

November 9, 2025

THE TWENTY - SECOND SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

WE ASSEMBLE TO WORSHIP GOD

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

OPENING VOLUNTARY

Simple Gifts SIMPLE GIFTS/ arr. Wilbur Held

CHIMING OF THE HOUR

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

MINUTE FOR MISSION Ralph Sweeney, Exec. Dir., Bethelwoods

CHORAL INTROIT (Hymnal 767, v. 1)

Together We Serve SAN ANSELMO
Together, we serve, united by love, inviting God’s world to the glorious feast. We work and we pray through sorrow and joy, extending God’s love to the last and the least.
[Choir sings first and congregation sings the second time.]

*CALL TO WORSHIP *(based on Deuteronomy 6:4-5 & Leviticus 19:18)*

One: “Hear, O Israel: The Lord is our God, the Lord alone.
All: And you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your might.”
One: Hear, O Church of God: The Lord is our God, the Lord alone.
All: And we shall love the Lord our God with all our heart, and with all our soul, and with all our might.
One: Hear, O children of God: there is another commandment like the first.
All: Yes: we shall love our neighbors as we love ourselves.
One: These two commandments are the foundation of our Christian lives. Thanks be to God!
All: 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 12

Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise ST. DENIO

WE CONFESS OUR SIN

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Gracious God, you have loved us by sending your only Son, but we have not loved you with our whole heart, soul, mind and strength. Loving God, forgive us for withholding our complete love and devotion to you. In his life and death, Jesus showed us how to truly love our neighbors. Help us see ourselves and others through your love. Lord, forgive us, heal us, hold us, love us, and guide us through Jesus Christ.

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 psalmist assures us, “As far as the east is from the west, so far God removes our transgressions from us.” In the name of Jesus Christ, I declare to you, our sins are forgiven.
All: Thanks be to God for his indescribable gift!

*CELEBRATION OF FORGIVENESS

Jesus Loves Me (verse 1)

**Jesus loves me! This I know, for the Bible tells me so.
Little ones to Him belong. They are weak, but He is strong.
Yes, Jesus loves me! Yes, Jesus loves me! Yes, Jesus loves me!
The Bible tells me so.**

THE WORD OF GOD PROCLAIMED

CHILDREN’S SERMON

Yarns of Love Ladies

Children through 2nd grade are welcome in Children’s Church with Janelle Chubb.

ANTHEM

Eternal Father, Strong to Save MELITA
[For text for vv. 1,3 & 4, see Hymnal 8.]
(Verse 2) Lord, guard and guide the men who fly and those who on the ocean ply; Be with our troops upon the land, and all who for their country stand: Be with thee guardians day and night and may their trust be in Thy might.
Angela Harris, soprano

SCRIPTURE READING

Mark 12:38-44 (Pew Bible p.46)

THE SERMON

It’s All That Easy and It’s All That Hard Rev. Kara Wheeler

TIME OF SILENT REFLECTION

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

WE RESPOND TO GOD’S WORD

*HYMN OF RESPONSE 828

More Love to Thee, O Christ MORE LOVE TO THEE

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH:

(from A Declaration of Faith of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) and The Shorter Catechism)

God bound his people to himself in covenant. Freed slaves became the people of God when they accepted the Lord’s covenant. God charged them to respond to his rescuing love by obeying his commandments. Their life together was to express the justice and compassion of their holy God. Since we, too, are the Lord’s covenant people, we know we must be holy as the Lord is holy. We must keep God’s commandments, not in order to earn or compel the Lord’s favor, but to reflect the character of God and to be his grateful and loving people.

What is the sum of the Ten Commandments?

**The sum of the Ten Commandments is:
to love the Lord our God with all our heart, with all our soul, with all our strength, and with all our mind; and our neighbor as ourselves.**

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

O God, Our Help in Ages Past ST. ANNE/arr. Paul Manz

*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

Generous and loving God, we thank you for the many blessings in our lives. As you have so freely given your love in Jesus Christ, may we freely share your love with others through these gifts we offer today. May they be signs of our devotion to you and our willingness to love in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.

