

FOCUS



The weekly newsletter of
FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
Sumter, South Carolina

November 30, 2021

Sunday, December 5 Second Sunday in Advent

“Peaceful Preparations – Purifying Refinements”
Luke 3:1-6 Malachi 3:1-4

The Joy Ringers will provide special music for our service this Sunday:

T’was in the Moon of Wintertime arr. by Susan T. Nelson and
Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates arr. by Cathy Moglebust.
Ann Long will also sing “Child of Peace” as the offertory.

Elders: Gus Blum, Liza Cooper

Deacons: Clyn Croft, Lark Haynie

Youth Liturgist: Sumter Cooper

Junior Usher: Connor Thames

Children in Worship Teacher: Beth McCord
Volunteer: Julia Muldrow

CONGREGATIONAL CHRISTMAS CAROLING Everyone is invited!

5:00 – 6:30 pm

This is a wonderful way to share Christ’s hope, peace,
joy, and love with members of our church family.
We hope many of you will come and join us.

Sunday, December 12 Third Sunday in Advent

ANNUAL SERVICE OF LESSONS & CAROLS

Music by the Chancel Choir with
Jacqueline Taylor and Friends, String Quartet

Elders: Missy Coulter, J.D. Dunn

Deacons: Suzanne Wates, Taylor Geddings

Youth Liturgist: Nicholas White

Junior Usher: Richard Dwight

Children in Worship Teacher: Kelly Hickey
Volunteer: Margaret Ezell

Youth Ugly Christmas Sweater Christmas Party & A White Elephant Gift Exchange (no more than \$10)

All middle school and high school students are invited!

5:00 pm – 6:30 pm at the West Building

We will enjoy a delicious home cooked meal prepared by
parents, Christmas games, decorating Christmas cookies and a
white elephant gift exchange!

Please make plans to come join us.



NATIVITY STORY

Rehearsals are underway! Please join us
on December 5, and 12 from 4:00 – 5:00
pm. We will begin in the Fellowship Hall.
In addition, we will have a dress rehearsal
on Sunday, December 19 from 9:15 am to
10:15 am in the sanctuary. This will be our

final rehearsal before leading worship at 10:30 am. Should you
have any questions or need additional information, please contact
Kelly Hickey.

DEADLINE TO ORDER POINSETTIAS

All poinsettia orders must be received by the church office **no
later than Friday, December 3**. *No phone orders will be
accepted*. Order forms are available in front of the church office
or on the church website (www.fpcsumter.org)

From the desk of your Bridge Interim



“The Real Meaning of Advent”

- A** - means Christ’s **ARRIVAL** is new and ever-present!
- D** - means the **DAYS** are drawing nigh for us to go to Bethlehem, again!
- V** - means our **VISION** should be shaped on how Christ’s coming directs our going out to serve!
- E** - means **EVERY** gift we receive is ultimately a gift from God!
- N** - means the **NATAL** star is but a reflection of Christ, the Light of the World!
- T** - means in Christ’s birth God’s perfect **TIMING** had arrived for humanity’s redemption!

As we prepare for Advent’s presence in our lives, may God’s Spirit make our lives more present to those around us. In this season of preparation for Christmas, **the real meaning of Advent** will be known when we become more meaningful to those who hunger ... those who are without a safe place to live ... those who seek justice ... those who thirst for our compassion ... those who need a Savior.

This Advent, let’s make our discipleship mean more to those around us,

Joel

ADVENT WORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

Sunday, December 12
10:30 a.m. in the Sanctuary
Service of Lessons & Carols

Monday, December 13
5:30 p.m. in the Chapel
Service of Comfort & Hope
For those experiencing grief and discomfort during the holidays.

