



2026 MISSION CONFERENCE INFO

WHAT'S INSIDE?

WAYS TO SERVE AND SHARE



CREATION
CONCERT
DETAILS

FELLOWSHIP
OPPORTUNITIES

& MUCH MORE!



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PHOTOS

ASH WEDNESDAY
WORSHIP SERVICES





A PASTORAL MESSAGE

from Dr. Mike Garrett

BEYOND BOUNDARIES

What does God intend for his church? Thankfully we don't have to guess. Part of God's intent is revealed in Paul's letter to the church in Ephesus. He writes of Jesus Christ:

He came and preached peace to you who were far away and peace to those who were near. For through him we both have access to the Father by one Spirit. (Eph. 2:17-18)

God's intent in Jesus was to reconcile both Jews and Gentiles to himself (and each other) through the sacrifice of Jesus. No religious insiders versus religious outsiders. No favored nations versus unfavored ones. What becomes clear in reading the gospel is that God will be satisfied with nothing less than the kingdom of God freely offered to all people.

That was hard for the church to accept in Paul's day. It is hard to accept in ours. We live in an era when national, racial, and religious boundaries are the polarizing conversations of our time. Yet, we worship a God whose church is supposed to transcend our human boundaries in surprising ways. Jesus came for both those who think of ourselves as insiders, and those we think of as outsiders.

Our 2026 Mission Conference Theme is "Beyond Boundaries". It will be a call to look at this world as God intends it. We will look at both our "far away" and "near" opportunities to invite people to be reconciled to God and each other. **Please mark your calendar for March 1-8, 2026.**

We'll have speakers who will help us lift our eyes to new and ongoing international opportunities for serving Jesus Christ. We will come together in a Rise Against Hunger meal packaging event. We'll also hear from our local mission partners. Detailed information about speakers and events can be found inside this newsletter.

As we seek God's wisdom and vision for this congregation through our "Crossing Thresholds" season of prayer, let's allow our imaginations to be shaped by those places in scripture where God has already made it plain to see.

Sincerely,





The 2026 Mission Conference begins on **Sunday, March 1**, with our children and youth opening the 11 a.m. worship service in a joyful procession of flags from around the world. Mark Mueller, Director of the Outreach Foundation, will preach and introduce two special guests who will share about an exciting mission opportunity in nearby Cuba. The day continues with a family-friendly dinner and program at 4:30 p.m., where you'll learn how we can partner with this meaningful Presbyterian mission in Cuba.

On **Wednesday, March 4**, the focus shifts to local mission partners supported by our church. All ages are invited to gather for dinner and interactive activities from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m.

The conference continues on **Saturday, March 7**, with a hands-on Rise Against Hunger meal-packing event. This long-standing mission project is always a fun and impactful way for all ages to serve together.

The Mission Conference concludes on **Sunday, March 8**, as our children and youth carry out the flags of many nations during worship. The service will feature an interview-style conversation with mission partners from Haiti, Mexico, and Rise Against Hunger, sharing updates and good news from their work.

Watch for more details in the coming weeks, and be sure to save the first week of March as we celebrate the incredible ways God's people are serving near and far.

Wednesday Evening Adult Christian Education

CROSSING THRESHOLDS: Group Bible Study and Prayer

From Wednesday, February 4 through March 11 our evening adult study will focus on the text of the day from our 40 day Crossing Thresholds Prayer Guide. Join Dr. Garrett and the group as we study and pray our way into a deeper understanding of what God is saying to our congregation during this season.

February 4, Day 9 - The Way of Jesus, Acts 9:1-2

February 11, Day 15 - What's a Successful Church Look Like?, Acts 2:42-47

February 18 - Ash Wednesday Worship at 6:30 p.m.

February 25, Day 27 - How Do You Feel About Surrender?, Luke 22:39-46

March 4, Day 33 - God Provides What We Need, Matthew 7:7-11
(This class may be replaced by a special Mission Conference event)

March 11, Day 39 - Throw Your Anxiety Here, 1 Peter 5:7

We meet in the Activity Room at 6:30 p.m.,
following the All In Fellowship meal.



ALL IN FELLOWSHIP MEALS

with potluck sides, family & friends.

The church will provide the main entree. You can bring a salad, side, dessert or bread that will serve 8 to 10 people or pay \$8 per adult (age 13+) and \$3 per child (age 5-12). The meal cap is \$20 per family. Childcare available upon request—contact Wanda (wanda@firstprez.com) no later than the Sunday prior. *Vegan & Gluten-Free options are available!*



FEBRUARY 4 - Super Bowl Night

Popcorn Shrimp & Chicken Wings
from 316 Oyster Bar

Faith, Fellowship & Football!



