



# First Presbyterian News

Aiken, SC  
PC(USA)

Spring 2022 • Volume 62 No. 1  
We are a Stephen Ministry Congregation



*Adding New Chapters to an Old Story...*

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March, April, and May 2022

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## PUBLICATIONS

The deadline for the June/July/August 2022 newsletter is 12:00 noon on Wednesday, May 18. We would love to hear your story!

Please send your information via email to **Joanna Hamilton** at [joannah@aikenpresbyterian.org](mailto:joannah@aikenpresbyterian.org) or leave it in the "Newsletter" box in the office hallway.

Watch for Weekly Updates in your email!



Please follow the church:  
Facebook - [facebook.com/aikenpres](https://www.facebook.com/aikenpres)  
Instagram - [@aikenpres](https://www.instagram.com/aikenpres)

Sign up for our church app! Download "My Church by Pushpay" from your phone or tablet's app store and enter this keyword: FPCA I K E N A P P.

If you no longer wish to receive a hard copy of the newsletter because you read it online, please let the church office know.

## CONTACT INFORMATION

Interim Pastor/Head of Staff  
 Pastor for Connectional Community  
 Director of Music  
 Director of Purposeful Education  
 Director of Operations  
 Media Specialist  
 Organist/Accompanist  
 Preschool Director  
 Financial Secretary  
 Administrative Assistant  
 Kitchen Coordinator (volunteer)

Conley Zomermaand  
 Terry Wimberley  
 Daniel Hamilton  
 Andrea Paschal  
 Chris Jolicoeur-Smith  
 Joanna Hamilton  
 Kathy Clark  
 Mary Maddrey  
 Debby Dugan  
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## ELDERS

**Class of 2023**  
 Phyllis Britt  
 Brenda Guerry  
 Barb Magrath  
 Frank Townsend  
 Lindsay Tucker  
 Luke Williams (Youth Elder)

**Class of 2024**  
 Kim Abney  
 Susan Budney  
 Mike Loftus  
 Paula Luther  
 Bailey Shafer  
 Mary Helen Simons

**Class of 2025**  
 Robin Callicott  
 Chuck Dynarski  
 Jennifer Feraldi  
 Katie Kucharski  
 Jerry Shumpert  
 Chick Warner

## DEACONS

**Class of 2023**  
 Lestine Bush  
 Janice Cadwallader  
 Jean Covington

**Class of 2024**  
 Jeana Carter  
 Liz Cox  
 Bob Hinds

**Class of 2025**  
 Dave Clerc  
 Mary Fran Crook  
 Kathy Kent

## TRUSTEES

**Class of 2023**  
 Dave Muhlbaier

**Class of 2024**  
 Doug Cook

**Class of 2025**  
 Reggie Ebner



### the MUSTARD SEED garden

First Presbyterian Church – Aiken, SC

*Support our Mustard Seed Garden by purchasing a tote!*

Some of the custom Mustard Seed Garden tote bags are still available for purchase from our recent fundraiser! If you are interested in purchasing one, please ask the church office.

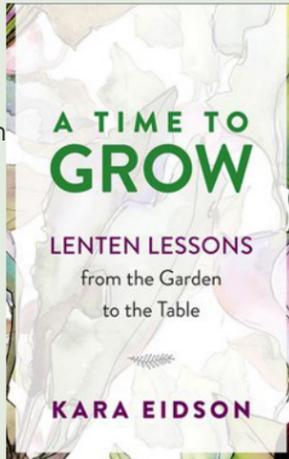
- Small (pictured):** "Small Gusseted Canvas Shopping Bag" (\$12.00)
- Medium:** "100% Recycled Cotton Canvas Tote with contrast handle" (\$15.00)
- Large:** "Jumbo Cotton Canvas Tote" (\$18.00)

KNOW YOUR OFFICERS

# Lent

## Lenten Devotionals

From Eden to Gethsemane to the garden in which Jesus was buried and raised, our story of faith wanders through much fertile soil. But in our current world of fast food and to-go meals, we often do not make time to explore where our food comes from and how we break bread together. Journeying through the season of Lent with this in mind, *A Time to Grow* encourages readers to slow down, move through the painstaking process of growth, and end together with great feasting and celebration of the resurrection. Themes of soil, water, light, time, fasting, feasting, and more guide the way from Ash Wednesday to Easter Sunday. Readers will explore the intricacies of how faith is required to produce food and how that faith can lead us all to feast at the table on Easter morning.



