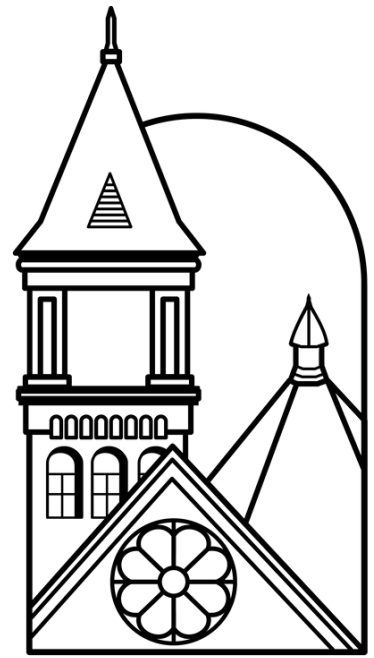


The First Edition



Greetings in the name of Jesus Christ!

In the eleventh chapter of Deuteronomy we read:

¹⁸"You shall put these words of mine in your heart and soul, and you shall bind them as a sign on your hand, and fix them as an emblem on your forehead. ¹⁹ Teach them to your children, talking about them when you are at home and when you are away, when you lie down and when you rise. ²⁰ Write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates, ²¹ so that your days and the days of your children may be multiplied in the land that the Lord swore to your ancestors to give them, as long as the heavens are above the earth." – Deuteronomy 11:18–21

Here God is instructing the Israelites of the importance of learning and teaching His word. First, they are instructed to "put" God's word in their heart and soul. God wants His word to become a part of them. Once the word of God was in their heart, they were to teach God's word to the next generation. This instruction was not just to happen when convenient but at anytime and anywhere possible. While this might have caused a hardship, God did include a promise: those who learn and teach God's ways will prosper.

As those who are engrafted into the covenant, this command and promise is for us. God wants us to put His word into our heart and soul. We often use that phrase to explain how something has become a part of us. God wants his word to become like the air we breathe. We hear a similar instruction in the New Testament: "Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly." – Colossians 3:16.

Once we allow the Word to dwell in us, we are to teach that Word to the next generation: in the morning, in the evening, when we are home, and when we are away. If we do this, we are promised that our days and our children's days will be multiplied. When we so mold ourselves to the will of God, we will prosper and experience abundant life.

There are many different ways that we can put God's word in our soul and let it dwell richly in our heart. One easy way is to participate in one of our church school classes on Sunday mornings. All you have to do is decide to come an hour earlier than the 11 a.m. service. We have three adult classes, and all are welcoming to new participants. Just one hour out of your entire week can help put the word in your heart.

Another way is to get involved in a small group study. The men of the church are starting a study on Wednesday evenings at 6:30 pm beginning September 10th here at the church. They will be using a book called "Moses: In the Footsteps of the Reluctant Prophet by Adam Hamilton." Study books will soon be available in the Church Office. (Requested donation of \$10/book.) Please contact Terry Dodge for more information

Our women's Fall Bible Study will begin on Tuesday morning September 9th at 10 a.m. and will continue through October 21st. They will be using the book "Acts: Awakening to God in Everyday Life" by Melissa Spoelstra. Study books are available in the Church Office. (Requested donation of \$10/book.)

Another way you can put God's word in your heart to is to form a micro-group of three people where you agree to meet once a week for an hour for study and prayer. A number of folks did the micro-group study on Philippians last fall. If you are interested in doing a trio group this fall, invite two people to join you. Then come see me, and I will get you some material and train the group.

All of these avenues provide the opportunity to soak in the word of God and allow it to become a part of your DNA. I highly encourage you to make it a priority this year to nourish your soul and allow God to mold you more into the image of Christ!

Grace and peace to you!

Your friend and pastor,

Pastor Lee

**2025 Providence Presbytery
Legacy of Faith Award Recipient
from First Presbyterian Rock Hill**

*George &
Betty White*

The Session unanimously
voted to award

George & Betty White

the 2025 Providence Presbytery
Legacy of Faith award on behalf
of our congregation.

