

Pickens Presbyterian Church

The
Season
of
Lent



311 WEST MAIN STREET
PICKENS, SOUTH CAROLINA 29671

*“To the Glory of God, and
the Service of People”*

The Church Gathers

The Session invites members to wear masks to worship and other gatherings, if you are more comfortable doing so in a group situation, and of course if you are sick to please stay home.

Chiming of the Hour**Concerns of the Church****Preparation for Worship**

Let us prepare our hearts and minds for worship, first in silence, then as we listen to the prelude.

Prelude***Call to Worship**

We come to sanctify ourselves. *We come seeking to be worthy of our call.*

The Lord looks not at our outward selves, *but seeks to know what is in our hearts.*

Let us learn what is pleasing to the Lord, *that we might live as children of the Most High.*

ALL: *Come, let us worship God.*

Prayer of Praise**Hymn #379**

"My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less"

The Church Confesses***Invitation to Confession*****Unison Prayer of Confession:**

God of compassion and mercy, we sometimes fail to see what you are doing in the world. We want you to act in ways we predict, but we forget: you do what is good, not what is expected. Forgive us when we do not recognize your miracles. Forgive us when we doubt the wisdom of your actions. Most of all, forgive us when we do not respond to your call, ignoring what we need to do to show the world your love and grace. . . .
(silent, personal confession) Amen.

***Kyrie #572**

*Lord, Have Mercy Upon Us.
Christ, Have Mercy Upon Us.
Lord, Have Mercy Upon Us.*

***Assurance of Pardon**

. . . in Jesus Christ, we are forgiven. *Thanks be to God.*

***Gloria Patri #579**

*Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost;
As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world
without end. Amen, Amen.*

The Church Proclaims God's Word**Prayer for Illumination**

*Pew Bible Page
Elder Ken Acker*

1st Scripture Reading: 1 Samuel 16.1-13 (OT 248)
This is the Word of the Lord. *Thanks be to God.*

Psalter Psalm 23 *tune Forest Green (p. 412)*

*1. As faithful shepherds tend their flocks,
So God will care for me;
And from God's store of grace my
needs
Are met abundantly.
In pastures green, by waters still,
My soul new life does take;
And in the paths of righteousness
I follow, for God's sake.*

*2. When death surrounds I will not fear,
God's strength dispels my dread;
I hold God's blessing in my heart
And face my fear instead.
For as a lamb, my comfort rests
Upon the Shepherd's rod,
To bring me home, where'er I stray
Into the fold of God*

Morgan, Michael. *The Psalter for Christian Worship*, Revised Edition (p. 51). Presbyterian Publishing Corporation © 2010.

2nd Scripture Reading: John 9.1-41 (NT 96)
This is the Word of the Lord. *Thanks be to God.*

Sermon *"Learning That We Are Blind"*
The Reverend Dr. David Torrey

The Church Responds in Faith

Affirmation of Faith: **The Apostles' Creed** (Traditional, p. 14)

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 sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick 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.

Anthem *"Come, Thou Font of Every Blessing"* *arr. Wagner*
PPC Adult Choir

Offering

Offertory

***Doxology #592** *Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God, all creatures here below;
Praise God above, ye heavenly host;
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.*

***Prayer of Dedication**

Prayers of the People and The Lord's Prayer (debts/Debtors)

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, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

*Hymn #280

“Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound”

***Lenten Litany and Benediction**

*Christ, as a light illumine and guide me.
Christ, as a shield overshadow me.
Christ under me;
Christ over me;
Christ beside me on my left and my right.
This day be within and without me,
lowly and meek, yet all-powerful.
Be in the heart of each to whom I speak;
in the mouth of each who speaks unto me.
This day be within and without me,
lowly and meek, yet all-powerful.
Christ as a light;
Christ as a shield;
Christ beside me On my left and my right.*

Postlude

(Please remain seated until worship ends with the end of the Postlude)

Worship Has Ended – Service Begins

**Those who are able please stand in body or spirit.*

PRAYER REQUESTS: You are encouraged to share prayer concerns in worship, or on the pew rack cards placing them in the offering plates, or email the church office – pickenspres@bellsouth.net.

