

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.”



† Please rise in
body or spirit.

SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

DECEMBER 16, 2018

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.

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

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH: JOY

UNISON PRAYER

Almighty God,
in the hustle and bustle of this season,
we confess that too often we lose sight of the joy of your coming.
So renew in us that sense of awe of your incarnation and your abiding presence,
that we might sing out with Mary in joy and praise.
Thank you for the joy that you give to every heart that trusts in you.
As we watch and wait for you to return,
help us to share your joy with each other in all that we say and do. Amen.

Hymn 106

Hymn author,
Frans Mikael
Franzén, was
only fifteen when
his father died
and he took
up his father's
occupation as
a salesman. He
recognized that
this work was not
suitable for him,
so he returned
to his studies
and became
a professor
of history. In
1809 Franzén
was ordained
and became
a pastor. This
life gave him
an opportunity
to write many
hymns.

† HYMN 106

Prepare the Way, O Zion

BEREDEN VÄG FÖR HERRAN

ADVENT PRAYER OF CONFESSION (Unison)

God our Maker,
we confess that we are not ready to meet you.
You send your Spirit to release us,
yet we remain captivated by sin.
You stand among us in Christ Jesus,
yet we claim we do not know you.
Forgive us, God of grace.
Make us holy; make us whole.
Keep us safe and sound
until the day of your coming.
We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ...

SILENT CONFESSION

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

One: In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.
All: **Thanks be to God!**

† RESPONSE

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.*

† PASSING OF THE PEACE

One: Unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given, and he shall be called
Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.
May the joy and peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

All: **And also with you.**

One: Let us greet each other as we share the peace of Christ.

LIFE OF THE CHURCH

MOMENT FOR MISSION: STEWARDSHIP

PROCLAIMING THE WORD

THE WORD FOR CHILDREN

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM (11:00)

Margaret Iris Mitchell

Daughter of Emily and Geoff Mitchell

SCRIPTURE READING

One: The Word of the Lord.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

Luke 1:45-55

MUSICAL PROCLAMATION

Magnificat

David Childs

Rejoice!

Gwyneth Walker

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

† AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

THE APOSTLES' CREED

Hymnal Page 35

I believe in God the Father Almighty; Maker of heaven and earth;
And in Jesus Christ His only Son our Lord;
who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried;
He descended into hell; the third day He rose again from the dead;
He ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty;
from thence He shall come to judge the quick and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic Church;
the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins;
the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

PRESENTATION OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS

OFFERTORY

Change Ring on "Divinum Mysterium"

Fred Gramann

† DOXOLOGY

HYMN 143, V4

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!*

This morning's seasonal music from the Chancel Choir features two relatively short works. The first is an English setting of the Magnificat (Luke 1:46-55). This festive piece features the considerable resources of our Chancel Choir, our Aeolian Skinner organ, and our organist! The second equally festive piece adds percussion and features arrangements of three carols, *What Child is This*, *Love Came Down at Christmas*, and *Good Christian Friends, Rejoice*.

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. Afterwards, children 4 yrs-1st grade are welcome to attend Children's Worship. **Pick-up Location:** Stepping Stones hallway, Clark Building, 2nd floor.

† PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Hymnal Page 35

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.

Hymn 119

Rather than
simply tell the
nativity story,
Wesley pours
theological truths
into this text.
The first verse
tells the story
of the angels
proclaiming
Christ's birth,
and the second
and third verse
go on to make
it very clear
why the angels
sang. Simply by
describing Christ,
Wesley tells us
the entire Gospel
story.

BEARING THE WORD TO THE WORLD

† HYMN 119

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

MENDELSSOHN

† 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

God Rest Ye, Merry Gentlemen

Raymond Haan

PARTICIPATING IN TODAY'S WORSHIP SERVICES

Dr. Thomas E. Evans
Rev. Christi O. Brown
Rev. L. Craig Foster
Rev. Joanne R. Hull
Mr. R. Holt Andrews

Advent Candlelighters

Mr. and Mrs. T. Franklin Gamble (Sarah); Mr. and Mrs. Alexander B. Powell (Coker), Sadie
Mr. and Mrs. W. McElhaney White (Donna); Eva Grace, Ellen, and Elizabeth

Mrs. Monica I. Threatt
Dr. Gloria W. Close

Elder

Dr. Thomas R. McDaniel

Chancel Choir
Handbell Choir

Adena and Matt McDaniel, percussion

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

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.