We celebrate their life
of faith in action for
First Presbyterian and for
God's Kingdom at large!

They will be honored at a lunch in
Horton Lodge at Bethelwoods on
Tuesday, September 30 at 11:00am.

If you would like to be a part of this lunch, please
contact the Church Office. Space is limited and will
be confirmed by September 15. The cost for lunch
is \$14/person, payable to FPC.



**Rally Day at FPC: September 7
Summer Celebration & Fall Kick-Off**

**Breakfast at 10:00 am
in Hopkins Hall!
Bring a covered-dish
breakfast item to share!**

**Worship
will be at
11:00 am!**

**Please join us as we
kick off a new school
year of study and faith
formation at FPC!**



Announcements



Calling on All Artists, Musicians, Sculptors, Painters, and Other Creative People!

God has gifted each of us in so many different ways, and it is a joy to use our gifts to give glory to God. We want to encourage the artistic folks in our midst to create something as an offering to the Lord based on a specific theme which can then be shared with the church to help us prepare to celebrate Christmas.

The theme comes from Luke 2:15-16: *When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us." So, they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger.*

The theme focus is "Let us go now and see!"

Whether you paint, write music, throw pottery, quilt, draw, or build, we invite you to create a work based on our theme to be shared with the congregation on Wednesday, December 17. Interested? Sign up in the Church Office by September 15 and share the type of art / music / work you will be creating.

We are excited to see what God brings forth from the participant's minds and hearts as we focus our efforts to "go and see" what God has done in Jesus Christ!

SAVE THE DATE
October 25th from 9am-2pm
FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



FOLLOW THE GOOGLE FORMS LINK BELOW
TO REGISTER OR USE THE QR CODE:
[HTTPS://FORMS.GLE/SIMYBEZRDUDA2WCJ9](https://forms.gle/SIMYBEZRDUDA2WCJ9)



234 E. MAIN STREET ROCK HILL, SC 29730



SAVE THE DATE!
Fall Festival
Thursday, October 30, 2025
10:00 am - NOON

We will be hosting the students living with exceptional needs from the area high schools for a Fall Festival at FPC.

Volunteers are needed!
Join in the fun!!

Please contact Kara Wheeler or
Ann Hunsucker for more info.



September Birthdays

- 1 Rob Joiner, Hugh Dellinger
- 2 Steve Mullinax, Bryan Zelinski
- 4 Leslie Jurado
- 8 Rebecca Bridges
- 13 Dave Keely, Baxter Kapp
- 14 June Kay, Alvane Deal
- 15 Cameron Lawson
- 16 Will Sturgis
- 17 Sam Curry, Bo Hutchison,
Alexander Roberson
- 18 Leslie Ballard
- 19 Joe Hardy, Diane Hicks
- 21 Betty White
- 22 Craig Butler, Brooke Nies,
Iris Rose
- 23 Marsha Roberts
- 24 Lee Zelinski, Sophia Hindson,
Mike Forrest, Elizabeth Williams
- 25 Davis Bridges, Cason Bridges
- 26 Mary Catherine Wheeler
- 27 Bob Norwood
- 29 Miles Curley
- 30 Malcolm Faulkenberry, Jean Horton

Server Schedules

SEPTEMBER DEACONS ON CALL

Diane Hicks, Margaret Joiner, Steve Roberts

SEPTEMBER ELDERS/DEACONS

- 7 Sheryl Smith, Jennifer Abernathy
- 14 Jimmy Campbell, Heather Dellinger
- 21 Terry Dodge, Kathy James
- 28 Scott Harris, Margaret Joiner

SEPTEMBER MONITORS/GREETERS

- 7 Eric Park
- 14 Kinch Edwards
- 21 Bob Ballard
- 28 Craig Rollins

SEPTEMBER ACOLYTES

- 7 Millie Goodner, Mason Goodner
- 14 Amelia Skinner, Keaton Esposito
- 21 Henry Goodner, Ben Williams
- 28 Taylor Chubb, Alexander Roberson

