

The Window

The Newsletter of Fort Hill Presbyterian Church

April 2024

Message From the Pastor

In Full Bloom, Resurrection Faith

Dear Friends,

I hope you are enjoying the beauty of this season! Faith is not a feeling. Faith is trusting in what we cannot see. "Now faith is confidence in what we hope for and assurance about what we do not see." (Hebrews 11:1) But in spring as we celebrate the new life we have through Christ Jesus, the world shows us what rebirth looks like. We can see it!

Sometimes we look ahead with anxiety or we look back with regret and feel depressed. Trust is bigger than feelings. It is being right where you are and knowing we are in God's hands. We always have been. We always will be.



Your elders on Session looked back at the last 10 years of our church. There were many challenges: staff changes in children, youth, college, impacts of cultural changes and General Assembly actions. We lived through a whole building renovation and were displaced. We lost members, and we gained members. We welcomed lots of new staff. We raised four million dollars through two capital campaigns to renovate our campus and rebuild campus ministry. Groups ceased to be like our Medical Eye missions and some Sunday morning classes. New groups and missions formed. We lived through a pandemic and emerged with vitality and new strength.

And God was with us and working in it all. Much of it was hard, but also the place where we realize our need for God's help. Faith is trusting in God even if what you see makes you doubt. Consider your own life of faith over the last 10 years. What has God taught you?

"You can trust your soul to the God who makes you whole," no matter how you are feeling! As Deuteronomy puts it, "The eternal God is your dwelling place, and underneath are the everlasting arms." (Deuteronomy 33:27)

We live in God's arms. In life and in death, we belong to God. Through death and resurrection of Christ Jesus, we know it! That is good news in which we can trust!

In Christ's Service,

Laura 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
Jacob Kennedy, AP for Congregational Life
Colin Pettigrew, AP for University Ministry
Preston Shealy, Parish Associate
Margaret MacKay, Director of Music
Judy Bonham, Organist/Handbell Dir.
Lori Houck, Administrator
Morgan Bryant, Administrative Assistant
Scott Thraikill, Facilities Manager

Weekly Lectionary Scriptures

4/7 2nd Sunday of Easter
Acts 4:32-25; Ps. 133;
Isa. 65:17-25; Ps. 3;
1 John 1:1-2:2; John 20:19-31

4/14 3rd Sunday of Easter
Acts 3:12-19; Ps. 4;
Isa. 6:1-9a; Ps. 40:1-5;
1 John 3:1-7; Luke 24:36b-48

4/21 4th Sunday of Easter
Acts 4:5-12; Ps. 23;
Zech. 10:1-12; Ps. 80:1-7;
1 John 3:16-24; John 10:11-18

4/28 5th Sunday of Easter
Acts 8:26-40; Ps. 22:25-31;
Ex. 19:1-6; Ps. 118:19-25;
1 John 4:7-21; John 15:1-8

May 2024

The Window Deadline

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

Discovering Faith Sunday, April 21

Interested in Learning More About Joining Fort Hill Church?

Our next Discovering Faith Lunch for those interested in exploring membership will be held after the 10:45 worship service in the Club Room.

Please contact the church office at communications@forthillchurch.org if you would like to attend and if you need childcare.

Choir Corner

For those of you who know me fairly well, you are aware that I have a long list of songs I would like sung at my funeral someday. I can't help that I love beautiful sacred music. When the choir begins working on a new anthem, I usually comment to them that I would like that sung at my funeral. There is some laughter, some eye rolls, nods, etc. To say the least, the list is a bit long. They are all such moving anthems of different kinds and varieties. It is difficult to whittle them down to just one or two. (Don't worry — we'll keep it at an hour or less!!!)



With that being said, it is a gift to have music surrounding us in comfort, strength, emotion, praise, glory, etc. Whatever the text or notes might be are meaningful to all who hear. So I encourage you to make a list of your favorite hymns, anthems, songs, etc. It doesn't have to be for a service of any kind. It can just be the ones that you hum or sing along keeping you company and making you aware of God's presence.

When I go to the Montreat Music Conference each year, I love walking around the auditorium, lake, classrooms, and other areas because you always hear some kind of music filling the air. It is peaceful, uplifting, moving, emotional, prayerful, fun and the list continues. I am sure you have your places, radio channels, headsets, quiet rooms, etc. Enjoy the moments of nature, voices, and instruments surrounding you. Close your eyes, breathe it in, and listen. You will be refreshed, renewed, healed, and blessed.

