

FOCUS



The weekly newsletter of
FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
Sumter, South Carolina

March 21, 2023

Sunday, March 26 ~ 5th Sunday in Lent

We are pleased to announce that Rev. Peggy Swann will be our guest preacher on Sunday, March 26. She recently retired from Townville Presbyterian Church in Townville, SC where she served as Pastor for the past 13 years. She served First Presbyterian Church as Director of Christian Education for several years prior to being ordained. We look forward to welcoming her back to FPC, Sumter and greeting her following worship in the Fellowship Hall at a reception in her honor.

Offertory Anthem: Chancel Choir will sing “Come Thou Fount” arranged by Eric Nelson

Elders: Linda Hogon, John Jackson

Assisting in Worship: John Jackson

Deacons: Katherine Brogdon, Paul Herrmann

Youth Liturgist: Bee Smith

Jr. Ushers: Murrell Smith, Connor Thames

LENTEN BIBLE STUDY

4:00 p.m. in the Chapel

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



Sunday, April 2

Palm Sunday

Procession of Palms

All children are invited to participate in the Procession of Palms on Sunday,

April 2. Children will go to their Sunday School class as always at 9:30. Their Sunday School teacher will bring them to the Sanctuary for practice at 10:00 a.m.

Introit: The Chancel Choir will sing “Palm Sunday Processional” by Daniel Greig.

Offertory Anthem: “When I Survey the Wondrous Cross” by Joseph Martin.

Elders: John James, Jack Osteen

Assisting in Worship: John James

Deacons: Valerie James, Kimberly Land

Youth Liturgist: Madison White

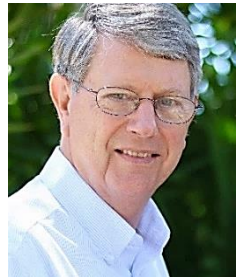
Jr. Usher: Ligon Ferguson, Caroline Thames

ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING OFFERING TO BE RECEIVED APRIL 2

For over 70 years, One Great Hour of Sharing has provided Presbyterians a way to share God’s love with our neighbors in need around the world. This offering is received during Lent and each gift supports efforts to relieve hunger through the Presbyterian Hunger Program, promote development through the Presbyterian Committee on the Self-Development of People, and assist in areas of disaster through Presbyterian Disaster Assistance. Please note on your check: One Great Hour of Sharing.

Dear Friends in Christ,

For me, the capstone event of our entire celebration of 200 years of ministry will be our faithful attempt to raise a significant gift for our community. Our church has always been at its best when it noticed the needs of our neighbors and has taken steps to help those who struggle with the challenges of life. Two shining examples of this faith in action have been when we joined forces with others in our community and became founding partners in Sumter United Ministries and Sumter Habitat for Humanity. These two organizations have stood the test of time and continue to change lives to the glory of God.



Our 200th Anniversary Committee brought the idea of a significant community gift in 2023 to the Session, and the Session affirmed that a generous gift would be a spiritual highlight of our yearlong celebration. We then set a goal to endeavor to give \$200,000 to our community as a witness to our 200 years of ministry in this place! **We are hoping to give \$100,000 to Sumter United Ministries and \$100,000 to Habitat for Humanity of Sumter.** We also realized that our church has reserve funds that can be used for local mission as approved by the Session. We then authorized that these funds be used as matching funds for all gifts from the congregation up to our goal! If we can raise \$100,000 for these good causes in our community, the church will double our gifts to meet our goal.

Chuck Fienning and Bob Smith have agreed to chair this campaign to raise the money for these worthy causes. The immediate need is to find the leadership gifts from among our congregation that will be necessary to reach our goal. We are looking for these gifts right now. **If you are led to step forward and provide these important lead gifts for this faithful undertaking, please contact Chuck or Bob or me to let us know of your interest.** We will give our whole church an opportunity to participate in this gift which we will remember for the next 200 years! It may well be the most inspired thing we do in our celebration year. God bless us all in this generous gift.

Love,

Bob

EASTER EGG HUNT

Sunday, April 2 ~ 3:00 p.m.

As we start preparing for this fun event, we need your help with Easter eggs. We need plastic eggs filled with individually wrapped candy or stickers. No chocolate, please – it melts, and no peanuts (due to peanut allergies). All donations are needed in the church office by Sunday, March 26.



