



The Window

The Newsletter of Fort Hill Presbyterian Church

January 2025

Message From the Pastor

A Year in Review

From where I sit, this last year has been full and wonderful. As pastors, we have the privilege of walking with folks on a faith journey. And one of the joys of ministry is working with families preparing for their own or their child's baptism (6 baptisms), couples preparing for marriage (5 couples), youth in confirmation (1 confirmand), saints who have died and their families (15 families). That does not include all the faith conversations over coffee, email, in the car, in a group, and on the way. God has given us so many opportunities to care for each other, to speak grace and kindness to one another, to learn and grow together.

Additionally, God through the work of our Officer Nominating Committee, thoughtfully brought a slate of deacons and elders, and nine servant leaders are preparing to serve Christ and his Church.

We have welcomed two new staff members, Kelly McCord, Faith Formation Coordinator, Pat Rabun, Congregational Care Associate, and several interim music staff whose help is a gift: Scott Dillon, Kaleigh Stagich, and Porter Stokes. Also, we prayed for God's blessing on the new calls of Margaret MacKay to the joy of retirement and of Mary Morrison, Chaplain of our Foothills Presbyterian Community in Easley.

Other wonderful accomplishments we have made with God's help:

- Over \$130,000 in General Budget for outreach ministry to mission partners near and far, not to mention all the special offerings and giving beyond our budget.
- A new playground for our Preschool and young disciples.
- Retirement of the Mortgage on the 2016 Renovation of the entire building which made our meeting house accessible with the Stair Tower/Elevator, upgraded spaces for youth, music, and children, and connected our buildings with the Bridge which faces College Ave.
- Growing youth, college, and family ministries along with new adult Bible Studies.
- Upgrades to our Sanctuary and backyard in the works to improve our ministry.
- The formation of the Healing Bridges Counseling Center for our community.

That list does not include all the steady, ongoing, faithful service our usual ministries provide. Fort Hill has a cooperative, team-based, shared ministry and mission model. The skills and talents God has given each of us are to be used for the Glory of God. And thanks be to God, for the riches of God's grace shown in you, Fort Hill. It is an honor to serve as your Pastor and to seek God's will together for our church, community, and this world.

Together in Faith,

Laura Conrad, Pastor

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Fort Hill Presbyterian Church

101 Edgewood Avenue
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
Pat Rabun, Associate for Cong. Care
Preston Shealy, Parish Associate
Kelly McCord, Faith Formation Coordinator
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

- 1/5 2nd Sunday of Christmas**
Jer. 31:7-14; Ps. 147:12-20;
Eph. 1:3-14; John 1:(1-9) 10-18
- 1/12 Baptism of the Lord**
Isa. 43:1-7; Ps. 29; Acts 8:14-17;
Luke 3:15-17, 21-22
- 1/19 2nd Sunday after Epiphany**
Isa. 62:1-5; Ps. 36:5-10;
1 Cor. 12:1-11; John 2:1-11
- 1/26 3rd Sunday after Epiphany**
Neh. 8:1-3, 5-6, 8-10; Ps. 19
1 Cor. 12:12-31a; Luke 4:14-21

February 2025 *The Window* Deadline

The deadline for articles, announcements, and features for the February issue of *The Window* is **Wednesday, January 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.

Adult Seekers Class Spring Schedule

- Sunday, January 19 at 9:30 am
- Sunday, February 9 at 9:30 am
- Sunday, February 23 at 9:30 am
- Sunday, March 9 at 9:30 am
- Sunday, March 23 at 9:30 am
- Sunday, April 13 at 9:30 am
- Sunday, April 27 at 9:30 am

**The Seekers meet
in E209!**

Officers in Training this January

Please remember in prayer those you elected to serve in this coming term as they prepare. In the PC(USA) officers are trained and examined on our theology, polity, church practice in addition to each one's faith journey. And the faith journey is key. God has been at work in these disciples' lives and that is the most precious resource in service to the church and to Christ.

Each Sunday from 3:00-5:00 the following folks are studying in fellowship:

Deacons: Susan Best, Mary Beth Clanton, Becky Fant, Lanie Hedrick, Barbara Madison, Debbie Miles, Stephanie Scott, Carolyn Stroup.

