



First Presbyterian News

Aiken, SC
PC(USA)

November 2025



Adding New Chapters to an Old Story...

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CONTACT INFORMATION

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Director of Christian Education
Director of Music
Director of Finance
Preschool Director
Office Manager
Organist/Accompanist
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If you are not receiving the Weekly Connections on
Friday, please contact the church office.

Publications:

The deadline for the December newsletter is 12:00 PM on Wednesday, November 19th

We would love to hear your story! Please send your information via email to

Joanna Hamilton at joannah@aikenpresbyterian.org Watch for Weekly Updates in your email!

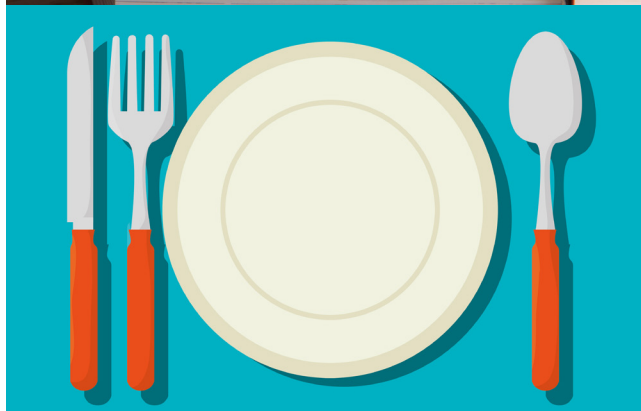
Please follow the church: Facebook - facebook.com/aikenpres Instagram - @aikenpres



November 24th
"The
Book
Group" by Valerie Perrin
Fresh Water
for Flowers

Men's Breakfast

Calling all FPCA Men:
Gentlemen, mark your calendars
and join the Men's Breakfast in
the Fellowship Hall for good
food and fellowship!
Sunday November 9th
at 8:20 AM.



Save the date for our next Wednesday
Meal on November 5th **5:45-7:00 PM**
We will be in the Fellowship Hall. This
dinner will be catered, with donations
taken at the door. Children will head out
after dinner for children's choir.

"We have been so blessed by your faithful generosity and support of FPCA! Sunday November 2nd is Commitment Sunday, and we ask that you prayerfully consider filling out and returning a Pledge card to assist our Stewardship and Finance Committees as we budget for 2026. There are various ways you can give throughout the year. If you'd like to set up recurring auto-withdrawal from your checking or savings account, we ask that you stop by the church office to fill out the approval form and provide us with a voided check. You can also set up recurring giving or make a one-time contribution online through our website. (Please note, we do pay processing fees for online credit card transactions so you might consider ACH as an alternative to ensure your entire gift goes to the ministry of the church.) Consider speaking with your financial advisor about the benefits of Qualified Charitable Contributions through your IRA or other retirement distributions. Checks can be sent directly to the church. We are so grateful for your support of our church and community through your time, talents, and financial gifts. If you have any questions at any time, feel free to contact the Finance office for assistance."



First
Presbyterian
Church
Aiken, SC
PC(USA)
Commitment
2026

Why I Pledge
Stewardship 2026

Be sure to bring your
Pledge Card to church
November 2nd to turn
in during worship.

2025 ACTS Christmas Store

Suggested Gifts (All to be new and unwrapped)

- Baby and children's learning toys
- Dolls/doll strollers
- Toy cars and trucks/ Hot Wheels ramps and sets
- Balls (basketball, football, soccer baseball gloves/ baseballs)
- Board games – all ages
- Legos/Duplo sets
- Card games like Uno
- Art sets, craft kits, journals

- Make up sets and hair accessories for teen girls; Axe and Dove sets for guys
- Lava lamps
- Soft throws for teens
- Riding toys like scooters and tricycles
- Tents, play tunnels, and sleeping bags
- Punching bags
- Magna-tiles, blocks, marble runs
- Makeup mirrors
- Sweatshirts (Adidas, Nike, etc.) for teens age 13-18 all sizes

