

CONNECT@FIRST

A Weekly Newsletter of First Presbyterian Church, Greenville, SC

VOLUME 4, NO. 39 | October 1–7, 2026



ANNOUNCEMENTS

HAVE YOU TAKEN THE CONGREGATIONAL SURVEY?

Our Strategic Plan's Mission, Vision, and Values prioritize discipleship as a major focus in the life of the congregation. To assess our effectiveness and guide our planning, we are asking each of you to complete a Congregational Survey. It will take less than 15 minutes. To access the survey, please copy this link to your website browser: https://bit.ly/fpc_survey2026. Please complete the survey before **Sunday, October 11**.

A NEW CHAPTER FOR THE INTERSECTION CAFÉ

After three years of partnership, Bridge City Coffee has concluded its operations at the Intersection Café in order to focus on its two key locations in Greenville County. 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.

TUESDAY HEALING & PRAYER SERVICE

The Healing & Prayer Service is held each Tuesday at 6:30pm in Harper Prayer Chapel. You are invited to come and receive God's love, peace, hope, and healing through prayer and the work of the Holy Spirit.

SANCTUARY FLOWERS

If you would like to place flowers in the Sanctuary in honor or memory of a loved one on one of the following Sundays, please contact Linda Slash (lslash@firstpresgreenville.org or 864.565.0901): **November 1, 8, 22, or 29; December 6**.

DISCIPLESHIP

CHRISTIAN MEN'S FELLOWSHIP

Looking for a place to connect with other men, enjoy a good meal, and grow in your faith? Christian Men's Fellowship (CMF) meets **each Thursday from 12:00–1:30pm** in the Formal Dining Room near Fellowship Hall. Each week begins with lunch prepared by our church kitchen staff (\$10), followed by a time of encouragement and spiritual growth. Programs include guest speakers who share personal faith stories and life experiences, Bible teaching videos, and other opportunities to learn and grow together. The group recently completed a teaching series by Dr. David Jeremiah. Men of all ages and stages of life are welcome—whether you're retired, still working, or somewhere in between. Come join us any Thursday at noon! For more information, contact Melissa Ragsdale at mragsdale@firstpresgreenville.org or 864.565.0956.

GOSPEL OUTREACH OPPORTUNITY

On **Wednesday, October 28**, Will Graham, grandson of Billy Graham, will be speaking at Unity Park here in Greenville at noon. This visit, part of a 13-state tour, 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. Training will be provided for our congregation in Fellowship Hall on **Thursday, October 8**, at 7:00pm. As FPC is a host church for the Christian Life and Witness course, our men's ministry will assist in organizing this event. Please put October 8 and October 28 on your calendar, and we look forward to seeing you for the training class!

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

FIRST FRIDAY ART & FAITH GATHERING

This is a monthly meeting of artists and creatives who meet to fellowship and grow in Christ together. This month our featured artist is singer/songwriter Eliza Lynn, who is also performing at First Pres on October 23! Tickets are available now for her concert, but our monthly Art & Faith gatherings are always free. Join us on **Friday, October 2**, 12:00pm in A108 (Student Program Room).

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

OPPORTUNITIES TO SERVE

Children's Ministry, Tina Jones

GIVE THE GIFT OF WORSHIP

Corporate worship is vital to every believer's spiritual growth. Would you consider serving in our Nursery or Preschool one Sunday a month—or even one Sunday each quarter? By taking a turn caring for our youngest children, you'll make it possible for another parent or volunteer to participate in worship. Your willingness to serve will be a tremendous blessing to others, and you'll have the joy of spending time with some of our church's youngest members.

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 this **Sunday, October 4**, 4:00–5:30pm 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.

JOIN THE SANCTUARY GUILD

The Sanctuary Guild is seeking a few volunteers willing to give just 60–90 minutes each month to help tidy and organize the pew racks in the Sanctuary. This simple, quiet ministry helps keep our worship space welcoming and prepared each week. If you're interested in serving in this meaningful way, please contact Avery Moser at almmoser@aol.com.

SUNDAY WORSHIP

October 4, 2026

Sacrament of the Lord's Supper

COMMUNION MEDITATION:

"The Hero's Journey"

1 Peter 5:10; Psalm 34:3–4

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

"Like" & "Subscribe" for easy access

FirstPresgreenville.org Watch menu

WEDNESDAY

October 7, 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

Fried Chicken, Chili Mac Beef
Casserole, Oven-Roasted Cauliflower,
Baked Apples, Steamed Broccoli,
Oven-Roasted Potato Wedges, 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

OCTOBER

2: Art & Faith Gathering

8: Christian Life & Witness Course

11: Congregational Survey Due

12: Pickup OCC Shoeboxes

23: Eliza Lynn Concert

28: Will Graham at Unity Park

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 Mr. and Mrs. Robert “Bobby” H. Martin Jr. (Deborah) in the death of his mother, Mrs. Polly Martin, on September 23; and to Rebekah Lanier, Abigail Martin, David Martin, and Miriam Martin in the death of their grandmother.*

IN MEMORIAM
Polly Pepper Martin ♦ *July 25, 1929 – September 23, 2026*

MEMORIALS & HONORS
CHURCH MEMORIAL FUND

In memory of Dettie Piper by Susan and David Waldkirch; Sarah T. Dixon; Kathy Brashier Higgins; Mrs. C. C. Pearce; Susan Bien

MUSIC MINISTRY FUND
In memory of Fran Hardin by the Agape-Fellowship Life Group
In memory of Beryl Wickliffe by the Agape-Fellowship Life Group

TRANSFORMING THE HEART OF THE CITY FUND
In memory of Knox Wherry Jr. by Suzanne Jordan

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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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
October 1–7, 2026
Operation Christmas Child
Is Coming Soon!
Have You Taken the
Discipleship Survey?
An Invitation to Christian
Men’s Fellowship
First Friday Art & Faith Gathering
It’s Not Too Late to Join
the Christmas Choir!
For more information about
FPC, visit FirstPresGreenville.org

OCTOBER 1–7, 2026

Boxes
Available
SUNDAY,
OCTOBER 11

SHOEBOX
PICK-UP INFO

Locations:
Worship & Arts Center
Nursery Check-in

DROP-OFF INFO:
FirstPresGreenville.org/Events



Samaritan's Purse
OPERATION
Christmas Child

IT'S ALL ABOUT
JESUS!

SERVE
WITH
US!

Please contact
Teresa Hannon at
864.907.4794
or email
twhannon@aol.com
with questions.