



# The Window

The Newsletter of Fort Hill Presbyterian Church

May 2023

## Message From the Pastor

### Practice Resurrection

So, friends, every day do something that won't compute. Love the Lord. Love the world. Work for nothing. Take all that you have and be poor. Love someone who does not deserve it...

...Laugh. Laughter is immeasurable. Be joyful though you have considered all the facts.

(from *Manifesto; the Mad Farmer's Liberation Front* by Wendell Berry)

Savor this season of resurrection. We practice our faith, not just believe articles of faith. We walk by faith. Faith is a verb. Which is why I love Wendell Berry's poem that ends with the line, "practice resurrection." Fort Hill has faith practices, but his reminder is that we embody resurrection life. I shared this story recently and it seems a fitting way to practice resurrection.

Asked how the meaning of Easter has changed for her over the years, Anne Lamott answered this way: "When I was 38, my best friend, Pammy, died, and we went shopping about two weeks before she died, and she was in a wig and a wheelchair. I was buying a dress for this boyfriend I was trying to impress, and I bought a tighter, shorter dress than I was used to. And I said to her, 'Do you think this makes my hips look big?' and she said to me, so calmly, 'Anne, you don't have that kind of time.' And I think Easter has been about the resonance of that simple statement; and that when I stop, when I go into contemplation and meditation, when I breathe again and do the sacred action of plopping and hanging my head and being done with my own agenda, I hear that, 'You don't have that kind of time,' you have time only to cultivate presence and authenticity and service, praying against all odds to get your sense of humor back. That's how it has changed for me. That was the day my life changed, when she said that to me."

The beauty of life in the church is we have language that teaches us about dying so that we have the ability to truly live — fully! Abundant life.

You don't have that kind of time.  
No matter your age.

So continue to celebrate the good news of the resurrection of Jesus Christ  
Practice resurrection!

*Pastor Laura*

Note: My last Sunday before Sabbatical begins is May 14. Again, thank you for this gift!

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### Pastor Laura on Sabbatical

The first part of Sabbatical  
Laura will be away on a solo retreat  
with a spiritual director as a way to  
enter this season of renewal.

Laura will be away  
May 17—August 17.

Many thanks to the staff and  
congregation for this experience.

### 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  
Jacob Kennedy, AP for Youth & Mission  
Colin Pettigrew, AP for University Ministry  
Preston Shealy, Parish Associate  
Kimberly Morris, Coordinator for Children  
& Family Ministries  
Margaret MacKay, Director of Music  
Judy Bonham, Organist/Handbell Dir.  
Lori Houck, Administrator  
Morgan 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

### 5/7 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Easter

Acts 7:55-60; Ps. 31:1-5, 15-16;  
Prov. 4:10-18; Ps. 119:9-32;  
1 Pet. 2:2-10; John 14:1-14

### 5/14 6<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Easter

Acts 17:22-31; Ps. 66:8-20;  
Ezek. 34:1-7a; Ps. 115;  
1 Pet. 3:13-22; John 14:15-21

### 5/21 7<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Easter

Acts 1:6-14; Ps. 68:1-10, 32-35;  
Isa. 45:1-7; Ps. 21:1-7;  
1 Pet. 4:12-14; 5:6-11; John 17:1-11

### 5/28 Day of Pentecost

Acts 2:1-21; Num. 11:24-30;  
Ps. 104:24-34, 35b;  
1 Cor. 12:3b-13; Acts 2:1-21;  
John 20:19-23; John 7:37-39

June 2023

### The Window Deadline

The deadline for articles, announcements, and features for the June issue of *The Window* is **Monday, May 15.**

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.

## Sunday Servants

### Pastor on Call

5/7 Laura Conrad  
5/14 Colin Pettigrew  
5/21 Mary Morrison  
5/28 Jacob Kennedy

### Elder of the Day

5/7 Catherine Stoddard (8:30)  
Russ Phillips (10:45)  
5/14 Donna Crader (8:30)  
Debbie Shealy (10:45)  
5/21 Ben Trammell (8:30)  
Heather Wright (10:45)  
5/28 Cindy Prather (8:30)  
Gregg Morton (10:45)

## Mother's Day Special Offering

We all have a mother and for most people, there has never been anyone in our lives who has had more of an influence in shaping who we are than our mothers. Mother's Day is a special time each year of remembrance and honor for our mothers. I am probably telling my age, but I remember a more formal time when we always wore a flower in our coat lapel on Mother's Day when we went to church and the color signified if our mother was still with us in this world.

Mother's Day is also a day when we take up a special offering for our South Carolina Presbyterian homes. We are truly blessed to have these facilities to provide a comfortable Christian community in our later life years. I know what a blessing they are as my own mother was fortunate to reside in one and I have seen first hand how well they are run and equipped. We have one of these homes nearby in Easley and several of our members reside there.



