

*We exist to connect and grow believers to impact our community for Jesus!*

**MAY 2024 Newsletter**

*All are welcome to worship with us!*

**PASTOR BOB'S CORNER**

Hi Folks,  
 It has been a wonderful 9 months getting to know you. We have made some lifelong friends in Sumter. You have truly shown us love and support hanging out and doing life together with us. We look forward to seeing what God is going to do with you now. Sumter is a great place to live but also a place of great need and Sumter AG can have a powerful influence in the area. Join Pastors Brian and Angel as they lead you into future ministries.  
 Love you guys,  
 Pastors Bob and Dana

**MAY LEADERSHIP MEETINGS**

May 1st at 6 pm: RR Commander Mtg  
 May 16th at 7 pm: Deacon Meeting

**COMMUNION**

**May 5th  
 10:30 am Service**



**Church-wide Prayer - Sanctuary**

Sunday mornings ~ 9:30-10 am

**NEWCOMERS CLASS**

**Sundays from 9:30-10:15 am**

If you are new to First Assembly and would like more information on our church, how to plug in, or you just want to get to know us better then please join us on Sunday Mornings from 9:30-10:15 am. See you there!



**PASTOR BRIAN'S CORNER**

Growing is a part of life, isn't it?

We all start out as someone who is nurtured and cared for by our parents as they invest in us the morals and values that many of us still cherish today. While most of it was good, there tends to be a few bad habits we pick up along the way, too, as we learn to navigate the differing seasons of life.

When you're a kid everything seems possible. We're told that we can do and be anything we set our hearts and minds too. We don't tend to see the roadblocks and obstacles that might get in the way of the opportunity, aspiration, hope and calling we're being led into. As we age though, we either lean more into it or repel ourselves further from the pursuit of what God has put in front of us. What if God never intended us to live in fear of adapting but rather to learn to embrace it as we grow in wisdom, stature, and our relationship with Him and others? What if we chose instead to continue to believe Him for what seems impossible?

Church, I would reason that God is calling us into a new season here at Sumter First Assembly. A season of growing together in our knowledge and understanding of who God is and what He still wants to accomplish in and through us together. "For such a time as this" (Esther 4:14); we are called to believe God for what may seem impossible (Luke 1:37); more people making a first time decision for Christ, more people stepping into community through Small Groups rather than living in isolation, more people discovering their God-given purpose and gifting as they step into serving those beside us (those inside the walls the church) and those beyond us (our community, city, state, nation and world).

Each of us are given a spirit gift that is meant to help build up the body of Christ (the local church, Romans 12; 1 Corinthians 12). You are a vital part of how God wants to accomplish His plan and purpose in the lives of our church and the lives of those beyond our church. What you give, do, and invest matters. You matter! You're making a difference!

Being adaptable is being willing to grow and growth is the place God has called each of us to the most in our personal relationship with Him and in our relationship with others. When the disciples asked Jesus to increase their faith; He answered them and followed it up with serving. Serving is the place we take on the nature of Christ and do what Christ did as we embrace each other and others where they are and watch God lead them to the place they need to be.

As we step into this new season, we're inviting you to be a part of the Dream Team; which consists of people who can wear a smile, shake a hand, and welcome people at the door, serve coffee, and help check in kids or even help raise the next generation up through discipleship. Serving empowers our faith as we put action behind what we believe and have learned from Him; all while doing life alongside those who are already part of our family. Together, we can do this! Together, we'll make a difference!

Better Together,  
 Pastor Brian

**DISCIPLESHIP CLASS**

**Sundays from 9:30-10:15 am**

Join us on Sunday Mornings as we learn how to grow in faith as believers. Bring your Bible with you, all other materials are provided.

**MOTHER'S DAY IS MAY 12**

We have a small gift for all ladies who are high school graduates on up. Every lady is an influence to those around them. Thank you, ladies! There are no PM groups this Sunday.



**SUNDAYS AT 6 PM ~ Small Groups & CSY**

**TUESDAYS AT 7 pm**

CHOIR REHEARSALS in the Old Sanctuary

**WEDNESDAYS AT 7 PM**

Adult Bible Study &  
 Royal Rangers for boys & girls.

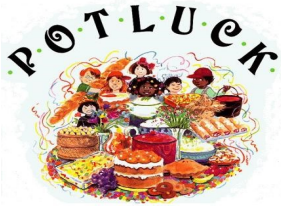
**MEMORIAL DAY PICNIC!**

**SUNDAY, MAY 26, AT 12:15 PM**

We're having a church-wide picnic after the morning service on Sunday, May 26! Bring enough food & beverages for your family +2 & join the tremendous fun & festivities! There are no PM groups this Sunday.



# SENIORS FOOD & GAME DAY



**DATE:** Friday, May 10, 2024  
**TIME:** 12:30-3:30 pm  
**WHERE:** Fellowship Area  
**MENU:** POTLUCK



We'll have BIRTHDAY CAKE FOR JANET SNOW'S 100TH BIRTHDAY! Sign up in the church entryway by Sunday, May 5, or notify Pastor Simun by text, email or phone by Wednesday, May 9. Our 2024 Bingo Tournament will continue!



