

FOCUS



The weekly newsletter of
FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
Sumter, South Carolina

December 3, 2019

Sunday, December 8, 2019

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

9:00 a.m. ~ Joy Ringers (Sanctuary)

9:30 a.m. ~ Sunday School (Classes for All Ages)

9:50 a.m. ~ Chancel Choir (Sanctuary)

10:30 a.m. ~ Worship (Sanctuary)

The Joy Ringers will provide special music for our service this Sunday. Introit: *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel* arranged by Kevin Bryant. Offertory: *Now We Sing of Christmas* arranged by Kevin McChesney.

11:40 a.m. ~ Youth Bells (Sanctuary)

11:40 a.m. ~ Children's Choir/Nativity Rehearsal (Sanctuary)

1:00 p.m. ~ Youth meet at the West Building to go Ice Skating and to Mellow Mushroom for pizza. \$20 covers skating and pizza.

ELDERS GREETING AT WORSHIP

Whit Shaw, John Moorman

ELDER LEADING SUNDAY MORNING PRAYERS

Whit Shaw

ELDER VISITATION (December 8-14)

Whit Shaw

DEACON VISITATION (December 9-15)

Elyn Croft, Carol Reese

TELLER & USHER

Gus Blum, Chris Somheil

JUNIOR USHER ~ Ellie Stutz, Elias Peyton

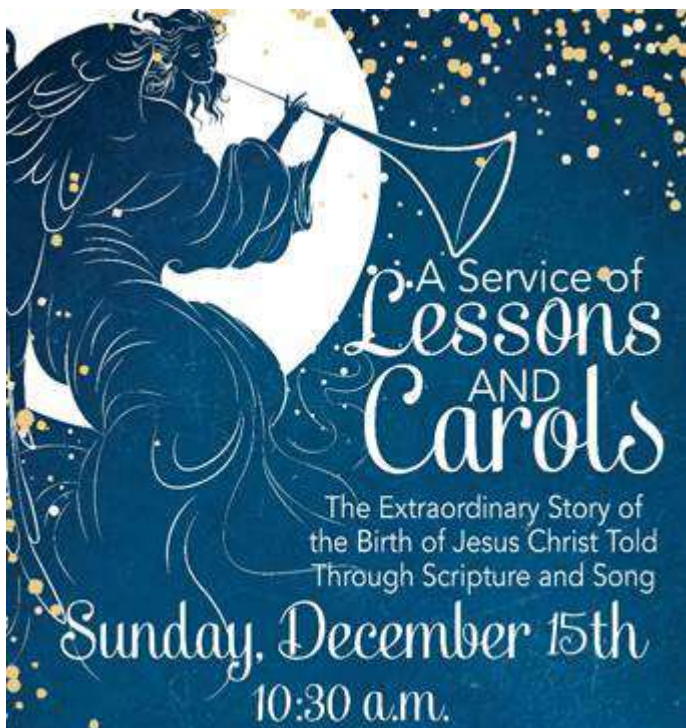
YOUTH LITURGIST ~ William Coulter

CHURCH HOUR EXTENDED CARE

Nursery (Ages 0-2K) – Markita Gadson,
Lameshia Dennis, Samantha Haxton

Children in Worship (Ages 3K-1st Grade)

Laura Brogdon



ADVENT

Advent is a time of longing. In the midst of a darkened world, we eagerly wait for the light of Christ to enter into our hearts and lives. As we wait, we are also invited and encouraged spend more time in devotion, prayer and meditation. If you are looking for a way to do so, come by the church and pick up one of the devotionals outside the office. Here is an expert from this past Monday's devotion:

Monday, December 2

Do not remember the former things, or consider the things of old. I am about to do a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it? I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert. — Isaiah 43:18–19

Who do you know who has lost hope? Maybe someone who was recently divorced or separated, or someone struggling as a single parent. Perhaps you know someone who is facing the holidays for the first time as a widow or widower. For those who have lost a loved one, this can be the most difficult season of the year to endure. How can you bring hope to the downhearted? Human beings are relational by nature, and hope is strengthened or weakened by our interaction with others. We find hope in abundance when we give hope to those who have felt no arms around them, who are thirsty for the human milk of kindness, and who ache to see the face and hear the voice of someone who cares. Where you bring hope, you bring Christ.

Prayer: Jesus, we know that faith without works is dead. Through our simple actions, grow our hearts and the hearts of those we serve. Magnify our joy and the joy of those we care for. Renew our hope as we bring hope to others. Amen.



NATIVITY STORY

We have two more rehearsals scheduled:

Sunday, December 8 and 15 in the Sanctuary!

We will rehearse from 11:40 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. Please note we will have a **dress rehearsal on Sunday, December 22, from 9:15 a.m. to 10:15 a.m.** in the Sanctuary. This will be our final rehearsal before leading worship at 10:30 a.m. Please contact Kelly Hickey with any questions or if you need additional information.

