

Programming Guide

Fall 2022

ALL WE HAVE
BELONGS TO GOD



FIRST
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH GREER

communication

faith formation: adult, youth & children

music ministry

mission & outreach

congregational life

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Communication

Newsletter

Newsletters are published about once a month and distributed through email in addition to being posted on the church website. If you have questions about the newsletter or have something you'd like to include reach out to Lisa Johnson in the church office.

Monthly Postcard

Postcards are sent at the beginning of each month to members with a calendar of events for the coming month.

Bulletins

Bulletins are printed for each worship service and include announcements related to all worship and programming.

Emails

Church staff often communicate via email and will send out group emails via Constant Contact to give event or group specific information.

Church Directory

The directory can be found on the church website or can be accessed using the Instant Church Directory App on your smart phone.

Make sure the Church Office has your up to date contact information

Band

This year for children's and youth communication we are using Band. This platform will allow efficient communicate and provide updates with

- messaging
- event calendars
- picture sharing
- file sharing
- and more

Parents and Youth should join Band to make sure to stay up to date on all that is going on. Scan the QR codes below to join the Youth Group or Children's Faith Formation Bands.



Join Youth Band



Join Children's Band

Website & Social Media

Check our website often for updates, information, forms, online worship, etc. and follow us on social media or tag us in your pictures!

www.fpcgreer.org



Greer First Presbyterian Church



@FPCGreer



Have Questions?

Carlton Greene - Operations Committee Chair
cgreene003@bellsouth.net

Maggie Wentzky - Director of Operations
maggiew@fpcgreer.org

Lisa Johnson - Administrative Assistant
lisaj@fpcgreer.org



CONVERSATION CLASS

Research, Study & Engagement



EXPLORERS CLASS

Seeking, Exploring, Learning



J.S. ROBINSON

Study & Discussion



SOJOURNERS CLASS

Insightful & Welcoming



SISTERHOOD CLASS

Faith, Fellowship & Service

Sunday School Classes

A number of adult Sunday School classes meet weekly at 10:00 am. Classes engage in a rotation of Bible and book studies

- **Conversations** meets in the Agape Room and the contact person is Tom Davis (dtomdavis@yahoo.com)
- **Explorers** meets on zoom and in the conference room across from the church office. Charlotte Koehler (ckoehlerr@aol.com) leads this class.
- **J. S. Robinson** is led by Leland Burch (lelandburch@gmail.com) and meets in Room 107.
- **Sisterhood** is a class for women of all ages and meets in downstairs Kirk Hall. Amy Couch (alcouch107@yahoo.com) leads this class.
- **Sojourners** is led by a rotation of members and meets in the Mt Tabor Room. Sandy Thomason (sandythomason123@gmail.com) is the contact person.

Bible Studies

Dottie Metropol is leading an adult Bible study on *My Soul in Silence Waits: Meditations on Psalm 62*. This study will take place in upstairs Kirk Hall and will meet on Wednesdays September 7 through October 26 at 10:30 am.

A yet to be determined Advent Bible Study will take place Wednesday evenings from November 30 to December 21.

Additional Opportunities

Throughout the year additional opportunities for book discussions, workshops or new Sunday School classes may be available. Keep up to date with the church newsletter & bulletins.

Contact

Amy Couch - Chair of Adult Faith Formation
alcouch107@yahoo.com

Stuart Mauney - Chair of Faith Formation
smauney@gwblawfirm.com

Adult Faith Formation

Youth Faith Formation

Jennifer Keller - Youth Faith Formation Chair
Jenniferinsc@gmail.com

Sunday School

First Presbyterian Church has Sunday School classes for Mid High and Senior High Youth. These classes will be led by a rotation of adults who will build relationships with youth in order to support and guide them in their faith throughout the year.

Monthly Events

Each month the youth group will gather for special events focused on service and fellowship. These will include activities like hiking, packing meals for Triune Mercy Center, pool parties, friendsgiving, and more.

Confirmation

A Confirmation Class is held in the spring for 8th graders. This class will guide students as they determine what faith means to them as they create their own statement of faith and join the church.

Sunday Night Dinner & Program

Mid and Senior High youth gather two Sunday nights a month for study and fellowship. Volunteers prepare and serve dinner for Sunday evening events that begin at 5:30 pm. Dinner is followed by Bible Study and a recreation or service activity.

