

The REMINDER

Growing UPWARD
worshipping and praising

Growing INWARD
becoming more like Christ

Growing OUTWARD
sharing the good news



MARCH 2020

Moving Forward

Dear friends,

It was a great joy to go to the ECO National Gathering in Dallas in February. It was a time filled with vibrant worship, good fellowship and multiple opportunities to grow. It is hard to express how energizing the National Gathering is. If you would like to watch the videos, they can be found at: <http://econationalgathering.org/pastgatherings/ng2020/>

Additionally, we are planning to share our experience at 10 a.m. Sunday, March 8, in the Fellowship Hall. I hope you join us.

I believe ECO is asking a number of the right questions as the church discerns how to be faithful disciples in the world today. "ECO" (not E.-C.-O.) should evoke "eco-system" – we are about creating a "flourishing environment" in which we can "plant churches and grow disciples." (Incidentally, Mike Lavespere just joined the SC Presbytery ECO church planting team.)

On another note, I am so pleased with the session. I delight in their collective wisdom, hard work and earnestness in following the Lord.



I do want you to be aware that we now meet twice a month – and one of these meetings is purely for an hour of prayer. We are seeking the Lord to show us the way forward as a congregation. It will take time and I sense the Lord pacing us, even as we are doing some necessary organizing. As you may know, the session has shrunk over the past years down to 12 elders. This means only two elders are assigned to each one of our six ministry units, and this massive amount of work is now being spread out as we grow our teams. I do believe we are growing in our core ECO value of

"engaging the laity." We do desire each covenant partner to live out their gifts to God's glory.

In addition to growing in prayer together, here are a few things to take delight in:

- FPC is sponsoring a tiny house build as part of the House of Hope (see Debbie Jackson if you have questions);
- There is a matching-fund program for the Emerts fruitful work in Zambia (see Janet Brand);
- The second group of "Jobs for Life" cohort will launch soon (this is a job training program that helps prepare men and women for meaningful work through honest relationships, mentoring, work-force development training, and an ongoing community of support; see Bryon Frost)
- We are reading *The Master Plan of Evangelism* by Robert Coleman.

I enjoy hearing feedback, and if you have some thoughts on how to communicate and be transparent as a Body, I would love to chat as we move forward.

Peace,
Darryl

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ON THE COVER

Dressed as her main character in her book, *The Missing Piece*, Grace DuBose reads to the CDC children and Keenagers during Keenagers' February program.

The Interconnected Gathering

I am grateful to have had the opportunity to attend the ECO National Gathering in Dallas last month. The theme for the gathering was “**Interconnected**” based on Hebrew 10:24, which reads: **And let us consider**



how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds. It was a great time of fellowship for the eleven of us from First Presbyterian. More importantly, I think, was gathering with nearly 3,000 other folks from across the United States for a time of inspiring worship, large group sessions and

breakout sessions all focused on challenging us to be the church in new and different ways. Consider this from the conference brochure:

We are interconnected in relationship with churches and covenant partners across the country who want you and your congregations to flourish in order that God’s kingdom may be made known throughout our communities and the world.

One of my “take-aways” from our time in Texas is that when people have a vision, God will make provision. We heard stories of churches who had a vision for something that seemed impossible only to see God make it happen!

First Presbyterian Church Columbarium and Memory Garden

At various times throughout the history of First Presbyterian Church, there has been talk of constructing a columbarium and memory garden for use by the covenant partners of First Presbyterian Church. A columbarium is a structure designed to hold urns containing the cremated remains of a loved one who has died. In

2015, a team (Ginger Owen, Glenn Bell, Susan Bankson, Greg Cleveland and George Beshere [2017]) was created and tasked with the responsibility of developing a plan to construct a columbarium and memory garden for First Presbyterian Church. The team conducted an interest survey in April 2019. Approximately 60 percent of those who responded to the survey answered the question either “Yes” or “Possibly.” Based on the results of the Columbarium Interest Survey, the decision was made to move forward with the marketing phase for the Columbarium Memory Garden at First Presbyterian Church. The response to the marketing phase has been good and several of our covenant partners have reserved a niche. We have now moved into the construction phase with a targeted completion date later this spring (May/June).

The Columbarium team hopes that the covenant partners of First Presbyterian Church will benefit by having the Columbarium and Memory Garden as one of their choices in end of life planning. Please contact George Beshere, Glenn Bell or Don Hebert to reserve a niche or to learn more about the columbarium.

Do More ONREALM

First Presbyterian Church implemented a new ACS database system called REALM last year. Since then, many covenant partners, staff and leaders have taken advantage of this system to communicate with each other. REALM allows you to update your personal information, follow church announcements, and look up other covenant partners. REALM also allows you to manage your giving to First Presbyterian Church. You can access REALM from your home computer. You can also access REALM from your mobile device (phone, tablet, etc.) with RealmConnect. Simply download the Connect app from wherever you get your mobile apps (App Store, Google Play, etc.) If you have questions, contact Teresa Stewart in the church office and she’ll be happy to help you get signed up. Our goal is for everyone to get connected. **Let’s be the church ... together.**

Paul's advice to the church

1 CORINTHIANS 16: 1-24

In the final chapter of 1 Corinthians, Paul calls the Christians in Corinth to live by love and not with jealousy or division. The chapter divides into two parts with the first 12 verses dealing with two concerns expressed by the church. The first concern Paul deals with is the collection for the church in Jerusalem.