We are excited and blessed to begin our 11th year of the Giving Together Store! The store is located in the ACTS building on Park and Hayne. We are in need of your contributions of gifts and money so that we can stock the store for children ages 0-18. Last year we helped 300 children. That's over 900 gifts, so the need is great. We will have our official Christmas drive **November 2-30**. Boxes for gift collection will be located near the Henderson Lane door and in the Narthax. We will also have boxes to collect socks and underwear to be donated to ACTS for their client clothing shop. In addition to large gifts, we give the clients free stocking stuffers, stuffed

animals, books, and gift wrapping supplies, so we welcome those contributions as well. We rely a great deal on contributions of money to restock the store. Contributions can be made payable to FPC with "Giving Together" on the memo line.

We need volunteers for the store appointments and to help shop. During the Christmas Store week, **December 7-12, we will need cashiers in 2-hour shifts on Sunday from 11-7 PM and Monday- Friday from 4:30-8:30 PM.** If you want to volunteer, please contact the office at the church.

*Ways to Contribute:
Gifts for ages 0-18,
stocking stuffers, gift
wrapping paper, stuffed
animals, books (new
and gently used), socks
and underwear, money,
time as a cashier and/or
shopper, and prayers for
a successful project.*

Alternative Gifts Christmas 2025

Honor Family and Friends
with Simple Gifts of Hope.
Agencies that are being sponsored
this year include,

- Children's Place, Inc.
- Cumbee Center
- Fellowship Camp & Conference Center
- Standing at the Crossroads
- The Community Medical Clinic of Aiken County
- The Honduras Agape Foundation / Mwandai
- The Presbyterian Mission Agency

Brochures are available in the Narthex and the Office Hallway.

Formula for Life

During the recent time when Lorraine Kelley's beautiful artwork was displayed in the parlor, several people asked if we could make note cards from the artwork images. Debby Dugan then took the time to scan and print each piece of artwork. They turned out beautifully. We've already made and sold cards from about 10 different artwork pieces. The cards will be sold in any quantity, and you are able to choose as many art pieces as you would like for an assortment with 30 pieces to choose from. They are \$1

each for a 5 x 7 card with an envelope. Sales from these cards will go to Formula for Life. Since the U.S. funds that buy HIV-prevention drugs in Mwandai, Zambia have been cut drastically, continued Formula for Life support is critical. Also, this new card-making project helps to extend our memories of Lorraine.

Please reach out to Debby Dugan if you are interested in purchasing Lorraine's artwork on a set of cards.



Art Wall



Join us in the Parlor
November 2nd after
worship for our next
showcase featuring
wood work by
Bruce Eberhard.

Bruce Eberhard

I was born, raised, and educated K through 12 in Santa Clara, California. Over the years starting, in the eighth grade I have undertaken the construction of many projects. Why do I mention this? Because I am a strong advocate of at least minimal training in the manual arts. I have always liked to do things with my hands. For me it began in earnest in the eighth grade where I was exposed to the fundamentals in a required wood working class. In high school I followed an academic curriculum with a study hall period thrown in the mix. I considered this a waste of time and elected to take metal shop instead. It was then that I heard of metallurgy. I enrolled in Mining Engineering at the Colorado School of Mines intending to become a mining engineer. At the time all the mining engineering jobs were for coal mining. This occupation was not for me so I switched to Metallurgical Engineering, graduated in 1957, and haven't

regretted it. At school I met and later married Maxine. When we drove to Aiken we didn't have the proverbial pot. What personal belongings we had were packed in our 1950 Ford sedan along with a case of motor oil. Earning a minimal income at this time, I purchased a bare bones table saw and started to cobble up "make-do" furniture.

The hobby grew out of necessity. Eventually we were sufficiently affluent to own a home of our own, buy better equipment, and save a lot of money by making much of our own furniture. This experience evolved into doing a lot of similar work for others and the church. While compiling this list of projects I began to wonder how I managed to do it all while holding down a fulltime job, but the reality is it has all been done over a span of 68 years and not included is a lot of work done domestic and foreign mission trips and at the Aiken Railroad Depot and the Gaston Livery Stable.

