

A note from Our Director of Spiritual Formation

May 2018

Weekly Worship

Sunday,

The Lord's Day

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

Upcoming Events

Sunday, May 6

6:00 Confirmation Class

Monday, May 7

10:00 Circle 1 at the Church
 1:00 Prayers & Squares
 6:00 Circle 2 "An Outing"
 6:30 Mission Ministry Team

Wednesday, May 9

5:30 Stewardship, Personnel
 & Finance Ministry
 6:30 Mother/Daughter
 Banquet

Monday, May 14

6:00 Diaconate Meeting

Sunday, May 20

6:00 Confirmation Class

Monday, May 21

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

Wednesday, May 23

5:00 Early Service Task Force

Hello Friends and Family of First Presbyterian Church,

It is with a heavy and yet excited heart that I write this news. Lyndsay and I have been called to plant a church in St. Louis this fall. Our last Sunday here will be August 5th. Lyndsay and I have been praying and discerning about church planting for many years. When we were in seminary, we helped launch a church plant and knew the Lord would one day call us back to do this sort of work. We just didn't know when and where that would happen. Last summer ECO's (Evangelical Covenant Order of Presbyterians) chair of church planting in the midwest contacted Lyndsay and I about planting in St. Louis. It was not by coincidence that he reached out to us at the exact time we were praying about church planting. The Lord had opened a door! As we continued to pray, discern, and seek counsel, it was evident that this is what the Lord was calling us to. Lyndsay and I will be co-pastoring this plant and will both be ordained in ECO.



My heart is heavy in writing this, because I truly consider First Presbyterian Church of Moncks Corner to be my family. When I first arrived here back in 2015, I was immediately welcomed and accepted as one of your own. I have spent countless hours with your families and doing life with you all. I have wept with you all, laughed with you all, and have been blessed to labor with you all in the gospel. You truly are my friends, and Lyndsay and I will miss you all dearly.

As we were discerning this call, the need for church planting in St. Louis became even more evident when we began to look at the statistics of what is happening to the church in St. Louis. Between 2010 and 2017, the number of non-churched people has gone from 90,000 to 200,000. Between 2000 and 2017, the number of people attending evangelical churches has dropped from 10% to 3% of St. Louis city proper.

These numbers are not just unique to St. Louis, but rather the larger church in America today is in rapid decline. Church doors are closing everyday. These churches sadly do not have the energy and vibrancy that First Presbyterian Moncks Corner does. Because of this great need we need more church planters—people who are willing to create momentum and energy in the kingdom by launching new communities of faith. If there was not a group of charter members who met in a living room many years ago, we would not have First Presbyterian Church of Moncks Corner.

Church planting happens in one of two ways. One model is a hive model, the other is called a parachute drop. A hive is when you are sent out with a group of people from a church to
 (continued on page 2)

Pastor

Timothy Scoonover

Director of Spiritual
 Formation
 David Baruch

Editor

Sally Harvey

(continued from page 1)

launch another site or location that begins having worship services regularly. A parachute plant is when someone enters into a neighborhood with no one presently involved in the plant. The task of this type of planter will be to meet people and gather a church in a living room, starting from scratch. This is a difficult task that takes countless hours building relationships, meeting new people, and calling each one by name to join in this new church that the Lord is creating. Lyndsay and I will be doing this model of planting, we will be parachuting into St. Louis to gather people and form a church.

Our God is a sending God. One of the most fundamental characteristics that we learn from God is that in his interpersonal life in the Trinity, we see that God the Father sends God the Son, who sends God the Holy Spirit. Our God does not “have” a mission, so much as he himself embodies and is mission. Lyndsay and I will in a sense be local missionaries sent to the city of Saint Louis, prayerfully working to start and establish a church.

I am so thankful for the time that I have had at First Presbyterian Church. I thank you all for allowing me to grow in ministry, to be patient with my weaknesses, to allow me to excel in my strengths, and to embrace me as a brother in Christ. This ministry and the way I have grown at First Presbyterian will be carried with me to St. Louis. Lyndsay and I see each other as being sent from FPC for this very reason and pray and hope you all feel the same way as well.

