

# FOCUS



The weekly newsletter of  
**FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**  
Sumter, South Carolina

December 4, 2018

## **Sunday, December 9, 2018**

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

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

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

9:30 a.m. ~ Sunday School (Classes for all ages.)

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

The Joy Ringers will provide special music for our service this Sunday.

Introit: *In the Bleak Midwinter* by Cathy Marker

Offertory: *Ukrainian Bell Carol Fantasy* by Cynthia Dobrinski

11:40 a.m. ~ Children's Choir (Children's Music Room)

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

Christmas caroling is here! Youth group will meet at 5:00 p.m. at the West Building as they set out to carol their way around town! Dress warm!

We will be back at the West Building at 7:30 p.m.

### **ELDERS GREETING AT WORSHIP**

Dave McInnis, Dan Spencer

### **ELDER LEADING SUNDAY MORNING PRAYERS**

Scott Williams

### **ELDER IN CHARGE OF VISITING (December 9-15)**

Scott Williams

### **WORSHIP AT HOME (December 9-15)**

Kenny Jordan, Ollie James

### **TELLER**

Lauren Decker, Liza Cooper

### **USHER**

Gus Blum, Will Fort

### **JUNIOR USHER**

Emma Grace Freeman, Madelynn Davis

### **YOUTH LITURGIST**

Kayleigh Jordan

### **CHURCH HOUR EXTENDED CARE**

Nursery – Markita Gadson, Lameshia Dennis

2, 3, 4 & 5 Yr. Olds – Samantha Haxton,  
Mayes & Randa Carole DuBose

### **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 12. Please be sure to tape the angel to the top of the package.



### **STAY AWAKE TO HOPE**

Towards the end of my sermon last Sunday I shared excerpts from the poem, "Awake My Soul and With The Sun", written by 17<sup>th</sup> century author Thomas Ken. The poem begs us to open our eyes and hearts to the presence of Christ among us this season. In the midst of the business of Christmas it is far too easy for our peace to get swallowed up by anxiety and worry. May these beautiful words center you today and help give you pause.

Awake, my soul, and with the sun  
Thy daily stage of duty run;  
Shake off dull sloth, and joyful rise  
To pay thy morning sacrifice.

Thy precious time misspent, redeem;  
Each present day thy last esteem,  
Improve thy talent with due care;  
For the Great Day thyself prepare.

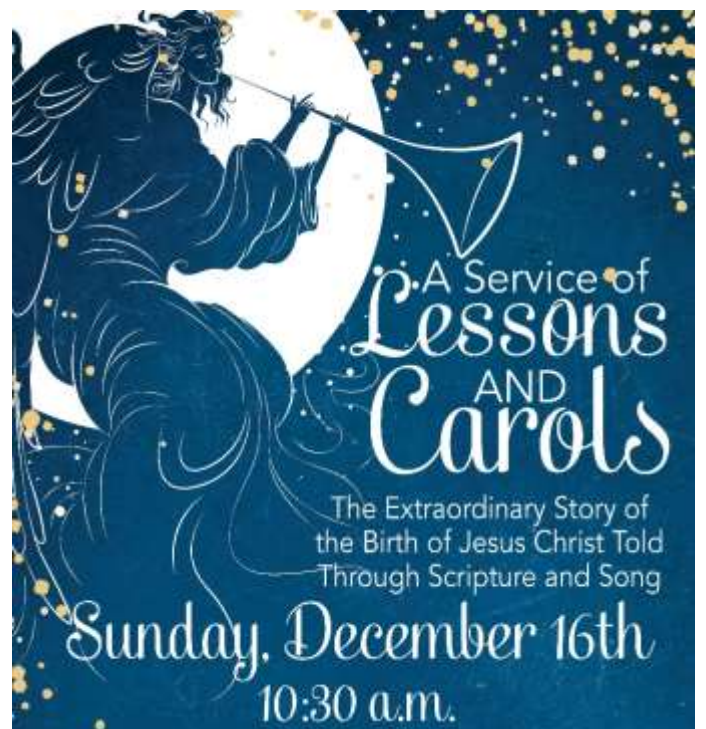
By influence of Light divine  
Let thine own light to others shine.  
Reflect all Heaven's propitious ways  
In ardent love, and cheerful praise.

