

CONNECT@FIRST

A Weekly Newsletter of First Presbyterian Church, Greenville, SC

VOLUME 4, NO. 2 | January 15–21, 2026



ANNOUNCEMENTS

CARDS FOR REV. STAN JOHNSON

Rev. Stan Johnson will retire on **January 25** after 22 years of faithful ministry. We invite you to share words of gratitude and blessing by mailing or bringing a card to the church, *Attn: Rev. Dr. Mark Hutton*. Stan will be honored during worship services on Sunday, January 25. The cards will be presented to him that day.

SANCTUARY FLOWER DATES FOR 2026

You are invited to place flowers in the Sanctuary in honor or in memory of loved ones. The following Sundays in early 2026 are currently available: February 8; March 8, 15, 22; April 12, 19, 26; May 3, 10, 24, 31. To reserve a date and provide your dedication for the bulletin, please contact Linda Slash at lslash@firstpresgreenville.org.

DISCIPLESHIP

Children's Ministry, Tina Jones

KIDS CHURCH DURING SELECT WORSHIP SERVICES

On **January 18 and 25 and February 1**, the sermon topics in worship may not be age-appropriate for our elementary-aged children. To support families during these weeks, we have planned special Kids Church programming for 1st–5th graders. Instead of attending worship with their families on these dates, 1st–5th graders are invited to Kids Church for a fun movie and popcorn on January 18 and 25, and an exciting Gospel jump rope presentation by Learnin' the Ropes on February 1. Simply check your 1st–5th graders in at any children's check-in desk before worship on those Sundays. Preschoolers may attend Kids Church as usual.

Congregational Care, Don Feuerbach

LIGHT & LIFE MINISTRY

Light & Life exists to speak life, bring truth, and offer Christ-centered hope and healing to women and men impacted by abortion. Through education, awareness, and pastoral care, this ministry seeks to meet people with grace, understanding, and the restoring love of Christ. If you are walking through a difficult time and would welcome prayer, pastoral care, or simply someone to listen, please email our Congregational Care Pastor, Rev. Don Feuerbach, at dfeuerbach@firstpresgreenville.org.

Discipleship Ministry, Claire Ripley

DISCOVER FIRST: NEW MEMBER WEEKEND

Are you interested in making First Presbyterian your church home? Discover more about the vision, discipleship, and outreach of FPC! The next New Member Weekend will be **Friday–Saturday, January 23–24**. Childcare is available for children age 5 and under. For details, contact Charlotte Joye (cjoye@firstpresgreenville.org). Register at [FirstPresGreenville.org/Events](https://firstpresgreenville.org/Events).

Roots Student Ministry, Courtney Rockness

SANCTUARY SENIOR HIGH WINTER RETREAT

Senior High Students are invited to *Sanctuary 2026*! Our annual winter retreat will take place **February 13–16** in Gatlinburg, TN. Students will spend time relaxing with friends at the cabin, exploring the area, and growing deeper in faith through worship and diving into God's Word together. Registration is open at [FirstPresGreenville.org/events](https://firstpresgreenville.org/events).

Stewardship Ministry, Bobby Hoffman

"GOD AND MONEY" WORKSHOPS

Join us for the remaining sessions of the *God and Money* workshops during the Sunday School hour (9:45–10:30am) in Fellowship Hall. Together, we'll explore biblical wisdom and practical tools for managing the resources God has entrusted to us. Everyone is encouraged to attend as many sessions as possible as we address real-life financial questions through the lens of faith.

January 18 – *Saving and Investing* with Mark Clary

January 25 – *Budgeting and Debt* with Tripp Welch

February 1 – *Estate Planning* with Bob August

Did you miss the January 11 session? Watch it online at firstpresgreenville.org/give by clicking the Biblical Stewardship Classes link in the menu. Questions? Contact Bobby Hoffman at bhoffman@firstpresgreenville.org or 864.565.0962.

EVENTS

Fine Arts, Chelsea Fraser

JESS RAY'S MIDWINTER MINI-TOUR

You're invited to Jess Ray's Midwinter Mini-Tour, with Taylor Armstrong and John Van Deusen, in Harper Chapel on **Friday, January 30**, at 7:00pm. A singer-songwriter, producer, and creative supernova based in her beloved home state of North Carolina, Jess blends fresh sonic style with timeless truths, delicately weaving it all together with the realities of the human experience. We can't wait to see you there! For tickets go to FirstPresGreenville.org/events.

