

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
ROCK HILL, SC
OCTOBER 2026



The First Edition

Greetings in the name of Jesus Christ!

This past Sunday in worship, we considered the Parable of the Talents. In my sermon, I contrasted the two servants who put their “talents” to work with the one servant who buried his “talent.” I listed twelve different ways that we can bury our talents rather than put them to use. The three ways that most people struggle with are the following:

Underestimating what God has given us. This happens when we think that what we have been given isn’t much. We believe that what we have isn’t particularly spiritual, and using these talents won’t make much of a difference. The truth is that even the gifts we think are not very spiritual can become powerful ministries. I once read about a man who turned his mechanical talents into a ministry of repairing cars for single mothers.

Waiting until we feel qualified. This happens when we think that we need just a little more experience or knowledge or confidence before we put our “talents” to work. What happens is that we never reach the “little more” and someday becomes never. The truth is that God is ready to use whatever we are able to offer to do amazing things. I witnessed this firsthand as some of our youth stepped out with courage to offer their beginning Spanish language gifts to help translate during our mission trip.

Failing to recognize the opportunity in front of us. Sometimes we imagine that using our gifts requires doing something extraordinary in an extraordinary moment. However, the truth is, it is in the ordinary paths of life that we can do the most with our talents for God’s glory. All God desires is our willingness to see the need in front of us. I have mentioned before about cultivating “People Eyes of Jesus.” This is simply striving to see the world around you and the people in it from the perspective of Jesus. When we do this, we will see that every encounter is an opportunity to share the love of Jesus.

It surely is my hope and prayer for each of us take the “talents” we have received from God and put them to work for the kingdom! As we do, the light and love of Christ will be manifest though us.

Grace and peace to you!

Your friend and pastor,

Pastor Lee

Well done, good and *faithful* servant.

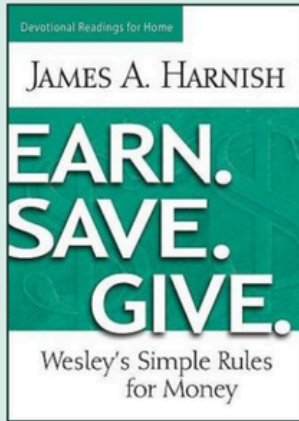
Matthew 25:23

Announcements

STEWARDSHIP & GENEROSITY

We will begin our
Stewardship
Generosity emphasis
on October 4.

There is a devotional
book for each family
in the Narthex.
Please pick-up your
book to use for
personal devotions
during the month
of October.



First Presbyterian Rock Hill Cares

If you missed
worship on
Sunday,
September 27,
we encourage
you to worship
via the
recording
available on
our website.

The Mission & Outreach
Committee shared a unique
opportunity to those in
worship on September 27
to notice, to love, and to
bless someone else.

PLEASE SHARE HOW YOU WERE INSPIRED
TO SHARE YOUR GIFT BY OCTOBER 25.

WE LOOK FORWARD TO
SHARING THESE NOTES!

If you did not receive an envelope - you are still
invited to bless someone outside our congregation.
Use \$10 or join with others to pool your resources.
Be creative. Pray about how God is leading you.
God bless you as you serve and bless others.

2026 Providence Presbytery Legacy of Faith Award Recipients



It is with great joy that the Session of First Presbyterian Church, Rock Hill, nominates Melissa Granacher and Dr. David and Beverly Keely for the 2026 Providence Presbytery Legacy of Faith Award. When asked to consider those who truly embody the love of Christ through both word and action, Melissa, together with her late husband, John, and Dave and Bev immediately come to mind.

Their servant hearts, compassion for others, and willingness to step forward wherever there is a need beautifully reflect what it means to be the hands and feet of Christ in the church and in the wider community. Through lives marked by faithfulness, generosity, and service, they have strengthened FPC and touched countless lives beyond its walls. Their witness is a powerful reminder that a legacy of faith is built not simply through what we say we believe, but through the ways we faithfully live out that belief in service to others.

They will be honored on Tuesday, October 6.

EARN. SAVE. GIVE.