“Now concerning the collection for the saints: you should follow the directions I gave to the churches of Galatia. On the first day of every week, each of you is to put aside and save whatever extra you earn, so that collections need not be taken when I come. And when I arrive, I will send any whom you approve with letters to take your gift to Jerusalem (1 Corinthians 16:1-3).” Paul is not collecting money for himself but to unite the church between Jew and Gentile. He offers for the Corinthians to send someone with the collection. Paul wishes to visit the church. His plan is to spend several months with them. The Lord directs Paul's life and mission.

Paul writes to the Corinthians from Ephesus: “But I will stay in Ephesus until Pentecost, for a wide door for effective work has opened to me, and there are many adversaries (1 Corinthians 16:8-9).” Paul's missionary work is never without those who seek to undermine the ministry of salvation by grace. Timothy will represent Paul to the Corinthians.

The second concern in the first 12 verses is the status of Apollos. The Corinthians may have wanted Apollos to come and be their leader but Paul understands that it is not in the Lord's will at the present time. The second 12 verses give a final farewell, instructions, and Paul's travel plans. The second half of the letter begins



**REV. MIKE
FLEENOR'S BLOG**
<https://onepastorsponderings.wordpress.com/>

with a summary of the entire letter: “Keep alert, stand firm in your faith, be courageous, be strong. Let all that you do be done in love (1 Corinthians 16:13-14).” This advice transcends the centuries since it was written and implies the full teachings of Jesus.

The themes of the letter are included in these statements. If we translate these into our world, we are reminded of the heritage of Paul and Jesus in the Hebrew faith. We are to stand in the faith of a crucified, risen and ascended Savior. Jesus saves us from the destruction all humans choose for themselves. Without the leading of God's Spirit each and every human would choose destruction. The directive that the Lord has given humanity is to live in love. The Lord sent Jesus to show love and the religious people had him killed. The love of God defeats death as Jesus is resurrected as the first fruits for all of humanity. Paul urges the church to follow the leaders that love the Lord.

Our evaluation of church leaders is to examine their love of God. It is important in our walk on earth as a Christian to place ourselves under those who are following Christ. Paul's final words are a reminder of his prayer for Jesus to come back to earth, for God's grace in Christ to bless the church, and that Paul's love is with the church. Love for one another and for the Lord is the primary emotion and action of the church.

Flowers in the Sanctuary

Do you have a friend or relative you would like to honor? Sign up to place flowers in the Sanctuary. Contact Genia Tyson (genia_tyson@hotmail.com or 843-665-0295) or Melba Whitesides (843-669-8209).

A Google spreadsheet — found on our website at www.florencefirst.org/flowers-in-the-sanctuary — also has been set up for signing up and so dates available can easily be seen.



Spring Celebration

6:30 p.m. Monday, April 20

Spring forward with WIM! ALL women of the church are encouraged to attend the Spring Celebration at 6:30 p.m. Monday, April 20, in the CLC! Please bring a salad and a friend...or two!

Our guest speaker will be Wendy Blight, a well-known Bible teacher and speaker with Proverbs 31 ministry.

Join us for an enriching evening with WIM.



Wendy is a wife, mother, author, Bible teacher, attorney, and the Biblical Content Coordinator for Proverbs 31 Ministry's Online Bible Studies. Her heart's desire is to help women fall in love with God's Word. To learn it, pray it, and know with confidence they can tackle any problem life presents through it.

Wendy has written four books: I Know His Name, Living So That, Hidden Joy in a Dark Corner, and her newest book, I Am Loved: Living in the Fullness of God's Love. Wendy's a featured guest on Oprah Radio, The 700 Club, Family Life Today with Dr. Dennis Rainey, Revive Our Hearts with Nancy Leigh DeMoss, and Building Relationships with Dr. Gary Chapman. Wendy lives with her husband, Monty, in Charlotte, and loves most when her two children, Lauren and Bo, come home to visit and fill their home with lots of love and laughter!

Women in Ministry Monthly Groups

Women in Ministry's aim is to strengthen our relationship with God and build each other up in the body of Christ.

If you are not involved in a circle, please, join in for Christian fellowship and Bible study. We have a place for you!

Bread and Fish	March 14	9 a.m.	Call Peggy Swearingen
Joyful Hearts	March 10	10 a.m.	Room 100
Morning Mercies	March 9	10 a.m.	Lawson-Rain Chapel
Posies and Petals	March 10	10 a.m.	Lawson-Rain Chapel
Prayer Warriors	March 10	6:30 p.m.	Presbyterian Community
SonFlowers	March 10	10 a.m.	Home of Ida Whitehead
Soul Sisters	March 10	noon	Price Classroom
Serenity	March 10	3 p.m.	Lawson-Rain Chapel
Women of Grace	March 9	6:30 p.m.	3002 Japonica Lane
Women of Valor	March 11	6:30 p.m.	Room 202



Wednesday nights at First Presbyterian



The planned March menus are:

March 4: King Ranch Chicken, Fritos, salad, dessert

March 11: Pancakes, fruit, bacon

March 18: Baked ziti, salad, dessert

March 25: Meatloaf, mashed potatoes, broccoli, dessert

GET INVOLVED IN MUSIC MINISTRY



The Chancel Choir is led by Ann Rodgers Chandler.

