

The PRESSbyterian

www.1stpresbyterian.org

June 2021

FRIENDS IN CHRIST,

As our church looks to its future, the session has committed itself to a period of discernment about where God may be leading us and what we need to learn about ourselves to pursue God's call most effectively. This is particularly important as we look down the road towards the election of new pastoral leadership. We want to learn as much as we can about ourselves as a congregation and about our community and its needs. Towards that end, the session has entered into a working relationship with Pinnacle Leadership Services, a Christian organization that has worked with hundreds of congregations seeking to understand themselves more fully, including a number of other churches in Charleston Atlantic Presbytery. They will work in partnership with our congregation to gather and interpret data provided by our membership regarding our needs, hopes, beliefs, and dreams. It is vitally important that all members of the congregation be heard as we enter into this time of study and learning and we sincerely hope you will participate.

Steps in this work include the election of a Mission Study Team to work directly with our consultant from Pinnacle Leadership in this process. We are happy to report that the following people have agreed to serve on this Mission Study Team: Jimmy Guthrie, Caroline Marcus, Tracy Myers, Kathryn Nexsen, Melissa Plummer, John Shuler, and Gene Wilkes. We thank them for their willingness to undertake this service.

Other steps in this process include orientation and training for the leadership team, the selection and utilization of appropriate online questionnaires, structured listening sessions with all members of the church, a written report by the consultant, a report back to the congregation about what has been learned, and finally a retreat involving the session where they will spend time planning next steps in response to this period of self-study. It is anticipated that this period of learning will provide vital information for the session as it provides leadership and eventually for the committee that will be tasked with searching for our next pastor.

Please join us in prayer and trust in the presence of God's Spirit as we take this important step towards self-understanding and renewal.

Grace and Peace,

The Session of FPC

GENERAL FUND

For month ending April 30, 2021	<u>Month</u>	<u>Year-to-Date</u>
General Fund Income	\$51,236.01	\$168,062.17 *
General Fund Budgeted Expenses	<u>\$34,284.33</u>	<u>\$125,857.17</u>
	\$16,951.68	\$ 42,205.00

* Includes PPP Loan of \$23,800.00

SUNDAY SCHOOL - JUNE 2021



Preschool and elementary classes are continuing the *Holy Moly* series from Spark House. They are studying the teachings and stories of Jesus.

Teacher for preschool: Leslie Lovelace

Elementary teachers:

June 6	Tracy and Robbie Myers
June 13	Susan and Jimmy Smoak
June 20	Jane Holladay
June 27	Melissa and Tripp Plummer

Middle school (5-8) is continuing with Connect which studies the Bible from Genesis to Revelation with life applications. Teacher: Sarah Coggins

Youth will be doing an in depth study of some of the major stories in the Bible and are being taught by Katherine Smith.

Explorers are meeting in the John Knox classroom studying, "Mark, the Humanity of Christ" by John MacArthur and taught by Craig Smith.

John Knox Class is meeting in the Centre using David C. Cook, "Prophets Faithful to God's Covenant."
Teacher: John Shuler

Saltshaker Class will not meet as a class in June but are invited and encouraged to attend the John Knox or Explorers class.

SANCTUARY SOUND AND VIDEO FUND



Goal	\$30,000
Received/pledged	\$20,500
Needed	\$ 9,500

Installation has begun on our new system. If you wish to contribute, call Susanne in the Church Office (534-0088) and let her know what amount you wish to give to the "Sanctuary Sound and Video Fund."

THE SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

will be observed on

June 6, 2021,

in the 11:00 a.m. service of worship.

Pre-packaged elements will be utilized.

FLOWERS BEAUTIFY OUR SANCTUARY



The Sanctuary Flower Calendar has openings on **June 27, July 18, and November 7**. If you wish to place flowers in the church on one of these Sundays please contact Katherine Patterson (katcalpat@aol.com or 533-8340) or Denise Seymore in the church office (534-0088).

REVISED COVID PROTOCOL

Approved by the Session on May 18, 2021

Masks optional

Physical distancing optional

Resume Children's Church and children coming to the front of the sanctuary for the children's sermon during worship

To remain the same through the month of June:

Communion

Offering collection

Water fountains to remain off

We thank God for the health and wellbeing of our congregation and the congregation for your patience.

Covid Task Force



KNIGHTS OF NORTH CASTLE VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

Join First Presbyterian **July 19-23** for Knights of North Castle VBS for a fun filled time of learning about Jesus! Children 3K (completed) through 5th grade (completed) are invited. We only have space for 50 children, and you must register in advance.

