

The Window

The Newsletter of Fort Hill Presbyterian Church

Message From the Pastor

June 2023

Floating in Grace

“The Avowal” by Denise Levertov

As swimmers dare
to lie face to the sky
and water bears them,
as hawks rest upon air
and air sustains them,
so would I learn to attain
freefall, and float
into Creator Spirit’s deep embrace,
knowing no effort earns
that all-surrounding grace.¹



Calida Garcia Rawles (American, 1976—). *Radiating My Sovereignty*, 2019. Acrylic on canvas, 84 x 72

Summer and swimming go together. The pool would open on Memorial weekend — yippee! Swimming, Marco Polo, sharks and minnows, diving and flips, are all fun, but the best feeling was to be floating. No effort, except to allow yourself to be buoyed on the water, not fighting it, but resting in the watery bubble. Denise Levertov writes that she learned to **“float into Creator Spirit’s deep embrace, knowing no effort earns, that all-surrounding grace.”** I cannot imagine a more beautiful image for being in the presence of the God who loves us. We cannot earn that love or lose that love — no matter what.

I hope you get to float in water this season, relaxing into that deep embrace. Trust God to be there to hold you. Going on a sabbatical feels very much like this. What a gift to trust that we are both held in God’s embrace, even while separated.

This June I will be exploring the place of my ancestors, Ireland. With parents named Joyce and Carroll, you can see the tie. Chuck and I will spend time in Belfast to learn about immigration, the Troubles, and our shared faith history. I am particularly interested in how divided people heal and seek reconciliation. Our nation can learn from others how to do this. I am hopeful because it begins in telling the truth and learning to do conflict well, seeking forgiveness and reconciliation. That is our main calling as Christian people. Jesus shows us the way. I look forward to sharing some of what I learn with you.

In the meantime, keep floating and resting in the Creator Spirit’s embrace as you enjoy Sabbath and summer, friends.

Grace and Peace,

Pastor Laura

¹ This poem is from *Oblique Prayers*, copyright 1984 by Denise Levertov, and also appears in Levertov’s *The Stream and the Sapphire: Selected Poems on Religious Themes*.

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Fort Hill Presbyterian Church

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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 Thrailkill, 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

6/4 Trinity Sunday

Gen. 1:1-2:4a; Ps. 8;
2 Cor. 13:11-13; Matt. 28:16-20

6/11 2nd Sunday after Pentecost

Gen. 12:1-9; Ps. 33:1-12;
Hos. 5:15-6:6; Ps. 50:7-15;
Rom. 4:13-25; Matt. 9:9-13, 18-26

6/18 3rd Sunday after Pentecost

Gen. 18:1-15, (21:1-7);
Ps. 116:1-2, 12-19;
Ex. 19:2-8a; Ps. 100
Rom. 5:1-8; Matt. 9:35-10:8, (9-23)

6/25 4th Sunday after Pentecost

Gen. 21:8-21; Ps. 86:1-10, 16-17
Jer. 20:7-13; Ps. 69:7-10, (11-15), 16-18
Rom. 6:1b-11; 10:24-39

July 2023

The Window Deadline

The deadline for articles, announcements, and features for the July issue of *The Window* is Wednesday, June 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,

Message from Session to the Congregation 2023-24 Priorities for Ministry Teams

Since our post-Covid re-start of regular church activities at Fort Hill, the Session has undertaken evaluation of our ministry programs and set priorities for the coming twelve to twenty-four months. We recently completed this process, and want to let the congregation know our forthcoming priorities, which are:

- 1) Emphasize reaching and nurturing millennials and young adults.
- 2) Develop a plan to enhance and expand our "digital presence."
- 3) Rebuild Fort Hill's University Ministry and expand implementation into Clemson University's campus life.
- 4) Re-double outside mission and witness involvement in the following areas:
 - Community-wide mental health
 - Housing insecurity
 - Food insecurity
 - Other ongoing CAM Partnerships
- 5) Continuing efforts to further engage young families with children.
- 6) Adopt a dual inside/outside look for all Ministry Team programs and activities.
- 7) Develop efficient ways to connect untapped talents and resources with ongoing ministries and programs.