TUESDAYS

1:30 p.m. Ladies' Ensemble (Ladies of all ages)

4 p.m. Girls' Ensemble (Sixth grade and older)

WEDNESDAYS

5 p.m. Chancel Handbell Choir

6:30 p.m. Children's Choir

6:30 p.m. Praise Team Rehearsal

6:45 p.m. Preschool Choir

7:30 p.m. Chancel Choir Rehearsal

If you're interested in joining the music ministry, contact Ann Rodgers Chandler, Director of Music, 843-662-2583 or achandler@florencefirst.org.

Busy season features Art Show

The CDC is a busy place these days as we prepare for our upcoming SC Child-care licensing renewal. After the initial visit to open our center, we are required to renew the operating license every two years. Our DHEC immunizations were checked in early February with no deficiencies.

We are preparing and anxiously awaiting the SC Childcare fire marshal/ DHEC Health inspection which should take place sometime in the next few weeks. Then it will be time for our SC Childcare Regulatory Specialist to come and check our paperwork, our staff and children's records and the physical facility. It is good to be accountable but in today's world of childcare there is a ton of paperwork that must be done, along with new background checks and fingerprints for all staff. We are thankful for our secretary, Mrs. Debbie Peek, who joined our staff last October. Debbie is a great asset to our center and is helping tremendously as we prepare for this license renewal.

The CDC Children and our Staff are busy preparing for our fourth annual CDC Art Show, which will be held the week of March 23-26. The children's art will be on display in the Jenkins Fellowship Hall during that week and will be for sale on Thursday evening, March 26, for the parents to purchase. All proceeds will go toward purchasing needed equipment for our center. The art show is always a fun time for our children and staff. We hope you will plan to stop by during that week to see what the children have made.

Blessings,



Top: CDC children sing for the Keenagers during the February luncheon. Above: Grace DuBose says goodbye to children after reading them her book, *The Missing Piece*, during the Keenagers program. The book is available on Amazon.com.



MARCH

Birthdays

MARCH 2

Gwen DuRant
Sullivan Johnson

MARCH 3

Karen Silver

MARCH 5

Billy McBride
Amanda McLaurin
Boyd Moree
Maggie Reames
Hattie Kaye Scott
Ed Sprenger

MARCH 6

Denise Alvey
Mary Wallis Vaught

MARCH 7

Matthew Dowdell

MARCH 8

Brooklynne Clancy
Karen Johnson

MARCH 9

Amelia Abernathy
Philip Leach

MARCH 10

Klay Kennedy

MARCH 11

Sloan Bankson
June Chang-Kim
Kaitlyn Molnar

MARCH 12

Hal Campbell
Madison Hindman
Martha Tyson
Anna Watt

MARCH 13

Whit Dozier
Grace Munn
Julianne Newton
Mike Nunn
Hudson Page

MARCH 14

Carson Jeffords

MARCH 15

Katherine Johnson
Weave Whitehead

MARCH 16

Bankston Wallace

MARCH 17

Ford Hofler
Wilson Josey

MARCH 18

Levi Hayes

MARCH 19

Joyce Dalsbo
Steve Halus
Marla Kunz

MARCH 20

Beth Brown
Cannon Coker
Elizabeth Fast
Sonya Molnar

MARCH 21

William Duncan
Ronald Hayes
Merrell Kennedy
Anne Evans Scott

MARCH 23

Libbie Reames

MARCH 24

Susan Bankson
Ashleigh Bulliner
Elizabeth Frost
Ann Spearman

MARCH 25

Dan Abernathy
Noah Johnson
Jean Lavespere
Jeremy Williams

MARCH 26

Jack Banner
Mike Fleenor
Nell G. Oliver

MARCH 27

Bob Olsen
Jane Heath

MARCH 28

Kathy Crawford
Mary Ervin
Judy Henegar
Stone Lewis

MARCH 29

Berta Allen
Kaleb Griffin
Megan Matthews

MARCH 31

Warren Montgomery



March



SUNDAY, MARCH 1

- 9:00 AM Contemporary Worship Service
- 10:00 AM Sunday School
- 11:00 AM Traditional Worship Service
- 4:30 PM Volleyball
- 5:30 PM Embracing God's Word: JFH
- 5:30 PM Youth Fellowship

MONDAY, MARCH 2

- 5:15 PM Stretch Your Faith
- 6:30 PM GriefShare
- 7:00 PM Boy Scouts: Scout Room

TUESDAY, MARCH 3

- 7:00 AM Men's Breakfast: JFH
- 9:30 AM WiM Coordinating Team: LR
- 11:00 AM WiM Bible Moderators: Pilgrim
- 12:00 PM Just for Women Bible Study: CLC
- 12:00 PM Keenagers: JFH
- 1:30 PM Ladies' Ensemble Rehearsal: Choir Room
- 6:00 PM Boys & Girls Club Youth of the Year: CLC
- 7:00 PM Girl Scouts: Scout Room
- 7:00 PM Men's Choral Society Rehearsal



