

SERVING THE CHURCH

This Week

Liturgist: Pressley Cox
Sound:
Ushers: Linda Stenhouse

SERVING THE CHURCH

Next Week

Liturgist: Candie Vaitkevicius
Sound:
Ushers: Joe Vaitkevicius
Candie Vaitkevicius

Elder of the Month for October: Jackie Koch, 443-985-6646

SESSION MEMBERS

Class of 2021

Bill Marshall (NS)
Bill Marshall (PA)
Barb Daugherty

Class of 2022

Linda Stenhouse
Jerry Kross
Jackie Koch



Cover Art:
Google Images



Office Hours: Mon.-Thur. 9AM-12PM

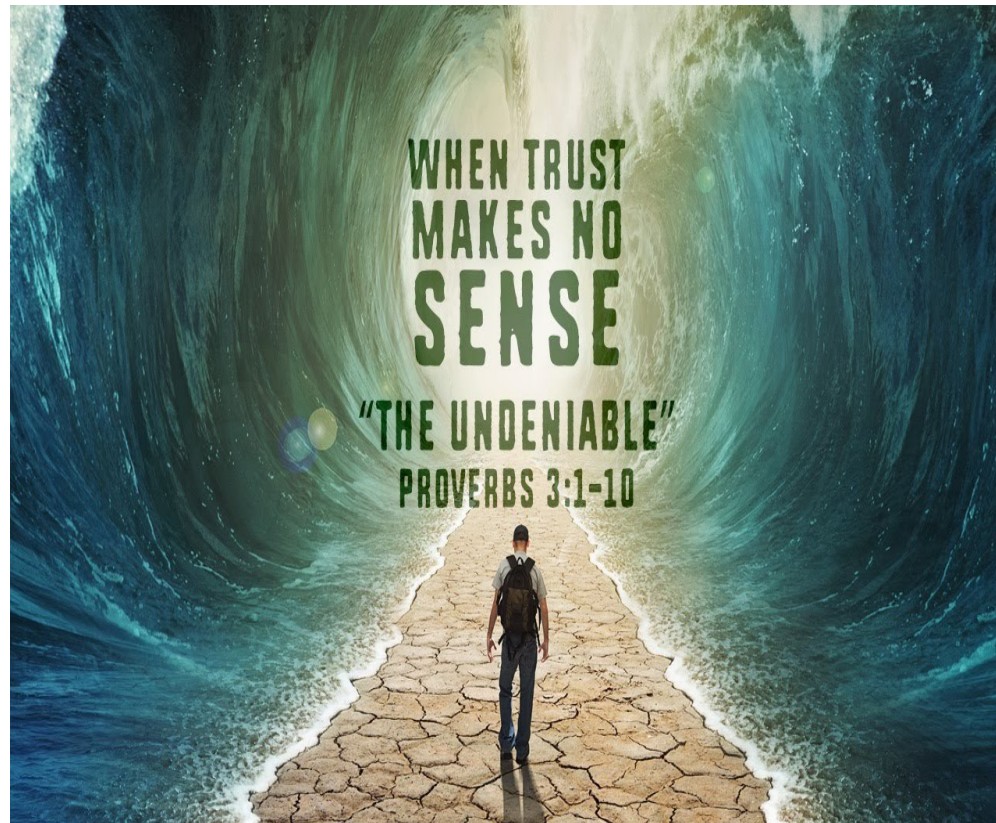
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Darrell Johnson, Pianist

Jackie Koch, Office Administrator

The WiFi Identity is FPCS-Guest and the password to connect is Grace4all.



Sunday, October 10, 2021

First Presbyterian Church

Simpsonville, SC

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

THE SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

October 10, 2021

20th 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 "He's Got the Whole World in His Hands/ arr. Smith
Jesus Loves Me"

***OUR CALL TO WORSHIP**

Rev. Pressley Cox, Liturgist

Leader: Open our ears

People: to hear your Word.

Leader: Open our eyes

People: to see your presence.

Leader: Open our arms

People: to the embrace of community.

Leader: Open our minds

People: to the beauty of truth.

Leader: Open our hearts

People: to the joy of new life in Christ.

Leader: Let us worship God.

***OPENING HYMN #477 "Ye Servants of God, Your Master Proclaim"**

*PRAYER OF ADORATION

CALL TO CONFESSION

CONFESSION OF OUR SIN (unison prayer)

Loving God, you are always speaking, giving us instructions, directing our attention, and telling us your love. We confess that sometimes we are not very good listeners. We aren't sure what is your voice, what is ours, and what is just noise. We are too easily distracted. We like our own ways. But even when we claim we are too busy, you still call. We beseech you to open our mind and hearts. Tune our ears to your voice. Help us to listen to what you have to say, and then help us to follow wherever you lead. Remind us of your love, peace, and forgiveness, and give us strength to be faithful to you. We pray in the name of Jesus. Amen.