## Presbyterians on the Environment

Led by Pastor Terry Wimberley  
March 6 – April 10 and April 24 – May 1, 2022  
at 9:00 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall

Join us in studying Christian responsibilities for the environment. The class will focus upon environmental position papers published by the Presbyterian Church over the years and will explore the theological and philosophical foundations behind each of these position papers. The Presbyterian Church has been issuing policy statements regarding the environment for decades and in recent years has addressed a number of more contemporary issues to include climate change and environmental justice. This ten-week course will take a look at those policy papers on the environment in the areas of water, climate, hazardous waste, globalization, biodiversity, food, energy, environmental justice, and green economics.

The text for this class is *The Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) on the Environment*. We will also rely on other environmental resources of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) (PCUSA Programs) to include the church *Guide to Earthcare Congregations* and the "Earthcare Pledge."

You are invited to participate in this class and are welcome to review all the resources for the class at this web link: [edwardwimberley.com/courses/12049/overview.html](http://edwardwimberley.com/courses/12049/overview.html)



## Eco-Palms

Our church has chosen to use Eco-Palms this year with our purchase for Palm Sunday.

The University of Minnesota Center for Integrated Natural Resources and Agricultural Management (CINRAM) is working together with the Rainforest Alliance TREES program and Smartwood to certify palms harvested from the forests of Mexico and Guatemala for sale to Christian congregations in the United States and Europe.

This partnership gives our church yet another opportunity to be more eco-friendly. Learn more at [ecopalms.org](http://ecopalms.org)

# CHILDREN'S ACTIVITIES THIS SPRING

Kindergarten - 5<sup>th</sup> Grade

## CHILDREN'S LENTEN SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASS

March 6 – April 10  
9:00 a.m.

Prayer is one of the traditional pillars of Lent. What is prayer? How and why do we pray? How can we practice praying individually and as a family?

Children will learn about and practice different types of prayer throughout the season of Lent. Each week will be a different prayer practice and include an activity to take home to share with the family. Help us create a prayer chain to count the days of Lent during Sunday School.



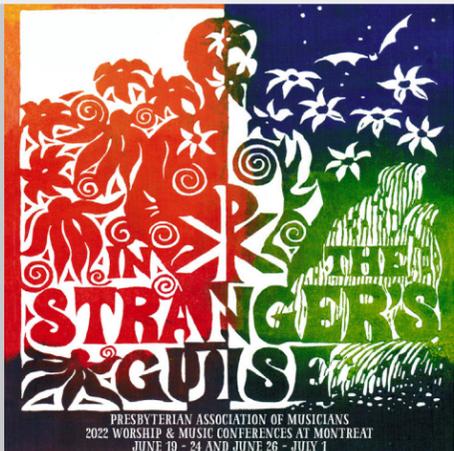
Join us for JAM at 4:00 - 5:30 p.m.  
on the following dates:

**March 27**  
Working and Learning in the  
Mustard Seed Garden

**April 24**  
Group Outing

**May 22**  
A Patriotic Celebration

# Conference, Retreat, and Camp Opportunities for Adults, Children, and Youth



This year, the **Worship & Music Conference at Montreat** will be June 19-24. This intergenerational conference is for children, youth, adults, pastors, directors, organists, singers, ringers, worship leaders, and church members. All are welcome! The Presbyterian Association of Musicians (PAM) works in cooperation with Montreat Conference Center to offer two identical Worship and Music conferences each summer. Guided by the principles of Reformed worship, conferees explore opportunities for vital worship experiences and enriching the liturgical life of the local church.

Contact Daniel Hamilton to sign up or ask questions.



**Re-Creation: A Spring Adult Retreat**  
Fellowship Camp & Conference Center  
April 29 at 11:00 a.m. – April 30 at 4:00 p.m.

A Retreat Designed for those who wonder... Does our Christian faith itself have anything to do with environmental issues and their solutions? What does the Bible say about the good creation that God has made and our responsibility for it? What does the history of our Christian tradition contribute to our understanding of ourselves as stewards? What is God imploring and luring us to do now in this dangerous ecological situation?

Attend in-person or virtually for this retreat led by Rev. Dr. Cliff Cain, and brought to you by Trinity Presbytery's Discipleship and Resourcing Team. Sign up online at [campfellowship.org/events-programs](http://campfellowship.org/events-programs)



**Camp Fellowship**  
Fellowship Camp & Conference Center

Summer Camp Registration is open for Kindergarten through 12<sup>th</sup> grade students! Come experience a bit of camp and meet the summer staff at the Camp Fellowship Open House Event on Sunday, June 12, from 3:00 – 6:00 p.m.