WEDNESDAY, MARCH 4

- 11:30 AM Jen Wilkin Bible Study: Price Class
- 5:00 PM Chancel Handbell Choir Rehearsal
- 5:45 PM Family Night Dinner: JFH
- 6:30 PM Wednesday Night Programs
- 6:30 PM Praise Team Rehearsal
- 7:30 PM Chancel Choir Rehearsal

THURSDAY, MARCH 5

- 7:15 AM Men's Breakfast: Presbyterian Community
- 10:15 AM Women's Bible Study
- 10:30 AM Prayer Group: Parlor
- 5:00 PM Pee Dee Kiwanis Pancake Dinner
- 6:00 PM Girl Scouts: Scout Room

SUNDAY, MARCH 8

- 9:00 AM Contemporary Worship Service
- 10:00 AM ECO Report: JFH
- 10:00 AM Sunday School
- 11:00 AM Traditional Worship Service
- 4:30 PM Volleyball
- 5:30 PM Embracing God's Word: JFH
- 5:30 PM Youth Fellowship



MONDAY, MARCH 9

- 10:30 AM Morning Mercies: Lawson-Rain
- 5:15 PM Stretch Your Faith
- 6:30 PM GriefShare
- 6:30 PM WiM Women of Grace
- 7:00 PM Boy Scouts: Scout Room

TUESDAY, MARCH 10

- 7:00 AM Men's Breakfast: JFH
- 10:00 AM WiM Joyful Hearts: Room 100
- 10:00 AM WiM Posies & Petals: LR
- 10:00 AM WiM SonFlowers: Home of Ida Whitehead
- 12:00 PM Just for Women Bible Study: CLC
- 12:00 PM WiM Soul Sisters: Price Class
- 1:30 PM Ladies' Ensemble Rehearsal: Choir Room
- 3:00 PM WiM Serenity: LR
- 6:30 PM WiM Prayer Warriors: Pres. Community
- 7:00 PM Men's Choral Society Rehearsal



WEDNESDAY, MARCH 11

- 11:30 AM Jen Wilkin Bible Study: Price Class
- 5:00 PM Chancel Handbell Choir Rehearsal
- 5:45 PM Family Night Dinner: JFH
- 6:30 PM Praise Team Rehearsal
- 6:30 PM Wednesday Night Programs
- 6:30 PM WiM Women of Valor
- 7:30 PM Chancel Choir Rehearsal

THURSDAY, MARCH 12

- 7:15 AM Men's Breakfast: Presbyterian Community
- 10:15 AM Women's Bible Study
- 10:30 AM Prayer Group: Parlor

SATURDAY, MARCH 14

- 6:00 AM Parking Lot Mission: HopeHealth Parking Lot
- 9:00 AM WiM Bread & Fish: Call Peggy Swearingen

SUNDAY, MARCH 15

- 9:00 AM Contemporary Worship Service
- 10:00 AM Sunday School
- 11:00 AM Traditional Worship Service
- 4:30 PM Volleyball
- 5:30 PM Embracing God's Word: JFH
- 5:30 PM Youth Fellowship



March



MONDAY, MARCH 16

- 5:15 PM Stretch Your Faith
- 6:30 PM GriefShare
- 7:00 PM Boy Scouts: Scout Room

TUESDAY, MARCH 17 **St. Patrick's Day**

- 7:00 AM Men's Breakfast: JFH
- 12:00 PM Just for Women Bible Study: CLC
- 12:00 PM Lighthouse Ministries: JFH
- 1:30 PM Ladies' Ensemble Rehearsal: Choir Room
- 6:30 PM Board of Deacons: Pilgrim
- 7:00 PM Girl Scouts: Scout Room
- 7:00 PM Men's Choral Society Rehearsal

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 18

- 11:30 AM Jen Wilkin Bible Study: Price Class
- 5:00 PM Chancel Handbell Choir Rehearsal
- 5:45 PM Family Night Dinner: JFH
- 6:30 PM Praise Team Rehearsal
- 6:30 PM Wednesday Night Programs
- 7:30 PM Chancel Choir Rehearsal

THURSDAY, MARCH 19

- 7:15 AM Men's Breakfast: Presbyterian Community
- 10:15 AM Women's Bible Study
- 10:30 AM Prayer Group: Parlor

SATURDAY, MARCH 21

- 9:00 AM Girl Scouts: CLC
- 10:00 AM Aglow International

SUNDAY, MARCH 22

- 9:00 AM Contemporary Worship Service
- 10:00 AM Sunday School
- 11:00 AM Traditional Worship Service
- 4:30 PM Volleyball
- 5:30 PM Embracing God's Word: JFH
- 5:30 PM Youth Fellowship

MONDAY, MARCH 23

- 5:15 PM Stretch Your Faith
- 5:30 PM St. Anthony Spring Musical Rehearsal
- 6:30 PM GriefShare
- 7:00 PM Boy Scouts: Scout Room

