

The Window

The Newsletter of Fort Hill Presbyterian Church

Message From the Pastor

March 2025

We Need More *Eleos*

If February was the month of love, I propose March is a month of *eleos*, of mercy. The merciful are merciful because they have received mercy from the same Jesus who said “Blessed are the merciful, for they shall obtain mercy.” As forgiven and freed people, we live in a counter cultural way. In the first century, living as a Christ follower was revolutionary.

Jesus said, Instead, love your enemies, do good, and lend, expecting nothing in return. Your reward will be great, and you will be children of the Most High, for he himself is kind to the ungrateful and the wicked. Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful. (Luke 6:35-36)

To second class citizens, Jesus’ beleaguered listeners, Bonhoeffer adds, “As if their own needs and their own distress were not enough, they take upon themselves the distress and humiliation and sin of others. They have an irresistible love for the downtrodden, the sick, the wretched, the wronged, the outcast, and all who are tortured with anxiety. No distress is too great; no sin too appalling for their pity. If any man falls into disgrace, the merciful will sacrifice their own honour to shield him, and take his shame upon themselves. In order that they may be merciful, they cast away the most priceless treasure of human life, their personal dignity and honor. For the only honour and dignity they know is their Lord’s own mercy, to which alone they owe their very lives.”

Today, these words are just as revolutionary. Followers of Jesus certainly are swimming up stream on this. As I mentioned in a recent sermon, in the movie, *A League of Their Own*, Tom Hank’s character Jimmy Dugan says, “It’s supposed to be hard. If it wasn’t hard, everyone would do it. The hard...is what makes it great.”

Eleos is hard — it’s an orientation, an attitude, but it is action. We speak of love in action, but mercy in action is shown by Jesus to those who have been beaten up, disregarded by those in positions of power. Instead, Jesus calls us to pour ourselves out, just as he did, so that we will be filled with a full measure of that grace, peace, and mercy that God intends for us, and for all God’s children.

It’s just that easy. It’s just that hard.

Keep the Faith,

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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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

Weekly Lectionary Scriptures

- 3/2 Transfiguration of the Lord**
Ex. 34:29-35; Ps. 99; 2 Cor. 3:12-4:2; Luke 9:28-36 (37-43a)
- 3/9 1st Sunday in Lent**
Deut. 26:1-11; Ps. 91:1-2, 9-16; Rom. 10:8b-13; Luke 4:1-13
- 3/16 2nd Sunday in Lent**
Gen. 15:1-12, 17-18; Ps. 27; Phil. 3:17-4:1 Luke 13:31-35
- 3/23 3rd Sunday in Lent**
Isa. 55:1-9; Ps. 63:1-8; 1 Cor. 10:1-13; Luke 13:1-9
- 3/30 4th Sunday in Lent**
Josh. 5:9-12; Ps. 32; 2 Cor. 5:16-21; Luke 15:1-3; 11b-32

April 2025

The Window Deadline

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



Daylight Savings Time begins **Sunday, March 9**

Lent & Easter



Ash Wednesday Worship Service

Wednesday, March 5 at 7:00 pm in the Sanctuary

Lenten Bible Study - six week study

Wednesdays at 10 am & 6 pm in the Club Room
(3/5 through 4/9)

Palm Sunday Worship Services

Sunday, April 13 at 8:30 am in Tartan Hall
& 10:45 am in the Sanctuary



Maundy Thursday Worship Service

Thursday, April 17 at 7:30 pm in the Sanctuary

Easter Sunday Worship Services - April 20

7:00 am at the Old Stone Church
10:45 am in the Sanctuary

Circles of Care

Did you know that as a member of Fort Hill Presbyterian, you are part of a Circle of Care? When you join the church, every member is assigned a particular Circle of Care according to the area in which you live. The Board of Deacons oversees these Circles. According to the Deacons Manual of Operations, the purpose of the Circles of Care is "to provide opportunities for spiritual fellowship as well as care and support to church disciples who live near one another; to foster a sense of community within the church through serving together in practical ways to exhibit the kingdom of God to the world; and to share the love of God with others." Sometime during March, the deacon responsible for your group will contact you through a phone call, letter, email, or text to simply check in to see how you are doing. They are not contacting you to join a ministry team or to try to get you to increase your pledge, but your deacon just wants to see how you are doing. When they contact you, take a few moments to get to know them.