Since 1948, Camp Fellowship has provided unique summer programs for children and youth of all ages. Camp engages campers and guests in faith formation, community building, personal growth and development, and fun!

Visit [campfellowship.org/summer2022](http://campfellowship.org/summer2022) and ask Andrea for more information.



**Camp Fellowship Summer Staff**

College students interested in spending time working with others, sharing God's love with children of all ages, and being in God's creation are invited to apply for Summer Staff at Camp Fellowship. For more information, visit [campfellowship.org/summerstaff](http://campfellowship.org/summerstaff)

# Graduate Recognition Sunday



Graduate Recognition Sunday will be on May 15 during the 10:00 a.m. worship service. We would love for members of the congregation to write blessings, affirmations, and words of encouragement on slips of paper and insert them into the "Blessing Jars" for each of the graduates that will be located on the table in the narthex during the month of May. Please take some time to consider some words you would like to share with our graduates:

**Class of 2021**  
Lila Dawson

**Class of 2022**  
Matthew Abernethy  
Robin Boyd  
Anne Masters Calfee  
Cece Crook  
Addison Feraldi  
Andrew Guerry



A ministry of Myers Park Presbyterian Church

**CROSS Mission Conference**  
June 5-10, 2022

This trip is for middle and high school students (rising 6<sup>th</sup> grade through completed 12<sup>th</sup> grade). City Serve is a week-long immersion in mission serving in up to eight different urban ministries. Ministry sites include serving people who are hungry, homeless, elderly, and disabled as well as children.

Contact Andrea Paschal to sign up or ask questions.

# #youthtogether

Pizza • Breakout Discussions • Fun&Games

## Juniors and Seniors

Preparing for College Discussions  
Faith • Friends • Finances • Fitness • Future

Sunday, March 6 • 11:00-12:30  
With Lindsay and Bennett Tucker

Sunday, March 20 • 11:00-12:30  
With Katie and Michael Kucharski

Sunday, April 10 • 11:00-12:30  
With Kendall and Franklin Buchanan

Sunday, April 24 • 11:00-12:30  
With Corey Feraldi, Director of Career Services UofSC Aiken  
The Future: Majors and Careers and Financial Aid

## Grades 6-10

#lunchwithMrClarke  
Sundays • 11:00-12:30

March 6, March 20, April 10, April 24

Be prepared. Could be a movie clip or song and dance!



## #gettingtoknowme

### Best trip ever

Hawaii, Dollywood, California, Arizona, Virginia,  
Going to IGM, mountains, vacation to Florida with  
parents, Fripp Island, Tennessee

### What do you doing for fun?

dancing, weightlifting, playing piano, drawing,  
singing, painting, playing softball, bike riding,  
hiking, working, hanging out with friends, soccer,  
theater, ROTC, band, work at FPCA, playing flute

### Best meal

chicken & rice, fish and shrimp, Zaxby's, steak,  
Cajun chicken alfredo, ribs, pot roast



"And Jesus  
kept increasing  
in wisdom and  
stature, and in  
favor with God  
and people."  
Luke 2:52

# Our 2022 Confirmation Class

Confirmation class has been learning together this year, focusing on the questions of membership for the PC(USA):

- *Trusting in the gracious mercy of God, do you turn from the ways of sin and renounce evil and its power in the world?*
- *Who is your Lord and Savior?*
- *Will you be Christ's faithful disciple, obeying his Word and showing his love?*
- *Will you devote yourself to the church's teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers?*

Confirmands and Mentors spend time studying scripture, hearing from members of FPCA, and learning more about how to live out their faith daily. The photos show the lesson learning about the creeds, specifically the Apostle's Creed, and understanding how the church responds with statements of faith to what is happening in the world.

This group continues to learn together through the spring and covets your prayers for this process. We invite you to join us on Sunday, May 22, when we will celebrate this amazing group of Confirmands.



## Cade Brown

Mentor: Tommy Patterson

## Carly Brown

Mentor: Kim Abney

## Charlie Calfee

Mentor: Jerry Shumpert

## Jacob Luther

Mentor: Bob Buchanan

## Winston Matson

Mentor: Tom Britt

## Kendall Starks

Mentor: Margot Salzman

## Teachers:

Rob Gray  
Amy Gray  
Ed Girardeau  
Andrea Paschal

# Holy Week

## Palm/Passion Sunday

April 10

**10:00 AM in-person and live stream**

As this service opens we remember how the crowd welcomed Jesus into Jerusalem and wanted to crown him as king. But as the story of the passion unfolds, shouts of praise turn to demands for his crucifixion, and he is given a crown of thorns and handed over to be mocked and killed. On this first day of Holy Week we ponder how our praise of Jesus can turn to betrayal and denial.

