

FOCUS



The weekly newsletter of
FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
Sumter, South Carolina

January 25, 2022

Sunday, January 30

Offertory Anthem: Chancel Choir will sing "The Gift of Love" arranged by Hal Hopson

Elders: JD Dunn, Caron DuRant

Assisting in Worship: Glenn Woodrum

Deacons: Elyn Croft, Kathy Lyons

Youth Liturgist: Anna Kate Coker

Junior Usher: Stuart Ward

Sunday, February 6

Offertory Anthem: Chancel Choir will sing "I Will Rejoice" by G. F. Telemann.

Elders: Ann Geddings, Linda Hogon

Assisting in Worship: Liza Cooper

Deacons: Suzanne Wates, Colin Davis

Youth Liturgist: Madelynn Davis

Junior Usher: Millie Davis

CHILDREN AND YOUTH MINISTRY

Due to the rising cases of Covid, all Children and Youth Ministry programs are on a brief pause until February 13, 2022.

CONFIRMATION ORIENTATION

Sunday, February 13

All 6th – 9th grade students and their parents are strongly encouraged to join FPC's Confirmation Orientation beginning at 5:30 pm in the West Building on Sunday, February 13. This meeting will explain the goals, methods, and expectations of this year's confirmation process. At this time, students and parents will be able to ask questions and learn what the class will be doing during Confirmation. This 10-week journey will begin on Sunday, February 13 and run through Sunday, April 24. Confirmation Sunday will be on Sunday, May 1.

The Nehemiah Code: It's Never Too Late for a New Beginning SIX-WEEK ADULT BIBLE STUDY TO BEGIN FEBRUARY 13

Adelaide Spencer will lead this study that will meet each Sunday in the Chapel from 4:00 - 5:00 pm. We currently have 11 people signed up. If you are interested, it is not too late to join. Please contact Kelly Hickey by February 6. The cost for the study material is \$15. Please make checks payable to First Presbyterian Church and earmark it The Nehemiah Study. Childcare will be available upon request.

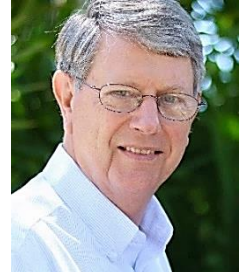


The Joy Ringers will resume regular rehearsals on Wednesday, February 16. If you are interested in ringing, please call Joni or email jonibrown@fpcsumter.org.

From Bob's Desk . . .

Dear Friends in Christ,

From time to time it is good to find fresh words to describe the faith that we are living in Jesus Christ. New Harmony Presbytery asked me to do just that as I was being examined for my call to First Presbyterian Church. I wrote three paragraphs to share my faith journey, and I would like to publish them in this and upcoming issues of the Focus. Here is the first paragraph:



Throughout the chapters of my life, my faith in God through Jesus Christ continued to evolve and grow as I was changed by the Holy Spirit. My mentor, Dr. John Leith, has written that the Reformed faith is a relentless wrestling with the scriptures in the full context of life and faith. That is what it has felt like for me. Through reading the scriptures with anticipation of God-inspired surprises, preaching the gospel with the hope that God's love will fill us all, and forming life-changing friendships with people very different from me, I have been challenged by God to love all people. It is a challenge that I sometimes fail at. It is a challenge that renews my soul and freshens my spirit.

I am glad that we are putting our faiths together, and I am particularly pleased that so many people have been willing and eager to talk with me about their lives and the church they love. When my days are filled with visits, I am a happy camper! God bless you all.

Love,

Bob

Dear Church Family,

Have you ever experienced God calling you to do something that you did not want to do, yet you knew in order to walk in obedience, you had to?

Well, that's where God has led me; therefore, it is with deep sadness I write to say the time has come for me to say goodbye.

Please know this decision was not made lightly, yet, after several "AHA" moments with the Lord, along with conversations with my family, it is clear the time has come for me to leave First Presbyterian Church.

My heart hurts knowing that I am leaving those I love. I will always be grateful for the time I have spent with you. You have loved me, encouraged me, and supported more than words can express. You will forever be in my heart.

I know without a doubt, this is what the Lord is calling me to do, and I trust where He is leading even though it's extremely hard.

Trust in the LORD with all your heart
and lean not on your own understanding;
in all your ways submit to him,

and he will make your paths straight. Proverbs 3:5-6

My last day will be February 10.

