

# FOCUS



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

August 24, 2021

## WORSHIP IN THE FELLOWSHIP HALL

Beginning this Sunday, August 29, our Sunday morning worship will temporarily be held in the Fellowship Hall, while repair and painting of the Sanctuary ceiling is taking place.

We appreciate your patience and apologize for any inconvenience.

### Sunday, August 29

Rev. Mary McCutchen Ramirez will be our guest minister.

#### Elders Assisting in Worship

Kay Smith, Glenn Woodrum

#### Deacons Assisting in Worship

Matthew Berger, Colin Davis

#### Children in Worship

Teacher: Beth McCord Volunteer: Jessica Bettinger

### Sunday, September 5

“How Deep Is Your Love?”

Ephesians 3:14-21

Offertory Anthem: Special music will be provided by  
Lauren Decker, violin solo

#### Elders Assisting in Worship

Gus Blum, Liza Cooper

#### Deacons Assisting in Worship

Charlie White, Macaulay Smith

#### Children in Worship

Teacher: Ashley Blum, Caron DuRant  
Volunteer: Brittney Cain

## ADVENT DEVOTIONAL 2021

### Hope, Peace, Joy and Love

We had such a wonderful response with last year's Advent Devotional. It's time to begin putting together this year's with devotions written by you, members of FPC. We are very excited about this opportunity and would love for you to participate. We need 27 entries with no more than 400 words. If you are interested in writing a devotional or have any questions, **please contact Kelly Hickey by September 26. Devotions are due no later than October 10.**



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

### “A Thanksgiving Wrap”

Years ago, I learned the meaning of the phrase, “it's a wrap.” Very simply, it means to bring to completion a task.

If you have not said “thank you” to those who have helped you in getting a job done, then the task is not yet completed. Take some time today to connect to those with whom you have worked to tell them thanks. You can send a text. Make a phone call. Write an email. Ask them for some Facetime. It's always appropriate to say thanks.

Let me begin by saying “thank-you” to all in our FPC family. It has taken a host of people to assist me in finding my way during these first four weeks with you. Without you, it would have been impossible for us to have done so many things. Your welcoming presence has meant more than my words can express.

The scripture reminds us to “*give thanks in everything for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.*” (1 Thessalonians 5:16-18)

Here's a quote from William Arthur Ward that sums up the importance of giving thanks...

*“Feeling gratitude and not expressing it is like wrapping a present and not giving it.”*

At the risk of being redundant, “THANK-YOU!”

It's a wrap-A **Thanksgiving Wrap**,

*Joel*

## USHER TRAINING AND REVIEW

### (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 review for those who are coming back. The training/review should last about 30 minutes. If you are not available to join us on the 19<sup>th</sup>, please contact Kelly.

## NEW CHURCH SCHOOL YEAR KICKOFF

Sunday, September 12

More information coming soon

### “ON THE MOVE FOR JESUS”

#### Preschool and Elementary Ministry

September 12 – October 17

Beginning Sunday, September 12, children, 3K – 5<sup>th</sup> grade, are encouraged to join Ms. Kelly, Ms. Jessica, and friends from 4:00 – 5:00 pm to learn more about the Bible, learn memory verses and sing in the Children's Choir. We will meet in the Chapel each week wearing masks. Parent are asked to drop their children off at the office entrance of the church building. Ms. Kelly will be there to greet you.

## YOUTH GROUP

On Sunday, September 12, youth group will kick off beginning at 5:00 pm in the West Building. We will meet each week from 5:00 pm – 6:30 pm. We strongly encourage wearing masks. Unfortunately, due to the rise in COVID cases, we will not be able to serve food at this time; however, we are truly grateful that we can be together in person. We are super excited about this year and look forward to seeing everyone at Youth Group!