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR CHURCH OFFICERS BEING RECEIVED

The Church Officer Nominating Committee invites recommendations for Elders and Deacons from the congregation. Your input is vital. Please submit your recommendations by December 15. Forms can be found in the pew racks or the table outside the church office.

UPCOMING EVENTS

MONDAY, DECEMBER 9

6:30 p.m. Boy Scouts..... Scout Hut
 6:30 p.m. Cub Scouts..... West Building

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 10

10:00 a.m. Staff MeetingParlor
 11:30 a.m. Pastor’s Lunch/Visitation Covenant Place

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 11

7:00 p.m. Joy Ringers Sanctuary
 7:00 p.m. Chancel Choir Sanctuary

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 15

9:00 a.m. Care and PrayerParlor
 9:15 a.m. Chancel Choir Sanctuary
 9:30 a.m. Sunday School ~ Classes for All Ages
 9:50 a.m. Chancel Choir Sanctuary
 10:30 a.m. Worship Sanctuary
 11:40 a.m. Children’s Choir Children’s Music Room
 11:40 a.m. Youth Bells Session Room
 6:00 p.m. Youth Group Study Break 129 Church St.

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

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This publication was delivered to USPS on 12/3//2019.
 Please notify USPS if you don’t receive it in a timely manner.

**IT’S NOT TOO LATE
 TO GET AN ANGEL!**

Angels are still available on the tables in the Fellowship Hall. Please stop by and pick one up today and help brighten someone’s Christmas! When you choose an angel, please remember to sign the sheets provided. Gifts must be returned to the church no later than Wednesday, December 11. Please be sure to tape the angel to the top of the package.



FPC PARENT’S NIGHT OUT
Friday, December 6
6:00 to 10:00 p.m.

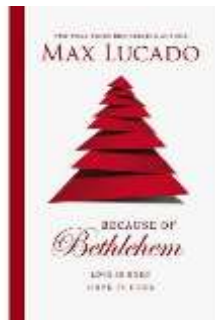
We are excited and can’t wait for the children to arrive! **For everyone who signed up**, please be sure to drop off your children in the West Building. We also want to remind you to encourage your children to wear their pajamas and to bring their pillow and blanket. It’s going to be a fun night!

**CHILDREN’S SUNDAY SCHOOL,
 CONGREGATIONAL BRUNCH & WORSHIP**
December 29

Children (3K-5th grade) will meet in the Fellowship Hall on December 29, from 9:30 until 10:15 a.m. for a time of fun and fellowship with Taylor and friends, right before FPC’s first Worship and Brunch.
At 10:30 everyone will gather in the Fellowship Hall for a casual time of brunch and worship.

**HARMONY CLASS
 BEGINS NEW STUDY**

For the four weeks of Advent, the Harmony Class will be watching the video series by Max Lucado—Because of Bethlehem. The study turns our hearts during this busy season back to the God who allows us to see Him even in the face of his infant Son, through the worship of angels and shepherds, and through the wisdom that draws every heart. Please join us.



**SAVE THE DATE!
 CHILI COOK OFF**
Sunday, January 26

JOYS AND CONCERNS

Home: Christine Strickland,
 Caroline Sigmon



CONGRATULATIONS to Macky (Dailey) and Joe Vellon on the birth of a daughter, Nell Winslow Vellon, who was born November 29. Proud grandparents are Dee and Dee Dailey.

PLEASE NOTE . . .

Focus will not be published the weeks of December 23 and 30. Please plan ahead and submit any information to be included in the Focus the weeks of December 9 and 16 as soon as possible.

FOCUS ON FINANCES

Two Weeks Beginning November 17 & 24, 2019

	Received		Budgeted
	Two Weeks	YTD	YTD
Revenue			
Contributions	\$ 29,838.	\$ 663,810	\$ 701,754
*Other Sources	<u>\$ 3,679.</u>	<u>\$ 79,876.</u>	<u>\$ 128,645.</u>
	\$ 33,517.	\$ 743,686.	\$ 830,400.

*Endowments, Church Event Fees, etc.

**30TH ANNUAL
 CONGREGATIONAL RETREAT**

March 6-8, 2020

Guest Speaker: Rev. Dr. Chris Denny

Myrtle Beach Marriott
 Resort at Grande Dunes



Come join us as we rekindle . . .

- ❖ The Fire of Faith
- ❖ Our Commitment to God and One Another
- ❖ Our Mission of Proclaiming the Good News Jesus Christ
- ❖ And the Fire of Being Different

Enjoy a peaceful getaway at Myrtle Beach Marriott Resort at Grand Dunes. Registration forms are available on the table outside the Church Office. Don’t miss this wonderful time of fellowship!