

FOCUS



The weekly newsletter of
FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
Sumter, South Carolina

July 25, 2017

Sunday, July 30, 2017

9:00 a.m. ~ "Care and Prayer" (Parlor)

9:30 a.m. ~ Chancel Choir (Sanctuary)

9:30 a.m. ~ Sunday School
(Adult Classes Only)

10:30 a.m. ~ Worship (Sanctuary)

"Work Out Your Salvation"
Philippians 2:12-18

Offertory Anthem: The Chancel Choir will sing
"How Firm a Foundation"
arranged by Emma Lou Diemer

ELDERS GREETING AT WORSHIP

Dan Spencer, Scott Williams

ELDER LEADING SUNDAY MORNING PRAYERS

Scott Williams

ELDER IN CHARGE OF VISITING (July 30-Aug. 5)

Scott Williams

WORSHIP AT HOME

Gus Blum, Matt Blankenship

TELLER DUTY

Catharine Frerichs, Bronwyn McElveen

USHERS

Jimmy Ezell, Beth Jackson

JUNIOR USHERS

Amy Spivey, Caroline Moorman

YOUTH LITURGIST

Will Croft

SAFETY MONITOR

Bill Redmond

CHURCH HOUR EXTENDED CARE

Committee Member – Robin Thames

Nursery – Markita Gadson

2, 3, 4 & 5 Yr. Olds – Kalyn Stuckey,
Cary and Natalie Coker



2 Corinthians 4:7-10

⁷ But we have this treasure in clay jars, so that it may be made clear that this extraordinary power belongs to God and does not come from us. ⁸ We are afflicted in every way, but not crushed; perplexed, but not driven to despair; ⁹ persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed; ¹⁰ always carrying in the body the death of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus may also be made visible in our bodies.

This is one of my favorite Bible passages. Clay jars in the time of Christ were used to store important household items; perfumes, grains and other cherished objects.

In the Bible, God's people are often compared to clay pots or moldable clay being formed in a potter's hand. Like clay jars we are made differently – all shapes and sizes, different colors and with unique and significant purposes.

We are also somewhat breakable. Like clay jars, we can undergo seasons that leave behind a few bumps, dents or cracks in the jar. I love this metaphor. If we do have this extraordinary power from God within us, then wouldn't we also need a few cracks here and there in order to make space for that power to shine through us.

Maybe some of the scars of this life (the cracks) are indeed another way for God's love and light to shine through us and into our lives and the lives of those around us. Even though they represent a challenging time, they also represent God's enduring and steadfast love that sticks with us and cherishes us no matter how many dings and cracks we might have.

Shine the light this week. Shine it bright and with boldness. See you soon!

Nick

Nick



It's time to sign up for Feed My Starving Children. First Presbyterian is once again sponsoring a table to pack the meals. We have 15 spots on

August 1 (11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.) and August 2 (3:00 to 5:00 p.m.). Sign-up sheets are on the table outside the Fellowship Hall. If you are unable to stand to pack food for two hours, there are a variety of other jobs you would be able to do. This is a fun and rewarding project!

GEAR UP FOR LEARNING

Once again, we are collecting WIDE-RULED one-subject spiral notebooks for United Ministries' Gear Up for Learning. You are invited to purchase as many wide-ruled single-subject spiral notebooks as your budget allows. Please help us collect 2100 notebooks for the school children in our community by Sunday, August 6.



NEW MEMBERSHIP

If you feel connected here and are interested in becoming an official part of the First Presbyterian Church Family, then this is for you! Join Pastor Nick, Pastor Ashley and other leaders of our church as we learn how to get planted in the faith here at FPCS. Class schedules are below. To sign up, please contact Shirley at 803-773-3814 or swood@fpcsumter.org.



September 10, 9:30 a.m. – 10:15 a.m.
September 17, 9:30 a.m. – 10:15 a.m.
September 24, 9:30 a.m. – 10:15 a.m.
September 25, 5:30 p.m. - 6:30 p.m., Fellowship Dinner with Elders and Family
October 8, 10:30 a.m. Worship (Congregational Welcome)

UPCOMING EVENTS

SUNDAY, AUGUST 6

- 9:00 a.m. "Care and Prayer" Parlor
- 9:30 a.m. Chancel Choir Sanctuary
- 9:30 a.m. Sunday School (Adult Classes Only)
- 10:30 a.m. Worship Sanctuary



**NEW HARMONY
PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN
HELPSHOPS**

**Saturday, August 5
9:00 a.m. - 12:00 Noon
First Presbyterian Church
Fellowship Hall**

All Presbyterian women are encouraged to attend.

