



First Presbyterian News

Aiken, SC
PC(USA)

January 2025



Adding New Chapters to an Old Story...

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CONTACT INFORMATION

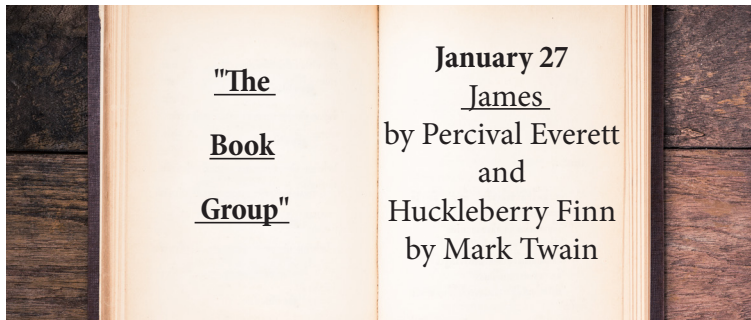
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Parish Associate
Director of Operations and Media
Director of Christian Education
Director of Music
Director of Finance
Preschool Director
Office Manager
Organist/Accompanist
Finance

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If you are not receiving the Weekly Connections on Friday, please contact the church office.



PUBLICATIONS:

The deadline for the February 2025 monthly newsletter is 12:00 PM on Wednesday, January 15th. We would love to hear your story! Please send your information via email to

Joanna Hamilton at

joannah@aikenpresbyterian.org

Watch for Weekly Updates in your email!

Please follow the church:

Facebook - [facebook.com/aikenpres](https://www.facebook.com/aikenpres)

Instagram - [@aikenpres](https://www.instagram.com/aikenpres)



Wednesday Dinner

January 8th
We will be in the Fellowship Hall **5:45-7:00 PM**. The dinner will be catered. Children will head out after dinner for games.

Thursday Lunch Bunch

We will not be having a Thursday meal this month. See you next month!

Sunday Pot Luck

January 26th
The main course will be provided by the church. Please bring sides and desserts to share.

Dates for the sacrament of holy communion during the morning worship services will be printed in the bulletin, newsletter and in Weekly Connections. If you are a home viewer for worship, you may participate at home with your own bread or cracker and juice. If you are unable to attend the worship service due to illness, recovery or mobility issues, the pastoral staff will

bring communion to you. Please call the church office and let Debby Dugan know if you would like to have extended communion brought to you.
Next Date: January 12th



FPCA Jigsaw Jamboree

January 25, 2025, 9:00 AM-Noon, Fellowship Hall

Team consists of 1-4 players:
\$50 per team Whether you are "in it to win it"
or just there for fun, come support our youth
and enjoy this time of fellowship.
Coffee and snacks will be served.

We have received 45 copies of a 500-piece
jigsaw puzzle donated by Ravensburger Puzzle
company.

Each puzzle team will have a table with the
unopened puzzle on it. At a prescribed start
time the team will open the puzzle box.

Two hours later the competition ends. Winners
will be determined by quickest completion of
the puzzle. If the puzzle has not been completed
by any team, the winners will be determined by
most pieces completed in the puzzle.

1st prize \$125, 2nd prize \$75, and 3rd prize \$50
Organize your teams! Submit your entries!

The event gives you an opportunity to:

- Contribute to Youth Scholarship Fund
- Meet new church members
- Invite neighbors and friends to enjoy our church family
- Introduce yourself to the members that sit on the "other side" of the sanctuary during worship

**Sign up sheets are available
in the Narthex. Forms must be turned in
by January 22nd.**

Piece be with You!!!

Un-decking the Halls

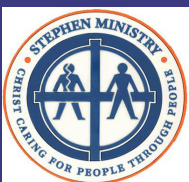
Many hands make lite work.

We need people to help take down and
put away our Advent decorations. On
January 6th at 10:00 AM, please meet
in the Sanctuary.

World Scout Sunday

February 2, 2025

Mark your calendar for Scout Sunday. We have
invited our scouts to usher for this special service.
The scouts will also be preparing a to go spaghetti
lunch fundraiser in Fellowship Hall after worship.



Join us for hot apple cider,
donut holes and a time of
fellowship in the breezeway
following church services on
January 19th!

Sponsored by
Stephen Ministry.

