

CONNECT@FIRST

A Weekly Newsletter of First Presbyterian Church, Greenville, SC

VOLUME 4, NO. 17 | April 30–May 6, 2026



ANNOUNCEMENTS

ENVELOPE FUNDRAISER DEADLINE IS MAY 10

Don't forget to return your envelopes to the church with your donations to the Senior High Dominican Republic mission trip by **Sunday, May 10**. Don't have an envelope? Scan the QR code to donate. Please contact Courtney Rockness at crockness@firstpresgreenville.org if you have questions. Thank you for supporting Youth Missions!



MOTHER'S DAY OFFERING MAY 10

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. Please use the designated offering envelope on **Sunday, May 10**, to make a donation or scan the QR code to donate.



2026 GRADUATES TO BE ANNOUNCED IN JUNE

FPC members and family members who are 2026 (or August/December 2025) graduates of High School, College, Graduate School, and Seminary will be announced in early June. To be included, complete the form online at FirstPresGreenville.org/Events or contact Austin Clay (aclay@firstpresgreenville.org) by Sunday, May 31.

WORTHY MENTOR PROGRAM

The Worthy Mentor Program is a ministry that offers spiritual support to women who have experienced an unexpected pregnancy. Some of these women may be walking through pregnancy and considering their options, while others may be healing from abortion. If you are interested in being paired with a Worthy mentor, or feel called to serve as a Worthy mentor, please contact Amy Murray at hello2amymurray@gmail.com.

SANCTUARY FLOWER DATES OPEN

You are invited to place flowers in the Sanctuary in honor or in memory of loved ones. The following Sundays in 2026 are currently available: **August 2; September 20; October 25; and November 1, 8, 15, 22, 29**. To reserve a date and provide your dedication for the bulletin and livestream, please contact Linda Slash at lash@firstpresgreenville.org.

DISCIPLESHIP

Discipleship Ministry, Claire Ripley

PASTORS' BIBLE STUDY

The Pastors' Luncheon Bible Study will continue at 12:30pm in Fellowship Hall through June. Lunch is available at 11:45am for \$10. See the *Wednesdays* section for the menu.

Missional Ministry, Eric Swofford

CATCH UP HOUR WITH OUR NEIGHBORS!

Join us on Monday, May 4, 5:30–7:00pm in Room D305 to hear an update from Front Porch Housing, an organization in Greenville supported by First Pres whose mission is to provide a three-year supportive housing program to individuals and families in crisis. For more details, call Autumn Clark at 864.565.0947. Two more "Catch Up Hours with Our Neighbors" will be held this fall in September and November.

Women's Ministry, Tiffany Boggs

SAVE THE DATES: WOMEN'S SUMMER BIBLE STUDY

Watch for registration coming soon for the First Pres Women's Summer Bible Study: *Now and Not Yet* by bestselling author and artist Ruth Chou Simons. The study will be offered on **Tuesdays, June 16–July 28** (morning and evening), and **Wednesdays, June 17–July 29** in the mornings (with childcare).

EVENTS

Fine Arts Ministry, Chelsea Fraser

EIGHTEEN MILE BLUEGRASS BAND

Join us on Friday, May 15, at 6:30pm for an unforgettable evening of bluegrass music with Eighteen Mile. This dynamic group of five young musicians blends deep roots in traditional bluegrass and gospel with fresh, original songwriting. Their passion for crafting a classic sound—while telling their own stories—creates a performance that resonates with every audience. Named after Eighteenmile Creek in the Upstate of South Carolina, the band brings a genuine small-town charm and authenticity that is both engaging and inspiring. Don't miss this special night of music that's sure to capture hearts.

Worship & Music Ministry, Susan Messer

CHILDREN'S CHOIRS' SHOWCASE

Join us for a joyful evening as our Cherub, Carol, and Covenant Choirs present their final program of the year on **Wednesday, May 6**, at 6:15pm in the Sanctuary. Children from K4 through Grade 5 will share the music they've been learning and growing in all year long. Come celebrate and support these young voices as they glorify God through song!

THE COOLEST WEEK OF THE SUMMER!

Looking for something fun, creative, and meaningful for your kids this summer? Music Camp, **June 8–11**, is the perfect place to explore music, imagination, and play! Kids can enjoy VBS (9:00am–12:00noon) in the morning and stay for Music Camp in the afternoon (12:00–4:00pm). From ukulele and world percussion to piano, organ, and drama, campers will experience a wide range of hands-on musical activities with a highly qualified staff of teachers. This year, we're bringing the North Pole to the South with a festive "Christmas in the Summer" theme, complete with carols, holiday-themed music games, and plenty of cool surprises along the way. The week concludes with a special double feature: a live finale concert for family and friends, followed by a celebratory trip to Discovery Island Waterpark—a perfect way to end an unforgettable week with a splash! Cost: \$100 per child. Register online at FirstPresGreenville.org/events.

