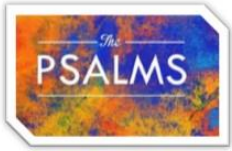


# FOCUS



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

August 10, 2021



**Sunday, August 15**  
**A Mini Series . . . Psalms for Summer**  
**#2: "Where Fear is Near"**

**BLESSING OF EDUCATORS**

We will have a special blessing of educators during worship this Sunday. All teachers, administrators and school staff for public and private schools are invited to participate.

**Elders Assisting in Worship**

John Moorman, Debby Williams

**Deacons Assisting in Worship**

Macaulay Smith, Lark Haynie

**Children in Worship**

Teacher: Kelly Hickey Volunteer: Glenda Denny

**Sunday, August 22**  
**A Mini Series . . . Psalms for Summer**  
**#3: "A Place Called Home"**

**Elders Assisting in Worship**

Whit Shaw, Dan Spencer

**Deacons Assisting in Worship**

Katherine Brogdon, Taylor Geddings

**Children in Worship**

Teacher: Missy Coulter Volunteer: Liza Cooper

**NEW GUIDELINES FOR  
WORSHIP & CHURCH ACTIVITIES**

Based on the current CDC guidelines and considering the recent increased COVID cases, the Reopening Task Force recommended, and Session approved, the following guidelines be implemented:

1. We strongly encourage that those who are fully vaccinated wear a mask and we continue to request that any individual who is not vaccinated, including children 2-years-old and up, wear a mask during all church activities.
2. Offering will be collected at the end of each worship service with Ushers standing with collection baskets at the exit doors.
3. Sunday School classes will continue following the mask recommendation above.
4. Youth Fellowship will begin on September 12 following the mask recommendation above.
5. Faithful Families and other upcoming ministries will be put on hold until further notice.



**From the Bridge Interim's Desk...**

I like the name "Focus" for our church newsletter! It brings to mind the many ways we use the word *focus* in our communications. Here are just a few: *keep things in focus...stay focused...do not let things become out*

*of focus...focus on the things that matter.*

As First Presbyterian begins this new phase of her mission in Christ's name, I want to encourage us to "keep our focus" on Christ, the author and finisher of our faith. (Hebrews 12:2). It is my joy to serve as your Bridge Interim. Thank you for your visits and expressions of thanksgiving at the "meet and greet" on my first Sunday. Remember, our number one priority during our time together should be to "*keep our focus*" on Christ!

See you Sunday!

My love and prayers,

*Joel*

Dear Church Family,

Last Sunday's scripture readings were spot on for me. As we continue to watch COVID19 numbers rise, I have been worried, sad, frustrated and more. I want our children to be in school. I want us to be able to continue to worship in-person. I am excited about kicking off the new church school year, yet, I have no idea how any of this is going to turn out. So, what should I do? What should any of us do? Turn to the Lord.

Philippians 4:6-7 " *6 Don't worry about anything; instead, pray about everything. Tell God what you need, and thank him for all he has done. 7 Then you will experience God's peace, which exceeds anything we can understand. His peace will guard your hearts and minds as you live in Christ Jesus.* NLT

Oh Lord, it is so hard to be in this place again. Lord help us to make decisions based on truth and love. Help us to not worry about negatives that come our way, because we know we cannot make everyone happy. Lord may all we do bring honor and glory to you. May your peace fall upon us and guard our hearts and minds. Especially as we move forward with making decisions in this time of uncertainty and concerns. May we not worry yet trust you in all things. We love you Lord and are so thankful you loved us first. In Christ's name we pray. Amen.

Much love,

*Kelly*



**NEWS FROM THE SESSION**

As many of you may have noticed, the ceiling in the Sanctuary is suffering from mold, peeling paint, and damaged trim from water damage. The cause of these problems has been rectified so it is now time to repair the damage. However, this is not going to be a simple, quick fix. Prep work of covering the organ, removing pews, and building scaffolding will begin August 23. The repair work and painting will take place the following weeks.

We will be holding our regular 10:30 worship services in the Fellowship Hall beginning August 29. If all goes well, the work should be completed and things put back together for us to resume worship in the Sanctuary on September 26.

We apologize for the inconvenience, but are anxious to have our Sanctuary restored to its glory.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### SUNDAY, AUGUST 15

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

### MONDAY, AUGUST 16

10:00 a.m. Prayer Shawl Ministry ... 505 W. Calhoun St.

