



STEEPLE PEOPLE

First Presbyterian Church

Clinton, South Carolina

November 2026 Vol. 44, No. 24

A NOTE FROM PASTOR ANDY

In one of those stories from Scripture (Acts 28) we might miss if we don't pay close attention to it, we find Paul, after being shipwrecked on his way to Rome, is welcomed on the island of Malta. Scripture says, "The islanders showed us unusual kindness. They built a fire and welcomed us all because it was raining and cold. "What a picture of hospitality in this month of giving thanks.

Yes, November comes around each year and begs us to remember to give thanks—to be mindful of all that the Lord has given us AND to be mindful of others who may have needs. For me, hospitality is one of those themes I find appropriate to consider as I, once again, gather around the table with my family.

Again, the story from Acts says, "they built a fire and welcomed us..."

They built a fire—Saying, "Come on in and make yourself at home."

They built a fire—Asking, "Would you like something to eat or drink after your long travels?"

They built a fire—"How about a pillow to rest your weary head?"

They built a fire—"You are welcome here, the towels are in the closet if you need to bathe."

I can't help but think of those 102 men, women, and children on that first ship headed to America and those difficult 66 days at sea—headed for a New World, a new start, a new life. The uncertainty of it all had to be both exciting and scary all bundled together.

Thankfully, "the islanders showed unusual kindness, built a fire, and welcomed each one." I am sure the early settlers would have found a way to survive that first winter, but the hospitality of the native Wampanoag people sure made it easier. When it was raining and cold these natives made it easier.

This month, I wonder if we might consider the islanders and how they welcomed Paul and his companions. I wonder if we might consider what it means for us to "build a fire" and create some warmth for a stranger in need. Life is hard enough without the stress of "shipwrecks". Our church should strive to be a place of welcome, a beacon of hospitality, and place where anyone may come find a warm place beside the fire.

Hebrews 13 begins with these words: "Let mutual love continue. Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for by doing that some have entertained angels without knowing it."

We never know how or when the Lord will appear to us. My prayer is that it's while we are in the middle of building a fire.

Blessings on a great Thanksgiving month! I am so thankful for each of you.

Andy

NOVEMBER HIGHLIGHTS

November 1

All Saints' Sunday

Stewardship Sunday

November 8

Thornwell Sunday with catered

lunch in the Fellowship Hall

November 29

Advent begins with

Hanging of the Greens



Church Family

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

Bereavement

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

Please Remember in Prayer

Friends in Christ

Hope & Stuart Britt (Andy & Randy Sullivans' daughter and son-in-law)
Neal & Lynda Counterman (Lee Counterman's uncle & aunt)
Greg & Jennifer Davis (Friends of Laurie & Lee Counterman/Greg recovering from oral cancer surgery)
Andy Dill (Jackie Waldron's nephew)
Julie Young Keadle (Jettie & Reese Young's sister)
Kim Purcell (former FPC member)
Lannie Finley (Marty Ademy's niece)
Moonyeen Smith (Bebe Ademy's sister-in-law)
Allyson Lunsford (Neile Chambers' dear friend)
Marie McCallister (Amelia & Harrison Watkins' grandmother)
Henry McKinney (Amelia & Harrison Watkins' grandfather)
Clovis Simmons (CHS tennis coach, recent diagnosis of melanoma)
David Hope (Nancy Goodbar's brother)

Global Missionaries: Donald Marsden (US) and Pam (Turkey)

The prayer list will be updated quarterly. If you would like to be added to or removed, please let the church office know.

November Birthdays

1 Mason-Paige Gambrell
3 Justin Wyatt
4 Henry Goodbar
5 Barbara Creel
7 Mary Beth Ferguson
8 Ashley Powell
Jeff Davenport

9 Ashley Davenport
10 Ted Davenport
Brenda Parrish
14 Robert Powell
Stuart Peters
16 Will Cook
17 Steve Orr
22 Mim Neiman
23 Scott Taylor

24 Jerre Threatt
26 Emma Reabold
Harold Nichols
Mica Nixon
27 Frank Boland
28 Hilda Carter
30 Henry Blalock

We want to remember and celebrate all from our church family. If you have a November birthday and are not on this list, please let us know so we can update our birthday calendar!

SUNDAY DUTY/VOLUNTEER SCHEDULE

SECURITY, DEPOSIT & USHERS

11/1 Jettie Young (S), Chad Gambrell (D)
 11/8 Emily Holder (S), Chad Gambrell (D)
 11/15 Stan Walsh (S), Danny Cook (D)
 11/22 Lee Atkinson (S), Jean Johnson (D)
 11/29 Chad Gambrell (S), Jean Johnson (D)

LITURGISTS

11/1 Laurie Counterman
 11/8 Ella Casto-Waters
 11/15 Youth
 11/22 Youth
 11/29 No liturgist needed

LIVESTREAM @ PRES. COMM.

