NOVEMBER 2023

THE LEAF



530 St. Andrews Road Columbia, SC 29210 sopc@sopc.net 803-772-1761

The Monthly Newsletter from Seven Oaks Presbyterian Church



What an amazing Fall Festival we shared with the community! We fed over 100 children in our community, raised considerable money for the clothing closet, our pastor's discretionary fund, and the youth, and most of all we shared the joy of Christ with all who came through our campus. A HUGE thanks to all who blessed us with your time, talents, and offerings in pulling this together!

The Holiday Season is rapidly approaching and we at

the office are SO excited to begin sharing the festivities! It's time to give thanks with a grateful heart! This November, you are invited into the hope and life of Christ through all that is going on in our midst. We WANT YOU to be part of giving thanks here at SOPC.

- November 5th is Stewardship Sunday (sometimes known as Consecration Sunday) where we honor God with our pledges of money, time, and talents to do God's work through SOPC. It is VITAL you are here this Sunday!
- November 5, Sunday is our Monthly Fellowship Luncheon Immediately following Worship. We are looking into creating cards or messages for our Cuban brothers and sisters, giving thanks for their prayers and partnership.
- Each Sunday we aim to have a special gift of music in our midst. Come and bring a friend or watch online and honor your leaders who sing and play to God in worship.
- We will be decorating in honor of Thanksgiving for worship so come and be a part of making God's space festive.
- Thornwell Offering will be accepted on November 19th to facilitate our partnership with children and families in the SC/GA and Florida area.
- Home communion will be planned for anyone who needs it, please let us know if you would like to be on that list. We want to bring the love of Christ to your doorstep.
- The Love Revolution and Clothing Closet typically see an uptick in guests and we desire to learn names/faces and help serve those in our midst. Come and learn at Thanksgiving together.
- The youth meet on the 5th for confirmation at 4:30 pm, 5:30-7 pm a youth study on the Reformation, and a confirmation retreat on Nov 10-11th at Camp Fellowship. For other youth events see your calendars for November.
- Choir resumes under the direction of our new Director of Music, Stephen Simmons, on Wednesday, November 29. Come and be a part of Holiday preparation for Advent and Christmas. We are grateful for his leadership!
- Or Come and direct or decorate for Advent after Thanksgiving in preparation for the 'Hanging of the Greens' Worship service in early December.
- Reengage with a small group, join your friends in exploration or study, and learn about Christ together in our world.

There are so many options for you to know the love of Christ and November is our month to celebrate who SOPC was, is, and is becoming. Come and give thanks, church, for the love of our God will never fail.

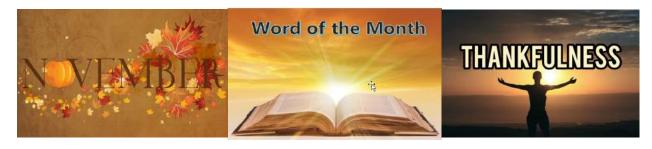
'As you, therefore, have received Christ Jesus the Lord, continue to walk in him, rooted and built up in him and established in the faith, just as you were taught, abounding in thanksgiving'. Colossians 2:6-7



Pastor Jana

NOVEMBER DATES AT A GLANCE

| | Sunday | 9:45 am | Sunday School for Adults, Youth, & Children |
|-------------|-----------|-----------------|---|
| | | 11:00 am | Worship Service |
| Monthly | | 1:30 pm - 4 pm | Mision Cristiana Elim Internacional |
| Calendar is | | 3:30 pm - 5 pm | Love Revolution |
| now on | | 5:30 pm- 7 pm | Youth Group |
| back page! | Monday | 8 am - 1 pm | Peaceful Gatherings Nature School |
| 4 | | 7:30 pm | NANA |
| | | 8:00 pm | Mision Cristiana Elim Internacional |
| | | 7:00 pm | Troop 91 Meeting |
| | Tuesday | 8 am - 1 pm | Peaceful Gatherings Nature School |
| | | 7:30 pm | NANA |
| | Wednesday | 8 am - 1 pm | Peaceful Gatherings Nature School |
| | | 5:45 pm | NAMI in Pavilion |
| | | 7:30 pm | NANA |
| | Thursday | 8 am - 1 pm | Peaceful Gatherings Nature School |
| | Friday | 6:45 am | Lanterns Men's Prayer Group |
| | - | 8 am - 1 pm | Peaceful Gatherings Nature School |
| | Saturday | 9:30 am - 11 pm | Cuban Feminine Project |
| | - | | - |