Retreats

Presbyterian Youth Council (PYC) of Foothills Presbytery hosts two retreats for youth during the year. At these retreats youth from First Presbyterian Church join together with youth from across the Presbytery for meaningful weekends of worship, study and fellowship.

Mid High PYC Retreat @ Asbury Hills, November 11-13
Sr. High PYC Retreat @ Montreat, January 6-8

Information is forthcoming about Summer 2023 Youth Trips.



Youth Faith Formation Calendar

September

9/11 5:30 pm	Dinner & Program	Mid & Sr. Highs
9/18 12:00 pm	Picnic & Hike after worship	Senior Highs
9/24 10:00 am	Meal packing for Triune Mercy Center	Mid Highs
9/25 5:30 pm	Dinner & Program	Mid & Sr. Highs

November

11/11 to 11/13	PYC Mid High Retreat	Mid Highs
11/13 5:30 pm	Friendsgiving	Mid & Sr. Highs
11/20 3:00-5:00 pm	Advent Wreath & Ornament Making	Mid & Sr. Highs
11/20 5:00 pm	Dinner Downtown Greer	Mid & Sr. Highs
11/27 5:30 pm	Dinner & Program	Mid & Sr. Highs

October

10/9 5:30 pm	Dinner & Program	Mid & Sr. Highs
10/23 5:30 pm	Fall Festival	Mid & Sr. Highs
10/30 5:30 pm	Dinner & Program	Mid & Sr. Highs

December

12/11 12:00 pm	Christmas Lunch	Mid & Sr. Highs
12/18 10:00 am	Children's Nativity Play	All Ages

January 6 - 8

Sr. High PYC Retreat @ Montreat

Calendar subject to change. Updates will be in church publications & on FPCG Youth Group Band



Sunday School

Elementary Sunday School will continue to be taught to 1st -5th graders from the Deep Blue curriculum. This curriculum is a Bible story based curriculum that engages children through games, crafts and critical thinking.

Children in K3 through K5 learn Bible Story Basics through play, art and fun.

Wee Kirk

K4 and K5 aged children are invited to Wee Kirk during worship. This is a special worship time for young children where they will be taught lectionary stories through play and active learning. Children will be led from worship by a volunteer or church staff member after the moment for children. Parents can pick up after worship from Room 108.

Worship Education

Worship education for children is incorporated into many of the programs of the church.

This fall there will be a special worship education and sacraments class for 1st and 2nd graders. This class will take place on the 3 Sundays following Rally Day and will conclude with participating children taking communion together in worship on World Communion Sunday.

Nursery

First Presbyterian Church begins nurturing the faith of children from an early age in our nursery for infants through K3 aged children. The nursery is staffed by friendly and professional caregivers who will not only attend to their safety and care, but will also help form their faith through stories and play.

In accordance with our safe place policy the nursery is staffed by two un-related individuals who are vetted with a background check.

At drop-off parents should identify their child's information card, ensure the contact and allergy/medical information is correct, and give the card to a nursery staff member. The card will be returned to its spot when they are picked up by parents or other approved adults.

Fabulous Friday

Children up to 5th grade are invited to gather for faith formation and fun during Fabulous Friday. This event is held monthly on a Friday evening from 6:00 to 8:00 pm and includes, dinner, children's music time, a Bible story and craft, recreation or service activity.

The theme for this fall during Fabulous Friday is "Who is Jesus?". Stories and activities will focus on who Jesus is and how he influences our faith today.

F3

Fun, Fellowship & Faith Formation for 3rd through 5th graders! F3 is scheduled monthly and is an opportunity for our older children to build relationships and strengthen their faith through Bible study, service and fun.

Children's Faith Formation

Amy Smith - Children's Faith Formation Chair
kasparsmith@gmail.com

Children's Faith Formation Calendar

September

9/16 6:00-8:00 pm	Fabulous Friday	Up to 5th Grade
9/18 11:00 am	Children's Music in Worship	K4 - 5th Grade
9/18 & 9/25 10:00 am	Worship Education	1st & 2nd Graders
9/25 12:00 pm	F3	3rd - 5th Grade

November

11/13 1:00 pm	F3	3rd - 5th Grade
11/18 6:00-8:00 pm	Fabulous Friday	Up to 5th Grade
11/20 11:00 am	Children's Music in Worship	K4 - 5th Grade
11/20 3:00-5:00 pm	Advent Wreath & Ornament Making	All Ages