Men's Breakfast

Calling all FPCA Men:
Gentlemen, mark your calendars
and join the Men's Breakfast in
Fellowship Hall for good
food and fellowship!
Sunday January 12th at 8:20 AM.



New Members:

Theresa Hubbell, Aleksander
Ferguson, and Xakery
Ferguson
309 Willow Run Road
Aiken SC, 29801
Theresa.c.hubbell@gmail.com

Aef9189@gmail.com
Carolyn Wilson
189 Grassy Creek Lane
Aiken SC, 29803
Carolynw14@gmail.com



SQUARE DANCE TO BENEFIT WESTERN NC

January 4, 6-8:30 pm
Family Life Center
First Presbyterian Church
224 Barnwell St, Aiken SC

Featuring Pete LaBerge, Caller
Ashley Carder, Fiddle & Guitar
Dan Gellert, Banjo & Fiddle
Deb Posey, Guitar

All ages and levels welcome! All dances will be taught. Contact aikenloveswnc@gmail.com with questions.



Youth in January (6th – 12th grades)

Jan. 5 No Youth

Jan. 12 Youth 5:30-7:00 PM

Jan. 25 Youth help with
Jigsaw Jamboree 8:45-11:45 AM
in the Fellowship Hall

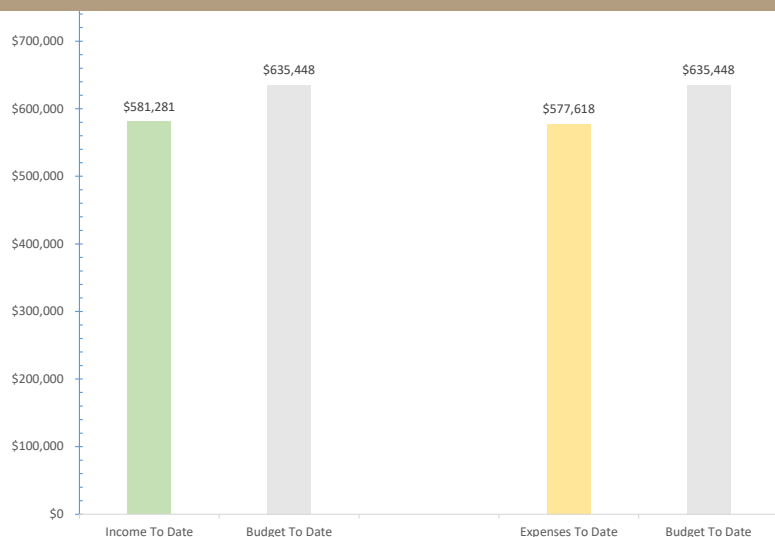
JAM!

(4k-5th grades)

We will have our monthly JAM! Worship Experience on Sunday, **January 19th**. Kids will leave morning worship after the Time with Children and go with Tamra to Room #3.

Sunday School for Adults will resume on January 5th at 9:30am. Join us for coffee and pastries, and conversation at 9:15am.

Sunday School for children and youth will resume on January 12th at 9:30am.



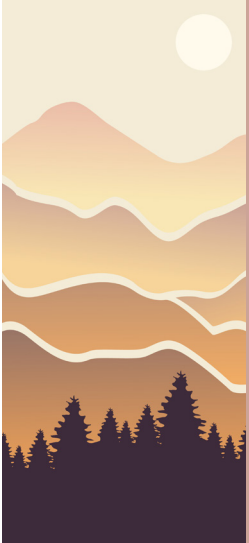
Budget Update as of October

Income -Receipts for
(month) \$81,297.67
Expenses for (month) (\$70,408.04)
Balance for (month) \$10,889.63
Income - Receipts,
year to date \$581,280.87
Expenses,
year to date (\$577,618.04)
Balance,
year to date \$3,662.83



The morning gathering of PW enjoyed a cookie swap after the Bible study in December. Pastor Chris led the members in the lesson before the exchange of delicious and decorative treats for everyone. Members also collected additional items to send to the Presbyterian Home in Clinton for the residents there. All are

welcome at the morning or evening PW meetings. Please check the church calendar for dates and times.



2025 Montreat Women's Connection August 8-10

Hard to believe we are already planning for August, but registration opens early February for the Montreat Women's Connection!

The keynote speaker this year is Amy-Jill Levine, Rabbi, scholar, professor of New Testament studies, and author of numerous publications.

