



Groundhog Day? Again?

I am excited that February is here! It always feels like January flies by as we take in all that the new year brings, and especially this year, **February is giving me time to breathe.** Often February means the start of Lent, but not this year, as Easter is nearly as late as it can be.

The weather will hopefully get back to normal for South Carolina – when you are reading this, the temps may already be in the 70s! I don’t know what that will mean for Punxsutawney Phil’s prediction on Groundhog Day, but I’m grateful to live in a place where snow is rare and temps in the 20s are even rarer.

If you are familiar with the movie *Groundhog Day*, you will remember that Bill Murray keeps reliving the same day (February 2nd) over and over and over again. And sometimes in the church it can feel like Groundhog Day – that nothing really ever changes, and worship is the same week in and week out. But I don’t feel that here – yes, we know that we will have worship on Sunday morning, but most every week we have been seeing new faces and feeling new energy and that’s exciting – a true blessing.

This Sunday, February 2nd is not only Groundhog Day, it is the day we will celebrate receiving 10 new members into our community! Given that our membership is currently at 113, that’s nearly 10 percent. God is clearly not done with us yet! The Spirit is moving and love is flowing within and among us and God is showing up Sunday after Sunday, and every day in between – a little like “Groundhog Day!” And that, my friends, is very good news!

So plan to stay after worship this Sunday for a brief time of fellowship after worship to welcome our new members and celebrate what God is doing in our midst. I also would encourage each of us to consider or reconsider what God is calling each one of us to do in

and through this community to serve. **We have several folks who volunteer with Lighthouse and Help4Kids, others who serve through the Parking Lot Ministry,** and still others who serve teaching our children and adults, and participating in Bible Study and fellowship activities here at the church. **What gifts do you have to offer that God can use right now?**

These are exciting times in the life of our church. I can’t wait to see what God has for us as we move through 2025.

Blessings and love,



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!

Join us, **Sunday, February 23**, following the morning worship service for our **annual congregational meeting**.

The purpose of the meeting is to receive the **Annual reports** from the congregational committees, the Clerk of Session, the Treasurers and the Pastor.

All active members of the congregation are encouraged to attend!



The Manna House of ...
 Follow
 6h · 🌐

We need these items for our pantry:

- Peanut butter-16oz jars
- Jelly- plastic containers
- Cereal
- Grits
- Oatmeal
- Canned tomatoes
- Spaghetti sauce- plastic containers

JOYFUL NOISE
 Meets
February 2nd and 16th
3:30-5:15

2025 Souper Bowl of Caring Collection
Sunday, February 9th

tacklehunger.org

All donations go directly to
Help 4 Kids Florence

AND WHAT DOES
THE LORD
 REQUIRE OF YOU?

 TO ACT JUSTLY
TO LOVE MERCY
 TO WALK HUMBLLY

 WITH YOUR GOD.
 MICAH 6:8
KATIERIGHT BLOGSPOT.COM

CHURCH BUDDY

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 23RD
4:00-5:30 PM

Blood Donors
**Save a Life,
 Give Blood.**

FEBRUARY 3, 2025
 John Calvin Presbyterian Church

Sign up TODAY to donate on Monday!
<https://www.redcrossblood.org/give.html/find-drive>

Please plan to stay after worship on
Sunday February 2, 2025 to

WELCOME

New Members

We are planning a time of light snacks and fellowship so that we can get to know all those who have decided to formally become a part of our community.



Welcome to our New Members at JCPC!

On Sunday, February 2nd we will welcome **10 new members** formally to our community!

