

# FOCUS



The weekly newsletter of  
**FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**  
Sumter, South Carolina

April 19, 2022

## Sunday, April 24

Offertory Anthem: John Michael Osteen, vocalist, will sing "Embrace the Cross" arranged by Bill Wolaver.

**Elders:** Liza Cooper, Missy Coulter

**Assisting in Worship:** Liza Cooper

**Deacons:** Taylor Geddings, Gary Bratton

**Youth Liturgist:** Jennings Frerichs

**Junior Usher:** Ligon Ferguson

## Sunday, May 1 Confirmation Sunday

Offertory Anthem: Chancel Choir will sing "I Will Rejoice" by G. P. Telemann.

**Elders:** Kay Smith, Caron DuRant

**Assisting in Worship:** Kay Smith

**Deacons:** Meg Hill, Kimberly Land

**Youth Liturgist:** John Land

**Junior Usher:** Adelaide McElveen



**DO YOU HAVE A  
PASSION FOR  
SERVING  
OTHERS  
LOCALLY AND  
AROUND THE  
WORLD?**

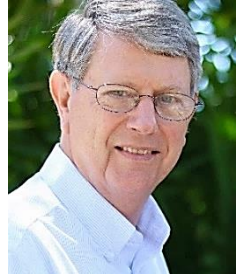
The Foreign Missions Committee is planning two foreign mission trips this summer, and we're starting to build the mission teams for each trip. We expect both trips to be open to youth 16+ years-old (accompanied by a parent or guardian). Please reach out to the team leads or others on the Foreign Missions Committee including Margaret Ezell, Bonnie Disney, and Shep Sublette for details on how you can participate.

**Puerto Rico:** Bill Richardson and Coles Dwight will lead a mission team travelling to Puerto Rico June 19-25 for our first in-person effort at building a relationship with the Presbytery in Puerto Rico. The mission's focus will be on establishing relationships and assessing future opportunities. We're coordinating the mission through PC(USA) and the Presbytery in Puerto Rico. Mission team members should expect an opportunity to engage in construction ministry as Puerto Rico continues recovering from hurricanes and wildfires.

**Costa Rica:** Gus Blum and JD Dunn will lead a mission team travelling to Costa Rica in early July to engage with our partners at Iglesia Vida Nueva and the Nueva Vision network of churches. We have maintained our solid relationship and have kept in contact through the pandemic, but this trip will give us a chance to reconnect in-person and to introduce some new team members to the mission. Expect a variety of mission work depending on the make-up of the team and conditions in Costa Rica.

## From Bob's Desk . . .

Dear Friends in Christ,



What a joy it was to be at First Presbyterian Church on Palm Sunday! The children waved palm branches at a gathered congregation of two hundred worshippers, and the elders served communion among the pews for the first time in years! The choir was powerful, and most people listened to the sermon. Then the children hunted for Easter eggs in the afternoon, and the confirmation class learned about Presbyterian traditions. It was splendid. Then we gathered at the foot of the cross on Good Friday and rejoiced in the resurrection of Jesus Christ on Easter morning. It was thrilling to process with the choir into a crowded sanctuary as organ and orchestra helped us sing the good news of Easter! A special thanks to Joni Brown for directing such strong and inspiring music to the glory of God. At every event I am greeting people whom I have not met before, and I am thankful. Prayers are being answered.

Thank you also for responding to the **congregational letter** that was mailed recently. We are reading every response, every check mark, and every comment. They are very helpful and encouraging as we build toward a new chapter for our church. If you have not mailed the second page to the church, please do so. If you did not get a letter from us, please let us know. We thank you.

In the first two weeks of May, I will be hosting what I am calling "**Listening Sessions**" in the Fellowship Hall to give everyone an opportunity to ask questions of me or to share your thoughts and hopes for our church. I tried to pick a variety of days and times to suit various schedules. I selected four sessions:

- Sunday, May 1, at 4:00 p.m.
- Wednesday, May 4, at 10:30 a.m.
- Sunday, May 8, at 6:30 p.m.
- Tuesday, May 10, at 2:00 p.m.

Come to one or more. Of course, I am available at many other times to visit with you in the church office or in your homes.

Thank you for the privilege of serving as your interim pastor.