A few ways you can be praying for us: 1) pray for our transition, that it would be smooth and that we could settle in and begin ministering immediately; 2) pray that the Lord would raise up leaders to join our core group and that we would be guided to those ready to receive the gospel; and 3) pray for our funding as this plant will be entirely fund-raised.

I love you all and will miss ministering alongside you!

Your Brother in Christ, David Baruch

Minutes in a Minute

On Monday, April 14, 2018 the Session:

- Open with prayer and devotion by Marie Bowles
- Approved the minutes from February 19, March 18, and March 19
- Received the Deacons report
- Approved to host the Berkeley High School Tennis Team’s fundraiser
- Approved the infant baptism of Samuel Baruch (son of Lyndsay and David Baruch) and the infant baptism of Grace Baxley (daughter of Mike and Kristina Baxley)
- Approved to host the wedding of Jacob Knowlton and Taylor Bass on November 17
- Approved to host and Rev. Scoonover to speak at St. John’s Christian Academy Baccalaureate on May 20
- Approved Abby Palmer for a jewelry selling fundraiser for her Mexico mission trip
- Received report from the 9am Worship Service Task force
- Received Ministry Team reports

The next Session meeting will be on Monday, May 21 at 6pm

Church-Wide VBS

June 18-20th (Monday-Wednesday) 5:30-8pm



Vacation Bible School is right around the corner! There are many different ways that churches offer VBS; some churches have VBS for just youth, and some churches use it as an outreach event. But what is special about our church is we use it as a time to disciple the whole family. It is a time for both children and adults to be educated and built up in the body of Christ together. I love that we do a church wide, all grades and ages VBS!

This year our good friends of Buck Denver, Clive and Ian, are taking us in the Wonder Blimp of Knowledge. Clive and Ian

will travel around in a blimp asking big questions about our God, specifically regarding how we can love and respect God!

To make it easy for families, dinner is at 5:30pm in the Fellowship Hall. I hope you and your family can join us this year for 3 days of fun, fellowship, and growing in Christ together as a whole church. Here are the different tracks we will be offering for all ages:

Children: (Pre-K through 8th grade) Big Questions about God: Loving and Respecting God

Youth: (9-12th graders) The youth will be helping alongside leaders with the children's program. Make sure to sign up in order to receive your staff shirt. Or if you like, sign up for an adult track! Youth can sign up by contacting Pastor David.

Adults: (College and up) Two tracks to choose from. Invite your friends and neighbors!

A. Discerning between Institutional Religion and Faith: How to experience God as Relationship versus experiencing God as Religion: Led by Joe Yu

Joe Yu is a missionary to Burma, India, and now branching out into Europe. Joe is like a modern day Paul in his ministry style, he travels from town to town sharing the good news of Christ across the world.

Our church is proud and happy to have him as a ministry partner. Joe received his M.Div. from Gordon-Conwell. Joe will be exploring Christianity and how we can discern between reducing Christianity to "mere religion" and engaging Christianity through real relationship to God and others through an authentic faith.

B. Fleshly Evangelism: Led by David Baruch

Pastor David will be walking a group of people through a very similar training that was offered to the students going on our France Mission Trip. The bulk of this work comes from a book called *Flesh* by Hugh Halter. The order of the class is Incarnation, Reputation, Conversation, Confrontation, and Transformation. If you want to understand more how the France mission team has been equipped and if you want to understand more what it is to live an incarnational evangelistic life, then you would enjoy attending this class on what it is to be evangelists in this day and age.

It is a blessing to be a part of all that God is doing here at our church! I pray you can join us this year for VBS.

