

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
ROCK HILL, SC  
DECEMBER 2025

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# The First Edition

## Christmas Comes



Greetings in the name of Jesus Christ!

As I have reflected on the state of our world today, it is so easy to get discouraged. Wars still rage; people still go hungry; and the division and hatred between people is so great that it makes me believe the same thing as Henry Wadsworth Longfellow, who wrote,

*And in despair I bowed my head;  
There is no peace on earth, I said;  
For hate is strong,  
And mocks the song  
Of peace on earth, good-will to men!* (from *Christmas Bells*)

Yet, I am reminded that, even in the midst of the turmoil, Christmas still comes. Every time we see the work of God in another person; every time a kind word is said; every time a loving deed is done; Christmas light breaks into a darkened world! Christmas comes!

We have a part to play in making the story of Christmas come alive in our world. We each are one of the Christmas lights who shine to make this world a better place. So let us shine Christ's light by speaking kind words, doing loving deeds, and becoming the hands and feet of Christ in another person's life.

*Through our lives: let us proclaim more loud and deep  
God is not dead, nor doth He sleep;  
The Wrong shall fail,  
The Right prevail,  
With peace on earth, good-will to [all].* (from *Christmas Bells*)

Merry Christmas to All!  
Your friend and pastor,

*Pastor Lee*



# Advent and Christmas at FPC

## FPC Christmas Post Office



The Post Office  
will be open from  
**November 30 to  
noon on  
December 14!**

Bring your cards for church members  
and the youth will sort them for 25¢ each.

Be sure to stop by and check to see  
if you have any to pick-up!



## 2025 Christmas Poinsettias

We are accepting orders for red and white poinsettias  
in honor or in memory of friends and loved ones until December 7.  
Order forms are available in the Narthex and can be dropped in  
the Offering Plate OR placed in Jonna Eichorn's box (#33).

Cost is \$14.00 each. Please include payment with your order.  
The poinsettias will be in the Sanctuary starting December 21.



## Lessons and Carols

Our Annual Lessons and Carols Service presented  
by our Chancel Choir, Soloists, and Handbell Choirs,  
will be on Sunday, December 14 at 11:00 am.

This year's service will feature a variety of carols  
and anthems. Featured are: "A Babe is Born in  
Bethlehem" by Justin Thomas Fields. This is a  
new anthem based on a 13th Century text. An  
arrangement of "O Little Town of Bethlehem" by  
David German (based on a totally different tune  
from the familiar carol). An old Basque Carol,  
"The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came." A 17th  
Century tune, "While By My Sheep," arranged  
by Hugo Jüngst featuring an echo quartet. A new  
arrangement of the traditional carol, "In the Bleak  
Midwinter," featuring soloists Angela Harris and  
Bobby Smith. In addition to the anthems, soprano  
Colleen Guseman will sing "Gesù Bambino" by  
Pietro Yon with our guest violinist, Laurie Neal.

Our Handbell Choir and Handbell Quartet will  
perform "Meditation on an Old French Carol"  
arranged by Derek K. Hakes and "In Excelsis Deo"  
arranged by Jason W. Krug.

Please join us for this most inspirational service!



## Christmas Eve Candlelight and Communion Service

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 24  
at 5:00 pm  
in the Sanctuary  
ALL ARE WELCOME!

First Presbyterian Church Rock Hill

## FPC Christmas Dinner & Nativity

Sunday, December 14  
at 5:00 pm

Please RSVP by December 7  
by filling out a  
Pew Reservation Card  
or calling the Church Office.

[www.fpc-rockhill.org](http://www.fpc-rockhill.org)



# December Birthdays

- 1 Joseph Briggs, Julie Dickson, Karen Holt
- 2 Evan Hicklin, Lee Zehmer
- 7 Pris Keefer, Susan Roberson
- 8 Carrie Roberts
- 9 Gene Bradshaw, Alan Nichols, Maddie Skinner
- 10 Caroline Baker, Landon Roberts
- 11 Kathy James, Caroline Lewis
- 12 Freddy Faircloth
- 16 Janelle Chubb, Linder Tucker
- 17 Sarah Harris
- 18 Stuart Stevenson
- 19 Mason Hunter
- 21 Connor Hindson, Lynn Moran, Hudson Roberts
- 22 William Ojalehto
- 23 Peggy Debnam, Linda Hutchison
- 24 Ellie Dawson
- 27 Chyler Gockel, Meredith Spradley, Freeman Sturgis
- 29 Rebekah Baker, Sherry Hutchison, Joanne Lehman
- 30 Raines Bridges, Melissa Granacher
- 31 James Roberts

