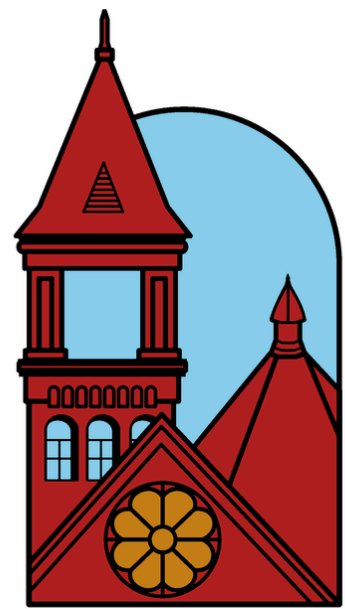


FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
ROCK HILL, SC  
MAY 2026

# The First Edition



Greetings in the name of Jesus Christ!

Former chaplain of the U.S. Senate, Richard Halverson once wrote: "The maximum impact of the church of Jesus Christ in history in the world is not the impact of great and eloquent preachers or denominations, or church hierarchies, or even popes, priests, or cardinals, or all of the programs that the church has invented. The maximum impact of the church of Jesus Christ is the influence of the aggregate of believers where they are between Sundays."

There is a lot of truth in this quotation from Halverson. A very active church member may spend 6% of his or her waking hours attending and participating in activities sponsored by the church - many of which happen inside the church walls. A less active church member may spend as little as 1% of waking hours interacting with the ministry of the church. This means that most of our lives are spent outside of the structured activities of the church. Now, if we believe that ministry can only happen within the walls of the church or as a result of the planning of church leaders, we are severely limiting our vision of ministry.

In Luke 10:1 we read "After this the Lord appointed seventy others and sent them on ahead of him in pairs to every town and place where he himself intended to go." Jesus chose seventy followers and sent them out to do ministry. These seventy were to "blaze the trail" and prepare the people for the coming of the Lord. Did he send them to just the temple and synagogues? No. He sent them to where the people lived and worked - into the towns and villages where Jesus intended to go.

Jesus does not want us to limit our vision of ministry or the scope of our mission. He wants every follower to understand that he or she has been sent to represent him in "every town and place where he intends to go." We are the "advance team" for Jesus in our places of work, our homes, and our neighborhoods. God sent Jesus to the world in order that the world might be redeemed through him. Jesus sends us so that the message of his redemption and his forgiveness might be made known to a world that desperately needs this message.

Over the two and a half years I have been with you, I occasionally use Halverson's Benediction in worship that reminds you that you go nowhere by accident. Wherever you go, God is sending you. The Christ who indwells you has something he wants to accomplish through you wherever you are. I really do believe this, and I encourage you to begin asking yourself regularly, "why does God have me here?" and "what does God want to accomplish through me?" If you do this, you will begin to see God do amazing things through you in the lives of others, and you will find your own faith deepened and strengthened.

May the Lord bless you in this endeavor!

Your friend and pastor,

*Pastor Lee*

# Announcements

## Acolyte Training Update!

An Acolyte Training will be held on **Sunday, May 3 at 9:15 am**. The training is for current acolytes & those entering 3rd grade in Fall 2026 and older.

Please contact Sheryl Smith if you will be attending or have any questions.



## Mother's Day Offering 2026



Presbyterian churches in South Carolina have marked Mother's Day with an offering to support the ministry of Presbyterian Communities of South Carolina to older adults.

Mother's Day is a time we set aside to remember and thank the mothers who have given so much to us. This offering has been a special way of remembering and caring for older adults since 1954.

The monies received from the Mother's Day Offering are used exclusively for those residents who, through no fault of their own, have outlived their financial resources and need assistance to remain in Presbyterian Communities.

Please consider making a gift in honor or remembrance of your mother or other special lady who has given you so much. Use the form found in the Narthex and include it with your payment. Checks may be made to FPC or you may use the FPC Giving QR code in the bulletin and select the *Mother's Day Offering Fund*.

## MPS Awareness at FPC on Sunday, May 17



Please wear **PURPLE** in honor of Keira and in memory of Izzy.

