

FOCUS



The weekly newsletter of
FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
Sumter, South Carolina

November 15, 2022

Sunday, November 20 Stewardship Sunday

Introit: "Sing to God, with Joy and Gladness"

Offertory Anthem: "Look at the World" by John Rutter

Elders: Jack Osteen, Bill Richardson

Assisting in Worship: Jack Osteen

Deacons: Jim Alexander, Suzanne Wates

Youth Liturgist: Cooper Hill

Jr. Usher: Adelaide McElveen, Mary Taylor Moorman

STEWARDSHIP CELEBRATION LUNCHEON

Immediately following Morning Worship

We will be featuring an old-fashioned fried chicken and barbeque dinner with a special guest - Bluegrass gospel group. There is no charge for this luncheon, but we would appreciate a head count so that we can get a good estimate of how much food to prepare. *Please make a reservation by calling the church office (803-773-3814).*

THORNWELL OFFERING TO BE RECEIVED

Each November, the Thornwell Thanksgiving Offering is received (nicknamed the "Turkey Offering" because of the turkey-themed offering cards children use to save quarters for Thornwell) close to Thanksgiving. 100% of the money received from the turkey cards, along with designated gifts and loose offering on Thornwell Sunday are used to support the Thornwell Home for Children.

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

Sunday, November 27

Offertory Anthem: The Chancel Choir will sing "Christ, Be Our Light."

Elders: Dan Spencer, Glenn Woodrum

Assisting in Worship: Dan Spencer

Deacons: Gary Bratton, Virginia Hutchens

Youth Liturgist: Nicholas White

Jr. Usher: Harry Berger, Caroline Thames

5:00 p.m. ~ High School Sunday School in the West Bldg.



200th Anniversary in 2023 is almost here!

The Steering Committee has been working throughout 2022 and has wonderful plans for our celebration. Look for our logo in the Focus and the Bulletin in the coming days and weeks that will alert you to announcements about special events, special visitors and special memories made with our FPC family.

CHRISTMAS PIANISTS

It's time to plan for our young pianists to share their Christmas pieces with the congregation! Please email the title and composer of the piece that your child would like to play at our Nativity service on December 18. Please contact Joni at jonibrown@fpcsumter.or call 803-773-3914.

From Bob's Desk . . .

Dear Friends in Christ,

As we turn the page of our calendars one more time, we find ourselves in November. All of a sudden it seems as though it is almost time to say goodbye to this year and start getting ready for the new year that now appears on the horizon. Indeed, November is the time that our church gathers our resources and our plans for all that lies ahead.

I hope that 2023 will stand out in our ministry as a very special time when we celebrate 200 years of faithfulness in this place, renew our commitment to being a PCUSA congregation with arms open wide to all who would come to Christ, and called a pastor for a new and important chapter for First Presbyterian Church. It is time to renew. It is time to call. It is time to give.

This month we will build the spending plan for next year and dedicate our financial pledges to God. A stewardship letter and a pledge card will be coming to your mailbox soon. Please consider prayerfully your intentions about giving to your church next year. You may return your pledge at any time, and we will dedicate them on **Sunday, November 20**. Our theme this year is "**Glad and Generous Hearts**," a phrase that describes the vital faith of the early church in Acts as they shared life together in Jesus Christ.

We discovered in a recent Sunday's sermon that Zacchaeus, that wee little man who climbed up the sycamore tree in Jericho to see Jesus, was Luke's best example of a joyful disciple with a glad and generous heart. May we follow Zacchaeus into a season of deep and abounding joy for the community of faith and for our ministry in God's world. God bless us all!

Love,

Bob



SESSION MEETING REPORT

At the stated October 17, 2022 meeting the Session acted on the following items:

- The 2023 Stewardship Campaign brochure and schedule of November 6, 13, and 20 concluding with a Celebration Sunday barbecue luncheon complete with Bluegrass Gospel music.
- The process of building the budget for 2023.
- To seek approval from the COM to begin the process of calling a Pastor.
- To upgrade exterior lighting around the Education building and Calhoun St. parking lot with dusk to dawn capabilities.
- To collect a "Love Offering" for the family of Harold Gadson.
- To collect shoe boxes for Operation Christmas Child by November 16 and send up to 50 volunteers to Charlotte on December 3 to pack boxes.
- To send Foreign Missions committee members to the JAARS campus in Waxhaw, NC to plan future events with JAARS.

