



# The Window

The Newsletter of Fort Hill Presbyterian Church

## Message From the Pastor

August 2020

### Grounded in Prayer

Dear Fort Hill Faith Family,

With all that is happening in our world, I have found myself weary and overwhelmed some days. Sometimes I need help praying so I have found a few prayers from Christ's Church that stand the test of time. I offer them to you here so that they may help us pray daily. These prayers seem to speak to our situation.

*Father, give us courage to change what must be altered, serenity to accept what cannot be helped, and the insight to know the one from the other.*

~Reinhold Niebuhr, 1932

Which morphed into what we commonly call "The Serenity Prayer."

*God, give me grace to accept with serenity the things that cannot be changed, Courage to change the things which should be changed, and the Wisdom to distinguish the one from the other.*

*Living one day at a time, enjoying one moment at a time, accepting hardship as a pathway to peace, taking, as Jesus did, this sinful world as it is, not as I would have it,*

*Trusting that You will make all things right, if I surrender to Your will, so that I may be reasonably happy in this life, and supremely happy with You forever in the next. Amen.*

And going back to the 1<sup>st</sup> Century by Clement, Bishop of Rome...

*We pray to you, O God: be our helper and protector. Save the afflicted, have mercy on the lowly, raise up the fallen, help the needy, humble the proud, return the lost, feed the hungry, release the captive, heal the sick, revive the weak, and comfort those in fear. All this we ask for the sake of the world you love, and in the name of the one you sent to save us: Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.*

Remember that the Spirit prays for us in our weakness and intercedes on our behalf. May God supply all our needs, comfort, and direct us. Granting us wisdom, granting us courage for the living of these days.

In Christ's Care and Peace,

*Laura Smith Conrad, Pastor*

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*Fort Hill Church*

125 ANNIVERSARY

### Fort Hill Presbyterian Church

101 Edgewood Avenue  
Clemson, SC 29631  
(864) 654-2061  
[www.forthillchurch.org](http://www.forthillchurch.org)

Laura Smith Conrad, Pastor  
Mary Morrison, AP for Discipleship  
Michael Sanchez, AP for Univ. Ministry  
Katie Wilson, Children's Ministry Coord.  
Beth Olker, Youth Ministry Coordinator  
Margaret MacKay, Director of Music  
Judy Bonham, Organist/Handbell Dir.  
Becky Bowman, Pianist  
Lori Houck, Administrator  
Julie Bryant, Administrative Assistant  
Scott Thraikill, Facilities Caretaker

***Joining together on a journey of Christian faith, we seek to be Disciples of Christ and to share God's love in our community and around the world.***

***We do this as we Glorify God, Grow Disciples, Meet Human Needs.***

## Weekly Lectionary Scriptures

- 8/2 9<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost**  
Gen. 32:22-31; Ps. 17:1-7;  
Rom. 9:1-5; Matt. 14:13-21
- 8/9 10<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost**  
Gen. 37:1-4, 12-28; Ps. 105:1-6,  
16-22, 45b; Rom. 10:5-15;  
Matt. 14:22-33
- 8/16 11<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost**  
Gen. 45:1-15; Ps. 133;  
Rom. 11:1-2a, 29-32;  
Matt. 15:10-20, 21-28
- 8/23 12<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost**  
Exod. 1:8-2:10; Ps. 124;  
Rom. 12:1-8; Matt. 16:13-20
- 8/30 13<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost**  
Exod. 3:1-15;  
Ps. 105: 1-6, 23-26, 45c;  
Rom. 12:9-21; Matt. 16:21-28



### September 2020 *The Window* Deadline

The deadline for articles, announcements, and features for the **September** issue of *The Window* is Friday, **August 14**

Please email your item as a Microsoft Word document to the church office at [window@forthillchurch.org](mailto>window@forthillchurch.org) or type the item directly into your email and send. If possible, please keep your articles to 500 words or less.



## Sharing *God's Abundance* ...

"I came that they may have life, and have it more abundantly."

*John 10:10b*

Grace and Peace to All!