## Good Friday Service

April 15

**Service available at [aikenpresbyterian.org](http://aikenpresbyterian.org) beginning at 12:00 noon**

Our Good Friday service will be a reading of the events of the day from the Gospel according to Luke in a simple, meditative liturgical setting.

## Maundy Thursday

April 14

**6:00 PM in-person and live stream**

Maundy comes from the Latin “mandatum” meaning “commandment” and refers to the new commandment Jesus gives us (John 13:34-35) after he has washed his disciples feet and shared a last supper with them before his crucifixion. In this service we will recall this command for our lives and share the Lord’s Supper. *(Worshipers are reminded to bring their communion elements with them.)*

## Easter Sunday

April 17

**8:00 AM informal outdoor worship (weather permitting)  
10:00 AM in-person and live stream**

The Festival of the Resurrection of Our Lord celebrates Christ’s rising from the grave to defeat all those who seek to entomb God’s will for our world. As part of our celebration, we will share the joyful feast of the Lord’s Supper. *(Worshipers are reminded to bring their communion elements with them.)*



One Great Hour of Sharing is the single, largest way that Presbyterians come together every year to work for a better world — sharing God’s love with our neighbors-in-need around the world by providing relief from natural disasters, food for the hungry, and support for the poor and oppressed. Each gift helps to improve the lives of people in challenging situations through three impactful programs: Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, Presbyterian Hunger Program, and Self-Development of People.

The One Great Hour of Sharing Offering will be received on Easter Sunday, April 17. Thank you for prayerfully considering your contribution to this life-giving offering. Contributions can be made to First Presbyterian Church with the notation: OGHS.

You can also read more about One Great Hour of Sharing at [specialofferings.pcusa.org/oghs](http://specialofferings.pcusa.org/oghs).

## Easter Memorials & Gifts

Our Sanctuary will be decorated with lilies during Easter. The money generated from Easter memorials will be used to purchase lilies and other enhancements for the Sanctuary. Donors will be listed on an insert to be placed in the worship bulletin on Easter Sunday. The suggested minimum for each memorial or gift is \$25. Please fill out a form (available in the church office and on the church website) with your check by April 10.

## Easter Breakfast & Egg Hunt

Join us for our Easter Breakfast on Easter Sunday, April 17, in the Family Life Center at 9:00 a.m. Please bring a dish to share (breakfast casseroles, fruit, sweet rolls, etc.!) We will also have an Easter Egg Hunt, Flowering of the Cross, and a collection of the One Great Hour of Sharing Fish Banks. The Easter Egg Hunt will begin at 9:20 a.m. All ages will be on the West Lawn.

# News from Honduras Agape Foundation in Quimistán, Honduras

Recently it came to the attention of the Honduras Agape Foundation Board that not every Agape Promise student receives birthday communications from sponsors. In an effort to rectify, HAF is now sponsoring monthly birthday celebrations. Any month in which there are AP student birthdays, resources will be provided for Maynor Castillo to order a birthday cake, a piñata, and a specially designed birthday card given to those celebrating their birthday with \$20.00 included. Celebrations happen during Sunday AP gatherings where both Bible and life lessons are taught. It's been a big hit!!!

These photos show the celebration of AP student Jeimy's 15<sup>th</sup> birthday celebration on January 22.

You may also be interested in knowing that in December, many of the students shown in the photo went up to one of the mountain village schools and did a VBS lesson, enjoyed games, and provided snacks. It was a fun day for all and helped many of the AP students realize some of the poverty situations that many village children live with daily. Thank you, First Presbyterian Church, for your continued support of the Honduras Agape Foundation!



## An Update from Mwandi and Formula for Life™

by Bruce Eberhard

Keith and Ida Waddell have shared an update regarding status of items in Mwandi. They are still in Scotland. Their return to Zambia was delayed when Ida contracted Covid-19; not severe, just like a bad cold. They hope to return to Mwandi on February 24 if they both test negative. Ida's position as Health Secretary has been handed over to her replacement, and Keith hopes to hand over his duties as Education Secretary by the end of February.