Blessings,

Pastor Pat

Children's Ministry Update

We LOVED February! Mission was at the forefront of how we showed love to our neighbors. We did a glow-in-the-dark restocking of the Little Food Pantry, made cards for those in our congregation who need a little extra love, decorated cookies, and made gifts for the Fort Hill staff!



One Great Hour of Sharing

The **One Great Hour of Sharing** (OGHS) is a special mission offering that has connected individuals to disaster relief, refugee assistance, and development efforts globally for over 75 years. This initiative ensures immediate and ongoing response when disasters strike, providing displaced people with safety, sustenance, and hope.

The Christian Action Ministry



Honor and Remember Donations to One Great Hour of Sharing

During this season of Lent, Fort Hill Presbyterian Church will contribute to this offering which emphasizes the importance of community support and your donation given as an "honorarium" and/or "memorial" will be used to support the 2025 theme of "Be the Light". If you would like to remember or honor someone special during this season of Lent, please complete the **2025 One Great Hour of Sharing Honor and Remember** form and submit by **March 31** with your gift, of any value, designated for OGHS. Forms can be found in the Narthex, FHOG office, and FHPC electronic weekly updates.

All memorials and honorariums will be recognized in the bulletin and The Window.

Youth Ministry Update

Friends of Fort Hill Youth Ministry,

We have had such a great beginning to 2025 in the Fort Hill Youth Ministry! Most of the year has been spent carefully planning our Youth Sunday! We hope that everyone took a few minutes to watch the service, if you were not there! We even raised \$1,069 for Clemson Community Care through our Souper Bowl of Caring offering! As always we will continue to support our Youth through all seasons of life! We inch closer and closer to Confirmation Sunday and Graduation Sunday! We can't wait to celebrate over the next few months! As always, continue to pray for our Youth and all who support the Youth Ministry at Fort Hill!

With Love,

Members of the Fort Hill Youth Group



Sunday Servants

Pastor on Call

3/2	Jacob Kennedy
3/9	Laura Conrad
3/16	Pat Rabun
3/23	Laura Conrad
3/30	Jacob Kennedy

Elder at the Font

3/2	Debbie Shealy (8:30) Vernon Burton (10:45)
3/9	Cindy Prather (8:30) Charlie Pratt (10:45)
3/16	Kevin Bronson (8:30) Catherine Stoddard(10:45)
3/23	Heather Wright (8:30) David Durham (10:45)
3/30	Spencer Wright (8:30) Charlie Barron (10:45)



Christian Sympathy is extended to:

- The family of **Pat Rutledge** on her death on February 19 in Easley.
- **Leslie & Scott Callison** on the death of her mother Martha Dunlap on February 22 in Greenwood, SC.



Thank you to everyone who attended our conversation with the Rev. Dr. Grady Butler.



Church Mouse

Communion in February was prepared by **Wayne & Barbara Madison** under the direction of **Beth Chapman**. At the first service, servers were **Tom & Stephanie Scott** and at the second service there were **Bette Bronson, Rodney Johnson, Jim London, Sally Martin, Gregg & Cathy Morton, Nancy Oates, Ralph Ricks, Debbie Vaughn, and Helen Wooten**.

Youth Sunday had the following involved: **Grace & Eliza Bost, Caleb Dickerson, David Durham, James Kwist** (he's really tall and doesn't play basketball), **Lucy Martin, Sydney & William Matheson, Chloe Miller, James Mills, McKain Rapp, Bridget Sehorn, Sarah Ulrich, Anna Woodward, and Mason Young**.

Those that helped at Mark Cheatham's funeral were **Marcia Barker, Diane Egan, Nan Jones, Donna London, and Wes & Jacquie Worley**. **Marcia Barker, Cyndi Davis, Debbie Shealy, Karen Ware, and Helen Wooten** helped provide refreshments for the reception. For Barbara Ann Sebenick's service, the funeral guild were: **Judy Blackwell, Pat Clary, Nan Jones, Donna London, Stephanie Scott, and Wes & Jacquie Worley**. **Marcia Barker, Donna Crader, and Diane Egan** helped with the reception.

