

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.”

SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

DECEMBER 4, 2016

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

8:45AM and 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.**

OPENING VOLUNTARY

Prepare the Way, O Zion
Janet Kuntz, flute

arr. Robert Powell

† *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.

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH: PEACE

(8:45)

Mary and Tommy Stokes

(11:00)

Wednesdays at First Volunteers

Fran Bagwell, Linda and Gordon Cooper, Louise McFadden-Pritcher

UNISON PRAYER

Almighty God, we confess that too often we fail to live as agents of Your peace. Yet, through Christ, You still grant to us the peace that passes understanding. As we watch and wait, help us to live as people of peace. Help us to prepare our hearts to receive the Child born for us, the Prince of Peace. Amen.

Hymn 106

This text is both one of the author's best hymns and one of the great Advent hymns to emerge from the Church of Sweden. This hymns energy and Biblical resonances are evident

† HYMN 106

Prepare the Way, O Zion

BEREDEN VÄG FÖR HERRAN

ADVENT PRAYER OF CONFESSION (Unison)

Jason Moore

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

On those who sit in dark - ness the sun be - gins to rise, the dawn - ing of for -

give - ness up - on the sin - ner's eyes. God guides the feet of pil - grims a - long the paths of

peace. O bless our God and Sav - ior with songs that nev - er cease!

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

† PASSING OF THE PEACE

One: Since God has forgiven us in Christ, let us forgive one another.
The peace 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. Joanne R. Hull
(11:00) Dr. Thomas E. Evans

PROCLAIMING THE WORD

(8:45)

THE WORD FOR CHILDREN

SCRIPTURE READING

Matthew 3:1-12

Pew Bible Page 836

One: The Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

SERMON

Repentance? Who Needs It?

Rev. Joanne R. Hull

(11:00)

THE WORD FOR CHILDREN

SCRIPTURE READING

Luke 1:26-38

Pew Bible Page 87

“the power of the Most High will overshadow you”

One: The Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

SERMON

A Season of Miracles: Power, Signs, and Wonder

Dr. Thomas E. Evans

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

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

Pick-up Location:
Stepping Stones hallway, Clark Building, 2nd floor.

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

PRESENTATION OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS

(8:45) Rev. L. Craig Foster
(11:00) Rev. Joanne R. Hull

OFFERTORY

(8:45)

Prepare!
Genesis Choir

Allen Pote

(11:00)

He Comes to Us as One Unknown
Chancel Choir

John Ferguson

† 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.*

The Lord's
Supper is the
sign and seal
of eating and
drinking in
communion with
the crucified
and risen Lord.
During his earthly
ministry Jesus
shared meals
with his followers
as a sign of
community and
acceptance
and as an
occasion for his
own ministry.

INVITATION TO THE LORD'S TABLE

THE GREAT PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING (Sung Responsively)

(11:00) Rev. L. Craig Foster

One: *The Lord be with you.*

All: *And also with you.*

One: *Lift up, lift up your hearts.*

All: *We lift them up to the Lord.*

One: *Let us all give thanks to the Lord our God.*

All: *It is right to give God thanks and praise.*

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.

All communion
bread and
wafers are
gluten free.

SHARING OF THE ELEMENTS

One: The gifts of God for the people of God.

All: **Thanks be to God!**

COMMUNION MUSIC

Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming

MICHAEL PRAETORIUS

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

(11:00) Rev. Christi O. Brown

Hymn 110

This lively melody
may well have
begun life as a
dance melody
for the French
nobility, possibly
as early as the
14th century.
Thy hymn
name use the
opening words
of the customary
English
translation of
the French carol
usually sung to
this tune.

BEARING THE WORD TO THE WORLD

† HYMN 110

Love Has Come

BRING A TORCH

CLOSING VOLUNTARY

Dance Prelude on "Bring a Torch"

Christopher Uehlein

† CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

The Advent greens in the Sanctuary are given to the Glory of God and in loving memory of William Burnham Uhler, Dorothy Harris Uhler, and Sibyl Coleman Uhler by the Uhler 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.

SUNDAY SCHOOL AT 9:45AM

CHILDREN

Nursery (Birth-2K)
1st Floor Clark Building

Preschool (3K-5K)
1st Floor Clark Building

Elementary (1st-5th Grade)
2nd Floor Clark Building

YOUTH

Youth (6th-12th Grade)
2nd 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

DECEMBER 4, 2016

Complete details at 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 2nd 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).

TODAY - SUNDAY, DECEMBER 4

HELP RELIEVE HUNGER IN SPARTANBURG: Today, as we celebrate Communion together, let us serve others through our gifts for hunger relief. Containers for canned goods and loose change are located at the entrances to the Sanctuary and Fogartie Hall.

ADVENT STUDY: "NAMES OF THE MESSIAH": This Advent, through Dec 18, Craig Foster will be leading a short-term Sunday School study based on the *Names for the Messiah* found in Isaiah 9:6 (10:00-10:30am in Room 2201). 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.

FAMILY ADVENT CELEBRATION: The Family Advent Celebration will be held this afternoon, 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.

CHAMBER SINGERS' CONCERT: First Presbyterian Church Spartanburg's Chamber Singers will present their annual Christmas Concert tonight at 7:00pm at the Chapman Cultural Center. Join us for the most beautiful music of the Holiday Season, directed by our very own Holt Andrews. Tickets will be available at the Chapman Cultural Center Box Office. All proceeds to benefit Mobile Meals.

WEDNESDAYS AT FIRST THIS WEEK

Dinner: The dinner line is open 5:00-6:15pm. Menu for 12/7: Salad Bar, Chicken Tenders, Mac-n-Cheese, Green Beans, Bread, and Dessert. 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.

