

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 19, 2021

Sunday School for ALL ages 9:30 to 10:15 AM**
 (**The Covenant Class meets at 9:15 AM.)
 Worship Service “Draw Near” 10:30 to 11:30 AM
 Youth Gathering 5:45 to 7:00 PM

Prayer Requests (Updated 9/15/21)

- *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 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:

Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. Draw near to God, and he will draw near to you. – James 4:7-8

This week we will continue to explore the claim God has on all parts of our lives as we hear from the book of James. What does it mean for us to seek God in all that we say and do? How might consistently seeking God affect our relationships with one another and how we encounter the world and the circumstances of our lives? What does James mean when he says: “Draw near to God, and he will draw near to you?”

We’ll talk about it Sunday.

Because God is calling us to draw near in every aspect of life, know that you are loved.

Dr. Mike



Sneak Peek!! Enjoy crafts? Interested in a mission to the local community? Hold Tuesday, September 28, on your calendar!

August 2021 Financial Statement

Budgeted Income	\$ 340,418.72
Actual Income	\$ 304,690.12
Difference	\$ -35,728.60
Budgeted Expenses	\$ 340,418.96
Actual Expenses	\$ 277,324.37
Difference	\$ -63,094.59

Balance (Income less Expenses) \$ 27,365.75

**PRESBYTERIAN
DISASTER ASSISTANCE**
OUT OF CHAOS. HOPE

Perhaps you are like me and are exploring the Presbyterian Church’s response to recent natural disasters. **QR codes** (like the ones included for the past couple of weeks in the worship bulletin) have helped me to locate new and unfolding information quickly. One article I read recently includes powerful words by Rev. Jim Kirk, PDA’s Associate for National Response: “Funds given to PDA help us remain engaged **until everyone is whole again.**”

After initial needs are met, **PDA will remain**—providing emotional and spiritual care and long-term recovery assistance. Please, consider how you will respond through your gifts and prayers.

Sanctuary Flowers

- Sept. 26 **CHILDERS**,
Bill and Amanda
- October 3 **MCCLURE**,
Julie and Steve
- October 10 **COAKLEY**,
Don and Cynthia
- October 17 **COKER**,
Dot and Carl



Sanctuary Flowers
 The sanctuary flowers on September 19 are given to the glory of God by Patsy Adams.

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

400 West Main Street

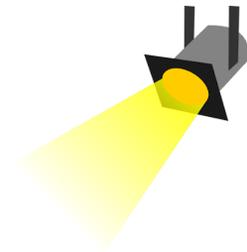
Laurens, South Carolina 29360

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

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

PRST STD
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LAURENS, SC
29360
PERMIT #114

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



<p>September 12, 2021 Worship—91 Sunday School—57</p>	<p><i>SPOTLIGHT ON LOCAL MISSIONS</i></p>	
<p><u>Ushers: Sept. 19</u> <u>Romans</u> Bill Childers* Amanda Childers Jimmy Todd Walter Todd</p>	<p>The 16th Annual Straight Street-Chris Brown Memorial Golf Tournament will be held Saturday, October 9, at Lakeside Country Club. The Hole Sponsorship is \$100, which provides a sign with your name or business placed on the green. Registration is open for individuals at \$45 and teams at \$180. Contact Dee Parker at 683-5606 for more information.</p> <p>Straight Street, located on West Main Street near the Public Square, is a non-profit interdenominational youth center. Having opened in August, 1994, the center provides a Christian environment where young people can have fun and learn to trust in the Lord. All proceeds from this event are used to support this important youth outreach in our community.</p>	
<p><u>Ushers: Sept. 26</u> <u>Corinthians</u> John Swofford* Patsy Adams Charles Milam Sloan Mahon</p>	<p><u>Vine Helpers: 11 AM</u></p>	<p><u>Contact Information</u> Church office: 864-984-6561 Rev. Dr. Mike McCracken 870-318-5715 mike@firstpreslaurens.org Dr. Ken Lister ken@firstpreslaurens.org Will DeLaney will@firstpreslaurens.org John Swofford john@firstpreslaurens.org Jean Cann C762308@gmail.com Kay Monroe kmonroe2312@gmail.com Sharon Vincent sharon@firstpreslaurens.org Office Hours: M-W, 9 am to 4 pm; Th-F, 9 am to noon</p>
<p><u>Ushers: Oct. 3</u> <u>Galatians</u> Rick Thompson* Lesley Mitchell Wayne Neal Robert Thomason</p>	<p>9/22 Gail Parker, Drucie Martin 9/29 Marilyn Buchanan, Lesley Mitchell 10/6 Betsy Ellison, Gail Robinson 10/13 Patsy Adams, Janice Stroud</p>	



Children's Ministry: 5K – 5th 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: 6th – 12th 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 12th! 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.