WE ARE SENT TO SERVE GOD AND NEIGHBOR

*CLOSING HYMN 767

Together We Serve SAN ANSELMO

*THE CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

*CHORAL RESPONSE TO THE BENEDICTION (Hymnal 295, v. 1)

Go to the World! SINE NOMINE
Go to the world! Go into all the earth. Go preach the cross where Christ renews life’s worth, baptizing as the sign of our rebirth. Alleluia! Alleluia!

CLOSING VOLUNTARY

Jig Fugue Dietrich Buxtehude

The flowers are given to the glory of God and in appreciation for the leadership of our Finance Committee as we plan for our future. And a special thanks for the heartfelt Stewardship statements from Joan, Barry, Carolyn and Libba.

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.

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Nursery Care Today: Janelle Chubb **November 16:** Michele Murdoch
Elder/Deacon on Duty Today: Butch Bailey, Sue Munn
Elder/Deacon on Duty November 16: John Abernathy, Allen Katz
Monitor/Greeter Today: Eric Park **November 16:** Bob Ballard
Acolytes Today: Millie Goodner, Mason Goodner
Acolytes November16: Henry Goodner, Keaton Esposito
Ushers Today: Mike Johnson, Steve Mullinax, Ken Holt, Joe Hardy, Wayne Terry, Craig Rollins (in honor of all our veterans)

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

Help for HOPE: For November, we are collecting **boxes of Mac-n-Cheese**. Please consider contributing any type or brand to the box in the Narthex by November 16. On behalf of the Missions and Outreach Committee and the clients of HOPE of Rock Hill, thank you for your generosity in helping us to combat hunger.
October Thank You: Our congregation collected 105 packages of pasta and 64 jars/cans of sauce during the month of October for the clients of HOPE of Rock Hill! This is one of the largest donations of pasta/sauce since we began this mission in 2017. A huge and heartfelt thank you goes to everyone for helping to make this such a successful mission project. Many Rock Hill families can enjoy hot and hearty meals from our contributions! Thank you from the Mission and Outreach Committee.

2025-2026 Youth Basketball: FPC Members are invited to sign-up for our youth basketball season using the QR code. Teams begin for children seven and under with divisions based on child’s age as of September 1.



Ladies Nite Out is on Tuesday, November 11 at 6:00 pm. Join us at Rizzo Brothers (formerly Luigi & Sons) at 2387 Cherry Rd. Notify Linder Tucker by Monday, November 10 at 6:00 pm to make your reservation.

Retirees Lunch is Thursday, November 13 at Noon at the Red Bowl Restaurant. Our program will be presented by Freddy Faircloth on Estate Planning and Probate/Estate Administration. No reservations needed.

Kirkin’ of the Tartans Service will be celebrated on November 16. The Worship Committee needs your help preparing the Sanctuary for the Kirkin’ of the Tartans service. Please meet in the Sanctuary at 10:15 am to pick up your flag and prepare to carry it in the procession. If you need help with your flag, contact Bev Keely.

Youth Group - Sunday, November 16: 4:30 pm - Middle School Bible Study; 5:30 pm - Snack Supper; 6:00 pm - High School Bible Study. Allen Katz and Betsy Forrest are serving a chili snack supper and we’ll continue studying Jesus’ parables.

Thornwell Emphasis Month represents a long-standing tradition of faithful friends who so generously advocate for Thornwell and bring awareness to the needs that exist within our communities. Thornwell’s vision is to see hopeful, healthy, and empowered children and families fulfilling their God-given potential. FPC will receive the Thornwell Offering on Sunday, November 23. See more info at www.thornwell.org.

Advent Family Workshop will be Sunday, November 23 at 10:00 am in Hopkins Hall. Each household is invited to make one Advent wreath. Nativity costumes will be available for picking and sizing for our presentation at the Church-Wide Christmas Dinner on December 14. A light continental breakfast will be served.

Advent: A Calendar of Devotions 2025 begins November 30, the first Sunday of Advent, through Christmas Day. If you would like to be added to the distribution list to receive this devotion each morning during Advent, please email Kara.

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.



