

# FOCUS



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

September 22, 2020



## A CHURCH MEMBER

I recently read a short book by church leadership guru and consultant, Thom Rainer, entitled, *I am a Church Member*. Rainer was compelled to write the book after his research revealed over half of all conflict in church had to deal with members arguing over their personal preferences. Rainer hopes and prays the book will cause all of us church members to rethink our attitude about church membership, and to understand we are there to serve, not necessarily to be served. In his book, Rainer presents six pledges he believes all church members should strive to claim in order to help their own congregation thrive in ministry and mission. The first pledge is below.

**Pledge #1: I will be a functioning church member.** *I like the metaphor of membership. It's not membership as in a civic organization or a country club. It's the kind of membership given to us in I Corinthians 12, "Now you are the body of Christ, and individual members of it." (I Cor. 12:27). Because I am a member of the body of Christ, I must be a functioning member, whether I am an "eye," and "ear," or a "hand." As a functioning member, I will give. I will serve. I will minister. I will evangelize. I will study. I will seek to be a blessing to others. I will remember that "if one member suffers, all the members suffer with it; if one member is honored, all the members rejoice with it." (Cor. 12:26-27)*

- I am a Church Member, Thomas Rainer

Pledge #1 presents us with the foundational principle of church membership – "I belong." We belong to God and to one another. To belong means that we are there for each other, we acknowledge our differences but still work together towards our greater purpose in serving Christ. We give, we serve, we study and we share the Good News with one another and the world around us. When Jesus told Peter, "on this rock I will build my church," thankfully he wasn't asking only Peter to do the building, he was asking every one of his disciples. Those disciples are you and I. It's a great calling, but we didn't sign up for a cake walk. We signed up to follow Jesus. Let's keep on putting one foot in front of the other as we grow into functioning church members. Amen?

Blessings,

*Nick*

Read about Pledge #2 in our next focus.

## WORSHIP MUSIC

### September 27

Lydia Cheek, soprano, will sing "I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light" by Kathleen Thomerson.

### October 4

John Michael Osteen, baritone, will sing "I Am" by Mark Schultz..

## WEDNESDAY EVENING "CHORAL ENCOUNTERS"

### WITH JONI AND HAMILTON (Zoom)

#### Beginning September 30, 7:00-7:45 p.m. (Weekly)

We hope you will join us for these weekly "choir rehearsals" that will include devotions, warm-ups, two to three choral selections and a closing prayer. If you are a member of the Chancel Choir, you will be invited over email. If you would like to participate, but are not in the Chancel Choir, please email Joni Brown at [jonibrown@fpcsumter.org](mailto:jonibrown@fpcsumter.org). All meetings will happen on Zoom. Choral Encounters start Wednesday, September 30.

Council of Presbyterian Women will meet Monday, October 5, at 10:00 a.m. This will be a Zoom meeting.

Circles will meet Tuesday, October 6, as follows:

- #1 - Zoom meeting at 12:30 p.m.; Contact, Linda Brown
- #4 - Will not meet in October; Contact, Norma Abbott
- #8 - Will not meet in October; Contact, Winnie Gee and Fran Kay
- #9 - Will not meet in October; Contact, Pam George



Circle #6 – Zoom meeting on **Wednesday, October 7**, at 6:30 p.m. Contact, Ashley Blum.