Register online at

<https://first-presbyterian-church.mycokesburyvbs.com/>
by June 30, as the registration website will be closed after that date. The cost is \$15 per child with a \$30 maximum per family. This includes a T-shirt and one CD per family! Money can be turned in to the church office or mailed (536 Stanley Street, Orangeburg 29115). Please make checks payable to First Presbyterian Church and include VBS in the memo line. Once you've paid, you can pick up your VBS CD, so your child can begin learning all of the fun, new songs! **If you want to ensure that your child gets a certain shirt size, you need to register by June 7.**

Sarah Coggins
Youth and Children's Director

TO REQUEST PRAYER ...

Prayer request by phone: 803-534-0088 ext. 108

Confidential request by phone (Kaye Borgstedt)

803-534-0088 ext. 107

Via email

prayer.request@1stpresbyterian.org

BETHELWOODS DAY CAMP

Bethelwoods Day Camp (Camp-In-A-Van) will be at First Presbyterian Church from **July 5-9** (9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. on Monday - Thursday and 9:00 a.m. - noon on Friday).

All children 5K (completed) - 5th grade (completed) are invited to join us for an exciting day camp at The Centre. The camp will be led by counselors from Bethelwoods Camp & Conference Center and will include games, Bible stories, songs, crafts, and fun!

There are only 24 spaces available, so register soon! The registration form is available on the church website (link on homepage), and you can drop off completed forms at the church office or email them to Sarah at scoggins@1stpresbyterian.org. The cost is \$20 per child, and this includes a snack each day. Campers will need to bring a bagged lunch.

Make checks payable to First Presbyterian and put "Bethelwoods" and your child's name on the memo line.

Sarah Coggins
Youth and Children's Director

NOTES OF THANKS

- ♦ Thank you for the prayers, cards, calls, care and concern during my recent medical test. It was good news, as there is no hole in my heart. Continued prayers are appreciated as I have further monitoring to assess my health needs.

Keith Byers

- ♦ To the First Presbyterian Church Family,
We are humbled and so very thankful to all of you for faithfully praying for Paul over the last six weeks. God answered our prayers week by week. Thanks for helping us pray him home. He is doing well, and getting stronger each day. God is so good, and answers prayers if only we pray earnestly and often. We here at First Presbyterian are always there to help each other, and we will always be grateful to each and every one of you for being there for us.

Our Love,
Larry and Bonnie Jordan

FROM THE MINISTER OF MUSIC

One of my all time favorite lines comes from the opening words to the Charles Dickens novel A Tale of Two Cities, written in 1859; and I quote, "It was the best of times, it was the worst of times." That phrase has been on my mind the past several days and just will not go away. Perhaps it has something to do with the fact that as I am writing this article it is May 20, 2021, and one year ago today I moved into the house on Stanley Street to begin my new position as Minister of Music at First Presbyterian Orangeburg.

When I first interviewed with the search committee on February 2, 2020, COVID 19 was just beginning to be talked about and very little seemed to be known; within a month most churches would be shutting down in-person worship and singing was the number one thing not to do. Like most people at the time, I thought, "This will be like a bad flu season; it will soon pass."

I took the job and sold my house in Charlotte and moved to Orangeburg. Having served churches for 25 years in Charlotte this was a major move for me. After much prayer I believed then, as I do now, that God was in the midst of this move. The work that was done on the Stanley Street house has provided a nice safe place for me and the beagles, Duke and Dolly, to call home. The pipe organ has had some major work done and all the pipes - visible and invisible - are standing up tall and straight, new casters have been put on our Steinway grand so that I can move it around to meet the needs of our worship service and can do it all by myself. In the past it took two and sometimes three people to move it.

My first three months we did a prerecorded worship service with a makeup choir on the day of the recording, then in September of 2020 we began in-person again with all of the best known COVID 19 safety measures in place, and you have dealt with those in a wonderful way. However, in January of 2021 it was



thought best to go back to prerecorded services and this time no choir. Along comes March 2021 and back to in-person worship with safety measures in place and the choir singing again. Last week was the first time I saw the congregation as you truly are, the masks were off and we are singing the praises of God again.

During this past year and half I have lost two friends to COVID 19, both younger than me. Indeed, the best of times and the worst of times. So what now?

I pray and hope that we will find our way back to the house of God for worship and fellowship. There are choir members whom I have yet to meet and others who have been in and out during this time. The choir needs you. We are looking for and are in need of new members and returning members as we seek to honor our Lord with our time and talents. I am so very thankful to those who have been so faithful in the past year to come to choir.



The choir will be singing through June 27 and then will take a recess until August 18th, our first Wednesday night rehearsal. I hope many of you look at this past year and say it is time to move on and to fulfill our commitments first to Christ and then to our church, be it the Choirs, Sunday School, Youth Group, Bible Study Groups, Deacons' ministry or yes, even as an Elder.

