

# The Third Sunday after Epiphany

## January 25, 2026

### WE ASSEMBLE TO WORSHIP GOD

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

#### OPENING VOLUNTARY

*Holy, Holy, Holy* NICEA/arr. Jason Krug  
Cynthia Johnson, Gary Johnson, Marsha Roberts, Chandler Thomas  
The Roy S. Hutchinson Handbell Quartet  
M.L. Marley, piano  
*The Voluntary is dedicated to Ken and Karen Holt.*

#### CHIMING OF THE HOUR

Handbell Quartet

#### WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

#### CHORAL INTROIT (Hymnal 681, v.1)

*This Is the Day the Lord Hath Made* NUN DANKET ALL ´UND BRINGET EHR´  
This is the day the Lord hath made; the hours are all God's own.  
Let heaven rejoice; let earth be glad, and praise surround the throne.

#### \*CALL TO WORSHIP from Psalms 70 and 5

One: We come into the presence of the holy God,  
**All: Who may not be grasped,**  
One: But may be gazed upon;  
**All: Who is not easily understood,**  
One: But is full of understanding;  
**All: Who does not come at our beck and call,**  
One: But who is always near.  
**All: We gather as God's children in confident assurance that God is here.**  
One: Let us worship God!

#### \*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 645

*Sing Praise to God Who Reigns Above* MIT FREUDEN ZART

### WE CONFESS OUR SIN

#### \*PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**We confess, O God, that too often we dwell on our failures and on what cannot be done rather than what you can do through us. Too often have we failed to follow your command to share the gospel. Forgive us. Give to us the vision of who you want us to be and what you want the church to do. Give us the strength and the will to strive for that vision, so that you might be glorified in this place. We pray in Jesus’ name,**  
*Silent Prayer - How have you disappointed God, others, or yourself?*  
**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

One: The God of creation is a God of mercy who is quick to forgive all who come in repentance.  
**All: We believe the Good News that in Jesus Christ, we are forgiven. Thanks be to God!**

#### \*RESPONSE (Hymnal 581)

*Glory Be to the Father* GLORIA PATRI (Greateorex)  
**Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost; as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end, Amen, amen.**

### THE WORD OF GOD PROCLAIMED

#### CHILDREN’S SERMON

Rev. Kara Wheeler

*Children through 2<sup>nd</sup> grade are welcome in Children’s Church.*

#### ANTHEM

*Take Up Your Cross, the Savior Said* BOURBON/arr. Howard Helvey  
Take up your cross, the Savior said, if you would my disciple be; take up your cross with willing heart, and humbly follow after me. Take up your cross; let not its weight fill your weak spirit with alarm; Christ's strength shall bear your spirit up and brace your heart, and nerve your arm. Take up your cross, heed not the shame, and let your foolish heart be still; the Lord for you accepted death upon a cross, on Calvary's hill. Take up your cross, then, in his strength, and calmly every danger brave: it guides you to abundant life and leads to victory o'er the grave. Take up your cross, and follow Christ, nor think till death to lay it down; for only those who bear the cross may hope to wear the glorious crown.

#### SCRIPTURE READINGS

*Matthew 28:16-20* (Pew Bible p. 32)  
*1 Peter 2:1-10* (Pew Bible p. 219)

#### THE SERMON

*Why Church?* Dr. Lee Zehmer

#### TIME OF SILENT REFLECTION

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

### WE RESPOND TO GOD’S WORD

#### \*HYMN OF RESPONSE 722

*Lord, Speak to Me That I May Speak* CANONBURY

#### \*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH Chapter 8

**God sent his son  
to proclaim release to those who are bound,  
to announce that God’s promised kingdom is at hand,  
to urge everyone to repent and believe the good news.  
We testify God is at work here and now  
when people obey Christ’s commission**

**to witness to him and make disciples of all nations  
when they spread the good news by their words  
and embody it in their lives.  
We believe that God sends us to tell all nations  
that Christ calls everyone to repentance,  
faith, and obedience.  
We are to proclaim by word and deed  
that Christ gave himself to set people free.**

#### 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

*Holy God, We Praise Your Name* arr. Michael Burkhardt

#### \*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

**O God, your compassion brings wholeness, and your forgiveness brings promise of new life. We place ourselves before you as recipients of your mercy; we make our offerings to you in response to Christ’s call. Accept them as tributes to your glory as we dedicate ourselves anew to Christ’s service. Amen.**

### WE ARE SENT TO SERVE GOD AND NEIGHBOR

#### \*CLOSING HYMN 757

*Today We All Are Called to Be Disciples* KINGSFOLD

#### \*THE CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

#### \*CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE (Hymnal 541, v. 1)

*God Be with You Till We Meet Again* RANDOLPH  
**God, be with you till we meet again; loving counsels guide, uphold you, with a shepherd’s care enfold you: God be with you till we meet again.**

#### CLOSING VOLUNTARY

*In Thee Is Gladness* J. S. Bach

*The flowers today are to the Glory of God and in loving memory of Sheryl’s Granny, Nell Isaacs, on her heavenly 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.