If you are interested and would like more information, please sign up by calling church office or let Tamra know you are interested in coming. We will be reserving our spots and our house soon! *Last year's cost was \$397 per person for conference and housing. Rates for this year to be determined.

Prayer Shawl Ministry

Please join us for one hour on the third Tuesday of each month. We will be meeting from 10:00 to 11:00 AM in the PW Productions Room (#27) on January 21st. We can get you started on making a prayer shawl while we share ideas, tips, fellowship, and prayer. You can also be a part of this ministry through your hand work at home. Please call for details.

Our Prayer Shawl Ministry started in the fall of 2007, and to date we have made over 933 prayer shawls, and over 903 have been given away. We continue to pray for all those who have received a prayer shawl. Prayer shawls are available to give to anyone -- church members and those who are not members of our church. Please let us know of someone who might enjoy receiving this special gift from our church. Please contact Robbie Knox to ask about getting a prayer shawl or to see how you can help!

Welcome Newborn Babies!!

Don't forget to let us know if you are expecting a new baby, grandbaby, or great-grandbaby in your family! Some of our Presbyterian Women have made beautiful knit baby items which we'd like to share with you for your new family member! Let us know before the arrival date, so you'll have the gift ready to deliver at your convenience! Please contact Robbie Knox to ask about getting baby items or with your questions and suggestions.

FEATURING:
MARGOT
SALZMAN



Art
Wall

JANUARY
12TH
THROUGH
FEBRUARY
6TH



It is a privilege to feature the artwork of Margot Salzman, well known seamstress artist and longtime member of FPCA. Her work will be on display during the month of January.

Please stop by The Art Wall anytime and enjoy her beautiful pieces. You are invited to the opening reception drop in on January 12th after worship.

The
MUSTARD SEED
garden

We apologize for the delay. But the new cards will be perfect for writing thank you notes to loved ones! Stop by the Mustard Seed Garden bulletin board near the front office to purchase cards.

Note cards will be \$15 a set.

It is with joy that we announce the MRO projects have been completed. We now have a new roof, new air conditioning units, and new plumbing. Thank you for all the love and support you have given to completing these projects. Please continue to financially support these projects by paying final balances.



Ministers' Thoughts

travelers from the East followed a new star and used it as their guide all the way to the babe in a manger, the Prince of Peace. Our special Star Words are an opportunity for us to follow what God would teach us through those words. In the past I've received, discernment, friendship, and judgement, as my Star Word guides during the year, last year my Star Word was "listen". I'm looking forward to Sunday the fifth, hoping that your Star Word will be as meaningful to you, as mine have been to me.

Happy New Year!
Chris



In my pre-seminary days while working in downtown Columbia, a local church offered an early prayer and communion service on Wednesday mornings. It was an easy walk from my office and early enough that I could be at my desk by 9:00. I looked forward to this service every week as it softened the blow of "hump day" as the corporate world often refers to Wednesday. The service in the old historic sanctuary was candle-lit and quiet providing a good way to center on the important things in life in an otherwise busy week. We have that opportunity here at First Presbyterian. Every Wednesday morning we gather in the sanctuary

at 8:45 for prayer, worship and communion. Coffee is always available afterwards for those who have the extra time – a great time to catch up with each other. We'd love for you to stop in as you begin your day for a time of prayer and centering for the remainder of the week.

Best wishes,
Beth

On Sunday January 5, we will begin a New Year together at FPCA and I am excited to see where God will lead us as a family of faith! The first Sunday of 2025 is also special because together we will celebrate Epiphany by receiving our Star Words for the coming year. On the Christian Calendar, Epiphany acknowledges the arrival of the Three Wise Men to worship the newborn Christ child. Scripture teaches that the

Thank you Notes

FPCA,
Thank you for the lovely flowers, cards, thoughtful notes, and the delicious nourishing soup. Tom and I thank the folks at First Pres, we're slowly getting better.
Pat Roberts

Dear Friends,
Thanks to your prayers, cards, food, and flowers, I am restored and healthy once again. It was a challenging four months but with your encouragement, support, and excellent medical care, I weathered the storm. I am grateful to be cancer free and back to my normal self. I felt your love and compassion along the entire journey. Please know that I so appreciated all that you gave to me. This strong community of faith is a beacon of hope.
Much gratitude and love,
Sheila Krist

