



The Window

The Newsletter of Fort Hill Presbyterian Church

Message From the Pastor

October 2020

What Unites Us?

⁴Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; ⁵and there are varieties of services, but the same Lord; ⁶and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who activates all of them in everyone. ⁷To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the **common good**. (1 Corinthians 12:4-7)

Presbyterian-type Christians believe in pursuing the common good. In contrast the outrage, anger, snark, and constant complaints, that read like a social media thread or a comments section, God calls us to serve the common good. The Church is called to be salt and light, Jesus says. But there are days when the darkness overwhelms and our dinner is a bland concoction of contempt. So we go to the source of nourishment and bathe in the Light of Christ. And we learn that the one who calls us into communion with himself, also calls us into pursuing community. We belong to the One and to one another. And a critical part of that is communication. Communion-community-communication are key in pursuing the common good. God loves a good 3-part plan.

In the marketplace of media and social media, the Reformers taught that even our tools and inventions are susceptible to sin. Tools can be used for good or evil. That us-them, mean spiritedness pervades our public spaces and dialogue. Jesus gave us a command to "Love God... and love our neighbor as we love ourselves" creating the framework by which we live in that common good. We filter, sort, and critically think with the mind of Christ first. But even better, we stay grounded in God's Word which defines us and how we are to treat neighbors and build up neighborhoods where God's children can thrive and flourish. Scripture is the lens through which we read the world while we follow the living Word, Jesus Christ. These are ways we stay grounded in the Good.

Each person made in the image of God has value, purpose and gifts...you guessed it, to serve the common good. As I write this article, I am thinking of the Class of 2020 of Presbyterian College whom I will address at Baccalaureate, Oct. 2. I pray for my children's generation that they might reclaim this part of our rich heritage. Not because it is part of history, but because I cannot imagine a better time than the present for God's Spirit to work powerfully among us.

Communion, community, communication for the common good requires a commitment.

God-Neighbors-Self, in that order. Are you in?

Together in Christ,

Laura Smith Conrad, Pastor

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.

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Fort Hill Presbyterian Church

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www.forthillchurch.org

Laura Smith Conrad, Pastor
Mary Morrison, AP for Discipleship
Michael Sanchez, AP for University Min.
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 Thrailkill, Facilities Caretaker

Weekly Lectionary Scriptures

10/4 18th Sunday after Pentecost

Exod. 20:1-4, 7-9, 12-20;
Ps. 19; Phil. 3:4b-14;
Matt. 21:33-46

10/11 19th Sunday after Pentecost

Exod. 32:1-14;
Ps. 106:1-6, 19-23;
Phil. 4:1-9; Matt. 22:1-14

10/18 20th Sunday after Pentecost

Exod. 33:12-23; Ps. 99;
1 Thess. 1:1-10;
Matt. 22:15-22

10/25 21st Sunday after Pentecost

Deut. 34:1-12;
Ps. 90:1-6, 13-17;
1 Thess. 2:1-8; Matt. 22:34-46



Addison Elizabeth Johnson

was born on
September 2, 2020 to
Nathan & Meagan Johnson.

Proud grandparents are
Mike & Judy Blackwell.

Choir Corner

A realization has certainly hit home with me during this pandemic. Staying in touch with people – family, friends, and colleagues - is of vital importance. It lets you know you are not alone. It helps you identify with each other. Seeing a face behind a mask can be enlightening, even if you are not sure who it is!!!



With all aspects of life happening in a different way, there is good news in regard to carrying on with church activities. Our task force has been diligent in looking at data and discussing all options based on the numbers., etc. With that being said, it has been good enjoying outdoor services at Old Stone Church on Wednesday evenings. At a drive-thru, members of the Children's Choirs received bags with homemade rhythm instruments to work on steady beat and play along with their favorite songs or recordings. A small number of handbell members will meet and socially distance to learn some pieces to share in worship. And future opportunities are being explored for singers to be safe in small groups down the road!

Meanwhile, keep a song in your heart! Sing in the car with your radio. Dance to music in your living room. Pull up wonderful music and concerts on YouTube. Whatever the situation or circumstances, we have the assurance that God is the same yesterday, today, and forever. We can continue singing in our hearts and minds – "This is my story. This is my song praising my Savior ALL THE DAY LONG!!" Amen and Amen.

Keep smiling-n-singing,

Margaret

Blessings
in
Abundance

A graphic of green holly leaves and red berries.