Word of the month emails go out each Wednesday with a different explanation for the month's word. If you would like to discuss the explanation, please contact Ed Keelen or Pastor Jana.

> Sunday events: Worship 11:00 am Worship Link: <u>https://zoom.us/j/743754044?</u> <u>pwd=bWIHWWJWOFR4UG1zQkZuRVRIaE41dz09</u> Meeting ID: 743 754 044

9:45 am - Adult Sunday School Roads to Faith Sunday School Zoom Link <u>https://us02web.zoom.us/j/508111743</u> Meeting ID: 508 111 743 9:45 - Children and Youth Sunday School Classes All are welcome!



WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

NOVEMBER 5

Communion Setup: Kitsie & Robert Miller Communion Serving List Hal Bowman, Sharon Watkins, Liz Harris

<u>Counters</u>

11/5 Elizabeth & Jim Taylor11/12 Hal Bowman, Jim Wilhide11/19 John Carter, Hal Bowman11/26 Liz Harris, Mary Johnson

Greeters

11/5 Betty & Tom Shuler11/12 Jim Wilhide, Melanie Mixon11/19 Elizabeth & Jim Taylor11/26 Sue Kesterson, Brenda Turner

Time With Children

11/5 Pastor Jana Light Creighton11/12 Sue Kesterson11/19 Jenny Fogle11/26 Mary Dempster

DECEMBER 3

Communion Setup: Polly & Banks Robinson Communion Serving List Fred Holbrook, Banks Robinson, Kathy Keane

<u>Ushers</u>

First Sunday Mary Johnson Second Sunday Ron Kesterson Third Sunday Guy San Fratello Fourth Sunday Fred Holbrook

<u>Acolyte</u>

11/5 Communion - No Acolyte11/12 Abby Dempster11/19 Eli Bundrick11/26 Ellis Robinson

Children's Corner

11/5 Kathy Keane 11/12 Emalee Dillard 11/19 Mary Dempster 11/26



Happy Birthday to the November born!

Born in November Those born in November are unique and dynamic individuals. Although private people, they have a a natural magnetism that draws others and are fiercely loyal friends. Gem of the month is topaz Happy Birthday November Babies!

thevintageangel.com

| Bill | Salter | 2 |
|-----------|------------|----|
| Michael | Finnegan | 7 |
| Tommy | Reiser | 11 |
| Kathie | Cashion | 15 |
| Tish | Lowe | 17 |
| Charlaine | Pilkington | 17 |
| Robert | Miller | 18 |
| Julie | Bussells | 22 |
| John | Carter | 22 |
| | | |



For more information contact us at 800.955.3155 or visit us online at www.tpf.org.



Texas Presbyterian Foundation

MEN'S MOVIE NIGHT & FELLOWSHIP A GREAT SUCCESS

A "Movie Night" for men was held on the SOPC, back campus on Sept. 30. Liz Harris provided the Food Truck with several meal choices. Delicious! The men ate in the Pavilion. There were 12 of us who enjoyed each other's company and sharing stories about our love of Christ. There was also a fire pit nearby between dinner and the movie, and then the movie was shown on a huge inflatable screen where we sat on football style foldable chairs. The movie was called "A Story Worth Living" It was an inspirational movie about how six men venture forth into the Colorado back country on BMW motorcycles and stop at various places along the way to talk to men they meet about formative events in their lives. The movie was professionally shot and the scenery breathtaking. (It is available on Amazon Prime Movies if you"d like to see it.). We plan to have more of these events in the future to a larger audience once the word gets out.