Director of Spiritual Formation, David Baruch

Mother / Daughter / Friend Banquet
Wednesday, May 9 at 6:30



Our speaker this year is JoAnne Ellison, founder of international nonprofit, Drawing Near to God, based in Mt. Pleasant. JoAnne teaches women to make space for God so that God's presence keeps them from being overwhelmed with life. Driven by a vision to motivate women to pursue a deeper relationship with God, she is the author of over 20 Bible study guides, the popular 365-day Bible devotional, *Drawing Near to God*, *Sitting at His Feet* devotional and *Tell your Heart to Beat Again*. She is an engaging speaker, writer, and Bible teacher. Her speaking style includes both vulnerability and humor and is rooted in her passion for the Bible. She often incorporates stories about her children, grandchildren, and travels into her teachings. Making her home in the Charleston area for most of her life, Ellison is a graduate of the College of Charleston and an active member of Saint Andrew's Church, Mount Pleasant, SC.

Tickets are \$10 for adults ~ children 5 and under are free
Nursery Provided

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



If you would like to know more about our Women's Circles, please give the ladies below a call. All women of the church are welcome.

Circle 1 will meet at 10:00am on Monday, May 14 at the church. Call Mickey Smith for more information at 843-899-6420.

Circle 2 will meet at 6:00pm on Monday, May 14 for "An Outing".

Call Mary Nettles for more details at (843) 761-7840.



Youth Sunday and Confirmation June 3

This is our Annual Youth Sunday Worship Service.

We will have one service at 11:00 am. (no 9:00 service).

This is a great time to celebrate our youth and what God is doing in their lives.

The entire service will be youth led and some will be sharing their testimonies.

Picnic at Somerset Point after the Worship Service.

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



Mexico Mission Trip June 12 - 19th

Mexico Mission Team

Sam Brock
 Angeline Brock
 Tiffani Collins
 (friend of Angeline's)
 David Harris
 Mark Harris
 (David's Brother)
 Rhonda Harris
 (David's Sister-in-Law)
 Abby Palmer

Please lift our mission team
in prayer.

Pray for new relationships to be
made and pray for existing
relationships to
continue to grow.

May God continue to be
glorified through this
partnership.

6 We extend Christian Sympathy to the family of Roland E. Nettles, Jr. Roland passed away on Thursday, April 12.

Dear Church Family:

Thank you so much for your prayers for Mary Witt and your kindness to us during her recent illness. Your calls, texts, visits, and meals helped sustain us during those difficult days and sleepless nights! We thank God for her recovery, and we are deeply grateful for your prayers and support.

Love, Elizabeth and Jesse Cannon

Dear First Presbyterian Church Friends,

There are almost no words that can express my gratitude and thankfulness for all you have all done. Your prayers, calls, meals, and just knowing that y'all have been thinking of us (Jack, Cadie, and myself) and mostly Cody during this time. He is well on his way to recovery and soon will be 100%. What a truly loving and welcoming church family we found when we moved here to Moncks Corner from New Jersey. And this thank you is long overdue. Thank you all so very much for the calls, prayers, and meals last August during Jack's hospitalization (heart attack)! God is good and He knew what he was doing when we were guided to FPC!

Love, Sheryl Gooch

Dear First Presbyterian Family,

Thank you so much for your prayers, cards, calls, visits, and food that you have graciously offered and given during my recent injury and the passing of my Aunt Kitty. I am so blessed by your friendship and support. God reveals Himself in many ways. He has certainly used these events to show His power and glory! All of your kind acts are a testimony to His kingdom on earth.

Thank you! 'Rin' Page



May

- 2 Kenneth Fansher
- 4 Austin Murchison
Wil Robinson
- 6 Addison Guerry
- 7 Buddy Harvey
- 11 Charles Belhassen
Clay Brock
- 12 Sarah Swan
- 13 Barbara White
- 14 Kelly Brown
Johnna Livingston
- 17 Jane Harris
- 18 Seth Tipton
- 19 Benjamin Miller, II
- 22 Madeline Buitenhuis
- 23 Jacob Buitenhuis
- 24 Michele Metts
- 25 Camden Guerry
- 25 Laurie Bell
- 27 Miller White
Suzie Wilson
- 29 Jim Brogdon
- 31 Kyndra Buitenhuis



Grass Cutting Season

Please sign up to cut grass at the church. There's a sign up poster in the hallway. Contact Doris Partlow for more information at (843)753-2664.