Church Office Hours

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

This Week’s Calendar

Sunday, November 9

9:30 am Chancel Choir Rehearsal
10:00 am Sunday School
11:00 am Worship
12:15 pm Women’s Art and Fellowship
2:30 pm Presbytery Stated Meeting - Bethelwoods
3:30 pm Handbells
5:00 pm Children’s Choirs

Monday, November 10

5:30 pm Property Committee

Tuesday, November 11

8:30 am Walking Group
4:00 pm Seniors Exercise Class
5:15 pm Worship Committee
6:00 pm Ladies Nite Out
6:30 pm Rock of Ages

Wednesday, November 12

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

Thursday, November 13

8:30 am Walking Group
12:00 pm Retirees Lunch
2:00 pm Yarns of Love
4:00 pm Seniors Exercise Class

Sunday, November 16

9:30 am Chancel Choir Rehearsal
10:00 am Sunday School
11:00 am Worship – Kirkin’ of the Tartans
3:30 pm Handbells
4:30 pm Middle School Youth Bible Study
5:00 pm Children’s Choirs
5:30 pm Youth Snack Supper
6:00 pm High School Youth Bible Study

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 Hunsucker
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

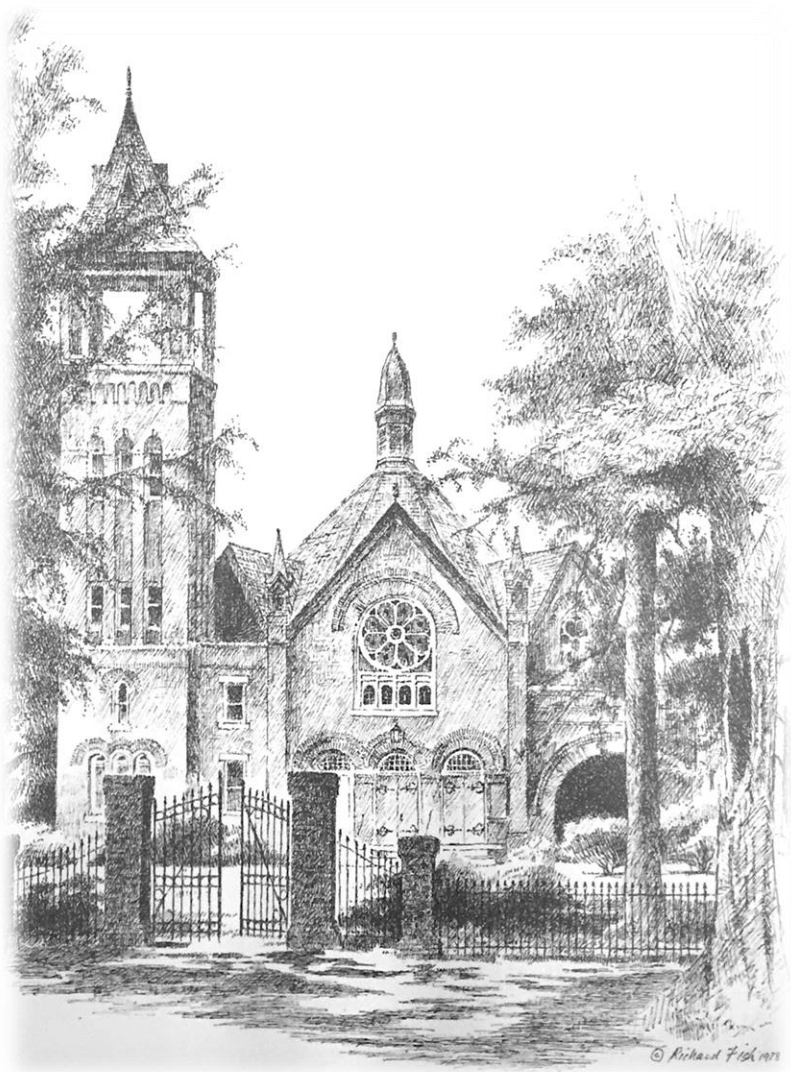
Beth Janicke
Allen Katz
Joan Musselwhite
Steve Roberts

Deacons of the Month for November

James Crean, Jennifer Abernathy, Beth Janicke

Office Staff and Contact Information

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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