Delicious food, a movie, bonfire, and fellowship! Our SOPC men enjoyed a great night out!







First Youth night of the year was a blast!



















YOUTH TRIP TO SC STATE FAIR 10/22/23!

GREAT MEMORIES AND FUN FOR ALL!! WE HAVE AN AWESOME YOUTH GROUP!



















ReShape

Discontinuing ReShape Ed Keelen

The Session has decided to discontinue ReShape as it is currently configured and return to a leadership model that is centered around the Session. Members of the ReShape Adapting Group team will still continue to be involved, more on the implementation side than the strategic and visionary side. There is still much work to be done as we follow the path laid out by our ReShape Ministry Guide.

The ReShape process has served us well:

- Eight Small groups (65% of our membership) met for six weeks using a structured process from Pinnacle Associates. They generated nearly 500 Action Items, from which our Coordinating Committee selected 28 for high-priority action.
- A Ministry Guide was published and provided to each member.
- The 28 Action items were assigned to our ministries for action and completion, including expected completion dates.
- An Adapting Group was established to ensure that the Action Items were progressing as intended and to keep the Ministry Guide current with new initiatives that would keep us current with religious and societal trends.
- To date 20 of the original 28 Action Items are complete, and the remaining eight have well-defined activities for completion in the short term.

It is time to transition the remaining ReShape activities back into the Session and our Ministries. Our Session has committed to training in leadership and change management, and as our responsible governing body, will assume complete responsibility to oversee the activities of the church in a way that is pleasing to our Lord and extends the Kingdom of God to those who so desperately need it.

Please extend your appreciation to the Adapting Group for their excellent work and their passion for preparing us for the changes ahead: Ed Keelen, Chair, Elizabeth Taylor, Ben Smith, Kathy Morganelli, Julie Bussells, Judy Barnes, and John Hinton Lane.

MUSIC MINISTRY

Welcome to our new Director Of Music, Dr. Stephen Simmons! Please read his bio below to get to know him a little better and his love for music ministry.

Stephen's love for the church, and music, began as a student at a Catholic school in Northern Virginia. During his time as a student, he became more and more interested in the awe-inspiring space known as the sanctuary. With all of its grandeur, paintings, candles, statues and subtle hints of incense, Stephen was almost scared to enter the building and especially terrified of entering the small room within the church that held the communion and a lit candle dangling above the small alter to let you know that the spirit and body of Christ was present...it scared me to death.

I remember a day when our class talked about the concept of altruism and how it was better to give than to receive. So Stephen decided he was going to give up his lunch money every day, and instead put it on the alter for those who had nothing. A Nun realized that he was always gone for a few minutes before lunch. So, she followed him only to find out what he was really doing. He never knew, until years later, that the Nun had called his mother to let her know where his lunch money was really going. It was in that place, though, that his teacher asked him to play the character of the little grey donkey in their Christmas presentation. Though he had never sung before, anything to do with music was like a magnet. So, he played the donkey and had to sing a solo called "Little Grey Donkey tonight." It went so well, the audience asked for Stephen to sing it again! He was hooked after that and had, unwittingly, cemented his synergy between music and God.

Having grown up in the Washington D.C. area, where he was constantly begging his parents for piano lessons and to take him to concerts of all types, never materialized. Though those dreams of having a piano were temporarily dimmed, Stephen turned to singing in his church and school choirs in which to funnel his passions.

It wasn't until his Junior year in high school, after he'd moved to Hickory, NC, that he finally realized his dream of owning a piano and taking REAL lessons.

This is what inspired Stephen to go to college and earn degrees in both Piano Performance and Choral/ Instrumental Conducting.

FALL FESTIVAL HAD SOMETHING FOR EVERYONE!

Yummy food, shopping, and so much fun!

























