

FOCUS



The weekly newsletter of
FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
Sumter, South Carolina

October 6, 2020

I AM A CHURCH MEMBER (Part 2)



I Peter 3:10: “Those who desire life and desire to see good days, let them keep their tongues from evil and their lips from speaking deceit.”

The second pledge Thom Rainer presents for church members deals with how the body of believers acts towards each other. Serving in the ministry for decades, Rainer has experienced his fair share of healthy and unhealthy churches. He knows the characteristics and cultures of a congregation that, when practiced, can lead to both.

As a church member, Rainer believes we have the responsibility of being a source of unity. Part of being that source of unity has to do with refraining from gossip. Rainer unpacks the definition of gossip to mean, idle talk, rumors and the sharing of unproven personal or private information about others. Rainer writes, “Few things can destroy the unity of a church like gossip. A unified church is powerful. Gossip tears apart that unity and renders a church powerless.” Rainer presents a few ways we should respond when encountering gossip in the church.

1. Don't be a source of gossip: If you have any inkling that something being shared is gossip, don't participate.
2. Rebuke Gossip: If someone in the church begins to share gossip with you, kindly say, “I would rather not hear any gossip and I hope this kind of talk won't continue in our congregation.”
3. Make a pact with others: The more members commit to refraining from gossip, the less this kind of divisive language will continue.

The Second Pledge: I Will Be A Unifying Church Member I am a church member. I will seek to be a source of unity in the church. I know there are no perfect pastors, staff, or other church members. But neither am I. I will not be a source of gossip or dissension. One of the greatest contributions I can make is to do all I can in God's power to help keep the church in unity for the sake of the gospel.

Church, will you take the pledge as a member of First Presbyterian? For the health of our congregation, let us not contribute to the malicious language of gossip.

In our next focus, I will present pledge #3.

Blessings,

Nick

WORSHIP MUSIC

October 11

The Joy Ringers Small Ensemble will play *We Have Come to Join in Worship* and *Beautiful Savior*, both arranged by Bill Ingram.

October 18

Special music will be provided by Lauren Decker, violin and Kathryn Blanding, cello.

WEDNESDAY EVENING “CHORAL ENCOUNTERS”

WITH JONI AND HAMILTON (Zoom)

Beginning September 30, 7:00-7:45 p.m. (Weekly)

We hope you will join us for these weekly “choir rehearsals” that will include devotions, warm-ups, two to three choral selections and a closing prayer. If you are a member of the Chancel Choir, you will be invited over email. If you would like to participate, but are not in the Chancel Choir, please email Joni Brown at jonibrown@fpcsumter.org. All meetings will happen on Zoom.

YOUR HELP IS NEEDED!

As the Faith Formation Team prepares for FPC's Halloween Extravaganza, would you be willing to donate a bag of Halloween candy or small trinkets to help with this ministry? **Donations need to be delivered to the church by Sunday, October 18.** Please be sure all candy is nut free. Should you have any questions, please contact Kelly Hickey.

Tuesdays Together by the Fountain for Children and Families of FPC



Tuesday, October 13 – “Fishers of Men”

Tuesday, October 20 – “Follow Me, Levi”

Tuesday, October 27 – “Follow Me, Phillip”

We will meet each week from 6:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. (weather permitting). Be sure to bring your picnic dinner, chairs and/or blanket. Sign up is required by Sunday of each week. For more information, please contact Kelly Hickey.

WEST BUILDING CLEANING DAY October 10

We are having a cleaning and organizing day at the West Building. The kitchen and closet need to be deep cleaned. We are asking for volunteers to come help for a 2-hour time slot (9-11 a.m. and 12-2 p.m.). Two volunteers are needed in the kitchen, two in the closet and two in the high school classroom for each time slot. Please call or text Taylor at 803-968-9655 to volunteer or if you need more information.

ADVENT DEVOTIONAL 2020

We are planning a FPC Advent Devotional with daily devotions written by FPC members. We are excited about this opportunity and would love for you to participate. We need 27 entries. If you are interested in writing a devotional or have any questions, **please contact Kelly Hickey by October 11.** We will be moving quickly on this ministry.

