

# Glorifying God Forever

## 1823 - 2023



Celebrating  
Our  
Preaching  
Mission

Dr. Jeff Aiken

September 10, 2023

# First Presbyterian Church

9 West Calhoun Street

Sumter, South Carolina 29150

(803) 773-3814

OPENING VOLUNTARY

*Rondo Giocoso*

Douglas E. Wagner

CHIMING OF THE TRINITY

INTROIT

*O God Beyond All Praising*  
Chancel Choir

THAXTED

WELCOME TO REV. MIKE McGEHEE AND REV. DAVID DUBAY

Chuck Fienning

**\* CALL TO WORSHIP**

*Leader:* O sing to the Lord a new song, for God has done marvelous things.

**People:** Let the heavens rejoice, let the earth be glad; let the sea resound, and all that is in it.

*Leader:* Let the fields be jubilant, let the rivers clap their hands,  
let the forests and the mountains sing for joy.

**People:** Make music to the Lord with the harp, with the harp and the sound of singing.

*Leader:* Sing your hope and shout your joy before the Lord who reigns.

**People:** O sing to the Lord a new song; sing to the Lord, all the earth.

**\* HYMN OF PRAISE 39**

*Great Is Thy Faithfulness*

FAITHFULNESS

**PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

Eternal and ever-loving God, you have given us your light and truth to guide us through confusion, yet we have relied instead on our human wisdom and have lost our way. You offer to share our burdens and give us your strength, yet we trust in our own efforts and find ourselves exhausted. Bring us back into your presence, O God; overcome our separation from one another and from you. By your Word and Spirit, fill us with the gifts that equip us to meet life's demands, that we may be your people in the world and live in confidence and joy. We offer you our brokenness and our sins.

*(Silent Reflection)*

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

**ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

*Leader:* Since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God in Jesus Christ.  
Friends, believe the good news that gives us the confidence to love all people.  
We are forgiven.

**People:** We rejoice in the hope of the glory of God now and forever. 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 2<sup>nd</sup> grade are invited to  
Children in Worship. Parents can pick up their children from the third floor after worship.*

**RECOGNITION OF CATECHISM STUDENTS**

Harry Jack Berger

Adelaide Watson McElveen

Richard Charles Coulter

George Murrell Smith, III

Millie Garrity Davis

Caroline Topanga Thames

James Lucas DuBose

Connor Nelson Thames

Ligon Hope Ferguson

**OLD TESTAMENT LESSON**

II Chronicles 29:1-3  
(Pew Bible, pg. 411, Old Testament)

Jennings Frerichs

**NEW TESTAMENT LESSON**

Romans 15:1-6  
(Pew Bible, pg. 163, New Testament)

Rev. Dr. Jeff Aiken

**SERMON**

*"Live into Hope"*

Rev. Dr. Jeff Aiken

**\* AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

From A Brief Statement of Faith

The Spirit justifies us by grace through faith, sets us free to accept ourselves and to love God and neighbor, and binds us together with all believers in the one body of Christ, the Church. The same Spirit who inspired the prophets and apostles rules our faith and life in Christ through Scripture. In a broken and fearful world the Spirit gives us courage to pray without ceasing, to witness among all peoples to Christ as Lord and Savior, to unmask idolatries in Church and culture, to hear the voices of peoples long silenced, and to work with others for justice, freedom, and peace. In gratitude to God, empowered by the Spirit, we strive to serve Christ in our daily tasks and to live holy and joyful lives, even as we watch for God's new heaven and new earth, praying, "Come, Lord Jesus!"

**\* HYMN 301**

*Let Us Build a House (All Are Welcome)*

TWO OAKS

Verse 1: Solo

Verse 2 and 5: 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

*The Lord Is My Light*  
Cameron Aiken, Vocalist

Francis Allitsen

**\* 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 772**

*Live into Hope*

TRURO

**BENEDICTION**

**\* CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE 314**

CHRIST, BE OUR LIGHT

+ *Christ, be our light! Shine in our hearts. Shine through the darkness.*  
*Christ, be our light! Shine in your church gathered today.*

**\* CLOSING VOLUNTARY**

*Allegro Con Spirito*

G. F. Handel

**\* Please stand as you are able**

+ *Christ, Be Our Light* is our 200<sup>th</sup> Anniversary theme song.

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The flowers in the Sanctuary this morning are given to the glory of God in celebration of Jim McQuage's 80<sup>th</sup> birthday.

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: Liza Cooper, Bonnie Disney  
 Assisting with Worship: Chuck Fienning  
 Deacons: Valerie James, Kathy Lyons  
 Youth Liturgist: Jennings Frerichs  
 Junior Ushers: Charlie & Colton Thames

**ASSISTING IN WORSHIP NEXT SUNDAY**

Elders: Linda Hogon, John James  
 Assisting with Worship: Linda Hogon  
 Deacons: Virginia Hutchens, Susan W. Osteen  
 Youth Liturgist: Brogdon Hill  
 Junior Ushers: Gwen Bettinger, Ligon Ferguson

**WELCOME**

We welcome the Rev. Dr. Jeff Aiken to our pulpit this morning. Jeff served our church as senior pastor from 1980-1992 and retired as senior pastor emeritus from First Presbyterian Allentown, PA, in 2007. In retirement Jeff was chair of the board of trustees of a multi-hospital network in PA and also as chair of the Board of Pensions of the PCUSA. He and wife Libby currently live in Asheville, NC, and have two sons who grew up in Sumter. Cameron is a doctor of physical therapy, who lives in Chapel Hill, NC, and is singing here today. Stephen, is a clinical pharmacist specialist in oncology (Pharm.D.) at the University of Tennessee Medical Center. He and his wife Jennifer live in Knoxville, TN, with their two children, Blakely and Wyatt.

We are also happy to welcome Rev. Mike McGehee and Rev. David Dubay this morning. Mike served as our Assistant Minister and Associate Minister (1970-1973). David served as Director of Youth Ministries with Dr. Aiken in 1992. He is currently the Rector at Holy Trinity Anglican Church in Charleston, South Carolina.

**CELEBRATING 200 YEARS!**

**Help us celebrate our Bicentennial as we emphasize the preaching mission of our church with former pastors returning to our pulpit.**

**SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 17**

Dr. Ed McLeod (1995-2004) will be our guest preacher.  
 Special offering for the Bicentennial Fund.

***When In Our Music God Is Glorified*****Bicentennial Celebration Concert**

Sunday, September 17

4:00 p.m. in the FPC Sanctuary

Featuring Hamilton Stoddard and Bill Scobee, Organists  
 Sumter Brass Ensemble  
 Kara Grover, Soprano Soloist  
 Lauren Decker and Gracie Reynolds, Violin

*A reception in the Fellowship Hall will follow the Concert.*

**SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 24**

Dr. Mark Durrett (2006-2012) will be our guest preacher.

**BI-CENTENNIAL FUND**

During this Bicentennial Year, the Session has approved a gift to Habitat for Humanity and Sumter United Ministries. Our special fund-raising goal is \$200,000. The first \$125,000 in congregational giving will be matched by our reserve funds for local mission. Our culminating offering will be received on Sunday, September 17. Please prayerfully consider a gift. Thank you.

**JOYS AND CONCERNS**

**Home:** Sherri Redmond, John Michael Osteen