

# CONNECT@FIRST

A Weekly Newsletter of First Presbyterian Church, Greenville, SC

VOLUME 4, NO. 28 | July 16–22, 2026



## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### PRAY FOR THE STUDENT MISSION TRIP THIS WEEK

Please join us as we pray for the 82 students and leaders who will travel to La Romana, Dominican Republic, on **Sunday, July 19**, for our 11th annual student mission trip there. As you pray for the team, please ask the Lord to:

- Draw each student and leader into a deeper relationship with Him through this cross-cultural experience.
- Work powerfully in and through the team as they serve alongside our brothers and sisters in the Dominican Republic.
- Grant the team safe travel and good health throughout the trip.

### FPC FOUNDATION NEWS

Did you know that the Foundation awarded \$189,000 in grants and scholarships last year to support a variety of Christian ministries and educational opportunities? These gifts helped make an impact across several ministry areas, including FPC Ministries, local Greenville ministries, and national and international ministries. The Foundation also provided scholarships to several of our FPC Covenant Partners as they pursued their college education.

We invite you to learn more about the Foundation and discover how you can get involved in helping make a lasting impact for generations to come. Visit our website at [www.firstpresfoundation.org](http://www.firstpresfoundation.org) or follow our Facebook page, First Presbyterian Church Foundation, to learn more. For additional information, please contact Bobby Hoffman at 864.565.0962 or Marilyn Morrison at 864.565.0992.

## DISCIPLESHIP

### Discipleship Ministry, Claire Ripley ALPHA IS COMING THIS SEPTEMBER

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. In fact, you don't need any. Alpha is for:

- Those exploring faith for the first time
- People with questions about Christianity
- Anyone looking to reconnect with God
- Friends, neighbors, coworkers, and family members who are spiritually curious

Come as you are. Bring a friend. Everyone is welcome. Alpha begins **Wednesday, September 9**, at First Pres. More details and registration information will be available soon at [FirstPresGreenville.org/events](http://FirstPresGreenville.org/events).

### 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. These accomplished vocalists will bring some of Broadway's most beloved songs to life in an unforgettable cabaret-style setting. Space is limited to 224 guests, so be sure to RSVP early at [FirstPresGreenville.org/events](http://FirstPresGreenville.org/events)! Dinner prices (payable at the door): Adults: \$10; Children (ages 4–12): \$5; Children (3 and under): Free; Family maximum: \$40.

## EVENTS

### Fine Arts Ministry, Chelsea Fraser COMING AUGUST 7: "AN EVENING AT THE OPERA"

Have you ever been curious about what's the big deal about opera? This concert is for you! Perfect for opera newcomers and aficionados alike, with music from *La bohème* to *The Little Mermaid*, there is something for everyone. Full Body Opera helps build a bridge to the power and beauty of operatic music for modern audiences. You won't want to miss this night at the opera! The concert will be held in Harper Chapel on **Friday, August 7**, 7:00–8:30pm. Watch [FirstPresGreenville.org/events](http://FirstPresGreenville.org/events) for more information.

### SUMMER HOURS—THE GALLERIES AT FIRST PRES

Come see "In the Land of Wooden Shoes: a Holocaust remembrance" in the Lenz Gallery Monday through Friday between 9:00am and 3:00pm. Please email [galleries@firstpresgreenville.org](mailto:galleries@firstpresgreenville.org) if you would like to schedule a group tour. Walk-ins are welcome. And "Hidden Pictures"® features the work of *Highlights Magazine's* most prolific hidden pictures artist, Tim Davis, in our public community galleries open Monday through Thursday, 8:00am to 4:00pm, and Fridays, 8:00am to 3:00pm. Walk-ins are always welcome!

## 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. To learn more, contact Tina Jones, Children's Ministry Director, at [tjones@firstpresgreenville.org](mailto:tjones@firstpresgreenville.org), or review the available volunteer roles by scanning the QR code. Your investment today can have an eternal impact on the life of a child.



### Missions, Eric Swofford

#### HOLLIS ACADEMY BACK-TO-SCHOOL DRIVE

Help support the students and teachers at Hollis Academy as they prepare for a new school year! Pick up a paper apple from displays located in the Loggia, Abbott Gathering, and the Worship & Arts reception area this Sunday. Each apple lists needed snacks for children or gift card options for teachers. You can also click the QR code for a wish list of items. All donations are due back to the church by **Wednesday, July 29**. Thank you for helping us bless Hollis Academy with a strong start to the school year!



### HOLLIS ROOM PARENTS

As we begin our 17th year of partnering with Hollis Academy, we're looking for caring volunteers to serve as Room Parents in every classroom. This meaningful ministry supports teachers, encourages students, and helps build strong connections with families throughout the school year. Simple acts of kindness—reading with students, tutoring, listening, offering encouragement, or sharing a hug—can make a lasting difference in a child's life. We currently have 13 Room Parent openings across several grade levels. If you'd like to be part of this rewarding ministry or learn more, please contact Edith Parks at [hollisroomparents@gmail.com](mailto:hollisroomparents@gmail.com).