On behalf of the Stewardship team and staff at Fort Hill Presbyterian Church, we are writing to share with you all on the abundance that we have experienced in these very difficult times. And to say **thank you** to all who have continued to support Fort Hill and its mission, through their pledge commitment and the non-pledged giving that we continue to receive. We are close to our normal giving through six months of 2020. With expenses slightly down especially with a pastoral staff vacancy, we continue to have a positive balance.

Your faithful giving has allowed our mission support to continue through these difficult times. The needs in our community and throughout the world have changed during this pandemic, but your support to those in need has not. We have been able to give extra support to those who suffered losses after the tornadoes hit our area. Safe Harbor for Domestic Violence has seen the need for support grow during these trying times, and we were able to give extra funds to that ministry. In addition, we have helped shelter and feed the Imani Children's Choir from Uganda who were stranded during the shut-down at Camp Fellowship. And in July we stocked Clemson Community Care with hygiene and food supplies. We are blessed to be able to give generously to meet human needs in our community with God's help!

We understand that some may have experienced loss of income and may need to change you giving commitment. Please let Lori Houck know if your commitment needs to be adjusted. If you have not been able to fulfill your regular pledged giving or simply want to send your financial support, you can do so by mailing your support to Fort Hill at 101 Edgewood Ave, Clemson SC 29631, or submit your support electronically through Fort Hill Church's online giving link at:

<https://onrealm.org/FortHillPresbyt/SignIn?ReturnUrl=%2FFortHillPresbyt%2FGive>.

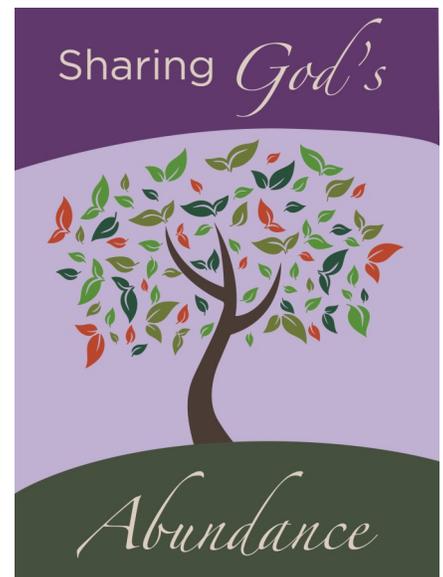
Please remember to make out all checks to Fort Hill Presbyterian Church and note in the "memo line" that your gift is for the general offering funds or if your gift is for a special occasion or purpose.

Again, the Stewardship Team and Session want to say **thank you** for all the support you continue to show Fort Hill and to encourage everyone to stay safe in these difficult times. Thank you most of all for your witness to Jesus Christ who calls us to be the Church at work in the world.

In Christ,

Laura Conrad  
Pastor

Art Williams  
Stewardship Team Leader

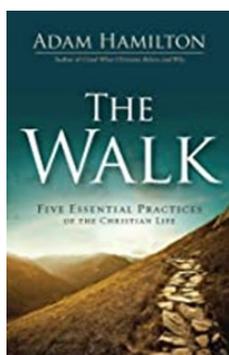


## Deepen Your Faith With *The Walk*

How do we walk with Christ—daily follow him, grow in him, and faithfully serve him? In the Gospels, Jesus modeled for us the Christian spiritual life. The apostles taught it in their writings. And the Church has, through the last 2,000 years, sought to pursue this Christian spiritual life. ***The Walk: Essential Practices of the Christian Life*** by Adam Hamilton is next study for the Wednesday Morning Bible Study. This study is an excellent complement for anyone living the Fort Hill Faith Practices.

In *The Walk*, Adam Hamilton focuses on five essential spiritual practices that are rooted in Jesus' own walk with God and taught throughout the New Testament. Each of these practices is intended as part of our daily walk with Christ while also being an essential part of growing together in the church.

In each chapter, Hamilton explores one of these practices, its New Testament foundation, and what it looks like to pursue this practice daily in our personal life and together in the life of the church. Deepen your walk with Christ as we explore the five essential practices of worship, study, serving, giving, and bearing witness to our faith.



