

Weekly Worship

Sunday,

The Lord's Day

9:00am Worship Service
 10:05am Assembly &
 Sunday School
 11:00am Worship Service

Upcoming Events

Sunday, January 7

10:40 Congregational Meeting

Monday, January 8

10:00 Circle 1

1:00 Prayers & Squares

6:00 Circle 2

Home of Cyndy Britt

Wednesday, January 10

5:30 Stewardship, Personnel
 & Finance Ministry

Saturday, January 13

8:30 Community Annual
 Prayer Breakfast at Moncks
 Corner Baptist Church

Tuesday, January 16

1:00-6:00 Blood Drive

Sunday, January 21

Ordination and
 Installation of Officers

Monday, January 22

1:00 Prayers & Squares
 3:00 Visitation Ministry
 6:00 Session Meeting

Monday, January 29

10:00-2:00 Abide Retreat
 At Mepkin Abbey
 6:30 Mission Ministry

Pastor

Timothy Scoonover

Director of Spiritual
 Formation
 David Baruch

Editor

Sally Harvey

A Note from Missionary, Joe Yu

Why Mission?

Over the years I have heard many people ask the question of “why mission?” The question seems reasonable enough, there is great need right where we are. Unbelief exists here and all the social dysfunctions of the world we too possess, so why do we need to have a mind for mission?



Throughout the Scriptures, there are many examples of people who saw no reason for mission. Moses, I believe, is one of those people. When the Lord had called him to return to Egypt to lead the people of Israel, it was not an opportunity that he had been seeking. In fact, the thought was so awful that despite having a miraculous encounter with the Creator he openly presents several well-defined answers of why he is the wrong guy. Egypt was not the place for him, it would be dangerous as he is a legitimate outlaw there. Plus, Moses was not the man he was when he was young. For 40 years he forged a simple life herding sheep to provide for his family. So how can an exiled rancher get access to meet the most powerful person in the known world, let alone start demanding a new immigration policy to be implemented. Especially since he was horrible at public speaking. Not to mention the very people he was supposed to help are generational slaves that betrayed him when he tried once before, at a time he actually had some ability to do so. Yet, now to add insult to injury, he was supposed to go to them and tell them that God whom they have never seen was going to rescue them. *Really? Yeah, I don't think so, find someone else.*

Moses was not alone. Even the Apostles after Pentecost, despite very clear instructions from the risen Lord to go to the whole world and make disciples, stayed in Jerusalem. Jonah went the opposite direction, and Jeremiah witnessed no conversions throughout his entire ministry. These were all very normal people seeking to love God and do their best to fulfill their spiritual obligations just like the rest of us. They also were very reasonable with good reasons of why going is sometimes not a good idea. So, then why mission?

When we transcend the answer to its rightful place as defining experience with God which He promises and commands then another door is opened to us.

The Lord does not operate on the basis of our logical outcomes, rather moves in a way to dynamically change our being so that we experience the fullness of existence. Despite the hesitation of Moses, the static disposition of the apostles, the rebellion of Jonah, and the sadness of Jeremiah, our Lord graciously tethered their normal lives to His dynamic power so that they could enjoy the benefit of experiencing the foundational fabric of discipleship – mission.

The outcome for which we should be most thankful. Consider how through a gracious seed
(continued on page 2)

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of faith unbelievable events occurred making history. God directly and tangibly rescues a nation of slaves while crippling an oppressive global superpower. He entrusts the sacred contract of promise to an unfaithful people, and fulfills the obligations through His own death and resurrection. He commissions and empowers a misfit band of average citizens from an occupied nation to become ambassadors of a supernatural Kingdom that explodes onto the globe. Its reign freeing the oppressed with an unseen reconciliation that when tasted triumphs over death. In times of despair He restores with a touch of His hand that reinvigorates the depressed soul with new life offering promises that vibrate fulfillment continuously. Societies who indulge in their prosperity sourced from the misery of others turn their celebration into days of mourning covering their triumphs with sack cloths of repentance in order to taste the grace of God. These are just some of the examples of what mission looked like when saints reconsidered their stance. Imagine for just a moment if God allowed them to follow their logical instincts how would the Gospel have reached us? Even more so the weight of the command that Christ gave is inescapable (Matthew 28:19-20, Mark 16:15-16, Luke 24:47-48).

