

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
ROCK HILL, SC
SEPTEMBER 2026



The First Edition

Greetings in the name of Jesus Christ!

Well, we are moving into the busy fall season of church life and ministry. After the slower pace of summer, I look forward to the bustle of activity around the church. Nearly every day we have folks in the building—knitting, exercising, studying the Bible, attending meetings, playing basketball, packing meals, and doing many other things.

One of the aspects of our church that makes me smile is our vitality. We are an active church spiritually, physically, and practically. We take seriously both the call to grow and the call to serve—and we have fun doing it!

During my sermon series on what is good about the church, I chose to focus on just four things: Worship, Caring, Serving, and Proclaiming. However, I could easily have added a fifth: Community. The church is a place where each of us can belong and build friendships. Whether it is serving together at the soup kitchen, packing food with Rise Against Hunger, traveling on a mission trip, meeting for Bible study, or sharing churchwide meals, it is evident that we enjoy doing things together.

One thing that helps foster community is learning each other's names and faces. As we continue to welcome new members, it naturally becomes more difficult for us to know everyone. This is one reason I have encouraged the use of name tags. They help newer people learn the names and faces of longtime members, and they help longtime members get to know those who are newer to our church. If you have lost your name tag, or never received one, please let us know in the church office and we will order one for you.

Another helpful tool for fostering community is a church picture directory. We do have a way to print a picture directory using our current software, but many of the photos are very old. This is especially noticeable with families. I recently looked up one family whose son is now a senior in high school, and in the church picture he looks about eleven!

We would like to update the photos in our church database and then print a new directory with current photos and contact information. We will make forms available for each family to update their information, including email addresses, cell phone numbers, and mailing addresses. We would also like each family to submit a new, recent photo.

To make this easy, we have set up a portrait background in Room 219 where you can have someone take a photo of you to submit. On a few Sundays, we will also have a skilled church member available to take photos. Once your photo is taken, you can send it to Jonna in the Church Office. After we have updated our photos, we will print new picture directories that members can take home.

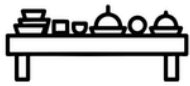
Thank you in advance for helping make this project possible.

May you have a wonderful fall, and I look forward to seeing you around the church!

Your friend and pastor,

Pastor Lee

Announcements



**Our speaker is
Phil Milam:
Board Chairman
of The Haven
Men's Shelter.**

Retirees Lunch September 10th Noon Hopkins Hall

The September menu will be baked chicken tenders, green beans, potato salad, mac-n-cheese, baked beans, and dinner rolls. Tea, lemonade, and dessert will also be offered.

The price per person is \$12.00.

Pay on September 10 with a check or cash.

**We ask that you RSVP by Sunday, September 6
by calling the Church Office (803-328-2467
or by filling out a blue pew reservation card.**

Volunteers are needed to help host each month:

SET-UP: Set and decorate lunch tables AND prepare the drinks. (The tables and chairs will already be in place.)

PICK-UP/CLEAN-UP: Pick up the food at 11:00 am at the catering site AND coordinate the cleaning after the lunch.

Please contact Jonna if you are able to help.

We are excited about the ways this change in venue can help this time of fellowship grow.

BBQ & Books

Wednesday,
September
23

5:30
PM

\$12 PER
PLATE

Join us for our Fall Book Study on the popular fictional book, *Theo of Golden* by Allen Levi.

Following a BBQ dinner with all the fixins, we will have a short introduction and discuss in small groups the impact of our book and how it may relate to today's living.

Please plan to join us! If you haven't read this interesting book yet, there's plenty of time!

This book is of interest to men/women & old/young, so start reading!

**RSVP to the Church Office by Sunday, September 20!
The earlier the better!!**

Hopkins Hall - First Presbyterian Church, Rock Hill

Childcare will be available!



**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!

To God alone be Glory!

Rock of Ages

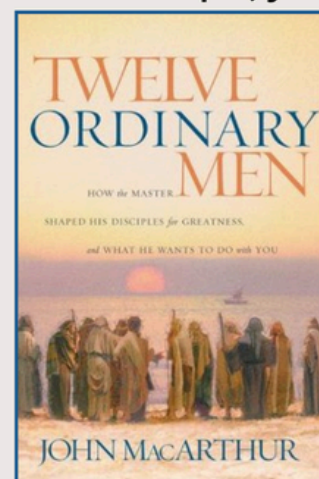
Tuesday, September 8 at 6:00 pm

This is an evening small group comprised of mostly empty nesters (although all are welcome) who meet on the 2nd & 4th Tuesdays of the month. Group members lead the discussions.

