

# FOCUS



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

September 19, 2023

## Sunday, September 24

Rev. Mark Durrett will be our guest preacher. Mark served as our senior pastor 2006-2012. Please welcome Mark and his wife, Angie, at a reception in the Fellowship Hall following morning worship.

Introit: "Psalm 150" by the Chancel Choir  
Offertory: "Bless This House," Angie Durrett, Vocalist  
Krystin Baier, violin and Michael Baier, cello will also provide special music.

**Elders:** Kimberly Land, Becky Owens  
**Assisting in Worship:** Kimberly Land  
**Deacons:** Debbie Jackson, Kathy Lyons  
**Youth Liturgist:** Bee Smith  
**Jr. Ushers:** Millie Davis, Murrell Smith

## Sunday, October World Communion Sunday

Introit: "Jesu Tawa Pano" (Jesus, We Are Here) by the Children's Choir  
Offertory: Special music by Lauren Decker, violin

**Elders:** Bill Richardson, Glenn Woodrum  
**Assisting in Worship:** Bill Richardson  
**Deacons:** Kenny Jordan, Harold Nixon  
**Youth Liturgist:** Cooper Hill  
**Jr. Ushers:** Adelaide McElveen, Charlie Thames

## FROM THE 200<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY COMMITTEE

Let's celebrate in style by wearing our logo! Our 200<sup>th</sup> Anniversary T-shirts in a variety of colors are available to order through the QR code until mid-November. They can be shipped directly to you or picked up at church on designated pick-up dates TBA. A sample T-shirt will be on display at the Welcome Desk.



Let's celebrate the history of the past 200 years of First Presbyterian Church by walking through the Archive's Display in the Fellowship Hall over the next few weeks! The History Committee has brought our past to life for us all to see and appreciate! Oral histories are available for viewing as well.

The Council of Presbyterian Women will meet Monday, October 2, at 10:00 a.m. in the McLaurin Room.

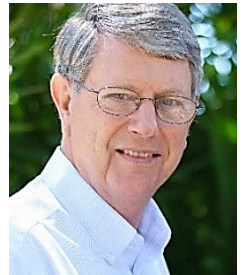
Circles will meet as follows:

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



Dear Friends in Christ,

No one can say that First Presbyterian Church failed to notice its 200<sup>th</sup> birthday! This past Sunday was a glorious day in the life of our congregation as Dr. Ed McLeod preached a powerful, timely sermon, the culminating offering for our Bicentennial Fund was brought forward, and our community gathered for a joyous concert offered to God by musicians we love: Hamilton Stoddard and Bill Scobee on organ, the Sumter Brass Quintet with John Wates on tuba and Joseph Bettinger on trombone, Lauren Decker and Gracie Reynolds on violin accompanied by Kay Rasmussen on keyboard, and the powerful singing of Kara Grover.



We thank Joni Brown, our Director of Music, for inspiring, directing, and presenting this musical gift to all of us. The afternoon concert concluded a truly significant day in the life of the church we love. Thanks be to God.

Dr. Jeff Aiken began this celebration of our preaching mission by calling us to remember our hope in Christ, and Dr. Mark Durrett will conclude this special emphasis next Sunday, September 24, with his wife Angie singing for us. The wonderful historical display in the Fellowship Hall continues this month. Our yearlong birthday party leads us to an old-fashioned homecoming on Sunday, November 19, with Rev. George Jacobs preaching and our toes tapping to Bluegrass gospel music! Sunday dinner follows. Congratulations to all on such a wonderful year. Linda Hogon chairs our 200<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Committee that have planned this whole year. They have been glorifying God forever!

Meanwhile, we are pleased to announce that the Committee on Ministry of New Harmony Presbytery has approved both our Mission Study and our Ministry Discernment Profile and has given us permission to seek and to interview candidates for the next installed pastor of our church. This call to a pastor is a critical step in renewing our congregation, and we ask for the continued prayers of all our members as the important work of our Pastor Nominating Committee moves forward. This group is chaired by Jack Osteen and includes Jessica Bettinger, Chuck Fienning, Karen Ingram, Kimberly Land, Dee Daily, and John Jackson.