UPCOMING EVENTS

SUNDAY, MARCH 26

- 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
- 4:00 p.m. Lenten Bible Study..... Chapel
- 5:00 p.m. High School Sunday School.....West Bldg.

MONDAY, MARCH 27

- 10:00 a.m. Staff MeetingParlor

TUESDAY, MARCH 28

- 6:00 p.m. Session Meeting Fellowship Hall

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 29

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

SUNDAY, APRIL 2 ~ Palm Sunday

- 9:20 a.m. Chancel Choir.....Sanctuary
- 9:30 a.m. Sunday School
- 10:00 a.m. Children’s Processional PracticeSanctuary
- 10:30 a.m. WorshipSanctuary
- 3:00 p.m. Egg Hunt

MONDAY, APRIL 3

- 10:00 a.m. Council of Pres. Women.....McLaurin Room
- 10:00 a.m. Staff MeetingParlor
- 6:00 p.m. Coordinating CommitteeParlor

TUESDAY, APRIL 4

Circles – See Full Schedule Below

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 5

- 6:00 p.m. Brass EnsembleSanctuary
- 6:30 p.m. Chancel Choir.....Sanctuary

THURSDAY, APRIL 6

- 7:00 p.m. Maundy Thursday Service.....Sanctuary

The Council of Presbyterian Women will meet Monday, April 3, at 10:00 a.m. in the McLaurin Room.

Circles will meet as follows:

- #1 - Tuesday, April 4, at 12:30 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall.
Contact: Linda Brown
- #4 - Tuesday, April 4, at 10:30 a.m. in the McLaurin Room. Contact: Norma Abbott
- #6 - Tuesday, April 4, at 6:30 p.m. in the West Building
Contact: Ashley Blum
- #8 - Wednesday, April 5, at 3:00 p.m. at Covenant Place
Contact: Pam George



HOLY WEEK WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Palm Sunday, April 2

- 10:30 a.m. ~ Worship with Communion
- 3:00 p.m. ~ Easter Egg Hunt

Maundy Thursday, April 6

- 7:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary
- Worship with Communion

Easter Sunday, April 9

- 10:30 a.m. ~ Worship

Please bring blooms from your yard to decorate the cross in celebration of the risen Christ.



MINUTE FOR MEMORIES

Dr. John Miller Wells became pastor in 1923 until 1943 and was instrumental in helping establish four new outpost churches: Fraser, Lemira, Pitts (now Swan Lake), and Holy Cross on Miller Road.

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
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This publication was delivered to USPS on 3/21/2023.
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THE PNC NEEDS YOUR HELP

Your Pastor Nominating Committee will be sending you a survey about our church during the month of April! The survey will come to your inbox or be available on paper to fill out at your convenience. We will be sending you a letter with more details. Thank you for helping us!

200TH ANNIVERSARY

FPC 1823-2023 Notecards to commemorate our 200th Anniversary will be available to purchase at the Welcome Desk before and after church on Sundays March 26, April 2, 16, 23 and 30. Each set of ten notecards with envelopes may be purchased for \$15. The FOCUS will announce other dates when they will be available.

200th Anniversary Steering Committee



2023 MONTREAT YOUTH CONFERENCES

This conference is for rising 9th-graduating 12th graders. It is a weeklong conference in June or July. If you are interested in getting more information or registering, please contact Debbie Jackson (803-775-4814 or debbiejackson1954@gmail.com) as early as possible, but no later than March 24.

JOYS AND CONCERNS

National Healthcare: Wanda Casker
Home: Jackie Osteen, Norma Abbott,
Milo Abbott (grandson of Norma Abbott),
Robert Stage II (Son of Marta Stage)



FOCUS ON FINANCES

Two Weeks Beginning March 5 and 12, 2023

	Received		2023 Budgeted
	Two Weeks	YTD	YTD
Revenue			
*Contributions	\$ 20,722.	\$258,851.	\$221,088.
Other Sources	\$ 0.	\$ 2,609.	\$ 13,256.
	\$ 20,722.	\$261,460.	\$234,344.

*YTD contributions revenue includes \$73,152 of 2023 pledges prepaid by members in 2022, carried over and recognized as revenue in 2023.