

CONNECT@FIRST

A Weekly Newsletter of First Presbyterian Church, Greenville, SC

VOLUME 4, NO. 42 | October 22–28, 2026



ANNOUNCEMENTS

OCTOBER 25 IS COMMITMENT SUNDAY

The generous financial and practical support of the congregation has been truly extraordinary this past year and reflects a willingness to support our mission priority: Transforming Lives for the Glory of Christ. This Sunday, we ask that you prayerfully complete the 2027 Commitment Card (mailed earlier this week), bring it to worship, and participate with hundreds of others in an act of selfless commitment of our tithes and offerings to honor the Lord. If you have questions regarding your commitment or giving record, contact Kristy Service at 864.565.0929 or kservice@firstpresgreenville.org.

"MISSED CALL...GOD"—SERIES FROM 1 SAMUEL

What can ancient stories of fractured kingdoms, divided loyalties, and the rise and fall of kings teach us about life today? Through the lives of Hannah, Eli, Samuel, and Saul, the book of 1 Samuel reveals how God works through ordinary people facing extraordinary challenges. From difficult decisions and uncertain futures to personal struggles and political turmoil, their stories offer timeless lessons in faith, obedience, and trusting God. Yet beyond the drama of kings and kingdoms, each story ultimately points us to the One who remains sovereign over it all. Join Rev. Dr. Richard Gibbons for this compelling new sermon series, beginning this Sunday and continuing through Advent, at 8:30am, 10:45am, or 11:00am.

CATCH-UP HOUR WITH OUR NEIGHBORS

Join the Missions team on **Monday, November 2**, to hear an exciting update from Bel-Aire Community Partners in Room D305 from 5:30–7:00pm. For more information, contact Hailey Myers at 864.565.0971.

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 11, 29; December 6; January 3, 10, 17, 31.**

EVENTS

Fine Arts Ministry, Chelsea Fraser **ART & FAITH LUNCHEON**

Join the Fine Arts Ministry for our next Art & Faith Luncheon on **Friday, November 6**, at 12:00pm at the Intersection Café. Our guest speaker will be Sarah Lourenco, private art dealer and founder of The Time-Art, a fine art consulting company. These monthly gatherings offer an opportunity for artists and art enthusiasts to connect, share ideas, and pray together as we explore ways to use our God-given creativity to serve Him and our community. Whether you're an artist or simply appreciate the arts, there's a place for you at the table.

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.

Military Ministry, Melissa Ragsdale

VETERANS APPRECIATION LUNCHEON

The Military Ministry invites all FPC members who have served in the armed forces or have an immediate

family member currently serving to a special Veterans Appreciation Luncheon on **Tuesday, November 10**, from 12:00–1:30pm in Fellowship Hall. We would be honored to have you and your spouse join us for a meal as we express our gratitude for your service. Space is limited, so please register by Sunday, November 1, online at FirstPresGreenville.org/events or by contacting Melissa Ragsdale at mragsdale@firstpresgreenville.org.

Music & Events Ministries

CHRISTMAS CONCERTS AT FIRST PRES

Sunday, November 29—"Christmas for a Cause"

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.

Thursday, December 3—"The Music of Christmas" Tour with Steven Curtis Chapman

Enjoy an unforgettable night filled with beloved Christmas classics and favorite songs from Steven Curtis Chapman's celebrated Christmas collection—all brought to life with the beauty of strings and choir. "The Music of Christmas" concert begins at 7:00pm in the Worship & Arts Center. Purchase tickets online at FirstPresGreenville.org/events.

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 this **Sunday, October 25**: \$15 for adults and \$10 for children age 12 and under. Tickets are also available at the Box Office Monday–Friday. Concerts will be held in the Sanctuary on:

Saturday, December 12 | 2:00pm & 6:00pm
Sunday, December 13 | 3:00pm

Sports Ministry, Caleb McKisie **PARENTS NIGHT OUT**

Register your K5–5th Grade kids for a fun evening at the Graham Gym on **Friday, November 6**. While parents get a night out kids will enjoy sports, games, pizza, and a devotional. Drop-off and pick up your child anytime between 5:00pm and 9:00pm. Register online at <https://csarec.com/parents-night-out>.