Much love,

Kelly



UPCOMING EVENTS

SUNDAY, JANUARY 30

- 9:30 a.m. Sunday School
- 9:30 a.m. Chancel Choir.....Sanctuary
- 10:30 a.m. Worship.....Sanctuary

MONDAY, JANUARY 31

- 10:00 a.m. Staff Meeting Parlor

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 2

- 6:00 p.m. Chancel Choir.....Sanctuary

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 4 ~ No Preschool/Kindergarten

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 6

- 9:30 a.m. Sunday School
- 9:30 a.m. Chancel Choir.....Sanctuary
- 10:30 a.m. Worship.....Sanctuary

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 7 ~ No Preschool/Kindergarten

- 10:00 a.m. Staff Meeting Parlor
- 10:00 a.m. Pres. Women’s Council..... McLaurin Room

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 8

- Circles – See full schedule below
- 4:00 p.m. Music & Worship Parlor

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 9

- 6:00 p.m. Chancel Choir.....Sanctuary
- 6:00 p.m. Faith Formation Parlor

Presbyterian Women’s Council will meet Monday, February 7, at 10:00 a.m. in the McLaurin Room.

Circles will meet as follows:

- #1 - Will meet Tuesday, February 8, at 12:30 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall.
Contact: Linda Brown
- #4 - Will meet Tuesday, February 8, at 10:30 a.m. in the McLaurin Room. Contact: Norma Abbott
- #6 - Will meet Wednesday, February 9, at 6:30 p.m. in the West Building. Contact: Ashley Blum
- #7 - Will meet Wednesday, February 9, at 10:00 a.m. in the West Building. Contact: Robin Thames
- #8 - Will meet Wednesday, February 9, at 3:00 p.m. at Covenant Place. Contact: Winnie Gee and Fran Kay
- #9 - Will meet Tuesday, February 8, at 3:00 p.m. at the home of Sibbie McFaddin (321 W. Calhoun St.)



ON THE MOVE FOR JESUS

Preschool and Elementary Ministry

Beginning Sunday, February 13, children, 3K – 5th grade, are encouraged to join Ms. Ashley, Ms. Jessica, and friends from 4:00 – 5:00 pm to learn more about the Bible, learn memory verses and sing in the Children’s Choir. We will begin in the Fellowship Hall each week. This ministry will meet February 13 through March 20. Please be sure to mark your calendars.



SOUPER BOWL OF CARING

It won’t be long before Souper Bowl Sunday. Please be sure to bring pouch drinks

(Capri Suns/Kool Aid Jammers) for Backpack Blessings and place them in the bin marked Souper Bowl of Caring outside of the church office. In addition, any monetary donations may be mailed to the church office earmarked “Souper Bowl of Caring” or placed in Soup Pots marked Souper Bowl of Caring on Sunday, February 13 before or after worship.

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
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This publication was delivered to USPS on 1/25/2021.
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1823 ~ 2023

On May 29, 2023, First Presbyterian Church will be 200 years old! You are invited to attend a meeting on Tuesday, February 15 from 10:30-11:30 in the Fellowship Hall to help plan our 200th Anniversary.



MARK YOUR CALENDARS!
Vacation Bible School
Monday, July 25 – Thursday, July 28
9:00 am – 12:00 pm

JOYS AND CONCERNS

Tuomey Rehab: Harold Gadson
Home: Caroline Sigmon, Bill Scobee,
Robert Stage II (Son of Marta Stage)



CONGRATULATIONS to Maddie Varn and Jay Dailey, who were married in the Sanctuary on January 22, 2022.

CONGRATULATIONS TO . . .

- . . . Kackie (Smith) and William DaSilva on the birth of a son, William Brooks DaSilva, Jr., born on January 9, 2022. Proud grandparents are Kay and Bob Smith;
- . . . Maryanne and Cam Harvin on the birth of three granddaughters: Taylor McKinley Harvin, born September 6, 2021 to Lauren and Cameron Harvin, Elizabeth Rose Harvin, born November 1, 2021 to Amber and Andrew Harvin, and Mary Louise Herlong, born December 27, 2021 to Charlotte and Gus Herlong.

FOCUS ON FINANCES

Three Weeks
January 2, 9, and 16, 2022

	Received		2021 Budgeted
	<i>Three Weeks</i>	<i>YTD</i>	<i>YTD</i>
Revenue			
Contributions	\$ 20,205.	\$ 20,205.	Budget
*Other Sources	\$ 0.	\$ 0.	Pending
	\$ 20,205.	\$ 20,205.	