

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

SPARTANBURG, SC



DECEMBER 7, 2025

SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY
SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

8:30AM EARLY

9:00AM CONTEMPORARY

11:00AM TRADITIONAL

WELCOME TO FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH!

Welcome to First Presbyterian Church Spartanburg – we are delighted that you are joining us for worship today! First Presbyterian is a community of believers in the heart of Spartanburg seeking to know and share the transformative love of Jesus Christ with others. Here you will encounter people who come from all walks of life representing diverse beliefs and faith experiences. What binds us together is our common hope in Jesus Christ. Through worship, study, fellowship, and mission we seek to root our lives in scripture, nurture our unity in Christ, and serve our neighbors in faith! No matter who you are or where you are on your spiritual journey, know that you are welcome here.

Peace,

Rev. Alan F. Dyer
Senior Pastor

IF YOU ARE NEW HERE Whether you are searching for a church home or visiting from out of town, we are delighted that you are worshipping with us today. If you are interested in receiving more information about membership or the ministries of our congregation, please be sure to speak with a pastor before or after today's worship or fill out the friendship register. We would love to get to know you better!

PASTORAL CONCERN? Please let us know how we can be praying for you by visiting with a pastor before or after worship. If you need to contact a Minister, call 864-208-2142 day or night.

CHILDREN OF ALL AGES ARE WELCOME IN WORSHIP!

Activity Bags located in the welcoming areas of each worship venue are available for your child to use during worship. After worship, please return the crayons and bags to the baskets. The activity sheet is for your child to keep.

Nursery is available for infants through age 3 in the Clark Building in Room 105.

After *The Word for Children* in the 11:00am Traditional Service, children 3K-1st grade may attend Children's Worship with Ms. Kara. After the service, families are asked to pick their children up from Room 202 of the Clark Building.

TO AID IN WORSHIP Advanced listening technology, large-print hymnals, and large-print bulletins are available upon request for the Chapel and Sanctuary. Please locate an usher for assistance.

WORSHIP ONLINE Livestreaming of the Contemporary and Traditional Worship Services is available at fpcspartanburg.org/worship. Additionally, sermons are on Apple Podcasts, Spotify, Amazon Music, or wherever you find your podcasts!

WAYS TO GIVE There are many ways you can support the missions and ministries of First Presbyterian. During worship, place your gift in the Offering Plate or scan one of these QR Codes (you may give via **ShelbyNext** or via **Venmo**). Additionally, you may mail a check to the church office (address on back of bulletin). Thank you. *Questions? Contact Church Financial Officer Lynise Clarke; 864-208-2130/lclarke@fpcspartanburg.org.*



ShelbyNext
(No log in required)



Venmo

EARLY WORSHIP

8:30AM

CHAPEL

GATHERING AROUND THE WORD

WELCOME AND INVITATION

Rev. Alan F. Dyer

This is the day that the Lord has made;

Let us rejoice and be glad in it.

OPENING VOLUNTARY

Prepare the Way, O Zion

Robert Lau

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH: PEACE

The Roush Family

Come and fill our hearts with your hope. You alone, O Lord, are holy.

Come and fill our hearts with your peace. Alleluia!

Come and fill our hearts with your joy. You alone, O Lord, are holy.

Come and fill our hearts with your love. Alleluia!

UNISON PRAYER

God of past, present, and future, grant us peace when all around us would lead us to fear.

Grant us peace that not only comforts but that also emboldens your people to live as citizens of your promised and coming kingdom even here and now. Amen.

♠HYMN 82

Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus

HYFRYDOL

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Rev. Leslie L. Denny

Holy God,

you send messengers to wake us and prepare us, yet we resist your refining work.

**We cling to what is familiar, choosing ease over obedience,
speaking of repentance more than we practice it.**

Forgive us. Clear what clutters our hearts and help us bear the fruit you desire.

Refine us and make us new once more,

so that we may be ready to receive Christ when He comes.

SILENT CONFESSION

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven. **Thanks be to God!**

♠RESPONSE: HYMN 88, VERSE 7

VENI EMMANUEL

*O come, Desire of nations, bind all peoples in one heart and mind;
bid envy, strife, and discord cease; fill the whole world with heaven's peace.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.*

♠PASSING OF THE PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you. **And also with you.**

LIFE OF THE CHURCH

In worship, we share Christ's peace as a sign of reconciliation, community, and welcome. This simple exchange reminds us that peace is not something we create on our own - it is a gift God gives and calls us to extend to one another. As we greet those around us, we bear witness to the unity we share in Christ.

