

A Pilgrimage to Easter

The Lenten Season @ FPC

Lenten Devotional

A digital devotional available from Pittsburgh Theological Seminary

All-Church Lenten Book Study & Worship-Sermon Series

Long Obedience in the Same Direction by Eugene Peterson

Floral Easter Tribute

Honor or Remember a Loved One

Lenten Organ & Poetry Series

Thursdays through March 21 at 11 AM in the Sanctuary

CrossRoads Lenten Prayer Beads

March 24, Palm Sunday

9 AM Contemporary worship
10 AM Easter Egg Hunt (front lawn)
10:30 AM Traditional worship:
Sanctuary Choir with Chamber Orchestra
presents *Requiem* by Gabriel Fauré

March 28, Maundy Thursday

6:30 PM Worship with Communion

March 29, Good Friday

12 PM "Seven Last Words of Christ" worship
Christ Lutheran Church, Hilton Head Island

March 31, Easter Sunday

9 AM Contemporary worship
10:30 AM Traditional worship
Nursery available at 8:45 AM (Room 109)

Worship services at FPC are available in person and livestream.

On Easter Sunday there will be no Sunday School for adults or children.

The nursery will open on Easter at 8:45 AM (Room 109).

Both Services on Palm Sunday To Feature Special Music

FPC's Children's Choir will sing during 9 AM CrossRoads worship on March 24. During the 10:30 AM service, the Sanctuary Choir—directed by Minister of Music Rusty Floyd and accompanied by the Chamber Orchestra—will present *Requiem* by Gabriel Fauré.

To prepare for Palm Sunday, the children have been rehearsing on Wednesday nights with Beth Green, Director of the Children's Choir. The Sanctuary Choir has been working since the first of the year to present *Requiem*. Palm Sunday celebrates Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem one week before his death and resurrection on Easter Sunday, March 31.

The choral presentations are an extension of the Lenten Pilgrimage to Easter at FPC, based on the all-church book study and worship-sermon series based on the book *A Long Obedience in the Right Direction* by Eugene Peterson.

Please help us spread the word about these special worship services.

Honor or Remember a Loved One with an Easter Tribute *The Deadline is March 20*



By contributing \$25 you can help with flowers, palms and palm crosses for Easter worship and honor a friend or loved one. Tributes will be listed in the Easter Sunday bulletins.

Lilies and azaleas will be available to be picked up after the 10:30 AM Easter service.

Contributions may be made in cash; check - payable to FPC; or by debit/credit card online. With questions, call the church office, 843.681.3696.

Sacrificial Service ~ One of Our Values



*“Christ pulls people out of themselves and into the lives of others where they would never have gone on their own.” — Robert Schnase, author of *Five Practices of Fruitful Congregations**

One of our church values is “sacrificial service.” It’s both a spark that can encourage us to deeper faith, and the fruits by

which our faith is known. The beauty of service is that it takes us beyond ourselves, as we—even for a short time—put our worries, needs or desires aside to follow Jesus into the lives and needs of others.

Such service can take many forms; from those that keep the church alive and fulfilling its purpose, like ushering, working in our kitchen, serving on a ministry team, visiting members who are in the hospital or homebound, teaching Sunday school and mentoring our youth; to service to our community—i.e., Backpack Buddies, Deep

Well, or Volunteers in Medicine, or via our global connections with Christians in Kenya, Congo, or Haiti. These examples are just a small portion of the ways in which sacrificial service is lived out by our members here at FPCHHI.

Sacrificial service also presents opportunities for involvement by newcomers, visitors and those who are seeking to know Jesus more. As our Associate for Evangelism and Engagement, Pastor Elizabeth is adding ideas and energy that will help our existing ministries of service become doorways through which those seeking a church home can come to know us better while experiencing the joy of following Jesus beyond themselves.

To find out more about how you can serve sacrificially go to our website, or set up a time to speak with Pastor Elizabeth, Pastor Will or me.

Lenten blessings to you,

Pastor Diane

A Shout-Out of Thanks to the Breaking Bread Ministry!

I know I speak for Pastor Will and Pastor Elizabeth when I express my thankfulness for the sacrificial service of our Breaking Bread ministry team led by Nancy Bottone and Jeff Kruse. These hard working, blue-aproned volunteers recently hosted a delicious lunch and fellowship time for “Souper Bowl” Sunday. As a part of our Congregational Life ministry, their gift of hospitality and willingness to service with joy and grace help provide opportunities for caring connections among our members and friends.

I’m grateful for the ways in which our congregation is adapting to new processes around signing up in advance for church fellowship meals. Knowing how many guests to expect helps the Breaking Bread team accurately plan for food, paper goods, and table set up. Below is info about the next event on April 10. *Please note the deadline to RSVP is April 7.* We look forward to seeing you there!

