

May 2022

First Press

A publication of First Presbyterian Church | Hilton Head Island, SC

FPC First Connectors Fulfill a Meaningful Role

First Connections was initiated during the pandemic to connect with people who were isolated because of mandated physical separation. What started almost two years ago continues today as an important FPC ministry.

First Connectors are members dedicated to maintaining relationships with other members who may still feel a bit isolated and appreciate these personal connections.

First Connectors use many forms of communication—phone calls, email, letters and cards sent via the postal service, etc.

Initially, each First Connector had a list of 15 families that they contacted once a month. Starting last fall,

communication was changed to once a quarter, with each connector reaching out to a list of 25 families.

To make their efforts easier, First Connectors are now provided a scripted email to send, highlighting church happenings during the upcoming quarter.

“The response has been wonderful,” says Andrea Siebold, FPC’s Volunteer Director of Volunteer Ministry. “First Connectors help others feel validated and cared about. Connections can also result in updated contact information for some and on occasion we learn of pastoral care needs that are shared with Pastors Linda and Will.”

If you would like to become a First Connector, contact Andrea Siebold, asiebold@fpchhi.org.



Special FPC Events in May - For your calendar!

- **May 4 - First Connectors** meet at 2 PM in the library. If you think you might like to be a FC, come hear what others have to share.
- **May 11 - Spring Children's Program, 5:30 PM & All-Church Picnic, 6 PM**, Please RSVP, 843.681.3696
- **May 22 - New Member Class, 10 AM**
- **May 25 - Wednesday Night Program, 6:30 PM, Hosted by the Social Witness Task Force.** Rev. Dr. Kimberly Wagner will speak about, "In it Together: Trauma and Faith in these Challenging Times"
- **May 29 - One Service Sunday, 10 AM Worship**

Wednesday, May 11

Spring Children's Program (5:30 PM)



The children's program will highlight what it's like to be in W.O.W. This young man (left) will share what it's like when Pastor Will visits W.O.W. each week.

All-Church Picnic (6 PM)

For one of the world's *best* hamburgers (or hotdogs) don't miss the all-church picnic! Master Griller Kirk Glenn has again agreed to work his magic at the grill. Ask someone who attended the picnic last fall. We're confident you'll get a five star review.



RSVP to attend, 843.681.3696

“Resurrection Then and Now”

We have been buried with Christ by baptism into death, so that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life. — Romans 6:4



On Easter Sunday and during the season of Easter (a fifty-day period ending on Pentecost Sunday), we usually think about eternal life. As we should! It's a *sine qua non* of our faith! The apostle Paul declares: "Death has lost its sting!" The poet John Donne writes: "Death be not proud, though some have called

thee mighty and dreadful, for, thou art not so...one short sleep past, we wake eternally, and death shall be no more; death, thou shalt die." And we sing: "Thine is the glory, risen, conquering Son; endless is the victory thou o'er death hast won!" Yes, when we proclaim "Christ is risen! He is risen indeed!" we proclaim the essential, non-negotiable, and hope-*full* promise of life everlasting for us and our loved ones.

And there's *more*. Resurrection isn't *only* about life *then*—eternal life *after* death. It's also about life *now*. The apostle Paul emphasizes this: "just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, so we too

might walk in *newness of life*." In the words of a Presbyterian catechism: "By Christ's power, we too are *already now resurrected to a new life*." A new life as subjects in God's Kingdom. A Kingdom of love, where we love even our enemies. A Kingdom where we forgive as the King has forgiven us. A Kingdom where we turn the other cheek. A Kingdom where the lost are found, the first are last, and prodigals are welcomed home. A Kingdom where we extend hospitality to the stranger and the refugee, and where we help the poor.

Especially during this fifty-day period of Easter, let's pray for the Spirit to empower us, lead us, guide us to live as loyal subjects in God's Kingdom, to live our resurrection *now*—as individual Christians and as the church. In this newsletter and on our website you'll see opportunities to do that as a member of this family of faith.

Grace and Peace,

Will

Pastor Will

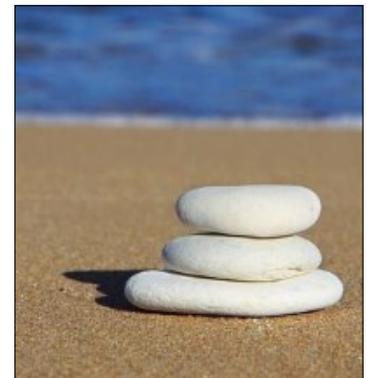
Meditation...What is It? *It's Available at FPC on Thursdays*

Our body is always in the present. But our mind tends to default to the future or the past. Meditation is quieting the mind and relaxing the body in the present moment, thus altering how the brain is affecting both. Because meditation brings our awareness to the moment, we open ourselves up to the natural benefits of a quiet mind without the negative side effects of so much of our thinking.

