

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 23, 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.

OPENING VOLUNTARY

Variations of Infant Holy, Infant Lowly

arr. Raymond H. Haan

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: LOVE

UNISON PRAYER

Almighty God,
we thank you for your gift of love
shown perfectly in Jesus Christ.
Your love never fails,
transforming 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 each other. Amen

Hymn 113

The French
carol "Les
anges dans nos
campagnes,"
now known as
"Angels We Have
Heard on High,"
is completely
anonymous. It
tells the story
of Christ's birth,
when the angel
choir told the
good news
to nearby
shepherds. The
chorus, "Gloria
in Excelsis Deo,"
reflects the
chorus of the
angel choir
that long-ago
Christmas night.

† HYMN 113

Angels We Have Heard on High

GLORIA

ADVENT PRAYER OF CONFESSION (Unison)

God our Maker,
we confess that we are not ready to meet you.
You offer us a place in your house,
yet we find no room for you in our lives.
You invite us into your eternal realm,
yet we fail to welcome others.
Forgive us, God of grace.
Let your word of life be with us
so that we may truly believe
that nothing is impossible with you.

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 love 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

PROCLAIMING THE WORD

THE WORD FOR CHILDREN

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM (8:45)

*Rose Margaret Darr
Daughter of Neely and Andrew Darr*

SCRIPTURE READING

One: The Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

Matthew 2:1-12

ANTHEM

(8:45)

Walk in the Light

arr. Andre Thomas

(11:00)

Carol to the King

Mack Wilberg

SCRIPTURE READING

One: The Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

Luke 2:8-14

SERMON

*Who Are You in the Christmas Story?
Shepherds & Wisemen*

Dr. Thomas E. Evans

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

† AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

Jesus Christ is the image of the invisible God,
the firstborn of all creation;
in him all things in heaven and on earth were created,
things visible and invisible.
All things were created through him; all were created for him.
He is before all things,
and in him all things hold together.
Christ is the head of the body, the Church;
he is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead,
so that he may be first in everything.
For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell;
and Christ has reconciled to God all things,
both on earth and in heaven,
making peace through the blood of his cross. Amen.

(Colossians 1:15-20)

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

PRESENTATION OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS

OFFERTORY

Sweet Little Jesus Boy

Robert MacGimsey

Baptism enacts and seals what the Word proclaims: God's redeeming grace offered to all people. The baptism of children witnesses to the truth that God's love claims people before they are able to respond in faith.

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.

† 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!*

† 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 123

One theme
of this hymn is
the contrast
between
the message
"peace on
earth, good will
toward men"
proclaimed
by the host of
angels at Christ's
birth and the war
and oppression
that dominate
the earth. As this
hymn is sung,
think about the
coming time
when God will
make all things
new and bring
His peace.

BEARING THE WORD TO THE WORLD

† HYMN 123

It Came Upon the Midnight Clear
(Verses 1, 2, 4, and 5)

CAROL

† CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

† BENEDICTION RESPONSE

HYMN 83, VERSE 4

STUTT GART

*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

PARTICIPATING IN TODAY'S WORSHIP SERVICES

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

Advent Candlelighters

Mr. and Mrs. Thomas R. Young III (Elizabeth)
Mr. and Mrs. S. Reel Robertson (Juli); Christian, Lucy, Harris, Christian

Mr. R. DeFoix Calvert Jr., Elder

Genesis Choir
Chancel Choir

Mr. Paul C. MacPhail, soloist

Adena and Matt McDaniel, Chase Cunningham, Percussionists

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 John Walton (Jack) West, Minnie Sangster Duck, Susie Auten West, and Lanie Matthews Kabrick by Linda Sangster West.

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 23, 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.

CHRISTMAS EVE CHOIR REHEARSAL - AT 5:00PM

Anyone high school age and up is invited to be a part of the Christmas Eve Choir. A rehearsal will be held **tonight at 5:00pm in the Choir Room**. It 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 TOMORROW

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.

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; ssewart@fpcspartanburg.org.

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.

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.

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN PASTORAL COUNSELING

Pastoral Counseling, with Dr. Kirk Neely, is offered by the congregation for First Presbyterian Church members. There is no fee; a contribution may be made to underwrite the ministry. Counseling is by appointment on Tuesdays.

To make an appointment, please contact Didi Terry;

583-4531/dterry@fpcspartanburg.org.

WOULD YOU LIKE FLOWERS WITH THAT?

On Monday mornings, members of the Flower Committee use the blossoms and greens that adorned the Sanctuary on Sunday to make small arrangements for Mobile Meals recipients. We have no special talent - just a heartfelt desire to spread God's love throughout our community.

If you would like to join us in this ministry, contact Carol Gutman;

864-542-8653 / degutman@charter.net.

READ THE BIBLE THROUGH THIS YEAR

This week's readings:

Sunday, December 23
Monday, December 24
Tuesday, December 25
Wednesday, December 26
Thursday, December 27
Friday, December 28
Saturday, December 29

Zechariah 1, 2 / Psalms 146, 147
Zechariah 3, 4 / Revelation 17
Zechariah 5, 6 / Revelation 18
Zechariah 7, 8 / Revelation 19
Zechariah 9, 10 / Psalm 148
Zechariah 11, 12 / Revelation 20
Zechariah 13, 14 / Revelation 21

CALENDAR

DECEMBER 23

MorningSong Worship
(8:45am - Fogartie Hall)

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

Sunday School (9:45am)

DECEMBER 24

Christmas Eve Services
4:00, 6:00, and 11:00pm

DECEMBER 25

Neighborhood Meal Ministry (5:15pm)

DECEMBER 25 AND 26

ALL Church Facilities will be Closed

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.

FINANCIAL NEWS

2018 Operating Budget: \$2,935,282

Received thru 12/16: \$2,368,731

WIRELESS AVAILABLE

First Presbyterian has a Wireless Network that you are welcome to use. Find the Network: "FPC-Guest". No password required; just agree to the terms.

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



FIRST
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CHURCH

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