

WELCOME to  
FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
Spartanburg, SC



First Presbyterian Church is a community of believers committed to  
“Glorifying God and Sharing Christ Together through Word and Deed.”

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SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

NOVEMBER 27, 2016

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

8:45AM - Chapel

11:00AM - Sanctuary

GATHERING AROUND THE WORD

One: This is the day that the Lord has made;

All: **Let us rejoice and be glad in it.**

† Please rise in  
body or spirit.

Advent means  
“coming” or  
“arrival.” During  
the season  
of Advent,  
we celebrate  
Christ's coming  
into the world  
and watch with  
expectant hope  
for his coming  
again. The  
four weeks of  
Advent present  
an opportunity  
for communal  
discernment  
and personal  
examination,  
as the church  
prepares to  
celebrate the  
Nativity of the  
Lord and looks  
with hope for  
Christ's return.

## Hymn 88

The text for "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" comes from a 7 verse poem that dates back to the 8th century. It was used in a call and response fashion during the vespers, or evening, service. The original text created the reverse acrostic "ero cras," which means "I shall be with you tomorrow," and is particularly appropriate for the advent season.

Please sign and pass the Ministry of Friendship Pad, note the names of those around you, and greet one another after worship.

All children are invited to the front of the sanctuary during The Word for Children.

At the 11:00 service, children 4 yrs-1<sup>st</sup> grade are welcome to attend Children's Worship.

Pick-up Location: Stepping Stones hallway, Clark Building, 2<sup>nd</sup> floor.

## LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH: HOPE

(8:45)

*The Easterling Family*

(11:00)

College Students

*Charlotte Neidenbach, Will DeLaney, Anna Tolles West, Katie Long*

### UNISON PRAYER

**Almighty God, we thank You for the hope You give us in Jesus Christ. As we begin our Advent journey, may Your hope live in us. As we watch and wait, awaken us to live today as children of the light. Release us from all our fears and sins, and help us find our rest in You. Amen.**

### † HYMN 88

*O Come, O Come, Emmanuel, v. 1-3, 7*

VENI EMMANUEL

### ADVENT PRAYER OF CONFESSION (Unison)

(8:45) Rev. Joanne R. Hull

(11:00) Rev. L Craig Foster

Holy God,  
we confess that we do not walk in your light.  
We hurt and destroy one another  
and neglect the poor and hungry.  
We let evil grow among us  
and fail to bear good fruit.  
Forgive us, God of grace.  
Awaken us to your Word,  
so that we may be ready to welcome you with hope.  
We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ...

### SILENT CONFESSION

### ASSURANCE OF PARDON

One: The wilderness will rejoice; the dry land will blossom.  
The people of God will return with joy and singing.  
In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven!

(Isaiah 35:1,10)

All: **Thanks be to God!**

### † RESPONSE

HYMN 109, v3

*Blest Be the God of Israel*

MERLE'S TUNE



### † PASSING OF THE PEACE

One: Since God has forgiven us in Christ, let us forgive one another.  
The peace and hope of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.

**All: And also with you.**  
**One:** Let us now greet one another in the name of Christ.

LIFE OF THE CHURCH (8:45) Rev. L. Craig Foster / (11:00) Rev. Christi O. Brown

PROCLAIMING THE WORD

(8:45)  
**SCRIPTURE READING** Isaiah 2:1-5 Pew Bible Page 587  
**One:** The Word of the Lord.  
**All: Thanks be to God.**

**THE WORD FOR CHILDREN**  
**SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM**  
*Virginia Coles Reid*  
*Daughter of Emily Hall and Steven Reid*

**SCRIPTURE READING** Matthew 24:36-44 Pew Bible Page 859  
**One:** The Word of the Lord.  
**All: Thanks be to God.**

**SERMON** *Waiting in Hope* Rev. L. Craig Foster

(11:00)  
**SCRIPTURE READING** Psalm 130 Pew Bible Page 538  
**One:** The Word of the Lord.  
**All: Thanks be to God.**

**THE WORD FOR CHILDREN**

**SCRIPTURE READING** Romans 15:12-13 Pew Bible Page 989  
**One:** The Word of the Lord.  
**All: Thanks be to God.**

**SERMON** *Waiting in Hope* Rev. Christi O. Brown

Baptism enacts  
and seals  
what the Word  
proclaims: God's  
redeeming  
grace offered  
to all people.  
The Baptism  
of children  
witnesses to the  
truth that God's  
love claims  
people before  
they are able to  
respond in faith.