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

Evening Prayer Service: 5:15pm in the Chapel. A simple service to join in prayer and reflect on the Scriptures to be used in Worship the following Sunday.

WHITE GIFTS SERVICE: 6:30pm in the Sanctuary. This 45-minute service for all ages features our children's choirs and youth. Bring gifts (wrapped in white) to distribute to children at Thornwell Children's Home, Hope Center for Children and recipients of Mobile Meals. You may also make donation to Thornwell. White envelopes will be provided at the service.

Gift ideas for Thornwell Children's Home: craft items, Legos, sports equipment, clock radios, puzzles and gift cards.

Gift ideas for Mobile Meals: toiletries, house shoes and scarves.

Gift ideas for The Hope Center for Children: washcloths, towels, underwear and twin bedding. Gift cards for Walmart, Target, Charming Charlie's, Rue 21, Foot action and Underground station.

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.

PARENTS NIGHT OUT THIS FRIDAY

First Presbyterian Parents: Do you need a night out? Bring your children ages 4-12 for pizza, popcorn, lemonade, movies, crafts and planned activities on Friday, December 9, 5:30-8:00pm! Cost: \$5.00 per child. Nursery is provided for ages 2-3 (limit 12 children; please feed this age group prior to arriving).

Register with Beth Cecil by Wed, Dec 7; 208-2139/bcecil@fpcspartanburg.org.

NEXT SUNDAY - MESSIAH

On Sunday, December 11 at both sanctuary services the First Presbyterian Chancel Choir, along with soloists and a 19-piece orchestra, will present Christmas portions of G. F. Handel's *Messiah*. This continues a FPC tradition of offering this timeless work every three years. Plan to be with us at the service of your choice, and invite a friend!

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.

MISSION INFORMATION

HURRICANE MATTHEW UPDATE: Thanks to the generosity of this congregation, \$3,818 was donated to aid victims of Hurricane Matthew. \$2,818 was sent to Presbyterian Disaster Assistance. PDA is working to assist flood victims in both North and South Carolina. \$1,000 was sent to Haiti Outreach Ministries to assist in the relief work in the southwestern part of Haiti. HOM teams have been there to assess damage and are working to assist in providing food and housing.

HAITIAN BAZAAR: Last Sunday's bazaar was very successful in raising almost \$3,000 to assist with projects in Haiti. Because all the items were purchased and donated by mission team members every \$ will go back to Haiti projects!

CALENDAR THIS WEEK

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 4

8:45am Sanctuary Worship
8:45am MorningSong Worship
9:45am Sunday School
11:00am Sanctuary Worship
3:00pm Advent Workshop
7:00pm Chamber Singers at
Chapman Cultural Center

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 6

7:00am Officer Prayer Breakfast
11:30am JOY Fellowship
Christmas Luncheon

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 7

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

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 8

12:30pm SPARK Men's Bible Study

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 9

6:30am Men's Bible Study
7:00am Men's Bible Study
5:30pm Parent's Night Out

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:



FINANCIAL NEWS

Budget

| | |
|-----------------|----------|
| Needed weekly: | \$52,786 |
| Received 11/27: | \$31,355 |

ANGEL TREE PROJECT

Each Christmas, FPC sponsors 120 children who have a mother or father in prison. Each child will receive one gift. No gift should be over \$25.00. Wrapped gifts with the angel tag attached should be taken to the church office by Sunday, December 18.

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 this PC(USA) Missionary: Nadia Ayoub (Ukraine).

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 Threatt, 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

Winter Warmth Project 2016



Please help us keep the children of Spartanburg warm this winter. The annual Winter Warmth Project of First Presbyterian Church was held on Saturday, November 12, 2016. We distributed over 1,200 coats to children from all seven Spartanburg County School Districts. We need your help. For a gift of \$35.00, you can be a part of providing a new warm coat for a child in need.

We are pleased to offer this as a Christmas gift. You may give a coat in honor of another and we will acknowledge this gift with a beautifully illustrated card to the person named.

*Loving, Sharing
Giving, Caring
This is what the Lord Meant
Christians to be.*

"Suppose there are brothers or sisters who need clothes and don't have enough to eat? What good is there in your saying to them 'God bless you! Keep warm and eat well!' – if you don't give them the necessities of life? So it is with faith; if it is alone and includes no action, then it is dead."

James 2:15-17

(see reverse side for giving opportunities)



Christmas Poinsettias

We are planning our Sanctuary poinsettia arrangement for the Christmas season. If you would like to order poinsettias in memory of or in honor of loved ones, please fill out the bottom portion of this sheet and send it to the church office by Friday, December 16. The cost per plant is \$15.00. You may pick up your plants any time after the service on Sunday, December 25. If you do not plan to do so, we would appreciate your giving us permission to use your money for the purchase of cut flowers or greenery to enhance our Christmas arrangement.

I would like to order:

____ Poinsettia plants @ \$15.00 each.
Total \$ _____

☐ I will not pick up my plants. The committee may use the enclosed payment for cut flowers or greenery. I understand that my memorial names will be listed in the Poinsettia booklet.

Name of person(s) to be memorialized:

Name of person(s) to be honored:

Please send acknowledgement(s) to:

Given by:

Mail form and check made payable to
"First Presbyterian Church" to:
393 E Main St, Spartanburg, SC 29302
Attn: Lynise Clarke

Winter Warmth Project 2016

☐ Yes, I enclose \$_____ to buy
_____ coat(s) at \$35.00 each.

Name _____

Phone _____

My gift is made in Honor of:

Please send gift acknowledgement to:

Name _____

Address _____

My gift is made in Memory of:

Please send gift acknowledgement to:

Name _____

Address _____

Mail or bring this form to
First Presbyterian Church
Attn: Winter Warmth
393 East Main Street
Spartanburg, SC 29302-1917