TUESDAY, MARCH 24

- 7:00 AM Men's Breakfast: JFH
- 12:00 PM Just for Women Bible Study: CLC
- 1:30 PM Ladies' Ensemble Rehearsal: Choir Room
- 3:45 PM East Florence Mission (Youth)
- 5:30 PM St. Anthony Spring Musical Rehearsal
- 6:30 PM Session
- 7:00 PM Men's Choral Society Rehearsal

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 25

- 11:30 AM Jen Wilkin Bible Study: Price Class
- 5:00 PM Chancel Handbell Choir Rehearsal
- 5:30 PM St. Anthony Spring Musical Rehearsal
- 5:45 PM Family Night Dinner: JFH
- 6:30 PM Praise Team Rehearsal
- 6:30 PM Wednesday Night Programs
- 7:30 PM Chancel Choir Rehearsal

THURSDAY, MARCH 26

- 7:15 AM Men's Breakfast: Presbyterian Community
- 10:15 AM Women's Bible Study
- 10:30 AM Prayer Group: Parlor
- 5:30 PM St. Anthony Spring Musical Rehearsal
- 6:00 PM CDC Art Show & Sale

FRIDAY, MARCH 27, AND SATURDAY, MARCH 28

- 5:30 PM St. Anthony Spring Musical Rehearsal

SUNDAY, MARCH 29

- 9:00 AM Contemporary Worship Service
- 10:00 AM Sunday School
- 11:00 AM Traditional Worship Service
- 5:30 PM Embracing God's Word: JFH
- 5:30 PM St. Anthony Spring Musical Performance
- 5:30 PM Youth Fellowship

MONDAY, MARCH 30

- 5:15 PM Stretch Your Faith
- 6:30 PM GriefShare
- 7:00 PM Boy Scouts: Scout Room



TUESDAY, MARCH 31

- 7:00 AM Men's Breakfast: JFH
- 12:00 PM Just for Women Bible Study: CLC
- 1:30 PM Ladies' Ensemble Rehearsal: Choir Room
- 7:00 PM Girl Scouts: Scout Room
- 7:00 PM Men's Choral Society Rehearsal

Remember in Prayer

Extended Care

Heritage at Lowman
Mac King

Heritage
George Richardson

Home
Adele Kassab
Casey Taylor

Methodist Manor
Madeline Brice
Joyce Floyd
Marie Jordan

Presbyterian Community
Hannah Barringer
Ann Cash
Aaron Leland
Tom and Clariann Kellam
Macy Turner

Memorials
Joseph Glen Bruce
Chuck Dennis
Joe Wolfe

Households
Robert and Betsey Moore
Brian and Michele Naylor, Alaina, Ella, Hampton
Mike and Lee Nunn
Jim and Nancy Poston
Frances Rogers
Chris and Cille Scott, Pearce, Anne Evans
Robbie and Whitney Suggs, Addison, Harper
Johnny and Robin Stoupenos

Sympathy
Susan Bankson, loss of her brother
Jan Bray, loss of her mother
Family and friends of Chuck Dennis
Steve Grady, loss of his sister

*Lord, Hear
Our Prayer*



Sick & Recovering
Madeline Brice
Jack Cagle
Kit Fulmer
Betty Lee Gandy
Jimmy Green
Mary Ann Nash
Glenn Odom
Ginger Owen
Rosanne Saunders
Peggy Corbin Scheu
Frances Welch

Elders
Betsy Olsen
Chris Scott

Deacons
Karen Jordan
Tenny Moss

Mission
House of Hope
Chandan Sah

Women in Ministry
Donna Grubb
Karen Silver

Sunday School Teachers
Barbara Green
Ruth Watts

Staff
Ron Echols
Sidney Ruff

God's Work in our Community

House of Hope

The House of Hope is a non-profit ministry based organization that provides housing and support to men, women, and children in the Florence community.

The House of Hope provides emergency, short-term, and transitional housing, as well as long-term support through its Life Recovery Program.

The Courtney McGinnis Graham community Shelter provides emergency and temporary housing, food, clothing and support to the homeless community.

Guests at the shelter are able to meet with the case manager and connect with support to find help, housing, and employment. The shelter also provides emergency housing during times of extreme cold and heat with nobody being turned away.



The Life Recovery Program is another part of the ministry that provides long-term support, job training, financial guidance, substance recovery, and bible study. This program is a commitment of 9 months to one year long. Upon completion, graduates have the tools and support needed to work and live independently.

House of Hope includes two Mission Marts with 100 percent of the profits from the marts going to the ministry. And House of Hope will hold its Run for Hope in conjunction with the Downtown Roll this year. Save the date for the 5K: June 13!

God's Work Around the World

Chandan Sah

Empower Believers Movement Nepal

One of the global missions First Presbyterian Church supports is the Empowerment Believers Connection is a network of indigenous (Indian) mission agencies that are planting churches and transforming communities throughout the northeastern state of Bihar. Bihar is 0.06 percent Christian. The state is mostly Hindu (80 percent), followed by a large Muslim population (18 percent) and a mix of Buddhism, Jainism, Seiks, etc.