Introduction: Walking with God

1. Worship and Prayer: A Living Hallelujah
2. Study: The Importance of Listening and Paying
3. Attention
4. Serve: Here I Am, Lord, Send Me
5. Give: Where Your Treasure Is
6. Share: Going Fishing, Reflecting Light
7. The Five Practices from the Cross

Postscript: A Final Challenge

***The Walk: Essential Practices of the Christian Life*** will run for six weeks on these Wednesdays: September 2, 9, 23, 30, October 7, 14 from 10:00-11:30 AM on Zoom. Please purchase your own book or eBook. To sign up for the study please register at the link below by August 15. After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting.

<https://zoom.us/meeting/register/tjckc-6trToqGdZ9H5iGFIEqzplfg6F1KsAa>

## Choir Corner

We have begun the second half of 2020! I guess that means we are on the “downhill slide” as they say. If that is true, it may be very fun. I always liked sliding down things like waterslides, sliding boards, muddy hillsides – it was a great way to get down quickly. There is a part of me wanting to slide on through this year and it be over!!!

But after attending Montreat Worship and Music conference virtually this year, the realization came to me once again that all things are truly possible with God. We heard wonderful lectures and sharing of talents and gifts. Thankfully we heard the organ being played in Anderson Auditorium, the word read and proclaimed, and some folks playing handbells, but there were no large groups of adults, children, or youth singing. The beautiful and unique artwork and wonderful teaching moments by various music leaders gave me peace and hope.

With all of that being said, I am continually amazed at God's abundant gifts in all sorts of ways during this time. I hope you are seeing and experiencing those gifts. And if you need a simple song to sing during this time, this is one I am leaning on daily:

God is so good. God is so good. God is so good. God's so good to me.  
God cares for me. God cares for me. God cares for me. God's so good to me.  
God loves me so. God loves me so. God loves me so. God's so good to me.

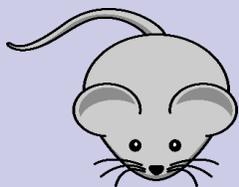
Amen and Amen. God is SO GOOD!!!

Keep smiling-n-singing,

Margaret



## Church Mouse



Oh, it is so quiet. I really, really miss all of you. But I hear that they are going to start the Pre-School back in September. **Marcia Barker**, Chairperson of the Preschool Board, **Dana Armstrong**, Director of the Pre-School and **Mary Morrison**, Associate Pastor for Discipleship have developed a very detailed plan that will protect our littlest ones, the teachers and staff.

Several of our children participated in the children's sermon this month (June 26): **Eliza & Grace Bost, Shuler Wilson, Dorothy & Ebb Horton, Eleanor Burns, Adelyn Hudak** and **Hunter Crenshaw**. Then **Philip Storie** played the saxophone. Plus then on Youth Sunday the Confirmation Class did the entire service: **Hayden Anderson, Walton Bost, Ben Bronson, Alex DuBose, Paige Durham, Billy Gregory, Dulce Mohr, Kate Hollingsworth, and Emily Miller**. They even had children respond during the Children's sermon: **Shuler & Maggie Wilson, Hunter Crenshaw, Ashley Burns** and **Jacob**.

You need to thank those who lead the Sunday school classes or who used to: **Tim & Stephanie Scott, Robin & Sydney Weeks, Bo Crader, Elizabeth Bost, Helen Mohr, Bill Cato, Laurel Whisler, Bette Bronson, Jenifer Griffis, Kerri & Mark Kwist, and Teresa Hollingsworth**.

The youth advisors are working hard to provide our youth with opportunities to interact with each other even if it is remotely: **Amy Elrod, Emily Martin, Adam Scott, Beth & Chris Griffin, Laura & Katherine Sosebee** and **Chuck Conrad**. Stay safe and healthy.

