

FIRST NEWS

DECEMBER 2022



Advent is one of my favorite seasons of the year because it is a time when the church calendar invites us to do something very different than what normally dominates our schedules every December – i.e., parties, eating, shopping, more eating, etc. Nothing about those things is inherently bad, of course, but they can admittedly distract us from the ways God may be seeking to move in our hearts during these weeks leading up to Christmas.

Mother Theresa captured this sentiment nicely when she once asked, “At this Christmas when Christ comes, will He find a warm heart? Mark the season of Advent,” she continued, “by loving and serving others with God’s own

love and concern.” In the midst of the busy-ness of these December days, are you (are we) also taking time to prepare our hearts for the coming of the Christ child?

The invitation of the Advent season is to embody the good news that comes to us in its fullness each Christmas morning by reorienting our lives a few more degrees in the direction of loving and serving others. Perhaps for you that means bringing a gift to the White Gifts Service on December 14. Or maybe it looks more like purchasing a coat for next year’s Winter Warmth or sponsoring a family at Cleveland Academy. It could also simply mean recommitting yourself to getting back into the rhythms of regular Sunday worship and prayer.

Whatever it is, my prayer is that this season will be one for each of us to quiet our hearts and minds (if only a little) so that we might be more attune to those signs of God’s incarnate love already present and at work in the whirlwind of everyday life. Indeed, I hope we might all find time to listen a little closer this month for that distant sound, that faint cry, that glorious noise harkening the approaching arrival of an utterly different kind of whirlwind: one of grace, healing, and eternal life.

With hope and expectation,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Alan'.

Alan F. Dyer
Senior Pastor



UPCOMING HAPPENINGS

Reverse ADVENT CALENDAR

We invite you to participate in Reverse Advent. Start with an empty box and each day, add the designated item to your box.

- November 27 - Jar of Applesauce
- November 28 - Box of Cereal
- November 29 - Jar of Peanut Butter
- November 30 - Box of Crackers
- December 1 - Can of Chicken Broth
- December 2 - Can of Pumpkin
- December 3 - Stuffing Mix
- December 4 - Boxed Potatoes
- December 5 - Macaroni and Cheese
- December 6 - Bag of Marshmallows
- December 7 - Can of Sweet Potatoes
- December 8 - Cranberry Sauce
- December 9 - Package of Rice
- December 10 - Box of Oatmeal
- December 11 - Can of Corn
- December 12 - Can of Green Beans
- December 13 - Box of Instant Vanilla Pudding
- December 14 - Vanilla Wafers
- December 15 - Can of Beans
- December 16 - Can of Fruit
- December 17 - Can of Tomatoes
- December 18 - Can of Collard Greens

On December 18, bring your full box to church. All donations will go to TOTAL Ministries.

Decorate your box with Christmas/Advent theme and fill it so we can share hope and joy to others this Advent season.



JOY FELLOWSHIP

Christmas Luncheon

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 1
FOGARTIE HALL | 11:30AM

SPECIAL GUEST
REV. JOHN DANIEL DeBEVOISE

JOIN YOUR FPC FRIENDS FOR FOOD AND
FELLOWSHIP IN CELEBRATION OF THE SEASON

RSVP | JSHACKLETON@FPCSPARTANBURG.ORG

UN-DECK THE HALLS (AND CHRISMON TREES)

TUESDAY, JANUARY 3 | 10:00AM
IN THE TOWER ROOM

CHRISTMAS IS PAST. TIME TO TAKE DOWN
THE CHRISMON TREES, AND REMEMBER ALL
THE LOVE AND JOY OF THE ADVENT SEASON.

INTERESTED? CONTACT LEANNE THURMOND
(LEANNE.THURMOND@GMAIL.COM)

ORDER A CHRISTMAS POINSETTIA

Would you like to order poinsettias
in memory of or in honor of loved ones?

Fill out the form below and send it to the church
office, along with a check made payable to:

"First Presbyterian Church" Attn: Lynise Clarke,
393 East Main St, Spartanburg SC 29302.

You can also order online
by scanning this QR code:



The cost per plant is \$25.00 and orders are due by
Friday, December 9. You may pick up your plants
in Fogartie after MorningSong or in the Tower
Room after the 11:00am service on Sunday,
December 18. If you do not plan to do so, we would
appreciate your giving us permission to use your
gift for cut flowers or greenery to enhance our
Christmas arrangement.

I would like to order:

☐ Poinsettia plants at \$25.00 each \$ Total
☐ I will not pick up my plants and the committee
may use the enclosed check to cut flowers/greenery.

My memorial names will be listed in the Poinsettia
booklet.

