



## Week of March 30 – April 4

### Scripture of the Week:

*May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit. - Romans 15:13 NRSV*

### **March 30, 2026**

We are blessed at FPC to have a phenomenal organ and choir that add so much to the 11:00 service. I would like to highlight that I often feel the Holy Spirit's presence through the smaller musical gifts shared during the 8:45 service. Whether instrumental, solos or even up to quartets the gifts of these musicians permeate the chapel and stirs the soul. The Holy Spirit is more palpable during these moments of worship.  
(Elder Bebo Patton)

### **March 31, 2026**

I was teaching the third-grade Sunday school class, and the story for the day was Moses returning to Pharaoh again and again, standing firm as he declared, "Let my people go." We moved through the lesson—through the plagues, the refusals, and the long, in-between waiting.

I asked them, "Do you think Moses ever felt discouraged?"

Before I could continue, Martha Grace Mize looked at me—wide-eyed, almost incredulous, as if the answer were so obvious it hardly needed saying. There was no hesitation in her voice, no wavering in her calm, certain posture.

"Of course not," she said. "Because Moses knew that God always wins in the end."

As her words lingered in the room, the story no longer belonged only to Moses. I found myself wondering what it would be like to live with that same clarity. To trust, even in the long middle places, that we are held within a story far greater than our own—a story not determined by fear, discouragement, or failure, but by the unwavering faithfulness of God. (Elder Jacqueline Morgan)

### **April 1, 2026**

Throughout my adult life, I have been drawn to helping young children or adults. I have worked in the school system and now work with adults with disabilities. Since becoming an Elder, I believe the Holy Ghost worked to put me on the youth committee. I get to interact with some of the most interesting, talented youth our church has to offer. (Elder Lillian Beavers)

### **April 2, 2026**

In 2011, our daughter, Julie, and I were blessed to take part in the FPC mission trip to Brazil. We were so inspired by the warmth, hospitality, and vibrant faith of our host congregation. After a worship service during which our mission team had provided music, an elderly Brazilian man (who, I soon learned, was a voice teacher) came up to me, looked me in the eye, and started singing "How Great Thou Art" in Portuguese, beckoning me to join in English. So, we stood there, facing each other, a tenor and a baritone, singing a duet on this beloved hymn, inspired by the Spirit who makes all tongues blend in praise. We are so grateful for the Holy Spirit-inspired mission ministry of our church. (Elder Danny Potts)

### **April 3, 2026**

I am fortunate to have called Charlie Land my friend. I knew of Mr. Land from his time at the Tuscaloosa News and his community leadership. His Baptism after his retirement intrigued me and led to years of mutual spiritual development and friendship.

The Holy Spirit was in his heart all along. His chosen profession led to a very investigative mind and spirit. It was nothing short of personal joy at the highest level to witness his discovery of spiritual gifts of which he did not think he was worthy. All he needed was affirmation from others to discover what we all knew was in his heart and a gentle nudge from the Holy Spirit.

Come, Holy Spirit. (Elder Cal Holt).

### **April 4, 2026**

Many years ago I was asked by one of our ministers if I would assist them with communion for a homebound member. I was humbled by the request but also a little apprehensive. I had never served communion before and did not know what I might be asked to say or do. The church member who had asked to be served communion had a long and faithful history of service at our church and here I was with no experience being asked to assist. Although I had reservations, I agreed to go. Once we arrived at the member's house we were welcomed with smiles and laughter from the member's caregivers. The whole house had the feeling of a celebration. I still remember the joy and excitement on the face of this church member as we shared communion. The Holy Spirit often encourages us to overcome our doubts and fears to serve others with compassion. Those little urges to say yes can have a lasting impact on our and others lives. (Elder Forest Wilson)

Each time our choir sings, I feel our sanctuary is filled with the Holy Spirit. We are unified as a Congregation with the blessing of such beautiful music. (Elder Laura Crissey)