

FOCUS



The weekly newsletter of
FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
Sumter, South Carolina

November 1, 2022

Sunday, November 6 All Saints Sunday

The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper will be observed.

Offertory Anthem: Chancel Choir will sing *Finally Home* by David Lantz, III. John Michael Osteen will be the featured soloist.

Elders: Missy Coulter, Liza Cooper

Assisting in Worship: Missy Coulter

Deacons: Valerie James, Katherine Brogdon

Youth Liturgist: Edmunds DuBose

Jr. Usher: Connor Thames, Lucas DuBose

5:00 p.m. – High School Sunday School in the West Bldg.

Sunday, November 13

Offertory Anthem: Sean Hackett, alto saxophone soloist, will play *Shall We Gather at the River* arranged by Daniel Kallman.

Elders: John Jackson, John James

Assisting in Worship: John Jackson

Deacons: Valerie James, Colin Davis

Youth Liturgist: Bee Smith

Jr. Usher: Charlie Thames, Caroline Thames

5:00 p.m. ~ High School Sunday School in the West Bldg.



DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME ENDS NOVEMBER 6

Don't forget to set your clocks back Saturday, November 5.

STEWARDSHIP CELEBRATION LUNCHEON

Sunday, November 20

Immediately following Morning Worship

Please make your plans now to attend our Stewardship Celebration Luncheon on Sunday, November 20, immediately following morning worship. We will be featuring an old-fashioned fried chicken and barbeque dinner with a special guest - Bluegrass gospel group. We are looking forward to seeing you at this fun-filled event.

There is no charge for this luncheon, but we would appreciate a head count so that we can get a good estimate of how much food to prepare. Please make a reservation by calling the church office (803-773-3814) or by signing up on one of the reservation sheets found on the tables outside the sanctuary and on the welcome desk outside the church office.

From Bob's Desk . . .

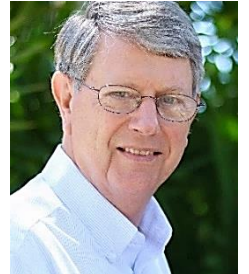
Dear Friends in Christ,

As we turn the page of our calendars one more time, we find ourselves in November. All of a sudden it seems as though it is almost time to say goodbye to this year and start getting ready for the new year that now appears on the horizon. Indeed, November is the time that our church gathers our resources and our plans for all that lies ahead. I hope that 2023 will stand out in our ministry as a very special time when we celebrate 200 years of faithfulness in this place, renew our commitment to being a PCUSA congregation with arms open wide to all who would come to Christ, and called a pastor for a new and important chapter for First Presbyterian Church. It is time to renew. It is time to call. It is time to give.

This month we will build the spending plan for next year and dedicate our financial pledges to God. A stewardship letter and a pledge card will be coming to your mailbox soon. Please consider prayerfully your intentions about giving to your church next year. You may return your pledge at any time, and we will dedicate them on **Sunday, November 20**. Our theme this year is "**Glad and Generous Hearts**," a phrase that describes the vital faith of the early church in Acts as they shared life together in Jesus Christ.

We discovered in this past Sunday's sermon that Zacchaeus, that wee little man who climbed up the sycamore tree in Jericho to see Jesus, was Luke's best example of a joyful disciple with a glad and generous heart. May we follow Zacchaeus into a season of deep and abounding joy for the community of faith and for our ministry in God's world. God bless us all!

Love,
Bob



Love to sing but cannot make a yearlong commitment? Join the Chancel Choir as we begin rehearsals for special music during the Advent and Christmas season. We rehearse from 7-8:30 every Wednesday. For more information, email Joni at jonibrown@fpcsumter.org or call the church (803-773-3814).

UPCOMING EVENTS

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 6 ~ All Saints Day

- 9:30 a.m. Sunday School
- 9:50 a.m. Chancel Choir.....Sanctuary
- 10:30 a.m. WorshipSanctuary
- 3:00 p.m. Joy Ringers RehearsalSession Room
- 5:00 p.m. High School Sunday School.....West Bldg.

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 9

- 7:00 p.m. Chancel Choir RehearsalChoir Room

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 10

- 1:00 p.m. Shepherd's Center Quilting ClassWest Bldg.

