

The Window

The Newsletter of Fort Hill Presbyterian Church

May 2024

Message From the Pastor

Exciting News to Share

Inside this newsletter you will read of many exciting ways our church is sharing God's love and serving in faith. Please take time to read more about **Kelly McCord, our new Coordinator of Faith Formation**, who will be serving in our Discipleship Ministry, helping shape the faith of our young people. Kelly is experienced, qualified, and was raised by a wonderful congregation, First Presbyterian, Greer, SC. She graduated from Presbyterian College with a BA in Christian Education. Please say, "Thank you!" To our search committee members when you see them: Lisa Street, moderator, Mary Margaret Allman, Carol Austin, Bo Crader, James Kwist, Lucy Martin, Kristin McCall, and Jacob Kennedy.

Secondly, we are searching for an **Associate for Congregational Care (part-time)** who can facilitate care and support our members in times of need or joys. Our Board of Deacons do a wonderful job of caring for our congregation, but we know having a partner in ministry to support them will be helpful. Our Pastoral Team, Colin, Jacob, and Laura, serve together to care for our members, and we look forward to welcoming a new colleague. The search committee is currently sharing the position description through several avenues.

Fort Hill Church is very welcoming which is different from friendly. As we welcome new staff and continue to build relationships, I hope we focus on welcome. Jesus was always welcoming people, people that were not always very welcomed. He welcomed little children, ate with tax collectors and sinners, and called women into his way. Hospitality and welcome means inviting others into your lives not just being "friendly." My favorite moments are when I see folks who would never have been in relationship connect over a ministry, an interest, a service project, where we get to know one another, finding common ground and enjoying our differences.

In 2024 this kind of Christ-like grace will be essential to our souls as our nation is in a presidential election year. Inside Fort Hill fellowship and out in the community we are called to Love our neighbors. I hope we can live up to the kind of welcome expressed on the signs that read, "You are our neighbors. No matter who you vote for, your skin color, where you are from, your faith or who you love, we will try to be here for you. That's what community means. Let's be neighbors." (www.letsbeneighbors.org)

In Christ's Love,

Laura Conrad, Pastor

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Fort Hill Presbyterian Church

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Clemson, SC 29631
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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

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

5/5 6th Sunday after Easter

Acts 10:44-48; Ps. 98;
Gen. 35:9-15; Ps. 101;
1 John 5:1-6; John 15:9-17

5/12 7th Sunday after Easter

Acts 1:15-17, 21-26; Ps. 1;
Jer. 10:1-10a; Ps. 108;
1 John 5:9-13; John 17:6-19

5/19 Day of Pentecost

Acts 2:1-21; Ezek. 37:1-14;
Ps. 104:24-34, 35b; Rom. 8:22-27;
Acts 2:1-21; John 15:26-27; 16:4b-15

5/26 Trinity Sunday

Isa. 6:1-8; Ps. 29;
Rom 8:12-17; John 3:1-17

Welcome Kelly McCord



Kelly will join the community of Fort Hill in May of 2024 as the Coordinator of Faith Formation. Growing up in Greer, she spent many weekends attending Clemson football games. Unlike most of her tiger family, Kelly attended Presbyterian College, receiving a degree in Christian Education. Upon graduation, she moved to Tampa, FL, to work at Palma Ceia Presbyterian Church, becoming the Assistant Program Director of Children's Ministries. After five years of church ministry, Kelly came home to be closer to family.

Through this season of discernment, she has experienced many new joys and sorrows that drew her back to working in the church setting. Kelly desires to help the children, youth, and families form a lifelong faith that shines the light of Christ's love to everyone in their community. Currently, she lives in Belton, spending most of her time in the woods, gardening, and caring for her chickens. Her favorite joy is to be in awe of God's beautiful creations by playing outside.

June 2024 *The Window* Deadline

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

5/5 Jacob Kennedy
5/12 Jacob Kennedy
5/19 Colin Pettigrew
5/26 Laura Conrad

Elder of the Day

5/5 Jim Thomas (8:30)
Vernon Burton (10:45)
5/12 TBD (8:30)
Mason Young (10:45)
5/19 Kevin Bronson (8:30)
Ben Trammell (10:45)
5/26 Russ Phillips (8:30)
Cindy Prather (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. 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.



“Community is Here”

With great honor, the Discipleship Ministry at Fort Hill Presbyterian Church would like to present to you all our 2024-2025 theme for the year. Presenting:

“Community is Here”

We are excited about this theme as children, youth, and adults will be focusing on the same theme for the coming year at Fort Hill. Over the next few months, our ministry teams will be reviewing curriculum and creating a plan for each group to discuss community, and what it means to build community with one another. Over the next few months, we will have the co-chairs of the Discipleship Ministry team, Donna Crader and Cindy Prather, share what “Community is Here” means to them. For now, we want to invite you to join a community this year. Explore what community means to you, and pay attention to the various offerings of the Discipleship Ministry coming soon!

