



February 2026

Dear First Pres Friends,

This season has been a busy and joyous one for our church and we have so much to look forward to in the weeks ahead! Just this month, we kicked off our Stewardship Campaign, *Generations of Generosity*; opened registration for our Summer Mission Trip to Asheville; approved, at a Congregational Meeting, the reinstatement of the Board of Deacons; and so much more! As we look ahead this month, I have a few announcements about upcoming events I would like to share with you.

First, right around the corner are a few special services in the life of our church that as this month we will begin Lent, starting with our *Ash Wednesday service on **February 18th at 5:30 PM***. Leigh Montague will be coming back to lend us her services and help provide some special music for this very special service, so make sure to mark your calendars! Also, keep an eye out for registration for our Summer Mission Trip to Asheville if you or someone you know is interested. This year, we will be going to Asheville for our Mission Trip and working with the great folks over at Asheville Youth Mission. However, don't be fooled by the name because this registration is open to everyone! If you are interested in taking a few days to a week to see, learn, and get involved, and help those who need help, then I can assure you this is a wonderful way to do so! Each year, we learn new ways that we can help others, bring back what we learn, and plug it into our own community. We will assist the elderly, help serve meals to those in need, support farms that give back to the community, and do so much more! If you are interested, please feel free to reach out to either the Mission Committee or me to get signed up. Registration is due April 1st, same as Montreat!

Lastly, while this is a special time in the life of our church, let us also remember those on our prayer list as it continues to grow. This season can be difficult for many of us, so if you ever need anything, please feel free to reach out to me! My door is always open, and I am more than happy to talk with you!

Blessings,

Rev. Maxwell Michaels



## Sunday School Classes

**Parlor Class**—This month the Parlor Class will begin a new Lenten series, *The Final Days*, by Matt Rawle. Adults will study a fresh and engaging take on the journey through Lent. Be sure to join them each Sunday at 10 a.m. in the parlor for a deeper encounter with Jesus' final days.

**Fellowship Class**—Join the Fellowship class in February as they continue studying *Feasting on the Word*. Adults will evaluate leadership from the Old Testament and perceive more deeply what it means to lead and to follow in the community of faith. The Fellowship Class meets each Sunday at 10:00 a.m. It is a relaxed class with lots of discussion. Please think about joining us for coffee & fellowship!

**Youth Class**—Our Youth Class will continue studying *Feasting on the Word*. This month, they will study the Transfiguration, Lent, and explore ways to respond faithfully to God's commandments. All 6<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> graders are welcome!

**Children's Class**—Our Children's class, ages K-5th grade, will continue studying *Feasting on the Word*. They will start the month with a project, *One in Christ*, where they will create self-portraits--a visual reminder that they belong to the body of Christ. The project will be displayed in the hallway when the finished. Later in the month, children will pay attention to the command to listen to Jesus and plan how they can do that. Stay tuned for some new improvements we are making to the classroom!

**Preschool Class**—(ages 3-4) will meet downstairs in the Louise Carpenter room and will also be studying *Feasting on the Word*. They will also join the children's class by creating self-portraits inside the larger portrait of Jesus. They will also learn how to thank God for loving them even when they make mistakes.

