



# Ministry Discernment Profile

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH,  
ANDERSON, SOUTH CAROLINA

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*We at First Presbyterian Church are a loving community of Christ's followers striving to be a living witness to God's love in the world. Loving God and loving one another is the heart of our life and ministry together. We are a family of faith that shares a commitment to believing, loving, and serving in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord.*

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## **1. VISION FOR MINISTRY**

First Presbyterian Church (FPC) of Anderson's vision for this interim season centers on faithful reflection, intentional discernment, and preparation for the congregation's next chapter. As a historic church established in 1837 with a deep commitment to the Gospel of Jesus Christ and our community, FPC Anderson is committed to its identity as a welcoming family of faith that loves Jesus Christ, grows disciples, and serves the community and each other with compassion. We are steeped in our history as a congregation but not bound by it, and we are looking forward with hope to who God is calling our congregation to be. We want to be proactive and discerning instead of reactive, leaning into our strengths and attending to our growing edges, and willing to let go of the things that God calls us to let go of.

During this 18–24 month interim period, our hope is to have a pastoral leader who will guide us through five developmental tasks of interim ministry: honoring our heritage and history, strengthening our leadership, clarifying our mission and purpose, deepening our connections with our mission partners, neighboring churches and the higher councils of the Presbyterian Church, and discerning our future direction and leadership needs. After prayerful discernment we want to enter into an interim season that invites the congregation into a spiritually renewing time that positions FPC Anderson to call an installed pastor equipped to lead in the next chapter of faithful witness and service in Anderson.

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## **2. NATURE AND CONTEXT OF THE COMMUNITY**

Anderson, SC, is a diverse and evolving community in Upstate South Carolina shaped by education with Anderson University and Tri County Technical College, healthcare with community owned AnMed Health and expanding industry. While economic development is evident and the city and county are growing in population, ongoing needs related to housing stability, food insecurity, and intergenerational support are ever present. FPC Anderson is deeply connected to the community, partnering informally and formally with many local organizations that serve neighbors experiencing homelessness and other vulnerabilities.

FPC finds itself located in a unique place in our community as a big steeple, downtown church but also the most centrally located congregation to most of the services for the growing unhoused population. Within two blocks of the church are two shelters, two non-profits providing case management, food, and clothing, a shower and laundry facility for the homeless, a large food pantry, and several addiction support services. There are increasing opportunities for service and partnership as well as concerns over safety and security. This is a line we prayerfully walk each day.

Our congregation offers faith formation for all ages, including Sunday School, fellowship, Wednesday Night Live programs and congregational meal, and multigenerational events that foster community. We operate a DSS-registered full-day year-round Child Enrichment Center serving over one hundred community children. Once a month our youth prepare and serve a community meal to our homeless friends and neighbors. Over the interim season, we will listen closely to our neighbors, evaluate how current ministries meet community needs, and discern ways to adjust outreach as growth and change occur in Anderson and in the FPC community. The interim pastor will help lead the congregation in honest contextual assessment, guiding us toward ministry that is both rooted in Christ's love and responsive to real community challenges and the changing church.

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### **3. COMPLEMENTING STAFF AND CONGREGATIONAL LIFE**

FPC took the unique step in 2024 of exploring a co-pastor model of pastoral leadership with an existing long-term head of staff and an interim associate pastor. After discernment by a large team and a number of listening sessions with the congregation, in March 2025, we installed a new co-pastor. Six months later the long-term head of staff retired, and we celebrated his nineteen years of faithful ministry among us. Having not shied away from looking to the future and preparing for transitions in leadership, we are again seeking to set ourselves up for strong, faithful leadership in the future. We are looking for an Interim Pastor to come along side our Co-Pastor (now head of staff), as we discern our needs for future pastoral leadership.

The interim pastor will bring experienced transitional leadership that supports our existing staff, elders, and ministry leaders. FPC Anderson has active faith-formation programs for children, youth, and adults, including intentional youth and adult short term mission experiences that build discipleship and allow hands on service within Anderson, in the state of SC as well as national and international mission opportunities.

