

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."



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.

SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

DECEMBER 1, 2019

8:45AM AND 11:00AM - SANCTUARY

GATHERING AROUND THE WORD

One: Lift up your heads, O gates! and be lifted up, O ancient doors!

All: **that the King of Glory may come in.**

(from Psalm 24)

WELCOME AND INVITATION

OPENING VOLUNTARY

Of the Father's Love Begotten

Wilbur Held

In Psalm 24, the gates and doors of the heavenly temple are personified.

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

† Please rise in body or spirit.

Hymn 93

Psalm 24 is a majestic song of praise to the King of glory. It concludes with a herald's announcement of the King's approach: "Lift up your heads, you gates; lift them up, you ancient doors, that the King of glory may come in. Who is he, this King of glory? The Lord Almighty -- he is the King of glory". As this hymn is sung, contemplate how we can prepare our hearts for Christ's Second Coming.

(11:00) INTROIT

Prepare the Way, O Zion

Augustus Nelson

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH: HOPE

UNISON PRAYER

Heavenly Father,
creator of the world,
thank you for the promise of hope.
Guide us as we prepare
for the coming of Jesus Christ,
who brings light to the world. Amen.

† HYMN 93

Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates

TRURO

ADVENT PRAYER OF CONFESSION (Responsively)

One: O Lord, who bought light out of darkness,
We confess we often stand in the dark
and turn away from Your Light.

All: O Lord, let us walk in your light.

One: We confess that we have ignored
the pleas of those in need.

All: O Lord, let us walk in your light.

One: Forgive us, God of mercy,
so we may live honorably
in the light of your grace.

**All: O Lord,
awaken us from our lives of sin and selfishness
That we may be ready for the day
when you come to reign in glory.
We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ,
Lord of Light.**

SILENT CONFESSION

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

One: The Lord bless you and keep you,
the Lord make His face to shine upon you,
and be gracious unto you;
The Lord lift up His countenance upon you,
and give you His Peace.

All: So be it!

† RESPONSE

HYMN 83, VERSE 4

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

STUTTGART

† PASSING OF THE PEACE

One: Jesus spoke to them saying, "I am the Light of the World.
Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness,
but will have the light of life."
May Christ's light dwell richly within you.

All: And also with you.

One: Let us pass Christ's peace from one to another, in His name.

PROCLAIMING THE WORD

THE WORD FOR CHILDREN

(11:00) SUNG PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION *While We Are Waiting, Come* Don Cason

SCRIPTURE READING

Matthew 24:36-44

One: The Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

SERMON

(8:45)

Pay Attention

Rev. J. Robert Bannan, Jr.

(11:00)

Keep Awake

Dr. Thomas E. Evans

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

PRESENTATION OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS

OFFERTORY

(8:45)

Let All Things Now Living

arr. Ron Harris

(11:00)

Keep Your Lamps

Andre Thomas

† DOXOLOGY

HYMN 606

OLD HUNDREDTH

*Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God, all creatures here below;
Praise God above ye heavenly host;
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.*

INVITATION TO THE LORD'S TABLE

At the 8:45

service, all children are invited to the front of the Sanctuary during The Word for Children. Afterwards, they will return to the pews.

At the 11:00

service, all children are invited to the front of the Sanctuary during The Word for Children. The children will hear Advent lessons from Godly Play, which will help them get ready for the Mystery of Christmas. Afterwards, children **3yrs – 1st grade** are welcome to attend Children's Worship.

Pickup Location:

Godly Play Room, Clark Building, 2nd floor

Nursery is available for infants through age 3.

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.

All communion
bread and
wafers are
gluten free.

THE PRAYER OF GREAT THANKSGIVING (Sung Responsively)

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.*

UNISON PRAYER

Your grateful people thank you, Lord our God,
For light that shines so brightly in the dark.
Thank you for Emmanuel, your son.
Wake in us a desire to walk with him
who offers hope, forgiveness, grace, and love.
Thank you, Father, for your loving spirit....

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.

SHARING OF THE ELEMENTS

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

All: **Thanks be to God!**

COMMUNION MUSIC

(8:45) *Word of God, Come Down on Earth*

Tom Birchwood

(11:00) *Word of God Come Down on Earth*

arr. John Ferguson

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

BEARING THE WORD TO THE WORLD

† HYMN 82

Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus

HYFRYDOL

† CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

† BENEDICTION RESPONSE

HYMN 88, REFRAIN

*Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
shall come to thee, O Israel.*

VENI EMMANUEL

† CLOSING VOLUNTARY *From Heaven Above to Earth I Come*

Johann Pachelbel

You are invited
to stay and listen
to the Closing
Voluntary,
but you are
welcome to
leave following
the Benediction.

Hymn 82

For though we
know that Christ
goes with us and
before us every
day, we long for
the day when
we are with
Him in all of the
fullness and glory
He will bring.
We long for the
day when we
are with Him in
a new heaven
and new earth,
when all things
are made new.

