First Presbyterian Church

Spartanburg, SC



December 1, 2024

Service for the Lord's Day

First 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 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!

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 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* — arr. Robert Powell

Lighting of the Advent Wreath: Hope — Griffin and Jason Lynch

Refrain: — Wallace, Harriet, and John

While we are waiting, come;
While we are waiting, come.
Jesus, our Lord, Emmanuel,
while we are waiting, come.

Lord Jesus, as we search for signs of hope this week,
help us to become the signs of hope that others are searching for.
As these candles are but a glimpse of the light of the heavens,
help us to be a glimpse of heaven's hope. Amen.

✞Hymn 88 — *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel (v. 1,2,5)* — Veni Emmanuel

Prayer of Confession — Rev. Rachel N. Klompmaker

Lord, have mercy on us.
We are not ready for your coming.
We live in sin, as though there were no justice.
We live in fear, as though there were no grace.
Forgive us, Lord. Show us your mercy and steadfast love.
Lead us in your truth, and teach us your paths,
for you are the God of our salvation.

Silent Confession

All things have their beginning and their end in the love of God. In the light of that truth, we are free to confess our weariness and our worry, knowing that God is with us.

Assurance of Pardon

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

✞Response: Hymn 88, verse 6 — Veni Emmanuel

O come, thou Dayspring, come and cheer
our spirits by thine advent here;
disperse the gloomy clouds of night,
and death's dark shadows put to flight.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
shall come to thee, O Israel

✞ *Please rise in body or in spirit.*

✠Passing of the Peace

The peace of Christ be with you.

And also with you.

Life of the Church

Proclaiming the Word

Scripture Reading — Luke 21:25-36

Sermon — *Begin Again: Hope* — Rev. Alan F. Dyer

Responding to the Word

Presentation of Tithes and Offerings — Rev. Leslie A. Lang

Offertory — *Keep Your Lamps* — arr. Andre Thomas

✠Doxology: Hymn 606 — Old Hundredth

Invitation to the Lord's Table

The Great Prayer of Thanksgiving

Sharing of the Elements

The gifts of God for the people of God.

Thanks be to God!

All communion bread is gluten free.

Communion Music — *Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming* — Michael Praetorius

Prayer After Communion

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.

Bearing the Word to the World

✠Hymn 82 — *Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus* — Hyfrydol

✠Charge and Benediction

✠Benediction Response — *Lord Jesus, Come* — 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 — *Savior of the Nations, Come* — Jacob B. Weber

Following the service, you are invited to a time of coffee and fellowship in The Perrin Room.

Contemporary Worship
9:00am
Fogartie Hall

Welcome		Rev. John Daniel DeBevoise
Instrumental Prelude		*Make a Way*
Lighting of the Advent Wreath: Hope Refrain Unison Advent Prayer		John, Lacey, and Brianna Webber *Make a Way*
✞Song of Praise		*Angels (Glory to God)*
Prayer of Confession		Rev. L. Craig Foster
Sung Assurance of Pardon		*Make a Way*
Passing of the Peace		
Life of the Church		
Children's Time		
Scripture Reading	Luke 21:25-36	
Sermon	*Begin Again: Hope*	Rev. Alan F. Dyer
Communion		*All communion bread is gluten free.*
Communion Music		*Make Room*
✞Closing Song		*He Has Come for Us (God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen)*
✞Benediction		

Advent is a season of hope and joy, anticipating the fulfillment of the rule of God in Christ's coming in the future. The Scriptures read, the liturgical texts used, the music sung all convey this sense of expectant, joyful longing for the fulfillment of God's promised reign.

✞ *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 — *Prepare the Way, O Zion* — arr. Robert Powell

Lighting of the Advent Wreath: Hope — Bruce Campbell, Anne Craft, Patti Foy, Jerry Palmer

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✞Passing of the Peace

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And also with you.

Life of the Church

Proclaiming the Word

The Word for Children — Rev. John Daniel DeBevoise

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.

Prayer for Illumination — *Wait for the Lord* — Taizé Community

First Reading — Jeremiah 33:14-16

Scripture Reading — Luke 21:25-36

Sermon — *Begin Again: Hope* — Rev. Alan F. Dyer

Responding to the Word

Presentation of Tithes and Offerings — Rev. Leslie A. Lang

Offertory — *Keep Your Lamps* — arr. Andre Thomas

✞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!

Doxology, a Greek word meaning "saying of glory," is a brief hymn of praise that follows another hymn or Psalm – in our case the offertory. Doxologies appear in many Christian traditions and have their origin in the Jewish kaddish, which concludes each portion of the synagogue worship service.

