

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
ROCK HILL, SC  
JUNE/JULY 2026



# The First Edition

Greetings in the name of Jesus Christ!

I received a call this week out of the blue from a fellow who had been a high school student in the first church I served in Lexington, Virginia. I had not spoken with Sam in more than 25 years. Just hearing his voice brought back memories of the epic trip our youth group took to the national Presbyterian Youth Gathering in 1995. He was one of those kids you never forget.

Unfortunately, the reason for his call was not simply to catch up. He was calling to let me know that his father had died.

His dad, Denny, was one of those church members every pastor treasures — enthusiastic about everything the church was doing and committed to supporting the ministry in every way possible. Denny served as one of our youth leaders and was often the first adult to volunteer to chaperone a retreat or help lead a pancake breakfast fundraiser. He was also a folk musician who loved sharing new music with me.

Over the years, Denny and I stayed connected through Facebook, and in the summers of 2021 and 2022, he joined me for a day at the Experimental Aircraft Association's AirVenture event in Oshkosh, Wisconsin. We had a wonderful time reconnecting over another shared passion: aviation.

Denny's death has caused me to reflect on all the people I have been blessed to know through 35 years of ordained ministry. I have served six churches — four installed pastorates and two interim positions. I have officiated more than 120 funerals, baptized over 50 children and adults, presided at 30 weddings, and visited countless people in hospitals, nursing homes, and living rooms.

Whenever someone asks me what I enjoy most about ministry, my answer is always the same: the relationships. What a profound privilege it is to be invited into people's lives — to walk alongside them in both the best moments and the hardest ones.

And when I think about it, that may be one of the clearest ways we experience the grace of God: through the gift of sharing life together.

The older I get, the more I realize that ministry is not primarily about programs, buildings, budgets, or even sermons. At its heart, ministry is about people. It is about listening to stories, sharing burdens, celebrating joys, praying through heartache, and reminding one another that none of us walks through life alone.

One of the great blessings of the church is that our relationships in Christ do not simply disappear with time or distance. Even after 25 years without speaking, Sam's call immediately brought back memories of shared experiences, laughter, faith, and friendship. The bonds formed through the life of the church have a remarkable way of enduring.

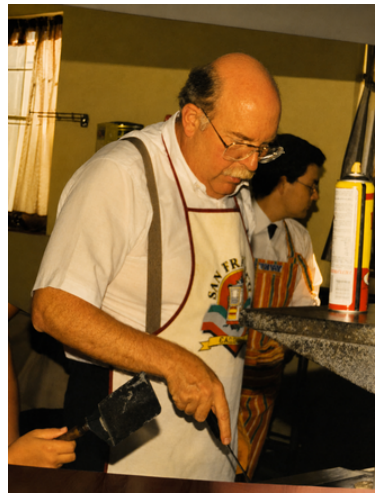
*continued on p. 2*

As I reflected on Denny's life this week, I found myself grateful – grateful for faithful people like him who quietly shape the lives of others through kindness, encouragement, generosity, and service. Most congregations are built not on famous names or extraordinary accomplishments, but on ordinary disciples who simply show up, love well, and serve faithfully year after year.

I suspect all of us can think of people who have shaped our faith journey in ways they may never fully realize. Thanks be to God for such people, and thank God for each of you.

Your friend and pastor,

*Pastor Lee*



# Announcements

## Worship Notes

### Summer Sermon Series on Galatians

Beginning May 31, Pastor Lee will begin a six-week series on Paul's letter to the Galatians. Each week, he will highlight a theme from each chapter. On June 28, while pastors Kara and Lee are in the Dominican Republic with the youth, Rev. Gordon Raynal will be preaching. The series will be completed on July 12. Pastor Lee suggests you make Galatians your summer scripture reading focus!

### Worship Time

Beginning June 7 running through July 26, the worship hour will be moved to 10:00 am.

### Congregational Meeting

Following worship on June 14, we will have a brief Congregational Meeting to elect the Officer Class of 2029 and the 2027 at-large Nominating Committee members.



## 250 Gifts for Our Nation's 250th Birthday!!

To celebrate our nation's 250th birthday, the Mission & Outreach Committee has given a challenge to our church family. Can we collect 250 items to help three agencies in our community?



