The Newsletter of Fort Hill Presbyterian Church

Message From the Pastor

Reflections on Return-ing to Church

A year ago, I thought we would be back in our routines after a couple of weeks. 54 weeks later, I would never have imagined that we would be here. What I have learned is to trust the process and be patient. I have learned that we can trust those called to serve and lead Christ's church and be His hands and feet in the world. I have learned many things, and one thing I have learned is that we are always in process. When we entitled our plan of action with guidelines as a living document for how to do and be Church, we called it "Return to Church."

What I have learned is that we are Return-ing to Church every day, every week. We ARE the Church, so we never left. Elvis may have left the building, and most of us did, but Christ never left us. We have been Spirit-driven, God-sustained, and Christ-focused. We are returning to what God wants us to be to suit God's purposes.

God is making something new out of us, I believe. Maybe we are a better version of Church now. It may take another year to see how this disaster has changed us. And as with all growth, we have felt the growing pains. Like a teenager whose legs ache and wants to go back to just being a kid, we have wanted to just go back to what is familiar, known. But like the Hebrew children who longed to go back to Egypt of all places as they wandered the wilderness, we realize we have to move forward or get stuck. What we thought was great, may not have been. And maybe we learned more about trusting God who walks with us daily because we certainly did not get a map or GPS for this wilderness.

I hope I am not looking back with rose-colored glasses. We have seen the stress of the pandemic affect groups and individuals. We have unmasked some realities of our world. We see somethings we did not want to see or just were ignorant of like the shortcomings of our mental healthcare system or the presence of white supremacy. We have seen some flaunt public health experts and scientists and witnessed a full-blown mistrust of our institutions. We have seen our violent tendencies as a people on full display. We recall how crazy busy and over-scheduled we were without limits.

But like new shoots from dormant seeds, we see hope and renewal. We are a Resurrection people and Alleluia is our song. So rather than try to resuscitate dead things, in an effort to return to what was, let's see what God will resurrect next! God is return-ing us, reforming and reshaping us, by the power of the Holy Spirit. I have learned to trust God that God's ways are always better than ours.

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.

April 2021

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Fort Hill Presbyterian Church

101 Edgewood Avenue Clemson, SC 29631 (864) 654-2061 www.forthillchurch.org

Laura Smith Conrad, Pastor Mary Morrison, AP for Discipleship Michael Sanchez, AP for Univ. Min. Jacob Kennedy, Assoc. for Youth/ Missions Katie Wilson, Children's Ministry Coord. Margaret MacKay, Director of Music Judy Bonham, Organist/Handbell Dir. Becky Bowman, Pianist Lori Houck, Administrator Julie Bryant, Admin. Assistant Scott Thrailkill, Facilities Caretaker

Weekly Lectionary Scriptures

4/4 Easter Sunday

Acts 10:34-43 or Isa.25:6-9; and Ps. 118:1-2, 14-24; 1 Cor. 15:1-11 or Acts 10:34-43; John 20:1-18 or Mark 16:1-8

4/11 2nd Sunday of Easter Acts 4:32–35; Psalm 133; 1 John 1:1–2:2; John 20:19–31

4/18 3rd Sunday of Easter

Acts 3:12–19; Psalm 4; 1 John 3:1–7; Luke 24:36b–48

4/25 4th Sunday of Easter

Acts 4:5–12; Psalm 23; 1 John 3:16–24; John 10:11–18

May 2021 *The Window* Deadline

The deadline for articles and announcements for the May issue of *The Window* is **Thursday, April 15.**

Please email your item as a 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

Christian Sympathy is extended to:

The family of **Mary Margaret Dancy** who passed away on March 1 in Marietta, GA.

The family of **Janet Johnson** who passed away on March 2 in Atlanta, GA.



Choir Corner

"April showers bring May flowers! Rain, rain, go away, come again another day!" I have always loved these childhood rhymes that we have known and recited in the month of April. There's something to be said for familiar things in our lives. Familiarity makes us comfortable. We are reminded of memories in our lives that made us comfortable or taught us life lessons.