And remember to always...Keep Smiling-n-Singing,

Margaret

Confirmation and Baptism

On April 28, we will confirm Lucas Money as a member of Fort Hill Presbyterian Church at the 10:45 service. Lucas has been at work all semester with Pastor Jacob and his Confirmation partner, Larry Sloan, learning the lessons of faith. Together Lucas has learned about what it means to be Presbyterian, the sacraments of the Church and their meaning, and many other lessons. We can't wait to welcome Lucas as a member of Fort Hill.

On the 28th, there will be the baptism of Andy Bajoczky! Andy and his family, Olivia, Wallace, and Ginny, have recently joined the Church and we are so excited to have Andy, like Lucas, affirm his faith and be engrafted and enfolded in the community of Fort Hill through the waters of baptism! What a great Sunday, and we can't wait to see you there!

Mother's Day Offering

Since 1954, South Carolina Presbyterians have celebrated Mother's Day with a special offering to support the ministry to older adults in South Carolina Presbyterian Communities. In six vibrant and nurturing residential facilities across the state, senior citizens benefit from accommodations, independent and active living services, healthcare, and memory support. **The Mother's Day Offering** is used exclusively to provide charitable funds to residents who no longer have adequate financial resources for their full care. On Sunday, May 12, please consider a gift that will help shelter and care for those close to us who call Presbyterian Communities home.

Christian Action Ministry

Associate for Congregational Care Search Underway

Our 2023 Staffing Realignment plan guides us as Mary Morrison, Associate Pastor for Congregational Care, departed in March. Our Session elected a search committee which includes: **Greg Bearden, Stephanie Scott, Ben Sill, Robbi Stokes, Robin Weeks,** and **Pastor Laura Conrad**, ex-officio. In the weeks ahead the committee will revise the job description and begin the search for a part-time Associate to serve and support congregational care.

In the meantime, the pastors, deacons, group leaders, and members are charged with Jesus' mandate on Maundy Thursday to "love one another as I have loved you" as he washed their feet. We will keep "washing feet" and loving each other as Christ commands.



Left to right:
Stephanie Scott, Ben Sill, Robin Weeks, Robbi Stokes,
Greg Bearden (Laura Conrad, ex-officio/photographer)

Bridging Generations II

Fort Hill Church is embarking on the timely and important Bridging Generations II two-year capital campaign to finish the work started with our initial Bridging Generations in 2015 which raised money for much-needed renovation projects. A letter and brochure were recently mailed out to our church members.



Come Learn More About Bridging Generations II

Join us on **Wednesday, April 10, 5:30-7:00 pm in the Club Room** or for a Town Hall reception following worship on **Sunday, April 10, in Tartan Hall** to hear more about our new projects and the opportunity to improve our worship experience, upgrade our backyard, and finish the job on our 2016 all-church renovation.

The Wednesday evening event on **April 10** is geared toward our parents, choir adults, and anyone interested. Space is **limited to 35** so RSVP to Morgan Bryant at communications@forthillchurch.org by **April 5** since heavy hors d'oeuvres and drink will be provided.

Bridging Generations II Dedication Sunday — April 28

On **Sunday, April 28**, we will be dedicating our pledges to the Bridging Generations II campaign. Pledge cards were mailed on March 20, and we ask that you bring your card to worship on **April 28** as we will fill them out together. If you are unable to attend on April 28, you can pledge online at:

<https://onrealm.org/FortHillPresbyt/AddPledge/bgiiacpmpn>

Thanks again for all you have done and continue to do for Fort Hill. We look forward to celebrating and spreading more grace in God's world.

The Window

Sunday Servants

Pastor on Call—864.654.2065

4/7 Colin Pettigrew
4/14 Laura Conrad
4/21 Jacob Kennedy
4/28 Laura Conrad

Elder of the Day

4/7 Don Ridgell (8:30)
Cindy Sloan (10:45)
4/14 Helen Steele (8:30)
Rick Hegenberger (10:45)
4/21 Diane Egan (8:30)
Donna Crader (10:45)
4/28 Ben Sill (8:30)
Hugh Spittler (10:45)

Christian Sympathy is extended to:



- **Claudia Harris & family** on the death of **Hal Harris** on March 4 in Powdersville, SC.
- **Chip & Diane Egan** on the death of Chip's mother, **Joan Egan**, on March 9 in Easley, SC.



