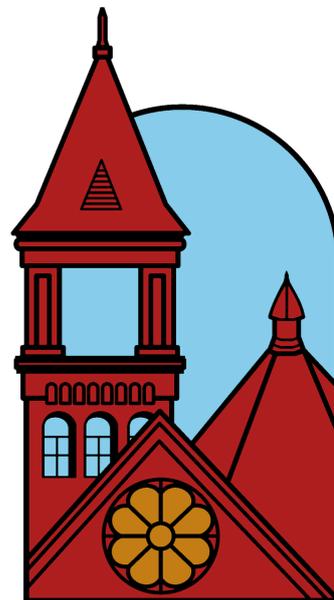


FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
ROCK HILL, SC  
MARCH 2026

# The First Edition



Greetings in the name of Jesus!

Lent is a season that invites us to reflect on our walk with God and to consider how we might take an active step forward in the practice of our faith. Of course, this is challenging in the high velocity world in which we live. So many things are pulling at us from so many directions. Work responsibilities, family responsibilities, community responsibilities and others all demand our attention. It is often overwhelming.

In the midst of all of this, what often gets pushed out of our hectic lives are the practices of our faith, and the idea of adding something during Lent seems impractical. However, one practice that you can add will create some life-giving breathing space that will actually draw you closer to God and help you be more efficient in living your life in our fast-paced world.

The psalmist writes from the voice of God: "Be still and know that I am God", Psalm 46:10. There is much wisdom in this short simple verse. So much distracts us in our noisy world, that the only way to allow God's word into our lives is to carve out just a little time to be quiet before God. It is so simple: Be Still, focus on God, and God will make himself known. Yet this simple act can seem impossible at first. However, if we are disciplined enough, each of us could find 5 or 10 minutes to shut the door, turn off the phone, and be quiet before the Lord. This practice of quiet meditation will allow us to hear God and to focus on the source of our strength.

C.S. Lewis said it well: "It comes the very moment you wake up each morning. All your wishes and hopes for the day rush at you like wild animals. And the first job each morning consists simply in shoving them all back; in listening to that other voice, taking that other point of view, letting that other larger, stronger, quieter life come flowing in. And so on, all day. Standing back from all your natural fussings and frettings; coming in out of the wind." (Mere Christianity).

This Lent, I am adding at least 5 minutes of completely uninterrupted quiet meditation before the Lord. As the weeks progress, I am working to increase the time so that I can let the "stronger, quieter life come flowing in." I encourage you to do the same.

May each of you have a holy Lent.

Your friend and pastor,

*Pastor Lee*

# Announcements

## First Presbyterian Church Acolyte Recognition

We will recognize our acolytes  
on Sunday, March 1  
during the Children's Message.



### Save the Date!

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.



In this Lenten Season,  
the Christian Education  
committee invites our  
church family to  
engage the Beatitudes  
around your table and  
explore art as  
a form of prayer.

This devotional is available on the  
table in the Narthex.

**Engaging the Resource:** Choose one  
card to focus on for each week of Lent.  
Place the card where you can see it  
and set aside a time each week as a  
family to gather and look at the  
artwork, Scripture, share the reflection  
materials, and create. Pray for those  
named in the Beatitude.

Make concrete plans to learn about  
and serve someone in your  
community named in a Beatitude.

## Easter Lilies!

Easter lilies will be placed in the  
church on Easter Day, April 5.

Order forms and envelopes are on the Narthex  
table. Place your form in the offering plate OR in  
Jonna's box (#33) outside the Church Office.

Orders will be accepted  
through Sunday, March 22.

See the weekly E-Blasts and bulletins for pricing.  
Submit payment when you place your order.  
If paying by check, please mark it "Easter Lily."



**Let's Light It Up Blue** on Sunday, March 29 by wearing **BLUE** in celebration of  
people with autism and those who love and support them. Every April we  
celebrate World Autism Month, beginning with World Autism Acceptance  
Week, held from March 30 to April 6. This year marks the 18th year of  
World Autism Awareness. Whether you have autism, love someone who does,  
or are looking to support a diverse, accepting, and kind community –  
let's stand together and pledge our support to make a world of difference  
by helping all people with autism reach their full potential.

