

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF SPARTANBURG

FIRST NEWS

JANUARY 2022



WHITE GIFTS SERVICE (DECEMBER 8, 2021)

PHOTO BY BUDGE BEAN

If anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new!
2 Corinthians 5:17

Dear Friends:

Here we are at the beginning of a new year. We give thanks to God for the blessings of the past year, and we anticipate the ways in which the Spirit of God will move among us in the coming days and months. Of course, this present day is built upon the foundation of the past and we are grateful for the saints who have touched our lives with grace and inspired us to grow in love as followers of Jesus Christ. Although I have only been with you a little less than a year, I see all around me women, men, youth, and children in our congregation who embody what it means to live a life "in Christ" and what it means to be "a new creation." They know how to forgive, how to let go of disappointments, how to live lives of generosity, how to listen to others, how to practice

love, how to serve faithfully, and how to see and embrace the new things that God is doing among us. Such folks make me want to sing aloud the children's hymn:

I sing a song of the saints of
God,
Patient and brave and true,
Who toiled and fought and live
and died
For the Lord they loved and
knew.

Look around. See the new things that God is doing in the lives of family, friends, congregants, and even strangers. The eyes of faith awaken us to see the new creation at hand.

On Sunday, January 30 at 10:00am in the Sanctuary, we will hold the **Annual Meeting** of the congregation. At this meeting, we will hear brief reports about the life, work,

and ministry of the church in the past year. Coming through a year of pandemic, we have so much for which to be thankful. We will also hear about the progress being made in calling a new Senior Pastor, an Associate Pastor for Youth and Campus Ministries, and a Director of Children's Ministries. Of course, there will be time for fellowship and refreshments after the meeting. Sunday School classes for Adults and Youth will not meet that day. Children's Sunday School and Nursery will be held as usual. Come and see the new things that God is doing among us!

Yours in Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Lewis".

Dr. Lewis F. Galloway
Interim Pastor



393 EAST MAIN STREET SPARTANBURG, SC | (864) 583-4531 | WWW.FPCSPARTANBURG.ORG

WHAT'S HAPPENING AT FPC



Substitute Teachers Needed!

The Weekday School is keeping their substitutes very busy this year and would love to have more people on the substitute teacher list. The hours are 8:50 AM to 12:10 PM and pays \$40 a day. Subs must be at least 18 years old. If you are willing to sub, or know someone who would like to sub occasionally, please contact Kris Graham at 864-208-2148 or kgraham@fpcspartanburg.org if you would like more information.



Young Adults Serve

NEIGHBORHOOD MEAL MINISTRY
JANUARY 20 • SERVING FROM 5-6PM
Volunteers also needed to provide and prepare the meal!



SUNDAY, JANUARY 30

6:00 PM FOGARTIE HALL

Join us for a unique contemporary winter worship service at the start of the new year, intended to celebrate the power of intergenerational ministry at FPC. The Shelter worship team, aided by our talented Youth, will guide the congregation through an evening of music, word, and spirit focused around themes explored by the FPC Youth throughout the school year. This is sure to be a special opportunity for youth, families, and the congregation to reflect on what's behind and what's ahead as we move collectively into 2022.

RECREATION NEWS

New year. New goals.

Personal training sessions are available and free to church members.
Contact Colleen Darrall at cdarralle@fpcspartanburg.org to schedule your session!

Gym Hours

Monday-Thursday (7:00am-8:00pm)

Friday (7:00am-2:00pm)

Saturday, beginning January 8 (8:00am-12:00pm)



5PM

DINNER

JANUARY 12

BBQ Beef Brisket, BBQ Chicken Leg, Coleslaw,
Baked Beans, Roll, Dessert

Kid's Menu

Chicken Fingers, Mac & Cheese, Applesause, Dessert

JANUARY 19

Pasta with Meatballs, Alfredo or Marinara Sauce,
Salad, Bread, Dessert

Kid's Menu

Pasta with Marinara Sauce, Fried Cheese Sticks,
Fruit Cup, Dessert

JANUARY 26

Shrimp & Grits or Bacon Bits &
Grits, Fruit Salad, Fried Okra,
Biscuit, Dessert

Kid's Menu

Chicken Fingers,
Mac & Cheese,
Applesause,
Dessert

6:30PM

PROGRAMS

Wednesdays @FIRST

FAITH, FOOD, & FELLOWSHIP

PREORDER DINNER AT
FPCSPARTANBURG.ORG/WAF

\$9 FOR ADULTS

\$8 FOR SENIORS (AGES 55+)