♠ *Please rise in body or in spirit.*

PROCLAIMING THE WORD

SCRIPTURE READING

Matthew 3:1-12

SERMON

Prepare the Way: Tomorrow

Rev. Alan F. Dyer

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

PRESENTATION OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS

Rev. Rachel N. Klompmaker

OFFERTORY

The People Who in Darkness Walked

David W. Music

✠ DOXOLOGY: HYMN 143, VERSE 4

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!*

COMMUNION

All communion bread and wafers are gluten free.

INVITATION

*Come to the table of grace. Come to the table of grace.
This is God's table; it's not yours or mine. Come to the table of grace.*

THE GREAT PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Hymnal Page 35

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

The gifts of God for the people of God.

Thanks be to God!

SHARING OF THE ELEMENTS

COMMUNION MUSIC

Lo! How a Rose E'er Blooming

Michael Praetorius

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

BEARING THE WORD TO THE WORLD

✠ HYMN 109

Blest Be the God of Israel

MERLE'S TUNE

✠ CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

✠ BENEDICTION RESPONSE

O WALY WALY

*Lord Jesus come to us we pray, Bring us your truth, show us your way,
As once the prophets did foretell, Oh, come to us, Emmanuel.*

CLOSING VOLUNTARY

Postlude on "Hyfrydol"

Gordon Young

The Lord's Supper is not just the celebration of an event that happened long ago and far away - the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. The Supper also looks to the future in hope because the Christ who died and was raised also promises to come again and to gather all creation around his messianic table. Our participation in this sacrament is a foretaste of what is yet to be.

CONTEMPORARY WORSHIP

9:00AM
FOGARTIE HALL

INTRUMENTAL PRAYER

WELCOME

Landon Hammett

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH: PEACE
ADVENT SONG

The Bridges and Kennemur Families
Come and Fill Our Hearts

✦ SONG OF PRAISE

Glory (Let There Be Praise)

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Rev. Ansley B. Page

SUNG ASSURANCE OF PARDON

O Come, O Come Emmanuel

✦ PASSING OF THE PEACE

LIFE OF THE CHURCH

CHILDREN'S TIME

Rev. L. Craig Foster

SCRIPTURE READING

Matthew 3:1-12

SERMON

Prepare the Way: Tomorrow

Rev. Alan F. Dyer

COMMUNION

All communion bread and wafers are gluten free.

INVITATION

*Come to the table of grace. Come to the table of grace.
This is God's table; it's not yours or mine. Come to the table of grace.*

COMMUNION MUSIC

Peace Has Come

✦ CLOSING SONG

Silent Night (Heavenly Peace)

✦ BENEDICTION

In worship, we share Christ's peace as a sign of reconciliation, community, and welcome. This simple exchange reminds us that peace is not something we create on our own - it is a gift God gives and calls us to extend to one another. As we greet those around us, we bear witness to the unity we share in Christ.

✦ Please rise in body or in spirit.

TRADITIONAL WORSHIP

11:00AM
SANCTUARY

GATHERING AROUND THE WORD

WELCOME AND INVITATION

Rev. Alan F. Dyer

This is the day that the Lord has made;
Let us rejoice and be glad in it.

OPENING VOLUNTARY

'Twas in the Moon of Wintertime

Susan T. Nelson

INTROIT

The People Who Walked in Darkness

ISAIAH 9

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH: PEACE

The Bailey Family

*Come and fill our hearts with your hope. You alone, O Lord, are holy.
Come and fill our hearts with your peace. Alleluia!
Come and fill our hearts with your joy. You alone, O Lord, are holy.
Come and fill our hearts with your love. Alleluia!*

UNISON PRAYER

**God of past, present, and future, grant us peace when all around us would lead us to fear.
Grant us peace that not only comforts but that also emboldens your people to live as citizens of your promised and coming kingdom even here and now. Amen.**

✠ HYMN 82

Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus

HYFRYDOL

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Rev. Rachel N. Klompmaker

**Holy God,
you send messengers to wake us and prepare us, yet we resist your refining work.
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speaking of repentance more than we practice it.
Forgive us. Clear what clutters our hearts and help us bear the fruit you desire.
Refine us and make us new once more,
so that we may be ready to receive Christ when He comes.**

SILENT CONFESSION

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.
Thanks be to God!