At Lessons and Carols the choir members who joyfully filled our hearts were: **Jim Barker, Mary Barron, Pat Clary, Tom Cleveland, Tom Donegan, George, Dunkelberg, Chip & Diane Egan, Garland Gravely, Charlotte Grusso, Jim & Jenny Leisinger, Nancy Lloyd, Gary Mohr, Sr., Rameth Owens, Ronda Ricks, Cindy Sloan, Cathy Spragins, Shannon Spratt, Mark & Robbi Stokes, Frank & Rita Van Lenten, Gensie Waldrop, Karen Ware, Helen Wooten, and Jacquie Worley**, all under the direction of **Porter Stokes**.

Did you notice the beautiful diamond on Kelly McCord's left hand??

Thank you to all these people for their contributions to Fort Hill.



News from Presbyterian Women

Circle meetings are open to all women of the church and an opportunity for bible study, fellowship, and friendship. Questions about Presbyterian Women can be directed to: Mary Beth Clanton mboc3@aol.com / Judy Blackwell mikeandjudyblackw@currently.com.

One Trinity Circle meets Monday, March 3 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 Tuesday, March 11 at 6:00 pm in the Church Library.**

The Circle of Hope meets the first Thursday of each month at 2:00 pm in the Corley building on the campus of Clemson Downs. The March meeting will be Thursday, March 6 at 2:00 pm.

Helping Hands monthly collections will concentrate on paper goods i.e. paper towels, toilet paper, kleenex, napkins, etc. Please leave your donations in the collections room below the FHO office or bring them to your Circle meetings.

PW Annual Birthday Brunch will be held on Saturday, March 29, 2025 at 10:00 am in Tartan Hall. The brunch is open to ALL who wish to attend. Bring a breakfast or lunch item to share and bring a friend. **RSVP to hridgell@gmail.com / (864) 320-2366 or jacqworl@att.net / (615) 319-9750 or sign up in the FHO office, the Narthex, or the Arcade of the Church by the March 24 deadline for registration.**

The speaker for the brunch is **Lexie Vick, Assistant Director of Dabo's All In Foundation** and she will be discussing its goals and future plans. We look forward to seeing you there.

Thank you to all of the women who attended Foothill Presbytery's A Day at the Lake on February 22 at the Clemson Outdoor Lab and Retreat Center. The picture to the right was taken on that day. It was a wonderful time of fellowship!



Fellowship Ministry Update

BOOK CLUB meets on the **second Monday** of each month at 7:00 pm in the Den. Come and join us!

On **March 10** we will discuss When the Jessamine Grows by Donna Everhart.

On **April 14** we will discuss The Tannery by Michael A. Almond.

On **May 12** we will discuss Go as a River by Shelley Read.

Craft Connections

We will meet March 23 after the 10:45 worship service in the Conference Room. Bring a craft you are working on and join in the fellowship.

Supper Club

Groups will get together for a meal the weekend of March 21-23. Email Holly Ridgell at hridgell@gmail.com to join a group of church folk to eat, meet, and have fun.

Ash Wednesday Service

On Wednesday, March 5, the Fellowship Ministry will host an all church dinner at 6:00 pm in Tartan Hall. We will have a BBQ dinner where all are invited for free!! Then stay for the Ash Wednesday Worship Service at 7:00 pm in the Sanctuary. The Maryville College Choir from Maryville, Tennessee will be part of the service and will sing with our young children as well. Please come to this special service!

Welcome Fort Hill New Members



Michael & D'Marie Bartolf
Thomas & Addie (9)

Address: 12 Vineyard Way Williamston, SC 29697
Phone: 304.657.0133 (Michael); 303.594.9543 (D'Marie)
Email: michael.j.bartolf2@gmail.com (Michael); ellisond13@gmail.com (D'Marie)

The Bartolf family joined Fort Hill by a reaffirmation of faith. Michael is a student and D'Marie is the VP of Curriculum Development at Quanthub, LLC. They served in community outreach and mission work at their previous church and enjoy camping and hiking.



