

The First Sunday of Christmas

December 28, 2025

WE ASSEMBLE TO WORSHIP GOD

**Rise in body or in spirit...(as indicated below)*

OPENING VOLUNTARY

Greensleeves arr. Richard Purvis

CHIMING OF THE HOUR

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CHORAL INTROIT (Hymnal 110, v.1)

Love Has Come BRING A TORCH

*CALL TO WORSHIP (from Isaiah 9:2)

One: The prophet Isaiah declared, “The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness—on them light has shined.”

All: God of glory, your splendor shines from a manger in Bethlehem into the darkness of human night. Shine your light into the dark corners of our hearts.

One: Open our eyes to Christ’s presence in the shadows all around us.

All: Make us beacons of your light and justice, defenders of all who suffer from the darkness of this world. Lord, be our true light, our way, and our life.

*OPENING PRAYER WITH 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.

*OPENING HYMN 112

On Christmas Night All Christians Sing SUSSEX CAROL

WE CONFESS OUR SIN

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God of grace, you have given us your Son Jesus Christ, the light of the world, but we so often choose darkness and cling to things that hide the brightness of your love. We get lost, lose our way, and wander in the shadows. We ignore your Word, we hold onto old habits and attitudes, we turn away from the needs of others. Renew us and empower us with your Spirit that we may live in your light and reflect your love to all those around us.

Silent Prayer – What are the dark areas in your heart and life that need God’s light? AMEN.

*KYRIE ELEISON

O Lord, Have Mercy ORÉ PORIAJÚ VEREKÓ
O Lord, have mercy; O Christ, have mercy; O Lord, have mercy, have mercy on us.

*ASSURANCE OF PARDON (1 John 1:5-7)

One: “This is the message we have heard from God and proclaim to you, that God is light and in him there is no darkness at all. If we say that we have fellowship with him while we are walking in darkness, we lie and do not do what is the true; but if we walk in the light as he himself is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin.” Friends, believe the Good News:

All: In Jesus Christ, all of our sin has been forgiven and God has lifted us up to new life with him! Thanks be to God!

*RESPONSE (Hymnal 113, Refrain)

Angels We Have Heard on High GLORIA
Gloria in excelsis Deo! Gloria in excelsis Deo!

THE WORD OF GOD PROCLAIMED

CHILDREN’S SERMON

Rev. Kara Wheeler

Children through 2nd grade are welcome in Children’s Church with Ms. Kara.

ANTHEM

Lo, How a Rose E’er Blooming ES IST EIN’ ROS’
Lo, how a rose e’er blooming from tender stem hath sprung, of Jesse’s lineage coming, by faithful prophets sung. It came, a floweret bright, amid the cold of winter, when half spent was the night. Isaiah ‘twas foretold it, the rose I have in mind; with Mary we behold it, the virgin mother kind. To show God’s love aright she bore for us a Savior, when half spent was the night. This flower, whose fragrance tender with sweetness fills the air, dispels with glorious splendor the darkness everywhere. Enfleshed, yet very God, from sin and death he saves us and lightens every load.

SCRIPTURE READING

Matthew 2:13-23 (Pew Bible p.2)

THE SERMON

Rachel’s Children Rev. Steve Simon

TIME OF SILENT REFLECTION

What is God saying to you through Scripture, sermon and song?

WE RESPOND TO GOD’S WORD

*HYMN OF RESPONSE 110

Love Has Come BRING A TORCH

* WE SAY WHAT WE BELIEVE (John 1:1-5, 9-14, NRSV)

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it. The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. He came to what was his own, and his own people did

not accept him. But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, who were born, not of blood or of the will of flesh or the will of man, but of God. And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father’s only son, full of grace and truth.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

PRESENTATION OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS

Please touch the plate as it is passed to offer your time, talents, and tithes to God.

OFFERTORY

The Holly and the Ivy arr. James Biery

*RESPONSE

Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow LASST UNS ERFREUEN
Praise God, from whom all blessings flow. Praise Him all creatures here below. Alleluia, alleluia! Praise Him above ye heavenly host. Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost! Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Loving God, wherever we look, from next door to a world away, we see places where your creation groans and where people suffer. May these gifts we bring be a faithful and loving response to those cries. Fill our hearts with the love, joy, and peace you have given to our world through the gift of your Son. May we always show our gratitude as we walk in your ways and love and serve our neighbors. For we pray in the name of the One who came to live among us, our Lord Jesus Christ, Amen.

