

The Second Sunday in Advent

December 7, 2025

WE ASSEMBLE TO WORSHIP GOD

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

OPENING VOLUNTARY

Greensleeves Ralph Vaughan Williams

CHIMING OF THE HOUR

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

ADVENT WREATH LIGHTING Grayson, Katie, Brynn & Emma Kirksey

Congregational Refrain: *Light One Candle* Natalie Sleeth

Light one candle for peace. One bright candle for peace.

Christ brings peace to every heart. He comes; He comes.

CHORAL INTROIT

Silent Night

STILLE NACHT

The Cherub and Covenant Choirs

Mary Catherine Wheeler, solo

*CALL TO WORSHIP

One: We are walking toward Bethlehem,

All: Listening every step of the way for the sound of our name,

One: For the announcement that we have found favor with God.

All: We are walking toward Bethlehem,

One: Watching every step of the way for a new star in the sky,

All: For guidance in our daily lives.

One: We are walking toward Bethlehem,

All: Sensing we are not alone.

One: Angels are all around us.

All: The prayers of saints surround us.

One: We are walking toward Bethlehem,

All: Hoping we shall find a baby in a manger:

One: A simple sign that God loves us still

All: And reason enough to sing God's praise.

*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 88 (vv. 1, 4 & 7)

O Come, O Come Emmanuel

VENI EMMANUEL

WE CONFESS OUR SIN

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION

O God forgive us for our heavy-hearted approach to this season of joy and light. Shake us out of preoccupation with lists and tasks. Do not let our over-filled calendars overwhelm the wonder of your Son's birth. Let us experience the joy of giving to those in need and feel the embrace of your love in stories told and carols sung. Let us be people of joy. 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: Friends, our God has poured out grace upon grace, freely, in great abundance upon us, although we never earned it and don't deserve it.

All: This is the good news we cherish: In Christ we are a forgiven people, Praise be to God!

*RESPONDING WITH PRAISE

Glory Be to the Father (Hymnal 581)

GLORIA PATRI

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 with Ms. Kara.

ANTHEM

Comfort, Comfort Now My People

GENEVAN 12/arr. John Ferguson

"Comfort, comfort now my people; tell of peace!" so says our God. "Comfort those who sit in darkness mourning under sorrow's load. To God's people now proclaim that God's pardon waits for them! Tell them that their war is over, God will reign in peace forever. For the herald's voice is crying in the desert far and near, calling us to true repentance, since the kingdom now is here. O, that warning cry obey! Now prepare for God a way. Let the valleys rise to meet him and the hills bow down to greet him. Straight shall be what long was crooked, and the rougher places plain. Let your hearts be true and humble, as befits his holy reign. For the glory of the Lord now on earth is shed abroad, and all flesh shall see the token that God's word is never broken.

SCRIPTURE READING

Luke 1:26-56

(Pew Bible p.53)

THE SERMON

The Cast of Christmas: Mary

Dr. Lee Zehmer

TIME OF SILENT REFLECTION

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

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

*WE SAY WHAT WE BELIEVE

Declaration of Faith, Chap.4:1

We affirm that Jesus was born of woman as is every child, yet born of God's power as was no other child. In the person and work of Jesus, God himself and a human life are united but not confused, distinguished but not separated. The coming of Jesus was itself the coming of God's promised rule. Through his birth, life, death, and resurrection, he brings about the relationship between God and humanity that God always intended.

PRESENTATION OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS

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

OFFERTORY

The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came

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

Dear Lord, here and now we bring our gifts to you and to the church. We ask you to receive our gifts for ministry and service. But more, Lord, receive our love and with our love and your divine love, may we keep on building your new earth here as it is in heaven. In our Master's name. Amen.

THE SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

*HYMN OF PREPARATION 509 (vv. 1 & 2)

All Who Hunger, Gather Gladly

HOLY MANNA

INVITATION TO THE LORD'S TABLE

THE GREAT PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

DISTRIBUTION OF THE ELEMENTS

The Communion bread is gluten, dairy, soy, and nut free.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Holy God, we thank you for this feast of grace and life. As we have been served, help us to serve our neighbors. As we have been fed, help us fill all who are hungry. As we have been loved, help us to love the world, because in Christ Jesus you have loved us. Amen.

WE ARE SENT TO SERVE GOD AND NEIGHBOR

*CLOSING HYMN 113

Angels We Have Heard on High

GLORIA

*THE CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

*CHORAL RESPONSE TO THE BENEDICTION (Hymnal 106, v. 1)

Prepare the Way, O Zion

BEREDEN VÄG FÖR HERRAN

Prepare the way, O Zion, your Christ is drawing near! Let every hill and valley a level way appear. Greet One who comes in glory, foretold in sacred story. O blest is Christ who came in God's most holy name.

CLOSING VOLUNTARY

Flourish on 'Hark the Herald Angels Sing'

Robert A. Hobby

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.

Deacons will be at the exits today to receive your Deacon’s Fund Offering.

Nursery Care Today: Mary Alice Owen **December14:** Liz Briggs
Elder/Deacon on Duty Today: Terry Dodge, Christy Goodner
Elder/Deacon on Duty December 14: Chris Wheeler, Sue Munn
Monitor/Greeter Today: Bill Lehman **December 14:** Bill Lehman
Acolytes Today: Amelia Skinner, Jamison Deese
Acolytes December 14: Millie Goodner, Mason Goodner

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, Linder Tucker

Help for HOPE December: We are collecting **oatmeal** to benefit the clients of Project HOPE. Large or small boxes, individual servings, old-fashioned, quick cooking, or instant are needed. Leave your donations in the Narthex bin by Sunday, December 14.