Zachary Chandler

Address: 138 Jerry Miller Way, Six Mile, SC 29682
Phone: 864.650.7850
Email: chandler.zacharya@gmail.com

Zachary joined Fort Hill by a profession of faith. He is self-employed as a real estate agent. He is a self-described foodie who also loves animals and video games.



Eve Mills
James (14); Emilee (10)

Address: 500 Red Maple Way, Clemson, SC 29631
Phone: 864.373.3145
Email: millseve610@gmail.com

Eve joined Fort Hill by letter of transfer from First Presbyterian Church of Greer, SC. She is a 5th grade teacher for the Pickens County School District. James is currently going through our Confirmation class and Emilee is active at Wednesdays @ the Fort. Eve enjoys camping, crafting, and reading.



Jody Nicholson-Bell
Daisy (8); Maggie (6)

Address: 159 Founders Blvd., Central, SC 29630
Phone: 574.210.4673
Email: jody.nicholson8@gmail.com

Jody is joining Fort Hill by a reaffirmation of faith. She is a professor at Clemson University. Daisy and Maggie are active at Wednesdays @ the Fort. Jody enjoys reading, crafting, exercising, and houseplants.

Christian Action Ministry Update

Did you know...one of the missions supported by the Christian Action Ministry is the George and Roszena Shaw Center for Housing and Economic Growth?

Established in 2021, the Shaw Center's mission has been to identify issues that need to be addressed in Clemson's underserved neighborhoods. These issues include identifying homes with renovation/repair needs and providing land surveys and legal advice to property owners. The Shaw Center along with Attorney Adam Artigliere has sponsored three Wills Clinics to resolve heir property issues. Solving these issues enables homeowners to stay in their homes, builds trust with our neighbors and provides support needed for these neighborhoods to thrive. Thank you Fort Hill.

From building outside ramps, replacing floors, renovating kitchens, converting tubs to showers, replacing windows to repairing/replacing roofs, board members and community volunteers are making a difference. If you are interested in volunteering, please contact Marcia Barker at mrsb@clemson.edu.



March Fort Hill Church Activities

Sunday, March 2

Homebound Communion — various locations

Monday, March 3

- 8:30 am Building & Grounds Meeting — Library
- 9:30 am PW One Trinity Circle Meeting — Club Room

Tuesday, March 4

- 8:30 am Men of the Church Breakfast — Egg's Up Clemson
- 3:30 pm Personnel & Program Support Meeting — Library
- 5:00 pm University Ministry Meeting — PSA Student Center
- 6:00 pm Christian Action Ministry Meeting — Library
- Adult Ministry Team Meeting — Conference Room
- 7:00 pm Youth Ministry Team Meeting — the Den

Wednesday, March 5

- 6:00 pm Ash Wednesday BBQ Dinner — Tartan Hall
- 7:00 pm Ash Wednesday Worship Service — Sanctuary

Thursday, March 6

- 2:00 pm PW Circle of Hope — Downs Corley Center
- 5:00 pm Healing Bridges Board Meeting — Club Room
- 7:00 pm Chancel Choir Practice — Choir Room/Sanctuary

Saturday, March 8

- 9:00 am SAFE Place Training for New Officers — Club Room
- 10:30 am Deacon Retreat — Club Room
- 2:00 pm Children's Ministry Rock Climbing — projectROCK

Sunday, March 9 (Daylight Savings begins)

- 9:30 am Seekers Class — E209

Monday, March 10

- 7:00 pm Book Club — the Den



Tuesday, March 11

- 10:00 am Ben Sill's Small Group — Library
- 2:00 pm Planning Meeting — Conference Room
- 5:00 pm Worship Ministry Meeting — Conference Room
- 6:00 pm Discipleship Ministry Meeting — the Nest
- PW Circle 2 Meeting — Library

Saturday, March 15

- 9:00 am Session Retreat — Tartan Hall

Monday, March 17

- 10:00 am Prayer Shawl Ministry — Home of Hazel Sparks

Sunday, March 23

- 9:30 am Seekers Class — E209
- 12:00 pm Craft Connections — Conference Room
- 5:00 pm New Member Dinner — Catherine Stoddard's Home

Tuesday, March 25

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

Thursday, March 27

- 5:00 pm He-Brews — Keowee Brewing Co.