The agencies and their needs are:

- Her Place - Shelter for Women and Children**  
 deodorant    toothpaste    body lotion    face cream  
 body wash    shampoo    conditioner

- Rock Hill Veterans Association Clinic**  
 shampoo    deodorant    razors    shaving cream  
 toothbrushes    toothpaste    mouthwash  
 body wash    bar soap    nail clippers    combs  
 washcloths    hand sanitizer    puzzle & word search books

### Northside School

- Kleenex    wet wipes    hand sanitizer

This project will run the month of June and culminate at our Church Picnic on Sunday, July 5. You may bring your items to the Narthex and place in the appropriate box.

Ready, Set and Go! Let's exceed our goal of 250 donations!

Contact Wendy Blanchard at 704-616-7021 or wendy1081@icloud.com or any member of the Mission & Outreach Committee for questions.



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

## Join the movement!

Will you join FPC Rock Hill for an exciting, hands-on volunteer opportunity to package meals for global hunger relief? Check out our Rise Against Hunger Experience meal packaging event details below.



**Sunday, August 23, 2026**  
**3:00 pm in Hopkins Hall**

**We will pack 15,000 Meals!**  
**We will need close to 100 people to complete our goal!**

Register with the QR Code:



# June Birthdays

- 1 Gates Gallis, Henry Janicke, Craig Rollins
- 2 Tara Park
- 5 Diane Bailey
- 8 Will Read
- 10 Bentley Roberts
- 11 Phyllis Ferguson, Terry Dodge
- 12 Avadell Smith
- 14 Kim Carpenter, Kim Crean
- 19 Nancy Jones
- 21 Kenneth Roberts
- 22 Mason Goodner
- 23 Patti Cloninger
- 24 Shirley Burton
- 26 Floyd Hale

# July Birthdays

- 1 Mike Goodner, McCord Redmond
- 4 Sue Munn, Chris Wheeler
- 5 Jonna Eichorn
- 6 Grace Gresham
- 8 Ann Lowry Faircloth  
Sandy Dickson
- 10 Elizabeth Cycak
- 14 John Demchak
- 15 John Abernathy, Rick Dove,  
Deneen Gresham,  
Winterton Zelinski
- 16 Beth Janicke
- 18 Barry Goodner
- 19 Diane Hale
- 22 Griffin Joiner
- 23 David Burton
- 24 Jody Spradley, Marshall Rikard  
JoJo Zelenski
- 25 Russ Rumford, Barry Lambert
- 27 Richard Quandt
- 28 Dora Bowman, Larry Wineland
- 29 Lauren Williams
- 30 Mary Anne Sheppard
- 31 Chip Hutchison

## Hunger Outreach Program (HOP)

HOP Meetings will not meet the months of June, July, and August.

## Dorothy Day Soup Kitchen

Join us on Thursdays, June 26 and July 24 at 10:00am. Contact Wendy Blanchard to help.

# Server Schedules

## JUNE DEACONS ON CALL

Jennifer Abernathy, Beth Janicke, Betsy Forrest

## JULY DEACONS ON CALL

Heather Dellinger, Allen Katz, Carolyn Johnson

## JUNE ELDERS/DEACONS

- 7 John Blackwelder, Jennifer Abernathy
- 14 Rob Joiner, Heather Dellinger
- 21 Sheryl Smith, Jonathan Nichols
- 28 Scott Harris, Allen Katz

## JULY ELDERS/DEACONS

- 5 Clair Roberts, Beth Janicke
- 12 Julia Nichols, Richard Quandt
- 19 Cynthia Johnson, Dave Keely
- 26 Chip Hutchison, Joan Musselwhite

## JUNE MONITORS/GREETERS

- 7 Bill Lehman
- 14 Craig Rollins
- 21 John Blackwelder
- 28 Bob Ballard

## JULY MONITORS/GREETERS

- 5 Barry Goodner
- 12 Bill Lehman
- 19 Bill Lehman
- 26 Chris Wheeler

## JUNE WORSHIP CARE JULY WORSHIP CARE

- |                   |                      |
|-------------------|----------------------|
| 7 Natalie Harper  | 5 Mary Anne Sheppard |
| 14 Joanne Lehman  | 12 Christy Goodner   |
| 21 Joanne Edwards | 19 Elizabeth Cycak   |
| 28 Janelle Chubb  | 26 Natalie Harper    |

## Deacon's Fund Offering

Communion will be served and the Deacon's Fund will be collected on June 7, July 5, and August 2.