Wesley's Simple Rules
for Money

Consecration Sunday

Sunday, November 1, 2026,
is FPC's Consecration Sunday.

Join us for Worship at 11:00 am
and the Celebration Catered
Luncheon after Worship.

Reserve your spot by
filling out a Meal Reservation Pew Card,
calling the Church Office,
or signing the Clipboard in the Narthex.

October Birthdays

2 Palmer Dellinger
3 Mary Alice Owen, Scott Elder
4 Amelia Crean
6 Mike Johnson
10 Linda Mika
12 Jane Blackmon, Julia Robbins
13 Jimmy Jurado, Michael Niemann
15 Jimmy Blackmon, Mary Tice
16 Margaret Joiner
17 Brynn Kirksey
18 Amelia Skinner
19 Livvy Gallis, Steve Roberts
20 Jay Jurado
22 Al Simpson
23 Wayne Terry
24 Will Easley, Marshall Joiner
27 M.L. Marley
29 Elizabeth Roberson
30 Riley Elston, Amber Gockel, Wrenn Curley
31 Jim Gill

COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Tuesday, October 6	Tuesday, October 20
6:00 pm - Deacons	6:00 pm - Session
Monday, October 12	Sunday, October 25
9:00 am - Property	9:00 am - Missions & Outreach
Wednesday, October 14	
6:30 pm - Finance	



Server Schedules

OCTOBER DEACONS ON CALL

Dave Keely, Sherry Hutchison, Richard Quandt

OCTOBER ELDERS/DEACONS

4 Sheryl Smith, Jonathan Nichols
11 Scott Harris, Allen Katz
18 Clair Roberts, Jennifer Abernathy
25 Julia Nichols, Richard Quandt

OCTOBER MONITORS/GREETERS

4 Barry Goodner
11 Jimmy Campbell
18 Bill Lehman
25 David Chubb

OCTOBER WORSHIP CARE

4 Joanne Lehman
11 Joanne Edwards
18 Janelle Chubb
 Katie Kirksey, Children's Church
25 Natalie Harper

OCTOBER ACOLYTES

4 Taylor Chubb, Keaton Esposito
11 Rhett Keener, Brynn Kirksey
18 Cecily Zelinsky, Penelope Zelinsky
25 Mary Catherine Wheeler, Ellis Williams

This Dime Needs Some Friends!



Our Collective Outcome
Feed the hungry locally and in Guatemala, Honduras, and Malawi

{ OCTOBER @ FPC }

Simple Plan
Significant Results

1. Keep a jar on your table for the month of October.
2. At each meal, every person puts a dime in the jar to help feed the hungry.
3. Pray, giving thanks for your food and remembering those who do not have enough.
4. Make a joyful noise as we collect and dedicate our Dimes at worship on **October 25**.



Providence Presbytery
Dimes for Hunger | 2026



Dorothy Day Soup Kitchen

Join us on Thursday, October 22 at 10:00 am.

Contact Wendy Blanchard to help.

Hunger Outreach Program (HOP) will meet on

Tuesday, October 27.

FALL
Back

DAYLIGHT
SAVINGS TIME
REMINDER
SUNDAY NOVEMBER 1, 2026

Fellowship and Congregational Life

SAVE THE DATE!

Fall Festival

Friday, October 23, 2026
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.

TRUNK OR TREAT
FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

OCT. 25
5:00 PM - 6:00 PM
CHURCH PARKING LOT

HOST A TRUNK!
SET-UP @ 4:30 PM.
PLEASE RSVP TO THE CHURCH OFFICE IF PARTICIPATING.

JOIN US FOR SAFE, FAMILY FUN!

We hope that a variety of groups in the church--in addition to individuals--will want to host a TRUNK!

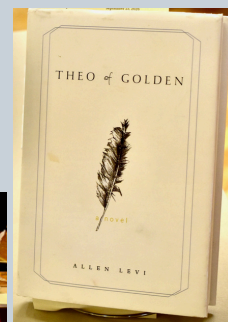
Such as Sunday School classes, Bible Study groups, committees, etc.