# Server Schedules

## DECEMBER DEACONS ON CALL

Vickey Dodge, Heather Dellinger, Allen Katz

## DECEMBER ELDERS/DEACONS

- 7 Terry Dodge, Christy Goodner
- 14 Chris Wheeler, Sue Munn
- 21 Elizabeth Owen, Diane Hicks
- 24 Jimmy Campbell, Margaret Joiner
- 28 Scott Harris, Jennifer Abernathy

## DECEMBER MONITORS/GREETERS

- 7 Bill Lehman                      24 Mike Hunsucker
- 14 Bill Lehman                      28 Bob Ballard
- 21 Rod Hicks

## DECEMBER WORSHIP CARE

- 7 Mary Alice Owen      21 Susan Dove
- 14 Liz Briggs                      28 Chris Wheeler

## COMMITTEE MEETINGS

**Tuesday, December 2      Sunday, December 14**

6:00 pm – Deacons                      9:00 am – Missions

**Wednesday, December 17**

7:00 pm – Finance

## Blood Drive on Monday, Dec. 1



**2:00 - 6:30 pm**

**Oakland Ave. Presbyterian**  
**Oakland Hall**

*++please note the new location!!++*

To Register to Give:

Please call 1-800-RED-CROSS (1-800-733-2767) or  
visit [RedCrossBlood.org](http://RedCrossBlood.org).



## Church Office Hours

**Monday – Wednesday:** 9:00 am to 4:00 pm

**Thursday:** 9:00 am to 3:00 pm

**Friday:** Closed

# Fellowship and Congregational Life

## FPC HOPKINS HALL PICKLEBALL!

Pickleball is taking off as a fun sport for everyone,  
no matter your age or skill level.

The church is excited to get in on the action!  
The new padding in the gym isn't just for looks;  
it's to keep us safe while we play.

If there is enough interest, we can have a  
Pickleball Clinic at the church with LaVern Hovey,  
a well known certified instructor in Rock Hill.

His clinics are 90 minutes long  
and cost \$20 per person.

Contact Chip Hutchison at 803-984-4935 or  
chutchison31@gmail.com if you would like  
to be added to our Pickleball Clinic list.

A date and time will then be set for the clinic.



## Ladies Night Out



**Tuesday, December 9  
at 6:00pm  
129 Caldwell St.  
Rock Hill**

**Notify Linder Tucker by  
Monday, December 8 at 6:00pm  
to make reservations.**

**2026  
Flower Calendar**

The new 2026 flower calendar is on the  
bulletin board outside the Church Office.  
Please reserve your date(s) for new year!

Questions? Contact Allen Katz.

## Save the Date

Installation for Rev. Kara Wheeler,  
Associate Pastor of Family Ministries

Sunday, January 11 at 3:00 pm

First Presbyterian Church of Rock Hill

*"Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in  
the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit and  
teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you.  
And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age."*

Matthew 28:19-20



## FPC Fitness Groups

The Walking Group  
meets Tuesdays &  
Thursdays at 8:30 am  
at the Hopkins Hall  
entrance.



Seniors Exercise Class  
meets Tuesdays &  
Thursdays at 4:00 pm  
in Hopkins Hall for all  
skill levels. \$10/month.



Pickleball Courts are  
open for play on  
Thursdays at 5:00 pm  
in Hopkins Hall gym.



Yoga Classes will  
return on Jan. 7.



# Christian Education

## Sunday School – Sundays at 10:00 am

**Nursery Room 111** : Growing in Grace & Gratitude (Caroline Bender, Nursery Assistant)

**Younger PKS Room 112**: Milestone Ministry (Margaret Joiner)

**Children Room 117**: Milestone Ministry (Jennifer Abernathy)

**Youth Room 118**: Milestone Ministry (Libba Faircloth, Anna Roberson, Jimmy & Kia Hicklin)

**Crossroads Room 217**: Milestone Ministry (Keith & Susan Roberson)

**Seekers Room 226**: *Beatitudes for Today* by James C. Howell (Bob Ballard, Christy Goodner, Bob Norwood)

**New Covenant Berean 220**: Mission & Social Justice in Being Reformed Series (Joe Hardy, Paul Horne, Kathy James, Robert Pender)

## Small Groups

**Men's Bible Study** (Wednesdays at 6:30 pm) – *The Journey* by Adam Hamilton; December 3, 10 & 17

**Women's Bible Study** (Tuesdays, at 10:00 am, starting January 6 for 12 weeks) *Twelve Women of the Bible: Life-Changing Stories for Women Today*

**Rock of Ages** (2nd/4th Tuesdays at 6:30 pm) – Philippians and Colossians

**Youth Group** (select Sunday evenings) – Parables of Jesus (Kara Wheeler)

**College** (select Monday evenings) – Parables of Jesus (Kara Wheeler)

## **Milestone Ministry Sunday School for FPC Families**

***"He says, 'Be still and know that I am God; I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth.'" – Psalm 46:10***

