

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, CLINTON, SC

DECEMBER 7, 2025 ~ 2ND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

“Living, Learning, and Loving Like Christ.”

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!

Preparing to Worship God

Centering Prayer: O Root of Jesse, Prince of Peace, stir up your power within us, that in this time we may await with abundant expectation the fulfillment of your eternal presence in creation, for you live and reign among us, Maker, Savior, and Giver of Life, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Prelude Joy to the World setting by Joel Raney
Mac McDougal, Piano; Karen Buckland, Organ; Handbell Choir

Chiming of the Hour

Welcome, Celebrations, and Concerns of the Church

Introit Christmas is Coming Joel Raney

***Call to Worship:** (responsively)

Leader: Family of faith, God is at work!

People: God is healing and creating, redeeming and dreaming,

Leader: calling and sending,

People: listening and loving.

Leader: Yes, indeed, God is at work!

People: So may we worship our God who never gives up.

Leader: May we worship our God who holds onto hope. Amen.

***Morning Prayer**

***Opening Hymn:** 119 Hark! The Herald Angels Sing MENDELSSOHN

Lighting of the Advent Candles – PEACE

During Advent, the candles on the Advent wreath will be lit by members of the Confirmation Class and their Covenant Partners. This week: Katie Hope Goodbar/Emily Holder and Logan Johnson/Darrell Pitts.

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession (unison)

On-the-move God, we have every reason to hold onto hope. We have every reason to believe that spring will come, that flowers will bloom, that the sun will rise. And yet, too often hope slips through our fingers. With anxious hearts we cry out to you, "Will change ever come? Will things ever get better? Will I ever make a difference?" Soothe our wandering hearts and show us the places where the sun is shining. Show us the places where you are on the move. With open hearts we pray. Amen.

Our prayer continues in silence

Time of Reflection

O Bright Star of Bethlehem

McMillan/McDougal

Assurance of Pardon

Leader: Family of faith, in our honesty,

People: we are heard.

Leader: In our worries,

People: we are held.

Leader: In our failings,

People: we are forgiven.

Leader: In our fear,

People: we are not alone.

Leader: Friends, this is the good news of the gospel! When we're running out of hope,
God is still at work.

People: Thanks be to God! Amen.

*Response to God's Grace

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.

Listening for God's Word

Time with the young disciples

Pastor Andy

All preschool and elementary children are invited to come down front.

Afterwards, children 2-4 years old are welcome to go to extended care with adults.

Anthem

Breath of Heaven

Craig Courtney

Rylianna Hanchuck, soloist

Prayer of Illumination

Rev. Andy Chambers

Scripture Reading: Jeremiah 29:1-11

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Sermon

The Sound of Hope

Rev. Andy Chambers

Responding to the Word

*Hymn of Response: 147

The First Nowell

THE FIRST NOWELL

*Affirmation of Faith (unison)

The Apostles' Creed

I believe in God the Father Almighty maker of heaven and earth; and in Jesus Christ His only Son our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; He descended into hell; the third day He rose again from the dead; He ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence He shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic Church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.

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 to Offering

Offertory

Carol of the Bells
Handbell Choir

by Mykola Leontovych

*Doxology

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

- *Hymn of Mission: 136 *Go, Tell It on the Mountain* GO TELL IT
- *The Charge and Benediction Rev. Andy Chambers
- Choral Benediction: *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel* VENI EMMANUEL
- *Postlude: *In Dulci Jubilo* by J.S. Bach
- *All who are able, please stand.*

Thank you to Danny Cook for serving as liturgist and to the Confirmation Class and their Covenant Partners for lighting the candles on the Advent wreath.

Please Remember in Prayer

Church Family

Laurie Addison
Margaret Addison
Nancy Arnold
Laura Ashley
Neile Chambers
P-Nut Dowdle
Steve Floyd
Nancy Goodbar
ShaSha Gower
Gin Jacobs
Liz Pinzon
Dot Smith

Friends of Church

Stuart Britt
Andy Dill
Sherry Dishman
Nancy Hope
Julie Young Keadle
Kim Purcell

Bereavement

Donna Jackson & family
George Copeland & family
The Frey family
The Wardlaw family
The Threatt family
Family of Mary Nell Askew
Lawrence Coleman & family
Family of Marian Link
Latha Gearheart & family
Cindy Jacobs & family
Sonya Atkinson & family



The congregation extends love and sympathy to Susan Raynal and her family at the passing of Susan's brother, Hugh E. Long, on Wednesday, December 3, 2025, while under Hospice care in Charleston.

This list will be updated on December 31st. If you would like to be added to or removed from the prayer list before that time, please let the church office know (833-1062).

This Week at FPC

Sunday, December 7

- 9:15 a.m. – Gather 'round the Holy Grounds (Coffee Corner, that is!)
- 9:30 a.m. – Sunday School for all ages – Adults & Youth meet in Fellowship Hall for Advent lesson
- 10:30 a.m. – Sunday Worship Service
- 5:15 p.m. – Youth Group Progressive Dinner (meet at CLC parking lot – will take two buses)

Monday, December 8

- 9:15 a.m. – Staff meeting
- 5:30 p.m. – Community Outreach Committee (workroom)

Tuesday, December 9

- 9:30 a.m. – The **Classics** Governor's Mansion Tour (meet at CLC parking lot)
- 4:00 p.m. – Deadline to submit information for Steeple People Newsletter

Wednesday, December 10

- 12:00 p.m. – Deadline to submit information for Sunday Bulletin
- 5:30 p.m. – Handbell Choir Practice
- 6:30 p.m. – Adult Choir Practice

Thursday, December 11

- 9:45 - 11:00 a.m. – Women's Morning Bible Study (CLC Dining Room)

Friday, December 12 – Church Office Closed

ANNOUNCEMENTS



Please consider a donation to United Ministries during the Christmas season. Your donation is tax deductible, and through December, a card will be sent to those you honor or remember. Add an address for each recipient. Please mail or deliver your donation to United Ministries of Clinton, 500 Academy St., Clinton S. C. 29325.



During the winter season, Duke Energy is once again sponsoring the *Share the Light Fund*. The Duke Energy Foundation will match dollar for dollar the donations from each church, business, agency or individual gift given to *Share the Light*. United Ministries of Clinton will administer the funds for Laurens County. Donation slips are available on the credenza in the church office hallway, or you may mail your donation to: United Ministries, 500 Academy Street, Clinton, SC 29325. Thank you for your help in helping others!



All are invited to join us on December 14th for a Mingle & Jingle in the Fellowship Hall from 5:00 – 6:00 p.m. Please bring your favorite “pick-up” food and look forward to a festive time with games, singing and fellowship!



2025 Monetary Contributions Deadlines: Online giving: **Mon., Dec. 29;** by check at the church office: **Noon, Wed., Dec. 31st.** If you are mailing your monetary gift (PO Box 29, Clinton, SC 29325), please ensure that it is also received by the church office no later than **Wed., Dec. 31st.** Please contact Danny Cook with any questions regarding your 2025 contributions: 864-923-3909 or email: dannycook0322@gmail.com.