### TUESDAY, AUGUST 17

#### First Day of FPC Preschool/Kindergarten

10:00 a.m. Staff Meeting ..... Chapel  
 6:00 p.m. Executive Council.....Parlor

### WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 18

1:30 p.m. Discovery Class (Zoom)  
 5:45 p.m. Joy Ringers .....Session Room  
 7:00 p.m. Chancel Choir ..... Choir Room

### SUNDAY, AUGUST 22

9:30 a.m. Summer Choir .....Sanctuary  
 9:30 a.m. Sunday School  
 10:30 a.m. Worship .....Sanctuary  
 4:00 p.m. Youth Min. Parent Meeting.....West Bldg.

### MONDAY, AUGUST 23

6:00 p.m. Session Meeting ..... Fellowship Hall

### TUESDAY, AUGUST 24

9:00 a.m. Staff Meeting .....Parlor

### WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 25

5:45 p.m. Joy Ringers .....Session Room  
 7:00 p.m. Chancel Choir ..... Choir Room

### THURSDAY, AUGUST 26

10:00 a.m. Council of Pres. Women..... McLaurin Room

### CHANCEL CHOIR RESUMES WEEKLY REHEARSALS

Regular Chancel Choir rehearsals will resume weekly rehearsals on **Wednesday, August 18, from 7:00 – 8:30 p.m.** No audition is necessary. If you would like to join our choir family, please contact Joni Brown, Director of Music Ministry at [jonibrown@fpcsumter.org](mailto:jonibrown@fpcsumter.org) or 803-773-3814 for more information.

### JOY RINGERS BEGIN FALL REHEARSALS

Our handbell choir, the Joy Ringers, will begin fall rehearsals on **August 18, from 5:45 - 6:45 p.m.** in the Session Room. If you are interested in joining, please contact Joni at [jonibrown@fpcsumter.org](mailto:jonibrown@fpcsumter.org) or 803-773-3814. High schoolers and adults are welcome.

### PARENT MEETING FOR YOUTH MINISTRY For Parents of Rising 6<sup>th</sup>-12 grade

On Sunday, **August 22, at 4:00 p.m.**, parents are invited to join Kelly Hickey in the West Building for a time of open conversation about youth ministry and the future. We hope you will make every effort to join us. Any questions, please contact Kelly.



### NEWS FROM PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

The PW Council Meeting will be held Thursday, August 26, at 10:00 a.m. in the McLaurin Room.

### GEAR UP FOR LEARNING UPDATE

We are excited to announce that we exceeded our goal – a total of 2,749 notebooks were collected! A special thank you to all who contributed!!!

### OUT OF THE OFFICE

Kelly Hickey will be away Friday, August 27-Sunday, August 29 with her husband, Jamie, celebrating their wedding anniversary. Should you need assistance during her time away, please contact Beth McCord. Thank you!

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### JUNIOR USHER TRAINING AND REFRESHER (Rising 2<sup>nd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> Grade)



On Sunday, September 19, immediately following worship, all rising 2<sup>nd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> grade children are invited to join Ms. Kelly and friends for Junior Usher training and refresher. The training/refresher should last about 30 minutes. If you are not available to join us on the 22<sup>nd</sup>, please contact Kelly.



### SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

The Endowment and Memorials Committee is pleased to announce the following Baker Scholars for the upcoming 2021-22 year: Senior Macie Luebbert, Juniors Bo Brogdon & Grey Holler, Sophomores Alex Blum & Sarah Jekel, and newly-elected Freshmen Gracyn Coker and William Coulter. Also receiving a one-time scholarship are Owings Holler & Sarah Alexander. The Committee also awarded Kathryn Blanding the West Leadership Scholarship for the 2021-22 year. Congratulations to all these outstanding college students!

### JOYS AND CONCERNS

**Home:** Suzanna Foley, Bill Scobee,  
 Tom Tindal (John Tindal's Brother),



**Austin, TX:** Robert Cain (George Cain's Father)

**CHRISTIAN SYMPATHY** is extended to . . .  
 . . . the family of Carol Reese, who died July 31;  
 . . . the family of Margaret Harden McLeod, who died July 27, at the Village of Summerville. She was the wife of Rev. Dr. Cliff H. McLeod, former pastor at FPC.

### FOCUS ON FINANCES

**Two Weeks Beginning  
 July 25 & August 1, 2021**

	Received		2021 Budgeted
	Two Weeks	YTD	YTD
<b>Revenue</b>			
Contributions	\$ 18,618.	\$367,427.	\$352,270.
*Other Sources	\$ 21,500.	\$ 93,447.	\$ 93,563.
	\$ 40,118.	\$460,874.	\$445,833.

*\*Includes \$67,000 from SBA PPP Loan Forgiveness and \$21,500 Distribution from Baker Scholarship Endowment.*