October

10/2 10:00 am & 11:00 am	Worship Education & Communion	1st & 2nd Graders
10/9 12:00 pm	F3	3rd-5th Grade
10/21 6:00-8:00 pm	Fabulous Friday	Up to 5th Grade
10/23 11:00 am	Children's Music in Worship	K4 - 5th Grade
10/23 5:30 pm	Fall Festival	All Ages

December

12/4 4:00 pm	Sunday Funday	K4 -5th Grade
12/18 10:00 am	Children's Nativity Play	All ages
12/18 12:00 pm	F3	3rd - 5th Grade

Calendar subject to change. Updates will be in church publications & on Children's Faith Formation Band

Music Ministry

Chancel Choir

The chancel choir enjoys a wide variety of musical styles, including spirituals, classical composers and traditional and new hymns. New members of all ages are always welcome and encouraged. This choir meets Wednesday evenings at 7:30 pm to rehearse and usually sings during the 11:00 am worship service on Sunday Mornings

Praise Team

The Praise Team plays regularly for the 8:55 am worship service and is made up of vocalists and instrumentalists. This group plays a wide variety of musical styles including bluegrass, gospel, contemporary, and traditional. Vocalists and instrumentalists of all ages are welcome to join. Rehearsals occur prior to worship at 8:15 am each Sunday Morning.

Ensembles

At various times throughout the year ensembles of vocalists and instrumentalists gather to offer their musical gifts in worship. Contact the music staff for details.

Handbell Choirs

The Resounding Joy Handbell Choir meets Wednesday evenings at 6:30 pm and plays throughout the year at both worship services and special events. Their repertoire includes intermediate to advanced handbell music.

The Joyful Noise Handbell Choir is for beginner to intermediate ringers of all ages. This choir rehearses for a month at a time several times a year and plays during both worship services. This fall they will rehearse late August to mid-September and again from late October to mid-November.

Children's Music

Children's participation in worship is a long standing and beloved tradition at First Presbyterian Church. All of the music staff use creative and engaging activities to form the faith of children through music.

During music programming children learn traditional children's church songs, age appropriate instrumental arrangements for worship music and sometimes simply silly songs and dances to get the wiggles out.

- Cherub Choir, for K3 through K5 children, is taught by Pam Turnage during Sunday School and participate in worship throughout the year.
- Elementary children, Grace Notes, participate in music instruction and active learning every Sunday during Sunday School, as well as during Fabulous Fridays and F3.
- The Sunday following a Fabulous Friday children participate in music during the 11:00 am worship service.

Contact

Lisa Dillard - Music Director
lisad@fpcgreer.org

Pam Turnage - Assistant Music Director
pamet@fpcgreer.org

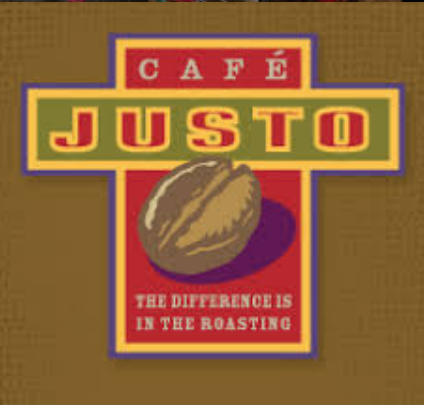
Wendi Arms - Praise Team Leader
wendi.arms@converse.edu



Mission & Outreach

We are a Christ-Called Community and caring for our neighbors is foundational to our faith. First Presbyterian Church is involved in many mission related activities close to home and far away. Everyone is welcome to participate in whatever they are able.

