

## First Presbyterian Church

# PresbyNews



May, 2023

Dear Friends,

Along with my work as your interim pastor, I have been meeting with high school friends this winter and early spring to plan our 50<sup>th</sup> high school reunion in late July. I cannot believe that 50 years have passed so quickly! I cannot believe how much older all my childhood friends now are!

Our lives have been a series of dramatic changes. It is easy to remember when our homes got air conditioning and color television (1963), our country landed a man on the moon (1969), telephones became portable, then cellular, and computers became the center of our work lives (I typed my way through college as an English major, writing essays on a manual typewriter). Can you buy a new car today without a computer already installed in it?

Change has come, and keeps coming, to our Church, too. The COVID epidemic forced us all to offer live streaming of services. Adult Sunday School classes are taught with the help of videos from famous authors. Meetings happen with ZOOM and votes are sometimes taken by email. These are only some of the changes we all experience in our churches, and our personal lives.

When we come to our worship services in May, there will be some constants amid change. Our youth will lead worship on May 7 with an emphasis on staying connected through changing times. Our Mother's Day service on May 14 will remind us of one of the classic women heroes of the Bible. Our recognition of graduates on May 21 will emphasize the continuing value of education. Our May 28, we celebrate Pentecost (Pentecost is the third great Christian holiday, after Christmas and Easter.) There is also Memorial Day weekend, when we recall the sacrifices of so many to provide us the freedoms we enjoy today.

All of the changes, even the turbulence of our world, from Ukraine to Sudan to Taiwan to our nation's borders, make us rely even more on God's promises. For this beautiful month of May, I hope we will remember and often cite the words in Hebrews 13:8, where the Bible says, "Jesus Christ the same yesterday, today and forever." Always remember Jesus Christ, and his guidance over our lives and our Church, as He always remembers you!

Dr. Dan Sansbury, Interim Pastor

## Music Ministry Corner

So grateful for another month working here at FPC. Next month I will officially begin working as DCE in addition to my duties as Choir Director & Organist. I am excited about this position and pray that I can do it justice. I know what a wonderful job Mac did for so many years and thank him for the foundation he set so that I can continue this journey. I have already begun some DCE work with marketing & publicity. I will not be leading the youth as I will have a full load already in the fall. There just aren't enough hours in the day for me. I do not take pride in being busy, but rather, I'm just doing what the Lord has called me to do. God never said His work would be easy, but if we seek & trust Him first (Matt 6:33) it'll work together for good (Rom 8:28). I plan to give the sermon on Pentecost Sunday, May 28, on the fruits of the spirit from Gal. 5:22. How do we know we are on the right path? How do we know we are following God's will for our lives? These questions will be addressed in my sermon. The month of May also features Youth & Children's Sunday 5/7 and Graduation Sunday 5/21, both of which will feature special, worshipful music.

Now, I would like to share the back story of one of the anthems the children will be singing, "Dem Bones," on 5/7. When I first began my position here in February, Libby Pierce came to me and asked me if I would consider having her brother, John, play the trombone sometime during worship. I immediately recalled a previous jazz arrangement for children that I composed about 10 years ago for "Dem Bones" which features the trombone. I had never notated the piece, only improvised it. So when I rehearsed with John—who enthusiastically agreed to play, by the way—for the first time, things did not go well. You see, John cannot communicate with people via speech. John at one time was a prolific musician and talented band instructor, but in 2018, John had 3 major strokes and was left severely impaired—unable to speak or comprehend anything. It was an incredibly trying time for him and his family. They scrounged to find rehab for him but could only afford 3 months. He has improved tremendously from where he was, but still has a major communication barrier. He has not played his trombone in any public setting since before his strokes. Here's the catch—although he cannot communicate, he can still hear, play, and read music. Wild, huh?! So when he and I rehearsed the first time together, he could not decipher what I wanted him to do without a score and he couldn't comprehend what I was trying to tell him. It left us both frustrated, but we did not give up. I texted him to give me one week and I would write out his part. It took me about 4 days solid to notate his part on Finale, a music composition software, with the lyrics. I was ready for our second rehearsal but was incredibly nervous. This was a make or break moment. "Lord, please help this to work," I fervently prayed for days leading up to the second rehearsal. I wanted John to be able to play his trombone part with the piano correctly and I know John did, too. Right before I set the score before him, Libby and I texted each other with prayers. I set his music on the stand, took a deep breath, and gestured a one measure count. He came in with the piano and played the entire piece flawlessly.