They meet at the church with an optional dinner.

Our fall study is John MacArthur's *Twelve Ordinary Men*. You don't have to be perfect to do God's work.

MacArthur draws principles from Christ's careful, hands-on training of the original disciples for today's modern disciple, you. Study books are \$10.00.



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
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

COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Tuesday, September 1

10:30 am – Staff Meeting

6:00 pm – Deacons

Sunday, September 13

9:00 am – Mission & Outreach Committee

Sunday, August 9

12:00 pm – Security Team Meeting

Monday, September 14

9:00 am – Property Committee

Tuesday, September 15

6:00 pm – Session

Sunday, September 27

12:15 pm – Worship Committee

Hunger Outreach Program (HOP)

HOP will meet
on Tuesday, September 22

Dorothy Day Soup Kitchen

Join us on Thursday, September 24
at 10:00am. Contact Wendy Blanchard to help.

Server Schedules

SEPTEMBER DEACONS ON CALL

Margaret Joiner, Steve Roberts,
Jonathan Nichols

SEPTEMBER ELDERS/DEACONS

6 John Abernathy, Kathy James
13 John Blackwelder, Margaret Joiner
20 Bo Redmond, Jennifer Abernathy
27 Rob Joiner, Heather Dellinger

SEPTEMBER MONITORS/GREETERS

6 Floyd Hale
13 Steve Roberts
20 Bill Lehman
27 Jimmy Campbell

SEPTEMBER WORSHIP CARE

6 Mary Alice Owen
13 Megan Keener
20 Susan Dove
27 Libba Faircloth

SEPTEMBER ACOLYTES

6 Mary Catherine Wheeler, Hugh Dellinger
13 Rhett Keener, Millie Goodner
20 Alexander Roberson, Ellis Williams
27 Ben Williams, Charlie Cycak



Congratulations!

We celebrate with Will and Maddy Gresham in the birth of their son, Henry James, on Thursday, August 13.

We celebrate with Michele and Paul Horne in the birth of their grandson, Luka Gray Hovland, born to parents Kia & Rebecca Hovland, on Saturday, August 15.



Fellowship and Congregational Life

MAHJONG

We plan to meet at the church for play on the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays of the month.

Our goal will be to have multiples of 4 players. But it's always a fun time together as we play a new game together regardless!

We will be in touch the Tuesday before with our participation count for the week.

You'll need to have had a lesson before attending.

Register to participate in Mahjong/Game Nights by scanning this QR code.



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!

Yoga Class

Classes will NOT be held every week in the summer months!!
Use the Sign-Up Genius QR code below to let Susan know when you will attend!



Wednesdays at 6:00 pm
in the Gaston Room

Join us for a gentle yoga practice for all levels, beginner through advanced. All are welcomed to attend.
The class is led by Susan Demchak, YT-200.

FPC Montreat Family Weekend October 16-18, 2026



Registration is OPEN for our 2026 church family retreat. A room in the Inn is \$100/night and \$140/night if you need 2 rooms for your family. We will release any additional rooms back to the SC Inn on September 9. Please let Kara know if you will be a part of this weekend.

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



DID YOU KNOW?

FPC has been taking an annual church retreat to the SC Inn for 50 years. Our first retreat was taken in October 1976.

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.

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

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)

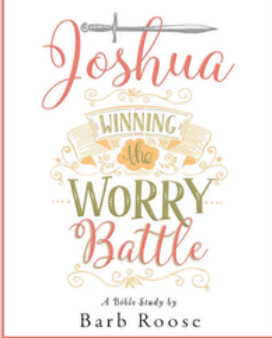
Groups Meeting Outside of Sunday Morning

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) – *Half Truths* by Adam Hamilton (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)



Joshua: Winning the Worry Battle
A Bible Study by Barb Roose

Women's Fall Bible Study

Tuesdays, September 15 to October 27
10:00 am

Join us for the organizational meeting on Tuesday, September 15 at 10:00 am as we begin our study on *Joshua: Winning the Worry Battle*. Books will be available (\$10.00 each).