- **Backpack Buddies** – Our backpack pantry is filled with food items that are packed each week into backpacks for children in need at Dunbar Child Development Center and Greer Middle School. These backpacks are sent home on weekends when children are unable to receive meals at school. Check the newsletter and bulletins for announcements about needed food items and reach out to Suellen McConnell or Amy Couch if you are interested in volunteering to be part of the food packing rotation.
- **Café Justo** – Café Justo is a ministry of Frontera de Cristo, a Presbyterian border ministry partner that provides fair trade coffee from a cooperative of farmers in southern Mexico. Coffee can be purchased for \$10 a bag from the church anytime to support this ministry. Before Christmas there are small bags for \$5 that make great gifts!
- **Daily Bread Ministries** – Members of First Presbyterian Church work diligently every Monday morning at the Greer Soup Kitchen to help feed our neighbors in need. Throughout the year there may be opportunities for youth to serve or for anyone to donate needed supplies.
- **Dunbar Buddies** – Volunteers give time each week to work with classes and students at Dunbar Child Development Center. Reach out to Amy Couch for additional information.
- **Greer Relief & Greer Community Ministries** – First Presbyterian Church is in relationship with both of these wonderful community organizations that provide resources and empower our neighbors in need. Check the newsletter & bulletin announcements throughout the year for information on school supply drives, Christmas Morning Shoppe donations, and other opportunities to help out.
- **Interfaith Hospitality Network (IHN)** – IHN assists families experiencing homelessness by providing temporary housing and help toward finding permanent housing. First Presbyterian Church is a proud supporter of this ministry.
- **Lutheran Services Refugee Assistance** – First Presbyterian Church partners with Lutheran Services to shepherd Afghan refugees who have moved to the upstate of SC. Volunteers help by providing ESL classes, donating furniture, assisting with transportation and helping coordinate resources such as health care and social services.
- **Thornwell Home for Children**– This church has a long standing relationship with Thornwell and sponsors one of their cottages where children are safely cared for and educated.
- **Triune Mercy Center** – On a quarterly basis we prepare meals and deliver them to Triune, where they are distributed to members of our community who are experiencing homelessness. Throughout the year there are also opportunities to provide donations Triune needs to support their programs. Leanna McCord coordinates with Triune.



Contact information for individuals listed above can be found in the directory or you may reach out to our Mission & Outreach Chair, Rick Turner, exit54@gmail.com



Elders & Deacons

The officers of the church work hard to care for the congregation and community in many ways. They serve on and lead committees that manage everything from personnel matters to worship and the facilities of First Presbyterian Church. A list of church officers can be found on the church website.

Care of the Congregation

Care of the Congregation Committee meets on the first Monday of each month to ensure that members of the congregation who have care needs have those needs met. Becky McKay and Margaret Nesbitt co-chair this committee.

Ministries of this committee include:

- **Bereavement** – This committee is broken up into teams that provide meals when there is a death in the congregation or immediate family of a church member. Charlotte Koehler coordinates the bereavement teams.
- **Card makers** – Individuals of all skill levels meet monthly to make cards for use by the deacons and members of Care of the Congregation. Maggie Wentzky is the contact for this group.
- **Card writers** – Teams rotate to write and send notes to members and friends of the congregation on a regular basis. Jenny Munro coordinates the card writing ministry.
- **Flower Ministry** – Individuals take flower arrangements from special events in worship, divide them into smaller arrangements and deliver them to members of the congregation.
- **Helping Hands** – A group that helps members of the congregation in need of assistance with yard work and small home projects. Buddy Carter leads this group.
- **Intercessory Prayer** – A small group that prays with and for individuals in the church community.
- **Prayer Shawl Ministry** – This group meets weekly at 1:00 pm on Tuesdays to knit and crochet. The group makes Prayer Shawls for individuals under the care of the congregation, small stuffed animals for children who are baptized in the church and hats or scarves for members of our community in need. Shelia Bracht is the contact person for this group.

Contact

Nick Nicholson- Clerk of Session
nnicholson@hsblawfirm.com

Jennifer Olmert – Chair of the Deacons
jennniferolmert@gmail.com

Becky McKay – co-Chair of Care of the Congregation
johnbeckymckay@hotmail.com

Margaret Nesbitt – Co-Chair of Care of the Congregation
mlnesbitt12@hotmail.com

Congregational Life

Congregational Life

Coffee & Donuts

A rotation of volunteers make coffee & set up a selection of donuts and snacks each Sunday before the start of Sunday School. This opportunity is coordinated by Emily Huff.

College Ministry

The congregation maintains connection with children of the church who are now in college. Care packages are sent at mid-terms and a Christmas party fellowship event is held during winter break. College students are invited to participate in worship when they are home on breaks. Anne Marie Wall coordinates college student events.

In addition to supporting the children of the church who are in college First Presbyterian Church also maintains strong ties with Furman University UKirk by providing financial support, snacks and occasional fellowship opportunities with students. Val Hendrickson serves as the church representative on the UKirk Support Team.