WE ARE SENT TO SERVE GOD AND NEIGHBOR

*CLOSING HYMN 132

Good Christian Friends, Rejoice IN DULCI JUBILO

*THE CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

*CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE (Hymnal 137, v. 1)

He Came Down HE CAME DOWN/Cameroon song
He came down that we may have Love; he came down that we may have Love; he came down that we may have Love; Hallelujah forevermore!

CLOSING VOLUNTARY

Joy to the World arr. Anna Laura Page

The flowers today are given to the glory of God and in loving honor of their granddaughter, Maddie, on her 13th birthday, by Reid and Sheryl Smith.

Guests...WELCOME to First Presbyterian Church!

We are pleased that you have chosen to worship with us and pray that you will discover anew God’s love for you today. Please sign the Friendship Pad with your contact information when it is passed.

Church members and staff would be delighted to provide you with more information about FPC.

We welcome Rev. Steve Simon to FPC this morning!

Steve, a retired PCUSA pastor, served churches in western Michigan, northern Idaho, and eastern Washington. He enjoys walking the dog, playing golf, solving puzzles, and memorizing psalms. Steve is the author of the book *Holy Walks: Learning and Praying the Psalms*.

Nursery Care Today: Chris Wheeler **January 4:** Mary Anne Sheppard
Elder/Deacon on Duty Today: Scott Harris, Jennifer Abernathy
Elder/Deacon on Duty January 4: John Abernathy, Heather Dellinger
Monitor/Greeter Today: Bob Ballard **January 4:**
Acolytes Today: Taylor Chubb, Alexander Roberson
Acolytes January 4: Henry Goodner, Ben Williams

Remember the following in prayer: Worth Kendall, Mary Tice, Shirley Burton, Beth Easley, Michele Horne, Rev. Barry Lambert, Keira Esposito, Ashley Platts, Nancy Lowery, Colleen Lathan, Jean Horton, Will Read, Linder Tucker, Manfred Liewald

Plentiful Harvest Kitchen at Covenant PC is today. Volunteers needed for both shifts: 2-4 pm to prepare the meal and 4-6 pm to serve and clean-up. Contact Rob Joiner to serve in this important ministry.

The 2026 Flower Calendar is on the bulletin board outside the Church Office. Please reserve your date(s) for new year! Needed ASAP are January and February dates. Questions? Contact Allen Katz.

End of the Year Reminder: Thanks to all who contributed to the financial well-being of the church in 2025. The Finance Committee requests that any outstanding pledge balance be postmarked by December 31 (hand-stamped is best) or delivered to the Church Office and placed in Robyn Brown’s box by Dec. 31.

Family Promise: Thanks for all the wonderful volunteers at FPC who host families experiencing homelessness. **FPC will host again the weeks of January 25 – 31 and March 8 -14.** We will need overnight hosts, dinner providers, and greeters to open the building, visit with our guests, and help other volunteers. The January signup sheets are in the Narthex or you may use the QR code.



Men’s Bible Study: Under the direction of Terry Dodge, a men’s Bible Study will begin on Wednesday, January 7 at 6:30 pm. The book is *Everyday Epiphanies* by James A. Harnish. Reach out to Terry Dodge with any questions. Purchase a book in the Church Office for \$10.00.

Women’s Bible Study: The book, *Twelve Women of the Bible: Life-Changing Stories for Women Today*, will be the next women’s Bible Study. It will meet on Tuesdays at 10:00 am, starting January 6 for 12 weeks. Purchase a book in the Church Office for \$5.00.

Save the Date: Installation for Rev. Kara Wheeler, Associate Pastor of Family Ministries, on Sunday, January 11 at 3:00 pm.

This QR Code may be used for all online contributions to the church. There is a 1% processing fee for Checking/ACH transfers and 3% fee for Credit Card transaction.



This Week’s Calendar

Sunday, December 28

10:00 am Chancel Choir Rehearsal
10:00 am Sunday School for Seekers & New Covenant/Berean
11:00 am Worship

Tuesday, December 30

8:30 am Walking Group
9:00 am Youth Snow Tubing Trip
4:00 pm Seniors Exercise Class

Thursday, January 1

4:00 pm Seniors Exercise Class

Sunday, January 4

10:00 am Chancel Choir Rehearsal
10:00 am Sunday School for Seekers & New Covenant/Berean
11:00 am Worship

Sunday School for Children, Youth, and the Crossroads Class will not meet today and January 4.

