

# FOCUS



The weekly newsletter of  
**FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**  
Sumter, South Carolina

July 26, 2022



## FROM BOB'S DESK . . .

Dear Friends in Christ,

As summer lengthens toward a new school year, we hope everyone is enjoying some last vacation travels before settling back into Sumter. We are looking forward to some “coming back together” times for our congregation. We have placed three events on the church calendar, and we hope that you will put them on your calendar, too!

**SUNDAY, AUGUST 14:** The church will provide chicken and drinks for a congregational covered-dish luncheon after morning worship to share summer stories from mission trips, conferences, and programs this summer. Please bring side dishes and desserts as we dine together as a family of faith.

**SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 11:** We are hoping for a high attendance Lord's Day as we rally for our Sunday School Kickoff at 9:15 am and then ordain and install new church officers during morning worship. Our new elders and deacons are attending their first meetings and are being trained for leadership in our church as they begin their three- year terms. Plan to help us kick off a new year of activities at church!

**SUNDAY – WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 9-12:** “Come See Montreat” is a trip to see the Presbyterian Conference Center near Black Mountain, North Carolina. We will travel on Sunday, have Monday and Tuesday to explore Montreat and the surrounding area, and then journey home on Wednesday. I mentioned in an earlier newsletter that Mary Ann and I have loved going to Montreat throughout our life, and several members of the congregation responded that they would love to take a church trip to this Presbyterian conference center. We explored the possibility, and now we are offering this adventure to our church. We have reserved some rooms in the South Carolina Inn in Montreat, but we need to know who would like to go on this trip. **PLEASE SIGN UP NOW** so we can secure our lodging. Just call the church office at (803) 773-3814. Thank you.

I look forward to being with you in worship on Sunday morning!

Love,

*Bob*

## Sunday, July 31

Offertory Anthem: Soprano Sarah Alexander will sing “A Clare Benediction” by John Rutter

**Elders:** Gus Blum, Norma Abbott

**Assisting in Worship:** Gus Blum

**Deacons:** Jim Alexander, Suzanne Wates

## Sunday, August 7

Offertory Anthem: The Chancel Choir will sing “Gracious Spirit, Dwell with Me” arranged by K. Lee Scott

**Elders:** Ann Geddings, Linda Hogon

**Assisting in Worship:** Ann Geddings

**Deacons:** Gary Bratton, Virginia Hutchens

**Regular Chancel Choir rehearsals will resume weekly rehearsals on Wednesday, August 17 from 7:00-8:30 p.m.** No audition is necessary. If you would like to join our choir family, please contact Joni Brown ([jonibrown@fpcsumter.org](mailto:jonibrown@fpcsumter.org) or 803-773-3814) for more information.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### SUNDAY, JULY 31

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

### SUNDAY, AUGUST 7

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

### MONDAY, AUGUST 8

6:00 p.m. Diaconate Meeting ..... McLaurin Room

### TUESDAY, AUGUST 9

10:00 a.m. Preschool Staff Meeting ..... McLaurin Room

### WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 10

6:00 p.m. Faith Formation .....Parlor



### GEAR UP FOR LEARNING

Sumter United Ministries has asked for our help with Gear Up for Learning. First Presbyterian Church has volunteered to collect **2600 college ruled spiral**

**notebooks** for donation to the Sumter School District. Please donate notebooks by August 8. You may leave them in the Fellowship Hall. Thank you for helping gather these school supplies for Sumter children.

### 200<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION 1823 ~ 2023

Exciting plans are being made to commemorate and celebrate the past 200 years of First Presbyterian Church! Throughout next year, we will be sharing and learning about the rich history of our past ministers, teachers, leaders, and faithful members, and the ways in which we have glorified God through our service to others. It will be a time of gathering together and looking forward to the future.

Please consider volunteering your time and talents to help with our celebration in the areas of Music, Drama, History, Children and Youth Activities, Publicity, Media, Fund Raising, Commemorative Item and others.

*To learn more and become involved, we hope to see you at the next meeting on August 16 from 6-7 pm in the Fellowship Hall. Your valuable participation will be very much appreciated.*

### 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.

### FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

9 West Calhoun Street

Sumter, SC 29150

803-773-3814

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## *Handbells*

Our handbell choir, the Joy Ringers, will begin fall rehearsals on **August 21 from 5:45-6:45** p.m. in the Session Room. If you are interested in joining, contact Joni at [jonibrown@fpcsumter.org](mailto:jonibrown@fpcsumter.org) or 773-3814. High schoolers and adults are welcome.

### JOYS AND CONCERNS

Tuomey: Wanda Casker

Tuomey Rehab: John Michael Osteen

National Healthcare: Carolita Cantrell



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

**CHRISTIAN SYMPATHY** is extended to . . .

- . . . Randy Coker and Lisa Mellon on the death of their mother, Roberta Coker, who died July 15;
- . . . Charlie Denny on the death of his sister, Margaret Denny Hicks, who died July 14 in Shelby, North Carolina;

### FOCUS ON FINANCES

**Two Weeks Beginning July 10 and 17, 2022**

	Received		2022 Budgeted
	<i>Two Weeks</i>	<i>YTD</i>	<i>YTD</i>
<b>Revenue</b>			
*Contributions	\$ 40,317.	\$ 446,633.	\$ 365,443.
Other Sources	\$ 1,095.	\$ 6,242.	\$ 66,057.
	\$ 41,412.	\$ 452,875.	\$ 431,500.