So what are the benefits? It can improve our physical relaxation, increase mental alertness, improve our health and well-being, and improve our inter-personal relationships. Recent research indicates it may reduce age-related memory loss including that in the very early stage of dementia.

Increased spiritual awareness can result when a Christian perspective is part of the mediation. Listening to God through scripture and devotional readings instead of talking so much can bring an added perspective.

The FPC Meditation Group, led by Mel Witmer, meets weekly from 4:30-5:30 PM every Thursday in the Prayer and Reflection Room located in the south wing. No experience is required and newcomers are always welcome.





Time, Talents and Treasure

When you hear the word stewardship, what comes to mind? Some think about volunteering, serving in music ministry, or working on mission projects. Others think of money and the financial contribution that powers the church and helps us make a difference locally and globally. So, what does stewardship *really* mean?

The dictionary defines stewardship as “the careful and responsible management of something entrusted to one’s care.” What does God entrust to us? God entrusts us with time, talents, and treasure. Each of these God-given gifts is equally important, and all three are essential to continue the work of Christ.

Time. How often have you wished for more time in the day? For most of us, life is busy and moves fast. It also consists of seasons where we may have more or less free time. For example, there’s a season to raise your children, focus on your career, and enjoy retirement. No matter the season we’re in, there’s always a way to serve God’s kingdom. When we give the church the gift of our time, *no matter how much or how little*, it makes a difference. Together, our efforts sustain the church and move its mission forward.

Talents. What talents are you blessed with? Do you have a warm, welcoming smile or the gift of hospitality? Maybe you have a caring heart or an analytical mind? Your talents may align with your

passion or your profession, or you may want to branch out and discover gifts you never knew you had! No matter your talents, they are valuable to God’s work. A church of only angelic singers still needs Sunday school teachers, mission workers, leaders, organizers, and more. Together, using our unique talents, we make up the body of Christ in the world.

Treasure. Just like time and talents, our treasure is a gift from God. How much we have is not as important as our response to God’s love and grace. By giving a portion of our treasure to further God’s work, we become part of something bigger. Our treasure alone, just like our time and talents, can do a little, but together we can do a lot.

If we give a great deal of our time and talents, it doesn’t mean we don’t give any of our treasure. That makes our stewardship unbalanced, and we miss the chance to grow our relationship with God. It takes *all three*. When we give our time, talents, and treasure, we become a powerful force creating change for others.

1 Peter 4:10 says, “As each one has received a gift, minister it to one another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God.” Giving our time, talents and treasure defines our stewardship. It can transform the lives of others, shape our own lives, and help us grow closer to God. How will you glorify God with your giving?

Wednesday, May 25, 6:30 PM

An Evening Hosted by the Social Witness Task Force **“In it Together: Trauma and Faith in These Challenging Times”**

Leaning on examples from mass shootings, natural disasters and the COVID-19 pandemic, among others, we will consider together the nature of mass trauma and its impact on individuals and communities. After better understanding the nature of trauma, our speaker will help us seek resources from our faith and scripture that might inform our response, sustain us as we encounter trauma, and guide us as we reimagine life after a traumatic event.

The Rev. Dr. Kimberly Wagner is Assistant Professor of Homiletics in the Axel Jacob and Gerda Maria (Swanson) Carlson Chair in Homiletics at the Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago. She is ordained as a Minister of Word and Sacrament in the Presbyterian Church (USA). Dr. Wagner’s forthcoming book (Westminster John Knox Press) is about preaching in the wake of mass trauma, particularly in the context of mass violence, natural disasters and public health crises.



Rev. Dr. Kimberly Wagner

The Blessing of Legacy Giving



May 1 is Legacy Sunday, a day to recall *all* that we have received as heirs to God's grace; and a day to reflect on the legacy we are leaving today and into the future. In his sermon on April 3, Pastor Will spoke of the prophet's message to the Israelites living in exile in Babylon. He observed that during this difficult time the prophet told them to look in the rear-view mirror, to recall all God had done for believers during earlier difficult times. But they and we are not to live only on past assurances but to take our eyes from the rear-view mirror and look forward through the windshield. God is doing a new thing

and they and we are part of it; God is with us in any present difficulty and promises to travel with us into God's future kingdom.