— From Pastor Diane on behalf of our three pastors

Breaking Bread Event ~ April 10

Enjoy dinner
and a presentation by
local Lego Artist Chris Sudduth
Participants may make Lego creations, too!

To register, visit fpchhi.org
Deadline for sign-up is April 7



Grace Notes ~

The Personal Faith Journey of FPC Member Karen D. Smith

Long-time First Presbyterian member Karen D. Smith knows that the future of our church and our faith belongs to the families and children of today. So Karen helps every week with the after-school program Welcome on Wednesdays (WOW).

“We want the children to have fun, feel this is their safe place and learn about God and Christian values. No matter what a child’s background, we teach them we are all the same with God,” says Karen, who joined FPCHHI with her husband Roscoe in 1998. “Our goal is to give these children a positive experience in church, and we want them to keep that feeling for the future.”

Born and raised in Lenoir, N.C., Karen grew up Baptist. Her parents were very active in the church. “My mother grew up that way, my father not so much,” Karen says with a smile. “She made sure he was baptized before she married him. And she made sure all of us were baptized as well. Church for me and my siblings was three times a week.”

A graduate of Appalachian State, Karen embarked on a career in public relations and advertising for 25 years. When she and Roscoe moved to Connecticut in the late 1980s, that career waned but another took its place. Karen earned a master’s degree from NYU in Occupational Therapy, focused on outpatient rehabilitation.

While in Connecticut, Karen and Roscoe joined Noroton Presbyterian Church in Darien. A Boy Scout troop that met at the church attracted their son and the Smiths. “Sometimes when a church allows those programs to meet at their facilities, it draws families into the church,” Karen says. “We are good examples of that.”

Karen and Roscoe moved to Hilton Head in 1996. “As far as my faith life, I think it really grew here at First Pres by regularly attending worship services, participating in committees and especially the women’s ministry small group. The books, conversations, and

relationships we had were part of my faith journey.

“I have always believed in God—believed that He created heaven and earth, and He sent his son to teach us how to live. That is the basis of my faith. And I believe He is with me every day.”

Children and youth programs can help build or reinforce the foundations of a church. “When we work with these kids and see them grow in how they treat each other, see them listen, and ask us questions, God helps us,” Karen says. “And we grow, too. It makes us better people because to teach children, we must know the stories inside and out and make them understandable on a child’s level.”

Karen’s advice to anyone wanting to help with children and youth programs is this: Do you have patience, find joy on a kid’s level, respect, willingness to learn yourself, work with a team? To get involved contact Andrea Siebold, FPC’s volunteer coordinator or talk to Jackie Wilhelm, Faith Formation Director, or Jodi Krivda, Assistant Director of Faith Formation.

Teaching children may not yield tangible results immediately. But again, patience is key. From Proverbs 22:6, “Train a child in the way he should go, and when he is old, he will not turn from it.”

About the Author: Mark Matlock is chair of the Communications Ministry at FPCHHI. A member of session, Mark joined the church with wife Kathy in 2022. Before moving to Colleton River Club in 2020, they lived in Greenville, S.C., and were members of Westminster Presbyterian Church. Mark worked in newspapers for more than 25 years, and has been a free-lance writer and editor.



Member Karen Smith



To get involved with FPC Kids Camp or Youth Programs

contact Jackie Wilhelm

Director of Faith Formation or

Jodi Krivda

Assistant Director of Faith Formation

Welcome to Our New Officers!

Elders



Michele Green is a retired CPA and is starting her third term as an FPC elder. She has served as Clerk of Session since 2005.



Chris Russell has been an active FPC member since 2011. She served as a deacon and was involved in Meals from the Heart and the Community Baking Ministry. She volunteers for various youth and children's activities, including co-teaching, baking with the youth and lots more!

You may meet her at Crossroads worship where she occasionally greets on Sunday mornings. She is married to Chandler and has a certified therapy dog, Bella, who spreads love at nursing homes and the FP Day School.



David Lauderdale has been a member at FPC for almost 30 years and is in his 16th year of teaching the adult Sunday school class, "Lowcountry Lessons." He has previously served as an elder, deacon and sound board volunteer.



Tom Upshaw previously served as an elder in the Class of 2015. He has served as Chair of the Finance Ministry and Church Treasurer. His current ministry assignments are Facilities and Finance ministries. Tom and his wife, Jane, are long-time members of FPC.



Nancy Millette has been an active church member since 2000. She previously served as an elder and two terms as a deacon. She loves singing in the Sanctuary Choir and has been a Confirmation mentor and a member of the Visual Arts Ministry, Christian Education Committee and Worship and Music Ministry.

