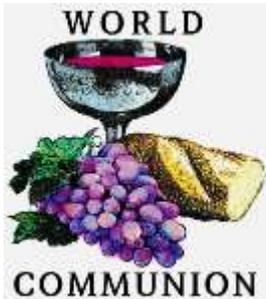


# FOCUS



The weekly newsletter of  
**FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**  
Sumter, South Carolina

October 2, 2018



## *Sunday, October 7, 2018* **World Communion Sunday**

*(Communion will be served by  
intinction this Sunday.)*

9:00 a.m. ~ "Care and Prayer"  
(Parlor)

9:20 a.m. ~ Chancel Choir (Sanctuary)

9:30 a.m. ~ New Member Class (Session Room)

9:30 a.m. ~ Sunday School (Classes for all ages.)

9:50 a.m. ~ Children's Choir Rehearsal (Sanctuary)

10:30 a.m. ~ Worship (Sanctuary)

Processional: "Halle, Halle, Hallelujah"  
by the Children's Choir and Congregation.

Introit: "Stand Firm" by the Children's Choir

Offertory Anthem: The Chancel Choir will sing  
"Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee with Asifiwe Bwana"  
arranged by Dan Goeller.

Kenny Jordan and Alex Beaton will play percussion.

### **CONGREGATIONAL MEETING**

A congregational meeting has been called for this Sunday, October 7, during worship for the purpose of hearing a report from the Church Officer Nominating Committee and electing officers to the Class of 2021.



### **PEACE AND GLOBAL WITNESS OFFERING TO BE RECEIVED THIS SUNDAY**

Received in relation to World Communion Sunday, this offering recognizes the call to bring Christ's peace to all creation. Causes:

- Ministries that specifically include peacemaking as well as global witness
- Presbyterian Mission Agency, 50% (for peacemaking and reconciliation).
- Synods and Presbyteries, 25% (12.5% New Harmony Presbytery/12.5% Synod of the South Atlantic).
- Local Congregations 25%

Childr3en's Choir will **not** meet after church today!

11:40 a.m. ~ Youth Bells (Fellowship Hall)

### **5:00 p.m. ~ Faithful Families**

5:00-6:30 p.m. ~ Middle School Youth Group

6:00-7:30 p.m. ~ High School Youth Group

6:00-6:30 p.m. ~ Dinner served for both groups



If you watched the hearings last week, you weren't the only one. People tuned in on airplanes, they watched it in bars, on their computers at work and they listened in their cars. There were even high schools all over the nation watching. Teenage women. Teenage men. We all watched two people with two different stories. What did you see? Whether you

chose to watch a female American hero courageously share her story, or whether you chose to watch a man courageously fight for his name, there is one thing we can all agree on; this is a reminder that the world is saddened – by anger, hate, grief and violence towards each other. This discourse happened on a grand political stage which makes it easier for us to pick sides or to stand with one or the other. It makes it easy for us to shred somebody to pieces in our conversations, or on social media. It also makes it easy for us to forget that the real issue at hand is much, much larger than politics. The real issue runs deeper. Other things happened last Thursday than this hearing. For example, did you know there was a 200% increase in phone calls made to sexual assault hotlines. Yes, last Thursday, women and girls gathered the courage to reach out and share their story. They refused to be silenced and began looking for hope and healing. Last Thursday, children and teenagers came home from school with questions. Questions not only about who is right and who is wrong. Questions, not only related to politics. They asked more important questions than that. They asked questions like, "What should I do if I feel uncomfortable? What should I do if I'm a victim? Should I be afraid?"

Experts say it's best to start talking about this issue with young kids, and to keep the conversation going as they age, adjusting it to each new life stage. Dr. Sarah Y. Vinson, a child and adolescent psychiatrist gives 6 points to parents:

1. Make time to talk about it (Yeah, talk about it)
2. Start early and keep talking about it – this isn't a onetime conversation.
3. Be clear about the laws and facts
4. Turn to Pop culture with older children (use what they're listening to, watching, etc., as talking points for discussion)
5. Talk to boys and girls
6. If your child shares something with you – immediately believe them, or they may struggle to share with you again.

Church, I don't know where you are with the events of last week, but if we use them as a way to keep more people quiet or as a way to communicate to victims that their voice doesn't matter, we're missing the point. Let us look deeper and find positive ways to address some real issues facing our nation. Amen?

