

FOCUS



The weekly newsletter of
FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
Sumter, South Carolina

October 31, 2023

Sunday, November 5 All Saints Sunday

Offertory: Chancel Choir will sing "Be Still" by Karen Marroli.

Elders: Kimberly Land, Becky Owens

Assisting in Worship: Becky Owens

Deacons: Susan W. Osteen, Virginia Hutchens

Youth Liturgist: Madelynn Davis

Jr. Ushers: Charlie & Caroline Thames



DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME ENDS

Don't forget to set your clocks back
Saturday, November 5.

Sunday, November 12

Joy Ringers will provide special music: "Stand Up, Stand Up for Jesus" and "Praise to the Lord, the Almighty" arr. by Jason Krug.

Elders: Bill Richardson, Glenn Woodrum

Assisting in Worship: Glenn Woodrum

Deacons: Lark Haynie, Valerie James

Youth Liturgist: Brogdon Hill

Jr. Ushers: Gwen Bettinger, Ligon Ferguson

THORNWELL OFFERING

Thanksgiving is the time we pray and give for Thornwell Home for Children in Clinton, SC. We love Thornwell's ministry to children who need a caring community in Christ. A Thornwell insert will be in the worship bulletins on November 12, and we will receive our annual offering for Thornwell on Sunday, November 19. Thornwell turkeys and envelopes are on tabletops throughout the church. Thank you for supporting this great ministry. Checks may be written to First Presbyterian Church and marked "Thornwell."

200TH ANNIVERSARY

2023 has been a year to remember for First Presbyterian Church and our community. Our history has come alive with first person accounts of our members' memories, our Archives Display, our years of dedication to Local and International Missions, and the legacy of our pastors through the years.

Plan to attend our culminating event on November 19th for another exciting day in 2023! Rev. George Jacobs will be our Guest Pastor, and we'll have time to visit with him and his family during our Covered-dish Luncheon following worship. All are welcome—please bring a side dish or dessert if you can. BBQ and chicken nuggets will be provided. Rev. Cliff McLeod, Jr., Rev. Marc van Bulck and Rev. Anna Owens-Sweeney will be with us, too. Plan to wear your new FPC T-shirt, enjoy Bluegrass Music and enjoy the celebration!



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).

FROM OUR STEWARDSHIP CHAIR

My name is Herb Leaird, and the Session has asked me to chair the annual stewardship campaign as we build the church budget for 2024, a very significant year for our community of faith. I said "yes" to this invitation because the church is important to me. We have celebrated our past 200 years in a grand way, and now we turn to our future together.

I love this church, and I love all the members of this congregation. I know most of you personally and all of you as a congregation. I have observed that we have many saints in this group, both men and women devoted to Christ. In years past, many faithful members have laid the foundation which we enjoy today. They have gone about us serving the Lord, this church, and the community.

Think about all the good deeds and programs which are ongoing today -- the preschool, our music department, Covenant Place, Habitat for Humanity, Sumter United Ministries, the backpack food program in elementary schools, and other community outreach efforts to the needy. Our past and present leaders, whom I believe are truly living saints, do not expect recognition other than their satisfaction of serving the Lord. Our church has had its ups and downs, its triumphs and its challenges. As we all know, our congregation has lost staff and members in recent years, and we are coming together right now to renew our commitments to our Lord and to one another. We need a great pulling together, and we are praying for the Holy Spirit to help us appreciate one another. Nevertheless, we must go ahead with our ministry, having confidence, giving joyfully and being hopeful in our God and in our future.

We will get there one step at a time. The next step is to keep our finances strong so we can call the pastor and staff that we need going forward. Your pledge of financial support for 2024 is more important than it has ever been in our history. Our church budget is revenue based, meaning our expenses cannot exceed our ability to pay. Our budget committee must have a solid idea of giving, and your pledge is what will give us the confidence to go forward.

Please be a joyful and generous giver this coming year. Pledge Dedication Sunday is November 19. More information will be mailed to you soon. No other organization can outperform the church. No other organization is more important to us than the church of Jesus Christ. Nancy and I have found that using pretaxed donations from our retirement plan and traditional IRA distributions can be rewarding for the church and for us. If you have an IRA, please inquire about this advantage. Please ask me or your financial adviser about this opportunity to give. Thank you for your pledges and your prayers.