## July 4<sup>th</sup> Holiday

The Church Office will be closed on Monday, July 6 in observance of Independence Day.



# Fellowship and Congregational Life



*Ladies Night Out*  
Summer Break June and July  
Join us after the break on Tuesday, August 12!!

A blue oval graphic with a white beach chair and wavy lines at the bottom. The text is in a mix of cursive and sans-serif fonts.



**Retirees Lunch**



**SUMMER BREAK: JUNE, JULY & AUGUST**  
We will kick off the fall on Thursday, September 10!!

A green background with a white plate of food and a drink. The text is in bold, sans-serif fonts.



**FPC Church Picnic**

Sunday, July 5  
after Worship

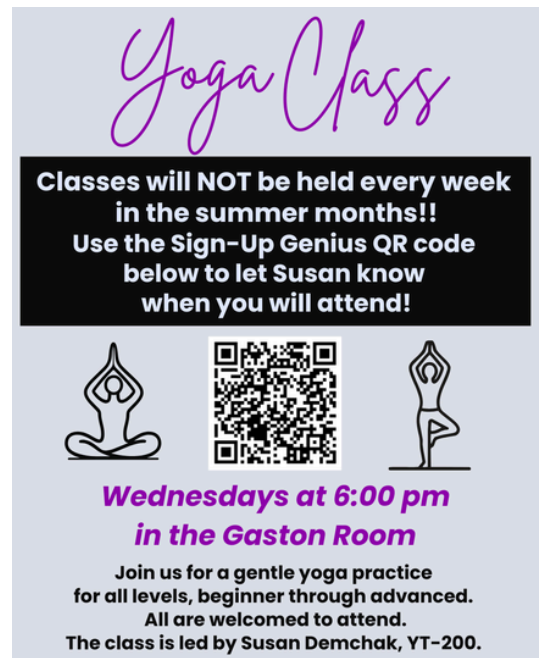
Fried chicken provided by the Fellowship Committee. Bring a side or dessert to share.

To help us prepare, please RSVP to Jonna in the office at [jeichorn@fpcrockhill.org](mailto:jeichorn@fpcrockhill.org) or with a blue communication pew card by June 28.




First Presbyterian Church Rock Hill

A blue background with white text and red flowers. The text is in a mix of cursive and sans-serif fonts.



*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.

A light blue background with purple cursive text and black text. It includes a QR code and two yoga icons.



**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 through July 31*) 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!

A light green background with green text and a group photo. It includes three small photos of people at a meal.

## Seniors Exercise Class:

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

**The Walking Group** meets at 8:30 am outside the church at the Hopkins Hall entrance. Join us on Tuesday and Thursday mornings.

# Christian Education

**Question of the Week**

**"Faith"ful Questions**  
for the First Presbyterian Rock Hill Church Family



**How to Use:**  
Use these cards to talk each week about the prompt, sharing your faith with someone else. If you also choose to share your responses at the QR above, we'll highlight them in E-News.

**Why Do We Tell Stories?**

We tell stories because we're made in the image of God, who chose stories as the way to share his great love for us. And we tell stories because there is no better way to convey deep truth, deep pain, and deep love. When we tell stories of our faith, we receive the blessing of telling and hearing about God's faithfulness in our everyday lives.

When we hear about God's faithfulness in someone else's life, it can help us see God's faithfulness in our own lives too.

## "Faith"ful Questions - Summer 2026

Our conversations about our faith are so central not only for ourselves, but for our children to hear as well. This summer, I invite us to **Share our Stories**. As we begin our summer months - I want to create space to share stories and stay connected to one another. We wouldn't know of Jesus' temptation in the desert with Satan if Jesus, himself, had not shared of his experience.

I invite you to think on each week's prompt "Faith"ful Question that will be highlighted in E-News, and also available on a ring of cards on the Narthex table. Scan the QR code on the cards or use the link in E-News to share your answer to each prompt. I also hope that the conversations you have around tables and on the phone this summer will be meaningful and enrich your faith too.

Thank you, in advance, for sharing and blessing our church family as we share our stories this summer!

- Kara -

**1** Week of Memorial Day



What is something you have done (at any point of your life) that you know makes God happy?

Read this week Galatians 1 ahead of worship at 10am on May 31.

**2** Week of May 31



If there was one thing you would tell your younger self about faith, what would it be?