SEPTEMBER WORSHIP CARE

- 7 Joanne Edwards
- 14 Lindsey Skinner
- 21 Christy Goodner
- 28 Libba Faircloth

COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Tuesday, September 2 **Tuesday, September 16**

6:00 pm - Deacons

6:00 pm - Session

Monday, September 8

5:30 pm - Property

Wednesday, September 17

6:30 pm - Finance

Tuesday, September 9

5:15 pm Worship

Sunday, September 21

9:00 am - Mission/Outreach



The organ chamber (located behind the organ) will be undergoing repairs September 2 - 8. The organ pipes will be removed during this project.

Don't Forget!
Worship returns
to 11:00 am
on September 7!!



A Reception of New Members

will be held on
Sunday, September 28
at 10:30 am in the Chapel.
Please contact Pastor Lee
or Kara if you are interested
in joining the church.

Fellowship and Congregational Life

Ladies Night Out



Fratelli
Ristorante & Pizzeria

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 9 AT 6:00 PM

975 Market St., Ste. 101, Ft. Mill

Meet at 5:30 pm to Carpool in the parking lot behind the Family Trust/Warren Norman building at the corner of Celanese & India Hook.

Notify Linder Tucker by Monday, September 8 at 6pm to make reservations.

Retirees Lunch

Thursday, September 11 - Noon
Red Bowl Restaurant

Our program will be presented by Leslie Starnes, Executive Director of the York County *Family Promise* program.

No reservations needed.



FPC Montreat Family Weekend



THE CONGREGATIONAL LIFE COMMITTEE INVITES YOU TO BE A PART OF THIS ENRICHING TIME OF FELLOWSHIP!

DEPOSIT TO SECURE LODGING IS DUE OCTOBER 1ST

CONTACT KARA WITH QUESTIONS



Ladies Out to Lunch

Ladies Out to Lunch meets every Sunday after worship at the back Main Street corner of the church. You are invited to join us for good food, fellowship & fun! Questions? Contact Linder Tucker.

FPC Fitness Groups

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



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



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



Yoga (all levels) meets Wednesdays at 6:00 pm in the Gaston Room.



SUNDAY FLOWERS

We have some **open dates** on the 2025 Sanctuary Flower Chart:

October 19, 26

November 2, 9, 30

December 7

If you would like to provide flowers for one of these dates, please reach out to Allen Katz **OR** sign up on the Flower Chart outside the Church Office.



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: *The 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

Women's Bible Study (Tuesdays 9/9 to 10/21 at 10:00 am) – *Acts* by Melissa Spolestra (Vickey Dodge, Betsy Forrest, Christy Goodner, Karen Hickman)

Men's Bible Study (Wednesdays at 6:30 pm) – *In the Footsteps of the Reluctant Prophet Moses* by Adam Hamilton, *The Journey* by Adam Hamilton (Terry Dodge)

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)

What is Milestone Ministry?

Many years ago, our Session adopted a Milestone Ministry framework for the educational ministries at FPC.

This allows our children to develop strong foundations at every age and build upon them as they grow.

This year, all of our children, youth, and the Crossroads Sunday School classes will have a lesson centered around the same person or event in Scripture. This will allow our families to have conversations centered around the morning's Scripture lesson. In addition, our families will be encouraged to memorize a verse of Scripture whose theme will resonate with the lessons.

Our children and youth will begin together in the Gaston Room at 10:00 am for a focus on Biblical literacy as we learn together more about how the Bible is organized and become familiar finding Scripture passages. Then our classes will meet in their classrooms beginning at 10:15 am. We will also not have Sunday School for these classes on the Sunday's of a holiday weekend. When these classes are not meeting, childcare will be available in the Younger PKs classroom at 10:00 am.

In each month's newsletter, we will publish the current month and next month's Lessons.

If you have any questions about the Milestone Ministry and our plan for Sunday School for families with children and youth this school year, please reach out to Kara.

