

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.”



Christmastide

SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

DECEMBER 30, 2018

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

A Babe is Born

arr. Robert Powell

ACOLYTE

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

The Acolyte brings the light of God into the Sanctuary at the beginning of the service and carries the light of God out into the world at the end of the service.

† Please rise in
body or spirit.

† CALL TO WORSHIP

One: To us, watchful and waiting, a gift has been slipped into our midst.
All: A tiny child, born in a manger,
One: A gift of peace to troubled souls and dangerous streets,
All: A gift of joy to sad hearts and cautious lives,
One: A gift of hope to wearied brows and oppressed peoples.
All: A tiny baby.
One: A gift from God
All: Meant for us.
One: Open your hearts,
All: Raise your voices,
One: Give thanks to the Giver,
All: Welcome the Gift!
One: Let us worship God!

Hymn 132

In the late
medieval period,
there was a
tradition of using
folk songs to
teach illiterate
church-goers the
Gospel story. This
hymn is a good
example of that
practice. When
set to a familiar
folk tune, the
people would
be able to sing
along with ease,
and would
understand the
story.

† HYMN 132

Good Christian Friends, Rejoice

IN DULCI JUBILO

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (Unison)

Holy God,
you have given us everything;
we have failed to respond with gratitude.
In Jesus Christ, you have given us your Word;
we answer with empty promises and lies.
In Jesus Christ, you have given us your light;
we try to hide ourselves from your glory.
In Jesus Christ, you have given us your life;
even this precious gift we have not received.
Have mercy on us, O God; forgive us.
In Jesus Christ, give us the faith and power to become what you created us to be:
beloved children, full of grace and truth.

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 pow'r
when we were gone astray.
O tidings of comfort and joy,
comfort and joy;
O tidings of comfort and joy.*

† 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 peace of Christ.

LIFE OF THE CHURCH

PROCLAIMING THE WORD

THE WORD FOR CHILDREN

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

*Alden Zachary Enger
Son of Adrienne Williams*

ANTHEM

Mary's Boy Child

Jester Hairston

SCRIPTURE READING

One: The Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

John 1:1-18

SERMON

God With Skin On

Rev. Joanne R. Hull

All children are invited to the front of the Sanctuary during The Word for Children. Afterwards, all children 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.

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

† AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

THE NICENE CREED (unison)

I believe in one God the Father Almighty,

Maker of heaven and earth, and of all things visible and invisible;

And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of His Father before all worlds; God of God; Light of Light; Very God of Very God; Begotten not made; Being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made; Who for us men, and for our salvation, came down from heaven; And was incarnate by the Holy Ghost of the Virgin Mary, and was made man; And was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate. He suffered and was buried; And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures; And ascended into heaven; And sitteth on the right hand of the Father. And He shall come again with glory to judge both the quick and the dead; Whose kingdom shall have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Ghost; The Lord and Giver of Life; Who proceedeth from the Father and the Son; Who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified; Who spake by the prophets. And I believe one Holy Catholic and Apostolic Church. I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins. And I look for the Resurrection of the dead; And the Life of the world to come. Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

PRESENTATION OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS

OFFERTORY

What Child is This

arr. R. Vaughan Williams

† 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 newborn king!*

† 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 108

The Nicene
Creed was thus
written as a
statement of
faith that God
the Father, God
the Son, and
God the Spirit
are all of the
same nature,
three and yet
one. As we sing
this hymn, we
both affirm and
align our faith
with the broader
faith of the
Church.

† HYMN 108

Of the Father's Love Begotten

DIVINUM MYSTERIUM

† 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

On This Day Earth Shall Ring

arr. Robert Powell

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.

Rev. Joanne R. Hull

Rev. L. Craig Foster

Miss Mary Claire Threatt, Acolyte

Chancel Choir

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

The liturgical color for Christmas Eve and Christmastide is white. Christmastide is the twelve days from Christmas to Epiphany, January 6. In celebration, the Sanctuary Christmas decorations have been changed to white and will remain in place through Epiphany.

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.

NEXT WEEK - - SUNDAY SCHOOL AT 9:45AM

CHILDREN AND YOUTH

Nursery (Birth-2K)

1st Floor Clark Building

Preschool (3K-5K)

1st Floor Clark Building

Elementary (1st-5th Grade)

2nd Floor Clark Building

Youth (6th-12th Grade)

2nd 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.*

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 30, 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.

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, prior to the deadline of January 2.
Questions? Contact Joy Jones in the church office; jjones@fpcspartanburg.org.*

HELP NEEDED AT SPIHN - WEEK OF JANUARY 20!

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 20 - January 27, 2019. These families need assistance by providing meals, supplies, and positive interaction.

If you have any interest, please contact:

Meals: Katherine Burns; marchk2b@yahoo.com

Evening Host: Hannah Lane; hannahlanedc@gmail.com

Overnight Host/Supplies/General Questions:

Crystal Workman; workman06@charter.net

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.

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.

GOLF CART DRIVERS NEEDED

Our Sunday morning Hospitality Cart needs a few new drivers! If you would like a fun task at the church that enables you to meet lots of people, then this is for you. Our rotational schedule means you would drive once every 6 to 8 weeks.

*Interested? Contact Bryan Pack; bryanpack@gmail.com / 864-541-1486
or Marsh Rogers; mrogersjr@tworog.com / 704-438-1298.*

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.*

CHESTNUT STREET PARKING SAFETY CONCERN

Please make a point to remove ALL parked cars from the Chestnut Street parking spaces before 11:45am each weekday. Parked cars in the pick-up line create a dangerous situation both for children and motorists.

CHURCH DIRECTORY - THERE'S AN APP FOR THAT!

The ShelbyNext Membership App is available for both Apple and Android devices. Through this app you can search an always up-to-date membership directory, modify your own information, contribute to the church's mission, view your contribution history, and print contribution statements.

After you download and launch the app, enter "firstpres" for the domain and your username and password. To login, you must have a valid email address in our church database.

For detailed information: fpcspartanburg.org/discover/member-login.

WIRELESS AVAILABLE

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

CALENDAR

DECEMBER 30

ONE Worship Service
(11:00am - Sanctuary)

Youth Lock In / Lock Out

JANUARY 1, 2019

All Church Facilities Closed

JANUARY 6

Epiphany

JANUARY 9

WAF Resumes

JANUARY 13

Officer Ordination and Installation

FEBRUARY 1-3

Women's Retreat

FEBRUARY 17

Blood Drive

FEBRUARY 27

Healing and Wholeness Service

MARCH 1

World Day of Prayer

MARCH 6

Ash Wednesday

MARCH 10

First Sunday in Lent
Daylight Savings Time Begins

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

READ THE BIBLE THROUGH THIS YEAR

This week's readings:

Dec 30 Mal 1, 2 / Psalms 149, 150
Dec 31 Mal 3, 4 / Rev 22

FINANCIAL NEWS

2018 Operating Budget: \$2,935,282
Received thru 12/27: \$2,497,707

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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