

# FOCUS



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

October 5, 2021

## Sunday, October 10

*"No Stone Unturned"*

Amos 5:6-7, 10-15 Hebrews 4:12-15

Offertory Anthem: Chancel Choir will sing, *Let All the World in Every Corner Sing* by Calvin Hampton

**Elders:** Dan Spencer, Kay Smith

**Deacons:** Suzanne Wates, Lark Haynie

**Youth Liturgist:** Ansley Blanding

**Junior Usher:** Richard Dwight

**Children in Worship**

Teacher: Ashley Blum/Caron DuRant

Volunteer: Linda Hogon

### "ON THE MOVE FOR JESUS"

**Preschool and Elementary Ministry**

**4:00 – 5:00 p.m. in the Chapel**

We only have two more Sundays for On the Move for Jesus. Children, 3K – 5<sup>th</sup> grade, are encouraged to join Ms. Kelly, Ms. Jessica, and friends in the Chapel to learn Bible stories, memory verses and sing in the Children's Choir. We encourage everyone to wear their masks. Please drop your child off at the office entrance of the church building. Ms. Kelly will be there to greet you.

### YOUTH GROUP

**5:00 – 6:30 p.m. in the West Building**

Youth group will begin at the West Building at 5:00 p.m. with food and fellowship! We are looking forward to our time together as we dig into God's word. Please note we strongly encourage everyone to wear masks, except while we are eating.

## Sunday, October 17

*"The Possible Impossible"*

Judges 16:23-30 Mark 10:26-31

Offertory Anthem: Special music will be provided by Alex Beaton, tenor soloist.

**Elders:** Glenn Woodrum, Gus Blum

**Deacons:** Macaulay Smith, Taylor Geddings

**Youth Liturgist:** Edmunds DuBose

**Junior Usher:** Lucas DuBose

**Children in Worship**

Teacher: Karen Ingram Volunteer: Pam George

### WELCOME, DENISE LYNCH!

We are happy to announce that Denise Lynch, organist, has joined our staff as an official member of our FPC Music Ministry family. A native of Lake City, SC, Denise has been playing in churches since the age of 14. She has a Bachelor of Arts degree in piano performance from Coker University and a Master of Music Education in choral music from Florida State University. She taught music and choir in South Carolina schools for 28 years while often working part-time in local churches.

### KIRKIN' OF THE TARTANS

**October 31, 2021**

Reserve your participation in the Kirkin' of the Tartans Processional by contacting Linda Hogon, 803-775-4167 or 803-840-7671, or [lhogon03@yahoo.com](mailto:lhogon03@yahoo.com). Reservations,

including the name of the tartan and the carrier, are needed by

**Monday, October 18.**



### From The Bridge Interim Pastor

#### "Walking Into Our Future"

Recently, I had the opportunity to walk around the Swan Lake Iris Gardens Public Park. What a treasure to Sumter and the surrounding environs!

While walking, I began to reflect on the future journey of First Presbyterian. Sometimes it seems like FPC may be going in circles, but I remind you that our "walk with Christ" is leading us into a future God has prepared for us. It is a future linked to identifying the kind of mission we are seeking to share with our community and our world.

May I suggest each of us don our best spiritual hiking boots and commit to a future walk that finds us serving our community rather than holding on to a past that no longer exists. As I see it, the walk before us holds the potential for new things to grow in the garden we are cultivating at 9 West Calhoun Street, Sumter, SC.

It is my great joy to walk with you into your future with Christ as our partner in ministry.

Pastor Joel

*Joel*

**Town Hall meetings** have been scheduled to be held in the Fellowship Hall on Sundays, October 10 and October 17, immediately following our worship service. The purpose of our Town Hall meeting is to **address the priorities of the congregation in hiring an interim pastor.** We look forward to your attendance and participation. The content of these meetings will be identical as we hope to reach as many people as possible. Please make plans to attend only one of these meetings as your schedule allows. We look forward to conversation and dialogue regarding our interim process. Remember, a Town Hall meeting is not meant to take formal action by the congregation. It is meant to be an educational opportunity.



See you at one of our Town Meetings!

The Session of FPC-Sumter



Dear Church Family,

With Halloween approaching and COVID still in our midst, it has been decided the best way to move forward is to host a Trunk or Treat for FPC's children and families and FPC's preschool. This event will take place on October 24 at 5:00 pm. It will probably last 30 to maybe 45 minutes. The idea is to have at

least 20 decorated trunks for the children to visit. So, I am writing to ask for your help! We currently have 3 trunks secured which means we only need 17 more. Would you please help? We certainly need you. Please call me with any questions or to sign up. I hope to hear from you.

Much love,

*Kelly*

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### SUNDAY, OCTOBER 10

- 9:30 a.m. Chancel Choir ..... Fellowship Hall
- 9:30 a.m. Sunday School
- 10:30 a.m. Worship ..... Sanctuary
- 11:30 a.m. Town Hall Meeting..... Fellowship Hall
- 4:00 p.m. On the Move for Jesus ..... Chapel
- 5:00 p.m. Youth Group..... West Bldg.