Prayer Concern List

Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. -- Philippians 4:6 (NRSV)

(Prayer concern list policy: Names will remain on the list for 4 weeks, after which they may be either renewed for another 4 weeks, or moved to the Long-Term Prayer Concern List)

<u>Name (relationship)</u>	<u>Concern</u>
Shannon Nolan (Jimmy’s uncle)	health concerns
Deb Holtel’s grandson	expecting baby
<u>Mark Holliday (Paula Owens’ brother)</u>	<u>health concerns</u>
Barbara & Joe Christopher.....	health concerns
Mary Gaillard	health concerns
Kay Tilley	health concerns
<u>Jeff Taylor (Jo Ann’s son).....</u>	<u>health concerns</u>
Legacy Partnership Project Team	

**new this week*

Peace in Ukraine. PDA support: gifts to [DR000156](#) or text PDAUKR to 41444
Earthquake in Syria/Turkey. PDA support: gifts to [DR999999-ST Earthquake](#).
Make checks payable to Presbyterian Church USA and put the gift number in the memo line.

Long Term Prayer Concern List

“Gig” Alexander, Mary Sue Day, Doug Finney, Jane Gillespie, Scott Kelly, Butch Morris, Faye Padgett, Patti Rivers, Jo Ann Taylor, Melvin Tolliver (Deb Holtel’s uncle), John & Tiffanie Torrey (David’s brother and sister-in-law), Sam Trotter (Betsey’s brother)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

March 19, 2023

Blessings and greetings to one and all. In the name of Christ, you are welcome today and every day! *If you are visiting, we offer a special word of welcome and invite you to participate with us in mission and ministry. Please use the Visitor Card in the Pew rack to register your presence with us. If you want the church newsletter, contact the church office to add your email address.*

<u>Serving:</u>	<u>March 19, 2023</u>	<u>March 26, 2023</u>
Pulpit Elder:	Ken Acker	Tina LaFoy
Sanctuary Guild:	Debbie Hendricks	Debbie Hendricks
Ushers:	Kay & Norm Rentz	Dianna & Butch Morris
Refreshments:	David & Jessica McCormick	Tina LaFoy
Communion Servers:		

Lectionary readings for today:

Pulpit Elder: Ken Acker
 1 Samuel 16.1 – 13
 Psalm 23
 Ephesians 5.8 – 14
 John 9.1 – 41

Lectionary readings for next Sunday:

Pulpit Elder: Tina LaFoy
 Ezekiel 37.1 – 14
 Psalm 130
 Romans 8.6 – 11
 John 11.1 – 45

Church Activities and Events This Week:

<u>Day</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Event</u>	<u>Location</u>
Sunday, March 19	9:30am	Sunday School	
	10:30am	Fellowship Time	All Saints’ Hall
	10:20am	Choir Rehearsal	ASH
	11:00am	Worship Service – 4 th Sunday in Lent	ASH
	12:30pm	Session Meeting	Carmical Room
	12:30pm	Emily LaFoy Sanders Baby Shower	ASH
	5:30pm	Youth Fellowship	ASH
Monday, March 20	8:30am	Food Pantry	Church Office
	11:00am	Centering Prayer	TBD
Tuesday, March 21			
Wednesday, March 22	8:30am	Food Pantry	Church Office
	9:45am	Children’s Chapel	All Saints’ Hall
	10:30am	Bible Study	ASH
	4:30pm	Choir Rehearsal	ASH
	5:30pm	LPP Team Meeting	ASH
Thursday, March 23	12:00pm	DEADLINE – Bulletin & Cliffnotes	
	4:00pm	Sailboat Church Discussion Group	All Saints’ Hall
	6:00pm	Girl Scouts	ASH
Friday, March 24		<i>Office Closed</i>	
Saturday, March 25	9:00am	Church Clean-Up Day	

Sunday, March 26	9:30am	Sunday School	
	10:30am	Fellowship Time	All Saints' Hall
	10:20am	Choir Rehearsal	ASH
	11:00am	Worship Service – 5 th Sunday in Lent	ASH
	5:30pm	Youth Fellowship	ASH

Online calendar: <http://73970421.view-events.com>

YOUTH SPECIAL OFFERING: If you were not able to contribute to the special offering last week on Youth Sunday to assist with costs of the Montreat Summer Conferences, please use a regular offering envelope and write in “Youth Sunday”.

