

SERVING THE CHURCH This Week	SERVING THE CHURCH Next Week
Liturgist: Candie Vaitkevicius Sound: Ushers: Candie Vaitkevicius Joe Vaitkevicius	Liturgist: Linda Stenhouse Sound: Ushers: Bill Marshall (NS) Linda Marshall
Elder of the Month for September: Barb Daugherty, 864-234-0143 for October: Jackie Koch, 443-985-6646	
SESSION MEMBERS	
<u>Class of 2021</u>	<u>Class of 2022</u>
Bill Marshall (NS)	Linda Stenhouse
Bill Marshall (PA)	Jerry Kross
Barb Daugherty	Jackie Koch



2 Cents-A-Meal

Next Week!

Cover Art:
Google Images



Sunday, September 26, 2021

First Presbyterian Church

Simpsonville, SC

"Growing Together in Faith – Loving and Serving in the World"

Office Hours: Mon.-Thur. 9AM-12PM
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The WiFi Identity is FPCS-Guest and the password to connect is Grace4all.

THE SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

September 26, 2021

18th Sunday after Pentecost

* WELCOME, ANNOUNCEMENTS

Please remain seated for a time of silent meditation as we prepare to worship God. The wearing of masks during service and singing hymns is optional.

NOTE: This service may be video recorded.

Please stand if you are able where asterisk.

PRELUDE "Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee" arr. Broughton

*OUR CALL TO WORSHIP Candie Vaitkevicius, Liturgist

Leader: Welcome to this sacred space:

People: house of prayer for many people; home to all who come.

Leader: Welcome to this gathering place:

People: friend and stranger, saint and sinner in all who gather here.

Leader: Come with hope or hesitation; come with joy or yearning; all who hunger, all who thirst for life in all its fullness.

People: Let us worship God.

*OPENING HYMN #288 "I Sing the Mighty Power of God"

*PRAYER OF ADORATION

CALL TO CONFESSION

CONFESSION OF OUR SIN (unison prayer)

Loving God, in Jesus Christ you have shown us the path of life, yet we have followed detours and lost our way. We have grieved your heart by what we have done and by what we have left undone, and we need your grace and guidance. Redirect us, we pray, with love and forgiveness, and grant each of us the grace to live a joyful, faithful life in the name of Christ our Lord. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Leader: Christ gave his life to save us from the wrath of God.

People: Therefore, since we are justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.

Leader: Trust the good news of the gospel.

People: In Jesus Christ, our sins are forgiven.

plan for the future. The FPC Legacy Project team is working on this with representatives from Foothills Presbytery and the Presbyterian Foundation.

Each week, through October 3rd, the bulletin will highlight important messages from a chapter in Sailboat Church. This week Chapter [nine](#) will be our focus.

Chapter 9 "Preparing for Storms"

While we may have little control over the storms of life, we can prepare for them well before they hit. The goal is to react to problems and conflicts in healthy ways. Four important areas where groundwork can be done are:

- **Strengthening the Church's Practice of Prayer.** Part of building a strong prayer foundation under the church is training believers to expect answers to prayer, recognize them when they come, and give thanks to God for them.
- **Developing a Strong Leadership Team.** Making decisions through the process of communal discernment when appropriate, rather than only discussion and voting, gives officers a chance to practice working together as a team. Practicing these things in ordinary times helps us perform better when trouble strikes.
- **Preparing for Conflict.**
 - Keep Communication Open.
 - Practice Honesty, Humility, and Forgiveness as Core Values.

Healthy churches recognize and name problems before the atmosphere around them becomes too emotional or personalized. They claim the presence and gifts of the Spirit to face them openly, honestly, and prayerfully. This way of dealing with conflict brings glory to God and adds to the health of the church and its effectiveness for mission.

FORTY DAYS OF PRAYER: The forty days of prayer is now complete. Thank you to all who prayed with the Legacy Team. If you had any thoughts, ideas or suggestions that came to you during your prayers, please share them with a member of Session.

VIDEO RECORDINGS: Video recordings of services that have been previously recorded are available on the Church's website: www.firstpresssimpsonville.com. Click on "Videos" in the menu at the top or click on the picture of a worship service in the lower right."

PULPIT SUPPLY:

Oct. 03: Beverly Kelly
Oct. 10: Pressley Cox & Olanda Carr
Oct. 17: Nancy Blakely

REVISED COVID-19 SAFETY PROTOCOLS: Please note that, as of June 20th, our Revised Safety Protocols are in effect. The most noteworthy change is the lifting of the mask requirement. These protocols were emailed to those with email and mailed to those without email. There are extra copies of the Revised Protocols on the table in the Narthex.

