

WELCOME to  
FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
Spartanburg, SC



*"The Angel Gabriel Appearing to Zechariah"*  
- Alexander Ivanov

SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

NOVEMBER 27, 2022

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

8:45AM AND 11:00AM SANCTUARY

✠ Please rise in  
body or in spirit.

## GATHERING AROUND THE WORD

### WELCOME AND INVITATION

This is the day that the Lord has made;  
**Let us rejoice and be glad in it.**

### OPENING VOLUNTARY

*Prepare the Way, O Zion*

Robert Lau

### INTROIT

*Wait For the Lord*

TAIZE COMMUNITY

Advent is a season of hope and joy, anticipating the fulfillment of the rule of God in Christ's coming in the future. The Scriptures read, the liturgical texts used, the music sung all convey this sense of expectant, joyful longing for the fulfillment of God's promised reign

### LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH: HOPE

**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. Amen.**

### ✠ HYMN 82

*Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus*

HYFRYDOL

### PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**God of majesty and glory,**

**we are thirsty for your grace.**

**You made a way for us in the wilderness,**

**and still, in our foolishness, we go astray.**

**We hide our eyes from your presence.**

**We do not listen to your word.**

**We are lifeless when we ought to dance**

**and speechless when we ought to sing.**

**Forgive us, O Lord.**

**Speak peace to our fearful hearts,**

**strengthen our weak hands,**

**and make firm our feeble knees as we seek to follow in your holy way . . .**

SILENT CONFESSION

### ASSURANCE OF PARDON

In the tender compassion of our God,

**the dawn from on high shall break upon us**

to shine upon those who dwell in darkness and the shadow of death

**and to guide our feet into the way of peace.**

In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.

**Thanks be to God!**

### ✠ RESPONSE

HYMN 93, VERSE 3

TRURO

*Redeemer, come! I open wide  
my heart to thee; here, Lord, abide.  
Let me thy inner presence feel;  
thy grace and love in me reveal.*

✠PASSING OF THE PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you.

**And also with you.**

Let us greet one another as we share the love and peace of Christ.

LIFE OF THE CHURCH

PROCLAIMING THE WORD

THE WORD FOR CHILDREN

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION *Creator of the Stars of Night*

CONDITOR ALME SIDERUM

FIRST READING

Luke 1:5-25

SECOND READING

Luke 1:57-66

SERMON

*Witnesses to the Miracle: Zechariah*

(8:45) Rev. L. Craig Foster

(11:00) Rev. Alan F. Dyer

Throughout the season of Advent we are exploring some of the lesser known characters in the story of Jesus's birth. These witnesses to the miracle have much to teach us about the power and place of the incarnation in our lives today.

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

✠AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

FROM A DECLARATION OF FAITH

**To the world in its rebellion and alienation**

**God promised blessing and restoration.**

**The Lord chose Abraham and his descendants**

**as bearers of that promise for all peoples.**

**They had done nothing more than others to deserve the Lord's favor,**

**but God loved them and made them his own.**

**We acknowledge God's freedom and grace.**

**Though we are unworthy, the Lord has made us his own in Christ.**

**God has chosen us as his servants for the sake of the world**

**and destined us to be his daughters and sons,**

**giving us love and life, calling us to worship and honor him.**

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

### OFFERTORY

(8:45)

*Come, Emmanuel, Come*

Ruth Elaine Schram

(11:00)

*He Comes to us as One Unknown*

John Ferguson

### ✠DOXOLOGY

HYMN 143, VERSE 4

REGENT SQUARE

*All creation join in praising God the Father, Spirit, Son,  
Evermore your voices raising to the Eternal three in one.  
Come and worship, come and worship,  
worship Christ the coming King.*

### ✠PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

## BEARING THE WORD TO THE WORLD

✠HYMN 109

*Blest Be the God of Israel*

MERLE'S TUNE

### ✠CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

### ✠BENEDICTION RESPONSE

HYMN 83, VERSE 4

STUTTGART

*By thine own eternal Spirit rule in all our hearts alone;  
by thine all-sufficient merit raise us to thy glorious throne.*

CLOSING VOLUNTARY

*Wake, Awake, for Night Is Flying*

Michael Burkhardt

Doxology, a Greek word meaning "saying of glory," is a brief hymn of praise that follows another hymn or Psalm – in our case the offertory. Doxologies appear in many Christian traditions and have their origin in the Jewish kaddish, which concludes each portion of the synagogue worship service.

