

CONNECT@FIRST

A Weekly Newsletter of First Presbyterian Church, Greenville, SC

VOLUME 4, NO. 18 | May 7–13, 2026



ANNOUNCEMENTS

STAFF NEWS

In recent months, Eric Swofford has faithfully served as Interim Director of Missions, participating in mission trips to Egypt and the Dominican Republic while partnering with multiple agencies to strengthen our missions efforts. We are pleased to share that, following his outstanding leadership, Eric has been called to serve as First Presbyterian Church's Director of Global and Local Engagement in a permanent role. Please join us in congratulating Eric. We are deeply grateful for his dedication and commitment to advancing the work of missions.



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.

JUST ANNOUNCED! IN THE LAND OF WOODEN SHOES, A HOLOCAUST REMEMBRANCE

Join us for an Opening Night Reception on Friday, June 12, at 6:00pm in the Sturgis Gathering Area and Lenz Gallery. This powerful exhibition, a collaboration between the Anne Frank Center and South Carolina artist Mary Burkett, tells the stories of children affected by the Holocaust through moving visual portraits and storytelling. More than an art exhibit, it is an immersive experience of remembrance—honoring young lives, fostering empathy, and inviting reflection. The exhibition runs through November and is open to individuals, families, schools, and community groups, with guided tours and special programming available. For more information or group bookings, contact Chelsea Fraser at cfraser@firstpresgreenville.org.

Worship & Music Ministry, Susan Messer 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](https://www.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](https://www.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 VBS TEAM: JUNE 8-11

There's a spot for everyone: lead a tribe, participate in a drama, assist with crafts, or guide preschoolers to stations. Contact Tina Jones at tjones@firstpresgreenville.org to volunteer Monday–Thursday, or even just a day or two.

Day Missions, Karen King

DAY MISSIONS NEEDS DRIVERS

We currently have a waiting list of students eager to participate in Day Missions—but we need additional chaperones and drivers to make it possible. If you're available, even for just a couple of days, your help would make a meaningful difference. Invite a friend and serve together—it's a great way to get involved and support our students as they serve the Greenville community. Click the Day Missions icon at [FirstPresGreenville.org](https://www.firstpresgreenville.org) to register. Questions? Contact Karen King at kking@firstpresgreenville.org.

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.

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](https://www.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.

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 *Wednesday* section for the menu.

Women's Ministry, Tiffany Boggs

SAVE THE DATES: WOMEN'S SUMMER BIBLE STUDY

Registration is open for the First Pres Women's Summer Bible Study: *Now and Not Yet* by bestselling author and artist Ruth Chou Simons. Too often, we feel disappointed with our "right now"—our life circumstances, our relationships, our lack of progress towards our dreams and goals, our daily grind. Simons reminds us of God's powerful provision and faithful promises for those "who have ears to hear." The study will be offered on **Tuesdays, June 16–July 28**, 9:30–11:00am and 6:00–7:30pm, and **Wednesdays, June 17–July 29**, 9:30–11:00am (with childcare). We hope you will join us this summer! Visit [FirstPresGreenville.org/Events](https://www.firstpresgreenville.org/Events) to register.

RADIANCE SMALL GROUP REGISTRATION

Are you a woman in your 20s to early 40s looking for a small group? Join Radiance! Groups meet in mentor leaders' homes for dinner and Bible study on Tuesday or Wednesday evenings from 6:30–8:00pm. Together, we "do life" as we grow in faith, enjoy retreats and fun activities, and serve our Greenville community. Registration is open now through August 8 for the Fall and Spring 2027 semesters. Participants are placed in groups with others in a similar life stage. Click the Radiance icon at [FirstPresGreenville.org](https://www.firstpresgreenville.org) to sign up. Questions? Contact Diana Orders at dianaschmittorders@gmail.com.

