



# SHARON PRESBYTERIAN

**Sunday, November 16, 2025**

Celebrating Christ's gift of salvation, our grateful worship of God guides the three-fold mission of Sharon Presbyterian Church:

***Invite*** All Seekers, ***Teach*** the Gospel, and ***Serve*** Human Need.

Sharon Presbyterian Church † 5201 Sharon Road, Charlotte, NC 28210

† Office and Emergency Contact: 704-553-0869 †

Email: [office@sharonpcusa.org](mailto:office@sharonpcusa.org) † Website: [www.sharonpcusa.org](http://www.sharonpcusa.org)

# Twenty-Third Sunday after Pentecost

November 16, 2025 | 10:30 am

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Prelude

*Fantasia on Beloved Hymns*  
*Spirit Ringers*

Arr. Wagner

Life of the Church

\* Sharing the Peace of Christ

\* Trinity Chimes

\* Call to Worship

From the corners of the community  
from the confusion of life  
from the loneliness of our hearts.

**Gather us in, O Lord.**

To feed our minds  
to fire our imagination  
to free our hearts.

**Gather us in, O Lord.**

For the reconciliation of neighbors  
for the healing of the nations  
for hope to grow and blossom.

**Gather us in, O Lord.**

\* Hymn No. 459

*O Word of God Incarnate*

\* Call to Confession

\* Prayer of Confession

**God of mercy,  
you know our deepest desires,  
and we know the vision of your kingdom.  
We bring before you those areas of our lives  
in need of your transforming power;  
that which we misuse or neglect,  
that which we are most reluctant to let go,  
that which is hurtful to others.**

**Reshape our lives to reflect the goodness of your love  
and the wideness of your mercy.**

**We pray in Christ's name. Amen.**

*(A moment for personal reflection and confession)*

**\* Assurance of God's Grace**

Children of God, you were created in God's image,  
and you are worthy of God's boundless love and mercy.

Through the love of Christ, we begin a new day. Believe the good news!

**In Jesus Christ we are forgiven!**

**\* Hymn of Response No. 582**

***Glory to God, Whose Goodness Shines on Me***

**Glory to God, whose goodness shines on me,  
and to the Son, whose grace has pardoned me,  
and to the Spirit, whose love has set me free.**

**As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be. Amen.**

**World without end, without end. Amen. (3x)**

**As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be. Amen.**

## ***Proclaiming God's Word***

**Children's Sermon**

***Children of all ages are always welcome in worship!***

*All children, infants - 4 years old, are welcome in the nursery open from 8:15am to 11:45am.*

*Worship bags are located in the back of the sanctuary. Children may choose to read, draw, or create from the available activities which will help enrich their worship experience.*

***Children's Worship***

*Young children, ages 3 through kindergarten, are invited to a special worship time in the Barbara Ward Building. A Children's Worship leader will guide them there after the Children's Sermon. Parents/guardians can meet them in the Ward Building for pick-up.*

*School-aged children are encouraged to remain in the sanctuary.*

**Sacrament of Baptism**

**Assisting Elder, Susie Banks**

**Luke Palmer Easton and Brooks Bennett Easton**

**Children of Jonathan and Madison Easton**

**Hymn of Response No. 482**

***Baptized in Water***

**Baptized in water, sealed by the Spirit,  
marked with the sign of Christ our King;  
born of the Spirit, we are God's children;  
joyfully now God's praises we sing.**

Scripture Reading

2 Thessalonians 3:1-5

Anthem

*Peace I Give to You*  
*Chancel Choir*

Craig Courtney

Scripture Reading

Isaiah 65:17-25

This is the Word of God for the people of God.

