

First Press

May 2021

A publication of First Presbyterian Church | Hilton Head Island, SC

Summer is coming — It's time to sign up for FPC's "Off the Bench" Sports Camp!



FPC Sports Camp Summer of 2019

During the week of July 26-30, children ages 4-12 years old are invited to take part in FPC's "Off the Bench" Sports Camp. "It's awesome that as we see improvement in COVID

-19 numbers we are able to look forward to celebrating summer," said Jackie Wilhelm, FPC's Director of Ministry with Children. "At only \$40 per camper, we hope to have a full camp this year and I encourage parents to act now."

Held each day from 8:45 a.m.-noon, the program starts a bit early on the first day for sign-in, and the last day will run until 12:30 p.m. for the closing ceremony.

Campers ages 6-12 will enjoy soccer, basketball and cheer-leading. Those who are four and five will be in Team 45 skills camp. This program enables young children to begin to develop the basics, including running, jumping, kicking, throwing, catching, dribbling and more!

To register, go to <https://fpchhi.ccbchurch.com/goto/forms/27/responses/new>.

First Presbyterian's People In Need Office Starting in May, the PIN office extends hours to three mornings each week!

Because of COVID, more people are needing assistance to make ends meet. The People in Need office, part of FPC's Local Outreach Ministry, is adding another morning to the schedule and will now be staffed on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday mornings from 9 a.m.-noon.

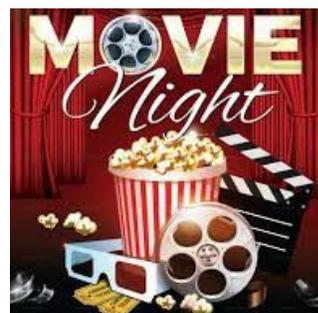
"We're excited to increase the time we're here to take calls and meet with those in need," says Barb Edwards, PIN coordinator. "The more options we provide for people to call or come in extends the assistance we can provide." In addition to helping with rent, electric and water bills, the ministry provides gas cards and food. "Requests for groceries have increased greatly as a result of the pandemic, and we are glad to be able to share nonperishables kept in our food pantry."

This past year PIN began using Charity Tracker, an online database which enables local organizations to more effectively help their clients by sharing information among groups which provide assistance. "When we enter a person's name into Charity Tracker, which is completely secure, then all of the other participating organizations are

able to see that individual has received assistance from FPC. In addition, the system shares with us where we can send people for additional services," says Edwards.

"We need to be good stewards of the resources people have entrusted to us. By working together with our partners in the Lowcountry, we can prevent duplication and work more efficiently," she added.

**Save the Date for
Outside Movie Night**
Friday, May 21...details to come!



“Are we there yet?!”



“Are we there yet?!” is a FAQ of little children on a road trip! I remember asking it myself at times as a boy on the drive from my hometown of Fayetteville, N.C., to visit my “Gammy” (my paternal grandmother) in Wilson, N.C. And I have no doubt that I asked that question—to my parents’ chagrin—on family vacations to the mountains of N.C., to the beaches of S.C., and on an especially *looong* road trip to Disney World in Orlando.

All of us have asked a question like that about this pandemic. And while we can see the light at the end of the tunnel, we’re not there yet. We appreciate your patience, grace and understanding as we continue to wear masks, physically distance and follow other Session-approved protocols that are based on CDC and DHEC guidelines. As key COVID-19 metrics improve, however, I and the rest of our staff are prepared to work with our Session to alter those protocols.

Some of you may have also asked “Are we there yet?!” about my installation as Senior Pastor. The answer is: It will be Sunday, May 2, at 4 p.m. in the sanctuary. The guest preacher is Rev. Dr. Brian Blount, President and Professor of New Testament at Union Presbyterian Seminary, Richmond, Va. and Charlotte, N.C. Brian preached here in the summer of 2019, and in fact that’s how I learned about the Senior Pastor position here. We hope you can attend this special celebration in the life of FPC, either in person or via livestream or a recording of the livestream. Brian will also be our guest preacher at our 10 a.m. worship service that day (preaching a different sermon!).

Patience is indeed a virtue, and for us as Christians it’s a fruit of the Spirit that dwells in us. May we ask the Spirit for a double portion of that fruit when we need it most—personally and as a church—in this pandemic.

Grace and peace,

Will

Pastor Will

Support of Bahati Scholars provides hope and the promise of a better future for young people in Kenya



Since 2008, FPC members have supported this meaningful mission and provided scholarship funds in addition to their annual stewardship pledge. To date, participants have sponsored or co-sponsored a total of 237 students.