Sunday, April 14

PSA Sunday

On April 19, students from Presbyterian Student Association, our college ministry, will lead our Sunday morning worship services. We hope to see you there!

Sunday, May 19

On May 19, we will celebrate our High School graduates from Fort Hill Presbyterian Church at our 10:45 service! We hope you will join us!

Church Mouse



Busy, busy times and so much to be thankful for at our church.

Youth Sunday was great and here are all the young people who

were involved: **Mason & Anndie Young, Eliza, Grace, & Walton Bost, Lucy Martin, Shuler Wilson, Hudson Money, Chloe Miller, Miller Gregory, Hayden Anderson, McKain Rapp, and David Durham.** **Dulcie Mohr** gave a very thoughtful sermon. Our childrens' choirs also contributed to part of a worship service: **Strong Praises and Singers of Christ (18): Vivian & Adair Stevenson, Grace Collins, Ethan & Addie Nihoul, Adelyn Hudak, Ellie Faithful, Audrey & Parker Jones, Dorothy, Ebb, James & Louise Horton, Derge Chen, Thomas Baker, Elizabeth Crader, Austin & Caleb Dickerson.**

The handbell choir provided wonderful music on February 25: **Margaret MacKay, Jeremy Johnsonwall, Jacquie Worley, Mark Kwist, Debbie Shealy, Robbi Stokes, Carolyn Thomas, Mary Beth Clanton, Karen Johnson, Chris Torres, and Julianne Wenner.**

March Communion was coordinated by **Beth Chapman.** The preparers were **Beth Chapman and Pam Waddle.** Those serving were: **Nancy Spitler, Karen Ware, Charlotte Phillips, Helen Wooten, Mark Stokes, Michael Steele, Bill Cato, Nancy & Dusty Oates.**

Thanks to the outgoing deacons: **Georganne Burton, Joyce Daley, Chip Egan, Melanie Job, Wes Koch, Stacey Miller, Mark Morrison** (Moderator), **Peggy Rutland and Chris Torres.** The outgoing elders were: **Walton Bost, Bill Cato, Cyndi Davis, Lucy Martin, Gregg Morton, Nancy Spitler, Mark Stokes, Cindy Trammell, and Robin Weeks.**

So many individuals to thank this time.



Ending of the Youth Group Year

The Fort Hill Youth Group has had a very exciting year. It's hard to believe that in just a few weeks we will be concluding another great year of Youth Ministry at Fort Hill! This year, we have lived into our theme of "What Comes Next?" We have done many projects, engaged with various mission opportunities, had the opportunity to hear from speakers, had worship, and even found some time to play together. As we move into the summer, we ask the question for you all to reflect on, "What Comes Next?" As you ponder, remember that what comes next may be unknown, but God is with you and God loves you! As always, we are grateful for your support of our ministry here at Fort Hill Presbyterian Church.

Fellowship Ministry Update

What a great time we had on St. Patrick's Day morning, as we shared in eating delicious shortbread cookies and scones and drinking coffee and tea. The kids enjoyed coloring pages that explained the significance of the shamrock reminding them of the Trinity.

Book Club will meet on **April 4** at 7:00 pm to discuss Trouble the Water by Rebecca Dwight Bruff. Come and join this exciting group!

Come on **May 13** at 7:00 pm to hear our own **Shelley Burchfield** discuss her book Climbing to the Sun!! Please call or text Debbie Shealy at 912.656.4596 to let us know if you will be joining us. Details of the location of the meeting will be announced once we know how many people will attend.

Meet & Eat groups will meet **April 26-28** for food, fun, and fellowship. Call or text Holly Ridgell at 864.320.2366 to join in this fun small group activity.

Craft Connection will meet on **Sunday, April 28** at noon in the Club Room. Bring a craft you are working on, and lunch if you want, and join in the fellowship.

Wednesday Night Potluck Supper has been cancelled. Fellowship Ministry will continue to provide supper for the children attending Wednesday Night at the Fort on the third Wednesday of each month.

Don't forget to check out the **puzzle** that is set up in Tartan Hall. Put in a few or many pieces so we can finish the puzzle and then start a new one...