The upcoming fall calendar includes World Communion Sunday on October 1, when generous checks will be presented to Habitat for Humanity and Sumter United Ministries. Also, I am leading a Bible study on James each Sunday of October at 4:00 p.m. in the Chapel. A fall trip to Montreat Conference Center near Asheville, NC, is being offered from Sunday, November 5, to Wednesday, November 8, to anyone who would like to come. We will stay in the South Carolina Inn. Brochures are available on tabletops throughout the church. Also, our annual stewardship emphasis will be led by the Session with Dedication Sunday scheduled for Sunday, November 19.

The church staff has been busy during this celebration year, and we continue to give thanks to God for Shirley Wood, Neil Ross, Barry Gholson, Debbie Jackson, and Marian Carnes for their faithful efforts in making it all happen. We are a blessed congregation!

Love,  
*Bob*

UPCOMING EVENTS

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 24

9:30 a.m. Sunday School  
9:30 a.m. Chancel Choir.....Sanctuary  
10:30 a.m. Worship .....Sanctuary  
12:00 p.m. Joy Ringers .....Session Room

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 25

10:00 a.m. Staff Meeting .....Parlor

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 27

6:00 p.m. Chancel Choir Rehearsal .....Sanctuary

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 1

9:30 a.m. Sunday School  
9:50 a.m. Chancel Choir.....Sanctuary  
10:00 a.m. Children’s Choir .....Sanctuary  
10:30 a.m. Worship .....Sanctuary  
4:00 p.m. Bible Study ..... Chapel  
12:00 p.m. Joy Ringers .....Session Room

MONDAY, OCTOBER 2

10:00 a.m. Council of Pres. Women.....McLaurin Room

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 3

10:30 a.m. Circle #4 .....McLaurin Room  
12:30 p.m. Circle #1 .....Fellowship Hall  
4:00 p.m. Worship & Music .....Parlor  
6:30 p.m. Circle #6 ..... West Building

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 4

3:00 p.m. Circle #8 .....Covenant Place  
6:00 p.m. Chancel Choir Rehearsal .....Sanctuary

CATECHISM CLASS RECOGNIZED

We are thankful for our catechism students and especially for Mrs. Brogdon, who has faithfully taught generations of First Presbyterian’s children! The following students were recognized Sunday, September 10:

- Harry Berger

Charlie Coulter

Millie Davis

Lucas DuBose

Ligon Ferguson
- Adelaide McElveen

Murrell Smith, III

Caroline Thames

Connor Thames

“CARDS OF CARING”  
COLLEGE STUDENT PROGRAM

If you have a college student, please submit their name and a current college address so we can include them in the college student Cards of Caring program. We will send students cards of encouragement and occasional gift cards throughout the school year. Please send your student’s information to Shawna Hilferty at shilferty@gmail.

Fall is approaching fast! Pretty soon it will be time for Halloween! Trunk or Treat is scheduled for Sunday, October 29, at 5:30. If you would like to volunteer your trunk for our own Trick or Treat, please call/email Debbie Jackson (debbiejackson1954@gmail.com). We will have Trunk or Treat set up in our parking lot. Decorate your trunk, add some candy, and visit with the princesses, cowboys, aliens . . . whoever might show up! You can dress up too!



The Scout Hut was built in the early 1940’s and was used as a meeting place and home for the Berean Sunday School Class. It was renovated in 1999 and is a testament to First Presbyterian’s dedication to the Scout program.

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

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FRIENDSHIP-HARMONY CLASS  
BEGINS NEW STUDY

The Friendship-Harmony Class has started a new Bible study this Fall, “God’s Law is Love,” using the Standard Lesson Quarterly based on the Lectionary. Each week the class will explore a portion of Scripture and then have discussion. The class is suitable for singles and couples. We’d love to have you join us.

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. Brochures are available and can be picked up from the tables outside the sanctuary and in front of the church office.

*Please register by October 15.*



JOYS AND CONCERNS  
Bon Secours St. Francis Hospital  
(Charleston): John Michael Osteen  
National Healthcare: Isabel Gist  
Home: Sherri Redmond, Shuler Griffin

CHRISTIAN SYMPATHY is extended to:  
... the family of Aggie White, who died September 9, 2023;  
... Peggy Curlovic on the death of her husband, Don Curlovic, who died September 12, 2023.

FOCUS ON FINANCES  
Two Weeks Beginning  
September 3 & 10, 2023

	Received		2023 Budgeted
	Two Weeks	YTD	YTD
Revenue			
Contributions	\$ 26,055.	\$520,598.	\$513,138.
Other Sources	\$ 7.	\$ 79,977.	\$120,550.
	\$ 26,062.	\$600,575.	\$636,688.