

CONNECT@FIRST

A Weekly Newsletter of First Presbyterian Church, Greenville, SC

VOLUME 4, NO. 38 | September 24–30, 2026



ANNOUNCEMENTS

SUNDAY MORNING BREAKFAST

Join us for a light breakfast Sunday mornings in the Abbott Gathering area following the 8:30am worship service. If you attend the early service, take a few minutes to enjoy some refreshments, connect with fellow worshippers, and begin your Sunday in fellowship.

A NEW CHAPTER FOR THE INTERSECTION CAFÉ

After three years of partnership, Bridge City Coffee has decided to conclude its operations at the Intersection Café at First Presbyterian in order to focus on its two key locations in Greenville County. **Sunday, September 27**, will be Bridge City Coffee's final day at the Intersection. We are grateful for the ways Bridge City has served our congregation and community over the past three years, and we look forward to beginning a new ministry partnership with Fresh Start CoffeeWorks, a Workforce Development program of Miracle Hill Ministries. Fresh Start empowers women experiencing life challenges through job training and hands-on work experience, providing opportunities for growth, stability, and a fresh start. We are excited to welcome Fresh Start to the Intersection, where they will begin serving in a few weeks. For more information about Fresh Start CoffeeWorks, visit mhfreshstart.org.

STAFF NEWS

Please join us in welcoming these new members to the First Pres Staff.

Melissa Ragsdale recently joined the staff as the Life Connections and Men's Discipleship Coordinator. Melissa lives in Greenville with her husband, Craig, and their four teenagers. Their oldest daughter is a sophomore at the University of South Carolina, their next daughter is a junior in high school, and their boy-girl twins are sophomores in high school. Melissa came to FPC after years in interior design, where she loved creating spaces where people feel at home. She is passionate about helping others find that same sense of connection and belonging within the church. In her free time, she enjoys exploring the local art scene and spending time with family and friends.



Hailey Myers recently joined the staff as the Engagement and Program Coordinator. She is a 2026 graduate of Covenant College where she studied Art History before moving to Greenville, where she is excited to begin serving at FPC. In her free time, Hailey enjoys painting, reading, and spending time outdoors.



DISCIPLESHIP

GOSPEL OUTREACH OPPORTUNITY

On **Wednesday, October 28**, Will Graham, grandson of Billy Graham, will be speaking at Unity Park here in Greenville. This visit will be part of a 13-state tour and will include live music from Josh Havens and a message of hope from Will Graham (<https://billygraham.org/events/declaration-of-dependence>). Counselors trained in sharing the gospel are needed for this event. Teaching will be provided in Fellowship Hall on **Thursday, October 8**, at 7:00pm. First Pres is a host church for the Christian Life and Witness course, and our men's ministry will assist in organizing the training. Please put October 8 and October 28 on your calendar! Look for more details and registration information coming soon.

EVENTS

Events Ministry, Caleb Miller

STEVEN CURTIS CHAPMAN IN CONCERT

Join Steven Curtis Chapman for an unforgettable night filled with beloved Christmas classics, favorite songs from his celebrated Christmas collection, and timeless hits from his remarkable career—all brought to life with the beauty of strings and choir. Come sing along, make memories with family and friends, and celebrate the birth of our Savior with Steven Curtis Chapman and the music of

Christmas on **Thursday, December 3**, in the Worship & Arts Center. Purchase tickets online at FirstPresGreenville.org/events.

Fine Arts Ministry, Chelsea Fraser

ARE WE THERE YET? EXHIBIT OPENING

Are We There Yet? invites you to consider the experience of fostering and adoption from many perspectives. Often full of twists and turns, we recognize that caring for children and orphans is a job close to the heart of God. "A father to the fatherless, a defender of widows, is God in his holy dwelling. God sets the lonely in families, he leads out the prisoners with singing" (Psalm 68:5–6a). Both The Fine Arts and Children's Ministries are excited to partner with the Heart Gallery of SC, Flourish Adoption agency, and the Premier Arts Collective Art Room at Triune Mercy Center, along with individual artists and their families, to show you the feelings of sorrow, hope, pain, and joy in the fostering and adoptive experience. Join us on **Friday, September 25**, 4:00–7:00pm, for an opening reception at the Galleries at First Presbyterian to meet the artists and see the exhibition!

FOLK CONCERT WITH ELIZA LYNN

Join us for an unforgettable evening of folk, blues, and gospel music with Greenville singer-songwriter Eliza Lynn and instrumentalist Mike Alexander. Featuring original gospel songs written during Eliza's years of graduate theological study, the concert will blend soulful storytelling, familiar sing-alongs, and the rich sounds of acoustic guitar, banjo, upright bass, and dobro. Eliza is known for her big, room-filling voice and a musical style rooted in blues, old-time country folk, and soul. Her music has taken her from Nashville and Asheville to London's legendary Abbey Road Studios and the Belfast–Nashville Songwriting Festival. Fine Arts Director Chelsea Fraser, a songwriter and poet, will join Eliza and Mike as a featured guest. Come enjoy an evening of heartfelt music, meaningful lyrics, and the unmistakable warmth of live acoustic performance.