PARTICIPATING IN TODAY'S WORSHIP SERVICES

Dr. Thomas E. Evans
Rev. J. Robert Bannan, Jr.
Rev. L. Craig Foster
Rev. Joanne R. Hull
Rev. Leslie A. Lang

Advent Candlelighters

The Lynch Family: Jason, Griffin, Wallace, Harriet, and John
The Pack Family: Michael, Alexa, Mary Soutter, and Michael

Readers

Miss Abby A. Edwards
Miss Mary Soutter Pack

Janet Kuntz, Guest Director; Erica Pauly, Guest Organist
Chancel Choir; Jeff Kuntz, Djembe

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.

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

COME TO SUNDAY SCHOOL AT 9:45AM

CHILDREN

Birth - Kindergarten: Clark Building, 1st Floor
1st - 5th Grades: Clark Building, 2nd Floor

YOUTH

(6th-12th Grades) 2nd Floor of Family Life Center

ADULTS

BIBLE ALIVE! Room 2210

CHRISTIAN PERSPECTIVES Room C212

EMMAUS CLASS Room 2207

FAITH DRIVEN Room C210

LIFT (MID)LIFE IN FELLOWSHIP TOGETHER Room 2201

OPEN CLASS Room 2213

PURNELL FELLOWSHIP CLASS Purnell Room

YOUNG ADULTS Room 2216

LIFE @ FIRST

DECEMBER 1, 2019

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, see one of the Greeters holding the baskets.

JOINING FIRST PRES...

If you are interested in joining First Presbyterian, please come to the Church Library on the second Sunday of any month at 10:30am. Ministers and members of the Session will be there to greet you.

Questions? Contact Rev. Joanne Hull; 208-2125 / jhull@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.

FOR PARENTS

Nursery Care is available on the first floor of the Clark Building for children six weeks through three years old.

Rainbow Worship Bags are provided for your child to use during worship. Please return the bag to the baskets after worship. The bulletins are for your child to keep.

Online Games are available at: www.Games.Childrensbulletins.com. Enter the code found at the bottom right of each child's bulletin in the Rainbow Worship Bags. This code is unique to our church.

WEDNESDAYS AT FIRST - DECEMBER 4

Tidings of Comfort (Food) and Joy: A WAF to Remember

Barbeque by Pig Out

Piano Music by Foster Gibson

Carol Singing

Stories by Dr. Kirk Neely

FAMILY ADVENT CELEBRATION - DECEMBER 8

There is a beautiful mystery of Christmas as we wait and wonder in anticipation of our Savior's birth. The Family Advent Celebration helps us prepare our hearts for this wonderful season. On Sunday, December 8, join us in the Social Hall immediately following our 11:00am Worship Service for a time of food, fellowship, and crafts, designed especially for children and families. No reservation is required; please come and go as you can.

Questions? Contact Holly Bannan: 864-583-4531 / hbannan@fpcspartanburg.org.

WHITE GIFTS SERVICE - DECEMBER 11

Please join us for our annual White Gift Service on Wednesday, December 11, in our Sanctuary at 6:30pm. The service features our children's choirs, but culminates in the giving of gifts, wrapped in white for three local missions: Mobile Meals, Hope Center for Children, and Thornwell.

Gift ideas may be found at www.fpcspartanburg.org/events/whitegifts.

SERVICE OF COMFORT AND LIGHT - DECEMBER 18

Are the holidays made more difficult this year because of a loss or sadness in your life? You are invited to join us for an intimate time of worship on Wednesday, December 18, at 6:00pm in the Chapel. This "Service of Comfort and Light," which includes communion and candlelighting, is especially for those who struggle during the Christmas season. The Health Committee will host a time of refreshments and fellowship following the service in the Parlor.

REVERSE ADVENT CALENDAR!

Participate in a "Reverse Advent" calendar! Start with an empty box and, every day during Advent, place a designated food item in the box (a list can be found in the December *First News*). Bring the full box back on Christmas Eve. All donations will be given to TOTAL Ministries. If your family needs an empty box, you can pick one up in the Tower Room, the FLC lobby, or in the Clark Building. Decorate your box with a Christmas/Advent theme and fill it so we can share hope and joy to others this Advent season.

Questions? Contact Holly Bannan; hbannan@fpcspartanburg.org.

CALENDAR

DECEMBER 1

First Sunday of Advent

Communion

MorningSong Worship

(8:45am - Fogartie Hall)

Traditional Worship

(8:45-Chapel & 11:00am-Sanctuary)

Sunday School (9:45am)

Monthly Fellowship

(10:30am - The Perrin Room)

DECEMBER 3

JOY Fellowship Christmas Luncheon

DECEMBER 8

Handel's Messiah

in Traditional Services

Family Advent Celebration

Young Adult Christmas Gathering

DECEMBER 11

White Gifts Service; Last WAF

DECEMBER 15

Moravian Love Feast

Youth Christmas Event

DECEMBER 18

Service of Comfort and Light

DECEMBER 22

MorningSong Lessons and Carols

DECEMBER 24

Angel Tree Distribution

Christmas Eve Services

(Family Service at 4:00pm

Candlelight Services at 6:00 & 11:00pm)

DECEMBER 29

ONE Worship Service at 11:00am

(no Sunday School)

FINANCIAL NEWS

(as of November 25, 2019)

2019 Operating Budget: \$3,023,835

Needed: \$2,733,081

Received: \$2,229,580

Deficit <\$556,941>

There are 5 Sundays Left in the Year

2020 Proposed Budget: \$3,131,592

Pledges Received: \$1,547,706 (49%)



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH SPARTANBURG, SC

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 16. Over 1,000 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.

