



# NEWS FROM THE PEWS

## A Month of Thanksgiving

*November Edition*

### Sunday Schedule

9:30 AM Sunday School  
10:30 AM Worship

### Office Details

Hours: 8:00-1:00

*(Emails answered throughout the day)*

Aldersgate@ftc-i.net

(803) 775-1602

211 Alice Drive

Sumter, SC 29150

### Staff

Senior Pastor:

Rev. Laura Whitt

(Ext. 101)

Office Manager:

Brooke Staniec

(Ext. 100)

Custodian: Shpendi Dani

Wow! Our total Pumpkin Patch sales this year were \$38,700! This is the second straight record year that we have crossed \$30,000 in sales which means that we keep 40% of the sales. This year we will be able to invest in some things needed for operating the Pumpkin Patch next year and still give more to United Ministries and Christian Charities. Last year we gave each organization \$6,700. We also had shared The Pumpkin Patch Parable and gave pumpkins to around 1,200 children at our church and over 350 children at their own schools. Those are the numbers, but our Pumpkin Patch is about far more than numbers. Late in the season, when many of us were tiring of the work the patch requires, we started telling stories. These stories reminded us that the patch is about more than money. I want to share a few stories with you.

Let's start with field trips. Brooke schedules the field trips, and Anna Polston leads the on campus field trips. Shpendi rolls out the pumpkins for each day. Quite a few volunteers read to children and help with the coloring station. We are grateful for the many hours of service. This year, children came back into the Fellowship Hall where many of them were amazed by the stained glass. It is clearly something that they haven't seen before.

On one of those field trips a preschool teacher made a point of telling Anna, "Thank you!" She was so adamant about it that Anna asked why she was so appreciative. The woman lost her job during the pandemic and needed assistance from the local charities that we support with the pumpkin patch. She wanted us to know that we are made a difference in her life, through our support.

The field trips or family visits to our Pumpkin Patch have a lasting impact on families. Each year we hear stories of families coming back for pictures. Adult children in college and working came back one day for the family picture in the patch. They had to make an effort to come. This year, Norm Nichol took one of our big scarecrows and put it with a measuring stick including changeable numbers for the year. We are a part of family traditions.

One of the boys from Liberty STEAM Charter School where we took the Pumpkin Patch on the road, brought back his colored picture to give to us. The pumpkin in the back had a face that matched the face in the story we read. His mom was surprised when Brooke and I told her all the ways that we could tell he was paying attention by the way he colored his picture.

We had lots of questions about whether it cost anything to come into the Pumpkin Patch this year. We don't charge for entry and it was fun to watch families come to just have some time together and take pictures in the beautiful arrangement that the Cox family creates each year. This year, Robin took leftover construction fencing and made cardboard bins a festive way to expand the hay maze. On Halloween day, the last day the Patch was open, we had a young family come and ask about whether there was an entry fee. After they had taken pictures and played for a little while, they came by to thank us. The father handed us \$2 as he said, "It isn't much." It was a significant gift.

I even got into the spirit this year for Trunk or Treat. Daryl and I dressed up as scarecrows and decorated my car. One father walked across the patch at the end of the evening to ask what time our services start. I can only hope and pray that they come visit and find the same spirit of love and generosity that I've seen in our Pumpkin Patch this year.

We have an opportunity to share that spirit of love and generosity on Sunday, November 20. The USC-Sumter baseball and softball teams will join us for worship and a lunch after worship as we celebrate their contribution to the ministry we do with their help unloading the trucks of pumpkins.

As we enter a season of Thanksgiving, I am reminded that all the times I say "Thank You" for what you do in our Pumpkin Patch seems insufficient to express my gratitude for the difference that you are making in the lives of our community.

With great gratitude,  
Pastor Laura



Join us for Revival November 13-16 at 7PM. This will be a great time for fellowship with our congregation and also with our community. Our Revival line up:

Sunday, November 13th: Rev. Telley Gadson

Monday, November 14th: Rev. Wes Conner

Tuesday, November 15th: Rev. Laura Whitt

Wednesday, November 16th: Bishop Gary Rivas

### Charge Conference

Our Charge Conference is scheduled for Tuesday, November 29th. Please look for updates about meetings in preparation for this.



