

FOCUS



The weekly newsletter of
FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
Sumter, South Carolina

December 15, 2020



December 20, 10:30 am – “LOVE”

Children’s Nativity (online worship only)

A special service of the nativity brought to you from the many homes of our young families.
Sit back and enjoy the show!

December 24, 5:00 pm – Christmas Eve

(online and outside in-person)

Bundle up and join us in the green space behind the church for a
candlelit service celebrating the birth of Jesus.

Please, come as you are and bring a chair.

Some chairs will be available for folks who are unable to bring their own.

WORSHIP MUSIC

December 20

The FPC String Trio will play “Hark! The Herald Angels Sing” and “Greensleeves.”

Sarah Alexander, piano soloist, will play “It Came Upon the Midnight Clear/Silent Night” by Phillip Keveren.

JOY OFFERING TO BE RECEIVED

The Joy Gift Offering is received each year during the Advent season in gratitude for God’s gift of Jesus Christ.

Monies given are allocated to two causes:

- Assistance programs to meet identified and emerging needs for professional church workers and spouses through the Board of Pensions, 50 percent.
- Racial ethnic education and leadership development through Racial Ethnic and Women’s Ministries, 50 percent.

Please mail your checks to First Presbyterian Church, 9 W. Calhoun Street, Sumter, SC, make payable to First Presbyterian Church and write Joy Gift on the Memo line

December 24

The FPC Singers, featuring Bella Land as soloist, will sing *Wonderful Peace* by Gustaf Nordquist.

Michelle Blassengale, soprano soloist, will also sing *O Holy Night*.

PLEASE NOTE . . .

Focus will not be published the weeks of December 21 and 29. The next Focus will be published January 5. Please submit any information to be included in the next Focus to Shirley (shirley@fpcsumter.org) no later than 9:00 a.m. Monday, January 4.

Dear Church Family,

I would like to share with you a devotional that Mr. Charlie Denny shared with the Discovery Sunday School class last week via ZOOM. It is from a 2016 *These Days* devotional written by Kelly Higgins. I feel these words of wisdom should be shared.

Everyday Life in God’s Presence
WHEREVER YOU GO, THERE I AM

“Be still, and know that I am God!”

Psalm 46:10

“Dear Child of Mine,

I am a God who loves you. Rest in me today. You have been running from one task to another, putting one foot in front of the other, doing what needs to be done, so much so that you have forgotten I am here.

You worry away, living either in the past or far away in the future. Stop. Hear me when I tell you that whatever is going on in your life, we can handle it together. I am with you and will watch over you wherever you go. Trust me. There is purpose and value in each day of your life, in each season of your life.

I love you and never let go of your hand.
God”

As we prepare for Christmas, may we remember that God is with us, watching over us and always holding our hand. What an amazing gift!

Much love,

Kelly Hickey

UPCOMING EVENTS

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 20

10:30 a.m. Worship (Online)

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 22

10:00 a.m. Staff Meeting Fellowship Hall
6:00 p.m. Joy Ringers EnsembleSanctuary

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 24

5:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Service.....
..... Green Space and On-Line

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 27

10:30 a.m. Worship (Online)

SUNDAY, JANUARY 3

10:30 a.m. Worship (Online)



In observance of Christmas and New Years, please note our holiday office hours:

- December 24 ~ Open 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.
- December 25 and 28 ~ Closed
- December 29 ~ Open 9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.
- December 30 ~ Open 9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.
- December 31 ~ Open 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p. m.
- January 1 ~ Closed
- January 4 ~ Normal office hours resume.

Please remember all end-of-year pledges and gifts must be turned in or postmarked by December 31, 2020, in order to be counted as a 2020 contribution.

The Council of Presbyterian Women will meet Monday, January 4, at 10:00 a.m. with a Zoom meeting.



Circles will meet as follows:

- #1 - Tuesday, January 5, with a Zoom meeting at 12:30 p.m.
Contact: Linda Brown
- #4 - Will not meet in January
Contact: Norma Abbott
- #6 - Wednesday, January 7, with a Zoom meeting at 6:30 p.m. Contact: Ashley Blum
- #7 - Tuesday, January 12 at 10:00 a.m. at Baker's Sweets
Contact: Robin Thames
- #8 - Will not meet in January
Contact: Winnie Gee and Fran Kay
- #9 - Will not meet in January
Contact: Pam George



Thank you for supporting our music ministry in the presentation of our 45th annual Service of Lessons and Carols. During uncertain and stressful times, we met multiple challenges as we planned intentional and meaningful

worship elements.

Thanks to:

Our fearless and faithful organist, Hamilton Stoddard for weeks of intense rehearsals.

Our vocalists and instrumentalists for offering their musical talents to the glory of God.

Our readers who presented the Christmas story so well.

Ike Jenkins and Kenny Jordan for their expertise as our sound technicians.

Nick and our church staff for tireless work behind the scenes.

The members of the Worship and Sacraments Committee for the beautiful decorations.

Love in Christ,
Joni

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Please notify USPS if you don't receive it in a timely manner.

JOYS AND CONCERNS



McLeod (Florence): John Dickey

Home: David McInnis, Sr., David R. Brown, Bill Scobee, Max Goodson, 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 . . .

- . . . Laura Brogdon on the death of her mother, Margarete Sholar Troutman Iseman, who died November 28;
- . . . the family of Hubert Osteen, who died December 13.

CONGRATULATIONS TO . . .

- . . . Jessica and Joe Bettinger on the birth of a daughter, Vivian Ruth Bettinger, born December 7. Proud big sister and brother are Gwen and Sebastian.
- . . . Ivy Edwards on receiving the National Girl Scout Medal of Honor Award.

FOCUS ON FINANCES

**Two Weeks Beginning
November 29 and December 6, 2020**

	Received		Budgeted
	Two Weeks	YTD	YTD
Revenue			
Contributions	\$21,897.	\$ 642,103.	\$ 753,768.
*Other Sources	\$ 2,260.	\$ 75,559.	\$ 128,010.
	\$24,157.	\$ 717,662.	\$ 881,778.

*YTD includes Endowments, Church Event Fees, etc.

FROM THE BUSINESS MANAGER

If you have not yet done so, please take a moment to prayerfully consider what God puts on your heart to give in the new year. Please turn in your pledge card that was recently mailed to you. If you need a pledge card or have questions, please contact our Business Manager at 803-773-3814 or neilross@fpcsumter.org. We are thankful to you for generously giving and sharing so that we can be the Church that "Welcomes All, Cares for All, and Reaches Out to a World in Need."