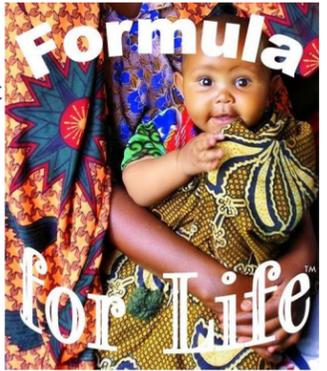
Half of the oxygen distribution and manifold system which some of us are financing has been purchased per drawings provided by Lawrence Kamba, our resident project manager. There is still a shortage of gas cylinders, and the parts for the manifold are being held up, as the agent for the vendor got stuck in Singapore with Covid-19. Another United Church of Zambia hospital in Chitambo received an oxygen generation plant like the one Ida wants for Mwandi. This was donated by the Scottish Government. Unfortunately, the Scottish Government isn't allowed to fund in the Western Province where Mwandi is located because of some law passed by the previous government. In addition to an oxygen plant, the hospital is in need of a digital X-ray machine.

Apparently, the steel for the water towers is still unavailable. Lawrence has put together a stop gap system until the main system can be completed. Getting anything done in rural Africa is sometimes maddening, especially if it is compounded by Covid-19 or requires the crossing of borders and resultant fees or tariffs.

Conversion of the old TB Ward to a Children's Ward, which is convertible to a Covid-19 Ward, is complete. The block factory is operating but not yet profitable. They feel they need a truck to become profitable. The cement and gravel have to be trucked in, and the finished blocks transported to sites outside the village. Thus far, most of the blocks have been consumed in the construction of two nearly completed doctors' residences and small purchases within the village.

Sadly, the produce farm, pig farm, chicken house, slaughter house, and fish ponds have fallen into disrepair. Keith and Ida intend eventually to get them back up and running to provide food for the hospital and Kandiana, the "assisted living facility." Pray for them in this endeavor as it will take quite an effort to get things running again.

Ida says she currently has 65 babies on formula, two of which the mothers died about two weeks after delivery. Obviously, the need is still there. This brings up the subject of Formula for Life™. We have experienced quite a drop in necklace sales in the past couple of years because of market saturation and Covid-19 restrictions. A number of us in conjunction with the Mission Committee are exploring alternative ways to raise money to maintain the \$1,800/month we have sent over the years. Some possibilities are: expand the product line, corporate sponsorships, bake sales, bouquet sales, private donations, additional points of sale, church yard sale, host an auction, and any other ideas that come to mind. Maybe the youth would like to propose a way they could contribute.



One possibility is enlisting other church groups outside of Aiken. We are grateful to the First Presbyterian Church of Albemarle, NC, for their support of this mission. They make and sell necklaces and send the money to us to send to Mwandi! They have been doing this for several years.

We also have a new product! Did you know we also have kitchen scrubbies for sale for FFL? These nifty little items are handy for all sorts of clean up needs. We thank Judy and Mike Loftus for the great idea and for making the scrubbies.



The group is open to any and all suggestions for additional ideas. Stay tuned for progress on this front. This is another opportunity for us Americans to show our Christian love toward those in need.



Thank you for your many contributions so far this year. Here are the upcoming items. Please leave your contributions in the baskets in the narthex wings.

**March**  
Soap  
(Dish, Bath, & Laundry)

**April**  
Peanut Butter

**May**  
Pasta Sauce

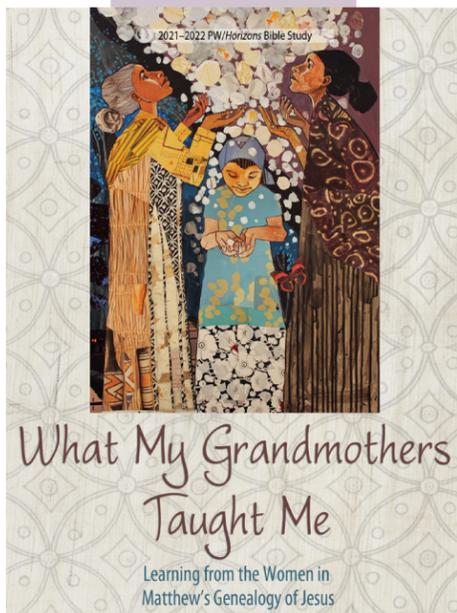
# Presbyterian Women

Presbyterian Women continue to meet monthly for Bible study and fellowship. Even though our numbers are not as large as before the virus, our commitment is strong. We hope to have a luncheon in May and share food and ideas for next year. Stay tuned for details about future activities. We have two Bible study lessons left in March and April on the topic, "What My Grandmothers Taught Me," based on the Matthew genealogy of Jesus. Terry Wimberley will lead the study on March 7 and 8, and Paul Ebel will conclude our study on April 11 and 12. All women are invited to attend.