Circle #7 – will meet **Tuesday, October 13**, at 10:30 a.m. at Baker's Sweets. Contact, Robin Thames.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 27

- 10:00 a.m. Outdoor Worship
- 5:30 p.m. Middle School Youth..... West Bldg. Lawn
- 7:00 p.m. High School Youth ..... West Bldg. Lawn

### TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 29

- 10:00 a.m. Staff Meeting ..... Fellowship Hall
- 6:00 p.m. Joy Ringers Small Ensemble ..... TBA

### WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 30

- 7:00 p.m. Chancel Choir (Zoom)

### SUNDAY, OCTOBER 4

#### WORLD COMMUNION SUNDAY

- 10:00 a.m. Outdoor Worship with Communion
- 5:30 p.m. Middle School Youth..... West Bldg. Lawn
- 7:00 p.m. High School Youth ..... West Bldg. Lawn

### MONDAY, OCTOBER 5

- 10:00 a.m. Council of Presbyterian Women (Zoom)

### TUESDAY, OCTOBER 6

- 10:00 a.m. Staff Meeting ..... Fellowship Hall
- 12:30 p.m. Circle 1 (Zoom)
- 6:00 p.m. Faith, Families, Friends & Fun .....  
..... West Bldg. Lawn
- 6:00 p.m. Joy Ringers Small Ensemble ..... TBA

### WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 7

- 10:30 a.m. Circle #7 ..... Baker's Sweets

Dear Church Family,

I am excited to announce the Session has approved **Faith, Families, Friends and Fun** during the month of October for children and families of FPC.

The theme for the month will be *Following Jesus*.



Below is what you need to know:

- We will meet every Tuesday from 6:00 pm – 7:00 pm
- We will enjoy a picnic, fellowship, a Bible story, and an activity.
- You will need to bring your own chairs/blanket
- You will need to bring your families' picnic meal
- Sign up is required by Sunday of each week to make sure there are enough supplies for all:
  - If you plan to join us on Tuesday, October 6, please sign up by Sunday, October 4
  - If you plan to join us on Tuesday, October 13, please sign up by Sunday, October 11
  - If you plan to join us on Tuesday, October 20, please sign up by Sunday, October 18
  - If you plan to join us on Tuesday, October 27, please sign up by Sunday, October 25
- You will need to sit with your own family. Children must stay with parents. Social distancing will be practiced.
- There will be a bathroom available in the West Building.
- If it rains, we will cancel. Please pray that it doesn't rain.

I am really excited for this opportunity to be back together with our church family.

Should you have any questions, need additional information, or want to sign up, please call or email me.

I can't wait for our time together!!

Grace and peace,

*Kelly Hickey*

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This publication was delivered to USPS on 9/22/20.  
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Youth group is up and running! Middle school youth are meeting Sundays from 5:30-6:30 p.m. and high school youth are meeting from 7:00-8:00 p.m. We are meeting outside the youth building and following all social distancing guidelines. Parents continue to check emails and Facebook for updates and info regarding youth group.

### JOYS AND CONCERNS



- Home:** Kent Mims,  
Jimmy DuRant, Travis Brown,  
Jimmy Newman, Joan Auld, Tiny Owens,  
Serena Davell (Marie Mills' Sister),  
Brandon Hazen (Robin Thames' Brother-in-law),  
Rick Parker (Lisa Bratton's Stepfather)  
Charles King (Greg King's Father),  
Ken Brown (Hope Alexander's Father)
- West Palm Beach, FL:** Peri Stump  
(Nancy Smith's Niece)
- West Chester, NY:** Rhodes Danner  
(Pam George's Nephew)
- Austin, TX:** Robert Cain (George Cain's Father)
- St. Jude:** Elizabeth Williams

**CHRISTIAN SYMPATHY** is extended to . . .  
. . . the family of Bob Stage, who died September 9;  
. . . the family of Tillie Kuhn, who died September 16.

### FOCUS ON FINANCES

**Two Weeks Beginning  
September 6 and 13, 2020**

	Received		Budgeted
	<i>Two Weeks</i>	<i>YTD</i>	<i>YTD</i>
<b>Revenue</b>			
Contributions	\$14,559.	\$ 477,233.	\$ 596,609.
*Other Sources	<u>\$ 5.</u>	<u>\$ 52,574.</u>	<u>\$ 112,941.</u>
	\$14,564.	\$ 529,807.	\$ 709,550.

\*Endowments, Church Event Fees, etc.