

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN  
CHURCH  
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ANDERSON, SC 29621  
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# The First Word

First Presbyterian Church, Anderson, SC  
July 2024 Volume LXIII, Issue 07

- JULY 2024 -



**Blessing of the Backpacks**  
Sunday,  
July 28 at 10:30am  
worship.



## Squeezing the Most out of Summer!

As we enter the month of July, summer is more than half over for our younger disciples, as many schools resume classes the first week of August. As July gets into full swing, FPC folks will be going and coming, finishing up their weeks of traveling, vacationing, and camps/conferences, trying to beat the heat, and/or just soaking up those last days of summer!



In addition to a Sunday School “sabbath” this month to provide rest and renewal for our Sunday servants who teach children, youth, and adults, we are offering the opportunity to **Linger Longer** each Sunday after worship. Please plan to allow an extra half-hour in your Sunday schedule to gather in the air-conditioned Welcome Center for lemonade and cookies graciously provided by the Deacons. While you’re there, check out the Adventures of Flat Paul and don’t forget to send in your photos to add to the display. Below are some July “highlights.”

- Sundays in July – Pastors continue the “When Paul Gets Personal” sermon series
- July 1 – Adult “summer book read” begins (See details top of page 3)
  - July 7 – High school youth depart for Youth Conference in Montreat, NC
  - July 17 – Middle schoolers depart for Middle School Conference in Maryville, TN
  - July 17 – Joyful Hearts and Hands (see details below)
  - July 21 – Elementary kids attend Camp Fellowship

### Blessing of the Backpacks

Sunday, July 28<sup>th</sup> at 10:30am in the Sanctuary



As our young disciples and teachers prepare for a new school year, we take time during worship to pray for God's blessings on them as they approach this milestone of learning and leading!

All students, teachers, and administrators are encouraged to bring their backpacks or school bags to this worship service.

We also will continue our back-to-school tradition of providing prayer cards to all who would like to pray for an FPC student, teacher, or administrator during the 2024-25 school year.

*Worship With Us*  
IN-PERSON & ONLINE

## Sunday Morning Schedule for July:

10:30am - Worship

*The 10:30am service is live-streamed on YouTube, Facebook, and our website, firstpresanderson.org. Watch live or later.*

11:30am—Linger Longer

*The Deacons invite you to enjoy lemonade and cookies in the Welcome Center immediately after worship on Sundays in July.*

*There are no \*scheduled Sunday School classes for July, as we are offering our teachers a sabbath this month.*

*\*Some adult classes will meet. Check with class leaders about particular July schedules.*

### 1st AT FIRST - HYGIENE BAGS

The first Sunday of each month, our youth serve a meal to our neighbors in need. On August 4th, they will give out hygiene bags - we are needing toothbrushes and travel-size toothpaste for the bags. Please bring your donations to the brown bin outside the Parlor.

### JOYS AND CONCERNS

Congratulations to:



Crayton and Sarah Pruitt on the birth of their son Crayton “Smith” Pruitt on May 30, 2024. Ellie Mae is the proud big sister and John and Rosanne Pruitt are the proud grandparents.

Thomas and Alana Price on the birth of their son Thomas John “TJ” Price on June 17, 2024.

Congratulations to Matthew Storie and Madison Booth on their marriage June 14, 2024 in Cascade, Idaho. Matthew is the son of Jonathan and Andrea Storie.



The Christian sympathy of the pastors and congregation is expressed to:

Alan and Anne Harder and family on the death of his mother Sylvia Harder on May 25, 2024.

Frank and Dale Baughman and family on the death of her mother Helen Bosler on June 7, 2024.

Evie Mazurak and family on the death of her husband Richard Mazurak on June 18, 2024.



### Joyful Hearts and Hands

Wednesday July 17, 6:30-8:30 pm

at the The Ravines Clubhouse, 104 Life Style Lane

Don't miss the fun and fellowship!

Kathy Roser will teach us a technique called Small Tapestry Weaving. No experience needed! Using scrap pieces of yarn, we will create tapestries 6-8” to be used as mug rugs or prayer squares. Come learn something new with friends!

Cost \$10

For more info or to sign up, Alisa Gibson 864-314-0510 or alisag@fpcandersonsc.com



### Save the Date!

Bluegrass and BBQ  
Sunday, August 4  
10:30am

*We cannot be in our sanctuary while the pews are being refinished.*

*We will gather in the FLC for **worship and communion, followed by lunch.** Casual clothing encouraged!*

Regular Sunday School classes resume August 4 at 9:30am.

**Watch for details coming in mid-July!**



### First Kids Faith Formation

Sunday morning Faith Formation will take a sabbath during July and this will give our teachers time to catch their breath this summer, but will return to teach our children in August.

### 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 during the worship.

### Coming Soon!

- ◆ Blessing of the Backpacks on July 28
- ◆ Linger Longer- Lemonade and cookies after Worship in July!
- ◆ Bring your Parents to Sunday School on August 4. (Look for more details to come)

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

### Thank you to all the Volunteers that helped make VBS 2024 a huge success!

We would also like to thank our VBS directors, Taylor Allen, Katie Beth Johnson, Catherine Ryan and Caleigh Thomas, for giving their time and energy to make this a special week for our children!!

### VBS Mission Partner

Our VBS kids collected over \$600 for the School of Eternal Hope (Lekol Espwa Etenel) that is part of Matthew 28 and has been a mission partner of the church for many years. Pray for the school as they continue to serve the children of Haiti.



THIS INFORMATION IS FOR ALL YOUTH RISING 6th GRADE THROUGH GRADUATED SENIORS AND THEIR FAMILIES.

### SUNDAY MORNING FAITH FORMATION

Our congregation will be taking a Sabbath from our regular Sunday morning gatherings in July but will resume in August. Please look to the front page for details and join us to "Linger Longer" after worship during the month.