In conversation be sincere;  
Keep conscience as the noontide clear;  
Think how all-seeing God thy ways  
And all thy secret thoughts surveys.

Wake, and lift up thyself, my heart,  
And with the angels bear thy part,  
Who all night long unwearied sing  
High praise to Christ the eternal King.

Blessings,

*Nick*



**UPCOMING EVENTS**

**TUESDAY, DECEMBER 11**

10:00 a.m. Staff Meeting .....Parlor  
 11:00 a.m. Worship & Music .....Parlor

**WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 12**

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

**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 16**

9:00 a.m. "Care and Prayer" .....Parlor  
 9:30 a.m. Sunday School (Classes for all ages)  
 9:30 a.m. Chancel Choir ..... Sanctuary  
 10:30 a.m. Service of Lessons & Carols..... Sanctuary

**29<sup>TH</sup> 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](http://www.fpcsumter.org).

**PRESCHOOL NEWS**

Please join us for our Christmas Program presented by our 2's through Kindergarten students on Tuesday, December 18, at 11:00 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall. Christmas Holidays will be Wednesday, December 19 through Wednesday, January 2. School will resume on Thursday, January 3. The Preschool & Kindergarten wishes everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!!!

**CHRISTMAS PARTY TIME**

The Middle School Youth Christmas Party will be Sunday, December 16, at 5:00 p.m. at the West Building. The High School Youth Christmas Party will be Sunday, December 16, at 5:00 p.m. at the home of the Cheek's (129 Church Street).

*Both groups are asked to bring a white elephant gift (\$5 maximum cost).*

**WORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES**

**Sunday, December 16**  
**10:30 a.m. in the Sanctuary**  
**Service of Lessons & Carols**

**Sunday, December 23**  
**No Children's Sunday School**  
**10:30 a.m. in the Sanctuary**  
**Worship Service with**  
**Children's Nativity and Communion**

**Monday, December 24**  
**5:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary**  
**Christmas Eve Candlelight**  
**Communion Service**

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

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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 your child would like to play at our Nativity service on December 23. Please contact Joni at [jonibrown@fpcsumter.org](mailto:jonibrown@fpcsumter.org) or call 803-773-3814.

**2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Families with Children Elf Christmas Party**



What is Christmas without Buddy, the elf? Grab your kids and come celebrate school officially being out for Christmas! It will be Wednesday, December 19, at 6:00 p.m. at the Cheeks (129 Church Street). Please RSVP to Ashley (704-604-1060 or [acheek@fpcsumter.org](mailto:acheek@fpcsumter.org)).



**JOYS AND CONCERNS**

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

Betty Crosby, Betsy Lynch, Ernie McDowell,  
 Elizabeth Williams (Barney W. Williams' Daughter),  
 Joe Kuhlmann, Gene Bratton (Gary Bratton's Father),  
 Michael Moore (Son of Julian and Lois Moore),  
 Anne Sabo (Kate Peyton's Mother),  
 Laura McIntosh (Sherri Redmond's Daughter-in-law)

**Richland:** Patricia Martin (Ruth Pierson's Sister)

The Sacrament of Baptism was administered to Daniel Alexander Whittington during worship Sunday. He is the son of Ashley and Alex Whittington.

**FOCUS ON FINANCES**

**Week Beginning November 25, 2018**

	Received		Budgeted
	<i>This Week</i>	<i>YTD</i>	<i>YTD</i>
<b>Revenue</b>			
Contributions	\$ 13,105.	\$ 682,797.	\$700,359.
*Other Sources	<u>\$ 1,750.</u>	<u>\$ 105,474.</u>	<u>\$127,726.</u>
	\$ 14,855.	\$ 788,271.	\$828,085.

*\*Endowments, Church Event Fees, etc.*

**SPECIAL REMINDERS:**

- Please complete your financial commitment for 2018 so we can finish strong financially this year.
- If you have not yet completed a pledge card for 2019, please take a moment to do so. If you choose, you may call or email your pledge to our Business Manager, Neil Ross at 803-773-3814 or [neilross@fpcsumter.org](mailto:neilross@fpcsumter.org).