The Thank Offering of Presbyterian Women has deep roots. In 1888 Eliza Clokey of Springfield, Ohio, challenged her fellow members to give one dollar in addition to their annual mission contribution. Thousands of people in all parts of our country receive benefits from this program.

Her example of giving has enabled PW to expand its giving as an example of our gratitude to God when we give to others. More than 40 percent of the ten projects selected for funding are related to health funding. One of the projects chosen is named Lynchburg Daily Bread, which serves 800 hot, nutritious, delicious meals every day with respect –and without condition. The Thank Offering grant will provide a generator to sustain their daily meal program and provide uninterrupted service even during emergencies." This project received \$22,800. Isaiah 13:19 says, "Behold, I am doing a new thing; now it springs

forth, do you not perceive it? I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert."

Thank you, God, for these gifts from the Thank Offering which enrich lives and remind us of your love, goodness, and mercy. Amen.

If you would like to donate to the PW Thank Offering, please indicate that on your envelope or check, payable to First Presbyterian Church.



PRESBYTERIAN
WOMEN



Prayer Shawl Ministry

Please join us for one hour on the third Tuesday of each month. We will be meeting from 10:00 to 11:00 a.m. in the PW Productions Room (#27) on November 18th. We can get you started on making a prayer shawl while we share ideas, tips, fellowship, and prayer! You can also be a part of this ministry through your handwork at home. Please call for details. Our Prayer Shawl Ministry started in the fall of 2007,

and so far we have made over 953 prayer shawls, and over 920 have been given away. We continue to pray for all those who have received a prayer shawl. Prayer shawls are available to give to anyone -- church members and those who are not members of our church. Please let us know of someone who might enjoy receiving this special gift from our church. Please contact Robbie Knox to ask about getting a prayer shawl or to see how you can help!

Welcome Newborn Babies!

Be sure to let us know if you are expecting a new baby, grandbaby, or great-grandbaby in your family! Some of our Presbyterian Women have made beautiful knit baby items which we'd like to share with you for your new family member! Let us know before the arrival time, so you'll have the gift ready to deliver at your convenience! Please contact Robbie Knox to ask about getting baby items or with your questions and suggestions.

Christian Education

Confirmation Class will meet:
November 9 and 16
9:30-10:15 AM

Sunday Night Youth gatherings:
November 9, 5:30 PM
Going to Flannigan's
November 16, 5:30 PM
Friendsgiving

Children's Sunday School
November 2, 9, and 16
(No children's Sunday school
November 23 or 30
for Thanksgiving break)

JAM!

Kids ages 4K-5th grade are invited to go with Tamra to JAM! (Room 3) after the Children's Message at Sunday Morning Worship
November 2nd

Blanket Drive

Youth are collecting new or gently used and laundered blankets for the cold months ahead. These donations will be added to our blessing box. Drop off boxes are located in the narthex and office hallway.





A Service of Comfort and Hope December 7, 2025

You, your loved ones, and friends are invited to join us for the annual Service of Comfort and Hope on Sunday, December 7, 2025, at 5:00 PM.

Please join us for a quiet meditative service of readings, soft music, and communion – designed to hold a space and a place for quiet reflection. The service will conclude with candle lighting as you are invited to light candles in memory of someone and/or as a prayer for oneself, for someone else, for the world.

The Service of Comfort provided by your Stephen Ministers allows us to sense a connection to the world Mary and Joseph brought Jesus into, and why Jesus was needed then and now. Hope. He was the light that broke through the darkness, and that light is still with us. Whatever trials we face, nothing can separate us from his love.

We hope you will join us on December 7, 2025, at 5:00 PM in the sanctuary for this special worship time together.

A light supper will be provided in the fellowship hall following the service.

Kirkin' O' The Tartans

Come Celebrate Reformation!