### YOUTH SUMMER TRIP PAYMENTS

Remember families you can make monthly or bi-monthly payments for these trips. Contact Kari to get your up to date balance, kmorgan@fpcandersonsc.com

### YOUTH ACTIVITIES:

Stay tuned for other events coming up through emails from the youth ministry team.

Sunday, July 7th: 1st @ First 4:15-6:15pm

Meet us in the Kirk to help prepare and serve dinner to our neighbors in need. If you are in town we will need you to come help serve, our high schoolers leave early that day for Montreat.

Sunday, July 7th Middle School Pool Party at the home of Ramsey Self from 6:15 - 8:30pm.

We will help transport youth from 1st at First to their house or you can meet us there. Bring your bathing suit, towel, and sunscreen. Dinner will be provided. Address: 904 Camfield Road

Sunday, July 28th: Blessing of the Backpacks during worship

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

### BLESSINGS & TRAVELING MERCIES

Please keep all of our youth & adults in your prayers as they travel this summer.

High School Montreat Youth Conference Montreat, NC July 7th - 13th, 2024

Middle School Montreat Youth Conference Maryville, TN July 17th - 21st, 2024



### Committee and Session Updates

### MISSIONS EMPHASIS

Our July Mission Emphasis is for **Calvary Home for Children**. We will be collecting gift cards or monetary donations. These will be used for school supplies, birthday gifts, and clothing for the children. Envelopes are available outside the church office, Envelopes may be returned to the offering plate or to the office. Thanks for keeping Calvary Home for Children in your prayers.

### Thank you from the Mission Ministry:

- For travel sized toothpaste and soaps, and razors collected for Clean Start in May!!
- Thank you to everyone who puts food in our Blessings Box across Whitner Street. The Blessings Box gets a lot of use—feel free to fill it up with non-perishable goods anytime!

### Opportunities to serve coming up:

- Fall 2024 Adult Work trip to New Bern, NC, **Thursday, October 10 - Sunday, October 13**. Home Repairs from Hurricane damage in partnership with Presbyterian Disaster Assistance and Craven County Disaster Recovery Alliance. Contact Jim Stewart or Maren Sonstegard-Spray to express interest or for more information!

### Notes from the June Session Meeting:

- Celebrated the good work of Nancy Smith, our Rhodes Respite Director, and received and approved her recommendation to temporarily suspend the program due to lack of participation.
- Received a report from elder Andrea Storie on the activities of our Haiti mission partnership.
- Approved worship (with communion) to take place on Sunday, August 4 in the Family Life Center while the sanctuary pews are being refinished.
- Dedicated a gift to the church in honor of the baptism of a child to go to Children's Ministry.
- Approved a new committee of the Session called Church Engagement to foster welcome and connection in the congregation.
- Approved committee descriptions for the Mission Committee and the Health and Wellness Committee to go in the Manual of Operations.

### FINANCIAL REPORT AS OF MAY 31, 2024

Contributions	\$558,225.87
Expenses	\$554,937.87
Budget	\$492,478.75

Contact Angi Patrick with any questions, 225-2551 Monday & Wednesday 9am - 12pm or angip@fpcandersonsc.com



@First Pres, your faith formation matters.

Want to connect with a class or study group? I'm here to help! —Anne Tedder atedder@fpcandersonsc.com

### Have You Read Anything Good Lately? Try the First Pres Summer Book Read! *Theo of Golden by Allen Levi*

Questions linger about Theo, a pleasant but mysterious stranger, after he arrives in the southern city of Golden. Who is he and why is he here?

"...a beautifully crafted story about the power of creative generosity, the importance of wonder to a purposeful life, and the far-reaching possibilities of anonymous kindness." —goodreads

"A charming account of a man I think we'd all like to meet and one I'd enjoy discussing with you!"—Anne Tedder

Read the book during July. Join us for a discussion led by Anne Harder, recently retired TL Hanna English teacher, on **Wednesday, August 7 at 10 am OR 6 pm at the church.**

Copies available to purchase from Amazon or Thrift Books (@\$20) or read on Kindle Unlimited for free. A few copies available in church office for one-week loans. Contact atedder@fpcandersonsc.com if you have questions.

### FPC Faith and Fellowship Groups



Senior Adult **Bread Breakers** who want to have lunch together are invited to gather at 11am on Thursday, July 18 at The Social Tap, 1475 Pearman Dairy Rd. **Please!!** Call the church office (225-2551) by 7/16 to let us know you will attend, as a courtesy to the restaurant and wait staff. All welcome!

**Common Ground** is a fellowship/support group for widows in our congregation. Next gathering: Sunday, July 21 at 5:30pm at the home of Bette Ann Braeutigam.

**Jubilate! Women's Small Groups** will kick off a new Bible study in September. Watch for August sign-ups.

**The Flock**, a women's Bible study led by Lynn Cantrell meets Mondays at 1 pm in Room 212. Visitors and/or new members welcome! See Lynn for info.

### Men's Fellowship Groups

◆ **Brews & Views** meets Thursday, July 18 at 5:30pm at the home of Rusty Childs. Summer book study led by Art Klugh is Psalms for Normal People. Contact Art to get on "remind" list.

◆ **Men's Huddle** with Dr. Dennis Tedder meets Fridays, July 12 & 26 at 8 am in the Kirk.

◆ **NEW! Young Men's Breakfast Group** for young professionals meets Wednesday, July 24 at 7:30am at Corner Bagel Shop. Come for a bagel and some Bible to start your workday. Contact Chase Kinsey for details. Friends welcome!

◆ **Men's Prayer and Care** group meets Wednesdays at noon in the FLC Canteen and welcomes visitors/new members.