

FOCUS



The weekly newsletter of
FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
Sumter, South Carolina

January 10, 2023

Sunday, January 15

Offertory Anthem: John Michael Osteen will sing
“Lamb of God” by Twila Paris

Elders: Norma Abbott, Bill Richardson
Assisting in Worship: Bill Richardson
Deacons: Kimberly Land, Suzanne Wates
Youth Liturgist: John Land
Jr. Ushers: Charlie Coulter, Richard Dwight

5:00 p.m. – High School Sunday School
in the West Building

Sunday, January 22

Elders: Gus Blum, Liza Cooper
Assisting in Worship: Gus Blum
Deacons: Gary Bratton, Virginia Hutchens
Youth Liturgist: Cameron Coulter
Jr. Usher: Charlie Coulter, Adelaide McElveen

CHILI FEST

5:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall

Sign up by January 16th at the Welcome
Desk or contact Debbie Jackson at
debbiejackson1954@gmail.com or
Linda Hogon at lhogon03@yahoo.com

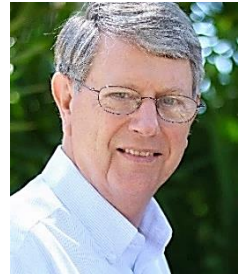


Plan now to attend our Chili Cook-off
200th Anniversary Fund Raiser on January 22, at 5:00 p.m.
in the Fellowship Hall for an evening of fun and
fellowship. Plan to enter the Cook-off with your favorite
crockpot full of chili or volunteer to bring
bread/cornbread or a dessert. Tastings will be \$1 each and
bowls will be \$3 each. Chicken nuggets will be available
for the children. A special surprise will be available, and
funds raised will be designated for our 200th Anniversary
Celebration.



In celebrating First Presbyterian's
200th Birthday, the Focus will feature
an historical event in our church's
history during 2023. Let's start at the
very beginning:
FPC Sumter (then called Sumterville)
was organized at a Harmony
Presbytery meeting by Evangelist
Rev. Isaac Barbour on May 29, 1823.

From Bob's Desk . . .



We have made it. We have made it to the
year that we have been hoping for and
planning for. Our church is now
celebrating 200 years of ministry in the
name of Jesus Christ. Founded in 1823,
we have worshipped, welcomed, baptized,
educated, outreached, buried, and loved
one another and our community for two
centuries. God has given our congregation
great stamina to witness to Jesus Christ as
Lord and Savior in times of plenty and in
times of want, in times of peace and in
times of war, in times of great happiness
and in times of deep sadness, in times of
health and in times of sickness, in times
of togetherness and in times of division,
in times of strength and in times of
weakness. First Presbyterian Church of
Sumter has endured. And whenever we
have made it from one year to the next,
it has been an act of the Holy Spirit and
of a God who has not given up on us.
With humility and thanksgiving, we enter
our year of celebration. With God's help
we have made it to 2023.

This first newsletter of the year is an
invitation to you to participate as
completely as possible in this milestone
in our history and to strengthen it by
your presence in the many plans that
have been made. Please go ahead and
mark your calendars for three specific
Sundays that will be a blessing to all of
us: Sunday, **February 12**; Sunday, **May 7**;
and Sunday, **November 19**. Each of
these Sundays will include worship and
a congregational luncheon, and each will
highlight the mission of our church. The
preaching mission of our pulpit will be
marked by former pastors returning and
delivering the sermon in September and
throughout the year. Each of these
Sundays will include a reception following
worship. In addition, a new historical
marker will be dedicated on our campus
in the coming months, and we will host
the meeting of New Harmony Presbytery
on Tuesday, May 16!

Our very busy 200th Anniversary committee
has been hard at work producing a large
collection of videos of members sharing
their memories and thanksgivings for
First Presbyterian Church. We are thinking
about ways that we can make these
reflections available to all. The committee
has also designed a new logo for our
celebration year which will be featured
on notecards, shirts, and Christmas
ornaments. New celebration paraments
are being made for the sanctuary, and
a large outdoor banner will announce
our church anniversary to the community.
News articles and press releases will let
the world know that something special is
happening at First Presbyterian Church.

In thanksgiving for our fine music
ministry, we have chosen a hymn to be
sung and shared throughout our
celebration: Hymn 314, “Christ, Be Our
Light.” The last verse embodies my hope
for our congregation: “Many the gifts,
many the people, many the hearts that
yearn to belong. Let us be servants to
one another, making your kingdom
come.” We will find the refrain very
singable: “Christ, be our light! Shine in
our hearts. Shine through the darkness.
Christ, be our light! Shine in your church
gathered today.”

We have made it to our 200th year of
ministry in this place. Congratulations!