***Sunday, November 9th
during worship
at 10:30 AM.***

We will have participants carry in tartan flags and there will be a table for families to place their scarves, sashes, squares, etc. in front of the chancel. Bagpipe players will be filling our sanctuary with traditional Scottish music.

*Please meet
in the Narthex
at 10:15 AM
if you would like
to participate
in the procession
of the banners.*



Saturday, January 24th

9-9:30 AM Coffee and Pastries

9:30-11:30 AM Tournament

The new puzzles are here!

Start planning your team!

Plan your practice sessions!

Get ready to enjoy this wonderful rewarding experience!

**\$50 entry fee per team (up to 4 people)
Jigsaw Puzzle Tournament to benefit FPCA**

Youths scholarships.

Sign your team up today!

Limited registration

**Jigsaw
Jamboree**

Minister Thoughts



growing, and harvesting, and in the life of our church Jesus still teaches us using that imagery. We put in the work and plant the seeds, we teach, we greet, we

serve others, we share peace, we pledge financial support, and we gather for worship. We plant the seeds and nurture their growth and by God's grace we harvest: we start new classes, we welcome new friends, we enjoy each others' company, we pledge our time-talents-and treasure to support FPCA ministries, and we show up, so that together we can Thank God, and Praise God.

Friends, this month, remember the harvest, and that the good harvest comes, only after the good work. Together, let us continue to sow seeds of faith, continue to do Christ's work. Continue to trust the Holy Spirit to lead us in that work, and then together let us praise God with Thanksgiving during this wonderful time of year! With prayers of gratitude, Chris

It's November and Thanksgiving is just a few Thursdays away. When the Thanksgiving Feast was first celebrated it was to thank God for the good harvest, for good health, for good community, for good friends and for new friends. From our place of modern convenience, as we look back to those earliest settlers, it might be difficult to imagine giving thanks to God for such a hard life, but that's exactly what they did.



Now, even though we have fewer farmers in our faith community than were in those first Thanksgiving gatherings, we still, each and every one of us, can learn to appreciate the hard work and great joy of the harvest. It does not matter if we've never had dirt under our finger nails, we still reap what we sow, we still harvest the seeds we've planted.

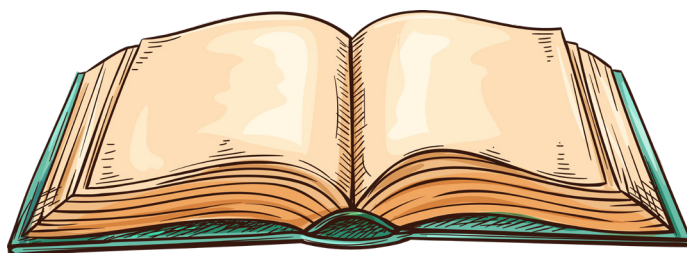
Jesus taught often about sowing,

Dear Morning Prayer and Flower Ministry, Thank you for the signed card and the flowers from Sunday

worship. I am so blessed to have such a wonderful church family. I have felt all of your prayers. I am doing well waiting on my prosthetic. Thank you again for all your blessings.

Helen Tewkesbury- Hinds

Book Study Thursday Advent



November 6, November 13, December 4, and December 11

10:00am – 11:30am - In the Fellowship Hall

Book: 52 Little Lessons for It's a Wonderful Life

52 Little Lessons from It's a Wonderful Life will change the way you think about this holiday staple, from the lightheartedness of George and Mary's floor-parting dance to the poignancy of a community that rallies to save a desperate man, Bob Welch's 52 Little Lessons from It's a Wonderful Life will inspire you to live for the things that matter most. This Christmas classic reminds us that God can use the most unlikely among us, and that grace is the greatest gift we can possibly give.

*Books will be available at the church for \$10 beginning November 2.



One of the most heartwarming missions we support is Stand at the crossroads on York Street, just a few minutes from church. Through the years, the ministry has grown from one house for women in need of a home to multiple duplexes for woman and children.