Their mission of the month for November is a blanket drive and there is a box outside of the office for donations. With colder weather here these donations are so greatly appreciated.



Our Holiday Bazaar (food fair) will look a little different this year. Please be mindful we are just getting back to some events since before the pandemic, and we have to change things to accommodate our congregation's changing needs. The Food Fair will be **Wednesday, November 9th and begin at 5PM**. We are still in great need of donations to the food fair to make it happen, reach out to Brooke ASAP if you plan to bring something. We will also serve a light congregational meal the evening of.



We had another record breaking year at \$38,700 in sales. On November 20th after service we will have a congregational meal and fellowship in thanks of all the hard work and all of the individuals who make this possible.



The Blessing Bags



Boxes for Operation Christmas Child are in the Narthex for pick up. Boxes are due back by Wednesday, November 16th.

There are also bags for our Thanksgiving "Blessing Bags" food drive for Christian Charities to fill. These bags are due back Tuesday, November 22nd.



Our next blood drive will be Tuesday, November 22nd 2PM-7PM.

### OUR PRAYERS:

- Lynn Boan
- Betty Hodges
- Betty Heacker
- Mariean Northrup
- Griffin/Smith Family
- Larry & Garland Nettles
- Allen Prescott
- Gene Hunter
- Ed & Carolyn Hudson
- Everett Burroughs
- Bill Brattain
- Bill Fleury
- Marvin Vannoy
- Rex Riddle
- Arawana  
*(Family of The Cox)*
- Bobbi Land
- Wilma Crayton
- Phyllis Volland
- Sebastian Volland
- Bill Reither
- Sam Crawford
- All Homebound Members



# November 2022

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
		1 6:30 PM Evangelism	2 7:00 AM UMM 9:30 AM Discipleship Study 6:30 PM Discipleship Study	3 5:00 PM Nurture Meeting	4	5 9:00 AM District Men's Fellowship Breakfast  (Time changes this weekend)
6 All Saints Sunday	7 6:30 PM Evangelism	8 6:00 PM Tech Team Meeting 7:00 PM Worship Meeting	9 7:00 AM UMM 9:30 AM Discipleship Study 5:00 PM Food Fair 6:30 PM Discipleship Study	10 10:00 AM Knitters Meeting 5:30 PM Nominations Meeting	11 Veteran's Day UMM will host meal and movie 5:30 PM	12
13 7:00 PM Revival	14 7:00 PM Revival	15 7:00 PM Revival	16 7:00 AM UMM 9:30 AM Discipleship Study 7:00 PM Revival <b>OCC Boxes Due</b>	17 7:00 PM Finance Meeting	18 12:30 PM Safe Sanctuary Training	19
20	21 6:30 PM Church Council Meeting	22 6:30 PM UMW Board 2-7 PM Blood Drive <b>Blessing Bags Due Back</b>	23 7:00 AM UMM	24 Thanksgiving Holiday Office Closed	25 Office Closed	26
27 6:30 PM Hanging of the Greens Service and Tree Lighting	28	29 7:00 PM Charge Conference	30 7:00 AM UMM 9:30 AM Discipleship Study 7:00 PM Charge Conference			

**9:30 AM Sunday School**  
**10:30 AM Worship**



**Stewardship Report:**  
January 1– September 30, 2022

**Actual Received: \$334,649**  
**Budgeted: \$412,500**  
**Expenditures: \$291,110**

**Apportionments paid through September 2022**  
**\$43,150 of 2022 Budgeted \$53,477**  
**(70% of conference request)**



**NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS**

9 Harvin Land	21 Jerry Allred
12 Mary Cusumano	27 Allen Prescott
12 Cornell Thomas	27 Angela Keller
13 David Becker	29 Wilson Hepler
17 Matt Boan	29 Norm Taylor
19 Kathy Goldstein	