



STEEPLE PEOPLE

First Presbyterian Church

Clinton, South Carolina

September 2026 Vol. 44, No. 22

A NOTE FROM PASTOR ANDY

As September is upon us, I am turning my attention to our Session retreat which will be held on the Thornwell campus on Saturday, September 26th. We have much to consider and to discern as a leadership team, so I ask for your prayers throughout this month that we all will be open to the guidance of the Holy Spirit.

As I consider leadership and the church, I am taking a deeper look at the person of Barnabas in the story of Acts throughout this month of September and the first part of October. Honestly, I have not given much thought to this “son of encouragement.” But on another read, I realize it is Barnabas who speaks up for Paul after his conversion on the Damascus Road. It is Barnabas who recognizes Paul’s gifts for teaching and makes sure the early church can benefit from them. And it is Barnabas who is entrusted with resources meant to relieve the suffering of early believers.

In ministry, partnerships are key for longevity and success. In Barnabas, I believe we will discover a partner, who not only will encourage us in our own attempts at mission in today’s world, but also point us to lives filled with generosity, trustworthiness, and a willingness to empower others. I hope you’ll be here with me each week.

SEPTEMBER HIGHLIGHTS

September 13

Sunday Night Youth Group kick-off

September 20

Ice Cream Social @ Pres. Comm.

September 27

PC Sunday

Here’s my upcoming “Barnabas” preaching schedule:

August 30th Acts 4:32-37

September 6th Holbrook Raynal preaching in my absence

September 13th Acts 9:26-30

September 20th Acts 11:19-26

September 27th PC Sunday

October 4th World Communion Sunday, Acts 13:1-13

October 11th Acts 15:36-41

On this journey with you,

Andy

SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

1 Austin Barnes
6 Claire Holder
6 Heather Tiller
6 Wayne Renwick
8 Anne Pitts
9 Sarah Cockrell
10 Kim Randall
11 Giuseppe Gumina
12 Will Ferguson
12 Sam Gearheart
13 Susan Tallman



14 Tiffany Threatt
15 Isaiah Nolan
17 Lou Giles
18 Holly Cook
19 Teresa Ferguson
20 Ann Cornelson
21 Jack Harkins

23 Jean Revis
24 Dean Ferguson
25 Connor Donley
26 Dianne Cardell
26 John Michael Lapomarda
26 Gary Stephens
27 Laurie Counterman
27 Patricia Gross
27 Cole Gumina
29 Dan Cook
30 Zachary Johnson

We want to remember and celebrate all from our church family. If you have a September 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

9/6 Lee Atkinson (S), Andy Sullivan (D)
9/13 Harold Nichols (S), Andy Sullivan (D)
9/20 Chad Gambrell (S), Jettie Young (D)
9/27 Charlie Gustafson (S), Emily Holder, (D)

LITURGISTS

9/6 Danny Cook
9/13 Charlie Gustafson
9/20 Andy Sullivan
9/27 PC Student

LIVE STREAM TEAM

9/6 Holly Cody
9/13 Marty Ademy
9/20 Ron & Elisabeth Zimmerman
9/27 Ron & Nancy Dove

LAST LEMONADE ON THE LAWN OF THE SEASON

9/6 Debra Bishop and Freddie Pinson

The Congregational Life Committee would like to thank all who've volunteered to host and serve summer Lemonade on the Lawn!

SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICE ATTENDANCE FOR AUGUST

August 2
Sanctuary - 111
Pres. Comm. - 3
LiveStream - 56
TOTAL - 170

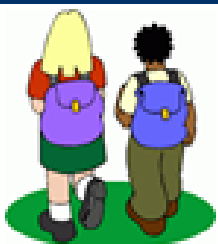
August 9
Sanctuary - 133
Pres. Comm. - 3
LiveStream - 62
TOTAL - 198

August 16
Worship on the Water - 109
Pres. Comm. - N/A
LiveStream - 29
TOTAL - 138

August 23
Sanctuary - 193
Pres. Comm. - 3
LiveStream - 41
TOTAL - 237

August 30
Sanctuary - 128
Pres. Comm. - 3
LiveStream - 10
TOTAL - 141

SNACK PACK VOLUNTEERS



9/4 Susan Henderson and Miki Cooper
9/11 Lisa Keen and Susan Raynal
9/18 Dixie and Willie Prickett
9/25 Frank and Debbie Boland

*We ♥ our
Volunteers*

ANNOUNCEMENTS



September 9th from 12:15-12:45 PM. Come to the chapel and feel free to bring your lunch.



Dr. Holbrook Raynal will serve as our guest minister on September 6th while the Chambers family enjoys family time away. The church office will be closed Monday, September 7, in observance of Labor Day.



The Racial Equity Subcommittee is sponsoring a “supply drive” to help replenish the food and school supply pantries at Presbyterian College. The following is a list of supplies that they are asking for: Peanut butter, Jelly, Oatmeal, Hormel Compleats, Poptop Chef Boyardee, tuna kits

and Easy Mac; laundry detergent (pods or small bottles), toilet tissue, paper towels, toothpaste, body lotion, body wash. (Scent and Dye-free items are encouraged.)