Their Thrift Store is a place to find lovely merchandise, including household items, holiday decorations, and clothing for children and adults.

Store hours are Monday, Wednesday, and Friday 10:00 AM- 2:00 PM.

Ladies do you have a couple of hours now and then, when you could help at the store arranging merchandise and hanging up clothing? Your time will be very much appreciated!

Contact Jean Schwalbert if you have questions and/or you're willing to help.

November 2025

Sunday, November 2, 2025

9:15 AM - 9:30 AM Coffee
 9:15 AM - 11:45 AM Nursery
 9:30 AM - 10:15 AM Adult Sunday School
 10:30 AM - 11:30 AM Worship
 10:45 AM - 11:30 AM JAM
 11:30 AM - 12:30 PM Art Wall Reception
 2:00 PM - 4:00 PM Indoor Soccer
 7:15 PM - 9:00 PM Men's Basketball

Monday, November 3, 2025

7:30 AM - 3:00 PM Preschool
 5:16 PM - 6:45 PM Pickleball
 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM Stephen Leader Meeting

Tuesday, November 4, 2025

7:30 AM - 3:00 PM Preschool
 9:00 AM - 9:15 AM Preschool Chapel
 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM Navigating Griefland
 5:16 PM - 6:45 PM Pickleball
 6:30 PM - 8:30 PM Stephen Ministry Meeting
 7:00 PM - 8:30 PM Boy Scout Troop
 7:00 PM - 8:45 PM Scouts BSA
 7:00 PM - 9:00 PM Indoor Soccer

Wednesday, November 5, 2025

7:30 AM - 3:00 PM Preschool
 8:45 AM - 9:15 AM Morning Prayer
 5:30 PM - 6:30 PM Handbells
 5:45 PM - 7:00 PM Wednesday Dinner
 6:15 PM - 6:30 PM Children Choir
 7:00 PM - 8:00 PM Choir

Thursday, November 6, 2025

7:30 AM - 3:00 PM Preschool
 10:00 AM - 11:30 AM Thursday Morning Book Study
 5:00 PM - 6:30 PM Pickleball

Friday, November 7, 2025

7:30 AM - 3:00 PM Preschool

Sunday, November 9, 2025

8:20 AM - 9:15 AM Men's Breakfast
 9:15 AM - 9:30 AM Coffee
 9:15 AM - 11:45 AM Nursery
 9:30 AM - 10:15 AM Adult Sunday School
 9:30 AM - 10:15 AM Children/Youth Sunday School
 10:30 AM - 11:30 AM Worship/Kirkin'
 12:00 PM - 1:00 PM Diaconate Meeting
 2:00 PM - 4:00 PM Indoor Soccer
 5:30 PM - 7:00 PM Youth Group
 7:15 PM - 9:00 PM Men's Basketball

Monday, November 10, 2025

7:30 AM - 3:00 PM Preschool
 2:00 PM - 3:00 PM Finance Committee

5:16 PM - 6:45 PM Pickleball
 5:30 PM - 7:00 PM Friends Group
Tuesday, November 11, 2025
 7:30 AM - 3:00 PM Preschool
 9:00 AM - 9:15 AM Preschool Chapel
 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM Navigating Griefland

5:16 PM - 6:45 PM Pickleball
 5:30 PM - 7:00 PM BSA Pack 110
 7:00 PM - 8:30 PM Boy Scout Troop
 7:00 PM - 8:30 PM Preschool Board
 7:00 PM - 8:45 PM Scouts BSA
 7:00 PM - 9:00 PM Indoor Soccer

Wednesday, November 12, 2025

7:30 AM - 3:00 PM Preschool
 8:45 AM - 9:15 AM Morning Prayer
 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM Presbyterian Women
 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM Staff Meeting
 5:30 PM - 6:30 PM Handbells
 6:00 PM - 7:00 PM Mission Committee
 7:00 PM - 8:00 PM Choir