\$6 FOR CHILDREN

\$27 FAMILY MAXIMUM

CHILDREN

Children's Choirs (5pm)
CRC (6:30pm)

YOUTH

A time of fellowship and Bible Study

ADULTS

The Sermon on the Mount

Social Hall

Led by Dr. Lewis Galloway and Rev. Craig Foster

Younger Women's Bible Study

Led by Leslie Lang, Dona Pulliam, and Carter Smith
Come join us in the Perrin Room to spend some time in
scripture, conversation, and prayer!

Health Series

10 Warning Signs of Alzheimer's Disease (January 19)
Medicare...When, How, and What Supplement? (January 26)

ANNUAL MEETING

of First Presbyterian Church Spartanburg

Sunday, January 30, 2022
10:00 a.m. in the Sanctuary





What a fun fall we've had in Children's Ministry! It is wonderful to witness children soak up the love of Jesus and deepen their self-understanding as children of God. Their minds and souls are open and eager to draw close to God.

On Sundays and Wednesdays, we've been learning about the faithfulness of God to Abraham, Jacob, Joseph, Moses, and all of us through the nativity. In Children's Worship, we've walked along with the Gospel of Mark sermon series and learned the Lord's Prayer.

In 2022, Sunday School will begin with Jesus' journey to ministry, and during our Bible Time on Wednesday evenings, we will be diving into Jesus' love and power. Can't wait to see how God will bless these wee ones and grow their faith! God blesses our church through their delight and their trust in countless ways. Thanks be to God (and their amazing parents!)



YOUTH CHRISTMAS PARTY



YOUTH CHRISTMAS PARTY

FPC YOUTH SKI TRIP SUGAR MTN '22



Monday, January 17
6am - 7:30pm

Registration and \$50 deposit due by
Monday, January 10.

Scan the QR Code to sign up!

Questions? ccoleman@fpcspartanburg.org

FPC Youth January 2022

- Sunday Night Youth starts back on January 9, 5-7pm in the Family Life Center
- Confirmation '22 starts on January 9, 5:30pm at the Columbarium
- WAF starts back on January 12; Youth will meet in the Game Room from 6 - 7:15pm
- MS Boys Bible Study starts back on January 12, 3:30-5pm
- MS Girls Bible Study starts back on January 14, 3:45-5pm at the Downtown Starbucks

For more information on Youth programming, contact
Carrie Coleman (ccoleman@fpcspartanburg.org) or
Rafe Andrews (youth@fpcspartanburg.org).





Do you want to talk about racial privilege in your faith community, but you don't know where to begin?

JustFaith is an intensive, small-group process for Christians looking to deepen their faith and connect their faith with action. Participants will explore how their faith should inform their response to their learning, as well as discern action steps for working toward racial equity in their own communities.

The Faith and Racial Healing program is a 9-week program with 2-hour long sessions that includes prayer, study, reflection, and dialogue. Though not a traditional Bible Study, JustFaith uses the lens of the Gospel to help participants deepen their understanding through reading books, watching videos, and engaging in small group discussion. More info at justfaith.org

Faith and Racial Healing is the second part of a three-part series, but it is a complete program in itself. Anyone is welcome to participate!

From a recent participant at First Pres: "I am so thankful that First Presbyterian offered the JustFaith class. It has been very thought-provoking and has challenged me to continue to work on identifying my inherent bias and prejudices I carry. I would be very interested in participating in another JustFaith course."

First Presbyterian would like to offer another JustFaith group in 2022. If interested, please contact Pastor Leslie Lang for more information.



