



STEEPLE PEOPLE

First Presbyterian Church

Clinton, South Carolina

October 2026 Vol. 44, No. 23

A NOTE FROM PASTOR ANDY

On September 26th, the Session met for a time of worship and “retreat” to discuss in greater detail some of the current needs of the church. As we gathered together, I asked each elder to consider Nehemiah from the Old Testament, who was the cupbearer to the Persian King after the Babylonian exile. Upon hearing of the destruction of the wall surrounding Jerusalem, he is so grieved that he feels called to the work of rebuilding. Not to push the metaphor too far, I asked our elders to consider our own rebuilding here at FPC. Realizing that we are not at a place of starting from scratch and that God has continued to be faithful to our congregation, I asked each elder to consider these 3 questions:

1. What has God already given this congregation?
2. What strengths, gifts, traditions, people, ministries, and relationships are still alive?
3. Where have we seen God at work even during difficult times?

Answers included:

Our deep Presbyterian history, this community, a church filled with doers, our music program, our facilities, some fantastic teachers, generous givers.

A reminder throughout our time is that no ONE person is called to do the work of the church alone. For Nehemiah wasn't called to rebuild all by himself. “Come let US rebuild the wall....let US start rebuilding” (Neh. 2:17-18).

It's the ministry and mission of the “Us” that I believe to be so important when considering the work of the local church. Certainly, I have been called with specific tasks expected to be completed, but so, too, do each one of our members. We, collectively, share or partner together in the work of the church. We, collectively, carry out specific ministries from Sunday school to various outreach programs to singing in the choir to washing dishes after a covered dish. As we consider Nehemiah's wall, maybe we all have a rock or brick to contribute or maybe it's the mortar that helps hold it all together.

Regardless, we all have a part to play with the caveat that we know it is God who ultimately gives us what we need. “The God of heaven is the one who will give us success” (Neh. 2:20). I see this each week with new families sitting in the pews and new smiling faces staring up at me during the children sermons.

Feel free to drop me an email with your own answers to the above questions and know how grateful I am to know I am not building alone.

On this journey with you,

Andy

OCTOBER HIGHLIGHTS

OCTOBER 4

World Communion Sunday

OCTOBER 19

The Classics Hike & Picnic Lunch @
Musgrove Mill

OCTOBER 25

Kirkin' o' the Tartan Service
Fall Festival @ Skip & Mary Belle's



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
Debbie Boland & family

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 facing extensive surgery for oral cancer in the coming weeks)
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.

October Birthdays

4 Carroll Copeland
Bud Marchant
William Wyatt
5 Pam LaHay
Ron Zimmerman
6 Elizabeth Myers
8 Corley Burton
Trenton Gambrell
9 Cathy Jacobs
John Lusby
11 Neile Chambers

12 Sam Tiller
13 Reighley Pitts
15 Jean Johnson
19 Dot Smith
20 Maecy Burton
22 Reese Young
24 Don Cardell
Chad Gambrell
25 Brian Donley
Holbrook Raynal
Bill Tyler

26 Delaney Frye
Audrey Templeton
28 Erna Jacobs
Cooper Reabold
29 Daphne Edison
30 Austin Johnson
31 George Cody
Mark Cody
Harrison Watkins

We want to remember and celebrate all from our church family. If you have an October 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

10/4 (S) Lee Atkinson (D) Bob McLean
 10/11 (S) Lee Atkinson (D) Bob McLean
 10/18 (S) Harold Nichols (D) Cyndi Coker
 10/25 (S) Emily Holder (D) Cyndi Coker

LITURGISTS

10/4 Ron Zimmerman
 10/11 Bob Link
 10/18 Chad Gambrell
 10/25 Holbrook Raynal

LIVESTREAM @ PRES. COMM.

