

WELCOME to  
FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
Spartanburg, SC



*"Annunciation to the Shepherds"*  
- Heinrich Vogeler

SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

DECEMBER 18, 2022

FOURTH 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

*I Saw Three Ships*

Charles E Peery

### INTROIT

*People, Look East*

BESACON

In the ancient world, various peoples lit fires to mark the turning of the light into winter's season and to pray for the return of the light. The church has Christianized that practice in the lighting of the Advent wreath. To us, these candles are signs of the growing light of Christ who is coming again into the darkness of our world.

### LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH: LOVE

**Almighty God,**

**we thank you for your gift of love, shown perfectly in Jesus Christ.**

**Your love never fails, and it transforms all those who give and receive it.**

**Your command to love is so simple, yet often so hard to put into practice.**

**As we continue our Advent journey,**

**forgive our failures to love, and help us to share your great love with all. Amen.**

### ✠ HYMN 113

*Angels We Have Heard on High*

GLORIA

### PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**Faithful God, we know that you are always there to guide us,**

**yet we often make plans without listening to you**

**and discover that our human agendas can drown out our ability to hear your will for us.**

**We repent of these faults and turn to you in love.**

**Forgive our offenses and pardon our sins.**

**Draw our eyes upwards once again to the heavens,**

**that our lives may follow where you lead and magnify your holy name forever . . .**

### SILENT CONFESSION

### ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Return to the Lord with joy and gladness.

**Sing a song of redemption!**

Let sorrow and sighing be no more.

**In Jesus Christ we are forgiven. Thanks be to God. Amen.**

### ✠ RESPONSE

HYMN 93, VERSE 3

*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.*

TRURO

### ✠ 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

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM (11:00) *Rollins Lucas Nash*  
*Son of Chelsea and Lucas Nash*

RESPONSE *Be near me, Lord Jesus; I ask thee to stay  
close by me forever and love me, I pray.  
Bless all the dear children in thy tender care,  
and fit us for heaven to live with thee there.* MUELLER

*At the 11am service, children ages three years to first grade are invited to dismiss to Children's Worship;  
those second grade and older will return to the pews.*

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION *Savior of the Nations, Come* NUN KOMM, DER HEIDEN HEILAND

FIRST READING Psalm 96

SECOND READING Luke 2:8-20

SERMON *Witnesses to the Miracle: Shepherds* Rev. Alan F. Dyer

Baptism is a celebration of the child being baptized - a thanksgiving for their life and for all that God gives them and us. It is also a welcome into the family of the Church, both worldwide and locally. Through baptism we join a vast family spanning time and space. We commit ourselves to follow Christ and worship God within that family.

# RESPONDING TO THE WORD

## ✠ AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

FROM A DECLARATION OF FAITH

**God sent his Son to proclaim release to those who are bound,  
to announce that God's promised kingdom is at hand,  
to urge everyone to repent and believe the good news.**

**The Lord is moving toward the time  
when the glorious liberty of the children of God  
will be manifest throughout the whole creation.**

**We testify God is at work here and now  
when people obey Christ's commission to witness to him  
and make disciples of all nations,  
when they spread the good news by their words and embody it in their lives.**

## 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

At today's 11:00 service, the Chancel Choir will premiere our own John Moody's setting of "There's a Song in the Air" for choir, brass quintet, and percussion. Our continued thanks to John for sharing his considerable compositional gifts with us.

### OFFERTORY

(8:45)

*Walk in the Light*

arr. Andre Thomas

(11:00)

*There's a Song in the Air*

John Moody

### ✦ 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 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

*Hark, the Herald Angels Sing*

Neil Harmon

### *The Advent Greens in the Sanctuary*

*are given to the Glory of God and in loving memory of  
our granddaughter Ann-Pearson Collins  
by Cathy and Billy Bagwell.*

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

*Front Cover: "Annunciation to the Shepherds" by Heinrich Vogeler*

# PARTICIPATING IN TODAY'S WORSHIP SERVICES

Rev. Alan F. Dyer  
Rev. John Daniel DeBevoise  
Rev. L. Craig Foster  
Rev. Joanne R. Hull

Wallace Lynch and Camille Cleland, Scripture Readers  
Baptism: Reader Woods Pearson and Elder Melissa France  
Holt Andrews, Music Director; Marcia Andrews, Organist

Genesis Choir; Chancel Choir  
Thomas Cotter and Matthew Gill, trumpet; Kaci Cotter, horn  
Jeff Kuntz, trombone; John Holloway, tuba; Matt and Adena McDaniel, percussion

## Advent Candlelighters

8:45am

Sarah and Whitner Kennedy; Jay, Grady, and Virginia

11:00am

Meredith and Chase Biber; Nora and Annie

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## 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).*

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## 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

No Sunday School on  
December 25 nor on January 1.  
Sunday School will resume on January 8.

