

The PRESSbyterian

www.1stpresbyterian.org

August 2020

FACE-TO-FACE WORSHIP

As a result of the upturn in the Corona Virus the session voted to delay moving back to face-to-face worship in the sanctuary until September. As your presbytery leader and moderator of your session, we are exercising every necessary precaution to keep all of you safe and well. We will certainly keep you updated and ask you to exercise good sense in keeping your family safe.

Rev. Dr. Donnie R. Woods
Moderator of Session

WORSHIP TOGETHER ONLINE

Stay in touch with your church family for Sunday services, children's stories and devotions by fellow church members.

YouTube - First Presbyterian Orangeburg
https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC8_9jic-Qyc7m4cl0iiXO

Facebook — First Presbyterian Church of Orangeburg, SC

SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

AUGUST 2, 2020 — ONLINE WORSHIP



E-GIVING

You can now give to the church online or via text.

To give online go to the following website.
<https://abundant.co/firstpresbyterian/give>

Then enter the amount you want to give, select a fund, choose your frequency and enter your email address. Click continue and enter your payment information to complete the transaction.

If you create an account, you can log-in when prompted and use a saved payment method.

To give by text, text firstpresb and any amount to 73256. Click the link you receive in your text message response and follow the prompts to give. Text giving even saves your payment information so you can quickly give again.

Of course, you may continue to give by mailing your contributions (536 Stanley Street, 29115) or dropping them in the secure dropbox on the office door.



FROM THE MINISTER OF MUSIC

Part of my routine is to take my beagle Duke for an early morning walk through the cemetery across from the church. As I walk and he runs about sniffing and chasing the squirrels I look at the tombstones. I think I now have looked at all 3,850. The names Albergotti, Brailsford, Bruner, Bryant, Bull, Culler, Dibble, Dempsey, Duke, Fogle, Hutto, Marcus, Sifly, Harley, Stroman, Ziegler, and on every corner plot a Salley, and across from them a Smoak or a Wannamaker.

I find myself often praying as I walk among these memorials. I thank God for the night's rest, for the new day and for His guidance and daily bread that I will need that day. In certain places I can see the steeple of First Presbyterian high and strong reaching upward to the heavens. As I stop and look at the names and dates, the oldest birthdate that I have found is 1807. I wonder who were they? What did they do for a living? Did they have a family? Where did they go to Church?

Then I think, just like us they lived here in Orangeburg having good days and bad days, good relationships and not so good. On many of the tombstones I see Bible verses, or something that lets me know they were a believer. I have been amazed at the number of ministers buried here. It reminds me of the verse from Hebrews 12:1, the one about us being surrounded by a great cloud of witnesses. I am inspired by the godly examples these and so many other saints set for me during their lives on earth; the word 'great' indicates that millions of believers have gone before us, each bearing witness to the life of faith we now live.

So, you may not find the cemetery your favorite place to visit but for me I find great comfort and hope in knowing that in the mist of all the trouble I see around and about in our country, the coronavirus, the political ugliness, the hatred and so much more, in all of this we can be reminded that we will make it and that one day we shall be part of that Great Cloud of Witnesses.

Raymond Tucker

HELLO TO THE JOHN KNOX CLASS

I hope that you are all well. I know this has been a trying time for all of us. We certainly miss our times to study God's word and worship him corporately. We are thankful for our church leaders who have provided us with the opportunity to worship in a strange and unfamiliar way. I know we will be back together as we want to be. Keep up with each other and continue to worship God. We love all of you and look forward to being with you again soon.

John Shuler



AUGUST BIRTHDAYS

8/01	Gene Wilkes Cole Price	8/17	Phyllis Buie Tanner Whalen
8/04	Preston Walter	8/18	Zach Leonard
8/05	Estelle Dominick Spencer Dixon Bowen Turner	8/20	Rebekkah Brailsford
8/07	Judy Shroads Tripp Plummer	8/21	Gordon Huddleston Alexander Richardson
8/08	Olivia Strickland	8/22	Angela Burroughs
8/09	Curt Campbell	8/23	Saundra Smoak Billie Alexander
8/10	Robbie Myers	8/25	Walker Whalen
8/11	Jill Davis Waters	8/26	Ed Dickson
8/12	Lyn Cuttino	8/27	Robbie Gillespie
8/13	Erin Richardson	8/28	Gerald Myers Bill Clark
8/15	David Bull Morrison Burroughs	8/29	William Kuck, Sr. Josh Ridley
8/16	Florie Brailsford		

GENERAL FUND 2020

For month ending June 30, 2020	<u>Month</u>	<u>Year-to-Date</u>
General Fund Income	\$28,316.54	\$255,458.05
General Fund Budgeted Expenses	\$34,148.38	\$207,307.14
	< \$ 5,831.84 >	\$ 48,150.91

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

CELEBRATING GOD'S LOVE



LIVING FAITHFULLY



LIVING LOVED

GOD, HELP ME TO
WORK TOGETHER WITH
OTHERS IN UNITY.



In colonial times, Thomas Paine said, "These are trying times." I would have said divisive times. In today's trying and divisive times, I encourage all Christians to become Christian soldiers and move onward to join the fight against the evil one, Satan, the devil or whatever term you use.

