



Dear Friends in Christ,

It is a joy to be with you as your “Bridge Interim Pastor.” Sharon and I thank God for the love you share, for your support, and for your prayers. We celebrate your desire to make First Church even more faithful in serving Christ. May the days before you be marked by these exciting words: “May the Lord make your love increase and overflow for each other...” (1 Thess 3:12).

Some exciting items are before First Church in the months to come:

(1) YOUR ELDER NOMINATING COMMITTEE is at work. This committee is soliciting names of persons to serve on your Session, Class of 2029. Keep the committee in your prayers, along with the four person to serve as elders of this great church.

(2) THE INTERIM PASTOR NOMINATING COMMITTEE is seek the “right person” for this critical position. You deserve the very best! The committee will keep you informed of its progress.

(3) YOU HAVE AN OUTSTANDING SESSION. Your elders are hard at work with ministry plans through 2026 and into 2027. Watch your newsletter and church website for details of various programs. There are many exciting days before you.

(4) YOUR PRESENCE FOR CHURCH EVENTS is very important. I am especially blessed by your presence in Sunday School and for worship. When you are here, your spiritual growth is encouraged and your church’s mission is made strong. I hope to see you Sunday.

It is an honor to be with you during these amazing days in First Church’s story. With you, we are praying for the church and its mission!

Yours in Christ,

John Wright Coker, Jr., D.Min.

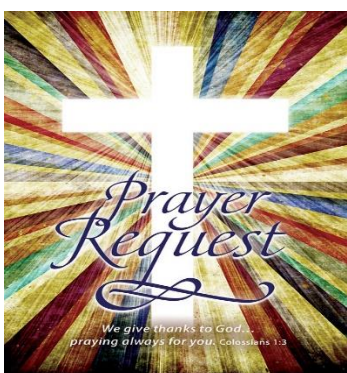
1. **Session Meeting: August 9th and September 13th, 2026**
2. A COVERED DISH LUNCHEON for the entire congregation is planned for Sunday, August 23, 2026, in the Fellowship Hall, following worship. First Church's "chefs" will treat us with magnificent selections from their kitchens. Make plans to be present and bring with you your favorite dish!
3. WORDS BEFORE THE WORD meets each Sunday at 10:00 A.M. in the Fellowship Hall. For all church members and friends, the class - led by Dr. Coker - takes you to the Scripture passage used in Sunday's sermon. Your questions and comments about these verses are welcome. For Sunday, August 9, 2026, the sermon is Lessons from God’s Alphabet" from Revelation 1:1-8.
4. The Session has formed the Interim Pastor Search Committee, from the Nuts and Bolts Committee. Members are Terry Littrell, Will Scott, Coke Gray II, Richard Rabon, Bruce Zeman, Greg Blackmon, and Mike Tyndall. This committee will seek an interim pastor for First Presbyterian Church. Please keep these devoted servants in your prayers as they carry out this important work.
5. Elder Nominating Committee. The following persons have agreed to serve: Will Scott, David Smith, Beth Owens, Ethan Scott, Amber Dinkins, Margaret Gray and Susan Smith.
6. Elder Nominating Committee. The following persons have agreed to serve, if elected: Will Scott, David Smith, Beth Owens, Ethan Scott, Amber Dinkins, Margaret Gray and Susan Smith
7. The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper will be celebrated Sunday, September 6, 2026, during the 11:00 A.M. Service of Worship. Prayerfully prepare your hearts to receive this holy meal.



A Flower Signup Chart is in the Narthex for you to sign up to provide flowers in memory of or in honor of someone in 2026. Please sign up and let Lynn know in the church office as well (910)642-2253 or lynn@fpcwhiteville.org.



August 2-Mandy Horne; 4-Tom Caperton; 7-Samuel McColskey; 7-Brent Wheatley; 11-Rick Maxwell; 11-Taylor Smith; 12-Judi Thompson; 17-Madelyn Scott; 18-Robert Nelson; 19-Debra Gibson; 22-Charlene High; 22-Nancy Thurston; 23- Kathryn Humphreys; 24- Laura Spivey; 26-Jacob Washburn; 30-Joan Dorsett.



Prayer Concerns: Kathryn Clark; Steve Dorsett; Ben Kilpatrick; Butch Row.
Assisted Care: Bob High; Walter Strickland; Judi Thompson.
Friends: Diana Abernathy; Rick Alvarez; Junior Britt; Monica Burns; Diana Butler; Billie Joe Conrad; **Carl Cutler**; Hilda Dorsett; Randall Epps; Ted Harris; Pam Hatley; Shelby Hodge; Ava Kennedy; Barbara Lambert; Lynne Lee; Daphne McLeod; Gavin McPherson; Bryan Patterson; David Ramsaur; Shiryl Smith; William Smith; Will Spivey; Lee Trogdon; Shelby Turbeville; Kay Wheatley.