This Summer in Youth Ministry

Friends of Fort Hill, our Youth Ministry at Fort Hill is going to have an incredible summer. We are going to have fun playing and engaging in fellowship with one another. Check out the schedule below.

Summer Trips

June 21–23 Massanetta Middle School Conference
July 7–13 Montreat High School Conference

Weekly Summer Events

June 5–July 31 Wild Wednesday every Wednesday at Holy Trinity Episcopal

Summer Meet-Ups

June 9	Movie Night at the Fort	6:00 – 8:00 pm
July 18	Putt-Putt at Oasis Ranch	3:00 – 5:00 pm
July 25	Tour of the Highest Point in SC	10:00 am – 5:00 pm

Volunteer Opportunities

June 24–27 Vacation Bible School
If interested please contact: children@fhillchurch.org

Vacation Bible School

This summer Fort Hill will be hosting an amazing Vacation Bible School program for all. If you are interested in volunteering, please contact children@fhillchurch.org.



June 24—27

Scan QR code
to register:



Thank You!

Dear Fort Hill Family of Faith,

Thank you for the generous love gift. Mark and I will enjoy it at a time in the future and remember our time with you fondly. We will continue to pray God's blessings upon you as you strive to faithfully follow the Spirit.

With deepest appreciation & love,

Mary



Christian Sympathy is extended to:

- **Cynthia & Garland Gravelly** on the death of Cynthia's brother, John Ranson, on March 27 in Columbia, SC.
- **Betty Shealy** on the death of her husband **Tom Shealy** on April 6 in Clemson.
- **Beth Weber** on the death of her husband **Norm Weber** on April 6 in Seneca.
- **Nan Jones** on the death of her husband **Bob Jones** on April 13 in Clemson.
- **Lee Churchfield** on the death of her sister-in-law, Carole McCallum on April 13 in Newfoundland, PA.
- **Maggie, Chris, J.T. & Carter Bandy** on the death of Maggie's father, John Taylor, on April 18 in Louisville, KY.

Fellowship Ministry Update

Save the Date!!! Monday, May 13th at 7:00 pm

The Book Club invites everyone to join them as **Shelley Burchfield**, a member of this church, comes to discuss her book, *Climbing to the Sun*. It is a wonderful story about a woman named Callie Beecham, an herbalist and healer in 1928 in Pickens, SC. She helps a family in Liberia and then finds out that she has angered some people in town who threaten her livelihood, her relationships, and even her life.

Please call or text Debbie Shealy at 912.656.4596 to let us know that you will be joining us on that evening. We will meet in The Den which is the youth/high school meeting room under the Sanctuary.

Save the Date Again!!! Sunday, May 19th at Noon

The yearly **Churchwide Picnic** will be held at Clemson Outdoor Lab. Come straight from church, after the second service, and bring a potluck dish to join us as the Fellowship Ministry provides chicken and drinks for a yummy lunch. There will be games to play for young and old. Come out to gather with old friends and also to meet new ones! We hope to have a great turnout, great weather, and awesome fellowship.

Other Fellowship Opportunities

Meet and Eat met the weekend of April 26-28th and will meet again **June 7-9th**. Call Holly Ridgell at 864.320.2366 to join in the fun as small groups meet for a meal and a time of fellowship — allowing time to get to know each other better over a delicious meal at someone's home or at a chosen restaurant.

Craft Connection will meet again on **May 26th** at noon, after the second service in the Club Room. Bring a craft you are working on, a lunch (if you want), and join in the fellowship.

First Sunday Summer Breakfasts will take place at 9:00 am in Tartan Hall. Dates: **June 2, July 7, and August 4**. Participants are asked to bring a breakfast dish to share. Water, coffee, and juice will be available.

Don't forget to check out the **puzzle** that is set up in Tartan Hall. It is a fun map, for all ages, of the United States. Help us finish this puzzle so we can start on a new one.

If you like to plan and host parties and fun gatherings for our church members, join the Fellowship Ministry by calling or texting Debbie Shealy at 912.656.4596. Looking forward to seeing you at the upcoming events at FHPC!