Thursday, November 13, 2025

7:30 AM - 3:00 PM Preschool
 2:00 PM - 3:30 PM Small Group
 5:00 PM - 6:30 PM Pickleball

Friday, November 14, 2025

7:30 AM - 3:00 PM Preschool
 6:00 PM - 9:00 PM Girl Scouts

Sunday, November 16, 2025

9:15 AM - 9:30 AM Coffee
 9:15 AM - 11:45 AM Nursery
 9:30 AM - 10:15 AM Adult Sunday School
 9:30 AM - 10:15 AM Children/Youth Sunday School
 10:30 AM - 11:30 AM Worship
 11:30 AM - 1:00 PM Sunday Potluck
 2:00 PM - 4:00 PM Indoor Soccer
 5:30 PM - 7:00 PM Youth

7:15 PM - 9:00 PM Friendsgiving
 Men's Basketball

Monday, November 17, 2025

7:30 AM - 3:00 PM Preschool
 5:16 PM - 6:45 PM Pickleball
 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM Stephen Leader Meeting

Tuesday, November 18, 2025

7:30 AM - 3:00 PM Preschool
 9:00 AM - 9:15 AM Preschool Chapel
 9:15 AM - 9:45 AM PS Thanksgiving Prayer Shawl
 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM Pickleball
 5:16 PM - 6:45 PM BSA Pack 110
 5:30 PM - 7:00 PM Stephen Ministry Meeting
 6:30 PM - 8:30 PM Boy Scout Troop
 7:00 PM - 8:30 PM Scouts BSA
 7:00 PM - 9:00 PM Indoor Soccer

Wednesday, November 19, 2025

7:30 AM - 3:00 PM Preschool
 8:45 AM - 9:15 AM Morning Prayer
 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM PS Tday Feast Setup
 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM Staff Meeting
 5:30 PM - 6:30 PM Handbells
 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM Session
 7:00 PM - 8:00 PM Choir

Thursday, November 20, 2025

7:30 AM - 3:00 PM Preschool
 10:00 AM - 10:15 AM PS Thanksgiving Program
 10:00 AM - 11:30 AM Thursday Morning Book Study
 10:15 AM - 11:15 AM PS Thanksgiving Feast
 5:00 PM - 6:30 PM Pickleball
 6:30 PM - 8:00 PM Presbyterian Women

Friday, November 21, 2025

7:30 AM - 3:00 PM Preschool

Sunday, November 23, 2025

9:15 AM - 9:30 AM Coffee
 9:15 AM - 11:45 AM Nursery
 9:30 AM - 10:15 AM Adult Sunday School
 10:30 AM - 11:30 AM Worship
 12:00 PM - 2:00 PM Deck the Halls
 2:00 PM - 4:00 PM Indoor Soccer
 7:15 PM - 9:00 PM Men's Basketball

Monday, November 24, 2025

5:16 PM - 6:45 PM Pickleball
 7:00 PM - 8:00 PM Book Group

Tuesday, November 25, 2025

5:16 PM - 6:45 PM Pickleball
 7:00 PM - 8:30 PM Boy Scout Troop
 7:00 PM - 9:00 PM Indoor Soccer

Wednesday, November 26, 2025

9:00 AM - 3:00 PM Office Closed

Thursday, November 27, 2025

9:00 AM - 3:00 PM Office Closed

Friday, November 28, 2025

9:00 AM - 3:00 PM Office Closed

Sunday, November 30, 2025

9:15 AM - 9:30 AM Coffee
 9:15 AM - 11:45 AM Nursery
 9:30 AM - 10:15 AM Adult Sunday School
 10:30 AM - 11:30 AM Worship
 2:00 PM - 4:00 PM Indoor Soccer
 7:15 PM - 9:00 PM Men's Basketball



Deck the Halls - Mark you calendar for **November 23rd**. We will meet in the Fellowship Hall after worship for a light lunch; then we will break into groups to prepare our church for **ADVENT!!**

