

2nd Sunday after Epiphany

Welcome to First Presbyterian Church. We are so happy that you are here today to share in our service of worship of the Living God!

Gathering Around the Word

The congregation is asked to make use of the prelude as a time of preparation, meditation, and prayer.

Centering Prayer

Holy God, you sent your son to be the light of the world, so that all may know the brightness of your love. Fill us with your grace this day that we too may bear witness to his light and serve your coming reign. In Jesus’ name we pray. Amen.

Prelude The Gift of Love setting by Joel Raney
Mr. Mac McDougal, piano; Dr. Karen Buckland, organ

Chiming of the Hour

Welcome, Concerns and Celebrations of the Church

*Call to Worship: (responsive)

God calls us to love—not just in word, but in action.
We come, ready to open our hearts to God's command.
There are no boundaries in God's kingdom of compassion.
We are called to see the wounded, to stop, and to care.
Let us set aside fear, prejudice, and comfort.
And worship the One who teaches us to be true neighbors.

***Morning Prayer** Rev. Andy Chambers

***Opening Hymn:** 279 ST. AGNES
Come, Holy Spirit, Heavenly Dove

*Call to Confession

*Prayer of Confession: (unison)

God of mercy, we confess that we have drawn lines where You have called for love. We have turned away from those in need, excused ourselves from others' pain, and justified our silence when You asked for compassion. Forgive us, Lord. Teach us to see the hurting, to stop, and to show mercy. Break open our hearts until Your love is our way of life. Through Christ, who shows us the way, we pray. Amen.

(Our prayer continues in silence)

*Assurance of Pardon

In Jesus Christ, mercy walks our road, and grace meets us where we are. Though we have failed to love as we should, God has never failed to love us. Through Christ, we are forgiven, healed, and set free to live with compassion. Thanks be to God.

***Gloria Patri** Glory be to the Father 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.

Proclaiming the Word

Time with the Young Disciples Pastor Andy
All preschool and elementary children are invited to come down front.

Prayer for Illumination

First Lesson: Luke 10:25-37
Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.
People: Thanks be to God.

Choral Anthem Freedom is Coming arr. Henry H. Leck
(For anthem lyrics, please see insert in bulletin)

Sermon "Beyond the Banner: Who Is My Neighbor?"
Rev. Dr. Danny Murphy

Responding to the Word

***Sermonic Hymn:** 408 There’s a Sweet, Sweet Spirit SWEET, SWEET SPIRIT

*Affirmation of Faith (unison)

We believe in God,
who creates us in love and calls us beloved community.
We believe in Jesus Christ,
our Good Samaritan, who crossed every boundary from heaven to earth, who saw us broken and bleeding in the ditch, who poured out His own blood to heal us, and who calls us to go and do likewise.

We believe in the Holy Spirit,
who gives us eyes to see our neighbors, courage to cross the road, and love to act with costly mercy.

We believe in the Church,
called to be Christ's hands and feet, crossing barriers of race, class, and fear, to build the beloved community where no one is left behind.

We believe that love is not just what we feel, but what we do.
Thanks be to God.

Prayers of the People and 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.

Call for the Offering

Offertory: Ain't Got Time to Die Words and Music by Hall Johnson
Andrew Piotrowski, soloist

***Doxology** Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow OLD HUNDREDTH
Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; Praise Him all creatures here below; Praise Him above, ye heavenly host; Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

***Prayer of Dedication** Rev. Andy Chambers

Bearing and Following the Word into the World

***Closing Hymn:** 39 Great Is Thy Faithfulness FAITHFULNESS

***Charge and Benediction** Rev. Dr. Danny Murphy

***Choral Benediction** Robert Lowry
Shall We Gather at the River

***Postlude** Improvisation on Old 100th arr. Don Shannon

Thank you to Rev. Dr. Danny Murphy for serving as our guest preacher; to Pastor Andy Chambers for serving as liturgist and leading the Young Disciples; to Ron and Nancy Dove for live streaming at Pres. Comm.; to Mrs. Kipper Ackerman, Director of Choral Activities and Visual and Performing Arts Department Enrollment Liaison, and the PC Choir, for sharing their gifts of music with us.

Please Remember in Prayer

Church Family	Friends of Church	Bereavement
Margaret	Stuart Britt	The Frey family
Addison	Andy Dill	The Wardlaw family
Laura Ashley	Sherry Dishman	The Threatt family
Neile Chambers	Nancy Hope	Lawrence Coleman &
P-Nut Dowdle	Julie Young Keadle	family
Steve Floyd	Moultrie Lanier	Latha Gearheart & family
Gin Jacobs	Kim Purcell	Cindy Jacobs & family
Liz Pinzon		Sonya Atkinson & family
Dot Smith		Pam Warren & family

Please continue to hold our Global Missionaries in prayer: Donald Marsden (US); Pam (Turkey); Ellen Smith (US); Larry and Inge Sthreshley (Congo)

Prayers for the Week

Morning Prayer: You inclined your ear and heard my cry and lifted me when I was low. Strengthen me for service as I carry your light in the world. Amen.