In this past year of a different rhythm to life living in a pandemic, there has been much comfort found in the familiar parts of our lives. And music is a huge part of that. I have found myself humming hymns or anthems that are very familiar – 'earworms' as



sweet Pansy Duke taught me! You know – it buries itself in your mind and emerges when you need to hear it most. One of those earworms for me, particularly in the Lenten season, has been Hymn of Promise by Natalie Sleeth. It was featured in our Lenten devotionals for the first week and has been my earworm with its beautiful words of assurance.

I shared this story with some of you. It is one of my favorites because it involved my son Paul when he was in the children's choir that I directed at First Presbyterian in Anderson. (As you parents know, most little boys don't necessarily want to be in the same place with their parents, especially choir!!) There was no choice as far as being present. He had to be there because I was there. I was teaching them the song, Hymn of Promise. Now you have to understand that my son was a good singer, but to have to sing beside your best friend who you competed with in sports was not COOL at all. As we talked about the text and its meaning (I was a stickler for correct pronunciation, etc.), Paul and his friend latched on to a word that they were very good at singing loudly and clearly. It was the only word they sang! The text in the first line of Hymn of Promise says, "In the bulb, there is a flower; in the seed, an apple tree; in COCOONS a hidden promise, butterflies will soon be free." Well, cocoons was their solo word! And it was the right one to enunciate!

I am reminded of the cocoon we have been in this past year. Jesus was in the tomb, but he emerged and came out assuring us of new life and freedom. So as April brings showers of blessings this year, may we fly forth out of our cocoons and into the beauty of spring. Sing your favorite Easter hymn in your heart and mind! May it help you emerge like a butterfly out of its cocoon!!

Smiling-n-Singing,

Margaret

SUNDAY, APRIL 4

EASTER SUNRISE WORSHIP

7:00 AM at Old Stone Church Ampitheater Bring your own chair and wear a mask

Church Mouse

Join Us for an Opportunity to Save a Life!

Thursday, April 22, 2021 from 3:30-6:30 pm in Tartan Hall

SafeTALK is a half-day training program that teaches participants to recognize and engage persons who might be having thoughts of suicide and to connect them with community resources trained in suicide intervention. SafeTALK stresses safety while challenging taboos that inhibit open talk about suicide.

- The 'safe' of SafeTALK stands for 'suicide alertness for everyone'.
- The 'TALK' letters stand for the practice actions that one does to help those with thoughts of suicide:

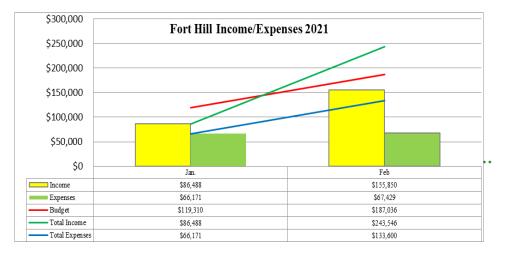
Tell, Ask, Listen, and KeepSafe.

Training provided by Erika R. Hays, Ph.D., LPC, NBCC



From the Finance Ministry

From the Finance Ministry – Through the first 2 months of 2021, total income was \$243,546 while expenses were \$133,600 for a surplus of \$109,946. Overall expenses are at 13% of budgeted, while income is at 24% of budget. Expenses are slightly below budget while income is above budget. Multiple giving units made their yearly contribution in February leading to the surplus. Thank you for your tithes & offerings in support of FHPC.





Oh, my, it was so exciting this past month. We had people worshipping in the sanctuary again. **Caroline Thomas** did the lovely Lenten decorations.

A solemn bell ringing occurred to mark the passing of member Alice Dorn plus all those lost to COVID.

We met personally our newest staff member, **Jacob Kennedy**, who will work with our youth. He thanked **Helen Mohr** and the **APNC** for all their efforts. He will be full-time once he graduates from Princeton Seminary. He is part-time now via Zoom with our youth.

