



# STEEPLE PEOPLE

First Presbyterian Church

Cinton, South Carolina

LIVING, LEARNING, & LOVING LIKE CHRIST

July 2026 Vol. 44, No. 20

## A NOTE FROM PASTOR ANDY

*"It is the Lord who goes before you. He will be with you; he will not fail you or forsake you. Do not fear or be dismayed." --Deuteronomy 31:8*

In Todd Bolsinger's book, *Canoeing the Mountains*, he makes a comparison to today's church with the travels and discoveries of Lewis and Clark and their Corp of Discovery. Hoping to find a complete waterway from the Missouri River all the way to the Pacific, they discover "that three hundred years of experts had all been completely and utterly wrong." For there was no Northwest Passage, no navigable river, and no river route. Instead, there was the Rocky Mountains with its peaks covered in snow and stretching as far as the eye could see.

Bolsinger points the church to realize that "the world in front of us is radically different from everything behind us." I can certainly relate with his title for chapter 1, "Seminary Didn't Prepare Me for This," as my experience in the church these past 18 years has seen much change and decline. It's no secret the church is no longer the center of our culture as it has become "but one option [for people's] personal salad bar of self-fulfillment." Since day one of serving the church, I have heard the laments of what once was, but is no longer—all the kids, all the youth, the filled pews, the many activities, etc. The question for us today, then is "how do we move forward?" Like Lewis and Clark, we must realize the "canoes" in which we've been traveling, will be of no use in this uncharted territory of the future. So, what are we to do? Quoting a line from the movie *Moneyball*, Bolsinger writes, "Adapt or die."

I am not ready or interested in considering death as an option, so I say we adapt. Adapt by first seeing the uncertain terrain ahead of us not as a problem to be solved, but as an opportunity to be realized. An opportunity to go on a new adventure.

I know we are in the middle of summer and many of us are taking time away for family vacations. And maybe thinking about the challenges in the church aren't on the tops of our minds. I would ask though, for you to consider a few questions:

1. What adventure might God be calling us to go on?
2. Which "supplies" can we leave behind and which are essential?
3. Where might we go with the knowledge that God is already going ahead of us?

I pray your summer is going well, that you are finding time to do the things and be with the people that bring you joy, and that you know how much you are loved.

On this journey with you,

*Andy*

## JULY HIGHLIGHTS

### July 5

Freedom Fellowship  
9:30 a.m. - Fellowship Hall

### July 8

250th USA Anniversary Cookout  
6:00 p.m. - Fellowship Hall

### July 19

Congregational Breakfast  
9:30 a.m. - Fellowship Hall

# PLEASE REMEMBER IN

P R A Y E R

## CHURCH FAMILY

Margaret Addison  
Laura Ashley  
Neile Chambers  
P-Nut Dowdle  
Kathy Hamer  
Linda Hunter  
Gin Jacobs  
Karen Mattison  
Dot Smith  
Danny Wardlaw

## FRIENDS OF CHURCH

Stuart Britt  
Neal & Lynda Counterman  
Andy Dill  
Julie Young Keadle  
Alan Pinson  
Kim Purcell  
Trecie Davis Richey  
Joe House  
Lannie Finley  
Moonyeen Smith

## BEREAVEMENT

Cindy Jacobs & family  
Sonya Atkinson & family  
Pam Warren & family  
Marvine & Bill Tyler  
The Goodbar family  
Laurie Addison & family  
Bebe Ademy & family

## JULY BIRTHDAYS

**1**

Leigh Ann Bryant

**2**

Teal Burton

**4**

Marvine Tyler

**USA!**

**7**

Bob Bryant

**10**

Lee Atkinson  
John Lapomarda

**12**

Jeff Tallman

**14**

Mary Lou Blalock

Kim Crews

**16**

Samantha Holsonback

Haleigh Johnson

**18**

Sonya Atkinson

Joy Gault

Bob Link

**19**

Michael Addison

**23**

Tal Crews

Edwin Orr

Howard Spry

**27**

Lynda Mills

**28**

P-Nut Dowdle

**29**

Cindy Swetenburg

Happy  
Birthday  
USA

# JULY SUNDAY DUTY/VOLUNTEER SCHEDULE

## LITURGISTS

**7/5:** N/A  
**7/12:** Latha Gearheart  
**7/19:** Holbrook Raynal  
**7/26:** Chad Gambrell

## SECURITY, DEPOSIT & USHERS

**7/5:** Jettie Young/Holbrook Raynal  
**7/12:** Amanda Donley/Cyndi Coker  
**7/19:** Harold Nichols/Austin Barnes  
**7/26:** Chad Gambrell/Andy Sullivan