So then is mission considered to be a heavenly chore that must be accomplished in order for us to receive the treat of Salvation. No, it is instead a delightful compulsion that grows within us that should not be ignored with tangible argumentation. Rather, embraced with faith so that a whole new world will be opened to us where our immortality can be experienced.

Mission is the field for every disciple of Christ to witness the power of God personally. It is the current locus of understanding the reality of who we are in relationship with. It is an endeavor that is not accomplished with a sole act of reluctant obedience, but a projection of current living that bears forth fruit of eternal promise that will be fulfilled with the physical return of our Lord who commissioned the call. So, until that fateful day, mission is a present obligation that invites us to experience the reality of our faith.

In Christ, Joe Yu

Minutes in a Minute

On Sunday, December 17th, the session of First Presbyterian Church:

- Opened with prayer led by Timothy Scoonover
- Approved the minutes from 11/20/17
- Approved the budget for 2018
- Called a congregation meeting for Sunday, January 7 at 10:40 to approve the terms of Call for Pastor Scoonover
- Closed with prayer

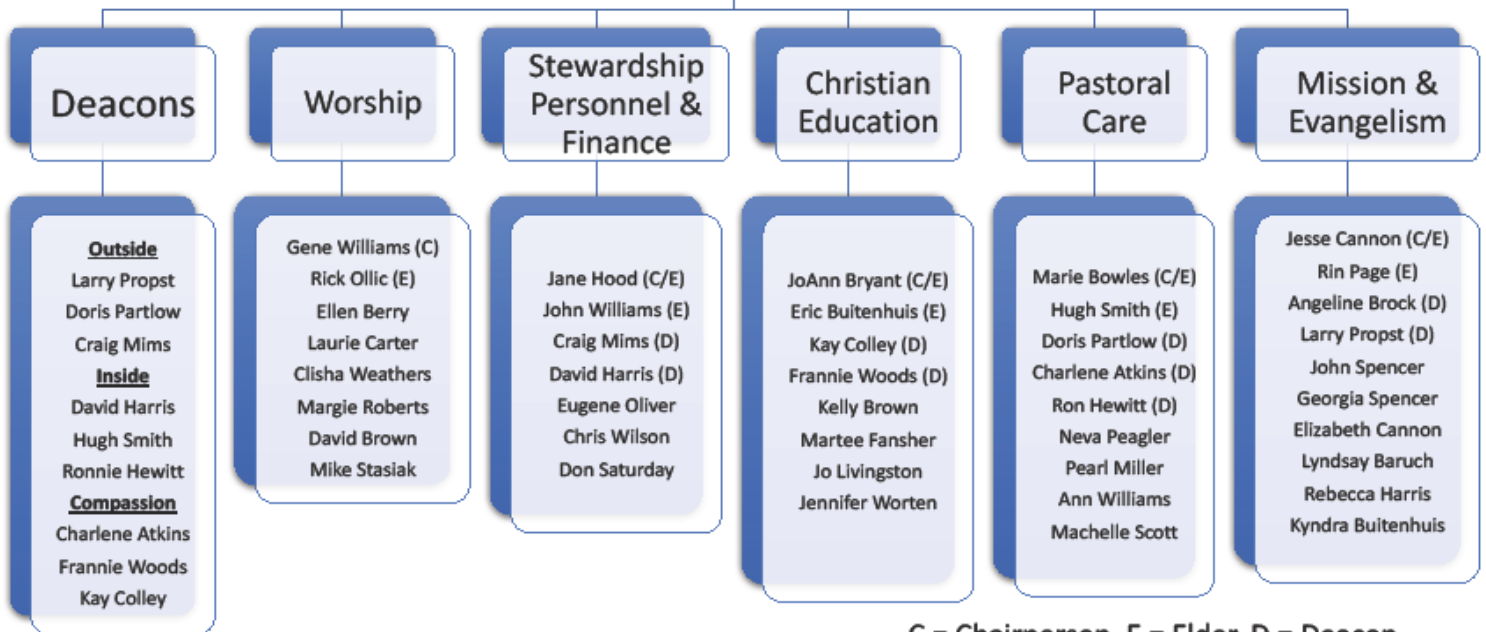
Our next session meeting will be Monday, January 22 at 6pm