**When we finished, although we couldn't speak to one another, we looked at each other and cried. It worked. Again. And again. And again with the children singing with us the next week too. Wow! Talk about the power and healing agent of music! What a swift reminder that God is AWESOME and can use anyone in ANY circumstance for His glory. Come on Sunday, May 7th to hear the children sing with John playing his trombone. You will be blessed.**

**Tunefully, Weiz**

A note from our wonderful Miss Lindsay:

The sounds of bells and chimes are streaming from the Bell Room on Wednesdays during Fun Program. The chimers and handbell ringers are all excited to participate in the upcoming Youth Sunday. We are all looking forward to May 7.





## **Presbyterian Women News**

### Duties

Circle 1-Communion May 7

Circle 2-None

Satellite-None

June

Circle1-None

Circle 2-Communion June 4

Satellite-None

Bible Study May 10 at 10:00- Fellowship Building

Birthday Offering will be taken up at this meeting. Light refreshments will be served.

ALL WOMEN ATTENDING FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH WE NEED YOUR HELP!

Presbyterian Women have three assignments: we are responsible for in the life of the church- Fixing Communion, Youth Suppers, and Bereavement Meals. We need some help with these responsibilities. You do not have to be a member of a circle or participate in regular circle meetings. Please if you can help with communion, youth supper (every third Sunday only) and bereavement meals email me at [MJEvans@greatpeedee.com](mailto:MJEvans@greatpeedee.com) or text me at 843-921-7077.

## **Fellowship Ministry Team News**

We have postponed the May 10 Cookout to August. More details later on that.

Continue to welcome our new visitors and our new members.

## **Session Highlights from April Meeting**

- 1) Approved Search Committee to hire Coordinator of Youth Ministries. Members of the committee are Kelli Beck, Chairman, Tammy Joyce, Craig Goddard, Eva Goddard, Kristen Miller and Katelyn Evans.  
Rev. Dr. Dan Sansbury will be ex officio member.
- 2) Approved the distribution of funds from the Joel Smith Fund to The Alpha Center and Care South Carolina
- 3) Approved updated nursery worker job description and the hiring of Eve Nobles as a nursery worker.
- 4) Approved recommendation that "No Dogs" signs be posted for the playground area next and behind Fellowship Building.
- 5) Approved the Worship Committee recommendation the Hearing Loop project be a high priority item for the Administrative Committee in 2023.
- 6) Approved pulpit supplies for July 2, Sept 10 and Nov. 12, 2023.
- 7) Received report from the Scholarship Committee of the distribution of various scholarship funds for 2023.

The Session, our governing board of elders, has changed its meeting date to the 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesdays for the remainder of this year. The elders will next meet at 6:00 p.m. on May 23<sup>rd</sup>.

## **Parlor Class Spring Series Words of Life by Adam Hamilton May**

During the month of May, the Parlor Class will finish their thought-provoking series on the 10 commandments. In this book of Scripture and inspiration, bestselling author Adam Hamilton brings modern eyes to the most important set of ethics in history. He considers the commandments in their historical context, considering the meaning of each commandment in Hebrew, unpacking how Jesus reinterpreted them, and showing how every thou-shalt-not was intended to point to a life-giving "thou shalt." He also explores how the latest research in science and psychology illuminates these commandments, rightly understood, as a way of ordering one's life beautifully in the present day. In a culture marked by workaholicism, materialism, and social media-driven envy, God has given us a time-tested path that leads to gratitude, confidence, and peace.

