

FOCUS



The weekly newsletter of
FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
Sumter, South Carolina

May 3, 2022

Sunday, May 8

Offertory Anthem: "The Lord Is My Shepherd" by the Chancel Choir and Sarah Alexander, Soloist

Elders: Ann Geddings, Linda Hagon

Assisting in Worship: Ann Geddings

Deacons: Matthew Berger, Kathy Lyons

Youth Liturgist: Cooper Hill

Junior Ushers: Adelaide McElveen, Connor Thames

THE MOTHER'S DAY OFFERING

Mother's Day has traditionally meant a special offering in our church to support the ministry of Presbyterian Communities of South Carolina, which serves older adults at six retirement communities across the state. The Mother's Day Offering provides charitable care to residents who have outlived their life's savings due to old age or costly medical bills, so that they can continue to call PCSC "home." Special envelopes will be in Sunday's bulletin, or you can send a check to the church with "Mother's Day Offering" in the memo line. Thank you for keeping this special Presbyterian tradition of caring for older adults alive!

Sunday, May 15

Joy Ringers Ensemble will play "Holy, Holy, Holy" and "Leaning on the Everlasting Arms."

Elders: John Moorman, Jack Osteen

Assisting in Worship: John Moorman

Deacons: Macaulay Smith, Andrew McCord

Youth Liturgist: Caroline Moorman

Junior Ushers: Adelaide McElveen, Colton Thames

CONGREGATIONAL COVERED DISH LUNCHEON

Sponsored by Presbyterian Women

Sunday, May 15 in the

Fellowship Hall

Immediately following Morning Worship

Everyone is invited to celebrate our return to church fellowship with a special Covered Dish Luncheon on Sunday, May 15, immediately following worship. Come, enjoy this time of fellowship! Please bring a covered dish to share. Fried chicken and dessert will be provided.

From Bob's Desk . . .

Dear Friends in Christ,

I would like to thank our congregation for being so responsive to the various things that we are offering our church these days. We have received 149 responses to the **congregational letter** that we sent to 257 addresses of church families. Please keep those responses coming because they are important as we gather our congregation for our next chapter of ministry. Also, thank you for coming to **Easter worship** on April 17. Best we could count, 241 worshippers assembled in our sanctuary, and a full choir and orchestra led us in praise and thanksgiving for the announcement that God has raised Jesus from the dead. Many other members and friends joined with us online. Please know that we are praying for this gathering to continue, and please know that you are welcome here.

This past Sunday, May 1, we had our first **listening session** with the pastor. I am inviting everyone to visit with me in the fellowship hall and to share our concerns and our hopes about our church as we move forward together. You are welcome to listen or to share comments or to ask questions of me, and the only guide is that we gather in Christ and we speak the truth in love. We plan to have Listening Sessions on:

- Wednesday, May 4, at 10:30 am
- Sunday, May 8, at 6:30 pm
- Tuesday, May 10, at 2:00 pm.

I hope these visits are helpful.

Lastly, I shared a quotation in Sunday's sermon from William Sloane Coffin, a former pastor at Riverside Church, New York City, in his powerful book **Credo**. These words express my prayer and my hope for First Presbyterian Church:

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.

That is the freedom and the peace that Easter brings to all God's people and to all the world.

Love,

Bob



CONFIRMATION CLASS RECEIVED INTO MEMBERSHIP

The following young people were received into membership during the worship service on Sunday:

Madelynn Davis

Edmunds DuBose

Cooper Hill

John Land

Caroline Moorman

Bee Smith

Ellie Stutz

Anne McCrea Williams

Campbell Williams

The following young people will be received into membership during the worship service on May 8:

Riley Berger

Anna Kate Coker

Ellis Coker

A special thank you to Caron and Jimmy DuRant for teaching the class and Lisa and Gary Bratton for helping. Also, thanks to the mentors: Liza Cooper, Missy Coulter, J.D. Dunn and Chuck Fienning.

