

FOCUS



The weekly newsletter of
FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
Sumter, South Carolina

April 7, 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).

HOLY WEEK WORSHIP SCHEDULE

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/

and our Website www.fpcsumter.org



Every year, I look to this Poem from Ann Weems as a meditation for Holy Week. The words are personal and evocative of the feelings this week can bring us.

Return to this poem daily if you like. It will help center you as we Journey into Good Friday and Easter morning.

HOLY WEEK

Holy is the week...
Holy, consecrated, belonging to God...
We move from hosannas to horror
with the predictable ease
of those who know not what they do.
Our hosannas sung,
our palms waved,
let us go with passion into this week.
It is a time to curse fig trees that do not yield fruit.
It is a time to cleanse our temples of any blasphemy.
It is a time greet Jesus as the Lord's Anointed One,
to lavishly break our alabaster
and pour perfume out for him
without counting the cost.
It is a time for preparation...
The time to give thanks and break bread is upon us.
The time to give thanks and drink of the cup is
imminent.
Eat, drink, remember:
On this night of nights, each one must ask,
as we dip our bread in the wine,
"Is it I?"
And on that darkest of days, each of us must stand
beneath the tree
and watch the dying
if we are to be there
when the stone is rolled away.
The only road to Easter morning
is through the unrelenting shadows of that Friday.
Only then will the alleluias be sung;
only then will the dancing begin.

Friends, join us for Good Friday Tenebrae service on Facebook and the website. We will be extinguishing 9 candles. At home, you too are welcome to find 9 candles and extinguish them along with us (be careful!). This is a fun way for your family to be a part of the service.

We look forward to celebrating Easter with you! We are excited to have Rev. Ashley Cheek with us for the Good Friday and Easter Sunrise services.

Blessings,

Nick

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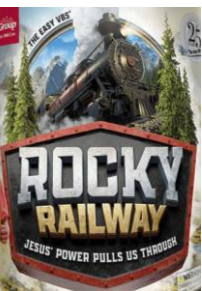


PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

Because Circle meetings have been canceled, Presbyterian Women has put a video of lessons 7, 8, and 9 of our Ten Commandments Study on You Tube. On the opening internet screen google "youtube." When that come up, find the search space. Type in "Presbyterian women carved in stone" and press enter or search. A list should appear with pictures of women. Look for the woman in a yellow sweater and find the video for lesson 8. Click there.

Your Circle offering can be sent to:
 Ann Shreve, 30 Long Barn Court, Sumter, SC 29154

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



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

Please Note . . .

The Church Office will be closed
Friday, April 10, and Monday, April 13.
Focus will not be published next week.

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 29, 2020

	Received		Budgeted
	<i>This Week</i>	<i>YTD</i>	<i>YTD</i>
Revenue			
* Contributions	\$ 6,615	\$ 182,420.	Pending
**Other Sources	<u>\$ 120.</u>	<u>\$ 8,459.</u>	Session
	\$ 6,735.	\$ 190,879.	Approval

**Endowments, Church Event Fees, etc.*