

CONNECT@FIRST

A Weekly Newsletter of First Presbyterian Church, Greenville, SC

VOLUME 4, NO. 32 | August 13–19, 2026



ANNOUNCEMENTS

Congregational Care, Don Feuerbach

INTRODUCING FOURTH QUARTER: A NEW LECTURE SERIES FOR SENIOR ADULTS

What does it look like to live with purpose, faith, and joy in the fourth quarter of life? Fourth Quarter is a new lecture series from our Congregational Care ministry designed to encourage, inspire, and equip senior adults to embrace this season of life with purpose and faith. Join us for our first gathering featuring Yvonne Ulmer, Life Coach and Covenant Partner, who will share practical guidance for living a purposeful, faith-filled, and joyful life.

Thursday, September 10

Lunch: Noon, Fellowship Hall | \$10

Presentation: 12:30–1:30pm

Registration is not required, but is encouraged. Register at FirstPresGreenville.org/events. Come enjoy a delicious lunch, meaningful conversation, and an encouraging message as we begin this new series together!

DISCIPLESHIP

Children's Ministry, Tina Jones

PROMOTION SUNDAY

On **Sunday, August 16**, we'll celebrate our children launching into a new school year with inflatables, special treats, and lots of fun. There's no need to register—just come to Sunday School (rising K2–5th graders) and/or Kids Church (rising K2–K5) as usual. Parents are welcome to stay and lend a helping hand if they'd like.

HELPING CHILDREN KNOW WHAT THEY BELIEVE

Beginning **Sunday, August 23**, we'll be incorporating the New City Catechism into our 1st–5th grade Sunday School lessons. Through engaging questions and answers, children will explore the foundations of their faith and discover not only what Christians believe, but why we believe it. We encourage parents and grandparents to make sure your child joins us each **Sunday, 9:30–10:30am**. For more information about the New City Catechism, go to this link: <https://newcitycatechism.com/introduction-timothy-keller/>.

Discipleship Ministry, Claire Ripley

WOMEN'S FALL BIBLE STUDY SHOWCASE

All women are invited to drop by the Sturgis Gathering area on **Sunday, August 23**, 9:00–11:00am, for a showcase of Women's Fall Bible studies. You'll have the opportunity to meet leaders and receive information about the studies. We hope to see you there!

Worship & Music Ministry, Susan Messer

SAVE THE DATE FOR BROADWAY AT FIRST!

Join us on **Wednesday, September 2**, at 5:15pm as we kick off our fall Grow@First season with a memorable evening of music, fellowship, and great food at *Broadway at First* in Fellowship Hall. Enjoy dinner while being entertained by a live performance featuring the talented professional singers of the First Presbyterian Choir who will bring some of Broadway's most beloved songs to life. Space is limited, so be sure to RSVP soon at FirstPresGreenville.org/events. Dinner prices (payable at the door): Adults: \$10; Children (ages 4–12): \$5; Children (3 and under): Free; Family maximum: \$40. Childcare for children 3 and under is available by registration to Evelyn Penkert at epenkert@firstpresgreenville.org.

EVENTS

Children's Ministry, Tina Jones

ACADEMY FAMILIES: COFFEE & CONNECTION

Are you a parent of a First Presbyterian Academy student—or considering the Academy for your child? Join us for coffee, pastries, and conversation on **Sunday, August 30**, from 9:15–9:45am in the Children's Wing. While your children enjoy Sunday School, you'll have a chance to meet other families connected to both First Presbyterian Church and First Presbyterian Academy, and chat with Head of School Dr. Rob Brown. Come connect, ask questions, and enjoy a little time together!

Fine Arts Ministry, Chelsea Fraser

ACTIVATE LECTURE WITH DR. W. DAVID O. TAYLOR

Join us on **Friday, September 4**, at 6:00pm for an evening of thoughtful conversation, encouraging

fellowship, and fresh inspiration for artists, makers, and creatives of all kinds. Whether you write, paint, compose, build, or make, this special lecture will encourage, challenge, and inspire you as Dr. Taylor shares biblical insights into faith and creativity. Then stay for a panel discussion and Q&A featuring Dr. Taylor, FPC Arts Director Chelsea Fraser, and other local faith and arts leaders. A light reception will follow. Tickets are \$20 and are on sale at FirstPresGreenville.org/events.