Don Ridgell has joined our team as our new Elder member and Miriam Hutto is a new member as well. Come join this fun group as we plan fellowship activities for the church. Call or text Debbie Shealy (912. 656.4596) with questions.

Hope you had a terrific Easter celebration! Hello Spring!

Thank You

Chip and Diane and their family want to thank the congregation of Fort Hill for their loving expressions of sympathy and caring following the death of Chip's mother, Joan Egan, on March 9. We have been wrapped in the arms of our whole church. What a blessing.

Chip & Diane Egan

News from Presbyterian Women

April PW Circle Meeting Schedule

Joint Meeting of Circle 1 & Trinity Circle — Monday, April 8, 9:30 am, Club Room — Carolyn Stroup, (843) 319-9023

2nd Tuesday Evening Circle — Tuesday, April 9, 6:00 pm, the Library — Nan Jones, jones4927@bellsouth.net

Circle of Hope — Thursday, April 4, 2:00 pm, Clemson Downs large Corley Room — Judy Blackwell, mikeandjudyblackw@currently.com

Helping Hands Paper Goods Drive

Donations of paper goods for Helping Hands group children's home is an ongoing monthly project for the PW. Donations of paper goods such as paper towels, toilet paper, tissues, napkins, soap, and liquid laundry detergent (no pods) can be dropped off in the FHOG office or placed in the marked plastic box in the collections room below the FHOG office. These will be taken to Helping Hands the middle of each month. Contact: Carolyn Stroup, (864) 319-9023.

2024 Annual Birthday Luncheon sponsored by Presbyterian Women

**Saturday, April 13, 2024
11:30 am in Tartan Hall**

Please bring a salad and a mission offering to share.

Please sign up on one of the signup sheets or email Maranda Arnold (marandaarnold@gmail.com).

Susan Sachs, Co-Founder and Co-Chief Executive Officer of **Project HOPE Foundation** will be our speaker. **Project Hope Foundation** is a local non-profit organization whose mission is to lead the way in providing a lifespan of services for the autism community. Since learning in 1996 that her son has autism, Susan has gained expertise in the field of autism, participating in thousands of hours of Applied Behavior Analysis sessions and meeting with hundreds of families of children with autism. Along with her Co-Founder and Co-CEO, Lisa Lane, Susan has been instrumental in developing each of Project HOPE's therapeutic and educational programs. **Project HOPE Foundation** will be opening a campus in Clemson soon.

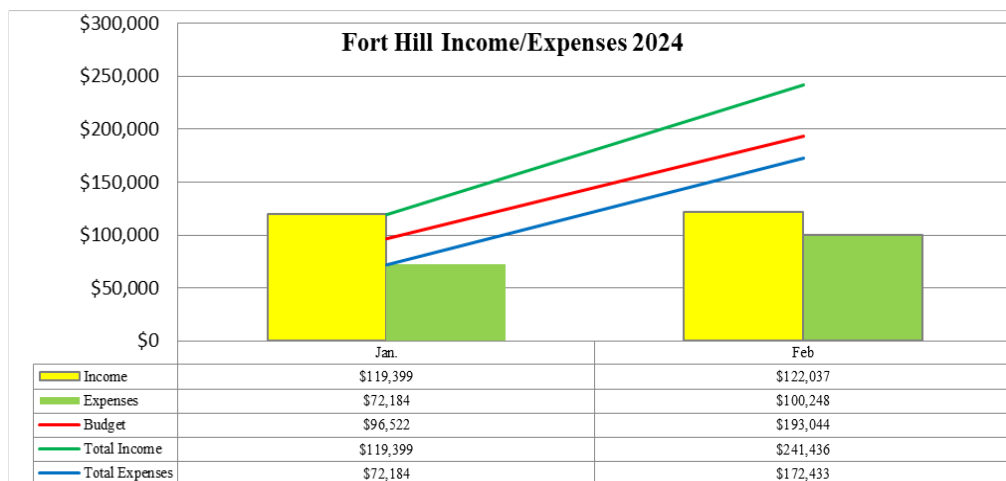


Finance Ministry Update

Through the first two months of 2024, total income was \$241,436 while expenses were \$172,433 providing a surplus of \$69,003 YTD. Overall expenses are at 14.5% of budget, while income is at 20.8% of budget. Expenses are slightly below budget while income is above budget. Multiple giving units made their yearly contribution in January and February leading to the surplus. Thank you for your tithes and offerings in support to Fort Hill Church.