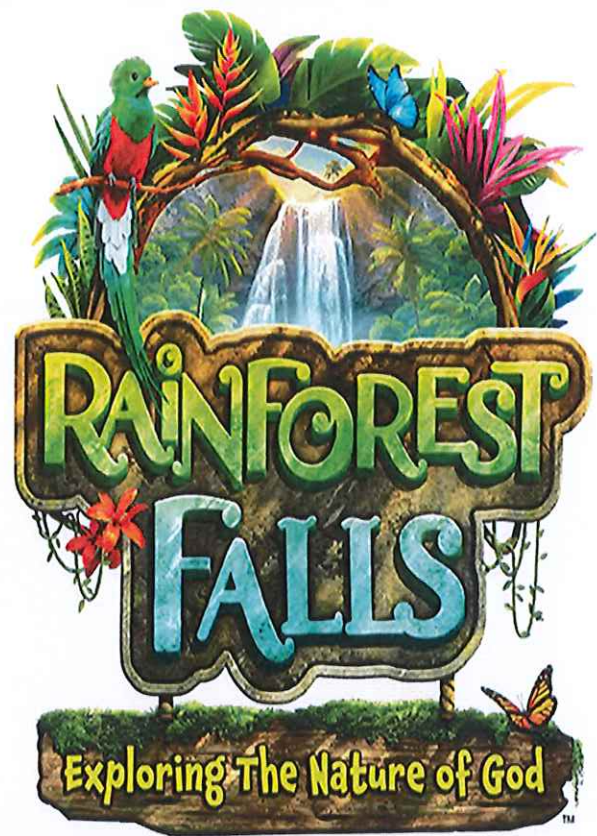
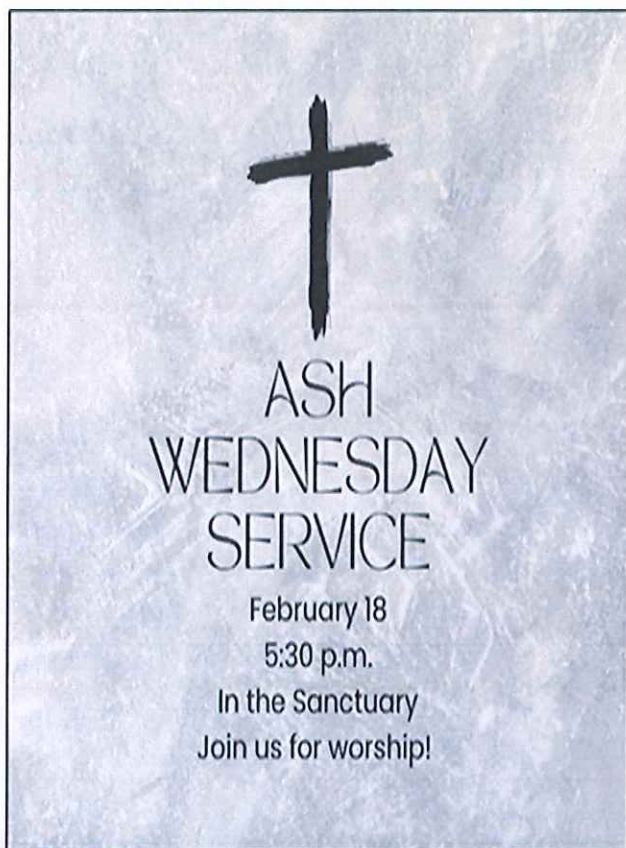
**Nursery always available (downstairs)**





## Christian Education & Music Ministry Schedule

- ♦ **Wednesday, Feb. 11**— No Fun Program
- ♦ **Wednesday, Feb. 18**— Ash Wednesday Service 5:30 p.m.  
Join us for beautiful, meditative music offered by the Chancel Choir and guest cellist, Leigh Montague, as we are reminded of our mortality and the power of Jesus' resurrection by the imposition of ashes; What a beautiful service!
- ♦ **Sunday, Feb. 22**—Fun Program to Ring & Sing during the 11 a.m. service
- ♦ **VBS Rainforest Falls June 9-11**—Save the Date!







*First Presbyterian  
Church Presents:*

# CHILI COOK-OFF

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 25  
FELLOWSHIP BUILDING  
5:00PM - 6:30PM



## Why join?

- Delicious Chili
- Fun for All Ages
- People's Choice Award

All proceeds from our  
Chili Cookoff help  
fundraise for our  
Youth Mission Trip

## HOW TO PARTICIPATE?

**REACH OUT TO TRACIE PHILLIPS OR  
CALL THE CHURCH OFFICE TO SIGN UP!**

# Presbyterian Women News

## Duties:

### Communion

**February 1-**Kristen Miller and Lindsay Bennett

**March 1-** Kelli and Cam Beck

### Youth Supper

**February 15-** Mary and Douglas Anderson

**March 15-** Kim Brabham and Lindsay Bennett

### Circle Meeting

**February 4-** Regular Meeting- Ladies Parlor at 10:00 a.m.

**March 4-** Pie Party and Regular Circle Meeting at 10:00 a.m. in Fellowship

Building (Everyone brings their favorite pie to share)

If you haven't been able to come to Circle in the past but have the time now.

Please join us!