All MPS Diseases are genetic and progressive, meaning that it can be inherited and are present from birth, with symptoms worsening over time. However, the symptoms are often hard to identify in newborns, and become more apparent as the child grows older.

*National MPS Awareness Day is May 15.*

## FPC 2026

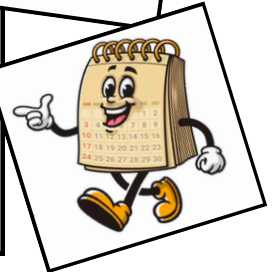
### Monitor/Greeter Schedule

Please see the sign-up sheets in the Narthex for the **OPEN DATES** on the 2026 schedule.

There is an info sheet that explains the role of the Sunday Monitor/Greeter.

We welcome new men to the roster!

Contact **Jonna Eichorn** at [jeichorn@fpcrockhill.org](mailto:jeichorn@fpcrockhill.org) or swing by the Church Office if you have any questions.



## 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](mailto:dfkeely3@gmail.com)) with any questions.

**Enjoy!**

# May Birthdays

**1 Scott Dellinger**  
**6 William Niemann**  
**7 Mark Verdery, Trey Janicke**  
**8 Katie Kirksey**  
**9 Kinch Edwards**  
**13 Sam Alexander**  
**15 Sheryl Smith**  
**16 Heather Dellinger**  
**18 Wendy Baker**  
**21 Judi Hardy**  
**23 Elizabeth Briggs**  
**24 Ellis Williams**  
**27 Susan Dove**  
**30 Linda Bradshaw, Eddie Gainey,  
Dixon Murdoch, Michelle Elston**  
**31 Scott Harris, Robert Young**

## COMMITTEE MEETINGS

### **Sunday, May 3**

12:15 pm - Worship Committee

### **Monday, May 4**

11:00 am - Staff Meeting

6:00 pm - Nominating Committee

### **Tuesday, May 5**

6:00 pm - Deacons

### **Monday, May 11**

9:00 am - Property (BYO Breakfast)

### **Tuesday, May 19**

6:00 pm - Session

# Server Schedules

## **MAY DEACONS ON CALL**

Dave Keely, Sherry Hutchison, Richard Quandt

## **MAY ELDERS/DEACONS**

3 Chip Hutchison, Sherry Hutchison  
10 Susan Roberson, Cameron Lawson  
17 Paul Horne, Betsy Forrest  
24 John Abernathy, Kathy James  
31 Bo Redmond, Margaret Joiner

## **MAY MONITORS/GREETERS**

3 Bill Lehman  
10 David Chubb  
17 **NEED**  
24 **NEED**  
31 Chris Wheeler

## **MAY WORSHIP CARE**

3 Mary Alice Owen  
10 Lindsey Skinner  
17 Susan Dove  
24 Libba Faircloth  
31 Wendy Blanchard

## **MAY ACOLYTES**

3 Amelia Skinner, Brynn Kirksey  
10 Taylor Chubb, Ben Williams  
17 Keaton Esposito, Henry Goodner  
24 Millie Goodner, Mason Goodner  
31 Penelope Zelinski, Cecily Zelinski



## **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

## Ladies Night Out



Tuesday,  
May 12  
at 6:00 pm

727 Dilworth Ln.  
Rock Hill

Notify Linder Tucker by  
Monday, May 11 at 6:00pm  
to make reservations.

## Retirees Lunch

Thursday, May 14 - Noon  
First Presbyterian Church  
Hopkins Hall

Join us for lunch and music led by  
Richard & Theresa Quandt.  
Boxed lunches will be provided.

\*\*Make a Reservation by May 11 with  
the Church Office at 803-328-2467  
OR with a Pew Reservation Card!\*\*



## Mahjong in May

Learn to play Mahjong with friends at FPC!

Tuesday, May 5 from 7:00 to 8:15 pm  
for those who have never been to a class or want a refresher!  
(play time will be limited)

Monday, May 11 at 6:00 pm - for those who have had a class but want a refresher!