## Nominating Committee

The Nominating Committee will soon be  
preparing a slate of nominees for election  
to serve as members of the Session  
(Elders) and the Board of Deacons  
(Deacons) for the term 2027-2029.

The people you recommend should be  
active members in the life of our church.  
Nominating forms are in the Narthex and  
at each Sanctuary door. Place completed  
forms in the offering plate or to  
Box #15 outside the Church Office  
by Sunday, March 22.

## Welcome New Members To FPC



Jordan, Sarah  
& Mira Olson



Ned and Gail Stafford



Robert and Lynn Young



Alan Simpson

# March Birthdays

**2 Andrew Demchak**  
**4 Jimmy Hicklin, Elizabeth Owen**  
**5 Mimi Goodner, Heather Deese, Katie Crean**  
**6 Charlie Cyack**  
**7 Kate Roberson**  
**8 Christy Goodner, Shelly Goodner**  
**9 Elizabeth Rollins**  
**10 Addie Nichols, McCain Nichols**  
**13 Kendrick Stevenson**  
**14 Kathy Blackwelder, Tommy Evans, Sarah Lawson**  
**15 Jacob Baker, Carolyn Johnson, Catherine Faircloth**  
**16 Barbara Burbulak, Carol Lambert, Quinn Stevenson**  
**17 Lisa Rumford**  
**18 Joan Musselwhite**  
**21 Manfred Liewald**  
**23 Emily Kay**  
**24 Butch Bailey, Megan Keener, Laura Mallard**  
**25 Faye Ballard, Harriet Goode**  
**26 James Allen Chubb**  
**27 Frank Porter**  
**28 Ann Hunsucker**  
**29 Reid Smith**  
**30 Linda Lathan**  
**31 Jeremy Campbell, Brooke Zehmer**

## COMMITTEE MEETINGS

### **Sunday, March 1**

Noon - Congregational Life

### **Tuesday, March 3**

6:00 pm - Deacons

### **Sunday, March 8**

12:15 pm - Mission & Outreach

### **Monday, March 9**

9:00 AM - Property (BYO Breakfast)

6:00 pm - Nominating Committee

### **Tuesday, March 17**

6:00 pm - Session

### **Monday, March 30**

6:00 pm - Nominating Committee

# Server Schedules

## MARCH DEACONS ON CALL

Kathy James,  
Joan Musselwhite, Cameron Lawson

## MARCH ELDERS/DEACONS

1 Rob Joiner, Heather Dellinger  
8 Sheryl Smith, Jonathan Nichols  
15 Scott Harris, Allen Katz  
22 Clair Roberts, Beth Janicke  
29 Julia Nichols, **NEED**

## MARCH MONITORS/GREETERS

1 Barry Goodner  
8 Rod Hicks  
15 Chris Cycak  
22 Matt Goodner  
29 **NEED**

## MARCH WORSHIP CARE

1 Mary Alice Owen  
8 Susan Dove  
15 Janelle Chubb  
22 Natalie Harper  
29 Michele Murdoch

## MARCH ACOLYTES

1 Henry Goodner, Ben Williams  
8 Mason Goodner, Millie Goodner  
15 Keaton Esposito, Amelia Skinner  
22 Taylor Chubb, Alexander Roberson  
29 Penelope Zelinski, Cecily Zelinski



**Daylight Saving Time**  
**March 8, 2026**  
**Spring Forward!**

## 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



**END OF SEASON**  
BASKETBALL BANQUET  
2026

FIRST PRES RH

**Sunday March 15<sup>th</sup> 12:00pm**

JOIN US FOR LUNCH TO CELEBRATE ALL OF OUR PLAYERS AND COACHES. CHICKEN AND DESSERT WILL BE PROVIDED. PLEASE BRING A SIDE TO SHARE AND A \$10 DONATION PER FAMILY.