Women's Ministry, Tiffany Boggs

WOMEN'S CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON

This Christmas join us on **Tuesday, December 1**, at noon in Fellowship Hall for the Women's Christmas luncheon. Enjoy a devotion by Tiffany Boggs, Christmas music with Graydon Tomlinson, and a special time of fellowship. Your ticket (\$20) includes a delicious lunch from Jasmine's Kitchen and a copy of *Emmanuel* by Ruth Chou Simons, a 25-day Advent devotional journey. Childcare is available for children 5 and under; reservations are required at FirstPresGreenville.org/events.

OPPORTUNITIES TO SERVE

OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD: PACK A SHOEBOX OR VOLUNTEER!

Share the love of Jesus with a child across the world 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**. 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 25, 2026

Commitment Sunday

Sermon Series: "Missed Call...God"
1 Samuel 1:3–17
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](https://www.youtube.com/@FirstPresGreenvilleSC)

"Like" & "Subscribe" for easy access

FirstPresgreenville.org Watch menu

WEDNESDAY

October 28, 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/](https://www.youtube.com/@FirstPresGreenvilleSC)

[@FirstPresGreenvilleSC](https://www.youtube.com/@FirstPresGreenvilleSC)

FirstPresgreenville.org Watch menu

WEDNESDAY MEALS

11:45am & 5:00pm • Fellowship Hall

Spaghetti and Meatballs, Mummy Dogs (pigs in a blanket), Sweet Potato Fries, Tater Tots with Cheese Sauce, Baked Brains (roasted cauliflower), Honey Roasted Carrots, Brussels Sprouts with Bugs (roasted with berries), Spider Deviled Eggs, Chef's Choice Salads, Fresh Rolls, Fruit, Ghoulish Desserts

MEAL PRICES:

Adults: \$10
Children ages 4–12: \$5
Children ages 0–3: Free
Family max: \$40

LOOKING AHEAD

OCTOBER

30: Fall Fest at The Academy

NOVEMBER

2: Catch Up Hour with Bel-Aire
3: Academy Open House
6: Art & Faith Luncheon
6: Parents Night Out
10: Academy Open House
15: ONE Prayer Worship Service
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, Rachel Jean Kohler Ochieng, on October 17. Parents are Mr. and Mrs. Ian Ochieng (Rebecca) of Mount Pleasant, SC.

NEW MEMBERS ♦ *The pastors and congregation welcome new members*
October 18, 2026: Julianna Battenfield, Carolyn and Jake Carter, Sara and Mike Oglesbee, Alice Prince, Pat and Jim Rush, Gloria and Regan Smith, Muffy Smith, Meredith and Keith Tye

MEMORIALS & HONORS
CHURCH MEMORIAL FUND

In memory of Mike Gaillard by Deryl McKinney
In memory of Fran Hardin by Sara Karns
In memory of Dettie Piper by Judy Youatt

CONGREGATIONAL CARE MINISTRY FUND
In memory of Polly Martin by Sara Karns; Mary Gladys Gilstrap; Jane and Johnny Morris

MUSIC MINISTRY FUND
In memory of Frank Plavan Jr. by the Agape-Fellowship Life Group

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.

ONE PRAYER WORSHIP SERVICE

Join us for an evening of unifying worship and prayer led by local church pastors on **Sunday, November 15**, 5:00–7:00pm, in the Worship & Arts Center. This regional event brings together believers from all backgrounds, traditions, and congregations to seek God’s heart for our churches, our leaders, and our cities. Rooted in John 17, this night is more than a service—it’s a visible demonstration of the unity Jesus prayed for. Find more information at <https://www.oneprayersc.com/prayer-gatherings>.

**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 22–28, 2026

“Behold Our God”
Christmas@First Concerts

Commitment Sunday

New Sermon Series

Catch-Up Hour with Our Neighbors:
Bel-Aire Community Partners

Veterans Appreciation Luncheon

Parents Night Out

Women’s Christmas Luncheon

For more information about
FPC, visit FirstPresGreenville.org

OCTOBER 22–28, 2026

THE WORSHIP & MUSIC MINISTRY PRESENTS
CHRISTMAS@FIRST

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

Sunday, December 13
3:00pm

*Behold
Our God*

**Tickets On Sale
This Sunday, October 25!**
FirstPresGreenville.org/Events

Bring your family and friends and make Christmas@First part of your holiday tradition!
\$15 for adults and \$10 for children age 12 and under. You may also purchase tickets
at the Box Office Monday–Friday at the FPC reception desk in the A Building.