

FOCUS



The weekly newsletter of
FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
Sumter, South Carolina

July 12, 2022

2022 Montreat Conference on Worship and Music June 26-July 2 In the Stranger's Guise

Worship

The theme of our conference this year was anchored in Matthew 25:31-46 and in a quote from the Celtic Rune of Hospitality. "Often, often, often, goes the Christ in the stranger's guise." Each day in worship, Rev. Aisha Brooks-Johnson donned red glasses and invited us to recognize Jesus in creation, in our fellow brothers and sisters, and within ourselves.

Music and Other Arts

We gathered for worship service each morning to such a variety of sounds: Bells, guitars, brass fanfares, drums, and glorious organ preludes. We sang in the three hundred voice choir led by renown composer and conductor Dr. Andre Thomas. Our FPC instrumentalists accompanied hymns and choir anthems throughout the week. Class offerings included liturgical dance, art, handbells, choir, instrumental ensembles, and drumming for all ages. We learned new literature by participating in music reading sessions and attending the organ recital and hymn festival. We all performed in the final concerts on Thursday and Friday evening.

Each participant was asked to write twelve prayers on paper and fold them into peace cranes. The hundreds of cranes were collected, strung, and placed on the chancel during the week.

Family

Montreat offered a complete schedule of events for children, middlers, high school students, and adults. Children participated in fun and games, bible study, wading in the creek and paddle boating on Lake Susan. Evening programs for youth included evening socials and a talent show.

Mark Your Calendar for Next Year's Conference: June 18-23 and June 25-30, 2023

I hope that you will consider joining us next summer as the Montreat Worship and Music Conference. We look forward to sharing what we learned during the coming months.

Love in Christ,

Joni

Sunday, July 17

Offertory Anthem: Chancel Choir will sing "I Choose Love" by Mark Miller. Sarah Alexander will be the featured soloist.

Elders: Glenn Woodrum, Bonnie Disney

Assisting in Worship: Glenn Woodrum

Deacons: Lark Haynie, Harold Nixon

Sunday, July 24

Offertory Anthem: Chancel Choir will sing "How Firm a Foundation" arranged by Emma Lou Diemer

Elders: Missy Coulter, Liza Cooper

Assisting in Worship: Missy Coulter

Deacons: Colin Davis

UPCOMING EVENTS

SUNDAY, JULY 17

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

MONDAY, JULY 18

5:30 p.m. Guiding CouncilParlor

SUNDAY, JULY 24

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

MONDAY, JULY 25

6:00 p.m. Session Meeting Fellowship Hall

PICTURES FROM 2022 MONTREAT Worship & Music Conference



Joni Brown, Joe Bettinger, Jessica Bettinger,
Hamilton Stoddard, Lauren Decker



Joe Bettinger

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NEW HARMONY PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN HELP SHOPS

Georgetown Presbyterian Church
 558 Black River Road, Georgetown, SC 29440
 August 6, 2022 – 9:30 a.m.

Bible study overview: “Celebrating Sabbath”
 There will be help shops for Moderator, Treasurer, Historian,
 IT information and Exercise Presentation.

JOYS AND CONCERNS

Bon Secours-St. Francis Hospital
 (Charleston): John Michael Osteen

Covenant Place: Jennie Linn Duffie



Home: Windy Corbett, Chuck Fienning, Caroline Sigmon,
 Bill Scobee, Robert Stage II (Son of Marta Stage)

Christian sympathy is extended to . . .
 . . . the family of Camilla Wright, who died June 29;
 . . . the family of Carol Fournier, who died July 3.

FOCUS ON FINANCES Two Weeks Beginning June 26 & July 3, 2022

	Received		2022 Budgeted
	<i>Two Weeks</i>	<i>YTD</i>	<i>YTD</i>
Revenue			
*Contributions	\$ 15,784.	\$ 406,317.	\$ 344,526.
Other Sources	\$ <u>2,298.</u>	\$ <u>5,146.</u>	\$ <u>66,038.</u>
	\$ 18,082.	\$ 411,463.	\$ 410,564.