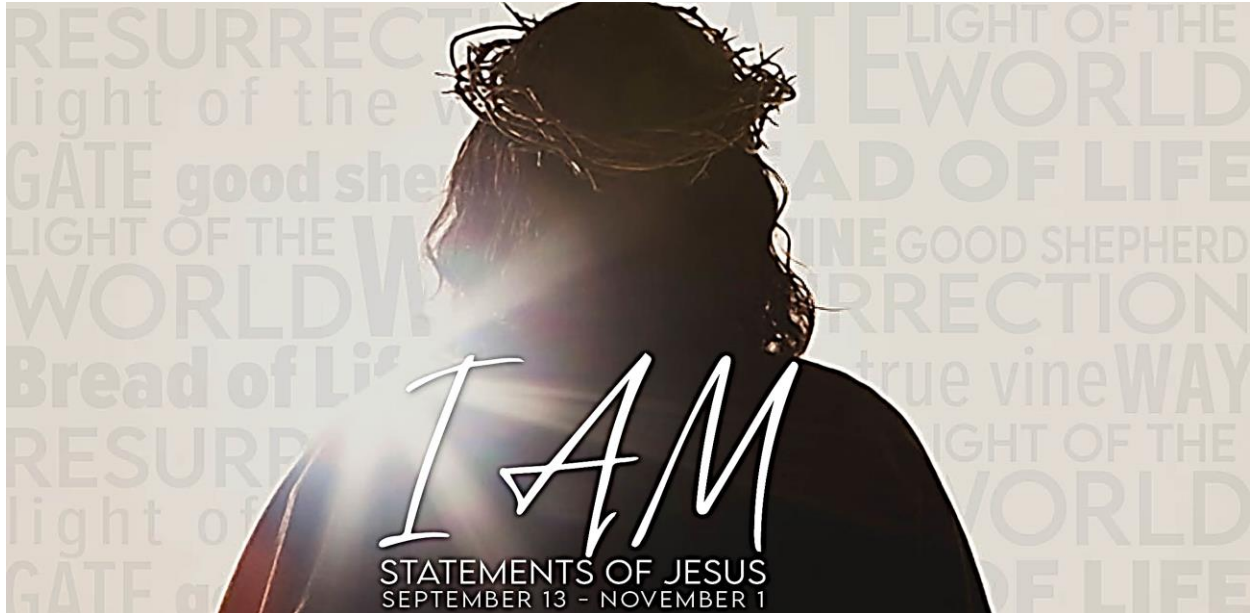


FOCUS



The weekly newsletter of
FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
Sumter, South Carolina

September 8, 2020



Beginning September 13, I am excited to preach a new sermon series on the “I AM” statements of Jesus Christ. These 7 statements are found in the Gospel of John. Each statement is loaded with imagery and some deeper theological meaning about who Christ is, and why he came. I am excited to journey through these weeks ahead as we discover more about the great “I AM.”

Blessings

Nick

WORSHIP MUSIC

September 13

Prelude: “Come, Christians, Join to Sing” by the Joy Ringers Ensemble.

Special music will be provided by Lauren Decker, Violin.



Youth Group is back in full swing. Our next youth group is Sunday, September 13.

Middle school meets 5:30-6:30 pm
High school meets 7:00-8:00 pm

All events are outside on the lawn of the youth building, with masks being worn, and social distancing guidelines. Feel free to bring your own chair or blanket. Can't wait to see you all soon..

Taylor

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 20, IS PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN'S AWARENESS SUNDAY

Presbyterian Women Awareness Sunday brings attention to the work women of our church are involved in throughout the year. Sunday, September 20, FPC will emphasize the mission projects and activities PW support throughout the year. Please prayerfully consider giving generously to help PW fund endeavors of benevolence during this challenging time.

ARE YOU HAVING TROUBLE RECEIVING THE FOCUS??

It is the staff's intention to get the newsletter to you in a timely fashion. We realize that once it is delivered to the Post Office, it is out of our hands. If you are having difficulty in receiving the Focus through the mail, please consider receiving it electronically. Call the church office (803-773-3814) to let us know you would like to receive it via email and we will be happy to add your email to our list!