## Inside the "Den"

This morning when I checked my email, I was greeted by a message from Montreat Conference Center. The subject line read, "We're halfway through summer. Have you missed Montreat?" My first response was, duh, of course I miss Montreat. I cannot remember a summer of my childhood at teen years at Fort Hill where there wasn't at least one drive up to the mountains and through those seemingly magical gates.

As I am writing this article, we would be at the halfway point of our Montreat week. We would be beginning our free afternoon and I bet I would be taking a coffee/ice cream break after driving the bus full of Sr. Highs into Black Mountain or to the bottom of the trail up Greybeard.

But since we can't be there together, I want to take a moment to remember with y'all some of my most important Montreat lessons.

My earliest Montreat memories are with Pansy Duke as she took us up by grade beginning in Kindergarten. There would be rock hopping, smores, board games, delicious food, and lessons from the Bible. One of those lessons came from Luke 12:8 in the middle of one of Jesus's sermons he proclaims that "to whom much has been given, much will be expected." From that moment on I was more aware of how much I had been given (enough food, a safe place to live, a supportive and loving church community) and the responsibility I have to live up to what is expected (which I glean from Micah 6:8 where we are taught that what God requires from us is to "do justice, love mercy, and walk humbly with God").

Montreat Youth Conferences were also my first exposure to what it meant to be Presbyterian, beyond what it meant to be a member of our Presbyterian Church. I was exposed to preachers, speakers and other youth from across the nation. Each summer I would be reminded what a gift it is that the PC(USA) is a connected family of so many different communities. Knowing and loving this larger church is what would send me to Presbyterian College and **two** Presbyterian seminaries.

It is a joy to be able to look at where I am now, both in my faith and in vocation as both a youth ministry coordinator and when I am wearing my other hat as a national PC(USA) staff member in the office of Racial Equity and Women's Intercultural Ministries, and see the handprint of places like Montreat and faith communities, definitely including Fort Hill, upon the journey. It is also a joy to pray for and think about the amazing journeys that our youth are just embarking upon in their own lives and to look forward to seeing where their faith leads them and what lessons and moments they remember from our faith family when they look back. Maybe one day they will share their own Montreat pictures in a work newsletter like this one. So, while we cannot be in Montreat together this summer, enjoy these memories from last summer's group and from the group that went together my senior year of high school. Cannot wait to add next year's Montreat photos to the archives!





8/2	Ed Hutson	8/9	Anne Cash Cathy McInnis Chris Torres	8/19	Bob Fant Jenifer Griffis Catherine Jones	8/26	Debbie Dalhouse Diane Egan
8/4	Raenota Merrill Mary Principe	8/11	Lois Bro Amy Worley		Bill Kahle Mary Courtney Norris Lanny Parsons	8/27	Sarah Allen Myra Cato
8/5	Linda Parsons	8/12	Helen Crader Helen Mohr Coleman Wright	8/20	Cortlinn Bailey Steve Best	8/28	Pete Crowther Heidi Martin Hannah Smith Mark Stokes
8/6	Corey Norris	8/13	Nancy Stone	8/21	Judy Blackwell	8/29	Jeannie Bailey Hap Carr Jerry Chapman Jim London Scott Massios Caroline Oates
8/7	Pat Gardner	8/14	Ann Rash	8/22	Eric Bost Sam Burchfield Kay Dearing Nick Greene Michael Mudge	8/30	Nancy Oates
8/8	Catherine Jones Paul Kantzler David Richardson	8/15	Lauren Fields Kristen McInnis Steve Pettigrew	8/23	Alicia Harper	8/31	Paul Caley Tommi Jones Jeb Martin
		8/16	Jerry Waddle	8/24	Jim Palmer		
		8/17	Ed Halbig Shane Turner Marie Turner	8/25	Jane Sosebee		
		8/18	Laura Kozlarek				



## HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

8/1	Brian & Jan Kenney	8/13	Jere & Rosemary Ross	8/21	Doug & Lynn Carlson Larry & Linda Gahan
8/2	Gregg & Cathy Morton	8/14	David & Bitsy Barkley Shane & Mary Stuart Turner	8/22	John & Gayle McGregor
8/3	Garland & Cynthia Gravely Alan & Ellen Torrence	8/16	Jim & Donna McCubbin Jake McKinney & Rose Marie McDonald	8/23	Bill & Myra Cato Jim & Vernie Roberts
8/4	Dewayne Lawson & Bridget Trogden Nathan & Shelly Wilson	8/17	Lee & Linda Davis	8/26	Craig & Eileen Homan
8/5	Tom & Gensie Waldrop	8/19	Jim & Jane Van Senus	8/27	David & Joan Alexander Harold & Arlene Cheatham
8/8	John & Nancy Brown Dick & Laura Shick	8/20	Stephen & Rebecca Ackerman	8/29	Joe & Anne Dickey Kenny & Helen Mohr



### Christian Sympathy is extended to:

- **Cheryl & Hack Trammell and family** on the death of Cheryl's father, **Lt. Col. (retired, Army) Hillel Samisch** on July 15 at the Cottingham Hospice House.
- **Greg Bearden and family** on the death of Greg's aunt, **Jo Ann Bearden**, on July 15 at the Cottingham Hospice House.



### to the Newlyweds

Benjamin Adams  
&  
Leah Rose Lindall  
March 20, 2020

Laura Sosebee  
&  
Michael Kozlarek  
July 15, 2020

## Looking for Parking for the Upcoming Football Season?

Current Price: \$250 for Season  
(subject to change with football schedule)

All proceeds go to PSA Missions  
Contact **Michael Sanchez** for more info  
([michael.sanchez@forthillchurch.org](mailto:michael.sanchez@forthillchurch.org))



## Updates on our Return to Church

Dear Fort Hill Faith Family,

While the Church of Jesus Christ is never closed, we have missed gathering inside our space on Edgewood and College Ave. And sadly, the data indicates that we are in a high spread time, so stay vigilant as we care for ourselves and love our neighbors. Once we move to Phase One of our Return to Church plan, we can hold an outdoor gathering. This requires us to see a 14-day downturn.

Here is an update from our newly formed Media Team which helps us stay connected virtually. We are most grateful to Chuck Moede for his leadership and service in this area.

*A prototype Media Team, as part of Personnel & Program Support, has been implemented to evaluate the concept of serving as a resource for the various ministry areas and the church overall. A phased approach for the evaluation was adopted, having Worship and Discipleship Ministries identify their highest priority media requirements to be worked. Discipleship focused on web/social media communication and integration, and Worship noted the existing need to live stream worship services in the sanctuary prior to and after the congregational return to the church building. Discussions have been, and are, ongoing with contacts, consultants, and companies at other churches, along with the assessment of budget, equipment and design options to deliver Worship's requirements and provide flexibility for the future. Additionally, Personnel & Program Support is currently performing a necessary expansion of the church's cabled network to support live streaming from the sanctuary. Once the system is installed and operational, streaming of live worship services on Fort Hill's YouTube Channel will replace the current recorded worship service videos. Although we are all eager to move forward with this project that will expand/enhance our worship opportunities, appropriate caution/care/coordination is necessary to ensure implementation is done properly. Thank you for your patience as the team continues to work aggressively toward implementation as soon as possible.*

Stay safe, wash your hands, wear your mask as we love one another as Christ love us!

### Blessings and Peace,

*Laura Smith Conrad, Pastor*

### Care Resources During COVID-19

Fort Hill Presbyterian Church, Clemson, SC  
<https://forthillchurch.org/>

Alcoholics Anonymous Meetings  
Virtual -- <https://www.aa-intergroup.org/> Phone -- 877-544-8426

FAVOR Anderson Virtual Meetings Monday-Friday at Noon, Saturday at 6:30pm <https://www.facebook.com/favoranderson864/>

Safe Harbor for Domestic Violence, 24 Hour Help line tel:800-291-2139

Mental Health Resources during Covid-19 at DHEC  
<https://www.dhec.sc.gov/infectious-diseases/viruses/coronavirus-disease-2019-covid-19/mental-emotional-health-covid-19>



Beginning with the September issue, if you would like to receive the electronic version ONLY of The Window, please send an email to Julie Bryant at [fhpcnewsletter@gmail.com](mailto:fhpcnewsletter@gmail.com). No action is needed if you wish to continue with your current delivery method.

