

FOCUS



The weekly newsletter of
FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
Sumter, South Carolina

December 18, 2018

Sunday, December 23, 2018

9:00 a.m. ~ "Care and Prayer" (Parlor)

9:30 a.m. ~ Sunday School
(No Classes for Children and Youth)

10:30 a.m. ~ Worship (Sanctuary)
Children's Nativity
Communion

The Youth Bells will play *O Come, O Come Emmanuel*.

The Children's Choir will sing
Come with Us to Bethlehem
arranged by William McNair.

Mallory Bouknecht will sing *Rose of Bethlehem*
as the offertory anthem.

Special piano music will be provided by
Edmunds Dubose and Kayleigh Jordan.



JOY OFFERING TO BE RECEIVED THIS SUNDAY

The Christmas Joy Offering, received during the Advent season is in gratitude for God's gift of Jesus Christ. Causes:

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

ELDERS GREETING AT WORSHIP

Glenn Woodrum, Scott Williams

ELDER LEADING SUNDAY MORNING PRAYERS

Anne Abbott

ELDER IN CHARGE OF VISITING (December 23-29)

Anne Abbott

WORSHIP AT HOME (December 23-29)

Will Fort, Kimberly Fort

TELLER

Ollie James, Randa Carole DuBose

USHER

Kimberly White, Kenny Jordan

CHURCH HOUR EXTENDED CARE

Nursery – Markita Gadson, Lameshia Dennis

2, 3, 4 & 5 Yr. Olds – Samantha Haxton,
Thomas & Bronwyn McElveen

PLEASE NOTE . . .

Focus will not be published next week.

Please submit any information to be included in the next Focus to Shirley (swood@fpcsumter.org) no later than Friday, December 28, by 9:00 a.m.



A NOTE OF THANKS

Thank you for an overwhelming and enthusiastic response to our Service of Lessons and Carols.

The music ministry presents this service each year as a gift to our congregation and community. We hope that some small portion of the music might gladden a heart or comfort a person in distress. Be assured that much prayer and thought goes into every lesson to make sure each carol or anthem enhances the scripture passage, taking to another level.

Thanks to:

- The Chancel Choir and Hamilton Stoddard for weeks of intense rehearsals.
- Our guest vocalists and instrumentalists for adding to the beauty of each piece.
- Nick and Ashley for coordinating the readings and other aspects of worship.
- Our readers who presented the Christmas story so well.
- Ike Jenkins for his expertise as our sound technician.
- Our church staff for tireless work behind the scenes.

Love in Christ,

Joni

Monday, December 24
Christmas Eve Candlelight
Communion Service

5:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary

The FPC Brass Ensemble will provide prelude music and will accompany hymns. The Chancel Choir, featuring Bella Land as soloist, will sing *Wonderful Peace*. Michelle Blassengale will sing *O Holy Night* as the communion anthem.

Sunday, December 30

No Sunday School for Children and Youth
10:30 a.m. ~ Worship in the Sanctuary

Sunday, January 6

10:30 a.m. ~ Ordination and Installation
of Officers
5:00 p.m. ~ Chili Cook-Off

Circle #8 will meet Wednesday, January 2, at 3:00 p.m. at Covenant Place. Co-chairs are Winnie Gee and Fran Kay.





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

- December 24, 25 and 26 ~ Closed
- December 27 and 28 ~ Open 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.
- December 31 ~ Open 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p. m.
- January 1 ~ Closed
- January 2 ~ Normal office hours resume.

Please remember all end-of-year pledges and gifts must be turned in or postmarked by December 31, 2018, in order to be counted as a 2018 contribution.

29TH ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL RETREAT



March 1-3, 2019

Myrtle Beach Marriott Resort at Grande Dunes

We will spend time together thinking about the importance of working together as well as gifts and challenges that come when life and ministry connect. Reflecting on biblical texts, missional models of church and life experiences, we will leave feeling renewed in our fellowship and committed to carry out the mission of the church. Registration forms are on the table outside the church office or you can sign up online at www.fpcsumter.org.

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN'S RETREAT

January 12, 2019

9:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall

“Angels Unawares: A Journey into Gracious Hospitality”

The Rev. Dr. Lisa Culpepper will be the guest speaker for the annual PW Retreat on January 12. Please contact Linda Hogon (lhogon03@yahoo.com, or call 803-840-7671 or 803-775-4167) to register. Lunch will be served and a nursery will be provided.



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
9 West Calhoun Street
Sumter, SC 29150
(803) 773-3814

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Sumter, SC
Permit #22

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 30, 2018

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Glenn Woodrum, Scott Williams

ELDER LEADING SUNDAY MORNING PRAYERS

Mandy Blankenship

ELDER IN CHARGE OF VISITING (Dec. 30 – Jan. 5)

Mandy Blankenship

WORSHIP AT HOME (Dec. 30-Jan. 5)

Gus Blum, Matt Blankenship

TELLER

Kimberly White, Matt Blankenship

USHER

Ollie James, Susanne Dwight

JUNIOR USHER

Alex Lucas, Nicholas White

YOUTH LITURGIST

Sarah Margaret Branham

CHURCH HOUR EXTENDED CARE

Nursery – Markita Gadson, Lameshia Dennis

2, 3, 4 & 5 Yr. Olds – Samantha Haxton,

Laura Brogdon

JOYS AND CONCERNS



Home: Sarah Tindal,
Windy Corbett, Judy Mey,
David R. Brown,

Betsy Lynch, Ernie McDowell,
Elizabeth Williams (Barney W. Williams' Daughter),
Michael Moore (Son of Julian and Lois Moore),
Laura McIntosh (Sherri Redmond's Daughter-in-law)

Richland: Patricia Martin (Ruth Pierson's Sister)

Rebound Behavioral Center (Lancaster):
Victoria Shreve (Ann Shreve's granddaughter)

CONGRATULATIONS to Glenn and Gloria Coker who will be celebrating their 53rd wedding anniversary on December 23.

CHRISTIAN SYMPATHY is extended to:

- ... Debbie Williams on the death of her brother, Morris “Jackie” Ford, who died December 14;
- ... the family of Joe Kuhlmann who died December 16.

FOCUS ON FINANCES

Week Beginning December 9, 2018

	Received		Budgeted
	<i>This Week</i>	<i>YTD</i>	<i>YTD</i>
Revenue			
Contributions	\$ 19,504.	\$ 747,390.	\$761,096.
*Other Sources	\$ 50.	\$ 105,549.	\$127,924.
	\$ 19,554.	\$ 852,938.	\$889,020.

*Endowments, Church Event Fees, etc.