

June/July 2022

# First Press

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

## The Prayer Project Begins July 1

*Never stop praying, especially for others. Always pray by the power of the Spirit.  
Stay alert and keep praying for God's people. — Ephesians 6:18*

We have all experienced the power of prayer – it is a source of strength, wisdom and guidance. Jesus prayed and encouraged us to pray. Prayer is one of the greatest gifts and privileges we have as Christians. It's God's gift of His time to be available for conversation at any time of the day or night. There are many people who need prayer – Paul reminds us to put others ahead of our needs and by offering prayers for the relief of others and sharing their burdens and joys, our burdens seem lighter and our joys more magnificent. That is what our *2022 Prayer Project* strives for.

The annual Prayer Project will begin soon and you can be a part of this congregational journey. Participating gives us all the ability to live our core church value of Caring Connections by praying for others. The Prayer Project connects volunteering church members to fellow congregants for whom they are asked to pray during the Prayer Project period (July 1—August 31). It is easy and rewarding! During this time, prayers are raised on behalf of every FPC church member.

We need your help! By volunteering to pray for other church members during the two months of the project, you will have an opportunity to participate in a community of caring and prayer.

- Every church member will be assigned to someone who will be praying for them during the Prayer Project.



- We are hoping for at least 80 volunteers this year to pray for our church members. Each volunteer will be assigned approximately eight to ten church families for whom they will pray.

- Volunteers will not be contacting the

church members for whom they are praying. Prayer related resources will be provided to volunteers to help with their prayer practice, if desired, including how to pray for someone you may not know.

- We ask that you include them in your regular prayers, however you choose to do that, and ask for God's blessing, guidance, help and love as you pray for them. Prayer is a gift of care and connection that you can offer wherever you happen to be and whenever you have an opportunity.
- We ask that volunteers sign up by June 19. Each volunteer will receive their list of church members for whom to pray, instructions, and prayer resources via email during the last week of June.

It is easy to sign up. Register online at <https://fpchhi.cbchurch.com/goto/forms/38/responses/new>.

[fpchhi.cbchurch.com/goto/forms/38/responses/new](https://fpchhi.cbchurch.com/goto/forms/38/responses/new).

You may also sign up on the church website, [fpchhi.org](https://fpchhi.org).

***See page 2 for Pastor Will's message on prayer!***

### **Reception for Pastor Linda Kelly Sunday, June 26 ~ 10-11 AM (between services)**

The Board of Deacons is hosting a reception for Pastor Linda whose time as Interim Associate Pastor ends this month. Join us as we celebrate Linda and thank her for putting her retirement life on pause as she ministered to our congregation. There will be a basket for notes and cards for Pastor Linda at the reception.

### **Sunday July 3 ~ One Service Sunday at 10 AM We'll celebrate the 4th on the 3rd with an all church cookout following worship**

*Join us for food, fellowship and fun!*  
(hamburgers/hotdogs/chips/drinks)  
Please RSVP so there is enough food for all.  
**[Click here to reserve your spot.](#)**

## “Prayer: Steering Wheel or Spare Tire?”



Corrie ten Boom, a Christian writer who saved Jews from the Holocaust, asked: “Is prayer your steering wheel or your spare tire?” If it’s your spare tire, you pray only when you *need* help. Or when the going gets tough. Or you’re at your wits end. Or at a crossroads. Or when you *think* you need God.

Spare-tire prayer gets us through life’s “flat tires.” That’s better than not praying, but much better still is steering-wheel prayer: To “pray without ceasing” (1 Thessalonians 5:17). To be in communication with God *throughout* your day. To listen for and to the promptings and guidance of God’s Spirit as your day unfolds. Steering-wheel prayer helps us follow the Lord not just during life’s “flat tires” but throughout life’s “drive.”