EBC was founded and is led by Chandan Kumar Sah who employs multiple strategies to reach and transform communities, including: CHE (Community Health Evangelism), CPM (Church Planting Movements), DMM (Disciple Making Movements), and MED (Micro-Enterprise Development). Pramila, Chandan's wife, is instrumental in equipping and discipling women as she leads a strong women's ministry.



Empower Believers Movement Nepal (EBM-Nepal) is encouraging the leaders in the network to do Micro Enterprises Project to become self-supportive. Now EBM Nepal has provided Micro loans to 17 different leaders in the network. They are doing projects such as bicycle repairing shop, Sewing Center, Carpentry, Mobile Repairing Centre, Cosmetic shop, General store shop, Private Nursery School, etc.

He is Risen

HOLY WEEK
APRIL 5-12

Palm Sunday, April 5

- Worship Services: 9 a.m. and 11 a.m.
 - Easter Egg Hunt: 4 p.m. at Weave and Emily Whitehead's. Bring your children, grandchildren, and a friend for the hunt and fellowship.
- Covenant partners should bring a homemade snack to share.

Morning Prayer, April 6-10

The Lawson-Rain Chapel will be open from 6 to 7 a.m. all week for prayer.

Maundy Thursday, April 9

Maundy Thursday Tenebrae Service at 7 p.m. Join us for this Service of Darkness with readings and music by the Chancel Choir as we prepare our hearts for Easter Sunday. Childcare will be available for infants-5K.

Easter Sunday, April 12

- Flowering of the Cross: Decorate the cross with flowers from home
- Worship Services: 9 a.m. and 11 a.m.

Easter

EGG HUNT

Covenant partners, guests, and families...

Please make plans to attend the Palm Sunday Egg Hunt!

April 5 at the Whitehead's
beginning at 4 p.m.
177 W. Pocket Road

Our little ones, just walking thru 5th grade, will hunt.
Our sixth-graders will hide eggs.

Eggs for Easter Egg Hunt: Love to dye eggs? About 60 dozen hard-boiled dyed eggs are needed for the Easter Egg Hunt on April 5. Please consider donating hard-boiled dyed eggs to the celebration. You can put them in the CLC refrigerator ahead of April 5.

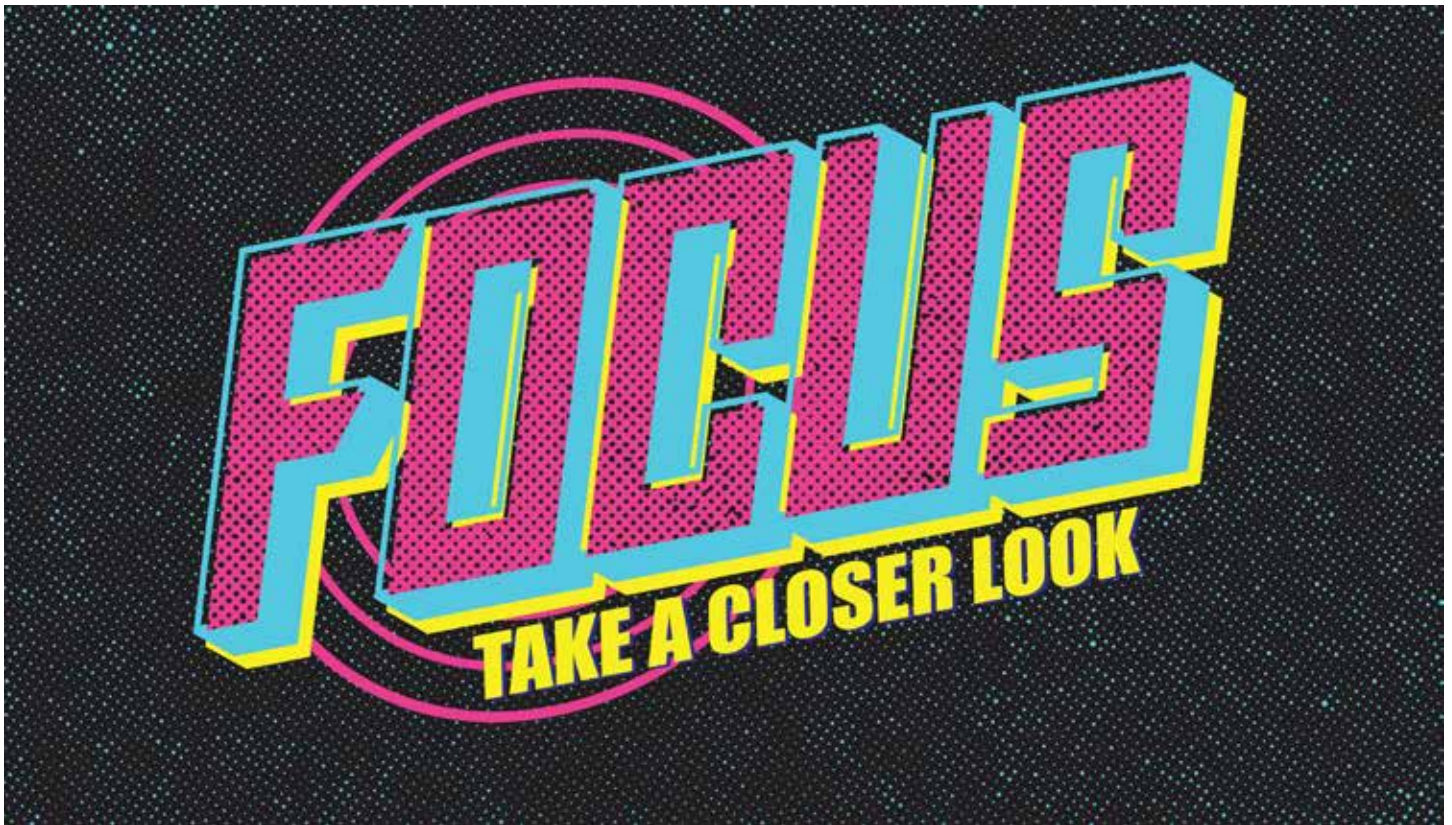
Best Week Ever Returning to Florence!