Many thanks to all who made contributions to the annual Cookie Walk. Leftover cookies and baked goods are in Hopkins Hall. Thank you for your support and donations to our youth ministry.

Poinsettias: We are accepting orders for red and white poinsettias in honor or in memory of friends and loved ones. Order forms are available in the Narthex. **Please place your order today.** Drop them in the offering plate or place in Jonna Eichorn’s box (#33). Cost is \$14.00 each. Please include payment with your order.

The Christmas Post Office is open and ready to accept your Christmas cards. For 25 cents per card, the youth will sort your cards for distribution to our church family. Post your cards by noon on December 14. You can pick-up cards at the Christmas Dinner.

The Ladies Night Out will be on Tuesday, December 9 at Flipside Restaurant on 129 Caldwell St. at 6:00 pm. We will not carpool. RSVP to Linder Tucker by Monday, December 8 at 6:00 pm.

Christmas Joy Offering will be collected on December 21. It 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 novel, The Christmas Jar, share loose change in our jar in the Narthex to give HOPE to the recipient and JOY to the giver.

The Giving Tree: Decorate our Narthex tree with: 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 are also needed and will be donated to our local schools.

Plentiful Harvest Kitchen at Covenant PC is Sunday, December 28. 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.

Dates to Note

- Sunday, December 14 at 11:00 am** - Lessons and Carols featuring our Chancel Choir, soloists, violin, Handbell Choirs, and organ
- Sunday, December 14 at 5:00 pm** - Church-Wide Christmas Dinner & Nativity
- Wednesday, December 17 at 6:00 pm** - Blue Christmas Service
- Sunday, December 21 at 11:00 am** - Worship *The Cast of Christmas - Joseph*
- December 21 at 5:00 pm** - Christmas Caroling (meet at the church)
- December 24 at 5:00 pm** - Candlelight Christmas Eve Worship with Communion

Youth Snow Tubing trip is Tuesday, December 30, 9am - 9pm at Hawks Nest plus dinner at the Daniel Boone Inn (\$75.) Register with Kara. Spots are filling up fast!

The 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, on Sunday, January 11 at 3:00 pm.

This Week’s Calendar

Family Promise Week

Sunday, December 7

- 9:30 am Chancel Choir Rehearsal
- 10:00 am Sunday School
- 11:00 am Worship
- 5:15 pm Youth Progressive Dinner

Monday, December 8

- 5:30 pm Property Committee
- 6:00 pm College Students at the Wheelers

Tuesday, December 9

- 8:30 am Walking Group
- 4:00 pm Seniors Exercise Class
- 6:00 pm Rock of Ages
- 6:00 pm Ladies Nite Out

Wednesday, December 10

- 6:30 pm Men’s Bible Study

Thursday, December 11

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

Sunday, December 14

- 9:30 am Chancel Choir Rehearsal
- 10:00 am Sunday School
- 11:00 am Worship/Lessons and Carols
- 5:00 pm Christmas Dinner and Nativity

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 December

Vickey Dodge, Heather Dellinger, Allen Katz

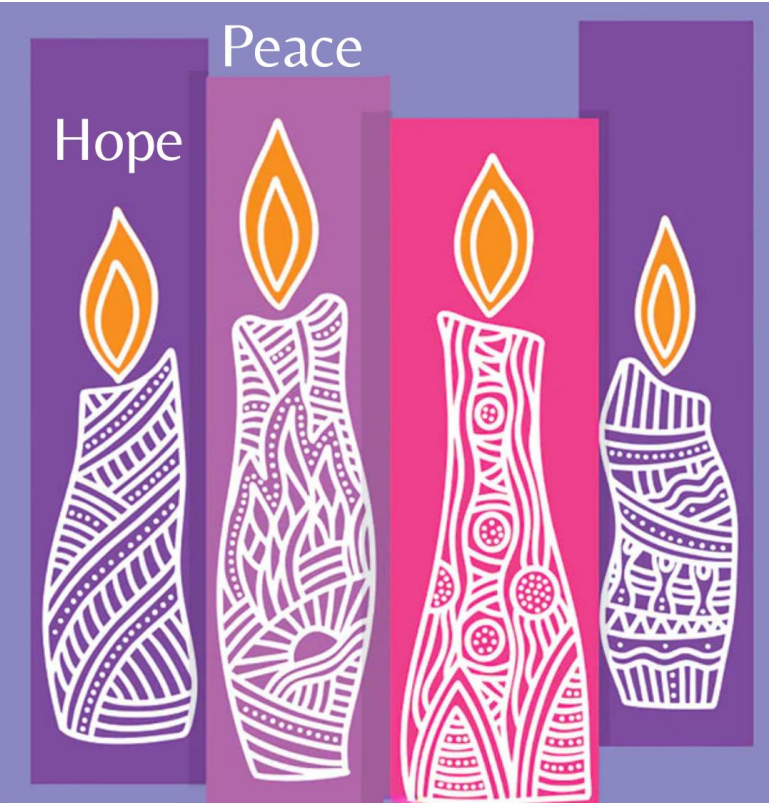
Office Staff and Contact Information

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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

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.



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