Elders: Helen Adams, Tom Arthur, Carol Austin, Brian Baker, Joan Dixon, Debbie Durland, Charlie Pratt, Ben Trammell, David Durham, Spencer Wright.

These servants will be examined by Session and then Ordained and Installed on Sunday, February 23, 2025 during 10:45 Worship. Thank you to these folks for committing to study and serve our congregation with energy, intelligence, imagination, and love.

Children's Ministry Corner

Advent was a joyful start to our new church year! We waited and were inspired by words from Sanctified Art. We used our creativity for others at Gift Day, imaginatively played through Angel Vespers and got curious by wondering during the 5 pm Christmas Eve service. Mark your calendars for Snowtubing on Saturday, January 25! Please RSVP to kelly.mccord@forthillchurch.org.





Advent & Christmas Decorations Joy Offering 2024

*Doug and Lynn Carlson in memory of Mr. & Mrs. Milton Carlson and Mr. Carlton Fleming
and in honor of Mrs. Patricia Hardeson*

Hap Carr in memory of Jeannette Carr and Barbara Dean McNamara

*Robby and Mary Beth Clanton in memory of Ray & Mary Clanton
and James & Helen Owen and in honor of Thomas, Kayla, Beau, & Rosi Clanton
and Taylor, Anna, & Maggie Champion*

Chuck and Laura Conrad in honor of Hallie Conrad and Avery & Emily Green-Conrad

Marchita Culpepper in memory of Jim Culpepper and Mr. & Mrs. J. B. Williams

Joann Daugherty in honor of her family

*Lin and Kay Dearing in memory of Ashley Dearing and
in honor of Tripp, Lucinda, Dearing & Banks Eaves*

Mary Dusenberry and family in memory of James F. Dusenberry, Jr.

Chip and Diane Egan in memory of Joan Egan

Bob and Becky Fant in honor of their children & grandson

Nan Jones in memory of Bob Jones

Sue and Mary Limber in memory of Marian & D. Nelson Limber

*Jim and Donna McCubbin in memory of Chuck & Betty Cruickshank and
in honor of Corey & Izie McCubbin*

*Stephen and Ethel Pettigrew in memory of Lucian Bloodworth, Mr. & Mrs. Frank Cayce,
Pansy Duke, Mr. & Mrs. Gaines and Janette Pettigrew, and Margaret Whitesides*

Jere and Rosemary Ross in honor of their children & grandchildren

*Tom and Stephanie Scott in memory of Louis & Guita Scott and Philip Gildersleeve and
in honor of Myra Gildersleeve and their children & grandchildren*

Mark and Robbi Stokes in honor of their extended family, past & present

Bob and Carol Stout in memory of Tom Shealy

Ben and Cindy Trammell in honor of their pastors

Helen Wooten in memory of Tom Wooten and in honor of her children & grandchildren

*Thank
You*

*Thank you, Fort Hill Church Family, from all
of the FHPC support staff for the many
cards and gifts of appreciation during this
holiday season. Your kindness and care is
greatly appreciated by all of us.*

Lori, Morgan & Scott

Sunday Servants

Pastor on Call

1/5 Pat Rabun
1/12 Pat Rabun
1/19 Laura Conrad
1/26 Colin Pettigrew

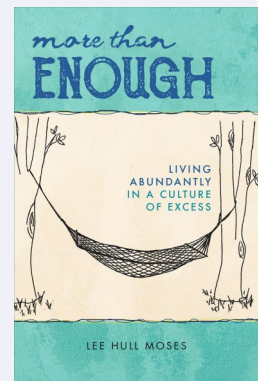
Elder of the Day

1/5 Catherine Stoddard (8:30)
Heather Wright (10:45)
1/12 Charlie Barron (8:30)
Gary Clary (10:45)
1/19 Grady Jordan (8:30)
Sue Limber (10:45)
1/26 Don Ridgell (8:30)
Cindy Sloan (10:45)



Christian Sympathy is extended to:

- **Eddie Payne & Greg Bearden** on the death of Eddie's mother, Diane Payne, on December 9 in Columbia, SC.
- **Linda & Ben Wofford** on the death of Linda's mother on December 11 in Pickens.