PROCLAIM LIBERTY CONCERT TICKETS

This July 1, experience an inspiring evening of worship and patriotic celebration at *Proclaim Liberty*—a concert honoring our nation's 250th birthday. Featuring a full choir and orchestra, this special event is designed for the whole family. Tickets are on sale now—Adults: \$15, Children: \$10. Visit the Events page at FirstPresGreenville.org to purchase. Join us as we celebrate 250 years of freedom, lift our voices in worship, and proclaim liberty together on **Wednesday, July 1, from 6:00–7:30pm in the Sanctuary**.

OPPORTUNITIES TO SERVE

Children Ministry, Tina Jones

JOIN THE CAST: VBS DRAMA VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Want to help bring Bible stories of Paul and the underground church to life? We're looking for enthusiastic volunteers to fill 10 roles in our Vacation Bible School dramas. Some roles span all four days, while others are one-day parts—there's something for everyone! Interested? Contact Tina Jones at tjones@firstpresgreenville.org.

Day Missions, Karen King

DAY MISSIONS COLLECTION

Children's Ministry is collecting essential items to support neighbors living in low-income housing in our community. Each summer, Day Missions prepares and distributes 500 bags filled with basic necessities, helping families meet everyday needs. See a complete list of needed items at FirstPresGreenville.org/events. Prefer to shop online? Click the QR code to shop. You can have items shipped directly to the church, Attn: Karen King. Donations may be dropped off on Sunday mornings or Wednesday evenings at the Children's Ministry Check-In Desk next to the Nursery.



SUNDAY WORSHIP

May 3, 2026

Sermon Series: "Empowered and Enabled" (Nehemiah 4:6–15)
Rev. Dr. Richard Gibbons preaching

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

8:30am | Sanctuary
10:45am | Worship & Arts Center
11:00am | Sanctuary

SUNDAY EDUCATION

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

All services

[YouTube.com/FirstPresGreenvilleSC](https://www.youtube.com/FirstPresGreenvilleSC)
"Like" and "Subscribe" for easy access
FirstPresGreenville.org Watch menu

WEDNESDAYS

MAY 6, 2026

PASTOR'S BIBLE STUDY

Deep Dive in Romans
Rev. Dr. Richard Gibbons
12:30pm–1:00pm • Fellowship Hall

WEDNESDAY MEAL

11:45am • Fellowship Hall

MENU

Fried Chicken
Spaghetti and Meatballs
Green Beans
Steamed Carrots
Mixed Greens
Salads
Fresh Fruit
Rolls and Cornbread
Chef's Choice Desserts

MEAL PRICES:

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

LOOKING AHEAD

MAY

3: Senior Sunday
6: Children's Choirs' Showcase
7–9: Mary Poppins Jr. Musical
10: Mother's Day
15: Eighteen Mile Bluegrass
21: FPA Graduation Ceremony
24: Memorial Day: Church Campus Closed

JUNE

7: Communion Sunday
8–11: VBS and Day Missions
12: In the Land of Wooden Shoes Exhibit Opening/Reception

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

MEMBER NEWS

BAPTISMS ♦ April 19, 2026 correction

Russell Walker Howard, son of Mr. and Mrs. Reid Howard (Ashlynn)
Bennett Clark Thomason, son of Mr. and Mrs. Pierce Thomason (Sarah)

BAPTISMS ♦ April 26, 2026

Grace Girardeau Kittredge, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Zay Kittredge (Jennifer)

NEW MEMBERS ♦ The pastors and congregation welcome new members

April 26: Taylor and Reid Bearden, Debbie Levato, Tyler Levato, Carli and David Moore, Farah and Mike Randolph, Erin Saville, Debbie and Paul Smith, Sherri and Mike White

SYMPATHY ♦ The pastors and congregation extend sympathy to

(correction) **Mr. and Mrs. Kevin Short, Sr. (Suzanne)** in the death of her father, Dr. Hal H. Crosswell, Jr., MD, of Columbia, SC, on April 17, to **Mr. and Mrs. Robert Barreto (Sullivan), Dr. and Mrs. Will Payne (Sarah Katherine), and Laughton Short** on the death of their grandfather, and to **Libby and Kit Barreto** on the death of their great-grandfather.

Mr. and Mrs. Jim Hastings (Kathy) in the death of his brother, John Rutledge Hastings Jr., on April 19.

Mr. and Mrs. Timothy Morrison (Marilyn) in the death of her brother, Lyle Kenneth Blair of Jamestown, TN, on April 24.