YOUTH FELLOWSHIP: Youth will meet this evening, at 5:30pm in All Saints’ Hall.

ALL ARE INVITED: To a baby shower for Emily LaFoy Sanders today, following worship in All Saints Hall. Hosted by Debbie Carmical, Anna & Ginger Chastain, Liza Holder & Kay Rentz. Food will be available for everyone. FYI: Emily is having a boy and is registered at Amazon.com under Emily LaFoy.

FACILITY CLOSINGS: The PPC Sanctuary, East Wing, Education Building, and Parlor are now closed during repairs. Please see the weekly church calendar above or **contact your group leader for location changes.**

SEEKERS SUNDAY SCHOOL: now meeting in the McJunkin classroom.

ASHERS SUNDAY SCHOOL: now meeting in the Carmical Room.

SAILBOAT CHURCH DISCUSSION GROUP: Our discussion group will continue this Thursday, March 23rd at 4:00pm in All Saints Hall or you may Zoom in with the link Dr Torrey previously sent out for those who have signed up to participate.

CHURCH CLEAN-UP DAY: Let’s get the beautiful church building and property, that God has gifted us with, clean and beautiful for Easter. Come help Saturday morning, March 25th, beginning at 9:00am. Indoor and outside jobs available.

SUNDAY FELLOWSHIP TIME: We are once again serving Sunday morning refreshments during fellowship time. Please join us in All Saints’ Hall at 10:30am for food and fellowship. A schedule is posted on the kitchen refrigerator. **Please sign up to help out.**

CENTERING PRAYER: Meets every Monday morning from 11:00am – 12:00 noon.

SPECIAL HOLY WEEK SERVICES:

Maundy Thursday on April 6th @ 6:15pm with a simple meal of soup, bread and fruit followed by worship @ 7:00pm with Communion.

Good Friday on April 7th @ 7:00pm

Easter Sunrise on April 9th @ 8:00-8:45am

Easter Breakfast @ 9:00-9:45am – featuring a full breakfast

Easter Egg Hunt @ 10:15am

Easter Worship @ 11:00am

Please use the tear-off below to indicate how many will be present for the special meals, and leave in the offering plate. **Reply no later than April 2nd.**

Maundy Thursday: Family: _____ # Attending: _____
Easter breakfast: Family: _____ # Attending _____

WARMTH AND COMFORT MINISTRY: Warmth and Comfort for the Elderly is beginning their Easter card drive. These cards may be purchased, or hand made. Chocolate melt aways are being handed out too. Remember no nuts or hard candies. **Due April 3rd. Drop off items in the designated boxes in the Narthex or the church office.** Contact Tammy Ferguson at warmthandcomfortfortheelderly@gmail.com or call 864-668-1021, and any questions.

GENERAL FUND UPDATE:

Offering last Sunday: General Fund: **\$8,220.**, Building Fund: **\$0.00.**
Total General Offering Year-to-Date: **\$50,420.06, includes \$3,820 online.**
Total General Expenses Year-to-Date: **\$56,686.44.**
Contributions Needed Weekly to Maintain 2023 Budget: \$5,316.60.

FOOD PANTRY: Ongoing need: *fruit juices, shelf-stable milk, canned meats/entrees, cereal bars, or any other non-perishables* to fill boxes for the hungry in our community. Thank you for your generosity!

DR. TORREY'S SCHEDULE AND OFFICE HOURS:

Office hours: Tues - Thurs 10:00am - 1:00pm, unless something takes him out of the office. You can reach him anytime at:

Email: dtorrey219@gmail.com **Phone:** 864.878.9422 ext. 2, 803.317.3331 (cell)

Sailboat Church: Chapter 6

“The Making of Sailors”

Churches are made up of members, and in order for the church to sail with the wind of the Spirit, its members must be willing to be sailors. No matter how committed and excited the leaders are, if a critical mass of the Church's members do not identify as sailors and practice the moves of sailing, that congregation will probably end up rowing into the future.

Trust Jesus: The core purpose of the church is to partner with the Holy Trinity in the salvation and re-creation of the world. Faith and trust in Jesus are at the heart of the sailing church. Trusting Jesus also involves inviting him to take control of our lives. Jesus has called us into relationship with him, and this relationship is central to who we are.