Hey, Ladies,

I want to personally say, "Thank you" to Pastor Bob & Dana for coming alongside of us in our time of uncertainty to help carry us through. Their enthusiasm for the Lord is contagious, and their eagerness to jump in with both feet to do what needs to be done is greatly appreciated and admired. They not only did the obvious things that were seen by all, but they also helped take care of things in the background. First Assembly of God is a better place because of their leadership and friendship.



Numbers 6:24-26 says, *"The Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make His face shine upon you, and be gracious to you; the Lord lift His countenance upon you, and give you peace."*

This is my prayer not only for Pastor Bob & Dana but also for the ladies of our church. I pray God's blessings and favor be upon you. Draw in close to Him, and soak up His loving care for you. Have a blessed day,  
Diane Parker

Hello YAM Family! It's hard to believe that April has come and gone and here we are in May already. We are finishing up our study of 1 Corinthians and it's been so cool digging through Paul's letter to the Corinthian believers and seeing how on point it is for the church of today. It simply continues to prove that the Bible is a living book on how to live. We also took a Spiritual Gifts Assessment and are now praying to see how God wants our gifts used to bring Him the most glory. I'm so excited to see how that plays out in the next few months. We are also moving the Upper Room to the Library and fellowship hall area permanently. We have out grown our space upstairs. GOD IS SO GOOD!



Cameron got his own place and we had an opportunity to be the hands and feet of Jesus and help him move in. We were also able to gather and pray over his new home and share verses for him to post throughout his home to remind him of God's love and for him to remember Whose he is and who he is in HIM! So many exciting things are happening for the YAM family.

We will be meeting two times in May with the possibility of another Drive-Thru Prayer (Date and Time pending). May 4<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> we will meet in the fellowship hall from 4:00-6:00 pm. We will begin moving our things from the Upper Room on the 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup>. Come prepared to work and make this transition as smooth as possible. Thank you for being such an amazing family. Brothers and sisters in Christ for Life!

I YAM so glad God brought you all to the YAMS. If you are between the ages 18 and 40 please come check us out or if you have questions about our group please feel free to reach out and text me at 803-847-0046.

God Bless,  
Jennifer McLellan  
YAM Leader

## **OPPORTUNITIES TO SERVE!**

We are looking for team members willing to serve once a month by joining our Children's team on Sunday Mornings, Sunday Evenings & Wednesday Evenings (*pending approval*). Contact the church office (803-773-3817) for more information.



God meets us where we are.

There are those days that living for God comes easy and they are filled with a joy that could not be expressed though ten thousand poets tried. The closeness of God seems like it has no end and you are filled with the desire to go wherever God may send you or do whatever He would have you do. I absolutely love those days! But that is not what this is about.

This is about those other days. Those days where you sibling is only alive because they happen to be just a little faster than you. Those days where your friends voice is just about to get on your last nerve. Those days where life just doesn't feel like the life you want. Those days where you seem to have not only lost the joy of the Lord but your desire for Him as well. Those days when the last thing you feel like is someone is loved or even someone who knows how to love.

Oh and did I mention that you are still at war with 'ol slew foot! The accuser of the brethren and sisthren! Who is just waiting on these very days to get a foothold into your life, your attitude, your behavior so that he may cause you to discredit the name of Jesus in the eyes of the world.

Them days right there is what I am talking about. You know them and I know them. But as the title of this here writing of mine says, God meets us where we are. I would also like to add, He loves us where we are.

Your bad moods, your bad days, your wrong choices, your mean thoughts, your stress, your untrue thoughts, the lies you believe, the lies you tell, the lack of love you feel, the anger inside, the hurt you hide, the regret you live with, He still loves you. God still loves you!! There is nothing we can do to make Him love us more than He does right now and there is nothing we can do to make Him love us less! If we have clothed ourselves with Christ then that is what God sees when He looks at us!

Now I know that sometimes the fact that God loves us doesn't seem to help much. We don't feel like praying. We don't feel like reading His word. We don't feel like much of anything. In fact, we don't do any of that. We just throw our hands up and surrender the rest of the day to sleep or tv or something else that takes our mind off the struggle. God loves you even then!

Brother. Sister. You are a child of the living God! He will see you through! There is a song by Brandon Lake called Don't you give up on me. It's God reminding His child that He is still there and to not give up. Yes, those days will come. We will all have them. But there is a God who loves you even in those days!