More than Enough Bible Study

Wednesdays in the
Club Room
Classes at 10 am and 6 pm
Starting January 15 until
February 26

Fellowship Ministry Opportunities

What a wonderful year we had here at Fort Hill Presbyterian Church in 2024. We had many opportunities to gather and share our love of Christ with others. As we enter into a new year, may each of us take the time to make new friends, bring friends to church and church activities and celebrate all that the LORD gives to us each and every day.

In November, many members of FHPC joined our own Carolyn Newton as she had a book signing and reading in Seneca for her newly published book, *The Refugee's Daughter*. The majority of people there were members of the Book Club and Kindred Spirits class. What a great outpouring of care and fellowship for Carolyn during this exciting time in her life.

Upcoming Events

Look for a surprise gift from the Fellowship Ministry as you leave church on January 5th. Happy 2025!!

Book Club

Will continue to meet on the second Monday of each month at 7:00 pm in the Den downstairs

On Monday, January 13, we will discuss *The Refugee's Daughter* by Caroline Newton. Caroline is a member of FHPC and this is her first book to be published!! She will share her story with us, so come and join us! All are welcome!

On February 10th we will discuss the book *The Berry Pickers* by Amanda Peters

Craft Connection

We will meet January 26 after the 10:45 worship service in the Club Room. Bring a craft you are working on a join in the fun conversations and fellowship.

Supper Club

Supper Club groups will meet again the weekend of January 17-19. Supper Club is made up of small groups who meet for a meal and conversation at someone's house or at a chosen restaurant. This is an awesome way to meet new friends or join with old friends as you spend time together over good food and laughter. Email Holly Ridgell at hridgell@gmail.com to join in the fun.



Christian Action Ministry Update

Our Daily Bread started in 1992 as Feed the 5000. Bag lunches were handed out in the community five days a week. Several years later it became a 501c(3) charity and now stands on Jordan Street in Seneca. The kitchen is open seven days a week, with nearly 130 hot meals handed out Monday—Friday. This meaningful charity survives on donations of time, talent, and financial support. Fort Hill supports this ministry in various ways — CAM has set budgeted funds, and volunteers from our congregation cook, serve and clean monthly. We would love you to join in on this very hands on opportunity. Please sign up to volunteer on the Our Daily Bread board in the Narthex.

Heather Wright, Christian Action Ministry

2025 Youth Ministry Spring Schedule

- January 10-12 High School Presbytery Retreat
- January 19 Youth Group returns! Choose Your Own Dinner
- January 26 Youth Sunday Prep/Middle School Art for Youth Sunday
- February 2 Youth Sunday Prep
- February 9 Youth Sunday (no Youth Group!)
- February 16 Big Game Night
- February 23 Movie Night
- March 2 Otis Pickett presents: Clemson History
- March 9 Spring Cleaning
- March 16 Spring Break (no Youth Group!)
- March 23 Leadership Training with Youth
- March 30 Bible Study
- April 6 Picnic in the Gardens
- April 13 Palm Sunday Party
- April 20 Easter Sunday (no Youth Group!)
- April 27 Last Youth Group: Lake Party

Important Spring Dates:

- April 27 Confirmation Sunday
- May 18 Graduation Sunday



Italy Pilgrimage: Italian Riviera, Florence, & Rome

October 6-16, 2026

Interest Meetings will take place on Sunday, January 19 at 12:00 pm in the Club Room and Tuesday, January 21 at 5:30 pm in the Club Room.

Tour Highlights include

- Vatican City
- Villages of Cinque Terre
- Florence Duomo
- Ponte Vecchio
- Galleria dell'Accademia
- Assisi's basilicas
- Roman Forum & the Colosseum
- Spanish Steps & the Pantheon



January Fort Hill Church Activities

Monday, January 1

Church Office Closed for New Year's Day

Thursday-Sunday, January 2-5

Montreat College Conference (Colin away)

Thursday, January 2

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

Monday, January 6

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

Tuesday, January 7

8:30 am Men of Church Breakfast — Egg's Up in Clemson
4:45 pm P&PS Meeting — Library
6:00 pm Christian Action Ministry Meeting — Library
7:00 pm Adult Ministry Team Meeting — Conference Room
Youth Ministry — the Den

Thursday, January 9

4:00 pm Finance Meeting — Library

Friday-Sunday, January 10-12

High School Presbytery Retreat (Jacob away)