First Responders

Teams of individuals, trained in CPR, AED, and procedures of the church respond when medical events occur during church activities. They may be reached by calling or texting the Urgent Assistance Line 864-566-3385.

Safe Place

Everyone attending a function of the church is asked to be aware of their surroundings and help ensure the safety and well-being of all. We have an Urgent Assistance Phone line that rings directly to staff and elders who can make sure any concern is addressed by the proper individual or team. The Urgent Assistance number is 864-566-3385.

Recreation

First Presbyterian Church has a long standing tradition of supporting the ministry of Church League Basketball. The church organizes teams for all ages who play with a local church league. Registration begins in September so that practices and games may run between November and February. Jamie Garrett is the basketball coordinator this year.

Contact

Emily Huff - Kitchen Manager
emilyt@fpcgreer.org

Anne Marie Wall - College Ministry
annemariewallrph@gmail.com

Val Hendrickson - Furman UKirk
hendricksonv@cces.org

Bill Koehler - First Responder Coordinator
koehlerrn@aol.com

Bill Harrill - Safe Place Committee Chair
bharrill@gmail.com

Jamie Garrett - Basketball Coordinator
jamiegarrett@gmail.com



Congregational Events

Worship

Worship is integral to who we are and what we do as a congregation. Worship is generally held Sunday at 8:55 am in the Fellowship Hall and 11:00 am in the Sanctuary. Changes to this schedule will be noted on the church website, in the newsletters and bulletins, and on the monthly postcard.

Worship services are live-streamed and can be accessed on the church YouTube Channel or website.

The Sacrament of Communion is held on the first Sunday of each month.

Youth and children are invited to participate in worship in a variety of ways, from serving as acolytes or chiming the hour to helping with liturgy and music.

Upcoming Special Worship Services

- October 2 - World Communion Sunday: 1st and 2nd grade children will play a special role in communion.
- November 13 - Stewardship Dedication Sunday
- December 11 - Joy Gift Worship Service: focuses on the music and scripture of the Advent & Christmas Seasons.
- December 21 - Longest Night Worship: a service of healing for those who mourn during the holiday season.

Wednesday Night Dinner & Program

Once a month the congregation will gather for dinner on a Wednesday night around 5:30 pm. After dinner the Evangelism Committee will lead a program and discussion on "8 Habits of Evangelism" (www.8habits.org) from the PCUSA. Youth and adults are welcome and encouraged to participate in the program. Childcare will be provided for younger children.

- September 14
- October 12
- November 9
- December 14

Annual Events

There are some events that everyone looks forward to year after year. They are all on the calendar and everyone is welcome to join in the fellowship!

- Rally Day - September 11
- Fall Festival - October 23
- Stewardship Luncheon - November 13
- Advent Wreath & Ornament Making - November 20
- Children's Nativity Play & Breakfast - December 18

Looking to Spring

In the spring of each year, worship and special events include Installation Sunday for new officers, Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper, Ash Wednesday Worship, Maundy Thursday Worship, Easter Worship & Breakfast, Confirmation Sunday & Pentecost.

Contacts

Fred Hyslop - Worship Chair - fhyslopjr@gmail.com

Stacey Shamis - Special Events Chair - slmurray99@gmail.com

Harriett Williams - Stewardship Chair - harriettwilliams414@gmail.com

Patty White - Evangelism Chair - patty.white@furman.edu

Will Shelburne - Senior Pastor - wills@fpcgreer.org

Lisa Dillard - Music Director - lisad@fpcgreer.org

Emily Huff - FPCG Kitchen Manager - emilyt@gmail.com

Maggie Wentzky - Director of Operations - maggiew@fpcgreer.org



Staff

Will Shelburne, Senior Pastor
wills@fpcgreer.org

Al Masters, Pastoral Associate
afmasters@gmail.com

Lisa Dillard, Music Director
lisad@fpcgreer.org

Pam Turnage, Assistant Music Director
pamet@fpcgreer.org

Wendi Arms, Praise Team Leader
wendi.arms@converse.edu

Maggie Wentzky, Director of Operations
maggiew@fpcgreer.org

Lynn Bennett, Financial Administrator
lynnb@fpcgreer.org

Lisa Johnson, Administrative Assistant
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Emily Huff, Kitchen Manager
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