

FOCUS



The weekly newsletter of
FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
Sumter, South Carolina

December 28, 2021

Sunday, January 2

Mary McCutchen Ramirez will be our guest pastor.

Offertory Anthem: Emmett Anglin, recorder soloist, will play "Greensleeves to a Ground."

Elders: Jack Osteen, Whit Shaw

Assisting in Worship: Caron DuRant

Deacons: Matthew Berger, Gary Bratton

Youth Liturgist: Madison White

Junior Usher: Charlie Coulter

Children in Worship: Teachers: Ashley Blum & Caron DuRant
Volunteer: Kim Fort

Sunday, January 9

Offertory Anthem: Chancel Choir will sing, "I Will Rejoice" by G. P. Telemann.

Elders: Dan Spencer, Kay Smith

Assisting in Worship: Linda Hogon

Deacons: Charlie White, Kimberly Land

Youth Liturgist: Ellis Coker

Junior Usher: Stuart Ward

Children in Worship Teacher: Karen Ingram
Volunteer: Kayleigh Jordan



Children's Nativity

Tentative Date

Sunday, January 9 at 3:30 pm
(4k – 5th Grade)

The Nativity is tentatively rescheduled for Sunday January 9 at 3:30 pm in the sanctuary. Please note we will have a

two-hour rehearsal before leading this special service. Children will need to arrive at 1:30 pm. We will begin in the Fellowship Hall. Any questions, please contact Kelly Hickey.

Tentative Children's Christmas Party

All 3K – 5th grade students are invited!

Sunday, January 9 ~ 4:00 pm – 4:45 pm

Immediately following the Nativity, children are invited to join Ms. Kelly and friends in the Fellowship Hall for Christmas games, decorating Christmas cookies and more! We hope you will make plans to join us. Contact Kelly Hickey for more information.

*You are invited
to a Reception to Welcome
Our New Interim Pastor
Reverend Bob Brearley*

*January 9, 2022
In the Fellowship Hall
Immediately following
Morning Worship*

From the desk of your Bridge Interim

"A Belief"

First Presbyterian, whether your mission is entrusted to your new Interim Pastor or your next Installed Pastor, here's a **belief** worthy of your discipleship:



"CHRIST IS LORD OF THE NEW!"

Like it or not, the "new" will forever be a part of FPC's journey. Therefore, I encourage you to set your mind on the **NEW** things of God. Here are a few that promise to be a part of your experience in the New Year to come:

- Anyone in Christ is a **new** creation.
- Sing to the Lord a **new** song.
- Behold, I (God) make all things **new**.
- A **new** command I give you...Love one another!
- I (God) will make a **new** covenant.
- I (God) am doing a **new** thing.

Let me encourage you to be a church that embraces the **NEW!** More to the point, let me courage you to embrace the belief that **CHRIST IS THE LORD OF THE NEW!**

I thank God for your opportunities to celebrate the **new** things the **new** year will bring!

Please welcome the Rev. Bob Brearley, your new interim, with the same love you gave to me.

It was my joy to serve as your Bridge Interim Pastor!

Joel

CONFIRMATION ORIENTATION

On Sunday, January 9, all 6th – 9th grade students and their parents are strongly encouraged to join FPC's Confirmation Orientation beginning at 5:30 pm in the West Building. Any questions please contact Kelly Hickey.

YOUTH MINISTRY NEWS

Beginning January 9, 2022, Sunday school will take place from 4:30 – 5:00 pm in the West Building for all middle school and high school youth. Youth Group will begin at 5:00 pm with dinner and end at 6:30 pm. Should you have any questions, please contact Kelly Hickey.

MORNING FELLOWSHIP TO RESUME JANUARY 9

First Presbyterian is excited to announce that Morning Fellowship is resuming on a regular basis January 9. Biscuits and coffee will be available in the Fellowship Hall between the Sunday school hour and the worship service.

Volunteers are needed to set up at 9:45 a.m. and clean up. We would like to have volunteers scheduled once a quarter. Please contact Kay Smith (803-491-8241 or kwsmith0925@yahoo.com) or Shirley in the office (shirley@fpcsumter.org or 803-773-3814) if you would be willing to help.

UPCOMING EVENTS

SUNDAY, JANUARY 2

- 9:30 a.m. Sunday School
- 9:50 a.m. Chancel Choir.....Sanctuary
- 10:30 a.m. WorshipSanctuary

MONDAY, JANUARY 3 ~ Church Office Closed

- 10:00 a.m. Presbyterian Women’s Council.....
..... McLaurin Room

TUESDAY, JANUARY 4

Circles ~ See Schedule Below

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 5

- 6:00 p.m. Chancel Choir.....Sanctuary

SUNDAY, JANUARY 9

- 9:30 a.m. Sunday School
- 9:30 a.m. Chancel Choir.....Sanctuary
- 10:30 a.m. WorshipSanctuary
- 11:30 a.m. Reception to Welcome Rev. Brearley
..... Fellowship Hall
- 1:30 p.m. Nativity Rehearsal Fellowship Hall
- 3:30 p.m. Children’s Nativity ServiceSanctuary

MONDAY, JANUARY 10

- 6:00 p.m. Deacon’s Meeting McLaurin Room

TUESDAY, JANUARY 11

- 4:00 p.m. Music & Worship Parlor

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 12

- 6:00 p.m. Faith Formation Parlor
- 6:00 p.m. Chancel Choir.....Sanctuary
- 7:30 p.m. Joy Ringers..... Fellowship Hall

The Council of Presbyterian Women will meet Monday, January 3, at 10:00 a.m.