November 2019 The Window Deadline

The deadline for articles, announcements, and features for the **November** issue of *The Window* is **Thursday, October 15.**

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



Christian Sympathy is extended to:

Mark and Kerri Kwist and family on the death of Kerri's grandmother, **Eleanor Feierabend** of Broadview Heights, OH on Friday, September 19.

Scott Thraillkill upon the unexpected death of his mother **Linda Carol Thraillkill** on Thursday, September 3 in Seneca.

The family of **John and Claudette Bennett** on their deaths. **John** died on Saturday, September 5 at Cottingham Hospice House and **Claudette** died 4 days later on Wednesday, September 9 in Seneca.

Christian Action Ministry Update

Family Promise

Family Promise is one of the local missions Fort Hill Presbyterian Church supports. Family Promise helps equip families experiencing homelessness with counseling, educational programs, life skill classes, and encouragement while they strive to find housing and independence. Throughout the year Fort Hill hosts Family Promise in our church building.

Unfortunately, COVID-19 has prevented local churches from providing shelter to our families in need. During this time, Family Promise has secured housing through a hotel in Easley and relied on gift cards to assist with family meals and gas. This has placed an increased financial burden on this local mission. In lieu of the time, effort, and hospitality our church volunteers have not been able to offer, our FHPC's Christian Action Ministry (CAM) has directed contingency funds to help with the additional financial needs Family Promise is experiencing. Family Promise continues to be in need of prepaid restaurant cards in low denominations to help support families in the program. The following restaurant gift cards are suggested:

Taco Bell—McDonald's—Hardee's—KFC—IHOP

If you feel led to assist with this need, please send the gift cards to:

**JoAnn Brink
Family Promise of Pickens County
104 Stewart Drive
Easley, SC 29640**

Until we can again host Family Promise in our church building and break bread together, we will continue to share God's love in whatever way we are able.

Submitted by Annette Halbig, CAM member

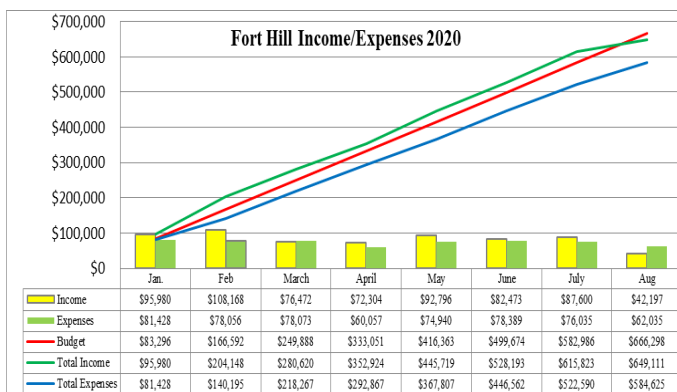
From the Finance Ministry

From the Finance Ministry – Through August, total income was \$649,111 while expenses for the first 8 months were \$584,625 for a surplus of \$64,486. Overall

expenses are at 58.4% of budgeted, while income is at 64.9%.

As you can see, income is approximately 1% below budget and expenses are roughly 8% below budget.

General Fund sustained a loss of \$19,800 for the month, reducing the year to date (YTD) surplus to \$64,500. Total expenses were \$21,500 under budget for the month and are \$82,000 under budget YTD. Youth Director / Minister vacancy has accounted for \$39,700 in expense savings. Football parking/fundraising generated \$20,200 in income, but with the limitations on game attendance, these funds will be tied to parking for the 2021 football season. This resulted in a reversing of the revenue of \$20,200.



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Bridging Generations Update: Loan principle: \$296,058.79.

The Window

Church Mouse

Yea!! More people were outside at church one Sunday. They were collecting school supplies, selling bags of coffee and taking pictures (**Mary Morrison, Greg Bearden, Eddie Payne, Laura Conrad, Jackie Ellis, Michael Sanchez and 3 PSA students**). Then out back the kids were having fun with adult supervisors (**Chuck Conrad, Beth Olker, Katie & Shuler Wilson, Pat Street, Adam Scott, Nina Moede, Michelle Blackwell, Margaret McKay, Mark & Robbi Stokes, and Chris & Beth Griffin**).