Through the coming year, our ministry teams will look forward to bring reports of our progress on these priorities, as well as on our other ongoing programs. Please let our ministers or any member of Session know if you have questions or feedback on these priorities.

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.

1st SUNDAY SUMMER



Sunday, June 4
9:00 in Tartan Hall

Please join church members for fellowship and food this summer on June 4, July 2, and August 6.

Coffee and juice will be provided. Church members are asked to bring their favorite breakfast item to share.

10:00 am
FHPC
Sanctuary
*beginning
June 4 thru
August 13*

Learn About Occupational Therapy in Mental Health

On Sunday, June 11, after the morning worship, the Deacons' Mental Health Team is sponsoring a program on **Occupational Therapy in Mental Health by Haven Parker**. Haven is a 2020 Clemson grad who is in her third year of the occupational therapy doctoral program at Presbyterian College.

As part of the doctoral curriculum, each student must complete a capstone project in the area of interest to help grow the field of occupational therapy. Haven developed her capstone project around advocacy and education within occupational therapy's role in mental health. Specifically, she is working on state policy changes as well as an in-service presentation for mental health facilities around the state. She is knowledgeable on the state's mental health landscape in South Carolina as her mother has been a DMH employee for over 28 years.



Join the Deacons and Haven at **11:15 am on Sunday, June 11, in Tartan Hall** for this half-hour presentation to educate and advocate stakeholders on the unique and advantageous role that occupational therapy has within mental health. Currently there is a lack of representation of occupational therapy within mental health even though the profession of occupational therapy actually was born within the field of mental health services. Haven's work includes revising the definition in the profession's practice act in the state. She wants to ignite a state-wide movement back into that field for the profession, especially lifting up how occupational therapy has a distinct role that can positively influence patient care.

After sharing with Haven about our congregation's ministry to become more stigma *free* and to provide training in a variety of subjects related to mental health, Haven will be able to tailor her presentation to help us think strategically about OT's role in our own community's wellness efforts.

Since Haven's presentation is part of her doctoral capstone project, she will be providing a pre- and post-survey to gather data for her research. So please come, learn, and participate in this special opportunity to grow in your understanding of the role of occupational therapy in mental health and how we might be a part of helping in the care of those in need.



Youth Summer Schedule

- Every Wednesday starting June 28: Wild Wednesdays at 6 pm

June

- June 7, 14, 21 High School Lunch Bunch at 12 pm
- June 13 Movie Night at 7 pm
- June 25-30 Raleigh Youth Mission Trip

July

- July 9-15 Montreat High School Conference
- July 16 Virginia's Activity
- July 19-23 Montreat Middle School Conference

August

- August 6 Blessing of the Backpacks at 10 am

Sunday Servants

Pastor on Call

- 6/4 Colin Pettigrew
- 6/11 Mary Morrison
- 6/18 Colin Pettigrew
- 6/25 Jacob Kennedy

Elder of the Day

- 6/4 Nancy Spitler
- 6/11 Mark Stokes
- 6/18 Cindy Trammell
- 6/25 Cyndi Davis



Christian Sympathy is extended to:

David & Debbie Collins on the death of David's father, Billy Collins, on 4/27 in Walterboro, SC.



Haven Parker is a graduate of Clemson University, Class of 2020. She obtained a Bachelor's of Science Degree in Psychology with a minor in Biological Sciences. Haven has research experience in substance abuse disorder and addiction. Haven is a third-year doctoral student at Presbyterian College's Doctor of Occupational Therapy program. Haven is currently implementing a capstone project on redefining occupational therapy within the state Practice Act. In addition, she has created an educational presentation and resource manual to provide to mental health organizations in the state. It is her goal to improve the recognition of OT in mental health and create a foundation for the profession to be recognized and reimbursed as a Qualified Mental Health Professional in the state of South Carolina.