*Parts of today's liturgy are adapted from Feasting on the Word Worship Companion.*

*Front Cover: "The Angel Gabriel Appearing to Zechariah" Alexander Ivanov, 1824*

## CHILDREN'S WORSHIP

We believe that children learn to worship by regularly attending church with their families. During the 11:00am Traditional Worship Service, all children are invited to the front of the Sanctuary for *The Word for Children*. Afterwards, children 3K - 1<sup>st</sup> grade are welcome to attend Children's Worship in the Clark Building with Ms. Kara. During this time, they worship with song and prayer, hear a Bible story, and enjoy art and play. May they know the love of God and the joy of church! After worship, families are asked to pick their children up from Room 202 of the Clark Building. Nursery available in Room 105 (Toddler) and Room 108 (Crib).

## PARTICIPATING IN TODAY'S WORSHIP SERVICES

Rev. Alan F. Dyer  
Rev. L. Craig Foster  
Rev. John Daniel DeBevoise  
Rev. Joanne R. Hull  
Rev. Leslie A. Lang  
Kara Clark

Advent Candlelighters  
Rosie and John Murphy  
Lee and Jared Jenkins; Catherine

Holt Andrews, Music Director  
Marcia Andrews, Organist  
Genesis Choir  
Chancel Choir

*The Advent Greens in the Sanctuary*  
*are given to the Glory of God and in loving memory of*  
*Mr. and Mrs. William Grant Willard, Jr. and Mr. Benjamin Sims Willard*  
*by their family.*

## SUNDAY SCHOOL SCHEDULE - 9:45AM

### CHILDREN AND YOUTH

**Children** - All Rooms are in the Clark Building

Nursery – Room C105 and Room C108; Preschool (3K-5K) – Room C110

**1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> Grades** – Drop Off in Room C201; Pickup in Room C202

**3<sup>rd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Grades** – Drop Off in Room C201; Pickup in Room C203

**5<sup>th</sup> Grade** – Room C206

**Youth** - All Youth Rooms are on the Second Floor of the Family Life Center

Middle Schoolers in the Middle School Room (F201) and High Schoolers in the High School Room (F202)

### ADULTS

**Abide** – Room 2200

**Bible Alive!** – Room 2208 & on Zoom

**Emmaus** – Room 2207

**LIFT** – Room 2201



# LIFE OF THE CHURCH

Sunday, November 27, 2022

## PASTORAL CONCERN?

If you need to contact a Minister for a Pastoral Concern, call 864-208-2142 day or night. The minister on-call will answer your call as soon as possible.

## INTERESTED IN JOINING?

If you are interested in joining First Presbyterian, come to the Parlor on the second Sunday of the month - **Sunday, Nov 13** - at 10:30am. Ministers and members of the Session will be there to greet you. Questions? Contact Rev. Joanne Hull; 864-208-2125 / [jhull@fpcspartanburg.org](mailto:jhull@fpcspartanburg.org).

## BLUE WORSHIP BAGS

are available in the Narthex and Tower Room (Traditional Worship) and in the back of Fogartie Hall (MorningSong) for your child to use during worship. After worship, please return the crayons and bags to the baskets. The activity sheet is for your child to keep as a reminder of today's scripture and message.

## GYM HOURS

Mondays-Thursdays: 7am-8pm  
Fridays: 7am-2pm  
Saturdays: 8am-12noon

## CHAPEL OPEN

The Chapel is open for Prayer Monday-Friday, 9am-5pm, for you to come and sit and pray in the stillness of God. You may place any personal prayer needs in the Chapel prayer box and a member of our staff will pray over your requests.

**WITNESSES TO THE MIRACLE: An Advent Sermon Series.** During the season of Advent we will explore some of the lesser-known characters in the story of Jesus' birth. From a priest in the temple to shepherds in the field, these witnesses to the miracle have much to teach us about the power and place of the incarnation in our lives today. We hope you will join us as we celebrate Christ's coming into the world and watch with expectant hope for his coming again.