FALL FESTIVAL - MORE PICTURES TO SHARE THE AWESOME DAY!







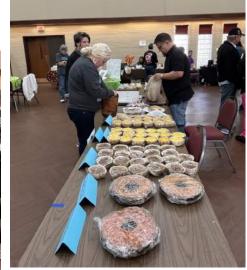








TIP







A NOTE OF THANKS

A note from our friends, **Kairos Prison Ministry**, who used our facility last week. A little information about them: Through their ministry they have found that hearts are changed, prisons are less violent, recidivism rates are reduced, and communities are safer. Please visit their website at www.kairosministry.org. When they go to visit the prisoners they take cookies and snacks. So we were getting so many packages on a daily basis for several weeks, as you can see in the picture below. We feel very honored that they chose us to help them with providing a place to do their ministry.



"We are very blessed to have the use of your facility in support of the Kairos Weekend at Camille Griffin Graham. Thank you."







We kept them very secure in the Youth Room so the Cookie Monster could never FIND them! Haha



VOLUNTEER RECOGNITION





We are SO grateful for our volunteers! We would not be the church without EACH OF YOU!

Today's highlight is our own Sharon Staton! Sharon is the queen bee of the office and the keeper of all history. Ask her a question, she will find an answer! Sharon tackles so many items within the office just out of her love for the Lord such as stocking the blessing box each day, proofreading all documents, and helping to arrange meals at home for our shut-ins.

She is well-versed in the gifts of each of you and is not afraid to pick up the phone if there is a need. She runs and organizes the nursery every Sunday and often can be found in there during worship. Perhaps more importantly, she is a great shepherd and touches base with all of her sheep diligently and faithfully.

Coming from the banking background, Sharon is extraordinarily gifted in the art of finances and arranges everything from budget conversations to our annual reviews of the books here at SOPC.

She has been a member since May of 1993 and has served her family, her peers, the office staff and the community in so many ways for 15 years from the office, so many that we cannot put them all in a list!

When you get a chance, say thank you to this volunteer who keeps things going!

SOPC PW WOMEN'S DROP-IN OCTOBER 8, 2023 A WONDERFUL TIME WAS HAD BY ALL OF OUR LADIES!





MISSIONS

Cuban Feminine Project

We are making progress slowly but surely with our pads and storage bags. We would love to have more folks involved. If you can sew a straight line, you could make an easy pleasure storage bag. If you need some instruction on making these reusable pads or just need more supplies, Kitsie will be in the Fellowship Hall between 9 am and 11:30 am on Saturday mornings on the following dates: November 4, 11, 18, and 25. If another day suits you better, please call Kitsie at 803-463-6958. We love sharing the good vibes we feel when working on this incredible project. Thank you.

MADAGASCAR UPDATE Dan & Elizabeth Turk

Hello All,

Things on the ground in Madagascar are still volatile and evolving. Please continue to pray:

- For decisions made at the FJKM General Council meeting which ends this Wednesday Oct 18th and for safety as all return home. (The General Council is FJKM's governing body that meets 2x a year.)
- For a successful opening of the new Teacher Training College at Imerimandroso October 24th and for remaining funds to be found to complete furnishing the college.
- For the Malagasy Christian Council of Churches (FFKM) as it continues mediation efforts to help the country achieve elections that are as free and fair as possible. They are currently scheduled for November 16th.
- For the release of all those arbitrarily arrested at peaceful demonstrations.
- For all presidential candidates to have the opportunity to campaign freely.
- For Truth and Justice to prevail in these challenging times.

Thank you so much for your continued support and prayers for the FJKM and the Malagasy People.

In Christ, Dau & Elizabeth Turk

<u>UPDATE 10/27/23</u>

Please continue to pray for Madagascar:

- For the Malagasy Christian Council of Churches (FFKM) as it continues mediation efforts to help the country achieve elections that are as free and fair as possible. They are currently scheduled for November 16th.
- For the release of all those arbitrarily arrested at peaceful demonstrations.
- For all presidential candidates to have the opportunity to campaign freely.
- For the High Constitutional Court to put in the Head of the Senate who had been threatened as iterim head of the country.
- For Truth and Justice to prevail in these challenging times.

