

CALENDAR

SUNDAY, APRIL 26

Earth Sunday

9:00AM—Sunday School

10:00AM—Worship Service (Sanctuary)

11:00AM—Earth Sunday Brunch & Program
(Fellowship Hall)

5:30PM—FLY

7:30PM—Disciple Romans Study (women's
group)

MONDAY, APRIL 27

9:00AM-3:00PM—Wood Shop Office Hours

1:00PM—Bridge Group (Fellowship Hall)

6:00PM—MORE Justice Nehemiah Action
(Pastides Alumni Center)

TUESDAY, APRIL 28

7:30AM—Men's Breakfast (Fellowship Hall)

9:00AM—Yoga (Parlor)

9:00AM—Daytrippers to Aiken

10:30AM—H3 Hunter (E205)

10:30AM—Staff Meeting (E102)

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 29

9:00AM– 3:00PM– Wood Shop Office Hours

11:00AM—Disciple John Study—Black/
Roberts (E205)

4:00PM—Book Discussion (E201)

6:15PM—Handbell Choir (Choir Room)

7:00PM—Chancel Choir (Choir Room)

THURSDAY, APRIL 30

9:00AM—Yoga (Parlor)

9:30AM—H3 Collins (S211)

12:00PM—FLPCafe (Fellowship Hall)

1:00PM—Mahjong Group (Library)

1:00PM—*The Chosen* Premiere (E205)

FRIDAY, MAY 1

PW Retreat

SATURDAY, MAY 2

PW Retreat

SUNDAY, MAY 3

PW Retreat

9:00AM—Sunday School

10:00AM—Worship Service (Sanctuary)

11:00AM—Disciple John Study—Black/
Roberts/Rowell (E205)

11:00AM – FLPConversations

11:30AM—Endowment Committee Meeting
(S211)

5:30PM—FLY

2026 FLPC Board of Deacons

*Sandra Allison, Taylor Barr, Christie Brown, Linda
Etheredge, Gayl Fallucca, Keighley George, Sandra Horne,
Lucy Leclair, Nancy Livingston, Katherine Patterson,
Paul Van Wyke, Brad Woodward*

Worship Notes

***PLEASE BE AWARE** we live stream our worship and our services are video-recorded.

***CHILDCARE** is provided for all infants and children 6 years and younger.

***LARGE PRINT HYMNALS, BIBLES, AND BULLETINS ARE AVAILABLE.** Please ask an usher if you would like to use one during our service.

***HEARING SYSTEM** available for those who are hearing impaired. You may bring your own earbuds to plug into the receiver if you would like. Please ask an usher.

***RESTROOMS** are located in the Narthex, the Connecting Point Hallway, and behind the sanctuary adjacent to the elevator. All restrooms are wheelchair accessible. An usher will be glad to direct you.

****PLEASE REMEMBER TO SILENCE YOUR CELL PHONE****

Office Hours are Monday– Thursday 8:30–4:30

6500 N. Trenholm Road Columbia, SC 29206

flpc.org

803-787-5672

APRIL 26, 2026 | EARTH SUNDAY

WE GATHER TO PRAISE GOD

WELCOME

Rev. Ed Black

PRELUDE

“What God Ordains Is Well Done”

Johann Pachelbel

Janet Marks, guest organist

*CALL TO WORSHIP

from Psalm 19

The Lord's Instruction is perfect, reviving our very being. The Lord's commands are pure, giving light to our eyes.

We come to seek God's presence. O Lord, revive us! Shine your light on us!

*HYMN NO. 20

“All Things Bright and Beautiful” (verses 1, 3, & 4)

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Creator God, the earth is yours and all that is in it. And you created us to tend the earth for everyone's good. But we confess that we like to have more than we need. Enough is not a concept that we like, and more always seems better. And so, some starve while others suffer from too much. And when a few have too much while the many have not enough, conflicts begin and the hoarding worsens. Forgive our fear and greed, for it reveals a mistrust of your providing and of our neighbor's care. Forgive our reluctance to share what we have with those in need, and the pride we take in bigger, better and more. Teach us the power of contentment and help us to stop when we have enough. Restore us as faithful and generous managers of the wealth of this world so that we will look more like our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, in whose name we pray. Amen.