**Nursery Care Today:** Libba Faircloth   **February 1:** Elizabeth Rollins  
**Elder/Deacon on Duty Today:** Elizabeth Owen, Sherry Hutchison  
**Elder/Deacon on Duty February 1:** Chip Hutchison, Dave Keely  
**Monitor/Greeter Today:** Bob Ballard   **February 1:** Matt Goodner  
**Acolytes Today:** Alexander Roberson  
**Acolytes February 1:** Jamison Deese, Henry Goodner

**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

**Monitor/Greeter 2026 Schedule:** Please see the sign-up sheets in the Narthex for the 2026 schedule. There is an info sheet that explains the role of the Sunday Monitor/Greeter. If you haven’t served before, we welcome new men to the list! Contact Jonna Eichorn at jeichorn@fpcrockhill.org if you have any questions.

**Help for HOPE:** We are collecting bags of dried beans for February. They don’t need to be name brand; store brand is fine. All varieties are needed: pinto, black-eyed peas, navy, red, kidney beans, etc. Please leave your contributions in the narthex by February 15. All food collected will be taken to the HOPE House the next week. Your contributions are appreciated by the Mission Committee and more importantly, the recipients at HOPE House.

**Outreach Opportunities:** Hunger Outreach Program (HOP) Ministry will meet at 2:30 pm on Tuesday, January 27 in Hopkins Hall. See Tom Hickman or Christy Goodner for more info.

**Family Promise:** Thanks for all the wonderful volunteers at FPC who host families experiencing homelessness. **FPC is hosting this week and will host again the week of March 8 -14.** We will need overnight hosts, dinner providers, and greeters to open the building, visit with our guests, and help other volunteers. **Use the QR code to sign up for March.**



**Acolyte Recognition:** We will recognize our acolytes on Sunday, February 1 during the Children’s Message.

**Youth Group:** On February 1, our schedule will be 4:30 pm: MS Bible Study; 5:30 pm: Snack Supper; 6:00 pm: HS Bible Study.

**A Pickleball Clinic** with LaVern Hovey, a well-known certified instructor, will be held on February 5 at 5:00 pm in Hopkins Hall. The clinic is 90 minutes long and costs \$20 per person. Contact Chip Hutchison to register for the clinic.

**Presbyterian Kids:** Passportkids registration is now open for summer camp for grades 3 - 5 at Montreat Conference Center, July 6 - 9. Cost is \$200. A \$50 deposit due to Kara by January 25. Scholarships are available.

**A Reception of New Members** will be held on Sunday, February 8 at 10:30 am in the Chapel. Contact Pastor Lee or Kara if you are interested in joining the church.

**Souper Bowl of Caring:** Join us after worship on Sunday, February 8 for the 2026 Souper Bowl! Let’s tackle hunger in Rock Hill! Bring your specialty chili, soup, or dessert to share. Beverages and condiments will be provided. Who will win our soup, chili, and dessert cook-off? Which team will we vote to win?

**A Spring Mission Trip for all Youth (grades 6 - 12)** will be Friday, March 20 (depart church at 3:30 pm) to Sunday, March 22 (return by 5:00 pm.) We will be serving with Charleston Youth Mission Co. and staying at the Charleston-Atlantic Presbytery offices. There are only 24 spaces. Deposit \$25 - Total cost \$125 plus additional money for 2 meals on the road. Contact Kara to register!