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

† **AFFIRMATION OF FAITH** (11:00) Rev. Joanne R. Hull  
We believe that God has entrusted the church  
with the message of reconciliation  
in and through Jesus Christ.  
We believe that the church is called  
to be the salt of the earth  
and the light of the world.  
We believe that the church is called blessed

because it is a peacemaker.  
We believe that the church is witness  
both by word and by deed  
to the new heaven and the new earth  
in which righteousness dwells.

*Adapted from the Confession of Belhar*

## PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

### THE LORD'S PRAYER

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.

## PRESENTATION OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS

(11:00) Steve Parker

THIS WAY FORWARD: OPENING OUR DOORS IN THANKSGIVING

## OFFERTORY

(8:45)

*Come Thou, Dear Redeemer*  
Holt Andrews

Cesar Franck

(11:00)

*Thou Shalt Know Him When He Comes*  
Chancel Choir

Hal H. Hopson

## † DOXOLOGY

HYMN 147, V6

THE FIRST NOWELL

*Then let us all with one accord  
sing praises to our heavenly Lord,  
that hath made heaven and earth of nought,  
and with his blood our life hath bought.  
Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell,  
born is the King of Israel.*

### Hymn 83

Charles Wesley wrote this Advent hymn which alludes to one or more Scripture passages in virtually every phrase. Stanzas 1 and 2 recall Advent prophecies in the Old Testament; stanza 3 speaks of Christ's birth and kingdom, and stanza 4 is a prayer for Christ's rule in our hearts.

## † PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

## BEARING THE WORD TO THE WORLD

### † HYMN 83

*Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus*

STUTTGART

## CLOSING VOLUNTARY *From Heaven Above to Earth I Come*, Setting 2

Johann Pachelbel

## † CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

The Advent greens in the Sanctuary are given to the Glory of God and in loving memory of Mr. Pat Perrin, Mr. and Mrs. Lewis Wardlaw Perrin, and Mr. Lewis Wardlaw Perrin, Jr. by their family.

For the hearing impaired: Our Sanctuary is equipped with a T-coil hearing loop. If your hearing aid or cochlear device is equipped with T-coil technology, please switch it to the "T", T-Coil, or telephone position for improved hearing during the service. Hearing aid devices are also available in the Narthex and Tower Room. Please ask an usher and return these to the Usher Stands when you exit. For the Chapel service, please ask an usher for a hearing aid device and return when you exit. Thank you.

Large-print bulletins are available from the ushers upon request.

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## SUNDAY SCHOOL AT 9:45AM

### CHILDREN

Nursery (Birth-2K)  
1<sup>st</sup> Floor Clark Building

Preschool (3K-5K)  
1<sup>st</sup> Floor Clark Building

Elementary (1<sup>st</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> Grade)  
2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Clark Building

### YOUTH

Youth (6<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> Grade)  
2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Family Life Center

### ADULTS

**ADVENT STUDY, "NAMES OF THE MESSIAH" (Room 2201)** Craig Foster will be leading a short-term Sunday School hour study based on the Names for the Messiah found in Isaiah 9:6.

**BIBLE ALIVE! (Room 2210)** A talented and experienced teaching team leads this class for those who want to study the Bible in-depth, book by book.

**CHOIR CLASS (Room 2208)** This class uses the Uniform Lesson Series to frame their study and application of Bible texts to daily living. They meet from 10:00 to 10:30am to accommodate choir members, but anyone can join.

**CHRISTIAN PERSPECTIVES (Room C212)** This class explores and studies contemporary issues from a variety of perspectives using the Bible, the Christian faith and life, the Presbyterian/Reformed tradition, and World Christianity to form its conclusions.

**EMMAUS CLASS (Room 2207)** Join us on our journey as we welcome everyone, with eyes open towards Jesus. We are the loud class at the end of the hall, enjoying fellowship, coffee, and a fresh, new, scripture-based lesson each week.

**FAITH DRIVEN (Room C210)** This class is largely made up of parents of young children and seeks to learn more about the Bible and how to apply its truths within the workplace and the home.

**FELLOWSHIP CLASS (Room 2212)** Special, distinctive, and important: The host presents a scholarly and factual study of selected books of the Bible presented with a mature flair and wisdom. All ages feel at home with this loyal group.

**OPEN CLASS (Room 2213)** A small-group discussion of Christian themes in literature; open to all ages and points of view.

**PURNELL CLASS (Purnell Room)** For a hymn sing and an excellent Bible lesson, join this faithful group of men and women.

**SPARK (Room 2216)** This class is made up of young adults in their 20's and 30's, both single and married, with and without children, who are interested in connecting and building relationships with each other, while exploring Christianity and the Bible and their applications to life.



