice, God's love for us, the fellowship of believers, the new covenant--- rich are the blessings received during this quiet time of preparation.

If you feel you are called to help with the preparation of Communion on the first Sundays of the month, please contact Julia Nichols, Beverly Keely or Marsha Roberts.

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

*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
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