## **Middle School and High School Youth Schedule for May**

**May 7<sup>th</sup> The Youth will lead Worship Service**  
**May 7<sup>th</sup> Celebration/Pool Party at Tillman Farm**



## **Fun Program Schedule**

Wednesday, April 26th      3:00-4:45\* extended time

Wednesday, May 3rd 3:00-4:45\* extended time

**\*\*Sunday, May 7th    11:00 am Children and Youth Sunday\*\***

Wednesday, May 10th      3:00 Walk to The Caffeinated Cow



## Sunday School Teaching Schedule

### **2-4 Preschool**

May 7th	Kelli Beck
May 14th	Dena Tillman
May 21st	Sadie Smith
May 28th	Debbie Watson

### **Elementary**

May 7th	Tammy Joyce
May 14th	Becky Childers/Kristen Miller
May 21st	Karen Tillman/Shelley Morgan
May 28th	Jean Page Watson/Fred Harris

## Nursery Volunteers for May



5/7/23	Shelley Morgan	5/21/23	Dena Tillman
5/14/23	Marietta Melton Burch	5/28/23	

If you would like to volunteer to help in the nursery during worship, please sign up at the link below:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/60b0545afaf22ab9-nursery#/>

**McArn Food Bank:** hours of operation are  
1-5 Thursday and Friday  
Items needed: cereal, bread, pasta, rice

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## MMO NEWS

The last day for MMO is Wednesday, May 24, 2023. Thank you to everyone for a wonderful year!

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Scholarship Recipients for 2023 - 2024

**The William Manning Malloy Scholarship Fund**

Sawyer Becker - Clemson University

Troy Hall - Francis Marion University

**The Edwin Malloy Memorial Scholarship Fund**

**The McArn Fund Scholarship Fund**

**Poston/Matheson/Bohannon Scholarship Fund**

Tommy Holter - Honors College of the University of South Carolina

Caroline Holter - Presbyterian College

Jodi O'Neal - University of South Carolina

Taylor Allen - University of South Carolina

**The D.W. Moore, Jr. Memorial Scholarship Fund**

Jack Johnson- Winthrop University



## Prayer Changes Things

**Bobby Polson**  
**Gerry & Bobby Rogers; Ina Coggeshall**  
**Atha Lou Gibson; Gray & Bea Sloop**  
**Bennie and Benny Lou Moore;**  
**Gina Goddard's dad: Gene Brymer**  
**Jodi Reid (cancer)**  
**Craig Dubos**  
**Patty Greene (relative of Carole Kennedy)**  
**Beth O'Neal**  
**Marion Murphy**  
**Bobbie Jones**  
**Cindy Aremia (friend of Grayson Cauthen)**  
**Monty Dodson**  
**Elsie Rainey (Shirley Brock's sister)**  
**Jo Ellen Stewart**  
**Donna Bilby (Libby Knight's sister in law)**  
**Ray Harris (Mary Louise Baker's dad)**  
**Kathie Cook**  
**Chase, Rebecca and Laikyn Denham**  
**Susie Ingram**  
**Gloria Turner**



The sympathy of the congregation is extended  
 to Mrs. Betty Davis and her family in the  
 death of her son, Welbourne A. White, Jr.