Meet our new members! Christina Boyles is a childcare teacher and student at Florence Darlington Tech in Respiratory Therapy. With her mother, **Jennifer Boyles**, she moved from Hartsville when they bought one of new houses on Calvin Circle. Jennifer is retired and has four children and two grandchildren; Jen's mother lives in Clemson is thriving in her retirement community there. **Vivian Dees** moved to Florence in 2023, and after living in large cities was ready to be in a smaller one. She and **Emily Irwin** grew up in Bennettsville, have been friends since high school and decided to find a church home together. Emily has lived on Canterbury Circle since 2016, having moved back to the area from Kansas City, Kansas where she lived for 40+ years. **Leah Howard-Newell** is a single mom to 4 (Jonica, Jackson, Storey and Harrison Newell) and works for FDTC in their downtown health sciences campus on Cheves Street. She is engaged to Damaris Burri who lives in Switzerland (and worships with us online) and together they have 7 children between 10 and 23 years of age. **Haley Jackson** has been attending for some time now and comes as a candidate for baptism. A native of Florence, she is a firefighter in Darlington County. She plays the guitar and is looking forward to sharing her musical gifts in worship. Another musician, **Greg Richardson** and his wife Jackie and daughter Eleanor (8) come to us from Central United Methodist Church where Greg was a drummer for their contemporary worship service. By day he works in supply chain logistics for Harbor Freight. **Jackie Richardson** is a teacher for REACH (gifted and talented program) in Florence District 1. **Eleanor Richardson** is in third grade and active in Sunday School and Joyful Noise and recently was part of the Florence Little Theater production of *The Lion King Junior*. **Samantha Shock** is originally from West Virginia, but spent many years in Columbus Ohio before relocating to Hartsville where she lives with her fur babies. She has been helping with our tech team on Sunday mornings. **Welcome to all!**

If you are interested in learning more about membership or joining with us at JCPC, please talk to Pastor Jen or a member of the Session.

A Meet and Greet for our new members will be held following our Worship Service on February 2nd.

Serving in February

Date	Elder	Liturgist	Usher/Greeters	Children's Church	Counters
Feb 2	Connie Reel-Shearin	Debbie Barrett	Sylvia Perkins Kris Andrews	Jane Coker Karen Stroemer	Joe Bittle, Connie Reel-Shearin, Myra Horton
Feb 9	Thomas Hawkins	Judy Feimster	Beka Andrews Tom Hoffmeyer	Myra Horton Jane Thrower	Margaret Collar, Thomas Hawkins, Gary Pierce
Feb 16	Myra Horton	Thelma Hawkins	Sheila & Richard Lenz	Susan Nexsen Tyler Gross	Ron Rogers, Susan Tedder, Tom Hoffmeyer
Feb 23	Betty Anne Smith	Ken Feaster-Eytchison	Judy & Al Feimster	Karen Pattillo Sheila Lenz	Kris Andrews, Robin Permenter, Tom Shearin

Session Summary

Highlights of the Session Meeting on January 4, 2025

The meeting began with discussion of the introduction and first chapter of The Sailboat Church: Helping Your Church Rethink Its Mission and Practice by Joan Gray. The author uses the image of being a God-powered church (sailboat) instead of one in which the members work to do everything themselves (rowboat). The difference is in the attitude of the members and leaders.

Action items included election of Joe Bittle to serve as Elder Commissioner and Myra Horton as alternate for the New Harmony Presbytery meeting on February 8, 2025 at Trinity Presbyterian Church, Surfside Beach.

Betty Anne Smith was elected Clerk of Session; Tom Hoffmeyer was elected Treasurer with Tom Shearin and Will Ginn as Assistant Treasurers; Joe Bittle was elected to serve on the Nominating Committee and Myra Horton as President of the Corporation. Approval was given of the Committee Chairs and Members listed in the Elder's Manual. All of this was for the year 2025. New members will be given opportunity to join committees.

Session reviewed and approved the communion preparation instructions and process for serving communion by intinction. They also approved use of the fellowship hall for a Red Cross Blood Drive on February 3, 2025.

Myra Horton gave a very positive report on the recent meeting of the Playground Committee. A landscape architect will draw plans for the entire backyard space. The committee plans to have the playground be inclusive to provide a place for children with disabilities to play as well as having raised garden beds, flowering shrubs, a walking trail, and a quiet space to sit in front of the cross which has been on the property for many years. They realize that all of this will be expensive but feel strongly that the Holy Spirit is leading us to provide this space for members and others who may want to use it.

There was further discussion and instructions in preparation for Pastor Jen's Sabbatical so that the Session can fill in on duties.