I remember a very popular song from the 70's, something like this: "To God be the Glory, to God be the Glory for the things He hath done." He has brought us through, He has not left us alone, He has done so much for each of us and wants to do so much more. I look forward to a good future here at First Presbyterian as we journey together in this Christian life.

Raymond Tucker
Minister of Music

JUNE BIRTHDAYS

6/01	Hugh Smith	6/19	Shawn Boltin
	Will Hutto	6/21	Cal Bruner
6/02	Ren Albergotti		Anne Griffin Tafel
6/03	Lillian Whalen	6/22	Jay Nexsen
6/05	Shelby Bolen	6/23	Herb Bradley
	Martin Gilchrist		Penny Stevens
	Lyn Byrd	6/25	Gail Tourville
	Kaden Kell	6/27	Karen Johnson
6/07	Vivienne Hutto		Vicky Ware
6/13	Delaney Ridley		Clay Price
6/14	Reuben Ridgeway	6/29	Melissa Camp
6/15	Pat Bartholomew		
	Morgan Gué		

NEWS FROM THE SC INN AT MONTREAT



Did you know that our Presbytery shares ownership of the SC Inn at Montreat and the room rates are phenomenal? House room rates start at \$28 a night and apartments with kitchens start at \$75 a night! This place is a fantastic bargain in the beautiful mountains of NC.

Don't miss an opportunity to visit Montreat. Call Jane Shuler if you have any questions and pick up a brochure in the church office.



HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES 2021



Front row: Abigail Thackston, Evelyn Myers, Olivia Strickland
Back row: Brison Ardis, Sidney Adicks

KNOWN COLLEGE GRADUATES

Blake Bruner

Orangeburg-Calhoun Tech
Associate's Degree in Business

Riley Frierson

Presbyterian College
Christian Education with
French and Psychology Minors

Adison Walter

Darla Moore School of Business, USC
Marketing and Minor in Advertising

CONFIRMATION CLASS 2021



Emory Myers, Jay Plummer, John Colston Strickland
with Rev. Dr. Daniel W. Massie

NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER RECAP

Thank you to everyone who prayed in our sanctuary and at home on the National Day of Prayer. One participant, a church member said, "It was so peaceful and relaxing to sit in the sanctuary this afternoon and pray." This was echoed by many. And a true friend of our church said, "Thanks for the opportunity to unite with heavenly souls on this national day of prayer. I could literally feel the presence of the Holy Spirit in your chapel tonight! To God be the glory!" Let's keep praying.

National Day of Prayer committee:
Delle Bolen, Suzanna Crabb, Taylor Riley,
Jim Harvey and Kaye Borgstedt

Summer Movies at First Presbyterian

Each of the movies will begin at 7:00 p.m. in the Centre, and we'll have popcorn and drinks. You may want to bring a comfy chair or a beanbag.

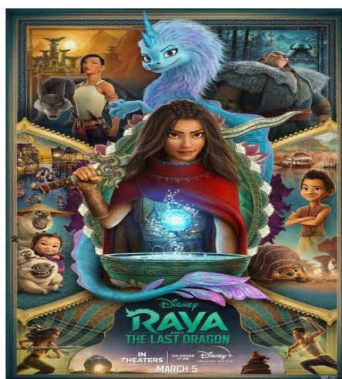
Tuesday, June 15



Tuesday, July 6



Tuesday, July 20



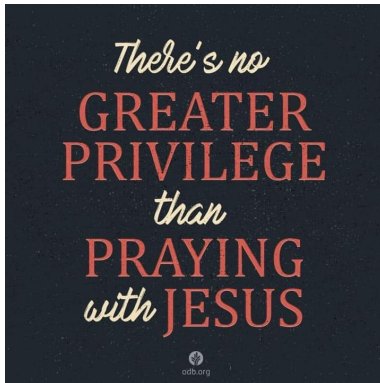
Tuesday, August 10



CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Are We A Praying Church? Part 2

"Pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests... be alert and always keep on praying for all the Lord's people" Ephesians 6:18. "Then you will call on me and come and pray to me, and I will listen to you." Jeremiah 29:12



Last month I suggested that, by certain definitions, we do not qualify as a praying church and suggested we need to look at how better to operate from an organized prayer base. Actually, I was expecting some pushback, and I'm not sure what it means that I did not.