WinShape Camps for Communities will return to Florence from July 20 to July 24.

Camp will be held on the First Presbyterian Church campus from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. The Best Week Ever! is open for children who have completed 5K through eighth grade. The one-week session rate is \$219. Sign up at:

<https://camps.winshape.org/day-camps/1091/>





Make plans to join us for VBS 2020!

FOCUS - Take a Closer Look!

Kickoff Sunday, June 21 at 5:30 p.m ... a cookout for the whole family!

Vacation Bible School, 9:00 a.m. - noon

Monday, June 22 - Thursday, June 25

Online registration opens April 1.

**To volunteer, please contact Heather Taylor at handymantaylor@yahoo.com
or make a note on the Friendship Pad on Sunday morning.**



Church News

Keenagers luncheon to feature Townsend

Keenagers will meet at noon Tuesday, March 3, for their luncheon in the Jenkins Fellowship Hall.

Nick Townsend, chef and singer, will be the guest speaker.

Afterward, join Jan Green and friends for Dominoes.

GriefShare support group meets weekly

GriefShare meets on Mondays from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m., in Room 104. GriefShare is a support group that meets weekly. You'll find it to be a warm, caring environment, and you will come to see your group as an "oasis" on your journey through grief.

Poetice International donor matching funds

Poetice International's mission base has been a gathering place for thousands of people, and these facilities have played a pivotal role in facilitating restoration and transformation in the lives of the lost and the least.

Poetice senses a need for additional facilities on its mission base and many other infrastructural needs to accommodate growth and enrich our capacity to empower the Church to fight for justice.

One immediate need is for an outdoor multi-purpose pavilion. Every week hundreds of children are led in discipleship trainings and games. Poetice has outgrown the indoor facilities to host this weekly gathering and moving the children outside isn't an option. With a simple open-air design, this proposed outdoor pavilion would also allow concerts, community gatherings, and other trainings more than doubling the capacity indoors.

Poetice has a donor that is donating a matching gift of up to \$20,000 toward the pavilion. If you would like to make a donation, please make it out to First Presbyterian Church Missions with the memo line matching funds POETICE Pavillion.

Scouts backpacking trip

Our Boy Scouts will be backpacking to Ellicott Rock in March.

The hike starts at the Walhalla Fish Hatchery and ends where North Carolina, South Carolina, and Georgia meet on the Chattooga River.

The Scouts also will visit Stumphouse Mountain Tunnel, which is an incomplete railroad tunnel for the Blue Ridge Railroad of South Carolina.

This trip is a preparation trip for this summer's backpacking trip in the Sierras and Yosemite National Park lead by Hunter Morgan.

Consider sponsoring a child in Haiti

Haiti is the poorest country in the Western hemisphere with 80 percent of its 10 million inhabitants living in poverty. Since 2007, First Presbyterian church has been involved with Organization of the Christian Force of Bayonnais (OCFB), which believes the only way for Haiti to come out of its devastating poverty is through education. OFCB operates a medical clinic, a Christian non-denominational church and many agronomy programs. An important part of OFCB's ministry is a K-13th grade school.

Currently 48 families are supporting 78 children in Bayonnais. By the end of this school year, First Presbyterian Church would love to double its financial support to these children and their families.

Would you prayerfully consider sponsoring a child for \$40 a month/\$480 per year?



Paying attention in an internet world

By Chris Handley

Associate Pastor

We have recently gotten a series of booklets that are available in the Welcome Center for your perusal and use. One of them is this booklet by Nicholas Black, *Parenting in an Internet World*. In it, Black quotes a 2001 study by social psychologists at the London School of Economics highlighted in the Guardian issue 28 February 2002. This study finds that 9 out of 10 children (ages 11 to 16) had viewed pornography on the internet. This is something we need to be concerned about as parents. In our internet world there is much to like about what it offers, but much to be concerned about what is available to our children.

Black says, "Pornography can capture the mind and heart of a child or teen almost instantly. And it can set the stage for years of inner



turmoil, along with depraved thinking, hiding, lying and experiencing deeply broken sexuality. Porn produces a warped concept of sexuality and relationships, which years later can erupt with destructive force in dating, marriage, family, or vocation."

