

The First Edition



Greetings in the Name of Jesus Christ and Welcome to 2026!

There is just something about going into a new year that makes me feel optimistic and full of hope at the new possibilities that God can bring in the year ahead. We can lay the past year at the feet of the Lord and lift our eyes to the horizon of an unscripted year. We enter the new year trusting that while we don't know what will come our way, God does; and God will be with us every step of the way.

The arrival of the new year also provides us with an opportunity to set goals for our lives and faith. One of the tools I recommend for setting and keeping up with faith goals is the Personal Discipleship Plan (PDP). In this plan, you set one or two 6-month objectives in each of three areas:

- 1) Growth in your commitment to Jesus;
- 2) Growth in your commitment to the Body of Christ;
- 3) Growth in your commitment to serving the world in Jesus' name.

For example, in Area 1, you might set a goal to read all the Gospels by June 30th. Or perhaps, you might set a goal to practice the discipline of Examen as you reflect each day on your moment closest and furthest from Christ.

In Area 2, a goal could be to invite some church members you don't know very well to be "with you" in an activity or meal. Or perhaps, you could join the work of one of our committees in an area of ministry you care about.

In Area 3, you could decide to help with the Dorothy Day Soup Kitchen, Family Promise, or Hunger Outreach Program. Or perhaps, you could agree to participate in a local or international mission project.

Writing something down and referring to it regularly helps us keep ourselves accountable to the goals we set. It has been said that when you "fail to plan; you plan to fail." That's why I have found the Personal Discipleship Plan so helpful for growing intentionally in my faith.

Setting goals using the PDP structure helps you remember them and hold yourself accountable to actually doing the important work of nurturing your faith. I would encourage each of you to make a PDP for the first six months of 2026. I will place blank PDP forms on the round table in the narthex that can be used to make this process easier for you.

I look forward to what God will do in and through us in 2026!

Grace and peace to you.
Your friend and pastor,

Pastor Lee

Announcements

Installation Service for

Rev. Kara Wheeler

Associate Pastor of Family Ministries

Sunday, January 11 at 3:00 pm

First Presbyterian Church of Rock Hill

*A reception will be held in
Hopkins Hall after the service.
All are invited.*

"Go therefore 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 that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age."

Matthew 28:19-20

FPC NIGHT AT **WINTHROP COLISEUM**



HIGHPOINT
UNIVERSITY



WINTHROP
UNIVERSITY

-vs-

Wednesday, January 14 at 6:30 pm

**Tickets are \$5/person and
will be available at the
WILL CALL WINDOW
on the night of the game!**

**Get your tickets by January 12
with Jonna in the Church
Office OR by using this QR code
for Realm Registration.**



MAKE PARTICIPATION IN THE MUSIC MINISTRY AT FPC YOUR DESTINATION IN 2026!

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

THE CHANCEL CHOIR

Rehearses Sunday mornings from 10:00 - 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. (starting January 18)

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

Ida Newsom - Interim Director of Handbell Choirs

Open to all High School Students & Adults.

Additional ringers are always welcome!

January Birthdays

- 3 Martin Goode**
- 4 Shirley Fishburne, Mary Gump**
- 5 John Blackwelder**
- 6 Ellison Briggs, Sandy Johnson, Henry Owen**
- 7 Betsy Forrest**
- 8 Debbie Faulkenberry**
- 9 Kathy Pender, Chrissy Vayda, Keira Esposito**
- 10 Nancy Lowery**
- 11 Phyllis Faircloth**
- 13 Jason Deese**
- 17 Janet Mullinax, Natalie Harper, Rose Faircloth**
- 19 Wendy Blanchard**
- 20 Debbie Norwood**
- 21 David Lathan**
- 22 Allen Tice, Kevin Ice**
- 24 Bobby Smith**
- 26 Charles Gresham, Allen Katz, Carole Padgett**
- 29 Doug Curley, Meredith Briggs**
- 30 Jimmy Campbell**
- 31 Andy Taylor**

