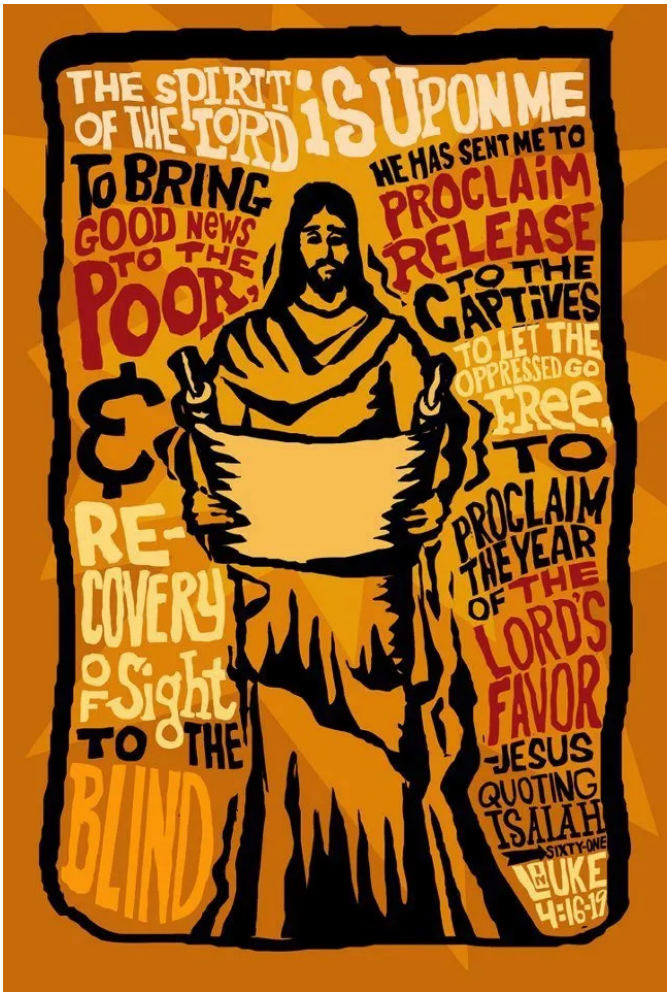
First Presbyterian Church

Spartanburg, SC



March 10, 2024

Service for the Lord's Day

Fourth Sunday in Lent

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 worshiping 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!

Blue 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, you may place your gift in the Offering Plate or you can scan this QR Code; it will direct you to our online giving portal. Additionally, you may mail a check to the church office (address on back of bulletin). Thank you for your gifts. *Questions? Contact Church Financial Officer Lynise Clarke; 864-208-2130/lclarke@fpcspartanburg.org.*

Contemporary Worship
9:00am
Fogartie Hall

Welcome		Rev. Alan F. Dyer
✞Call to Worship		
✞Song of Praise		*Thrive*
Prayer of Confession		Rev. Leslie A. Lang
Sung Assurance of Pardon		*Yes and Amen*
✞Passing of the Peace		
Life of the Church		
Call to Discipleship: Girl Scouts		Ali Claire Pingley
Children's Time		
Anthem		*You Are God Alone (Not A God)*
First Reading	Psalm 19	Charlotte Clementson
Second Reading	Luke 4:14-30	
Sermon	*Why Jesus? Preacher*	Dr. Will Willimon
Prayers of the People		
The Lord's Prayer		
✞Closing Song		*Come Thou Fount (I Will Sing)*
✞Benediction		

Today is the fourth Sunday in Lent, a word which comes from the German word for spring and the lengthening of days. The Lenten season is the 40 days before Easter, not including Sundays (as each Sunday is a celebration of the resurrection). We use Lent as a period of time to prepare our hearts for the events of Holy Week.

✞ *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 — *Wondrous Love* — arr. Christina Harmon

Acolyte — Nora Biber

Today is the fourth Sunday in Lent, a word which comes from the German word for spring and the lengthening of days. The Lenten season is the 40 days before Easter, not including Sundays (as each Sunday is a celebration of the resurrection). We use Lent as a period of time to prepare our hearts for the events of Holy Week.

✞Call to Worship — Rev. L. Craig Foster

Holy God, the heavens declare your goodness each day and night proclaims your love.
You call us to witness to your power and grace.
You give us mouths to sing your praises, hands and feet to do your will.
You call us to proclaim the good news of your reign.
We yearn to become your people, the body of Christ, living for the sake of the world.
Let us worship the God who calls us.