Invitation to the Lord's Table

The Great Prayer of Thanksgiving (Sung Responsively)

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.
Lift up, lift up your hearts.
We lift them up to the Lord.
Let us all give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give God thanks and praise.

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.

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.

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

Closing Voluntary *Savior of the Nations, Come* Jacob B. Weber

<u>The Advent Greens in the Sanctuary</u>
are given to the Glory of God and in loving memory of
William Burnham Uhler, Dorothy Harris Uhler, and Sibyl Coleman Uhler
by the Uhler family.

Life of the Church
Sunday, December 1, 2024

Stewardship 2025 - Update!
This year's stewardship focus is an invitation for us to consider how we can deepen our commitment to be the hands and feet of Jesus Christ. Thank you to all those who have answered the call and submitted a pledge for the coming year! To date, we have received 435 pledges - which includes 52 new commitments - totaling nearly $2,950,000. This total represents 81% of our budget goal. If you have not yet submitted a pledge, would you consider doing so by December 6? Currently, only 40% of FPC households have made a pledge. Just think what we could do if others joined us in supporting the ministry of our congregation! To learn more or submit your pledge online please visit fpcspartanburg.org/stewardship.

DR Deadline Today!
If you are a medical professional or someone who would like to serve people in the Domincan Republic, sign up for the 2025 mission trip (February 1-8) by today, December 1. Scan the QR code or visit fpcspartanburg.org/dr.

Giving Tuesday - Dec. 3
This year's Giving Tuesday focus is *Build and Rebuild*. We ask you to support First Presbyterian Church ministries to help build a community playground and continue efforts for Hurricane relief in North and South Carolina. You can specify the ministry to which you wish to donate or divide your gift equally between the Playground Project, Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, and the Purnell Fund. Visit fpcspartanburg.org/givingtuesday or scan the QR code for more information and to give online.

Advent/Christmas Decorating
Join the Sanctuary Guild to Deck the Halls for Advent and Christmas! There are several opportunities to help. Visit fpcspartanburg.org/deckthehalls.

Columbarium Memorial Wreaths
During the Advent season, we offer the opportunity to purchase wreaths in memory of those inurned in the Columbarium for $35 per wreath. Memorial names will be listed in the bulletin on December 15 and the wreaths will remain in the Columbarium until the first of the year. Scan the QR code or visit fpcspartanburg.org/wreath to **purchase your memorial by Friday, December 6**.

Chamber Singers Concert
The Chamber Singers is an ecumenical 30-voice choir that performs at First Presbyterian Church and has performed at the National Cathedral and the Piccoleto Spoleto Festival. Next Sunday, **December 8** at 5:00pm in the Sanctuary, the Chamber Singers, along with instrumentalists from Converse University and the community, will present *How Silently, How Silently…Reflections for the Season*. This concert is free and open to the public! The concert will also be livestreamed at fpcspartanburg.org/concerts.

College Student Lunch
All college students are invited to a free lunch next Sunday, **December 8** right after 11am worship. This will be an informal time to get to know each other better. Let us know you're coming by scanning the QR code!

JOY Christmas Luncheon
The annual Just Older Youth (J.O.Y.) Fellowship Christmas Luncheon will be held Tuesday, **December 10 at 11:30am** in Fogartie Hall. Our musical guest for this year's program is Rev. Rachel Klompmaker. Bring a friend to enjoy a meal to celebrate the season together! Sign up at fpcspartanburg.org/joychristmas or scan the QR code by December 6!

Blood Drive

If you were unable to participate in our September blood drive, Cedar Springs Family Dentistry will host a 'back-up' drive Wednesday, **December 11** at 272 Cedar Springs Road, 10:30am-1:30pm. By providing the code 9BBW at the time of your donation, First Presbyterian will be credited.

White Gift Service

First Presbyterian Church will collect gifts wrapped in white for Hope Center for Children, Thornwell, and Mobile Meals during the Annual White Gift Service, **December 11** at 6:30pm in the Sanctuary. You can find a wish list for each organization at fpcspartanburg.org/whitegifts or by scanning the QR code.

Holly Jolly Holiday Fun!

Children ages 3 (potty trained) through 5th grade are invited to spend the afternoon with FPC Youth and staff members for games, crafts, snacks and more on December 20, 12:30-3:30pm! The cost is $35 per child or $75 max for families of 3 or more children. All money raised will go toward next summer's Youth trips. Space is limited so register TODAY! Contact Carrie Coleman at ccoleman@fpcspartanburg.