Please continue to pray for Turks:

- Safety in travel for us as we travel
- ♦ Continued recovery for Dan's back he is now pain free with only tingling remaining

Peace,

Elizabeth

ADMINISTRATION

From the Administration Ministry: Thank you for keeping your pledge up to date, as this helps us plan and fulfill the programs of the church! Last month's offering and the year-to-date information are shown below:

| | Giving | Budgeted | Difference |
|-----------|-----------|-----------|-------------|
| September | \$ 18,415 | \$ 23,500 | (\$ 5,085) |
| YTD 2023 | \$201,367 | \$211,500 | (\$ 10,133) |

Total revenue for the first 9 months of 2023 (including other income, such as rent, in addition to offerings) and total expenses are shown below.

Total Revenue through September \$219,437

Total Expenses through September \$229,164

Expenses in excess of Revenues (\$ 9,727)

SESSION

On Monday, October 16, 2023 the Session took the following actions.

- 1. Approved hiring Dr. Stephen Simmons as Director of Music.
- 2. Approved hosting a half-day basketball camp for Family Promise children with Ashland Methodist and Redeemer Lutheran churches.
- 3. Approved Bruce Hurley to preach on Nov. 26th, December 31st, and January 7th.
- 4. Approved disbanding the ReShape Adapting Group and transitioning to ReShape leader ship management and oversight to Session.
- 5. Approved sending out the social media guidelines to congregation.
- 6. Elected Fred Holbrook to attend Trinity Presbytery meeting on Tuesday, Nov. 14, 2023 in Laurens, SC.
- 7. Discussed requests from Peaceful Gatherings Nature School. Sent to Administration and Building and Grounds for review.

UPCOMING EVENTS - DON'T MISS OUT!



Caregivers Group will meet tentatively on Monday November 27 @ 1 pm. We have a handout called

Need to Know About Me: A Notebook for Families and Caregivers of Older Adults and Adults with Special Needs." If you have not received this, please contact the Church Office to get your copy. Thank you!



MORE EXCITING EVENTS COMING UP!



DON'T MISS THIS SUNDAY'S FIRST SUNDAY FELLOWSHIP LUNCHEON, NOVEMBER 5! Bring a friend to worship and a meal!



Advent Adventure

will be on December 2! Keep checking the bulletin for more

information!



Ladies Luncheon will be at on the 2nd Monday this month, November 13th at noon Yummie Creations, 109 Old Chapin Rd., Lexington. If interested in attending please contact Margaret Royals at 803-957-0430 or 803-608-1434 or email mroyals052@gmail.com.



TIME TO ORDER YOUR POINSETTIAS!

Order forms are in the back of the Narthex. Place your order form in the Offering Basket or bring them to the Church Office.

Deadline is Wednesday, November 8.



Hannah Circle will be at the home of Julie Bussells, 19 Sunrise Pt. Irmo. 803 -622-9509 on November 9 @ 6:30 pm for a short meeting, a lesson, and dinner. All are welcome. Hope to see you there!



Looking for volunteers to help with decorating the Church Sanctuary the week o f December 3. Please let Pastor Jana know if you can help! Thank you!



Community Updates

The love Revolution

Every Sunday from 3:30 - 5:00 pm The Love Revolution is proving to be a blessing to our community. Food, love and hope are being provided weekly to those in need around us. This event is open to everyone.

Bring a dish and/or a smile to share God's love.

Community partners in this effort are:

Ashland United Methodist Church - First Sunday of the month Palmetto Thrift with financial aid KJ's Market supports us with food and paper supplies





Help Us Bless Our Community! Donations for the clothing closet are always welcome! Drop off clothing items in the black baskets in the narthex/lobby or bring by the church office during office hours.