Blessings,

*Nick*

**UPCOMING EVENTS**

**MONDAY, OCTOBER 8**

6:00 p.m. Deacon's Meeting .....McLaurin Room

**TUESDAY, OCTOBER 9**

10:00 a.m. Staff Meeting .....Parlor

**WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 10**

5:45 p.m. Joy Ringers .....Fellowship Hall

7:00 p.m. Chancel Choir ..... Sanctuary

**THURSDAY, OCTOBER 11**

1:30 p.m. Quilting Class ..... West Building

**SUNDAY, OCTOBER 14**

9:00 a.m. "Care and Prayer" .....Parlor

9:30 a.m. Sunday School (Classes for all ages)

9:30 a.m. Chancel Choir ..... Sanctuary

10:30 a.m. Worship ..... Sanctuary

11:40 a.m. Children's Choir ..... Children's Music Room

11:40 a.m. Youth Bells ..... Fellowship Hall

5:00 p.m. Faithful Families

5:00 p.m. Middle School Youth ..... West Building

6:00 p.m. High School Youth ..... West Building

**ELDERS GREETING AT WORSHIP**

Robbie Branham, Mandy Blankenship

**ELDER LEADING SUNDAY MORNING PRAYERS**

Debby Williams

**ELDER IN CHARGE OF VISITING (October 7-13)**

Debby Williams

**WORSHIP AT HOME**

Liza Cooper, Susan Brabham

**TELLER**

Denise Dunn, Kimberly White

**USHER**

Julia Muldrow, Matt Blankenship

**JUNIOR USHER**

Emma Smith, Brogdon Hill

**YOUTH LITURGIST**

Ivey Edwards

**CHURCH HOUR EXTENDED CARE**

Nursery – Markita Gadson, Lameshia Dennis

2, 3, 4 & 5 Yr. Olds – Samantha Haxton,  
Kimberly White



**MEN OF FAITH  
OCTOBER 3 – NOVEMBER 7  
West Youth Building ~ 6:00 a.m.**

Start the day off right with this early morning series led by Pastor Nick. The purpose of this group is to grow in our relationships with God and each other.

Men of Faith is open to all men so if you know of other friends who might be interested, please invite them. Coffee is provided!

**WEDNESDAY LUNCHEON**

**October 17 – 12:30 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall**

This month's luncheon will feature members of the Sumter High Orchestra under the direction of Erik Hines. In his 13<sup>th</sup> year as the Orchestra Director, Erik Hines has helped the program grow from eleven to over one hundred students. They have received numerous superior ratings. Please make reservations no later than Thursday, October 11, by calling Suzanne Wates at 803-469-0509.



**ANNUAL  
CONGREGATIONAL  
RETREAT**

March 1-3, 2019  
Marriott Resort  
Myrtle Beach

**FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

9 West Calhoun Street

Sumter, SC 29150

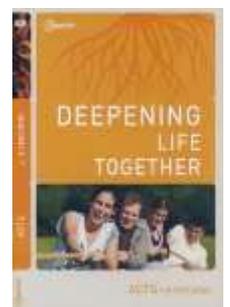
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**HARMONY CLASS TO  
BEGIN NEW STUDY**

The Harmony Class will begin an eight-week study of the book of Acts with a DVD series from "Deepening Life Together". This will be an introduction to this wonderful and important book in the New Testament that records the early days of the Church and the spread of Christianity across the Roman Empire from Jerusalem to Rome. Although it is titled the Acts of the Apostles, it could also be called the acts of the Holy Spirit, because the work of the Holy Spirit is everywhere evident in Acts. Anyone interested is invited to join as we start this study on Sunday, October 7<sup>th</sup>, at 9:30 a.m., in the Harmony Classroom on the second floor at the end of the hall nearest the parking lot.



**SUPPORT OUR BOY SCOUTS!**

Our church's Boy Scout Troop #86 is selling popcorn to raise money to support the troop's camping program. Order forms will be available in the Fellowship Hall before church services and during the Faithful Families dinners. Please contact Gus Blum (Scoutmaster) at 803-847-4397 or look for Alexander Blum (Senior Patrol Leader) at church if you have any questions.



**JOYS AND CONCERNS**

**Home:** Joe Kuhlmann,  
Betsy Lynch,  
Ernie McDowell,  
Michael Moore (Son of Julian  
and Lois Moore)



**St. Jude's Children's Hospital:**

Elizabeth Williams (Barney W. Williams' daughter)

**FOCUS ON FINANCES**

**Week Beginning September 23, 2018**

	Received		Budgeted
	This Week	YTD	YTD
<b>Revenue</b>			
Contributions	\$ 15,192.	\$ 515,774.	\$542,915.
*Other Sources	\$ 225..	\$ 101,795.	\$120,167.
	\$ 15,417.	\$ 617,569.	\$663,082.

\*Endowments, Church Event Fees, etc.