**Thanks be to God.**

Prayer for Illumination

Sermon

*“God’s Dream”*

Rev. Julie Walkup Bird

\* Hymn No. 373

*O Day of Peace*

## *Living into God's Word*

\* Affirmation of Faith

From *A Brief Statement of Faith*

**In a broken and fearful world  
the Spirit gives us courage  
to pray without ceasing,  
to witness among all peoples to Christ as Lord and Savior,  
to unmask idolatries in Church and culture,  
to hear the voices of peoples long silenced,  
and to work with others for justice, freedom, and peace.**

Prayers of the People and 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 glory forever. Amen.**

Giving Thanks

*Feel free to place your gifts in the offering plate being passed, give by texting sharonpc to 73256, or use the QR code:*



Offertory

*We Gather Together*  
*Spirit Ringers*

Arr. McChesney

\* Doxology Hymn No. 609

***Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow***  
**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow.**  
**Praise God, all creatures high and low.**  
**Alleluia, alleluia!**  
**Praise God, in Jesus fully known:**  
**Creator, Word, and Spirit one.**  
**Alleluia, alleluia!**  
**Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!**

\* Prayer of Dedication

## ***Going in God's Name***

\* Hymn No. 65

***Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah***

\* Charge and Benediction

\* Choral Benediction

***To God Alone Be the Glory***  
*Chancel Choir*

Fettke

\* Postlude

***Trumpet Rondeau in D***

Lasky

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\* All who are able may stand

**Today's Worship Leaders:** Rev. Julie Walkup Bird, *Senior Pastor*; Rev. Ron E. Nelson, *Associate Pastor*; Todd Barnhill, *Director of Music*; R. Lance Burnette, *Associate Director of Music and Organist*; Kiana Bargeman, *AV Technician*; Paul Osowski, *Liturgist*.

**The flowers are given to the glory of God** in the loving memory of Virginia Campbell and John R. Dinsmore by their daughter, Ginny Perez.

**Please see an usher** for hearing aids and large print Bibles, hymnals, and bulletins. Children's Worship Bags are available in the back of the Sanctuary for use during worship.

**We extend a very warm welcome to all our guests today.** We hope you feel you are truly a part of the family of faith and will visit again. Please sign the Friendship Pad when it is passed down the pew. If you are seeking a church home in this community and would like to discuss uniting with Sharon Presbyterian, please indicate your interest on the Friendship Pad, speak to a pastor after the service, or contact the church office. We are delighted you are here!

**REMEMBER IN PRAYER:** Suzanne Pearce, Sydney Collins, Sherry Meacham, Marion Moir, Bob Nelsen, William Thomas, Lee Shrum, Bill Moorefield, Bob Moore, Pat Ingraham, Ginny Long, Carol Ann Allen, Ken Sumner, David Wilson, Nancy Davis, Candy Lee, Lance Burnette, Chris Price, Our Homebound Members, Ed Kelly (Charles Alley's brother-in-law), Liz and Ward McKeithen (Ashley Nelson's parents), Lee Manning (Jo Ann Manning's son), Puriyninchik and

Our Peru Mission Partners, and Mark Adams and Miriam Maldonado Escobar (Frontera de Cristo, US-Mexico Border). *The prayer list is reset on the first Sunday of each month. To submit or resubmit a prayer request, please contact Rev. Nelson at [ron@sharonpcusa.org](mailto:ron@sharonpcusa.org). By request, prayer concerns may remain private and will not appear in the published list.*

Deepest sympathy in Christ is extended to Anna Shealy Pruitt in the death of her father-in-law, John Crayton Pruitt, III, who died on November 9, 2025. John is the father of our former Director of Youth, Martin Pruitt.



You're invited to  
**NOVEMBER 16**  
**SUNDAY FUNDAY**  
**FOR FAMILIES**  
**FIESTA!**

Join other families in the Christine Price Outreach Center  
immediately following the 10:30 am service.

We'll offer children's music practice with Ms. Melinda followed by  
a catered Salsarita's lunch.

RSVP to Sonia by Nov. 13: [Sonia@Sharonpcusa.org](mailto:Sonia@Sharonpcusa.org)  
or 704-553-0869

**CHILDREN AGES 0 - 5<sup>TH</sup> GRADE AND THEIR FAMILIES**



**TODAY! from 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. in the Charles Little Gym**

Join us on this afternoon to pack over 10,000 meals for our mission partner, Rise Against Hunger. Join us for two hours to make 10,000 meals and learn more about and support Rise Against Hunger as they work in countries worldwide to fight hunger, targeting communities facing high rates of food insecurity.

