

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH
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The First Word

First Presbyterian Church, Anderson, SC
March 2023 Volume LXII, Issue 3

- MARCH 2023 -

WEDNESDAY NIGHT LIVE DINNERS

- March 1 – Chicken casserole, fried okra, buttered carrots, rolls and dessert
- March 8 – Baked potato bar, dessert
- March 15 – Kids’ meal for all! Salad bar, chicken strips, fries, dessert
- March 22 – BBQ & sides, dessert
- March 29 – Youth Fundraiser – Breakfast for Dinner



Women’s Circle will meet
Monday, March 13 @ 12pm
In the McDougald Room.
All ladies are welcome!
For more info contact Jane Terry.

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MISSION EMPHASIS

Our Mission Emphasis for March is Safe Harbor. We will collect non-perishable single-serve easy-open mac/cheese and/or pasta items and granola bars, crackers, chips/snack items. Please bring your donations to the bins outside the Chennault Parlor and keep this ministry in your prayers.



Sharing Joys & Concerns from Our Church Family

Congratulations to Mr. and Mrs. Chuck Mutz on their marriage January 20, 2023. Mrs. McLendon-Mutz is the former Deanna McLendon and the daughter of Dan and Minerva McLendon.

Congratulations to Reid and Caroline Skeppstrom on their marriage February 11, 2023. Mrs. Skeppstrom is the former Caroline Powell daughter of Rob and Betsy King Powell and granddaughter of Richard and Deane King.

Congratulations to Henderson and Suzanne Wise on the birth of their granddaughter Charlotte Brooks Wise on February 2, 2023. The proud parents are Kate and Griffin Wise and big sister Mimi.



The Christian sympathy of the pastors and congregation is expressed to:
Pat Chamblee and family on the recent death of her brother Paul Schoonover.

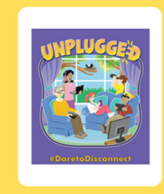
Cal and Melissa Looney and family on the death of his grandfather Dr. Vernon Merchant on January 30, 2023.



Experiencing the Season of Lent

Lent is a six-week period in the Christian calendar marking our approach to Easter. Before we celebrate the pinnacle of the Christian year—the joyous Day of Resurrection—we are encouraged to reflect, repent, and renew our commitment to walk with Jesus. During the 40 days of Lent we have time to be introspective about what we value, what we yearn for, how we spend our time and, most importantly, to try to honestly determine if our lives are in line with what God desires of us.

This year at First Pres, our Lenten Theme is *Draw Near to God*. The Faith Formation Team is offering a variety of ways that may help with “creating space” for intentional reflection and renewal. While the term “spiritual discipline” may sound daunting to some of us, it simply means a daily or weekly practice that anyone can do to help “draw near” to God. Some of these practices are ancient and some are new. But they all have one purpose in common—to help us be more mindful of God as we go about our daily lives. First Folks, if you haven’t already done so, you are encouraged to find a practice for the remainder of Lent (see below for ideas) and incorporate it into your life. By giving some of your time and attention to God in ways you may not have previously thought about or experienced, may you find yourself drawn closer to the Holy One and your spirit enriched as we journey together toward Holy Week.



Children’s “Unplugged” Musical + Dinner Wednesday, March 29th

Musical @ 5:30pm in the Sanctuary

Come watch and experience all of the work our children & leaders have put into the show. Learn what it means to be “Unplugged”.

Youth Ministry Hosting Dinner @ 6:30pm in the Kirk

Come for the show & stay for dinner or just come for dinner. Our youth are hosting “Breakfast for Dinner” in the Kirk after the musical. All funds raised will go to support their youth mission trips and conferences. Register by calling the church office.

Cost for dinner: \$8/adult; \$5/age 4-12; 3 & under free; \$30/family max

Try incorporating one of these practices into your routine during Lent:

- Investigate a spiritual discipline on **Sunday mornings in the Kirk**, practice it during the week, then reflect on what you learned with other adults (see details, pg. 3)
* Feb. 26 & March 5-Fast * March 12 & 19-Listen to God * March 19 & 26-Unplug
- Pick up a free devotional guide at church for you or your family and set aside a particular time for daily reading, reflecting and/or discussing
- Attend our **Wednesday night** sessions “What Way do YOU Pray” and try a type of prayer that might be new to you (see details, pg. 3)
- Give up a routine small expense (like coffee break, lunch out, or a new book) during Lent. Save the money you would have spent and donate it to church or a charity after Easter.
- Pray daily for the children of First Pres and come see their musical “Unplugged!” on Wednesday, March 29 at 5:30 pm in the Sanctuary.



Worship Service
at 10:30am

The service is live-streamed on YouTube, Facebook, and our website firstpresanderson.org. Watch live or any time during the week.

9:30 - 10:15am
Faith Formation

Classes for all ages
10:15 am
Coffee Fellowship in
Welcome Center

Looking ahead
to Holy Week...
Maundy Thursday
Communion & Good
Friday Services at 7 pm

FINANCES AS OF 01/31/2023

Contributions
\$105,531.23
Budget
\$91,614.70
Expenses
\$104,509.57

Contact **Angi Patrick**,
Financial
Administrator with any
questions, 225-2551 or
angip@fpcandersonsc.com

SAVE THE DATE
Sunday, April 23rd
FPC Talent Show & Dinner

This night will be fun for the whole family! Stay tuned for sign-ups to share your gifts and talents and to come enjoy the show.
 *This event is a fundraiser for our youth mission trips and conferences.



Join us as our First Kids present the musical **Unplugged!** on Wednesday, March 29 5:30 pm in the Sanctuary.

