

FOCUS



The weekly newsletter of
FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
Sumter, South Carolina

February 21, 2023

Sunday, February 26

Offertory Anthem: Chancel Choir will sing "Wayfarin' Stranger" arranged by Jan Reese.

Elders: Dan Spencer, Bill Richardson

Assisting in Worship: Dan Spencer

Deacons: Matthew Berger, Harold Nixon

Youth Liturgist: John Land

Jr. Ushers: Ligon Ferguson, Caroline Thames

AFTERNOON OF WORLD MUSIC



February 26 ~ 3:00 p.m.
First Presbyterian

Presented by The Woman's Afternoon Music Club

LENTEN BIBLE STUDY

A Lenten Bible study is being offered at 4:00 p.m. in the Chapel for five Sunday afternoons beginning on February 26. In response to a request from a church member, our pastor will lead us in exploring the Book of Romans in the New Testament. We will study the context of Paul's letter to the church at Rome, visit several passages, and then focus our study on the Christian life described in Romans 12. We would love to have you join us. The class is open to all who would like to come.

5:00 p.m. – High School Sunday School
in the West Building

Sunday, March 5

Offertory Anthem: Chancel Choir will sing "If You Love Me" by John Ness Beck.

Elders: John James, Gus Blum

Assisting in Worship: Gus Blum

Deacons: John Michael Osteen, Colin Davis

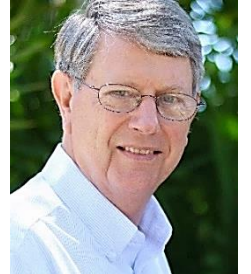
Youth Liturgist: Brogdon Hill

Jr. Usher: Adelaide McElveen, Charles Thames

5:00 p.m. – High School Sunday School
in the West Building

Dear Friends in Christ,

Our 200th anniversary celebration is off to a great start! On Sunday, February 12, we welcomed the Rev. John McCall to kick off the first major event of our yearlong festivities. John is a Presbyterian missionary to Taiwan whom we have supported for many years. He was thrilled to be with us as we highlighted our church's commitment to global mission in the name of Jesus Christ throughout our history. John ate breakfast with our youth, preached during morning worship and gave the benediction in Mandarin Chinese, feasted on international cuisine during our congregational luncheon, and then showed us slides from his work in Taiwan.



A special thank you goes to our mission committee who hosted John for an evening out on Saturday night and had a good visit with him about the mission ventures of our church in recent years. The mission committee also decorated the Fellowship Hall and cooked a delicious meal for everyone to enjoy. Gus and Ashley Blum led the way in all the preparations. John McCall took pictures of all the tables that displayed artifacts and pictures and information about the countries we have visited on mission trips from First Presbyterian Church! Also, Ike Jenkins and Kenny Jordan made sure the technology worked for John to show power point pictures on screens in the sanctuary and the fellowship hall. The day had many moving parts, and it all came together beautifully as we thanked God for 200 years of faith and witness around the world.

Also, the music department of our church is doing a great job enhancing all of our celebrations throughout the anniversary year. Joni Brown, our music director, and Denise Lynch, our organist, led members of the choir in selecting a hymn for this special year. It is called "**Christ, Be Our Light**," and it is hymn 314 in our *Glory to God* hymnals in the sanctuary. I encourage you to read the words to this moving hymn as you meditate and worship this year. The refrain is very singable: "Christ, be our light! Shine in our hearts. Shine through the darkness. Christ, be our light! Shine in your church gathered today." We will sing it often throughout the year.

Finally, we rejoice that our congregation elected a Pastor Nominating Committee this past Sunday to lead us in the search for our next installed pastor! We thank Jessica Bettinger, Dee Dailey (Mrs.), Chuck Fienning, Karen Ingram, John Jackson, Kimberly Land, and Jack Osteen for their willingness to serve in this important responsibility. They were elected by the unanimous vote of the congregation, and we have promised to pray for them every step of the way.