## **Better Together Wednesday Evening Dinners!**

**November 19<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 p.m. in the Charles Little Activity Building**

Remember “**Sharon Wednesdays**”? Those special nights of good food and fellowship are back, revamped and refreshed as **Better Together!**

Join us for a delicious catered meal, an inspiring speaker, and plenty of fellowship. And for the kids? BINGO and fun activities just for them!

**Speaker:** Liz Clasen-Kelly, CEO of Roof Above

### **Dinner Menu!**

- Organic Green Salad with Balsamic Vinaigrette, Tomato, and Cucumbers
- Grilled Chicken Medallions
- Penne Pasta with Roasted Tomato, Spinach in a Parmesan Cream Broth
- Classic Key Lime Pie

### **Dinner Reservations Required**

- \$15 per person (maximum of \$50 per family)
- Children 5 and under are free
- \$20 per person at the door — so pay in advance and save!

Scan the QR code below to register now. You can also reserve your spot by bringing cash or a check to the church office, or by placing your payment in the offering plate (please note “Better Together” on the memo line).



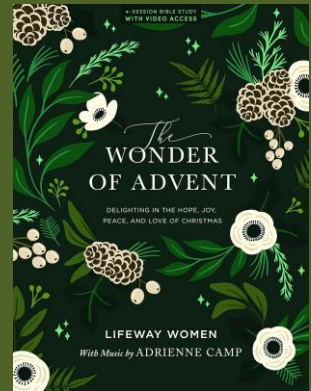
## **Advent Decorating**

**Saturday, November 29<sup>th</sup> Starting at 11:00 a.m. in the Sanctuary**

The Worship Committee will be decorating for Advent on Saturday, November 29th starting at 11:00 a.m. Kick off the Advent Season by joining us. Please contact Sonya Stanford by text at 704-996-1836 if you are interested in helping us deck the halls!

# Women's Bible Study

Our Women's Bible Study will begin a new series on Wednesday, November 19<sup>th</sup>. The study is titled *The Wonder of Advent: Delighting in the Hope, Joy, Peace, and Love of Christmas* by Lifeway Women. The book is available for purchase on Amazon or Lifeway.com. We meet on **Wednesday mornings from 9:30 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.** in the Gathering Room of the Barbara Ward Building. New attendees are always welcome!



## Campus-Wide Workday

**Saturday, November 22<sup>nd</sup> from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.**

Join us for our next Campus-Wide Workday! We will be focusing on leaf collection and disposal. Bring your rakes, leaf blowers, tarps, wheelbarrows and any pickup trucks available. We thank you for your help in keeping Sharon shining bright!

## Evening Prayer Worship Service


**Sunday, November 23<sup>rd</sup> at 6:00 p.m. in the Chapel**

We have introduced a new Evening Prayer service designed to provide a quiet, contemplative space in the midst of busy lives. This 45-minute service will invite you to pause, reflect, and rest in God's presence through scripture, prayer, and silence. All are welcome to join us in the Chapel as we gather in prayer and share the sacrament of the Lord's Supper.