Kayleigh Jordan is working on her Girl Scout Gold Project. She is making quiet books for autistic and developmentally delayed children. She is in need of zippers, buttons, ribbon, felt shapes, yarn, and fabric. Her hope is to make at least 5-6 books and wants to donate them to Early Autism Project. Please call Kayleigh (803-972-7222) or Robin Thames (803-972-3207) for more information.



CHILDREN'S WATERPARK TRIP

Wednesday, August 9

Cost is \$25/person ~ includes admission and lunch

We will leave from the Church parking lot at 8:00 a.m. and go to Whirlin' Waters Waterpark in North Charleston. We will return at approximately 6:00 p.m. This trip is for all children of FPC and their friends. We ask that a parent attend with their child(ren) up through age 5. Please contact Kimberly White (803-468-7781 or kimber2097@gmail.com) or Robbie Branham (803-938-2914 or robbiebranham@scfbins.com) with any questions or to confirm your child's attendance. Payment must be received no later than Sunday, August 6.

If you are interested in chaperoning this trip, please contact Kimberly as soon as possible to confirm.

Sunday, August 6, 2017

- 9:00 a.m. ~ "Care and Prayer" (Parlor)
- 9:30 a.m. ~ Chancel Choir (Sanctuary)
- 9:30 a.m. ~ Sunday School
(Adult Classes Only)
- 10:30 a.m. ~ Worship (Sanctuary)

Communion Anthem: The Chancel Choir will sing "In Remembrance" by Buryl Red.

ELDERS GREETING AT WORSHIP

Dave McInnis, John James

ELDER LEADING SUNDAY MORNING PRAYERS

Mandy Blankenship

ELDER IN CHARGE OF VISITING (August 6-12)

Mandy Blankenship

WORSHIP AT HOME

Robbie Branham, Denise Dunn

TELLER DUTY

Ike Jenkins, Gus Blum

USHERS

Beth Jackson, Sibbie McFaddin

JUNIOR USHERS

Emma Smith, Katie Croft

YOUTH LITURGIST

Cameron Coulter

CHURCH HOUR EXTENDED CARE

Committee Member – Anna Moorman

Nursery – Markita Gadson

2, 3, 4 & 5 Yr. Olds – Kalyn Stuckey,

Bronwyn & Thomas McElveen

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Sumter, SC
Permit #22

**One Sumter Community Group
3rd Annual Unity Prayer Breakfast**

August 5 ~ 8:00 a.m.

The Lincoln Center, 26 Council Street, Sumter

Please contact Rev. Joshua Dupree (803-795-3600) for more information. Tickets are \$10.00/each.

**GOODWILL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
IS CELEBRATING ITS 150th ANNIVERSARY!**

On August 12, the Goodwill congregation is holding an Ecumenical Luncheon/Forum to commemorate the many years they have done God's work. It will take place at 1:00 p.m. at the Mt. Zion Enrichment Center, 315 W. Fulton Street. The Rev. Dr. J. Herbert Nelson, Stated Clerk of the Presbyterian Church (USA) will be the guest speaker for this special occasion. For more information, call Donise White (803-481-3755). Tickets are \$30/person.

JOYS AND CONCERNS

Tuomey: Glenn Fisher

National Healthcare:

Ray Wilcox, Mary Kay Hurt



Covenant Place: Ken McLeod

At Home: Bill Painter, Charles Shaw, Judy Mey

CHRISTIAN SYMPATHY is extended to . . .

. . . Iris Painter on the death of her mother, Rebecca Kirven, who died July 13;

. . . the family of Curtis Kimbrell, Jr., who died July 16, in Florence.

Names added to this list will be removed after three weeks unless there is a continued need or a request to remain on the list.



The next Focus will be published August 8. Please submit all information to be included to Shirley (swood@fpcsumter.org) no later than 9:00 a.m. August 7.

FOCUS ON FINANCES

Two Weeks beginning 7/9/2017 and 7/16/2017

	Received		Budgeted
	Two Weeks	YTD	YTD
Revenue			
Contributions	\$24,282.	\$405,288.	\$429,180.
*Other Sources	<u>\$4,265.</u>	<u>\$81,342.</u>	<u>\$65,035.</u>
	\$28,547.	\$486,630.	\$494,215.

**Endowments, Church Event Fees, etc.*