



November: A Time for Grace and Gratitude

Do you ever wonder why some people just seem to move through life at a slower, more gracious, more intentional pace? They seem unflappable in the midst of life's challenges. The everyday annoyances appear to roll off of them like water off a duck's back. They just look like they take everything that comes their way in stride.

One of my colleagues in ministry, Rev. Danny Murphy, the presbytery executive in Trinity Presbytery in Columbia, when asked how he is always responds, "Blessed and thankful." Blessed. And thankful.

As a community and as individual members of it, despite whatever hardships we are going through are indeed blessed, and I hope, thankful. Blessed not only with our material possessions, but in our relationships with one another and with Jesus. We are truly never alone as we worship and serve the one whose incarnation made all the difference and who in our times of greatest need is as close as our breath. And that is indeed something to be thankful for.

So I invite you, as you move through this month of November to extend to yourself and others a spirit of grace and gratitude. Grace with one another, because we never know what another person is going through, and gratitude for all that we have been given, and all that we receive from God. Life is far too short to do anything less.

Thanksgiving which for many is a time to be with family around a table brimming with food, can be a difficult time for those who don't have the means to put together such a feast, and those who may be estranged from family and separated from friends. If you find that you don't have anyone to spend the day with, I encourage you to attend the community Thanksgiving meal at Timrod Park that will be on Thursday, November 28th from 11am-1pm. If you know of folks who will be alone, is there space for one or two more at your table? Can we make space for one another and give not only of our resources but of our love and sense of community?

As we look ahead to Christmas, I am mindful that the entire holiday season can be painful for so many for reasons we may never know. So in addition to our Advent and Christmas celebrations next month, we will also be doing a Blue Christmas/Longest night service on Sunday, December 22nd at 6pm. Last year those who attended felt the presence of

God in ways that they were not experiencing in the joyous holiday season.

So let us share both grace and gratitude as we move through the month of November. As many of you know, I am having a milestone birthday this month, and I am working on seeing this not as something to be dreaded, but something to embrace with gratitude for all the blessings that age brings. I am grateful to still be alive, to live and serve in a wonderful community, to have the love of family and friends, to be with all of you. To serve this congregation that is showing Christ's love to others boldly and prophetically. That is indeed something that I am most grateful for.

Blessings and love,





Join us for All Saints Day, November 3rd

In honor of **All Saints Day**, a slide show with pictures of each of the **members/friends of JCPC who have passed since November 1, 2023** will be shared during our morning worship service, candles in memory of those loved ones will be lit during our morning worship.

Remember! Canned food drive for one of our local partners on each Communion (1st) Sunday

Please make sure that you bring your food with you to worship. There will be baskets to collect the food in front of the communion table. There are so many in need in our community!

Manna House is in need of plastic jars of peanut butter and jelly for their food pantry.

Please DO NOT buy the jars that contain peanut butter and jelly mixed together or items in glass jars.



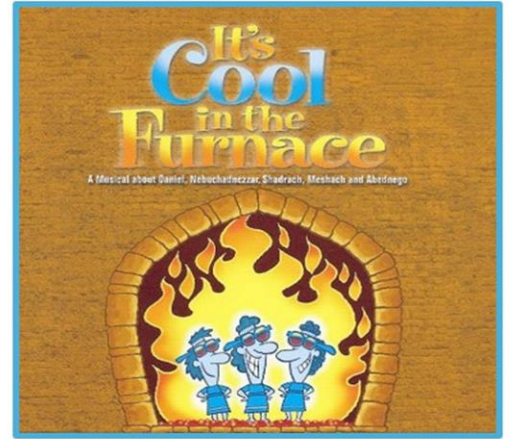
Pastor Jen will be on vacation from November 4 to November 17
If you have a pastoral care concern, please contact the Elder on Call for that week:
Nov 3-10 Gary Pierce (843-758-4633)
November 10-17: Robin Permenter (854-205-7140)

Pastor Jen will be back in the in office on November 18.

Rev. Dr. Ella Busby is on call for pastoral emergencies, but please first contact the Elder on call for that week.



