

FOCUS



The weekly newsletter of
FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
Sumter, South Carolina

April 18, 2023

Sunday, April 23

Dr. Nicolas Yoda, who served First Presbyterian Church from 1998 to 2003 as an Associate Pastor for Youth, will be with us to preach on Sunday, April 23rd. He is the Pastor of Pleasant Ridge Presbyterian Church in Cincinnati, Ohio. You will have an opportunity to visit with him in the Fellowship Hall at the Presbyterian Women Birthday covered dish luncheon following the church service.

Offertory Anthem: The Chancel Choir will sing “To God Sing Praises” by Dietrickh Buxtehude.

Elders: Gus Blum, Liza Cooper

Assisting in Worship: Gus Blum

Deacons: Lark Haynie, Harold Nixon

Youth Liturgist: Sumter Cooper

Jr. Ushers: Lucas DuBose, Ligon Ferguson

Presbyterian Women will host their annual Birthday Celebration Luncheon on Sunday, April 23, in the Fellowship Hall after worship. Chicken and birthday cake will be furnished; please bring a covered dish. *Everyone is encouraged to attend.*

Sunday, April 30

A South Carolina Historical Marker commemorating our church and its 200-year history will be unveiled on Sunday, April 30, in a Dedication Ceremony on the lawn at the corner of W. Calhoun and Main. Join us for a gathering in the Fellowship Hall at 9:30 for Coffee Time and a presentation of the Application and Approval Process to the South Carolina Preservation Office prior to the unveiling at 10:00. West Calhoun Street will be blocked off to traffic between Washington Street and Main Street, beginning at 9:15 a.m., and seating will be available near the marker.

Church members who need access to handicapped parking spaces from West Calhoun will be admitted by an officer on duty. Others are encouraged to park in the large parking lot across from the Post Office.

Elders: John James, Bonnie Disney

Assisting in Worship: John James

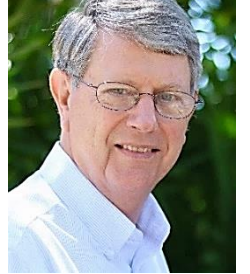
Deacons: Colin Davis, John Michael Osteen

Youth Liturgist: Cameron Coulter

Jr. Usher: Murrell Smith, Richard Dwight

Dear Friends in Christ,

Happy Eastertide to all as we enjoy six weeks of remembering and being inspired by God’s amazing amen to the life and ministry of Jesus by raising his son from the tomb. Eastertide is a time of hoping. The threats, worries, and fears never go away as long as we live in this world, yet we are not defined by them. Easter puts all our fears in perspective, and we choose to be guided by our hope instead.



The church of Jesus Christ says “no” to the roughness and violence of our selfish world and says “yes” to the life we have seen in Jesus of Nazareth – a life that reveals God’s love and a life that models for us the tone and tenor of our days as disciples. One quote that I used in Sunday’s sermon embodies for me the hope I have for First Presbyterian Church. I find myself returning to it again and again as your pastor. William Sloane Coffin, former pastor of Riverside Church in New York, writes these words in his book **Credo**:

“A church is a place where we try to think, speak, and act in God’s way, not in the way of a fear-filled world. A church is a home for love, a home for brothers and sisters to dwell in unity, to rest and be healed, to let go their defenses and be free – free from worries, free from tensions, free to laugh, free to cry.”

How we love each other is our best witness to the world that the spirit of the crucified and risen Lord lives in this place. Our gentle ways and our thoughtful love of one another testify to our hope in God.

Love,

Bob

HOLY COW! NOW IS THE TIME!!

Holy Cow! Please don’t forget to complete the congregational survey that was emailed to you. If you didn’t receive it, please call the office (803-773-3814) and we will get you a copy! You can also use the QR code and your smartphone. Just hover over the QR code with the camera or scanner on your smartphone or tablet and click on the link that appears. This will help our Pastor Nominating Committee as they continue their journey for our next installed pastor!



SUNDAY, MAY 7

On May 7th Mark Champagne, Director of Sumter United Ministries, will be our Guest Preacher and also share an update on several projects underway in the Sumter Community. Following church, you are invited to join us for a covered dish luncheon in the Fellowship Hall and view a display to learn about ways to participate in Local Missions.



Under Dr. Potter’s leadership, the FP Preschool began and continues to be an educational and spiritual gift to our community. In addition, extensive renovations were undertaken on the sanctuary. The front steps were redesigned; the stained-glass window, new organ, and new carpeting were installed. The red brick exterior was painted white.