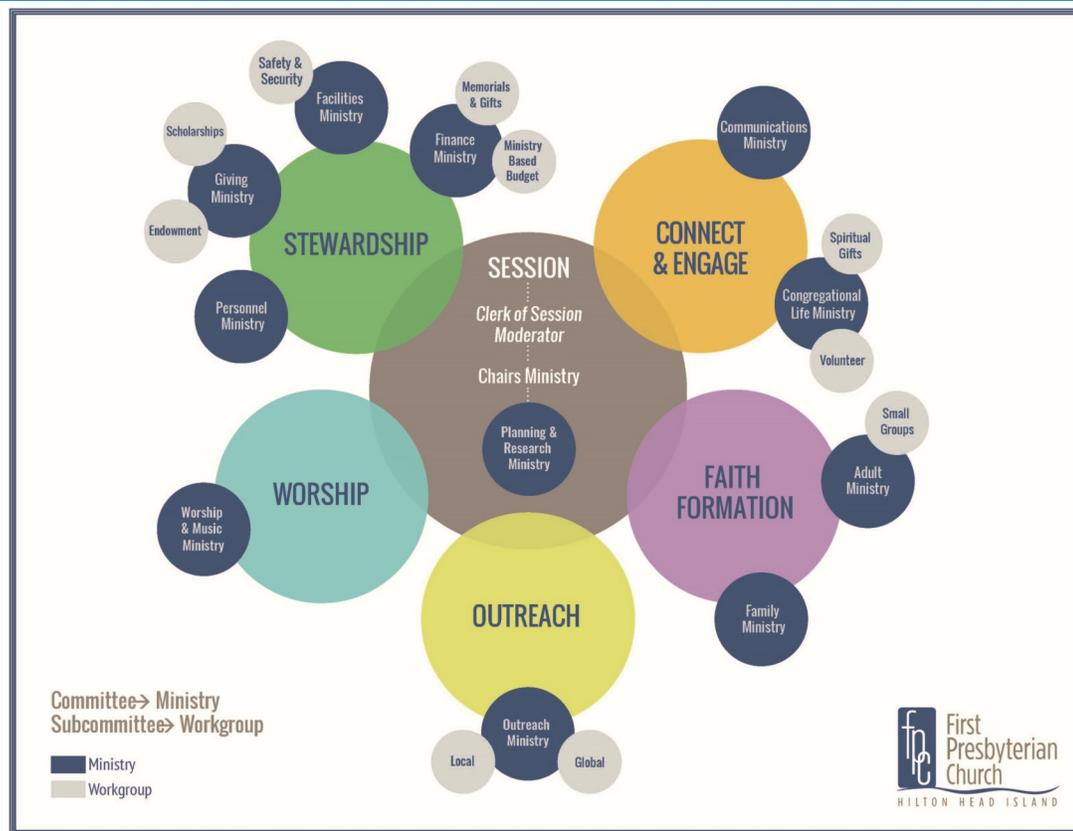
Carlo Carretto, activist, author and Christian contemplative, wrote: “Prayer is the sum of our relationship with God.” That’s steering-wheel prayer. Carretto adds: “The degree of our faith is the degree of our prayer. The strength of our hope is the strength of our prayer. The warmth of our love is the warmth of our prayer.” That’s steering-wheel prayer. Carretto knows what our Lord and

the rest of the Bible teaches: Prayer is about our relationship with God. If we’re only “using” prayer as a band aid or stop gap, then we’re neglecting that relationship, the most vital of our relationships. However, when prayer is part of the warp and woof of our daily lives, we depend on and deepen that essential relationship.

I thank God for steering-wheel prayer—for its power, for how it guides us in our daily lives (our daily “drives”), how it connects us to Jesus, our Lord, Savior and “friend” (“What a friend we have in Jesus...”), and its other, manifold and often mysterious benefits and spiritual fruit. In this issue of *First Press*, you’ll hear about our annual Prayer Project and about other ministries, mission outreach and programs that are guided by prayer and need our prayers. Please join me in praying for them and indeed for *all* of the work we do here in Jesus’ name to the glory of God through the Spirit. Also, if you have any questions about prayer or want to move from spare-tire prayer to steering-wheel prayer, don’t hesitate to contact me.

Grace and peace,

*Will*



## Transforming Lives Together — FPC’s Ministry Teams

Our ministry teams are the hands and feet within the church achieving God’s work. We have **five ministry teams** at FPC, each with a special and unique purpose.

See page 3 for more information about these ministry teams.



## Transforming Lives Together

(Continued from page 2)

There's no doubt that FPC accomplishes amazing work within our church, throughout our community, and beyond. Some may be surprised at just how much we accomplish! It couldn't happen without the work of our ministry teams and your gifts, which help us make a big difference in the lives of others.

Your gifts of **time**, **talents**, and **treasures** help fund our ministries and allow you to participate in and experience God's love and grace. It takes everyone's commitment of all three *equally* and *consistently* to move God's mission forward.

