First Presbyterian Church

Spartanburg, SC



December 17, 2023

Service for the Lord's Day

Third Sunday of Advent

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.

A Nursery is available for infants through age 3 in the Clark Bldg, 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

Contemporary Worship
9:00am
Fogartie Hall

Welcome — Rev. John Daniel DeBevoise

Lighting of the Advent Candle: Joy — Hamp and Kristin Crow, Anna, Wade, and Sam

In our Contemporary Worship Service, our Advent candles sit in a tree stump instead of an evergreen wreath. Drawing from Isaiah 11:1, this Stump of Jesse reminds us of God's covenant and the promise that the royal line of David that was thought to be cut off would bring us a Messiah.

Sung Refrain:
(please remain seated)

The candle of joy reminds us to sing,
For God is at work to do a new thing.
The proud will be humbled; the lowly will rise.
God's kingdom is one of delight and surprise

Unison Advent Prayer:

Lord Jesus, as we search for signs of joy this week,
help us to *become* the signs of joy 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 joy. Amen.

✞Song of Praise — *Hymn of Joy*

Prayer of Confession — Rev. Leslie A. Lang

God of grace and God of glory,
pour your power on your people.
We long for the strength and the courage
to glorify your name in all that we say and in all that we do.
Open our eyes to the promise of your salvation,
as you scatter the proud, pull down the powerful from their thrones,
fill the hungry with good things, and send the rich away empty.
Live in and through us this Advent season,
that we might be messengers of your grace
and instruments of your peace.

Silent Confession

Sung Assurance of Pardon — *Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus*

✞Passing of the Peace

✞ *Please rise in body or in spirit.*

Life of the Church

Children's Time

The Festival of Lessons and Carols was first celebrated at King's College, Cambridge on Christmas Eve, 1918. It was an adaptation of a similar service that had been written for the cathedral at Truro in 1880.

First Lesson	Isaiah 9:2, 6-7	Rev. L. Craig Foster
Carol	*Living Proof*	
Second Lesson	Luke 2:1-7	
Carol	*The Carol of Joseph (I Believe in You)*	
Third Lesson	Luke 2:8-16	
Carol	*Mothers and Shepherds*	
Fourth Lesson	Matthew 2:1-12	
Carol	*Christmas Morning*	
Fifth Lesson	John 1:1-14	
Carol	*Do You Hear What I Hear*	

Prayers of the People

The Lord's Prayer

Sung Response *(please remain seated)* — *A Christmas Alleluia*

✠Closing Song — *Joy to the World (Unspeakable Joy)*

✠Benediction

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 *Fantasia on Christmas Carols, Part I* — Ralph Vaughan Williams

Lighting of the Advent Wreath: Joy — Christine and Chris Conzett, Hudson, Madison, and Catherine

Sung Refrain:
(please remain seated)

The candle of joy reminds us to sing,
For God is at work to do a new thing.
The proud will be humbled; the lowly will rise.
God's kingdom is one of delight and surprise

Lord Jesus, as we search for signs of joy this week,
help us to *become* the signs of joy 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 joy. Amen.

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

✞Hymn 140 *Once in Royal David's City* — Irby

Prayer of Confession — Rev. John Daniel DeBevoise

God of grace and God of glory,
pour your power on your people.
We long for the strength and the courage
to glorify your name in all that we say and in all that we do.
Open our eyes to the promise of your salvation,
as you scatter the proud, pull down the powerful from their thrones,
fill the hungry with good things, and send the rich away empty.
Live in and through us this Advent season,
that we might be messengers of your grace
and instruments of your peace.

Silent Confession

Assurance of Pardon — Rev. Ansley B. Page

Every valley is lifted up; every mountain made low.
Now the glory of the Lord is revealed,
for the mouth of the Lord has spoken.
In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven!
Thanks be to God.

✞ *Please rise in body or in spirit.*

✠Response

Hymn 83, verse 1 — Stuttgart

Come, thou long-expected Jesus, born to set thy people free;
from our fears and sins release us; let us find our rest in thee.

