

CONNECT@FIRST

A Weekly Newsletter of First Presbyterian Church, Greenville, SC

VOLUME 4, NO. 33 | August 20–26, 2026



ANNOUNCEMENTS

Staff Update

RECEPTION FOR REV. CHARLIE BUCHANAN

After 15 years of faithful ministry at First Pres, Rev. Charlie Buchanan has resigned from his position as Associate Pastor of Men’s Discipleship. Charlie and his wife, Carrie, have two children and have decided that it is best for Charlie to be a stay-at-home dad for a season. We will have a farewell reception on **Sunday, August 30**, immediately following the 11:00am Traditional Service in the Sturgis Gathering area. This will be an opportunity to express our gratitude, share memories, and offer Charlie and his family our support and prayerful encouragement for the future.

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**, 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!

DISCIPLESHIP

Children’s Ministry, Tina Jones

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/>.

Congregational Care, Don Feuerbach

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!

Congregational Care, Don Feuerbach

SUPPORT GROUPS BEGIN IN SEPTEMBER

DivorceCare

You don’t have to walk through divorce alone. This Christ-centered support group offers encouragement, practical guidance, and hope for healing. Meets Wednesdays, **September 9–December 9**, 6:00–8:00pm in the Formal Dining Room.

GriefShare

If you’ve lost a loved one, GriefShare offers a caring community and practical support to help you navigate your grief. Meets Sundays, **September 13–December 13**, 3:00–5:00pm in Room D305.

Register online for either group at FirstPresGreenville.org/events. For more information, contact Sarah Emore at semore@firstpresgreenville.org or 864.565.0966.

Discipleship Ministry, Claire Ripley

WOMEN’S FALL BIBLE STUDY SHOWCASE

All women are invited to drop by the Sturgis Gathering area **this 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!

ALPHA IS COMING

Whether you’re exploring Christianity for the first time, returning to faith after years away, or simply curious about life’s biggest questions, Alpha is a welcoming space to have honest conversations in a relaxed, judgment-free environment. You don’t have to have all the answers. Come as you are. Bring a friend. Everyone is welcome! Alpha begins **Wednesday, September 9**. Register now at FirstPresGreenville.org/events. Questions? Please email class leaders, Sara Rieser (riesershine@gmail.com) or Bob August (raugust6@yahoo.com).

Missions, Eric Swofford

JOIN BOY SCOUT TROOP 11

Looking for adventure, friendship, and opportunities to grow? Boy Scout Troop 11 gives boys and young men the chance to build character, grow in faith, develop leadership skills, and have fun along the way. Through outdoor adventures, hands-on activities, community service, and time with great mentors and friends, Scouts gain skills and experiences that last a lifetime. Parents and boys are invited to learn more! Contact Troop 11 leaders Christian Moody at moody34@gmail.com or Rob Williams at rgw515@gmail.com. Troop 11 meets on **Tuesdays, 7:00pm** in the Scout Hut (304 W. Washington Street, Greenville, SC 29601).

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

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 are on sale now at FirstPresGreenville.org/events.

OPPORTUNITIES TO SERVE

Missions, Eric Swofford

MAKE A DIFFERENCE IN THE LIFE OF A SCOUT

Every boy needs men who will invest in him, encourage him, and help him grow. Boy Scout Troop 11 is looking for adults who are willing to share their time, skills, faith, and experience as mentors. Whether you enjoy the outdoors, teaching practical skills, serving the community, or simply spending time with young men, you can make a lasting difference as a Scout leader. Interested in getting involved? Contact Christian Moody at moody34@gmail.com or Rob Williams at rgw515@gmail.com for more information.

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.

SUNDAY WORSHIP

August 23, 2026

SERMON SERIES:

“Not Just Sundays”

Revelation 2:1–7

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 in the church literature racks and online at FirstPresGreenville.org.

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

23: Women’s Fall Showcase

30: Academy Coffee & Connection

30: Reception for Rev. Charlie Buchanan

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 a snapshot of upcoming announcements, events, and opportunities at First Presbyterian Church. For complete details and more information, visit firstpresgreenville.org/about/connect.

MEMBER NEWS

SYMPATHY ♦ *The pastors and congregation extend sympathy to*
The family of Ms. Ann Shinn Sternal. Ms. Sternal died on January 29 in Cambridge, WI.
Mr. and Mrs. Jeter Yates (Carol) in the death of her son, Doug Nelson, on August 8.

IN MEMORIAM

Ann Shinn Sternal ♦ *April 8, 1943 – January 29, 2026*

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



IN THIS WEEK’S PODCAST

In this week’s episode, Dr. Gibbons sits down with co-host Michelle Ward for a conversation about the sermon series “Not Just Sundays” and the book of Revelation. What message does Jesus have for His Church about living faithfully while we wait for His ultimate victory? What does Revelation say about growing in our faith daily—not just on Sundays?

Tune in to *Fridays@First* on our YouTube channel (@FPCGreenvilleSC) or wherever you listen to podcasts. Be sure to like, comment, and subscribe to stay connected!

Want the *Fridays@First* email delivered to your inbox each week? Visit the website, firstpresgreenville.org/about/connect@first and click the red “Subscribe” button.



FIRST
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH
200 WEST WASHINGTON STREET
GREENVILLE, SC 29601

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

phone | 864.235.0496
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TELEVISION

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

ONLINE GIVING



@fpcgvl

WHAT'S INSIDE

August 20–26, 2026

“Not Just Sundays”
Sermon Series

Reception for Rev. Charlie Buchanan

Fourth Quarter: A New Lecture
Series for Senior Adults

DivorceCare and GriefShare
Support Groups

Join Alpha!

Broadway at First!

Troop 11 Boy Scouts

For more information about
FPC, visit FirstPresGreenville.org

AUGUST 20–26, 2026

NEW SERMON SERIES!

Not Just
SUNDAYS
EXPLORING REVELATION

AUGUST
August 16: Rev. 1:1–8
August 23: Rev. 2:1–7
August 30: Rev. 2:8–11

SEPTEMBER
September 6: Rev. 2:12–17
September 13: Rev. 2:18–29
September 20: Rev. 3:1–6
September 27: TBD

OCTOBER
October 4: Communion
October 11: Rev. 3:7–13
October 18: Rev. 3:14–22

The New Testament book of Revelation can be an intimidating read, filled with unfamiliar imagery, vivid visions, and

Grab a Bookmark!

Bookmarks available in the literature racks around the church and online on the ‘Watch’ page of FirstPresGreenville.org.

The Apostle John’s apocalyptic writing is often interpreted through the lens of current world events or ignored because it seems too difficult to understand. As we explore Revelation, we will be asking what it says about growing in your faith daily, not just Sundays.