The Interim Pastor will lead in pastoral care, and share preaching and teaching, as well as attend to the important tasks of transitional ministry. The interim will help provide stability during transition while maintaining governance practices, clarifying roles, and facilitating healthy collaboration. The interim's leadership will help empower ministry leaders, support committees in evaluation and discernment, and enhance communication across ministries and among staff. By focusing on assessment and preparation, the interim pastor will equip the congregation to enter its next long-term pastoral relationship with renewed clarity of mission and building on the strength of our organizational foundation.

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#### **4. SKILLS, GIFTS, AND TRAINING DESIRED**

We seek an interim pastor with strong grounding in Reformed theology, a passion for pastoral care, excellent preaching and teaching skills, and proven experience in transitional leadership within PC(USA) congregations. The candidate should be gifted in navigating change, facilitating reflection, and guiding healthy conversations within congregational groups.

Essential gifts include pastoral sensitivity, a particular interest in the ministry of pastoral care focusing on the varied needs of an intergenerational church, strategic thinking, and the ability to support volunteers and staff with clarity and compassion. The ideal candidate will have formal interim ministry training, collaborative leadership experience, and the capacity to strengthen both ministry vision and congregational health as FPC Anderson prepares to call its next installed pastor. Experience with established, historic churches evaluating identity in an area of demographic change, would be very valuable.

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#### **5. AREAS OF RESPONSIBILITY**

During this 18–24 month interim call, the pastor will lead pastoral care responsibilities and share in preaching and worship leadership. The interim will moderate Session (if designated), support elders and deacons, and help lead congregational assessment around mission, discipleship, and community engagement.

Key responsibilities include facilitating the five developmental tasks, strengthening leadership systems, coordinating with ministry teams, and assisting with strategic reflection on priorities such as youth formation, multigenerational faith formation, and outreach partnerships. The interim will help prepare the congregation structurally and spiritually for the Pastor Nominating Committee and the next installed pastor.

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#### **6. SUPPORTING LINKS**

<https://firstpresanderson.org/>

<https://firstprescec.com/>

<https://www.cityofandersonsc.com/>

<https://hopeupstate.org/>

<https://matthew28.org>

<https://fronteradecristo.org/>

Anticipated start date: August 2026

Full-time

Minimum Effective Salary: \$80,000

Housing Allowance

References:

**Rev. Michael York**, Pastor of neighboring Presbyterian Church

864-226-3468

michaelyork@centralpresby.com

**Rev. Will Nickles**, Current Bridge Interim Associate Pastor

864-314-6786

wnickles1986@gmail.com

**Rev. Pressley Cox**, Foothills Presbytery - Associate for Shared Mission and Ministry

864-517-9781

pcox@foothillspresbytery.org

**Rev. Debbie Foster**, Executive Presbyter of Foothills Presbytery

864-288-5774

dfoster@foothillspresbytery.org

Self-Referral – Send cover letter and Resume/CV/Personal Discernment Profile to:

**Andrea Storie**, Chair of Interim Pastor Search Team

864-356-1698

ahstorie@gmail.com

# 2025 Annual Report

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN  
CHURCH OF ANDERSON, SC



# Pastoral Reflections

LEAD PASTOR

Dear First Pres Family,

[What a full and grace-filled year it has been!](#) We began in January receiving the report from the Ministry Discernment Team regarding a new direction in [pastoral leadership](#) - a co-pastor model, and stepping out in faith, we took that leap together. In March, I was installed as co-pastor and then in June the Rev. Dr. Dennis Tedder, after prayerful consideration, announced his [retirement](#) in September. We had a wonderful time celebrating his [19 years of ministry](#) together with BBQ and bluegrass music and streamers and gifts! We successfully funded the campaign to repair and upgrade the [Gallant pipe organ](#) and we will see that project reach fulfillment in 2026. We [renovated several spaces](#) within the church to improve and update them for future ministry: the loft space in the Welcome Center, the Parlor, the Library, and the Session room, plus some freshening up of our Extended Worship space for children, the Faith Formation Resource Room and the Heritage Class classroom - and we held an open house for our new spaces! Following Dennis's retirement we welcomed the ministry of our [Interim Associate Pastor](#), the Rev. Will Nickles, and what a gift that has been to FPC! This year we have seen some [changes in our church staff](#): We give thanks for Jeane Zorn and Susan Antonich coming onboard as our new Director and Assistant Director of our Child Enrichment Center; we gave thanks for the fruitful time of Alana Price as our Office Manager and welcomed Braelyn Boggs as our Office Manager and Communications Coordinator; we gave thanks for the faithful years of ministry of Anne Tedder and welcomed Kathy Little as our new Coordinator of Adult Faith Formation; our new Music Associate and Pianist Cynthia Spejewski has added so much to our worship and we welcomed our 2025-26 Ministry Intern Amanda Taylor. It has been a full year - [worshipping together, welcoming new babies, celebrating lots of baptisms and weddings, and burying some of our faithful saints](#) while giving thanks for their long obedience to God. You will see in the pages of this annual report [the highlights of a full year of gatherings, discipleship, learning, fellowship, worship, and service](#). There were too many pictures to choose from to tell the story of First Pres in 2025. The pictures won't show the hard work of staff and volunteers and they won't show all the quiet ways you as a congregation have cared and prayed for one another. [So in this annual report we give thanks for the big things and the hidden things of God that have taken place in 2025.](#)