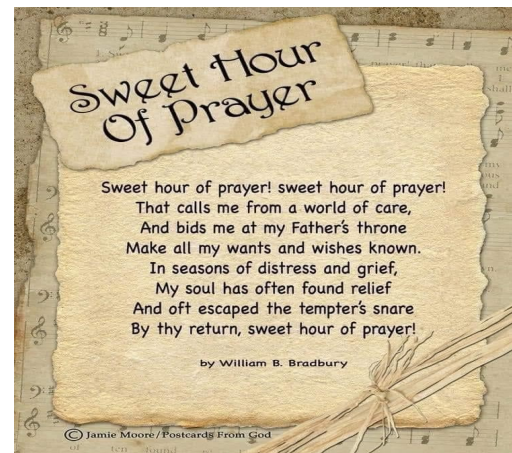
In the past we have had more organized prayer groups, and we can again. Let's look at some of them.

- Expand our intercessory groups: For example, the group that meets on Tuesday (11:30) was designed to pray specifically for our church and met in the sanctuary. Open the sanctuary from 12-2 on Tuesday for anyone to come pray for FPC. Guidelines will be provided.
- The Wednesday group (1:00 p.m.) meets to pray for cares and concerns and sends prayer notes after praying. Add more members to this group.
- Start groups at other times. Anyone interested in being part of an intercessors group, please contact me and we will arrange a time convenient for those interested.

If you are interested in being a part of the prayer ministry but are unable to meet, one suggestion is to daily pray this prayer for First Presbyterian, Orangeburg and other churches. *Father God, fill our church and all churches with Your glory. Help us be houses of worship overflowing with prayer and guide all our ministries and activities to strengthen our relationships with You, with each other and to reach the unchurched.*

- Start each session and diaconate meeting with a moment of silent prayer for our church and the church universal.
- Have a prayer officer each week. An elder or deacon would pick a prayer focus for the week for each of us to add to our prayers. Write or copy a prayer for the week. Sign your name as deacon or elder and post the prayer on Facebook, YouTube and our web page as well as send it to our email prayer chain and church email list. Technical assistance can be provided. With 27 officers this would not necessarily be twice a year.
- Publicize our prayer cards, email and telephone prayer chains.
- Come to Sunday school and worship early to spend time in the sanctuary praying.
- Volunteer to meet in the parlor before worship to pray for worship here and at other churches.

Please send me any comments or suggestions. We have the privilege and joy to pray. James 5:13, "Is anyone among you suffering? Let him pray. Is anyone cheerful? Let him sing." All of the above are just some very important aspects of a praying church. However, individual prayer life is key. As the song says

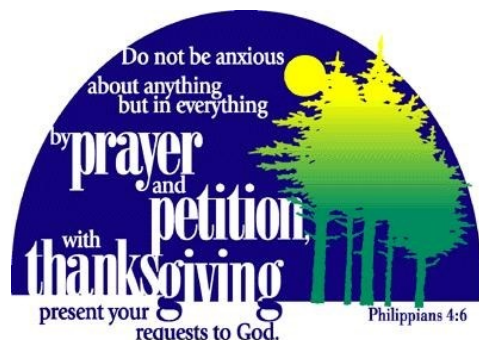


Challenge: 1. Read James 17 which has been called Jesus' prayer. He was praying for his followers which includes us. 2. This is an exciting time in our church and I am looking forward to hearing from you about where you would like to participate.

Blessings as we serve together,

Kaye Borgstedt
Christian Education Coordinator

First Presbyterian Church
536 Stanley Street
Orangeburg, SC 29115



June 2021

MEMORIALS

In Memory of:

Peggy Crocker

Carolyn Davis

Michael Strong

Helen Culler

GIVEN BY:

Dr. and Mrs. Randolph Smoak
Dr. Henri Sandifer and Family
Rusty and Donna Matthews
Mr. and Mrs. John Shuler
Joey and Merece Williamson
Mr. and Mrs. Howard Shirer
Martha and Shelton Lackey
Gene and Kathy Wilkes
Dr. and Mrs. Steven Patterson
Alice Piedad
Joe and Barbara McComb
Vicki and Ovid Culler
Salley Slade Mansour and Joseph Mansour, Sr.

Mr. and Mrs. Ewart Irick
Mr. and Mrs. Gene Wilkes
Mary Jo Spiers
Mrs. Nancy Davis
Rocco and Carol Cassone
Genon Krivohlavek
Mrs. Frances Lytch
Mr. Gordon Huddleston
Bill and Marlene Welch
Mary E. Watts
Council Wood Products, LLC
Virginia Sims and Ginger Risher

Bill and Kathie McMillan Hinson
Chris and Jimmy Walsh
Dr. and Mrs. James Brunson
Mr. and Mrs. Dwight Frierson
Dr. and Mrs. Julius Thompson, Jr.
Mary Sims and Tommy Gué
Mrs. Estelle Dominick
Tom and Cotten Moring
Amy Sharpe and George Slade
Mr. George Ware
Linn and Russell Blanchard