

"O God of Hosts, look down from Heaven, and visit this vine which, we trust, Thy right hand hath planted. Watch over, protect, and defend it. Nourish it with the dews of divine grace, and cause it to grow and spread and flourish..."  
Also refer to John 15:5 — "I am the vine, ye are the branches ..."

#### **Prayer Concerns as of October 6**

At home June Dean, Tommy Hörger, Judy Couser, Andy Finneran, Mary Burris, Betty Aiton, Cathy Neal, Walker Martin, Hack Brown, Charlene Bentley-Boyd, Nancy Finneran, Erskine Thomason, Kathy Burriss, Linda Murphy

Presbyterian Home (801 Musgrove St, Clinton, 29325)

Marie McCracken

Martha Franks Center (1 Martha Franks Dr, Laurens)

Nancy Cook Smith, Lenice Thompson

Langston Place (939 Springdale Dr, Clinton, SC 29325) Jane Jones

Extended Prayer list Father of Jamie Baldwin & Candi Wilson

The **Sanctuary Flowers** are given to the glory of God and in memory of Brenda Hammond whose birthday was October 13 by Lloyd Hammond and family.

Worship attendance 10/04/20 77

#### **Sunday, Oct. 11**

11 AM Worship Service (Sanctuary and Facebook Live)

Sermon: *Top of the List*

4:30-6 PM Children's Sunday School and dinner (K5-3rd graders)

4:30-6 PM Gathering and dinner (4-5th graders)

5:30-7 PM Youth Gathering (6-12th gr) Dinner, Bible study, fellowship

**Thursday, Oct. 15-** 5:30, PW meeting in sanctuary

#### **Usher Team** **Oct. 11-Ephesians**

Scott Holland\*\*

Janice Holland

Betty Jo Bell

Martin Lowry

Julian Pafford

Ernie Segars



#### **Usher Team** **Oct. 18-Philippians**

Chris Benson\*\*

Julie Edwards

Lloyd Hammond

Chris Liner

Amanda Munyan

Tom Robertson

Dear Saints of First Presbyterian Church:

*You shall have no other gods before me. – Exodus 20:3*

*Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is One. And you shall love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength. – Deuteronomy 6:4-5*

*When the Pharisees heard that he had silenced the Sadducees, they gathered together, and one of them, a lawyer, asked him a question to test him. "Teacher, which commandment in the law is the greatest?" He said to him, "'You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind.' This is the greatest and first commandment. And a second is like it: 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets." – Matthew 22:34-40*

The first commandment seems simple enough, doesn't it? We can do that. Or can we? Do we?

Think about these verses. What do they really mean for us in our daily living? What insight might they give us for understanding the world?

We'll talk about it Sunday.

Because in God's commandments are a light to our path, know that you are loved.

Dr. Mike

#### **Contact information:**

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Jean Cann---915-7820

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Church office – 984-6561  
(Tues./Wed. 9-4:00)

# FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

400 West Main Street

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(864) 984-6561; [www.firstpreslaurens.org](http://www.firstpreslaurens.org)

*The Rev. Dr. Frank M. McCracken, Pastor & Head of Staff*

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LAURENS, SC  
29360  
PERMIT #114

## RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

### Education Update



Calling all 5K-Grade 3 children!

Starting this Sunday, October 11, your Sunday School time will change to 4:30 – 6:00! We are meeting in person! Hooray! Come to the church portico doors at 4:30. Masks are required and temperatures will be checked. We will be meeting together with safety measures in place like

those in your school. Our Bible study and activity time will be from 4:30 – 5:30 followed by dinner until 6:00.

Now all of your elementary children, middle schoolers and high schoolers will be meeting in person on Sunday afternoons/evenings. We are so excited to have everyone back in person!

#### Email changes for your directory:

Thomas (Chico) Moore  
[thomasmoore92663@gmail.com](mailto:thomasmoore92663@gmail.com)

JC Fore [jamescfore@gmail.com](mailto:jamescfore@gmail.com)

Calling all  
6<sup>th</sup> - 12<sup>th</sup> grade  
Youth!



FROM THE **YOUTH DIRECTOR**

I'm excited to see you at this week's Youth Gathering from 5:30-7 PM! Join us for dinner, Bible study, and fellowship. Bring a mask, a hungry stomach, and some laughs! If you have any questions, please email Will DeLaney, our Interim Youth Director, at [will@firstpreslaurens.org](mailto:will@firstpreslaurens.org)!