Herb Leaird
Stewardship Chair

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.



UPCOMING EVENTS

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 5

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

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 6

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

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 7

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

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 8

- 10:00 a.m. Prayer Shawl MinistryParlor
- 5:30 p.m. Joy RingersSanctuary
- 6:30 p.m. Chancel Choir RehearsalChoir Room

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 9

- 9:30 a.m. Presbytery Meeting.....John Calvin Pres. Church

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 12

- 9:00 a.m. Joy Ringers.....Sanctuary
- 9:30 a.m. Sunday School
- 9:50 a.m. Chancel Choir.....Sanctuary
- 10:30 a.m. WorshipSanctuary
- 11:45 p.m. Joy RingersSession Room

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 13

- 10:00 a.m. Staff Meeting.....Parlor
- 6:00 p.m. Diaconate MeetingMcLaurin Room

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 15

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

SESSION REPORT

From the October 17, 2023, Stated Meeting

At the stated October 17, 2023 meeting, the Session recognized or acted on the following items:

- Herb Laird will serve as Stewardship chair for 2023. The theme will be from Matthew 5:13-16 “Christ Be Our Light—Glorifying God Forever.”
- Revisited the plan to relocate the library. The Session approved that it will be moved instead down the hall to a nearby location on the second floor. The archives displays will be moved into the current library with display cases also located in niches in the hallway. The current archives room will be used as a storage area for archives.
- Approved a Nativity display loaned by members of FPC in the Fellowship Hall for the first two Sundays of Advent—December 3-10, to be picked up by December 12.
- Approved the purchase of new liquid-filled candles for the Communion Table in the Sanctuary due to the difficulty of lighting our current candles, as well as the ability of the candles to stay lit.
- Approved the construction of a wooden box to serve as a time capsule for storage of 2023 Celebration memories which will be kept in the Archives Room.
- Approved \$15,000 from Capital Improvements for repairs and upgrades to the West Youth Center.

The Session requests that you continue to keep the PNC in your prayers, as they search to find the pastor that God has already found for us. We will continue to work to serve the Lord through our church, our community, and our world.

Margy Carpenter, Clerk of Sessions

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

Circles will meet as follows:

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



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This publication was delivered to USPS on 10/31/2023.
Please notify USPS if you don't receive it in a timely manner.

First Presbyterian Church is collecting shoeboxes for **Operation Christmas Child**. Shoeboxes are available at both doors of the Sanctuary and across from the Church Office. Guidelines for filling the shoeboxes and a **special pre-paid label** will be in each box. **Please return your filled shoebox to the Fellowship Hall by Nov 13th.**



This ministry of Samaritan's Purse has been providing joy for children in impoverished or war-torn areas world-wide for many years. Where it is allowed, a simple pamphlet in the local language is included in each shoebox with the Good News about Jesus! We encourage our entire church family to participate!



JOYS AND CONCERNS

Home: Isabel Gist

CHRISTIAN SYMPATHY is extended to Nancy Smith on the death of her husband, Warren Smith, Jr., who died October 14.

Thank You Church Family!

For the calls, texts, cards, visits but most importantly for the prayers! Knowing that so many have covered our family in prayer during our time of loss has been comforting. Our family thanks each of you for the outpouring of love! I rejoice during this time, knowing that my daddy is no longer suffering and instead walking those streets of gold and fishing with Jesus and all those that have gone before him. “Seek the Lord and his strength, seek his face continually. Remember his marvelous works that he hath done, his wonders, and the judgments of his mouth.” 1 Chronicles 16:11-12

Thank
You!

In Christ,
Chris, Kimberly, Madison & Nicholas White

FOCUS ON FINANCES

Two Weeks Beginning
October 15 & 22, 2023

	Received		2023 Budgeted
	Two Weeks	YTD	YTD
Revenue			
Contributions	\$ 11,291.	\$561,513.	\$578,254.
Other Sources	\$ 0.	\$ 99,015.	\$168,410.
	\$ 11,291.	\$660,528.	\$746,664.