# LIFE OF THE CHURCH

Sunday, December 18, 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, Jan 8** - 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.

**DUE TODAY... REVERSE ADVENT CALENDAR** Each day in Advent, we have asked you to fill a box with the designated items found at [fpcspartanburg.org/reverse-advent](http://fpcspartanburg.org/reverse-advent). Please place your box in the FLC Lobby or Tower Room. All donations will go to TOTAL Ministries.

**THIS AFTERNOON... MORAVIAN LOVE FEAST** Today at 5:00pm, come to the Sanctuary to celebrate the season in a service inspired by our brothers and sisters from the Moravian tradition. The Moravian Christmas hymns will be supplemented by music from our Chamber Singers and guest instrumentalists.

**WINTER WARMTH** Our annual Winter Warmth Project 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.



**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.



## YEAR-END GIVING

### Contribution Deadlines

- For credit as 2022 contributions, donations must be received in the church financial office by December 31, 2022 or postmarked by December 31, 2022. Any contributions received or postmarked on or after January 1, 2023 will be considered as 2023 contributions.
- If you make a prepayment in 2022 toward your 2023 giving, please make certain to note your contribution as 2023.

### 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 stock that is involved
- Year or years in which to apply your gift and/or whether any special funds are involved

Please allow 1-2 weeks for completion of any stock transactions.

**Questions?** Contact Lynise Clarke; 864-208-2130/[lclarke@fpcspartanburg.org](mailto:lclarke@fpcspartanburg.org).

**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](http://fpcspartanburg.org/cnc) and complete the form. **Deadline: Dec 31.**



**UN-DECK THE HALLS** Join other church members on Tuesday, January 3 as we un-deck the halls - and Chrismon Trees. Please meet in the Tower Room at 10:00am. Questions? Contact LeAnne Thurmond (leanne.thurmond@gmail.com).

**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!

## ADVENT / CHRISTMAS WORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

### SERVICE OF COMFORT AND LIGHT

Wednesday, December 21

6:00pm in the Chapel

*Are the holidays made more difficult this year because of a loss or sadness in your life? Join us for an intimate time of worship, including communion and candle lighting. This service is especially for those who struggle during the Christmas season.*

### CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES

Saturday, December 24

Family Service

4:00pm in the Sanctuary

*with a Children's Nativity pageant*

Candlelight Services

6:00 and 11:00pm in the Sanctuary

*featuring music from our Christmas Eve Choir*

### CHRISTMAS DAY

Sunday, December 25

(Sanctuary)

10:45am Carol Sing

11:00am Traditional Worship

*A Casual Christmas - - Come As You Are!*

## CALENDAR

### SUNDAY, DECEMBER 18

*Fourth Sunday of Advent*

8:45am Traditional Worship

(Sanctuary)

8:45am MorningSong Worship

*Lessons and Carols*

(Fogartie Hall)

9:45am Sunday School

9:45am College Student Drop-In

(Youth Game Room)

11:00am Traditional Worship

(Sanctuary)

5:00pm Moravian Love Feast

(Sanctuary)

### DECEMBER 20

6:00pm CAST Dinner

(Family Life Center)

### SUNDAY, DECEMBER 25

*Christmas Day!*

11:00am Traditional Worship

(Sanctuary)

*Come As You Are!*

### DECEMBER 26-27

*All Church Facilities Closed*

### SUNDAY, JANUARY 1

*New Year's Day!*

11:00am Traditional Worship

(Sanctuary)

## LOOKING FORWARD

### JANUARY 2

*All Church Facilities Closed*

### JANUARY 8

*Officer Ordination and Installation*

### JANUARY 11

*Wednesdays at First Resumes*

### JANUARY 29

*Annual Meeting*

### APRIL 30

*First Pres Homecoming!*

### JUNE 5-8

*Vacation Bible School*

## TO PONDER PRAYERFULLY

*“Only the humble believe God and rejoice that God is so free and grand,  
that he works wonders where we lose heart,  
that he makes splendid what is slight and lowly.  
Indeed, this is the wonder of wonders, that God loves the lowly.  
‘God has regarded the low estate of his handmaiden.’  
God in lowliness - that is the revolutionary, the passionate word of Advent.”*

- Dietrich Bonhoeffer

### 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

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