Theo of Golden

Thanks to all who were a part of our enriching discussion on Allen Levi's "Theo of Golden"! Many saints gave a lot of creative energy to our evening from decorating, cooking and baking, writing discussion questions and an interview script, capturing the night in photos, and of course those who helped with set-up and clean-up. Love is at the center of all we do as a church family! If you'd like to be a part of the team to plan and prepare for our next book discussion, please reach out to Kara Wheeler. We look forward to hosting another dinner in the winter.



"The best portion of a good person's life is the little, nameless, unremembered acts of kindness and love."
- Theo of Golden



Christian Education

Sunday School classes for all ages meet at 10:00 am.

If you are not connected to a Sunday School class,
please see more information on our classes and studies below!

Younger PKS Room 112: Growing in Grace & Gratitude (Caroline Bender, Nursery Assistant)

Children (1st–5th Grades) Room 117: Growing in Grace & Gratitude (Jennifer Abernathy & Margaret Joiner)

Youth Room 118: The Sermon on the Mount (Libba Faircloth, Jimmy & Kia Hicklin, Michele Murdoch)

Crossroads Room 217: People Jesus Met (Keith & Susan Roberson)

Seekers Room 226: Favorite & Troublesome Bible Passages (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)

Groups Meeting Outside of Sunday Morning

Women's Bible Study (Tuesdays 9/15 to 10/27 at 10:00 am) – *Joshua: Winning the Worry Battle* by Barb Roose

Men's Bible Study (Wednesdays at 6:30 pm) – *Christianity and World Religions* (Terry Dodge)

Rock of Ages (2nd/4th Tuesdays at 6:00 pm) – *Twelve Ordinary Men* by John MacArthur

Youth Group (select Sunday evenings) – *Gifts & Calling* (Kara Wheeler)

OCTOBER YOUTH DATES

Exploring a Call of Caring for
Creation on October 18

5:30 pm Snack Supper provided
by Hiram & Kelli Shannon

6:00pm All Youth Group:
Panel Discussion with
Church Members

YOUTH GROUP: TRUNK OR TREAT
OCTOBER 25

4:30 PM - SET-UP TRUNKS

5:00 PM - TRUNK OR TREAT

6:00 PM - DINNER OUT

Enjoy Fall Intercession:
No Youth Group on
Sundays, October 4 or 11

Fall Intercession Reminder



Children's, Youth, and Crossroads

Sunday School Classes

will NOT meet on

Sunday, October 4.

Childcare is provided by
our Nursery Assistants in
our Younger PKs
classroom.

ADAM HAMILTON

Author of *Half Truth and One*

**CHRISTIANITY
AND
WORLD RELIGIONS**

REVISED EDITION



QUESTIONS WE ASK ABOUT OTHER FAITHS

**FPC Men's
Bible Study**

**Wednesdays
6:30 pm
Oct. 7 - Nov. 18**

Pastor and best-selling author Adam Hamilton explores four major world religions—Hinduism, Buddhism, Islam, and Judaism—and compares the beliefs of each with those of Christianity.

He deals openly and honestly with these questions:

Why are there so many different religions?

How should Christians view other religions?

How is God at work in other religions?

What is the fate of those who pursue God through other religions?

In examining these major world religions and the beliefs of their followers, Hamilton urges us as Christians to build bridges with others so that we might grow in our faith, seek peace in our world, love our neighbors, and find positive ways to share the gospel.

Study books are available in the Church Office.

Requested donation of \$10/book to help offset the cost.

Contact Terry Dodge for more information.

Seniors Exercise Class:

Join us on Tuesdays & Thursdays at
4:00 – 4:45 pm. Cost: \$10/month.
All skill levels welcome.

Mission and Outreach



October Help for Hope Pasta and Sauces

Collections to benefit the clients of Project HOPE

Any brand, size or varieties are needed!
Please leave donations in the Narthex bin
by Saturday, October 31.

During the month of September, our congregation contributed 81 jars of peanut butter and 68 jars of jelly. This was quite an increase from last year's 42 jars peanut butter & 57 jars of jelly! Thank you for your continued support!