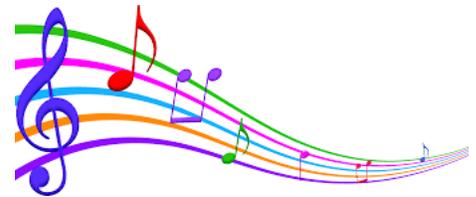
The epistle writers remind the church that we are heirs; we have received an inheritance of faith in God through Christ. They then challenged the church that their faith, their service, their generosity and sacrifice will be the legacy they pass on to those around them and for generations to come; they (and we) are *the great cloud of witnesses* to our risen Lord.

Many in our church family are leaving a financial legacy for the church's future ministry either by contributing to the FPC Endowment Fund or by remembering the church in their estate plans. Our thanks to all who have already done so! Everyone has an opportunity to leave such a legacy and we ask all who have not yet done so to prayerfully consider joining by making a contribution to the Endowment Fund or by including FPC in your will/estate plan. For details on how to participate contact Susan Brannon at the church office, 843.681.3696.

Members of the Endowment Committee: Mary-Stuart Alderman, Wade Close, Margaret Conn, Amy Cross, Jeff Myers, Chair, Todd Rhine, Tom Upshaw and Bob White

Do you love to sing?

Have you ever thought about joining the FPC choir? Summer Choir provides the ideal opportunity to give it a try. Yes, we sing every Sunday, *but there is no Thursday night rehearsal*. We warm up and rehearse one hour before the service (10 AM for the 11 AM service).



Frequently Asked Questions

- Do I need to audition? No, you do not.
- Must I sing every Sunday? That is preferred, but we all have vacations and conflicts on occasion.
- Will I feel intimidated or out of place? No, the Sanctuary Choir is a family. We support each other and care for each other. You will be warmly welcomed.
- What if I'm not sure of my voice part? Rusty Floyd will help to put you in the right section.
- When does Summer Choir begin? Sunday June 5

If you are interested or have questions, contact choir members Nancy Millette, 843.298.2421 or millettenancy@hotmail.com or Anne Millhaem, 513.324.3001, azmillhaem@gmail.com.

We look forward to hearing from you!

Seeking Recommendations for New Officers

Serving as a church officer is a privilege and an extremely important role within the church. The Nominating Committee is seeking your recommendations for the names of members you feel would be good representatives of First Presbyterian Church — to serve as deacon or elder.

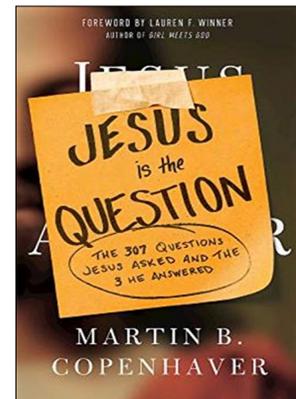
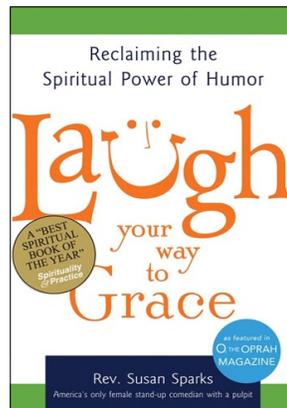
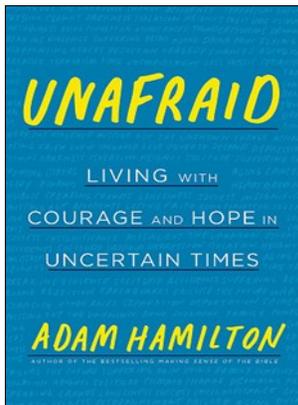
Six deacons and seven elders are needed to serve in the Class of 2025. To submit the name(s) of the person(s) you recommend, please complete the submission form at <https://fpchhi.ccbchurch.com/goto/forms/51/responses/new>.

According to the Book of Order, individuals who undertake particular ministries, including ruling elder and deacon, should be persons of strong faith, dedicated to discipleship and a love of Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord.

Their manner of life should be a demonstration of the Christian Gospel in the church and in the world. (Book of Order, G-2.0101) All church officers must be active members for at least one year prior to election (October 2022) with terms beginning in February 2023.

Adult Ministry Provides Recommended Summer Reading!

