

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



May 21, 2023

OPENING VOLUNTARY

Sing a New Song

Douglas E. Wagner

CHIMING OF THE TRINITY

WELCOME

Bill Richardson

*** PROCESSIONAL**

God of the Ages, Whose Almighty Hand

NATIONAL HYMN

*** CALL TO WORSHIP**

Cameron Coulter

Leader: Jesus is a servant of all.

People: We are called to follow Jesus in serving everyone we meet.

Leader: Jesus is our teacher.

People: We are his disciples, learning from him and sharing his love with others.

Leader: Jesus is our friend.

People: We listen to his voice, and we trust him to guide us all our life.

Leader: Jesus is our Savior and Redeemer.

People: We love the Lord, and we come into his presence to worship God.

*** HYMN OF PRAISE** 611

Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee

HYMN TO JOY

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Sumter Cooper

Almighty God, you are with us as old chapters end, and new chapters begin. You have been with us in our growing up, and now you will be with us in all that is to come. We confess that we have made mistakes by constantly doing what is best for ourselves and not being concerned nearly as much for the welfare of others. Sometimes, Lord, we need you to slow us down and make us aware of those in need. We claim Jesus as the friend who goes with us and who helps us to do the gentle and loving thing in every setting of our life. Forgive us all our sins. Give us fresh beginnings. Clothe us in grace and hope that we may follow Jesus as he leads us to the generous and caring life of faith. Hear us as we bring our prayers to you.

(Silent Reflection)

In the name of Jesus Christ, we pray. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Wilson Frerichs

Leader: God goes with us on the journey of life as old chapters end and new chapters begin.

No matter where we are right now, our Lord redeems and forgives our sins.

People: What a friend we have in Jesus! Thanks be to God who never gives up on us. Amen.

*** GLORIA PATRI**

GLORIA PATRI

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost;

As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be,

World without end. Amen, Amen.

*** PASSING OF THE PEACE**

CHILDREN'S MOMENT

Jesus Loves Me!

Rev. Bob Brearley

Following the Children's Moment, children preschool through 2nd grade are invited to Children in Worship. Parents can pick up their children from the third floor after worship.

SPECIAL MUSIC

Simple Gifts

Shaker Hymn

Madison White, Violin Solo

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON

Proverbs 3:1-8

John Osteen

(Pew Bible, pg. 585, Old Testament)

NEW TESTAMENT LESSON

John 15:12-17

Madison White

(Pew Bible, pg. 109, New Testament)

SERMON

"Friends of Jesus"

Rev. Bob Brearley

*** AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

The Apostles' Creed

I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth; and in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost; born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead and buried; He descended into hell; the third day, He rose again from the dead; He ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence He shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.

RECOGNITION AND BLESSING OF 2023 GRADUATES

Sumter Bland Cooper

John Duvall Osteen, Jr.

Jack Cameron Coulter

Abigail Cynthia Peyton

Wilson Bass Frerichs

Sarah Michael Sonntag

Clinton Brogdon Galloway

Madison Gail White

Congregation: We offer you this blanket as a symbol of the continuing embrace of your parents, the unwavering care and support of this congregation, and the steadfast love of Christ. You will always have a place to call home right here at First Presbyterian Church.

*** HYMN 465**

What a Friend We Have in Jesus

CONVERSE

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.

GIVING OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS

Call to Giving

Offertory Anthem

Hymn of Promise

Natalie Sleeth

Chancel Choir and Lauren Decker, Violin

*** Doxology**

*Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow
Praise God from whom all blessings flow,
Praise Him all creatures here below. Alleluia, alleluia.
Praise Him above, ye heavenly host,
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!*

LASST UNS ERFREUEN

*** Offertory Prayer**

*** HYMN 300**

We Are One in the Spirit

Peter Scholtes

BENEDICTION

*** CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE 300**

Peter Scholtes

*And they'll know we are Christians by our love, by our love:
Yes, they'll know we are Christians by our love.*

*** CLOSING VOLUNTARY**

Celebrate Life

Buryl Red

*** Please stand as you are able**

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ASSISTING WITH WORSHIP

Crucifer: Jennings Frerichs

Beadle: Wayne Hogon

WELCOME!

We especially welcome those of you who are guests today. We invite you to fill out a Welcome card found in the pew racks and place it in the offering plate as it is passed. We look forward to meeting you. If you have particular questions, please speak to Rev. Brearley.

ASSISTING IN WORSHIP THIS MORNING

Elders: Jack Osteen, Bill Richardson
Assisting with Worship: Bill Richardson
Deacons: Matthew Berger, Paul Herrmann
Junior Ushers: Ligon Ferguson, Murrell Smith

ASSISTING IN WORSHIP NEXT SUNDAY

Elders: Dan Spencer, Glenn Woodrum
Assisting with Worship: Dan Spencer
Deacons: Gary Bratton, Katherine Brogdon
Junior Ushers: Richard Dwight, Connor Thames

BI-CENTENNIAL FUND

During this Bi-Centennial Year, the Session has approved a gift to Habitat for Humanity and Sumter United Ministries. Our special fund-raising goal is \$200,000, half of which will come from one-time gifts from our congregation. The other half, \$100,000, will come from matching funds from our church's local mission reserves. Please prayerfully consider a gift. Thank you.

PENTECOST OFFERING TO BE RECEIVED

Next Sunday is Pentecost and a special offering will be received. A gift to the Pentecost Offering helps the church encourage, develop, and support its young people, and also address the needs of at-risk children. 40% of the Pentecost offering can be retained by individual congregations wanting to make an impact in the lives of young people within their own community. The remaining 60% is used to support children-at-risk, youth, and young adults through ministries of the Presbyterian Mission Agency.



GEAR UP FOR LEARNING



Sumter United Ministries has asked for our help with Gear Up for Learning again this year. First Presbyterian Church has volunteered to collect **1650 college ruled spiral notebooks** for donation to the Sumter School District. ***Please donate notebooks by August 6.*** You may leave them in the Fellowship Hall. Thank you for helping gather these school supplies for Sumter children for the coming school year.

ONLINE GIVING

Online giving can be accessed from the FPC website, fpcsumter.org (press the red "Give" button), also from your mobile device (text FPCS to 73256). Follow the online instructions. You can also give online by using the QR code and your smartphone. Just hover over the QR code with the camera or scanner on your smartphone or tablet and click on the link that appears.



JOYS AND CONCERNS

Sumter Grove Senior Living: Tom & Wanda Casker
Home: Henry McFaddin, Patti Croft, Lisa Bratton, Jackie Osteen,
Milo Abbott (Grandson of Norma Abbott)