11/1 Ron & Nancy Dove
 11/8 Mica Nixon
 11/15 Holly Cody
 11/22 Emily Holder
 11/29 Mica Nixon

OCTOBER WORSHIP SERVICE ATTENDANCE

October 4

Sanctuary - 123
 Pres. Comm. - 7
 LiveStream - 37
 TOTAL - 167

October 11

Sanctuary - 121
 Pres. Comm. - 7
 LiveStream - 49
 TOTAL - 177

October 18

Sanctuary - 135
 Pres. Comm. - 4
 LiveStream - 84
 TOTAL - 223

October 25 - Kirkin' Service

Sanctuary - 178
 Pres. Comm. - 6
 LiveStream - 78
 TOTAL - 262

SNACK PACK VOLUNTEERS



Nov. 6: Don & Jean Revis
 Nov. 13: Kay Cleveland and Mica Nixon
 Nov. 20: Jane & Tom Scott

*We ♥ our
Volunteers*

ANNOUNCEMENTS

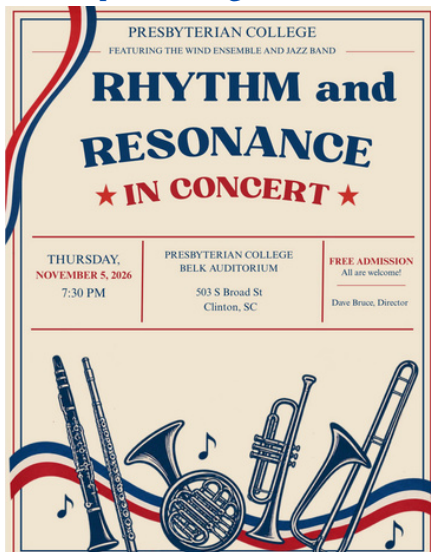


Each Wednesday
 12:15-12:45 PM in the Chapel



The Women's Morning Bible Study will meet at
 9:30 a.m. Thursday, November 12th in the
 dining room of the CLC.

Two upcoming musical events you don't want to miss! All are welcome!



ADDITIONAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

Advent:

A season of expectant hope where together we can reflect on the restoration we have in Jesus' birth.

For this year's Advent devotionals, we invite you to reflect and share what Advent means to you. It has been a few years since we last compiled an Advent booklet with contributions from our congregation, and we would love to bring that tradition back this season. We hope you will consider contributing:

- a favorite memory
- a family tradition
- original artwork
- scripture
- meditation

Please send your submissions to the church office by **Wed., Nov. 11th**. We look forward to reading your contributions and sharing them with our church family.

Starts Sunday November 29th, with the annual Hanging of the Greens Service, through Sunday, December 20th, 10:30 AM, in the sanctuary



For more information on any of the following events, please contact Jean Johnson at 923-1365 or send in your RSVPs to the church office: 833-1062 or email lisa@fpccclinton.org

UPCOMING EVENTS

2026

OCT 19

10:30 AM hike
12:00 PM picnic

Musgrove Mill - Meet at the new Visitor Center, hike and enjoy a free picnic lunch. Please RSVP to the church office by October 12th.

DEC 8

TBD

Christmas Gingerbread House Display & Festival of Trees - Following these two events, we'll enjoy lunch together in downtown Greenville.

2027

FEB 20

Meet at Newberry Opera House for 7:30 PM show

Sean of the South - Newberry Opera House. For ticket information, please contact Jean Johnson: 923-1365.

MAR 16

6:00 PM

St. Patrick's Day Eve Dinner - We'll celebrate "Everything Green" in the CLC Dining Room.

PLEASE JOIN US FOR THORNWELL SUNDAY

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, CLINTON

GUEST PREACHER: REV. MYRON WILKINS, THORNWELL PRESIDENT/CEO

11/08/26
DATE

10:30 AM
WORSHIP SERVICE

11:30 AM
LUNCH WITH THORNWELL RESIDENTS AND STAFF

We look forward next week to Thornwell Sunday! Please be sure to join us for this special worship service as we welcome Thornwell residents and staff, and Rev. Myron Wilkins, president and CEO, as our guest minister. All are invited to join us in the Fellowship Hall following the worship service for a catered lunch of fried chicken, pulled pork,

green beans, macaroni, and peach cobbler. Please call the church office by Wed., November 4th with the number attending from your family.



