

The PRESSbyterian

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May 2020

WELCOME OUR NEW MUSIC DIRECTOR!



The congregation selected a Music Director Search Committee during 2019. This group spent many hours meeting with applicants and selected a nominee to recommend to the Session in March 2020. The Session accepted the recommendation of the Music Search Committee and has extended an offer to our next Music Director, the Rev. Raymond Tucker. We thank all those who served in helping to select him and we are grateful for your service.

Raymond is a graduate of Batesburg-Leesville High School, Winthrop University and Southwestern Baptist Seminary. Raymond is a skilled vocalist, organist and pianist. He has served as a graduate assistant for the University of South Carolina's Choral Department and most recently comes to us from Hopewell Presbyterian Church in Huntersville, North Carolina. We are very happy to welcome Raymond into the First Presbyterian Church family. He will be living in the home next to the church office located on Stanley Street by a manse lease the church offered as part of his compensation. Raymond plans to move to Orangeburg in mid-May 2020. Please help us to welcome him into our congregation as we seek to further the ministry of First Presbyterian.

The Session

WE ARE ON YOUTUBE AND FACEBOOK!

The church's YouTube channel is a great way to stay in touch with us.

(First Presbyterian Orangeburg

https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC8_9jic-Qyc7m4clc0iiXQ)

This is where we are posting the Sunday services, along with children's stories and devotions read by church members. If you subscribe to the channel, then you can get notified when new material is posted.

You can also visit us on Facebook—First Presbyterian Church of Orangeburg, SC.

WE NEED YOUR HELP

As we all know, our church depends on tithes and offerings to continue to minister and operate as a congregation. We are most grateful to our congregation and continue to be amazed at how God blesses our church through the faithfulness of His people.



Tithes and Offerings

During this time when we are not gathering together for worship as a congregation, please remember to remain faithful in giving tithes and offerings. We expect the demand for our church's ministry to increase during this pandemic crisis.

We plan to soon have a system for online giving and you may also contact the bookkeeper about automatic bank drafts. Until then, our mailing address is First Presbyterian Church, 536 Stanley Street, Orangeburg, SC, 29115. In addition, there is a secure dropbox on the office door.



During this time, I hope everyone is safe and well. We are still ironing out the details of our distribution for this year. With the shortage of goods and supplies we will be acquiring our own uniforms. If you are looking for ways to help the community while still social distancing, please consider a monetary donation to help purchase these uniforms. You can simply mail a check payable to First Presbyterian Church and mark "Hands of Christ" in the memo section. Continue to stay well and thank you for support of Hands of Christ.

Laura Hewitt

FAITH BUILD 2021

Edisto Habitat for Humanity is currently planning for a Faith Build of a new home in 2021. An article by Melissa Camp in our last newsletter described what our local chapter has accomplished. George Ware is also an important representative of our church in Habitat builds. These Faith builds depend on seven to ten churches participating in sponsorship. This is above our annual contribution from our church budget.

If you are interested in personally supporting this Faith Build, please send your check made out to First Presbyterian Church and note on the check that it is for 2021 Faith Build, Edisto Habitat for Humanity.

Thank you for your help.
The Evangelism Unit

ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL

Anyone wishing to join the Saltshaker Class by Zoom, please contact Howard Shirer for details.

GET TO KNOW OUR LOCAL MISSION DAZZ

[This is a reprint of an article from DAZZ's publication.]

DAZZ Orangeburg witnessed God work in so many ways throughout this past year. We were able to perform 271 pregnancy tests, 94 ultrasounds, and 97 STI appointments. The staff counseled 198 women who were at risk for abortion and 154 of those women chose life for their children. This year alone we were able to provide baby items and material goods to 411 individuals and their children. The staff and volunteers were able to present the gospel to 307 clients and rejoiced as 5 people decided to give their hearts to Jesus for the first time. God was certainly with us throughout the year as we were able to minister to the hearts of men and women in the Orangeburg area.

You made the work of this ministry possible!

NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER

PRESBYTERIAN:
When you rearrange the
letters:
BEST IN PRAYER

Thursday, May 7, we will be observing National Day of Prayer. This year our observance will look different due to coronavirus pandemic. One is we will not announce it and open the doors to the public. We have options for actually praying:

1. Pray at home during the time for which you signed up.
2. Drive to church and park in front of the church or in the parking lot and pray during your designated time.

If you would like to pray on May 7, please contact Kaye Borgstedt, 707-2225, for a time.



Resurrection Sunday is over but Easter is never over!

