

FOCUS



The weekly newsletter of
FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
Sumter, South Carolina

February 7, 2023

Sunday, February 12

Introit by the Children's Choir: *O How Good Is Christ the Lord.*

Special Music by Michelle Blassengale, Soprano: *He's Got the Whole World in His Hands*, arr. by Margaret Bonds.

Offertory Anthem by the Chancel Choir: *Serve the Lord with Gladness* by Rolo Dilworth

Elders: John Jackson, John James

Assisting in Worship: John James

Deacons: Valerie James, Kathy Lyons

Youth Liturgist: Edmunds DuBose

Jr. Ushers: Connor Thames, Charlie Thames

HELP US WELCOME REV. JOHN MCCALL

First Presbyterian is kicking off our 200th Anniversary celebration in grand style! This Sunday, we welcome 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.



SOUPER BOWL OF CARING

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

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

Sunday, February 19

Offertory Anthem by the Chancel Choir: *To God Sing Praises* by Dietrich Buxtehude.

Elders: Jack Osteen, Bill Richardson

Assisting in Worship: Jack Osteen

Deacons: Matthew Berger, Susan W. Osteen

Youth Liturgist: Cooper Hill

Jr. Usher: Harry Berger, Charlie Coulter

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

The Session has called a congregational meeting on Sunday, February 19, for the purpose of electing a seven member Pastor Nominating Committee. Nominees will be: Jessica Bettinger, (Mrs.) Dee Dailey, Chuck Fienning, Karen Ingram, John Jackson, Kimberly Land, and Jack Osteen.

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

PASTOR NOMINATING COMMITTEE

At the congregational meeting called for Sunday, February 19, during morning worship, the Session will place in nomination the following names for a seven member Pastor Nominating Committee:

Jessica Bettinger - At FPC, I serve as the children's music director as well as sing in the adult choir and play in various instrumental ensembles. I felt called to accept this nomination to the PNC because of my understanding of what a big role music plays in worship for many of our members and because of my ties to the children of our church. Having my own three young children to consider, the guidance and leadership of young families in our church is important to me.

Dee Dailey - I have lived in Sumter and have been a member of First Presbyterian Church for almost 39 years. My children were born in Sumter and were baptized in this church. My parents and only sibling and his family have all been members, and I consider it to be my home. I have served as a deacon and elder and have been a member of the choir for many years. I want First Presbyterian to be an agent for God, where we nurture our present members, bring in new ones and serve this community and the world. I want others to love this church the way that I do. So with very prayerful consideration, I agreed to place my name in nomination to this PNC.

Chuck Fienning – Chuck is a longtime, faithful member of our church, and he and his wife, Sue, have been Bible teachers and leaders for many years. More recently, Chuck serves on our Session, participates on the 200th Anniversary Committee, and chaired our stewardship campaign in 2021. This year Chuck and Sumter Packaging provided our church with the delightful First Presbyterian coin banks that we are enjoying so much.

Karen Ingram - Having been a member of First Presbyterian Church Sumter for forty years, I have had the privilege of knowing and being under the ministry of a number of pastors. We have a rich heritage. During this time and especially in recent years, both the importance of the Christian faith and the church in America have undergone change, and the selection of our next pastor is very important to both the growth and ministry of our church. It is a privilege to be asked to serve in this capacity.

John Jackson - Beth and I joined First Presbyterian, Sumter in the mid '80's during the time when the Rev. Dr. Jeff Aiken was the Senior Minister. Beth and I have both taught Sunday School and served on the Diaconate. As far as me personally, I am a long-time member of the Chancel Choir, a past Moderator of the Diaconate, ordained Elder, the architect for several renovation projects in both our Sanctuary and our Education Building, and chair of the Buildings and Grounds and Finance Committees, as well as the most recent PNC.

Kimberly Land – Kimberly Land lives in Sumter with her husband and three children. She is originally from Myrtle Beach and is a graduate of the University of Georgia and the University of South Carolina School of Law. She is employed with the Sumter County Magistrate's Office. Kimberly enjoys oil painting, gardening, and taking care of her pets.