# LIFE @ FIRST

NOVEMBER 27, 2016

Complete details at [www.fpcspartanburg.org](http://www.fpcspartanburg.org).  
Join us on Facebook and follow us on Twitter!

## WELCOME!

If you are visiting with us today, you are our honored guest! **Please sign the Fellowship Pad**, so that we may contact you.

*For more information about First Presbyterian, check the church website or see one of the Worship Greeters, holding the baskets.*

## JOINING FIRST PRES...

If you are interested in joining First Presbyterian Church, please come to the Church Library on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of each month at 10:30am. The Church Library is located on the first floor of the main building, on the hallway near the Chestnut Street Door. Ministers and members of the Session will be there to greet you. Additionally, a Welcome Class is held twice a year, which is open to all visitors interested in joining our church or to anyone wanting to learn more about the Presbyterian Church (USA).

*For more information, please contact Rev. Joanne Hull; 208-2125/jhull@fpcspartanburg.org or Joanie Shackleton; 208-2132/jshackleton@fpcspartanburg.org.*

## PASTORS ON-CALL

If you have a **Pastoral Emergency** after 5:00pm during the week or anytime over the weekend or on holidays, please call **208-2142**. The message will be sent to the pastoral care team member who is on-call and your call will be returned as soon as possible.

For pastoral needs for our youth, contact Jason Moore (804-9244).

## ADVENT STUDY: "NAMES OF THE MESSIAH" BEGINS TODAY

This Advent (Sundays, Nov 27-Dec 18, 10:00-10:30am in Room 2201) Craig Foster will be leading a short-term Sunday School hour study based on the *Names for the Messiah* found in Isaiah 9:6. If you don't have a regular Sunday School class, this is a great opportunity to find a place with no commitment for a few Sunday mornings and enrich your engagement in these Advent and Christmas seasons. Each session will be short, ending by 10:30 so that all can participate. *An optional book to go along with the study is available in the church office for \$8.00.* Written by the well-known biblical scholar Walter Brueggemann, the book is short and easy readable, but no outside reading is required for this series.

## TOMORROW - ORGAN RECITAL

The Spartanburg Chapter of the American Guild of Organists will present a free members' recital on Monday, November 28 in the First Presbyterian Church Chapel at 7:00pm. Please join us for an evening of Advent and Christmas organ music on our beautiful Schoenstein organ, performed by organists in the Spartanburg area, including Marcia Andrews.

## WEDNESDAYS AT FIRST THIS WEEK

**Dinner:** The dinner line is open 5:00-6:15pm. **Menu for 11/30:** *Salad Bar, Pulled Pork, Baked Beans, Slaw, Bread, Dessert.* Children's Corner Cafe: *Chicken Tenders with Dipping Sauce, Mac-n-Cheese, and Fruit.* The dinner cost is \$7 for Adults and Youth (12 and older), \$6 for Seniors (55 and over), \$4 for Children with a limit of \$20 per family of 4 or more.

**Children's Choirs** meet at 5:00pm in the Clark Building and Choir Room

**Evensong:** 5:15pm in the Chapel. This is a contemplative service of song, prayer, and communion.

**Christmas at FPC,** 6:30pm in the Sanctuary. The Sanctuary Guild will present the history and meaning of some of our Christmas traditions with an emphasis on the Chrismon Tree. There will be patterns and instructions you can use to make Chrismon ornaments for your tree at home.

**CRC (Christian Recreation for Children)** starts at 6:15pm in the Gym.

**Desserts and Devos for Youth** - meets in the Middle School Class Room at 6:15pm.

**Sit 'n Stitch:** Meets in the FLC Lobby following dinner.

**Wednesday Walkers:** Burn off those WAF dinner calories on the walking track.

**Dinner reservations** can be made by calling the church office (583-4531) or on our website (Grow/Registrations...) prior to noon on Monday.

## ADVENT DEVOTIONAL BOOKLET AVAILABLE

The 2016 Advent Devotional Booklet, "Unto Us a Son is Given", is available in the Tower Room. If you would like to receive the devotions via email, register at <http://eepurl.com/bqtMS9> or scan this QR code:



## HELP RELIEVE HUNGER IN SPARTANBURG

On Sunday, December 4, please bring canned goods and loose change to Worship to benefit Total Ministries of Spartanburg. As we celebrate Communion together, let us serve others through our gifts for hunger relief. Containers are located at the entrances to the Sanctuary and Fogartie Hall (MorningSong). **All nonperishable food items are welcomed!** Some suggestions: Peanut Butter, Canned Meat, Beef Stew, Soup, and Family-Size Beans and Rice (not 20\*lb bags).