✠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
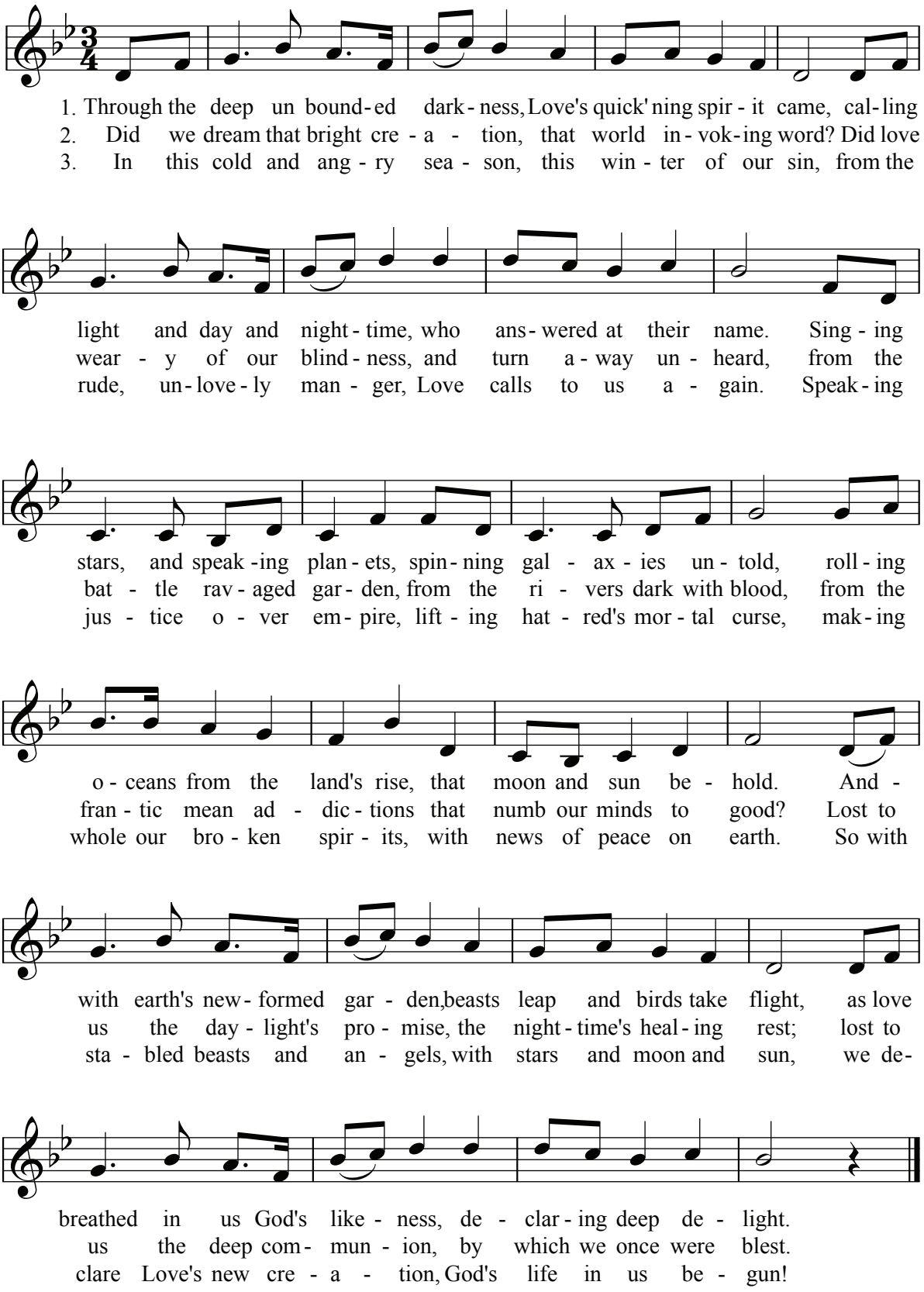
First Lesson	Genesis 3:8-15	Grace Mitchell
Carol	*Adam Lay YBounden*	Boris Ord
Second Lesson	Isaiah 9:2, 6-7	Rev. Leslie A. Lang
Carol	*Carol of the Word* (see next page)	Thaxted
Third Lesson	Luke 2:1-7	Rev. L. Craig Foster
Carol	*Break Forth, O Beauteous Heavenly Light*	J. S. Bach
Fourth Lesson	Luke 2:8-19	
Carol	*The Seven Joys of Mary*	William Whitehead
Fifth Lesson	Matthew 2:1-11	Rev. Joanne R. Hull