Church Mouse



Let's get right down to this: **Officer Nomination Committee** has a tremendous job so give their requests a prayerful thought. They

are **Robin Denny, Jacob Lawson, Cathy Morton, Larry Sloan, Bette Bronson, Carol Hipp, Mark Kwist, and Coordinator Diane Egan.**

PSA Sunday was great. Those college kids did a wonderful job and even provided the music. The **PSA Music Team** consisted of **Scott Dillon, Jeremy Johnsonwall, Elyse Hollingsworth, Brandon Glenn, and L. Hutchinson.** Our own **Ellen Ackerman** gave one of the sermons.

On to a lighter note — ha ha — how great are those that perform in the **Chancel Bells: Caroline Thomas, Mark Kwist, Tom & Gensie Waldrop, Rose Ross, Beth Weber, Chris Torres, Jacquie Worley, Bridget Trogden, Debbie Shealy, Carol Austin, and Karen Johnson.** All under the direction of **Judy Bonham.**

At the May 7th service communion was served by the **ministers and Cathy Spragins, Mary E. Barron, Helen Wooten, Nancy Oates, Susan Beckwith, Rodney Johnson, Russ & Charlotte Phillips.**

Right after that May 7th service, I hitched a ride with **Jacob Kennedy** to the church picnic at the Clemson Outdoor Lab at a big shelter. It was great because people had brought a lot of food and there were crumbs everywhere. I had to hitch a ride back with **Lisa Britt** when she took back the container of serving spoons to the Tartan Hall Kitchen. But there was so much great food, and it was well organized by: **Lisa Britt, Don & Cyndi Davis, Helen Wooten, Debbie Shealy, and Holly & Don Ridgell.**

REMEMBER THAT THIS SUMMER WE WILL HAVE ONE SERVICE AT 10:00 AM.

See you there.



Children's Ministry Corner

We closed out our semester of Wednesday @ the Fort on May 10, with a popcorn bar and movie celebration! The children had a wonderful time of fellowship. The children enjoyed the church picnic at the Clemson Outdoor Lab this month! We look forward to many more fellowship opportunities to come! The children made chocolate lollipops for Mother's Day. They carefully painted each one with colored chocolate and created a unique arrangement for this special day. Thank you for all you do to make Children's Ministry so special at Fort Hill.

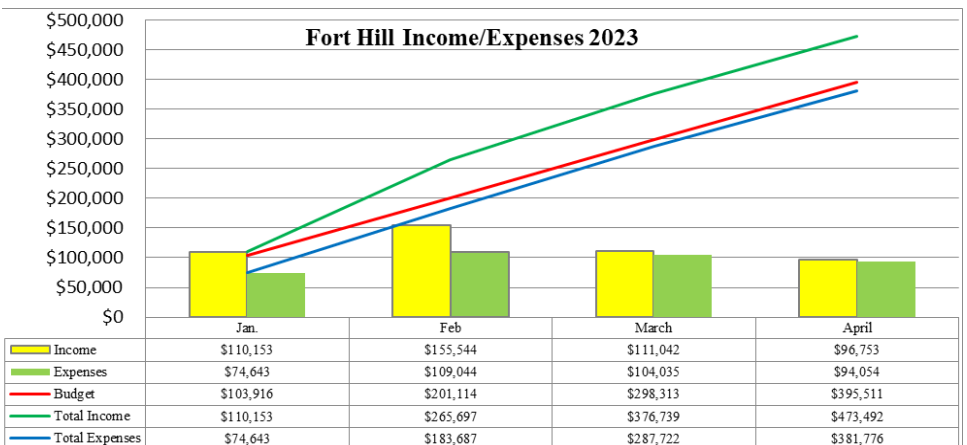


Finance Ministry Update

Through April, total income was \$473,492, while expenses for the first four months were \$381,776 leaving a surplus of \$91,716. Overall expenses are at 32% of budget, while income is at 41%. As you can see, income remains above budget while expenses are slightly below budget. Thanks to your financial support, Fort Hill is able to continue its ministries to members, community, and around the world.