Disrupted, Terrified, Grieved or Time for Reflection and Rededication? What do you imagine the disciples were feeling between Good Friday and Easter Morning? We may all be experiencing some of these same feelings during this coronavirus pandemic. What did the disciples learn? What can we learn?

Have you ever thought about what if:

- The coronavirus pandemic had not happened?
- Joseph of Arimathea had not been brave enough to ask for Jesus' body?
- The women had not gone to the tomb?
- The angel had not been at the tomb?
- The two disciples had not been walking to Emmaus?
- Judas had waited?
- Thomas had not doubted?
- What it meant for Nicodemus to be with Joseph of Arimathea? (John 19:38-42)
- The symbolism in Jesus being mistaken for a gardener? We know Adam and Eve sinned in a garden and the resurrected Jesus was mistaken by Mary for a gardener (John 20:13-18). Sin started in the first garden. Jesus was the sacrifice for the sins of the world.

Sometimes, what ifs are interesting to contemplate. However, we all know scripture tells us that God has a plan (Jeremiah 29:11) and when you look at the story of Holy Week and after, you can see how God took care of all the details to make His plan work. And is still in charge, making His plan work.

In one of his sermons when he was our interim, Dr. Charles Elliott asked us to put ourselves in the story and recognize the message for all. Do you see yourself in any of those people mentioned above? Have you ever had to be brave to carry out God's will? Have you ever gone to serve out of despair? (women at the tomb) Have you ever missed or misunderstood a message from an angel--heavenly or earthly? Have you ever been walking along feeling sad and not fully understanding what is happening? Have you ever

doubted and asked, where is God? Have you ever said, I need proof and confirmation? (Thomas) Have you ever experienced a day of darkness, despair, doubt, etc. like the Saturday before Easter for Jesus' followers? Have you ever had to stand and watch someone you love suffer?



At times, have you not realized what Jesus is trying to tell you? Remember He told the disciples He had to die and be resurrected. (Matt:16:21-28) Yet, what do you think the Saturday between crucifixion and the Sunday of resurrection was like? Since it was Sabbath, no work was to be done so there was more time to ponder. Let down, discouragement, uncertainty, calm after the crucifixion, indecision, lost, foreboding, and deep sadness and wondering what's next, have all been used to describe that time. And certainly describe present times. The women who went home and prepared spices (Luke 24) can teach us how to handle times when all seems lost. Continue to pray, do what seems right, and trust God. God will pour out rich blessing on us. After all, after the wait, God raised Jesus from the grave for everyone. We are God's children too! What will God do for us? Romans 8:28. "And we KNOW in ALL things, God works for the good of those who love Him."

Remember, when we may think is God saying no or nothing, it may be a "wait." We know no matter the situation God is with us. The message for all, we have HOPE. We wait with Hope as we know the resurrected Jesus. Those who lived with Jesus had to be reminded and some had to actually see Jesus. We have the advantage of the "rest of the story." The Bible tells us about those who believe and have hope without seeing the Risen Lord. Romans 8:24; Hebrews 6:19; 11:1; John 20:29; 1 Peter 1:8-9. Hallelujah! Easter is forever.

(continued on back)

MAY BIRTHDAYS

5/01	Dee Anne Miller	5/15	Joe Belcher
	Gordon Weigle, III		Gordon Weigle, II
5/02	McGill Hutto		Libby Ridgeway
5/04	McCrary Johnstone		Jay Hutto
5/05	Randy Smoak		Andrew Dudley
	Retta Guthrie		Benjamin Davis
	Paul Trimmier	5/16	Jackson Strickland
5/06	Ruth Harvey	5/17	Michael Delaney
	Janet Gilchrist		Abby Lee
5/08	Betsy Davis	5/20	Aaron Strickland
	Jacob Fogle	5/22	Danny Fogle
	Sarah Beth Fogle	5/23	Grayson Smith
5/09	Webbie Davis	5/25	Maggie Robertson
	Caroline Marcus	5/26	Ruth McCormick
	Susan Shirer		Sue Thomas
5/10	Rob Miller		Susan Smoak
	Sarah Coggins	5/27	Megan Dangerfield
5/12	Lessie Gayle Dickson	5/28	Jason Fogle
5/13	Norma Shaffer		Erin Carter
	Barbara Shirer	5/30	Ann Ji Salley
	Thomas Gué, Jr.		Larry Jordan
5/14	Lee Hendren		Karen Davis
	Porter Weigle		Jim Riley
		5/31	Yuri Davis

CALLING ALL COATS!