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

**Our next opportunity is
October 25 - November 1, 2026.**

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.



SAVE THE DATE
October 24th from 9am-2pm
FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



Come to the 3rd Annual FPC Craft Fair.

We have a great selection of vendors this year.

Breakfast and lunch will be sold.

As a part of the Craft Fair, a Bake Sale will be included with proceeds going to *Better Bound Books*, a local organization that supports area teens at risk. Please contribute your favorite baked goods...cakes, pies, breads, cookies, candies, and snack mixes.

With approaching holidays, shoppers will buy whole cakes and pies to freeze, as well as individually wrapped goodies to eat while they shop.

Baked goods may be dropped Friday, October 23 between the hours of 2:00 & 7:00 p.m. Label your items so that shoppers will know what they are purchasing.

Please contact Karen Holt or Melissa Granacher for questions. Thank you for helping to make the bake sale a huge success!



Café Justo!

Get your bags today!

Cost is \$12.50 for a one pound bag.
See an order form in the Narthex or Dave Keely (dfkeely3@gmail.com) with any questions.

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:

Celebrations: Marshall and Alexandra Joiner on the birth of Theodore Dean Joiner on September 3.

Sympathies: Karen and Tom Hickman on the death of Karen's mother, Polly Moose, on September 10.

Health Concerns: Worth Kendall, Mary Tice, Shirley Burton, Beth Easley, Michele Horne, Keira Esposito, Ashley Platts, Nancy Lowery, Colleen Lathan, Manfred Liewald, Allen Tice, Patti Cloninger, Jean Horton, Sam Curry, Eddie Gainey, Alvane Deal, and Katie White

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.



Member of the Military

LTJG Jacob Harris

Navy-Stationed in Japan

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

Sing for Joy! Join The Choir!

NOW is a terrific time to join Chancel Choir!

With recent retirements from the choir,
we have a number of spots to fill in all sections.
No formal audition is required but previous
experience singing in a choir is preferred.

The choir rehearses on Sunday mornings at 9:30 a.m.
for the 11:00 a.m. Worship Service.

If you are interested, please contact Don Rogers at
rogersdm@comporium.net or 803.448.3975.

Come join a wonderful group of dedicated singers
who offer their time & talents to God through music!

Soli Deo Gloria!

Our FPC College Students



University of SC

Ellison Briggs
Elizabeth Briggs
Natalie DiStasio

Coastal Carolina

Grace Gresham

Hillsdale College

Kate Roberson

Clemson

Jacob Baker
Rose Faircloth
Coleman Nies
Kaitlyn Stevenson
Nora Stevenson
Anna Roberson

*Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything
by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your
requests be made known to God. And the peace of God,
which surpasses all understanding, will guard your
hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.*

-Philippians 4:6-7

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, ROCK HILL, SC

KIRKIN' O' THE TARTANS SERVICE NOVEMBER 15, 2026



Kirk is Scottish for church, and the Tartan, with its distinctive cross-lined patterns, represents Scottish clans, families, regions, and regiments.

The Kirkin' o' the Tartans was introduced in the United States by Reverend Dr. Peter Marshall on April 27, 1941 at New York Avenue Presbyterian Church, Washington, DC. FPC's first Kirkin' O' the Tartans service was held in 2014.



The Church of Scotland and the
Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) Seals

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

Members of the Diaconate

Class of 2026

Jennifer Abernathy
Heather Dellinger
Kathy James
Margaret Joiner
Dave Keely

Class of 2027

*Beth Janicke, moderator
Sherry Hutchison
Allen Katz
Joan Musselwhite
Steve Roberts

Class of 2028

Cameron Lawson
Carolyn Johnson
Jonathan Nichols
Richard Quandt
Betsy Forrest

*Robert Pender, treasurer

Staff

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

Rev. Kara Wheeler
Assoc. Pastor of Family Ministries
kwheeler@fpcrockhill.org

Dr. Donald M. Rogers
Director of Music

M. L. Marley
Organist

Jonna Eichorn
Administrative Assistant
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Robyn Brown
Financial Secretary
rbrown@fpcrockhill.org

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