

# FOCUS



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

February 4, 2020

## *Sunday, February 9, 2020*

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. ~ Worship (Sanctuary)

Offertory Anthem: The Chancel Choir will sing  
"I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light"  
arranged by Benjamin Harlan.

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

11:40 a.m. ~ Youth Bells (Session Room)

6:00 p.m. ~ Faithful Families

### **ELDERS GREETING AT WORSHIP**

Cary Coker, Wayne Hogon

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

Wayne Hogon

### **ELDER VISITATION (February 9-15)**

Wayne Hogon

### **DEACON VISITATION (February 10-16)**

Liza Cooper, Susanne Dwight

### **TELLER & USHER**

Sherri Redmond, Chris Somheil

### **JUNIOR USHERS**

Ellie Stutz, Gracie Stutz

### **YOUTH LITURGIST**

Matthew Blankenship

### **CHURCH HOUR EXTENDED CARE**

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

**Children in Worship (Ages 3K-1<sup>st</sup> Grade)**  
Caroline Ferguson

### **FAITHFUL FAMILIES**

#### **Sundays, February 9 – March 1**

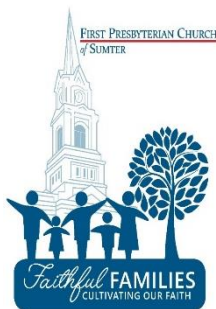
6:00 p.m. ~ Dinner

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

Sign up sheets are available on the  
table outside the Church Office or call  
the Church Office (803-773-3814)

and we will be glad to add your name to the list!

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



### **Please note . . .**

Focus will not be published the week of February 17. Please submit any information to be included in next week's Focus to Shirley by Friday, February 7 at noon.



### **THE SARASOTA STATEMENT**

In 2017 a group of PCUSA pastors, lay leaders and theology professors gathered together expressing a mutual concern over the state of our nation and Church. They were disheartened by a perceived division in the people of God, especially in the political realm. Let's face it, over that past

few years politics in America has become increasingly partisan and ruthless. In the midst of discord, how are we to act and believe as a people of God. How are we to let our faith inform our politics as those who seek to follow after our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ first and foremost? The Sarasota Statement aimed to put words to our feelings. Below is an expert that speaks to our current context. I hope you will join with me and let the words speak to you heart, mind and soul.

### **PART II To the people we dehumanize and dismiss on the basis of political and ideological differences, and those who suffer at the hands of our idolatry:**

We trust in Jesus Christ, the Servant-Lord of all,<sup>30</sup> whose ministry liberates the oppressed, welcomes the outcast, and upends systems of death-dealing power.<sup>31</sup> Through humility and sacrifice Jesus brings life to all and commissions his followers to do the same.<sup>32</sup> We grieve that the Church conflates Jesus' message with political platforms and looks to partisan ideologies to affirm its ethics and action.<sup>33</sup> We grieve that we idolize<sup>34</sup> political leaders and fail to measure their promises and policies against God's law of love.<sup>35</sup> We grieve that our political ideologies deceive and distract us from the demands of a lived faith: to do justice, love kindness and walk humbly with God.<sup>36</sup> We commit to pray for our leaders to support and enact policies that further God's redeeming justice throughout the world.<sup>37</sup> We also commit to doing our part, working to empower those who have systematically been excluded from the benefits of democracy and equity.<sup>38</sup> Therefore, we will vigilantly speak against tyranny,<sup>39</sup> resist the temptation to claim privilege for ourselves,<sup>40</sup> and oppose efforts that co-opt our faith for partisan gain. In fidelity to God alone,<sup>41</sup> we share in Christ's love for all people and nations,<sup>42</sup> denying and denouncing any nationalism and allegiances that compromise this love.

*Nick*

### **NEW SERMON SERIES FOUR IMPORTANT QUESTIONS FROM I CORINTHIANS**

Leading up to Lent, I will be preaching on four questions from I Corinthians. These questions are important and difficult. They will reach into our hearts and encourage us to examine how deep our faith is. Therefore, I invite you to come ready and willing to be challenged, moved, and open to the transforming love of Christ. Let us learn and grow together.

February 9: "Which Spirit is Guiding You?"

February 16: "What is Your Foundation?"

February 23: "How Are You Using Your Gifts?"

**UPCOMING EVENTS**

**MONDAY, FEBRUARY 10**

- 6:00 p.m. Deacons Meeting .....McLaurin Room
- 6:30 p.m. Boy Scouts..... Scout Hut
- 6:30 p.m. Cub Scouts.....Fellowship Hall

**TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 11**

- 11:00 a.m. Staff Meeting .....Parlor

**WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 12**

- 5:45 p.m. Joy Ringers ..... Session Room
- 7:00 p.m. Chancel Choir ..... Sanctuary

**THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 13**

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

**SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 16**

**Youth Bells and Children’s Choir will participate in worship this morning.**

- 9:00 a.m. Care and Prayer .....Parlor
- 9:00 a.m. Youth Bells..... Sanctuary
- 9:20 a.m. Chancel Choir ..... Sanctuary
- 9:30 a.m. Sunday School ~ Classes for All Ages
- 9:50 a.m. Children’s Choir ..... Sanctuary
- 10:30 a.m. Worship ..... Sanctuary
- 6:00 p.m. Faithful Families

*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.

**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.**



**PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN**

**PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN’S RETREAT**

**February 22, 2020**

**Women, Stories and Connections**

9:00 a.m. – 1:30 p.m. (includes lunch) in the West Building

Guest Speaker: Rev. Janet DeWater  
Mt. Holly Presbyterian Church  
Mt. Holly, NC

Register by February 12 by contacting Circle Chairs or Linda Hogon (803-840-7671 or lhogon03@yahoo.com).  
Childcare including lunch is available.

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
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**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.



*An Afternoon of Sacred Music*  
**Sunday, March 15 ~ 3:00 p.m.**  
FPC Sanctuary  
Sponsored by the  
Woman’s Afternoon Music Club

**JOYS AND CONCERNS**

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



**Austin, TX:** Robert Cain (George Cain’s father)

**St. Jude:** Elizabeth Williams

**CHRISTIAN SYMPATHY** is extended to the family of Andy Dowling, who died January 30.

**FOCUS ON FINANCES**  
**Week Beginning January 26, 2020**

	Received		Budgeted
	<i>This Week</i>	<i>YTD</i>	<i>YTD</i>
<b>Revenue</b>			
* Contributions	\$ 10,294.	\$ 74,803.	Pending
**Other Sources	\$ 15.	\$ 495.	Session
	\$ 10,309.	\$ 75,298.	Approval

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

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