Presentation of Tithes and Offerings

Carol	*We Three Kings*	arr. Matthew Culloton
Sixth Lesson	John 1:1-14	
Carol	*Jesus Christ, the Apple Tree*	Elizabeth Poston

The Seven Joys of Mary is a very old carol that was probably adapted from devotional liturgy and art that originated in Medieval Europe. Mary's joys, as recounted in the carol, are: being the mother of Jesus, seeing him heal the lame, cure the blind, read scripture in the Temple, raise the dead, bear the cross, and rise from the dead.

Carol of the Word



Carol of the Word is a frequent and welcome Advent visitor to First Presbyterian. Set to the tune THAXTED (the Jupiter theme from Gustav Holst's orchestral work *The Planets*), the poetry was written by Marcia Andrews' brother Bill Craft. Bill recently retired as President of Concordia College in Moorhead, MN, and even more recently moved with his wife Anne to Spartanburg. Bill and Anne are already members of the Chancel Choir and participating in this morning's service.

Responding to the Word

⌖Prayer of Thanksgiving

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.

Recognition of

The Ministry of The Reverend Joanne Ruth Hull

Today we celebrate the 40+ year ministry of The Reverend Joanne R. Hull, with 10 of those years as Associate Pastor at First Presbyterian Church. We give thanks for God for Joanne and her faithful ministry in our midst! Please join us after the service for a reception in the Social Hall.

Bearing the Word to the World

⌖Hymn 691 — *Lord, When I Came into This Life* — Land of Rest

Congregational Meeting

⌖Charge and Benediction

⌖Benediction Response

Hymn 109, verse 3 — Merle's Tune

On those who sit in darkness the sun begins to rise,
the dawning of forgiveness upon the sinner's eyes.
God guides the feet of pilgrims along the paths of peace.
O bless our God and Savior with songs that never cease!

Closing Voluntary — *Toccata on Antioch* — arr. Craig Phillips

<u>The Advent Greens in the Sanctuary</u>

are given to the Glory of God and in loving memory of

Lehman C. and Juliette Hollis Moody, John Porter and Mary Walker Hollis, and John Lee and Henrietta Cooper Moody

by Rosemary Moody Roberts.

Life of the Church
Sunday, December 17, 2023

Today

Lessons and Carols

This morning, **Sunday, December 17**, *Lessons and Carols* is part of both worship services. At the 9:00 Contemporary Service, the Music Team is offering their distinct take on carols of the season, while the 11:00am Traditional service will feature six lessons from the traditional King's College liturgy with music led by the Chancel Choir.

Congregational Meeting

The Session has called a **Congregational Meeting for Sunday, December 17, 2023**, at the conclusion of the 11:00am Worship Service, for the purpose of requesting Foothills Presbytery to dissolve the Pastoral Relationship between Rev. Joanne R. Hull and First Presbyterian Church, Spartanburg, effective December 31, 2023.

Celebration Reception

After the 11:00am service, there will be a special reception to honor Rev. Joanne Hull and her husband, Eddie Donald, in the Social Hall. Please stop by to give them your well wishes.

Advent Devotional Booklets

The Stories That Shape Us takes us on a journey throughout scripture, sharing the favorite Bible stories from you, the members of First Presbyterian. Please pick up a physical copy around the church or use this QR Code to sign up for email devotionals throughout this Advent season!

Service of Comfort and Light

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, on **Thursday, December 21, at 6:00pm in the Chapel**. This service is especially for those who struggle during the Christmas season.