First there was the ordination and installation of new elders and deacons. Please thank those who are outgoing-**Gail Williams**-Clerk of Session for 7 years. That is a extremely important position so we thank her for her service. Outgoing Elders are: **Art Williams**, **Hack Trammell, Ronda Ricks, Dusty Oates**,

Tipton Wright, Olivia Mueller, Josh Young, Michael Steele. Outgoing Deacons are: Greg Bearden, Barbara Madison, Terri Smith, Tom Lawrence, Grace Cook, Eddie Chavis, & Leanne Broome. Be sure to thank them for their years of service on Session and the Board of Deacons.

During the laying on of hands for the new elders and deacons, the representatives from the Session

were: Pat Street, Caroline Thomas & Denise Anderson. Our 3 pastors participated in the ceremony but all practiced social distancing. This was done in person and remotely for all the incoming group.

During the children's sermon by Miss Katie, we had a live re-enactment: with **Dulcie Mohr, Kenny Mohr, Pat Street, Jacob Kennedy & Mark Morrison** as the 4 friends carrying their sick friend to see Jesus by lowering the person through the roof.

All this is possible for you to see at home with the assistance of our tech team: Chuck Moede, Chris Griffin, Brucce Whisler, Jeremy Johnsonwall, & Trevor McLaurin.



The Window

New Wednesday Morning Bible Study

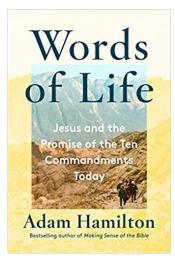
Words of Life -- Jesus and the Promise of the Ten Commandments Today

What if the Ten Commandments were not just a set of ancient rules, but a guide to experiencing the good life today?

Nearly everyone has heard of the Ten Commandments, the list of "thou-shalt-nots" found in the Bible. Jesus saw these commandments not as onerous burdens, but as guideposts to help us experience a good and beautiful life. These ten ancient "words" were given to us by a loving God who longed to set safe boundaries, create order out of chaos, help communities live peacefully, and protect us—often from ourselves.

In this book of Scripture and inspiration, bestselling author Adam Hamilton brings modern eyes to the most important set of ethics in history. He considers the commandments in their historical context, considering the meaning of each commandment in Hebrew, unpacking how Jesus reinterpreted them, and showing how every thou-shalt-not was intended to point to a life-giving "thou shalt." He also explores how the latest research in science and psychology illuminates these commandments, rightly understood, as a way of ordering one's life beautifully in the present day. In a culture marked by workaholism, materialism, and social media-driven envy, God has given us a time-tested path that leads to gratitude, confidence, and peace.

A landmark work from one of our most trusted biblical thinkers, *Words of Life* is an inspiring, thought-provoking read for anyone seeking to live a meaningful and joyful life. Join the Rev. Mary Morrison for this 10 week Bible study on Wednesdays from 10:00-11:30 AM beginning April 7th. Please purchase your own copy of the book or e-book and read the introduction and first chapter before the first meeting.



April 7 1. At the Center of It All

- 14 2. The Idols We Keep
- 21 3. "I Swear to God!"
- 28 4. Rediscovering the Joy of Sabbath
- May 5 5. A Question of Honor
 - 12 6. The Tragedy of Violence, the Beauty of Mercy
 - 19 7. Faithfulness in an Age of Porn
 - 26 8. We're All Thieves, Yes, Even You
 - Jun 2 9. Sticks, Stones, and the Power of Words
 - **9** 10. Keeping Up with the Joneses

Register for Wednesdays at 10:00-11:30 AM Words of Life Study on Zoom

https://zoom.us/meeting/register/tJYucumorjMvGd2Sp3bKc_R82qOVURClYl4T

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting.

Welcome Preston & Debbie Shealy

Preston & Debbie moved to Clemson at the beginning of the pandemic. Preston is a retired Minister and Debbie was a member of Boulevard Presbyterian in Columbus, OH. She is an ordained Elder and Deacon who has served as usher, choir and multiple leader/teacher roles.

They have two adult children and enjoy hiking, biking, gardening and traveling.