Love,
Bob

UPCOMING EVENTS

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 26

- 9:20 a.m. Chancel Choir.....Sanctuary
- 9:30 a.m. Sunday School
- 10:30 a.m. WorshipSanctuary
- 3:00 p.m. Afternoon of World MusicSanctuary
- 4:00 p.m. Lenten Bible Study Chapel
- 5:00 p.m. High School Sunday School..... West Bldg.

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 27

- 10:00 a.m. Staff MeetingParlor
- 6:00 p.m. 200th Anniversary Committee ... Fellowship Hall

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 28

- 6:00 p.m. Session Meeting Fellowship Hall

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 1

- 6:30 p.m. Chancel Choir.....Sanctuary

SUNDAY, MARCH 5

- 9:30 a.m. Sunday School
- 9:30 a.m. Chancel Choir.....Sanctuary
- 10:30 a.m. WorshipSanctuary
- 5:00 p.m. Joy Ringers.....Session Room
- 5:00 p.m. High School Sunday School..... West Bldg.

MONDAY, MARCH 6

- 10:00 a.m. Council of Pres. Women..... McLaurin Room
- 10:00 a.m. Staff Meeting Parlor

TUESDAY, MARCH 7

- 10:30 a.m. Circle #4 McLaurin Room
- 12:30 p.m. Circle #1 Fellowship Hall
- 6:30 p.m. Circle #7 West Building

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 8

- 10:00 a.m. Prayer Shawl Ministry..... Parlor
- 3:00 p.m. Circle #8 Covenant Place
- 6:00 p.m. Faith Formation..... Parlor
- 6:30 p.m. Chancel Choir.....Sanctuary



ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE
February 22 at 6:00 p.m.
In the Sanctuary

The Council of Presbyterian Women will meet Monday, March 6, at 10:00 a.m. in the McLaurin Room.

Circles will meet as follows:

- #1 - Tuesday, March 7, at 12:30 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall.
Contact: Linda Brown
- #4 - Tuesday, March 7, at 10:30 a.m. in the McLaurin Room. Contact: Norma Abbott
- #6 - Tuesday, March 7, at 6:30 p.m. in the West Building
Contact: Ashley Blum
- #8 - Wednesday, March 8, at 3:00 p.m. at Covenant Place
Contact: Pam George



MINUTE FOR MEMORIES

In 1880, Dr. Nicholas William Edmunds became our pastor and served for 25 years. He is the great-grandfather of Samuel "Cricket" Edmunds. During his tenure, 404 members were added to the church roll.



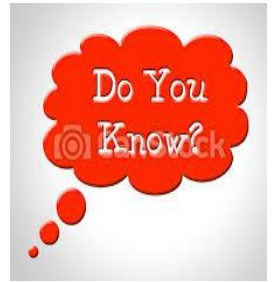
FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
 9 West Calhoun Street
 Sumter, SC 29150
 803-773-3814

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

This publication was delivered to USPS on 2/21/2023.
 Please notify USPS if you don't receive it in a timely manner.

ATTENTION CHURCH MEMBERS:

If you are aware of a church member who is in need of visits, rides to appointments, or casseroles, we have a group of FPC "Pastoral Aides" as well as other committees ready to assist with these needs. Please contact Missy Coulter (coultervm@aol.com) if you have any questions or would like to participate in this important ministry.



Registration for the 2023-2024 school year for currently enrolled students, siblings, church members and grandchildren of church members will begin Monday, February 27.

Open enrollment will begin Monday, March 6, and will continue until our classes are filled. Classes are offered for children 8 months through kindergarten age. Please email or call the Preschool (803-773-9027) for additional information.

JOYS AND CONCERNS

National Healthcare: Jackie Osteen
Home: Milo Abbott (grandson of Norma Abbott),
 Robert Stage II (Son of Marta Stage)



FOCUS ON FINANCES
Two Weeks Beginning February 5 and 12, 2023

	Received		2023 Budgeted
	Two Weeks	YTD	YTD
Revenue			
Contributions	\$108,898.	\$173,124.	\$156,677.
*Other Sources	\$ 22.	\$ 2,587.	\$ 7,624.
	\$ 108,920.	\$175,711.	\$164,301

*YTD contributions revenue includes \$73,152 of 2023 pledges prepaid by members in 2022, carried over and recognized as revenue in 2023.