Sunday, January 12

2:30 pm Cub Scouts — Conf. Rm./Tartan Hall/Ed Building

Monday, January 13

7:00 pm Book Club — Gathering Space

Tuesday, January 14

9:30 am PW Coordinating Team — Club Room
10:00 am Ben Sill's Men's Group — Library
5:00 pm Worship Ministry Meeting — Conference Room
6:00 pm Discipleship Ministry Meeting — the Nest
PW Circle 2 (TWOesday EVening Circle) — Library

Sunday, January 19

9:30 am Confirmation Class — Den
Seekers Class — E209
12:00 pm Children's Ministry Team Meeting — Nest
Italy Pilgrimage Interest Meeting — Club Room

Monday, January 20

Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday — Church Offices Closed

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

Tuesday, January 21

5:30 pm Italy Pilgrimage Interest Meeting — Club Room
7:00 pm Session Meeting — Tartan Hall

Sunday, January 26

9:30 am Confirmation Class — Den
12:00 pm Craft Connections — Club Room
Deacon Meeting — Tartan Hall
2:30 pm Cub Scouts — Conf. Rm./Tartan Hall/Ed Building

Tuesday, January 28

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



Recurring Weekly Activities

Sunday

8:30 am Early Worship Service — Tartan Hall
9:30 am Sojourners Class — Library
9:30 am Kindred Spirits Class — Club Room (beg. 1/12)
10:45 am Worship/Livestream Service — Sanctuary
Nursery (birth-walkers) — 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 in worship — Owl Room
WOW (worship education 2nd-4th gr) — Nest (beg. 1/12)
3:00 pm Officer Training — Club Room
5:00 pm Youth Group — the Den/Backyard (beg. 1/19)
6:00 pm College Dinner & Program — PSA Center (beg. 1/12)

Monday

9:30 am Preschool Chapel — Sanctuary
6:30 pm Boy Scouts — Club Room/Tartan Hall

Tuesday

10:00 am Staff Meeting — Conference Room
4:30 pm Folk Dancing — Tartan Hall

Wednesday

10:00 am Bible Study — Club Room (beginning 1/15)
5:30 pm Wednesdays @ The Fort — Nest/TH (beg. 1/15)
7:00 pm PSA Bible Study — PSA Student Center (beg. 1/15)

Thursday

9:15 am The Glenn Men's Group — Library

Weekly AA Meetings

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



1/1	Mitchell Pollock	1/9	Carol Austin		Mary Limber		Sarah Thomas
1/2	Susan Brown Jennifer Dickerson David Durham		Laura Best Eva Henry Betty Pettigrew Mike Roof	1/18	Karen Gaston Bonnie Lanier	1/24	Britt Alexander Beth Durham
1/4	Michael Blackwell	1/11	Ben Bronson Cooper Littlejohn Marian Radosevich	1/19	Jay Kennedy Lucas Money Lois Sill	1/26	Walt Fagan Sara Pollock
1/5	Gary Clary Beth Griffin Lillian O'Brien Rosalie O'Brien	1/12	Gus Gustafson Porter Henry	1/20	Carol Johnson Rita Van Lenten Kyle Weeks	1/27	Cindy Prather
1/6	Mollie Faithful Barbara Madison Donna McCubbin	1/13	Derick Durham Rose Ross	1/21	Caroline Thomas	1/28	Bill Thompson
1/7	Larry Glenn	1/14	Angie Winchester	1/22	Michelle Blackwell	1/29	Joan Alexander Harold Cheatham
1/8	Elizabeth Artigliere	1/15	Ross Davis	1/23	Diane Carnes Jim Cobb Savannah Ricks	1/31	Carole Kohlmayer Sue Limber Mark Williams



1/1	Jerry & Beth Chapman Russ & Charlotte Phillips	1/8	Bradley & Meredith Lecroy Trevor & Marie Turner	1/24	Bill & Audrey Thompson
1/5	Ralph & Ronda Ricks	1/10	Steve & Susan Best	1/26	Jack & Billie Jackson