Server Schedules

JANUARY DEACONS ON CALL

Jennifer Abernathy, Beth Janicke, Betsy Forrest

JANUARY ELDERS/DEACONS

- 4 Jimmy Campbell, Carolyn Johnson**
- 11 Paul Horne, Betsy Forrest**
- 18 Susan Roberson, Dave Keely**
- 25 Elizabeth Owen, Cameron Lawson**

JANUARY MONITORS/GREETERS

- 4 Bill Lehman**
- 11 Jimmy Campbell**
- 18**
- 25 Bob Ballard**

JANUARY WORSHIP CARE

- 4 Mary Anne Sheppard**
- 11 Lindsey Skinner**
- 18 Christy Goodner**
- 25 Libba Faircloth**

JANUARY ACOLYTES

- 4 Henry Goodner, Ben Williams**
- 11 Millie Goodner, Mason Goodner**
- 18 Kenton Esposito, Amelia Skinner**
- 25 Taylor Chubb, Alexander Roberson**

COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Monday, January 12

5:30 pm - Property

Wednesday, January 14

7:00 pm - Finance

Tuesday, January 20

6:00 pm - Diaconate & Session

Sunday, February 1

9:00 am - Mission & Outreach

January 11 at 11:00 am Worship

Join us for the Installation of the Class of 2028 Elders and Deacons.



May the new year bless you with unwavering faith that guides your steps, illuminates your path, and fills your heart with hope & strength throughout the year ahead.

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

Retirees Lunch

Thursday, January 8 - Noon
Red Bowl Restaurant

Our speaker will be Summersby Okey, the Director of Development and Advocacy for Habitat for Humanity of York County.

No reservations needed.



FPC BASKETBALL

2025-2026 SEASON

We have 8 children & youth basketball teams playing through the York County Christian Basketball Association.

Thank you for your support for these teams this season!

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

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
return on Wednesday, January 7 at 6:00 pm.



TUESDAY, JANUARY 13 AT 6:00 PM
2387 Cherry Road in the Northeast Plaza Shopping Center behind the Chick-fil-A and Bojangles.

Notify Linder Tucker by Monday, January 12 at 6pm to make reservations.



Christmas Caroling Fun!



Christian Education

Sunday School for Children, Youth, and the Crossroads Class will not meet on January 4.

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: *Beatitudes for Today* by James C. Howell (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; starts January 7

Women's Bible Study (Tuesdays, at 10:00 am) *Twelve Women of the Bible: Life-Changing Stories for Women Today*; starts January 6 for 12 weeks

Rock of Ages (2nd/4th Tuesdays at 6:30 pm) – Philippians and 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 Sunday School Memory Verse and Lessons

January

“Don’t let anyone look down on you because you are young, but set an example for the believers in speech, in life, in love, in faith, and in purity.”

– 1 Timothy 4:12

January 4 – No Sunday School

January 11 – Lesson 78: Simeon and Anna *Luke 2:22-40*

January 18 – No Sunday School – MLK Weekend

January 25 – Lesson 58: John the Baptist

Luke 3:1-18; Matthew 11:2-11; Mark 1:1-18; John 1:6-8 and 19-20

February

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

– John 13:35

February 1 – Lesson 60: Jesus in the Wilderness *Matthew 4:1-10; Luke 4:1-13*

February 8 – Lesson 61: Calling the Disciples *Matthew 14:12-23; 9:9-13; 10:1-4 and Luke 5:1-11; 8:1-3*

February 15 – Lesson 62: Jesus Goes to Nazareth *Luke 4:14-30*

February 22 – No Sunday School – Winter Break

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 due by January 25. Limited spaces are available.

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 January and February

January 11, 3:00 pm

Attend Kara's installation as our Associate Pastor for Family Ministries

January 18 – School Holiday Weekend

No Youth Group

January 25, 5:00 – 7:30 pm

Middle School Mission Night for Bethel Men's Shelter

Parent help needed with transportation.