(Continued on back page)

UPCOMING EVENTS

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 12

- 9:20 a.m. Chancel Choir.....Sanctuary
- 9:30 a.m. Sunday School
- 9:50 a.m. Children’s Choir.....Sanctuary
- 10:30 a.m. WorshipSanctuary
- 11:30 a.m. Luncheon with John McCall Fellowship Hall
- 3:00 p.m. Joy Ringers.....Session Room
- 5:00 p.m. High School Sunday School.....West Bldg.

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 13

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

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 15

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

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 19

- 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, FEBRUARY 20

Church Office & Preschool Closed

- 6:00 p.m. Coordinating Committee Parlor

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 21

- 10:00 a.m. Staff Meeting Parlor

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 22 ~ Ash Wednesday

- 6:00 p.m. Ash Wednesday ServiceSanctuary
- 7:00 p.m. Chancel Choir.....Sanctuary

PASTOR NOMINATING COMMITTEE
(Continued from front page)

Jack Osteen - Jack Osteen is a lifelong member of First Presbyterian having been baptized in the church and raised here in Sumter. He has served as a Deacon and currently serves as an Elder. He is an owner of The Sumter Item and works with Coldwell Banker Commercial Cornerstone. He is married to Susan Doherty Osteen and has a daughter Elise (21) and a son John (18).

The Session acted as the Nominating Committee for these names as they prayerfully attempted to have the Pastor Nominating Committee composed of members who represented the whole congregation. We thank them for their work, and we thank those who accepted the nomination. At the congregational meeting on February 19, the floor will be open for any further nominations. Please be sure that anyone nominated has agreed to serve if elected.



ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE
February 22 at 6:00 p.m.
In the Sanctuary

NEW LENTEN BIBLE STUDY

A Lenten Bible study is being offered at 4:00 p.m. in the Chapel for five Sunday afternoons beginning on February 26. In response to a request from a church member, our pastor will lead us in exploring the Book of Romans in the New Testament. We will study the context of Paul’s letter to the church at Rome, visit several passages, and then focus our study on the Christian life described in Romans 12. We would love to have you join us. The class is open to all who would like to come.

MINUTE FOR MEMORIES

Dr. Donald McQueen led the congregation for 42 years from 1837-1879. As the membership approached 100, a second building was built in the 1850’s. Miss Eliza Cooper organized her Sunday School class into a “Young Ladies’ Missionary Society” and was the first woman’s society of any kind in the church.



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US, Postage Paid
Sumter, SC
Permit #22

This publication was delivered to USPS on 2/7/2023.
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RECOMMENDATIONS FOR OFFICERS
BEING RECEIVED

Recommendations for the office of Elder and Deacon are now being received from the congregation by the Congregational Nominating Committee. Forms can be found on tables as you leave the Sanctuary or on the Welcome Desk outside the Church Office. The deadline to receive recommendations is Sunday, February 19. Please return the form to the church office or a member of the Nominating Committee: Liza Cooper, Chuck Fienning, Gloria Coker, Billy Coulter, J.D. Dunn, Kathy Lions, or Kay Smith.

*The Women’s Afternoon Music
Club presents
An Afternoon of World Music
Sunday, February 26, 2023
3:00 p.m.
FPC Sanctuary*



CHILI FEST WINNERS

The January Chili Fest winners are:
1st Place-Missy Coulter
2nd Place-Debby Williams
3rd Place-Missy Coulter

Thanks to all who entered their favorite chili as well as those who contributed their delicious cornbread or dessert. The generosity of all contributed to our FPC 200th Anniversary Community Gift.

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 Priscilla Dickey, who died January 31;
. . . Bob Smith, on the death of his mother, Nancy Smith, who died February 5, in Charlotte.

FOCUS ON FINANCES
Two Weeks Beginning January 22 and 29, 2023

	Received		2023 Budgeted
	<i>Two Weeks</i>	<i>YTD</i>	<i>YTD</i>
Revenue			
Contributions	\$ 16,651.	\$ 64,226.	\$ 69,375.
*Other Sources	\$ 2,505.	\$ 2,565.	\$ 85.
	\$ 19,156.	\$ 66,791.	\$ 69,460.