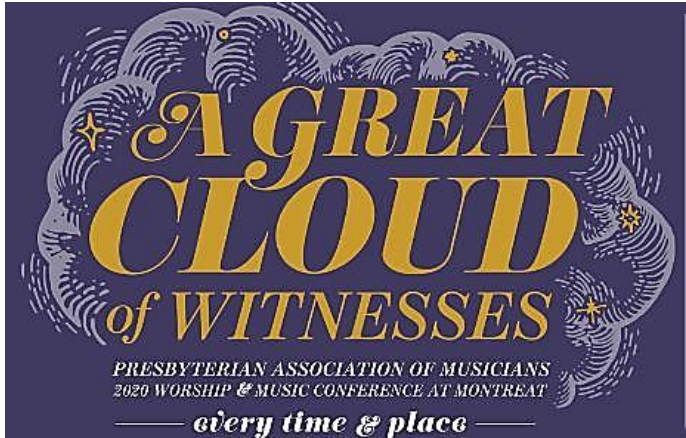


FOCUS



The weekly newsletter of
FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
Sumter, South Carolina

July 14, 2020



NOTES FROM JONI

When the planners of the fiftieth Montreat Worship and Music Conference chose the theme, they had no idea that that the witnesses would include those in the virtual cloud as well.

Hamilton Stoddard, Lauren Decker, and I attended the conference virtually and will continue to use the videos as reference in the months to come. Each day began with yoga, morning prayer and worship with a central theme: Remember, Follow, Heal, Hope, Proclaim and Sing.

As the workshops and worship services were presented, reoccurring threads appeared.

1. We acknowledge our grief over the loss of the worship experiences we have known and loved.
2. We make mistakes as we learn new techniques and technologies to reach our beloved congregations. Meaningful worship will grow and evolve with the grace of God.
3. We can and must use our art and music to acknowledge and address injustice and inequality in the world.
4. We can and must use our art and music to heal broken spirits and hearts.
5. As we move forward, we have the unique opportunity to be the church in ways we never thought possible.

Verses from this hymn from the Hymn Festival sum it all up.

Remember and Imagine

(Tune: The Church's One Foundation)

*Remember and imagine the future and the past,
Both roots and rising branches, the first thing and the last.*

*Our heritage prepares us for what is yet in store;
We dream of what we hope for, but God imagines more.*

*O God beyond the measure of any finite mind.
The church proclaims your glory to waiting humankind.
We dream within horizons of what has come before.*



THE LEADERS OF OUR CONGREGATION

Every year, the leadership of our congregation goes through transition. We recognize the Elders and Deacons who have served us well for three years while also welcoming new officers into the ranks of servant-leadership at First

Presbyterian Church. Elders and Deacons serve different functions in the life of a congregation.

Among other duties Elders:

- Discern and measure the congregation's fidelity to the Word of God
- Strengthen the congregation's faith
- Exercise leadership, governance, spiritual discernment and discipline
- Lead the congregation in ministries of personal and social healing
- Lead in reconciling the communities in which the church lives and bears its witness
- Visit and reach out to the congregation through care

Among other duties Deacons:

- Exercise a ministry of compassion, witness, and service
- Share in the redeeming love of Jesus Christ for the poor, the hungry, the sick, the lost, the friendless
- Seek out and relieve the oppressed, those burdened by unjust policies or structures, or anyone in distress
- Oversee worship duties such as offerings, ushering and more
- Visit and reach out to the congregation through care

We would like to recognize and give thanks for officers who have served these past years. **Elders:** Mandy Blankenship, Cary Coker, Wayne Hogon, Dave McInnis and Glenn Woodrum. **Deacons:** Gus Bloom, Liza Cooper Catharine Frerichs, Sibbie McFaddin, Julia Muldrow and Carol Reese.