Then on a Saturday, I heard voice in the sanctuary and ran to check it out. It was Pastors Laura and Mary conducting two baptisms. I love watching the little ones become a part of the church with the parents and siblings helping make promises. **Daryl & Lanie Hedrick and sister Amelia Grace were there for the baptism of Michael Ford. Then Tyler & Kristen McCall and sister Pickens were there for the baptism of Penelope (Penny) Frances. This is so exciting.**

Do you know who the Deacons are in the church? I hope you know yours. But thank them when you can: **Greg Bearden, Leanne Broome, Eddie Chavis, Grace Cook, Tom Lawrence, Barbara Madison, Mark Morrison, Terri Smith, Maggie Bandy, Bill Carnes, Beth Griffin, Heidi Martin, Sally Martin, Jim Thomas, Johnnie Van de Sande, Jane Van Senus, Susan Beckwith, Joan Dixon, Eva Henry, Jay Jones, Cathy Keaton, Cathy Spragins, Robbi Stokes, & Pam Waddle.**

BE SURE TO THANK ALL THESE GREAT PEOPLE WHO CONTRIBUTE TO OUR CHURCH BEING A CHURCH!!





Michael "Ford" Hedrick

Born April 29, 2020 to Darrel & Lanie Hedrick; big sister is Amelia Grace



Penelope "Penny" Francis

McCall Born August 7, 2019 to Tyler & Kristen McCall; big sister is



JESUS BEGINS HIS MINISTRY
 Join us in October as Jesus faces the first challenges of his ministry here on earth.

Devotions will be posted on Wednesdays on our website (www.thefortonline.org) and will tie into stories and discussion on Wednesday Zooms.

Activities were given out at our September Drive-thru, but arrangements can be made to pick yours up by emailing Katie.

KATIE.WILSON@FORTHILLCHURCH.ORG

News from Presbyterian Women

Fall and Winter Clothing Collection for Safe Harbor

Hooray, hooray! Fall is on its way! The cooler temperatures and the crisp days send us to our closets for warmer clothing. It is the *perfect time* to check your wardrobe for the clothing that you no longer use, and collect and bring your selections to Ft Hill Presbyterian to give to **Safe Harbor**. Please bring *new or gently-used* fall and winter clothing in good condition, for men, women, and children.

Please bring your Safe Harbor donations with you to Fort Hill's October Drive Thru (Trunk or Treat) to be held Sunday, October 25 at 4 PM.

The clothes you donate are for wearing for job interviews, for the workplace, and for attending school. Safe Harbor greatly appreciates your donations!

Contact persons: Susan Beckwith at (864) 654-3337, Joan Dixon, (864) 654-1065, and Gensie Waldrop (864) 882-5782.

Operation Christmas Child Boxes for Samaritan's Purse Brighten the Christmas holidays for children around the world!

- Use a standard-sized shoebox (no oversized shoe boxes for efficient packing, please) or a similarly sized plastic box.
- Indicate whether the gift is for a girl or boy and include the appropriate age for which the gift is appropriate (2-4, 5-9, 10-14).
- Fill the box with gifts that may include small toys, school supplies, hygiene items mild soap, toothpaste, toothbrush, comb, etc.), and personal items (sunglasses, t-shirts, socks, watch, ball cap, and solar flashlights). Soccer balls are a longed- for item for boys. A deflated ball and small pump, or a small ball to fit the box is ideal.
- Due to some cultural concerns & beliefs, please avoid stuffed animals.
- You can add a personal greeting in a separate envelope.
- **Deadline is November 7, 2020. Please include a \$9.00 donation to cover mailing.**

Pamphlets listing the requested items will be in the Collection Room. Please deliver the unsealed boxes, or bring gift items to the FHOOG Office at the Administration entrance on Edgewood Avenue beginning October 18th.

Contact person: Eva Henry at (864) 654-3737

Honorary Life Membership Nominating Forms:

Each year we honor a member of our church with the **Honorary Life Membership Award** at our annual PW Birthday Luncheon. This award is given to a dedicated Christian whose witness, long and dedicated service, and spiritual influence in our community reflect the love of God and His church. Prayerfully consider the Presbyterian woman (or man) you would like to nominate for her (his) outstanding lifetime contributions to Fort Hill Presbyterian Church. Nomination forms are due by **January 20, 2021**. For more information, contact Committee Members:

continued on next page



News from Presbyterian Women, cont.

Cathy McInnis, (864) 654-4003, **Email:** tomcatmc@bellsouth.net

Myra Cato, (864) 850-1582, **Email:** myracato@bellsouth.net

Judy Blackwell, (864) 868-4153, **Email:** mandjblackwell@att.net

Joan Dixon, (864) 654-1065, **Email:** joankdixon@bellsouth.net

Dates to remember:

October 16, 2020 - Come See Columbia Day

For information contact Nan Jones, Email: jones4927@bellsouth.net

October 25th, 2020 - Bring clothing donations for Safe Harbor to the FHPC Drive Thru.

