

CONNECT@FIRST

A Weekly Newsletter of First Presbyterian Church, Greenville, SC

VOLUME 4, NO. 41 | October 15–21, 2026



ANNOUNCEMENTS

STAFF NEWS

Please join us in welcoming **Sara Galuppo** to the First Pres Staff as Congregational Care Coordinator. Originally from Charleston, SC, Sara developed a heart for ministry and pastoral care through her time at Seacoast Church, where she served in care ministry, young adult leadership, prayer ministry, and administrative roles. She earned her Associate degree in Ministerial Leadership through Southeastern University and recently completed her Bachelor of Science in Biblical Counseling. Sara is especially passionate about walking alongside people through the personal and often unseen seasons of life through prayer, biblical encouragement, and meaningful connection within the church community. Sara and her husband, Christian, have been married for six years and are raising their two daughters, Eloise and Wren. After moving to the Greenville area, she is grateful for the opportunity to serve at First Presbyterian and looks forward to getting to know the congregation, supporting its ministries, and helping people feel known, connected, and cared for.



STOP BY FRESH START COFFEEWORKS AT THE INTERSECTION CAFÉ

Have you stopped by Fresh Start CoffeeWorks yet? Fresh Start is serving up delicious coffee, tasty treats, and a wonderful opportunity to support a meaningful ministry! As a workforce development program of Miracle Hill Ministries, Fresh Start helps women overcome life challenges through job training and hands-on work experience. Every visit is an opportunity to support this life-changing mission! Stop by, grab your favorite coffee, invite a friend, and help us make Fresh Start feel right at home at First Pres!

Hours of Operation:

Monday–Friday | 7:00am–3:00pm

Saturday | 8:00am–3:00pm

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 22, 29; December 6; January 3, 10, 17, 24, 31; February 7, 14.**

EVENTS

CHRISTMAS CONCERTS AT FIRST PRES

November 29—“Christmas for a Cause”

Kick off the Christmas season with “Christmas for a Cause” on **Sunday, November 29**. The celebration begins at 3:00pm with a Christmas Market in the Sturgis Gathering Area, featuring tasty treats and unique gifts from local vendors. At 5:00pm, head to the Worship & Arts Center for a concert featuring Graydon Tomlinson and some of the Upstate’s finest musicians. Best of all, the evening supports Isaiah 117 House, an organization that serves children, families, and workers in the foster care system. The Christmas Market is free and open to the public. Concert tickets are \$15 and may be purchased online or through the First Presbyterian Box Office. Don’t delay—this event sells out quickly!

December 3—“The Music of Christmas” Tour

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. “The Music of Christmas” Tour is **Thursday, December 3, at 7:00pm** in the Worship & Arts Center. Purchase tickets online at [FirstPresGreenville.org/events](https://firstpresgreenville.org/events).

December 12 & 13—Christmas@First Concerts: “Behold Our God”

Experience the Christmas story through an inspiring mix of sacred and secular favorites, presented by a 100-voice choir, full orchestra, world-class vocalists, handbells, organ, and children’s voices. Tickets go on sale online **Sunday, October 25**: \$15 for adults and \$10 for children age 12 and under. Student, family,

and group tickets are available. You may also purchase tickets at the Box Office Monday–Friday.

For more information, contact Susan Messer at

smesser@firstpresgreenville.org.

Concerts will be held in the Sanctuary on:

Saturday, December 12 | 2:00pm & 6:00pm

Sunday, December 13 | 3:00pm

Fine Arts, Chelsea Fraser

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](https://firstpresgreenville.org/events)

First Pres Academy, Rob Brown

FALL FEST AT FIRST PRESBYTERIAN ACADEMY

Bring the whole family to First Presbyterian Academy’s **Fall Fest** on **Friday, October 30, 5:00–8:00pm, at the Shannon Forest campus!** Enjoy an evening of fun featuring a Ferris wheel, giant swings, bumper cars, petting zoo, pumpkin patch, face painting, games, and more! Food and dessert trucks will offer plenty of delicious options. Don’t miss the silent auction featuring themed gift baskets and special experiences, with proceeds benefiting the Academy’s Armor Fund. For more information, visit FirstPresAcademy.com.

OPEN HOUSE EVENTS

Discover what makes First Presbyterian Academy a special place for students to grow in faith, character, and academic excellence! Families are invited to attend an upcoming Open House on **Tuesday, November 3 (K3–K5) or Tuesday, November 10 (1st–12th grades)**. Meet Head of School Dr. Rob Brown, connect with faculty and staff, tour the campus, and learn about FPA’s Christ-centered approach to education. For more information and to register, visit FirstPresAcademy.com.

OPPORTUNITIES TO SERVE

BUDDY BREAK VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Help make a difference in the lives of families with children with special needs! *Buddy Break* provides a fun-filled evening of pizza, games, and lots of individual attention for children while giving their parents a much-needed break. With families currently on a waiting list, more volunteer “buddies” are needed! Your gift of time can be a tremendous blessing to these children and their families. If you would like to serve, please email buddybreak@firstpresgreenville.org by **October 20**. The next Buddy Break is **Friday, October 23**.

OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD: PACK A SHOEBOX OR VOLUNTEER!

Be a part of changing children’s lives around the world in Jesus’ name through a simple gift! Pick up an Operation Christmas Child shoebox and instruction pamphlet at the nursery check-in or Worship & Arts Center, or use your own shoebox. Fill it with the requested items and return it to the First Pres collection site **November 16–23**. First Pres is also an official Operation Christmas Child drop-off location for downtown Greenville, and volunteers are needed to help receive shoeboxes during collection week. To sign up for a shift, contact Teresa Hannon at 864.907.4794 or twannon@aol.com. For packing instructions, collection schedules, and additional information, visit FirstPresGreenville.org/events and click the Operation Christmas Child icon.

SUNDAY WORSHIP

October 18, 2026

STEWARDSHIP SUNDAY

2 Corinthians 9:6–12

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

October 21, 2026

PASTOR’S BIBLE STUDY

“Deep Dive into Romans”

Rev. Dr. Richard Gibbons 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://FirstPresGreenvilleSC)

FirstPresgreenville.org Watch menu

WEDNESDAY MEALS

11:45am & 5:00pm • Fellowship Hall

LUNCH AND SUPPER MENU

Breakfast for Lunch & Supper:

Crustless Breakfast Quiche, Chicken and Waffles, Biscuits and Gravy, Country Hash Browned Potatoes, Sausage and Bacon, Grits, Fresh Fruit, Danishes and Doughnuts

MEAL PRICES:

Adults: \$10

Children ages 4–12: \$5

Children ages 0–3: Free

Family max: \$40

LOOKING AHEAD

OCTOBER

23: Eliza Lynn Concert

Buddy Break

25: Commitment Sunday

Christmas@First Tickets on Sale

28: Will Graham at Unity Park

30: Fall Fest at The Academy

NOVEMBER

3: Academy Open House

8: Congregational Meeting

10: Academy Open House

16–23: OCC Shoebox Collection

19: Fourth Quarter Lecture/Lunch

29: “Christmas for a Cause” 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. Jim Kohler (Gloria)* on the birth of a granddaughter, Isla Clare Kohler Burns, on October 12. Parents are Mr. and Mrs. Rob Kohler Burns (Kelly) of Jersey City, NJ.

NEW MEMBERS ♦ *The pastors and congregation welcome new members*
October 11, 2026: Melanie and Brian Albers, Carol Ann and Mike Blackmon, Lori and John Center, Caroline and Greg Chatain, Pam and Jim Houser, Turner and Tyler Hunt, Madi and Geoff Marston, Samantha and Jeff Merritt, Rosemary New, Carol and David Reeves, Lincoln Surkamer, Angela and Doug Winter

SYMPATHY ♦ *The pastors and congregation extend sympathy to*
Mr. and Mrs. Eddie Terrell (Cricket) in the death of her father, James “Jim” Webster Raulston, on October 9.
Mr. and Mrs. Jamie Daniel (Stacy) in the death of her mother, Sandra Pierce, on October 13; and to Parker and Pierce Daniel in the death of their grandmother.

MEMORIALS & HONORS
CHILDREN’S MINISTRY FUND
In memory of Betty Farr by Nancy and Keith Strausbaugh
CHURCH MEMORIAL FUND
In memory of Fran Hardin by Chuck and Teresa Blankenship
In memory of Dettie Piper by Betty Biggers
CONGREGATIONAL CARE MINISTRY FUND
In memory of Polly Martin by Brian and Karen Burrell; Betty Biggers

PASTORAL VISITATION MINISTRY FUND
In memory of Polly Martin by Mr. and Mrs. Bill Sykes

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, **Patti Riddle**, Thom Robelot, **Carolyn Robinson**, Louise Robinson, Jim Rush, Barrett Taft, Samantha Templeton, Lewis Tollison, Steve Waddell, Charles West

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
200 WEST WASHINGTON STREET
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 15–21, 2026

STEWARDSHIP:
Commitment 2027

Staff News

Fresh Start CoffeeWorks Is Open

Upcoming Concerts

First Presbyterian Academy:
Fall Fest and Open Houses

Volunteer Opportunities:
Operation Christmas Child
and Buddy Break

For more information about FPC, visit FirstPresGreenville.org

OCTOBER 15–21, 2026

— THE —
BLESSING OF GIVING

In everything I did, I showed you that by this kind of hard work we must help the weak, remembering the words the Lord Jesus himself said:
“It is more blessed to give than to receive.”

Acts 20:35

October 18



Stewardship Sunday

October 25



Commitment Sunday

As we grow in our relationship with the Lord, one reflection of that growth is our generosity. Growing in generosity often requires intentional, prayerful decisions and new patterns of giving. In 2027, this may mean taking a new step in your giving or making a commitment to give more generously.

On Commitment Sunday, we will prayerfully make our financial commitments to the ministry priorities God has called us to in 2027. We invite you to complete the commitment card arriving in the mail next week and bring it to worship on the 25th, mail it to the church in the envelope provided, or place it in the offering plate on a subsequent Sunday.