FEBRUARY 11 - Italian Night

Lasagna & Salad from Sammio's

Sharing God's love - one lasagna layer at a time.



FEBRUARY 18 - MARDI GRAS

Breakfast for Dinner

A Taste of Mardi Gras, a moment for Ash Wednesday



FEBRUARY 25 - NC NIGHT

Pork BBQ & Coleslaw from BBQ Hut

Sharing community, the North Carolina way





Crossing Thresholds Launch Banquet





SERVING TOGETHER • FEEDING THE WORLD

Rise

AGAINST HUNGER

food • community • sustainability

SATURDAY, MARCH 7

MEAL PACKING BEGINS AT 9 A.M.

Help us pack 25,000 meals to fight hunger around the world. Every meal provides hope and nourishment for children and families in need. Join us for this hands-on mission opportunity — every pair of hands makes an impact!

All volunteers must register.



Scan the QR Code or visit bit.ly/FPCRAH



Childcare will be provided for younger children. Elementary age and up are welcome to help with packing. To help with planning, please register for childcare by visiting bit.ly/RAHKids



**Do you support a student at one of the
Haiti Outreach Ministry schools?**

**Do you have a photo of your student that you would
be willing to share with the congregation?**

(It would be safely returned to you.)

We hope to create a huge poster showing all of our currently sponsored students.

Since we cannot go to Haiti in-person at this time, the Haiti Outreach Ministry has asked us to focus on sponsoring children to attend their schools. These schools are open and operating quite well despite the difficulties Haiti is experiencing. But most children cannot afford the tuition — in fact, there is a long waiting list of children who would love to be able to go to school but cannot afford it.

The Mission Committee would like to encourage every member of First Presbyterian to provide a Haiti Outreach Ministry scholarship for a student. For the price of a restaurant meal, you could support an elementary student every month of the school year. More information will be provided during Mission Conference.



ASH WEDNESDAY WORSHIP & LENT

Ash Wednesday falls on February 18 this year and marks the beginning of the season of Lent. We will gather for worship in the Chapel at 12 p.m. and again in the Sanctuary at 6:30 p.m., following the All In Fellowship meal at 5:30 p.m.

What is Lent and Ash Wednesday all about? Please look below at this explanation from Pastor Phil Reinders excellent devotional guide "Seeking God's Face":

Beginning on Ash Wednesday, Lent is the forty-day season leading up to Easter. (If you count all the days, there are more than forty, but the Sundays are not counted as part of Lent, as they are resurrection celebrations held throughout the season.) It begins with the stark reminder that "from dust you have come and to dust you will return" and leads toward Jesus' final week, marked by Palm Sunday and stopping short of the resurrection celebration of Easter morning. Ashes are a good emblem of Lent, a picture of our own mortality and spiritual condition, a sign of Lent's penitent spirit, and yet a hint of the hope of renewal...

The spare and sober nature of Lent is healthy for the heart and true to the gospel, scrubbing away frothy spirituality by calling us to say no to ourselves in order to experience a greater yes in Jesus. It helps to imprint the form of the cross in our lives, recognizing that the news of the risen Lord Jesus is not good without the way of the cross. Lent prepares us to experience the reality of resurrection joy only by first recognizing the depth of our sin that pinned Christ to the cross.

Continuing in our congregational prayer guide "Crossing Thresholds" is a great way to observe Lent this year, as well as gathering regularly for congregational worship.



¡UNIDOS EN CRISTO!

United in Christ with Faith Ministry in Reynosa Mexico.

You are invited to join our Mexico Mission Trip, June 6-13, as we partner with Faith Ministry in Reynosa, Mexico. United in Christ, we will serve, learn, and build relationships while sharing God's love through hands-on ministry. This trip is an opportunity to grow in faith and make a meaningful impact across the border. Come be part of what God is doing in Reynosa!

This trip is open to adults age 18 and older, as well as high school and middle school youth who will be at least 14 years old by June 1, 2026, and who are accompanied by a parent or adult guardian.

Visit firstprez.com/mexico or scan the QR Code for details and to view and submit your 2026 Mexico Mission Trip Application today!



Scan Me

First Presbyterian Church Celebration Choir
and Community Friends present



CREATION

Dan Forrest

Experience CREATION, Dan Forrest's newest and most expansive work, performed for the first time in the Fayetteville area.

Join us in wonder and praise as this breathtaking oratorio celebrates the beauty of God's Creation on Saturday, March 14th at 4 p.m. in the sanctuary.