10/4 Holly Cody
 10/11 Emily Holder
 10/18 Mica Nixon
 10/25 Ron & Elisabeth Zimmerman

SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICE ATTENDANCE FOR SEPTEMBER

September 6
 Sanctuary - 96
 Pres. Comm. - 5
 LiveStream - 64
 TOTAL - 165

September 13
 Sanctuary - 99
 Pres. Comm. - 5
 LiveStream - 34
 TOTAL - 138

September 20
 Sanctuary - 126
 Pres. Comm. - 6
 LiveStream - 40
 TOTAL - 172

September 27 - PC Sunday
 Sanctuary - 223
 Pres. Comm. - 7
 LiveStream - 88
 TOTAL - 318

SNACK PACK VOLUNTEERS



*Thursday 10/1 Pam Copeland & Jean Johnson

No Snackpack 10/8 - Fall Break

10/16 Bob & Leigh Ann Bryant

10/23 Elisabeth & Ron Zimmerman

10/30 Andy & Randy Sullivan

*We ♥ our
Volunteers*

ANNOUNCEMENTS



Each Wednesday
 12:15-12:45 PM
 Chapel



Annual Fall Festival
 @ Skip & Mary Belle's
 October 25th
 5:00 - 7:00 PM
 Hot dogs, sides and Skip's
 famous chili!
 Bring your lawn chairs and
 your family!



ADDITIONAL ANNOUNCEMENTS



Don't be scared—the Realm “Re-launch” is coming! On October 29th, we ‘ll hold a “Launch & Learn” of Realm, our church directory and communications platform. It is a simple way to stay connected, informed, and involved with our church family. The timing may be spooky, but there is nothing to fear! There will be no tricks (though a few treats will be available)—just a better way for all of us to stay connected. More details will be coming soon!



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.



Advent

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, tradition, original artwork, scripture, or meditation. We welcome anything meaningful to you that encourages us to pause, disconnect from the busyness of the world, and focus on the joy of the Christ within and all around us. 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.



Saturday, October 17th
9:00 AM till Noon



The Music & Worship Committee is planning a workday to clean the church sanctuary. If you can help us shine up our sanctuary, please text/call Chad Gambrell (864-923-1661) or the church office (833-1062) to let us know if you can help!

THE CLASSICS IN IRELAND





Group 7's ice cream social at the Presbyterian Communities was a joyful celebration of community, fun, and fellowship. Friends and families gathered to share laughter and good conversation while enjoying a delicious variety of homemade ice creams and sweets. With so many people contributing their favorite recipes and treats, the event was a wonderful reminder of how much can be created when everyone comes together.





It was so wonderful to come together on September 20th to celebrate Dr. Karen Buckland's 25th anniversary as our church organist! We are so grateful for her many years of dedicated service.



On PC Sunday, we bid Mac McDougal a fond farewell as he begins his music ministry at 4th Presbyterian in Greenville. We have been truly blessed by the musical gifts of both Karen and Mac, and we wish them many more years of joyful service in music to the church.



PC Sunday at First Presbyterian Church, Clinton, SC September 27, 2026



OCTOBER

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
Join us weekly for Sunday School, 9:30-10:15 a.m. and our Worship Service at 10:30 a.m.		The Classics Gym Walk 9:00 - 10:00 a.m. Mahjongg 10:00 - noon		1 Worship & Music Cmte 5:30 p.m. (library)	2 Church Office closed	3
4 No Youth-Fall Break	5 Comm. Outreach Cmte. 5:30 p.m. (library)	6 Admin. Cmte 5:30 p.m. (library) Global Mission Cmte. 7:00 p.m. (library)	7 Pause & Pray 12:15 p.m. (chapel) Handbells 5:30 p.m. Choir 6:30 p.m.	8 Women's Bible study - 9:45 a.m. CLC dining room	9 Church Office closed	10
11 No Youth-Fall Break	12 Cong. Life Cmte 5:30 p.m. (library) RE Sub-Cmte. 5:30 p.m. (workroom)	13	14 Pause & Pray 12:15 p.m. (chapel) Handbells 5:30 p.m. Choir 6:30 p.m.	15	16 Church Office closed	17
18 Youth Connect 6:00-7:00 p.m.	19 The Classics' Musgrove Mill hike & picnic	20 Cong. Care Cmte 5:30 p.m. (library)	21 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)	22	23 Church Office closed	24
25 Kirkin' o' the Tartan Worship Service Session Meeting 11:30 a.m. (library) Fall Festival - Skip & Mary Belle Smith's home	26	27	28 Pause & Pray 12:15 p.m. (chapel) Handbells 5:30 p.m. Choir 6:30 p.m.	29 Realm "Re-launch" 7:00 p.m. Fellowship Hall	30 Church Office closed	31

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