

# FOCUS



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

October 20, 2020

## I AM A CHURCH MEMBER (Part 3)



“Sitting Down, he called the twelve and said to them, “If anyone wants to be first, he must be last of all and servant of all.” Mark 9:35

I attended Queens University of Charlotte for my undergraduate degree. During the very beginning of my freshman year, Queens held a special convocation service for the entire school. During the gathering, the freshman were invited to walk forward, row by row, and sign the honor code. Signing the honor code reflected our commitment to living out the universities motto, “non ministrari sed ministrare,” or “Not to be served, but to serve.” You will notice this motto focuses more on character rather than academics.

Service is built into the career of a Queens’ student.

Thom Rainer’s third pledge addresses the importance of service over self. For him, a church begins to lose it’s way when the people start to nit-pick, complain or insist that worship, sermons, the pastor, the staff or other functions of the Church exist to serve them. Rainer compares this attitude to that of children throwing temper tantrums because they aren’t getting what they want. He writes, “The strange thing about church membership is that you actually give up your preferences when you join. Don’t get me wrong; there may be much about your church that you like a lot. But you are there to meet the needs of others. You are there to serve others. You are there to give. You are there to sacrifice... Many church members demand *their* preferences, *their* desires, and the way *they’ve* always done it. But Jesus said we are to serve.”

Rainer has consulted with many churches. The unhealthy ones approach church with an attitude contrary to that of the motto above, “Not to serve, but to be served.” That is the opposite of the attitude we find in Christ. In Philippians 2:5-11, the writer reminds us that Jesus “emptied himself by assuming the form of a servant, humbled himself and became obedient, even to the point of death on a cross.” Of course, Rainer doesn’t believe we are capable of following perfectly in step with Jesus, but as followers of Christ and his ministry, we are called to emulate his attitude the best we can within this place we call church.

### The Third Pledge

*I will not let my church be about my preferences and desires. That is self-serving. I am a member in this church to serve others and to serve Christ. My Savior went to a cross for me. I can deal with any inconveniences and matters that just aren’t my preference or style.*

First Presbyterian Church, will you make this pledge?

Look for Pledge #4 in our next focus.

Blessings,

*Nick*

## WORSHIP MUSIC

### October 25 ~ Reformation Sunday

Denise Lynch, piano soloist, will play “You Raise Me Up” arranged by Boder

Grey Holler, bagpipes, will play “Highland Cathedral” and “Amazing Grace”

Why bagpipes on Reformation Sunday? After Martin Luther set the Protestant Reformation in motion, John Calvin of Geneva began the branch of Protestantism known as the Reformed Tradition. His student, the Scottish reformer John Knox, used Calvin’s teachings to start the first churches that were truly “presbyterian” – that is, governed by non-clergy elders – in Scotland. The Presbyterian Church in the United States is the direct descendant of the Church of Scotland.

### November 1

Alex Beaton, tenor soloist, will sing “Come Home” by Craig Courtney

## ADVENT DEVOTIONAL 2020

We have had a great response from members who are writing an Advent devotional. We have a few more spots available. If you are interested in writing a devotional or have any questions, please contact Kelly Hickey. **Devotions are due no later than Sunday, October 25.**

## IN-PERSON WORSHIP

### RESUMES NOVEMBER 1, 2020

The Session, with a recommendation from the Reopening Task Force, has approved in-person worship to begin on November 1, at 10:30 a.m. Please RSVP by going to our website ([www.fpcsumter.org](http://www.fpcsumter.org)) before 3:00 p.m. the Friday before worship. If you do not have access to the internet, please call the church office to make a reservation. The maximum number allowed per service will be 150. You will be required to enter through the front doors on Main Street. Please stay socially distanced as you enter the church. Only those using the elevator will be allowed to enter the breezeway doors. All adults, youth and children (kindergarten age and up) will be required to wear a mask that covers the nose and mouth. Online services will continue.

## DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME

### ENDS

### NOVEMBER 1

Don’t forget to set your clocks back  
Saturday, October 31!