To donate, fill out the form below and mail or bring to:

First Presbyterian Church

Attn: Lynise Clarke

393 East Main Street

Spartanburg, SC 29302

I am enclosing \$ _____

to buy _____ coat(s) at \$35 each.

Name: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Blank acknowledgement cards are available with all donations. Contact Church Financial Officer, Lynise Clarke (lclarke@fpcspartanburg.org) to arrange to pick up your cards.

Please note: Acknowledgement Cards will no longer be mailed from the church.

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: Quarterly Hunger Offering; Mobile Meals; Winter Warmth; TOTAL Ministries; Spartanburg Interfaith Hospitality Network (SPIHN); Habitat for Humanity; The Haven; CAST Program; Neighborhood Meal Ministry

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; Kairos Prison Ministry; MLK, Jr. Celebration

Education: Pine Street Elementary Tutoring; Boys & Girls Clubs; Spartanburg Presbyterian Student Association (UKIRK); Presbytery Unified Funds; The Shepherd's Center; Adult Learning Center

INTERNATIONAL MISSIONS

Missionaries: Support for missionaries - **Jo Ella Holman**, PCUSA liaison for the Caribbean; **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; Haiti Reforestation Project (CODEP); **Philippines:** Precious Heritage Ministries orphanage and feeding program for street children; **India:** Set Free Alliance; **Witness Season**; **Bread for the World**

CHURCH OFFICERS

SESSION

Class of 2019: Lee Close, Celia Cogdell, Suzy Cole, Andrew Darr, Melissa France, Laura Henthorn, Whit Kennedy, Craig Long, Jason Lynch, Ashley Millinor, Bert Moore, Steven Richards, Jessalyn Story, Monica Threatt, Linda West

Class of 2020: David Beacham, Martha Bean, Dawn Bingham, Leslie Calicutt, Muffet Chapman, David Ellis, Sloan Evans, Nan McDaniel, Kam Neely, Michael Pack, Jennifer Parker, Carter Smith, Septima Smith, Pat Tatham, Mary Helen Wade

Class of 2021: Ali Beeson, David Berry, Cam Cecil, Blair Clementson, Sally Dover, Callie Hammett, Josh Jones, Stan Lummus, Donna Pulliam, Reel Robertson, Richard Strasburger, Charlotte Verreault, Ben Wall, Tom Webster, Lewis White

DIACONATE

Class of 2019: Will Adair, Vic Bailey, Steven Blanton, Bill Cummings, Chris Curtis, Carroll Easterling, Rob Elliot, John Faris, Dana Halliday, Andy Halligan, Catherine Johnson, Bryan Pack, Kristen Raynor, Leah Rigsby, Marsh Rogers

Class of 2020: Marjorie Appiah, Fran Bagwell, Budge Bean, Marsha Calvert, Alice Eberhardt, Sharon Hill, Brenda James, Andy Lancaster, Cheryl Lang, Jack Mason, Beth Neidenbach, Ryan Reynolds, Frank Waters, Hannah Zimmerman

Class of 2021: David Berry Jr., Katherine Burns, Jeff Cleland, Mary Grace Close, Molly Colbath, Tres Cox, Hamp Crow, Carol Gutman, Marsha Hagins, Anne Hicklin, LeAnne Holcombe, Will Hoy, Beau Shuler, Denise Stevens, Alan Workman

STAFF

Dr. Thomas E. Evans, Senior Pastor; **Rev. L. Craig Foster**, Associate Pastor, Discipleship and Communications; **Rev. Joanne R. Hull**, Associate Pastor, Congregational Care; **Rev. Leslie A. Lang**, Associate Pastor, Young Adults and Missions; **Rev. J. Robert Bannan, Jr.**, Associate Pastor of Youth and Campus Ministries; **Rev. Ansley B. Page**, Pastoral Associate; **Mr. R. Holt Andrews**, Pastoral Musician; **Mrs. Marcia C. Andrews**, Associate Director of Music and Organist; **Mrs. Holly M. Bannan**, Director of Children's Ministries; **Mrs. Carrie H. Coleman**, Youth Program Administrator; **Ms. Beth S. Cecil**, Parish Nurse; **Mrs. Colleen M. Darrall**, Director of Recreation; **Mrs. C. Jane Mullins**, Director of Hospitality



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