

# FOCUS



The weekly newsletter of  
**FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**  
Sumter, South Carolina

January 24, 2023

## Sunday, January 29

Offertory Anthem: Violinist Lauren Decker will play “Holy, Holy, Holy” by Duane Funderburk.

**Elders:** Missy Coulter, Bonnie Disney

**Assisting in Worship:** Missy Coulter

**Deacons:** Katherine Brogdon, Paul Herrmann

**Youth Liturgist:** Riley Berger

**Jr. Ushers:** Millie Davis, Harry Berger

5:00 p.m. – High School Sunday School  
in the West Building

## Sunday, February 5

Offertory Anthem: The Chancel Choir will sing “What Shall I Bring to the Lord” by Robert Lau. Ann Long will provide special music.

**Elders:** Ann Geddings, Linda Hogon

**Assisting in Worship:** Ann Geddings

**Deacons:** Jim Alexander, Debbie Jackson

**Youth Liturgist:** Sumter Cooper

**Jr. Usher:** Charlie Thames, Colton Thames

5:00 p.m. – High School Sunday School  
in the West Building



## 200<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY KICK-OFF

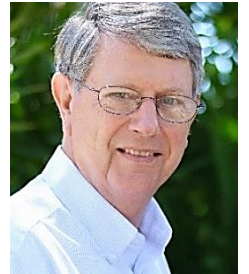
First Presbyterian is kicking off our 200<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration in grand style! On Sunday, February 12, we will have a special guest, Rev. John McCall, our missionary in Taiwan and a dear friend of our pastor. John will have breakfast with our youth and then preach the morning worship service at 10:30 a.m. Please join us after worship for lunch with a mission presentation from Rev. McCall. It’s important to make a reservation for the lunch so we know how much food to prepare. Sign up sheets are on the Welcome Desk or on tables outside the sanctuary or you can call or text Debbie Jackson (803-775-4814) by Sunday, February 5.

## SOUPER BOWL OF CARING February 12, 2023



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. Monetary donations 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 12 after worship. Monetary donations will go to our Backpack Blessings Ministry and inkind food donations will stock the pantry at Christian Charities.

## From Bob’s Desk . . .



Dear Friends,

Wow! That chili at the church last night was great! Congratulations to Missy Coulter for her first-place victory in the chili fest. Runner-up awards were given to Debby Williams and Jim Ingram, but the real winner was our congregation.

We turned out strong, ate heartily, and lingered to visit with one another at table. The surprise of the evening was the unveiling of coin banks made as a replica of First Presbyterian Church! We thank Chuck and Sue Fienning and Sumter Packaging for donating these wonderful keepsakes to our 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration. Some of the banks are solid white so that they can be colored and decorated by our children and others. Other coin banks are printed and wrapped in a photo of our actual church! They are amazing, and we will use them to collect our monies for a significant gift that we are hoping to give to our community as part of our year of celebration. These coin banks are available in the hallway outside the fellowship hall, and we hope that you will pick one up soon. What a perfect way to kick off our thanksgiving for First Presbyterian.

Our celebration will gain momentum on Sunday, February 12, as we highlight the international mission of our church through the years. Rev. John McCall, whom we have supported for many years as a Presbyterian mission co-worker in Taiwan, will be with us for a youth breakfast at 9:00 am, our morning worship service at 10:30 am, and a congregational dinner afterwards. The dinner is being provided by the Missions Committee as they bring us delicious food from around the world. There is no cost for this meal, but please call the church office or sign up in the office hallway to let us know you are coming to this special gathering.

I first met the Rev. John McCall when he was pastor of the Black Mountain Presbyterian Church in Black Mountain, North Carolina. We were members of a small group of pastors who met each year to work on our preaching and to support one another in our ministry for Jesus Christ. It was during this time that John felt a strong call to serve Christ in international missions. He left his American pulpit, learned Mandarin Chinese, and devoted his life to training Taiwanese pastors and encouraging them in their ministries for our Lord. At one point John returned to the United States to be near his family and to pastor the Westminster Presbyterian Church in Greensboro, North Carolina. But the strong call to the Taiwanese Christians would not go away, and he returned to Taiwan for another time of service. My friendship with John was strengthened when I visited him and toured his mission work in Taiwan just a few years ago. Then John McCall came to St. Simons Island to help retire me from active ministry in 2018. It is a joy to have him return to Sumter during my time as pastor here.

Another treat is coming our way soon as we welcome Rev. Joel Long to our pulpit on Sunday, February 5. Joel and Ann are looking forward to worshipping with us. Good things are coming in bunches this year!

Love,

*Bob*

UPCOMING EVENTS

SUNDAY, JANUARY 29

- 9:30 a.m. Sunday School
- 9:30 a.m. Chancel Choir.....Sanctuary
- 10:30 a.m. Worship .....Sanctuary
- 5:00 p.m. High School Sunday School.....West Bldg.