November 7, 2020 - Deadline for Samaritan's Purse Shoeboxes

Submitted by Mary Barron, PW publicity chairman, mb1cb1@bellsouth.net or (864) 885-9342

From the "Den"

September has seen a return to in-person youth group! It has been so great to see everyone in all the different formats...in-person, on Zoom, and in the porch visits I have been able to do! I thought that with youth programming starting back for the fall, it would be helpful to Meet Your Youth Advisors! We have a couple of new faces, but I thought an intro from all of them would be better. So, with no further ado...

Working with Middle Schoolers we have:

Chuck Conrad—I am a teacher at Daniel High since 2011, father of Avery and Hallie, husband to Laura Conrad. I love Pickle Ball, my dog Baxter, and seeing Fort Hill's youth love and serve God!

Lanie Hedrick—I grew up as a French Huguenot and since it was the only independent congregation in the US, I switched to Presbyterian when we moved to the Upstate! Our favorite family pastime is hiking, and I believe bagel bites are man's greatest invention.

Pat Street - Lisa and I have been members of Fort Hill since the 1980's. Since my retirement, I have spent more time outdoors, mostly hiking and working around the house. I am currently serving on session.

Beth Griffin—I was born and raised in North Alabama. In my spare time I enjoy scuba diving, reading, and camping. I love the beach.

Working with Senior Highs we have:

Adam Scott—I grew up attending church and youth group at Fort Hill. Youth group was a big part of my life as a teenager, and I'm happy to be a part of it now as an adult. Currently, I live in Clemson and teach social studies at Liberty Middle School

Chris Griffin—I am a Presbyterian preacher's kid so feel free to wonder about my interesting and exciting past. My favorite hobby is scuba diving.

Lisa Street—When I am not at work, I enjoy working out in my garden and taking trips down to Charleston to see our granddaughter!

I am so excited to have the opportunity to work with these awesome youth advisors and keep getting in touch with the youth of Fort Hill however possible this year!

Grace and Peace,

Beth Blker

Officer Nominating Committee

The 2020 OFFICER NOMINATING COMMITTEE (ONC) is actively seeking servants to serve as either elders or deacons for the Class of 2024. If you are contacted to serve, please carefully and prayerfully consider if God is asking you to use your gifts and talents to serve the larger congregation as an officer at this time. Please see [SEEKING SERVANTS FOR FORT HILL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH](#) for more information about the role of elders and deacons as well as information about nominating someone for the office of elder or deacon. Fall is always the season of serious consideration of who among us will serve as church officers. Let us all seriously consider this together with prayers for God to make known who will answer the call to serve.

Serving on the ONC this year are:
Susan Brown, Donna Crader (Coordinator), Cile Dunkelberg, Garland Gravely, Cooper Hays, Melanie Job, Jay Jones, Michael Steele, and Jacquie Worley.



Return to Church Update

Fort Hill Return to Church Plan Summary

Updated September 22, 2020

Requirement: all FHPC gatherings require physical distancing of 6 feet and face coverings.

We are currently in Phase One. We use the gating criteria set forth by the Opening Up America Again plan. We will monitor and adjust this plan as new information occurs.

- [14-day downward trajectory of documented COVID-19 cases reported.](#) We will follow the number of positive cases in our local 4 counties and SC DHEC's 14 (and 28 day) day percent positive graphs.
- Hospitals able to treat all patients without crisis and PPE shortages.
- Readily available testing and contact tracing.
- Needed supplies, from hand sanitizer to toilet paper, are readily available.

Safe at Home

- Holding online worship services and devotionals only.
- Bible studies, small groups, etc. should be meeting online.
- Service ministries are using safety protocols and only addressing essential needs.
- Minimal, drop-in staffing enough for essential operations (deposits, mail processing, etc.)
- Family Graveside Services outdoors with social distancing and masks.
- Continue to contact staff by phone and email.

Currently in Phase One

Outdoor Gatherings:

- Outdoor, socially distanced gatherings where persons bring their own chair and equipment to prevent shared surfaces are permitted i.e. Wednesday Evening Prayer.
- Size of group is determined by the ability to be spaced out.
- Youth groups allowed to meet outdoors.

Indoor Gathering:

- Sunday Worship online
- Preferred that bible studies and small groups continue meeting online.
- Some essential staff may work in offices. Telework continues.
- Special worship occasions like weddings and funerals with limited number.
- Children and youth guidelines being developed.
- Vulnerable Individuals (persons over 65 and those with underlying health conditions) recommended to stay home.
- Disciple Care- visits in healthcare facilities, hospitals, and high-risk individuals based on the care facilities' guidance (pastors, deacons).
- If small groups determine that meeting in-person in the facilities is necessary, they will be required to follow the defined guidance on use of rooms according to number in group.
Examples: Tartan Hall- 15-20 persons and Sanctuary 20-40 persons
Meeting rooms: to reserve contact Julie Bryant, julie.bryant@forthillchurch.org. She will direct groups to the appropriate-sized room. Groups are required to follow cleaning and reporting protocols.

