

FOCUS



The weekly newsletter of
FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
Sumter, South Carolina

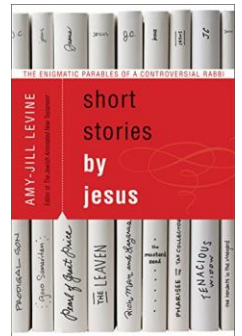
February 16, 2021

OUTDOOR WORSHIP TO RESUME MARCH 7

Upon recommendation from the Re-Opening Task Force, Session has approved to move forward with corporate worship, starting with the resumption of outdoor worship and continuing toward the goal of meeting for worship in the sanctuary. Of primary concern is the health and safety of our membership. We are encouraged by the increasing number of people getting the COVID-19 vaccine and by the decrease in COVID-19 hospital admissions from the record highs recorded in January. There continues to be a need for vigilance and adherence to the three primary defenses against the coronavirus: social distancing, wearing of masks in public, and hand-washing.

With these considerations in mind, Session has approved to resume outdoor worship on Sunday, March 7 and continuing through Easter Sunday, April 4. **Services will begin at 11:00 a.m.** and last for approximately 45 minutes. Outdoor services will be broadcast live for those who prefer to engage in virtual worship online. The task force will meet again in March to consider health and safety factors affecting our progress toward resuming worship in the sanctuary. We continue to monitor what other churches in the Sumter area are doing with respect to worship services.

Beginning Thursday, February 25, Nick is offering a “Noon-Zoom” book study. This study will be on the book, *Short Stories by Jesus: The Enigmatic Parables of a Controversial Rabbi*, by Amy-Jill Levine. Levine is a University Professor of New Testament and Jewish Studies and Mary Jane Werthan Professor of Jewish Studies at Vanderbilt Divinity School and Department of Jewish Studies. To sign up, please email Shirley at shirley@fpcsumter.org. You can find the book on Amazon or Cokesbury. If you would like the office to order one for you, please let us know and we'd be glad to do so.



The Buildings and Grounds Committee has been working very hard to provide solutions to our storage and space/aesthetics problems.

It was decided, by the committee, and approved by Session, to pursue a project which transforms the Parlor from a Multi-purpose Room back to a single-use Parlor space with no storage of equipment or conference-table activities. The conference table will be moved to the current reception space in the administrative offices, and Reception will be moved to an updated space in the corridor intersection adjacent to the Fellowship Hall. New custom-made reception center furniture is being built for this space so as to provide better access and security control for the building. The project which is currently under construction consists of erecting a wall on the east end of the current Parlor space eight (8) feet from the rear wall to provide much-needed storage for the chairs (which are currently stored in the corridor leading to the Chapel) and the round tables which are used in the Fellowship Hall for banquet meals and larger meetings. The new storage room will have double doors for access from the adjacent corridor. The existing double doors will be moved to the storage room and new French style wood doors with full glass will be installed in the Parlor. In addition, a new single door with full glass will be added on the west end of the Parlor to make it more accessible from the corridor. The space will be painted and the carpet professionally cleaned as a part of the project.

The finishes in the Fellowship Hall will be thoroughly updated as a part of the project as well. Vinyl wall covering will be installed over the concrete block walls and a wainscot will be added to match the existing chair rail and baseboard. The entire space will be painted and professionally cleaned as well.

This project is being funded by a very generous gift to our Church from the Roddey family.

WORSHIP MUSIC

February 21

Bella Land, soprano soloist, will sing the anthem and will also serve as hymn leader.

February 28

Emmett Anglin, recorder, will play the anthem. John Michael Osteen will serve as hymn leader.

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

A congregational meeting has been called for Sunday, March 7, for the purpose of electing the Church Officer Nominating Committee for 2021.

UPCOMING EVENTS

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 21

- 10:30 a.m. Worship (Online)
- 3:00-4:00 p.m. Drive Through Food Drive
- 5:00 p.m. Middle School Youth (Zoom)
- 6:00 p.m. High School Youth (Zoom)

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 22

- 6:00 p.m. Session Meeting (Zoom)

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 23

- 10:00 a.m. Staff Meeting (Zoom)
- 6:00 p.m. Joy Ringers QuartetSanctuary

WEDNESDAY, February 24

- 7:00 p.m. Chancel Choir (Zoom)

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 28

- 10:30 a.m. Worship (Online)
- 5:00 p.m. Middle School Youth (Zoom)
- 6:00 p.m. High School Youth (Zoom)

MONDAY, MARCH 1

- 10:00 a.m. Council of Presbyterian Women (Zoom)

TUESDAY, MARCH 2

- 10:00 a.m. Staff Meeting (Zoom)
- 6:00 p.m. Joy Ringers QuartetSanctuary

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 3

- 7:00 p.m. Chancel Choir (Zoom)



OUTDOOR WORSHIP

**BEGINNING SUNDAY, MARCH 7
11:00 A.M.**

Green space across from the playground. Please bring a chair or blanket and practice social distancing. Chairs will be provided, if needed. Everyone age 4 and above is asked to wear a face mask. Online worship will also continue.

The Council of Presbyterian Women will meet Monday, March 1, at 10:00 a.m. using Zoom.