✞Hymn 475 — *Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing* — Nettleton

Prayer of Confession

Holy One, we often forget to rejoice in the gift of each new day.
We close our ears to the voices of rivers and streams —
voices that sing your praises day and night.
We close our eyes to the need of our neighbors,
and refuse to see their suffering and pain.
We close our hearts to your proclamations of hope and freedom —
proclamations of good news and release for all who live in oppression and fear.
Forgive us, heal us, and restore us to our relationship with you;
through Jesus Christ, in whom we trust.

Silent Confession

Assurance of Pardon

Hear and believe the Good News:
God forgives us and loves us,
even when we forget that we are
meant to be good news for the world.
In the name of Christ, we are forgiven.
Thanks be to God! Amen.

✞ *Please rise in body or in spirit.*

✞Response: Hymn 447 — We Are Forgiven

We are forgiven. We are forgiven.
Thanks be to God. Thanks be to God.
We are forgiven. We are forgiven.
Thanks be to God. Thanks be to God.

✞Passing of the Peace

The peace of Christ be with you.
And also with you.
Let us greet one another as we share the love and peace of Christ.

Life of the Church

Proclaiming the Word

The Word for Children		Rev. Leslie A. Lang
Prayer for Illumination	*O Lord, Hear My Prayer*	Taize Community
First Reading	Psalm 19	Elodie Bouwmeester
Second Reading	Luke 4:14-30	
Sermon	*Why Jesus? Preacher*	Dr. Will Willimon

Today we welcome Dr. Will Willimon to leadership in worship. Dr. Willimon is a retired bishop in the United Methodist Church and currently serves as Professor of the Practice of Christian Ministry and Director of the Doctor of Ministry program at Duke Divinity School. He is also the author of numerous books including *Why Jesus?,* which is the text that has been guiding our worship and learning at FPC through this Lenten Season.

Responding to the Word

✞Affirmation of Faith

A Brief Statement of Faith

We trust in Jesus Christ, fully human, fully God.
Jesus proclaimed the reign of God:
preaching good news to the poor and release to the captives,
teaching by word and deed and blessing the children, healing the sick and binding up the brokenhearted, eating with outcasts, forgiving sinners,
and calling all to repent and believe the gospel.
Unjustly condemned for blasphemy and sedition, Jesus was crucified,
suffering the depths of human pain and giving his life for the sins of the world.
God raised this Jesus from the dead, vindicating his sinless life,
breaking the power of sin and evil, delivering us from death to life eternal.
With believers in every time and place,
we rejoice that nothing in life or in death
can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Prayers of the People

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.

Call to Discipleship

Girl Scouts — Ali Claire Pingley

Presentation of Tithes and Offerings

Scripture tells us that we are able to love ourselves and to love others because we have first been loved by God. So, too, we give of ourselves and our resources out of gratitude to God for what God has already graciously given to us. We give because God has first given to us.

Offertory — *The Spirit of the Lord* — Phillip Stopford

Text printed at back of the bulletin

✠Doxology

Hymn 606 — Old Hundredth

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
praise God, all creatures here below;
praise God above, ye heavenly host;
praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

✠Prayer of Thanksgiving

Bearing the Word to the World

✠Hymn 826 — *Lift High the Cross* — Crucifer

✠Charge and Benediction

✠Benediction Response — O Waly Waly

Eternal Father, guide our way,
Eternal Light, within us shine.
Eternal Son, show us your peace,
Eternal Spirit, make us Thine.

Closing Voluntary — *Lift High the Cross* — Donald Busarow

<u>The Lenten Greens in the Sanctuary</u>
are given to the Glory of God and in loving memory of
Mr. and Mrs. Calvin B. Wells
by Cassi Wells MacNaughton, Mathew Grier, and Harper Grier.

Girl Scouts at First Presbyterian Church

There is a rich history of scouting at First Presbyterian Church. The Girl Scout program has been a part of the church since 1936 when Troop 4 was formed under the leadership of Miss Mary Price. In 1937, members of our church joined with other churches to organize a Girl Scout Council, and the official charter was granted in February, 1938.

Girl Scouting has been an active program since its inception, with girls participating on all levels of the program: Daisy, Brownie, Junior, and Cadette. Our Girl Scouts work hard to earn badges and learn valuable life skills, as well as help to better the community in which we live.

Today, First Presbyterian Girl Scouts includes 153 girls participating in 10 troops. There are currently two troops working on their Bronze Award, three troops working towards their Silver Award, and five scouts working towards their Gold Award. In total, First Presbyterian has 38 scouts who have earned their Bronze Award and 11 scouts who have earned their Silver Award.