Written on the 225th anniversary of Haydn's similarly-themed masterpiece, CREATION, is a 68-minute work for chorus, orchestra, and soprano and baritone soloists. The score unfolds in sweeping, vivid fashion, exploring the wonders of our planet through a dazzling variety of musical expressions. Reviewers have hailed it as having a "cinematic quality," calling it Dan Forrest's "most sophisticated composition to date" and "the most joyful, exuberant piece of music I've ever run across."

Dr. Forrest writes:

"I wanted to capture the beauty of life on this planet, and the wonder of its origin, in my own musical language. In a sense, it's a score to my own mental Planet Earth film—of beauty that I've encountered both at home and in my travels abroad. I hope this work overwhelms its listener with the wonder and joy that still shines through in our world."

Accompanied by a Chamber Orchestra featuring:
Harp, Flute, Clarinet, Oboe, Horn, Violin, Cello, Percussion, Organ,
and Keyboard

**Mark your calendars now and join us
for this inspiring Lenten celebration!**

Admission is free. Donations are appreciated.

Palm Sunday is approaching, and we need your help!

Children's Ministry is collecting donations of pre-stuffed Easter eggs or bags of individually wrapped candy for the annual Easter Egg Hunt following the potluck luncheon on Sunday, March 29
No peanuts, peanut butter or tree nuts.

Please drop off items in Eller Hall by March 29th.

Thank you for your generosity!

Children's Ministry needs your help!

We are hoping to collect enough items to donate 15 Easter baskets to the Children's Center at Cape Fear Valley Health Foundation. They will distribute the baskets we make to the children in the hospital around Easter.

Please bring brand new items to Eller Hall by Sunday, March 15.

NEONATAL INTENSIVE CARE UNIT

Socks - Newborn or 0-3 Months

Onesies

Baby Blankets [30" x 30"]

Baby Wipes

*Please note that any size clothing newborn size and larger is fine.

PEDIATRIC INTENSIVE CARE UNIT AND PEDIATRIC EMERGENCY DEPARTMENT

Blankets [40" x 60" for toddlers or larger]

Light-up and musical toys

Hair ties or headbands

Socks [children & youth sizes]

Stuffed animals (small)

Books [appropriate for all ages, including teenagers]

Journals/Coloring books & Crayons

Character action figures

Hotwheels

Legos/Duplo



VBS at First Prez June 15 - 18

Step through the mist into Rainforest Falls, overflowing with wild waterfalls, towering trees, and colorful creatures. Beneath a canopy of chattering birds and howling monkeys, kids plunge into a lifelong adventure of discovering the nature of God. They'll explore what it means to be rooted in relationship with God, their creator, a safe place in life's storms.



Early registration is OPEN!

Open to:

FPC & First School families:
rising PreK 4 to rising 5th grade

Volunteers & campers -

Register online at:
bit.ly/VBSatFPC
or scan the QR code



Kingdom Kidz Calendar

Feb 1

Feb 8

Feb 15 – Extended Care 4 to 7 PM
Parents Night Out!

Feb 22 – Children's Sunday Rehearsal

Mar 1 - Children's Sunday

Mar 8 – Family Bowling Night

Mar 15



**Children will sing
during worship:**

March 1

March 29



Children's Sunday March 1 at 11 a.m.

Join us as our children help kick off mission week and lead worship through song, prayer, and Scripture. We celebrate the joy, faith, and gifts God is growing in their lives as they remind us that all ages have a place in God's story.



HAITI OUTREACH MINISTRIES

Children's Ministry sponsors two children in Haiti. Youth Ministry sponsors one child in Haiti. To help us continue to support these children, we ask you to consider making an offering for Haiti Outreach Ministries. In Haiti, there is no free, public education. HOM and its Haitian partner MICECC operate three primary schools and a secondary school, providing a quality education steeped in Christian principles.

Monetary donations can be dropped off at the church office and marked "Sponsor a Child in Haiti".

Children will have crafts for sale during Mission Conference in Eller Hall. All proceeds will benefit sponsoring these two Haitian students.

KINGDOM KIDZ & S.U.R.G.E. BIBLELYMPICS!



S.U.R.G.E. CALENDAR

Feb. 1

Feb. 8 - **Ends at 6pm**

Superbowl Party at the Hall's

Feb. 15 - **Parents Night Out!**

Extended Care 4 to 7 p.m.