### MONDAY, OCTOBER 11

- 10:00 a.m. Staff Meeting ..... Parlor
- 6:00 p.m. Deacon's Meeting..... McLaurin Room

### TUESDAY, OCTOBER 12

- 4:00 p.m. Music & Worship ..... Parlor

### WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 13

- 5:45 p.m. Joy Ringers ..... Sanctuary
- 6:00 p.m. Faith Formation .....
- 6:30 p.m. Missions ..... West Bldg.
- 7:00 p.m. Chancel Choir ..... Sanctuary

### SUNDAY, OCTOBER 17

- 9:30 a.m. Chancel Choir..... Sanctuary
- 9:30 a.m. Sunday School
- 10:30 a.m. Worship ..... Sanctuary
- 11:30 a.m. Town Hall Meeting ..... Fellowship Hall
- 4:00 p.m. On the Move for Jesus ..... Chapel
- 5:00 p.m. Youth Group ..... West Bldg.

### MONDAY, OCTOBER 18

- 10:00 a.m. Staff Meeting ..... Parlor
- 10:00 a.m. Prayer Shawl Ministry . 505 W. Calhoun St.
- 5:30 p.m. Executive Council..... Parlor

### WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 20

- 12:30 p.m. Preschool Staff Meeting ... McLaurin Room
- 5:45 p.m. Joy Ringers ..... Sanctuary
- 7:00 p.m. Chancel Choir ..... Sanctuary

## SCAROWINDS DEADLINE APPROACHING!!! (For FPC Youth & Friends)

On Saturday October 23, 2021, we will meet in the church parking lot at 4:00 pm to head to SCAROWINDS. The cost of the trip is \$80 which includes dinner, admission and transportation. We should return around 12:30 to 1:00 am. **There are 30 spots available. The full payment is due on or before Sunday, October 10, 2021.** Please make checks payable to FPC and mark it for SCAROWINDS. Anyone who plans to participate, their parents must complete a First Presbyterian Church Permission form. These forms will be made available prior to the trip. Should you have any questions, please contact Kelly Hickey at [khickey@fpcsumter.org](mailto:khickey@fpcsumter.org), 803-773-3814 (church) or 803-669-3851 (cell).



### TRUNK OR TREAT FOR FPC FAMILIES AND FPC PRESCHOOL

**Sunday, October 24**

This year FPC will be hosting a Trunk or Treat at the West Building parking lot for FPC children and families, and our Preschool. The event will begin at 5:00 pm and end around 5:30 pm. Everyone is encouraged to wear their costumes and bring their trick or treat bags. Should you have any questions, please contact Kelly Hickey.

### FPC NURSERY NEWS

This Sunday, October 10, Samantha Haxton will be leaving FPC. Samantha has been an amazing addition to our nursery staff since October 2017. We are certainly going to miss her. We are so thankful for her presence and pray for God's continued blessings upon Samantha as she embraces the next part of her journey.

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

Non-Profit  
US, Postage Paid  
Sumter, SC  
Permit #22

This publication was delivered to USPS on 10/5/2021.  
Please notify USPS if you don't receive it in a timely manner.



### OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD

First Presbyterian Church will be preparing and collecting shoeboxes for Operation Christmas Child during the month of October. This ministry of Samaritan's Purse has been providing joy for children in impoverished or war-torn areas all over the world for many years. Shoeboxes will be available at the doors of the Sanctuary and in front of the Church Office, along with guidelines for filling the shoeboxes and a label for each box. All shoeboxes are due by October 20 and should be dropped off in the Fellowship Hall. Should you have any questions please contact Karen Ingram.

Sumter United Ministries is in need of some winter items for their Homeless Shelter. Our church family is collecting SOCKS, GLOVES and/or WINTER HATS for men and women. Please consider donating any of these items. Please place your items in the container outside the church office by November 7.



### JOYS AND CONCERNS

**Cone Hospital** (Greensboro, NC):  
Bill Bailey (Ashley Long's father)  
**Home:** Charlie & Glenda Denny,

Suzanna Foley, Bill Scobee,  
Ashley Long (Joel & Ann Long's daughter-in-law),  
Tom Tindal (John Tindal's Brother),  
Robert Stage II (Son of Marta Stage)

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

**CHRISTIAN SYMPATHY** is extended to our custodian Barry Gholson on the death of his brother, Ricky Mickens, who died September 26.

### FOCUS ON FINANCES

**Two Weeks Beginning September 19 and 26, 2021**

	Received		2021 Budgeted
	Two Weeks	YTD	YTD
<b>Revenue</b>			
Contributions	\$ 10,483.	\$448,212.	\$446,317.
*Other Sources	\$ 12.	\$118,665.	\$134,209.
	\$ 10,495.	\$566,877.	\$580,526.

*\*Received YTD includes \$67,000 from SBA PPP Loan Forgiveness and \$45,034 from endowment funds distributions to general fund..*