ACTIVATE: AN INVITATION TO MAKING

ACTIVATE is a creative conference designed to connect deep theology with hands-on practice. Featuring keynote speakers Esther Lightcap Meek and Andy Squyres, this gathering invites you to explore your creative calling and imagine how God might use your work to bless the church and community. With extended small-group time led by local artists, you'll learn, experiment, and create together. Dates are **February 26–28**. Register now at FirstPresGreenville.org/events. Join us!

Sports Ministry, Caleb McKisic

SPRING ADULT BASKETBALL LEAGUE

Get in the game this spring! Registration is now open for the Adult Spring Basketball League for both men and women. This six-week league begins in March and offers a great way to stay active, build community, and enjoy some friendly competition. View the full game schedule, FAQs, and register at csarec.com/spring-basketball-league. Questions? Email info@csarec.com or call 864.660.2080.

SUMMER SPORTS CAMP

Registration is now open for Rising K5–5th grade boys and girls at First Pres! Summer Sports Camp runs Monday–Friday, May 26 through August 7, from 9:00am–12:00pm. Each week is filled with high-energy sports, snack breaks, and meaningful character-building lessons in a fun, encouraging environment. Space is limited, so register today at csarec.com/summer-sports-camp. Questions? Email info@csarec.com or call 864.660.2080.

Worship & Music, Susan Messer

MUSIC CAMP 2026

Music Camp 2026 is coming! Mark your calendars for **June 8–11** as we celebrate Christmas in the Summer. Open to rising 2nd–6th graders, campers will explore music in fun, hands-on ways throughout the week! Rising 7th–12th may apply to be counselors. Registration is open at FirstPresGreenville.org/events.

OPPORTUNITIES TO SERVE

THE SANCTUARY GUILD NEEDS YOUR HELP

The Sanctuary Guild is looking for a few volunteers willing to give just 60–90 minutes once a month to help tidy and organize the pew racks in the Sanctuary. If you're interested in serving in this simple and quiet ministry, please contact Avery Moser at almmoser@aol.com.

Vacation Bible School and Day Missions, Karen King

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR VBS AND DAY MISSIONS

Join us **June 8–11** for one of the most exciting weeks of the year in Children's Ministry at First Pres! We will welcome hundreds of children and students for Vacation Bible School and Day Missions—and we need your help. The more volunteers who sign up, the more children we can serve. All VBS volunteers are guaranteed a spot for their own children. To learn more and register:

- VBS: <https://vbsprolevents/p/954709>

- Day Missions: <https://vbspro.events/p/6c5edb>

Thank you for helping to make this meaningful week possible for children in our church and community!

Missional Minsitry, Eric Swofford

YELLOW BAGS FOR MIRACLE HILL

Did you know that a small yellow bag can make a big difference in the lives of people in our community? Please set aside gently used clothing, shoes, and accessories for our Miracle Hill Ministries Yellow Bag Project. Bags will be available **Sunday, February 8 and 15**, and can be returned on **Sunday, February 22**.

SUNDAY WORSHIP

January 18, 2026

Sanctity of Life Sunday

Sermon Series:

"Tough Topics"

Psalm 139:13–16

Rev. Dr. Richard Gibbons

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

8:30am | Sanctuary

10:45am | Worship & Arts Center

11:00am | Sanctuary

8:30am Nursery

9:30am Children's Sunday School

9:45am Student Life Groups

9:45am Adult Life Groups

10:30am Kids Church

LIVE STREAMING

8:30am, 10:45am, 11:00am

YouTube.com/FirstPresGreenvilleSC

FirstPresgreenville.org Watch menu

"Like" and "Subscribe" for easy access

WEDNESDAYS

January 21, 5:30pm

PASTOR'S BIBLE STUDY

Rev. Dr. Richard Gibbons

12:30pm–1:00pm • Fellowship Hall

6:30pm–7:15pm • Fellowship Hall

LIVE STREAMING

6:30pm–7:15pm • Fellowship Hall

YouTube.com/

[@FirstPresGreenvilleSC](https://FirstPresGreenvilleSC)

FirstPresgreenville.org Watch menu

WEDNESDAY MEALS

11:45am & 5:00pm • Fellowship Hall

MENU:

Chicken Pot Pie
Fried Flounder
Mixed Vegetables
Turnip Greens
Baked Spiced Apples
Fried Potato Wedges
Coleslaw
Rolls
Salads
Fresh Fruit
Chef's Choice Desserts

MEAL PRICES:

Adults: \$10
Children ages 4-12: \$5
Children ages 0-3: Free
Family max: \$40

LOOKING AHEAD

JANUARY

23: Buddy Break

23–24: New Member Weekend

25: God & Money Workshop

30: Jess Ray Concert

FEBRUARY

13–16: Sanctuary Retreat

20: Rend Collective Concert

26–28: ACTIVATE Arts Conference

This newsletter offers highlights of announcements, events, and opportunities. For the full list of information, visit firstpresgreenville.org/about/connect@first.