Next Sunday
Christmas Eve Services

Sunday, December 24

Traditional Morning Worship
11:00am* in the Sanctuary

Family Service
4:00pm in the Sanctuary
with a Children's Nativity pageant

Candlelight Services
6:00* and 10:00pm in the Sanctuary
featuring music from our Christmas Eve Choir

**Nursery available during the 11:00am and 6:00pm services for children 6 months through 4 years of age.*

All non-designated gifts placed in the offering plate during the Family and Candlelight services will be used to support the Neighborhood Meal Ministry. This ministry provides hospitality and a weekly hot meal for community members in need.

Recommendations for CNC

The Congregational Nominating Committee is seeking a slate of nine members (non-officers) from the congregation to replace those who will rotate off at the end of 2023. Members will serve for one year and will be charged with the nomination of Church officers. Please scan the QR code or go to fpcspartanburg.org/cnc and complete the form. **Deadline is December 31, 2023**.

Join the Christmas Eve Choir

Anyone high-school age and older is invited to sing for both Candlelight Services. Rehearsals are December 20 at 7:00pm and Christmas Eve morning at 9:00am. Interested? Contact Holt Andrews (rhandrews@fpcspartanburg.org).

Winter Warmth Coat Purchase

Our annual Winter Warmth Project was held on November 11. Over 800 warm winter coats were distributed to students from all seven Spartanburg County School Districts. Now, we need your help. For a gift of $35.00, you can be a part of providing a new warm coat for a child in need. Use this QR Code and choose "Winter Warmth" from the drop-down box. Gift Cards available upon request.

Give to Hand in Hand

When you give to Hand in Hand, you provide fundamental essentials to children and families throughout Spartanburg County. This Christmas, give a gift to this ministry in honor of a loved one. Cards are available so you may let the recipient know a gift has been made in their honor. Please contact Lynn Long (handinhandspartanburg@gmail.com / 864-913-2179) for more information.

Memorial Wreaths

Advent Wreaths in the Columbarium have been placed in memory of the following inurned individuals:

Rev. Dr. William L. Arthur
by his family

Cindy Baker
by Joy Shackelford

Mary Berry
by Roy Berry

Leland Bomar
by Lawrence, Ann, and Stirling Caudle

Charlie and Judy Bradshaw
by Carroll and John Easterling

Dargan Bradshaw
by Carroll and John Easterling

James Burnett
by Julia Burnett

Pat Carey
by Mae Carey

Rob Chapman
by Dennis and Brian Hughes and family

Shelley Crow
by her family

Jay Easterling
by Carroll and John Easterling

John and Kathryn Easterling
by Carroll and John Easterling

James Harper Grier
by Cha, William, Alex, Lucy, and Grier Gee

Lucy Harper Grier
by Cha, William, Alex, Lucy, and Grier Gee

Alli Hoy
by Jennifer and Will Hoy

Joseph Whitner Kennedy and Aileen Kabrich Kennedy
by Donna and Whit Kennedy

David Johnston Long
by The Long family

Miguel Martinez
by the Martinez family

Matthew McLeskey
by Julia Burnett

Matthew McLeskey
by Mom, Dad, and Jack

Matthew McLeskey
by Mike, Holly, Parker, and Graham Hoenig

Matthew McLeskey
by Joy Shackelford

Elizabeth Chapman Quantz McMeekin
by Thomas, Winn, Tom, Sarah, Mae, Evans, Ann Tolly, and Henry

Charles Morgan
by Paula Morgan

Lynda Moore
by Joy Shackelford

James Warren Mullen
by Linda, Mark, Keenan, James, Banks, Steven, Natalie, McClure, and John Mullen