The Thank Offering, which was collected in November, resulted in \$1,065 for missions nationally and internationally. Thank you to all who helped make life easier for those who need assistance throughout the world.

In the fall our Circles collected items for the residents at the Presbyterian Home in Clinton and delivered them in November. Some items collected were socks, word puzzles, pens, pencils, stationery, stamps, envelopes, birthday and get well cards, calendars, and toiletry items. They were distributed to the residents at Christmas.

PW placed flowers in the sanctuary for All Saints' Day on November 7.



# Gayle Gordon to be commissioned as a Stephen Leader on March 13

My service within First Presbyterian Church has spanned over many roles from Sunday School teacher to middle school advisor, Elder, and PNC member. When I had the opportunity to become a Stephen Minister seven years ago, I thought that it would be another way to serve my church family. I didn't realize how much it would teach me and enrich my life. I took the next step to become a Stephen Leader because of my fervent belief in the program and ministry.

Due to Covid-19, the 50-hour Leader training courses forced us to gather virtually rather than in-person. Although we weren't able to gather together for fellowship, the small class sizes and Zoom breakout rooms did offer its own opportunities to foster relationships with members from other churches, denominations, and parts of the country.

For the past 27 years, First Presbyterian has been blessed with strong, dedicated Stephen Leaders. As a new leader, my vision is to continue this vital ministry which offers loving, confidential, Christian care for those in need.



Stephen Ministers offer confidential Christian care and support for people experiencing life difficulties such as death of a loved one, job crisis, aging, separation or divorce, long-term illness, just to name a few. They go through 50 hours of initial training and continue to meet twice a month for supervision and continuing education. Stephen Ministry began in 1975 with Dr. Kenneth C. Haugk, a pastor and clinical psychologist in St. Louis, Missouri, who trained some of his parishioners to help meet the pastoral needs for care in his congregation. The ministry was so successful that other congregations became interested, and Haugk founded the Stephen Ministries organization.



Over the years, more than 75,000 clergy and lay leaders have attended a Leaders Training Course. They have come from 13,000 congregations representing more than 170 denominations and have come from all 50 states, 10 Canadian provinces, and 30 other countries. These Stephen Leaders, in turn, have trained more than 600,000 church members as Stephen Ministers. More than one-and-a-half million people have received the formal care of a Stephen Minister and millions more have been touched in an informal way.

If you would like to explore becoming a Stephen Minister, any of the leaders would welcome the opportunity to begin that conversation with you.

- Linda McGurer 803-648-0856
- Karalee Kludzuweit 803-335-8632
- Julie Taylor 803-979-9919
- Gayle Gordon 803-648-7108

## Prayer Shawl Ministry

Prayer shawls will be dedicated during worship on March 13. Please plan to turn in any completed prayer shawls by Wednesday, March 9, so they can be included.

Our Prayer Shawl Ministry started in the fall of 2007, and so far we have made over 856 prayer shawls, and over 800 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 or the church office to ask about getting a prayer shawl or to see how you can help!

## Welcome. Newborn Babies!

Please 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.

## Transitory Talk Lent and Beyond

From Pastor Zomermaand



Greetings, Friends!

So much going on in the life of FPC! Some good, old stuff gearing up again. Some new activities under way. Fresh leaders assuming their positions as elders, deacons, and trustees. A Pastor Nominating Committee elected and hitting the ground with a spring in their steps!! Of course, the season of Lent commences on March 2—quite late this year. That day, we begin our figurative sojourn with Jesus from ministry in Galilee to the awful fate he meets in Jerusalem—to the victorious morning in the garden of resurrection. But now I'm ahead of myself.

Lent is traditionally a time when we think about giving up something. We also consider what new thing we might add to our lives. We've got some great options floating around us in terms of devotional helps. I would like you to include one other important element: daily prayer for our Pastor Nominating Committee (PNC): Katie Brown, Kendall Buchanan, Bobby Calfee, Corey Feraldi, Jane Keisler, Whitney McDonald, Rick McLeod, Cindy Ploeger, Jeffrey Reynolds, and Marie Tewkesbury. You elected these folks February 20. They have hit the ground running! I expect them to be immersed in their task during Lent. They long for and need your prayer support.