The Children's Musical



Will be presented

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 3, 2024

4:00 PM

JOYFUL NOISE CLUB

JOYFUL NOISE CLUB MEETS

November 3rd and 17th

3:45-5:30

In Room 14



Welcome As Our Guest Preacher for Worship on Sunday, November 10, 2024

Rev. Brian Ellison



Brian Ellison has served as Executive Director of the Covenant Network of Presbyterians since 2012, preaching, teaching and providing overall strategic leadership in implementing the organization's mission. Brian also serves as Stated Clerk of the Synod of Mid-America. He has served previously as pastor of Parkville Presbyterian Church (near Kansas City, Missouri) and as stated clerk of Heartland Presbytery. He currently is moderator of the General Assembly Permanent Judicial Commission; previously, he was a director of the Board of Pensions, a member of the Committee on the Office of the General Assembly, and moderator of both the Committee on Mission Responsibility Through Investment and the Stated Clerk Review/Nomination Committee. His writing on matters of faith and

theology have appeared in numerous church and independent publications. A graduate of Harvard University and Princeton Theological Seminary, Brian also is host/contributor at NPR affiliate KCUR-FM. He and his partner, Troy Lillebo, live in Kansas City with their two dog daughters, the recalcitrant Willoughby and the dopey Sage.

Welcome As Our Guest Preacher for Worship on Sunday, November 17, 2024

Rev. Dr. Christa Brewer



Christa Brewer is the associate pastor at First Presbyterian in Myrtle Beach. She received a BA in Classics and Economics from Stanford University, an M.Div. and MA in Christian Education from Princeton Theological Seminary, a Diploma in the Art of Spiritual Direction from San Francisco Theological Seminary, and a D.Min. from Columbia Theological Seminary, where she studied the gifts and challenges along the pastoral journeys of PCUSA pastors living with depression. While born and raised in California, Christa has lived all over the United States and on both side of the Atlantic. She came to First Presbyterian in November 2014, after previously serving as an associate pastor to congregations in The Woodlands, Texas and Groomsport, Northern Ireland. She currently serves on the Presbytery of New Harmony's Committee on Ministry and is

a certified spiritual director. In the community, Christa chairs the flute section of the North Myrtle Beach Community Concert Band and previously played for several years in the Wilmington Symphonic Winds. In addition to playing the flute, her other hobbies include cross-stitching, exploring her surroundings, and traveling the world. Christa is married to the Rev. Barrett Ingram, who is the pastor at Clarkton Presbyterian Church in Clarkton, North Carolina.

Jesus taught his followers the importance of prayer, and God longs to change our hearts and our minds through our prayer practice.

If you are not currently on the JCPC prayer email list, please send your email address to janecoker111@gmail.com.

Pastor Jen or Jane Coker send out prayer emails once or twice a week or more frequently when there is an urgent need. Remember, that we pray not so that we can change God's heart, but that we can allow God to change our heart.

Emails come from jcpcprays@gmail.com.



Start each day
with God,
grace, and
gratitude

Making Space at the Table: Faithfully Responding to Gender and Sexuality



On Saturday, November 9, join Presbyterians from across South Carolina for "Making Space at the Table: Faithfully Responding to Gender and Sexuality" from 10:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. This Covenant Conversation will equip faith leaders and congregation members with resources for taking the next steps in navigating important conversations and creating more welcoming spaces for LGBTQIA+ individuals.

<https://tinyurl.com/covconsc>

Saturday, November 9
10:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.
Shandon Presbyterian Church
607 Woodrow St
Columbia, SC 29205



Homecoming AT NEW HARVEST

Theme: *Still, we rise: A legacy of faith, resilience, and renewal!*

Scripture: Isaiah 40:31

13
NOV

REVIVAL

Join us for Revival on Wednesday night at 6:00!
Our guest preacher is Rev. April Jackson from New
Canaan AME Church (Dillon, SC)

17
NOV

HOMECOMING CELEBRATION

Join us for Worship on Sunday afternoon at 3:00!
Our guest preacher is Rev. Ernest Frierson from
Friendship United Methodist Church (Nesmith,
SC).

NEW HARVEST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
(USA)

111 Williams Boulevard
Florence, SC 29501

Delcia Harper-Baxter, Pastor



ONE TABLE Florence



Join us for Thanksgiving

November 28th 11am – 1pm

For more information about the event or to learn more about volunteering, please visit us at

www.onetableflorence.com



John Calvin Presbyterian Church Florence, SC is seeking a
Director of Music Ministries

The successful candidate will...