Special Needs Ministry, Brenda Harper

FEARFULLY & WONDERFULLY MADE 2026—MADE TO SHINE: BRIGHTER TOGETHER

Mark your calendar for **Thursday, October 1**, in the Worship & Arts Center for an unforgettable evening celebrating the unique gifts and God-given worth of our friends with special needs. Enjoy a tropical-themed fashion show, a pre-show reception, shopping, and fellowship as we celebrate that each of us is fearfully and wonderfully made in the image of God. Tickets go on sale **Monday, August 17**.

OPPORTUNITIES TO SERVE

Children's Ministry, Tina Jones

WE NEED YOU IN CHILDREN'S MINISTRY!

There's nothing quite like seeing a child discover God's love and grow in faith—and right now, our Children's Ministry needs your help! We have 58 rising 2-year-olds coming this week, and if even half attend on the same Sunday, we won't have enough volunteers to care for them well. This same wonderful "problem" is happening in our K3, K4, and K5 classrooms. Our greatest need is during Kids Church from 10:30am–12:00pm. Would you consider serving in Children's Ministry just one Sunday a month? Your willingness to serve helps families worship together while their children are cared for, loved, and disciplined. To learn more, contact Tina Jones, Children's Ministry Director, at tjones@firstpresgreenville.org.

Missions, Eric Swofford

GOOD NEWS CLUB AT HOLLIS ACADEMY: VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Help share the Good News of Jesus with boys and girls at Hollis Academy! Volunteers are needed to serve after school on **Wednesdays**, 2:00–4:00pm during two sessions: September–November and January–March. To volunteer, visit cefgreenville.com/volunteer or contact Cindy Griner at 864.616.4529 or cindy@cefgreenville.com.

2027 DOMINICAN REPUBLIC MISSION TRIP

Applications are now being accepted for our mission trip to the Dominican Republic, **February 10–17, 2027**. Team members will serve alongside our mission partners, Misiones Maranatha/El Buen Samaritano and Eastern Dominican Christian Mission, providing care for families through food distribution, medical, dental, and vision clinics, and building relationships with the community in Brisas del Mar. No medical training is required to participate. To learn more or express your interest, please email missions@firstpresgreenville.org by **this Saturday, August 15**.

Worship & Music Ministry, Susan Messer

JOIN THE CHRISTMAS CHOIR!

Come be part of bringing the joy of Christmas to our church and community this December at *Christmas@First*, happening December 12–13. Join us for **rehearsals beginning in September**, and participate in one of First Presbyterian's most anticipated events of the year. Whether you're a longtime choir member or simply enjoy singing, everyone is welcome. For more information, contact Susan Messer at smesser@firstpresgreenville.org.

RING WITH THE HANDBELL CHOIR!

Have you ever played handbells—or always wanted to learn? The First Presbyterian Church Handbell Choir invites you to join us! Whether you're an experienced ringer or new to handbells, we'd love to welcome you. Rehearsals begin **Wednesday, September 9**, at 7:30pm in the Choir Room. If you're interested in becoming part of the Handbell Choir or have questions, please contact Director of Traditional Worship Susan Messer at smesser@firstpresgreenville.org.

SUNDAY WORSHIP

August 16, 2026

SERMON SERIES:

"Not Just Sundays"

Revelation 1:1–8

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

"Like" and "Subscribe" for easy access

FirstPresgreenville.org Watch menu

WEDNESDAY

Watch for the Fall Grow@First schedule later this month.

FRIDAY

FRIDAYS AT FIRST PODCAST & EMAIL

Tune in every Friday on our YouTube channel (@FPCGreenvilleSC) or your favorite podcast platform to catch *Fridays at First* with our Senior Pastor, Dr. Richard Gibbons. If you prefer email, sign up for the *Fridays@First* eblast at firstpresgreenville.org/about/connect@first and click the red "Subscribe" button.