Here are a few other things to remember as the PNC gets rolling. 1) I have no role in supervising them after an orientation program that I lead. Then, that duty is assumed by the Presbytery Commission on Ministry Liaison, Jason Hammersley, pastor of South Aiken Presbyterian Church. By design, I know little about what they are doing. I will make sure they communicate regularly with us all about their process. 2) The PNC will have a mailbox in the office wing for your input. Do not expect individual members of the group to be your information conduits. They will have enough to do in their work. Use the defined communication channels. 3) Let them do their work without undue pressure on them. You have elected and entrusted them with this vital task. 4) As I stated in the previous paragraph, pray for them!! 5) Be patient. The Mission Study Team has provided them with good resources to get them started fast. The process still takes time. As I tell the PNC, I say to you all: Trust the process! It works!

We are rocketing through an anxiously exciting time in church and community life. Nothing brings me greater joy than helping a PNC blast off! PNC work is challenging. Even daunting! And the rewards are great, for them and for you all. Off we go!

Blessings,  
Pastor Z



### Join us for our Sanctuary Concert Series!

Thursday, March 10, 2022

12:00 Noon  
Juilliard Vocal Arts  
JOYE in Aiken

Thursday, April 28, 2022

12:00 Noon  
Angela Massey, Flute  
Prokofiev Sonata

# CHURCH PICNIC

**MAY 29, 2022**

Meet on the West Lawn  
immediately after the  
10:00 AM worship service,  
and please bring a side  
dish to share. Burgers, hot  
dogs, drinks, and dessert  
will be provided.

Join us for **Book Group**  
at 7:00 p.m. All are welcome!

**March 28**  
*Cloud Cuckoo Land*  
Anthony Doerr

**April 25**  
*Sankofa*  
Chibundu Onuzo



On Sunday, May 8, we will receive the Mother's Day offering to support **Presbyterian Communities of South Carolina (PCSC)**. Mother's Day is a time we set aside to remember and thank the mothers who have given so much to us. Associated with Mother's Day, South Carolina Presbyterians have a long tradition of generously supporting the PCSC Mother's Day Offering. This offering has been a special way of remembering and caring for older adults since 1954. The monies received from the Mother's Day Offering are used exclusively for those residents who, through no fault of their own, have outlived their financial resources and need assistance to remain in Presbyterian Communities.

For more information about PCSC, visit [prescommunities.org](https://prescommunities.org).

# Thank You Notes

Dear First Pres Friends,

Tommy looks so adorable in his winter 'blues'—thank you for the beautiful sweater, booties, and blanket. They have kept him warm on walks to Central Park...and match his eyes!

It was such a thoughtful gift, and we certainly feel the First pres of Aiken love all the way up here in NYC.

Thank you again,  
Susanna & Brett Marinelli  
(*Susanna is the daughter of the Rev. Holly Shoaf-O'Kula.*)

Thank you so much to the Presbyterian Women for the hand knitted sweater and hat set for our baby Linus Ridley Fleming, due in February 2022. It is so soft and cuddly, and will be perfect for keeping our winter baby warm with your loving embrace!

Shannon & Rory Fleming  
(*Shannon is the daughter of Brian and Nancy Looney. Linus was born on February 12.*)

First Presbyterian Church Family,

Thank you for the lovely flowers, the kind words, thoughts and prayers sent to us following the death of our mother and mother-in-law. We are truly blessed to have such a loving and caring church family.

Blessings,  
Cam & Lisa Scott

Dear Church Family,

We want to thank each and every one for all the cards, meals, thoughts, and prayers during my mother's illness and death.

It meant so much to us to have a loving church family to support us during this difficult time.

Blessings,  
Buzz & Steven Jenkins & the Guerrys

Dear Church Family,

From the time of Jack's diagnosis last fall we have been overwhelmed with the many ways you have surrounded us with your love in both tangible and intangible ways. Cards, flowers, food, phone calls, visits, and, most importantly, prayers were appreciated by Jack and all of us. After his death, staff and volunteers rallied to help us plan the Celebration of Life Service and a reception afterwards where so many of our family and friends gathered both in person and virtually to praise God and remember Jack.