Bridging Generations Update:

Loan Principle Balance:
\$193,489



April Fort Hill Church Activities

Monday, April 1

Pastors & Scott Off for Good Friday holiday

8:30 am Building & Grounds Meeting — Library

Tuesday, April 2

8:30 am Men's Church Breakfast — Egg's Up (Clemson)

3:00 pm Personnel & Program Support — Library

5:30 pm University Ministry — PSA Student Center

7:00 pm Adult Ministry Team Meeting — Conference Rm.
Youth Ministry Team Meeting — Den

Wednesday, April 3

NO Children's Events

NO Chancel Choir Rehearsal this evening

Thursday, April 4

2:00 pm PW Circle of Hope — Downs Corley Center

Sunday, April 7

Home-based Communion — various locations

Monday, April 8

9:30 am PW Circle 1 & Trinity Circle — Club Room

Tuesday, April 9

10:00 am Men's Study Group (Ben Sill) — Library

4:00 pm Finance Ministry Meeting — Library

5:00 pm Worship Ministry Meeting — Conference Room

6:00 pm Christian Action Ministry Meeting — Club Room
PW Circle 2 Meeting — Library

Wednesday, April 10

5:30 pm Bridging Generations II Family-Style
Informational Dinner — Club Room

Thursday, April 11

5:00 pm Healing Bridges Counseling Center Board —
Library

Friday, April 12

5:00 pm Children's Ministry Fellowship Event at
Glazed in Clemson

Saturday, April 13

11:30 am Presbyterian Women Annual Birthday Luncheon
Tartan Hall

Sunday, April 14

CU Presbyterian Student Association (PSA) Sunday

Sunday, April 14 (continued)

12:00 pm Bridging Generations II Town Hall Reception
— Tartan Hall

Children's Ministry Team Meeting — the Nest

3:30 pm CU String Quartet Concert — Sanctuary

Monday, April 15

10:00 am Prayer Shawl Ministry — Hazel Sparks' home

Tuesday, April 16

7:00 pm Session Meeting

Wednesday, April 17

11:45 am Foothills Community Pastors Luncheon —
Foothills Community

Thursday, April 18

5:00 pm He-Brews — The Silos (Easley)

Sunday, April 21

12:00 pm Deacons Meeting — Tartan Hall

Discovering Faith for Potential New Members —
Club Room

Tuesday, April 23

10:00 am Men's Study Group (Ben Sill) — Library

5:30 pm Membership Ministry Meeting — Conf. Room

7:00 pm Fellowship Ministry Meeting — Club Room

Thursday, April 25

5:00 pm Healing Bridges Counseling Center Board —
Library

Friday, April 26

2:00 pm Scouts BBQ Drive Thru — Tartan Hall Kitchen/
-8:00 pm Upper Parking Lot

TBD Meet & Eat — Off-Site

Saturday, April 27

TBD Meet & Eat — Off-Site

Sunday, April 28

Confirmation Sunday

10:25 am Special Session to Receive New Members — TH

12:00 pm Craft Connections — Club Room

1:30 pm Blue & Gold Cub Scouts Banquet — TH/Sanctuary

3:30 pm Last Youth Group — TBD

6:00 pm PSA Pre-Exam Communion — Old Stone Church

TBD Meet & Eat — Off-Site



April Birthdays & Anniversaries



April BIRTHDAYS

4/1 Mandy Hays Benja Mohr Laura Ware	4/8 Jake McKinney Carolyn Stroup	4/14 Chris Bandy	4/22 Janna McKale Joanne Trenholm
4/2 Will Gregory	4/9 Gene Goodwyn	4/15 Mary J Barron Vernon Burton Leslie Callison	4/24 Tim Heist Addie Nihoul Michael Van Daele Gensie Waldrop
4/3 Jason Hudak Natalie Turner Nedra Ulrich	4/10 Walker Christenbury Austin Dickerson Nathan Ewoldt Benton Halbig Margaret Ann Rodgers Pat Street	4/16 Megan Chavis Katherine Sosebee	4/25 Lee Allman Karen Daniels Beth Gregory Wade Job
4/4 Robert Olker	4/11 Dick Shick Ally Young	4/17 Janet Bean Hannah Sawyer	4/26 Doug Carlson Jerry Greene
4/5 LeAnne Greene Kathy Moore Sherri Smith	4/12 Pat Rabun	4/18 Charles Barron Michael Steele	4/27 Norman Weber
4/7 Chandler Scramm	4/13 Alex Davis Elizabeth Hawthorne Lynn Hipp	4/19 Olivia Bajoczky Colin Pettigrew Suzan Simmons Mark Sublette	4/28 Nancy Brown Hannah Job Steve Lefevre
4/8 Hugh Garner Miller Gregory Rees Gregory		4/20 John Martin Charlie Kreider Karen Ware	4/29 Ford Hedrick Mac Martin
		4/21 Betty Cornwell Luke Poetz Karen Sawyer Carol Walling	4/30 Mary Coronato Tom Freeman Helen Steele