## FPC Fitness Groups

<p><u>The Walking Group</u> meets Tuesdays &amp; Thursdays at 8:30 am at the Hopkins Hall entrance.</p> 	<p><u>Seniors Exercise Class</u> meets Tuesdays &amp; Thursdays at 4:00 pm in Hopkins Hall for all skill levels. \$10/month.</p> 
<p><u>Pickleball Courts</u> are open for play on Thursdays at 5:00 pm in Hopkins Hall gym.</p> 	<p><u>Yoga Classes</u> Wednesdays at 6:00 pm.</p> 

## Flowering of the Cross and Easter Day Breakfast



Bring blooms or greenery from the yard or the grocery floral shop to help adorn the cross in our annual tradition. Our 10:00 am Easter morning breakfast will be in Hopkins Hall. The Fellowship Committee will serve a light continental breakfast. Sunday School Classes will not meet.

## SAVE THE DATE!

# SPRING FLING

## FRIDAY MAY 1, 2026

10:00 AM - NOON

We will once again host the Special Needs students from our three high schools with a Spring Festival. Contact Kara Wheeler or Ann Hunsucker if you are able to help.



On Easter Sunday, we will celebrate together the gifts of the spirit, the approachability of God in prayer, and the beauty of resurrection and hope at our Flowering of the Cross and Easter Breakfast.

Artists (photography, paint, pencil, clay, cloth, yarn, etc.) are invited to share their works in thanksgiving and glory to God at this breakfast on Sunday, April 5. Display tables will be available. Please reach out to Kara with any questions and to share your art.

# Christian Education

## Sunday School – Sundays at 10:00 am

**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. Books available in the Church Office.



**Women’s Bible Study** – Tuesdays, at 10:00 am *Twelve Women of the Bible: Life-Changing Stories for Women Today*. Join us! Each week is a stand alone lesson. Books available in the Church Office.



**Lenten Study** – Mondays at 7:00 pm A study on Matthew 25 – led by Dave Keely.

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

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

**College** – Monday evenings with dinner at 5:45 pm and the Matthew 25 study at 7:00 pm.

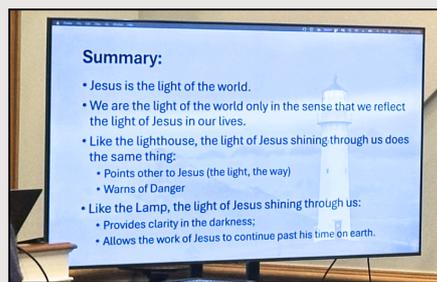
## Gospel of Matthew Chapter 25 Lenten Study

Join us for this in-depth study for adults and older youth on Mondays, February 23 to March 30, 7:00 to 8:00 pm.

In-person is preferred, but Zoom-hybrid will also be available. Join us however you prefer!

As Pastor Lee has directed we all “Reflecting the light of Jesus into our community and beyond.”

Contact Dave Keely to participate.



## Milestone Ministry Sunday School for FPC Families

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

*“If you confess with your mouth, Jesus is Lord, and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.” – Romans 10:9*

March 1 – Palm Sunday (Matthew 21:1-11)

March 8 – The Last Supper (Matthew 26:17-30)

March 15 – The Footwashing (Jon 13:1-17)

March 22 – The Garden of Gethsemane (Matthew 26:36-56)

March 29 – The Empty Tomb (John 20)



## Inaugural FPC Women's Retreat: May 29-31, 2026 at SC Inn at Montreat



led Rev. Pressley Cox,  
Associate for Shared Mission & Ministry  
(Foothills Presbytery)

*Girls Just Want to Have Fun!*  
*Divine Laughter, Humor, and Wellbeing - Finding Joy in Life and Scripture*

Musical leadership  
provided by Mollie Zehmer

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

\$50 deposit holds your space. Register in March for the best rate: \$100/person with a shared room or limited availability of \$125/person for a private room (all rooms in the Inn share a bath).