2017 Financial Report

	Year to date through 12/31/2017		Annual Budget
Revenue	\$ 483,292		\$ 422,656
Expenditures			
Personnel	\$ 256,665	\$	252,456
Operations	\$ 103,084	\$	102,050
Missions	\$ 27,691	\$	38,800
Education, Nurture & Pastoral Care	\$ 18,193	\$	19,750
Worship, Evangelism & Fellowship	\$ 10,245	\$	9,600
Total Expenditures	\$ 417,860	\$	422,656

**Officer Ordination
and Installation
Sunday,
January 21 at 11am
Worship Service**

Session



C = Chairperson, E = Elder, D = Deacon



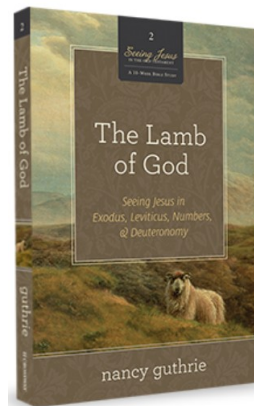
Christmas Food Bags

There are 144 people/families that had a much nicer Christmas due to the generosity of this congregation. We were able to exceed our goal of 130 bags and improve the quantity and quality of the contents. We had been told that fresh fruit would be a welcome addition, and this year we provided oranges in all bags, plus tangerines in the majority of them.

JoAnn Bryant provided gifts of toiletries for each bag; Joyce Mitchell gave a number of warm throws for the senior bags; Jo Livingston helped bag the fruit and Robbie Fleming and Brant Bayless helped deliver some of the bags. Others have offered to help next year.

We deeply appreciate every contribution — both financial and your helping hands that put the bags together and helped deliver.

The Smiths and Stuckeys



Women's Bible Study

Part of the *Seeing Jesus in the Old Testament* series, *Lamb of God: Seeing Jesus in Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, and Deuteronomy* reveals that the overarching story of scripture from beginning to end is the story of the Lamb—the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world.

All are welcome, bring a friend! **We will meet Thursdays at 10:00am starting on January 11th in the children's room across from the nursery.** This is a 10 week study. If enough are interested, there will be an evening meeting also. If you are interested, please contact Kay Colley, 843-209-7345, kay.colley@yahoo.com.

Your offering envelopes for 2018 are available at the church in the atrium. Please remember to pick yours up.

Blood Drive, Tuesday, January 16 1:00-6:00pm

Red Cross issues urgent call for blood donations following severe winter weather.

The American Red Cross issued an urgent call for blood and platelet donors of all blood types to give now to help address a winter blood donation shortage. **Platelet and type O negative and B negative blood donations — in particular — are critically needed right now.** Severe weather with snow storms and

frigid temperatures has had a tremendous impact on blood donations. More than 150 blood drives have already been cancelled this year, causing over 5,500 blood and platelet donations to go uncollected. Further adding to the diminishing supply, hectic holiday schedules, winter weather and an active cold and flu season collectively contributed to more than 28,000 fewer donations than what was needed in November and December.

“Last week’s massive winter storm had a significant impact on our blood supply with blood drives cancelled from South Carolina to Maine,” said Chris Hrouda, president, Red Cross Blood Services. “The Red Cross is doing everything we can to ensure blood products are available for hospital patients during these difficult winter months, but we need help from our regular donors—as well as those who are willing to donate for the first time—to give as soon as possible.”

For more information about signing up to give blood, call Hugh Smith at (843) 899-6420.