Love,
Bob

UPCOMING EVENTS

SUNDAY, JANUARY 15

- 9:30 a.m. Sunday School
9:30 a.m. Chancel Choir.....Sanctuary
10:30 a.m. WorshipSanctuary
5:00 p.m. High School Sunday School.....West Bldg.

MONDAY, JANUARY 16

Church Office & Preschool Closed

- 10:00 a.m. Prayer Shawl Ministry..... 505 W. Calhoun St.
6:00 p.m. Coordinating Committee Parlor

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 18

- 12:30 p.m. Preschool Staff Meeting McLaurin Room
6:30 p.m. Chancel Choir.....Sanctuary

SUNDAY, JANUARY 22

- 9:30 a.m. Sunday School
9:30 a.m. Chancel Choir.....Sanctuary
10:30 a.m. WorshipSanctuary
5:00 p.m. Chili Fest Fellowship Hall

MONDAY, JANUARY 23

- 6:00 p.m. Session Meeting Fellowship Hall

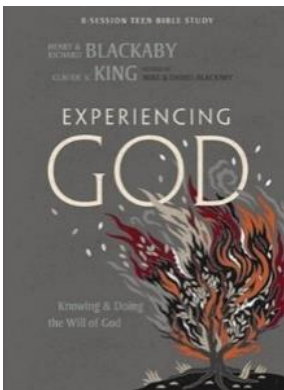
WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 25

- 6:30 p.m. Chancel Choir.....Sanctuary

200TH ANNIVERSARY KICK-OFF

First Presbyterian is kicking off our 200th Anniversary celebration in grand style! On Sunday, February 12, we will have a special guest, Rev. John McCall, our missionary in Taiwan.

Please join us after worship for lunch with a mission presentation from Rev. McCall. It's important to make a reservation for the lunch so we know how much food to prepare. Sign up sheets are on the Welcome Desk or on tables outside the sanctuary or you can call or text Debbie Jackson (803-775-4814) by Sunday, February 5.



HIGH SCHOOL SUNDAY SCHOOL TO BEGIN NEW STUDY

On Sunday, January 29, the high school Sunday School Class will begin a new Bible study, Experiencing God, Knowing and Doing the Will of God. This class meets at 5:00 p.m. on Sundays, in the West Building.

VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED!!

We are in need of nursery workers on Sunday mornings. Volunteers are needed until we hire a replacement. Markita is on maternity leave, and we need a volunteer for her position as well. If you know of anyone who would be interested in this paid position, please contact Debbie Jackson (djackson@fpcsumter.org).



Thank you to our church family for the many generous gifts that helped make 13 families have a Merry Christmas. Over 200 gifts were delivered to Sumter United Ministries for the families in need to pick up. Your love and generosity is greatly appreciated!

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
9 West Calhoun Street
Sumter, SC 29150
803-773-3814

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Sumter, SC
Permit #22

This publication was delivered to USPS on 1/10/2023.
Please notify USPS if you don't receive it in a timely

PASTORAL CARE

Session has approved the formation of a new "Pastoral Care" group. This will be an informal group of members that will assist the pastor and Prayer and Care by providing extra care to our members in need. Care may be in the form of visits, letters, delivering casseroles, etc, and will be on a volunteer basis only. No formal meetings will be held. Please contact Missy Coulter if interested at coulterm@aol.com.

SOUPER BOWL OF CARING

February 12, 2022

In 1990, Souper Bowl of Caring began with a simple prayer from a single youth group: "Lord, even

as we enjoy the Super Bowl football game, help us be mindful of those without a bowl of soup to eat." Since then, more than \$170 million has been generated for local charities across the country through Souper Bowl of Caring. Through this mission, First Presbyterian Church Sumter continues to make a positive difference in this world. Any monetary donation can be sent to the church office earmarked "Souper Bowl of Caring" or placed in Soup Pots marked Souper Bowl of Caring on Sunday, February 12 after worship.



Registration for the 2022-2023 school year for currently enrolled students, siblings, church members, and grandchildren of church members will begin Monday, February 27th.

Open enrollment will begin Monday, March 6th and will continue until our classes are filled. We offer classes for children 8 months through kindergarten age. Please e-mail or call the Preschool office (803-773-9027) for additional information.

JOYS AND CONCERNS

Home: Milo Abbott (grandson of Norma Abbott),
Robert Stage II (Son of Marta Stage)



THANK YOU FOR GIVING IN 2022!

Thank you to everyone who gave to the ministry of our church in 2022. Pledges for 2023 and contributions for 2022 continued through December 31, and pledges can still be submitted for the current year at any time. We are still tabulating the results. We know more pledges would be welcomed as we climb towards last year's pledged amount. We want you to know that we appreciate your presence at church, your joining us online, and your continued support for our ministry. God bless you and keep you.