Cliff Neal
by Peggie and Harry Schoen

John Reagan
by his loving family

Janet P. Reed
by Becky and Len Reed

Henry Sanders
by Lindy Sanders

Samuel Shackelford, Jr.
by Joy Shackelford

Edward (Ned) Sydnor
by his family

Hollis Taylor
by Naomi Taylor

Ed Walpole
by Beth and Peter Neidenbach

Betty Walpole Weller
by Beth and Peter Neidenbach

Mike Williams
by Jan, Adrienne, and Michael Williams

Tommy Young
by Elizabeth Young

Kurt Zimmerli
by Nelly Zimmerli and family

Joining First Presbyterian

If you would like to become a member of First Presbyterian Church, please make your way to the **Church Parlor at 10:30am** on **Sunday, January 14**. Ministers and members of the Session will be there to greet you and welcome you into the membership of the church. Questions? Contact Joanie Shackleton; 864-208-2132 / jshackleton@fpcspartanburg.org.

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)
Meets Today - and Resumes January 7

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 2208*
Emmaus – *Room 2207*
Abide – *Room 2200*
L.I.F.T. – *Room 2201*
Glory Days – *Purnell Room*

Today's Musicians

Contemporary Worship: Lisa Cunningham, piano/vocals; Kolby Carrouth, drums; Cooper Cecil, electric guitar; Landon Hammett, keyboard/vocals; Anna Harkey, violin; Jeff Key, bass guitar; Eranga Goonetilleke, vocals

Traditional Worship: Holt Andrews; Marcia Andrews; Chancel Choir; Valerie and Paul MacPhail; Zach Ellis; Matt MacPhail; Kevin Marsh; Catherine Jennings; Sam VanHyning, oboe

Calendar

December 17
Second Sunday of Advent: Joy
Lessons and Carols
9:00am Contemporary Worship (Fogartie Hall)
10:00am Sunday School (9:45am Gathering Time)
11:00am Traditional Worship (Sanctuary)
12:00pm Congregational Meeting (Sanctuary)
12:05pm Celebration of the Ministry of Rev. Joanne R. Hull (Social Hall)
6:00pm Young Adult Christmas Party (offsite)
6:30pm Middle School Christmas Caroling and Party

December 21
6:00pm Service of Comfort and Light (Chapel)

December 24
Second Sunday of Advent: Love
11:00am Traditional Worship (Sanctuary)
4:00pm Family Service (Sanctuary)
6:00pm & 10:00pm Candlelight Services (Sanctuary)

Looking Forward

December 25 & 26
All Church Facilities Closed

December 31
11:00am Traditional Worship Service

January 1
All Church Facilities Closed

January 7
Officer Ordination and Installation

January 13
Walk as One (YMCA, 151 Ribault St)

January 15
MLK Day of Service

January 28
Congregational Meeting

January 31
Annual Meeting

May 3-5, 2024
Congregational Retreat at Montreat

June 3-6, 2024
Vacation Bible School

Front Cover: "Joy to the World!" by Steve Evans
from Art in the Christian Tradition,
a project of the Vanderbilt Divinity Library, Nashville, TN

Parts of today's liturgy are from the Abingdon Worship Annual and Call to Worship.

To Ponder Prayerfully

"Joy is not a requirement of Christian discipleship, it is a consequence.
It is not what we have to acquire in order to experience life in Christ;
it is what comes to us when we are walking in the way of faith and obedience."

- Eugene Peterson

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. L. Craig Foster
Associate Pastor
Discipleship and Communications

Rev. Joanne R. Hull
Associate Pastor
Congregational Care and Deacons

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

Rev. John Daniel DeBevoise
Associate Pastor
Youth and Campus Ministries

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

Grace deMaine
Associate Director, Youth Ministry

Carrie Coleman
Youth Ministry Coordinator

Beth Cecil
Parish Nurse

Colleen Darrall
Director of Recreation

Pano Stathakis
Director of Hospitality

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

Caroline Goodman
Communications Director

Shannon Hutcheson
Administrative Assistant
Children's and Adult Discipleship

Ian Ritchings
Administrative Assistant
Missions, Young Adults, Communications

Cathy Rush
Receptionist and Admin to Music

Joanie Shackleton
Administrative Assistant
Congregational Care and Deacons

Andy Mayfield
Grounds Manager

Judith Holbert
Tiffany Long
William Massey
Custodians

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