UPCOMING EVENTS

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 11

- 10:00 a.m. Outdoor Worship
- 5:30 p.m. Middle School Youth..... West Bldg. Lawn
- 7:00 p.m. High School Youth West Bldg. Lawn

MONDAY, OCTOBER 12

- 6:00 p.m. Deacon's MeetingFellowship Hall

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 13

- 10:00 a.m. Staff MeetingFellowship Hall
- 6:00 p.m. Joy Ringers EnsembleFellowship Hall
- 6:00 p.m. Tuesdays Together..... West Bldg. Lawn

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 14

- 6:00 p.m. Faith FormationFellowship Hall
- 7:00 p.m. Chancel Choir (Zoom)

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 18

- 10:00 a.m. Outdoor Worship
- 5:30 p.m. Middle School Youth..... West Bldg. Lawn
- 7:00 p.m. High School Youth West Bldg. Lawn

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 20

- 10:00 a.m. Staff MeetingFellowship Hall
- 12:30 p.m. Circle 1 (Zoom)
- 6:00 p.m. Tuesdays Together..... West Bldg. Lawn
- 6:00 p.m. Joy Ringers EnsembleFellowship Hall

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 21

- 12:30 p.m. Preschool Staff Meeting ..Fellowship Hall
- 1:30 p.m. Discovery Class Gathering (Zoom)



For children and families of FPC
 Sunday, October 25, 6:00-7:00 p.m.
(RSVP required by October 19)

Children are asked to wear their costume
 for a social distancing parade!
 Movie on the Lawn!

Please wear your mask and bring your own chairs or blankets and sit with your family. For more information please contact Kelly Hickey or check out FPC Children's Facebook page or the Focus.

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 October 18** to learn more about this special opportunity.

FROM PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

Presbyterian Women would like to sincerely thank Ann Shreve for all her hard work and dedication as their Treasurer. We wish John and her the best in their move to Summerville. Barbara Finley has graciously agreed to be Presbyterian Women's new Treasurer and we look forward to working with her for the next two years.

Presbyterian Women would also like to thank all those who donated in honor of Presbyterian Women's Awareness Sunday. Your support is very much appreciated, especially now. If you have not yet donated and would like to do so, please send your donations to: Presbyterian Women, c/o Barbara Finley, 2451 Clematis Trail, Sumter, SC 29150.



SKI TRIP 2021
 February 12-14
 Beech Mountain, Boone, NC

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
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JOYS AND CONCERNS



Home: Kent Mims, Carol Reese, Jimmy DuRant, Travis Brown, 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)

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

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

St. Jude: Elizabeth Williams

CHRISTIAN SYMPATHY is extended to Emmett Anglin on the death of his wife, Laura Anglin, who died September 23.

CONGRATULATIONS to Shirley Wood, who was presented the Presbyterian Women Honorary Lifetime Membership.

Dear First Presbyterian Church Family,

Caron and I want to thank all of you for the thoughts, prayers, cards and calls to us. We especially want to thank Pastor Nick for his calls and prayers. We also want to thank the Prayer Shawl Ministry for the beautiful shawl they sent to me after my surgery. It is a wonderful symbol of our church's empathy and support and a reminder of God's unending love and care.

Thanks be to the Lord,
 Jimmy DuRant

Dear First Presbyterian Church Family,

I would like to thank all those who have expressed their sympathy to me upon the death of my wife on September 23.

Emmett Anglin

FOCUS ON FINANCES

**Two Weeks Beginning
 September 20 and 27, 2020**

	Received		Budgeted
	Two Weeks	YTD	YTD
Revenue			
Contributions	\$39,857.	\$ 517,090.	\$ 626,906.
*Other Sources	<u>\$21,101.</u>	<u>\$ 73,675.</u>	<u>\$ 115,162.</u>
	\$60,958.	\$ 590,765.	\$ 742,068.

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