

# FOCUS



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

April 13, 2021

## Sunday, April 18

### Elders Assisting in Worship

Debby Williams, Dan Spencer

### Deacons Assisting in Worship

Kenny Jordan, Matthew Berger

Alex Beaton will provide special music and serve as hymn leader.

### CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

A congregational meeting has been called for Sunday, April 18, for the purpose of presenting the terms of dissolution between Rev. Nick Cheek and First Presbyterian Church for approval and vote.

## Sunday, April 25

### Elders Assisting in Worship

John Dunn, Fred Brogdon, Jr.

### Deacons Assisting in Worship

Susan Brabham, Andrew McCord

*You are invited to a  
Reception to Honor*

*The Ministry  
of*

*Rev. Nick Cheek*

*April 25, 2021*

*Immediately following worship.*

The congregation is encouraged to send notes and cards of thanks to Nick. Please mail them to First Presbyterian Church, 9 West Calhoun Street, Sumter, SC 29150. You can also drop them by the church office by April 23.

### NURSERY AND CHILDREN IN WORSHIP

A nursery is provided for children 2 years old and younger in Room 309 on the third floor of the Educational Building. In addition, children 3 years old through 2<sup>nd</sup> grade are invited to join Ms. Kelly for Children in Worship immediately following Children's Time. We will meet in the Children in Worship Room, Room 304 on the third floor of the Educational Building. Parents are encouraged to pick up their children by entering on the second floor of the Educational Building by the elevator once congregants have cleared the walkways. Should you have any questions, please contact Kelly Hickey.

But we have this treasure in clay jars so that it may be made clear that this extraordinary power belongs to God and does not come from us. <sup>8</sup>We are afflicted in every way, but not crushed; perplexed, but not driven to despair; persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed; always carrying in the body the death of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus may also be made visible in our bodies.



2 Corinthians 4:7-10

This is one of my favorite Bible passages. Clay jars in the time of Christ were used to store important household items: perfumes, grains, and other cherished objects.

In the Bible, God's people are often compared to clay pots or moldable clay being formed in a potter's hand. Like clay jars, we are made differently – all shapes and sizes, different colors, and with unique and significant purposes. We are also somewhat breakable. Like clay jars, we can undergo seasons that leave behind a few bumps, dents, or cracks in the jar. I love this metaphor. If we do have this extraordinary power from God within us, then wouldn't we also need a few cracks here and there in order to make space for that power to shine through us? Maybe some of the scars of this life (the cracks) are indeed another way for God's love and light to shine through us and into our lives and the lives of those around us. Even though they represent a challenging time, they also represent God's enduring and steadfast love that sticks with us and cherishes us no matter how many dings and cracks we might have.

Shine the light this week. Shine it bright and with boldness.

*Nick*

### CONFIRMATION CLASS

Beginning in April, FPC eighth graders will participate in Confirmation. This is one of the wonderful milestones in a child's life. The Confirmation journey will take place an hour and a half after worship each Sunday with lunch included. We will begin Sunday, April 18 and will continue through Sunday, May 23. This program has been designed to take place over a 6-week period. This journey will help the youth learn what it means to be a member of the church, as we study the Book of Luke, take a closer look at God, Jesus, the Holy Spirit, the Bible and more. This class will be led by Katherine Brogdon, Caron DuRant, and Kelly Hickey who are all very excited about this ministry. We can't wait to get started. Should you have any questions, please contact Kelly.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### SUNDAY, APRIL 18

- 10:30 a.m. Worship
- 11:30 a.m. Confirmation Class .....West Building
- 4:00 p.m. On the Move for Jesus
- 4:00 p.m. Middle School Youth
- 5:30 p.m. Senior High Youth

### MONDAY, APRIL 19

- 10:00 a.m. Prayer Shawl Ministry ..... 505 West Calhoun

### TUESDAY, APRIL 20

- 10:00 a.m. Staff Meeting
- 6:00 p.m. Joy Ringers .....Sanctuary

### WEDNESDAY, APRIL 21

- 1:30 p.m. Discovery Class (Zoom)
- 6:30 p.m. International Missions
- 7:00 p.m. Chancel Choir (TBA)

### SUNDAY, APRIL 25

- 10:30 a.m. Worship
- 11:30 a.m. Reception to Honor Nick's Ministry to FPC
- 11:30 a.m. Confirmation Class .....West Building
- 4:00 p.m. On the Move for Jesus
- 4:00 p.m. Middle School Youth
- 5:30 p.m. Senior High Youth

### MONDAY, APRIL 26

- 6:00 p.m. Session Meeting ..... Chapel

### TUESDAY, APRIL 27

- 10:00 a.m. Staff Meeting
- 6:00 p.m. Joy Ringers .....Sanctuary

### WEDNESDAY, APRIL 28

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

Youth Groups meets in person every Sunday!  
 Middle school ~ 4:00 to 5:00 p.m.  
 Senior High ~ 5:30 to 6:30 p.m.

If you have any questions, please contact Taylor.



### “ON THE MOVE FOR JESUS”

#### A Ministry for Preschool and Elementary

All preschool and elementary (3K-5<sup>th</sup> grade) children are invited to join Ms. Kelly and friends from 4:00-5:00 p.m. on Sunday, April 18 and 25 to learn more about the Bible. This will be our last two weeks together before the summer. We hope you will come join us. Any questions, please contact Kelly Hickey.



### VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

For FPC Children and Grandchildren  
 Monday, June 21 – Thursday, June 24  
 9:00 am – 12:00 pm

Online registration will open Sunday, April 18! Be sure to check out FPC's Children's Facebook Page or the FPC website for the registration link.

### CALLING ALL YOUNG PIANISTS!

We would love for our talented children and youth to play piano preludes the month of May.  
 Please email Joni at [jonibrown@fpcsumter.org](mailto:jonibrown@fpcsumter.org) or call 803-773-3814 to schedule a date!

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

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### MIDDLE SCHOOL YOUTH CONFERENCE

Massanetta Springs  
 June 17-20

### HIGH SCHOOL MONTREAT

July 11-17



### JOYS AND CONCERNS

**Tuomey:** Richard Mey  
**Home:** Carol Reese, Kathy Lyons,  
 Darryl Peyton, Bill Scobee,

Marilyn Jenkins, David R. Brown, Tiny Owens,  
 Robert Stage II (son of Marta Stage),  
 Angela Bouknecht (Mallory Beaton's Mother),  
 Serena Davell (Marie Mills' Sister),  
 Charles King (Greg King's Father)

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

**CHRISTIAN SYMPATHY** is extended to the family of Charles Hodgins, who died April 2.

### CONGRATULATIONS to . . .

. . . Courtney and James DuRant on the birth of a daughter, Jordan Mack DuRant, born April 10 in Greenville. Proud big brother is Jack and proud grandparents are Caron and Jimmy DuRant;

. . . Joey and Abigail McIntosh on the birth of a daughter, Everleigh Grace McIntosh, born on March 30 in West Virginia. Proud grandmother is Sherri Redmond.

### FOCUS ON FINANCES

**Two Weeks Beginning  
 March 28 & April 4, 2021**

	Received		2021 Budgeted
	Two Weeks	YTD	YTD
<b>Revenue</b>			
Contributions	\$ 15,760.	\$170,929.	\$172,915.
*Other Sources	\$ <u>20.</u>	\$ <u>2,624.</u>	\$ 24,566.
	\$ 15,780.	\$173,553.	\$197,481.

\*Includes Endowments, Church Event Fees, etc.