The Flowers in the Tower Room are given to the Glory of God and in celebration of the marriage of Olivia Kristen Cecil and Philip Miller Knowles, and in memory of Mr. and Mrs. Oliver Kent Cecil, Mr. and Mrs. Robert Earl Jeffery, Dr. and Mrs. Albert Carnes Knowles, and Mr. and Mrs. John Michal Miller.

For the hearing impaired: For the Chapel service, please ask an usher for a hearing aid device and return when you exit. *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.

SUNDAY SCHOOL AT 9:45AM

CHILDREN AND YOUTH

<u>Nursery</u> (Birth-2K) 1 st Floor Clark Building	<u>Preschool</u> (3K-5K) 1 st Floor Clark Building
<u>Elementary</u> (1 st -5 th Grade) 2 nd Floor Clark Building	<u>Youth</u> (6 th -12 th Grade) 2 nd Floor Family Life Center

ADULTS

Sunday mornings offer classes designed to help men and women grow their faith through study and discussion. Want more information? Visit our website at fpcspartanburg.org/grow/adults.

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 children and youth and seeks to learn more about the Bible and how to apply its truths within the workplace and the home.*

FELLOWSHIP CLASS (Room 2201) *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.*

NOTE: All rooms with a C in the room number are located on the 2nd floor of the Clark Building. Room numbers in the 2000's are on the 2nd floor of the Main Building. The Purnell Room is on the first floor of the main building.

LIFE @ FIRST

DECEMBER 16, 2018

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.

TONIGHT - MORAVIAN LOVE FEAST

The popular Moravian Love Feast will be held tonight at **4:00pm and 6:00pm in the Chapel**. This simple and moving service features music from the Chamber Singers and traditional Moravian coffee and buns, served by members of the Palmetto Moravian fellowship. These services usually fill up; we recommend you arrive a little early.

SERVICE OF COMFORT AND LIGHT - DECEMBER 19

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 20, at 6:00pm in the Chapel. This "Service of Comfort and Light" which includes communion and candle lighting is especially for those of us for whom the Christmas season is a struggle this year. The Health Committee will host a time of refreshments and fellowship following the service in the Parlor.

BE A PART OF THE CHRISTMAS EVE CHOIR!

Anyone high school age and up is invited to be a part of the Christmas Eve Choir. There are only two rehearsals, Wednesday and Thursday evenings at 7:00pm. The rehearsals will be relatively brief, efficient, and fun. One great perk of being a part of this choir--you will have a spectacular view of the candlelighting during the services.

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES, MONDAY, DECEMBER 24

FAMILY SERVICE, 4:00pm in the Sanctuary: Come, all you angels, shepherds, animals, and kings! Join in on Christmas Eve for our Family Service Nativity Pageant. Any child may come dressed as the part he or she wants to play (from those listed above).

CANDLELIGHT SERVICES, 6:00pm and 11:00pm in the Sanctuary: These services, a tradition in our church, feature music by the Christmas Eve Choir. A special message will be delivered and the services will conclude with the Sanctuary bathed in candlelight. Childcare will be available at the 6:00pm Candlelight Service.

WINTER WARMTH MISSION

Our annual Winter Warmth Project was held on Saturday, November 10. Over 500 coats were distributed to children from all seven Spartanburg County School Districts. Now we need your help. A gift of \$35 will provide a new, warm winter coat for a child in need.

Donation forms can be found in the Tower Room or you may give online. If you would like to "gift" a coat, Acknowledgement Cards are available in the church office for you to send to those whom you are honoring with this gift.

ADVENT DEVOTIONAL BOOKLETS

The 2018 Advent Devotional Booklets are available throughout the church.

To receive devotions via email, sign up online at <http://eepurl.com/bqtMS9>.

GRIEF AND GRACE BOOKLET AVAILABLE

Grief and Grace: A Faith Journal is now available to you as a resource for your grief journey. The journal is a compilation of stories from church members of their own experiences with grief and healing. Copies are available in displays near the Sanctuary. This booklet is sponsored by the Women's Ministry Committee in celebration of All Saints' Day and the 175th Anniversary of First Presbyterian, Spartanburg.

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR CNC

The Congregational Nominating Committee is seeking a slate of nine members from the congregation to replace members who will rotate off the CNC on December 31, 2018. Members will serve for one year and will be charged with the nomination of Church officers.

Please email your nomination(s) to Bert Moore; bert@diversifiedcolors.com.

THANK YOU, THANK YOU!