Read this week Galatians 2 ahead of 10am worship on June 7.

**3** Week of June 7



What does participating in the Lord's Supper mean to you?

Read this week Galatians 3 ahead of 10am worship on June 14.

**4** Week of June 14



Identify a particular ministry, cause, or passion that stirs your interest and share why.

Read this week Galatians 4 ahead of 10am worship on June 21.

**5** Week of Father's Day



If you could talk with Jesus in person, what one question would you ask him?

Pray for our High School mission team serving in the Dominican Republic this week.

**6** Week of June 28



Tell about a time you felt God was very close to you and your family.

Read this week Galatians 5 ahead of 10am worship on July 5.

**7** Week of July 5



Tell about a memory you have of a family meal or special celebration. How is our church community like a family?

Read this week Galatians 6 ahead of 10am worship on July 12.

**8** Week of July 12



Share a favorite Scripture and why it is meaningful to you.

Be a part of our 10am worship service on July 19. Invite a neighbor to join you.

**9** Week of July 19



If you could talk to someone in the Old Testament, who would it be and why?

Next Sunday, July 26 is our last worship time at 10am for this summer.

**10** Week of July 26



Does our church have any special traditions that mean a lot to you? What are they?

Join us for worship at 10am on Sunday, August 31. Bring your backpack for a Back to School blessing!

**Rally Day at FPC: August 16**  
**Summer Celebration & Fall Kick-Off**

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

**Save the Date!!**

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



**FPC's**  
**Blessing of the Backpacks**  
**Sunday, August 2 at 11:00 am Worship**  
Students of all ages and teachers may bring their backpacks for a special blessing as we begin the new school year.



# Mission and Outreach

## Summer 2026 Youth DR Mission Trip

The team is collecting **BASEBALL** items to take with them to Mission Emanuel.

**Items needed: helmets, gloves/mitts, bats (aluminum), and baseballs.  
OR gift cards to Academy Sports.**



**Please your items in the box  
in the Narthex by Sunday, June 7.**



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.



**Please be in prayer for our  
Summer 2026 Mission Trip Participants!**

**FPC High School High School Youth  
Mission Emanuel - Santo Domingo, DR**

**June 27 - July 3**

**Middle School Youth  
Presbyterian College**

**July 6 - 9**

## Help for Hope

Collections to benefit the clients of Project HOPE



**June**

**Peanut Butter  
& Boxes of Crackers**

Any brands of peanut butter, crunchy or smooth and boxed crackers (Ritz, saltines, graham.) Please leave donations in the Narthex by Sunday, June 21.

**July**

**Rice  
& Rice Mixes**

Any brand, bags or boxes, and any variety are needed! Please leave donations in the Narthex by Sunday, July 19.

## Book Drive for Riverwalk Academy

Riverwalk Academy of Rock Hill has a goal of building a library for their Kindergarten - 5th grade students where they can find a book that makes them **EXCITED** about reading!

They hope to fill their shelves with a variety of books such as: picture books, beginning chapter books, engaging non-fiction books, culturally relevant books and STEM books.

Due to many hands being on these treasures, they are asking for **NEW** books.

A bin is in the Narthex for your donations. Bring your book donations by Sunday, August 2.

If you have questions please reach out to Diane Bailey at [cockymom1234@gmail.com](mailto:cockymom1234@gmail.com).



## 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.



# 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, firstpresh@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!**

Dear FPC Church Members,

Thank you for your generous donations for the 2026 Mother's Day Offering. Together as a congregation, we contributed \$961. Our gift will go together with other PCUSA churches across SC to help support residents of the six communities who have outlived their financial resources. We appreciate your donations, as do the residents. Thank you for generosity, kindness, and continued support for PCSC.



*Karen and Ken Holt*



**Robert and Lynn Young in memory of their mothers**

**Karen and Ken Holt in memory of their mothers, Beverly C. Carnes and Ophelia R. Holt**

**Bill and Joanne Lehman in memory of their mothers**

## Join The Choir! Sing for Joy!

**YES...summer 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.**

**During June and July, the choir rehearses at 9:15 a.m. on Sunday mornings in preparation for the 10:00 a.m. Worship Service.**

**\*Beginning in August, the choir rehearses 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 offering their time & talents to God through music!**



**Soli Deo Gloria!**  
(To God alone be Glory!)



# 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