Our ministry teams are the hands and feet within the church achieving God's work. We have **five ministry teams** at FPC. Let's meet each team and learn its purpose:



### Connect and Engage

- Plugs new members into the congregational life of the church
- Helps you discover your spiritual gifts and talents
- Inspires you to invest your gifts and talents



### Outreach

- Discerns and allocates financial and active support for missions and programs to change lives for the better in our community and the world



### Stewardship

- Empowers the church to deliver God's message, teach the gospel, provide a joyful sound, care for the congregation and our community, connect people, share the good news, keep you informed, help everyone grow in faith, and maintain a place for worship, study and fellowship
- Oversees and manages the financial health of the church so we can follow as Christ leads us



### Worship

- Creates joyful and meaningful worship services for you, visitors, and online guests through in-person and livestream to experience God's love and grace together



### Faith Formation

- Provides small groups, classes, and opportunities for you, your family, and the congregation to grow in faith together and develop a deeper relationship with God
- Reaches out beyond the congregation with opportunities to nurture faith formation

Our ministry teams and your gifts, together, can transform the lives of others. Please prayerfully consider how you will give your gifts as you grow in faith and glorify God.

## A Message from Interim Associate Pastor Linda Kelly



Dear Friends,

It is hard to find words that adequately express my gratitude to you, my friends at First Pres, for the privilege of being your Interim Pastor for Pastoral Care. When I first told Will I was willing to come to FPC, we had agreed that I would act as a temporary stop-gap after the departure of Lisa Schrott and stay through the end of January. That was nine months ago, and I have enjoyed every minute of it!

Working with the FPC staff has been a privilege. There are probably few churches that can boast a staff employment record of 15, 20, even 30+ years. This church is truly blessed. I have enjoyed the camaraderie, the gentle chiding, and the common goal of joyful and meaningful ministry.

I have especially enjoyed working with the Deacons. What a wonderful group of dedicated Christians! Everyone is so willing to do whatever is needed to care for FPC members – delivering Meals from the Heart; leading worship and serving Communion; piloting the congregation through tough decisions in Health Ministries; distributing flowers after worship and honoring our members 90 years and older; knitting/crocheting prayer shawls and baby blankets; praying regularly for those on our Prayer Chain; and visiting those who are homebound, hospitalized, isolated or lonely through the Lay Visitation Ministry. The Prayer Project is being launched for July and August; two Prayer boxes have been installed; and Family Promise will once again return to FPC in September. Great things are happening!

To each of you, thank you for the privilege of being your pastor these past few months. Thank you for your grace in inviting me into your homes and into your hearts. You've made an imprint on mine and will remain there for a long time.

Sincerely,

*Linda*

### An Update From the Associate Pastor Nominating Committee

June 3, 2022

The Associate Pastor Nominating Committee (APNC) continues its work to discern God's choice for our new Associate Pastor for Congregational Care and Connection. The APNC has received over 75 Pastor Information Forms from potential candidates for this position. While no decision has been reached at this point, the committee continues to prayerfully consider those candidates and any additional candidates that come to its attention. We ask for your continued prayers as we continue our work.

#### **Members of the APNC**

Henry Brown, Jan Cale, Rosalyn Lester, Barb Magee, Dale Peters, Jean Vahey, and Bob White, Chair

### MoCA Monday Assessments Available on July 18 9 AM - 4 PM

MoCA Mondays is a partnership between FPC's Health Ministry and Memory Matters. For the past two years—due to COVID—these assessments were not being given.

However, the twenty-minute baseline screenings conducted by a Memory Matters staff member are back!

Screenings take place at FPC but appointments are scheduled with Memory Matters. Call now to assure your spot, 843.842.2320.

# The Church Needs YOU!

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. One deacon is needed for the class of 2023. Names are to be submitted by June 30. To submit the name(s) of the person(s) you recommend, please complete the submission form at <https://fpchhi.cbcchurch.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.

## FPC School Uniform Drive Supports Families in Our Community

*Whatever you did for the least of these, you did it to me. — Mathew 25:40*

Back To School Uniforms? Seems like school just ended—but for many public-school families in Jasper and Beaufort counties, it is time to prepare for the next year. Many schools are switching to year-round schedules as Lowcountry schools try to regain momentum from two years of COVID setbacks. It is important for young students to have self-confidence and feel good about themselves to learn. School uniform requirements are part of this positive environment.

The members of First Presbyterian have stepped up for 15 consecutive years in helping those less fortunate in approximately 30 schools. We have outfitted the neediest with required shirts and pants and have been there for the emergency situations.



Principals, nurses, and social workers count of on us.