All donors needed—Especially Platelet and Type O Negative and B Negative Donors



GriefShare Leader Training



There will be a GriefShare facilitators training on Tuesday, Feb. 20th at 6:00pm. We are looking for new people who may want to go through the training. Please be in prayer for this ministry and possibly your participation as a leader in this support group. For more information contact Charlene Atkins at (201)919-3249, (843)482-0145 or charatkins17@yahoo.com.

OPERATION CARE PACKAGE



"Let No Hero Be Forgotten"

Care Packages for Our Soldiers

Ann Williams will be sending out soldier boxes at the end of January. If you would like to participate, a list of items they like and need are listed below. There will be a box in the hallway for your donations.

snacks trail mix
sweetener tea bags

powdered drink mix
pens
beef jerky
snack pack puddings
instant hot chocolate

hard candy
paper
nuts
coffee creamer
puzzle books

gum
sunflower seeds
crackers
cough drops

coffee for drip coffee or instant
socks that wick moisture

Middle School Youth meet every Wednesday from 5:30-7:30pm.

High School Youth meet every Sunday from 6:00-8:00pm.

Hello Friends and Family of First Presbyterian Church,

This year the youth team had to make some tough decisions. While we would love to keep doing two youth trips a year it has become clear that this is a difficult financial feat to overcome. We have also decided to add a service project trip this year as well, something we want to begin prioritizing. Three trips are simply too many trips to handle in a year. We had to make a decision to do only one recreational trip per year.

Here is what we have decided: We are going to continue to do the ski trip and whitewater trip, however we will alternate them each year. One year, white water, the next year ski, and back and forth. This year (2018) we voted to keep the white water trip on for this year. We found a new camp that has a ton more amenities and fun things to do. Everything the other camp had except we will be adding a zip line, a water park, and an actual lake with a blob.

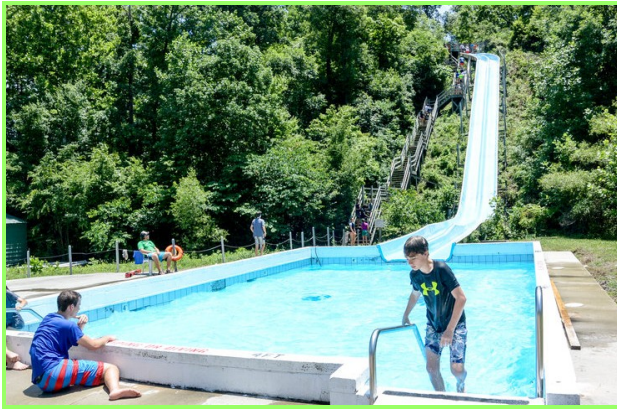
We will also be getting an extra day at camp for the same price. This camp looks amazing! You can check it out, it is called Ocoee Retreat Center if you want to google it.

The ski trip will not be scheduled for January 2018. While I know this comes as a disappointment to some of the kids, we believe this is in the best interest of the program, and also the best interest in the youth as they develop. This means more time for service trips, mission trips, but also not doing away with either, the white water trip or the ski trip.

The white water trip this year is schedule for June 6-11, 2018.

If you have any other concerns or questions please contact me at ddbaruchjr@gmail.com

Blessings in Christ, David Baruch



**Our Mission: Making disciples of the next generation who reach UP to God,
IN to one another, and OUT to the world!**

We extend Christian sympathy to the following families:

- Marilyn Dingle and her family. Marilyn's beloved husband, James Freeman Dingle, passed away on Thursday, December 7.
- Mike Lucas and his family. Mike's beloved mother, Myrtle Christie Ivey Lucas, passed away on Friday, December 15.
- Don Cribb and his family. Don's beloved father, Donald Jack Cribb, passed away on Thursday, December 21.
- Kim Murchison and her family. Kim's beloved mother, Cynthia Anne Evans Ray, passed away on Sunday, December 31

*Dear Friends at First Presbyterian,
Thank you all so much for your kindness to us as we celebrated Mary Witt's arrival. Each card, call, and visit touched our hearts, and the meals you provided were an enormous help. We are so grateful to be part of such a caring church family. Thanks again for your thoughtfulness!*
Love, The Cannon Family

