

WELCOME to
FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
Spartanburg, SC



"The Golden Cradle"
- Carmelle Beaugelin

SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

DECEMBER 4, 2022

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

8:45AM AND 11:00AM SANCTUARY

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

Advent Carol

Hal H. Hopson

INTROIT

Of the Father's Love Begotten

5TH CENTURY PLAINSONG

The Advent
wreath is
a Christian
tradition
borrowed from
the Germanic
peoples who
placed candles
on evergreens
in the depth
of winter. The
four candles of
the Christian
Advent wreath
celebrate
each of the
four Sundays
that precede
Christmas

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH: PEACE

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 88

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel
(v. 1, 2, 6, 7)

VENI EMMANUEL

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Nurturing God,
you have sent us prophets and we have not listened.
We have not always determined what is best
or made way for your reign in our lives,
our church, and our society.
Forgive us, we pray,
and renew your covenant within us, for the sake of Jesus Christ, our Lord . . .

SILENT CONFESSION

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Friends, God is for us and not against us.
For that very reason, God sent the Son into the world - not to condemn the world,
but that the world might be saved through him. Believe the good news:
In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven!

✠ 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

For You, O Lord, My Soul in Stillness Waits

MY SOUL IN STILLNESS WAITS

FIRST READING

Micah 5:2-5a

SECOND READING

Luke 1:24-25, 39-45

SERMON

Witnesses to the Miracle: Elizabeth

(8:45) Rev. John Daniel DeBevoise

(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

PRESENTATION OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS

OFFERTORY

(8:45)

Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming

Michael Praetorius

(11:00)

The People Who in Darkness Walked

David W. Music

✠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.*

INVITATION TO THE LORD'S TABLE

THE GREAT PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING (Sung Responsively)

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up, lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us all give thanks to the Lord our God.

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.

SHARING OF THE ELEMENTS

The gifts of God for the people of God.

Thanks be to God!

COMMUNION MUSIC

I Wonder as I Wander

arr. Michael Helman

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

BEARING THE WORD TO THE WORLD

✠HYMN 110

Love Has Come

BRING A TORCH

✠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

Dance on "Bring a Torch"

Christopher Uehlein

"Holy Communion is offered to all, as surely as the living Jesus Christ is for all, as surely as all of us are not divided in Christ, but belong together as brothers and sisters, all of us poor sinners, all of us rich through God's mercy."
-Karl Barth

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

Front Cover: "The Golden Cradle" Acrylic, gilding paint, canvas collage on handmade reclaimed paper / by Carmelle Beaugelin

PARTICIPATING IN TODAY'S WORSHIP SERVICES

Early Service

Rev. John Daniel DeBevoise
Rev. Joanne R. Hull

Advent Candlelighters

Millie and Tanner Oldham

Traditional Service

Rev. Alan F. Dyer
Rev. L. Craig Foster
Rev. Leslie A. Lang
Rev. Ansley B. Page

Advent Candlelighters

Debbie and Craig Kocisko
Robby Kocisko; Ann Riley and Ellie
Christina and Michael Estes;
Josephine and Sophia

Musicians

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

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.

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 - 1st 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).*

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

1st & 2nd Grades – Drop Off in Room C201; Pickup in Room C202

3rd & 4th Grades – Drop Off in Room C201; Pickup in Room C203

5th 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, December 4, 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, Dec 11** - 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.

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.

TODAY: ADVENT FAMILY WORKSHOP Today, immediately following the 11:00am worship service, join other families in the FLC Gym for food, live music, and CRAFTS for all ages!

NEXT SUNDAY: CHANCEL CHOIR AND ORCHESTRA

Next Sunday, December 11, the Chancel Choir and Orchestra will be dedicating the Traditional Worship Services (8:45am and 11:00am in the Sanctuary) to a special performance of George Frideric Handel's timeless masterwork, *Messiah*.

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.

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).

Dec 7 Menu: Adult: Shrimp & Grits or Chicken Bites & Grits, Soup du Jour, Biscuit, Fruit Salad, Dessert & Beverage; Child: Pepperoni Pizza, Mozzarella Sticks with Marinara Sauce, Fruit Cup, Dessert & Juice Box

Schedule (see Calendar on next page)

Dec 7 Program: *Fellowship Around Tables* Enjoy some good old-fashioned Advent fellowship over a warm meal!



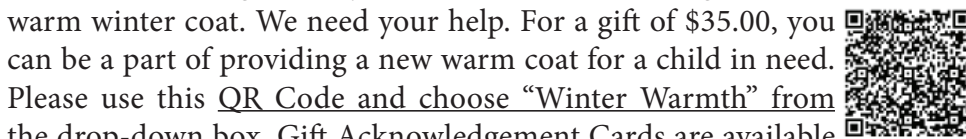
WHITE GIFTS SERVICE Please join us for our annual White Gifts Service on **Wednesday, December 14**, at 6:30pm in the Sanctuary. The service features our children's choirs presenting "Advent Around the World" but culminates in the giving of gifts, wrapped in white, for local missions: Thornwell, Mobile Meals, and The Hope Center for Children. Visit fpcspartanburg.org/white-gifts for gift ideas! This will also mark the last WAF for December; WAF Resumes January 11.

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. Bring your full box to church on **Sunday, December 18**. All donations will go to TOTAL Ministries.

ORDER A POINSETTIA - BY FRIDAY 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:



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.

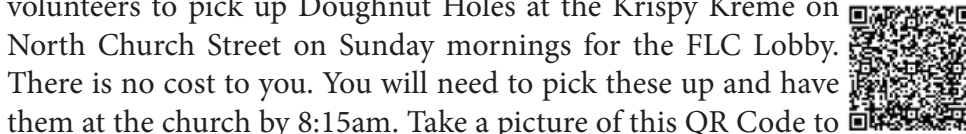


SPONSOR A CHILD FOR CHRISTMAS We are doing something slightly different from our traditional Angel Tree program this year: we are sponsoring families from Cleveland Academy of Leadership for Christmas. The trees will be in the FLC Lobby and Tower Room. You can select a wish list item for a child from the tree, and then return it back to the church by Sunday, December 11. Questions? Please contact Brandt Goodwin (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 and complete the form. Deadline is December 31.



BE THE CHURCH - - BRING THE DOUGHNUTS! We need volunteers to pick up Doughnut Holes at the Krispy Kreme on North Church Street on Sunday mornings for the FLC Lobby. There is no cost to you. You will need to pick these up and have them at the church by 8:15am. Take a picture of this QR Code to sign up. Once you click "Submit" you will be emailed instructions.



FPC SPARTANBURG SERMONCAST Missed last week's worship service? Want to revisit your favorite sermons while on the road, at work, or anywhere at all? Now you can! Our sermons are now available on Apple Podcasts, Spotify, Amazon Music, or wherever you find your podcasts!

CALENDAR

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

WAF, DECEMBER 7

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 11

Third Sunday of Advent

8:45am Traditional Worship

(Sanctuary)

8:45am MorningSong Worship

(Fogartie Hall)

9:45am Sunday School

11:00am Traditional Worship

(Sanctuary)

LOOKING FORWARD

DECEMBER 18

Lessons and Carols in MorningSong

College Student Drop-In

Moravian Love Feast

DECEMBER 21

Service of Comfort and Light

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

“People who have come to know the joy of God do not deny the darkness, but they choose not to live in it. They claim that the light that shines in the darkness can be trusted more than the darkness itself and that a little bit of light can dispel a lot of darkness. They point each other to flashes of light here and there, and remind each other that they reveal the hidden but real presence of God.”

- Henri Nouwen

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



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