The Advent wreath is a Christian tradition borrowed from the Germanic peoples who placed candles on evergreens in the depth of winter. The four candles of the Christian Advent wreath celebrate each of the four Sundays that precede Christmas.

✠ Please rise in body or in spirit.

✦RESPONSE

HYMN 88, VERSE 7

VENI EMMANUEL

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bid envy, strife, and discord cease; fill the whole world with heaven's peace.
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And also with you.

LIFE OF THE CHURCH

PROCLAIMING THE WORD

THE WORD FOR CHILDREN

Rev. L. Craig Foster

*Children ages three years to first grade are invited to dismiss to Children's Worship;
those second grade and older will return to the pews.*

In worship, we share Christ's peace as a sign of reconciliation, community, and welcome. This simple exchange reminds us that peace is not something we create on our own - it is a gift God gives and calls us to extend to one another. As we greet those around us, we bear witness to the unity we share in Christ.

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION *Comfort, Comfort Now My People*

GENEVEN 42

SCRIPTURE READING

Matthew 3:1-12

SERMON

Prepare the Way: Tomorrow

Rev. Alan F. Dyer

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

PRESENTATION OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS

Rev. Leslie L. Denny

OFFERTORY

Light Looked Down

Eleanor Daley

✦DOXOLOGY: HYMN 143, VERSE 4

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evermore your voices raising to the eternal Three in One:
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COMMUNION

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INVITATION

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As once the prophets did foretell, Oh, come to us, Emmanuel.*

O WALY WALY

CLOSING VOLUNTARY

Postlude on "Hyfrydol"

Gordon Young

The Advent Greens in the Sanctuary

*are given to the Glory of God and in loving memory of
William Burnham Uhler and Dorothy Harris Uhler
by the Uhler family.*

The Flowers in the Tower Room

*are given to the Glory of God and in loving memory of
Sylvia McManus Maw
by her family.*

LIFE OF THE CHURCH

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 7, 2025

ADVENT SERMON SERIES

This Advent, we follow the ancient cry to *prepare the way of the Lord* by looking back, looking ahead, and grounding ourselves in God's presence today. The prophets remind us of God's faithfulness in our yesterdays; the gospel calls us to hope for the promise of tomorrow; and the incarnation assures us that Christ meets us here and now. As we journey toward Christmas, we open our hearts to the ways God is still shaping a path of comfort, courage, and renewal.

CHAMBER SINGERS' CONCERT

The Chamber Singers will present *From Darkness to Light: an Advent Meditation* today at 5:00pm in the Sanctuary. The singers will be joined by harp, strings and winds.

YOUNG ADULT CHRISTMAS PARTY

The Young Adult Christmas party will be held this afternoon, December 7, 5:30pm at the home of Manning and John Fairey. Please bring an appetizer to share. Use this QR code to RSVP.



READY TO JOIN FPC?

Come to the Parlor on Sunday, December 14, at 10:30am for a brief meeting. Please contact Cathy Bagwell at cbagwell@fpcspartanburg.org for details.

NEXT SUNDAY IS MUSIC SUNDAY

On Sunday, December 14, we will worship through music. During the 9:00am Contemporary Service, the music team will offer their distinct take on carols of the season. And at 8:30am and 11:00am, the Traditional Services will meet in the Sanctuary and will feature Handel's *Messiah* with the Chancel Choir, soloists, and a 20-piece orchestra.

WEDNESDAYS AT FIRST- DEC 10

- 5:00pm Dinner Line Opens (Fogartie Hall)
- 5:00pm Children's Choirs Rehearsal (Sanctuary)
- 6:30pm **Celebration of Giving** (Sanctuary)
- 7:30pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal (Choir Room)

Pre-register for dinner by 4:00pm each Monday. Visit fpcspartanburg.org/waf or scan the QR code.



CELEBRATION OF GIVING SERVICE

Come to the Sanctuary on Wednesday, December 10, 6:30pm, to experience a fresh adaptation of our annual White Gifts Service. Join in on this joyful service as we FILL the Sanctuary with Christmas carols, children's choirs, and gifts that will bless our friends at Hope Center for Children, Mobile Meals, Thornwell, and TOTAL Ministries. Specific gift requests from each organization can be found on the church website or by scanning this QR code. Wrapping your gift is optional this year.