Thank you! If you are not present at Church, your contributions can be made by mail or online by clicking the "Give Now" button on the Fort Hill Church website home page (<https://onrealm.org/FortHillPresbyt/-/form/give/now>).

Bridging Generation Update: Loan principal balance — \$211,044



Pastor Laura Conrad's Sabbatical — May 17—August 17, 2023

Message from the Session

In her 14th year of service at Fort Hill Presbyterian Church, Pastor Laura Conrad will take a three-month sabbatical from May 17 through August 17. The sabbatical is in line with rules spelled out in the FHPC Manual of Organization, our Foothills Presbytery and the PSUSA sabbatical guidelines, and rooted in Scripture. Sabbatical Leave is an intentional time to disengage from regular and normal tasks and the stress from constantly being on call; ministering to the sick, troubled and dying; meeting, leading, supporting; and dealing with many other stressful situations. It is to enrich, to gain new insights, and to serve as a “change of pace” time that can provide relaxation and renewal.

The Session unanimously approved this opportunity in principle in March 2022, allowing Pastor Laura to move forward with detailed planning in consultation with P&PS and with regular updates to Session. While away on sabbatical, Pastor Laura will travel, worship, retreat, read, rest, reflect, and refresh. These habits will only strengthen her ministry.

Our three Associate Pastors will cover pastoral responsibilities, with support from our Parish Associate, Rev. Preston Shealy. Foothills Community Chaplain, Joseph Gaston, will be our Pulpit Supply preacher to help lead worship one Sunday. Fort Hill's summer worship schedule will run June 4 — June 13, with one service in the Sanctuary at 10:00 am.

What Will Laura be Doing on Sabbatical? (written by Laura)

The Sabbath year in scripture is a time for the fields to “lie fallow,” a time to not produce and rest, so that they can be planted for growing good things in the years to come. I will be a monk on the move! So, I plan to worship wherever I go, whether a service at Mont. St. Michel (pictured here) or in Montreat. I will explore our ancestors in faith, the Celtic Christians, while in Ireland and Belfast, learning from those who helped birth and influence the Presbyterian Christian faith we share. The Celtic Christians evangelized pagan Ireland and then Britain. As we live into post-Christendom, we have something to learn from places where the over-churched “dones,” those of no faith “nones,” and communities of practice can share the gospel and God's love.



We can learn some things from ancients and contemporary Christians living in the way of Jesus. I am especially interested in reading poets (Padraig O'Tuama), mystics (Evelyn Underhill), and Celtic Christianity (George Hunter).

I will read and journal as a spiritual practice using *The Artist's Way* and see where creativity and play erupt! I plan to spend time with the ones I love, friends and family, celebrating Chuck's mother's 80th with a road trip to Maine, enjoying our children being home at the same time, and seeing friends. I also look forward to the best ways that Jesus shows up, by meeting him in the strangers. I have adopted the Emmaus Road story as my guiding story. I will devote myself to walking and talking with others, breaking bread and the prayers, finding fellowship along the road. I know Jesus will be present.

The Holy Spirit will be blowing wherever I go, and I plan to listen and attend to God's Spirit. I look forward to learning what the Spirit is saying to the Church and to Fort Hill Church as we lean into the future God has prepared for us!

Schedule

May 17 — June 4

Time away in the NC Mountains, including a Retreat with a Spiritual Director

June 5 — June 28

Ireland tour, Belfast, Normandy, and Paris with Chuck

June 29 — July 12

Family time in Montreat, Reading, Rest, Reflection

July 13 — July 25

Road Trip to Acadia National Park in Maine

July 26 — August 17

Family Time, Rest, Reflection, and Reading



The Book of Kells, Trinity College Library, Dublin, Ireland

What If I Need to Reach Laura During the Sabbatical?

