

FOCUS



The weekly newsletter of
FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
Sumter, South Carolina

January 19, 2021



“TELL THEM ABOUT THE DREAM MARTIN!”

It was blistering hot. People came from all over the nation on buses, trains, vans and on foot. Some cycled from states away to be there. Over 250,000 attended. Preceding the speech were a plethora of speakers and musical performances. The plan was to have King, the highlighted speaker, finish off the day's events with a crescendo. As the day wore on, however, attendees were fading. Some even began leaving before King came to the podium. When it was finally time, King stepped up, looked over the crowd and began, “I am happy to join with you today in what will go down in history as the greatest demonstration for freedom in the history of our nation.” King began with the manuscript, repeating the motion of looking down at his notes and then up at the crowd before him. After he reached a rhythm and tone, however, King slowly moved away from his text. The crowd responded with a swell of cheers. It was at this moment that King's longtime friend and gospel singer Mahalia Jackson enters the scene. Mahalia Jackson had heard King speak about his “dream” before. After sensing the crowd was a little low and knowing how charismatic her friend and leader could be, Jackson leaned in from behind the stage and screamed out to King, “Tell them about the dream, Martin! Tell them about the dream!” It was then that King looked back at Jackson and slowly but purposely slid the written speech to the side. He paused. King's adviser Jones, after seeing this interchange on stage, remembers turning to the person next to him and whispering, “These people out there, they don't know it, but they're about to go to church.” The rest is history. On September 15, 1963, two weeks after the March on DC, the 16th Street Baptist Church in Birmingham, Alabama was bombed by white supremacists. Many were injured and four young girls were killed (Addie Mae Collins 14, Cynthia Wesley 14, Carole Robertson 14, and Carol Denise McNair 11). After Kennedy's assassination on November 22, Lyndon Johnson signed the sweeping Civil Rights Act, forbidding discrimination in many areas of life. In 1965, King led the march from Selma to Montgomery, Alabama, in support of black voter registration. Johnson would sign the Voting Rights Act shortly after. On February 21, 1965, Malcom X is assassinated. On April 4, 1968, at 6:01 p.m. King is assassinated on the balcony of the Lorraine Motel in Memphis, Tennessee.

As God's people, let us continue the mission of reconciliation and equity in our own lives. In the words of Mahalia, may we “tell them about the dream!”

Blessings,

Nick

WORSHIP MUSIC

January 24

Lauren Decker, violin soloist, will provide special music.
Bella Land will serve as hymn leader.

January 31

John Michael Osteen, baritone soloist, will provide special music and serve as hymn leader.



It's time for FPC's **Souper Bowl of Caring** sponsored by the youth. This Mission provides an opportunity for the church to donate money and/or non-perishable food to a local food bank. Monetary donations can be mailed to the church office with an earmark “Souper Bowl of Caring.” Please place any donations of non-perishable food items in the bin marked Souper Bowl of Caring outside the church office. Please note the deadline for all donations will be Super Bowl Sunday, February 7th.

The Council of Presbyterian Women will meet Monday, February 1, at 10:00 a.m. using Zoom.

Circles will meet as follows:

- #1 - Will meet Tuesday, February 2, at 12:30 p.m. (Zoom)
Contact: Linda Brown
- #4 - Will not meet in February; Contact: Norma Abbott
- #6 - Will meet Wednesday, February 3, at 6:30 p.m. (Zoom)
Contact: Ashley Blum
- #7 - Please contact Robin Thames (803-972-3207) for meeting information
- #8 - Will not meet in February
Contact: Winnie Gee and Fran Kay
- #9 - Will not meet in February; Contact: Pam George



UPCOMING EVENTS

SUNDAY, JANUARY 24

10:30 a.m. Worship (Online)

MONDAY, JANUARY 25

6:00 p.m. Session Meeting

TUESDAY, JANUARY 26

10:00 a.m. Staff Meeting (Zoom)

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 27

1:30 p.m. Discovery Class (Zoom)

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

SUNDAY, JANUARY 31

10:30 a.m. Worship (Online)

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 1

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

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 2

10:00 a.m. Staff Meeting (Zoom)

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 3

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

Youth will meet temporarily via Zoom on Sunday evenings.

Middle School 5:00-5:45 p.m.

Senior High 6:00-6:45 p.m.

An email will be sent to parents each week with the Zoom link.

Please contact Taylor with any questions or if you have any problems connecting to Zoom.



MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

Valentine Treats for FPC Children and Youth

Sunday, February 14

FPC children, youth and families are invited to drive under the awning at the FPC Preschool entrance to come by and pick-up Valentine's treats from 11:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

We Need Your Help!

As the Faith Formation Team plans Valentine's Treats for the children and youth of FPC, would you be willing to donate a bag of Valentine candy, valentine cards or small trinkets to help with this ministry? **Please bring your donations to the church by Sunday, February 7.** Please be sure all candy is **NUT FREE**. Should you have any questions please contact Kelly Hickey.

SAVE THE DATE!

Middle School Summer Conference

Massanetta Springs, VA
June 17-20



High School Montreat Conference

Montreat, NC
July 11-17

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

9 West Calhoun Street

Sumter, SC 29150

803-773-3814

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JOYS AND CONCERNS

MUSC: Laura Woodrum Horn
(Glenn Woodrum's daughter)

Home: Elizabeth Williams, John Dickey,
David McInnis, Sr., David R. Brown, Bill Scobee,
Tiny Owens, Serena Davell (Marie Mills' Sister),
Charles King (Greg King's Father)

West Chester, NY: Rhodes Danner (Pam George's Nephew)

Austin, TX: Robert Cain (George Cain's Father)

CONGRATULATIONS to Brittney and George Cain on the birth of a son, Holden George Anthony Cain, born January 6. Proud big sister and brother are Kennedy and Liam.

CHRISTIAN SYMPATHY is extended to Hope Alexander on the death of her father, Kenneth Stewart Brown, Jr., who died January 8.

Dear Church Family,

Thank all of you for keeping Elizabeth in your prayers.

She has just come home from

St. Jude and is cancer free! Over the past year, she has been treated with chemotherapy and radiation for a relapse. She will be going back to Saint Jude every three months. She will also be going to Clemson. Our prayers have been answered. Please continue to keep her in your prayers.

Barney Williams

Thank You

FOCUS ON FINANCES

Year Ending December 31, 2020

	Received		Budgeted
	<i>This Week</i>	<i>YTD</i>	<i>YTD</i>
Revenue			
Contributions	\$ 71,821.	\$ 883,532.	\$ 846,500.
*Other Sources	\$ 20.	\$ 70,811.	\$ 147,300.
	\$ 71,841.	\$ 954,343.	\$ 993,800.

*YTD includes Endowments, Church Event Fees, etc.

2021 PLEDGE REMINDER

If you have not yet done so, please prayerfully consider what you can do to pledge a portion of your financial resources to the ministry. You can make your pledge by either 1) dropping off or mailing a completed pledge card to the church office; or 2) entering your pledge online from our website (www.fpcsumter.org/serve/pledge2021). If you have questions or need a pledge card, please contact Neil Ross (803-773-3814 or neilross@fpcsumter.org).