UPCOMING EVENTS

SUNDAY, APRIL 23

- 9:30 a.m. Chancel Choir.....Sanctuary
- 9:30 a.m. Sunday School
- 10:30 a.m. WorshipSanctuary
- 3:00 p.m. Joy Ringers.....Session Room
- 5:00 p.m. High School Sunday School.....West Bldg.

MONDAY, APRIL 24

- 10:00 a.m. Staff MeetingParlor
- 6:00 p.m. Session..... Fellowship Hall

TUESDAY, APRIL 25

- 6:00 p.m. 200th Anniversary Committee Fellowship Hall

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 26

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

SUNDAY, APRIL 30

- 9:20 a.m. Chancel Choir..... Fellowship Hall
- 9:30 a.m. Sunday School
- 10:30 a.m. WorshipSanctuary
- 5:00 p.m. High School Sunday School..... West Bldg.

MONDAY, MAY 1

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

TUESDAY, MAY 2

Circles – See full schedule below

WEDNESDAY, MAY 3

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

The Council of Presbyterian Women will meet Monday, May 1, at 10:00 a.m. in the McLaurin Room.

Circles will meet as follows:

- #1 - Tuesday, May 2, at 12:30 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall.
Contact: Linda Brown
- #4 - Tuesday, May 2, at 10:30 a.m. in the McLaurin Room. Contact: Norma Abbott
- #6 - Tuesday, May 2, at 6:30 p.m. in the West Building
Contact: Ashley Blum
- #8 - Wednesday, May 3, at 3:00 p.m. at Covenant Place
Contact: Pam George



HELP THE HISTORY COMMITTEE

The 200th Anniversary History Committee would like to include in our September display the names of First Presbyterian members who served in the military. If you have served, or know of any deceased members who served, please send the names and branch of service to Debbie Jackson (debbiejackson1954@gmail.com) by May 1.

We would also like to recognize those members who were killed in action from the Civil War to present day. Please give us their names, branch of service and the war in which they served. Please also send these names to Debbie Jackson by May 1.



PACK YOUR BAGS!!
The planning period for our summer mission trips to Costa Rica and Puerto Rico has begun!

These trips are for mission-minded congregation members, including youth ages 16-18 (accompanied by a parent). These trips can be a rare life-changing experience for you and your family. Currently, the Puerto Rico trip is scheduled for the last week in June and Costa Rica, July 6-13. For more information you can contact Gus Blum for Costa Rica 803-847-4397 and for Puerto Rico, Bill Richardson at 803-840-9879. There will also be a signup sheet at the welcome desk in front of the Friendship Hall.

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

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Please notify USPS if you don't receive it in a timely manner.

OFFICERS ELECTED

Congratulations to the following who were elected to the class of 2026 at Sunday's congregational meeting:

Elder

Jim Alexander	Becky Owens
Margy Carpenter	Bob Smith
Kimberly Land	

Deacon

Mike Blanding	Kenny Jordan
J.D. Dunn	Joe McElveen
Jimmy Ezell	

Trustee – Class of 2026

William Croft

At-Large Members

2024 Congregational Nominating Committee

Fred Brogdon, Jr.	Jim McQuage
Ann Geddings	Scott Williams

SUMTER MAYOR'S PRAYER BREAKFAST

Celebrating the National Day of Prayer

Keynote Speaker: Dr. Gary Chapman

Thursday, May 4, 2023

Breakfast 6:45 a.m. Program 7:30 a.m.

Alice Drive Baptist Church

Tickets are available at: Swan Lake Visitors Center,
Sumter YMCA, The Olive Tree Christian Bookstore

JOYS AND CONCERNS

McLeod (Florence): Patti Croft
Sumter Grove Senior Living: Tom & Wanda Casker



Home: Jackie Osteen, Norma Abbott,
Milo Abbott (grandson of Norma Abbott)

CHRISTIAN SYMPATHY is extended to the family of Suzanna Foley, who died April 17, 2023.

FOCUS ON FINANCES

Two Weeks Beginning

April 2 and 9, 2023

	Received		2023 Budgeted
	<i>Two Weeks</i>	<i>YTD</i>	<i>YTD</i>
Revenue			
*Contributions	\$ 47,489.	\$317,739.	\$272,556.
Other Sources	\$ 24.	\$ 17,555.	\$ 18,420.
	\$ 47,513.	\$335,294.	\$290,976.