Earth Sunday at FLPC is the day we remember that God has made us stewards of all of creation and we are responsible to God for how we live in and on the planet that belongs to God. Environmental Stewardship is a very strong core value of our congregation. If you would like to know more, feel free to email the church office at contactus@flpc.org to ask someone to contact you about how you can help!

*When this symbol * precedes an element of the service, please rise in body or spirit. **Bold print** is an invitation for the whole congregation to participate in worship by reading in unison.*

An assurance of pardon is our way of claiming God's free and unmerited grace. Every Sunday we ask for God's forgiveness, and seek again to live in ways that honor God and reflect God's love onto the world.

Learning to worship takes time, and we include our youngest members in worship by inviting them to the front for Time with Young Disciples. We are patient with young disciples learning to worship because God is patient with those of us who are older who are also learning to worship God.

The Lord's Prayer is the prayer that Jesus taught his disciples when they asked him to teach them to pray. (Luke 11:1-4)

*ASSURANCE OF PARDON

There is no darkness and no sin that is greater than your ability to redeem and forgive, O Lord!

Because of your love, and through Christ's sacrifice, we are forgiven. Thank you, O Lord!

*HYMN NO. 581

GLORIA PATRI

*Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost;
As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be,
world without end. Amen, Amen.*

TO HEAR GOD'S WORD

TIME WITH YOUNG DISCIPLES

(Children through 1st Grade depart to Room #E-107)

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

READING OF THE WORD

Philippians 4:11b-13 NRSV

I have learned to be content with whatever I have. ¹² I know what it is to have little, and I know what it is to have plenty. In any and all circumstances I have learned the secret of being well-fed and of going hungry, of having plenty and of being in need. ¹³ I can do all things through him who strengthens me.

The Word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

SERMON

"The Gospel of Contentment"

Dr. Ellen Skidmore

TO RESPOND IN FAITH

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.

OFFERING OF OURSELVES AND OUR GIFTS

OFFERTORY

"Christ Hath a Garden"
Gerald Near
Chancel Choir

*THE DOXOLOGY

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow; Praise Him, all creatures here below;
Praise Him above, ye heavenly host; Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

*THE DEDICATION

May these gifts, given in gratitude and love,
Change us and the world to serve your purpose!

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

A Declaration of Faith; Chapter 2 (3)

God made us to care for other created things. God made human beings along with all the other creatures and charged them to care for the earth and all that lives on it. We acknowledge we share in the interdependence that binds together all God's creation. Yet God gives us power to rule and tame, to order and reshape the world. We hold the earth in trust for future generations of living things. The Lord forbids us to plunder, foul, and destroy the earth. The Lord expects us to produce, to consume, to reproduce in ways that make earth's goodness available to all people and reflect God's love for all creatures. The Lord bids us use our technical skills for beauty, order, health, and peace.

*HYMN NO. 370

"This Is My Father's World"

*CHARGE AND BLESSING

*SENDING SONG—HYMN NO. 175 "Seek Ye First" (verse 1)

**Seek ye first the kingdom of God and its righteousness,
and all these things shall be added unto you. Allelu, Alleluia!**

*POSTLUDE

"Celebration"
Charles Callahan

We give to God out of gratitude. And the work of this church depends on your gifts. Offerings may be made online <https://flpc.org/give/> or use the QR code below.



A Declaration of Faith was adopted by the Presbyterian Church in the United States (a precursor to our current denomination) in 1977 as a "contemporary statement of faith, a reliable aid for Christian study, liturgy and inspiration . . ." It includes much that speaks directly to our current context and is useful for study and worship.

Some worshipers find sitting and listening to the musical postlude helps them conclude their worship. Others find joy in greeting others. Choose the response that helps you worship God. And if a fellow worshiper is seated, please allow them time and space to listen and pray.

Sanctuary Flowers

*Gifts have been given to the Glory of God and in loving memory
of Enrique Barlongo by Erlinda & Wendell McCoy.*