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

Nancy Adams, Bill Anthony, Sandra Banks, Betty Bennett, Harry Bolick, Dan Boling, Dick Brennecke, Brantley Daniel, Peggy Denny, Richard & Danette Hanks, Harry Hightower, Don Hobbs, Charlie Hutton, Anne Lide, Jenny McCorkle, Lisa Merck, Rachel Mullinax, Chloris Norman, **Kathi Paramore**, Carolyn Rice, Thom Robelot, Louise Robinson, *Bill Sykes*, Lewis Tollison, Beryl Wickliffe, Jetty Wickliffe

MEMORIALS & HONORS

CHURCH MEMORIAL FUND

In memory of Betty Farr by Louis T. Runge Jr.; Sandra and Robert Delapp III; Katherine P. Joyner

In memory of Lambert “Whit” Jordan by Jane and Harold Hope; Don and Darlene Martin; Mr. and Mrs. David H. Stowe; Jill and Tom Coker; Blanche Stewart

In memory of Elwyn Ernest “Buster” Kennedy Jr. by Sherri Kennedy

In memory of Elizabeth Robison by Sandra Freeman

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH FOUNDATION

In memory of Lambert “Whit” Jordan by Alta Vista Garden Club, Tom and Beth Baumgarten, Becky Boland, Brenda Busby, Jack and Erin Cay, Four Bees Foundation, Arthur and Jennifer Fuller, Melissa Harrill, R. Bates and Sarah Kennedy, Jack and Lucy Kuhne, Louisa’s YPO Forum Ladies, T. Wayne and Evelyn McDonald, Stacy Sanders, Vicki Sowinski, Charles and Cheryl West, Sallie White

In honor of John Campbell by Dean and Tina Livingston

In honor of Shelton Sanford by Dean and Tina Livingston

MUSIC MINISTRY FUND

In memory of Le Anna Browning by James and Toni Childers; Jim and Laurie Warren

TRANSFORMING THE HEART OF THE CITY FUND

In memory of Elizabeth Robison by Kathi and Buddy Daniel

TURNER MEMORIAL FUND

In memory of Bill Lusk by Kathleen Sebek



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

200 WEST WASHINGTON STREET
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

mobile 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

April 30–May 6, 2026

FPA Presents *Mary Poppins Jr.*

Children’s Choirs’ Showcase

Mother’s Day Offering for
Presbyterians Homes of SC

Proclaim Liberty Concert Tickets

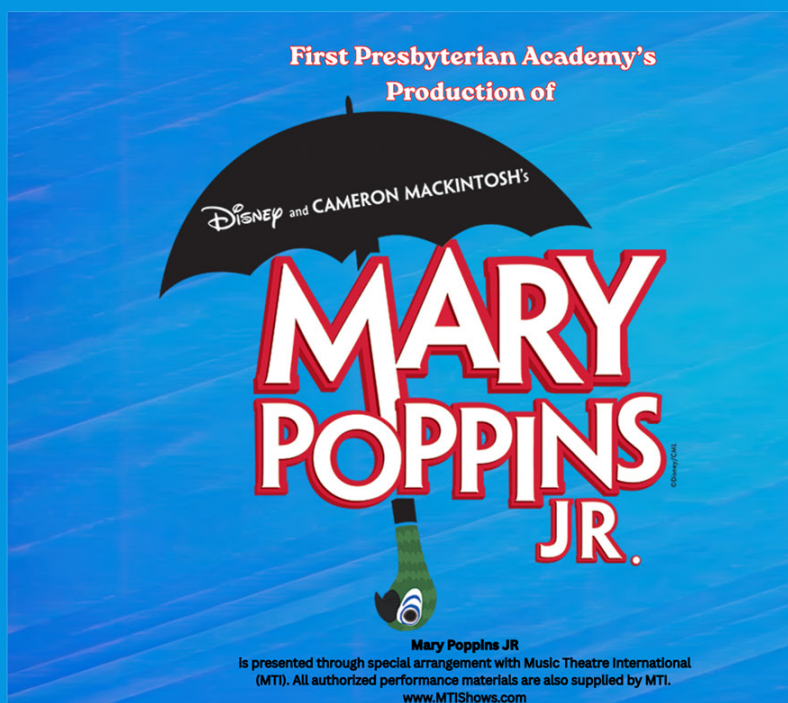
Student Missions Envelope
Fundraiser Ends Soon

VBS Drama Volunteers Needed

Eighteen Mile Bluegrass Band

For more information about
FPC, visit FirstPresGreenville.org

APRIL 30–MAY 6, 2026



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN ACADEMY
PROUDLY PRESENTS

MARY POPPINS JR.

A MAGICAL MUSICAL ADVENTURE
FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY!

WORSHIP & ARTS CENTER
FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH DOWNTOWN

THURSDAY, MAY 7 @ 7:00PM

FRIDAY, MAY 8 @ 7:00PM

SATURDAY, MAY 9 @ 7:00PM

Featuring beloved songs, unforgettable characters, and a heartwarming story about family and imagination, this delightful production will have you believing that anything is possible. Don’t miss this practically perfect performance!

TICKETS AT FIRSTPRESGREENVILLE.ORG/EVENTS

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