

FOCUS



The weekly newsletter of
FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
Sumter, South Carolina

January 11, 2022

Sunday, January 16

Offertory Anthem: Special Music by the Chancel Choir

Elders: Glenn Woodrum, Gus Blum

Assisting in Worship: Jack Osteen

Deacons: Macaulay Smith, Kathy Lyons

Youth Liturgist: Caroline Moorman

Junior Usher: Caroline Thames

Sunday, January 23

Offertory Anthem: Violinist Lauren Decker will play "How Great Thou Art"

Elders: Liza Cooper, Missy Coulter

Assisting in Worship: Dan Spencer

Deacons: John Michael Osteen, Andrew McCord

Youth Liturgist: Cameron Coulter

Junior Usher: Charles McCord

UPDATED GUIDELINES FROM THE REOPENING TASK FORCE (January 10, 2022)

The following guidelines have been recommended by the Reopening Task Force and approved by Session:

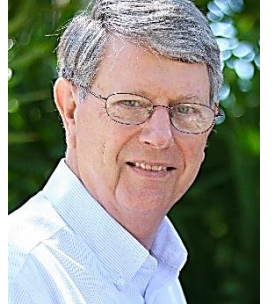
- 1) We **strongly request** that all who are fully vaccinated and those who are unvaccinated wear a mask in indoor settings including children 2-years-old and up for all activities.
- 2) During worship, Children will remain seated with their parents for the Children's Moment and Children in Worship will not meet.
- 3) Offering will be collected at the end of each worship service with Ushers standing with collection baskets at the exit doors.
- 4) Morning Fellowship has been canceled until further notice.
- 5) All Children and Youth Programs (Sunday School, On the Move for Jesus, M&M (Mission Minds) Ministry, Youth Group) are postponed until February 13.
- 6) Confirmation Class scheduled to begin January 9, will be postponed until February 13.

The Reopening Task Force will continue to monitor the Covid situation and make changes as necessary.

From Bob's Desk . . .

Dear Friends in Christ,

It is a joy to receive this call from God and from you to join you in ministry at First Presbyterian Church of Sumter. I have met the church staff and a few of the church members, and I am eager to have visits with many more as life lets us. Thank you for the kindnesses already extended to me that have made me feel at home among you.



These visits with church members are very important to me. Please help me find you! We can visit on the phone or in person as I listen to what is in your mind and on your heart about your church and your life. I will do most of the talking when I am preaching sermons at you, but I look forward to listening as you share with me about our shared ministry in this place.

Coming as a pastor to Sumter feels a lot like coming full circle in my life. In 1979 my wife Mary Ann and I brought our infant son James and all our possessions to Sumter County, South Carolina, to pastor the Concord Presbyterian Church. Rev. Jeff Aiken and Libby were good friends as they served First Presbyterian. Later Rev. Ed McLeod and Rev. Mark Durrett would become lifelong colleagues in ministry.

My younger brother John is the pastor at First Presbyterian Church of Myrtle Beach. When I join New Harmony Presbytery next month, John will vote on me! That is a prayer request! Thanks again for the call to be with you.

Love,

Bob



Beginning Sunday, February 13, Sunday school for all middle school and high school youth will take place from 4:30 – 5:00 pm in the West Building each Sunday.

Youth Group will begin at 5:00 pm with dinner and end at 6:30 pm. Should you have any questions, please contact Kelly Hickey.

SIX-WEEK ADULT BIBLE STUDY TO BEGIN FEBRUARY 13

The Nehemiah Code: It's Never Too Late for a New Beginning
By O. S. Hawkins

It's not too late to join The Nehemiah Code Bible study. This study will meet each Sunday, **beginning February 13**, from 4:00 to 5:00 pm in the Parlor. If you are interested in joining us, please contact Kelly Hickey. The cost for the study material is \$15. Please make checks payable to First Presbyterian Church and earmark it The Nehemiah Study.

UPCOMING EVENTS

SUNDAY, JANUARY 16

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

MONDAY, JANUARY 17

Martin Luther King Day – Church Office Closed
5:30 p.m. Executive Council Parlor

TUESDAY, JANUARY 18

10:00 a.m. Staff Meeting Parlor

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 19

12:30 p.m. Preschool Staff Meeting McLaurin Room
6:00 p.m. Chancel Choir.....Sanctuary
7:30 p.m. Joy Ringers..... Fellowship Hall

SUNDAY, JANUARY 23

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

MONDAY, JANUARY 24

10:00 a.m. Staff Meeting Parlor
6:00 p.m. Session Meeting Fellowship Hall

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 26

6:00 p.m. Chancel Choir.....Sanctuary
7:30 p.m. Joy Ringers..... Fellowship Hall



ON THE MOVE FOR JESUS
Preschool and Elementary Ministry
POSTPONED UNTIL SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 13
Beginning Sunday, February 13, children, 3K – 5th 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 begin in the Fellowship Hall each week. This ministry will meet January 16 through February 20, 2022, and then again from March 20 through May 1, 2022. During March – May, the children will be working on plans to lead worship on Children’s Sunday, May 8, 2022. Please be sure to mark your calendars. Should you have any questions please contact Kelly Hickey.

**CONFIRMATION ORIENTATION 2022
POSTPONED UNTIL SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 13**

On Sunday, February 13, all 6th – 9th grade students and their parents are strongly encouraged to join FPC’s Confirmation Orientation beginning at 5:30 pm in the West Building. Any questions please contact Kelly Hickey.

**M&M MINISTRY
(Mission Minds)
BEGINNNING SUNDAY,
FEBRUARY 20**

Beginning Sunday, February 20 elementary students are invited to join Ms. Kelly and friends for Mission Minds. We will meet on the third Sunday of each month (January – May) engaging in outreach ministries and service projects. We will meet from 2:00 pm – 4:00 pm to travel to a certain destination to complete our mission for that day. More information will be coming soon.

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
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SOUPER BOWL OF CARING



In 1990, Souper Bowl of Caring began with a simple prayer from a single youth group: “**Lord, even as we enjoy the Super Bowl football game, help us be mindful of those without a bowl of soup to eat.**” Since then, more than \$170 million has been generated for local charities across the country through Souper Bowl of Caring. Through this mission, First Presbyterian Church Sumter continues to make a positive difference in this world. This year we will be collecting pouch drinks (Capri Suns/Kool Aid Jammers) for Backpack Blessings along with monetary donations. All pouch drinks should be placed in the bin marked Souper Bowl of Caring outside the church office. Any monetary donation can be sent to the church office earmarked “Souper Bowl of Caring” or placed in Soup Pots marked Souper Bowl of Caring on Sunday, February 13 before or after worship. Any questions, please contact Kelly Hickey.



JOYS AND CONCERNS

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

CONGRATULATIONS to . . .
. . . Patricia and Ben Ingram on the birth of a daughter, Flora Gabriella Ingram, born on December 28 in Mons, Belgium. Proud big sister is Anna Maria Ingram and proud grandparents are Karen and Jim Ingram;
. . . Mallory and Alex Beaton on the birth of a daughter, Arella Rose Beaton, born on January 5.

**FOCUS ON FINANCES
December 26 through December 31, 2021**

	Received		2021 Budgeted
	12/26-12/31	YTD	YTD
Revenue			
Contributions	\$ 50,157.	\$724,662.	\$747,000.
*Other Sources	\$ 9,623.	\$134,760.	\$172,000.
	\$ 59,780.	\$859,422.	\$919,000.

**Other sources YTD includes \$67,000 from SBA PPP Loan Forgiveness and \$60,783 from endowment funds distributions to general fund.*