

FOCUS



The weekly newsletter of
FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
Sumter, South Carolina

August 22, 2023

Sunday, August 27

Rev. Josie Holler will be our guest preacher. Josie served as our Parish Associate beginning in 2004. Please welcome Josie at a reception in the Fellowship Hall following morning worship.

Offertory Anthem: Chancel Choir will sing "Gathered in God's Name" by Michael Burkhardt.

Elders: Norma Abbott, John James

Assisting in Worship: John James

Deacons: Gary Bratton, Suzanne Wates

ACOLYTE TRAINING

There will be a training session for all children who are interested in being an acolyte on Sunday, August 27, at 10:00 a.m. in the narthex. If your child is interested in serving First Presbyterian Church as an acolyte, please contact Debbie Jackson (debbiejackson1954@gmail.com).

Sunday, September 3

Alto Sax soloist Sean Hackett will play "Joshua Fit the Battle of Jericho" by Daniel Kallman.

Elders: Jim Alexander, Margy Carpenter

Assisting in Worship: Jim Alexander

Deacons: Mike Blanding, Joe McElveen

CELEBRATING 200 YEARS!!

Help us celebrate our Bi-Centennial as we emphasize the preaching mission of our church with former pastors returning to our pulpit.

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 10

Dr. Jeff Aiken (1980-1992)

will be our guest preacher.

Rev. David DuBay and Rev. Mike McGehee will visit.

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 17

Dr. Ed McLeod (1995-2004)

will be our guest preacher.

When In Our Music God Is Glorified **Bicentennial Celebration Concert**

Sunday, September 17

4:00 p.m. in the FPC Sanctuary

Featuring Hamilton Stoddard and Bill Scobee,
Organists

Brass Ensemble,

Kara Grover, Soprano Soloist

Lauren Decker and Gracie Reynolds, Violin

*A reception will follow the Concert
in the Fellowship Hall.*

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 24

Dr. Mark Durrett (2006-2012)

will be our guest preacher.

Dear Friends in Christ,

At the beginning of 2023, the 200th Anniversary Committee recommended to Session that we begin a financial campaign to give a gift to our community in thanksgiving for our years of ministry in this place. We decided that the recipients of this gift would be Sumter United Ministries and Habitat for Humanity, and we set a goal of raising \$200,000 for the 200 years we have witnessed to Christ in Sumter. Further, we agreed to use \$100,000 of our church's local mission reserves to match the first \$100,000 in gifts from our church members. More recently, the Session expanded this matching money to up to \$125,000. Our congregation has been eager to give.

Visual reminders of this Bicentennial Fund are the delightful cardboard banks that are replicas of our handsome church. Chuck and Sue Fienning were so gracious in providing these banks for us. For some of us these banks are actually receiving the monies that we have been saving for this offering. For others, these banks serve as reminders that our church is seeking to be generous to those in need this year.

The culminating offering for the Bicentennial Fund will be Sunday, September 17, during morning worship. We will be given an opportunity to bring our banks or our checks forward during the singing of our second hymn, or we may place a check in the offering plate marked "Bicentennial Fund." Please print your name clearly on the bottom of the bank so that we may record your gift and return your bank to you!

We thank the 200th Anniversary Committee and the Session for their good leadership of the Bicentennial Fund, and we are grateful to all our church members who have given and will give to this community outreach. What a celebration it is to sustain the ministries of Habitat for Humanity and Sumter United Ministries. We are glorifying God forever by meeting the needs of the poor and helping one another.

We plan to present very generous checks to both of these agencies on World Communion Sunday, October 1, 2023. When we think back over time about all the ways we celebrated our 200th anniversary as a church, we will remember with great joy and satisfaction that it was the year we gave and gave and gave in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. Thanks be to God!

Love,

Bob



UPCOMING EVENTS

SUNDAY, AUGUST 27

- 9:30 a.m. Sunday School
- 9:30 a.m. Chancel Choir.....Sanctuary
- 10:00 a.m. Acolyte Training.....Narthex
- 10:30 a.m. WorshipSanctuary
- 4:00 p.m. Joy Ringers.....Session Room

MONDAY, AUGUST 28

- 10:00 a.m. Council of Presbyterian WomenMcLaurin Room
- 10:00 a.m. Staff MeetingParlor

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 30

- 6:00 p.m. Chancel Choir RehearsalSanctuary

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 3

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

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 4 ~ Church Office Closed

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 5

- 10:30 a.m. Circle #4McLaurin Room
- 12:30 p.m. Circle #1Fellowship Hall
- 6:30 p.m. Circle #6..... West Building

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 6

- 3:00 p.m. Circle #8Covenant Place
- 6:00 p.m. Chancel Choir RehearsalSanctuary

The Council of Presbyterian Women will meet Monday, August 28, at 10:00 a.m. in the McLaurin Room.

Circles will meet as follows:

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



FROM THE 200TH ANNIVERSARY COMMITTEE

The 200th Anniversary Committee invites you to a walk-through of FPC’s 200 years in our Fellowship Hall beginning Tuesday, September 5, and going through September 30. We will have many pieces of historical memorabilia on display documenting our pastors and church expansion over the years. The Histories will also be available for viewing as well.

If you have any FPC memorabilia you would like to share, please let Debbie Jackson (debbiejackson1954@gmail.com) know.

As a remembrance of this year’s celebration, FPC notecards and pewter Christmas ornaments are available to purchase for \$15 each at the Welcome Desk. Both will make wonderful Christmas gifts. Contact Debbie Jackson or Linda Hogan.



In August 2016, Reverend Nick Cheek accepted a call as Senior Minister. Pastor Ashley, his wife, became our Pastor of Family Life. Membership increased by approximately 60 members. We continued to have strong adult and youth programs.

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
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DISCOVERY CLASS BEGINS
NEW STUDY

The Discovery Sunday School Class invites you to a six-week study of Six Themes Everyone Should Know: The Bible. The class will begin this study on Sunday, September 10, at 9:30 a.m. The class meets in Room 207, on the second floor of the Education Building. Everyone is invited.

COME SEE
MONTREAT
November 5-7

“Come See Montreat” is a trip to see the Presbyterian Conference Center near Black Mountain, North Carolina. We will travel on Sunday, have Monday and Tuesday to explore Montreat and the surrounding area, and then journey home on Wednesday. We have reserved rooms in the South Carolina Inn in Montreat, but we need to know who would like to go on this trip. **PLEASE SIGN UP NOW** so we can secure our lodging. Brochures are available and can be picked up from the tables outside the sanctuary and in front of the church office.



JOYS AND CONCERNS
Home: John Michael Osteen,
Beth Byce (Daughter of Sibbie
McFaddin)

FOCUS ON FINANCES
Two Weeks Beginning
August 6 and 13, 2023

	Received		2023 Budgeted
	Two Weeks	YTD	YTD
Revenue			
Contributions	\$ 18,718.	\$478,641.	\$480,717.
Other Sources	\$ 25,701.	\$ 79,970.	\$ 91,825.
	\$ 44,419.	\$558,611.	\$572,542.

YTD Revenue – Other Sources includes \$23,000 annual income distribution from the Baker Scholarship Endowment (Baker Scholarship awards totaling \$23,000 were paid to recipients).