Go Fourth and Serve

Although gathering together in fellowship while serving others in the spirit of mission work has been a bit tricky in these days of social distancing, we can still Go *Fourth* and Serve. Fort Hill folks have shown that they are willing and able to serve even if we cannot do it together in fellowship. The Christ Child Box project this past Christmas was the most successful we've had. To keep this enthusiasm for mission work going throughout the year, Christian Action Ministry has put together *Four* mission opportunities for you to Go *Fourth* and Serve over the next several months. Read more about each opportunity below and pick one that fits your time and talents.

<u>#1. Habitat for Humanity</u>

Habitat for Humanity is a nonprofit housing organization working in local communities across all 50 states and in more than 70 countries around the world. Habitat's vision is of a world where everyone has a decent place to live. If you would like to do some hands-on work building a new home that has just started at 230 Stephens Rd in Clemson, contact the Pickens County Habitat for Humanity to let them know you are interested. If hands-on work isn't for you, there are also opportunities to work with their partner families.

Website: Pickens County Habitat Phone: (864) 878-6374 Email at jillevans@pickenshabitat.org.

#2. Border Missions, Get Involved (Virtually)

FHPC began their official support of Mark Adams and Miriam Escobar's border ministry a decade ago in 2010. Mark is involved with church development, health, family counseling, and mission education in the Agua Prieta region of Mexico, near the border with Arizona. Over the past year, they have focused much of their energy on large numbers of families fleeing extreme violence and poverty. Mark said, *"We are grateful to God for the light that shines in unexpected places, the light that allows us to see and experience the hope in the midst of despair; peace in the midst of a conflicted border; joy in the midst of a community beset with sadness; and love in the midst of a world filled with fear and hatred."*

• Ways to Get Involved:

Participate in <u>Coffee, Conversations and Compassion</u> – a LIVE discussion using Zoom that takes place each Thursday evening at 7:00pm eastern time. This moderated discussion covers the ministries and ministry partners of Frontera de Cristo. Weekly chats will take place through the end of March 2021.

- Sign Up to Receive their Newsletter Navigate your browser to the Frontera de Cristo web site (<u>http://</u><u>fronteradecristo.org/</u>). From there you can sign up to receive their newsletter, learn more about the Adams mission work and ministries, and contact Mark directly.
- Love Mercy, Do Justice, Order Coffee Covid has impacted local families in Agua Prieta. Your coffee purchases help provide testing, emergency food relief, and keep people employed. For more information on how 30% of your purchase price goes to support the Coffee, Conversations and Compassion campaign, go to <u>order web site</u>.

<u>#3. Our Daily Rest</u>

Our Daily Rest helps individuals experiencing homelessness find their way to financial independence and a home. This local mission offers comprehensive programs that address the causes of homelessness for each individual. Currently, Our Daily Rest is in need of the following supplies:

Bath towels	Shampoo Clorox bleach/wipes Lysol spray	Paper Towels	
Kitchen towels Washcloths		13 gallon trash bags Dishwasher pods	

If you feel led to provide any of these items, they may be dropped off at: **Our Daily Rest** 525 E Main Street, Seneca, SC 29678

<u>#4. Ripple of One – Ripple Rebate Program</u>

Ripple of One's mission is to empower single parent families in our local community to move beyond public assistance into their full God-given potential. Their vision is to transform generational poverty into generational progress one family at a time. The volunteer opportunities are vast ranging from being a mentor or a financial coach, to helping at their resale store. If spring cleaning and decluttering is in your future, be sure to drop off your unwanted items at the Ripple of One Resale store. You can also have them picked up by Ripple of One. When you donate to the Ripple Resale store, identify yourself as a Fort Hill Presbyterian member and our church will be enrolled in the Ripple Rebate Program. Ripple Resale will return a portion of the value of your donated items in the form of gift cards to Fort Hill to help those directly in our care.

