

FOCUS



The weekly newsletter of
FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
Sumter, South Carolina

June 6, 2023

Sunday, June 11

Ordination and installation of officers will take place during worship.

Deacons to be Installed: J.D. Dunn, Jimmy Ezell, Kenny Jordan, Joe McElveen

Deacons to be Ordained and Installed: Mike Blanding

Elders to be Installed: Margy Carpenter, Becky Owens, Bob Smith

Elders to be Ordained and Installed: Jim Alexander, Kimberly Land

We thank our Elders and Deacons who are completing a 3-year term of active service to our church.

Elders: Missy Coulter, Ann Geddings, Jack Osteen, Dan Spencer, and Debby Williams

Deacons: Jim Alexander, Matthew Berger, Katherine Brogdon, Colin Davis, Paul Herrmann (1-year term), and Kimberly Land

The Chancel Choir will sing "Lord Jesus, You Shall Be My Song" arranged by Zebulon M. Highben. Lauren Decker will accompany on violin

Elders: Margy Carpenter, Liza Cooper

Assisting in Worship: Liza Cooper

Deacons: J.D. Dunn, Harold Nixon

Sunday, June 18

The Chancel Choir will sing "I Will Rejoice" by G. P. Telemann.

Elders: Jim Alexander, Bonnie Disney

Assisting in Worship: Jim Alexander

Deacons: Lark Haynie, Susan W. Osteen

Sunday, June 25

Soprano Soloist Kara Glover will sing "The Lord Is My Light" by Frances Allitsen.

Elders: Linda Hogan, John James

Assisting in Worship: Linda Hogan

Deacons: Kenny Jordan, John Michael Osteen

Sunday, July 2

Special music by Denise Lynch, piano.

Elders: Kimberly Land, Becky Owens

Assisting in Worship: Kimberly Land

Deacons: Jimmy Ezell, Suzanne Wates

The church office will be closed Monday and Tuesday, July 3 and July 4, in observance of Independence Day.

Dear Friends in Christ,

As we transition to summertime at church, I want to share with you a few things.

In selecting my preaching texts for the coming Sundays, I have decided to preach various verses from Jesus' sermon on the mount. This collection of sayings and teachings from our Lord are found in Matthew chapters 5 through 7. I commend this much loved section of the scriptures to you for your summertime devotions and meditations. I will begin my sermon on the mount preaching on June 25. When I am not here this summer, I am pleased to let you know that Rev. Mary Ramirez from Alcolu and Rev. Lucy Youngblood from Columbia will be preaching. Both have been well received by our congregation, and both are good preachers of the gospel.

Also, I would like for you to know that the Session is thanking our music director Joni Brown and our office administrator Shirley Wood for their dedication to us by granting them a month of paid leave this summer. We hope they rest and do fun things! Debbie Jackson, Neil Ross, and I are learning parts of Shirley's job, and organist Denise Lynch will lead the music ministry while Joni is away. Both Joni Brown and Shirley Wood feel affirmed and loved by First Presbyterian.

Finally, our prayers are with our mission team as they prepare to travel at the end of this month to Costa Rica. We continue to explore possible trips to Puerto Rico and Peru. Those participating in summer mission trips will be commissioned in worship on June 25.

God bless you in this summertime!

Love,

Bob



CONGRATULATION TO OUR HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES

We congratulate the following members of the graduating class of 2023 and wish them success in their future endeavors:

Sumter Cooper – Wofford College

Cameron Coulter – Wofford College

Wilson Frerichs – Wofford College

Brogdon Galloway – The Citadel

John Osteen – University of South Carolina

Abigail Peyton – University of South Carolina - Sumter

Sarah Sonntag – Swarthmore College

Madison White – University of South Carolina - Sumter

COLLEGE GRADUATES

In addition to celebrating our high school graduates, we would also like to celebrate those who have graduated from college or have obtained advanced degrees. Please call the church office (803-773-3814) or email Shirley (shirley@fpcsumter.org) with your name, degree, and institution where it was received.

