

FOCUS



The weekly newsletter of
FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
Sumter, South Carolina

October 17, 2023

Sunday, October 22

Piano soloist Denise Lync will provide special music.

Elders: Norma Abbott, Linda Hogon
Assisting in Worship: Norma Abbott
Deacons: Joe McElveen, Suzanne Wates
Youth Liturgist: Edmunds DuBose
Jr. Ushers: Colton & Connor Thames

4:00 p.m. ~ Bible study in the Chapel

Sunday, October 29

COFFEE AND COSTA RICA!

On Sunday, October 29, everyone is invited to the Fellowship Hall at 9:30 a.m. as members share their experiences on the mission field in Costa Rica this past summer. We will have some biscuits and coffee to enjoy during the presentation. Sunday School classes are planning to attend this gathering. All are welcome. We look forward to having you with us.

ELEMENTARY SUNDAY SCHOOL

Elementary Sunday School will meet in the Fellowship Hall at 9:30 a.m. on October 29 to hear the mission presentation. They will sit up front with Mrs. Ingram and Mrs. Jackson.

Offertory: Chancel Choir will sing "Psalm 150" by John Harper

Elders: Liza Cooper, John James
Assisting in Worship: John James
Deacons: Mike Blanding, Kathy Lyons
Youth Liturgist: Riley Berger
Jr. Ushers: Harry Berger, Mary Taylor Moorman

4:00 p.m. ~ Bible study in the Chapel

TRUNK OR TREAT UPDATE

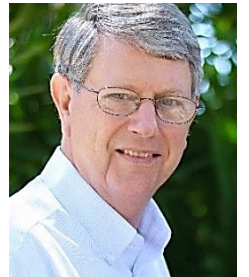
The Trunk or Treat gathering that was planned for Sunday afternoon, October 29, has been cancelled. We had hoped to offer at least 12 trunks, but only 4 trunks have been offered. Rather than disappoint the children from church and community, we are cancelling this year's event, and we hope to offer it next year. Thanks to those who offered to participate.



The Cinderella Project was initiated over 22 years ago to help girls find a prom dress if they could not afford one. Dresses are donated all year and in the spring, before prom, the shop is open to anyone who would like to shop for a dress. The Cinderella Project has had over 800 dresses from which to choose. They also have jewelry and shoes to help girls complete their outfits.

Dear Friends in Christ,

Folks outside of our community have been noticing that we are having a special year of celebration for our church. My friend Franklin Fant leads the Presbyterian Communities of South Carolina and wrote very supportive words of encouragement to us:



Congratulations and blessings for 200 years of faithful presence in Sumter, South Carolina! You and your forebears are to be commended for the strength, courage, perseverance, and faith required to bring you to this point of celebrating two centuries of ministry. You and your leaders have certainly served God and God's people with energy, intelligence, imagination, and love.

On behalf of all of us in the Presbyterian Communities of South Carolina family, we also congratulate and thank you for 35 consecutive years of partnership and support for this ministry with gifts totaling nearly \$225,000. Your prayers, trust, and financial support have been vital to our continuing ministry serving senior adults of all faiths in South Carolina. We are deeply indebted to you for your commitment.

We join you in giving thanks for the generations of saints who have gone before who built the foundation of faith on which you continue to stand. We also join you in celebrating those who gather for worship and share God's love throughout your community today. You stand on the shoulders of giants, and you are yourselves giants in ministry."

We wish you God's greatest blessing as you bring light, strength, and care to those within your congregation and in your community. Thank you for being a beacon of light in Sumter and for lighting the way to all of us as we strive to follow Jesus Christ.

Blessings,

The Rev. Dr. Franklin Fant
President and Chief Executive Officer

Franklin's words combine thanksgiving, All Saints Day, and stewardship emphasis! All those good things are coming our way in November. I look forward to seeing you at church.

Love,
Bob

UPCOMING EVENTS

SUNDAY,

OCTOBER 22

- 9:30 a.m. Sunday School
- 9:50 a.m. Chancel Choir.....Sanctuary
- 10:30 a.m. WorshipSanctuary
- 11:45 a.m. Joy Ringers.....Session Room
- 4:00 p.m. Bible Study Chapel

MONDAY, OCTOBER 23

- 10:00 a.m. Staff MeetingParlor

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 25

- 6:00 p.m. Chancel Choir RehearsalSanctuary

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 29

- 9:30 a.m. Sunday School
- 9:50 a.m. Chancel Choir.....Choir Room
- 10:30 a.m. WorshipSanctuary
- 11:45 p.m. Joy Ringers.....Session Room
- 4:00 p.m. Bible Study Chapel

MONDAY, OCTOBER 30

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

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 31 ~ Happy Halloween

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 1

- 6:00 p.m. Chancel Choir RehearsalChoir Room



Sumter United Ministries is in need of some winter items for their winter shelter. We are collecting socks, gloves and hats for men and women. Please consider donating any of these items. Please place your items in the container outside the church office.

“CARDS OF CARING”
COLLEGE STUDENT PROGRAM

If you have a college student, please submit their name and a current college address so we can include them in the college student Cards of Caring program. We will send students cards of encouragement and occasional gift cards throughout the school year. Please send your student’s information to Shawna Hilferty at shilferty@gmail.

BIBLE STUDY

Led by Rev. Brearley
Every Sunday in October
4:00 p.m. in the Chapel

BICENTENNIAL
COMMEMORATIVE ITEMS

Our Commemorative items are still available as a keepsake of our 200th Anniversary. Purchase Christmas ornaments or FPC Notecards for \$15 each at the Welcome Desk or from the church office through the end of the year.

T-shirts can be ordered online and delivered to your home or to church from now until the end of November. Visit our website to see the variety of different colors and sizes. Plus you can choose from a variety of different shirt styles by contacting Joanne Taylor at 803-309-6336 or ejoannetaylor@gmail.com.

LET’S CELEBRATE AT OUR **HOMEcoming BLUE GRASS SUNDAY EVENT** ON **SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 19TH** BY WEARING OUR ANNIVERSARY SHIRTS—**ORDER YOURS TODAY!!**



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
9 West Calhoun Street
Sumter, SC 29150
803-773-3814

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Love to sing but cannot make a yearlong commitment? Join the Chancel Choir as we begin rehearsals for special music during the Advent and Christmas season. We rehearse from 6:00-7:30 p.m. every Wednesday. For more information, email Joni at jonibrown@fpcsumter.org or call the church (803-773-3814).

CHILDREN’S NATIVITY

This year, we will be working on our children’s nativity during Sunday School beginning on Sunday, November 5. The dates are November 12, November 18, December 3 and December 10. We will not have Nativity practice on Sunday, November 26, due to the Thanksgiving holiday. These class sessions will focus on the Christmas nativity story and will also serve as practice times for our Christmas program. If you would like your child to be a part of the Nativity program, please contact Ashley Blum or Debbie Jackson.



JOYS AND CONCERNS



Richland: Neil Ross
National Healthcare: Isabel Gist

CHRISTIAN SYMPATHY is extended to Kimberly White on the death of her father, Kenneth Coker, who died October 7, 2023.

FOCUS ON FINANCES
Two Weeks Beginning
October 1 & 8, 2023

	Received		2023 Budgeted
	Two Weeks	YTD	YTD
Revenue			
Contributions	\$ 13,721.	\$550,222.	\$556,571.
Other Sources	\$ 15,282.	\$ 99,015.	\$148,541.
	\$ 29,003.	\$649,237.	\$705,112.