Ripple Resale Physical: 203 Oconee Square Drive **Mailing:** PO Box 1254 Seneca, SC 29679 **Resale Store Phone:** 864-343-1923 **Email:** <u>Donations.ripple@gmail.com</u> **Website:** RippleResale.com

News from Presbyterian Women

Fort Hill Presbyterian Women's Drive-Thru Celebration

Fort Hill Presbyterian Women's Birthday-Offering Drive-Thru Celebration Sunday, May 2, 2021 2-4 PM

Look for balloons on Edgewood Avenue directing you to the Handicap parking lot adjacent to the sanctuary building. We look forward to seeing you there to help us celebrate!



This drive-thru event will provide:

Ft Hill Presbyterian Women with the opportunity to support the ministries of Presbyterian Women USA, and to celebrate the recipient of the 2021 PW Honorary Life Membership Award. The Honorary Life Membership Award is awarded each year to someone whose Christian example of service to our church and community is truly noteworthy.

You are invited to come, visit with greeters (socially distanced and masked), congratulate the HLM recipient, get a delicious cupcake, and of course drop off a donation to fulfill our mission to improve the lives of our fellow women, men and children in need.

Please make checks payable to Fort Hill Presbyterian Women, and note Birthday Offering on the check.

You may also make your donation online at <u>https://www.presbyterianwomen.org/giving-funding/give/</u> OR by mailing checks to Fort Hill's PW Treasurer, **Gail Williams, 524 Nautical Way, Anderson, SC 29625** by June 20th.

The 2021 PW Birthday Offering recipients chosen by Presbyterian women worldwide are the following:

Garden Gate Ranch, Inc., Des Moines, Iowa

This is a Christian organization that provides safe housing and other services for sexually exploited women and their children. <u>http://www.gardengateranch.com/</u>

Memorial Drive Ministries, Inc., Stone Mountain, GA The PW Birthday Offering will help to fund a muchneeded roof for their gymnasium where afternoon after-school activities take place. <u>https://mdmatl.org/</u>

Nkhoma Mission Hospital, Nkhoma, Malawi

Our Birthday Grant will provide funds to build an obstetrics and gynecology-specific operating room next to the existing prenatal and maternity wards at this hospital situated in southeastern Africa. <u>www.nkhomahospital.com</u>

For more information go to the following web address:

https://www.presbyterianwomen.org/what_we_do/support-mission/birthday-offering/.

Contact for more details:

Barbara Madison at <u>barbara.madison@mindspring.com, 302</u> Lancelot Drive, Clemson, SC 29631 **Jill Foster** at <u>jillfoster01@hotmail.com</u> 597 Pine Thicket Road, Liberty, SC 29657 **Donna Crader** at <u>dbcrader@bellsouth.net</u>,512 Shorecrest Drive, Clemson, SC 29631 **Pam Waddle** at pam.waddle@yahoo.com 103 Shady Lane, Clemson, SC 29631

April Paper Goods for Helping Hands

Each Sunday in April, Presbyterian Women will be collecting paper goods (paper towels, Kleenex, toilet tissue, etc.) for Helping Hands of Clemson - a foster home for children. Please bring your paper goods donations to the PW Collections Room located down the stairs across from the Clubroom in the Administration Building on **Sundays April 4,11,18,25, 2021**. Contact **Eva Henry** for more information at (864) 654-3737 before 8 AM or after 8 PM.

Box Tops for Education

Presbyterian Women please continue to collect and bring in your **Box Tops for Education** for Thornwell Home for Children. Please place your donations in the basket on the side of the refrigerator in the small kitchen across the hall from the FHOG Office. Each label is worth 10 cents. Thank you for your generosity!!!

Contact: Nan Jones (jones4927@bellsouth.net) for more information.

Dates to Remember

May 2, 2021 - PW Birthday-Offering Drive-thru April 4, 11, 18, 25 – Paper Goods for Helping Hands April - Box Tops for Education collection





Last Supper Tenebrae Maundy Thursday, April 1 at 7:30PM Fort Hill Sanctuary and on YouTube

CAM Update

Let's talk missions! You may wonder how in the world can we do missions in times when we can barely hear each other talk through masks and across our six feet of social distance. Well, there are ways. We've already proven we can do it with the huge success of our Christ Child Box project in December. Over the next couple of months look for more opportunities through Christian Action Ministry's Fabulous Five Missions. You'll find Five Fabulous ways to do mission work in our community.