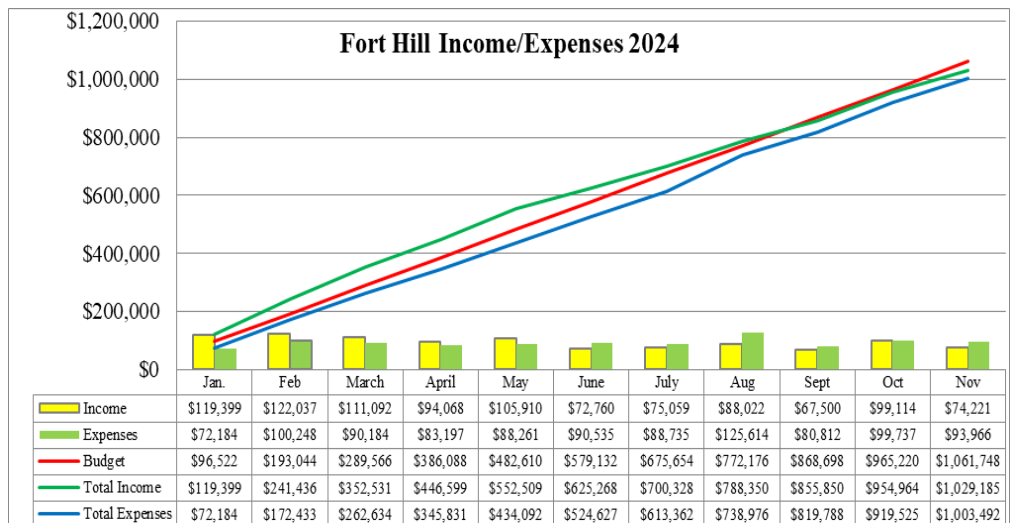


Finance Ministry Update

Through November, pledge and offering income was \$1,029,185 while expenses were \$1,003,492 for a surplus of \$25,693. Overall, expenses are 7% below budget, while income is 3% under. Thank you for your continuing financial support to Fort Hill! If you have not returned your 2025 pledge, please prayerfully consider your pledge for the coming year, so Fort Hill can continue its ministries to members, community, and around the world.

Bridging Generations Update:

Through the end of December, total income was \$244,402.62 out of \$409,994 in total pledges. We spent \$180,000 of those funds to pay off the Building Fund loan with the final payment made in June. The balance and additional money received will be used for projects which include replacing the sanctuary 33-year-old lighting system and updating the sound technology for in-person and online worship. Another project is the development of the outdoor space in the "backyard" that all ministries of the church can use to support their specific activities.





101 Edgewood Avenue
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Return Service Requested

News from Presbyterian Women

We hope everyone had a safe and Happy Holiday and we are ready for a new calendar year. Please note days and times of our regular circle meetings and activities for all women of the church for January 2025.

One Trinity Circle meets January 6 in the FHPC Club Room at 9:30 AM for social gathering and the meeting starts at 10:00 AM.

2nd Tuesday Evening Circle meets January 7 in the FHPC Library at 6:00 PM.

Circle of Hope meets Thursday, January 2 at 2:00 PM in the Corley Center at Clemson Downs.

The **PW Bi-Annual Coordinating Team Meeting** is scheduled for Tuesday, January 24th at 9:30 AM in the Club Room.

Helping Hands

The monthly collections will concentrate on paper goods ie paper towels, toilet paper, Kleenex, napkins, etc. Please leave your donations in the collections room below the FHOG office or bring them to your Circle meetings.

Foothills Presbytery: Women of the Church

"A Day at the Lake" will be held on Saturday, February 22, 2025 at 10 am-2 pm at the Clemson Outdoor Lab. There will be a \$10 charge for lunch. The keynote speaker is Reverend Patricia Tull. Registration forms are available outside the FHOG office and the Narthex or visit: <https://foothillspresbytery.org/women-of-the-church-day-at-the-lake/>.

Valentines for College Students

The Presbyterian Women are again coordinating Valentine's Day packages for our college students. If you would like to contribute to this project we are collecting \$5 and \$10 gift cards to include in packages sent to students. Many of the students are away at college so national chains are good choices. *Walmart, Target, Starbucks, Chick-fil-A, etc.* If you prefer to send a check/cash, there will be an envelope/folder in the FHOG office marked "valentine cards" for **all donations**. Checks for this purpose should be written to **Lauren Young**, the PW coordinator for this program. **Parents Please Note:** If you have a college student and would like your student to be included, please send a text or email with their name and updated mailing address to Lauren at lauren.esh.young@bellsouth.net. Even if your student has been on our list in the past, we still need their name and current mailing address. Thank you to everyone for the help with this fun project.