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**

*Family Promise Week*

**Sunday, January 25**

9:30 am Chancel Choir Rehearsal  
10:00 am Sunday School  
11:00 am Worship  
3:30 pm Handbells  
5:00 pm Children’s Choirs

**Tuesday, January 27**

8:30 am Walking Group  
10:00 am Women’s Bible Study  
2:30 pm HOP in Hopkins Hall  
4:00 pm Seniors Exercise Class  
6:30 pm Rock of Ages

**Wednesday, January 28**

6:00 pm Yoga  
6:30 pm Men’s Bible Study

**Thursday, January 29**

8:30 am Walking Group  
4:00 pm Seniors Exercise Class

**Sunday, February 1**

9:00 am Mission & Outreach  
9:30 am Chancel Choir Rehearsal  
10:00 am Sunday School  
11:00 am Worship  
3:30 pm Handbells  
4:30 pm Youth Bible Study/Dinner  
5:00 pm Children’s Choirs

**Members of the Session**

Susan Roberson, Clerk

**Class of 2026**

John Abernathy  
Jimmy Campbell  
Scott Harris  
Elizabeth Owen  
Susan Roberson

**Class of 2027**

Paul Horne  
Ann Hunsucker  
Chip Hutchison  
Julia Nichols  
Sheryl Smith

**Class of 2028**

Clair Roberts  
Bo Redmond  
John Blackwelder  
Cynthia Johnson  
Rob Joiner

**Members of the Diaconate**

Beth Janicke, Moderator

**Class of 2026**

Jennifer Abernathy  
Heather Dellinger  
Kathy James  
Margaret Joiner  
Dave Keely

**Class of 2027**

Beth Janicke  
Allen Katz  
Joan Musselwhite  
Steve Roberts  
Sherry Hutchison

**Class of 2028**

Cameron Lawson  
Carolyn Johnson  
Jonathan Nichols  
Richard Quandt  
Betsy Forrest

**Deacons of the Month for January**

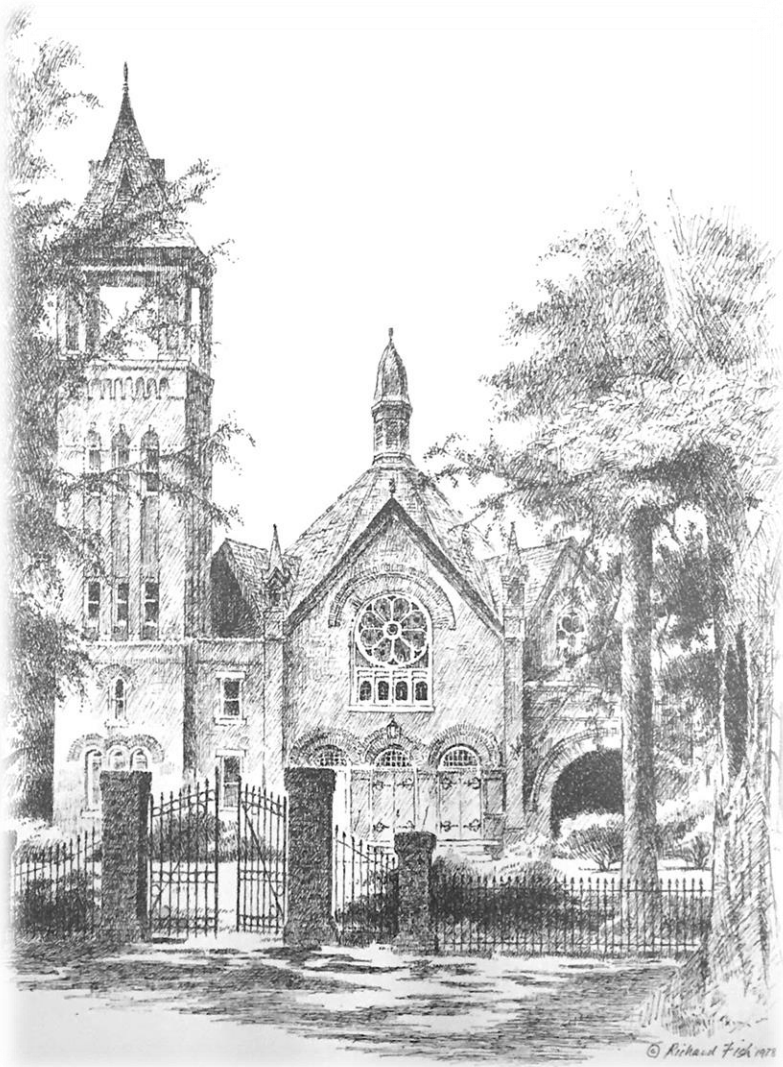
Jennifer Abernathy, Beth Janicke, Betsy Forrest

**Office Staff and Contact Information**

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Robyn Brown - Financial Secretary - rbrown@fpcrockhill.org  
Mail to: Post Office Box 1011 - Rock Hill, S.C., 29731  
(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 – Associate Pastor 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