EVENTS

Fine Arts Ministry, Chelsea Fraser

EIGHTEEN MILE BLUEGRASS BAND

Join us on Friday, May 15, at 6:30pm for an unforgettable

SUNDAY WORSHIP

Mother's Day, May 10, 2026

Sermon: "Where Lost Things Go"

Romans 8:1

Rev. Dr. Claire Ripley 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](https://www.firstpresgreenville.org) Watch menu

WEDNESDAY

MAY 13, 2026

PASTOR'S BIBLE STUDY

Rev. Dr. Richard Gibbons

12:30pm–1:00pm • Fellowship Hall

WEDNESDAY LUNCH

11:45am • Fellowship Hall

MENU

Chef's Choice

MEAL PRICE:

Adults: \$10

LOOKING AHEAD

MAY

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

16–17: *Now and Not Yet*

Women's Bible Study Begins

JULY

1: *Proclaim Liberty* Concert

3: Church Campus Closed for
July 4 Holiday

This newsletter offers highlights of announcements, events, and opportunities. For more information, visit [firstpresgreenville.org/about/connect@first](https://www.firstpresgreenville.org/about/connect@first).

MEMBER NEWS

SYMPATHY ♦ *The pastors and congregation extend sympathy to*

Mr. Alan Paramore in the death of his wife, Mrs. Kathi Paramore, on May 3, and to **Jennifer Ann Paramore** in the death of her mother.

CONGRATULATIONS ♦ *The pastors and congregation extend blessings to*

Mr. and Mrs. Cameron Dixon (Anna Brady), who were married on May 2, 2026.

IN MEMORIAM

Kathleen Dugan Paramore ♦ *September 24, 1946 – May 3, 2026*

CELEBRATION OF LIFE

A Celebration of Life memorial service will be held for **Elizabeth Robison** on Thursday, May 14, at 10:00am in the Sanctuary, with visitation following in the Abbott Gathering area.

MEMORIALS & HONORS

CHURCH MEMORIAL FUND

In memory of Lambert “Whit” Jordan by Laura S. Smith; Lottie L. Smith

In memory of Paul McGahee Jr. by the Gospel Partners Life Group

In memory of Elizabeth Robison by the Ecclesia Life Group

MUSIC MINISTRY FUND

In memory of Elizabeth Robison by Phillip and Aline Kilgore

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

Bill Anthony, Nancy Adams, Sandra Banks, Betty Bennett, Harry Bolick, Dan Boling, Dick Brennecke, Brantley Daniel, Peggy Denny, Richard and Danette Hanks, Harry Hightower, Don Hobbs, Charlie Hutton, Anne Lide, Jenny

McCorkle, Lisa Merck, Rachel Mullinax, Chloris Norman, Carolyn Rice, Thom Robelot, Louise Robinson, *Bill Sykes*, Lewis Tollison, Beryl Wickliffe, Jetty Wickliffe

PRAYER RESOURCES ♦ For Pastoral emergencies call 864.235.0496.

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



The FPC Military Ministry assists and prays for church members of our congregation serving in the Armed Forces (Active Duty, Reserves, National Guard). Visit the Military Ministry page under Care and Prayer on our website to learn more.



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN 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

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

May 7–13, 2026

Mother's Day Offering for
Presbyterian Communities of SC

Women's Summer Bible Study

Eighteen Mile Bluegrass Band

VBS Volunteers Needed

Day Missions Drivers Needed

Proclaim Liberty Concert Tickets

For more information about
FPC, visit FirstPresGreenville.org

MAY 7–13, 2026

Mother's Day Offering

for Presbyterian Communities
of SC during all

**FPC SUNDAY
SERVICES**

MAY 10

Mother's Day Offering 2026



PRESBYTERIAN
COMMUNITIES
OF SOUTH CAROLINA



Thank
You
for your
generosity!



Please use the designated
envelope on Sunday or scan
the QR code to donate.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, VISIT GIVING.PRESCOMMUNITIES.ORG.

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