Dear Ladies of FPCA,
I wanted to take a moment to express my deepest gratitude for the beautiful baby blanket you made for our daughter, Alice. Your kindness and thoughtfulness mean so much to us, and the blanket will be a cherished keepsake for many years. We are truly blessed to have such a caring community surrounding us. Thank you again for your love and generosity.
With warmest thanks,
Mitchell and Whitney Barclay

Women's group of First Pres,
Thank you so much for the beautiful baby blanket! Ruby loves being snuggled up in it! We are loving life with Ruby and are so thankful you thought of us during this season.
Hayden, Callie and Ruby Ploeger

First Presbyterian Church,
Thank you for the beautiful flowers! We were away attending a wedding in Pennsylvania, and they were there when we came home.
Thanks again,
Eleanor and Dick Barclay

Dear friends at First Presbyterian Church of Aiken,
Thank you so much for the beautiful bouquet in honor of our grandson Aaron Bert Barton. He's our precious angel in the arms of Jesus. Thank you all for all your prayers for the whole family. Austin and Adela are doing great- Thank you Jesus. The whole Crandell and Barton family thanks you!
Lindy Barton

A big thank you to Bret Evans, Rob Gray, Tom Thome, Terry Macy, and Kin Purvis! On December 2nd, these members of our church family built a ramp for Bob Kennedy. It was a great crew and a great time of fellowship.



Sanctuary Flower Information

January 26 and February is open for narthex and sanctuary flowers.

