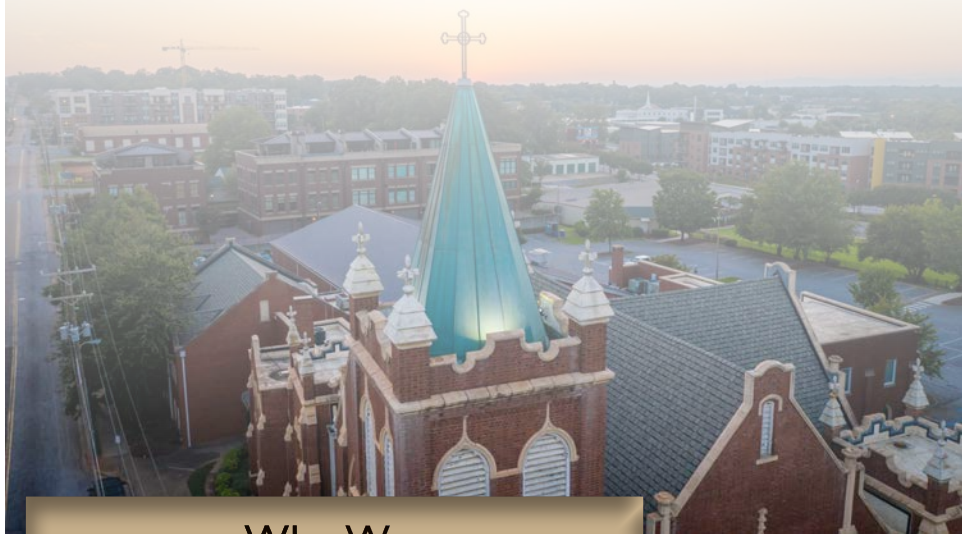
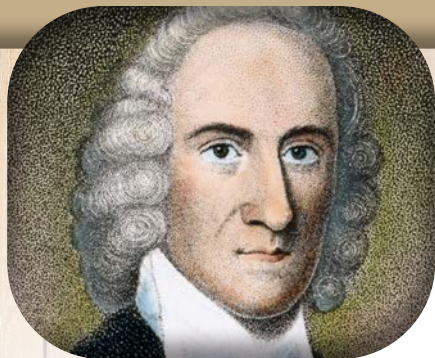


# The West End Herald

Second Presbyterian Church, Greenville, SC



## Who Was **Jonathan Edwards?**



Jonathan Edwards was one of the great theologians of American history. A Congregational pastor in New England during the colonial era, his published writings attracted much attention during his lifetime and have continued in popularity to the present day.

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Vol. CXXXIV, Edition 21

**May 31, 2026**

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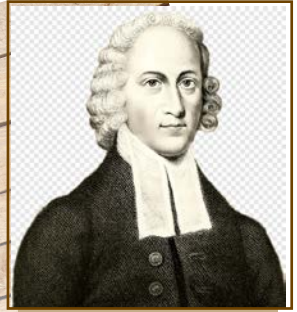
Ongoing interest in Edwards' works is attributable to his keen theological insights, intense personal piety, and the controversies of his lifetime, all of which still have relevance for Christian faith and practice today.

Jonathan Edwards is considered one of the last New England Puritans. A Calvinist by conviction, his theological writings affirmed the general outlines of historic Reformed theology. He was a prominent leader in the evangelical revivals of the 1730s and 1740s that would become known as the Great Awakening.

Born in East Windsor, Connecticut, in 1703 to Timothy and Esther Edwards, Jonathan was an only son with ten sisters. Timothy was a Congregational pastor, as was Esther's father, Solomon Stoddard, a well-known minister in Northampton, Massachusetts.

Jonathan was a bright student, entering Yale at the age of twelve and graduating in 1720. He remained at Yale two more years to study theology, receiving a license to preach in 1722. Edwards pastored a Presbyterian church in New York for eight months and returned to Yale as a tutor for two years. In 1724 he was called as an assistant to his grandfather, Solomon Stoddard, at the Northampton church. In 1727 he married Sarah Pierrepont, whose father was also a pastor. Together they raised eleven children. When Stoddard died in 1729, Jonathan Edwards became the congregation's pastor.