MONDAY, JANUARY 30

- 10:00 a.m. Staff Meeting .....Parlor

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 1

- 6:30 p.m. Chancel Choir.....Sanctuary

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 3 ~ Preschool Closed

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 5

- 9:30 a.m. Sunday School
- 9:30 a.m. Chancel Choir.....Sanctuary
- 10:30 a.m. Worship .....Sanctuary
- 5:00 p.m. High School Sunday School.....West Bldg.

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 6 ~ Preschool Closed

- 10:00 a.m. Pres. Women Council..... McLaurin Room

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 7

- 10:30 a.m. Circle #4 ..... McLaurin Room
- 12:30 p.m. Circle #1 ..... Fellowship Hall
- 6:30 p.m. Circle #6 ..... West Building

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 8

- 10:00 a.m. Prayer Shawl Ministry ..... Parlor
- 3:00 p.m. Circle #8 ..... Covenant Place
- 6:30 p.m. Chancel Choir.....Sanctuary

The Council of Presbyterian Women will meet Monday, February 6, at 10:00 a.m. in the McLaurin Room.

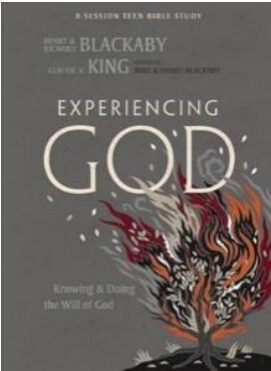
Circles will meet as follows:

- #1 - Tuesday, February 7, at 12:30 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall.  
Contact: Linda Brown
- #4 - Tuesday, February 7, at 10:30 a.m. in the McLaurin Room. Contact: Norma Abbott
- #6 - Tuesday, February 7, at 6:30 p.m. in the West Building  
Contact: Ashley Blum
- #8 - Wednesday, February 8, at 3:00 p.m. at Covenant Place  
Contact: Pam George



HIGH SCHOOL SUNDAY SCHOOL TO BEGIN NEW STUDY

On Sunday, January 29, the high school Sunday School Class will begin a new Bible study, Experiencing God, Knowing and Doing the Will of God. This class meets at 5:00 p.m. on Sundays, in the West Building.



Offering Envelopes



PLEASE PICK UP YOUR 2023 CONTRIBUTION ENVELOPES

Please pick up your 2023 contribution envelopes from the table outside the Parlor. If you find that you were not assigned envelopes and you wish to use them, please call Neil Ross (803-773-3814). He will be happy to provide them.

Concord Presbyterian (founded in 1808) is our Mother Church. Because the new congregation did not have a building of its own for 7 years, the five charter members, including 2 women (Mrs. J. B. Morse and Mrs. Isaac R. Barbour) met at the Baptist Church. In 1830, the first church building was completed.



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
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803-773-3814

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Please notify USPS if you don't receive it in a timely manner.

PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY

January marks the fifth anniversary of the prayer shawl ministry at First Presbyterian Church. This ministry has given away 88 shawls and 18 baby blankets made by its members. If you knit or crochet or want to polish your skills, please join us. We meet the second Wednesday of each month at 10:00 a.m. in the Parlor to visit, knit and pray for those who will be receiving our symbol of love and support on behalf of First Presbyterian Church. For more information, please call Jayne Fort at 843-209-1067 or [jdfort@ftc-i.net](mailto:jdfort@ftc-i.net), or Linda Hogon at 803-840-7671 or [lhogon03@yahoo.com](mailto:lhogon03@yahoo.com) for more information.



Registration for the 2022-2023 school year for currently enrolled students, siblings, church members, and grandchildren of church members will begin Monday, February 27<sup>th</sup>.

Open enrollment will begin Monday, March 6<sup>th</sup> and will continue until our classes are filled. We offer classes for children 8 months through kindergarten age. Please e-mail or call the Preschool office (803-773-9027) for additional information.

JOYS AND CONCERNS

Tuomey: Priscilla Dickey  
Home: Milo Abbott (grandson of Norma Abbott),  
Robert Stage II (Son of Marta Stage)



CONGRATULATIONS to Kate (McElveen) and Nick Price on the birth of a daughter, Martha Kathryn Price, born December 12, 2022. Proud grandparents are Kathy and Joe McElveen.

CHRISTIAN SYMPATHY is extended to Edie Newman on the death of her sister.

FOCUS ON FINANCES  
Three Weeks Beginning  
January 1, 8, and 15, 2023

	Received		2023 Budgeted
	Two Weeks	YTD	YTD
Revenue			
Contributions	\$ 47,575.	\$ 47,575.	Budget
*Other Sources	\$ 60.	\$ 60.	Approval
	\$ 47,635.	\$ 47,635.	Pending