January 2025

Wednesday, January 1, 2025

9:00 AM - 3:00 PM Office Closed

Thursday, January 2, 2025

9:00 AM - 3:00 PM Office Closed

5:00 PM - 6:30 PM Pickleball

Friday, January 3, 2025

9:00 AM - 3:00 PM Office Closed

Sunday, January 5, 2025

9:15 AM - 9:30 AM Coffee

9:15 AM - 11:30 AM Nursery

9:30 AM - 10:15 AM Adult Sunday

School

10:30 AM - 11:30 AM Worship

2:00 PM - 4:00 PM Indoor Soccer

7:30 PM - 9:00 PM Men's Basketball

Monday, January 6, 2025

10:00 AM - 1:00 PM Un-decking the
Halls

5:16 PM - 6:45 PM Pickleball

6:00 PM - 7:00 PM Stephen Leader

Tuesday, January 7, 2025

7:30 AM - 3:00 PM Preschool

9:00 AM - 9:15 AM Preschool Chapel

5:16 PM - 6:45 PM Pickleball

6:30 PM - 8:30 PM Stephen Ministry
Meeting

7:00 PM - 8:30 PM Boy Scouts

7:00 PM - 9:00 PM BSA Girls Troop

Wednesday, January 8, 2025

7:30 AM - 3:00 PM Preschool

8:45 AM - 9:15 AM Morning Prayer

10:00 AM - 11:00 AM PW Bible Study

10:00 AM - 11:00 AM Staff Meeting

5:30 PM - 6:30 PM Handbells

5:45 PM - 7:00 PM Wednesday

Dinner

7:00 PM - 8:00 PM Choir

Thursday, January 9, 2025

7:30 AM - 3:00 PM Preschool

5:00 PM - 6:30 PM Pickleball

7:00 PM - 8:30 PM Preschool Board
Meeting

7:00 PM - 9:00 PM BSA GA-CA

Friday, January 10, 2025

7:30 AM - 3:00 PM Preschool

Saturday, January 11, 2025

9:00 AM - 12:00 PM Officer Training

Sunday, January 12, 2025

8:20 AM - 9:15 AM Men's Breakfast

9:15 AM - 9:30 AM Coffee

9:15 AM - 11:30 AM Nursery

9:30 AM - 10:15 AM Sunday School

10:30 AM - 11:30 AM Worship

11:30 AM - 12:30 PM Art Wall

Reception

12:00 PM - 12:30 PM Diaconate

Meeting

2:00 PM - 4:00 PM Indoor Soccer

5:30 PM - 7:00 PM Youth Group

7:30 PM - 9:00 PM Men's Basketball

Monday, January 13, 2025

7:30 AM - 3:00 PM Preschool

3:00 PM - 4:00 PM Finance Meeting

5:16 PM - 6:45 PM Pickleball

6:30 PM - 8:30 PM Ploeger

Covenant

Tuesday, January 14, 2025

7:30 AM - 3:00 PM Preschool

9:00 AM - 9:15 AM Preschool Chapel

5:16 PM - 6:45 PM Pickleball

5:30 PM - 6:30 PM Ask, Seek, Knock

7:00 PM - 8:30 PM Boy Scouts

7:00 PM - 9:00 PM BSA

Wednesday, January 15, 2025

7:30 AM - 3:00 PM Preschool

8:45 AM - 9:15 AM Morning Prayer

5:30 PM - 6:30 PM Handbells

6:00 PM - 8:00 PM Session

7:00 PM - 8:00 PM Choir

Thursday, January 16, 2025

7:30 AM - 3:00 PM Preschool

2:00 PM - 3:30 PM Small Group

5:00 PM - 6:30 PM Pickleball

Friday, January 17, 2025

7:30 AM - 3:00 PM Preschool

Sunday, January 19, 2025

9:15 AM - 9:30 AM Coffee

9:15 AM - 11:30 AM Nursery

9:30 AM - 10:15 AM Sunday School

10:30 AM - 11:30 AM Worship

11:30 AM - 1:00 PM Potluck

2:00 PM - 4:00 PM Indoor Soccer

7:30 PM - 9:00 PM Men's Basketball

Monday, January 20, 2025

9:00 AM - 3:00 PM Office CLOSED

5:16 PM - 6:45 PM Pickleball

5:30 PM - 7:00 PM Covenant

Hunter

6:00 PM - 7:00 PM Stephen Leader

Tuesday, January 21, 2025

7:30 AM - 3:00 PM Preschool

8:00 AM - 12:00 PM Preschool

Conferences

9:00 AM - 9:15 AM Preschool Chapel

10:00 AM - 11:00 AM Prayer Shawl

5:16 PM - 6:45 PM Pickleball

5:30 PM - 7:00 PM BSA Pack 110

6:30 PM - 8:30 PM Stephen Ministry

7:00 PM - 8:30 PM Boy Scouts

7:00 PM - 9:00 PM BSA Girls Troop

Wednesday, January 22, 2025

7:30 AM - 3:00 PM Preschool

8:00 AM - 12:00 PM Preschool

Conferences

8:45 AM - 9:15 AM Morning Prayer

10:00 AM - 11:00 AM Staff Meeting

5:30 PM - 6:30 PM Handbells

6:30 PM - 8:30 PM PW Circle

7:00 PM - 8:00 PM Choir

Thursday, January 23, 2025

7:30 AM - 3:00 PM Preschool

8:00 AM - 12:00 PM Preschool

Conferences

5:00 PM - 6:30 PM Pickleball

Friday, January 24, 2025

7:30 AM - 3:00 PM Preschool

8:00 AM - 12:00 PM Preschool

Conferences

Saturday, January 25, 2025

9:00 AM - 12:00 PM Jigsaw Puzzle

Tournament

Sunday, January 26, 2025

9:15 AM - 9:30 AM Coffee

9:15 AM - 11:30 AM Nursery

9:30 AM - 10:15 AM Sunday School

10:30 AM - 11:30 AM Worship

2:00 PM - 4:00 PM Indoor Soccer

7:30 PM - 9:00 PM Men's Basketball

Monday, January 27, 2025

7:30 AM - 3:00 PM Preschool

5:16 PM - 6:45 PM Pickleball

7:00 PM - 8:00 PM Book Group

Tuesday, January 28, 2025

7:30 AM - 3:00 PM Preschool

9:00 AM - 9:15 AM Preschool Chapel

5:16 PM - 6:45 PM Pickleball

5:30 PM - 7:00 PM BSA Pack 110

7:00 PM - 8:30 PM Boy Scouts

7:00 PM - 9:00 PM BSA Girls Troop

Wednesday, January 29, 2025

7:30 AM - 3:00 PM Preschool

8:45 AM - 9:15 AM Morning Prayer

5:30 PM - 6:30 PM Handbells

7:00 PM - 8:00 PM Choir

Thursday, January 30, 2025

7:30 AM - 3:00 PM Preschool

5:00 PM - 6:30 PM Pickleball

Friday, January 31, 2025

7:30 AM - 3:00 PM Preschool