## LIVE STREAM TEAM

**7/5:** Ron & Nancy Dove  
**7/12:** Holly Cody  
**7/19:** Emily Holder  
**7/26:** Mica Nixon

## LEMONADE ON THE LAWN

**7/5:** Bob & Leigh Ann Bryant  
**7/12:** Amanda Donley  
**7/19:** Randy Sullivan  
**7/26:** Emily Holder

## WEEKLY ATTENDANCE FOR JUNE 2026

### **June 7**

Sunday School: 28  
Sanctuary: 86  
Presbyterian Comm.: 1  
Online Views: 76

**TOTAL: 143**

### **June 14**

Juneteenth Potluck: 39  
Sanctuary: 107  
Presbyterian Comm.: 4  
Online Views: 38

**TOTAL: 149**

### **June 21**

Sunday School: 32  
Sanctuary: 113  
Presbyterian Comm.: 4  
Online Views: 33

**TOTAL: 150**

### **June 28**

Sunday School: 26  
Sanctuary: 102  
Extended Session: 2  
Presbyterian Comm.: 3  
Online Views: 33

**TOTAL: 140**

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

- ▶ Sunday, July 5th, we will gather together in the Fellowship Hall for "Freedom Fellowship". Donuts & Coffee will be available.
- ▶ Resuming on **July 12, 26** and **August 2**, bring the whole family as we gather in the Fellowship Hall Sunday mornings at **9:30 a.m.** for our summer Sunday School series, Praying at the Movies. Film clips will be shown and discussions led as to how each film clip relates to your faith journey.

- ▶ The Christian Education Committee will sponsor a fellowship breakfast for the congregation on **Sunday, July 19<sup>th</sup>** at **9:30 a.m.** in the Fellowship Hall, catered by Great Crepes. Please bring your appetites and your family and don't forget to RSVP to the church office by Wednesday, July 15<sup>th</sup>.
- ▶ Join us after the worship service each Sunday for **Lemonade on the Lawn**. A sign-up sheet is in the narthex. **August 30** is still available if you would like to volunteer.

Pastor Andy and the Chambers family will be on vacation from **July 13<sup>th</sup> - July 25<sup>th</sup>**. Join with us for hymn-singing and congregational reflections on the Psalms on July 19<sup>th</sup> & 26<sup>th</sup>.

# SUMMER MISSION BLITZ



# MONTREAT MOMENTS



# JULY 2026

SUN

MON

TUE

WED

THU

FRI

SAT

			1	2	3 Church Office closed	4 Happy 250th birthday, America! 
5 Freedom Fellowship 9:30 a.m. - coffee, juice & breakfast for all! (Fshp. Hall)  Worship Service - 10:30 a.m.	6 Comm. Outreach Cmte 5:30 pm (library)	7	8 250 <sup>th</sup> USA Birthday Cookout 6:00 pm Fellowship Hall 	9 W&M Cmte 5:30 (library)	10 Church Office closed	11
12 Summer Sunday School Praying at the Movies 9:30 a.m. - (Fshp. Hall)  Worship Service - 10:30 a.m.	13 Chambers family vacation	14 Cong. Care Cmte 5:30 (library)	15 B&F Cmte 5:30 pm (library)	16	17 Church Office closed	18
19 C.E. Cmte. church-wide breakfast (Fshp. Hall) 9:30 a.m. - GREAT CREPES  Psalm Reflections Worship Service 10:30 a.m.	20	21	22	23	24 Church Office closed	25
26 Summer Sunday School Praying at the Movies 9:30 a.m. - (Fshp. Hall)  Psalm Reflections Worship Service 10:30 a.m.	27	28	29	30	31 Church Office closed	

## NOTES & REMINDERS

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KEY:  Committee  Fellowship  Vacation  Office Closed

# COMING UP IN AUGUST

## **August 2**

Last Intergenerational Summer Sunday School with Blessing of the Backpacks to follow during the worship service. We would like to surround our students with prayer during the worship service. All students, from kindergarten through college, are invited to come and bring your backpacks to church so we can bless them and pray God's blessings over you and your school year.

## **August 9**

Rally Day! Join us for a congregational-wide breakfast during the Sunday School hour as we "rally" around our Fall Sunday School curriculum.

## **August 16**

All are invited to come to Camp Fellowship for Worship on the Water at 10:00 AM.

## **August 23**

Rise Against Hunger @ the CLC. Look for registration details to come soon!