JOY CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON

The annual Just Older Youth (J.O.Y.) Fellowship Christmas Luncheon will be held Thursday, December 11 at 11:30am in Fogartie Hall. Please RSVP TODAY by using this QR Code or contacting Kerri Bell in the church office.



ANGEL TREE

As part of Angel Tree Ministry, First Presbyterian is providing gifts to local children on behalf of an incarcerated parent. Angel Tree tags are available on small Christmas trees in the Tower Room and in the Family Life Center Lobby. If you have questions, or if you would like to deliver gifts on Christmas Eve morning, please contact Brandt Goodwin at brandtgoodwin@gmail.com.

STEWARDSHIP 2026 UPDATE

Thank you to the more than 426 individuals and families who have already responded to this year's call to generosity by submitting a pledge for 2026. You all have brought us to 81% of our goal! Your participation strengthens FPC's ministry and allows us to plan faithfully for the year ahead. If you have not yet made your pledge, will you join us? Pledge cards are available throughout the church, or you can pledge easily online by using the QR code or visiting fpcspartanburg.org/stewardship.



HONOR & REMEMBER THIS ADVENT

There are several opportunities to honor and remember your loved ones this Advent season by contributing to the beautiful decorations at First Presbyterian and purchasing Columbarium wreaths. Learn more at fpcspartanburg.org/advent or scan the QR code.



CHRISTMAS EVE

On **Wednesday, December 24**, First Presbyterian will hold three services in the Sanctuary as we celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ. The Family Service and 6:00pm Candlelight Service will be livestreamed at fpcspartanburg.org/worship.

Family Service - 4:00pm

Come all you angels, shepherds, and kings, and join us on Christmas Eve for our children's nativity pageant. Any child may come dressed as the part he or she wants to play.

Candlelight Services - 6:00* and 9:00pm

A tradition in our church, these services feature music by the Christmas Eve Choir. A special message will be delivered and the services will conclude with the Sanctuary bathed in candlelight.

** A Nursery will be available at the 6:00pm service for children 6 months - 3 years of age.*

CHAPEL OPEN

The Chapel is open for prayer Monday-Friday, 9:00am-5:00pm. You may place prayer needs in the designated box and our staff will pray over your requests.

ONE-STOP SHOPPING

Show Your Church Spirit with our Holiday Shoppe! Spread warmth and joy this winter with custom FPC merchandise. We have ties and scarves with our church's tartan pattern on them, as well as new aprons in our familiar "Presbyterian Blue!"

Additionally, there are special gift cards available for donations to **Hand in Hand** or our **Winter Warmth** ministry!

Click this QR Code to browse the shoppe!



NEW PASTORAL COUNSELOR

We are pleased to announce that in the new year we will add **Rev. Heidi Campbell-Robinson** to our staff in a part-time capacity as a Pastoral Counselor. She will begin seeing clients on an appointment basis in January. Stay tuned for more information about how to schedule time with her and join us in welcoming her to First Presbyterian!

SAVE THE DATE - JANUARY 25, 2026!

Two worship services, at **9:00am and 11:00am in the Sanctuary**, will celebrate 100 years of First Presbyterian Church's location at 393 East Main Street - a century of faith, community, and God's steadfast presence. Between services, enjoy refreshments, warm fellowship, and shared memories at **10:00am in Fogartie Hall**. Mark your calendars now to celebrate this milestone!

HELP DECORATE FOR CHRISTMAS

On Monday, December 22, the bows and flowers in the church will be changed to white, to celebrate the Season of Christmas. Meet in the Tower Room at 10:00am. Questions? Contact LeAnne Thurmond (leanne.thurmond@gmail.com / 864-621-0213).

BRING YOUR KEYCARDS!

We encourage all members to bring their keycards to church. These not only serve as access to the building, but also demonstrates our commitment to Christian hospitality (learning each other's name!).

SUNDAY SCHOOL 10:00AM

CHILDREN AND YOUTH

Nursery – Room C105 (Clark Building)
Preschool (3K-5K) – Room C110 (Clark Building)
1st & 2nd Grade - Room C202
3rd & 4th Grade - Room C203
5th Grade - Room C206
Youth - Second Floor of the Family Life Center

ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL

Bible Alive – Room 2215 & Zoom

An extensive book-by-book study of the Bible

Emmaus – Purnell Room

A journey with eyes open towards Jesus, with fellowship and a fresh new scripture-based lesson each week.

Faith Forum - Social Hall

All ages are welcome to the Faith Forum!