Coffee & Conversation Returns

Thursday, March 21, 10 AM

Words that Divide Us



Pat Myers and her husband, Ernie, moved to Hilton Head in 2001 and soon after joined FPC. Together they became involved in a small group study and Pat joined a weekly class. Pat was soon installed as a deacon and helped with Family Promise of Beaufort County. She then

served as an elder and has long been involved in a variety of FPC programs. Pat and Ernie have two adult children and nine grandchildren!

FPC's Social Witness Ministry invites you to take part in a discussion about race — in hopes of achieving shared understanding and appreciation of each individual's point of view. To learn more, contact Ministry Chair Henry Brown, brownhenrye5@gmail.com. Join us that morning at 9:30 AM for specialty coffee drinks made by HeBrews Ministry.



FPC's Visual Arts Ministry invites you to enjoy a new exhibit from the Sandra Bowden collection.

It's in the hallway near the Gathering Space and includes 25 pieces from six centuries!



Deacons



David Dahle and his wife, Peggy, moved to Hilton Head in August 2022 following his career in sales and sales management for the furniture industry. He was previously a deacon and elder at churches they belonged to in North Carolina. At FPC, David has volunteered in the People in Need

office and the summer Prayer Project as well as other outreach ministries.



Anne McClintock is a retired English teacher who moved to Hilton Head in 2006 from North Carolina. She was a member of Davidson College Presbyterian Church for 40 years before joining FPC in 2010 and soon joined the Sanctuary Choir. She also served as a deacon and was a member of

the Worship and Music Ministry, worked with Family Promise and the GED ministry. A current resident at WaterWalk Apartments, Anne is excited to bring Shelter Cove neighbors together as coordinator of the new Neighborhood Care Group there.



Sue Murray came to FPC from the Morrisville First Presbyterian Church in Pennsylvania where she was a member for over 50 years. She is involved with a number of programs including the Soul Food small group, Sunday ushering, Food from the Heart, Breaking Bread, and the FPC Garden Group

(PGA). Sue lives in Leamington with her husband, Neal. Together they have three grown sons, two dogs, and a thoroughbred horse.



Patsy Roberts lived in Atlanta for many years before moving to Hilton Head in 2019. That's when she joined First Presbyterian Church. She has served as an usher, is on the Welcome Team, volunteers for the Breaking Bread Ministry, and participates in small groups, Bible studies and Low-

country Lessons class.



Elaine Shinn retired after a 30 year career in education which included teaching for seven years in the American school systems in Korea and Germany. Since 2012, she has been an active member of First Presbyterian Church and was involved with the after school youth program. She is currently

the president of a prominent woman's organization with the mission to award scholarships to girls graduating from high school as well as women who wish to continue their education. Elaine and her husband, Michael, have a son, daughter, and three grandchildren.



Judy White says that church has always been an important part of her life. She and her husband, Bob, have two daughters, six grandchildren, and one great grandchild and are happy to have retired to Hilton Head after living in Northwest Arkansas for many years. Judy sings in the FPC choir,

assists with various special events throughout the year—including Breaking Bread meals and memorial receptions and helps decorate the church for special occasions.

Earth Care Book Study

With the Bible in one hand and excerpts from the book in the other, we'll explore how some indigenous cultures respond and interact with the gift of creation.

Class will be led by Jim Wagner

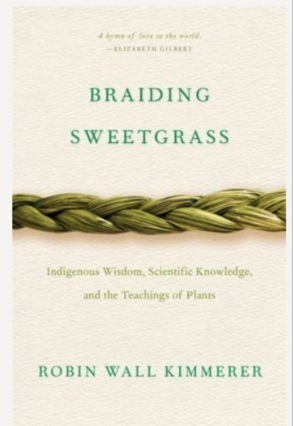
Hosted by
the Earth Care Workgroup
of the Social Witness Ministry

Monday mornings in April ~ 8, 15, 22, 29

10 AM in the Library & Via Zoom

Register on the website
or call 843.681.3696

Book is available for purchase from Amazon





FPC Kids & Youth Ministry

Kids Summer Camp Reserve Spots Now ~ Volunteers Needed



June 24-28, 2024

Pre-School Camp

9 AM - 12 PM

Ages 3 through 5 (pre-K and must be toilet trained)

If your child attends First Presbyterian Day School - they will return to Day School at 11:45.

Elementary Camp

9 AM - 3 PM

Rising K-5th Graders
(bring bagged lunch)

\$20/child

For more info or to volunteer, contact Jodi Krivda, jkrivda@fpchhi.org

Liza Jones Elected Young Adult Advisory Delegate to General Assembly

Liza Jones, an active member of FPC's youth fellowship, has been elected by the Charleston Atlantic Presbytery as its Young Adult Advisory Delegate (YAAD) to the 226th General Assembly (2024) in Salt Lake City. Our presbytery will be represented by Liza and four commissioners to the GA meeting June 25 to July 4. The theme for this year's assembly is "Live into Hope."