MEMBER NEWS

CONGRATULATIONS ♦ *The pastors and congregation extend blessings to Mr. and Mrs. Robert Pope (Beth)* on the birth of a son, William Archer “Archie” Pope, on December 29, 2025; and to grandparents **Dr. Susan and Mr. Jeff Messer.**

SYMPATHY ♦ *The pastors and congregation extend sympathy to Rev. Dr. Claire Ripley and Mr. Todd Ripley* in the death of her mother, Martha Ruth “Marcie” Camp Radcliffe of Southern Pines, NC, on January 8, 2026. **The family of Mr. David Norris** who died on January 8, 2026.

IN MEMORIAM

David Leland Norris III ♦ *July 23, 1946–January 8, 2026*

MEMORIALS & HONORS
CHILDREN’S MINISTRY FUND

In memory of Rodney M. Piper by his family

CHURCH HONOR FUND

In honor of Rev. Stan Johnson by Gary and Marcy Schlansker

CHURCH MEMORIAL FUND

In memory of Doris Latham by Robert Latham III

In memory of Anne Lybrand by Circle 6

In memory of Jim Nance by David Goode

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH FOUNDATION

In memory of Jim Smith by Carlton and Belinda Manley

In honor of John Campbell and Shelton Sanford by Dean and Tina Livingston

PRAYER LIST ♦ **Bold** = New *Italics* = In Hospital

Nancy Adams, Andy and June Anderson, McFall Anderson, Bill Anthony, Sandra Banks, Betty Bennett, Harry Bolick, Le Anna Browning, John Cooter, Brantley Daniel, Debbie Davidson, Peggy Denny, Bud Fant, Liz Fuqua, Martha Gallivan, Larry Goodwin, Richard and Danette Hanks, Anna Hewitt, Tina Hicks, Harry Hightower, Don Hobbs, Amy Hunter, Charlie Hutton, Tom Lide, Don McAlister, Paul McGahee, Deryl McKinney, Lee Miller, Rachel Mullinax, Martha Nance, Chloris Norman, Carolyn Rice, Thom Robelot, Louise Robinson, Bill Rogers, Patricia Rush, Joan Snowden, Lewis Tollison, Beryl Wickliffe

For Pastoral emergencies, please call 864.235.0496.

PRAYER RESOURCES

Congregational Care: To pass on information regarding a medical emergency, upcoming surgery, or admittance to the hospital, please call Rev. Don Feuerbach, 864.565.0928.

Prayer Appointments: To schedule a confidential appointment with our Healing Prayer Team Members, call 864.565.0960.

Prayer Requests: For general prayer requests, call 864.565.0970.

Healing Prayer Service: Every Tuesday at 6:30pm in Harper Chapel.



FIRST
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CHURCH
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GREENVILLE, SC 29601

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

phone | 864.235.0496
website | FirstPresGreenville.org
email | contactus@firspresgreenville.org
youtube | @FPCGreenville
facebook | facebook.com/FirstPresGreenville
instagram | @FPCGreenville
app | FPC Live
podcast | Fridays at First
e-newsletter | FirstPresGreenville.org/about/connect@first

TELEVISION

First and Foremost Program
on WHNS-TV FOX Carolina
Sundays at 10:00am

ONLINE GIVING



@fpcgvl

WHAT'S INSIDE

January 15–21, 2026

New Sermon Series:
“Tough Topics”

“God and Money” Workshops

Music Camp 2026

Spring Adult Basketball

Summer Sports Camps

ACTIVATE Arts Conference
Registration is Open

Yellow Bags for Miracle Hill

For more information about
FPC, visit FirstPresGreenville.org

JANUARY 15–21, 2026

New Series Starts this Sunday, January 18

Over the next few weeks, we will be looking at the following:
Abortion, Suicide, Sexual Identity, Marriage, and Politics

TOUGH TOPICS
FAITH IN A DIGITAL AGE



During this series, we will be asking what role our faith plays as we navigate these controversial and sensitive issues and how we should respond to them in a culture that seems polarized and divided.

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