For the most part, these homes are self-sufficient, but unfortunately there are times when some residents outlive their savings. Our special Mother's Day offering enables these homes to provide continued care in these situations. We encourage you to give generously to our Mother's Day offering and support for Presbyterian Homes and the care of those in need as we also honor our mothers.

*Jim Thomas, Christian Action Moderator*

## Choir Corner

May is one of my favorite months! As a child, it was the last month of the school year. It was the month we had piano recitals, final exams, and shorter days at school. Graduations came around, and this year marks the 50th year since I graduated from Crescent High School in Iva on May 29, 1973! Oh, it was joyous and frightening. I was glad to be moving on to college life and scared because I wouldn't know my roommate!



I am truly blessed because every year of my life has brought joy and blessing in some form or fashion. Of course, there were disappointments and sadness, but I was always reassured of God's love and presence. Sometimes I wonder how any one can doubt that there is a creator God who has formed us and made us and leads us every step of the way, even when we sometimes do not want to follow. Then I hear a familiar tune or text of a hymn, and there is no reason for doubt or fear. There is reason for rejoicing, thanksgiving, and proclamation that our God is an awesome God who reigns in heaven above with wisdom, power and might...our God is an awesome God!

So here is my earworm to share with you. I hope you will hum it, sing it loud and clear, and remember always that God is love each and every day:

*Jesus loves me this I know, for the Bible tells me so. Little ones to Him belong. They are weak, but He is strong. Yes, Jesus loves me. Yes, Jesus loves me. Yes, Jesus loves me. The Bible tells me so.*

It doesn't matter our age or stage. We are His yesterday, today, and forever. Thanks be to God.

Keep Smiling-n-Singing,

*Margaret*



# Children's Ministry Corner

The children and families of Fort Hill had a wonderful Easter Sunday together! The children gathered in the Nest for a special breakfast and enjoyed completing many activities based around the Easter story. Fun was had by all at the Easter egg hunt on church property. Thank you to everyone who made Easter so special for the children. From the youth stuffing eggs to the parent volunteers that hid eggs, we truly felt loved by all involved. Many thanks to individuals that donated special treats as well.



# Thank You!

The Worley family would like to thank the congregation and staff of Fort Hill for their amazing and almost unbelievable support during our recent difficult times in the illness and passing of Amy. We all have been surrounded by so much love, that we truly can say that Fort Hill IS our caring family

In His love,.

*Wes, Jacquie, Mike,  
Caila, Emma & Savannah*



Thank you so much for your generous gifts and kind words. Fort Hill Church is a very special, caring congregation. I am so blessed and truly appreciate being able to serve Fort Hill and be part of this wonderful church family.

*Lori Houck*

## Sojourners' Zoom Class

The Zoom Sojourners' Faith Formation Class invites all adults to join the class each Sunday for the 9:00 am class. The upcoming schedule will be:

**April 30; May 7, 14, 21:**

Various prayers found in the new collection by Walter Brueggemann ACTING IN THE WAKE: Prayers for Justice will be the topics for discussions, facilitated by Bob & Carol Stout.

**May 28; June 4, 11, 18, 25; July 2:** Perspectives included in the book of *John*, facilitated by Marv Dixon.

**To receive your "invitation" to join on Zoom, contact Bob Stout at [b39c40@bellsouth.net](mailto:b39c40@bellsouth.net).**

## Church Picnic!

**Sunday, May 7 from  
12-3:30 pm**

**Clemson Outdoor Lab  
Please bring side items  
to share!**

**Please RSVP to Cyndi Davis at  
[davidcr@bellsouth.net](mailto:davidcr@bellsouth.net)**

# May Fort Hill Church Activities

## Monday, May 1

10:00 am PW Circle 1 — Club Room

## Tuesday, May 2

8:30 am Men of the Church Breakfast — Dyar's Café  
5:30 pm University Ministry Meeting — PSA Student Center  
6:00 pm Christian Action Ministry Meeting — Library  
7:00 pm Adult Ministry Team Meeting — Conference Room  
Youth Ministry Team Meeting — the Den

## Wednesday, May 3

3:00 pm Building & Grounds Ministry Meeting — Library

## Thursday, May 4

1:00 pm Media at Fort Hill Meeting — Library

## Sunday, May 7

Homebound Communion — various locations  
11:30 am Congregational Picnic — Clemson Outdoor Lab

## Monday, May 8

9:30 am PW Trinity Circle Meeting — Library  
7:00 pm Book Club — Gathering Space

## Tuesday, May 9

10:00 am Men's Small Group (Ben Sill) — Library  
2:00 pm Planning Ministry Meeting — E209  
4:00 pm Finance Ministry Meeting — Library  
5:00 pm Worship Ministry Meeting — Conference Room  
6:00 pm Discipleship Ministry Meeting — the Nest  
PW Circle 2 Meeting — Library