## FAMILY ADVENT CELEBRATION - DECEMBER 4

The Family Advent Celebration will be held on Sunday, December 4, 3:00-5:30pm in the Social Hall. This time of celebration will help prepare hearts and homes for this season of waiting, wonder, and expectation. Join us for this food-free event of storytelling, singing, and crafting - designed especially for children and their parents. Make a simple advent wreath or a gift to give, and hear the nativity stories which sustain us on our journey to Christmas. Come when you can, leave when you need to.

*Questions? Contact Beth Burris; 583-4531/bburris@fpcspartanburg.org.*

## BUY YOUR TICKETS FOR THE CHAMBER SINGERS' CONCERT

First Presbyterian Church Spartanburg's Chamber Singers will present their annual Christmas Concert at the Chapman Cultural Center at 7:00pm on Sunday, December 4. Join us for the most beautiful music of the Holiday Season, directed by our very own Holt Andrews. All proceeds to benefit Mobile Meals.

*Tickets (\$15 each) are available in the Church Office and Mobile Meals Offices. Tickets may also be purchased online - click the Event on the church homepage and then click on "Buy Online Tickets Here".*

## JOY FELLOWSHIP CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON - DECEMBER 6

The Annual JOY Fellowship Christmas Luncheon will be held Tuesday, December 6 at 11:30am in Fogartie Hall. Our Guest Speaker will be Dr. Kirk Neely. There is no cost for the event, but reservations are requested.

*RSVP prior to Thursday, December 1 by contacting Joanie Shackleton; jshackleton@fpcspartanburg.org /208-2132).*

## STEPHEN MINISTRY - NEW TRAINING CLASS BEGINS IN JAN

Stephen Ministry began at First Presbyterian in the fall of 1993. Over the last 23 years, we have offered 21 training courses and have trained 188 Stephen Ministers. Stephen Ministers receive special training to provide one-to-one Christian care to people in our congregation and community who are experiencing life difficulties. To learn how to become or receive care from a Stephen Minister, talk to one of the pastors or our parish nurse. Applications can be found on the table across from the Welcome Center.

## REGISTRATION OPEN FOR WOMEN'S RETREAT

Join new and old friends January 27-29 at The Cove in Asheville as the Rev. Katherine Smith leads us in a time of learning, creativity, rejuvenation, and rest. We'll explore Jesus' admonition to make space for new wineskins in our personal lives, our work, and our church. Whether you're an artist or an executive, a mom with young children or a retiree, this retreat will have something for everyone to enjoy. Register today; Early bird registration ends December 16!

*Register online (fpcspartanburg.org/events/wr) or pick up a form at the church.*

## CALENDAR THIS WEEK

### SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 27

8:45am Chapel Worship  
8:45am MorningSong Worship  
9:45am Sunday School  
11:00am Sanctuary Worship

### WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 30

12:00pm Men's Bible Study  
5:00pm WAF (see article)  
7:30pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal

### THURSDAY, DECEMBER 1

10:00am Prayer Shawl Ministry  
12:30pm SPARK Men's Bible Study

### FRIDAY, DECEMBER 2

6:30am Men's Bible Study  
7:00am Men's Bible Study

*AA meets 3 times per week - Tues, Thurs, and Fri at 7am in the Scout Hut.*

*For the complete schedule of FLC Classes: [www.fpcspartanburg.org/grow/recreation](http://www.fpcspartanburg.org/grow/recreation).*

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## LOOKING FORWARD . . .

### DECEMBER 4

*Second Sunday of Advent  
Communion*

8:45 Sanctuary - Rev. Joanne Hull  
8:45am MorningSong and  
11:00 Sanctuary - Dr. Tom Evans  
*Advent Workshop  
Chamber Singers Concert  
at Chapman Cultural Center*

### DECEMBER 7

*White Gifts Service*

### DECEMBER 9

*Parents' Night Out*

### DECEMBER 11

*Handel's Messiah  
8:45 & 11:00 Sanctuary Services*

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## FINANCIAL NEWS

### Budget

|                 |          |
|-----------------|----------|
| Needed weekly:  | \$52,786 |
| Received 11/20: | \$40,991 |

## ***MISSION THAT SERVES OUR NEIGHBORS AND OUR GOD***

*Our congregation serves God and our neighbors at home and abroad with these local and international missions.*