Saturday, March 29

- 10:00 am PW Birthday Luncheon — Tartan Hall

Sunday, March 30

- 12:00 pm Deacon Meeting — Club Room
- Children's Ministry Team Meeting — the Nest

Staff Time Away Notes

Colin Pettigrew — 3/17-3/22

Laura Conrad — 3/17-3/23

Recurring Weekly Activities

Sunday

- 8:30 am Early Worship Service — Tartan Hall
- 9:30 am Colors & Conversations — The Nest
- Confirmation Class — The Den
- Sojourners Class — Library
- Kindred Spirits Class — Club Room
- 10:45 am Worship/Livestream — Sanctuary/Online
- 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) — The Nest
- 2:30 pm Cub Scouts — Ed. Building (2nd & 4th Sundays)
- 5:00 pm Youth Group — The Den
- 6:00 pm College Dinner & Program — PSA Center

Monday

- 9:30 am Preschool Chapel — Sanctuary
- 11:00 am Organ Lessons — Sanctuary
- 2:00 pm Clemson Downs Bible Study — Corley Center
- 6:30 pm Boy Scouts — Porte-cochere/Backyard

Tuesday

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

Wednesday

- 10:00 am Morning Bible Study — Club Room
- 5:30 pm Wednesdays @ The Fort — Nest/E-208
- Children's Choir — E209
- 6:00 pm Evening Bible Study — Club Room (5:30 pm on 3/5)
- 7:00 pm PSA Bible Study — PSA Student Center
- 7:30 pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal — Choir Room

Thursday

- 9:00 am The Glenn Men's Group — Library
- 3:30 pm Organ Lessons — Sanctuary

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.



- 3/1 Jake Alexander
Amy Elrod
Besser Kirr
- 3/2 Audrey Rose Henry
Margaret Thompson
Bridget Trogden
Katherine Whisler
- 3/3 Peggy Mowrey
Charles Spratt
- 3/4 Betty Dean
Caroline Hunter
Jordy Kirr
Dewayne Lawson
- 3/5 Luke Artigliere
Mike Moore
George Rodgers
- 3/6 Bitsy Barkley
Beth McCord
Mary Elizabeth McDaniel
Dusty Oates
- 3/7 Ethan Nihoul
- 3/8 Leland Hawthorne
JB Kozlarek
Maggie Wilson

- 3/10 Shirley Chappell
Nina Moede
Barry Robinson
- 3/11 Jay Allman
Tom McInnis
- 3/13 Larry Ayers
Evelyn Cureton
Dulcie Mohr
Denny Walling
- 3/14 Julianna Ellis
Garland Gravely
Kathy Hughes
- 3/15 Caleb Dickerson
- 3/17 Julianne Wenner
- 3/18 Emily Pettigrew
- 3/19 Raymond MacKay
Necia Ross
Katie Wilson
- 3/21 Larry Gahan
Paige Shealy
- 3/22 Wayne Madison
Tom Smith
- 3/23 Charlotte Ewoldt
Billie Jackson
- 3/24 Hudson Money
Emily Poetz
Ben Sawyer
- 3/26 Elizabeth Crader
Lamar Flatt

- 3/27 Edna Walker
- 3/28 Preston Shealy
- 3/29 Finley Wiles-Nadler
- 3/30 Maggie Bandy
Sally Martin
Gayle McGregor
- 3/31 Frances Caskey
Beth DeWitt
Layne Smith
Scott Thrailkill



- 3/5 Raymond & Margaret MacKay
- 3/6 Andrew & Morgan Bryant
- 3/9 Ed & Shelley Burchfield
- 3/12 Bo Crader & Debbie Vaughn
- 3/14 Will & Catherine Henry
- 3/17 Danny & Brigitte Gregg
Laurence & Betsy Mudge
- 3/20 Andy & Olivia Bajoczky
- 3/21 Lamar Flatt & Laura Best
- 3/27 Ed & Annette Halbig
- 3/31 Don & Cyndi Davis
Bob & Becky Fant