LOOKING AHEAD

AUGUST

16: Promotion Sunday

19: Roots Kick-off

23: Women's Fall Showcase

30: Academy Coffee & Connection

SEPTEMBER

2: Broadway at First!

4: Activate Lecture

9: Fall Grow@First Begins

9: Alpha Class Begins

9: DivorceCare Support Group

9: Handbell Choir Rehearsal

10: Fourth Quarter: A Senior Lecture Series

13: GriefShare Support Group

14: Catch Up Hour with Our Neighbors: FCA Furman

16: Radiance Kickoff

16: Above All Kickoff

25: Opening Reception for "Are We There Yet?" Exhibit

OCTOBER

1: Fearfully & Wonderfully Made

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

MEMBER NEWS

BAPTISMS ♦ August 9, 2026

Rebecca Marlow Holton, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Erik Holton (Ailee)
Mary Banks Taylor, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Jay Taylor (Julia)

CONGRATULATIONS ♦ The pastors and congregation extend blessings to

Mr. and Mrs. Clark Sturgis (Caroline) on the birth of a daughter, Lucille Charlotte Sturgis, on June 21, 2026; and to grandparents Mr. and Mrs. Rick Sturgis (Joy).

SYMPATHY ♦ The pastors and congregation extend sympathy to

Mr. and Mrs. Bo Russell III (Allison) in the death of her mother, Robin Scarborough Stilwell on August 1; and to Earle Russell IV and Sam Russell in the death of their grandmother.

Mr. and Mrs. Mike Carter (Debbie) in the death of his mother, Rebecca “Becky” Carter, on August 5; to Mary Margaret Robertson (Cody), and Mathew Carter (Kellee) in the death of their grandmother; and to Millie Cate Carter, Charlotte Carter, and Ellie Robertson in the death of their great-grandmother.

IN MEMORIAM

Rebecca Gearheart Carter ♦ June 24, 1938 – August 5, 2026

MEMORIALS & HONORS

CHURCH MEMORIAL FUND

In memory of Betty Farr by Mr. and Mrs. Gus Chapman

TRANSFORMING THE HEART OF THE CITY FUND

In memory of Knox Wherry Jr. by Sarah Stone Reeves; Bev and Bob Howard; Ginger and Bob Pfister

PRAYER LIST ♦ Bold = New Italics = In Hospital

Nancy Adams, Bill Anthony, Sandra Banks, Betty Bennett, Harry Bolick, Dan Boling, Jim Childers, Matt Covington, Brantley Daniel, Peggy Denny, Gabe Hajj, Harry Hightower, Don Hobbs, Charlie Hutton, Joe James, Al Johnson, Anne Lide, Jenny McCorkle, Rachel Mullinax, Tom Pettigrew, Ed Reed, Carolyn Rice, Thom Robelot, Louise Robinson, Wellesley Robinson, Jim Rush, Bob Shell, Donna Steeves, Barrett Taft, Lewis Tollison, Steve Waddell, Charlotte Watson, Beryl Wickliffe

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: Held every Tuesday at 6:30pm in Harper Chapel.

For Pastoral emergencies, please call 864.235.0496.



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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

August 13–19, 2026

GriefShare and DivorceCare
Support Groups

Fourth Quarter: A New Lecture
Series for Senior Adults

Promotion Sunday

Broadway at First!

Tickets on Sale for Fearfully &
Wonderfully Made

2027 DR Mission Trip
Application Deadline

For more information about
FPC, visit FirstPresGreenville.org

2026 FALL

Grow@First Support Groups

AUGUST 13–19, 2026

DIVORCE Care®

Discover hope and rebuild your life
through the power of Jesus Christ.

GRIEF SHARE
GRIEF RECOVERY
SUPPORT GROUPS

Designed to help you rebuild your
life after losing a loved one.

Register now at FirstPresGreenville.org/Events | Classes begin in early September.

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