At the same time, we welcome and give thanks for our new officers. **Elders:** Missy Coulter, Ann Geddings, Jack Osteen, Dan Spencer and Debby Williams. **Deacons:** Jim Alexander, Matthew Berger, Katherine Brogdon, Colin Davis, Kimberly Land, Andrew McCord and Christie Stutz.

Please thank both our departing officers and our new officers for their service. We are grateful for their time, energy and vision. Please pray for your leaders as they continue to discern the direction of our congregation.

Blessings,

Nick

OUTDOOR WORSHIP

After a long discussion and plenty of discernment, the Reopening Taskforce has made the difficult decision of canceling outdoor worship through July and August. We will continue with online worship at 10:30 am on Facebook and the Website. More information to come.

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
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Mark your calendars!
Tuesdays Together by the Fountain:
A VBS Picnic
for Children and Families of FPC

Tuesday, July 21 – “We Are to Love Others”
Tuesday, July 28 – “The Greatest Commandment”

We will meet each week from 6:00 pm to 7:00 pm (weather permitting). Be sure to bring your picnic dinner, chairs and/or blanket. Sign up is required by Sunday of each week. For more information please contact Kelly Hickey.

This publication was delivered to USPS on 7/14/2020. Please notify USPS if you don't receive it in a timely manner.

JOYS AND CONCERNS



Home: Paul Herrmann,
Tiny Owens,
David R. Brown, Charlie Hodgin,
Brandon Hazen (Robin Thames' Brother-in-law),
Rick Parker (Lisa Bratton's Stepfather)
Charles King (Greg King's Father)
Austin, TX: Robert Cain (George Cain's father)

St. Jude: Elizabeth Williams

CONGRATULATIONS to Josh and Anna Owens-Sweeney on the birth of a son, Charles Barton (Charlie) Owens-Sweeney, born July 1 in Dayton, Ohio. Proud grandparents are Becky and Tiny Owens.

CHRISTIAN SYMPATHY is extended to the family of Glenn Coker, who died July 4.

Faith, Hope and Love Gift Bags for FPC Families



If you have not picked up your Faith, Hope and Love bag, there will be another opportunity on **Tuesday, July 21, from 5:00 pm to 7:00 pm**. Drive through pick up will be under the awning at the FPC Preschool entrance. We hope to see you there!! If you are not available to pick up your bag, please notify Kelly Hickey.

YOUTH GROUP RESUMES

The time has finally come to have youth group again! We will meet this coming Sunday afternoon, July 19 as follows:

- Middle School ~ 5:00 – 6:00 p.m.
- High School ~ 6:00 – 7:00 p.m.



We will meet outside and masks are required. We can't wait to see you guys. Text Taylor 803-968-9655 to let him know if you are able to come so he can plan accordingly. Wash your hands, wear a mask, stay safe, and say your prayers.

Thank You!

I am so appreciative to everyone for all the expressions of sympathy on the death of my sister. Your words were so kind and very much appreciated at this difficult time. I am grateful to be part of this loving church family.

Shirley Wood

FOCUS ON FINANCES
Two Weeks Beginning
June 28 & July 5, 2020

	Received		Budgeted
	Two Weeks	YTD	YTD
Revenue			
Contributions	\$20,597.	\$ 352,892.	\$ 445,542.
*Other Sources	\$ (746)	\$ 30,279.	\$ 65,704.
	\$19,851.	\$ 383,171.	\$ 511,246.

*Endowments, Church Event Fees, etc.



PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

Because the May Circle Meeting was canceled, we need you to send in your corrections for the Blue Book. Changes, deletions and additions need to be sent to Randa Edmunds at randaedmunds@gmail.com we are relying primarily on email contact.

Also, we are still in need of your financial support for the mission of the Presbyterian Women. Please send your offerings to Ann Shreve, Treasurer, 30 Long Barn Court, Sumter, SC 29154. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Debbie Jackson at debbiejackson1954@gmail.com. We appreciate everyone's support.