Register Here:



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

Price increases \$25/person in April. Apartments may be available at a rate of \$200/apartment.

Scholarships are available! Contact Kara to be on an apartment waiting list and to ask about a scholarship.

Please pay with check in the offering plate, the Church Office, or through the [church website](#). Memo line: Women's Retreat

Contact a Planning Team Member with Any Questions: Janelle Chubb, Bev Keely, Kara Wheeler, & Brooke Zehmer

Register Here:



# Youth Ministry at FPC

**Pray for our Spring Mission Trip Team serving in Charleston, March 20-22.**

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

Monday, July 6 to Thursday, July 9 - Registration closes April 15.

Total cost is \$15 plus lunch on Monday.

## Youth Group in March

### **Sunday, March 1:**

Middle School Bible Study at 4:30/Snack Supper at 5:30/High School Bible Study at 6:00  
- DR Mission Trip Meeting at 7pm in Youth Room

### **Sunday, March 8:**

Middle School Bible Study at 4:30/Snack Supper at 5:30/High School Bible Study at 6:00

### **Sunday, March 15: All Youth Group at 5pm**

Come share your input for our May 17 Youth Sunday Worship Service.

DR Mission Trip Meeting at 6:15pm in Youth Room

### **Sunday, March 22: No Youth Group after Mission Trip weekend**

### **Sunday, March 29:**

Stay after church to hang out and help with the PK's Egg Hunt.

(No Youth Group this evening.)

## Music and Worship

**Join us for this**

**Special Musical Presentation**

**by a Winthrop University Music Professor**



*The Banquet Table  
of the Lord*

### **The Rock Hill Music Club**

**Presents**

### **“Tomoko and Friends”**

**Tomoko Deguchi**

**Piano**

**March 15, 3:00 pm**

**First Presbyterian Church**

**234 E. Main Street**

**Rock Hill**

**Be our guest!**

**Reception to follow**

**Free admission**

**Free parking**

[www.rockhillmusicclub.org](http://www.rockhillmusicclub.org)

[www.facebook.com/musicclubofrockhill](https://www.facebook.com/musicclubofrockhill)

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, Beverley Keely or Marsha Roberts.

# 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.

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



## FPC at Plentiful Harvest Kitchen

at Covenant PC of Rock Hill



**Sunday, March 22**

**2-4 pm to prepare the meal**

**4-6 pm to serve and clean-up**

**Volunteers needed for both shifts.**

Contact Jennifer Abernathy to serve in this important ministry.

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.



ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING

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



## March Help for Hope GRITS!

Collections to benefit the clients of Project HOPE

Any brand and any variety (instant, long-cooking, or quick-cooking) is needed and appreciated. Bring your donations to the Narthex bin by Sunday, March 15.

**Thank you for your generous contributions of dried beans during the month of February! 105 bags of beans were given for the clients of HOPE of Rock Hill.**

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



FPC has an opportunity to delight a Rock Hill family by sprucing up their home's exterior with paint on Saturday, April 18. Fresh air, working on your painting skills, and the satisfaction of helping a neighbor are just some of the benefits of joining our team for this great community event.

All ages and skills welcome.

**WE ASK THAT YOU SIGN UP BY SUNDAY, MARCH 1.**

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

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

**Dorothy Day Soup Kitchen**  
Join us at the DDSK on Thursday, March 26!  
Reach out to Wendy Blanchard for info!

# 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 Lowery, in the death of her sister in law Brenda Laffoon, on December 20  
Jane Blackmon, in the death of her brother in law, Lieutenant Colonel (Ret) Claude Everette Cooper Jr.,  
on February 10, in Clemson, SC.

**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,  
Donna Martin

**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.



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!**

2026  
*Flower Calendar*

The new 2026 flower calendar is on the bulletin board outside the Church Office. Please reserve your date(s) for new year!

Questions? Contact Allen Katz.

MAUNDY THURSDAY WORSHIP

APRIL 2, 2026 AT 6:30 PM

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

**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**