*Maren*

Dr. Maren Sonstegard-Spray  
LEAD PASTOR

# Pastoral Reflections

INTERIM ASSOCIATE PASTOR

For you, O LORD, have made me  
glad by your work; at the works  
of your hands I sing for joy.

Psalm 92:4.



Although my time here has been brief, I want you to know that it has been fulfilling and gladsome! I have told as many as will listen that this is a remarkably faithful and joyful congregation with whom I am blessed to be a part. To work alongside you has brought me joy and a renewed sense to my own ministry. For that, I will be forever grateful.

What I have witnessed: a faithful, worshiping community who have embraced the gospel of Christ for the world. Through its mission involvement – both locally and elsewhere – it is clear that FPC sees itself as a beacon of God's light and hope. I see prayer groups, bible study gatherings, and fellowships happening all over town and at all times of the week, supporting each other and encouraging discipleship.

What I hope: In this time of transition, I see a church whose direction and attention to mission has remained laser focused. When a church has been blessed by such long-term and remarkable stability, change in leadership can create anxiety and impatience. But this church seems to understand – demonstrably so! – that change is an opportunity for continued growth and renewal. This church has been and continues to be blessed by a wonderful staff and continuing pastoral leadership. I am so thankful to God for this congregation and for its faith in a God who will provide.



Will

Rev. William Nickles  
INTERIM ASSOCIATE PASTOR

# Meet the New Church Staff Members

WELCOMED ABOARD IN 2025



**Braelyn Boggs**  
OFFICE MANAGER &  
COMMUNICATIONS LEAD



**Amanda Taylor**  
2025-26  
MINISTRY INTERN



**Rev. Will Nickles**  
INTERIM ASSOCIATE  
PASTOR



**Cynthia Spejewski**  
MUSIC MINISTRY  
ASSOCIATE & PIANIST



**Kathy Little**  
COORDINATOR OF ADULT  
FAITH FORMATION



**Jeane Zorn**  
CHILD ENRICHMENT  
CENTER DIRECTOR



**Susan Antonich**  
CHILD ENRICHMENT CENTER  
ASSISTANT DIRECTOR

# Milestones & Celebrations

A SEASON OF TRANSITION



## Dennis Tedder's Retirement Celebration

Pastor Dennis Tedder retired in September. We celebrated the **19 years** he spent with us!



## Installation of Maren Sonstegard-Spray as Co-Pastor

This year we welcomed Maren as Co-Pastor. Maren **became the lead pastor in September** when Pastor Tedder retired.

# First Events

## HIGHLIGHTS



## Advent and Lent Events

Twice a year we gather for dinner, fellowship and crafting in preparation for the seasons of Advent and Lent.



# 300

First Pres members received a **Star Word**, a focus to help draw us closer to God in the new year.



WEDNESDAY  
NIGHT  
LIVE

# 20

**Church Wide Meals** were enjoyed together, including **18 WNL dinners!**

# 25

Women attended the **women's retreat**, a wonderful time of learning and fellowship at Lake Junaluska NC!



# 150

Students and teachers received **backpack tags** at the beginning of the school year to remind them of the support and prayers of their church family.