Winter Warmth - Thank you!

There are still opportunities for you to help with FPC's largest annual mission! For a gift of $35, you can provide a new warm coat for a child in need. Use this QR code and choose "Winter Warmth" from the drop-down menu or visit fpcspartanburg.org/winterwarmth.

Christmas Poinsettias

Purchase a poinsettia in honor or memory of a loved one this Christmas. Acknowledgement card may be sent to the person or family of those being honored/memorialized upon request.The cost is $25 per plant. Visit fpcspartanburg.org/poinsettia or scan the QR code to order yours by **Friday, December 13**.

Hand in Hand Christmas Cards

Hand in Hand is a local nonprofit that works in collaboration with Spartanburg County School District social workers, who identify children and families in need. By providing basic essentials, Hand in Hand hopes to relieve daily concerns, improve self-esteem and allow children to concentrate on their education. This Christmas, give a gift to this ministry in honor of a loved one. Holiday cards are available upon request. Online gifts may be made through fpcspartanburg.org/give or by scanning the QR code. Please contact Lynn Long at (864) 913-2179 or handinhandspartanburg@gmail.com to receive your special Christmas cards.

Angel Tree

As part of Angel Tree Ministry, First Presbyterian is providing gifts to 126 local children, representing 59 families, on behalf of an incarcerated parent. Angel Tree tags are hanging on the small Christmas trees in the Tower Room and in the Family Life Center. **Place wrapped gifts, affixed Angel Tree tags, in the Perrin Room by Sunday, December 15**. If you have questions, or if you would like to **deliver gifts on Christmas Eve at 9:00am**, contact Brandt Goodwin at brandtgoodwin@gmail.com.

Gym Hours

Our gym is open Monday-Thursday from 7:00am-8:00pm; Friday from 7:00am-2:00pm; and Saturday from 8:00am-12noon. If you plan to access the fitness area/walking track, please bring your keycard.

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. If you need to contact a minister, call 864-208-2142.

Ready to Join FPC?

Come to the Perrin Room next Sunday, **December 8** at 10:30am for a brief meeting. Please contact Cathy Bagwell at cbagwell@fpcspartanburg.org for details.

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

Bible Alive – Room 2215
An extensive book-by-book study of the Bible

Emmaus – Room 2217
A journey with eyes open towards Jesus, with fellowship and a fresh new scripture-based lesson each week.

Abide - Room 2207
For younger adults and parents of preschool/elementary children to gather for a time of fellowship and learning.

L.I.F.T. - Room 2208
Faithful and energetic disciples who love growing deeper in faith through Bible study and trusting Jesus.

Glory Days - Purnell Room
Parents of youth & collegiates, come strengthen your faith and friendship with condensed stand-alone Bible lessons from dynamic teachers.

Today's Musicians

Early Worship

Holt Andrews, Marcia Andrews,
Genesis Choir, Janet Kuntz

Contemporary Worship

Rafe Andrews, guitar/vocals;
Kolby Carrouth, drums;
Lisa Cunningham, piano/vocals;
Landon Hammett, vocals/keyboard;
Corey McDaniels, bass guitar

Traditional Worship

Holt Andrews, Marcia Andrews,
Janet Kuntz, John Kuntz, Chancel Choir

Front Cover
"Fig Tree" by Yvonne Ayoub

Parts of today's liturgy are from the Abingdon Worship Annual and Feasting on the Word Worship Companion.

Offertory

Keep Your Lamps
arr. Andre Thomas

Keep your lamps trimmed and burning,
the time is drawing nigh.
Children don't get weary 'till your work is done.
Christian journey soon be over.
Keep your lamps trimmed and burning,
the time is drawing nigh.

Calendar

December 3
Giving Tuesday

December 8
College Student Lunch

December 8
Chamber Singers Concert

December 10
JOY Fellowship Christmas Luncheon

December 11
Annual White Gift Service

Looking Forward

December 15
Lessons and Carols

December 19
Service of Comfort and Light

December 24
Angel Tree Delivery
Christmas Eve Services

December 29
Worship as One

January 10
High School Winter Retreat

January 24
Confirmation Opening Retreat

February 1
Dominican Republic Mission Trip

For details on all church events,
visit fpcspartanburg.org/calendar

To Ponder Prayerfully

"During Advent, we occupy our greatest longings."

- Ruth Haley Barton

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

Rev. Rachel N. Klompmaker
Associate Pastor
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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