Pray for all going on the medical, dental, and construction mission trip to the

DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

February 5-12, 2022

An Update from the Peace and Justice Taskforce

Imagine a just future Spartanburg.

Spartanburg is one of 20 communities and one of only three in the Southeast participating in the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation's \$72 million Just Futures Initiative, which is creating a national network of ambitious humanities-based projects that address racial inequality in bold and imaginative ways. Each community's project – including Spartanburg's – is designed to help us understand our past, make meaning of our present, and develop the conditions required to create socially just futures.



Currently, Spartanburg community members are working to build "a bridge of trust strong enough to carry the truth," research both the nature and origins of our current racial inequalities, and identify promising "leverage points" in our community systems (places where intentional application of resources or changes in policies and practices can produce meaningful progress toward the vision of a just future Spartanburg).

2021 YEAR IN REVIEW





PASTORAL CONCERNS

(THROUGH DECEMBER 15, 2021)

IN MEMORIAM

Elsie Fike Schlaeger

Monday, November 15, 2021

Mary Milling Lorick Thompson

Monday, December 6, 2021

Mother of Marhta Thompson Bean and Mary Lorick Thompson

I am the resurrection and life. Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live. John 11:25

CHRISTIAN SYMPATHY

Christian sympathy is extended to:

Steve Poole, on the death of his mother, **Mildred "Millie" Matthews Poole**;

Tim Camp, on the death of his father, **Joseph E. Camp, Sr.**;

Shannon Rogers, on the death of her father, **Kenneth "Sam" Roper**;

Sidney Fulmer, on the death of his sister, **Carolyn Daniel Fulmer Alexander**;

Gail Cecil Ballard, Janet Cecil Anderson, Schuyler Cecil, and Toria Cecil Murray,
on the death of their brother, **Robert Caldwell Bauman**; and

Rich Reinhardt, on the death of his mother, **Juda W. Reinhardt**.

WEDDINGS

Congratulations to:

Mr. and Mrs. Andrew Foster Bond (Isabella Cameron Martinez), who were married on Saturday, December 4, 2021.

BAPTISMS

The Sacrament of Baptism was administered to:

Joseph Paul Costello, Jr., son of **Sissy and Joe Costello**, on November 28, 2021.



MISSIONS IMPACT 2021



FIRST
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH
SPARTANBURG

NEW MISSION STATEMENT

"Our mission is to support Christ's work in the community, with a special emphasis on working to end child poverty in Spartanburg."

16

Local Organizations supported through Benevolence grants

\$38,877

Amount raised for Witness Season, which provided a new playground and repairs/updates for the buildings of Ministry of Hope Lesotho.

4

Supported 4 international missionaries through the General Assembly

3

Faith Initiative to End Child Poverty added 3 partner congregations. The group now includes First Pres, Church of the Advent, Macedonia Missionary Baptist, Mt. Moriah, and Life with Jesus Ministries

SPONSORED

Sponsored Chris Singleton event on May 1st, who spoke to the community about forgiveness and hope following his mother's death in the Mother Emmanuel AME shooting in Charleston in 2015

60

Hosted a volunteer appreciation dinner for 60 St. Luke's Free Medical Clinic volunteers

2

2 Summer CAST camps were held, with 26 children participating

37

Sponsored BRUH Mentor (Brothers Restoring Urban Hope) to provide 37 backpacks for children

29

First Pres offered two *JustFaith: Faith and Racial Equity* groups, for a total of 29 participants

40+

40+ volunteers and racers participated in the Northside 5K to benefit Cleveland Academy

11

Neighborhood Meal Ministry restarted and provided 11 weeks of meals from October to December

26

Reverse Advent supported 26 families through Hand In Hand ministries

600+

600+ coats were distributed through Winter Warmth, thanks to the help of 100+ volunteers

121

children sponsored through Angel Tree

\$225,360

TOTAL AMOUNT
DEDICATED TO LOCAL
MISSIONS

\$119,000

TOTAL AMOUNT
DEDICATED TO
INTERNATIONAL
MISSIONS

\$344,360

TOTAL MISSIONS

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

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