No matter what, keep God first!  
Your Brother in Christ,  
Ben Ramos



**May CSY Events:**  
May 5th: CSY 5:30-7  
May 12th: MOTHER'S DAY  
May 16 & 17: Yard Sale Set Up  
May 18th: Youth Yard Sale  
May 19th: CSY 5:30-7



Church Family

Can you believe it is already May? How time flies. There are two important holidays this month, Mother's Day and Memorial Day. Mother's Day is celebrating the great women who brought us into the world and taught us some manners. Memorial Day is for remembering the Military personnel who gave their lives protecting our freedom. There is a saying that there are only two people who would give their lives for people they do not know, Jesus Christ and an American Service Member. Jesus died for your sins and the American Service Member is willing to die for your freedom if necessary. John 3:16 tells us that "God so loved the world that He gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believes on Him should not perish, but have eternal life". In John 15:13 it says "Greater love has no one than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends". Nobody took Jesus' life, He gave His life for us so He could complete His mission here on earth. Once Jesus completed His mission here, He redeployed back to heaven and sent a follow-on force, the Holy Spirit, to assist us with living in accordance with God's Army Regulation- the Bible. So let's put on the whole armor of God daily and complete our mission, however long it may take.

The Royal Rangers have 3 activities scheduled for this month:

**1<sup>st</sup>:** RR Leaders meeting at 6:00 PM

**17<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup>:** Pow Wow – Early registration is \$55 by May 8. It's \$65 per person after this date.

**25<sup>th</sup>:** Archery Instructor Training – Text 803-847-4433 if interested (18 or older)

Thank you all for your continued support of the Royal Rangers ministry and the growth of the young men of our church. Please join with us in continuing to pray for revival in ourselves, Church, city and country. Outpost 17 is **Ready** to go out and find young men to **evangelize, equip, and empower**, and spread the message of truth and freedom!

It is a pleasure to be serving the Lord and 1<sup>st</sup> A/G  
Everette Hewett, Outpost Coordinator  
Outpost 17, 1ST A/G Sumter



**JOIN US ON MAY 5TH  
IN THE ZONE**

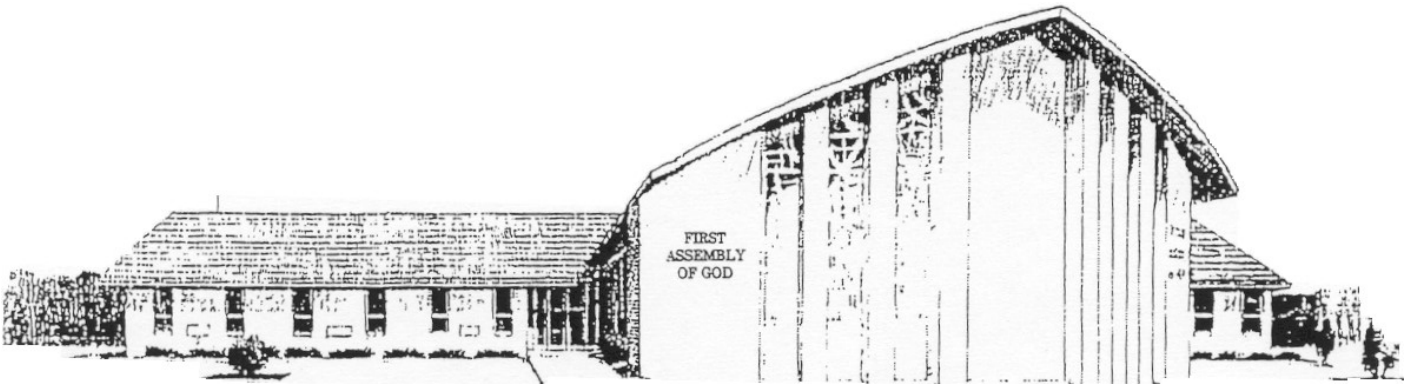
**Bring your BGMC  
offerings and be ready  
learn about Indonesia.**





**FIRST ASSEMBLY OF GOD**  
**P.O. Box 43**  
**Sumter, South Carolina 29151**

**FIRST ASSEMBLY OF GOD**  
**1151 Alice Drive**  
**Sumter, SC 29150**



**SCHEDULE OF SERVICES AND MINISTRIES**

**SUNDAY**

Newcomers Class.....9:30 am  
 Early Prayer ..... 9:30 am  
 Worship ..... 10:30 am  
 The Zone (Grades 1-5) ..... 10:30 am  
 Little Ark (3 yrs thru K-5) ..... 10:30 am  
 Nursery (birth thru 3 yrs) ..... 10:30 am  
 Hispanic Ministry..... 10:30 am  
 Small Groups (Adults & kids K5 to Grade 5)...6:00 pm  
 Cornerstone Youth (Grades 6-12)..... 6:00 pm  
 Nursery (birth thru 5 yrs).....6:00 pm

**WEDNESDAY**

Adult Bible Study.....7:00 pm  
 Royal Rangers (Boys & Girls K5 to Grade 12),7:00 pm  
 Nursery (birth thru 4 yrs).....7:00 pm

**OTHER MINISTRIES AS ANNOUNCED**

Men's Honor Bound  
 Women of Worth (WOW)  
 Young Adult Ministries (YAMs)  
 Adult Choir  
 Children's Choir  
 Prayer Night for Adults  
 Drama