VOLUNTEERS URGENTLY NEEDED!! Due to the changes to our worship service because of the pandemic, we are asking those who have served in the past as ushers, liturgists, and in the sound booth to sign up for Sundays for the rest of this year. Sign-up sheets are located on the back table, along with the sign-up sheet for flowers. We encourage others who have not served in these capacities in the past to also sign up. **We need more volunteers for these duties since some of our congregation have not yet returned to active worship due to COVID.**

SAVE THE DATE: The Legacy Team is planning a luncheon after service on Sunday, Oct. 10th. Pressley Cox and Olanda Carr will be with us to discuss the Legacy Project/Sailboat Church.

LEGACY TEAM MEETING: The Legacy Team will meet on Thursday, September 30th, at 7 p.m. at the Church.

VIDEO TRAINING: We are seeking volunteers to train to use our new video recording equipment. If you are interested, please sign up on the sheet on the back table.

THE LEGACY PROJECT is a time of discernment for congregations to identify gifts of the congregation, reflect upon their impact to the community,

Response: "Change My Heart, O God"

*Change my heart O God
Make it ever true
Change my heart O God
May I be like You*

HYMN #263 "Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise"

SILENT PRAYER: A few moments of silent communication with God.

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE LESSON Genesis 32:9-13; 22-30

SERMON "Wrestling with God" Rev. Pressley Cox

***AFFIRMATION OF FAITH** The Apostles' Creed
I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ His only Son, our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; He descended into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven, and sits on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from there He will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic church; the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.

Joys and Concerns of the People and The Lord's Prayer

The Lord's Prayer:
**Our Father, who art in heaven,
Hallowed be thy Name.
Thy Kingdom come.
Thy will be done on earth,
As it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our debts,
As we forgive our debtors.
And lead us not into temptation,
But deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
The power, and the glory,
For ever and ever. Amen.**

PROCLAMATION OF OFFERING AND PRAYER (the offering plate is located on a back table in the sanctuary just inside the back double doors.)

OFFERTORY “Turn Your Eyes Upon Jesus/Open Our Eyes” arr Callaway

***The Doxology**

*Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise Him all creatures here below;
Praise Him above ye heavenly hosts;
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.*

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

*CLOSING HYMN #262 “God of Ages, Whose Almighty Hand”

*BENEDICTION

RESPONSE: “The Lord Bless and Keep You”

*The Lord bless and keep you,
The Lord make his face to shine on you
and be gracious, gracious.*

*The Lord bless and Keep you,
The Lord lift his countenance on you
and give peace, give you peace.
Amen, Amen*

POSTLUDE “Blessed Be the Name” Tune BLESSED NAME

WELCOME TO FIRST PRESBYTERIAN! Whether you are a long-time member or first time visitor, we are glad you are here. If you would like to learn more about the First Presbyterian community, we invite you to contact us through our website www.firstpresssimpsonville.com, or by calling the church office at (864)963-8854.

SANCTUARY FLOWERS this week are given by Roger Pryor & Darrell Johnson. Thank you!

BIBLE STORY BAGS are available for children during worship. See an usher if you would like one for your child to use. Please return the bag to an usher after worship.

We welcome to our pulpit today The Rev. Pressley Neal Cox. She is a graduate of Presbyterian College (BA in Religion/Christian Education), Lutheran Theological Southern Seminary (Master of Arts in Religious Education) and Columbia Theological Seminary (Masters of Divinity). She brings over twenty years in ministry and has a strong sense of call to the ministry of Christian Education. Pressley will be supporting leaders, making connections, resourcing, and coaching among the congregations of our presbytery, the surrounding communities, and across our denomination. She is married to Ben and they have three children: Sara, Emily, and Henry.

LIFE IN THE CONGREGATION

PRAYER CONCERNS: Pastor Cassie, John Jackson; Jean Kirkland, Lila Childs (friend of Bill & Sue Marshall); Ronnie Storch; Sue Marshall’s mother; Michael Kolmer (Sue Marshall’s brother); Linda Good (friend of Jackie Koch); Sean & Donna (friends of Linda Stenhouse’s daughter); Robert Pryor (Roger Pryor’s brother); Linda Marksberry (friend of Darrell & Roger); Cora Larsen (Linda Marshall’s mother); Colleen Rogers (friend of the Stenhouse family); Doris Phipps (sister of Linda Stenhouse); Dan Mills (brother of Barb Daugherty—Missionary to Papua New Guinea); Ivy Bertuzzi; Pat Clark; Elizabeth Cooper; Dixie Suit (sister-in-law of Kitty Shealy); Roger Edney (relative of Barb & Roger Daugherty). Do not hesitate to call or email the Church Office (office@firstpresssimpsonville.com) about any pastoral concerns.

PRAYER FAMILIES OF THE WEEK: Food Pantry volunteers, Pastor Cassie & John Jackson

BIRTHDAYS THIS WEEK: Jo Klein (09/29)

SCHEDULES AND EVENTS

FOOD PANTRY: Your continued prayers and giving hearts allow us to keep this mission to our neighbors going. Suggestions for the month of September are 1 lb. bags of white rice and also green beans. As always, we are grateful for all donations.