News from Presbyterian Women

May PW Circle Meetings

Joint Meeting of Circle 1 and Trinity Circle — Monday, May 6 at 10:00 am in the Club Room

(Contact: Carolyn Stroup, 843.319.9023)

2nd Tuesday Evening Circle Meeting — Tuesday, May 14 at 6:00 pm in the Library

(Contact: Nan Jones, jones4927@bellsouth.net)

Circle of Hope Meeting — Thursday, May 2 at 2:00 pm in the large Corley Room at Clemson Downs

(Contact: Judy Blackwell, mikeandjudyblackw@currently.com)

Annual PW Birthday Luncheon

This year's PW Birthday Luncheon was held on Saturday, April 13 with 46 attendees, a salad lunch, a dynamic speaker, and two recipients of the PW Honorary Life Membership Award. Susan Sachs, Co-Founder & Co-Chief Officer of the Hope Foundation was the guest speaker. The Foundation has a mission to provide a lifespan of services for children and adults with autism.

Honorary Life Awards were presented to Ann Gilreath and Beth Chapman for their service and dedication to the church and the community. Congratulations Ann and Beth!

An offering of \$1,055 was collected and donated to two local and two national charities:

- *The Hope Foundation* will use our financial gifts to build a playgroup for the new service center opening in Central in June (Clemson Campus).
- *Clemson Child Development Center* is revamping the outdoor space for the children.
- *Café Gingko* — a non-profit in Louisville, KY, that address food insecurities and provide educational classes to single Moms and their children.
- *Villa 5 Apartments* — housing for eight individuals and a recreational area in Marthasville, MO, for adults with intellectual/developmental disabilities.

Thanks to all who made this luncheon a success!

Clothing Drive

The Spring clothing drive was held in April. Clothing collected will go to Safe Harbor. Thanks to all who contributed and thanks to Joan Dixon, Susan Beckwith, and Gensie Waldrop for their dedication to this cause.

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, 843.319.9023.

Fort Hill Preschool Update

Oh what a wonderful year we have had at Fort Hill Preschool! We are abundantly thankful for a year of growth and special memories made with our sweet Fort Hill families. Thank you all for your love, support, and most importantly prayers for our teachers and students. We would love to thank Pastor Laura, Pastor Mary, Pastor Jacob, and Pastor Colin for teaching us our bible stories during chapel this year. Thank you to our Preschool Board as well for your continued support of our preschool, teachers, and families. Thank you to Mr. Scott for all you do to make our preschool operate smoothly each day. We have had such a wonderful year, and we look forward to our next year with full hearts and pure excitement! To God be the Glory!

With love and gratitude,

Kayla, Director of Fort Hill Preschool



May Fort Hill Church Activities

Wednesday, May 1

- 8:00 am CU Staff Retreat — Tartan Hall
- 5:30 pm Scotland Trip Meeting — Club Room

Thursday, May 2

- 2:00 pm PW Circle of Hope Meeting — Downs Corley Cntr

Sunday, May 5

- Homebound Communion — various locations
- 12:00 pm SAFE Place Training — Den

Monday, May 6

- 8:30 am Building & Grounds Meeting — Library
- 10:00 am PW Circle 1 & Trinity Circle Meeting — Club Room

Tuesday, May 7

- 8:30 am Men of the Church Breakfast — Egg's Up Clemson
- 3:00 pm Personnel & Program Support Ministry — Library
- 6:00 pm Christian Action Ministry Meeting — Library
- 7:00 pm Adult Ministry Team Meeting — Conference Room
- Youth Ministry Team Meeting — the Den

Friday, May 10

- 9:00 am Preschool Mother's Day Tea — Tartan Hall

Sunday, May 12

- Cradle Roll**
- 2:30 pm Cub Scouts — Conf. Rm, Tartan Hall, & Ed Building

Monday, May 13

- 7:00 pm Book Club — Gathering Space

Tuesday, May 14

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

Wednesday, May 15

- 11:45 am Clemson Downs Luncheon — CD Dining Room

Thursday, May 16

- 5:00 pm OSC Commission Meeting — OSC Sanctuary

Friday, May 17

- 8:00 am Preschool End of Year Slideshow — Club Room

Saturday, May 18

- 10:00 am Presbytery Meeting — Limestone Presbyterian

Sunday, May 19

- High School Graduation Sunday**
- 9:30 am Senior Breakfast — the Den
- 10:45 am **5th Grade Promotion during Worship**
- 12:00 pm Children's Ministry Team Meeting — the Nest
- Congregational Picnic — Clemson Outdoor Lab

Monday, May 20

- 8:30 am DHS Interact Retreat — the Den
- 6:30 pm Scout Court of Honor — Tartan Hall/Sanctuary

Tuesday, May 21

- 7:00 pm Session Meeting — Club Room

Sunday, May 26

- 10:45 am Baptism of Porter Henry
- 12:00 pm Craft Connections — Club Room
- 2:30 pm Cub Scouts — Backyard/Tartan Hall/Ed Building

Monday, May 27

Memorial Day — Church Offices Closed

Tuesday, May 28

- 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

Staff Away

Laura Conrad — May 6-20 — Cont. Ed/Vacation
Colin Pettigrew — May 6-9 — PSA Beach Week

