

First Presbyterian Church of Cheraw History

The First Presbyterian Church of Cheraw was formed in 1828 when the Rev. Urias Powers gathered eleven Presbyterians, many of whom had arrived in Cheraw from North Carolina. One additional person joined by profession of faith, giving the church twelve members at its outset. At that time, there were no organized churches in town, although there were committed Christians living in the area. The church met on the second floor of the Cheraw Academical Society until 1832 when the present building was erected. After the construction of this church, a weekly prayer meeting was established and held consistently until 2020. There are plans to re-establish this in the Fall of 2024, bringing back a ministry that has existed since the church's inception. Shortly thereafter, in 1841, the Session House was erected in the middle of the church grounds to serve multiple purposes of the community. Our church has been blessed with long pastorates, including one of 28 years in length and one of fifty years in length! Since its inception, the church has had sixteen ministers and several interim ministers who have led the church in its 196 years of ministry with the most recent being called to serve in 2023.

Throughout its long history, First Presbyterian has had a tradition of excellence in organ, choral, and handbell music, particularly in 1986 with the addition of The Memorial Organ built by Gabriel Kney & Co., of London, Ontario, Canada. Continuing in the tradition of excellence, a strong emphasis on Christian Education and missions to others both far and near have become vital parts of the church's ministries. These include mission trips to Massanetta Springs, McArn Food Bank, Abba House Ministries, and many more that cannot all fit into this brief history of our community but are nonetheless vital to what we are called to do. The strength of the church has always been in active members who have committed themselves to community matters and remain focused on doing the work that Jesus Christ calls us to do.