November 30: Angel's Visit to Joseph (Luke 1:26-38; Matthew 1:18-25)

December 7: Elizabeth & Mary (Luke 1:39-58)

December 14: The Christmas Story (Matthew 1-2: Luke 1-2:41)

December 21: Wise Men's Visit (Matthew 2:1-2)

December 28: No Sunday School – Winter Break

***"Don't let anyone look down on you because you are young, but set an example for the believers in speech, in life, in love, in faith, and in purity." – 1 Timothy 4:12***

January 4: No Sunday School – Winter Break



Our 2025 Calendar of Devotions for Advent are written by Jan Turrentine. The calendar contains brief readings for each day in Advent, from the first Sunday of Advent through Christmas Day, including a suggested Scripture, a short devotion, and a short prayer or practice—all based on the Revised Common Lectionary. If you would like to be added to the daily distribution list during Advent, please email Kara.

## **Presbyterian Kids**

Sunday, December 14 – 4:00 pm

Dress Rehearsal for the Nativity Presentation before our Christmas Dinner at 5:00 pm

Sunday, December 21 – 5:00 pm

Christmas Caroling in Rock Hill We will meet at the church. Please RSVP with Kara to help with the planning.

Passportkids Registration Now Open: Camp for children Grades 3-5 at Montreat Conference Center July 6-9. Cost is \$200. Scholarships are available. \$50 deposit due by January 25. Limited spaces are available.



# Christian Education

## Youth Ministry at FPC

Friday, December 5: Cookie Walk Fundraiser 4:30–6:00 pm (or until we sell out)  
Registration opens for our Snow Tubing trip.

Sunday, December 7: Progressive Dinner

**RSVP by Sunday, November 30 to Elizabeth Owen**

Sunday, December 21: 5:00 pm Christmas Caroling in Rock Hill  
(van transportation provided for the first 14 who RSVP to Kara)

Tuesday, December 30: 9:00 am – 9:00 pm Hawks Nest Snow Tubing Trip  
plus dinner at the Daniel Boone Inn – Cost is \$75

### **Coming in the Spring:**

Sunday, February 15 – Church-Wide Dinner and Silent Auction Fundraiser  
for our Summer Youth Trip to the Dominican Republic

Youth Mission trip to Charleston – Friday, March 20 – Sunday, March 22 Registration  
Deadline of February 15 – Cost will be \$125/youth.



Church members are asked to bake their favorite cookies for the Cookie Walk AND/OR other items for a Bake Sale. Deliver items to the Youth Room on Wed., December 3 or Thurs., December 4.

Set-up begins morning of Friday, December 5.

Donated votive candle holders and Hummel figurines will also be for sale.

Your support of our youth ministry is greatly appreciated!

Questions? Contact Beth Janicke or Kia Hicklin.



# Mission and Outreach



We give thanks and celebrate that two of the three families we've hosted through Family Promise in recent months moved into permanent housing. The third family expects to obtain housing soon. The Family Promise network lends support and guidance to those who need a moment and a place to return to self-sufficiency for their family.

**Make plans to volunteer during our next week of hosting December 7 - 13. Use this QR code or see the signup list in the Narthex.**



## Dimes for Hunger



Many thanks to all who gave so generously to the Dimes for Hunger Offering. **We collected \$3874.11!** Monies will go to our Providence Presbytery to help feed those in our community and around the world.

## Plentiful Harvest Kitchen at Covenant PC of Rock Hill



### Sunday - December 28

**2-4 pm to prepare the meal**

**4-6 pm to serve and clean-up**

**Volunteers needed for both shifts.**

**Contact Rob Joiner to serve in this important ministry.**

## Thornwell Offering

Thanks to the FPC family for giving graciously, praying boldly, and continuing to walk alongside Thornwell, planting and nurturing seeds of hope, that grow into lasting change, one child at a time. Additional donations will be received through December 14.



## Advent Giving Opportunities

### Christmas Joy Offering—December 21

Each year during the Advent and Christmas season, we lift up past, present, and future leaders of the church. God has blessed the church with incredible leadership in every time and place, but those leaders need to be supported by their communities as well.

This Offering provides support for Presbyterian church workers and their families in their time of need and leadership development and education for communities of color at Presbyterian-related schools and colleges equipping communities of color.

### The Christmas Jar

In the spirit of the inspiring 2005 novel, Christmas Jar, share loose change in the jar in the Narthex to give **HOPE** to the recipient and **JOY** to the giver.

