

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.”



SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

DECEMBER 29, 2019

11:00AM - SANCTUARY

GATHERING AROUND THE WORD

WELCOME AND INVITATION

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)

OPENING VOLUNTARY

In the Bleak Mid-Winter

Gordon Young

† Please rise in
body or spirit.

† CALL TO WORSHIP

One: I will recount the gracious deeds of the Lord,
the praiseworthy acts of God most high.

**All: Because of all that the Lord has done for us,
according to the abundance of God's love.**

One: It was your presence that saved the house of Israel,
your love and pity redeemed them.

**All: We join with them as your people, O God,
your children who sing to you in worship and praise.**

(Isaiah 63)

Hymn 143

A writer of
many Christian
hymns, James
Montgomery
composed this
Christmas and
Epiphany text
and published
it on Christmas
Eve, 1816, in
the Sheffield Iris,
a newspaper
he edited.
Montgomery
based the text
in part on the
French carol
"Angels We Have
Heard on High."

† HYMN 143

Angels, from the Realms of Glory

REGENT SQUARE

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (Unison)

O God of the past and the present,
we have sought you in the night skies
and seen only distant lights and deep darkness.

We have sought you in liturgy, song, and majestic worship
and been left with haunting melodies and
phrases half hope-filled but insufficient.

We have searched for you in humble structures and magnificent sanctuaries
yet missed the vision of you hurrying off to Egypt and exile.

We have failed to see you in the faces of your children today - neighbors and strangers -
struggling for life in tough circumstances,
seeking solace and comfort as they flee lands and leaders that seek to destroy them.

Sharpen our vision, focus our faith,
and give us a renewed trust in the Savior who came
and is coming in order that we may have abundant life

SILENT CONFESSION

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

One: In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.

All: Thanks be to God!

† RESPONSE

GOD REST YOU MERRY

*God rest you merry, gentlemen, let nothing you dismay,
remember Christ our Savior was born on Christmas Day.
To save us all from Satan's power when we were gone astray.
O tidings of comfort and joy,
comfort and joy;
O tidings of comfort and joy.*

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

† PASSING OF THE PEACE

One: Glory to God in the highest and peace to his people on earth.
The Lord be with you.

All: And also with you.

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

PROCLAIMING THE WORD

THE WORD FOR CHILDREN

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

*Brooks Bishop Brierton
Son of Aundie Bishop and Mike Brierton*

SCRIPTURE READING

One: The Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

Matthew 2:13-23

SERMON

After the Pageant Is Over

Dr. J. Lewis Johnson

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

† AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (Unison)

Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for,
the conviction of things not seen.
Indeed, by faith our ancestors received approval.
By faith we understand
that the worlds were prepared
by the word of God,
so that what is seen
was made from things that are not visible.

(Hebrews 11:1-3)

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

PRESENTATION OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS

OFFERTORY

Mary's Little Boy Child

Jester Hairston

† DOXOLOGY

HYMN 133, V3

*Sing, choirs of angels; sing in exultation;
sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!
Glory to God, all glory in the highest!
O come, let us adore him;
O come, let us adore him;
O come, let us adore him,
Christ, the Lord!*

ADESTE FIDELES

During the **Word for Children**, all children are invited to come to the front of the Sanctuary. Afterwards, they will return to the pews.

Nursery is available for infants through age 3.

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.

This morning, we welcome Dr. J. Lewis Johnson to the pulpit. Lewis and his wife, Janet, came to First Presbyterian three years ago. Lewis has served as a minister throughout the South. After retirement, they moved to the Spartanburg area to be near their family. Lewis is preaching today in Tom's absence.

† PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

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.

BEARING THE WORD TO THE WORLD

Hymn 110

This hymn was published in 1996. It was written Ken Bible, an author (of 15 books) and a Christian song writer, who has over 400 songs to his credit. This hymn gives a whole other dimension to the love of Christmas. Not only was the infinite love of God for us expressed then by what He did for us; it gets more personal than that.

† HYMN 110

Love Has Come

BRING A TORCH

† CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

† BENEDICTION RESPONSE

HYMN 147, VERSE 6

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.*

† CLOSING VOLUNTARY

Good Christian Friends, Rejoice

Kenneth D. Varner

PARTICIPATING IN TODAY'S WORSHIP SERVICES

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

Dr. J. Lewis Johnson
Rev. J. Robert Bannan
Mrs. Virginia H. Shuler
Janet Kuntz, Guest Director
Erica Pauly, Guest Organist
Chancel Choir

The Flowers in the Sanctuary are given to the Glory of God and in loving memory of Alli Hoy by her 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.

NEXT WEEK, JANUARY 5, 2020 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 29, 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.

YEAR-END GIVING

Contribution Deadlines: *For credit as 2019 contributions, donations must be received in the church financial office by 5:00pm on Tuesday, December 31, 2019 or postmarked by December 31, 2019. Any contributions received or postmarked on or after January 1, 2020 will be considered as 2020 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.