Circles will meet as follows:

- #1 - Will meet Tuesday, March 2, at 12:30 p.m. (Zoom)
Contact: Linda Brown
- #4 - Will not meet in March; Contact: Norma Abbott
- #6 - Will meet Wednesday, March 3, at 6:30 p.m. (Zoom)
Contact: Ashley Blum
- #7 - Please contact Robin Thames (803-972-3207) for meeting information
- #8 - Will not meet in March
Contact: Winnie Gee and Fran Kay
- #9 - Will not meet in March; Contact: Pam George



**ATTENTION 6TH GRADERS!
Bible Basics**

During the month of March, all 6th graders are invited to join Taylor and Ms. Kelly for a fun time learning and reviewing Bible basics. We will meet outdoors each Sunday immediately following worship, from 12:00 p.m. – 12:30 p.m. We hope you will make plans to join us for this fun and fabulous four-week adventure. Please contact Kelly for more information or with questions.

“ON THE MOVE FOR JESUS”

A New Preschool and Elementary Ministry

During the month of March, preschool and elementary children (3K-5th grade) are invited to join Ms. Kelly and friends each Sunday from 4:00 – 5:00 p.m. We will gather outside and enjoy lots of fun and laughter as we learn more about Jesus. Please contact Kelly with any questions.

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
9 West Calhoun Street
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This publication was delivered to USPS on 2/16/21. Please notify USPS if you don't receive it in a timely manner.

Beginning Sunday, March 7, youth group will meet in person. Middle school will meet from 4:00 to 5:00 p.m. Senior High will meet 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. If you have any questions, please contact Taylor.



FROM THE PRESCHOOL

Registration for the 2021-2022 school year begins Monday, February 22, for all currently enrolled students, siblings, church members, and grandchildren of church members. Open registration begins Monday, March 1. Please contact the preschool/kindergarten office (803-773-9027) for additional information.



**MARK YOUR CALENDARS
EASTER EGG HUNT**

**Palm Sunday, March 28
3:00 – 4:00 p.m.**

We are accepting donations of candy-filled eggs for the Egg Hunt. All candy should be individually wrapped and no chocolate or peanuts, please. Please bring our donations to the church office by Sunday, March 21.

JOYS AND CONCERNS

Levine Cancer Hospital (Charlotte):

Ceasie Myers Johnson

Tuomey: John Safford

Home: David R. Brown, Bill Scobee, Tiny Owens, Serena Davell (Marie Mills' Sister), Charles King (Greg King's Father)

West Chester, NY: Rhodes Danner (Pam George's Nephew)

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

CHRISTIAN SYMPATHY is extended to the family of Margaret Hunter, who died February 10.

FOCUS ON FINANCES

**Two Weeks Beginning
January 31 and February 7, 2021**

| | Received | | 2021 Budgeted |
|----------------|------------|------------|---------------|
| | Two Weeks | YTD | YTD |
| Revenue | | | |
| Contributions | \$ 38,833. | \$ 91,085. | Budget |
| *Other Sources | \$ 40. | \$ 156. | Approval |
| | \$ 38,873. | \$ 91,241. | Pending |

*YTD includes \$28,433 revenue from 2021 pledges prepaid in 2020

**Includes Endowments, Church Event Fees, etc.

CLARENDON LEE SUMTER LENTEN SERVICES SCHEDULE (ZOOM)

Zoom link: <https://zoom.us/j/92413750242?pwd=Q1RQUURwN3YrRTRrRVloT2Y3R2lyZz09>

Dial in: 1 646 558 8656 then Meeting ID: 924 1375 0242# then # Passcode: 636048#

12 Noon – 12:30 p.m.

| | | |
|-------------|--|----------------------|
| February 17 | Jesus Hears Our Confession (Psalm 32:1-5) | Rev. Carnell Hampton |
| February 24 | Jesus Invites Our Repentance (Luke 15:8-10) | Rev. Vikki Brogdon |
| March 3 | Jesus Forgives Our Debts (Matthew 6:12, 14-15) | Rev. Frank Colclough |
| March 10 | Jesus Takes Our Punishment (Romans 5:6-9) | Rev. Jody Foster |
| March 17 | Jesus Redeems Our Soul (John 3:16-18) | Rev. Nick Cheek |
| March 24 | Jesus Restores Our Relationships (James 1:19-20) | Rev. Dr. Ella Busby |

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR OFFICERS

Recommendations for the office of Elder and Deacon are now being received from the congregation by the Officer Nominating Committee.

The Book of Order, Presbyterian Church, USA, sets down the following qualifications for officers:

- **ELDERS** – Elders should be persons of faith, dedication, and good judgment. Their manner of life should be a demonstration of the Christian gospel, both within the church and in the world. Elders should have already proven themselves to be committed and dedicated to the life, ministry, and mission of the church. (Book of Order G-2.0301)
- **DEACONS** – The office of Deacon as set forth in Scripture is one of sympathy, witness and service after the example of Jesus Christ. Persons of spiritual character, honest repute, of exemplary lives, brotherly and sisterly love, warm sympathies, and sound judgment should be chosen for this office. (Book of Order G-2.0201)

There are two ways to submit your recommendations to the Church Office. The deadline to receive recommendations is Tuesday, March 9.

1. Mail the below form to the church office.
2. Contact Kay Smith (kwsmith0925@yahoo.com) or Missy Coulter (coultervm@aol.com) with your recommendations.

Name(s) you wish to be considered for nomination as Elder.

Name(s) you wish to be considered for nomination as Deacon.

Comments on the above.

Signature

THOUGHTS ON SERVICE

- 1) This process is not a popularity or status vote.
- 2) We have reorganized our ministry areas in a way that does not require Elders or Deacons to be committee chairs.
- 3) We ask all church family members to serve, and we strive to match all members’ talents and interests to our congregation’s ministry goals.
- 4) We ask everyone to be prayerful as they consider service to our church and its members.