## May Calendar Of Events

1	8:30 am	MMO
2	12:00 pm	At Ease Lunch
3	8:30 am	MMO
	3:00 pm	Fun Program
	6:00 pm	Chancel Choir rehearsal
7	10:00 am	Church School
	11:00 am	Worship
	12:30 pm	Fellowship Team Mtg.
	6:00 pm	Youth at Tillman Farm
8	8:30 am	MMO
10	8:30 am	MMO
	10:00 am	PW Bible Study
	3:00 pm	Fun Program
	6:00 pm	Chancel Choir rehearsal
14	10:00 am	Church School
	11:00 am	Worship
15	8:30 am	MMO
16		Presby. Mtg. Sumter
17	8:30 am	MMO
	5:00 pm	Worship Ministry Mtg.
	6:00 pm	Chancel Choir rehearsal
21	10:00 am	Church School
	11:00 am	Worship
22	8:30 am	MMO
23	6:00 pm	Session Meeting
24	8:30 am	MMO
	6:00 pm	Chancel Choir rehearsal
28	10:00 am	Church School
	11:00 am	Worship
29		Office Closed



1-Chip Ingram  
4-Lucas Gainey  
8-Sara Evans  
10-Sallie McLeod  
11-Edwin "Brother" Davis  
13-Andy Ingram  
14-Cody Barton  
17-Andrew McLeod  
19-Sadie Smith  
20-Lindsay Bennett, Mari Burch  
21-Randy Jewart, Adeline Barton  
22-Annleigh Evans  
26-Caden Cauthen, Shelley Morgan  
27-Elizabeth Cox  
28-Benny Moore, Penelope Angle,  
Nicole Wetternek  
29-Ben Tillman  
30-Glenn Anderson



## *June*

3-Kim Brabham  
6-Gerry Rogers  
13-Miller Ingram  
15-Jacob Evans  
16-Kelli Beck, Nadia Harris  
20-Wade Evans  
21-Robby Bennett, Harriet Conn  
23-Jackson Goddard, Carole Kennedy  
25-Marietta Melton Burch  
26-John Evans  
27-Jack McLeod

## *Happy Birthday*



1-Mary Anderson, Layla Tinsley  
2-Sally Bryant  
3-Susie Pace  
9-George Martin  
14-Libby Knight  
15- Kenny Smith, Clark Brabham  
18-Charlotte Evans  
19-Cathy Chapman  
23-Meredith Creech  
24-Harvey Anderson  
28-Bobby Smith  
29-Heather Tucker  
30-Liston Anderson  
31-Beth O'Neil, Olivia Gainey

**WE WILL NOT PUBLISH A  
NEWSLETTER FOR THE  
MONTHS OF JUNE AND JULY,  
2023.**

## GRADUATION SUNDAY MAY 21, 2023



Graduation Sunday will be on May 21, 2023. This will be a time where we will honor our High School Seniors and our College Graduates during our morning Worship Service. Immediately

following Worship, the Christian Education Ministry Team will hold a reception in the Fellowship Building for the congregation, our graduates and their families. Our graduates this year are:

Emily Beck - Clemson

Jacob Goddard - Clemson

Jackson Goddard - University of South Carolina

Elizabeth Hydrick – Cheraw High

Sadie Baker – Marlboro Academy

Please mark your calendars and make a special effort to attend this wonderful event as we celebrate the accomplishments of these Young Adults!

### Mother's Day Offering

On May 14 we will again receive the Mother's Day Offering which benefits those residents at Presbyterian Communities whose financial resources have been exhausted. Our gifts make it possible for these residents who can no longer provide for themselves to remain in their "home." This peace of mind is a great gift. Please consider supporting the Mother's Day Offering on Mother's Day.

## Looking ahead to



## June

4	10:00 am	Church School
	11:00 am	Worship
6	12:00 pm	AT EASE
11	10:00 am	Church School
	11:00 am	Worship
18	10:00 am	Church School
	11:00 am	Worship
25	10:00 am	Church School
	11:00 am	Worship
27	6:00 pm	Session Meeting

## Looking ahead to



2	10:00 am	Church School
	11:00 am	Worship
4		Office Closed
9	10:00 am	Church School
	11:00 am	Worship
		Youth at Montreat
16	10:00 am	Church School
	11:00 am	Worship
23	10:00 am	Church School
	11:00 am	Worship
30	10:00 am	Church School
	11:00 am	Worship