Love,

*Bob*

UPCOMING EVENTS

- SUNDAY, APRIL 24**  
9:30 a.m. Sunday School  
9:50 a.m. Chancel Choir.....Sanctuary  
10:30 a.m. Worship .....Sanctuary  
5:00 p.m. Youth Food/Fellowship .....West Building  
5:30 p.m. Youth Group.....West Building  
5:30 p.m. Confirmation Class..... Confirmation Room
- MONDAY, APRIL 25**  
10:00 a.m. Staff Meeting .....Parlor  
6:00 p.m. Session Meeting ..... Fellowship Hall
- TUESDAY, APRIL 26**  
10:30 a.m. 200<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Committee .... Fellowship Hall
- WEDNESDAY, APRIL 27**  
6:00 p.m. Chancel Choir.....Sanctuary  
7:30 p.m. Joy Ringers.....Session Room
- SUNDAY, MAY 1**  
9:30 a.m. Chancel Choir.....Sanctuary  
9:30 a.m. Sunday School  
10:30 a.m. Worship .....Sanctuary  
5:00 p.m. Youth Food/Fellowship .....West Building  
5:30 p.m. Youth Group.....West Building
- MONDAY, MAY 2**  
10:00 a.m. Staff Meeting.....Parlor  
10:00 a.m. Council of Pres. Women.....McLaurin Room
- TUESDAY, MAY 3**  
10:00 a.m. Staff Meeting..... Fellowship Hall
- WEDNESDAY, MAY 4**  
6:00 p.m. Chancel Choir.....Sanctuary  
7:30 p.m. Joy Ringers.....Session Room

The Council of Presbyterian Women will meet Monday, May 2, at 10:00 a.m.

Circles will meet as follows:

- #1 - Tuesday, May 3, in the Fellowship Hall at 12:30 p.m.  
Contact: Linda Brown
- #4 - Tuesday, May 3, in the McLaurin Room at 10:30 a.m.  
Contact: Norma Abbott
- #6 - Wednesday, May 4, in the West Building at 6:30 p.m.  
Contact: Ashley Blum
- #7 - Wednesday, May 4, in the West Building at 9:00 a.m.  
Contact: Robin Thames
- #8 - Wednesday, May 4, at Covenant Place at 3:00 p.m.  
Contact: Winnie Gee or Fran Kay
- #9 - Tuesday, May 3, at the home of Sibbie McFaddin, 321A West Calhoun Street at 3:00 p.m.



CONGREGATIONAL  
COVERED DISH LUNCHEON  
Sponsored by Presbyterian  
Women  
Sunday, May 15 in the  
Fellowship Hall  
Immediately following morning  
Worship

Everyone is invited to celebrate our return to church fellowship with a special Covered Dish Luncheon on Sunday, May 15, immediately following worship. Come, enjoy this time of fellowship! Please bring a covered dish to share. Fried chicken and dessert will be provided.

BACCALAUREATE SUNDAY  
May 22, 2022

We will honor our graduating class of 2022 during worship.

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

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From New Harmony Presbytery:

We want to thank you for all of the prayers, engagement, and financial gifts you and your congregation have shared in support of the church's work with partners serving Ukrainian refugees in eastern Europe. Let us continue to be generous in all ways!

To date Presbyterian Disaster Assistance has sent support to several of our reformed and orthodox partners who are working with national and local churches:

- Community of St. Egidio in Ukraine – working in western Ukraine
- Hungarian Reformed Church Aid – western Ukraine & Hungary
- Hungarian Interchurch Aid – Ukraine & Hungary
- Lutheran World Federation - Poland
- International Orthodox Christian Charities – Romania

Let us continue to be in prayer for the Ukrainians.

God Bless,  
New Harmony Presbytery

JOYS AND CONCERNS

McLeod Hospital (Florence): Joel Long  
Joel & Ann Long  
6001 S. Kings Highway, Unit 262  
Surfside Beach, SC 29575



National Healthcare: Jennie Linn Duffie  
Home: Carolita Cantrell,  
Harold Gadson, Bill Scobee,  
Robert Stage II (Son of Marta Stage)

CHRISTIAN SYMPATHY is extended to the family of Sara Mitchell, who died April 7, 2022.

CONGRATULATIONS to Jennifer and David DuRant on the birth of a daughter, Caroline Elizabeth DuRant, born April 5 in Greenville, South Carolina. Proud big sister is Emily and proud grandparents are Caron and Jimmy DuRant.

FOCUS ON FINANCES  
Two Weeks Beginning April 3 and 10, 2022

	Received		2022 Budgeted
	Two Weeks	YTD	YTD
Revenue			
*Contributions	\$ 33,388.	\$ 277,114.	\$ 182,797.
Other Sources	\$ 0.	\$ 2,717.	\$ 3,453.
	\$ 33,388.	\$ 279,831.	\$ 186,250.