Recurring Weekly Activities

Sunday

- 8:30 am Worship Service — Tartan Hall
- 9:00 am Sojourners' Class — Zoom (thru 5/19)
- 9:30 am Kindred Spirits Adult Class — Club Room (thru 5/19)
- 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/K5-1st gr.) — following Children's story — Nest
- WOW (worship education/2nd-3rd gr.) — E208 (thru 5/26)
- Club 45 (4th-5th gr.) — following Children's Story — E208 (2nd & 4th Sundays only)

Monday

- 9:30 am Preschool Chapel — Sanctuary (thru 5/13)
- 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

- 6:00 pm Wednesdays @ the Fort (3-5th gr.) — Nest/E208/Courtyard (thru 5/15)
- 6:10 pm Children's Choir Rehearsal — E209 (thru 5/15)
- 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
- 5/2 Bill Carnes
Lauren Young
- 5/3 Audrey Sehorn
- 5/4 Paul Borick
- 5/5 Mackenzie Allen
Rob Griffin
Marsha Griffin
Lilliana Kozlarek
Cindy Trammell
- 5/6 Stella Hudak
Tyler Miller
- 5/7 Tootie Poteet
Ralph Ricks
Ben Sill
- 5/8 Jenny Leisinger
Davis Little
Jill Weir
- 5/9 Pam Waddle
- 5/10 Will Turner

- 5/11 Alex Hicklin
Josh Poetz
Mark Torres
Eva Williamson
- 5/14 Carol Goodwyn
John Sturman
- 5/15 Jackie Ellis
Ella Griffis
Tim Howard
Lydia Pratt
- 5/16 Joan Dixon
Ellis Rutland
Carol Stout
Art Williams
- 5/17 Pat Clary
Claudia Harris
Greg Sosebee
- 5/18 Ed Burchfield
Don Davis
Darrel Hedrick
Bill Mostertz
Pat Rutledge
- 5/19 Donna Crader
Eddie Payne
- 5/20 Bryson Ware
- 5/21 Eliza Bost
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 Miriam Hutto
Rameth Owens
- 5/30 Maranda Arnold
Warren Newton
Elaine Rogers
Cindy Sloan
Robbi Stokes
- 5/31 Charlotte Gruosso
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



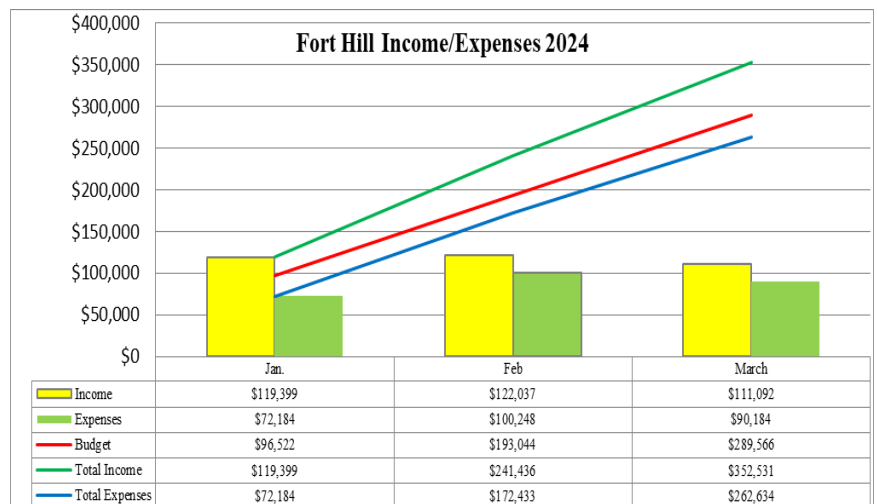
From the Finance Ministry

Through March, total income was \$352,531 while expenses for the first quarter were \$262,634 providing a surplus YTD of \$89,896. Overall expenses are at 22% of budget while income is at 34% of budget. Expenses are slightly below budget while income is above budget YTD. Multiple giving units made their yearly contribution in the first quarter of the year leading to the surplus. Through your financial support, Fort Hill continues to minister to the congregation, the community, and around the world. **Thank you!** If you are not present at church, your contributions can be made by mail or online through the church website.

Bridging Generations Update:

Loan Principal Balance: \$144,775.63

Your contributions to the ongoing Building Generations II reduced the loan principal by \$47,500 in March!





Non-Profit Organization
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101 Edgewood Avenue
Clemson, SC 29631

(864) 654-2061
www.forthillchurch.org

Return Service Requested



10:00 am
FHPC
Sanctuary
beginning
June 2 thru
August 11