According to information provided by Girl Scouts of America, these awards teach girls how to be a helpful and good neighbor by making a difference in their own communities. Cadettes who intend on earning a Silver Award make a plan to address an issue and take action to improve it. "Seniors and Ambassadors may earn the Gold Award, the highest award in Girl Scouting, by develping and carrying out lasting solutions to issues in their neighborhoods and beond. Gold Award Girl Scouts truly are world changers, rock stars, role models, and real-life heroes we all look up to." (*Girl Scouts of America*)

About Guest Preacher, Rev. Dr. Will Willimon



The Reverend Dr. William H. Willimon is Professor of the Practice of Christian Ministry at the Divinity School, Duke University. He served eight years as Bishop of the North Alabama Conference of The United Methodist Church, where he led the 157,000 Methodists and 792 pastors. For 20 years prior to the episcopacy, he was Dean of the Chapel and Professor of Christian Ministry at Duke University, Durham, North Carolina.

Dr. Willimon is a graduate of Wofford College (B.A., 1968), Yale Divinity School (M.Div., 1971) and Emory University (S.T.D., 1973). He has served as pastor of churches in Georgia and South Carolina.

He is the author of numerous books and has been named one of the Twelve Most Effective Preachers in the English-speaking world. His book *Why Jesus?* is the subject of our Lenten Sermon Series, Tuesday and Thursday Book Study, as well as our Wednesdays at First adult program.

Please welcome Dr. Willimon back to First Presbyterian Church!

Photo by Budge Bean, Will Willimon at WAF, February 21, 2024

Lent and Easter

at First Presbyterian Church

Palm Sunday

March 24, 2024

8:30am - *Early Worship in the Chapel*

9:00am - *Contemporary Worship in Fogartie Hall*

Children will participate in a palm procession during the Service

9:45am - *Sunday School*

11:00am - *Traditional Worship in the Sanctuary*

Palm Procession

Maundy Thursday

March 28, 2024

5:30pm - *Dinner in Fogartie Hall*

Register at fpcspartanburg.org/holyweek

6:30pm - *Maundy Thursday Worship in Fogartie Hall*

"Maundy" means commandment, referencing the new commandment Jesus gave his disciples on this day; for it was on this day that Jesus had his last meal with his disciples. Jesus broke bread, washed the disciples' feet, and hinted at his coming crucifixion and betrayal. It is our Christian tradition to celebrate this evening with the gift of worship and the sacrament of Communion.

Good Friday

March 29, 2024

9:00am-5:00pm - *The Chapel will be open for individual prayer*

7:00pm - *Tenebrae Worship Service in the Sanctuary*

Tenebrae, meaning "darkness" or "shadows," is a prolonged meditation on Christ's suffering. Readings trace the story of Christ's passion, music portrays his pathos, and the power of silence and darkness suggests the drama of this momentous event. As lights are extinguished, we ponder the depth of Christ's suffering and death; we remember the cataclysmic nature of his sacrifice as we hear the overwhelming sound of the "strepitus"; and through the return of the small but persistent flame of the Christ candle at the conclusion of the service, we anticipate the joy of ultimate victory. - Calvin Institute for Worship

Easter

March 31, 2024

6:30am - *Sunrise Service in the Columbarium*

8:30am - *Early Worship in the Sanctuary*

9:00am - *Contemporary Worship in Fogartie Hall*

10:00am - *Fellowship on the Front Lawn*

11:00am - *Traditional Worship in the Sanctuary*

Cross of Flowers

The Cross of Flowers is an annual First Presbyterian Easter event.
Members and guests are invited to place flowers on the rough-hewn cross on the lawn of the church as they come to worship on Easter. This cross, full of spring flowers, represents the new life we receive through Christ's resurrection.

Life of the Church

Sunday, March 10, 2024

Why Jesus? Lenten Series

Lent is a time each year for prayer, fasting and self-examination as we follow Jesus towards the cross and empty tomb. But when was the last time we asked ourselves whether or not we truly know just who it is we are following?! Are we actually ready to walk in the footsteps of someone who invites us to find our lives by giving our lives away in service to God and others? Our Lenten Sermon Series is an invitation to better understand who Jesus is, and in so doing, begin to learn why following him is the only way to discover the true meaning and purpose of our own lives.

This series is based on the book of the same title by Rev. Dr. Will Willimon. Today, Dr. Willimon is our special guest preacher and will teach Combined Adult Sunday School.