Have you been cleaning out closets during this time of social distancing??? Now that the weather is warmer you probably have coats you can donate. *Our Father's Closet* collects gently used coats throughout the year. If you have any coats you wish to donate, please drop them in the red bucket outside the church office door. A Coat Collection tub will be available there during regular church office hours (9:00-5:00 M-Th, noon on Fri.) while church activities are suspended. You may also connect with a Circle One member to arrange pick up from your home if you are unable to drop off at the Church. We will take care of cleaning them and distributing them to children and adults who really appreciate the warmth and care. Please also keep in mind that coats are on extreme clearance during this spring season, and brand new coats are a real plus! If purchasing new coats, XLg – XXXLg are always in demand for teens and adults. Boys and Girls: Med-XXLg.

Sincerely with the Grace of God,
Members of Circle One

To arrange home pick up or answer questions, please leave a message.

Trudy Frierson

trudyfrierson@gmail.com 803-516-1552

Laura Hewitt

laura@recspecialists.com 803-378-7747

GENERAL FUND 2020

For month ending March 31, 2020	Month	Year-to-Date
General Fund Income	\$38,395.58	\$145,625.27
General Fund Budgeted Expenses	\$38,282.99	\$108,205.55
	\$ 112.59	\$ 37,419.72

PENTECOST OFFERING

Each year on Pentecost Sunday, we celebrate the gift of the Holy Spirit and the birthday of the church. The Holy Spirit remains with us still, connecting us with the church of the past, continuing to inspire the church of today, and pointing us to the church of the future. This year Pentecost Sunday is May 31.

We mark this celebration by receiving the Pentecost Offering in support of church-wide ministries which nurture the faith of those who are the church to come: children, youth, and young adults.

If you wish to give, please make your check payable to the church and mark it for "Pentecost Offering."

DEVOTIONS DURING PHYSICAL DISTANCING

**NOAH DIDN'T SWIM IN
THE FLOOD to prove
his faith; he and his
family stayed in the ark
until it was safe.**

You will notice I said physical distancing, not social. We cannot be physically present with each other but we do want to stay in touch. One way we would like to do this is by recording devotions to be shared with each other. We want folks of ALL AGES to participate. Find your favorite Bible story or devotion, record it and email it to Sarah at Shbrails@hotmail.com. Drop-box if it is too long for regular email. Feel free to write a devotion if you prefer and you can submit more than one. Periodically, Sarah will post to our Facebook and YouTube.

Kaye Borgstedt

SCENES FROM AROUND THE CHURCH

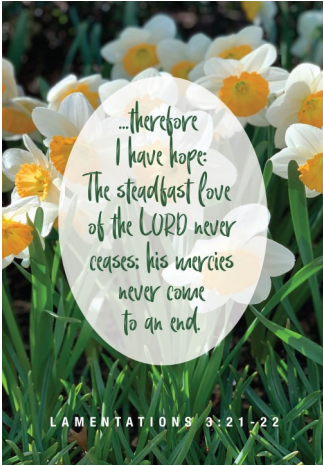


Easter lilies ordered this year that were not picked up are now planted around the patio (courtesy of the Facilities Committee), adding even more beauty to the setting.



The painters are hard at work in the sanctuary and will soon have it ready for when we again worship together.

First Presbyterian Church
650 Summers Avenue
Orangeburg, SC 29115
Return Service Requested



May 2020

MEMORIALS

In Memory of:

Mr. A J. Hutto, Jr.	Mr. Robert L. Richardson, Sr.
Mrs. Nancy W. Hudson	Mr. Harvey Garrick
Mr. Richard M. Nickel	Mrs. Ellen Wood

GIVEN BY:

Mr. and Mrs. Herb Bradley, Jr.	Sara Bull Perrow
Dr. and Mrs. Marion Caughman	Ken and Becky Stovall
Johnny and Janet Brailsford	Rocco and Carol Cassone
Mr. and Mrs. Hoyt Dudley	Dorla and Faye Lewis
Linda and Bob Bates	Wayne and Lynn Axson
Dr. and Mrs. Steven Patterson	Mr. and Mrs. John Shuler
John Knox Sunday School Class	

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

(continued from p. 2)

Prayer: God, thank you for sacrificing your Son for our sins and Lord, thank you for the sacrifice of your life so we may live eternally with you. Help us be forever grateful that you died and rose again so that we have the assuring hope that one day we will be with you in a place of no more death. Open our minds and hearts to your presence and calling. Help us acknowledge you by trusting in your faithfulness and love. Amen

Thought: When we respond to God's call, any day can be a blessing. One act of kindness may teach more about the love of God than many sermons.

In Christian Love,
Kaye Borgstedt