Advent

This Advent our Associate Pastors will explore the riches of the Advent themes of hope, peace, joy, and love.

TODAY'S MUSICIANS

Early Worship

Marcia Andrews and Genesis Choir

Contemporary Worship

Kolby Carrouth, drums
Lisa Cunningham, piano/vocals
Landon Hammett, vocals
Anna Harkey, violin
Matt Kelly, guitar/vocals
Jeff Key, electric guitar
Corey McDaniels, bass guitar

Traditional Worship

Holt Andrews, Marcia Andrews,
Handbell Choir, and Chancel Choir

OFFERTORY

Light Looked Down
Eleanor Daley

Light looked down, and beheld darkness.

“Thither will I go,” said Light.

Peace looked down, and beheld war.

“Thither will I go,” said Peace.

Love looked down, and beheld hatred.

“Thither will I go,” said Love.

So came Light and shone;

So came Peace and gave rest;

So came Love and brought Life.

And the Word was made Flesh and dwelt among us,

Lux Aeterna.

CALENDAR

DECEMBER 7

Chamber Singers Concert
Young Adult Christmas Party

DECEMBER 10

Celebration of Giving Service

DECEMBER 11

JOY Fellowship Christmas Luncheon

LOOKING AHEAD

DECEMBER 14

Lessons and Carols (9:00am)

Messiah (8:30am and 11am)

DECEMBER 24

Angel Tree Delivery

Family Worship Service 4:00pm

Candlelight Worship Services 6:00pm and 9:00pm

DECEMBER 25-26

Church Facilities Closed

DECEMBER 28

No Sunday School

Worship Together at 11:00am

JANUARY 1

Church Facilities Closed

JANUARY 7

Wednesdays at First Resumes

JANUARY 25

Celebration of 100 Years at 393 East Main!

Keep up with all Life of the Church events at
fpcspartanburg.org.

Front Cover: “*Saint John the Baptist Entering the Wilderness*,”
by Giovanni di Paolo, 1455-60, tempera on panel

This panel, once part of a twelve-scene cycle from the life of John the Baptist, shows the moment when the saint steps faithfully into the wilderness. John walks into uncertainty - just as we all must at times - but he does so with full confidence in God's call. His journey reminds us that true peace comes not from knowing what lies ahead, but from trusting the One who walks with us. As we continue through Advent, we too are invited to release our fears, surrender our doubts, and rest in the peace that comes from God's steadfast love and protection.

TO PONDER PRAYERFULLY

*“Advent is not the kind of ‘preparation’ that involves shopping and parties and cards.
Such illusions of abundance disguise the true cravings of our weary souls.
Advent is preparation for the demands of newness
that will break the tired pattern of fear in our lives.”*

- Walter Brueggemann

MINISTERS: ALL MEMBERS OF THE CHURCH

We are a community of believers committed to “Glorifying God and Sharing Christ Together through Word and Deed.”

Rev. Alan F. Dyer
Senior Pastor

Rev. Leslie L. Denny
Associate Pastor
Young Adults and Missions

Rev. L. Craig Foster
Associate Pastor
Discipleship

Rev. Rachel N. Klompaker
Associate Pastor
Congregational Care

Rev. Ansley B. Page
Pastoral Associate for Engagement

Holt Andrews
Pastoral Musician

Marcia Andrews
Associate Director of Music;
Organist

Kara Clark
Director of Children’s Ministries

Carrie Coleman
Youth Ministry Coordinator

Beth Cecil
Parish Nurse

Colleen Darrall
Director of Recreation

Jane Mullins
Director of Hospitality

Pano Stathakis
Kitchen Assistant

Kris Graham
Director of the Weekday School

Lisa Cunningham
Contemporary Worship Music Leader

Lee Raines
Facilities Administrator

Jim Pitts
Campus Safety and Services Manager

Lynise Clarke
Director of Finance

Joanie Shackleton
Assistant Director of Finance
and Mission Support

Monteigne Campbell
Office Manager and
Executive Assistant to the Senior Pastor

Cathy Bagwell
Visitor and New Member Coordinator

Ian Ritchings
Communications Coordinator

Shannon Hutcheson
Administrative Assistant
Weekday School, Children’s and
Adult Discipleship

Cathy Rush
Receptionist and
Admin to Music

Kerri Bell
Administrative Assistant
Congregational Care and Deacons

Andy Mayfield
Grounds Manager

Judith Holbert
Tiffany Long
William Massey
Custodians



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