

FOCUS



The weekly newsletter of
FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
Sumter, South Carolina

November 16, 2021

Sunday, November 21 Christ the King/Commitment Sunday

"Committed and Thankful to the King!"

Psalm 37:1-7 Revelation 1:4-8

Anthem: The Chancel Choir will sing "Look at the World" by John Rutter.

Elders: Whit Shaw, Dan Spencer

Deacons: Chris Somheil, Kathy Lyons

Youth Liturgist: Anna Kate Coker

Junior Usher: Riley Coker

Children in Worship Teacher: Karen Ingram
Volunteer: Janice Stavrou

Youth Group

The youth will meet at 5:00 p.m. at the West Building for dinner, fellowship, and Bible Study. Senior High will dig into the study Reckless Love while the Middle school look at There's a Verse for That.

Sunday, November 28 First Sunday in Advent

"God's Time"

1 Thessalonians 3:9-13 Jeremiah 33:14-16

Anthem: John Michael Osteen will sing "For You, O Lord, My Soul in Stillness Waits/O Come, O Come, Emmanuel."

Elders: Ann Geddings, Glenn Woodrum

Deacons: John Michael Osteen, Jim Alexander

Youth Liturgist: Jennings Frerichs

Junior Usher: Stuart Ward

Children in Worship Teacher: Missy Coulter
Volunteer: Kelly Hickey

Youth Group

The youth will travel to Sumter United Ministries to assist with setting up a Christmas Toy Store. This amazing outreach will help Fatherhood Coalition. We hope you will come join us!

NATIVITY STORY

We currently have 7 families signed up to participate in the Nativity. The Nativity will be on Sunday, December 19, during the worship service. **If your child is interested in participating, please contact Kelly Hickey by November 21.**

Rehearsals will be held Sunday,

November 28, December 5, and December 12 from 4:00 – 5:00 pm. We will begin in the Fellowship Hall. In addition, we will have a dress rehearsal on Sunday, December 19 from 9:15 am to 10:15 am in the sanctuary. This will be our final rehearsal before leading worship at 10:30 am. Should you have any questions or need additional information, please contact Kelly Hickey.

Musicians for the Nativity Service

It's time to plan for our young musicians to share their Christmas pieces. If your child or youth would like to sing, play piano, or do an instrumental solo, please contact Joni at jonibrown@fpcsumter.org or call 803-773-3814.



From the desk of your Bridge Interim

Joel M. Long

"Thanksgiving Thoughts"

Where has the year gone? It's almost Thanksgiving!

Hopefully, you will read this article in time to add it to your pre-celebrations for Thanksgiving. One of the ways I have been making my preparation is by reading thanksgiving quotes.

Here are a few:

- When you love everything you have, you have everything you need.
- Thanksgiving wasn't meant to be a one-day event. It was meant to be a way of life.
- Thanksgiving is first **thanks** then **giving**.

I hope these thoughts will enable you to sharpen your thanksgiving focus.

My prayer is this...

Lord, help prepare our hearts to understand that real gratitude is accepting that **what we already have is enough**. Amen!

May the blessings of this Thanksgiving be enough to empower you to give of your time, talents, and resources.

Joel

FROM THE STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE CHAIR

Next Sunday, November 21, is Stewardship Sunday. It's our opportunity to "Re-open Our Faith" by presenting our financial commitment to the Lord's work in this place. First Presbyterian is a leader in the Christian

Community, centered right in downtown Sumter. Our purpose is "To know Christ and to make Him known by living faithfully, worshiping joyfully, and serving gladly." To continue our important work and witness, we need your commitment of time, talent, and treasure! Together, we can faithfully follow Jesus' commands to "love God and our neighbors". Please join us for worship this Sunday and bring your 2022 Commitment Card. Or mail it to the church.

Thank you for all you do for First Presbyterian Church!

Chuck Fienning, Elder

Chair of Stewardship Committee



DIRECTOR OF YOUTH MINISTRY

The Faith Formation Team in partnership with the Personnel Committee is currently seeking a part-time Director of Youth Ministry. The job description is posted on FPC's website under Announcements. If you know anyone who may be interested, we would greatly appreciate you asking them to contact Kelly Hickey.