### The Giving Tree

Decorate our Narthex tree with: (new) hats, gloves, scarves, socks, men's underwear, sweatshirts and hand warmers. Your donations will be shared with the Bethel Men's Shelter in Rock Hill.

Children's coats (new) are also needed and will be donated to our local schools.



### Hunger Outreach Program

(HOP)

The HOP Ministry will meet at 2:30 pm on December 23 in Hopkins Hall!



# Congregational Care

***We pray for others because Jesus has taught us to.***

***We share each other's burdens and seek God's comfort.***

Our Prayer Ministry accepts your prayer requests. You may provide as much or as little information as you wish and know that prayers will be offered. The Prayer Ministry is a part of the Diaconate as a confidential means of prayer request for FPC members and immediate family members. Due to confidentiality, prayer requests through the Prayer Ministry are not made public to the congregation without the permission of the person the prayer request is for.

**Contact Prayer Ministry Coordinator, Vickey Dodge, to submit a prayer request.**

***Please keep these members in your prayers:***

**Health Concerns:** Worth Kendall, Mary Tice, Shirley Burton, Beth Easley, Michele Horne, Keira Esposito, Rev. Dr. Barry Lambert, Ashley Platts, Nancy Lowery, Colleen Lathan, Jean Horton, Will Read

**Friends & Family Members:** Keira Esposito, Thomas Powell, Rye Andrews, Tori Jablonka, Mrs. Spence Hughes, Melissa Westbrook

**Pastoral Care:** If you or someone you know has a pastoral need, please contact the Church Office at 803-328-2467, firstpresrh@gmail.com, or a deacon on call.



**Monday, December 8**  
**6:00 pm – Dinner & College Bible Study at the Wheeler home**

**Sunday, December 21**  
**10:00 am Brunch in the Parlor**  
**5:00 pm – Christmas Caroling**

*Pray for our college students:*



**University of SC**

Ellison Briggs



**Coastal Carolina**

Grace Gresham



**Hillsdale College**

Kate Roberson



**The Citadel**

Jacob Baker

**Clemson**



Caroline Baker  
Rose Faircloth  
Dixon Murdoch  
Coleman Nies  
Kaitlyn Stevenson  
Nora Stevenson



**Member of the Military:** Jacob Harris – Navy

Stationed in Yokosuka, Japan

**Mailing Address:** ENS Jacob Harris

USS Higgins DDG 76

Unit 100188 Box 2001

FPO AP 96667

## Ancestral Clan Tartan

Our first Kirkin' was held in 2015 using tartans borrowed from a church in Waxhaw. Many FPC members were then interested in having their own family tartan and in 2016 we researched and ordered the wool fabric from Scotland. The fabric was made into 25 flags for the October 2017 Kirkin'. We have added 10 more since then. If your family would like to have a tartan added to the next Kirkin', we will be accepting new fabric for tartan flags in spring 2026. Here's how to order.

Visit the Edinburgh Scotland Shops at [www.scotlandshop.com/us/](http://www.scotlandshop.com/us/) to search the name of your family clan. Or you can choose a particular plaid to "adopt." They have the best quality wool and selection of tartan plaid and are knowledgeable in finding the clan of your ancestors and answering your questions.

**When ordering, purchase 2 meters (in length) of 10 oz. lightweight wool plaid fabric. The fabric needs to arrive by March 1, 2026 so allow ample time for shipping.**

**Please ship to your home address.**

If you have any questions about the process or research, please contact Bev Keely or Julia Nichols.





# FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

234 EAST MAIN STREET

POST OFFICE BOX 1011

ROCK HILL, SC 29731



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*As a diverse family of believers in Jesus Christ, our mission is to glorify God by celebrating and sharing God's renewing and transforming love as: We worship the living God with joy and thanksgiving. We teach the Word of God to deepen our faith and to grow in our love for Jesus Christ. We serve others through sharing the gifts of the Holy Spirit. We fellowship to enrich and energize our life together as a congregation. We nurture and embrace all God's children.*

## Members of the Session

### 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, clerk

### Class of 2027

Paul Horne  
Ann Hunsucker  
Chip Hutchison  
Julia Nichols  
Sheryl Smith

## Members of the Diaconate

### Class of 2025

James Crean  
Vickey Dodge  
\*Christy Goodner, moderator  
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  
\*Wayne Terry, treasurer

## Staff

Rev. Dr. A. Lee Zehmer  
Senior Pastor  
lzehmer@fpcrockhill.org  
Rev. Kara Wheeler  
Director of Family Ministries  
kwheeler@fpcrockhill.org  
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  
Jonna Eichorn  
Administrative Assistant  
jeichorn@fpcrockhill.org  
Robyn Brown  
Financial Secretary  
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