# Children's Ministry

## HIGHLIGHTS



9

1st Grade Worship  
Education Graduates



## God's Big Story Cards

The children and their families were gifted with God's Big Story Cards, to increase and **expand their Bible Literacy through play** and as a challenge to read through the cards in the coming year. This was made possible by a grant from the Faith Formation Fund.

136

Children participated in  
**Vacation Bible School**  
75 adults and youth volunteered



4

3rd Grade Worship  
Education Graduates



33

Children led worship during  
the **Children's Sabbath**  
service



## Camp Create

Camp Create, a day camp for our children to create, serve and learn. This summer, members of the First Pres family shared their gifts of **art, cooking, martial arts**, and our children got creative with cardboard to create Noah's ark. We had 7 church volunteer leaders.

first  
kids

For more information or questions:  
Susan Brown  
susanb@fpcandersonsc.com

See what's happening!  
First Kids - FPC Anderson SC

# Youth Ministry

## HIGHLIGHTS



4

Youth are serving on the 2025-2026 **Presbytery Youth Council**

53

Youth and adults served on **mission trips** this summer. Our mission teams spent a week in West Virginia and a week in Charlotte.



## PCUSA National Youth Conference

**23** youth traveled to Louisville, Kentucky to participate in their first National Youth Conference with the PCUSA



40

Students & adults participated in the **Montreat Youth Conference**



100

Neighbors are served dinner on the first Sunday of every month by our youth through our **1st @ First** ministry.



## Youth Gatherings

We gather 2-3 times a week, including Sunday morning **Confirmation Class**, youth **Sunday School**, Wednesday Night Live where we pick up about 18 middle school students from school and spend the afternoon at church before youth **Bible study**, and Sunday night **Youth Fellowship**.

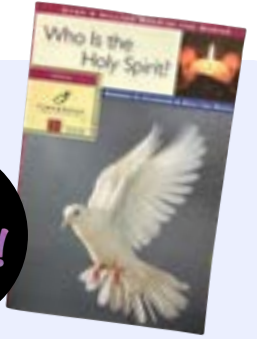
# Adult Faith Formation

## HIGHLIGHTS



# 100

Women met in small groups to learn about the Holy Spirit. We had **10 Jubilate** Bible study groups!



# 30



**Senior adults** meet monthly at various restaurants in the upstate for fellowship and fun!

## Annual Fish Fry

Our "fishers of men" also fish for FISH! The fish are cleaned and cooked for a men's Fish Fry uniting young and older men in fellowship and fun.

# 5

**Adult Faith Formation classes** meet on Sunday mornings!



## Dr. Lloyd Melton

Was our Special Speaker during our fall Wednesday Night Sessions. He spoke on **the 400 years between the Old and New Testaments** and why this period is crucial for understanding the New Testament. In June, **Dr. Bob Bryant** taught us about the book of Revelation.

# Worship & Music Ministry

## HIGHLIGHTS

For more information or questions:

Richard Williamson

[richardw@fpcandersonsc.com](mailto:richardw@fpcandersonsc.com)



# 31

Family tartans were represented at our **Kirkin' of the Tartans** service.

# 6

**Paintings** were commissioned for Advent



*Herald Angels*, Lucien Elliot Williamson, 2025.



## Children's Choirs

# 105

Scouts were supported by First Pres. We celebrated our scouting program on **Scout Sunday**.



## Chancel Chimers

We gained **3** new members and played in worship **4** times.



## Chancel Choir

Led worship and on special occasions had guest musicians.



## Special Guests

The **women at the tomb** on Easter Sunday and the **3 Wise Men** during our Advent season.



# Church Operations

## HIGHLIGHTS



### Air Conditioning Chiller

Replaced the original air conditioning chiller for the church office, library, and chapel.



### Kirk Kitchen Freezer

Replaced the Kirk kitchen freezer.



# 4

Spaces within the church were renovated: the **Loft** space in the Welcome Center, the **Parlor**, the **Library**, and the **Session room**. 4 offices and several other spaces were also updated.



### Tree Trimming

Trimmed several large trees on the church campus.



### Tree Removal

Removed **3** large trees and **planted 2** new trees at the FLC.

# Missions & Outreach

## HIGHLIGHTS



To learn more about some of our missions partners: Look at the Missions Board in the hallway across from the church office!