BIBLE STUDY: Please join us for a new Bible study with video. We will meet on Sunday mornings at 9:15 before worship from Oct. 24 through Nov. 28! We will not be using a book, so there will be no outside reading and no cost. Please sign the sheet in the back of the sanctuary if you plan on attending. Signing up is not required, but will be helpful for planning.

This study is titled Grateful: The Transformative Practice of Giving Thanks. Diana Butler Bass explores the transformative, subversive power of gratitude for our personal lives and in communities. There is a gap between our desire to be grateful and our ability to behave gratefully. Using her trademark blend of historical research, spiritual insights, and timely cultural observation, she shows how we can overcome this gap and make changes in our own lives and in the world. With honest stories and heartrending examples from history and her own life, Bass reclaims gratitude as a path to greater connection with God, with others, with the world, and even with our own souls. It's time to embrace a more radical practice of gratitude--the virtue that heals us and helps us thrive.

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.**

LEGACY LUNCHEON: The Legacy Team will host a luncheon after service today. Pressley Cox and Olanda Carr are with us to discuss the Legacy Project/Sailboat Church. Everyone is invited. Lunch is courtesy of the Legacy Team.

PRAYER FAMILIES OF THE WEEK: Foothills Presbytery staff; Presbyterian Women.

BIRTHDAYS THIS WEEK: None

LIFE IN THE CONGREGATION

PRAYER CONCERNS: Pastor Cassie, John Jackson; Jean Kirkland, Lila Childs (friend of Bill & Sue Marshall); Sue Marshall's mother; Michael Kolmer (Sue Marshall's brother); Wentworth & Purser families (friends of Jackie Koch); 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 Papau 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@firstpressimpsonville.com) about any pastoral concerns.

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 cereal, canned fruit, and canned proteins such as tuna, chicken, spam, etc. . As always, we are grateful for all donations.

VIDEO RECORDINGS: Video recordings of services that have been previously recorded are available on the Church's website: www.firstpressimpsonville.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. 17: Nancy Blakely
Oct. 24: Francis Womack
Oct. 31: Francis Womack

CARDS: Join us for card playing on Wednesday, Oct. 13th, at 11 a.m. here at the Church. Bring your own lunch.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Leader: Children of God, hear the good news: by grace, God's free gift of love, our sins are forgiven.

People: But we do not deserve and cannot earn that love.

Leader: Such is the nature of God's love and grace. Believe the good news:

People: In Jesus Christ our sins are forgiven. Amen.

Response: "Rain Down"

*Rain down; Rain down;
Rain down your love on your people.
Rain down; Rain down;
Rain down your love, God of life.*

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

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE LESSON Proverbs 3:1-10; Matthew 7:24-27

SERMON "A Fork in the Road" Olanda Carr

Hymn #324 "Open My Eyes That I May See"

***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 “Near to the Heart of God/I’ve Got Peace arr. Whitworth
Like a River.

***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 #379 “My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less”**

***BENEDICTION**

RESPONSE: “Lord, Make Us More Holy”

*Lord, make us more holy, Lord, make us more holy,
Lord, make us more holy, Until we meet again.
Holy, holy, holy, Until we meet again.*

POSTLUDE “I Stand Amazed in the Presence” Gabriel

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 Linda Stenhouse. 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 Olanda Carr who will read the scriptures and deliver the sermon, and Rev. Pressley Cox who will be the liturgist.

Olanda Carr, Jr. is the Senior Ministry Relations Officer (MRO) of the Presbyterian Foundation, serving the East Region. He works with congregations to create a culture of generosity, offers seminars and workshops, develops gifts and fundraising plans for ministries, and provides coaching to finance, stewardship and endowment committees. Olanda shares his call to the Foundation -- “God calls us each day to do new and exciting things. I believe my service with the Foundation is such a call, as it provides me with an opportunity to further God’s kingdom and the mission of the PC (USA)”.

Olanda brings a wealth of community involvement that includes serving as board member on the Catawba Economic Development Association, board member of the campus ministries program, Cooperative Christian Ministry in Higher Education, board member-elect of the Montreat Retreat Association, President of the Charlotte Alumni Chapter of Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Inc., and the National MBA Association of Charlotte.

Olanda completed his undergraduate studies at NC State University (Industrial Engineering), Montreat College (Business Administration), and also holds an MBA from Montreat College. He is a Ruling Elder at First United Presbyterian Church (Charlotte, NC) and resides in Harrisburg, NC with his wife, Monica.

Rev. Pressley Neal Cox 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.