

FOCUS



The weekly newsletter of
FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
Sumter, South Carolina

November 17, 2020



I AM A CHURCH MEMBER (Part 5)

“Start children off on the way they should go, and even when they are old they will not turn from it.”
Proverbs 22:6

A recent Barna study revealed that 80% of young adults in the church share one very important commonality – they have parents who not only brought them to church, but who were also actively involved in its ministry. During the first months of my ministry at FPC, I had the pleasure of talking to John James, III. He shared a wonderful story about his father. John has fond memories of he and his dad waking up on Sunday mornings, both dressing up in their suits in order to get ready for church. They would often arrive early and volunteer as greeters. John remembers looking up at his father, holding on to his coat jacket as they welcomed people into the sanctuary with handshakes and smiles. During the service John would walk alongside his father as they passed the offering plates. Looking back on these experiences, John realized it was because of his parent’s devotion to God, Christ and the Church that he was committed as an adult and father of his own. Similarly, in addition to God’s calling, I also find myself as a pastor today because of my parent’s example. Their devotion to faith and the Church, as well as their commitment of bringing me along, instilled in me a desire to serve and play a part in Christ’s ministry.

Thom Rainer gives us yet another pledge focusing on the importance of parents in the journey of faith. The Bible shares the same story. It is filled with families who journeyed together doing the best they could to follow God. These families instilled in their children a commitment to faith that has lasted generation after generation. Parents, you have a very important vocation above all the others. It is to “start your children off in the way they should go” so that when they are your age, their faith still holds a prominent place in their lives. The Covid pandemic has provided a formidable obstacle to worship, but the Church is still alive. We are worshiping, we are praying, we are giving, we are serving, we are caring for others. Parents, I urge you to get back on course. Provide a scheduled time for you and your family to worship together and devote yourselves to the ministry of Christ. Even if you miss worship in-person or live online, you can join together over lunch and watch on YouTube, the website or Facebook. Help your children get back into the habit again.

Pledge #5: I will lead my family to be healthy church members.

I will lead my family to be good members of this church as well. We will pray together for our church. We will worship together in our church. We will serve together in our church. And we will ask Christ to help us fall deeper in love with this church because He gave His life for her. (Ephesians 6:4)

First Presbyterian, will you take this pledge?

Blessings,

Nick

WORSHIP MUSIC

November 22

Offertory Anthem: Bella Land, soprano soloist, will sing, “The Lord is My Light” by Oley Speaks. Denise Lynch will serve as guest organist.

November 29

Special music will be provided by Emmett Anglin, recorder and Hamilton Stoddard, organ

THORNWELL HOME FOR CHILDREN OFFERING ~ November 22

Because of the generous support of churches and individuals, Thornwell Home for Children has served children in residential care, educated children in their 2-year old kindergarten, kept children with their siblings, helped reunite children with their families, and helped place children into forever families. Thornwell also helps families with nowhere else to turn.

Each November, the Thornwell Thanksgiving Offering is received (nicknamed the “Turkey Offering” because of the turkey-themed offering cards Sunday school children use to save quarters for Thornwell). 100% of the money received from the turkey cards, along with designated gifts and loose offering on Thornwell Sunday are used to support the Thornwell Home for Children.

IN-PERSON WORSHIP CONTINUES

Please don’t forget to RSVP by going to our website (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. Please enter through the front doors on Main Street. Online services continue.

Council of Presbyterian Women will meet Monday, November 30, at 10:00 a.m. via Zoom. (Please note the dates published in the November Council Notes were incorrect for the December meetings.) Circles will meet as follows:

- #1 - Tuesday, December 1, at 12:30 via Zoom
Contact: Linda Brown
- #4 - Will not meet in December; Contact: Norma Abbott
- #6 - Wednesday, December 2, at 6:30 via Zoom
Contact: Ashley Blum
- #7 - Tuesday, December 8, 10:30 a.m. at Baker’s Sweets
Contact: Robin Thames
- #8 - Will not meet in December
Contact: Winnie Gee and Fran Kay
- #9 - Will not meet in December; Contact: Pam George



UPCOMING EVENTS

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 22

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

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 23 ~ Preschool Closed

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 24 ~ Preschool Closed

10:00 a.m. Staff Meeting Fellowship Hall

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 25 ~ Preschool Closed

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 26 ~ Happy Thanksgiving!

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 27 – Church Office/Preschool Closed

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 29

10:30 a.m. WorshipSanctuary

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 30

10:00 a.m. Council of Pres. Women (Zoom)
 6:00 p.m. Session Meeting..... Fellowship Hall
 6:00 p.m. Joy Ringers Ensemble Sanctuary

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 1

10:00 a.m. Staff Meeting Fellowship Hall
 12:30 p.m. Circle #1 (Zoom)

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 2

6:30 p.m. Circle #6 (Zoom)
 7:00 p.m. Chancel Choir (Zoom)



ANGELS FOR UNITED MINISTRIES

Angels will be available for pickup in the Fellowship Hall **beginning Monday, November 23**. Please stop by during church office hours and help brighten someone's Christmas. When you choose an angel, please remember to sign the sheets provided. **Wrapped gifts must be returned to the church no later than**

Wednesday, December 9. Please remember to tape the angel to the top of the 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 gifts cards as a present.**

CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PARTY (3K – 5th grade)



On Sunday, December 6, children (3K – 5th grade) are invited to join Ms. Kelly and friends for a Christmas Party in the Fellowship Hall. We will gather right after worship, from 11:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. During our time together, we will enjoy pizza and Christmas cookies, a craft and a white elephant gift exchange. Please be sure to bring a gift (no more than \$10.00) for the exchange. Reservations will be required by Wednesday, December 2. Should you have any questions, please contact Kelly.

CHRISTMAS CAROLING FOR CHILDREN, YOUTH AND FAMILIES

On Sunday, December 13, from 3:00 pm to 5:00 pm children, youth and their families are invited to go Christmas caroling. This is a wonderful way to share the Christmas spirit with some of our church family. Since we are still in the midst of the pandemic, we will not be able to ride the church bus. Therefore, we are asking if families would be willing to participate and drive to each location. If you and your family are interested, please contact Kelly or Taylor no later than December 6. This will allow time for us to coordinate how many members we can visit and put together a schedule.

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
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CHRISTMAS PIANISTS

It's time to plan for our young pianists to share their Christmas pieces with the congregation! Email the title and composer of the piece that your child would like to play at our Nativity service on December 20. Contact Joni at 803-773-3814 or jonibrown@fpcsumter.org.

SERVICE OF LESSONS & CAROLS

December 13 ~ 10:30 a.m.

The extraordinary story of the birth of Jesus Christ told through scripture and song.

JOYS AND CONCERNS

National Healthcare: Bill Scobee



Home: Max Goodson, Emmett Anglin,

Tiny Owens, Serena Davell (Marie Mills' Sister),
 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 Lisa Bratton on the death of her stepmother, Janis McCall, who died November 5.

CONGRATULATIONS to Montgomery (Williams) and Ecton Green on the birth of a son, Ecton Wills Green II, born in Nashville on November 11. Proud grandparents are Ted and Debby Williams.

FOCUS ON FINANCES

Two Weeks Beginning November 1 and 8, 2020

	Received		Budgeted
	<i>Two Weeks</i>	<i>YTD</i>	<i>YTD</i>
Revenue			
Contributions	\$27,753.	\$ 620,206.	\$ 720,605.
*Other Sources	\$ 0.	\$ 73,299.	\$ 124,111.
	\$27,753.	\$ 693,505.	\$ 844,716.

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