Wednesday Night Live

Classes and choir at 5:30pm
 Dinner at 6:30pm

Easter Egg Hunt

April 1, 2023
 Meet in the Kirk at 10:00 am



Vacation Bible School

June 5 - 9, 2023

Please let Susan know if you would like to volunteer!

First Kids Faith Formation

Every Sunday morning 9:30am -10:15am for preschool through 5th grade.

Extended Worship & Nursery

We welcome all children in worship in the Sanctuary. After our Time with Young Disciples, children ages 3K-5K will be dismissed for Extended Worship with our Sunday parent volunteers. Nursery is available for newborns through age 2.

For more information about these events, contact Susan Brown, Coordinator of Children's Faith Formation

Join us on Sunday, March 26th for our Youth Sunday Worship Service at 10:30am

Our youth will be leading the entire worship service from the announcements, to the sermons, music, and more. Please come celebrate our Lord through the voices and words of our youth.



SUNDAY MORNING FAITH FORMATION

9:30 -10:20am:

ALL YOUTH join us at 9:30am for Coffee & Conversations in the McDougald Room in the FLC. Bring your Bible.

9:15 - 10:20am:

Confirmation Class meets on the 3rd floor, bring binder & Bible.

SUNDAY NIGHTS w/ FPC YOUTH

SUNDAY, MARCH 6th, 4:30-6:30pm

Come serve our community together for 1st @ First. We will set-up, serve, greet, sit with our guests, and then clean up from the dinner.

SUNDAY, MARCH 12th, 5-7pm

All youth join us for youth group in the FLC.

FRIDAY, MARCH 19th: 5-7pm

Parent's Night Out Fundraiser, Contact Kari if you are able to serve, 5:30 - 9:30pm at the church.

SUNDAY, MARCH 26th:

Sunday Morning: Youth Sunday, youth will lead worship. Sunday afternoon: Event details to be determined.

WEDNESDAY with FPC YOUTH

3:30pm: Middle School Pick-up
 5:30pm: Middle School Bible Study in McDougald Room
 5:30pm: High School Bible Study in the Youth Room
 6:30pm: Dinner in the Kirk (reserve meals by the Saturday before with Alisa)

SUMMER TRIP REGISTRATIONS

Middle School & High School Mission Trip and Montreat Youth Conference trip information has been sent out to all of families. Registrations are due on Wednesday, March 1st.

If you have any questions or if you have any prayer requests please reach out to: Kari Morgan, Director of Youth & Family Ministries, karim@fpcandersonsc.com, #864-314-3691

Adult Challenge for March: Try practicing a spiritual discipline that may be new to you. Below are group options offered during Lent OR try a different one on your own!



Draw Me Nearer
A "Sunday Short" for Lent

What are some faith practices that can help us draw nearer to God? How can we "make space" to connect with God regardless of how "busy" or how "routine" our lives seem to be?

Lent is a great season of the church year both to reflect on our spiritual lives and to realign priorities and practices with that which will help us be more aware of the presence and activity of God in our lives.

All adults welcome! Each session is on Sunday at 9:30 am in the Kirk, beginning February 26 and continuing through April 2.

What are some ways we can Fast? Listen to God? Unplug? You may be surprised at the many answers!

What way do YOU pray?

Did you know that we don't all pray the same way? Throughout the history of the church many different modes and prayer practices have helped people of faith stay grounded and connected to God. For four Wednesday nights in Lent, we'll take a look at what the Bible says about prayer, and we'll learn a different prayer practice each week. Who knows? *You may find your new favorite way to pray!*



March 1: Centering Prayer * March 8: Praying the Psalms
 March 15: Praying the Hours * March 22: The Examen

Each session is on Wednesday night at 5:30 pm in the Chapel. Drop in for one or come to all four.



Our winter study of the Book of Esther is concluding!

Jubilate women are invited to mark the Jewish holiday of Purim, which celebrates Queen Esther's remarkable heroism, by gathering at

The Ravines Clubhouse
Tuesday, March 7
Drop-In 7 to 8 pm

Come for refreshments and to make a "Purim" food donation to Rhodes Respite Care. Details will be shared by your Jubilate small group leaders.



Senior Adult Bread Breakers meet, greet, and eat together **Thursday, March 9 at 10:30 am**

This month: Wilhelmina's Kitchen 5928 Highway 187, Anderson SC 29625 If you think of yourself as a "senior adult," you are welcome to join this group! Call David Segers for info.

(Note earlier than usual time this month!)

BLOOD DRIVE

The Blood Connection Bus will be here on Sunday, March 26 from 8am to 1pm. Please donate to help others in need. Contact Sandra Altman to register to donate ... 865-933-7659 or with any questions.



adults

@First Pres, your faith formation matters.

Men of FPC:
Looking for opportunities for fellowship & faith? We got 'em!

Men's Wednesday Bible Study
 @ noon in the FLC Canteen
 Bible Study: Romans
 Care card ministry

Men's Brews & Views
 March 2 @ 5:30 pm
 @GrowlerHaus (note location change)

March 16 & 30
 5:30 pm @ home of Rusty Childs,
 211 Devon Way
 Contact Rusty or Art Klugh for info.

Men's Huddle
 Biscuits & Bible w/ Dr. Tedder
 March 10 & 24
 @ 8 am in Kirk

Biscuits & coffee available or bring your own breakfast items.

Looking Ahead!
 Men's 2nd Annual Fish Fry
 Scheduled for May 11

We need fish!
 Any men interested in going on a group fishing trip to Santee in early May, please contact Pat Patrick by **March 15** so arrangements can be made for overnight accommodations. Email patrick@attawayprinting.com