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 13

- 9:30 a.m. Sunday School
- 9:30 a.m. Chancel Choir.....Sanctuary
- 10:30 a.m. WorshipSanctuary
- 3:00 p.m. Joy Ringers RehearsalSession Room
- 5:00 p.m. High School Sunday School.....West Bldg.

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 14

- 6:00 p.m. Diaconate Meeting McLaurin Room

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 16

- 12:30 p.m. Preschool Staff Meeting McLaurin Room
- 7:00 p.m. Chancel Choir RehearsalChoir Room



Collecting shoeboxes for Operation Christmas Child is underway, and many of you have picked up shoeboxes to fill! If you haven't gotten a shoebox (or two) yet, they are available outside both the front and rear doors of the Sanctuary and also

outside of the Church Office. **Please place filled shoeboxes in the Fellowship Hall no later than November 13th.**

This year our church has signed up to take groups of volunteers to the Processing Center in Charlotte where the boxes are checked for quality and then boxed up to be on their way. The dates are November 30th (Wednesday) from 1-5 and December 3rd (Saturday) from 2-6. Members of our church who have worked at the Processing Center in the past have had wonderful things to say about the experience! The sign-up sheets for these trips are outside the church office! Participants have to be registered, and you will be contacted to coordinate transportation.

If you don't want to shop yourself but want to participate, please put a check for \$25 in the Offering Plate or in the mail with Operation Christmas Child on the memo line, and one of the folk working on this project will shop on your behalf. This will cover both the contents and the shipping.

We are now able to find out where each of our boxes has gone. The label in your box has a QR code on it. You can scan the code with your cell phone and register online to receive notification of when and where your shoebox has been delivered. You can also pay the suggested \$10 shipping fee online.

Think about adding a picture of yourself and/or a note of greeting. This blesses the recipient. If you have any questions, you can contact Karen Ingram (803-983-6299) or Ashley Blum (803-847-4406).

Thank you for supporting this mission outreach of FPC. We encourage our entire church family to participate!

IT'S TIME TO SHOWER SHAW WITH GOODIES!

Requested items:

- Pre-packaged Cookies (small individual bags)
- Hot Cocoa Mix (individual packages)
- Candy Canes
- Chocolate Candy Kisses
- Individual bags of Popcorn (Bulk boxes are appreciated)

Please place your donations in the donation bin outside the Fellowship Hall. Deadline is Monday, December 12.

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

9 West Calhoun Street

Sumter, SC 29150

803-773-3814

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Sumter, SC
Permit #22

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CHILDREN'S NATIVITY

As we move into the holiday season, our next session of On the Move for Jesus will focus on the Nativity.

We will be learning about the Christmas story and be practicing for our Nativity program that is scheduled for Sunday, December 18, during morning worship.

We will meet:

- Sunday, November 13, 4:00-5:00 p.m.
- Sunday, November 20, 4:00-5:00 p.m.
- Sunday, December 5, 4:00-5:00 p.m.
- Sunday, December 11, 4:00-5:00 p.m.

If your child is interested in participating, please contact Ashley Blum (doodlebugblum@yahoo.com or 803-847-4406) by November 10.



JOYS AND CONCERNS

National Healthcare: Les Carpenter

Home: Wanda Casker,

Milo Abbott (grandson of Norma Abbott),

Robert Stage II (Son of Marta Stage)

CHRISTIAN SYMPATHY is extended to . . .

- . . . the family of Edward Macdonald "Mac" DuBose, who died October 22;
- . . . the family of Elizabeth Williams, who died October 28.

FOCUS ON FINANCES

Two Weeks Beginning

October 16 & 23, 2022

	Received		2022 Budgeted
	<i>Two Weeks</i>	<i>YTD</i>	<i>YTD</i>
Revenue			
Contributions	\$ 20,514.	\$ 581,695.	\$ 557,586.
*Other Sources	<u>\$ 23,620.</u>	<u>\$ 95,362.</u>	<u>\$ 105,776.</u>
	\$ 44,134.	\$ 677,057.	\$ 663,362.

*Other Sources YTD includes \$77,458 from endowment funds Distributions and \$15,000 from remaining PPP funds held in reserve.