

FOCUS



The weekly newsletter of
FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
Sumter, South Carolina

March 17, 2020

OUR COVID-19 RESPONSE

**In an abundance of caution,
we have decided to discontinue
all church events, activities,
meetings and gatherings
through the end of March.**

**This includes
FPC Preschool and Kindergarten
and Sunday Morning Worship.**

**If you have a pastoral emergency,
please contact Pastor Nick
(office: 803-773-3814, ext. 101 or
his cell: 704-996-8802).**

**ALL REMAINING 2020 CLARENDON, LEE
AND SUMTER CLUSTER LENTEN
LUNCHEONS HAVE BEEN CANCELLED.**

CHILDREN'S SUNDAY

April 26, 2020

Please note we **will not meet** on 3/22 or 3/29; however, as of now, we are planning on meeting 4/5 and 4/19 to prepare for leading worship on April 26. Should you have any questions, please contact Kelly Hickey.

HIGH SCHOOL MONTREAT YOUTH CONFERENCE (Rising 9th – 12th grade)

We Are

Montreat, North Carolina

July 12 – 18

\$300 per participant

New Payment Plan Option:

**\$100 non-refundable deposit (to reserve a spot) due
March 30**

\$100 – due April 30

\$100 – due May 31

Please contact Taylor Geddings with questions or to make a reservation.

MIDDLE SCHOOL MONTREAT YOUTH CONFERENCE (Rising 6th-8th grade)

Endlessly Enough

Maryville, Tennessee

July 15-19

\$300 per participant

New Payment Plan Option:

**\$100 non-refundable deposit (to reserve a spot) due
March 30**

\$100 – due April 30

\$100 – due May 31

Please contact Taylor Geddings with questions or to make a reservation.



Friends, First Presbyterian Church will be closing effective at 12 noon today, March 16, until April 1. We believe this decision reflects one of our core principles, to Care for All. By closing our buildings and canceling our events we will not only be caring for our church family - especially those members in the age of concern - we will also be caring for our community by helping to minimize the transmission rate of the virus in Sumter.

Things to Note

Care and Prayer: I have met with the Care and Prayer team. We have implemented a communication plan that will ensure members of our congregation in need will receive phone calls throughout the week. If you know of someone in need that is not being contacted by the church, please email me directly at ncheek@fpcsumter.org.

Worship: Worship will be recorded and available for you and your family March 22 and March 29 at 10:30 am. Please go to our website (www.fpcsumter.org) or the Facebook Page (www.facebook.com/FirstPresbyterianChurchofSumter/) to participate. You may also view our worship services on Spectrum channel 1301 Thursday evenings at 7:00 pm or FTC channel 26, Saturdays at 6:00 pm and Sundays at 10:00 am.

Staff: Our staff will be working from the office and from home. If you need to contact us directly, please use email or call the office. We will be checking our voicemails at least once a day.

Pastoral Emergencies: Please call the office and leave a message for me. You may also call my cell (704-996-8802).

Updates: We will provide periodic updates as the weeks progress. Please stay informed through the website/Facebook/Email and the newsletter.

Further information on Closings:

You are encouraged to go to the church website www.fpcsumter.org, check email, social media and local radio/TV updates for information. We will report closings/cancellations to WIS-TV. Coronavirus-related reports can be viewed there or online at www.wistv.com/closings. To VIEW coronavirus-related closings, scroll down to 'Closings'. You can 'Search by Organization' name or under 'Organization' scroll down to view reported status.

Friends, please continue to hold our world, nation and community in prayer. Please also think about those in our congregation who may need church news relayed to them through a phone call or a text.

Blessings,

Nick



THE YOUTH FUNDRAISER
A Night in Little Italy
 Spaghetti Dinner
 originally scheduled for
 March 28
 has been postponed.

Watch the Focus for more details!

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
 9 West Calhoun Street
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PARENT'S NIGHT OUT

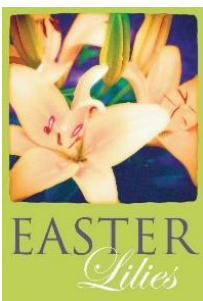
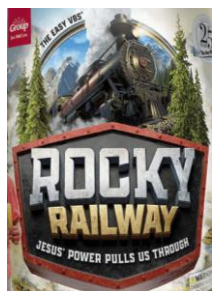
Please be advised Parent's Night Out scheduled for April 3 has been postponed. More information will be available soon.



EASTER EGG HUNT

FPC's annual Easter Egg Hunt will be Easter Sunday, **April 12**. As we start preparing for this fun event, we need your help with Easter eggs. We need 555 eggs filled with candy or stickers. (Please no chocolate, it melts, or peanuts due to peanut allergies.) Would you please consider helping? All donations are needed in the church office on or before Wednesday, April 8. Should you have any questions, please contact Kelly Hickey.

2020 VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL
June 22-26
Rising 5K-5th grade
(Rising 6th graders and older are welcome to volunteer!)
More information coming soon!



We will once again place Easter lilies in the Sanctuary on Easter Sunday, April 12. If you would like to remember or honor a loved one with a lily, please complete the form below and return it with \$10.00 per lily to the Church Office no later than **Wednesday, March 25**.

Please Note: No phone orders will be accepted.

I would like to purchase _____ Easter lilies
 at \$10.00/each = Total \$ _____.

In memory of _____

In honor of _____

Given by _____

JOYS AND CONCERNS



Home: Mayes DuBose,
 David R. Brown, Charlie Hodgins,
 Charles King (Greg King's Father)

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

St. Jude: Elizabeth Williams

CHRISTIAN SYMPATHY is extended to:

- ... Carol Fournier on the death of her sister, Joanne Barnes, who died March 9;
- ... Elizabeth Griffin on the death of her grandmother, who died March 11.

KEEPING THE FAITH

Thank you, Church for your amazing response thus far towards meeting the shortfall in our budget requirements for 2020. Since last week, more of you have committed to our **Keeping the Faith** effort to eliminate a \$50,000 budget gap between 2020 projected ministry needs and resources. As of today, a total 50 of our church family have pledged \$33,000 to **Keeping the Faith** (this giving is over and above normal annual giving). As a result, two-thirds of the projected deficit has now been eliminated, with about a third (\$17,000) to go. If you haven't pledged and would like to, please pick up a **Keeping the Faith** pledge card from the business office or contact our business manager, (803)773-3814 or neilross@fpcsumter.org.

Thank you for your faithfulness as we enter a new year equipped with the financial resources needed to carry on the vital ministry of First Presbyterian to our community and world.

FOCUS ON FINANCES
Week Beginning March 8, 2020

	Received		Budgeted
	This Week	YTD	YTD
Revenue			
* Contributions	\$ 13,895.	\$ 162,175.	Pending
**Other Sources	\$ 4,805.	\$ 8,087.	Session
	\$ 18,700.	\$ 170,262.	Approval

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

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