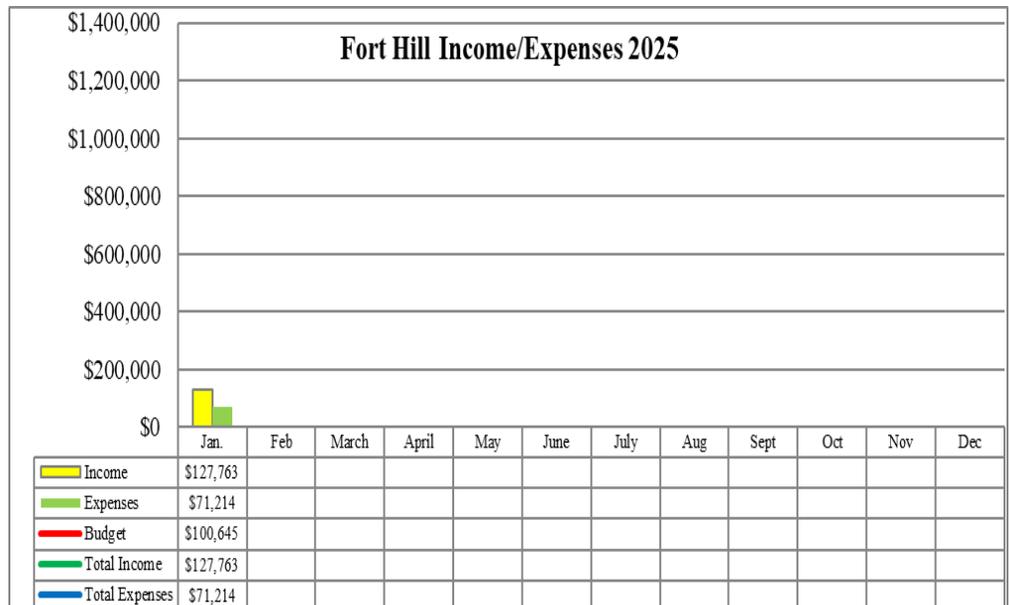
From the Finance Ministry

2024 has come to a close and total pledge and offering income was \$1,097,155 while expenses were \$1,101,032. Other income (special fund transfers, fundraising income, etc.) brings the year-to-date total income to \$1,187,170 for a surplus of \$86,138.

Thank you for making 2024 financially successful. The 2025 budget was approved by Session in their January 2025 meeting. Income was budgeted at \$1,198,000 while expenses were budgeted at \$1,219,547 creating a deficit of \$21,547. As of January 2025, total income was \$127,763 while expenses totaled \$71,214. Your ongoing financial support is much appreciated, so that Fort Hill can continue ministries to its members, the community, and missions around the world.

Bridging Generations II Update:

As of January 2025, total income was \$310,959 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 2024. Any remaining balance will be used for projects which include replacing the sanctuary's 33-year-old lighting system and updating the sound technology for in-person and on-line 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.





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Return Service Requested

Mental Health Awareness

More than 55 million people worldwide have dementia, an umbrella term for a group of brain disorders that cause a decline in cognitive abilities. Alzheimer's disease is the most common form of dementia, accounting for 60%-70% of cases. Factors that may increase a person's risk for dementia are advanced age, hypertension, diabetes, obesity, smoking, excessive alcohol consumption, inactivity, social isolation, and depression. With upwards of 10 million new cases diagnosed each year, dementia is the 7th leading cause of death and a major cause of disability and dependency among older individuals.

Dementia affects women disproportionately to men. Women experience higher disability-adjusted life years and higher mortality rates due to dementia. They also shoulder most of the burden of care for affected patients, contributing approximately 70% of care hours in support of those living with the disease. Caregivers, whether women or men, are at a higher risk of isolation, burnout, and fatigue.

Dementia has far-ranging impacts on an individual and their family, including physical, psychological, social, and economic stresses. Lack of awareness about dementia can result in stigmatization and significant barriers to achieving quality of life.

Source: World Health Organization

Deacon Mental Health Awareness Committee