Young Adult Pickleball & Pizza

Join us for Young Adult pickleball in the gym on Tuesday, March 12 at 5:30pm. We will walk to Venus Pie afterward for dinner. Please email Leslie Lang at llang@fpcspartanburg.org if you plan to join!

Wednesdays at First

Join us starting at 5:00pm for Wednesdays at First (WAF). On the menu will be Irish stew, mashed potatoes, green beans, salad bar, Irish soda bread, and the famous dessert table. Dinner reservations and more can be found at fpcspartanburg.org/waf.

Children's Choir Concert

On Wednesday, March 13, our FPC Children's Choirs will present their program *Sharing Our Gifts*. We encourage you to join us at 6:30pm in the Sanctuary to support our talented boys and girls as they make a joyful noise to the Lord!

At the Well: Church Retreat

Join your church family in beautiful Montreat, NC, for a weekend of relaxation, fun, and spiritual growth May 3-5. There will be programs to enjoy no matter the age (including nursery) and plenty of free time to hike and explore Black Mountain, play games, or take a nap. Visit fpcspartanburg.org/retreat or scan the QR code for more information and register by March 15!

Churchwide Day of Service

On Saturday, April 13, we will be holding our Second Annual Churchwide Day of Service. This is a great way for all ages to serve the community together! Scan the QR code or visit fpcspartanburg.org/dayofservice to register by March 30. Childcare available upon request for children under 6 years.

Learn More About CAST!

CAST - Care, Accept, Share, Teach - A Ministry for God's Homeless Children has been part of the life of First Presbyterian Church for 10 years. Learn more about this ministry at one of the following 30-minute informational sessions:

March 12 at 10:30am (Large Private Dining Room)
March 13 at 5:00pm (Small Private Dining Room)
March 21 at 5:30pm (Large Private Dining Room)

Please contact Gloria Close at closely@bellsouth.net with questions.

Register for VBS!

It's nearly time for a summer camp adventure with God at Camp Firelight! VBS will be June 3-6 from 9:00am-12:00pm for rising 4k through 6th grade. Registration is now open at fpcspartanburg.org/vbs or scan the QR code.

Angels Charge Lunch & learn

Angels Charge Ministry is holding a Lunch and Learn on March 18 at 11:45AM in the Large Private Dining Room. Everyone is welcome to attend to hear about ACM and the women this organization helps as they find their way to a new life after incarceration. Please note the subject matter may not be appropriate for young children. Scan the QR code or visit fpcspartanburg.org/angelscharge to register. Lunch is free, but donations are welcome. Call Theresa Bowles at (864) 680-1420 with questions.

Do You Knit or Crochet?

Although the weather is far from being chilly, we're already preparing for FPC's largest annual mission project,Winter Warmth, where we distribute brand-new coats to children in need across Spartanburg County. In addition to coats, children will also be receiving hats and scarves, handmade by members of the church. That's where you come in! If you're able to knit or crochet, we could really use your help in making it happen! Winter Warmth will take place on October 26 this year. It's never too early to start! If you have questions, please email them to winterwarmth@gmail.com.

Share Your Smile on Sundays!

Share your smile and a kind word with others on Sunday mornings! Join the team of Sunday greeters to welcome members and visitors to First Presbyterian Church! Sign up using the QR code or by visiting fpcspartanburg.org/ministry-finder.

Join the Audio/Video Team!

The Audio/Video Team is a way to be involved in worship and special events behind the scenes. We currently need camera operators, and no experience is necessary! Most A/V team members serve one Sunday per month and an occasional special event. Contact Caroline Goodman at cgoodman@fpcspartanburg.org for more information!

Eggs Needed

Our Children's Ministry needs donations of pre-filled plastic eggs for the Egg Hunt on March 20. Eggs can be filled with stickers, small toys, or candy. Drop off to the office or to Kara Clark, Director of Children's Ministry, by next Sunday.

Discover FPC

Discover FPC classes are offered for visitors and new members to learn more and ask questions about First Presbyterian Church, our values, mission, and programs. These classes are open to anyone and provide an opportunity to learn about our church and the denomination. Attending Discover FPC is not necessary to join! Our next class will be June 9. Learn more about at fpcspartanburg.org/discoverfpc or scan the QR code. Contact Cathy Bagwell, Visitor and New Member Coordinator, at cbagwell@fpcspartanburg.org with questions.

Stephen Ministry Needs You!