Circles will meet as follows:

- #1 -Tuesday, January 4, in the Fellowship Hall at 12:30 p.m.
Contact: Linda Brown
- #4 -Tuesday, January 4, in the McLaurin Room at 10:00 a.m. Contact: Norma Abbott
- #6 -Wednesday, January 5, in the West Building at 6:30 p.m.
Contact: Ashley Blum
- #7 -Wednesday, January 5, at the West Building at 9:00 a.m.
Contact: Robin Thames
- #8 -Wednesday, January 5, at Covenant Place at 3:00 p.m.
Contact: Winnie Gee and Fran Kay
- #9 -Tuesday, January 4, at the home of Sibbie McFaddin, 321 W. Calhoun Street at 3:00 p.m.
Contact: Pam George



SIX-WEEK ADULT BIBLE STUDY

The Nehemiah Code: It’s Never Too Late for a New Beginning by O. S. Hawkins

Beginning Sunday, January 16, Adelaide Spencer will lead a six-week Bible Study - The Nehemiah Code: It’s Never Too Late for a New Beginning. This study will meet each Sunday in the Chapel from 4:00 - 5:00 pm. **If you are interested in joining this study, please contact Kelly Hickey by January 9.** The cost for the study material is \$15. Please make checks payable to First Presbyterian Church and earmark it The Nehemiah Study. Childcare will be available upon request.

SOUPER BOWL OF CARING

In 1990, Souper Bowl of Caring began with a simple prayer from a single youth group: **“Lord, even as we enjoy the Super Bowl football game, help us be mindful of those without a bowl of soup to eat.”** Since then, more than \$170 million has been generated for local charities across the country through Souper Bowl of Caring. Through this mission, First Presbyterian Church Sumter continues to make a positive difference in this world. This year we will be collecting pouch drinks (Capri Suns/Kool Aid Jammers) for Backpack Blessings along with monetary donations. All pouch drinks should be placed in the bin marked Souper Bowl of Caring outside the church office. Any monetary donation can be sent to the church office earmarked “Souper Bowl of Caring” or placed in Soup Pots marked Souper Bowl of Caring on Sunday, February 13 before or after worship. Any questions, please contact Kelly Hickey.

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
9 West Calhoun Street
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M&M MINISTRY (Mission Minds)
A Ministry for 1st – 5th grade

Beginning January 16, elementary students are invited to join Ms. Kelly and friends for Mission Minds. We will meet on the third Sunday of each month (January – May) engaging in outreach ministries and service projects. We will meet from 2:00 pm – 4:00 pm to travel to a certain destination to complete our mission for that day. More information will be coming soon.

ON THE MOVE FOR JESUS

Preschool and Elementary Ministry

Beginning Sunday, January 16, children, 3K – 5th grade, are encouraged to join Ms. Kelly, Ms. Jessica, and friends from 4:00 – 5:00 pm to learn more about the Bible, learn memory verses and sing in the Children’s Choir. We will begin in the Fellowship Hall each week. This ministry will meet January 16 through February 20, 2022, and then again from March 20 through May 1, 2022. During March – May, the children will be working on plans to lead worship on Children’s Sunday, May 8, 2022. Please be sure to mark your calendars. Should you have any questions please contact Kelly Hickey.

JOYS AND CONCERNS

St. Jude: Elizabeth Williams
(Daughter of Barney W. Williams)
Home: Suzanna Foley, Bill Scobee,
Tom Tindal (John Tindal’s Brother),
Robert Stage II (Son of Marta Stage)



CONGRATULATIONS to Patricia and Ben Ingram on the birth of a daughter, Flora Gabriella Ingram, born on December 28 in Mons, Belgium. Proud big sister is Anna Maria Ingram and proud grandparents are Karen and Jim Ingram.

FOCUS ON FINANCES

Two Weeks Beginning December 12 & 19, 2021

	Received		2021 Budgeted
	Two Weeks	YTD	YTD
Revenue			
Contributions	\$ 58,682.	\$674,505.	\$710,682.
*Other Sources	\$ 5.	\$125,137.	\$167,716.
	\$ 58,687.	\$799,642.	\$878,398.

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

Please remember all end-of-year pledges and gifts must be turned in or postmarked by December 31, 2021 in order to be counted as a 2021 contribution.