**Sunday,
May 13**

May Ushers

- 9:00— William & Neva Peagler
- 11:00— Clair & Cindy Orvin
Pearl Miller & Ann Williams

May Food Pantry

Please help us with our food pantry by bringing
Canned Fruit & Beef Stew

2018 Financial Report	Year to date through	
	4/30/2018	Annual Budget
Revenue	\$ 128,761	\$ 436,612
Expenditures		
Personnel	\$ 82,489	\$ 263,304
Operations	\$ 46,619	\$ 106,350
Missions	\$ 6,042	\$ 32,300
Education, Nurture & Pastoral Care	\$ 6,454	\$ 21,710
Worship, Evangelism & Fellowship	\$ 2,354	\$ 10,260
Total Expenditures	\$ 143,958	\$ 433,924

May 2018 First Presbyterian Church

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>Every Sunday 9:00 Worship 10:05 Assembly & Sunday School 11:00 Worship</p>		<p>1 10:00 Staff Mtg</p> <p>6:00 Missional Sm Grp 6:00 GriefShare</p>	<p>2 11:00 Prayer</p> <p>6:00 Middle/High Youth 6:00 Choir</p>	<p>3</p> <p>6:00 Early Service Worship Team</p>	<p>4</p>	<p>5</p>
<p>6 communion </p> <p>5:00 Missional Small Group 6:00 Confirmation Class</p>	<p>7</p> <p>1:00 Prayers & Squares</p> <p>6:30 Mission Ministry</p>	<p>8 10:00 Staff Mtg</p> <p>6:00 Missional Sm Grp 6:00 GriefShare</p>	<p>9 11:00 Prayer 6:30 Mother/Daughter Banquet 5:30 SPF Ministry</p>	<p>10</p> <p>6:00 Early Service Worship Team</p>	<p>11</p>	<p>12</p>
<p>13  Mothers Day 5:00 Missional Small Group</p>	<p>14</p> <p>9:00 Circle 1 at church 6:00 Circle 2 "an outing" 6:00 Diaconate</p>	<p>15 10:00 Staff Mtg Presbytery Meeting McLellanville</p> <p>6:00 Missional Sm Grp 6:00 GriefShare</p>	<p>16 11:00 Prayer</p> <p>6:00 Middle/High Youth 6:00 Choir</p>	<p>17</p> <p>6:00 Early Service Worship Team</p>	<p>18</p>	<p>19</p>
<p>20</p> <p>5:00 Missional Small Group</p>	<p>21</p> <p>1:00 Prayers & Squares 3:00 Visitation Ministry 6:00 Session Meeting</p>	<p>22 10:00 Staff Mtg</p> <p>6:00 Missional Sm Grp 6:00 GriefShare</p>	<p>23 11:00 Prayer</p> <p>5:00 Early Service Task Force 6:00 Middle/High Youth 6:00 Choir</p>	<p>24</p> <p>6:00 Early Service Worship Team</p>	<p>25</p>	<p>26</p>
<p>27</p> <p>5:00 Missional Small Group</p>	<p>28</p> <p></p>	<p>29 10:00 Staff Mtg</p> <p>6:00 Missional Sm Grp 6:00 GriefShare</p>	<p>30 11:00 Prayer</p> <p>6:00 Middle/High Youth 6:00 Choir</p>	<p>31</p> <p>6:00 Early Service Worship Team</p>		

Church Picnic at Somerset Point

Sunday, June 3 after Youth Worship Service

One Service at 11:00 am (no 9:00 service)

Hamburgers and hot dogs with all the fixings and chips will be the meal.
So, dress casually and bring a covered dish or dessert to share
and a lawn chair (if you want to sit by the water).

Join us for a day filled with food, fun and fellowship.



First Presbyterian Church

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