UPCOMING EVENTS

SUNDAY, JUNE 11

9:30 a.m. Sunday School
 9:30 a.m. Chancel Choir.....Sanctuary
 10:30 a.m. Worship.....Sanctuary

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 14

10:00 a.m. Prayer Shawl MinistryParlor

SUNDAY, JUNE 18

9:30 a.m. Sunday School
 9:30 a.m. Chancel Choir.....Sanctuary
 10:30 a.m. Worship.....Sanctuary

SUNDAY, JUNE 25

9:30 a.m. Sunday School
 9:30 a.m. ChancelSanctuary
 10:30 a.m. Worship.....Sanctuary

SUNDAY, JULY 2

9:30 a.m. Sunday School
 9:50 a.m. Chancel Choir.....Sanctuary
 10:30 a.m. Worship.....Sanctuary

MONDAY, JULY 3 ~ Church Office Closed

TUESDAY, JULY 4 ~ Church Office Closed



Please pray for those attending the Montreat Worship and Music Conference on June 25-July 1.

Jessica Bettinger
 Joseph Bettinger
 Joni Brown
 Lauren Decker

PLEASE CONTRIBUTE TO THE BI-CENTENNIAL FUND

The Bi-Centennial Fund proposes to collect \$100,000 from FPC members. Contributions will be matched dollar-for-dollar from the church's local mission reserves (\$100,000).

Please consider making a contribution to the Fund before September 30. Please give generously this bi-centennial year!

Contributions to the Bi-Centennial Fund can also be made online through our online giving options. Online giving can be accessed via our FPC website (www.fpcsumter.org) and press the red "Give" button or from one's mobile phone or tablet, by text (text FPCS to 73256) or you can use your smartphone and hover over the QR code with the camera and click on the link that appears.



FROM THE BUSINESS MANAGER

Summer is here and many of us will head to the beach or the mountains, take a trip someplace distant, or just enjoy relaxing at home. It's vacation time for the next few months when giving typically drops off. Whether you are away or staying put this summer, please remember how vital your regular tithes and offerings are to the church's ministries and operating needs, which are ongoing. So, while enjoying these days and special times with family and friends, will you commit to being faithful in your giving right through the summer?



First Presbyterian local missions under Dr. Aiken included the following: the creation of Sumter United Ministries, Covenant Place, and Samaritan House. Our first of many Habitat for Humanity houses was built in 1991. Our church continues to be known for its community outreach missions.

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
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This publication was delivered to USPS on 6/6/2023.
 Please notify USPS if you don't receive it in a timely manner.

There will be no Sunday school for children and youth during the summer. Children in Worship will continue through June. These programs will start back September 10 with our church-wide Kick Off!



Nursery will be provided during the summer.



SUMMER FOCUS SCHEDULE

Focus will be published once a month in June and July and will resume normal scheduling in August. Listed below are the dates of publication along with the deadline to submit information to be included in that publication.

- July 11 (Deadline July 7, at 9:00 a.m.)
- August 8 (Deadline August 4, at 9:00 a.m.)
- August 22 (Deadline August 18, at 9:00 a.m.)

JOYS AND CONCERNS



Home: Tumpy Creech, Bill Redmond, Patti Croft, Lisa Bratton, Jackie Osteen, Beth Byce (Daughter of Sibbie McFaddin), Milo Abbott (grandson of Norma Abbott)

CHRISTIAN SYMPATHY is extended to . . .
 . . . the family of Henry McFaddin, who died May 19, 2023;
 . . . Tom and Cathy Jo Cuttino on the death of their son, Thomas Allen Cuttino, Jr., who died May 25, 2023;
 . . . Kim Harrelson, on the death of her father, Austin Brown, who died May 20, 2023 in Anderson;
 . . . Glenn Woodrum on the death of his mother, Barbara Woodrum, who died June 1, 2023 in North Myrtle Beach;

FOCUS ON FINANCES Three Weeks Beginning May 14, 21, and 28, 2023

	Received		2023 Budgeted
	<i>Three Weeks</i>	<i>YTD</i>	<i>YTD</i>
Revenue			
Contributions	\$ 31,399.	\$379,388.	\$363,167.
Other Sources	\$ 2,066.	\$ 16,741.	\$ 26,255.
	\$ 33,465.	\$396,129.	\$389,422.