UPCOMING EVENTS

SUNDAY, MAY 8

- 9:30 a.m. Sunday School
- 9:30 a.m. Chancel Choir.....Sanctuary
- 10:30 a.m. Worship.....Sanctuary
- 6:30 p.m. Listening Session Fellowship Hall

MONDAY, MAY 9

- 10:00 a.m. Staff MeetingParlor
- 6:00 p.m. Deacon's Meeting McLaurin Room

TUESDAY, MAY 10

- 2:00 p.m. Listening Session Fellowship Hall

WEDNESDAY, MAY 11

- 6:00 p.m. Chancel Choir.....Sanctuary
- 6:00 p.m. Faith FormationParlor
- 6:30 p.m. Mission Committee West Bldg.
- 7:30 p.m. Joy Ringers.....Session Room

SUNDAY, MAY 15

- 9:00 a.m. Joy Ringers.....Sanctuary
- 9:30 a.m. Sunday School
- 9:50 a.m. Chancel Choir.....Sanctuary
- 10:00 a.m. Session MeetingParlor
- 10:30 a.m. Worship.....Sanctuary
- 11:30 a.m. Covered Dish Luncheon..... Fellowship Hall

TUESDAY, MAY 17

- 10:00 a.m. Staff Meeting.....Parlor
- 5:30 P.M. Executive CouncilParlor

WEDNESDAY, MAY 18

- 6:00 p.m. Chancel Choir.....Sanctuary



DO YOU HAVE A PASSION FOR SERVING OTHERS LOCALLY AND AROUND THE WORLD?

The Foreign Missions Committee is planning two foreign missions trips this summer and we're starting to build the mission teams for each trip. We expect both trips to be open to youth 16+ years-old (accompanied by a parent or guardian). Please reach out to the team leads or others on the Foreign Missions Committee including Margaret Ezell, Bonnie Disney, and Shep Sublette for details on how you can participate.

Puerto Rico: Bill Richardson and Coles Dwight will lead mission team travelling to Puerto Rico from June 19-25 for our first in-person effort at building a relationship with the Presbytery in Puerto Rico. The mission's focus will be on establishing relationships and assessing future opportunities. We're coordinating the mission through PC(USA) and the Presbytery in Puerto Rico. Mission team members should expect an opportunity to engage in construction ministry as Puerto Rico continues recovering from hurricanes and wildfires.

Costa Rica: Gus Blum and JD Dunn will lead a mission team travelling to Costa Rica in early July to engage with our partners at Iglesia Vida Nueva and the Nueva Vision network of churches. We have maintained our solid relationship and have kept in contact through the pandemic, but this trip will give us a chance to reconnect in-person and to introduce some new team members to the mission. Expect a variety of mission work depending on the make-up of the team and conditions in Costa Rica.

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
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Permit #22

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JOYS AND CONCERNS

Covenant Place: Jennie Linn Duffie

Home: Julian Moore, Joel Long,
Carolita Cantrell, Harold Gadson,
Bill Scobee, Robert Stage II (Son of Marta Stage)



CHRISTIAN SYMPATHY is extended to Linda Sublette on the death of her father, Dale Clifford Garrison, who died April 20.

FROM THE BUSINESS MANAGER

Is your financial support important during summer months? You bet it is! Typically, giving drops off during the summer as folks are away on vacation. It's not always easy to remember to send in your tithe when you're having so much fun. As you enjoy the summer days and time away with family, would you please remember that costs of ministry and expenses of keeping the church doors open are ongoing. Will you commit to continue your regular giving right through the summer? Thank you for your faithfulness!

**FOCUS ON FINANCES
Two Weeks Beginning
April 17 and 24, 2022**

	Received		2022 Budgeted
	Two Weeks	YTD	YTD
Revenue			
*Contributions	\$ 27,432.	\$ 304,546.	\$ 212,822.
Other Sources	\$ 7.	\$ 2,724.	\$ 3,473.
	\$ 27,439.	\$ 307,270.	\$ 216,295.



**BACCALAUREATE SUNDAY
May 22, 2022**

We will honor our graduating class of 2022 during worship.