Sunday, December 19
10:30 a.m. in the Sanctuary
A drama of the Christmas Story presented by the children of FPC and
Service of Ordination and Installation

Friday, December 24
5:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary
Christmas Eve Candlelight Communion Service
Music by the Chancel Choir, Brass Ensemble,
and Soloists

Sunday, December 26
10:30 a.m. in the Sanctuary
Informal Worship Service

UPCOMING EVENTS

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 5

- 9:00 a.m. Joy Ringers Sanctuary
9:30 a.m. Sunday School
9:50 a.m. Chancel Choir Choir Room
10:30 a.m. Worship Sanctuary
3:00 p.m. Officer Training Fellowship Hall
4:00 p.m. Nativity Rehearsal
5:00 p.m. Congregational Christmas Caroling

MONDAY, DECEMBER 6

- 10:00 a.m. Staff Meeting Parlor
10:00 a.m. Council of Pres. Women... McLaurin Room
5:30 p.m. Officer Training Fellowship Hall

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 7

Circles – See Schedule below

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 8

Circles – See Schedule below

- 6:00 p.m. Chancel Choir Sanctuary

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 12

- 8:30 a.m. Chancel Choir Sanctuary
9:30 a.m. Sunday School
10:30 a.m. Worship Sanctuary
4:00 p.m. Nativity Rehearsal
5:00 p.m. Youth Christmas Party West Bldg.
5:00 p.m. Officer Training Fellowship Hall

MONDAY, DECEMBER 13

- 10:00 a.m. Staff Meeting Parlor
5:30 p.m. Service of Comfort & Hope Chapel

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 14

- 5:30 p.m. Officer Training Fellowship Hall

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

Circles will meet as follows:

- #1 - Tuesday, December 7, in the Fellowship Hall at 12:30 p.m.
Contact: Linda Brown
- #4 - Tuesday, December 7, in the McLaurin Room at 10:00 a.m. Contact: Norma Abbott
- #6 - Wednesday, December 8, at the home of Denise Dunn, 2770 Windmill Drive, at 6:30 p.m.
Contact: Ashley Blum
- #7 - Not Meeting in December
- #8 - Wednesday, December 8, at Covenant Place at 3:00 p.m. Contact: Winnie Gee and Fran Kay
- #9 - Tuesday, December 7, at the home of Sibbie McFaddin, 321 W. Calhoun Street at 3:00 p.m.
Contact: Pam George



WRAPPED ANGEL GIFTS MUST BE RETURNED TO THE CHURCH NO LATER THAN

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 8

Angels are still available for pickup from the tables in the Fellowship Hall.

When choosing an angel, please remember to sign the sheets provided. **Wrapped gifts must be returned to the church no later than Wednesday, December 8.** Please be sure to tape the angel to the top of the wrapped gift. Gift cards should be enclosed in a sealed Christmas card envelope with the angel taped to the top of the envelope. Please do NOT wrap gift cards as a present. There will be a special box in the Fellowship Hall for gift card envelopes.



CONFIRMATION 2022

The 6th-9th grade students will meet on Sundays beginning January 9 through April 24, 2022. We will meet from 5:00 -6:30 p.m., beginning in the West Building. Confirmation Sunday will be May 1. More information coming soon!

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

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CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PARTY

All 3K – 5th grade students are invited!
Sunday, December 19
11:30 am – 1:00 pm

Join us at the West Building for pizza, Christmas games, decorating Christmas cookies and more!
For more information, please contact Kelly Hickey.

JOYS AND CONCERNS

Home: Suzanna Foley, Bill Scobee, Tom Tindal (John Tindal's Brother), Robert Stage II (Son of Marta Stage)

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

CHRISTIAN SYMPATHY is extended to the family of Fulton Bethune (Chip) Creech, III, who died November 24.



FOCUS ON FINANCES

Two Weeks Beginning November 14 and 21, 2021

	Received		2021 Budgeted
	Two Weeks	YTD	YTD
Revenue			
Contributions	\$ 23,737.	\$576,494.	\$554,216.
*Other Sources	\$ 78.	\$125,082.	\$148,890.
	\$ 23,815	\$701,576.	\$703,106.

*Other sources YTD includes \$67,000 from SBA PPP Loan Forgiveness and \$51,183 from endowment funds distributions to general fund.