In 1734–35, the Northampton congregation was stirred to revival through the preaching of their new pastor, who wrote about these events in



**Responding to critiques of preaching about hell, Edwards stated, “If I am in danger of hell, I should be glad to know as much as I possibly can of the dreadfulness of it.”**

# RUF TENNESSEE

*Ministry of the Week*

*Katie Upton*



Catherine (Katie) grew up in western North Carolina and although living about an hour away, her family joined Second Presbyterian Church in 2011. Katie went to Reformation Bible College in Florida and received a Biblical Studies degree. After college, Catherine moved to Liberia, West Africa, to serve at a Christian teacher training college. While there, she developed a love and passion for discipling college students. Once she returned to the States to live with family in Chattanooga, she began volunteering with Reformed University Fellowship (RUF) at University of Tennessee at Chattanooga (UTC). She immediately fell in love with it and decided to pursue working with RUF full-time. Catherine is so excited to serve students at UTC as Campus Staff.





# Attention Passengers!

## **VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL 2026!**

This is your boarding call for an unforgettable adventure around the world! So register below and prepare for takeoff as we travel to countries great and small while learning to share the good news of the gospel.

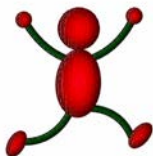
**FLIGHT DATES: July 6 - 10**

**DEPARTURE / ARRIVAL TIME: 9:00 A.M. - 12:00 P.M.**

All travelers who have completed K4 through 6th grade are invited aboard for this exciting first-class adventure around the world! If you have any questions or want to assist our covenant children, please contact Caroline Mobley.



VBS 2026  
**Child Registration**



VBS 2026  
**Volunteer Registration**



at the corner of

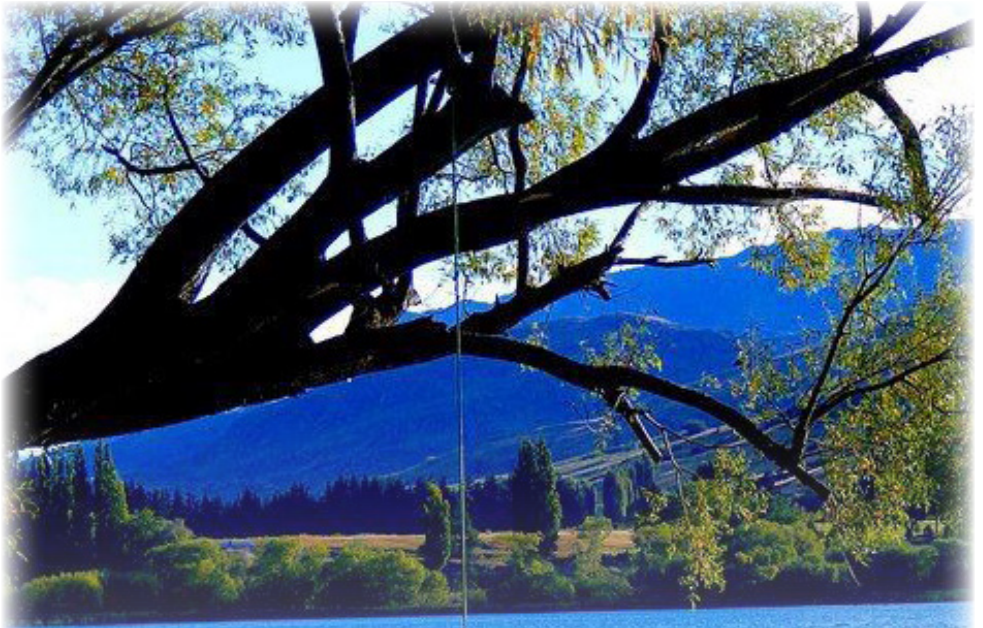
# River & Rhett

## CAT Kids Program May 20



**Dalton Ford memorized the entire Children's Catechism!**





1 **Christy Strickland**

2 **Opal Maralit,  
Luke Strevel,  
Grace Wagner**

3 **Donna Prziembel,  
David Slayton**

5 **J.D. Cancino,  
Brooke Early,  
Fitz King, Amy Plourde**

6 **Helen Kee,  
Phil Larson,  
Sean McGaughran,  
Providence Mobley,  
Michael Shaw**