## *Prayer Changes Things*

Gerry Rogers

Bea Sloop

Benny Moore

Bobbie Jones

For those suffering from chronic mental and emotional illnesses

B.J. Moore

Louise Carpenter

Shirley Brock

Edward Tinsley

Ruth Jackson

Marion Murphy

Nadia Harris

Clytie Roddy

Stasa Petros

Rebecca Harris Ott

Lesley Jean Watson

Wyatt Smith

April Quick

Summer Cathey



# February

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- |    |          |                      |    |          |                            |
|----|----------|----------------------|----|----------|----------------------------|
| 1  | 10:00 am | Sunday School        | 15 | 10:00 am | Sunday School              |
|    | 11:00 am | Worship ( Communion) |    | 11:00 am | Worship                    |
| 2  | 8:30 am  | MMO                  | 16 | 8:30 am  | MMO                        |
| 3  | 12:00 pm | At Ease              | 17 | 6:00 pm  | CW Bible Study             |
|    | 6:00 pm  | CW Bible Study       | 18 | 8:30 am  | MMO                        |
| 4  | 8:30 am  | MMO                  |    | 9:00 am  | CW Bible Study             |
|    | 9:00 am  | CW Bible Study       |    | 3:15 pm  | Fun Program                |
|    | 10:00 am | Circle Meeting       |    | 5:30 pm  | Ash Wednesday              |
|    | 3:15 pm  | Fun Program          |    | 6:00 pm  | Chancel Choir              |
|    | 5:30 pm  | Prayer Meeting       | 22 | 10:00 am | Sunday School              |
|    | 6:00 pm  | Chancel Choir        |    | 11:00 am | Worship                    |
| 7  | 11:00 am | BBQ & Bake Sale      |    |          | (Fun Program Ring & Sing ) |
| 8  | 10:00 am | Sunday School        | 23 | 8:30 am  | MMO                        |
|    | 11:00 am | Worship              | 24 | 6:00 pm  | CW Bible Study             |
| 9  | 8:30 am  | MMO                  | 25 | 8:30 am  | MMO                        |
| 10 | 6:00 pm  | CW Bible Study       |    | 9:00 am  | CW Bible Study             |
| 11 | 8:30 am  | MMO                  |    | 3:15 pm  | Fun Program                |
|    | 9:00 am  | CW Bible Study       |    | 5:00 pm  | Chili Cook Off             |
|    | 5:30 pm  | Prayer Meeting       |    |          |                            |
|    | 6:00 pm  | Chancel Choir        |    |          |                            |

2026



**6-John Folger**

**8-Melanie Flynn , Ashley Cauthen**

**9-Susan Snow**

**12- Katelyn Evans**

**15-Thomas Gulledge, Michael Flynn**

**16-Susan Malloy, Harold Watson**

**17-Michael Hammer**

**18-Campbell Streater**

**20-Laura K. Folger**

**23-Cam Beck**

**25-Tom Hammer**

**27-Bill Malloy**



# March Birthdays



- 3 Bayley Hydrick
- 4 Kim Cauthen, Christopher Tucker
- 7 Jenny Michaels
- 8 Debbie Watson
- 10 Robert Moffat
- 11 Richard Pierce
- 15 Marion Murphy
- 18 Kristen Miller, Mary Jane Evans
- 21 Robbi Gilpin
- 22 Andy Beck
- 23 Reba Brooks, Thomas Barton
- 25 Craig Goddard
- 30 Joye Sansbury

Happy  
Birthday



## **ANNUAL REPORT FROM THE ENDOWMENT COMMITTEE**

(Fiscal Year November 1, 2024-October 31, 2025)

In **March, 1996**, a group of visionary members of a long-range planning committee saw the need for and created an Endowment Fund for First Presbyterian Church of Cheraw. The purpose of this fund was to provide a vehicle to receive bequests and other gifts to the church to be held separately and from which the income could provide for the needs of the church property and grounds, including (though not limited) to such areas as: The Church Sanctuary, the Sunday School Building, the Fellowship Building, the Session House, the Manse, and the church grounds.

We are called to be good stewards and to take care of the gifts God has given us to manage. During this past year, with the income from the Endowment Fund, our church has been able to fulfill many needs including: HVAC for the manse, grounds maintenance, extensive steeple repair and beginning work on the new picnic shelter.

I would like to thank the Endowment Committee members who served this year: Cam Beck (Recorder and Class of 2028), Becky Childers (Class of 2026), Session representatives serving a 1-year term: Avery Dickson and Andrew McLeod as well as ex-officio members, Rev. Maxwell Michaels and Assistant Treasurer, Bill Malloy.

Because of the wonderful memorials, honorariums and estate gifts of our members, I'm pleased to share with you the Endowment Fund is vibrant and fiscally sound. From those humble beginnings in 1996, the value of the Endowment Fund on October 31, 2025, was **\$2,461,709**. Through prudent and conservative investment of the fund in high quality, investment grade bonds and preferred stocks, as well as low-volatility high-dividend paying stocks the income generated for this period, and made available to the church for the 2025-2026 fiscal year is **\$113,773**. Since 2015, the Endowment has distributed a total of \$1,082,942. A detailed summary of the annual Endowment Financial Report as reported to the Session is available in the church office.

The overwhelming generosity of those who have gone before us has truly blessed our church. As we look to 2026, we thank you for your continued generosity which allows our church to be a shining beacon in our community and in the world.

Sincerely,

Susan Malloy  
Chair, Endowment Fund