Not unlike students in the U.S. impacted by COVID-19, students in Kenya, too, have missed lots of school. However, in their case, most do not have access to personal wi-fi, computers and other learning tools.

Our 13 Form 4 students (Seniors) were able to return to their schools in October and completed their secondary education at the end of March. They took their final exams in March to receive their Kenya Certificate of

Secondary Education (KCSE). The 57 students in Forms 1, 2 & 3 (Freshmen, Sophomores and Juniors) returned to school in January and are expected to begin the third and final term of this academic year in July, although Kenya is currently under very strict restrictions because of a resurgence of COVID there.

If you’d like to learn more about the program—or become a sponsor or co-sponsor—visit the FPC website; www.fpchhi.org/global-missions.



“Those of us who have visited Kenya and met these students are convinced that this FPC mission program is life-saving and life-giving for the young people who receive the gift of a high school education.”

—Mary-Stuart Alderman

Positive Mental Well-Being Post Pandemic

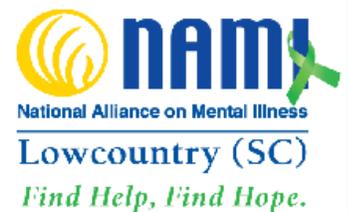
A message from Pastor Lisa Schrott

As the number of people infected with COVID-19 is on the decline and the number of vaccinations is increasing, we are now looking at what's next. How have we been changed by the pandemic?

Recent reports from the CDC, National Institute of Mental Health and the Kaiser Family Foundation (KFF) indicate an increase in mental health concerns during the past year. For example, during the pandemic about 40 percent of U.S. residents report symptoms of an anxiety or a mood disorder. Pre-pandemic this figure was about 10 percent. A KFF Health Tracking Poll also found that many adults report specific negative impacts on their mental health, such as difficulty sleeping or eating, increases in alcohol consumption or substance use and worsening chronic conditions.

As people of faith we recognize the role our trinitarian God plays in strengthening us during challenging times. We look to the Psalms for comfort from the loving arms of God our Father. We recognize the importance of the voice of the Holy Spirit in guiding us as we make decisions. We see how Jesus healed and restored people to community. And we also acknowledge that an important role of the church is to connect us to professional help when needed.

The FPC Health Ministry will be sponsoring two programs on mental health post-pandemic in conjunction with our local chapter of the National Alliance on Mental Health (NAMI).* The first program will focus on well-being in adults and the second on unique challenges facing children and families. We hope you can join us for these important presentations. Please know that both Pastor Will and I are available to meet with you if you are experiencing challenges in your life. Please email or call us, or stop into the church during my drop-in pastoral care hours on Monday from 2-4 p.m.



*The specifics about the two upcoming programs will be shared once finalized.

First Presbyterian Church Financial Analysis as of March 31, 2021

Actual/Budget Comparison			
	Y-t-d Actual March 31, 2021	Y-t-d Budget March 31, 2021	Variance Favorable (Unfavorable)
Member Giving	\$515,920	\$489,026	\$26,894
Other Revenue	\$19,645	\$29,250	(\$9,605)
Total Revenue	\$535,565	\$518,276	\$17,289
Total Operating Costs	\$463,869	\$509,675	\$45,806
Net Difference	\$71,696	\$8,601	\$63,095

Pastors

Dr. Will Robinson
Senior Pastor/Head of Staff

Rev. Lisa Schrott
Associate Pastor

With questions about FPC
communications, email
cbobbitt@fpchhi.org
fpchhi.org
843.681.3696

Seeking Recommendations for New Officers

Serving as a church officer is a privilege. The Nominating Committee is seeking your recommendations for the names of members you feel would be good representatives of First Presbyterian Church — to serve as deacon or elder.

Seven deacons and nine elders are needed to serve in the Class of 2024. To submit the name(s) of the person(s) you recommend, please complete the submission form at <https://fpchhi.ccbchurch.com/goto/forms/51/responses/new>.

According to the Book of Order, individuals who

undertake particular ministries, including ruling elder and deacon, should be persons of strong faith, dedicated to discipleship and a love of Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord.

Their manner of life should be a demonstration of the Christian Gospel in the church and in the world. (Book of Order, G-2.0101) **All church officers must be active members for at least one year prior to election** (October 2021) with terms beginning in February.

The deadline to submit names is June 30.

540 William Hilton Parkway
Hilton Head Island, SC 29928



Holy Week at First Presbyterian Church