*happy*  
**June**  
*birthdays*

# This Week

## MORNING SERMON

*Dr. Richard D. Phillips*

THE GLORIOUS DOCTRINE  
OF THE TRINITY  
1 John 1:3

## EVENING SERMON

*Rev. Peter Szabo*

THE BEAUTY OF THE  
SERVANT CHRIST  
Isaiah 50:4–11

## Sunday, May 31

- 8:30 A.M. MORNING WORSHIP
- 9:55 A.M. Children's Chapel (*Sanctuary*)
- 10:00 A.M. Children/Youth Sunday School
- 10:00 A.M. All-Adult Sunday School (*Gym*)
- 11:00 A.M. MORNING WORSHIP
- 5:00 P.M. Finance Committee (*Conference Room*)
- 5:30 P.M. Season of Prayer (*Chapel*)
- 6:00 P.M. EVENING WORSHIP

## Monday, June 1

- 6:00 P.M. Diaconate Meeting (*Conference Room*)

## Wednesday, June 3

- 5:00 P.M. Pastoral Care Committee (*Church Office Work Room*)
- 5:15 P.M. WIC Council (*Conference Room*)
- 5:30 P.M. FAMILY NIGHT FELLOWSHIP SUPPER (*Gym*)
- 6:30 P.M. Summer Children's Choir: Grades 1–6 (*Choir Room*)
- 6:45 P.M. Summer Children's Choir: K4–K5 (*Choir Robe Room*)
- 6:45 P.M. Ministry Moment (*Gym*)
- 7:00 P.M. Jr. & Sr. High Bible Studies
- 7:00 P.M. Adult Prayer Meeting & Bible Study (*Gym*)
- 7:30 P.M. Chancel Choir

## Friday, June 5

- Peru Mission Trip leaves
- 12:00 P.M. Men's Luncheon and Bible Study (*Gym*)
- 1:30 P.M. Mission to Main (*Conference Room*)
- 6:00 P.M. Friday Night Alive (*Gym*)

## Saturday, June 6

- 7:00 P.M. English Country Dancing (*Gym*)

# Upcoming Events

[spcgreenville.org/calendar](http://spcgreenville.org/calendar)

- May 31** Adult Summer Sunday School Begins
- June 5-12** Peru Mission Trip
- July 3** Annual Church Picnic
- July 6-10** Vacation Bible School
- July 13** Men's Monday Bible Study resumes

*continued from page 2*

*A Faithful Narrative of the Surprising Work of God in the Conversion of Many Souls in Northampton (1737).*

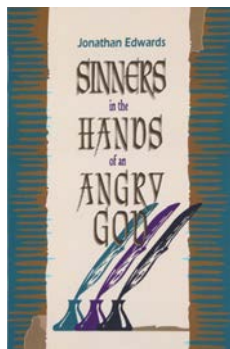
During one six-month period, three hundred members were added to the church. In 1741 at Enfield, Connecticut, Edwards preached what would become his most famous sermon, “Sinners in the Hands of an Angry God.” In this sermon, he graphically described hell’s terrors with Christ as the only escape. Though he is known for this famous sermon, it was not typical of Edwards’ preaching style.

Church authorities condemned the emotional excesses popularly associated with the revivals. Edwards defended the awakening in his sermon “The Distinguishing Marks of a Work of the Spirit of God,” given at the 1741 Yale graduation. In the sermon, he argued that despite incidents of heightened affections, the

*extraordinary influence that has lately appeared on the minds of people abroad in this land, causing in them an uncommon concern and engagedness of mind about the things of religion, is undoubtedly, in the general, from the Spirit of God.*

Responding to critiques of preaching about hell, Edwards stated, “If I am in danger of hell, I should be glad to know as much as I possibly can of the dreadfulness of it.”

Edwards’ *Personal Narrative* described a deepening experience with Christ in his twenties and a delight in divine things. In 1746 he wrote his first major work, *A Treatise Concerning Religious Affections*,



*continued on page 10*

# Announcements

## **Summer Children's Choirs**

On May 27, the Summer Children's Choirs began their weekly rehearsals for the children of SPC, ages K-4 (completed) through Grade 6 (completed). The choirs are meeting on Wednesday evenings throughout the summer. Two age classifications are available: Grades 1-6 will meet from 6:30 to 8:00 P.M. Ages K-5 will meet from 6:45 to 8:00 P.M. These age categories will be consistent with our Sunday School age divisions with class promotions being held at the beginning of the new term in the fall of 2026.

