

SERVING THE CHURCH

This Week

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

SERVING THE CHURCH

Next Week

Liturgist: Jerry Kross
Sound:
Ushers: Jan Kross
Jerry Kross

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



Sunday, October 17, 2021

First Presbyterian Church

Simpsonville, SC

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

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

510 East Curtis Street * Simpsonville, SC 29681 * (864) 963-8854

www.firstpresssimpsonville.com E-mail: office@firstpresssimpsonville.com

Darrell Johnson, Pianist

Jackie Koch, Office Administrator

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

THE SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

October 17, 2021

21st 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 "I Am Resolved" Arr. Livingston, Jr .

***OUR CALL TO WORSHIP** Candie Vaitkevicius, Liturgist

Leader: Bless the Lord, O my soul! For God has set the earth on its foundations.

People: You wrap yourself with light as with a cloak, and you spread out the heavens like a curtain.

Leader: O Lord, you make the winds your chariots, and you ride on the wings of the wind.

People: O God, you covered the globe with waters, but at your voice they made way for land.

Leader: O Lord, how manifold are your works! In wisdom you have made us all.

People: Bless the Lord, O my soul! Hallelujah! Amen.

***OPENING HYMN #285 "God, You Spin the Whirling Planets"**

*PRAYER OF ADORATION

CALL TO CONFESSION

CONFESSION OF OUR SIN (unison prayer)

Compassionate God, you have shown your great love to us by coming to us in the form of a Servant. You have called us to serve, even as we have been served; yet we have put our own interests first, and have turned away from the needs of others. Show us your mercy, and forgive us. Strengthen us by your Spirit that we may show tenderness and humility in our relationship to one another. Enable us to lay down our lives for Christ's sake, demonstrating that we truly are faithful disciples. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN will meet on Thursday, Oct. 21st, at 11 a.m. here at the Church.

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 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.**

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.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. 24: Francis Womack

Oct. 31: Francis Womack

Nov. 07: James Foote

Nov. 14: Nancy Blakely

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.

SESSION MEETING: The Session of FPC will meet Monday evening, October 18th, at 7 p.m. here at the Church.

Leader: Since then we have a great high priest, Jesus Christ, who has passed through the heavens, let us hold fast our confession. For we have not a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tested as we are, yet without sin. Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, with assurance that in Christ we are forgiven,

People: Thanks be to God!

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.*

Hymn #85 "What Wondrous Love Is This"

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

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Mark 10:32-45

SERMON

"Threat or Promise?"

Rev. Nancy Blakely

***AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

From the Brief Statement of Faith, PC(USA)

In life and in death we belong to God. Through the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit, we trust in the one true God, the Holy One of Israel, whom alone we worship and serve. We trust in Jesus Christ, fully human, fully God. Jesus proclaimed the reign of God: preaching good news to the poor and release to the captives, teaching by word and deed and blessing the children, healing the sick and binding up the brokenhearted, eating with outcasts, forgiving sinners, and calling all to repent and believe the gospel. Unjustly condemned for blasphemy and sedition, Jesus was crucified, suffering the depths of human pain and giving his life for the sins of the world. God raised this Jesus from the dead, vindicating his sinless life, breaking the power of sin and evil, delivering us from death to life eternal. With believers in every time and place, we rejoice that nothing in life or in death can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus, our Lord. Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit. 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 "Sweet Hour of Prayer" Arr. Bradbury

*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 the Ages, Whose Almighty Hand"

*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 "The Great Physician" Tune GREAT PHYSICIAN

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.firstpressimpsonville.com, or by calling the church office at (864)963-8854.

SANCTUARY FLOWERS this week are given by Jan & Jerry Kross. 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, Rev. Nancy Blakely. Nancy is an honorably retired minister of Foothills Presbytery, being ordained in 1978. She has served in various positions as pastor, campus minister, interim pastor, minister of education, co-pastor with her husband Charlie, and Hospice chaplain. Their daughter Caroline is an ordained PC(USA) minister, serving as chaplain at Central State Psychiatric Hospital in Louisville, KY. She and her husband Gabe have an adorable 3 year old son, Jacob.

PRAYER FAMILIES OF THE WEEK: Boy Scout Troop 700, Finance Team

BIRTHDAYS THIS WEEK: Roger Daugherty (10/22)

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 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@firstpressimpsonville.com) about any pastoral concerns. 5