Feb. 22



S.U.R.G.E. joined Highland Pres and Hay ST UMC for a Flag Football Tournament. **We won!**





**JAN 25
TO
FEB 15**

**SUPERBOWL OF CARING
FOOD DRIVE**

GIRLS VS BOYS

Blue donation box Pink donation box

TEAM UP AND TACKLE HUNGER



**SECOND HARVEST
FOOD BANK**
Southeast North Carolina

Action Fellowship
PASTOR
JIMMY B. BELL

Team up with our youth to tackle hunger in our community -
HELP US REACH OUR GOAL OF 500 NON-PERISHABLE ITEMS!

The winning team wins a special treat and surprise!

We love the big game, but we love our neighbors more!

Join the youth and be a game changer for our neighbors in need through the Souper Bowl of Caring. Bring in any of the listed goods below OR donate to Youth Missions. All donations go to Second Harvest Food Bank. \$1=1 item
Last year ended in a tie. Who will win this year, boys or girls?

DONATIONS BEING COLLECTED:

PEANUT BUTTER
CANNED VEGETABLES
FRUIT CUPS
CANNED MEATS

CEREAL
RICE
PUDDING CUPS

CANNED FRUITS
PASTA
CANNED SOUPS

TOGETHER, WE CAN TACKLE HUNGER—ONE DONATION AT A TIME!



2026 YOUTH SKI TRIP

UPCOMING EVENTS

- Feb 2 • Food Service Committee Meeting
- Feb 3 • S.A.L.T. Breakfast at JK's Deli
 - Worship Committee Meeting
- Feb 4 • Men of God
- Feb 8 • Stephen Ministry Meeting
 - Women's Ensemble
 - MomCo
- Feb 9 • Christian Education Meeting
 - Mission Committee Meeting
- Feb 10 • Martha Circle
 - Stated Deacons Meeting
- Feb 12 • Hannah Circle
 - Engagement Committee Meeting
- Feb 16 • Personnel Committee Meeting
- Feb 17 • Finance Committee Meeting
 - Stated Session Meeting
- Feb 18 • Ash Wednesday Service
- Feb 23 • David's Mighty Men
- Feb 24 • S.A.L.T. trip to NC Museum of Art
 - COAP Zoom Meeting
- Mar 1 • Children sing during 11 a.m. worship
- Mar 1-7 • 2026 Mission Conference Week
- Mar 7 • Rise Against Hunger
- Mar 14 • CREATION Concert
- Mar 22 • CROP Hunger Walk
- Mar 24 • S.A.L.T. Halifax State Historical Tour

s.a.l.t.
Seasoned Adults
Learning Together

Halifax Historical Tour Tuesday, March 24

We will depart the church at 8 a.m. Cost will be lunch at Two Doors Down.

Please RSVP by March 10
with Nancy Billman at
910-916-5994

Help Walker Spivey Children Stay Warm

New or Gently Used Clothing Needed

Girls' and boys' sizes 4-16

Donations can be dropped
off in Eller Hall.

Requested Items:

- Socks
- Underwear
- Belts
- Mittens
- Beanies
- Pants
- Shirts
- Sweaters
- Sweatshirts

Every donation helps.
Thanks so much!



February Birthdays



1 Peter Datkuliak	13 Jim Helms	23 Warren Tillman
2 Ken Kirby	13 Kimberhly Hopkins	24 Susanna Stiles
3 Jennifer Godman	14 Sinclair Kirby	25 Warren Baker
5 Sofia Martins	14 Bill McFadyen	25 Mary Jon Barkman
5 Eddie Pridgen	14 Lauren Zimmer	25 Faye Canady
5 C. Byron Williams	15 Liz Blue	25 Comfort Fomusoh
6 Clare Broadwell	17 Riley Helmke	25 Aiden Hale
6 William Cox	17 Judith Kirchman	26 David Darden
6 Leslie DeSessa	17 Kate O'Keefe	26 Sam Rocker
6 Cameron Hall	18 Julie Cotty	26 Tim Smith
7 Joel Baker	18 Andrew Reid	28 Mike Baileys
8 Hardister Johnson	19 Johnathan Lenard	28 Linda Campbell
9 Cooper Wilson	20 Sara Self	28 Richard Galt
11 Terry Darden	20 Ava Soffe	28 Lily Mackey
11 Amelia Zimmer	21 Steve Coffman	
12 William Boyette	21 Huntyn Hopkins	
12 Kevin Hall	21 Wade Stiles	
12 Christopher McLaughlin	23 Betsy Downing	

Memorials

Rev. Billy Herring
Kaye Baggett
Sharon A. Buroker

Ferry M. Herndon
Charles G. Wilkins

Dan Nickell
Patsy Markham
Gillie Revelle
Ann Rowell
Elyse Campbell Brown



WORSHIP SERVICES
WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 18

12 P.M. IN THE CHAPEL
6:30 P.M. IN THE SANCTUARY