The Clothes Closet is in need of wire hangars, pant hangars and children's small plastic hangars (with indentions to hold tank tops). We are, also, in great need of combs, disposable razors, brushes, travel size mini toiletries, deodorant, and any hygiene items would be greatly appreciated.

SOPC Blessing Box

Non-perishable food donations for the Blessing Box can be placed inside the box at any time. If you place items, please be sure they are securely wrapped as ants get into the food. If the box is full, please bring your items to the office. SOPC thanks KJ's Grocery Store for donations they provide for our Blessing Box.

There is an increase in needs such as crackers, breakfast bars, and snacks.



Contact information for Pastor Jana Light Creighton: 803 530 4866 Email: jana@sopc.net

For church business call: 803-772-1761 or email: sopc@sopc.net

Office Hours: Monday - Thursday 10 am - 4 pm

If you use the church facilities for any reason please remember to turn off lights, turn the air off, make sure no water is running (toilets or sinks) and lock the doors. Please also let Karl know when you leave by calling or texting 803-237-4519 so we can keep the facilities clean and sanitized. Thank you!

\$0.00



If you have information to be included in the weekly bulletin or newsletter, please have your information to the church office (sopc@sopc.net) no later than 10:00 am WEDNESDAY the week of publication. Thank you!

Trainy

Ways to Give to Seven Oaks

| To give via text Step 1 | : Step 2 | Step 3 | | Give via mail: |
|------------------------------|---|--------------|---|---------------------------------------|
| Enter 732-56 After to | Type Sevenoaks as your message and hit send | Enter 732-56 | | 0 St. Andrews Rd. Iumbia, SC 29210 |
| | | | | |
| To give via our we | | _ | | |
| To give via our we Step 1 | bsite: Step 2 | | ieven Oaks Presbyt | ierian Church |
| • | | | ieven Oaks Presbyt Metric St Iew much would you lii | |





| Monday Tuesday Wednesday 30 31 1 8:00am - 1:00bm Peaceful Reformation Day All Saints Day |
|---|
| Reformation Day 8:00am - 1:00pm Peaceful Gathering Nature School 10:00am - 11:00am Staff Meeting 7:00pm - 8:00pm Yoga 7:30pm - 8:30pm NANA |
| 7 |
| 8:00am - 1:00pm Peaceful 8:00am - 1:00pm Peaceful 8 Gathering Nature School Gathering Nature School Schop - 8:30pm Nature School - 8:30 |
| 14 15 |
| 8:00am - 1:00pm Peaceful 8:00am - 1:00pm Peaceful 6:00am - 1:00pm Peaceful 6:20bm - 1:00pm Peaceful 12:00pm - 1:00pm Luncheon Gathering Nature School Gathering Nature School Luncheon - 11:00am - 1 |
| 21 22 |
| 8:00am - 1:00pm Peaceful Gathering Nature School Gathering Nature School Gathering Nature School Gathering Nature School Gathering Nature School Gathering Nature School 10:00am - 11:00am Staff 5:30pm - 8:30pm NANA 7:00pm - 8:30pm NANA 7:30pm - 8:30pm NANA 7:30pm - 9:30pm NaNA 8:00pm Nision Cristiana Elim Int ¹ |
| 28 29 |
| 8:00am - 1:00pm Peaceful 8:00am - 1:00pm Peaceful 6:00am - 1:00pm Peaceful 6:00am - 1:00pm Peaceful 6:00am - 1:00pm - 2:00pm Care 10:00am - 11:00am 5taff 7:30pm - 7:30pm Vature School 6:30pm - 7:30pm Vature School 7:30pm - 8:30pm Vature School 7:30pm - 8:30pm Vature School 7:30pm - 8:30pm Vature School 7:30pm - 9:30pm Nature 8:30pm Vature School 7:30pm - 9:30pm Nature 9:30pm Nature 9:30pm Nature 9:30pm Vature 9:30pm Va |