SERVICE OF LESSONS & CAROLS

December 12 ~ 10:30 a.m.

In the Sanctuary

UPCOMING EVENTS

- SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 21 ~ Commitment Sunday**
 9:30 a.m. Chancel Choir Sanctuary
 9:30 a.m. Sunday School
 10:30 a.m. Worship Sanctuary
 11:30 a.m. Advent Workshop & Catered Box Lunch
 (Reservations required)
 5:00 p.m. Youth Group West Bldg.
- MONDAY, NOVEMBER 22**
 10:00 a.m. Staff Meeting Parlor
 6:00 p.m. Session Meeting Fellowship Hall
- THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 25 ~ Happy Thanksgiving!**
- FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 26 ~ Church Office Closed**
- SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 28**
 9:30 a.m. Chancel Choir Sanctuary
 9:30 a.m. Sunday School
 10:30 a.m. Worship Sanctuary
 5:00 p.m. Youth Group (Service Project) .. West Bldg.
- MONDAY, NOVEMBER 29**
 10:00 a.m. Staff Meeting Parlor
- WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 1**
 5:45 p.m. Joy Ringers Sanctuary
 7:00 p.m. Chancel Choir Sanctuary



If you are looking for a convenient means of contributing to the church, Online Giving can be a great option for you. Online Giving is available on the church website or via text messaging and is easily accessed from your computer or mobile device. You are encouraged to try Online Giving and see if you like it.

Online giving can be accessed from the FPC website, fpcsumter.org (press the “Give” button), also from your mobile device (text FPCS to 73256). Follow the online instructions.

Why not give Online Giving a try? If you need assistance, our business manager will be happy to guide you through the short process. You can contact Neil Ross at neilross@fpcsumter.org or (803) 773-3814.

However you choose to give, whether online, by mail, or in person, please know that your gift is appreciated and vital to the ongoing ministry and outreach of First Presbyterian.

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, November 30.**

Angels are now available for pickup from the tables in the Fellowship Hall. When choosing an angel, please remember to sign the sheets provided. Wrapped gifts must be returned to the church no later than Wednesday, December 8. Please be sure to tape the angel to the top of the wrapped gift. Gift cards should be enclosed in a sealed Christmas card envelope with the angel taped to the top of the envelope. Please do NOT wrap gift cards as a present. There will be a special box in the Fellowship Hall for gift card envelopes.



Thank you to those who helped me during my accident. Thank you again!

Marilyn Jenkins

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CONGREGATIONAL CHRISTMAS CAROLING

Everyone is invited!
 Sunday, December 5
 5:00 – 6:30 pm

Pizza and dessert following at the West Building
 This is a wonderful way to share Christ's hope, peace, joy, and love with members of our church family.
 We hope many of you will come and join us.
 Please contact Kelly by November 28 to sign up.

YOUTH UGLY CHRISTMAS SWEATER CHRISTMAS PARTY & WHITE ELEPHANT GIFT EXCHANGE (NO MORE THAN \$10)

Sunday, December 12 from 5:00 pm – 6:30 pm
 West Building

All middle school and high school students are invited!

CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PARTY

All 3K – 5th grade students are invited!
 Sunday, December 19
 11:30 am – 1:00 pm

Join us at the West Building
 More info coming soon!

JOYS AND CONCERNS

Home: 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 Karen Montague on the death of her brother, Ricky Brunson, who died November 3.

FOCUS ON FINANCES

**Two Weeks Beginning
 October 31 & November 7, 2021**

	Received		2021 Budgeted
	Two Weeks	YTD	YTD
Revenue			
Contributions	\$ 45,335.	\$552,757.	\$530,218.
*Other Sources	\$ 6,149.	\$125,004.	\$144,338.
	\$ 51,484	\$677,761.	\$674,556.

**Other sources YTD includes \$67,000 from SBA PPP Loan Forgiveness and \$51,183 from endowment funds distributions to general fund.*