

FOCUS



The weekly newsletter of
FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
Sumter, South Carolina

July 11, 2023

Sunday, July 16

Emmett Anglin, Euphonium, will play “Just a Closer Walk with Thee” arranged by Paul Haack.

Elders: Norma Abbott, Gus Blum
Assisting in Worship: Norma Abbott
Deacons: Valerie James, Joe McElveen

Sunday, July 23

Soprano soloist Kara Glover will sing “The Lord’s Prayer” by Albert Hay Malotte.

Elders: Jim Alexander, Margy Carpenter
Assisting in Worship: Margy Carpenter
Deacons: Virginia Hutchens, Jimmy Ezell

Sunday, July 30

Soprano soloist Sarah Alexander will sing “Lord, Who Knows My Heart” by Daniel Burton.

Elders: Liza Cooper, Bonnie Disney
Assisting in Worship: Bonnie Disney
Deacons: Debbie Jackson, Susan W. Osteen

Sunday, August 6

The Chancel Choir will sing “I Will Rejoice” by G. F. Telemann.

Elders: Linda Hogon, John James
Assisting in Worship: John James
Deacons: Harold Nixon, Lark Haynie

Dear FPC Church Members,

Your PNC (Pastor Nominating Committee) has been hard at work dotting i’s and crossing t’s to make sure we have done the required tasks that are involved with searching for your new pastor.

We are putting the finishing touches on the Mission Study which is required by the Committee on Ministry (COM) and plan on having that approved in the coming days.

Next up is the Ministry Discernment Profile (MDP) which will be the main form pastors will look at to see if FPC of Sumter might be a possible fit for him or her.

Additionally, we are working through the executive summary that was prepared for us from the Holy Cow Survey most of our church members took part in. The Survey is also helping us determine what kind of leader we are looking for in our new pastor.

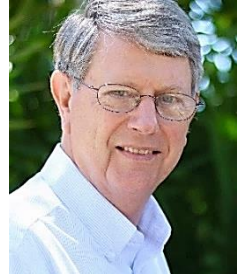
We truly appreciate your patience and prayers as we work through this process through the summer and into the fall.

Feel free to reach out to either myself or any of our PNC.

Jack Osteen - Chair	Jessica Bettinger
Karen Ingram - Vice Chair	Chuck Fienning
Dee Dailey - Recording Secretary	John Jackson
Kimberly Land - Corresponding Secretary	

Dear Friends in Christ,

Happy summertime to everyone! There are not a lot of meetings on the church calendar for the month of July; but that is about to change as our summer travels and vacations are completed, and we prepare for a new school year. Please note the listing of upcoming events in this newsletter. Very few congregations will enjoy the sermons of so many different preachers of the gospel as we will during this 200th anniversary year. Joel Long, Peggy Swann, and Nick Yoda have already returned to preach for us, and Tripp Brogdon gave us an update on his ministry as well. Many more are coming!



Please mark your calendar for Sunday, July 30, when Rev. Chris Denny will be with us to preach. Chris is a child of FPC. He is serving as Pastor of Westminster Presbyterian Church in Columbia. I will be preaching at Westminster that Sunday.

Please mark your calendar as well for a “Welcome back!” covered-dish luncheon following worship on Sunday, August 20. The church will provide chicken and drinks as we welcome one another back to church after the comings and goings of the summertime. After the meal, we will stay in the Fellowship Hall for a sharing of the results of the Holy Cow! congregational survey that we completed in May. We thank everyone for taking the survey, and the Session looks forward to helping us understand what we said about ourselves as a church.

Mary Ann and I are enjoying some time in Montreat, NC, this summer, and we were so proud of our First Presbyterian musicians who offered their talents in enhancing the worship at the Worship and Music Conference. Also, we have had in our prayers the nine members of our congregation who are touching lives with the love of Jesus in Costa Rica. They are great ambassadors of Christ and of our church. We are a blessed community of faith!

Love,

Bob

CONGREGATIONAL CARE

The Congregational Care Committee is here to serve our members in need. We have committees in place to help the pastor and officers care for our congregation. The casserole committee stocks the church freezer with entrees and delivers them to our members, the construction committee helps members with small jobs around the house, and the transportation committee transports members to appointments. The pastoral aides assist Care and Prayer with members that may require additional visits or have emergency concerns. If anyone is interested in serving on any of these committees or knows of anyone that may benefit from our Congregational Care, please contact Missy Coulter (coultervm@aol.com).

SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS BEING RECEIVED

Applications for the Baker and West Scholarships are being received. These scholarships are awarded to members of our church entering college this fall. The application deadline is noon on July 21, 2023.