Phase Two (Sanctuary at 50% capacity)

- Worship, single Sunday service, with 50% capacity following protocols in place and online offered for those unable to attend.
- Vulnerable Individuals (people over 65 and those with underlying health conditions), whether staff, volunteers, or program participants, recommended to stay home. Children and youth guidelines being developed.
- Special worship occasions like weddings and funerals limited to 50% capacity.
- Meeting in person as small groups in the facilities requires that the room size fits the number in group.
- Office function returns with attention to cleaning.

Return to Church Update, cont.

Reporting Protocol

1. Any persons who become ill or test positives notifies the group leader of the church where they were present. Please be prepared to share the date symptoms began, date of test and results. (Group leader, whether meeting on campus or off, needs to know this notification process and cleaning procedure.)
2. Group leader requests permission of the person/family to share by name or if they prefer to remain anonymous.
3. Group leader will email or call Lori Houck, Office Administrator, at 864-723-1669 or lori.houck@forthillchurch.org. She will notify Scott for cleaning spaces if needed and update the Task Group. Office Administrator will also record the report.
4. Group leader updates all persons present at the event and any related events who may have come into contact with the person. Utilize the Fort Hill check-in google form which collects that data.
5. Task Group reports and updates the Session.

Thanks to Task Group Members: Beth Griffin, Lori Houck, Bob Jones, Dr. Rose Marie McDonald, Margaret McKay, Chuck Moede, Mary Morrison, Michael Sanchez, Robbi Stokes, Pat Street, Caroline Thomas, Josh Young, Laura Conrad.

<https://www.whitehouse.gov/openingamerica/>

Friday, September 25, 2020



10/1	Curtis Arnold Jim Roberts MiMi Borick	10/8	Jan Beckwith Emily Ewoldt	10/13	Charlotte Neidenbach	10/21	Clarice Gustafson Whitney Money Kristen McCall
10/2	Char Harvey Bill Lanier Hank McLaurin Wanda Glenn	10/9	Clarence Rogers Guy Sabin	10/14	Beth Weber Addie Harper	10/23	Judy Bonham
10/3	Ben Wofford, Jr. Laurie Sherrod Ransom Broome	10/10	Gail Williams Camille Horton Katherine Mostertz Don Daugherty Salley Ouellette Jan Kenney	10/15	Beth Chapman	10/24	Don McKale
10/4	Bill Beckwith Emma Job	10/11	Karen Lindenmeyer David Nicholas	10/16	Mike Worley Jerry Reel Jason Smith	10/25	Hazel Pittendreigh Gary DuBose Sam Drummond
10/5	Marv Dixon Hunter Crenshaw Tom Lawrence	10/11	John McGregor Emma Van Daele	10/17	Ben Wofford III Peggy Garner Mark McInnis	10/26	Evelyn Rabey
10/7	David Alexander	10/12	Nancy Horton Gregg Morton	10/18	Ally Wilson Lib Gage Corey Greene Alan Torrence Deanna Ramey Ashley Burriss Barbara Curl	10/26	Connie Lawrence Tripp Ross
				10/19	Andy Blondeau	10/27	Nancy Lamping
				10/20	Fred Burgett Grace Cook Tatum Rose Bronson	10/28	Tina Mostertz
						10/29	Elizabeth Bost
						10/30	Bob Brown Ed McLaurin Chuck Moede
						10/31	Jessica Aaron Gail Caley Pickens McCall



10/2	Bill & Diane Carnes	10/10	Mike & Judy Blackwell	10/23	Michael & Hilarie Sehorn
10/3	Patrick & Helen Adams	10/17	Mario & Shirley Muzii	10/24	Tyler & Kristen McCall
10/6	Kyle & Robin Weeks	10/20	Kevin & Bette Bronson	10/29	Wade & Melanie Job
10/7	Ed & Jillian McLaurin	10/22	Ed & Nancy Hutson	10/30	Marv & Joan Dixon
10/8	Chris & Maggie Bandy				



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Return Service Requested

SAVE A LIFE GIVE YOUR BLOOD

at the Blood Connection in Seneca



CLICK [HERE](#) FOR INFORMATION AND
APPOINTMENTS
USE FORT HILL CODE 8AAG