### Mission partners receiving financial support through First Pres and the Mission Committee this year:

- Cub Scouts, Boy Scouts, Venture Crew Scouts
- The Lot Project
- Foothills Presbytery Mission
- Emmanuel's Hammer
- Emergency needs
- Adult and Youth Mission Trips
- Anderson Interfaith Ministry
- Hope Missions of the Upstate
- Rebuild Upstate
- Habitat for Humanity
- First Light
- FAVOR Upstate
- First Pres Child Enrichment Center

### Mission partners receiving in-kind donations from First Pres in 2025:

- Shalom House
- First Light
- Soup Kitchen
- Safe Harbor
- Clean Start
- Haven of Rest
- Meals on Wheels
- Anderson Interfaith Ministries
- Good Neighbor Cupboard
- Calvary Home for Children
- Angel Tree
- Blessing Box
- Asher House
- Westside High School Emergency Food Drive

### Mission partners that First Pres volunteered with in 2025:

- Presbyterian Disaster Assistance/UMCOR
- Rebuild Upstate
- South Main Mercy Center - *5th Sunday*
- Habitat - Women Build
- Habitat - Faith Build
- LOT Project Donation Center
- 1st @ First - *1st Sunday*
- Saturday Servants - *5th Saturday*
- Anderson Interfaith Ministries
- United Way Snack Pack Ministry
- Hope Missions Backpack Program

### Longterm International Mission Partnerships supported through the Mission Committee:

- Matthew 28
  - *Haiti*
- Frontero de Christo
  - *US-Mexico Border*
  - Mark Adams and Miriam Maldonado Escobar
- International Faith Initiatives
  - *Ukraine*
  - Donna Crane



## Rebuild Upstate

Fall service day with Rebuild Upstate



## Habitat for Humanity

House Build Day



\$8,360

Raised for Habitat **Women Build** - the highest amount of any team!



50

Members served at multiple ministries throughout the community during our **MLK Jr. Servive Day.**



## Hurricane Helene

The **Adult Mission Trip Team** in Augusta, Georgia working doing Hurricane Helene repair work



1,200

Lunches were packed for our neighbors. At **Saturday Servants**, we pack **300** lunches every 5th Saturday.



## South Main Mercy Center

Every 5th Sunday we provide and prepare lunch at the South Main Mercy Center



## Food Share Program

Receiving **Church of the Year award from AIM** for our work helping to get the Food Share Program up and running



103

Kids were sponsored from 2 local elementary schools through **Angel Tree**

# Financial & Giving

## HIGHLIGHTS

For more information or questions:

Angi Patrick

angip@fpcandersonsc.com

### 2025 Actual Expenses



■ Salaries   
 ■ Facilities & Operations   
 ■ Ministries   
 ■ Missions   
 ■ Savings

### 2025 Budget Overview

	2025 BUDGET	2025 ACTUAL	OVER (UNDER) BUDGET
Income	\$1,255,812.30	\$1,211,762.20	(\$44,050.10)
Expenses	\$1,255,812.30	\$1,232,754.69	(\$23,057.61)
Net	\$0.00	(\$20,992.49)	(\$20,992.49)

# Summary of 2025 Extra-Budgetary Giving

## \$1,370,471.74

### TOTAL GIFTS RECEIVED FROM MEMBERS



Pipe Organ Fund  
**\$106,675.00**



Dennis Tedder's Retirement Gift  
**\$16,700.00**



Building Fund  
**\$16,060.00**



Youth Missions  
**\$5,075.00**



Chancel Guild  
**\$3,094.00**



Talon Hall's Eagle Scout Project  
**\$1,910.00**



Souper Bowl  
**\$1,476.00**



Matthew 28 Haiti Ministry  
**\$1,200.00**



1st @ First  
**\$1,070.00**



Cafe Justo  
**\$562.00**



Given towards our annual budget  
**\$1,198,960.74**





Given back to our community  
**\$17,689.00**

*by groups like Women's Circle, Yoga,  
and Women's Build, and other pass  
through contributions*



## Stay Updated!

-  First Presbyterian Church of Anderson, SC
-  First Presbyterian Church of Anderson

## Connect with us!

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[braelyn@fpcandersonsc.com](mailto:braelyn@fpcandersonsc.com)  
 864-225-2551

