

FOCUS



The weekly newsletter of
FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
Sumter, South Carolina

February 11, 2020

Sunday, February 16, 2020

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

9:00 a.m. ~ Youth Bells (Sanctuary)

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

9:30 a.m. ~ Chancel Choir (Sanctuary)

9:50 a.m. ~ Children's Bells (Sanctuary)

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

Prelude music and the chiming of the Trinity

Will be rung by the Youth Bells.

Our children will play "Call to Worship" on bells.

Offertory Anthem: The Chancel Choir will sing

Praise We Sing to Thee by F. J. Haydn.

5:15 p.m. ~ Youth will meet in the West Building for
Backpack Blessings

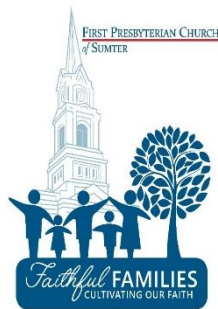
6:00 p.m. ~ Faithful Families

FAITHFUL FAMILIES Continues every Sunday Through March 1

6:00 p.m. ~ Dinner

6:30-7:30 p.m. ~ Classes for preschool,
elementary, youth and adults
(A nursery is provided at no cost.)

***Even if you are unable to attend all
four weeks, you are encouraged to
sign up and attend when you are able!***



Congregational Meeting



A congregational meeting has been called for Sunday, March 1, for the purpose of electing Church Officers to the Class of Class of 2023.



Dear Church Family:

I thought it might be fun to start the week off with a little humor. This is a story I ran across years ago. I hope you enjoy.

Grace and peace,
Kelly

The Pastor's Cat

One day a pastor noticed a stray kitten had climbed up a tree in his backyard and was afraid to come down. The pastor did everything he could to coax the cat down. He tried to offer it warm milk, food and more, yet, the kitten would not come down. The pastor realized the tree was not sturdy enough to climb, so he decided if he tied a rope to his car and pulled it until the tree bent down, he could reach up and get the kitten.

So that's what he did. As he checked his progress, he decided he could go a little bit further and the tree would be bent down far enough where he could reach the kitten. So, he moved the car a little further and the rope broke. The tree went 'boing!' and the kitten instantly sailed through the air - out of sight.

The pastor felt terrible. He walked all over the neighborhood asking people if they'd seen a little kitten. Unfortunately, no one had seen the stray kitten. So, the pastor prayed, 'Lord, I commit this kitten to your keeping,' and he went on about his business.

A few days later, he was at the grocery store and saw a church member. He happened to look into her shopping cart and was amazed to see cat food.

This woman despised cats and everyone knew it, so he asked her, 'Why are you buying cat food when you dislike cats so much?' She replied, 'You won't believe this,' and then told him how her little girl had been begging her for a cat, but she kept refusing.

Then a few days before, the child had begged again, so the Mom finally told her little girl, 'Well, if God gives you a cat, I'll let you keep it.'

She told the pastor, 'I watched my child go out in the yard, get on her knees, and ask God for a cat. And really, Pastor, you won't believe this, but I saw it with my own eyes. A kitten suddenly came flying out of the blue sky, with its paws outspread, and landed right in front of her.'

(Lesson: Never underestimate the Power of God and God's unique sense of humor.)

UPCOMING EVENTS

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 17

Presidents' Day ~ Church Office Closed

- 10:00 a.m. Prayer Shawl Ministry505 W. Calhoun St.
- 6:30 p.m. Boy Scouts..... Scout Hut
- 6:30 p.m. Cub Scouts..... West Building

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 18

- 10:00 a.m. Staff MeetingParlor
- 6:00 p.m. Executive CouncilParlor

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 19

- 10:30 a.m. Wonderful Wednesdays..... Temple Sinai
- 12:15 p.m. Preschool Staff MeetingMcLaurin Room
- 5:45 p.m. Joy Ringers Sanctuary
- 7:00 p.m. Chancel Choir Sanctuary

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 20

- 1:00 p.m. Quilting Class West Building

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 22

- 9:00 a.m. Women's Retreat West Building

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 23

- 9:00 a.m. Care and PrayerParlor
- 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
- 11:40 a.m. Children's Choir Children's Music Room
- 11:40 a.m. Youth Bells Sanctuary
- 6:00 p.m. Faithful Families

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 24

- 6:00 p.m. Session Meeting.....McLaurin Room
- 6:30 p.m. Boy Scouts..... Scout Hut
- 6:30 p.m. Cub Scouts..... West Building

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 25

- 10:00 a.m. Staff MeetingParlor

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 26

- 12:00 p.m. Drive Through Ashes
- 6:00 p.m. Ash Wednesday Service Sanctuary
- 7:00 p.m. Chancel Choir Sanctuary

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 27

- 1:00 p.m. Quilting Class West Building

Wonderful Wednesdays for the



On Wednesday, February 19, Wonderful Wednesdays will meet at 10:30 a.m. to enjoy a tour of the Jewish Museum and the Anne Frank exhibit at Temple Sinai (15 Church Street). The cost is \$2.00 per person which should be paid the day of the tour. At 12:00 p.m., we will travel to Shoney's for a Dutch lunch. In order to help plan, please **contact the church office by February 16 to make a reservation** or if you need transportation. Should you have any question or need additional information, please contact Lee Craig.



The Church Office and Preschool will be closed Monday, February 17, in observance of Presidents' Day.

ASH WEDNESDAY IS FEBRUARY 26



On Ash Wednesday, between 12:00 and 1:30 p.m., Pastor Nick will be administering ashes as individuals drive through the parking lot of FPC. This is an outreach for the community.

Please let your friends and co-workers know that this is for everyone, especially those who are unable to find time to make it to an Ash Wednesday service.