*Peace at all times in all ways.*

*2 Thessalonians 3:16*

The **Peace and Global Witness Offering** is received during October. If you would like to give to this offering, please designate that on your check. Special offering envelopes will also be at the church.



Sanctuary Flowers

**October**

18 ADAMS, Patsy

25 AITON, Erle & Betty



**Coffee Sale!**  
Café JUSTO is 50% off.

### September 2020 Financial Statement

Budgeted Income \$ 378,970.56

Actual Income \$ 316,831.18

Difference \$ -62,139.38

Budgeted Expenses \$ 378,970.47

Actual Expenses \$ 308,199.17

Difference \$ 70,771.30

Balance (Income less Expenses) \$ 8,632.01

The **Nominating Committee**  
welcomes any names for potential Elders  
for the Class of 2023.

Operation Christmas Child of Samaritan's Purse is just around the corner. Our church will be a drop off site again this year. Collection dates are November 16-23. We will follow their COVID drop off rules as they've requested. The church has empty boxes ready to be picked up and packed. We have several options this year.



1. Pack a shoebox from your closet.
2. Pack a preprinted shoebox.
3. Pack a preprinted corrugated shoebox using the new sticky tracking label.

*If you would like to track your box to see where it is received by a child, use a sticky tracking label after you pay the \$9 shipping fee online. Instructions are easy and found on the label card.*

Shoeboxes are outside the sanctuary in the hall.

Join in this mission outreach project. Help children around the world learn of God's love.



**Our Stewardship Campaign has begun** and we are very excited for this theme and for our future as a church! Let us all open our hearts to what Stewardship means. We are involved daily in living out Jesus' commandment to "Feed My Sheep."



# Women of the Church

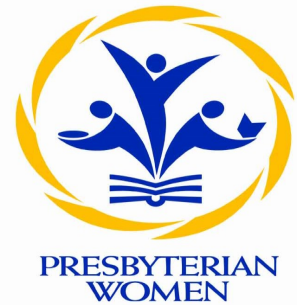
If at first you don't succeed try again!

Please forgive us for cancelling Circle last month, but when the schools went CODE RED we thought it wise for us. October 15 begins Circles for 2020-2021. We are thrilled to have the author of our book series (Lynn Jap- inga) introduce the book, *From Widows to Warriors*, and teach the first les- son on Eve by ZOOM. Please be in the sanctuary by 5:30 for a short busi- ness meeting. At that time, we will do Least Coin, hand out books if you do not have one yet, etc. The author will speak by ZOOM beginning at 6 PM. Safe practices will be in force because of COVID.

If you feel uncomfortable coming you can download the APP on your phone or com- puter. It is very simple. On that day and time, tap on ZOOM and you can connect as the meeting will pop up.

We HOPE you will join us if at all possible. You will love our study series and we miss you.

Susan Todd  
Moderator WOC



## Ken's Komments

Our hymns for Sunday worship:

"The Lord Is God" paraphrases the *Shema* (Deuteronomy 6:4-9), an ancient and central affirmation of Jew- ish monotheistic faith. Jesus knew it well and called it the first and greatest commandment (Matthew 22:38). The tune is the familiar AZMON (O for a Thousand Tongues to Sing).

"Jesu, Jesu, Fill Us With Your Love" is sung to the Ghanaian folk song tune CHEREPONI. The text was written by a missionary to Ghana, Tom Colvin, after a meeting of evangelists at Chereponi in northern Gha- na, led by Presbyterian missionaries Al Drass and Bob Thelin. It is a statement of commitment and servan- hood, and reflects Jesus' words "You shall love your neighbor as yourself." Tom Colvin collected the tune at Chereponi in northern Ghana and adapted it for use with this hymn, and gave it the appropriate name of CHEREPONI.

"Jesus Call Us" is a familiar hymn of discipleship and commitment. It was written and published in 1852 by Cecil Frances Alexander in "Hymns for Public Worship." It was originally written for "St. Andrew's Day." "St. Andrew's Day" is a national holiday in Scotland that is celebrated with feasts on November 30. It is al- so Scotland's national day, marking the beginning of Scotland as a nation. I would consider it like our July 4 celebrations.

*Companion to the United Methodist Hymnal*, Carlton Young, Editor, Copyright © 1993, Abingdon Press;  
*Handbook to the Baptist Hymnal*, Copyright © 1992, Convention Press.