This past year in Jasper County there was a home fire where guardians perished, and three children were left with nothing but



pajamas. The school principal was able to get emergency clothing through the uniform closet and keep the children in school.

With your generous donations, we have been able to purchase pre-K through high school uniforms at cost and ship directly to the schools in need. The uniform drive begins Sunday June 12 with an ASK at both services. We will be in the Gathering Space on June 12 and 19 to answer any questions and proudly show the school uniforms. Your support for this outreach program is critical since there is no other support for this ministry. You can donate by writing a check or going online, [fpchhi.org](http://fpchhi.org) and using the GIVE button.

# Children's Ministry

## Family Worship Centers enhance Sunday service for children

There are now child-centered 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. A member of staff facilitates in the centers each Sunday. Children may choose to stay in the center during worship or take materials with them to sit with their parents.



**FREE!** First Presbyterian Church HHI

### KIDS Summer CAMP

July 11-15

Crafts  
Games  
Bible Study  
Music  
Sports

Young kids camp available for 3-yr-olds to rising K

Camp hours 9 - 3:30 PM  
Extended care until 5 for grades 1-5

*this is our prayer*

With questions, email [jkivda@fpchhi.org](mailto:jkivda@fpchhi.org)

**REGISTER NOW**

### Nerve 2 Serve

**AUGUST 1-4 8:30-2:30 \$50**

*A service camp for rising 6-9 graders*  
Learn how God calls each of us to serve others

*Go out into the community*  
Work groups of six students and two adults will travel around Reafoot County learning about how they can make a difference in the community through service.

*Learn new skills*  
Learn where you like to help- with young children, with older adults, with animals, with building projects, with hunger and homelessness.

**CONTACT US** First Presbyterian Church Hilton Head Island, SC 29928 [JACKIE WILHELM jwilhelm@fpchhi.org](mailto:jackiewilhelm@fpchhi.org)

To register for **Kids Summer Camp**, July 11-15, visit the Children's Ministry page on the website.

To register for **Nerve 2 Serve**, August 1-4, visit the Youth Ministry page on the website.

Even if you don't have camp-age children, you can help make camp a success by donating snacks and juice boxes.

## High School Graduates Honored

On Sunday, May 29, high school graduates were honored during both services. Graduates Mary Robinson and Eliza Jane Coulter shared their personal stories of faith for the message that morning.



## FPC Member Generosity Provides Much-Needed Assistance for Ukraine

Outreach Ministry has designated \$5,500 for PDA/Ukraine from the 2022 Operating Budget and more than \$38,000 has been received from the congregation. Read below a letter of thanks from the director of Presbyterian Disaster Assistance.



Thank You!

The PDA has deep gratitude to the congregation of First Presbyterian Church, Hilton Head Island for your incredible generosity. With the gifts we have received so far, we have supported a number of partners within Ukraine and in the bordering countries who are receiving floods of refugees with emergency aid, (shelter, food, transport, WASH, etc) we have also begun supporting projects that are providing mid-range interventions— more sustainable housing, trauma support, and the like— also in several countries.

Additionally, we are working with our global partner, ACT Alliance, on some combined efforts that will move toward long-term recovery. As the war is still very much active and the destruction and displacement catastrophic, it will take time for the long-term recovery and rebuilding work to get underway and be implemented, so of course as a long-term responder, we will be committing substantial funds to the long-term rebuilding effort, both in Ukraine and in the affected neighboring countries where refugees may be settling for the long term.

Our situation page about Ukraine, [pda.pcusa.org/situation/ukraine/](https://pda.pcusa.org/situation/ukraine/) provides more details and can be accessed so your congregation can be kept apprised.

And all shall be well,  
Laurie Kraus, Director, Presbyterian Disaster Assistance  
Associate Mission Director, Compassion, Peace and Justice

## As an Earth Care Congregation, FPC Participates Locally in the Adopt-A-Highway Program



As an Earth Care Congregation, FPC has officially joined the Adopt-A-Highway program. To date, there have been two “pick up” Saturdays. Going forward, the hope is to involve more members with this project which helps keep our local roadways clean. If you’d like to participate or want to learn more about earth care programs, contact a member of the Social Witness Task Force chaired by Henry Brown.

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*Please note:*  
**Sunday, July 3, One Service Sunday**  
10 AM in the Sanctuary  
***Followed by the all church cookout!***

### 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](mailto:cbobbitt@fpchi.org)

[fpchhi.org](http://fpchhi.org)  
843.681.3696