## UPCOMING EVENTS

### SUNDAY, OCTOBER 25

- 10:00 a.m. Outdoor Worship
- 6:00 p.m. Halloween Extravaganza

### MONDAY, OCTOBER 26

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

### TUESDAY, OCTOBER 27

- 10:00 a.m. Staff Meeting ..... Fellowship Hall
- 6:00 p.m. Joy Ringers Ensemble ..... Fellowship Hall
- 6:00 p.m. Tuesdays Together..... West Bldg. Lawn

### WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 28

- 7:00 p.m. Chancel Choir (Zoom)

### SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 1 ~ All Saints' Day

- 10:30 a.m. Worship ..... Sanctuary
- 5:30 p.m. Middle School Youth..... Fellowship Hall
- 7:00 p.m. High School Youth ..... Fellowship Hall

### MONDAY, NOVEMBER 2

- 10:00 a.m. Council of Presbyterian Women (Zoom)

### TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 3 ~ Election Day

- 10:00 a.m. Staff Meeting ..... Fellowship Hall
- 12:30 p.m. Circle 1 (Zoom)
- 6:00 p.m. Joy Ringers Ensemble ..... Fellowship Hall

### WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 4

- 6:30 p.m. Circle #6 (Zoom)

## PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

The Council of Presbyterian Women will meet Monday, November 2, at 10:00 a.m. This will be a Zoom meeting. Circles will meet as follows:



- #1 - Linda Brown, Chair, will have a Zoom meeting **Tuesday, November 3, at 12:30 p.m.**
- #4 - Norma Abbott, Chair, will not meet in November
- #6 - Ashley Blum, Chair, will have a Zoom meeting **Wednesday, November 4, at 6:30 p.m.**
- #7 - Robin Thames, Chair, will meet Tuesday, **November 10 at 10:30 a.m. at Baker's Sweets**
- #8 - Winnie Gee and Fran Kay, Co-Chairs, will not meet in November
- #9 - Pam George, Chair, will not meet in November

## NATIVITY 2020



This year FPC's Nativity Service will look a little different as we plan to incorporate children and families. If your family is interested in participating, **please contact Kelly by Sunday, October 25**, to learn more about this special opportunity.

## ADVENT WORKSHOP ALTERNATIVE

Since we are not able to host an in-person Advent Workshop this year, we are offering Advent crafts for your family to purchase and create at home. You may choose any of the following options:

- 1) Cinnamon Stick Tree Ornaments - \$3.00
- 2) Nativity with Popsicle Sticks - \$1.00
- 3) Cookie Dough with Cookie Cutter - \$5.00
- 4) Advent Wreath (includes Styrofoam ring and candles) – \$15.00

Pre-orders are due by November 8. Please visit FPC's website to pre-order on-line. Photos of each craft are also available through the on-line service. All orders will be available for pick-up after worship on November 15. Should you have any questions please contact Kelly Hickey or Robin Thames.

Thank you so much for helping us through this most difficult time. We appreciate the visits, thoughtful service and the gift certificates provided for a memorial service meal. Mom truly loved her church!

Much Love,  
Stan Kuhn, Stacey & Tammy

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
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This publication was delivered to USPS on 10/20/20.  
Please notify USPS if you don't receive it in a timely manner.

To my FPC family,

I have been blessed by being part of this family. The fellowship, encouragement, and yes, challenges, have allowed me to grow in faith and follow the way of Christ.

Maintaining our house and property became too much; it was all I had energy to do. We sold the house, moved and had an estate sale. We will be living in a patio home with sunroom and carport at the Presbyterian Retirement Community in Summerville. Such a load has been lifted from my shoulders; I love this "tiny" home. Cathy and her family are just 5 miles from us. I'm helping with virtual school so she can work. For the "old-timers," Dr. Cliff McLeod's wife Helen is still here. Their daughter Kathleen also lives at the Village.

Our address is:

201 W. 9<sup>th</sup> North Street, mailbox 157  
Summerville, SC 29483

My new email is: [ann.shreve@yahoo.com](mailto:ann.shreve@yahoo.com)

In Christ's love,  
Ann Shreve

## JOYS AND CONCERNS



- Home:** Carol Reese,  
Jimmy Newman, 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)

**St. Jude:** Elizabeth Williams

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

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

**CHRISTIAN SYMPATHY** is extended to . . .

- . . . the family of Kent Mims, who died October 18;
- . . . Janie McElwee-Smith on the death of her husband, Brad, who died October 14. Her address is: 192 Autumnview Drive, Hollidaysburg, PA 16648.

## FOCUS ON FINANCES

**Two Weeks Beginning October 4 and 11, 2020**

	Received		Budgeted
	<i>Two Weeks</i>	<i>YTD</i>	<i>YTD</i>
<b>Revenue</b>			
Contributions	\$55,547.	\$ 572,637.	\$ 657,174.
*Other Sources	\$ 109.	\$ 73,784.	\$ 117,687.
	\$55,656.	\$ 646,421.	\$ 774,861.

\*YTD includes Endowments (\$47,866), Church Event Fees, etc.