Submitted by Betty Anne Smith

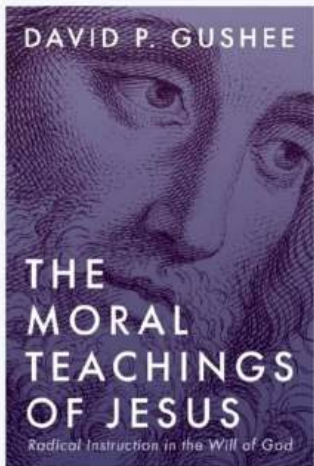


Installation of Elder Class of 2027

Tom Hoffmeyer, Joe Bittle, and Connie Reel-Shearin

The Nominating Committee Needs Your Input

The JCPC Nominating Committee is seeking recommendations for persons to serve as Ruling Elders on Session and those who might serve on next year's nominating committee. If you would like to recommend someone for consideration by the committee, please send those names to **Pastor Jen, or Elder Connie Reel-Shearin no later than Sunday, March 2.** They will gather all recommendations and share those names with the Nominating Committee for consideration. The Nominating Committee will be using a process of spiritual discernment as they seek the will of Christ for our congregation. **Characteristics of good leaders include spiritual and emotional maturity, involvement in the life of the congregation, and a willingness to engage in prayer, study and discernment.** Let us be in prayer for and with our nominating committee as they embark on this sacred work.



Mid-week Bible Study continues
Wednesdays at 11:30am to noon on Zoom and in-person in Pastor Jen's Study using ***The Moral Teachings of Jesus*** by Rev. Dr. David P. Gushee, Distinguished professor of Christian Ethics, Mercer University

This book is broken into 40 digestible chapters and we will cover 1 chapter per week. The book is available in e-book and hardcover, and lessons will be sent weekly.
If you are interested in an "in person" study, please come to Pastor Jen's study where those who meet in person will gather. If you prefer to gather on Zoom, we will join you using the Owl.



**Shrove Tuesday
Pancake Supper
March 4th**



For years I have seen reports on surveys and heard people say we need more Bible study. I personally have been so pleased that our pastor has been willing to lead some very thought-provoking and inspirational Bible studies but I am distressed that so few people take advantage of the opportunity. We started during the pandemic to do it via Zoom but some people have complained that they want it in person. Right now those who can take part in a daytime session have the opportunity to participate either by Zoom OR in person during the day when driving is safer. Still we have the same few participants and several of the most regular are not even JCPC members. The book we are using for 2025 is The Moral Teachings of Jesus by David Gushee and YOU are invited to come to the church or use Zoom from your home or workplace during your lunch break. Right now the time is 11:30 in the morning but that can be adjusted somewhat if needed. We are digging deep into the scripture and finding out what Jesus meant by some of the things he said or did. The work the author did can give you fresh eyes on things you may not have understood for years. Think about joining us! --Betty Anne Smith

Get Your Act Together!!
The JCPC
Fifth Sunday Fellowship
Talent Show
is coming!!
Sunday, March 30, 2025

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



[Michael Shake, Organ](#)



MARCH 13, 2025

This concert in memory of Betty and Clinton Carter features Florence native Michael Shake. He is currently the director of music and organist at the First Presbyterian Church in New York City. With his return to the Pee Dee, Michael brings a dynamic solo recital played on the amazing organ built by Karl Wilhelm who was faithful to the principles of the 17th and 18th century organ making.

There will be a reception in the Social Hall following the concert.

THURSDAY,

MARCH 13, 2025

7:30 PM – 9:00 PM EDT

Lake City Presbyterian Church
300 E Main St
Lake City, South Carolina 29560

*For More Information
Contact Betty Anne Smith*

MISSION OPPORTUNITIES

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.



Lighthouse Ministries
BBQ
Fundraiser

THE WEEK OF
MONDAY, MARCH 17TH - FRIDAY, MARCH 21ST, 2025
11:00AM - 8:00PM

PICK UP, DRIVE-THRU, EAT IN!

CATERED BY:
HOLT BROTHERS BBQ FLORENCE
2087 W. EVANS ST.

Happy Anniversary

Margaret and Ron Rogers
2/14
Burnie and Cherry Gerrald
2/20



GIFTS RECEIVED

In memory of Gerald, Susan and Allen Burley
By Ben and Suk Sasser

In Honor of the Caring and Fellowship Committee
By DeDe Molnar

Happy Birthday

Jackson Newell 2/4
Happy Tilton 2/6
Martha Caskey 2/7
Scott Rickert 2/12
Judy Feimster 2/14
Emily Stonerock 2/14
Eleanor Richardson 2/16
Virginia McMillan 2/18
Lenair Thrower 2/18
Kirby Altman 2/20
Debbie Filyaw 2/25
Storey Newell 2/25
Gary Pierce 2/25
Karen Pattillo 2/28



Working together to illustrate a Bible story in Sunday School.

Thank you to the Building and Grounds Committee for adding bulletin board strips in the hallway near the children's Sunday School rooms.

Take the time to walk down the hall and you will see the children's work displayed.



The children made a star for Epiphany.