Monday, May 18 at 6:00 pm - for those who want to just come and play!

Availability is limited to the number of sets we can secure.  
Contact Kara if you are interested!

## Church Picnic

Save the Date!!

Sunday, July 6  
after Worship

To celebrate the 250<sup>th</sup> birthday  
of the US, we will be  
collecting 250 items  
for Missions.  
More info to come!!

## 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*)  
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!

Save the Date!!

Rally Day at FPC:  
August 16!!

Summer Celebration  
&  
Fall Kick-Off

# Christian Education

We will recognize our Faith Formation leaders in worship on Sunday, May 17. All Sunday School classes will begin their summer sabbath on Sunday, May 24 (Memorial Day weekend).

## 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

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

## **Children, Youth, and Crossroads Sunday School May 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

**May 3:** Pentecost

**May 10:** No Sunday School (Mother's Day)

**May 17:** Review of Monthly Memory Verses and our Year

## Youth Ministry at FPC



## Youth Group in May

May 3: Practice for Youth Sunday at 5:00 pm

May 17: End of Year Party at 5:00 pm

# Youth DR Trip Luncheon & Silent Auction



"Go into all the world and proclaim the good news to the whole creation." -Mark 16:17

FPC High School Mission Trip  
June 27 - July 3, 2026  
Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic



Wow! We are overwhelmed by the generosity that made the Sunday, April 26 Spaghetti Dinner & Silent Auction Fundraiser a roaring success! Thank you to everyone who bought a lunch ticket, donated an item to our silent auction, bid on items, gave a monetary donation, and to those who generously shared their time and expertise to make the lunch so delicious and fun!

We raised \$2,750 in lunch ticket sales; \$8,475 in silent auction bids, \$3,720 in other donations for a total of **\$14,945** on Sunday alone. We have previously received other donations from church members and a \$14,500 gift from the High Cotton organization. These gifts put us very close to our fundraising goal and we could not be more grateful.

This will be a formative experience for everyone on the team. We will not go alone. We certainly will be serving with the full support of our loving church family. Thank You!!

# Mission and Outreach



## 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.



## May Help for Hope Cans of Vegetables!

Collections to benefit the clients of Project HOPE

Any brand & any variety (corn, green beans, carrots, tomatoes, etc.) are needed & appreciated.

Bring donations to the Narthex bin by Sunday, May 24.

**Because of your generosity and mission-filled hearts, 209 cans/jars/pkgs. of fruit were donated during April! That is a huge donation and one which is greatly appreciated by the folks at Project HOPE and even more importantly, the clients!**



BEFORE



AFTER



April 18 was a great success for FPC as a home was transformed! Job well done to Richard Quandt, Ken Roberts, Bob Ballard, Dave Keely, Tom Hickman & James Crean!



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

**Our next 2026 opportunity is:  
June 14 - 20.**

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

Please use this QR code to see how you might serve.



### Hunger Outreach Program (HOP)

The HOP Ministry will meet Tuesday, May 26 at 2:30 pm in Hopkins Hall!

Dorothy Day Soup Kitchen Join us at the DDSK on Thursday, May 28 at 10:30 am! Reach out to Wendy Blanchard for info!



Rise Against Hunger works in countries worldwide to fight hunger, targeting communities facing high rates of food insecurity.



Save the Date!  
We will pack meals for Rise Against Hunger on Sunday, August 23.

# 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:***

**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, Patti Cloninger

**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.



Dear FPC Members,

Ken and I have felt completely surrounded with your support and encouragement since my surgery and rehabilitation.

We both have appreciated your care and concern shown with your calls, texts, visits, cards, food, and of course, prayers.

Thank you for making this difficult time much easier.

*Karen and Ken Holt*



Thank you for your prayers for our inaugural Women's Retreat, Friday, May 29 – Sunday, May 31 at the South Carolina Inn at Montreat.



**Member of the Military**

Jacob Harris – Navy  
Stationed in Japan

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



Spring semester exams are upon our students – pray for clarity, stamina, and their recall of all they have learned.

**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, 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**