OUTDOOR WORSHIP
Beginning Sunday, September 13

10:00 a.m.
(Weather Permitting)

With Livestream available (Facebook or
www.fpcsumter.org)

The green space across from the playground.
 Please bring a chair or blanket and practice social distancing.

Chairs will be provided, if needed.
 Everyone age 6 and above is asked to wear a face mask.
 Immediately following worship, there will be a time of fellowship, complete with Pelican Snoballs!

Let us not give up meeting together . . . but let us encourage one another and all the more as you see the day approaching. Hebrews 10:25

Dear Church Family,

Is there anyone beside me who is blown away that it's already September? I can't believe it! Where does the time go? My parents have always said, "just wait, the older you get, the faster it goes!" They certainly weren't kidding - Time flies!



I don't know about you, but I am truly grateful for each moment I have on earth. I am learning more and more that life is a gift from God! Sometimes it is extremely hard; sometimes it is shorter than expected; life is fragile, and it is precious!

A few weeks ago, I lost a friend to COVID19. She was only 67 years young. Her name, Ms. Mary. I met Ms. Mary in 2015 when she was hired as the cook at Camp Pee Dee. During the time we worked together, I grew to love Ms. Mary. She was a woman who loved deeply. She loved her children, her grandchildren, but more importantly she loved the Lord!

When I learned of her death, I was very sad, but then I began to smile because I knew in my heart Ms. Mary was healed. I envisioned her in heaven celebrating being with Jesus.

I am always reminding myself and my family, to enjoy and embrace every moment we are given, it is a gift. And although, there are things I don't understand I am grateful for God's word - Proverbs 3:5-6, "Trust in the LORD with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths."

Over the past few months, the Lord has been stirring in my heart – everyone is going through something!

It is my hope and prayer, as time continues to fly by, we will embrace and acknowledge that everyone is going through something. We may not understand it, we may not know about it, yet may we love them the way Jesus calls us to love. May we allow Jesus' presence to shine through us. May the peace of God, that surpasses all understanding fall upon all our hearts as we live this fragile and precious life.

Much love,

Kelly
 Kelly Hickey

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JOYS AND CONCERNS



Covenant Place: Betty Trapp
Lexington: Eleanor Beard

Home: Kent Mims, Jimmy DuRant,
 Jimmy Newman, Joan Auld, Tiny Owens,
 Serena Davell (Marie Mills' Sister),
 Brandon Hazen (Robin Thames' Brother-in-law),
 Rick Parker (Lisa Bratton's Stepfather)
 Charles King (Greg King's Father),
 Ken Brown (Hope Alexander's Father)

West Chester, NY: Rhodes Danner
 (Pam George's Nephew)

Austin, TX: Robert Cain (George Cain's Father)

St. Jude: Elizabeth Williams

CHRISTIAN SYMPATHY is extended to Neil Ross on the death of his brother, Louis Philip "Phil" Ross, who died September 1.

ONLINE GIVING

If you would like a more convenient means of giving to the church, Online Giving may be a great option for you. Online Giving is available on the church website or via text messaging and can be easily accessed from your computer or mobile device. You are invited to try Online Giving and see if you like it. Whichever way you choose to give, whether online, by mail, or in person, please know that your gift is appreciated and vital to the ongoing ministry and outreach of First Presbyterian.

Online giving can be accessed from the FPC website, fpcsumter.org (press the red "Give" button), also from your mobile device (text FPCS to 73256). Follow the online instructions.

Why not give Online Giving a try? If you need assistance, please contact our business manager's office neilross@fpcsumter.org or (803)773-3814.

FOCUS ON FINANCES

Two Weeks Beginning
August 23 and 30, 2020

	Received		Budgeted
	Two Weeks	YTD	YTD
Revenue			
Contributions	\$34,032.	\$ 462,675.	\$ 566,304.
*Other Sources	\$ 10.	\$ 52,569.	\$ 110,803.
	\$34,042.	\$ 515,244.	\$ 677,107.

**Endowments, Church Event Fees, etc.*