UPCOMING EVENTS

SUNDAY, JULY 16

9:30 a.m. Sunday School
9:50 a.m. Chancel Choir.....Sanctuary
10:30 a.m. WorshipSanctuary

SUNDAY, JULY 23

9:30 a.m. Sunday School
9:50 a.m. Chancel Choir.....Sanctuary
10:30 a.m. WorshipSanctuary

SUNDAY, JULY 30

9:30 a.m. Sunday School
9:50 a.m. ChancelSanctuary
10:30 a.m. WorshipSanctuary

SUNDAY, AUGUST 6

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

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 9

10:00 a.m. Prayer Shawl MinistryParlor

2023 MONTREAT WORSHIP AND MUSIC
CONFERENCE: THIRST NO MORE

The concept and planning for this year’s conference began three years ago during the pandemic. The theme, “Thirst No More” evolved from John 4, the unexpected encounter between Jesus and the Samaritan woman at the well. For generations, Jacob’s well was an important gathering center. For us, Montreat is always a place to fill our parched creative and spiritual wells with living water.

Enrollment this year for the two weeks exceeded 1400, the largest in a decade. Lauren Decker said “ I love to make music with friends from all over the United States with whom I’m able to reconnect with each year at this conference. Black Mountain and Montreat are special places!"

We gathered for worship service each morning and sang in the four hundred voice choir led by renown composer and conductor Jason Max Ferdinand. Our FPC instrumentalists accompanied us in worship throughout the week. Class offerings included photography, art, handbells, choir, instrumental ensembles, and drumming for all ages. We learned new literature by participating in music reading sessions and attending the organ recital and hymn festival. We all performed in the final concerts on Thursday and Friday evening.

Jessica Bettinger said about the Children and Worship sessions: “ I got more out of the children's message than anything else. I learned that what's good for the children can also be good for the people. I come back from Montreat with activities, strategies, and ideas to help our whole church family engage in worship with each other.”

Continue to pray for our music ministry, pastor, and other worship leaders as we seek to carry the message of God’s healing generosity to our congregation as well as to a world in pain, want and confusion. Have you had an unexpected encounter with Christ today?

Love in Christ,
Joni



Dr. Ed McLeod was called to our church in 1995 and stayed until 2004 when he was called to First Presbyterian Church in Raleigh. He was instrumental in establishing the Disciple Bible Study and brought an increased emphasis on youth ministry. The Allen West family donated funds for the construction of the West Youth Center. It was dedicated in 1997.Mary Martha was organized by Margaret Hunter and Martha Shaw. The Handbell Choir was started by Janet Kuhlmann.

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

Non-Profit
US, Postage Paid
Sumter, SC
Permit #22

This publication was delivered to USPS on 7/11/2023.
Please notify USPS if you don’t receive it in a timely manner.

Calling all volunteers! Faith Formation & Fellowship is asking for volunteers to teach Sunday School and Children in Worship starting September 10th. We also are in need of volunteers (NO TEACHING) to assist these teachers. You will have a lesson and a lesson plan provided for you (with any additional info the plan suggests). Please consider volunteering for these important ways to help our children grow in their Bible journey. Please let us know if you can help by August 1. The more people who volunteer, the longer the rotation schedule will be. We appreciate your help!



SUMMER FOCUS SCHEDULE

Focus will resume normal scheduling in August. Listed below are the dates of publication along with the deadline to submit information to be included in that publication.

- August 8 (Deadline August 4, at 9:00 a.m.)
- August 22 (Deadline August 18, at 9:00 a.m.)

JOYS AND CONCERNS

Home: Tumpy Creech, ,
Jackie Osteen, Beth Byce (Daughter of
Sibbie McFaddin)



CHRISTIAN SYMPATHY is extended to . . .
. . . Lauren Decker on the death of her brother David Coffin,
who died June 9 in New York;
. . . Susanne Dwight on the death of her father, Tommy Luther
Eady, who died June 21, 2023;

FOCUS ON FINANCES
Five Weeks Beginning
June 4, 11, 18, 25 & July 2, 2023

	Received		2023 Budgeted
	Five Weeks	YTD	YTD
Revenue			
Contributions	\$ 33,531.	\$412,919.	\$409,615.
Other Sources	\$ 37,259.	\$ 54,000.	\$ 39,782.
	\$ 70,790.	\$466,919.	\$449,397.

Revenue-Other Sources includes \$22,381.53 revenue recognized from Nixon Endowment for Costa Rica expenses incurred; and \$11,250 quarterly revenue recognized from PPP Reserve (1/4 x \$45,000).