# News from Presbyterian Women

## 2020-2021 Presbyterian Women Officers

**Moderator:** Helen Wooten—(864) 654-4201, [helenwooten@bellsouth.net](mailto:helenwooten@bellsouth.net)  
**Secretary:** Cathy Keaton—(843) 810-7976, [cathysvoice.com](http://cathysvoice.com)  
**Treasurer:** Gail Williams—(864) 287-0212, [gswilliams@bellsouth.net](mailto:gswilliams@bellsouth.net)  
**Historian:** To Be Announced

## 2020-2021 PW Committee Chairpersons

**Birthday Luncheon:** To Be Announced  
**Cares and Concerns:** **Stephanie Scott**—(864) 654-7407, [scscotts@charter.net](mailto:scscotts@charter.net)  
**Christian Action:** **Eva Henry**—(864) 654-1539  
**Clemson University/  
Fort Hill Student Program:** **Lauren Young**—(864) 653-948, [lauren.esh.young@bellsouth.net](mailto:lauren.esh.young@bellsouth.net)  
**Columbia Friendship Circle:** **Nan Jones**—(864) 654-1539, [jones4927@bellsouth.net](mailto:jones4927@bellsouth.net)  
**Honorary Life Membership:** **Cathy McInnis** — (864) 654-9043, [tomcatmc@bellsouth.net](mailto:tomcatmc@bellsouth.net)  
**Myra Cato** — (864) 207-8765, [myracato@bellsouth.net](mailto:myracato@bellsouth.net)  
**Judy Blackwell** — (864) 868-4153 [mandjblackwell@att.net](mailto:mandjblackwell@att.net)  
**Joan Dixon** — (864) 654-1065 [joandixon@bellsouth.net](mailto:joandixon@bellsouth.net)  
**Mission Haven/Safe Harbor:** **Susan Beckwith** — (864) 654-3337, [suebeckwith@charter.net](mailto:suebeckwith@charter.net)  
**Joan Dixon** — (864) 654-1065, [joandixon@bellsouth.net](mailto:joandixon@bellsouth.net)  
**Gensie Waldrop** — (864 ) 882-5782, [bandmom24@bellsouth.net](mailto:bandmom24@bellsouth.net)  
**New Membership:** **Cynthia Gravely** — (864) 723-5601, [cynthiarg@bellsouth.net](mailto:cynthiarg@bellsouth.net)  
**Publicity:** **Mary Barron** — (864) 247-1322, [mb1cb1@bellsouth.net](mailto:mb1cb1@bellsouth.net)  
**Prayer Retreat:** To Be Announced



Dear Fort Hill Family,  
I would like to thank the Presbyterian Women in the PCUSA for honoring me with the Honorary Life Membership Award. I would especially like to thank those on the committee, Mary Barron, Claudette Bennett, Myra Cato and Cathy McInnis for selecting my co-recipient, Judy Blackwell and me. I was totally caught by surprise and learned that I should watch the YouTube service earlier in the day. (They came to present the award on Sunday afternoon before I had watched the service!)

Thank you, Church Family for supporting me in serving God and our community. I have been blessed in my 21 plus years as a member of Fort Hill. I look forward to serving many more years to come.

God bless you all!

Joan Dixon





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*Return Service Requested*

**COME ONE! COME ALL!**

**BACK TO SCHOOL  
DRIVE-THRU  
CARNIVAL**

AUGUST 16TH 4-6PM  
FORT HILL CHURCH

Come for a Back to School  
Blessing plus games and prizes!

### School Supply Donations

If you would like to donate to Clemson-area schools, we will be collecting:

- face coverings/masks
- personal hand sanitizer
- headphones/earbuds
- pencils
- composition notebooks
- colored pencils
- glue sticks
- scissors
- expo markers
- 3x3 post-it notes
- highlighters
- folders with pockets