Thank you all for your love and concern.  
Mary Hunter, Amy, and Katherine

First Presbyterian Family,

I am having Sandy write this since my handwriting is not very good. I am still living in Burke, Virginia, near Sandy. I am in good health but getting more tired these days and my memory is not great. I have met some nice friends in Heatherwood. On a daily basis I walk and feed my birds and go to my favorite bagel shop once a week. Since I am a creature of habit, I still partake in having my scotch cocktail every day at 4:00 p.m. I still love watching golf and the Alaskan shows on TV. Sandy lets me drive ONLY in the parking lot of Heatherwood even though I have a current license.

I will be moving to Roswell, Georgia, in the spring to live five minutes away from Vickie. Sandy is building a house near Wilmington, North Carolina. She was not able to find the right place close to her new home in Wilmington. I am looking forward to it, and it will be closer to Aiken.

Hope this letter finds you all in good health!

Love,  
Mel Knowles

Dear First Presbyterian,

Thank you for welcoming us home with so many gifts for baby Grace. The diapers, wipes, and gift card are so helpful during these early days. I have also loved using the blanket and other knit items from the women of the church. They have kept Grace warm in all this cold weather.

We are so thankful for a loving church family that remembers us during such a special time.

Love,  
Ashby & Graham Reynolds

Thank you for the generous anonymous donation of \$1,500 which covered the cost of Gayle Gordon's Stephen Leader training course.

## With Best Wishes & Appreciation for Anna Derr

We appreciate Anna Derr's many years of outstanding service to FPCA, and we send our love and prayers with her as she begins a new position as Organist/Accompanist at First Baptist Church in Aiken.

Dear Church Family,

It has been a joy to serve as your Publications Specialist for the past five years. While I am excited about this new opportunity, the transition is bittersweet. This is a wonderful congregation, and I feel blessed to have you as a part of mine and my family's lives. I hope our paths continue to cross in the days and years to come. This church and its people will always be close to my heart.

With love,  
Anna Derr



Dear Pastor Z and Members of First Presbyterian Church,

Thank you for your continuous dedication to Area Churches Together Serving and our mission to provide assistance to our neighbors in need. For more than 35 years, your partnership has enabled us to serve many in our community who are stressed with the ramifications of poverty. The Reverse Advent food drive during the month of December provided an essential source of supplement of food for our Food Pantry which enabled us to serve individuals and families who are at risk of becoming food insecure.

We celebrate the ACTS Christmas Store and First Presbyterian as the catalyst for this important ministry. More than 100 children were provided with lovely gifts that their parents were able to hand select. The commitment of Beth Beckham and other members who support this initiative with financial gifts and volunteer manpower allowed families in need to be served with dignity and grace.

The generous Christmas Eve offering provides the financial support that enables us to sustain our ministry. In 2021, we provided more than 11,600 services in the form of food, clothing, utility assistance, medical assistance and other services impacting more than 18,300 individuals across Aiken County. In efforts to serve many who live in rural, underserved areas of Aiken County, we established monthly food distributions in Ridge Spring, Oakwood-Windsor, Graniteville and New Ellenton. This would not have been possible without your support.

We understand the impact that financial contributions have on our ability to serve and are so thankful for the ongoing commitment of First Presbyterian Church in helping us meet the needs of individuals and families who are struggling during these trying times.

With Gratitude,

Suzanne K. Jackson  
Executive Director

# Spring Worship Calendar

March

April

May

- |   |  |  |
|---|--|--|
| <b>2</b> Ash Wednesday  | <b>3</b> 5 <sup>th</sup> Sunday of Lent<br>Communion                       | <b>1</b> 3 <sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Easter<br>Communion             |
| <b>6</b> 1 <sup>st</sup> Sunday of Lent<br>Communion<br>Officer Installation<br>Commitment Sunday | <b>10</b> Palm/Passion Sunday  | <b>8</b> 4 <sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter<br>Mother's Day Offering |
| <b>13</b> 2 <sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Lent<br>Stephen Ministry Sunday<br>Prayer Shawl Dedication    | <b>14</b> Maundy Thursday<br>Communion                                     | <b>15</b> 5 <sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter<br>Graduation Sunday    |
| <b>20</b> 3 <sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Lent  | <b>15</b> Good Friday  | <b>22</b> 6 <sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter<br>Confirmation Sunday  |
| <b>27</b> 4 <sup>th</sup> Sunday of Lent  | <b>17</b> Easter Sunday<br>Communion<br>One Great Hour of Sharing Offering | <b>29</b> 7 <sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter                         |
|   | <b>24</b> 2 <sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Easter                                 |  |

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