In addition to providing connections to small groups and class offerings, FPC's Adult Ministry has recently provided the titles of three books that they are recommending for adult summer reading. For information about each book — in a review written by a member of the ministry team — visit the adult page on the FPC website.



Interested in some fun, casual bridge with FPC friends?

A group is being formed to play bridge at the church on a weekday afternoon. If you are interested, contact Gayle VonSeggern, Gayle.vonseggern@gmail.com, or Andrea Siebold, asiebold@fpchhi.org.



Children's Ministry

Family Worship Centers Enhance Children's Worship Experience

Family Ministry, Director of Faith Formation Jackie Wilhelm and Assistant Director Jodi Gregg Krivda have created worship centers in both fellowship hall and the sanctuary. The purpose for these special spaces is to provide child-appropriate, worship-related materials—and even a special location—where children can participate in worship. Wilhelm and Krivda facilitate in the centers on Sundays. Children may choose to stay in the center during worship or take materials with them to sit with their parents.



On Palm Sunday the Children's Choir, led by Director Beth Green, paraded with palms at the beginning of worship and then joined the Sanctuary Choir in singing. Due to the pandemic, this was the first time in two years that the Children's Choir has been able to perform in worship.

 July 11 - 15

SAVE THE DATE!

KIDS CAMP
Full Day Option Available

More Details Coming Soon

Open to Ages 4-12



Fun for all ages at Easter Eggstravaganza!



On Saturday, April 9, more than 80 children and family members participated in the Easter Eggstravaganza. There were crafts, snacks, a dance party and, of course, Easter egg hunts for different age groups.

FPC Library in search of 500-piece puzzles

“One Sunday morning we had a cart full of jigsaw puzzles in the Gathering Space,” says Carol Nicewinter, who chairs the Library Ministry. “We thought we’d bring the library to the people, so to speak.”

What was learned that morning is that most puzzle masters want to borrow 500-piece puzzles. Almost the entire collection of puzzles currently in the library are 1000 pieces.

According to Nicewinter, “The search is on! We need your help in adding 500-piece puzzles to FPC’s collection.”

If you would like to donate to the library, please bring a puzzle to the church office. And while you’re here, take the time to browse through the library which is right down the hall!



Your Contributions to Feed My Sheep Support Our Community

On the first Sunday of the month FPC members are encouraged to bring canned goods and other non-perishable food items to church. These donations are shared with local food pantries throughout the Low-country. Pictured here, FPC member John Geisler delivers to Sandalwood Community Food Pantry.

Church Flowers to be Arranged by Volunteers

Beginning in May, Deacon Shari Slusne will lead a small group of volunteers to prepare live and artificial flower arrangements for the church. On Sunday mornings these beautiful displays will be in both fellowship hall and the sanctuary.

During and since the pandemic contributions to honor and memorialize friends and loved ones with flowers have decreased. In turn the church, rather than members, has been covering the cost. It was recently decided there might be a less expensive way for flowers to be prepared for worship and still share them with at-home members who receive flowers delivered with love each week by our deacons.

Slusne has provided and arranged flowers in church settings for more than 30 years. Some of her arrangements have already been shared at FPC—featuring sunflowers, the national flower of Ukraine.

So that others can get involved, Slusne has volunteered to lead a class for those interested in learning about floral design. To learn more about working with her, call the church office, 843.681.3696.

Members are still encouraged to dedicate flowers in memory or in honor of loved ones or friends. The cost is \$50 per arrangement. Or you can help defray the existing debt of the flower fund by making a donation. Checks may be made out to FPC with *flowers* noted on the memo line.

Join us in expressing our thanks to Shari for dedicating her time and talents to this important ministry.



Two members of FPC Youth Group are confirmed on Sunday, April 3



Liza Jones (*Right*) & her family



Hanna Walter (*Right*) & her family

On Sunday, April 3, we celebrated the confirmation of Hanna Walter and Liza Jones. Prior to this Sunday, the girls took a seven-month journey exploring their faith and their personal commitment to being followers of Christ.

They attended monthly classes that followed the PC(USA) curriculum *Big God Big Questions* and took part in individual sessions with mentors Nancy Millette and Jan Cale.

Pastors

Dr. Will Robinson
Senior Pastor/Head of Staff

Rev. Linda L. Kelly
Interim Associate Pastor

With questions about
FPC communications,
email cbobbitt@fpchi.org

fpchi.org
843.681.3696

Please note:
Sunday, May 29, One Service Sunday
10 AM in the Sanctuary