**GIVING TUESDAY - NOVEMBER 29** This is a day when non-profits give people the opportunity to improve the world around them. This year, we are asking you to support *First Presbyterian Church Community Impact Ministries*. Your donation will be divided equally between Hand-in-Hand, our Neighborhood Meal Ministry, and CAST. Details about each of these ministries can be found here online at [fpcspartanburg.org/serve/local-missions](http://fpcspartanburg.org/serve/local-missions). All gifts made during Giving Tuesday are tax deductible and will be included on your church given statement. We invite you to consider



this special offering as over and above your regular giving to FPC Spartanburg. Please take a picture of this QR Code (the square with the squiggles) to learn more - or go to [fpcspartanburg.org](http://fpcspartanburg.org) and click on "Giving Tuesday".

**WAF THIS WEEK WAF** (Wednesdays at First) Come for Food, Faith, and Fellowship! Dinner served starting at 5:00pm in Fogartie Hall. Pre-registration for dinner is required by noon on Monday; online payment is preferred ([fpcspartanburg.org/waf](http://fpcspartanburg.org/waf)).

**Nov 30 Menu:** Adult: Seared Cuban Mojo Pork Loin Cutlets, Black Beans and Lime Rice, Cuban Salad, Dessert, and Beverage; Child: Chicken Tenders, Mac and Cheese, Fruit Cup, Dessert & Juice Box

**Schedule** (see Calendar on next page)

**Nov 30 Program:** *CUBA! Our Cuba Mission team will offer a verbal and musical report on their trip.*



**JOY FELLOWSHIP CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON:** Thursday, December 1 at 11:30AM in Fogartie Hall Join your First Presbyterian friends for food and fellowship in celebration of the season. Our special guest this year is Rev. John Daniel DeBevoise. Contact Joanie Shackleton ([jshackleton@fpcspartanburg.org](mailto:jshackleton@fpcspartanburg.org)) to RSVP by Monday, November 28.

**ADVENT FAMILY WORKSHOP** On Sunday, December 4, immediately following the 11:00am worship service, join other families in the FLC Gym for food, live music, and CRAFTS for all ages! Questions? Contact Kara Clark ([kclark@fpcspartanburg.org](mailto:kclark@fpcspartanburg.org)).

**ORDER A POINSETTIA** Would you like to order poinsettias in memory of or in honor of loved ones? The cost per plant is \$25.00 and orders are due by Friday, December 9. Names of loved ones will be published in a Memorial Booklet to be available during Advent. You may pick up your plants on Sunday, December 18, in Fogartie after MorningSong Worship or in the Tower Room after the 11:00am Sanctuary Worship service. If you do not plan to pick up a plant, we would appreciate your giving us permission to use your gift for cut flowers or greenery to enhance our Christmas arrangement. Please order online by scanning this QR code:



**REVERSE ADVENT CALENDAR** We invite you to participate in Reverse Advent. Start with an empty box and each day, fill your box with the designated items found at [fpcspartanburg.org/reverse-advent](https://fpcspartanburg.org/reverse-advent). Bring your full box to church on Sunday, December 18. All donations will go to TOTAL Ministries.

**WHITE GIFTS SERVICE** Please join us for our annual White Gifts Service on **Wednesday, December 14**, at 6:30pm in the Sanctuary. The service features our children's choirs presenting "Advent Around the World" but culminates in the giving of gifts, wrapped in white, for local missions: Thornwell, Mobile Meals, and The Hope Center for Children. Visit [fpcspartanburg.org/white-gifts](https://fpcspartanburg.org/white-gifts) for gift ideas!

**COAT PURCHASE** 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. Over 1300 students from all seven Spartanburg County School Districts were registered to receive a warm winter coat. 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. Please use this QR Code and choose "Winter Warmth" from the drop-down box. Gift Acknowledgement Cards are available upon request.



**SPONSOR A CHILD FOR CHRISTMAS** We are doing something slightly different from our traditional Angel Tree program this year; we are sponsoring families from Cleveland Academy of Leadership for Christmas. The trees will be in the FLC Lobby and Tower Room. You can select a wish list item for a child from the tree, and then return it back to the church by Sunday, December 11<sup>th</sup>. For more questions, please contact Brandt Goodwin ([brandtgoodwin@gmail.com](mailto:brandtgoodwin@gmail.com)).