## Sunday, May 14

**Laura's Last Day prior to Sabbatical Leave**

2:00 pm Cub Scouts — Tartan Hall & Education Building

## Monday, May 15

8:00 am DHS Interact Club — the Den

## Tuesday, May 16

7:00 pm Session Meeting

## Wednesday, May 17

**Laura's Sabbatical begins**

8:30 am Clemson University Staff event — Tartan Hall

## Thursday, May 18

10:00 am Drawing Studio — Club Room  
6:30 pm Old Stone Church Commission Meeting — Library

## Sunday, May 21

**High School Graduation Sunday**

12:00 pm Children's Ministry Team Meeting — the Nest  
2:30 pm Cub Scouts — Backyard/Tartan Hall/Ed Building

## Tuesday, May 23

10:00 am Men's Study Group (Ben Sill) — Library  
5:30 pm Membership Ministry Meeting — Conference Room  
7:00 pm Fellowship Ministry Meeting — Club Room

## Wednesday, May 24

5:30 pm Wild Card Wednesday — Tartan Hall

## Sunday, May 28

**Promotion Sunday** (5<sup>th</sup> grade to 6<sup>th</sup> grade)  
during Children's story in worship

12:00 pm Craft Connections — Club Room  
2:30 pm Cub Scouts — Backyard/Tartan Hall/Ed Building

## Monday, May 29

**Memorial Day — Church Offices Closed**



## Recurring Weekly Activities

### Sunday

8:30 am Worship Service — Tartan Hall  
9:00 am Sojourners' Class — Zoom  
9:30 am Kindred Spirits Adult Class — Club Room (thru 5/21)  
10:45 am Worship Service — Sanctuary/Livestream  
Nursery (Birth-3yrs) — Nursery Room  
WeeKirk (children's worship/3K-1<sup>st</sup> gr.) —  
following Children's story — Nest  
WOW (worship education/2<sup>nd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> gr.) — E208  
(thru 5/14)

### Monday

6:30 pm Scouts BSA Troops 235 Boys/7235 Girls —  
Club Room/Tartan Hall/Backyard

### Tuesday

10:00 am Staff Meeting — Conference Room  
4:00 pm Folk Dancing — Tartan Hall

### Wednesday

10:00 am Wednesday AM Bible Study — Club Room/Zoom  
6:00 pm Wednesdays @ the Fort (3-5<sup>th</sup> gr.) — Nest/E208/  
Courtyard (thru 5/10)  
6:10 pm Children's Choir Rehearsal — E209 (thru 5/10)  
7:30 pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal — Choir Room

### Thursday

9:15 am Men's Small Group (L Glenn) — Library

## Weekly AA Meetings

Sunday, Tuesday, & Thursday evenings at 8:00 pm and Friday afternoons at 12:30 pm in Room E205 of the Education Building.

## May Birthdays & Anniversaries



5/1	Jim Barker Susan Beckwith Lucy Martin Peggy Rutland	5/10	Will Turner
5/2	Bill Carnes Lauren Young	5/11	Alex Hicklin Josh Poetz Mark Torres Eva Williamson
5/3	Audrey Sehorn	5/14	Carol Goodwyn John Sturman
5/4	Paul Borick	5/15	Jackie Ellis Ella Griffis Tim Howard Lydia Pratt
5/5	Mackenzie Allen Rob Griffin Marsha Griffin Lilliana Kozlarek Cindy Trammell	5/16	Joan Dixon Ellis Rutland Carol Stout Art Williams
5/6	Stella Hudak Tyler Miller Trevor Turner	5/17	Pat Clary Claudia Harris Greg Sosebee
5/7	Tootie Poteet Ralph Ricks Ben Sill	5/18	Ed Burchfield Don Davis Darrel Hedrick Bill Mostertz Jonathan Mudge Pat Rutledge
5/8	Jenny Leisinger Davis Little Jill Weir	5/19	Donna Crader Eddie Payne
5/9	Pam Waddle	5/20	Bryson Ware
		5/21	Eliza Bost

5/21	Grace Bost Ford Fagan Stephanie Smith
5/22	Perrin Kreidler
5/23	Stephen Ackerman Joan Borick
5/24	Julie Johnson Jacob Lawson Jamie London
5/25	Ginger Littlejohn Keith Smith John Stevenson
5/26	Annette Halbig Eleanor McCallum Doug Satzger
5/27	Jeremy Johnsonwall Jane LaGrone Debbie Miles Laura Shick
5/28	Linda Wofford
5/29	Rameth Owens
5/30	Maranda Arnold Warren Newton Elaine Rogers Cindy Sloan Robbi Stokes
5/31	Charlotte Grusso Mavis Sabin