Sunday, February 1

4:30 pm: MS Bible Study; 5:30 pm: Snack Supper; 6:00 pm: HS Bible Study

Sunday, February 8

12:00 pm: Souper Bowl Lunch after Church

5:30 pm: Super Bowl Party in Youth Room until Halftime

Sunday, February 15

5:00 to 6:00 pm – All Youth Group Mission Night

Sunday, February 22

Winter Intercession – No Youth Group

Mission and Outreach



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

The first 2026 opportunities are:
January 25 - 31
and
March 8 - 14.

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



A graphic for the "SOUP BOWL OF CARING" event. It features a purple banner with the text "SOUP BOWL OF CARING" and "EST. 1990" above a yellow banner with "Sunday, February 8". Below the banners, a yellow speech bubble says "Together, let's tackle hunger in Rock Hill!". Another yellow speech bubble says "Bring your specialty chili, soup, or dessert to share. Beverages & condiments will be provided." A dark gray box at the bottom says "SAVE THE DATE for this fun event in Hopkins Hall after worship!". A yellow speech bubble at the bottom right says "Who will win our soup, chili, and dessert cook-off? Which team will we vote to win?".

Dorothy Day Soup Kitchen
Join us at the DDSK on Thursday, January 22!
Reach out to Wendy Blanchard for info!

Hunger Outreach Program (HOP)
The HOP Ministry will meet at 2:30 pm on January 27 in Hopkins Hall!



January Help for Hope SOUP!

Collections to benefit the clients of Project HOPE

Any brand, size, can or carton, and flavor are needed!
Please leave donations in the narthex by Sunday, January 18.

2026 Plentiful Harvest Coordinator Needed

We serve at PHK once a quarter with the next known dates of March and May 31. The FPC coordinator promotes the opportunity in the bulletin and emails volunteers. We divide shifts 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 Kara.

Café Justo: Toward a Successful 2026 Addressing the 2025 Challenges

AS CAFÉ JUSTO LOOKS FORWARD TO 2026, they recognize that the year ahead will be shaped by the challenges and lessons of 2025. The past year has been marked by significant hurdles—chief among them are supply shortages, cash flow difficulties spurred by rising costs, and a landscape of uncertainty around import/export requirements and tariffs.

The leadership of Café Justo reached out to Frontera de Cristo (FDC) seeking support in several areas, to position itself to avoid the challenges faced in 2025 that caused inconsistent coffee delivery to the churches, farmers market vendors, organizations, and individuals who have been faithful partners of Café Justo in creating relationships across borders and addressing root causes of migration.

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: Ellie Dawson on the death of her brother, Mike Mason, on December 11.

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.



Pray for our college students:



University of SC

Ellison Briggs



Coastal Carolina

Grace Gresham



Hillsdale College

Kate Roberson



The Citadel

Jacob Baker



Clemson

Caroline Baker

Rose Faircloth

Dixon Murdoch

Coleman Nies

Kaitlyn Stevenson

Nora Stevenson



Member of the Military

Jacob Harris - Navy
Stationed in Japan

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

Ancestral Clan Tartan

Our first Kirkin' was held in 2015 using tartans borrowed from a church in Waxhaw. Many FPC members were then interested in having their own family tartan and in 2016 we researched and ordered the wool fabric from Scotland. The fabric was made into 25 flags for the October 2017 Kirkin'. We have added 10 more since then.

If your family would like to have a tartan added to the next Kirkin', we will be accepting new fabric for tartan flags in spring 2026. Here's how to order.

Visit the Edinburgh Scotland Shops at www.scotlandshop.com/us/ to search the name of your family clan. Or you can choose a particular plaid to "adopt." They have the best quality wool and selection of tartan plaid and are knowledgeable in finding the clan of your ancestors and answering your questions.

When ordering, purchase 2 meters (in length) of 10 oz. lightweight wool plaid fabric. The fabric needs to arrive by March 1, 2026 so allow ample time for shipping.

Please ship to your home address.

If you have any questions about the process or research, please contact Bev Keely or Julia Nichols.



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

lezehmer@fpcrockhill.org

Rev. Kara Wheeler

Director 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

Ida Newsom

Interim 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