The General Assembly meets biennially with the location rotating around the sixteen synods across the U.S. and is represented by over 500 commissioners and 180 delegates from the 166 presbyteries. Assemblies address approximately 300 issues sent in by presbyteries, synods and GA agencies and committees. Each commissioner and delegate will serve on one of fifteen or so committees to review the assigned issues and recommend action by the whole assembly later in the week. In these committee meetings both the commissioners and delegates work together with everyone having a voice and vote.

Liza will attend an orientation session, be assigned to one of the 15 committees and will receive the details of the issues being addressed by her committee. Attending the General Assembly as a commissioner or delegate is a



privilege that takes dedication to study the issues ahead of time and during the week of the meeting. It is an opportunity to see the Presbyterian Church at work from a different perspective.

It will also be an opportunity for Liza to meet other YAADs and to work and fellowship with them during the week. We acknowledge Liza's election and give thanks to her for serving the church in this special way and we pray for Liza's safe travels and for the week to be meaningful to her.

Thanks to you, FPC Youth Raised \$3,000 for local food pantries!

On Sunday, February 11, more than 100 million Americans watched Super Bowl LVIII, while more than 50 million people in this country face food insecurity. That number has soared since the 2020 pandemic, and more people than ever are turning to food banks and programs to help provide basic food needs.

Members of the FPC Youth Group collected cash donations that Sunday as part of the national "Souper Bowl of Caring" to benefit local food pantries. Many members and guests at FPC heard the call to help tackle hunger and enabled the youth group to collect close to \$3,000 that day.



April 24, 2024
3-5 PM

Explore Pinckney Island National Wildlife Refuge

Enjoy a nature walk with Lowcountry Master Naturalist Anneliza Itkor. She'll guide us and share tidbits about this 4,053 acre nature preserve right here in the Lowcountry!



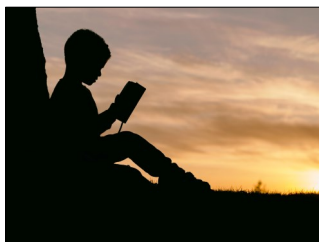
Meet in the Pinckney Island parking lot at 3 PM.
Wear comfy shoes and bring bottled water.

Need a ride?

Contact Judy Pizzuti, 843.422.3797

Hosted by the Earth Care Workgroup
of the Social Witness Ministry

Books & A Buck Outreach Ministry Collecting New & Gently Used Books



Part of FPC's Local Outreach Ministry, this program provides books to children in preschool through grade 12 in Jasper, Hampton and Beaufort counties. To learn more about helping classroom libraries, stop by the ministry table in the Gathering Space on Sundays March 17, 24 and April 7. There will be ministry members there to talk about the impact you can make.

FPCHHI Recertified As An Earth Care Congregation

FPCHHI became an Earth Care Congregation (ECC) in 2022. Two years later, we're one of 331 PC(USA) ECC's across the U.S. To become and remain an ECC requires setting and achieving goals that ensure preservation and protection of God's creation that we enjoy but often abuse. For 2024, FPCHHI set goals in four categories: worship, education, facilities, and outreach. Our application earned 233 points, well above the 100 needed for recertification!



Watch for upcoming informational Coffee and Conversations, a book study in April, nature walks, highway cleanups, worship services with an earth care emphasis, updates about landscaping with native plants, continued recycling practices and increased energy conservation within our church. Our Earth Care workgroup is an integral part of FPCHHI's Social Witness Ministry, and you're *welcome* to join us!

Rev. Will Robinson
Senior Pastor/Head of Staff

Rev. Elizabeth Johnson
Associate Pastor

Rev. Diane Knauf
Associate Pastor

Communications questions?
email cbobbitt@fpchhi.org
fpchhi.org

March ~ April NEWSLETTER



Members of FPC's Youth Group made homemade gnocchi soup for the Souper Bowl Sunday event. That Sunday they also raised close to \$3,000 for local food pantries when they collected donations before and after worship services.

Women's Spiritual Exercise is a long-standing group at FPC which meets on Wednesday mornings. Recently church member Marian Taylor and her caregiver, Laronda, surprised their friends. All those there that morning celebrated being united with their beloved Spiritual Exercise Sister!



New officers were installed during both worship services on Sunday, January 28. We thank all those who have stepped forward to serve! For bios on the new elders and deacons, see pages 4-5 in this issue.