The main purpose of these groups is to train the students in singing the songs of the church in the praises of our Lord. This will be the only Wednesday evening activity for our covenant children during the summer months, so if children are not participating, they are to remain with their parents.

Verlyn Smoker, Director of Music

## **Wraps Available**

Gwyn DuBose-Schmitt has graciously donated some wraps for those who might be chilly in the air conditioning at church. They are for use at church only and may be borrowed from the armoire in the main floor ladies restroom and returned there after services.

## **WIC** (Women in the Church) **Circles**

- **CIRCLE 1 will meet Wednesday, June 10, then meetings will resume in September.**
- **CIRCLES 2, 3, 5, 6 will resume in September.**
- **CIRCLE 4 will continue to have meetings throughout the summer.**

explaining the nature of genuine religious experience. The necessity of conversion was a root cause of a divisive controversy in his congregation. His grandfather, Stoddard, had allowed outwardly virtuous persons in the town to partake of the Lord's Supper, viewing communion as a potential "converting ordinance." Edwards ceased this practice, requiring a personal profession of faith prior to membership, baptism, and participation in communion. This change became so disruptive that Edwards was dismissed from his pastorate at Northampton in 1750. He continued to preach for the congregation until they found his replacement.



Eventually, Edwards moved his family to Stockbridge, Massachusetts, where he pastored a congregation with ten English families and two hundred Mohican Native Americans. Edwards was an advocate for missions, encouraging "concerts of prayer" where God's people gathered for prayer.<sup>1</sup> He authored an influential American missionary biography, *An Account of the Life of the Late Reverend David Brainerd*. David Brainerd's (1718–1746) short, difficult, but productive ministry among the Delaware Native Americans inspired numerous missionaries in the following generations. In his final year of life Jonathan Edwards became the third president of the new Presbyterian College of New Jersey (now Princeton) in 1758. He died within three months of accepting the post from a smallpox inoculation. ♦

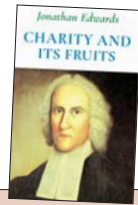
<sup>1</sup>See his treatise: \*An humble attempt to promote explicit agreement and visible union of God's people in extraordinary prayer for the revival of religion and the advancement of Christ's Kingdom on earth \*(1747).

Dr. S. Donald Fortson III is professor emeritus of church history and pastoral theology at Reformed Theological Seminary in Charlotte, NC.



# Adult Summer Sunday School

Books are available for \$10 at the Church Bookstore.



## **Charity and Its Fruits** Teaching Schedule

1. Charity, or Love, the Sum of all Virtue	Wednesday May 27	Larson
2. Charity More Excellent than the Extraordinary Gifts of the Spirit	Sundays ↓ May 31	Zimmerman
3. The Greatest Performances or Sufferings in Vain Without Charity	June 7	Giusti
4. Charity Disposes Us Meekly to Bear Injuries Received from Others	June 14	Weaver
5. Charity Disposes Us to Do Good 6. Charity Inconsistent with an Envious Spirit	June 21	Early
7. The Spirit of Charity Is an Humble Spirit	June 28	Bianchi
8. The Spirit of Charity the Opposite of a Selfish Spirit	July 5	Watkins
9. The Spirit of Charity the Opposite of an Angry or Wrathful Spirit 10. The Spirit of Charity the Opposite of a Censorious Spirit	July 12	Weiland
11. All True Grace in the Heart Tends to Holy Practice in the Life	July 19	Haws
12. Charity, or a Christian Spirit, Willing to Undergo all Sufferings in the Way of Duty 13. All the Graces of Christianity Connected	July 26	Uhall
14. Charity, or True Grace, not to be Overthrown by Opposition	August 2	Lyon
15. The Holy Spirit Forever to be Communicated to the Saints in the Grace of Charity, or Divine Love	August 9	Branigin
16. Heaven, a World of Charity or Love	August 16	Master