Evening Prayer: Jesus, fill me with your peace, that I may be strengthened to the end and find my rest in you. Amen.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

A congregational meeting will take place following next Sunday’s worship service for the purpose of reviewing the 2025 Annual Report. Copies of the report will be distributed when the meeting commences and will be available on the credenza in the church hallway.

Presbyterian College will host their annual convocation celebrating the life and legacy of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. on Monday, January 19th at 6:00 p.m. in Edmunds Hall. In alignment with the King Center, the theme is "Mission Possible 2: Building Community, Uniting a Nation the Nonviolent Way." The Keynote Speaker will be James Bennett, Executive Director of Palmetto Boys State.

The Women’s Evening Book Study group will meet Monday, January 19th at 7:00 p.m. in the church parlor. We are currently reading and discussing Max Lucado’s book, *Anxious for Nothing*. If you are not currently in a book or bible study group and you would like to join us, please do! This group is open to all women and friends of FPC, and participants are welcome to join us at any time.

The Classics will be sponsoring a trip to the Newberry Opera House to see the Candlelight Celtic on Sunday, March 8 at 6:00 p.m. We need 10 people to go to qualify for a group rate which would be \$45.00 per person. If you are interested, please reserve your spot with [Jean Johnson by email](#) and by paying your \$45 before January 20, making the check out to First Presbyterian Church. You can give your check to Lisa in the church office. The tickets must be bought quickly so please respond and pay before Jan. 20th.

United Ministries thanks and applauds the congregation of First Presbyterian Church for your generous donations in November and December 2025. Your contributions totaled \$20,945. We thank each of you who donated food during the SNAP crisis and for the Alternative Christmas gifts. We are truly blessed. Thank you.

During the winter season, Duke Energy Foundation is generously sponsoring the Share the Light Fund. Duke Energy will match dollar-for-dollar (up to \$50.00) donations given to Share the Light. United Ministries of Clinton will administer the funds for Laurens County. Please make checks payable to SHARE THE LIGHT and send to United Ministries, 500 Academy Street, Clinton, SC 29325.

The Community Outreach Committee will continue to collect items for United Ministries through January. Any items that will help keep children and adults warm will be greatly appreciated. Suggested items are blankets, gloves, hats, scarves, gently used coats, jackets, sweaters, gently used gloves, shoes and boots. Please bring your donations to the church office and place them in the bin under the bulletin board outside the workroom.

The Congregational Care Committee is looking for volunteers to be on a Bereavement Team. When a member of our congregation passes away, the bereavement teams host a reception for friends and family to gather or provide a meal to the family. Volunteers are needed to provide food, help with setup or cleanup, or provide flowers for these gatherings. Please let Cyndi Coker know if you are willing to help. cyndicoker@lcsd56g.com or 843-992-6920.



Scan the QR code with your mobile device to be directed to OnRealm, where you may make your offering or tithe. (Text/Data rates may apply).

The Session of First Presbyterian Church

Class of 2026	Class of 2027	Class of 2028
Marty Ademy	Lee Atkinson	Austin Barnes
Emily Holder	Danny Cook	Cyndi Coker
Bob Link	Amanda Donley	Charlie Gustafson
Holbrook Raynal	Chad Gambrell	Harold Nichols
Andy Sullivan	Jean Johnson	Ashley Powell
Stan Walsh	Bob McLean	Jettie Young

This Week at FPC

- Sunday, January 18
- 9:15 a.m. – Gather ‘round the Holy Grounds (Coffee Corner)
 - 9:30 a.m. – Sunday School for all ages
 - 10:30 a.m. – Sunday Worship Service
 - 11:30 a.m. – Church-wide pot-luck luncheon (Fellowship Hall)
 - 6:00 p.m. – No Youth Group – MLK, Jr. holiday
- Monday, January 19 – Church office closed in observance of the Martin Luther King, Jr. holiday
- 7:00 p.m. – Women’s evening book study (church parlor)
- Tuesday, January 20
- 9:30 a.m. – The Classics CLC Gym walk
 - 4:00 p.m. – Deadline to submit information for Steeple People Newsletter
 - 5:30 p.m. – Congregational Care Committee (church library)
- Wednesday, January 21
- 4:00 p.m. – Deadline to submit announcements for Sunday bulletin
 - 5:30 p.m. – Handbell Choir practice resumes
 - 6:30 p.m. – Adult Choir practice
- Thursday, January 22
- 4:00 p.m. – Deadline to submit announcements for Worship News
- Friday, January 23 – Church office closed

Church Staff	Email	Phone: 864-833-1062
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Dr. Karen Buckland, Organist	kbuck@presby.edu	864-833-8467
Sheryl Owens, Custodian		

First Presbyterian Church
Clinton, South Carolina
January 18, 2026



“Living, Loving, and Learning Like Christ.”