[Please notify the office when names can be removed](#)

Mondays
6:30pm Boy
Scouts
Fellowship Hall
(Off for the
summer)

Tuesdays
6:30 Cub Scouts
Fellowship Hall
(Off for the
summer)

Sundays
10:00 am Sunday
School
11:am
Worship Service

These groups meet weekly at
First Presbyterian Church

Monday & Thursday
8:00 pm Alcoholics
Anonymous, Community
Room

Thursdays
Group, Conference Room
10:00am Chicks with
Sticks, Parlor



	August 2	August 9	August 16	August 23	August 30
A/V	Boyd Worley	David Smith	Todd Burney	Fuller Royal	Caroline Smith
Nursery	Coke Gray III	Diane Scott	Courtney Worley	Amber Dinkins	Susan Smith
Children's Sermon	Susan Smith	Boyd Worley	Fuller Royal	Steve Smith	Rachel Smith
Children's Church	Coke Gray III	Boyd Worley	Ethan Scott	Courtney Worley	Erin Thompson
Flowers	Kaye Pope		Ethan Scott		Courtney Worley



Dr. Jay Coker's Preaching Plans for August

August 2

Scripture: Zephaniah 3:14-18

Sermon: "Heaven's Present Tense"

August 9

Scripture: Revelation 1:1-8

Sermon: "Lessons from God's Alphabet"

August 16

Scripture: Luke 17:5-10, Matthew 17:20-21

Sermon: "Mountain Moving Faith"

August 23

Scripture: I Corinthians 1:18-31

Sermon: "Pebbles Fall and Water Rises"

August 30

Scripture: Luke 10:25-37

Sermon: "Live All of Your Life!"



The Nuts and Bolts voted to accept the role of the search committee for an interim pastor position. We are asking all members to submit any suggestions for this important position. Also please thank Greg Blackmon for all the extra work he has done on the church grounds.

Spiritual Development



We hope you and your family have been enjoying your Summer Bible School Buckets! We pray these resources have encouraged meaningful family time, sparked conversations about God's love, and helped keep everyone connected to His Word throughout the summer. It has been a blessing to know that our church families are growing in faith together, even while our regular Sunday School classes have been on break. As summer comes to a close, we're excited to begin a new Sunday School year! Be sure to mark your calendars for Rally Day on Sunday, September 13, as we celebrate the start of another wonderful year of learning, growing, and serving together. We look forward to welcoming everyone back. As we prepare for the new year, we're also looking for additional volunteers to help with our Sunday School ministry. Whether you can teach regularly, serve as a substitute, or simply want to learn more about how you can help, we would love to hear from you. If you feel God may be calling you to serve in this important ministry, please let Erin or Amber know. Thanks Erin



MVE committee will be meeting soon to plan for our FNS that is scheduled for Wednesday, September 23, 2026 at 6:00. No menu yet - so stay tuned.

MVE will be meeting soon to discuss and plan the rest of the year and getting a calendar with all the fun stuff.

See you at church.

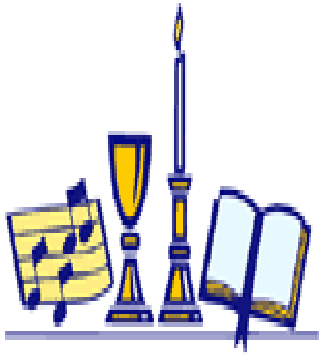
Thank you

Joan and Mary Anne



CLC

CLC is in charge of the FNS in August. It will be on Sunday August 23 following worship. It will be covered dish, so bring your favorite dish and we will be in the kitchen if you need anything in the oven or refrigerator. CLC will also be meeting August 10th at 5:00 to coordinate and plan for the rest of the year. Please stay tuned for a calendar of events!! We look forward to seeing everyone at our Family Night Supper 8/23/26 at 12:00!!!



Worship Committee

The Worship Committee has been working with Dr. Coker to make a few changes in our Sunday Morning Worship Service. Many thanks to the MVE Committee for the wonderful breakfast they served for our church's celebration of America's 250th birthday on June 28th . I hope everyone had the opportunity to attend. It was a special day in the life of First Presbyterian Church!

We are enjoying Dr. Coker's Sunday School, "Words Before the Word," which is being held at 10 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall. Please join us and come a little early for coffee and fellowship!

We are pleased with the election of our Elder Nominating Committee and thank those members for their willingness to serve. The Committee will be working hard to fill the four Elder positions for the Class of 2029 so that Dr. Coker can train them while he is here. If you are contacted, I hope you will prayerfully consider how you can help lead our church. We are looking ahead to the busy months before us and making plans. As always, we are grateful to the many volunteers who help with AV/Streaming, Children's Sermons, Children's Church, Nursery, and maintaining our instruments. Thank you!

Anne Branch



The outreach committee is starting to collect items for our youth to pack shoeboxes for Operation Christmas Child. We are in need of school supplies, composition notebooks, pens, pencils, crayons, markers, individual pencil sharpeners, pencil pouches, pencil erasers, we are still collecting combs, washcloths, small reusable plastic cups. If you would rather supply a monetary gift, please put occ in the memo line and let myself or Lynn know. There is a collection box in the narthex in the sanctuary, or you can drop off supplies by the office during office hours. Thanks, the Outreach committee....