

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



July 16, 2023

OPENING VOLUNTARY

Holy, Holy, Holy

Arr. Lani Smith

CHIMING OF THE TRINITY

WELCOME

Norma Abbott

*** CALL TO WORSHIP**

Leader: Almighty God, we praise you, we worship you, we adore you.

People: **You hold the heavens in your hand, all stars rejoice in your glory.**

Leader: You come in the sunrise and the song of the morning,
and you bless the splendor of the noonday.

People: **The stars in their courses magnify you; day and night tell of your majesty.**

Leader: Your peace blows over the earth, and the breath of your mouth fills all space.

People: **You satisfy all things living with your abundance,
and our hearts rejoice at your presence.**

Leader: We have come into this place to worship God and to lift our voices in praise!

*** HYMN OF PRAISE 32**

I Sing the Mighty Power of God

ELLACOMBE

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

We come into your presence with thanks, Creator God, for all that fills our lives with joy: the beauty of this world, the delight of children in our midst, the music that fills our hearts, and the encouragement of friends as we worship. We come into your presence, Lord, knowing our need of your mercy, for we are a people who have disappointed you and ourselves. We have harbored grudges against others, and we have been too critical of those who are different from us. Forgive us and mend us and renew us in your grace. Give us your Holy Spirit that we may have the courage to love the unlovely with the compassion we have seen in Jesus Christ. We bring our needs to you in prayer.

(Silent Reflection)

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

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Leader: The good news in Christ is that when we face ourselves and God with the awareness of our need, we are given grace to grow in love and stamina for the journey of faith. Friends, believe the good news of the gospel: in Jesus Christ we are redeemed and forgiven.

People: **Thanks be to God, who is slow to anger and abounding in steadfast kindness. 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 will stay with their parents.
Children in Worship will not meet again until September.*

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON

Psalm 27:1-6, 11-14
(Pew Bible, pg. 503, Old Testament)

Norma Abbott

NEW TESTAMENT LESSON

Matthew 5:38-48
(Pew Bible, pg. 5, New Testament)

Rev. Bob Brearley

SERMON

"The Sin of Getting Even"

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.

*** HYMN 301**

Let Us Build a House

TWO OAKS

V. 1: Choir

V. 2 and 3: Congregation

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

Just a Closer Walk with Thee
Emmett Anglin, Euphonium Solo

Arr. by Paul Haack

*** 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 301 (V. 4 and 5)**

Let Us Build a House

TWO OAKS

BENEDICTION

*** CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE 543**

GREEN TYLER

God, be the love to search and keep me;
God, be the prayer to move my voice;
God, be the strength to now uphold me:
O Christ, surround me: O Christ, surround me.

*** CLOSING VOLUNTARY**

Shine, Jesus Shine

Arr. Tim Doran

*** Please stand as you are able**

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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.

ASSISTING IN WORSHIP THIS MORNING

Elders: Norma Abbott, Gus Blum
Assisting with Worship: Norma Abbott
Deacons: Valerie James, Joe McElveen

ASSISTING IN WORSHIP NEXT SUNDAY

Elders: Jim Alexander, Margy Carpenter
Assisting with Worship: Margy Carpenter
Deacons: Virginia Hutchens, Jimmy Ezell

SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS BEING RECEIVED

Applications for the Baker and West Scholarships are being received. These scholarships are awarded to members of our church entering college this fall. The application deadline is noon on July 21, 2023.

CONGREGATIONAL CARE

The Congregational Care Committee is here to serve our members in need. We have committees in place to help the pastor and officers care for our congregation. The casserole committee stocks the church freezer with entrees and delivers them to our members, the construction committee helps members with small jobs around the house, and the transportation committee transports members to appointments. The pastoral aides assist Care and Prayer with members that may require additional visits or have emergency concerns. If anyone is interested in serving on any of these committees or knows of anyone that may benefit from our Congregational Care, please contact Missy Coulter (coultervm@aol.com) or Norma Abbott (noabbott@icloud.com). Thank you.

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.

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.

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

Home: John Michael Osteen, Marilyn Jenkins

CONGRATULATIONS to Margaret and Kelly Manders, on the birth of a son, Charles Stafford Manders, born on June 23, 2023 in Potomac, MD. Proud grandparents are Steve and Sallie Stafford.