- bring glory to God through music
- Lead congregational singing
- Coordinate, rehearse and direct all choirs
 - Adult Chancel Choir, Children's Choir, Handbells
- Schedule musicians for all services
 - organ, piano, keyboard, guitar, drums, etc.
- Arrange for special music
- Serve on and lead through the Worship and Music Committee

These are just a few of the fun things you'll enjoy in this position!

To apply, e-mail resumé to johncalvinpresbyterian@gmail.com



Photo: Joe Bittle

Join us for Advent/Christmas Worship

December 1 You Are A Blessing
 December 8 We Can't Go Alone
 December 15 Do the Good that is Yours to Do
 December 22 Hope is Worth the Risk
 December 24 Love Knows Your Name
 December 29 Don't Forget to Laugh



WORDS FOR THE BEGINNING

ADVENT REMINDERS FOR NEW SEASON

Series begins December 1, 2024 and continues through Epiphany.



Please plan to stay after worship on **Sunday November 24th** to assist with decorating the Sanctuary for the Advent Season. Many hands will make light work and it is a great opportunity for fun and fellowship.



MISSION OPPORTUNITIES

We are grateful for the crew of 13 who spent their Saturday morning working at "Roger's Clean-up." Lots of trash, lots of laughter, several pesky yellow jackets, and being the hands and feet in the neighborhood.

10/12/24



Looking to contribute to our local mission work?
 Lighthouse Ministries **Strengthening Families** program is using our facility to work with families in our community on **Mondays and Thursdays.**

This is a fantastic program that teaches parents and children good and healthy ways to be together as a family.

We need to provide **at least 2 volunteers** to be here at the church **from 5:30 to 7 to help serve the meal and clean up.**

If you are interested please see Thelma Hawkins who recruiting volunteers.



MANNA HOUSE

WE NEED YOU!

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

MON - FRI
8:30 - 12:00

<https://flomannahouse.com/volunteer/>

Treasurer's Report - September 30, 2024

Operating Budget

	Sep-24		2024 Year to Date (YTD)	
	Budgeted	Actual	Budgeted	Actual
Envelope Income	\$ 18,325	\$ 17,501	\$ 164,929	\$ 181,013
Total Income	\$ 18,476	\$ 18,159	\$ 166,279	\$ 186,632
Prior Years Net Surplus	\$ 862	\$ <u>5,720</u>	\$ 8,759	\$ (5,720)
Expenses	\$ 19,338	\$ 23,879	\$ 175,038	\$ 172,738

In September 2024, total expenses exceeded total revenue by \$5,720 with year to date total revenue exceeding year to date expenses by \$13,894.

In September 2024, envelope income was under budget by \$824 and over budget YTD by \$16,084.

Budgeted Prior Years Surplus	\$ 11,345
Total Surplus Used This Month	Sep-24 \$ (5,720)
Amount Remaining for Year	\$ <u>5,625</u>

In September we utilized \$5,720 of the Budgeted Prior Years' Surplus to offset monthly expenses compared to \$6,121 in September 2023.

In order to close out 2024 without using any of the Session approved prior year reserves and PPP funds to offset expenses, in addition to keeping expenses within the 2024 budget level, our average monthly increase in total income for 2024 will need to be approximately 3% over 2023. Compared to September 2023, total income for the month of **September is up 53% and YTD total income is up 8%.**

Like good stewards of the manifold grace of God, serve one another with whatever gift each of you has received. 1 Peter 4:10
For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also. Matthew 6:21



WILL YOUR LEGACY IMPACT FUTURE GENERATIONS?

YOUR GENEROSITY CAN ENSURE THAT THE MINISTRIES AND MISSIONS OF THE CHURCH CONTINUE TO SHAPE AND CHANGE THE LIVES OF OTHERS.

REDDY TO GET STARTED? TPF CAN HELP!
USE THIS QR CODE TO SCHEDULE A MEETING TODAY!