Many thanks to everyone who helped with our Advent Celebration, including: Jasmine Atkins, Jackie Bielevecz, Carrie Coleman, Eleanor Coleman, Wendy Evans, Kellie Foster, Ashley Gantt, Piper Holmes, Ann Jones, Josh Jones, Molly Jones, Scottie Lummus, Julia Manello, Beth Neidenbach, Emily Neely, Tori Plante, Kristen Raynor, Ann Smith, Norwood Strasburger, Rookhie Sullivan, Timothy Sullivan, Caleb Thompson, and Bryan Youngblood.

YEAR-END GIVING

Contribution Deadlines: *For credit as 2018 contributions, donations must be received in the church financial office by 5:00pm on Monday, December 31, 2018 or postmarked by December 31, 2018. Any contributions received or postmarked on or after January 1, 2019 will be considered as 2019 contributions.

Year-End Stock Contributions: By giving appreciated stock to the church for your pledge, you can receive a tax advantage. Please notify Lynise Clarke in the church financial office at the time you notify your broker with the following information:
* Name of your broker and the particular stock that is involved and * Year (or years) in which to apply your gift and/or whether any special funds are involved. Please allow 2-3 weeks for completion of stock transactions.

For information, contact Lynise Clarke; 208-2130/lclarke@fpcspartanburg.org.

WOMEN'S RETREAT, FEBRUARY 1-3

As women, we long for fruitful and meaningful relationships with family, friends, co-workers, and neighbors but can easily feel depleted by the demands and to-dos. At our weekend-long women's retreat in Hendersonville, the Rev. Elizabeth Michael Ross will lead us in a time of digging more deeply into the relationships in our lives. This will be a weekend full of fun, fellowship, food, and relaxation with one another. Come to this wonderful weekend away!

Register Online through the Church Website.

Questions? Contact Shannon in the church office; sstewart@fpcspartanburg.org.

CALENDAR

DECEMBER 16

MorningSong Worship

Lessons and Carols

(8:45am - Fogartie Hall)

Traditional Worship

Chancel Choir Music in Worship

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

Sunday School (9:45am)

Moravian Love Feast

(4:00 & 6:00pm - Chapel)

DECEMBER 19

Service of Comfort and Light

DECEMBER 24

Christmas Eve Services

4:00, 6:00, and 11:00pm

DECEMBER 25

Neighborhood Meal Ministry (5:15pm)

DECEMBER 30

ONE Worship Service

(11:00am - Sanctuary)

Youth Lock In / Lock Out

JANUARY 6, 2019

Epiphany

JANUARY 9

WAF Resumes

JANUARY 13

Officer Ordination and Installation

FEBRUARY 1-3

Women's Retreat

A complete calendar is available at
fpcspartanburg.org/calendar.

READ THE BIBLE THROUGH THIS YEAR

This week's readings:

Dec 16	Micah 1-3 / Psalm 144
Dec 17	Micah 4, 5 / Rev 12
Dec 18	Micah 6, 7 / Rev 13
Dec 19	Nahum 1-3 / Rev 14
Dec 20	Hbkkk 1-3 / Psalm 145
Dec 21	Zphnh 1-3 / Rev 15
Dec 22	Haggai 1, 2 / Rev 16

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; 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, Disaster Response Action Team; Kairos Prison Ministry; MLK, Jr. Celebration; Refugee Relief; Mental Health Advocacy; **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 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 2018: Bert Barre, David Berry, Jennifer Biber, Mark Cann, David Cecil, Fred Cumbo, Sally Dover, Emma Harrill, Ann Jones, Stan Lummus, Eric Nease, Richard Strasburger, Winnie Walsh, Tom Webster, Lewis White
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, Dawn Bingham, Leslie Calicutt, Muffet Chapman, Mary Dixon, David Ellis, Sloan Evans, Nan McDaniel, Kam Neely, Michael Pack, Jennifer Parker, Carter Smith, Septima Smith, Pat Tatham, Mary Helen Wade

DIACONATE

Class of 2018: 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
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, Karen Edwards, Sharon Hill, Brenda James, Andy Lancaster, Cheryl Lang, Jack Mason, Beth Neidenbach, Ryan Reynolds, Frank Waters, Hannah Zimmerman

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. Christi O. Brown**, Pastoral Associate for Missions; **Holt Andrews**, Pastoral Musician; **Marcia Andrews**, Associate Director of Music and Organist; **Mark Ashby**, Director of Youth Ministries; **Cesily King**, Interim Director of Children's Ministries; **Beth Cecil**, Parish Nurse; **Colleen Darrall**, Director of Recreation; **Jane Mullins**, Director of Hospitality



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CHURCH

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