The first video and discussion is September 22.

Please come and join this lively group of women!

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.



Youth Ministry at FPC in September

5:00 pm on Sunday, September 13 at Cherry Park Multi-Purpose Fields

Kick-Off to a New Year with a FRIENDLY Parent vs. Youth Kickball Game.

We'll grab dinner together after at Burgers & Barley.

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

Youth Group Bible Study on September 20

4:30 pm – Middle School

5:30 pm – Snack Supper provided by Matt & Mimi Goodner

6:00 pm – High School

Exploring a Call of Creativity & Praise on September 27

5:30 pm Snack Supper provided by Jimmy & Kia Hicklin

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

Mission and Outreach



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 20.



We apologize that the
Rise Against Hunger
team had truck
problems and were
unable to make it on
August 23.

**Watch for a
NEW packing
date in
the winter of
2027.**

**Plentiful Harvest Kitchen and
Food Bank at Covenant Presbyterian**
has a daily mission outreach opportunity.
They have teams who pick up groceries from
several different grocery stores in town
and bring them to the church for
the Covenant Food Bank.
Other area agencies come to the Food Bank
daily and pick up for their clients.

Covenant PC is in need of a few
more team members who can
join these weekly efforts.

A truck is needed for the pick ups.

If you are interested in learning more about
this opportunity, please call
the Covenant Presbyterian office
at 803-366-8223,
Monday -Thursday, 8:00 am to 2:00 pm.



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

**Our next 2026 opportunity is:
September 13-19.**

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

See the Sign-Up in the Narthex
OR

use the QR code to see
how you might serve.



SAVE THE DATE

October 24th from 9am-2pm

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



FOLLOW THE GOOGLE FORMS LINK BELOW
TO REGISTER OR USE THE QR CODE:
[HTTPS://SHORTURL.AT/MX4VQ](https://shorturl.at/MX4VQ)



234 E. MAIN STREET ROCK HILL, SC 29730

Café Justo Is back!

Our supply has been replenished
after months of shipping delays!
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:

Sympathies: The Joiner Family in the death of Margaret's mother on August 13.

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, and Alvane Deal

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!**

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

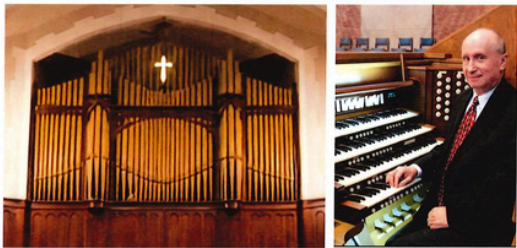
Anna Roberson

*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



Pipes of Praise



INAUGURAL ORGAN CONCERT
KENNETH D. VARNER
ORGANIST AT ST. JOHN'S UMC
321 S. OAKLAND AVE, ROCK HILL, SC, 29730

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 13, 2026 AT 4:00 PM

MARY ANN HELTON,
guest pianist

RECEPTION TO FOLLOW

COME CELEBRATE MUSIC, WORSHIP, AND PRAISE.

Blood Drive Oakland Avenue Presbyterian Church

Oakland Hall
421 Oakland Ave
Rock Hill, SC 29730

**Monday, September 28, 2026
2:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.**

To make an appointment or for more information, please call 1-800-REDCROSS (1-800-733-2767) or visit RedCrossBlood.org and enter Sponsor Code "Oakland Ave"

Fall into the habit of donating! Get a \$15 e-gift card when you come to give blood Sept. 21-Oct. 18.



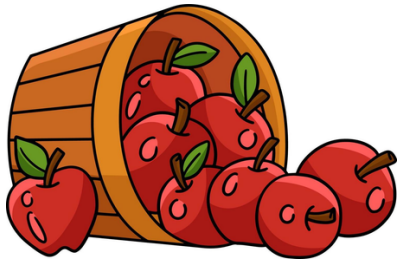
Give blood.

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
jeichorn@fpcrockhill.org

Robyn Brown
Financial Secretary
rbrown@fpcrockhill.org

Church Office

803-328-2467
firstpresrh@gmail.com
www.fpc-rockhill.org