"When I am afraid, I put my trust in you."

– Psalm 56:3

Sept. 7: No Sunday School – Rally Day

Breakfast in Hopkins Hall

Sept. 14: Adam and Eve Genesis 2:4--2:25

Sept. 21: Noah's Ark Genesis 6--9

Sept. 28: Abram's Call Genesis 12:1-9

"And the people said to Joshua,

we will serve the Lord our God and obey him."

– Joshua 24:24

Oct. 5: No Sunday School – Montreat Weekend

Oct. 12: Abraham and Isaac Genesis 22:1-18

Oct. 19: Isaac and Rebekah Genesis 24

Oct. 26: Jacob and Esau Genesis 25:19-34;

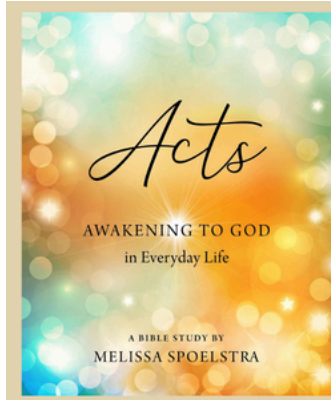
Genesis 27:1-40



Church Library Update

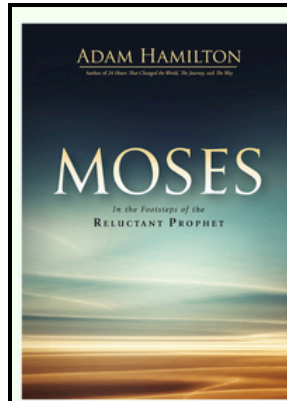
The Christian Education committee is transitioning our library catalog to a new online database that we hope to release in the fall. Stay tuned!!

Christian Education



Women's Bible Study
Tuesdays
September 9 to October 27
at 10:00 am

Study books are available
in the Church Office.
(Requested donation of
\$10/book
to help offset the cost.)



Men's Bible Study
Wednesdays
at 6:30 pm
starting Sept. 10

Study books will be
available in the
Church Office. Requested
donation of \$10/book to
help offset the cost.

Safe at First

Volunteer Update for Children & Youth

As FPC begins a new school year, we are excited about all the activities and education opportunities available to our children and youth. We appreciate all the volunteers and the countless hours of time they give to make these experiences and educational opportunities memorable.

The protection and safety of both the children and volunteers is of utmost importance which we try to assure utilizing our **Safe at First** policy. This policy, among other important provisions, requires that all volunteers dealing with individuals under the age of 18 must undergo a background check and complete an online which is available, every four years.

Most of our volunteers are due for both the background check and training video. You will be receiving an email with instructions this month.

Those not receiving an email are good for at least another year!

If you receive an email, thank you for your attention to this important safety measure in the life of our Church.

If you have any questions, please reach out to
Terry Dodge, Jonna Eichorn, or Kara Wheeler.



FPC's Youth Group enjoyed some Girls & Guys fun with painting and indoor golf on Sunday, August 10. They concluded the evening enjoying pizza and planning their dreams for the coming year.



Rock of Ages

Tuesdays at
6:30 pm starting
September 9

Please contact
Se & Michele Murdoch
with any questions.

This is an evening small group comprised of mostly empty nesters (although all are welcome) that meets on the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays of each month. Group members will lead the discussion each session.

We will meet at the church for Bible Study with an optional dinner afterwards.

Study books are \$10/couple to help offset the cost.

Youth Ministry at FPC in September

5:00 pm on Sunday, September 7

at Cherry Park Multi-Purpose Fields

Kick-Off to a New Year with a FRIENDLY Parent vs. Youth Kickball Game. We'll grab dinner after together.

Bring the whole family - younger siblings will make great cheerleaders!

Youth Group Bible Study on September 14

4:30 pm - Middle School

5:30 pm - Snack Supper

6:00 pm - High School

We'll journey through the Parables together this year.

Come for fun - stay for conversations on what God wants our lives to be like and what God's kingdom might be like if we live those lives. We'll all be together for our snack supper sponsored by our church family!