November 19th - Friday, November 20th. **NEEDED:** inexpensive handmade items such as knitted hats and scarves; wooden crosses; crocheted blankets; Christmas or Thanksgiving-themed cakes, pies, nuts or cookies (to be frozen for the holidays); handmade bookmarks; small pieces of artwork or pottery; homemade notecards with original artwork pictured on them, etc. Also needed: helpers on November 18th to help arrange items and price them ahead of time; helpers on the 19th and 20th (morning) to help "man" a table and collect money for gifts, and helpers to wrap

Christmas presents purchased at the Market. All proceeds will be given to missions. Please let your church office and/or Pastor Debby Marshall (864-939-9354) know if you can help.

OCTOBER CELEBRATIONS, FUN & FELLOWSHIP



Thanks to all the many helping hands who pitched in to get our sanctuary ready for the Kirkin' o' the Tartan service and the upcoming Advent season. God's house is shining and welcoming to all who enter here!



On October 18th we received 16 new members into our church family!

The Chambers family - Neile, Duren, Elloree and Hollen; Ms. Ella Casto-Waters; Mrs. Julia Gaines; the Reabold family - Geoffrey, Emma, Cooper and Jackson; Mrs. Jenny Sease; and Mr. Tom Sease; the Watkins family - Griffin, Katie, Amelia and Harrison. Welcome to FPC Clinton!



On October 19th, "The Classics" enjoyed a tour of the newly renovated Visitor Center, followed by a hike and a picnic lunch at Musgrove Mill.



On Sunday, October 25th, we celebrated our Scottish heritage at the long-anticipated Kirkin' o' the Tartan service. We would like to give a special thank you to the Worship & Music Committee for their time and effort in planning such a beautiful service. We also want to thank all the families who participated and showcased flags representing their Scottish clans.



What a wonderful full day of celebration and Fall fellowship at FPC Clinton!

Thank you to Skip & Mary Belle Smith for providing a beautiful space for our annual Fall Festival, to Libby Dailey for capturing many memorable moments, and to the Congregational Life Committee for organizing such a fun and festive event.



If you missed the Realm relaunch, we will offer future opportunities to help you get plugged into FPC via Realm and Realm Connect.

Please feel free to call the church office to make an appointment if you need help getting started. We appreciate your patience as we transition our church communications to Realm, and we will continue to provide updates as we move forward.

NOVEMBER

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
1 All Saints' & Stewardship Sunday Sunday School, 9:30-10:15 a.m. Worship Service at 10:30 a.m. Youth Connect 6:00-7:00 p.m.	2 Comm. Outreach Cmte. -5:30 p.m. (library) Cong. Life Cmte. 5:30 p.m. (FH setup for Thornwell Sun.)	3 Admin. Cmte 5:30 p.m. (library) CLC reserved 5:30-8:30 p.m.	4 Pause & Pray 12:15 p.m. (chapel) Handbells 5:30 p.m. Choir 6:30 p.m.	5 Worship & Music Cmte 5:30 p.m. (library) CLC reserved 5:30-8:30 p.m.	6 Church Office closed CLC reserved 4:00-7:00 p.m.	7
8 Thornwell Sunday - lunch following the worship service (FH) Youth Connect 6:00-7:00 p.m.	9	10 CLC reserved 5:30-8:30 p.m.	11 Pause & Pray 12:15 p.m. (chapel) Handbells 5:30 p.m. Choir 6:30 p.m.	12 Women's Bible study - 9:30 a.m. CLC dining room CLC reserved 5:30-8:30 p.m.	13 Church Office closed	14
15 Small Group 7 luncheon - 11:30 (FH) Youth Connect 6:00-7:00 p.m.	16 CLC Reserved 1:00-4:30 p.m. RE Sub-Cmte. 5:30 p.m. (workroom)	17 Budget & Finance Cmte. 5:30 p.m. (library) CLC reserved 5:30-8:30 p.m.	18 Pause & Pray 12:15 p.m. (chapel) Handbells 5:30 p.m. Choir 6:30 p.m.	19 CLC reserved 5:30-8:30 p.m.	20 Church Office closed	21
22 Youth Connect 6:00-7:00 p.m.	23	24 Cong. Care Cmte 5:30 p.m. (library) CLC reserved 5:30-8:30 p.m.	25 Pause & Pray 12:15 p.m. (chapel) Handbells 5:30 p.m. Choir 6:30 p.m. B&F Cmte 5:30 p.m. (library)	26 Happy Thanksgiving! Church office closed	27 Church Office closed	28
29 No Youth - Thanksgiving holiday	30	31 CLC reserved 5:30-8:30 p.m.				

The Classics meet in the CLC for their gym walk each Tuesday morning from 9:00 - 10:00. The Mahjogg group meets each Tuesday from 10:00 - noon in Room 110 of the CLC.