Safe Place Training

To sign up for SAFE PLACE training email <u>Julie.bryant@forthillchurch.org</u> and indicate your preferred training sessions from the list below. Please select a first and second choice. All training sessions will be held by Zoom and are alike regardless of who leads it so you may select what works best for your schedule. Please sign up at least 4 days in advance of the training to receive the necessary materials. See below for the dates that training will be available. (Person leading training)

Sunday, April 11 at 9:00-10:00 AM (Katie) Sunday, April 11 at 5:00-6:00 PM (Katie) Sunday, April 18 at 9:00-10:00 AM (Jacob) Thursday, April 22 at 7:00-8:00 PM (Mary) Sunday, April 25 at 9:00-10:00 AM (Mary) Wednesday, April 28 at 7:00-8:00 PM (Mary) Sunday, May 2 at 3:30-4:30 PM (Jacob) Wednesday, May 12 at 7:00-8:00 PM (Mary)

The Window



Non-Profit Organization US POSTAGE PAID Clemson, SC

101 Edgewood Avenue Clemson, SC 29631

(864) 654-2061 www.forthillchurch.org

Return Service Requested

Easter Extravaganza

Sunday, April 4 9:45 am Easter Egg hunt

Gathering to Celebrate at Fort Hill Church

Flowering the Cross- bring flowers. Take a photo after worship. Share that photo. #togetherforjoy #forthillchurch

10:45 Worship on lawn, under the Big Tent, or sign-up for Sanctuary Worship

I AM THE RESURRECTION AND THE LIFE!





- 4/1 Joe Dickey Mandy Hays Benja Mohr Laura Ware
- 4/2 Will Gregory III

Jason Hudak

Natalie Turner

4/3

- 4/4 Robert Olker
- 4/5 LeAnne Greene Kathy Moore Sherri Smith
- 4/6 Nathan Wilson Michael Bailey
- 4/8 Hugh Garner Miller Gregory Rees Gregory Jake McKinney Sally Mitchell Carolyn Stroup

- 4/9 Gene Goodwyn
 4/10 Walker Christenbury Paul Durland Benton Halbig Pat Street
- 4/11 Dick Shick Ally Young
- 4/13 Alex Davis Elizabeth Hawthorne
- 4/14 Chris Bandy
- 4/16 Megan Chavis Katherine Sosebee
- 4/17 Janet Bean Jacquie McFall Hannah Sawyer
- 4/18 Stephanie Aaron Charles Barron Michael Steele



- 4/22 Janna McKale Joanne Trenholm
- 4/23 Erik Fredman Dave Harvey
- 4/24 Tim Heist Michael Van Daele Gensie Waldrop
- 4/25 Lee Allman Karen Daniels Beth Gregory Wade Job
- 4/26 Doug Carlson Jerry Greene
- 4/27 Norman Weber
- 4/28 Nancy Brown Hannah Job Steve Lefevre
- 4/29 Mac Martin Ford Hedrick
- 4/30 Mary Coronato Tom Freeman Helen Steele



- 4/2 Jim & Caroline Thomas
- 4/6 Paul & Joan Borick
- 4/17 Denny & Laurie Sherrod Dyke & Rhonda Spencer
- 4/18 Rob & Marsha Griffin John & Amanda Stevenson
- 4/19 Keith & Terri Smith
- 4/21 Colin & Emily Pettigrew
- 4/22 Scott & Sarah Massios
- 4/24 Jay & Tommi Jones Bill & Tina Mostertz
- 4/27 Blackie & Grace Cook
- 4/28 Preston & Debbie Shealy
- 4/29 Jeremy & Heather Wright



Happy parents are Michael and Laura Sosebee Kozlarek and big brother, Hunter. JB is welcomed by aunt Katherine Sosebee and Grandparents Jane and Greg Sosebee.