As parents we pay attention to the traps that our children can fall into. We make sure that our children are protected from dangers encouraging wearing seat belts, staying away from drugs, setting curfew. But are we vigilant about what they have access to on the web? Let me encourage you to think about this and even get more help by reading the whole booklet by Nicholas Black.



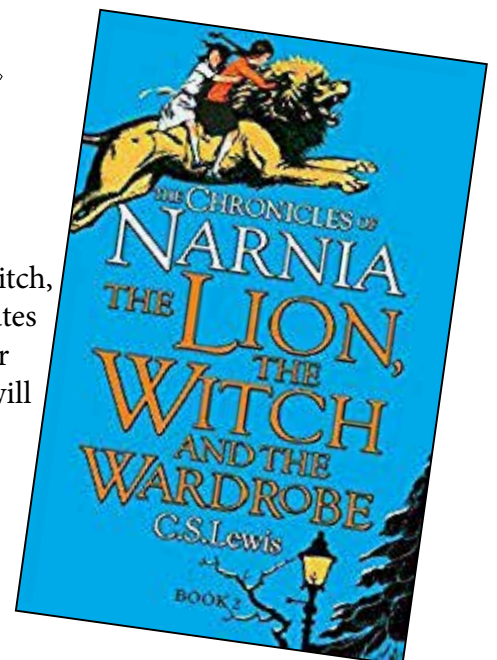
Stop by the Welcome Center to view the series of booklets for perusal and use. There are a few pamphlets to help with parenting in today's world, including how to be vigilant about what children have access to on the internet.

SIX-MINUTE CHALLENGE CELEBRATION

Remember the new year challenge from Pastor Chris for our children and youth: "I want to issue a Six-Minute Challenge to our children, where they seek to read all seven books of the Chronicles of Narnia. If your child would take up that challenge, we want to know so that we can encourage them."

Keep reading *The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe* ... six minutes a day ... and on March 25 after Wednesday night dinner, we will celebrate!

Bring your favorite line and character to our round table discussion in the Discovery classroom at 6:20 pm. Prizes will be awarded!!





Youth Ministry News

Youth Schedule

- Sunday School: March 1, 8, 15, 22, 29 / 10-10:50 a.m. / Light breakfast, Fellowship, Lesson
- Small group: March 8, 22 / 5:30-7 p.m. / Dinner, Lesson
- MOVE: March 1, 15, 29 / 5:30-7:30 p.m. / Dinner, Lesson, Fellowship
- 412 on Wednesdays: March 4, 11, 18, 25 / 6:30-7:30 p.m. / Bible study and prayer
- East Florence Mission: March 3, 10, 17, 24, 31 / 3:45-4:45 p.m.

Student Leadership University's LIFT tour

- On January 24-25, a six of our student leaders attended Student Leadership University's student leadership retreat. The excellent event took place at First Baptist Church in Columbia. SLU vice president Brent Crowe challenged the students to live focused. He taught from Luke 15 — the parable of the prodigal son. We also enjoyed great times of worship through song led by Liberty University Worship Collective.

Ski Trip 2020

- On Feb. 14-17, we had an awesome time in Winterplace, West Virginia, for our annual youth ski trip. Forty-four youth attended with six adult volunteers. A huge thank you to Sarah Elizabeth Rainwater, Chris Moseley, Jim and Sarah Moseley, and Yarrow and Michele Babb for volunteering their time to make this trip possible. Thanks to all the Covenant Partners for your prayers.

Presbytery Youth Retreat

- Announced during the Presbytery of SC meeting at the ECO National Gathering, our presbytery-wide youth retreat will be held in the fall, Nov. 13-15, 2020, at Camp Bob Cooper on Lake Marion in Summerton. We are working on securing a speaker and music, as well as assessing the interest of other churches in the presbytery. We will continue to update as more details are solidified.

The Culture Translator from Axis.org

- One of Generation Z's defining characteristics is a high level of loneliness and dissatisfaction in their network of friends. Many reporters, writers, sociologists, and psychologists point to social media as the primary reason for this pervasive sense of isolation. But what if the problem isn't social media itself, but rather how it's being used? An older article from i-D suggests younger people share more of themselves online in what's called "vulnerability p*rn" — a way of sharing candidly online about sad or vulnerable experiences and feelings. This results in a quick hit of attention, but ultimately an empty feeling for the sharer, since simply telling people what you've been through doesn't breed real intimacy.

Action step: Ask your teen if this is something they encounter often in their time online. Talk about how telling painful truths can be liberating while also shedding light on how sharing before processing pain with those closest to you can play out in ultimately unsatisfactory ways.



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Director of Music/Organist	Mrs. Ann Rodgers Chandler
Interim Praise Team Leader	Mr. Keith Hamrick
Director of Youth Ministry	Mr. Brock Page
Interim Children's Ministry Director	Mrs. Susan Snow
Child Development Center Director	Mrs. Beth Hepler
Church Administrator	Rev. Don Hebert
Ministry Assistant	Ms. Teresa Stewart
Financial Assistant	Mrs. Gwen DuRant
Ministry Assistant	Ms. Kimberly Brauss
Head Custodian	Mr. Ron Echols
Custodian	Mr. Sidney Ruff
Housekeeping	Ms. Wanda LaSane