**Save-The-Date!**

**Jazz Carolin'**

**Sunday, December 7<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary**



# Christmas IN South Park

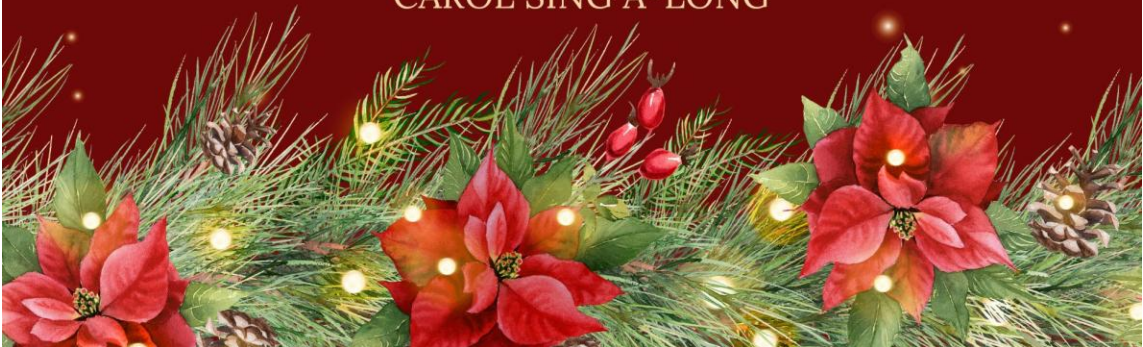
DECEMBER

2

AT 7:00 PM

SHARON PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

LIVE MUSIC  
ORCHESTRA  
SPC CHANCEL CHOIR  
CAROL SING A-LONG



## **Joyfully Welcoming Recent New Members!**



**Carolynne, Campbell,  
& Michael Kentfield**



**Tucker, Caroline, Nick, &  
Thomas Chamberlain**



**Jean Harvey**

### **Interested in becoming a member of Sharon Presbyterian Church?**

**The Session will be receiving new members after the 10:30 worship service on Sunday, December 14th. If you are feeling the nudge of the Holy Spirit to become a member, please contact Rev. Ron Nelson at 704-553-0869 or [ron@sharonpcusa.org](mailto:ron@sharonpcusa.org).**

## *January – September 2025 Financial Summary*

	Year-to Date		Annual Budget
	Actual	Budget	
Operating Revenue	788,190	745,012	1,093,112
Operating Expenses	822,761	843,268	1,123,112
Net from Operations	(34,571)	(98,256)	(30,000)
Special Gifts Income	15,000	15,000	30,000
Total Surplus / (Deficit)	(19,571)	(83,256)	0

**If you've already returned your 2026 pledge, thank you very much! If you haven't, please prayerfully consider doing so. Your Session is already hard at work discerning how God will lead us into the coming year.**

If you have questions, please contact:

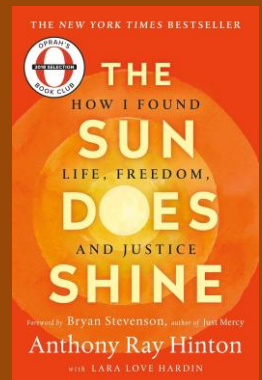
- Treasurer, David Barker at david.barker1980@outlook.com
- Moderator of the Finance Committee, Travis Doak at tdoak@icloud.com
- Sharon Pres. Financial Officer, Amy Stephens at amy@sharonpcusa.org

### **SPC's BOOK CLUB**

Do you enjoy reading books that will challenge your thinking if you let them? Do you like being part of a community of open-hearted people who wish to expand their minds? You have come to the right place!

Join Sonia Lee and the SPC Book Club on **Thursday, December 11<sup>th</sup>**, for lively discussion, fun, and fellowship! We will cover *The Sun Does Shine* by Anthony Ray Hinton.

We meet at Barnes and Noble, 4020 Sharon Road,  
at 10:00 a.m. We hope to see you there!



# JOYFUL LIVING, GRATEFUL GIVING

At Sharon Presbyterian, we experience joy that overflows through worship, fellowship, service, and care. Each of these expressions of faith deepens our gratitude and connects us to Christ, the true source of our joy. Together, we are living into the promise that God's joy may be in us and that our joy may be complete.

**It's not too late to make your pledge of time, talent, and treasure for the 2026 season! Support for Sharon's stewardship campaign, Joyful Living, Grateful Giving, is vital to all aspects of the church, from missions and maintenance to utilities and congregational care. Please consider making a pledge for 2026 today. Pledge cards can be found in the Narthex and Church Office.**

*"I have said these things to you so that my joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete." (John 15:11)*



## Men's Fellowship Gathering

**Thursday, December 4<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 p.m. at Trio Restaurant**

**Join us for our last Men's Fellowship gathering for the year on Thursday, December 4th! We have reserved space at Trio Restaurant. This is a great chance to connect and enjoy good food and conversation with other men in the church. Whether you attended the previous gatherings or are joining for the first time, all are welcome!**

**10709 McMullen Creek Parkway Charlotte, NC 28226**