

# FOCUS



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

March 31, 2020

## OUR COVID-19 RESPONSE

**In light of recent restrictions on large gatherings, we have decided to discontinue all in person church events, activities, meetings and gatherings through the end of April. 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).**

### Cancellations:

- *All remaining 2020 Clarendon, Lee and Sumter Cluster Lenten Luncheons*
- *A Night in Little Italy Spaghetti Dinner Youth Fundraiser*
- *Easter Egg Hunt*
- *We will not be taking orders for Easter lilies*

## HOLY WEEK WORSHIP SCHEDULE

### Palm Sunday, 4.5.20 ~ 10:30 am (Online)

On Palm Sunday, we are excited to offer communion at home. To prepare, each family/individual should add bread and grape juice to their shopping list before Sunday. During the service, Nick will invite everyone to the common table and lead all in the celebration together. We are excited to join together as one body during this sacrament on Sunday.

### Maundy Thursday, 4.9.20

#### (At home and at your leisure)

Nick will put together a bulletin for download on FB or on our website to facilitate at home. Look for more information to follow. We will not have an online service.

### Good Friday, 4.10.20 ~ 7:00 pm (Online)

Good Friday Service will be on Facebook and the website and a bulletin will be available online (we will send it on email too). Individuals and Families are invited to gather their own candles (9) and join us in the service of Tenebrae. Families can invite their children to extinguish the candles as we do so in the service.

### Easter Sunrise, 4.12.20 ~ 7:30 am / Facebook Live (Online)

Nick will facilitate a brief sunrise service outside of our Church. Tune in on our Facebook Page.

### Easter Service, 4.12.20 ~ 10:30 am (Online)

We are excited to offer a "throwback" Easter Service. We will stream a new sermon and children's moment along with music from previous years. It will be a joyful worship as many will see the sanctuary filled with faces we miss.

Tune in and stay connected on our Facebook Page  
[www.facebook.com/FirstPresbyterianChurchofSumter/](http://www.facebook.com/FirstPresbyterianChurchofSumter/)  
and our Website [www.fpcsumter.org](http://www.fpcsumter.org)



## ONLINE EDUCATION IS HERE

[www.fpcsumter.org/learn/online-education/](http://www.fpcsumter.org/learn/online-education/)

Friends, during this season of social distancing, we are excited to offer our members online opportunities to learn and grow from home. See below for ways you and your family can connect with God, the Word, and each other.

### Amplify Media

After spending time contacting colleagues and searching the net, Amplifymedia seemed to be one of the easiest ways for you to start learning right from home. Amplify Media is an online resource for all ages. It works on many different platforms (Roku, Amazon, Google Play and a smartphone app). Adults can take advantage of video studies with accompanying links to digital curriculum or study guides. If you're an adult, this is a great way for you to learn on your own, with a friend, or a group that wants to ZOOM together over a series. Amplify Media is also great for families with children. If you are looking for additional ways to teach from home, create an account and use the videos with your children.

### HOW TO LOGIN:

Go to <https://my.amplifymedia.com/amplify/register>

1. Enter the access code BSVNDH  
(FPC MEMBERS/GUESTS ONLY, Sorry...)
2. Enter your information (Remember your login and password for future visits)
3. Start streaming and exploring
4. Contact Nick if you have any questions or concerns

OR: Download the Amplifymedia APP from your Smart Phone app store and login there.

### Bible Study with Nick

I will be putting on a 4-Part ZOOM Bible Study on "The Atonement Theories of the Cross" Wednesday Evenings at 7:00 p.m. (April 1, April 8, April 22 and April 29). To sign up, go to the website [www.fpcsumter.org](http://www.fpcsumter.org), click on "Learn" on the top bar, then click on "Online Education". Scroll down to the information on the bible study and sign up. You can also email me directly at [ncheek@fpcsumter.org](mailto:ncheek@fpcsumter.org) to sign up. Once signed up, I will send you an email with the ZOOM meeting link and instructions.

Blessings,

*Nick*

## YOUTH GROUP

Taylor will be doing ZOOM youth group this Sunday, April 5, as follows:

Middle School: 6:30 - 7:00 p.m.

High School: 7:15 - 7:45 p.m.

Watch for more information online and in your email!



Dear Church Family,

During this time of social distancing and home schooling, the staff has been working to provide new ways to assist you in the spiritual formation of your children and families. Below is an online resource available through Amplify Media. There is also information about joining me LIVE on Facebook on Sunday mornings.

- **Deep Blue Connects Adventure Spring 2020 (Amplify Media)**

Deep Blue Connects is an online resource for parents who are looking for additional ways to teach from home. It is geared toward preschool and elementary children. Each week there is a video segment that tells a Bible story through the kid's point of view, with the help from the Deep Blue kids, Asia, Edgar, Kate and Caleb.

There is also off-line lesson plans available for parents to pick and choose what they would like to incorporate throughout the week.

In addition, there is a free APP available that includes a weekly video, a memory verse, games and trivia for each week's lesson.

Below are the lessons planned based on the liturgical calendar:

- March 29 - Jesus Prays/Episode 5
- April 5 - Palm Sunday/Episode 6
- April 12 - Easter/Episode 7
- April 19 - Emmaus/Episode 8
- April 26 - Thomas Believes/Episode 9

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2. Enter the access code BSVNDH (*FPC MEMBERS/GUESTS ONLY, Sorry...*)
3. Enter your information (*Remember your login and password for future visits*)
4. Search for Deep Blue Connects

**OR UTILIZE FREE APP**

1. Go to the app store on your Smart phone and download the FREE Deep Blue Adventures APP. **Please note:** the material on the app does not follow the above lesson plans; however, there are 30 weeks of lessons available.

- **Live with Ms. Kelly**

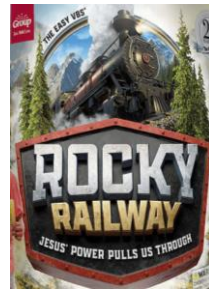
Ms. Kelly will be LIVE on First Presbyterian Church's Children and Families' Facebook page on Sunday mornings around 10:00am to share a Bible story. Please join her on April 5, April 12, April 19, and April 26. (Look for **First Presbyterian Children**)

We hope you find the resources helpful. Should you have any questions, need additional information or interested in the off-line lessons plans, please email me at [khickey@fpcsumter.org](mailto:khickey@fpcsumter.org).

Grace and peace,

Kelly

This publication was delivered to USPS on 3/31/20. Please notify USPS if you don't receive it in a timely manner.



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

Open registration for the 2020-2021 school year continues. Please contact the Preschool office at 803-773-9027 for additional information.



**JOYS AND CONCERNS**

**Home:** Mayes DuBose, David R. Brown, Charlie Hodgins, Rick Parker (Lisa Bratton's Stepfather), Charles King (Greg King's Father)

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

**St. Jude:** Elizabeth Williams

**FOCUS ON FINANCES**  
**Week Beginning March 22, 2020**

	Received		Budgeted
	<i>This Week</i>	<i>YTD</i>	<i>YTD</i>
<b>Revenue</b>			
* Contributions	\$ 6,919	\$ 175,805.	Pending
**Other Sources	<u>\$ 253.</u>	<u>\$ 8,340.</u>	Session
	\$ 7,172.	\$ 184,145.	Approval

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

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