April ANNIVERSARIES

4/2 Don & Holly Ridgell Jim & Caroline Thomas	4/17 Denny & Laurie Sherrod Dyke & Rhonda Spencer	4/21 Colin & Emily Pettigrew
4/6 Paul & Joan Borick	4/18 McClure & Jennifer Dickerson Rob & Marsha Griffin John & Amanda Stevenson	4/24 Jay & Tommi Jones Bill & Tina Mostertz
	4/19 Keith & Terri Smith	4/28 Preston & Debbie Shealy
		4/29 Jeremy & Heather Wright



Recurring Weekly Activities

Sunday

8:30 am	Worship Service — Tartan Hall
9:00 am	Sojourners' Class — Zoom
9:30 am	Kindred Spirits Class — Club Room
10:45 am	Worship Service — Sanctuary/Livestream Nursery (Birth-2yrs) — Nursery Room Toddler Time (walkers-K2) — Turtle Room Bible Fun (K3-K4) — Honeybee Room Weekirk (children's worship/K5-1 st gr.) — following Children's story — Nest WOW (worship education/2 nd -5 th gr.) — E209 Club 45 (4 th -5 th gr.) — Nest (2 nd & 4 th Sundays)
2:30 pm	NAMI Family-to-Family — Club Room Cub Scouts — Backyard/Tartan Hall/Ed. Building (2 nd & 4 th Sundays)
5:00 pm	Youth Group — the Den & Tartan Hall
6:00 pm	PSA College Dinner/Program — PSA Student Center

Monday

9:30 am	Preschool Chapel — Sanctuary
2:30 pm	Organ Lessons — Sanctuary
6:30 pm	Scouts BSA Troops 235 Boys/7235 Girls — Cl Rm/TH

Tuesday

9:30 am	Staff Meeting — Conference Room
4:00 pm	Folk Dancing — Tartan Hall
5:00 pm	Organ Lessons — Sanctuary

Wednesday

6:00 pm	Wednesdays @ the Fort (4K-5 th gr.) — Nest/E208/
6:10 pm	Children's Choir Rehearsal — E209
7:00 pm	PSA Bible Study — PSA Student Center
7:30 pm	Chancel Choir Rehearsal — Choir Room

Thursday

9:15 am	Men's Small Group — Library
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Weekly AA Meetings

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



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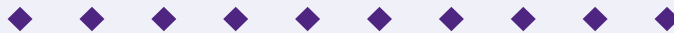
101 Edgewood Avenue
Clemson, SC 29631

(864) 654-2061
www.forthillchurch.org

Return Service Requested

Announcements

On **April 14** at 3:30 pm, the Clemson University String Quartet will be performing a short concert in our Fort Hill Church Sanctuary. The quartet's director, Dr. Leslie Warlick, Violin/ Viola instructor at CU, and the Worship Ministry invite all interested Fort Hill members and friends to attend. The performance should last approximately one hour.



Scout Troops 235 and 7235 are happy to announce their annual BBQ fundraiser coming up on **Friday, April 26!** They have been doing this BBQ Fundraiser for over 50 years to support the Scouts BSA units at Fort Hill Presbyterian Church. Each \$10 ticket includes a full BBQ chicken dinner for one adult (using John Welter's world-famous secret recipe!) and includes side items. Contact a Scout in the Troop, or let me know how many tickets you would like and a Scout will deliver them to you. Cash or check made out to "Troop 235." Questions? Contact Bo Crader at bo.crader@gmail.com or 843.469.2662. Quantities of tickets are limited...so first come first served!