Name of person(s) to be memorialized:

Name of person(s) to be honored:

Given by: _____

Acknowledge to (name and address):

December 7

Shrimp & Grits or Chicken Bites & Grits, Soup du Jour,
Biscuit, Fruit Salad, Dessert & Beverage

Kid's Menu.

Pepperoni Pizza, Mozzarella Sticks with Marinara Sauce,
Fruit Cup, Dessert & Juice Box

December 14

(last 2022 WAF)

Greek Chicken, Greek Roasted Potatoes, Greek Salad,
Vegetable du Jour, Roll, Dessert & Beverage

Kid's Menu.

Mini Corn Dogs, Mac & Cheese, Fruit Cup,
Dessert & Juice Box

Scan this QR code to make your dinner reservation
or visit fpcspartanburg.org/waf



Wednesdays @FIRST

FAITH, FOOD, & FELLOWSHIP

DECEMBER MENU & PROGRAMS

WAF WILL RESUME ON
JANUARY 11, 2023.

DECEMBER 7 FELLOWSHIP AROUND TABLES


Enjoy some good old-fashioned Advent
fellowship over a warm meal!

DECEMBER 14 WHITE GIFT SERVICE

An annual tradition here at FPC.
A special evening of singing and
giving back, celebrating the spirit
of Advent around the world!

Led by our FPC Children's Choir.

WE PRAY THAT EVERYONE HAS A BLESSED CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR!



CHILDREN'S MINISTRY



YOUTH & CAMPUS MINISTRIES



Wednesdays

December 7, 6:30 - 7:30 pm, Game Room

Mid-week check-in & fellowship

December 14, 6:30-7:30pm, White Gifts Service in the Sanctuary

Christmas Parties

December 4

5-6:30pm - Middle School, FLC

6:30 - 8pm - High School Progressive Dinner

Watch your Weekly Email for more details on these and other events!



HEALTH MINISTRY

SAVE THE DATES!

2023 Health Series

January 11, 18, and 25
During WAF

STAY TUNED FOR MORE DETAILS!

RECREATION MINISTRY

GYM HOURS

MONDAY-THURSDAY
7:00AM-8:00PM

FRIDAY
7:00AM-2:00PM

SATURDAY
8:00AM-12:00PM

BOOTCAMP CLASSES

MONDAY / WEDNESDAY / FRIDAY

7:15AM
(ON ZOOM)

9:15AM
(ON THE TRACK)

YOGA CLASSES

MONDAYS / WEDNESDAYS

8:15AM (ACTIVITY ROOM)

\$5 PER CLASS | TAUGHT BY NICOLE HENSLEY

Our gym Facilities will be **closed** on
12/26, 12/27, and 1/2 for the holidays.

KIRKIN' O' THE TARTANS OCTOBER 30, 2022




**CELEBRATING
God's ABUNDANCE**

We have had an incredibly strong response to this year's call to stewardship. Thank you to the 400+ individuals and families who have made pledges to "Celebrate God's Abundance" — to date, we have received pledges totaling 75% of the proposed 2023 operating budget which already represents a \$72,000 increase in total pledged giving over last year. Your generosity allows the church to more responsibly plan for the year ahead as we continue to work together to transform lives through vibrant worship, impactful mission, and deeper connections with each other and with our God. Thank you!

If you have not turned in your pledge card yet, we invite you to please prayerfully consider doing so for the year to come. Every gift matters! You can make a pledge online at fpcspartanburg.org/stewardship or by contacting Lynise Clarke in the church office (864-208-2130).



MISSION OPPORTUNITIES



On November 12th, First Presbyterian Church distributed **over 700 winter coats** to Spartanburg County students in grades 4K-8.

Many THANKS to the **100 VOLUNTEERS** who helped make this event possible – AND IN PERSON! We would especially like to thank the organizers of this important mission; Kate Moore, Meredith Biber, Scottie Lummus, and Kathryn Bridges. They worked very hard to ensure that all children who were registered were able to receive a new coat to keep warm this winter.

We would also like to thank RSN Sports Promotions and Mr. Bob Ball for arranging the purchase of most of our supply again this year!

Everyone can participate in this mission for Spartanburg County students! For a gift of \$35, you can be a part of providing a warm new coat for a child in need. Your gift will help sustain this mission for years to come. Scan the QR code to donate.



For more information,
please contact Ian Ritchings at
iritchings@fpcspartanburg.org.

D.R. Medical Mission Trip 2023

February 4-11, 2023

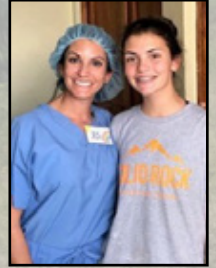
Now is the time to sign-up to travel to the Dominican Republic!