Small Group 7 is hosting an ice cream social at the Clinton Presbyterian Community on Sunday, September 20th from 2:00-3:30 PM. If you would like to bring homemade ice cream or toppings/cookies/brownies and join us, please contact Karen Mattison: mattvkks@aol.com.



We look forward to celebrating PC Sunday on September 27th. Please join us as we welcome the students, faculty, staff and choir of Presbyterian College. A potluck lunch will follow. The Congregational Life Committee will provide fried and baked chicken, as well as macaroni and cheese. We kindly ask church members to bring side dishes and desserts to ensure we have enough food to share with our guests.



Mark your calendars for upcoming activities with The Classics! The Classics Planning Team has come up with the following activities for you to enjoy the next few months. Put these dates on your calendar and join the fellowship and fun!

- September 1-13, 2026: 26 “Classics” will be traveling to Ireland. Please pray for safety and traveling mercies for this group of sojourners.
- October 19, 2026: We’ve planned a free picnic lunch at Musgrove Mill State Park with a visit to the recently renovated Visitor Center. We’ll hike the British Camp Trail and then enjoy a great picnic; or, just come for the picnic and fellowship under the picnic shelter. The planning team is providing lunch (fried chicken, potato salad, deviled eggs, pimento cheese sandwiches, chips, pickles, tea, cookies and brownies).
- December 8, 2026: Christmas Gingerbread House Display and Festival of Trees in Greenville with lunch downtown Greenville following the events.
- Fast forward to 2027 . . . We are thrilled to have purchased a number of tickets to “Sean of the South”, who’s coming to the Newberry Opera House on February 20, 2027. Sean Dietrich is an entertaining stand-up storyteller and multi-instrumentalist with a comedic and *very* southern sense of humor. [Tap this link](#) to learn more about Sean of the South. If you are interested in tickets, please contact Jean Johnson ASAP so we can purchase additional tickets.
- March 16, 2027: St. Patrick’s Day Eve Dinner with the theme “**Everything Green**” in the CLC Dining Room.



The Global Mission Committee would like to thank the congregation for their support of our Rise Against Hunger food packaging event. As you can see from the photos below, 1st P truly showed up in service alongside many students, staff, and faculty from Presbyterian College. Together, we perfectly exemplified the Presbyterian College spirit and commitment: "While We Live, We Serve."

Thank you again for your dedication and service!

Ron Zimmerman



The Congregational Life Committee hosted a table at last week's Student RSO Fair at Presbyterian College. We were privileged to hold space with other area churches and organizations, introducing ourselves to new and returning students! "Whoever you are, and wherever you are on your faith journey, you are welcome here".



We're gearing up for a fun and engaging Fall semester for our 6th-12th Grade Youth!



Parents & FPC Youth: Please mark your calendars for an important meeting on September 13th as we kick off Sunday night "Youth Connect".

And remember, Youth Sunday School is held each Sunday at 9:30 a.m. in room 200 (upstairs SS hall). Thank you to Neile Chambers for leading the first two Sunday School sessions.

Feel free to invite a friend, and let's make this a great year for our youth to Belong, Grow, Serve and Connect with one another!

Students from Presbyterian College held their Celtic Cross Kickoff Event in the Fellowship Hall last Wednesday afternoon. During the event, plans were discussed for the new year, and the students had a great introduction to the church and to Reverend Andy, who welcomed them.



SEPTEMBER

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
Sunday School 9:30 a.m. Worship Service 10:30 a.m. Youth Group 5:30 p.m.		1 Admin. Cmte 5:30 p.m. (library) The Classics to Ireland	2	3	4 Church Office closed	5
6	7 Labor Day Church office closed	8	9 Handbell choir practice resumes 5:30 p.m. Choir practice 6:30 p.m.	10 Women's morning Bible study - 9:45 a.m. CLC dining room	11 Church Office closed	12
13 Youth and parents cookout - CLC 5:30 p.m. The Classics return from Ireland	14 Cong. Life Cmte 5:30 p.m. (CLC DR) Racial Equity Sub. Cmte 5:30 p.m. (library)	15 Cong. Care Cmte 5:30 p.m. (library)	16 B&F Cmte 5:30 p.m. (library) Handbells 5:30 p.m. Choir practice 6:30 p.m.	17 Worship & Music Cmte 5:30 p.m. (library)	18 Church Office closed	19
20 Small Group 7 Ice cream Social @ Pres. Comm. 2:00-3:30 p.m., dining room	21	22	23 Handbells 5:30 p.m. Choir practice 6:30 p.m.	24	25 Church Office closed PC Sorority meeting set- up 3:00 p.m. (CLC DR)	26 Session Retreat - Thornwell 9:00 - 2:00 PC Meeting of Sororities 9:00 am. (CLC DR)
27 PC Sunday Potluch lunch following - (Fellowship Hall)	28	29	30 Handbells 5:30 p.m. Choir practice 6:30 p.m.			

NOTES & REMINDERS

Reminder: Due to so many "Classics" on the Ireland trip, the gym walkers and MahJongg players will not meet the first two Tuesdays of September and will resume Tuesday, 9/15 at their usual times.