Like many of you I have spent time thinking, talking and praying about "these times." So many are offended by so much. So, my question is: CAN WE CHOOSE TO BE OFFENDED? I think we can, so thus we can choose not to be offended. Let's show our Christianity by our love. Let's choose not to be offended. Let's choose empathy instead, like happened when the Emanuel Nine died. If ever folks had the "right" to be offended, they did. Yet, in spite of some astonishment by those with a world view, the folks hurt the most by the killings of the Emanuel Nine choose to be empathetic and display their Christian love. If we are ever going to take this country back for God, we have to work together no matter our differences. If we choose not to be offended but to be empathetic, we may be surprised how much we are alike beyond our Christian beliefs. I seem to recall many folks were offended by Jesus. How did He respond?

Remember the parable of the Tares and Wheat in Matt. 13? The farmer used good farming practices and left the rest up to God. At the harvest, the farmer was rewarded with wheat in his barn and the "weeds" were burned. There is compassion, mercy, love and help being displayed in these trying times. It is just not as publicized as the evil and divisive, but God sees all. In His time, He will handle the harvest (the "wheat") and handle the "weeds." In the meantime, let's unite and show our Christian love.

Challenge: Be the unmistakable presence of Jesus with unending compassion and love for our neighbors and for our world.

Prayer: Lord, do everything You need to do in me so You can do everything through me You want to do. Help me let your light shine in me and thru me. In the name of Jesus in whom we live and pray. Amen.

Blessings as we serve together

With Christian Love,
Kaye Borgstedt

Be devoted to
one another in love.
Honor one another
above yourselves.

Romans 12:10

ZOOM SUNDAY SCHOOL

We have two adult Zoom Sunday School Classes; they are welcoming everyone. Contact Howard Shirer (803-606-7361) or Craig Smith (803-682-4121) for further information.

THANK YOU FROM THE D'JERNES

Jeff had looked at our monthly statements from Wycliffe, and realized that the church had sent a large, \$1,500, amount last month. He said it was amazing how closely that covered a deficit we had in our budget for that very month, June. We know that someone or a group of "someones" were truly moved by the Lord to do that. We are so thankful. I'm hoping you may know more about how this came about and can extend our thanks to those who blessed us so.

Sissie D'Jernes



LOCAL MISSIONS UPDATE

CCMO is one of our important local missions. We are supporting them with our contributions, but they would like to have a representative on their board from our church. We have had a representative in the past and are looking for someone to fill this need. Please let Jane Shuler know if you are interested. It will not be a tremendous time commitment but you will be blessed!

CCMO is also beginning a food box distribution and needs help packing these boxes for the next seven weeks. If you are interested in this opportunity, please contact Jane.

Dazz Orangeburg is another of our local missions. Please let Jane Shuler know if you would like to participate in their Walk for Life on September 19, receive a t-shirt and represent First Presbyterian Church.

CHILD EVANGELISM FELLOWSHIP

Dear Friends at First Presbyterian Church,

Thank you so much for your continued support of CEF Orangeburg/Lower Savannah District and the Good News Club program! Though the past few months have changed a lot about the "normal" way that we are used to doing things, we are as committed as ever to reaching boys and girls with the Gospel of Jesus Christ! In a time where there is so much uncertainty and unrest in our world, the children need the hope of the One who is sure, steady, and unchanging!

When COVID-19 forced schools to close this spring, we quickly set to work to adapt our methods and strategies so that ministry could continue! We quickly achieved the ability to help some of our Good News Clubs finish the year using a virtual format! CEF has also developed many online resources for children to encourage them and disciple them during this difficult time. Those resources are available to ALL children and can be used by your church as well to help reach the children in your congregation; they are available at www.ceforangeburg.com under the heading "COVID-19 Resources". We pray that these will be helpful to you!

The 2020-2021 school year is rapidly approaching and though there is still much uncertainty as to how/when children will return to the classroom, our CEF teams across South Carolina are actively working right now to devise strategies for how Good News Clubs can be held this year, both on and off school grounds and in both virtual and in-person formats. We would love your prayers as we make these decisions! In the midst of many unknowns, we remained convinced that the Lord still desires His Word to go out to boys and girls so that they can come to know Jesus as their Savior and be disciplined in His Word.

If there is any way that our office can serve or assist your church at this time, please reach out to me at (803) 535-0061 or ellen@ceforangeburg.com to let me know!

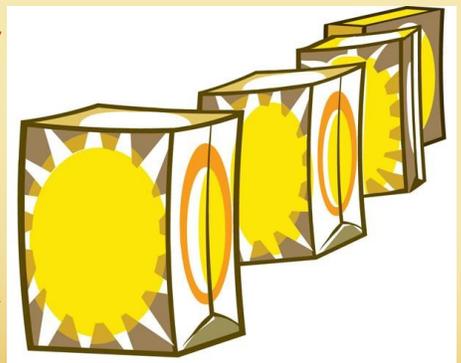
In Christ,
Ellen Hucks
Local Director
CEF Orangeburg/Lower Savannah District

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



SHINE YOUR LIGHT!

We are participating in a presbytery wide "Light to the World" project. Church members are asked to decorate paper bags to make luminaries and drop them off at the church. Bags are available in the Centre lobby. Please return them to the Centre lobby by Wednesday, August 19. The Centre is open Tuesday – Thursday (9:00 am – 5:00 pm) and Friday (9:00 am – noon). The luminaries will be displayed around the church from 7:45 – 8:00 pm on Sunday, August 23. We invite you to come to the church that evening to see the luminaries and be reminded that sharing the Gospel of Jesus Christ brings light into the world. A devotional will be available to be used while you are decorating your bags. Remember, even one light dims the world's darkness!



Kaye Borgstedt
Sarah Coggins