*The Church Office will be closed on January 1st.
Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!*

Members of the Session

Susan Roberson, Clerk

Class of 2025

Butch Bailey
Terry Dodge
Mimi Goodner
Mary Anne Sheppard
Chris Wheeler

Class of 2026

John Abernathy
Jimmy Campbell
Scott Harris
Elizabeth Owen
Susan Roberson

Class of 2027

Paul Horne
Ann Hunsuck
Chip Hutchison
Julia Nichols
Sheryl Smith

Members of the Diaconate

Christy Goodner, Moderator

Class of 2025

James Crean
Vickey Dodge
Christy Goodner
Diane Hicks
Sue Munn

Class of 2026

Jennifer Abernathy
Heather Dellinger
Kathy James
Margaret Joiner
Dave Keely

Class of 2027

Beth Janicke
Allen Katz
Joan Musselwhite
Steve Roberts

Deacons of the Month for December

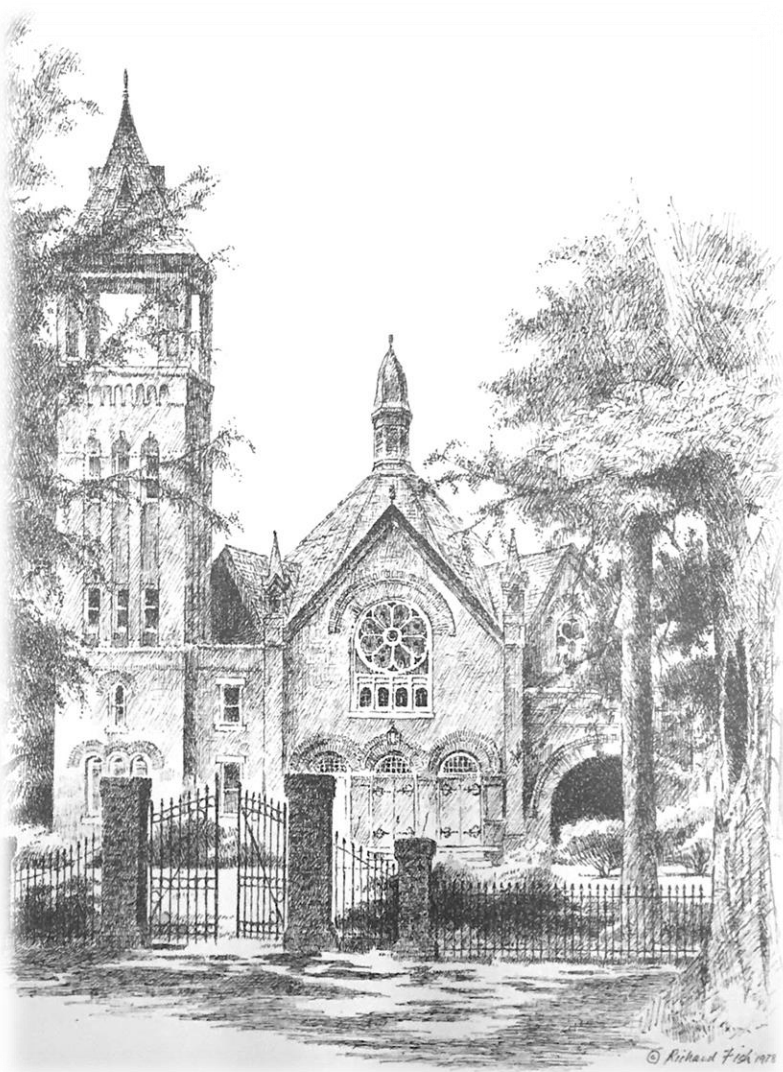
Vickey Dodge, Heather Dellinger, Allen Katz

Office Staff and Contact Information

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Robyn Brown - Financial Secretary - rbrown@fpcrockhill.org
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(803) 328-2467 - firstpresrh@gmail.com - www.fpc-rockhill.org

Church Office Hours

Monday – Wednesday: 9:00 am to 4:00 pm
Thursday: 9:00 am to 3:00 pm
Friday: Closed



First Presbyterian Church

234 East Main Street
Rock Hill, South Carolina 29730
Organized 1869

We are a diverse family of believers in Jesus Christ, who seek to glorify God by celebrating and sharing God’s renewing and transforming love as we:

Worship the living God with joy and thanksgiving

Teach the Word of God to deepen our faith and grow in our love of Christ

Serve others through sharing our unique gifts of the Holy Spirit

Fellowship with one another to energize our life together as a congregation

Nurture and Embrace all of God’s children.

Dr. A. Lee Zehmer – Senior Pastor
Rev. Kara Wheeler – Director of Family Ministries
Dr. Donald M. Rogers – Director of Music
M. L. Marley – Organist
Angela Harris – Director of Cherub Choir
Ashley Platts – Director of Handbell Choirs
Ida Newsom – Interim Director of Handbell Choirs