Become a Disciple: In the 1st century, it was understood that the disciple was meant not only to learn what the rabbi knew but also to become like the rabbi. Jesus was one of these traveling rabbis. Discipleship is about identity with him and commitment to his way of life. The relationship that Jesus and disciples have is meant to be as intimate and life-giving as that between a vine and its branches.

Be Filled with the Spirit: One consequence of trusting Christ and abiding with him as a disciple is that the Holy Spirit takes up residence in us. Prayer for the Spirit to fill us and equip us for the day keeps us grounded in our dependence on God. It keeps us in relationship. This is what God wants above all else.

Put on the Whole Armor of God: The armor of God (Eph. 6:11) will not keep us from experiencing hardships. Instead we can trust that as we wear it, God's purposes for us cannot be defeated. Some spiritual practices can protect us:

- The first practice is that of keeping Jesus – the way, the truth, and the life – front and center in our lives.
- The second practice we are to put on as armor is the practice of right living. People should be able to see the light of Christ shine through our presence and our behavior every day. Prayer is the key.
- Third is the practice of faith. Faith means keeping our eye on God in the midst of all the things that would drive us to sin or despair. Faith is the practice of always turning toward God.
- A fourth practice that armors us is remembering that we have a God who saves.
- The fifth practice is appropriating the power of God's word for our lives and mission. Scripture is powerful. We must let Scripture work on us so that we are shaped into the people God means us to be.

Team observations and thoughts

- We are odd people, as far as the world is concerned.
- Often find the need to pray: Make me trust what happens to me, despite what happens to me.
- It is often hard to make the right choice – pray to make it clear when I make the wrong one.
- Where is our limit? When do we know? Maturity in the world versus maturity in the Christian world? How do we navigate that?
- Hope that what we are saying and what we are reading can be translated to the members. Looking to form a “critical mass” of members who are seeking the Holy Spirit’s guidance.
- Most churches will feel mixture of rowing and sailing. Others may not understand the goal. One real challenge: Within the congregation, take everything at face value, but there are times when we are just as literal when our mind is elsewhere.
- This is intended to be a heart process.
- Concerned that majority of the congregations thinks change is (too) difficult.
- We used to have a lot of people who gathered together. We need that connection again.
- You don’t get off the hook to evangelize others. Reading this book makes you realize that!
- We are going to have to be very clear about what we are and who we are.

PICKENS PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Ministers – All Members

Transitional Pastor – The Reverend Dr. David Torrey

Parish Associate – The Reverend Beverly Kelly

Church Administrator/Treasurer – Mrs. Cyndi Banks

Church Administrative Assistant – Ms. Linda Banks

Interim Choir Director – Dr. Marianne Holland

Interim Organist – Mr. Steve Ellison

Director of Child Development Center – Mrs. Chasity Lesley

SESSION & COMMITTEES

Class of 2023

Ken Acker
Roger Gettys
Rocky Harden
Roy Stoddard
Ken Townsend

Class of 2024

Tina LaFoy
Donna Owen
Debbie Teeple
Cindy Townsend

Class of 2025

Nancy Goldsmith
David McCormick
Robert Simms
Starla Taylor

Trustee: Allison Ranson

Trustee: Debbie Carmical

Trustee: Tim Crocker

Moderator: Rev. Dr. David A. Torrey

dtorrey219@gmail.com

Phone: 864.878.9422 ext. 2, 803.317.3331 (cell)

Clerk of Session:

Building and Grounds: Roy Stoddard and David McCormick (Co-Moderators)

Child Development Center: Jim Mahanes

Christian Education: Cindy Townsend and Robert Simms (Co-Moderators)

Administration: Budget: Ken Acker, **Administration:** Donna Owen, **Finance:** Ken Townsend

Fellowship and Care: Tina LaFoy and Nancy Goldsmith (Co-Moderators)

Missions: Roger Gettys and Rocky Harden (Co-Moderators)

Worship: Debbie Teeple and Starla Taylor (Co-Moderators)

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

Presbyterian Women Moderator – Nancy Goldsmith

Sarah/Emily Circle Co-Moderators – Christa Schwab and Kay Tilley

Eve Circle Co-Moderators – Sherry Schell and Debbie Carmical

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