Laura's sabbatical begins on May 17, and her first Sunday back is August 20, 2023.

- She will not be checking email during her sabbatical, and she will not read emails from the time she is away. All emails sent during her sabbatical will be deleted prior to her return.
- She will not be answering texts or phone calls since she will turn off her phone number.
- She will have limited activity on social media.
- She will not be attending any church functions or be involved in any church business.

Please remember to reach out to staff members, Session, and Deacon members with questions, especially with any pastoral concerns you may have.

Church Office (Monday—Friday 1/2): 864.654.2061 and Pastor on Call (Evenings & Weekends): 865.654.2065

June Fort Hill Church Activities

Thursday, June 1

9:00 am Small Group — Library

June 1-4

Colin Pettigrew away

Sunday, June 4

9:00 am First Sunday Summer Breakfast — Tartan Hall
11:00 am Discovering Faith — Club Room
Officer Nominating Committee — Library
Homebound Communion — Various locations

Tuesday, June 6

8:30 am Men of the Church Breakfast — Dyar's Café
3:00 pm P&PS Meeting — Club Room
6:00 pm Christian Action Ministry — Library
7:00 pm Adult Ministry Team Meeting — Conference Rm
Youth Ministry Team Meeting — the Den

Wednesday, June 7

3:00 pm Building & Grounds Ministry Meeting — Library

Sunday, June 11

9:45 am Special Session to Receive New Members — Tartan Hall

Monday, June 12

7:00 pm Book Club Monday — Gathering Space Near E205

Tuesday, June 13

10:00 am Men's Study Group (Ben Sill) — Library
2:00 pm Planning Meeting — Laura's Office
4:00 pm Finance Meeting — E209
5:00 pm Worship Ministry Meeting — Conference Room
6:00 pm Discipleship Ministry Meeting — the Den
7:00 pm Youth Movie Night — the Den

Thursday, June 15

10:00 am Drawing Studio — Club Room

Sunday, June 18

12:00 pm Children's Ministry Team Meeting — Nest

Monday, June 19 — Thursday, June 22

Vacation Bible School — All Church Reserved

June 19 — June 23

Margaret MacKay away

Tuesday, June 20

7:00 pm Session Meeting — Club Room

Sunday, June 25

12:00 pm Craft Connections — Club Room

June 25 — June 30

Raleigh Youth Mission Trip
Jacob Kennedy away

Tuesday, June 27

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

Wednesday, June 28

5:30 pm Wild Card Wednesday—Tartan Hall
6:00 pm Wild Wednesday — Holy Trinity Episcopal

June 30 — July 8

Colin Pettigrew away

Recurring Weekly Activities

Sunday

9:00 am Sojourners' Class — Zoom
10:00 am Worship Service — Sanctuary/Livestream
Nursery (Birth-3yrs) — Nursery Room
WeeKirk (children's worship/3K-1st gr.) — following Children's story — Nest

Tuesday

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

Wednesday

12:00 pm High School Lunch Bunch
7:30 pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal — Choir Room

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.