You can always find us at www.tpf.org

Blessing of the Animals
10-6-24



Serving in November

Date	Elder	Liturgist	Usher/Greeter	Children's Church	Counters
Nov 3	Gary Pierce	Thelma Hawkins	Susan Tedder Karen Stroemer	Jane Coker MK McGregor	Joe Bittle, James Collar, Myra Horton
Communion Prep: Rita Myers/Susan Tedder			Communion Servers: Class of 2025		
Nov 10	Robin Permenter	Ken Feaster-Eytchison	Debbie Barrett Kris Andrews	Myra Horton Tyler Gross	Margaret Collar, Tom Hawkins, Gary Pierce
Nov 17	Joe Bittle	Thomas Hawkins	Robert Davis Susan Jackson	Susan Nexsen Kay Hanson	Ron Rogers, Susan Tedder, Tom Hoffmeyer
Nov 24	Margaret Collar	Myra Horton	Shirley & Wilda Gray	Karen Pattillo Sheila Lenz	Kris Andrews, Robin Permenter, Tom Shearin

Session Summary

Highlights of the Stated Session Meeting on October 22, 2024

The Session met on Tuesday, October 22, 2024 at 6:00 PM in the Multipurpose room at the church. After opening with prayer, Gary Pierce had the devotion and talked about how we can pray when we are dealing with pain in our lives. The tenth chapter of *Imaginable* was discussed among the Elders. The topic of this chapter was about answering a call to adventure by being willing to move outside our nature and learn what is needed to be helpful. It was agreed that if anyone was interested in reading just one chapter, this would be the one to read.

Tom Shearer, Treasurer, attended the meeting to report on current income and expenses and present the draft 2025 church budget from Finance and Stewardship for a first reading. He also submitted for approval an application for a 'green grant' to cover 50% of the cost of replacing the lights in the fellowship hall with LED lights from the presbytery. Elders were reminded that the Stewardship campaign would be culminating in pledge dedication on Sunday, November 3.

The session approved Financial and Procurement Policies and Procedures referred from Finance and Stewardship, as well as the use of two facility use agreements for outside groups (one for insurance and the other with rules and instructions) from Building and Grounds. The date of December 3rd was approved for a Red Cross Blood Drive to be held in the Fellowship Hall from EOM.

Plans for Pastor Jen's sabbatical were discussed. There will be a guest preacher on each of the Sundays and Elders will cover other pastoral care needs. The Elders reported on their interactions with the ESPs that they were assigned at the last meeting.

Lastly, Betty Anne Smith was elected Elder commissioner for the November 19th New Harmony Presbytery meeting at Morris College, with Joe Bittle elected as alternate. Jen indicated that all are welcome to attend that meeting as there will be a concert on Monday night and a worship on Tuesday morning with singer/songwriter David LaMotte preaching and playing music. Morris College is an historically black college in Sumter. The next meeting of presbytery will be on Saturday, February 8th at Trinity Surfside Beach. The meeting was closed with prayer at 8:15 pm.

Submitted by Pastor Jen Kottler, Moderator of Session

Happy BIRTHDAY! to you.

Ron Rogers 11/1
 Gladys Davis 11/2
 Jeff Lee 11/7
 Johnny Nexsen 11/15
 Susan Grubbs 11/19
 Sylvia Perkins 11/19
 Susan Tedder 11/20
 Bill Deakin 11/28
 Pastor Jen 11/30

Bible Trivia: Which person in the Old Testament heard a voice in his sleep, thought it was Eli, but learned it was God? Ask one of these children; they know!

Happy Anniversary

Gladys & Robert Davis 11/3
 Cynthia & Happy Tilton 11/25
 Carolyn & Charlie Henderson 11/26

GIFTS RECEIVED

In memory of William Donald (Donny) Pierce by the JCPC Presbyterian Women, Kay Hanson, and Connie Reel-Shearin & Tom Sherain

Losing family is hard but knowing I have a loving Church family makes it easier to get through, many thanks for all cards, phone calls, meals and hugs after the loss of my brother.

Gary Pierce

Thank You!

Having a loving church family is a blessing. I greatly appreciate all of the calls, texts, cards, visits, and food as I recover at home.

DeDe Molnar



Thank you to all who contributed to the Thank Offering and participated in the Soup Lunch



10/27/24