If you are looking for a way to serve that allows you a flexible schedule and once-a-week interaction with someone who is desperately in need of some Christian caring, this is the place for you! A new class starts in August, but it's never to early to learn more about this important ministry. Contact Dana Halliday at danahalliday1@charter.net or (864) 237-0330 if you would like more information.

Columbarium on Chronicle

First Presbyterian Church is now on Chronicle, an innovative online tool that provides up-to-date information on our available, reserved, and occupied niches. This interactive map of our columbarium allows you to purchase memorials for those who are already inurned. A portion of your memorial purchase will directly benefit the church. Scan the QR code or visit fpcspartanburg.org/columbarium to learn more! Reach out to Lynise Clarke at lclarke@fpcspartanburg.org if you have questions.

Ready to Join FPC?

Are you interested in joining First Presbyterian Church? Come to the Church Parlor today, March 10 at 10:30am. There will be a brief meeting to welcome new members. Please contact Cathy Bagwell at cbagwell@fpcspartanburg.org if you plan to attend.

Gym Hours

Mondays-Thursdays: 7am-8pm; Fridays: 7am-2pm; Saturdays: 8am-12noon

Chapel Open

The Chapel is open for Prayer Monday-Friday, 9am-5pm, for you to come and sit and pray in the stillness of God. You may place any personal prayer needs in the Chapel prayer box and a member of our staff will pray over your requests.

Sunday School - 10am
(Gathering Time - 9:45am)

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

Combined Adult Sunday School will be in Fogartie Hall today, March 10. Rev. Dr. Will Willimon will be leading our time together.

Today's Musicians

Contemporary Worship
Lisa Cunningham, piano/vocals; Kolby Carrouth, drums; Landon Hammett, keyboard/vocals; Anna Harkey, violin; Matt Kelly, guitar/vocals; Jeff Key, electric guitar; Corey McDaniel, bass guitar

Traditional Worship
Holt Andrews; Marcia Andrews; Chancel Choir; Janet Kuntz, flute; March Moody, violin; Thomas Cotter and Matthew Gill, trumpet; Kaci Cotter, horn; Jeff Kuntz, trombone; Jeff Key, tuba; Matt McDaniel, timpani

The Spirit of the Lord
Phillip Stopford

The spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he hath anointed me to preach the gospel to the poor. He hath sent me to heal the brokenhearted, to preach deliverance to the captives and recovering of sight to the blind, to preach the acceptable year of the Lord, to give unto them that mourn a garland for ashes, the oil of joy for mourning, the garment of praise for the spirit of heaviness, that they might be called trees of righteousness, the planting of the Lord that he might be glorified. For as the earth bringeth forth her bud, and as the garden causeth the things that are sown in it to spring forth, So the Lord God will cause righteousness and praise to spring forth before the nations.

From Isaiah 61

Calendar

March 13
Children's Choir Concert

March 24
Palm Sunday

March 28
Maundy Thursday Meal and Service

March 29
Good Friday Tenebrae Service

March 31
Easter

Looking Forward

April 13
Churchwide Day of Service

April 21
Confirmation Sunday

May 2
Chamber Singers Concert

May 3-5
Congregational Retreat at Montreat

May 19
Day of Pentecost

June 3-6
Vacation Bible School

Front Cover: "Is Jesus Waiting for Us?" by Marg Mowczko

Parts of today's liturgy are from Abingdon Worship Annual.

To Ponder Prayerfully

"There are a lot of uncalled preachers who do accidentally more than the rest of us do on purpose."

- Fred Craddock

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. John Daniel DeBevoise
Associate Pastor
Youth and Campus Ministries

Rev. L. Craig Foster
Associate Pastor Discipleship

Dr. Lewis F. Galloway
Interim Associate Pastor
for Congregational Care

Rev. Leslie A. Lang
Associate Pastor
Young Adults and Missions

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

Grace deMaine
Associate Director, Youth Ministry

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
Church Financial Officer

Monteigne Campbell
Office Manager and
Admin to the Senior Pastor

Cathy Bagwell
Visitor and New Member Coordinator

Caroline Goodman
Communications Director

Ian Ritchings
Communications Coordinator

Shannon Hutcheson
Administrative Assistant
Children's and Adult Discipleship

Cathy Rush
Receptionist and Admin
to Music and Mission

Joanie Shackleton
Administrative Assistant
Congregational Care and Deacons

Andy Mayfield
Grounds Manager

Judith Holbert
Tiffany Long
William Massey
Custodians

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