### **LOCAL MISSIONS**

**Poverty:** Monthly Hunger Offering; Mobile Meals; Winter Warmth; TOTAL Ministries; Spartanburg Interfaith Hospitality Network (SPIHN); Habitat for Humanity; The Haven; CAST Program; **Healing:** Angel Tree; St. Luke's Free Medical Clinic; Children's Advocacy Center; HOPE Center for Children; SAFE Homes/Rape Crisis Network; Thornwell Home for Children; Presbyterian Communities of SC; Disaster Relief: One Great Hour of Sharing, Disaster Response Action Team; Kairos Prison Ministry; MLK, Jr. Celebration; Refugee Relief; **Education:** Pine Street Elementary Tutoring; Boys & Girls Clubs; Spartanburg Presbyterian Student Association (UKIRK); Arcadia Outreach Ministry; Presbytery Unified Funds; The Shepherd's Center; Adult Learning Center

### **INTERNATIONAL MISSIONS**

**Missionaries:** Support for 4 missionaries - **Jo Ella Holman**, *Cuba and Dominican Republic*; **Mark Hare and Jenny Bent**, *mission co-workers in Haiti and the Dominican Republic*; **Mission Workers Serving with Kurds**; **Mission Workers Serving in the Middle East**; **Dominican Republic:** Clinica Cristiana; Center for Christian Education & Development (CCED School); Sponsorship of CCED School Children; Infant Nutrition Program; **Cuba:** Iglesia Presbiteriana Reformada in Santa Clara partnership; **Haiti:** Haiti Outreach Ministries; **Philippines:** Precious Heritage Ministries orphanage and feeding program for street children; **Witness Season**; **Bread for the World**

***This week, please pray for these PC(USA) Missionaries:  
Sara Armstrong and Rusty Edmondson (Peru).***

## **CHURCH OFFICERS**

### **SESSION**

**Class of 2017:** Cathy Bagwell, Colleen Ballance, De Calvert, Kyle Clelland, Celia Cogdell, Cliff Gaubert, Brandt Goodwin, Kim Keith, Whit Kennedy, Tom King, Sanders Lee, Sylvia Spears, Monica Threath, Linda West, Elizabeth Young

**Class of 2018:** Fran Bagwell, David Beacham, Roy Berry, Leslie Calicutt, Mark Coleman, Mary Dixon, Ken Frick, Mark Hicklin, David Ike, Kay McClure, Nan McDaniel, Kam Neely, Susan Oldham, Carter Smith, Pat Tatham

**Class of 2019:** Bert Barre, David Berry, Jennifer Biber, Mark Cann, Dick Carr, David Cecil, Fred Cumbo, Sally Dover, Emma Harrill, Ann Jones, Stan Lummus, Eric Nease, Richard Strasburger, Winnie Walsh, Lewis White

### **DIACONATE**

**Class of 2017:** Will Adair, Vic Bailey, Gail Ballard, Dawn Bingham, Jason Blanton, Steven Blanton, Bill Cummings, Carroll Easterling, John Faris, Rob Hammett, Harriet Ike, Robby Kocisko, Laura Ringo, Mary Tygett, Mac White

**Class of 2018:** Marjorie Appiah, Randy Barre, Budge Bean, Margie Beckett, Randall Chambers, Erin Chastain, Max Hyde, Brenda James, Donna Kennedy, Andy Lancaster, Lisa Lefebvre, Melissa Morehead, Juli Robertson, Joy Shackelford, Brand Stille

**Class of 2019:** Katherine Burns, Harry Clayton, Molly Colbath, Mary Deller, John Donovan, Phillip Glover, Carol Gutman, Marsha Hagins, Anne Hicklin, LeAnne Holcombe, Eunice Knouse, Tommy Rudeen, Denise Stevens, John Tatham, Alan Workman

## **STAFF**

**Dr. Thomas E. Evans**, *Senior Pastor*; **Rev. L. Craig Foster**, *Associate Pastor, Education/Discipleship*; **Rev. Joanne R. Hull**, *Associate Pastor, Congregational Care*; **Rev. Christi O. Brown**, *Pastoral Associate*; **Holt Andrews**, *Director of Music*; **Marcia Andrews**, *Assistant Director of Music and Organist*; **Jason Moore**, *Director of Youth Ministry*; **Penny Wright**, *Assistant Director of Youth*; **Beth Burris**, *Director of Children's Ministries*; **Beth Cecil**, *Parish Nurse*; **Colleen McCullough**, *Director of Recreation*; **Jane Mullins**, *Director of Hospitality*



**First Presbyterian Church**

393 East Main Street, Spartanburg, SC 29302-1917

864/583-4531 [www.fpcspartanburg.org](http://www.fpcspartanburg.org)