

FOCUS



The weekly newsletter of
FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
Sumter, South Carolina

May 17, 2022



Baccalaureate Service

Sunday, May 22
BACCALAUREATE SUNDAY
We will honor our graduating class of 2022 during worship.

Introit: "Pie Jesus" by Ansley Blanding and Elizabeth Foley, Violin Duet
Offertory Anthem: "Lord Jesus, You Shall Be My Song" by the Chancel Choir

Elders: Whit Shaw, Dan Spencer
Assisting in Worship: Whit Shaw
Deacons: Chris Somheil, Lark Haynie
Youth Liturgist: Nicholas White
Junior Ushers: Richard White

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

The Session has called a congregational meeting during worship on Sunday, May 22, to elect church officers and four at-large members to serve on the next Congregational Nominating Committee. Please see the insert for those individuals being nominated for officers.

Sunday, May 29

Special music by Lauren Decker, Violin

Elders: John Dunn, Glenn Woodrum
Assisting in Worship: John Dunn
Deacons: John Michael Osteen, Colin Davis
Youth Liturgist: Woods Blanding
Junior Ushers: Charlie Coulter



200TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION OF FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH 1823-2023

You are invited to join the celebration of our 200-year history with plans for a year full of learning about and recalling the past, as well as looking at the present and building toward the future.

There will be four main events, held in February, May, September and November of 2023 -- each with its own emphasis on Mission, History, Renewal/Revitalization and Stewardship.

Please consider joining the excitement we feel by volunteering to serve on a committee devoted to one of these events or other areas such as Music, Drama, Commemorative Item, History, Children & Youth Activities, Publicity, Media, Fund Raising and more. We hope to see you at the next planning meeting on Tuesday, May 24 from 6-7 pm in the Fellowship Hall. Your involvement and participation will be very much appreciated.

Steering Committee

From Bob's Desk . . .

Dear Friends in Christ,

We are in the midst of a busy May! Often the church tries to do less in May because our schools are ending their year and providing plenty of activities for our families. However, this month the church has confirmed young people on two Sundays, celebrated baptisms on two Sundays, welcomed new members on three Sundays, enjoyed glorious music in worship, held four "listening sessions" with the pastor, and gathered for our first-in-a-long-time covered-dish luncheon after worship this past Sunday! This coming Sunday, May 22, we will recognize graduating seniors and elect church officers.

Sadly for us, we are having to say goodbye to two families who have blessed our church, but are now moving away from our community. Andrew and Beth McCord and their children Charles and Margaret are relocating to Clemson, South Carolina, and George and Brittney Cain and their children Liam, Kennedy, and Holden are moving to Austin, Texas. They will bless Christian fellowships in their new places, but they will be greatly missed at First Presbyterian. God be with them in their transitions to new chapters of life and faith.

I rejoice in every sign of the Holy Spirit as we journey together toward health and healing. During a worship service in our sanctuary this month, a young girl took a prayer card from the pew and wrote us some heartfelt words: "I pray Jesus wakes us up every day, happy, and loving. I pray that he helps us when we are at our absolute worst. And lastly, I pray that he helps us in every hard moment we have and pushes us to be our best!" She begins and ends her prayer with a hand-drawn heart. And we thank her from the bottom of our hearts, too! God bless us all.

Love,

Bob



A NOTE FROM PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

Presbyterian Women would like to thank everyone who brought food and/or attended our luncheon Sunday, May 15.

We are so appreciative of the support First Presbyterian has given us and are blessed to be a part of this wonderful congregation.

We look forward to more luncheons in the fall!!!

Thank You

UPCOMING EVENTS

SUNDAY, MAY 22

9:30 a.m. Sunday School
9:30 a.m. Chancel Choir.....Sanctuary
10:30 a.m. Worship.....Sanctuary

MONDAY, MAY 23

10:00 a.m. Staff MeetingParlor
6:00 p.m. Session MeetingFellowship Hall

SUNDAY, MAY 29

9:30 a.m. Sunday School
9:30 a.m. Chancel Choir.....Sanctuary
10:30 a.m. Worship.....Sanctuary

MONDAY, MAY 30

Memorial Day ~ Church Office Closed



“WONDERFUL
WEDNESDAYS”
5:30 – 7:15 p.m.
June 8 ~ June 29

Beginning June 8 and running through June 29, we will have “Wonderful Wednesdays.” This will be a four week long, Wednesday evening church wide program during the month of June. Dinners will be provided. Following dinner, there will be Bible classes led by Rev. Bob for the teens and adults as well as fun themed lessons and activities for the kids.

It is very important that we know how many to plan for; please make reservations by calling the church office (803-773-3814) no later than the Monday of the week you and your family plan to attend.

- Wednesday, June 8 - Faithful Footsteps and Fun Sundaes
- Wednesday, June 15 - Music, Movement, and Moon Pies!
- Wednesday, June 22 - Growing in Grace and Garden Goody
- Wednesday, June 28 - Be Nice and Kona Ice



CAMP FELLOWSHIP FUN!

Come join us for a special day of camp fun at Camp Fellowship, located in Waterloo, South Carolina on Wednesday, July 13th. This day trip is for children 4 years- 5th grade and middle school youth. The program will provide camp counselors and age-appropriate camp activities for each age group. Lunch is included. Reservations are required, so please let us know if your elementary and/or middle school kids would like to attend.

Register by texting Ashley Blum (803-847-4406)
or call the church office (803-773-3814).

Lemira Elementary School would like to say thank you for selecting our school to participate in the Backpack Blessings program for the 2021-2022 school year. The children have been very appreciative o the generous donations. May God continue to bless you and the members of First Presbyterian Church.

Sincerely,
Nakia Carter
School Counselor
Lemira Elementary School



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
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Can't commit to a weekly rehearsal? Consider singing with the FPC SUMMER CHOIR! This multi-generational group meets at 9:30 on Sunday mornings to prepare a simple anthem for our 10:30 worship service. If you are new to the group, please come 15 minutes earlier, so that we can set you up with a robe and a folder.

Email Joni at jonibrown@fpcsumter.org or call the church office (803-773-3814) for more information.



JOYS AND CONCERNS

Richland: Chuck Fienning
Covenant Place: Jennie Linn Duffie

Home: Caroline Sigmon,
Julian Moore, Carolita Cantrell, Harold Gadson,
Bill Scobee, Robert Stage II (Son of Marta Stage)

CHRISTIAN SYMPATHY is extended to . . .
. . . Jim Alexander on the death of his mother, Doris Alexander, who died May 5, 2022;
. . . the family of Ken McLeod, who died April 26, 2022 in Richmond, Virginia. Offers of condolence may be sent to his daughter, Ed McLeod, 5240 Sheridan Lane, Richmond, VA 23225.

We welcome Natalie Betts, who was received into membership during Sunday's worship service.

The Sacrament of Baptism was administered to Christopher John Betts, Jr. (C.J.), son of Natalie and Christopher Betts, during Sunday's worship service.

FOCUS ON FINANCES
Two Weeks Beginning May 1 and 8, 2022

	Received		2022 Budgeted
	Two Weeks	YTD	YTD
Revenue			
*Contributions	\$ 27,888.	\$ 332,434.	\$ 236,783.
Other Sources	\$ 36.	\$ 2,760.	\$ 4,942.
	\$ 27,924	\$ 335,194.	\$ 241,725.