PLEDGE AND/OR GIVE ONLINE

Did you know that you can pledge, give, check your contributions history, and print contributions statements right from the ShelbyNext web portal and the ShelbyNext Membership app?

For more information, contact Church Financial Officer, Lynise Clarke; lclarke@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, 2019. Members will serve for one year and will be charged with the nomination of Church officers.

Please email your nomination(s) to Michael Pack; mpack@dsdlegal.com.

NEXT SUNDAY - MONTHLY FELLOWSHIP

Join your church family for Fellowship at 10:30am in The Perrin Room (after Sunday School). Doughnuts and beverages provided.

HONOR A LOVED ONE WITH FLOWER MEMORIAL

If you would like to honor a loved one with a Flower Memorial in the Sanctuary, there are Sunday dates available in February.

Contact LeAnne Thurmond; 864-621-0213; leanne.thurmond@gmail.com.

WOULD YOU LIKE TO TALK TO A STEPHEN MINISTER?

As we approach the holidays, we know that there are many who experience sadness and loneliness due to events that have taken place in their lives. How many times have you wished you had someone that you could pour your true feelings out to confidentially? That is what Stephen Ministers do – we listen and provide Christian Care.

Our current, active Stephen Ministers are: Doug Baker, Randy Barre, Rick Beltram, Mary Berry, Jennifer Biber, Margaret Blanton, Harry Burgess, Paul Coté, Eleanor Cox, Lisa Cox, Bill Cummings, Rosemary Dunbar, Alice Eberhardt, Melissa France, James Glenn, Dana Halliday, Janet Harrison, Sharon Hill, Jakie Hodge, Sadie Jackson, Nancy Lassiter, Dick Mahon, Jack Mason, Thea Mclellan, Raymond Morris, Pat Sawyers, Beau Shuler, and Mary Lorick Thompson.

For information, contact: Joanie Shackleton; jshackleton@fpcspartanburg.org / 864-208-2132 or Dana Halliday; Danahalliday1@charter.net / 864-237-0330.

ECHOES MEETING - JANUARY 9

ECHOES (Elder Caregivers Helping Others and Encouraging Self) will meet on Thursday, January 9 at 12:00pm in the Senior High Room (2nd Floor of the FLC). Join Ansley Page, Beth Cecil, and Kay McClure for a time of devotion, sharing, learning, and prayer. This group meets once a month to share the issues facing caregivers as they care for their loved ones. Bring your lunch if you like, drinks will be provided. All are welcome!

HELP NEEDED AT SPIHN - WEEK OF JANUARY 26

SPIHN's mission is to help temporarily homeless children and their families become self-sufficient by bringing together community resources to provide essential needs and life skills in a compassionate environment. Our next SPIHN week is **January 26 - February 2**. These families need assistance by providing meals, supplies, and positive interaction.

If you have any interest, you may sign up online at www.fpcspartanburg.org/spihn or contact:

Meals: Katherine Burns; marchk2b@yahoo.com

Evening Host: Hannah Zimmerman; hannahlanedc@gmail.com

Overnight Host/Supplies/General Questions: Cesily King; cesily1111@aol.com

ACCESS/KEY CARD INFORMATION

On Sundays, all entrances to the Clark Building will require key card access. The Family Life Center doors will be locked at 10:30am. In the Main Building, all doors will require key cards except for the Tower Room and Narthex's Main Street Facing Door. The Narthex side doors will close at 11:15am.

On Wednesday evenings, the monitored front doors of the Family Life Center are unlocked, but for other unmonitored doors around campus, including the Tower Room, Clark Building, and Chestnut Street doors, you will need your key card.

Key cards can be made on-site for a cost of \$10.

To SUM UP: All entrance doors are accessible with a member key card.

To obtain a key card, see Didi Terry in the church office during the week.

CALENDAR

DECEMBER 29

ONE Worship Service at 11:00am
(no Sunday School)

DECEMBER 31

Church Facilities Close at 5:00pm

JANUARY 1

Church Facilities Closed

JANUARY 5

Communion

Traditional Service
(8:45am - Chapel)

MorningSong Worship
(8:45am - Fogartie Hall)

Sunday School (9:45am)

Monthly Fellowship
(10:30am - The Perrin Room)

Traditional Service
(11:00am - Sanctuary)

JANUARY 8

First WAF of 2020

JANUARY 12

Officer Ordination and Installation

JANUARY 20

MLK Unity Celebration

JANUARY 21

Tickled Pink Resumes:
"Stepping Out in Faith"

JANUARY 26

SPIHN Guests Arrive

JANUARY 29

Celebration of Jane Mullins' Ministry

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

FINANCIAL NEWS

(as of December 23, 2019)

2019 Operating Budget:	\$3,023,835
Needed:	\$2,965,684
Received:	\$2,566,784
Deficit	<\$398,900>

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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