High School Mission Night on September 28

5:00 pm at Bethel Men's Shelter

By request - we will prepare and serve a meal at Bethel Men's Shelter together. Let Kara know of your participation by September 14.

Mission and Outreach

Thank you!

During August, we collected **145 boxes of cereal** for Project HOPE. Our donation was a significant increase over last year's 85 boxes, largely as a result of the Cycak family's effort! This large donation will go to families right here in Rock Hill to help fight food insecurities. Thank you from the clients of Project HOPE and the members of the Missions Committee to the Cycak family and to everyone who donated cereal!



September Help for Hope Peanut Butter and Jelly

Collections to benefit the clients of Project HOPE

Any brand, size or varieties are needed!
Please leave donations in the narthex bin
by Sunday, September 21.



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

**Our next opportunity is
September 13-20, 2025.**

We 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.

Use this QR code or see
the sign-up sheet in the narthex
to volunteer. Contact Kathy
Pender for more information.



Blood Drive on September 8

Kindness
is in your blood.



2:00 - 6:30 pm

**First Presbyterian Church
Hopkins Hall**

To Register to Give:

Please call 1-800-RED-CROSS (1-800-733-2767) or
visit RedCrossBlood.org.

Donors will receive a \$15 e-gift card!

Bring your photo ID or American Red Cross Donor Card.

Eat iron-rich foods and drink plenty of water
before the blood drive!



Saturday, September 27

9:00 - 11:00 am

FPC - Hopkins Hall

All invited! Pay what you can!

Hunger Outreach Program (HOP): The HOP Ministry will on
September 23 at 2:00 pm in Hopkins Hall!

Dorothy Day Soup Kitchen: Join us on Thursday, September 25
at 10:00 am. Contact Wendy Blanchard to help.

Rise Against Hunger – Sunday, August 17

We packed 15,000 meals in an hour and a half! These meals will feed 70 school children for the year.



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, Vickey Dodge, to submit a prayer request.

Please keep these members in your prayers:

Sympathy: Jerry and Carole Padgett in the death of their son-in-law, Jack Leader, on August 27.

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, Linda Bradshaw

Friends & Family Members: Keira Esposito, Thomas Powell, Rye Andrews, Tori Jablonka, Mrs. Spence Hughes, Melissa Westbrook

Member of the Military: Jacob Harris - Navy (stationed in Yakasuka, Japan - mailing address to come)

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:



The Citadel

Jacob Baker



Clemson

Caroline Baker

Rose Faircloth

Dixon Murdoch

Coleman Nies

Kaitlyn Stevenson

Nora Stevenson



University of SC

Ellison Briggs



Coastal Carolina

Grace Gresham



Hillsdale College

Kate Roberson

Make Participation in the Music Ministry Your Destination!

There's a place for you in the Music Ministry at FPC!
Last year, we had 40+ children, youth and adults participating.

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 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.)

All voices are welcome!

THE HANDBELL CHOIR

Rehearses Sunday afternoons from 3:30 - 4:30 p.m. in Room 224

Ashley Platts, director

Open to all High School Students & Adults.

Additional ringers are always welcome!

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 2025

Butch Bailey
Terry Dodge
Mimi Goodner
Mary Anne Sheppard
Chris Wheeler

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

Members of the Diaconate

Class of 2025

James Crean
Vickey Dodge
*Christy Goodner, moderator
Diane Hicks
Sue Munn

Class of 2026

Jennifer Abernathy
Heather Dellinger
Kathy James
Margaret Joiner
Dave Keely

Class of 2027

Beth Janicke
Allen Katz
Joan Musselwhite
Steve Roberts
Sherry Hutchison
*Wayne Terry, treasurer

Staff

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

Rev. Kara Wheeler
Director of Family Ministries
kwheeler@fpcrockhill.org

Dr. Donald M. Rogers
Director of Music

M. L. Marley
Organist

Jonna Eichorn
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Robyn Brown
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