

First Things Changes

The format of *First Things* is being revamped to streamline communication. We hope you enjoy the “cleaner” look and continue to benefit from the cover article. The life of the church will continue to be published, allowing our church family to keep up with upcoming events and activities. To find out more about any of the events at the church, please visit the church website (www.firstprescolumbia.org) or the app. Thank you for your continued support and prayers.

The Sabbath School

John Lafayette Girardeau (1825-1898) was a native South Carolinian who is best remembered as “the pastor to the slaves.” For most of his life, he labored tirelessly among the Lowcountry slave populations, both before and after the Civil War. For this work, he was mocked, almost killed, and under constant threat. Yet his work prospered and, to this day, the largest church ever built in Charleston was the space that housed the African Americans Girardeau ministered to. His biographer notes that his congregation, Zion Presbyterian Church, was effective in its outreach to the city and surrounding areas. He goes on to explain that the outreach “was conducted chiefly through that most practicable and efficient means of reaching the destitute, disseminating truth, and laying the foundation for new churches.” What was this means? “The Sabbath School,” he answers, or what we would call Sunday School today. Girardeau accomplished so much through the means of Sunday School.

I say all that (typically long-winded!) to invite you to join us on Sunday, August 19, for our Promotion Sunday. Our children will transition to their new classes, and our adult classes will resume. Maybe it’s been awhile since you’ve been to Sunday School. What better time to recommit than the start of a new school year? Moreover, our Sunday School at First Presbyterian Church is the perfect setting to bring friends or family who may not know the Lord or attend a church regularly. Finally, in a church our size, Sunday School provides a wonderful opportunity for developing real community.

As usual, we will have a brochure listing the various children, youth, and adult Sunday School classes offered at First Presbyterian Church. Color maps and helpful descriptions of each class are also included. Girardeau’s example reminds us never to underestimate what Sunday School can do. I look forward to seeing you on August 19!

Your fellow debtor to grace,
Dr. Gabe Fluhrer

Music Ministry Opportunities

- The **Cate Memorial Ringers** will begin rehearsals on **Sunday, August 12**, at 4:30 p.m. in Palmer Room 107. We are in need of additional ringers. If you can count, we can help you with the rest! Please contact Rebekah Schlottman at rschlottman@firstprescolumbia.org if you are interested.
- **Choir Registration Continues** - If you would like to be involved in a First Presbyterian choir this year, please register now! Registrations can be found online at firstprescolumbia.org/choirs.

Thornwell Lectures - August 12

Dr. Jonathan Gibson has served as Assistant Professor of Old Testament at Westminster Theological Seminary since January 2017. He previously served as Associate Minister at Cambridge Presbyterian Church in England for over two years. The following books are available with payment envelopes in the Thornwell Atrium: *From Heaven He Came and Sought Her* and *Reformation Worship*.

Save the Dates!

- **Red Cross Blood Drive - Wednesday, September 12, 12 noon - 6:00 p.m., Family Life Center**
- **Care Team Training - September 22**

In Memoriam

WALTER “DUGAN” NEAL FOSTER
DECEMBER 12, 1938 - AUGUST 1, 2018

Church Family

Congratulations to:

Anna and Matthew Dowdey on the birth of their daughter, Georgia Dowdey, on July 31. Grateful grandparents are Georgia and Frank Brennecke.

Raquel Harless on recently becoming a U.S. Citizen.

Russ Harless on receiving the Zondervan Publishing House Award in Biblical Hebrew awarded by Erskine Seminary.

Christian sympathy to:

Dr. Tucker Laffitte, Jr. and family on the death of his brother, R. Montague “Monk” Laffitte, on August 3.

Andrea and Edward Clarke on the death of her father, Major General Don Rigg, on August 5.

Items for Church Family?

Contact Lisa Eargle at leargle@firstprescolumbia.org or 799-9062, Ext. 244.

THE FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Associate Reformed Synod
1324 Marion Street
Columbia, South Carolina 29201

(803) 799-9062

August 12, 2018

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WORSHIP AT FIRST

AUGUST 12, 2018

8:30 a.m. Morning Worship
& "A Love Song for the King"
11:15 a.m. Psalm 45
Dr. Jonathan Gibson
10:00 a.m. Thornwell Lectures
& Sunday School for All Ages
10:50 a.m. Fellowship in Jackson Hall
6:00 p.m. Evening Worship
"The Disciple's Purpose"
Titus 3:12-15
Dr. Gabriel N.E. Fluhrer

The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper

Thornwell Lectures

Sunday, August 12

Great Doctrines of the Reformed Faith
"Penal Substitutionary Atonement"
Dr. Jonathan Gibson

Wednesdays@First

Wednesday, August 15

8 Things I ATE
"Stone"

Rev. Bryan Bult
Jackson Hall

Centerpoint

Wednesday, August 15

"The Heart of Prayer"
Rev. David Lauten
Jackson Hall

August Events at First

Committee Meetings this week:

- 13** - Administration Committee - 5:30 p.m. in P402
- 14** - Foundry Committee - 11:30 a.m. in BR327
- 18** - **Encouragers' Breakfast - 9:00 a.m.** at Lizard's Thicket on Forest Drive. RSVP to Lisa Eargle at leargle@firstprescolumbia.org or 799-9062, Ext. 244.
- 20** - **Trail Life USA Kickoff Meeting - 6:00 p.m. in Jackson Hall**
Contact Carl Cease at cbcease@gmail.com for more info.
- 22** - **Fall Women's Bible Studies** begin.
- 24** - **Haitian Orphan Choir Concert - 6:00 p.m. in Family Life Center**
- 25** - **Discipleship 101 for Women - 9:00 a.m.** in Jackson Hall.
Sign up on the app or at firstprescolumbia.org/women.
- 25** - **Cooperative Ministries Book Sale - 9:00 a.m.** at Washington Street United Methodist Church. Donations accepted at Cooperative Ministries or call Jack Hodges at 351-0508.
- 25** - **Young Professionals Lake Day - 2:00 p.m. at Kate & Marion Davis'**
Please contact David Henderson for more information at dhenderson@firstprescolumbia.org.
- 26** - **College Welcome Back Lunch - 12:30 p.m. in the Family Life Center.**
We need helping hands and welcoming smiles. Contact Rebecca Milford at rmilford@firstprescolumbia.org to volunteer.
- 31** - **International Friendship Ministries' Welcome Back Banquet - 6:30 p.m. in the Family Life Center**
Volunteers are needed. Please contact Robin Hunter rhunter@firstprescolumbia.org or 799-9062, Ext. 235.

For more information on any upcoming events, please visit our website at firstprescolumbia.org or download our church app.