June Anniversaries & Birthdays



6/1	Lee & Mary Margaret Allman Adam & Victoria Artigliere Bill & Joanne Nisonger	6/14	Jimmy & Betty Dean Jerry & Jean Greene Elbert & Nancy Horton Art & Gail Williams	6/22	Carl & Theresa Hollingsworth Todd & Catherine Latiff Wes & Jacquie Worley Josh & Ally Young
6/3	Craig & Camille Horton	6/15	Jerry & Joyce Christenbury Tim & Joyce Daley Guy & Mavis Sabin	6/23	Jim & Mary Dusenberry
6/4	Don & Janna McKale	6/18	Larry & Cindy Sloan	6/26	Hugh & Nancy Spitler
6/5	Paul & Debbie Durland	6/19	Bob & Nan Jones Barry & Aleta Robinson	6/27	Bob & Susan Brown Nathan & Emily Ewoldt Bruce & Laurel Whisler Bob & Eva Williamson
6/6	Heath & Lauren Fields	6/20	Jason & Sarah Allen John & Sally Martin Tom & Cathy McInnis	6/28	Ben & Lois Sill
6/8	Scott & Leslie Callison	6/21	Gus & Clarice Gustafson	6/29	Riley & Carol Johnson
6/9	Mark & Mary Morrison			6/30	John & Debbie Sturman Ben & Linda Wofford
6/10	Chuck & Laura Conrad				
6/11	Bruce & Harriett Salley John & Marcia Sherman				
6/13	Frank & Rita Van Lenten				



6/1	Bo Crader Julie DuBose Marion Gahan Don Ridgell	6/8	Victoria Artigliere	6/16	Paige Durham Virginia Hintz Cynthia Gravely Cooper Hays Courtney Money Gary Pollock	6/22	Benjamin Smith Jacquie Worley
6/2	Grady Jordan Kimberly Morris Marge Olthoff	6/9	Rebecca Ackerman Dan Radakovich	6/17	Eddie Chavis Ellen Torrence	6/24	Harrison Wetsel Wes Worley
6/3	Betsy Mudge Cody Satzger Josh Simpson	6/10	Andy Kwist Cathy Olker	6/18	Joann Daugherty Cyndi Davis Larry McCullough Cathy Spragins	6/25	Lisbeth Crowther Audrey Thompson
6/4	Judson McKinney Tony Rutland	6/11	Paul Borick III Erika Hays Chryssa Rutland	6/19	Jean Greene Louise Horton Ann Howard	6/26	Leanne Broome Nina Cobb Mario Muzii
6/5	Shelley Burchfield Lochlan McLaurin Marcia Sherman	6/12	Cheryl Trammell	6/20	Dylan Barker Bette Bronson	6/27	Steve Martin Amanda Stevenson
6/6	Kip Bagley	6/13	Grace Hawthorne James Rash Frank Van Lenten	6/21	Daniel Turner	6/28	Robin Weeks Sydney Weeks
6/7	Anne Sellers Jim Thomas	6/14	Ellie Faithful Kimberly Jordan James Sharkey Chuck Sisson			6/30	Sarah DuBose Rob Key Raymond Wooten
		6/16	Helen Adams				



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(864) 654-2061
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Return Service Requested

Fellowship — Stay Connected

Summer Activities:

First Sunday Potluck Breakfast meets in Tartan Hall on **June 4, July 2, and August 6** at 9:00 am. Bring a favorite breakfast item to share. Coffee and juice will be provided.

Wildcard Wednesday Potluck Suppers are scheduled for **June 28** and **July 26** at 6:00 pm in Tartan Hall. Bring the family and a supper item to share.

Craft Connections continues our meetings on the fourth Sundays at 11:15 am in the Club Room — **June 25** and **July 23**. Always room for more friends. For more information contact **Cyndi Davis** at davisdcr@bellsouth.net.

Book Club meets on the second Monday evenings at 7:00 pm in the second floor Gathering Area near Room E-205.

June 12 — book is [Indigo Girl](#) by Natasha Boyd led by Carolyn Stroup

July 10 — book is [Shanghai Girls](#) by Lisa See led by Debbie Shealy

August 14 — book has not yet been chosen

For more information, contact **Debbie Shealy** by texting 912.656.4596.

Meet and Eat groups next meet in **August during the August 25-27** weekend. Contact **Holly Ridgell** at hridgell@gmail.com for more information and to join this rotating dining group.

Our May Picnic was attended by 99 members. Great food, weather, conversation, and fellowship!