**UPCOMING EVENTS**

**SUNDAY, AUGUST 29**

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

**MONDAY, AUGUST 30**

- 10:00 a.m. Staff Meeting ..... Parlor

**WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 1**

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

**SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 5**

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

**MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 6**

**Labor Day ~ Office Closed**

**TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 7**

- 10:00 a.m. Staff Meeting ..... FH

**WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 8**

- 5:45 p.m. Joy Ringers ..... Session Room
- 6:00 p.m. Faith Formation ..... Parlor
- 7:00 p.m. Chancel Choir ..... Choir Room



Dear Church Family,

Over the past several weeks, Faith Formation has been working on plans for the new church school year. We are in the process of finalizing plans for Sunday School, Jesus on the Move Children’s Ministry and Youth Group.

Although, other ministries are currently on hold, we are excited and grateful to move forward with children, youth and adult Christian Education opportunities. Being able to provide ministries for all of us to grow in Christ is priceless. In my opinion, it is the most important! I honestly do not know what I would do or where I would be if I didn’t know Jesus.

I am so thankful for the many Sunday school teachers, youth advisors, pastors, my parents, friends, etc. who have taught me, loved me, and encouraged me every step of the way to continue to grow in and with Christ. I want to do the same. I encourage you and your family to join us as we kickoff a new church school year and embrace the opportunities provided to grow in and with Jesus.

Much love,

*Kelly*

PS – I also want to encourage anyone who has a heart for children and/or youth to please reach out to me. We are looking for a few more people to help in these ministry areas and we need you.

*“Train children in the right way, and when old, they will not stray.” Proverbs 22:6*

**CIRCLE NEWS**

Circles will meet Tuesday, September 7, as follows:

- #1 - 12:30 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall  
No food will be served.  
Contact: Linda Brown
- #4 - Will not meet in September  
Contact: Norma Abbott
- #6 - 6:30 p.m. in the West Building  
Contact: Ashley Blum
- #8 - Meeting Time to be Announced  
Contact: Winnie Gee and Fran Kay
- #9 - 4:00 p.m. at the home of Sibbie McFaddin, 321 West Calhoun Street  
Contact: Pam George



Circle #7, will meet Wednesday, September 8, at 9:00 a.m. at Baker’s Sweets. Contact: Robin Thames

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
9 West Calhoun Street  
Sumter, SC 29150  
803-773-3814

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**SESSION**

Debby Williams, Clerk  
Bob Smith, Treasurer

**Class of 2021**

John Dunn  
Caron DuRant  
John Moorman  
Whit Shaw  
Kay Smith

**Class of 2022**

Missy Coulter  
Ann Geddings  
Jack Osteen  
Dan Spencer  
Debby Williams

**Class of 2023**

Gus Blum  
Liza Cooper  
Chuck Fienning  
Linda Hogon  
Glenn Woodrum

**DIACONATE**

Kimberly Land, Moderator  
Jim Alexander, Secretary

**Class of 2021**

Elyn Croft  
Taylor Geddings  
Meg Hill  
Macaulay Smith  
Chris Somheil  
Charlie White

**Class of 2022**

Jim Alexander  
Matthew Berger  
Katherine Brogdon  
Colin Davis  
Kimberly Land  
Andrew McCord

**Class of 2023**

Gary Bratton  
Lark Haynie  
Kathy Lyons  
John Michael Osteen  
Suzanne Wates

**JOYS AND CONCERNS**

**Tuomey:** Tiny Owens

**Home:** Suzanna Foley, Bill Scobee,  
Tom Tindal (John Tindal’s Brother),  
Robert Stage II (Son of Marta Stage)

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



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

- . . . San Rosefield, on the death of her sister, Patricia (Patsy) Banks, who died August 16 in Charleston;
- . . . Debby Williams, on the death of her brother-in-law, Charles R. “Buddy” Barnwell, who died August 17 in Orangeburg.

**FOCUS ON FINANCES**

**Two Weeks Beginning  
August 8 and 15, 2021**

	Received		2021 Budgeted
	Two Weeks	YTD	YTD
<b>Revenue</b>			
Contributions	\$ 22,232.	\$389,758.	\$377,814.
*Other Sources	\$ 103.	\$ 93,550.	\$113,677.
	\$ 22,434.	\$483,308.	\$491,490.

\*YTD includes \$67,000 revenue from SBA PPP Loan Forgiveness and \$21,500 distribution from Baker Scholarship Endowment.