As you see, we are continuing to work at First Presbyterian to serve the Lord, the community and the world. If you have any questions or comments, give me a call at (803) 491-5103.

Debby Williams, Clerk of Session

UPCOMING EVENTS

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 20 ~ Stewardship Sunday
9:30 a.m. Sunday School
9:30 a.m. Chancel Choir.....Sanctuary
10:30 a.m. WorshipSanctuary
11:30 a.m. Celebration Luncheon Fellowship Hall
4:00 p.m. On the Move for Jesus
5:00 p.m. High School Sunday School..... West Bldg.
MONDAY, NOVEMBER 21
10:00 a.m. Prayer Shawl MinistryParlor
5:30 p.m. Coordinating CouncilParlor
TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 22
6:00 p.m. Chancel ChoirSanctuary
THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 24 ~ Office Closed
FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 25 ~ Office Closed
SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 27
9:30 a.m. Sunday School
9:30 a.m. Chancel Choir.....Sanctuary
10:30 a.m. WorshipSanctuary
3:00 p.m. Joy Ringers.....Session Room
5:00 p.m. High School Sunday School..... West Bldg.
MONDAY, NOVEMBER 28
6:00 p.m. Session Meeting Fellowship Hall
TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 29
6:00 p.m. 200th Anniversary Committee .. Fellowship Hall
WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 30
6:00 p.m. Joy Ringers.....Sanctuary
7:00 p.m. Chancel Choir.....Sanctuary



Operation Christmas Child starts with the preparation and collection of filled shoeboxes, and then the shoeboxes are transported to a regional Processing Center (our closest Processing Center is in Charlotte) where each box is checked and then boxed for distribution around the world. This year our church has signed up to bring groups of volunteers to the Processing Center in Charlotte. Two dates have been selected: Wednesday, Nov 30, from 1-5 p.m. and Saturday, December 3, from 2-6 p.m. Members of our church who have worked at the Processing Center in the past have reported that it was a wonderful experience! There are sign-up sheets on clipboards for each of these dates outside the church office! If you are interested but unsure of your schedule, please sign up. Karen Ingram (803-983-6299) or Ashley Blum (803-847-4406) will answer any of your questions and will be checking back with you closer to the date of your trip and also coordinating transportation if needed.

CHILDREN’S NATIVITY

This session of On the Move for Jesus will focus on the Nativity. We will be learning about the Christmas story and be practicing for our Nativity program that is scheduled for Sunday, December 18, during morning worship. We will meet on Sundays, November 20, and December 4 and 11, from 4:00-5:00 p.m. Volunteers to help with the children are asked to contact Ashley Blum (803-847-4406 or doodlebugblum@yahoo.com).

CHRISTMAS CAROLING
Wednesday, December 7

We will meet at the West Building and leave at 3:45 pm. to start our singing at Covenant Place at 4 p.m. We will then return to the West Building to have a light meal and then go in designated groups to homes of church members who could use some Christmas cheer. A light dinner will be provided and hot chocolate and apple cider and yummy sweet treats will await our returning carolers. We hope you will come and join us. Please contact Ashley Blum (doodlebugblum@yahoo.com or 803-847-4406) or Debbie Jackson (debbiejackson1954@gmail.com or 803-775-4814) to sign up.



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Festival of Choirs
Sunday, December 4 at 3:00 p.m.
Trinity United Methodist Church

The Chancel Choir will participate in the annual Festival of Choirs held at Trinity United Methodist Church on Sunday, December 4, at 3:00 p.m. Please join us for an afternoon of Advent and Christmas music.

JOYS AND CONCERNS

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



CHRISTIAN SYMPATHY is extended to the family of Les Carpenter, who died November 10.

FOCUS ON FINANCES
Two Weeks Beginning October 30 & November 6, 2022

	Received		2022 Budgeted
	Two Weeks	YTD	YTD
Revenue			
Contributions	\$ 29,685.	\$ 611,380.	\$ 587,563.
*Other Sources	\$ 0.	\$ 95362.	\$ 107,468.
	\$ 29,685.	\$ 706,742.	\$ 695,031.

*Other Sources YTD includes \$77,458 from endowment funds distributions and \$15,000 from remaining PPP funds held in reserve.