



# The Vine

“O God of Hosts, look down from Heaven, and visit this vine which, we trust, Thy right hand hath planted. Watch over, protect, and defend it. Nourish it with the dews of divine grace, and cause it to grow and spread and flourish...”  
 Also, refer to John 15:5 — “I am the vine, ye are the branches ...”

## Sunday, September 12, 2021

**10:30 AM Worship Service: “Not Ashamed”**

**(Beginning this Sunday, the Worship Service will begin at 10:30 AM, with Sunday School for ALL ages immediately prior to worship from 9:30 to 10:15 AM.)**

### Prayer Requests (Updated 9/8/21)

- \*Betty Aiton, Bob Britt, Mary Burris, June Dean, Walker Martin, Linda Murphy, Cathy Neal
- \*Kathy Burriss (Presbyterian Home) and Don Burriss
- \*Chris (Greenville Memorial, ICU) and Tina Palmer (at home under doctor’s care), Mary Moses’s son-in-law and daughter, who continue to battle COVID
- \*Lori Kennedy, daughter-in-law of Carol Kennedy, who is currently taking chemotherapy
- \*Billy Kirby, friend of Melinda Gray & Tony Bailey who is battling leukemia
- \*Barbara Edwards, Lesley Mitchell’s mother
- \*Mark Dolny, stepson of Linda Dolny Lister
- \*Brittany Michelle Person, friend of Robyn Prince’s niece
- \*Charlsie Cox, granddaughter of Judy White McGeehon and great-niece of Debbie Vaughn
- \*Betty Sizemore, Gadsden, AL, Jennifer McCracken’s grandmother
- \*Carolyn Huey (NHC, Laurens, Room 218)
- \*Marie McCracken (Presbyterian Home, Clinton)
- \*Nancy Cook Smith (Martha Franks, Laurens)

Dear Saints of First Presbyterian Church:

*Those who are ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of them the Son of Man will also be ashamed when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels.” - Mark 8:38*

Mark 8:38 comes at the end of a sequence often better remembered for Jesus saying, “Get behind me, Satan!” to Peter. Jesus then talks about self-denial and cross-bearing before He raises the idea of being ashamed of who Jesus is and what He commands.

Ancient cultures were hugely influenced by the concepts of honor and shame – and what constituted one or the other in daily life. In light of Jesus’ words above, we must contemplate what shame means to us today. Have things really changed that much? What does it mean to be ashamed of Jesus and His words? We’ll talk about it Sunday.

Because trusting the promises of God will never put us to shame, know that you are loved.

Dr. Mike



### Chancel Choir Rehearsal:

Join us on Wednesdays from 7:15 to 8:00 pm in Hunter Hall (for the time being) as we prepare to lead musically in worship each Sunday.

### Presbyterian Women:

Two of our Circles met this week on Tuesday, September 7. Our remaining **Circle (#2) meets next Monday, September 13, at 6:30 pm.** Watch for details regarding the location (a downtown restaurant) coming soon! Hope you’ll be able to join us as we launch the Bible study, *What My Grandmothers Taught Me.*

**PSST!!...HEY YOU!! Did you hear the news?!?! Sunday School starts THIS SUNDAY!!!**

Sunday School classes are more than just another group we attend. They are intentional communities that seek to form disciples of Christ. We invite you to find your family on Sunday mornings. **The attached sheet has each of our Christian Education offerings. See below for the new Christian Education schedule. If you have any questions, reach out to Will DeLaney or a member of the CE committee.**

### Sundays

**9:30 to 10:15 am: Sunday School (all ages)**  
**5:45 to 7:00 pm: Youth Group (Middle and High School)**

### Wednesdays

**5:15 to 6:15 pm: 5K—5<sup>th</sup> grade activity, lesson, and fun time**

### **Sanctuary Flowers**

- September 19 **ADAMS,**  
Patsy
- September 26 **CHILDERS,**  
Bill and Amanda
- October 3 **MCCLURE,**  
Julie and Steve
- October 10 **COAKLEY,**  
Don and Cynthia



The sanctuary flowers on September 5 are given to the glory of God by Susan Byars.

**FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

400 West Main Street

Laurens, South Carolina 29360

(864) 984-6561; www.firstpreslaurens.org

*The Rev. Dr. Frank M. McCracken, Pastor & Head of Staff*

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POSTAGE PAID  
LAURENS, SC  
29360  
PERMIT #114

**RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED**

<p><b><u>Ushers: Sept. 12</u></b> <b><u>Acts</u></b> Byron Parker* Gail Parker Erskine Thomason Paul Wilkie, Jr.</p>	<p><b><i>“May the God of Peace...Grant You Peace at All Times in All Ways”</i></b></p> <p><i>It was a daring prayer, all things considered, to ask the Thessalonians to pray -- and it is also a daring one for us, I imagine. The second letter to the Thessalonians arrived at a time of turmoil, strife, and confusion. The Christian community was experiencing persecutions so severe that some believed the time of judgment had come, while others took advantage of their doubt, spreading misinformation and sowing dissent. The letter ends with a benedictory prayer: for God's peace to be granted at all times in all ways. It might have been daring enough to consider asking them to imagine peace at "any time," much less at "all times," or to imagine peace in some sort of way at all, much less in all of them.</i></p>	
<p><b><u>Ushers: Sept. 19</u></b> <b><u>Romans</u></b> Bill Childers* Amanda Childers Jimmy Todd Walter Todd</p>	<p><b><i>Have you ever felt so far from God's peace that you couldn't even imagine it?</i></b></p> <p>On World Communion Sunday, October 3, 2021, our congregation will join other Presbyterians in sharing our gifts to support peacemaking efforts worldwide, <b>for when we all do a little, it adds up to a lot.</b></p>	
<p><b><u>Ushers: Sept. 26</u></b> <b><u>Corinthians</u></b> John Swofford* Patsy Adams Charles Milam Sloan Mahon</p>	<p>Let us pray this prayer this week: <i>“O God of Peace at all times in all ways, grant us your peace and help us to imagine a world where your justice and peace are ever known. Amen.”</i></p> <p><i>Printed courtesy of Presbyterian Mission PC(USA)</i></p>	
<p><b><i>Worship Attendance</i></b></p> <p>Sept. 5, 2021: 62</p>	<p><b><u>Vine Helpers: 11 AM</u></b></p> <p>9/15 Rita and Lonnie Bixler 9/22 Gail Parker, Drucie Martin 9/29 Marilyn Buchanan, Lesley Mitchell 10/6 Betsy Ellison, Gail Robinson</p>	<p><b><u>Contact Information</u></b></p> <p>Church office: 864-984-6561 Rev. Dr. Mike McCracken 870-318-5715 <a href="mailto:mike@firstpreslaurens.org">mike@firstpreslaurens.org</a> Dr. Ken Lister <a href="mailto:ken@firstpreslaurens.org">ken@firstpreslaurens.org</a> Will DeLaney <a href="mailto:will@firstpreslaurens.org">will@firstpreslaurens.org</a> John Swofford <a href="mailto:john@firstpreslaurens.org">john@firstpreslaurens.org</a> Jean Cann <a href="mailto:C762308@gmail.com">C762308@gmail.com</a> Kay Monroe <a href="mailto:kmonroe2312@gmail.com">kmonroe2312@gmail.com</a> Sharon Vincent <a href="mailto:sharon@firstpreslaurens.org">sharon@firstpreslaurens.org</a> Office Hours: M-W, 9 am to 4 pm; Th-F, 9 am to noon</p>



## Children's Ministry: 5K – 5<sup>th</sup> Grade

### **Sunday Mornings (9:15 to 10:15 am upstairs in Children's Classrooms)**

Our children will explore key Bible stories and learn about what they mean for us. We will use various art and creative expressions each week!

### **Wednesday Nights (5:15 to 6:15 pm in Hunter Hall)**

During the fall we are going to be preparing our hearts for Christmas. Christmas in the fall, you ask?? Yes! We are going to learn about the story of the Bible from the creation to the birth of Jesus. We will be making a Jesse tree. Be sure to come and check out all the fun!

**Leaders:** Julie Edwards, Robyn Prince, Lesley Mitchell, Annette Patterson, Jean Cann, Shawn Brown, Alissa Pinson, Hannah Coleman, and Margaret Davis

## Youth Ministry: 6<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> Grade

### **Sunday Mornings (9:30 to 10:15 am upstairs in the Youth Room)**

Join us for a time of fellowship and discussion about various parts of worship. We will discuss the “So, what?” and “Why?” questions about that day’s worship service. So, what does this passage mean for us? So, what does that word/phrase mean? Why do we celebrate certain days in the church year? Why don’t we celebrate other days in the church?

### **Sunday Evenings (5:45 to 7:00 pm upstairs in the Youth Room)**

Join us for our main gathering of the week! We will eat dinner together, play fun games, and have exciting fellowship events throughout the year. We will also continue our study of God’s promises and covenants in Scripture. We will see how the same God who makes these promises throughout Scripture is with us today, even in the joys and hardships of life. We will use Bible study, group discussion, the arts, and other creative ways to think through the text.

**Leaders:** Will DeLaney, Meredith Liner, Travis Thomas, Isabelle Stichnoth, Amanda Childers, Bill Childers, Julian Pattford, and Robert Marion Thompson



## **ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL RETURNS!**

**SEPTEMBER 12, 2021  
9:30 TO 10:15 AM**

We are excited to begin our adult Sunday School classes on September 12<sup>th</sup>! Sunday School is about forming disciples of Christ who are equipped to journey through this world. Our Sunday School classes are, thus, a time to grow spiritually, learn more about our faith, and connect with others. Below you will find our three adult Sunday School classes listed. I pray each of you finds your Sunday School home! Feel free to reach out to Will DeLaney or any of the Sunday School leaders if you have any questions.

### **COVENANT CLASS**

Nathan Senn invites all as this class begins journeying through 1 Samuel together. This class invites you to intentionally grow into your faith and love of Scripture, while being in a great community. All are welcomed.

### **TNT CLASS**

Co-teachers Linda Lister, Jerman Disasa, and Lonnie Bixler invite you to join them in discussion of N.T. Wright's book on Paul's prison letters (Ephesians, Philippians, Colossians, and Philemon). The TNT Class's goal: to apply Bible teachings to guide us in our current life's daily experiences.

### **COMMITMENT CLASS**

Co-teachers William Smith and Ronda Benson invite you to the Commitment Class! This class focuses on spiritual growth, primarily using video studies and open discussion as the teaching/learning format. Geared towards young adults, singles, and couples, this class welcomes all ages of adults.