*Dear Church Family,
We want to thank everyone for their prayers and support after the passing of Mike's mother. It is at times like this that we truly know what a blessing our Church Family is. God's blessing to you all.*
Love, Mike and Janet Lucas

*Dear Church Quilters,
At this special time of year, my thoughts turn to the people who have touched my life. The ladies of this church made a prayer blanket for my husband last year and he loved it. I now treasure it as one of my best memories, and my heart will forever be touched by this kindness.*
God bless you! Martha Williams

*Dear Church Members,
Thank you so much for the delicious food, beautiful cards, welcome phone calls, visits, (and many prayers) you gave us recently during my latest illness and recovery period. You have been such blessings to us!*
Love, Claire and C.G. Wilson

*Dear Church Ladies,
I hope you all have a wonderful Christmas this year. Jay and I are fine. I really appreciated the quilt you made for me. Lots of people have been tying knots in them for prayers. It was very thoughtful of all of you. I will never forget any of you.*
Love, Carol and Jay Jordan



Birthdays


- 4 Claire Wilson
- 5 Jerry Brewer
- 6 William Morris
- 7 Scott Shepherd
- 9 Anita Shuler
- 10 Jennifer Coffey
Nicholas Ferez
Baxter Orvin
- 13 Rod Murchison
- 15 Shelly Rucker
Jane Williams
- 17 Brantley Brewer
- 18 Trinity Thompson
- 19 Laurie Lusk
- 20 Carol Jordan
- 21 Doug Bowles
- 22 Rene Mooror
- 23 C. G. Wilson
- 24 Chris Wilson
- 25 Edivania Powell
Adah Brewer
- 27 Len Graham
Neva Peagler
Georgia Spencer
- 29 Janet Lucas
- 31 Emily Harrison

January Food Pantry
Oatmeal and Dry Beans

January Ushers
9:00— Chris & Susie Wilson
**11:00—Ken Fansher, Rick Johnson,
Mike Stasiak & Jerry Stuckey**

January 2018

First Presbyterian Church

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Every Sunday 9:00 Worship 10:05 Assembly & Sunday School 11:00 Worship	1 New Years Day	2 10:00 Staff Meeting 6:00 GriefShare 6:00 Missional Small Grp	3 11:00 Prayer	4	5	6 <i>Epiphany of the Lord</i>
David Vacation						
7 <i>Communion</i>	8 10:00 Circle 1	9 10:00 Staff Meeting David Vacation	10 11:00 Prayer	11	12	13 8:30am Community Annual Breakfast at Moncks Corner Baptist Church
10:40 Congregational Meeting 5:00 Missional Small Grp 6:00 High School Youth	1:00 Prayers & Squares 6:00 Circle 2 Home of Cyndy Britt	6:00 GriefShare 6:00 Missional Small Grp	3:30 LOGOS 5:30 SPF Meeting 5:30 Middle School Youth 6:00 Choir	18	19	20
14 5:00 Missional Small Grp 6:00 High School Youth	15 Martin Luther King Day	16 10:00 Staff Meeting BLOOD DRIVE 1:00-6:00 6:00 GriefShare 6:00 Missional Small Grp	17 11:00 Prayer 3:30 LOGOS 5:30 Middle School Youth 6:00 Choir	25	26	27
21 Ordination and Installation of Officers 11:00 Worship Service 5:00 Missional Small Grp 6:00 High School Youth	22 1:00 Prayers & Squares 3:00 Visitation Ministry 6:00 Session Meeting	23 10:00 Staff Meeting 6:00 GriefShare 6:00 Missional Small Grp	24 11:00 Prayer 3:30 LOGOS 5:30 Middle School Youth 6:00 Choir	29	30	31
28 5:00 Missional Small Grp 6:00 High School Youth	29 6:30 Mission Ministry	30 10:00 Staff Meeting 6:00 GriefShare 6:00 Missional Small Grp	31 11:00 Prayer 3:30 LOGOS 5:30 Middle School Youth 6:00 Choir			



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1:00-6:00**

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First Presbyterian Church

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**Making disciples who reach UP to God,
IN to one another, and OUT to the world.**