Friday, October 23 | 6:30pm

Tickets: \$15 | FirstPresGreenville.org/events

Special Needs Ministry, Brenda Harper

FEARFULLY & WONDERFULLY MADE—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

Events Ministry, Caleb Miller

SERVE WITH EVENT OPERATIONS

First Presbyterian hosts more than 2,000 events each year—from Bible studies and worship services to receptions and concerts. The Event Operations Ministry helps create a welcoming, professional experience while showing God's love to everyone who comes through our doors. We need volunteers of all ages and stages of life to serve on our Event Services and Production Services teams. Please prayerfully consider joining this ministry and helping make our many events possible. To learn more or express your interest, email events@firstpresgreenville.org or scan the QR code.



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 **Sunday, September 27**, 4:00–5:00pm in the Choir Room, 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

September 27, 2026

SERMON SERIES:

"Not Just Sundays"

Revelation 3:7–13

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" & "Subscribe" for easy access

FirstPresgreenville.org Watch menu

WEDNESDAY

September 30, 2026

PASTOR'S BIBLE STUDY

"Deep Dive into Romans"

Rev. Dr. Claire Ripley teaching

12:30pm–1:00pm • Fellowship Hall

6:30pm–7:15pm • Fellowship Hall

LIVE STREAMING

6:30pm–7:15pm • Fellowship Hall

YouTube.com/

[@FirstPresGreenvilleSC](https://YouTube.com/FirstPresGreenvilleSC)

FirstPresgreenville.org Watch menu

WEDNESDAY MEALS

11:45am & 5:00pm • Fellowship Hall

LUNCH & DINNER MENU

Birra Beef Tacos, Taquitos Al Pastor, Shredded Chicken Quesadillas, Mexicali Corn, Roasted Butternut Squash, Black Beans, Yellow Rice, Homemade Salsas and Taco Toppings, Chef's Choice Salads, Rolls, 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

SEPTEMBER

25: Opening Reception for

"Are We There Yet?" Exhibit

25–26: Discover First Weekend

27: First Christmas@First Choir

Rehearsal

OCTOBER

1: Fearfully & Wonderfully Made

4: Communion Sunday

8: Christian Life & Witness Course

23: Eliza Lynn Concert

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

CONGRATULATIONS ♦ *The pastors and congregation extend blessings to Mr. and Mrs. Steven Weaver (Kelsey) on the birth of a son, James Charles Weaver, on May 30.*

Mr. and Mrs. Jackson Kabas (Bella) on the birth of a daughter, Eleanor Blake Kabas, on September 22; and to grandparents Dr. and Mrs. Scott Kabas (Danette).

SYMPATHY ♦ *The pastors and congregation extend sympathy to The family of Mrs. Beryl Wickliffe. Mrs. Wickliffe died on September 17.*

Mr. Jack Hardin in the death of his wife, Mrs. Fran Hardin, on September 18.

Dr. and Mrs. Johnny Goforth III (Rhonda) in the death of his sister, Judy Goforth Dean of Camden, SC, on September 20.

IN MEMORIAM

Beryl J. Wickliffe ♦ *February 11, 1940 – September 17, 2026*

Frances Kirby Hardin ♦ *July 17, 1933 – September 18, 2026*

MEMORIALS & HONORS

CHURCH MEMORIAL FUND

In memory of Betty Farr by Salli and Charles Alexander

In memory of Dettie Piper by Salli and Charles Alexander; C. Michael Smith; Mr. and Mrs. Doug Cross; Martha Nance

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

Nancy Adams, Andy Anderson, Bill Anthony, Sandra Banks, Betty Bennett, Harry Bolick, Dan Boling, Matt Covington, Brantley Daniel, Debbie Davidson, Peggy

Denny, 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, Jim Rush, Bob Shell, Barrett Taft, Samantha Templeton, Lewis Tollison, Steve Waddell

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.

 *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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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

September 24–30, 2026

Have You Taken the Discipleship Survey?

A New Chapter for the Intersection

Staff News

Join the Christmas Choir!
Rehearsals Begin September 27

Eliza Lynn in Concert

Fearfully & Wonderfully Made
October 1

For more information about FPC, visit FirstPresGreenville.org

SEPTEMBER 24–30, 2026



FIRST
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH

Transforming Lives
for the Glory of Christ

HAVE YOU TAKEN THE CONGREGATIONAL SURVEY?

Our Strategic Plan’s Mission, Vision, and Values prioritize discipleship in the life of the congregation. Last year, hundreds of covenant partners shared their perspectives through this survey. Your participation this year will help us better understand discipleship across every generation at First Pres and guide future ministry decisions while reflecting our entire church family.



The survey should take less than 15 minutes.

To access the survey, please scan this QR code or copy this link to your website browser:

https://bit.ly/fpc_survey2026



Please complete the survey before **Sunday, October 11.**