5/1	Charles & Mary Barron Gene & Carol Goodwyn
5/2	Jason & Katie Wilson
5/3	Mike & Marie Nebesky
5/10	Jim & Donna London
5/14	Jim & Judy Eidson
5/15	Greg & Jenifer Griffis
5/16	Joseph & Karen Gaston
5/19	Josh & Emily Poetz
5/22	Mike & Kathy Moore
5/24	Norman & Jackie Ellis
5/27	Charlie & Mary Barron
5/28	Dan & LeAnne Greene
5/31	Hack & Cheryl Trammell



## Church Mouse

The handbells did a wonderful job in March: **Chris Torres, Gensie & Tom Waldrop, Jeremy Johnsonwall, Caroline Thomas, Mary Beth Clanton, Debbie Shealy, Margaret MacKay, Beth Weber, Linda Davis, Jacquie Worley, Bridget Trogden, Karen Johnson, and Cindy Prather.**

The Maundy Thursday Service was very moving. Communion was served with the help of **Ralph Ricks** and **Cyndi Davis**. The congregation could either have the feet washed as Jesus did at the Last Supper or wash their hands. The **Pastors: Laura, Mary, Jacob, and Colin** were those participating in the washing of the feet or hands. But I saw members who washed the feet of a loved one.

I love Palm Sunday with the procession of the **pastors, choir, and members** waving their palm fronds. Communion was directed by **Beth Chapman**. Those helping at the 8:30 service were: **Donna Crader** and **Lucy Martin** and the 10:45 service were: **Hugh Spitler, Cathy Morton, Chip Egan, Mark Morrison, Leanne Broome, Melanie Job, Sally Martin, Peggy Rutland, Robbi** and **Mark Stokes.**

Oh my, I do love Easter with all the music and celebration. Handbells were great: **Gensie Waldrop, Jacquie Worley, Beth Weber, Caroline Thomas, Karen Johnson, Robbi Stokes, Rosemary Ross, Cindy Prather, Julianne Wenner, Bridget Trogden, and Mary Beth Clanton.** Plus, the choir celebrated Christ's resurrection: **Rita & Frank Van Lenten, Nancy Lloyd, Rameth Owens, Diane Egan, Cindy Sloan, Helen Wooten, Charlotte Grusso, Jacquie Worley, Robbi & Mark Stokes, Gensie Waldrop, Ronda Ricks, Jenny & Jim Leisinger, Garland Gravely, Mark Morrison, Jim Barker, John Sherman, Raymond MacKay, Tom Cleveland, and George Dunkelberg.**

Please **THANK** all those who contribute to making our services so meaningful.





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## Fellowship Ministry Update

### Upcoming Events

**Church Picnic — May 7 from noon to 3:30 pm** at Clemson Outdoor Lab Pavillion. Come to church wearing your picnic ensemble, bring a picnic dish and meet your church family following the 10:45 service at the CUOL Pavillion. We are changing things a bit this year. Everyone is asked to bring their favorite picnic “must have” food to share. The pavilion is open to us at 11:30. Plates, utensils and drinks will be provided. The address to the CU Outdoor Lab is 415 Charlie White Trail, Pendleton, SC 29670. Several maps will be located in the Narthex. **Contact:** Cyndi Davis, davisdcr@bellsouth.net

**NEW! Book Club — May 8 at 7:00 pm** in the Gathering Area (second floor of Education Building next to the Bridge). This first meeting will be hosted by Debbie Shealy (text 912.656.4596). Participants will share in hosting the club’s meetings. This month’s book is Mad Honey by Jodi Picoult and Jennifer Finney Boylan.

### Recurring Events

**Craft Connections** meets at noon until 1:30 pm in the Club Room on **May 28**.

**Drawing Studio** will meet again in August.

**Meet and Eat Supper Club — August.** Dining in small groups with rotating group assignments. Hostesses will contact group members with plans, time and date. **Contact:** Holly Ridgell, hridgell@gmail.com

**Wildcard Wednesday** — Wednesday Women Potluck Supper already has a new name to encourage everyone to feel welcome at the table. Our inaugural meeting was filled with conversation between new friends and reconnection of long term friendships. We will meet again on **May 24** before everyone takes off on summer journeys. Watch for a reminder and time in weekly updates.

**First Sunday Summer Breakfasts** will take place at 9:00 am in Tartan Hall. Dates: **June 4, July 2, and August 6**. Participants are asked to bring a breakfast dish to share. Water, coffee, and juice will be available.

Check weekly updates for possible pop up events during the summer. Something fun to share together will most likely come along. Throughout the summer, recurring events will be listed in The Window monthly newsletter calendar.

Hoping you continue to enjoy this beautiful Spring as we move toward Summer