### 2027 DOMINICAN REPUBLIC MISSION TRIP

Applications are now being accepted for our mission trip to the Dominican Republic, **February 10–17, 2027**. Team members will serve alongside our mission partners, Misiones Maranatha/El Buen Samaritano and Eastern Dominican Christian Mission, providing care for families through food distribution, medical, dental, and vision clinics, and building relationships with the community in Brisas del Mar. No medical training is required to participate. To learn more or express your interest, please email [missions@firstpresgreenville.org](mailto:missions@firstpresgreenville.org) by **Saturday, August 15**.

### Worship & Music Ministry, Susan Messer RING WITH THE HANDBELL CHOIR!

Have you ever played handbells—or always wanted to learn? The First Presbyterian Church Handbell Choir invites you to join us! Whether you're an experienced ringer or new to handbells, we'd love to welcome you. Rehearsals begin **Wednesday, September 9**, at 7:30pm in the Choir Room. If you're interested in becoming part of the Handbell Choir or have questions, please contact Director of Traditional Worship Susan Messer at [smesser@firstpresgreenville.org](mailto:smesser@firstpresgreenville.org).

## SUNDAY WORSHIP

July 19, 2026

### SERMON SERIES:

"Christ in the Psalms"

Psalm 8

Rev. Charlie Buchanan 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" and "Subscribe" for easy access

[FirstPresgreenville.org](http://FirstPresgreenville.org) Watch menu

## WEDNESDAY

There will be no Pastor's Bible Study or meals in July. Watch for the Fall Grow@First schedule in August.

### SUMMER ICE CREAM SOCIAL FOR ADULTS

Wednesday, August 12

1:00pm

Fellowship Hall

\$3 at the door

## LOOKING AHEAD

### JULY

17: Church Office Closed

19: Student DR Mission Trip

19–29: Hollis Back-to-School Drive

24: Church Office Closed

31: Church Office Closed

### AUGUST

5: Christmas@First Choir Preview

7: Buddy Break

7: "An Evening at the Opera"

12: Summer Ice Cream Social

9: Backpack Blessing

16: Promotion Sunday

### SEPTEMBER

2: Broadway at First!

9: Fall Grow@First Begins

9: ALPHA Class Begins

9: Handbell Choir Rehearsal

14: Catch Up Hour with Our

Neighbors: FCA Furman

This newsletter offers highlights of announcements, events, and opportunities. For more information, visit [firstpresgreenville.org/about/connect@first](http://firstpresgreenville.org/about/connect@first).

MEMBER NEWS

BAPTISMS ♦ July 12, 2026

William Archer Pope, son of Mr. and Mrs. Robert Pope (Beth)  
Caleb Jay Vastag, son of Mr. and Mrs. Johnny Vastag (Jess)

CONGRATULATIONS ♦ The pastors and congregation extend blessings to Mr. and Mrs. Stokes Lineberger (Caroline Clark) who were married in the Sanctuary on July 11.

PRAYER LIST ♦ Bold = New Italics = In Hospital

Nancy Adams, Bill Anthony, Sandra Banks, Betty Bennett, Harry Bolick, Dan Boling, Dick Brennecke, Jim Childers, Matt Covington, Brantley Daniel, 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, Bob Shell, Donna Steeves, Lewis Tollison, Steve Waddell, Charlotte Watson, 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: 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.

FRIDAYS AT FIRST SUMMER PODCAST SERIES: ON A MISSION!

This summer, join co-host Michelle Ward and FPC’s Director of Global and Local Engagement, Eric Swofford, for a special three-part Fridays at First podcast series, On a Mission: Discovering God’s Purpose—Across the Street and Around the World. Through personal stories, practical conversations, and inspiring ministry insights, this series explores what it means to live “on mission” wherever God has placed us. Whether serving in Greenville, supporting local outreach efforts, or answering a call to global missions, each of us has a role in God’s kingdom work. Tune in this summer wherever you listen to the Fridays at First podcast.

JULY 24—Episode 2: Serving Our Neighbor

Explore opportunities to share Christ’s love through local ministry and community outreach.

Did you miss last week’s episode?  
Scan the QR code to hear the podcast.



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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

July 16–22, 2026

Christmas@First Preview and  
Invitation to the Christmas Choir

Pray for the Student Mission  
Trip to the DR

FPC Foundation News

ALPHA is Coming

Broadway at First!

Summer Hours at  
The Galleries at First Presbyterian

For more information about  
FPC, visit FirstPresGreenville.org

JULY 16–22, 2026

Join us for a special musical preview  
of this year’s Christmas@First! concert:

Behold Our God

CONCERT DATES: DECEMBER 12 & 13

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 5 | 6:15PM | CHOIR ROOM

EVERYONE IS WELCOME! Whether you’re a longtime choir member or simply enjoy singing, help bring the joy of Christmas! Rehearsals begin in September, and additional details will be shared at the preview.

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