

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 DANKEST 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
O Lord, have mercy; O Christ, have mercy; O Lord, have mercy,
have mercy on us.

ORÉ PORIAJÚ VEREKÓ

*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 (Greatorex)
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 2nd 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!

*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

Jonna Eichorn - Administrative Assistant - jeichorn@fpcrockhill.org

Robyn Brown - Financial Secretary - rbrown@fpcrockhill.org

Mail to: Post Office Box 1011 - Rock Hill, S.C., 29731

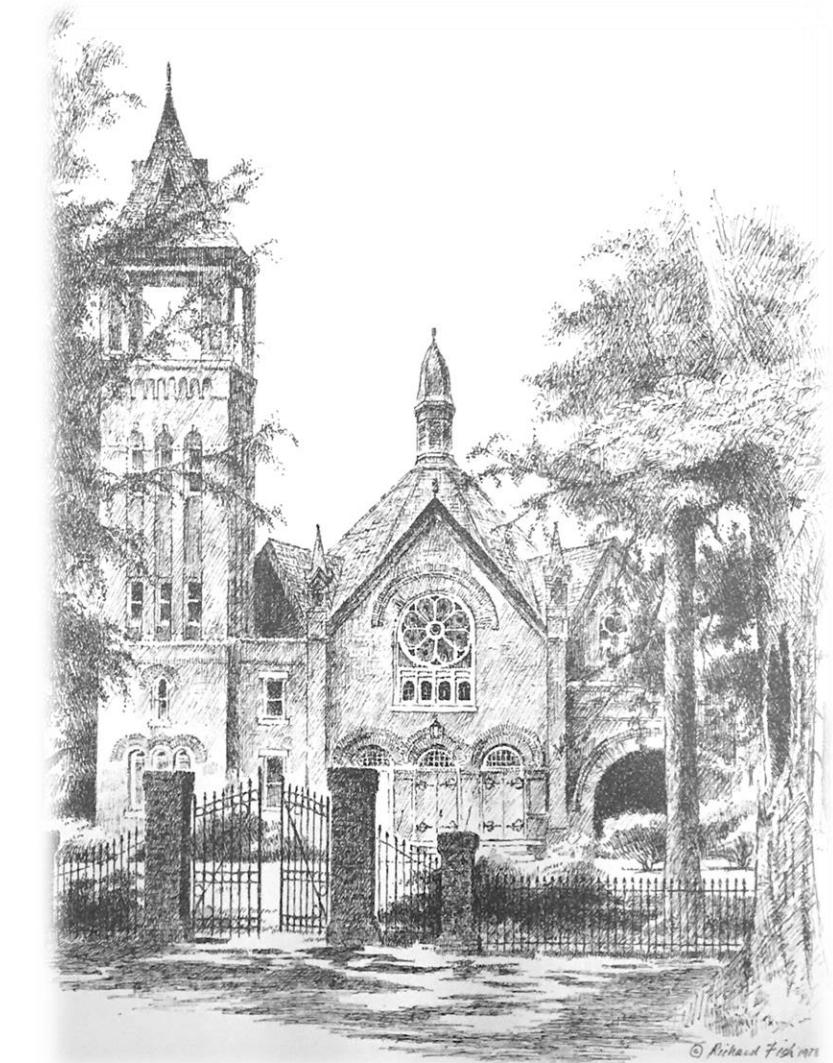
(803) 328-2467 - firstpresrh@gmail.com - www.fpc-rockhill.org

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