**RECOMMENDATIONS FOR CNC** The Congregational Nominating Committee is seeking a slate of nine members (non-officers) from the congregation to replace those who will rotate off at the end of 2022. Members will serve for one year and will be charged with the nomination of Church officers. Please scan the QR code or go to [fpcspartanburg.org/cnc](https://fpcspartanburg.org/cnc) and complete the form. Deadline is December 31.



## CALENDAR

### SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 27

*First Sunday of Advent*

8:45am Traditional Worship

(Sanctuary)

8:45am MorningSong Worship

(Fogartie Hall)

9:45am Sunday School

11:00am Traditional Worship

(Sanctuary)

### WAF, NOVEMBER 30

5:00pm Dinner Line Opens

(Fogartie Hall)

5:00pm Children's Choirs  
(Upstairs, Main & Clark Buildings)

6:15pm Christian Rec for Children  
(Gym)

6:30pm Youth Fellowship & Study  
(Youth Rooms - Upstairs, FLC)

6:30pm Adult Programs  
(see WAF Article)

7:30pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal  
(Choir Room)

### SUNDAY, DECEMBER 4

*Second Sunday of Advent*

*Communion*

8:45am Traditional Worship

(Sanctuary)

8:45am MorningSong Worship

(Fogartie Hall)

9:45am Sunday School

11:00am Traditional Worship  
(Sanctuary)

12:00pm Advent Family Workshop  
(FLC Gym)

5:00pm Youth Christmas Dinner

## LOOKING FORWARD

### DECEMBER 11

*Chancel Choir presents "Messiah"*

### DECEMBER 18

*Lessons and Carols in MorningSong  
Moravian Love Feast*

### DECEMBER 24

*Services: 4:00pm Family  
6:00pm & 11:00pm Candlelight*

### APRIL 30

*First Pres Homecoming!*

### JUNE 5-8

*Vacation Bible School*

## TO PONDER PRAYERFULLY

*"Our intellect mediates wonder, every scientist knows this;  
our intuition mediates awe, every artist knows this."*

- Brother Thomas

### Ministers: All Members of the Church

*We are a community of believers committed to "Glorifying God and Sharing Christ Together through Word and Deed."*

**Rev. Alan F. Dyer**  
Senior Pastor

**Rev. L. Craig Foster**  
Associate Pastor  
Discipleship and Communications

**Rev. Joanne R. Hull**  
Associate Pastor  
Congregational Care and Deacons

**Rev. Leslie A. Lang**  
Associate Pastor  
Young Adults and Missions

**Rev. John Daniel DeBevoise**  
Associate Pastor  
Youth and Campus Ministries

**Rev. Ansley B. Page**  
Pastoral Associate for Engagement

**Holt Andrews**  
Pastoral Musician

**Marcia Andrews**  
Associate Director of Music; Organist

**Kara Clark**  
Director of Children's Ministries

**Carrie Coleman**  
Youth Leader

**Beth Cecil**  
Parish Nurse

**Colleen Darrall**  
Director of Recreation

**Pano Stathakis**  
Director of Hospitality

**Kris Graham**  
Director of the Weekday School

**Lisa Cunningham**  
MorningSong Band Director

**Lee Raines**  
Facilities Administrator

**Jim Pitts**  
Campus Safety and Services Manager

**Lynise Clarke**  
Church Financial Officer

**Monteigne Campbell**  
Office Manager and  
Admin to the Senior Pastor

**Joanie Shackleton**  
Administrative Assistant  
Congregational Care and Deacons

**Shannon Hutcheson**  
Administrative Assistant  
Children's and Adult Discipleship

**Ian Ritchings**  
Administrative Assistant  
Missions, Young Adults, Communications

**Cathy Rush**  
Receptionist and Admin to Music

**Andy Mayfield**  
Grounds Manager

**Judith Holbert**  
**Tiffany Long**  
**William Massey**  
**Red Cartledge**  
Custodians



FIRST  
PRESBYTERIAN  
CHURCH

393 East Main Street  
Spartanburg, SC 29302  
864/583-4531  
[www.fpcspartanburg.org](http://www.fpcspartanburg.org)