There will also be a traditional Ash Wednesday service in the Sanctuary that evening at 6:00 p.m.



PRESBYTERIAN YOUTH present

A Night in Little Italy
Spaghetti Dinner
Saturday, March 28
5:30 p.m. ~ 7:30 p.m.
\$10 (5 and Under Free)

Childcare available upon request.

On March 28, the youth will be hosting a spaghetti dinner in the Fellowship Hall. All proceeds will help defray the cost of the Senior High and Middle School Montreat Youth conferences this summer. We hope you take advantage of this wonderful opportunity to enjoy an elegant dinner while supporting the youth. **Please contact the church office by Sunday, March 22, to make reservations.**

PRESCHOOL REGISTRATION

Registration for the 2020-2021 school year will begin Monday, February 24, for all currently enrolled students, siblings, church members and grandchildren of church members. Open registration will begin Monday, March 2. Please contact the preschool office at 803-773-9027 for additional information.





PARENT'S NIGHT OUT

On, **Friday, April 3**, from 6:00 to 10:00 p.m., children, infant – 5th grade, are invited to enjoy pizza and snacks, as well as games, crafts, story time and a movie. The purpose of this event is to give parents a night to themselves.

Don't miss out on this wonderful ministry! **Please contact the church office by March 27 to sign up. If you do not sign up by the deadline, your child(ren) will not be able to participate.**

An Afternoon of Sacred Music

Sunday, March 15 ~ 3:00 p.m.

FPC Sanctuary

Sponsored by the

Woman's Afternoon Music Club



DISCOVERY CLASS

The Discovery Class invites any interested persons to join the class for one or all of the following studies:

March 1 - April 5

Lenten Study: Entering the Passion of Jesus by
Dr. A. J. Levine

April 19- June 21

Invitation to Psalms, a Disciple Bible study

June 28- August 30

A Great Course: "The Holy Land Revealed."
(Dr. Jodi Magness)

2020 CLARENDON, LEE AND SUMTER CLUSTER LENTEN LUNCHEONS

12:00 – 1:00 p.m.



February 26	Ebenezer Presbyterian 4620 Queen Chapel Rd.,	Ella Busby Dalzell
March 4	Second Presbyterian 1125 Old Pocalla Rd	Jody Foster
March 11	Friendship Presbyterian 10123 Black River Rd.,	Tommy Cooper New Zion
March 18	First Presbyterian 9 W. Calhoun St.	Carnell Hampton
March 25	Melina Presbyterian 3539 Black River Rd.,	Vikki Brogdon Gable
April 1	Swan Lake Pres. 912 Haynsworth St.	Franklin Colclough

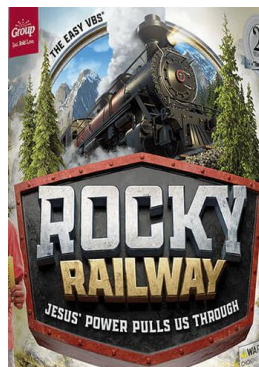
YOUTH GROUP

Sunday, February 16

Meet at 5:15 p.m. in the West Building for Backpack Blessings, which will be followed by Youth Group at 6:00.

Sunday, February 23

Meet at 4:45 to cook supper for Faithful Families. This will be followed by Youth Group at 6:00.



**2020 Vacation Bible School
June 22-26
Rising 5K-5th grade
(Rising 6th graders and older
are welcome to volunteer!)
More information
coming soon!**

JOYS AND CONCERNS

Home: Harold Nixon,
Charles King
(Greg King's Father)

Austin, TX: Robert Cain (George Cain's father)

St. Jude: Elizabeth Williams



CONGRATULATIONS to Mallory Bouknecht and Alex Beaton, who were married in the Sanctuary on February 8.

FOCUS ON FINANCES

Week Beginning February 2, 2020

	Received		Budgeted
	<i>This Week</i>	<i>YTD</i>	<i>YTD</i>
Revenue			
* Contributions	\$ 19,683.	\$ 94,486.	Pending
**Other Sources	\$ 25.	\$ 520.	Session
	\$ 19,708.	\$ 95,006.	Approval

**Includes \$30,660 pledges prepaid in 2019; carried over to 2020 revenue*

***Endowments, Church Event Fees, etc*

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
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Sumter, SC 29150
(803) 773-3814

Non-Profit
US, Postage Paid
Sumter, SC
Permit #22

This publication was delivered to USPS on 11/19/2019.
Please notify USPS if you don't receive it in a timely manner.

Please note that Focus will not be published the week of February 17.

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 16

ELDERS GREETING AT WORSHIP

John Dunn (JD), Wayne Hogon

ELDER LEADING SUNDAY MORNING PRAYERS

John Dunn (JD)

ELDER VISITATION (February 16-22)

John Dunn (JD)

DEACON VISITATION (February 17-23)

Elyn Croft, Carol Reese

TELLER & USHER

Liza Cooper, Susanne Dwight

JUNIOR USHER ~ Charlie Coulter, Richard Dwight

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)
Ann Geddings

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 23

ELDERS GREETING AT WORSHIP

Glenn Woodrum, John Dunn (JD)

ELDER LEADING SUNDAY MORNING PRAYERS

Glenn Woodrum

ELDER VISITATION (February 23-29)

Glenn Woodrum

DEACON VISITATION (February 24-March 1)

Catharine Frerichs, Macaulay Smith

TELLER & USHER

Elyn Croft, Carol Reese

JUNIOR USHER ~ Caroline Moorman, Madelynn Davis

YOUTH LITURGIST ~ Luxey Peyton

CHURCH HOUR EXTENDED CARE

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

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