*Looking for Medical professionals, dentists,
and construction crew members.*



Register online at
fpcspartanburg.org/DR

Or contact **Ian Ritchings**
(iritchings@fpcspartanburg.org)



NEIGHBORHOOD MEAL MINISTRY

The Neighborhood Meal Ministry reopened following COVID in October 2021. The first week there were four guests. Exactly a year later, **55 guests** were served in-house, with an additional **30 meals** provided for take-out. Since the first of the year, approximately **1500 meals** have been provided.

With increasing numbers, **help is needed more than ever!**

To sign up or learn more,
scan the QR code or go to
fpcspartanburg.org/mealministry.



The CLEVELAND Academy of Leadership CHRISTMAS SPONSORS

This year we are doing something slightly different and sponsoring families in need through Cleveland Academy for Christmas!

You will find wish list items on the trees in the **Tower Room** and in the **FLC Lobby**. Please bring your wrapped gift with attached angel tag to the Perrin Room by **Sunday, December 11th**.

If you have any questions,
please contact Brandt Goodwin
at brandtgoodwin@gmail.com



AN UPDATE FROM THE PEACE & JUSTICE TASKFORCE

America's history of racial inequality continues to undermine fair treatment, equal justice, and opportunity for many Americans. The **Equal Justice Initiative (EJI)** believes we must acknowledge the truth about our history before we can heal: truth and reconciliation are sequential.

To check out the work being done by EJI, more info can be found at fpcspartanburg.org/peaceandjustice.

Join us at the next Peace and Justice Task Force Meeting in **January 18th 12:30-1:30 by Zoom**. Contact Dawn Bingham (binghamdawn@hotmail.com) for Zoom link.





PASTORAL CONCERNS

(THROUGH NOVEMBER 30, 2022)

IN MEMORIAM

Caroline Frances Maple

Tuesday, October 25, 2022

John Dorsey Bryant

Wednesday, November 9, 2022

CHRISTIAN SYMPATHY

Christian sympathy is extended to:

Patricia Webster, on the death of her mother, Nouna Hitchcock Lee;

Betsy McKee, on the death of her father, H.M. Stroup, Jr.

Vickie Edmonds, on the death of her mother, Mary Fuller Owens

BIRTHS

Congratulations to:

Beth and Kyle Perry, on the birth of their son, **Liam Jameson Perry**, on October 5, 2022;

Kelley and Landon Atlas, on the birth of their son, **Julian Walker Atlas**, on October 13, 2022

BAPTISMS

The Sacrament of Baptism was administered to:

Ann Wilkerson Moore, daughter of **Martha and John Moore**, on November 13, 2022

Mills Lewis Summers, son of **Laura and Josh Summers**, on November 13, 2022

WEDDINGS

Congratulations to:

Lieutenant Colonel and Mrs. Alfred William Chaffee (Allie Ballenger) who were married on November 5, 2022.

Mr. and Mrs. Hoyt Phillip Shuler (Madison Crocker) who were married on November 19, 2022.

WELCOME OUR NEW MEMBERS!



**Stewart McCutchen,
Maribella, and Will Yeargin**



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Weekly eNews!**

Be the first to know what's happening
in the life of our church!

Scan to Join!



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH SERMONCAST

Our sermons are now available on
all podcast platforms!

Download and listen anywhere!

Just search "[First Presbyterian Church Spartanburg](#)"
wherever you find podcasts!

WHAT ONCE WAS LOST



HAS NOW BEEN FOUND!

**CHECK THE
RECEPTIONIST
OFFICE!**



ADVENT WORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

HANDEL'S MESSIAH

Sunday, December 11 | 8:45 and 11:00am in the Sanctuary

The Chancel Choir and orchestra will be dedicating our Worship Service time to a special performance of George Frideric Handel's timeless masterwork, "Messiah."

ANNUAL WHITE GIFTS SERVICE

Wednesday, December 14 | 6:30pm in the Sanctuary

Join our Children's Choir for special evening of singing and giving back to the community.

LESSONS AND CAROLS

Sunday, December 18 | 8:45am in Fogartie Hall

The MorningSong Music Team will lead the congregation in carols of the Advent and Christmas seasons.

MORAVIAN LOVE FEAST

Sunday, December 18 | 5:00pm in the Sanctuary

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.

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 in the Sanctuary

Family Service

4:00pm

with a Children's Nativity pageant

Candlelight Service

6:00 & 11:00pm

Featuring music from our Christmas Eve choir



LOOKING BACK 2022 AT FPC



First Presbyterian Church
393 East Main Street
Spartanburg, SC 29302-1917
Electronic Service Requested

Nonprofit Organization
U.S. Postage PAID
Permit No. 15
Spartanburg, SC 29306