

## Christmas Eve Service

Wednesday, December 24, 2025

6-7 PM Christmas Cheer in the Atrium

7 PM Christmas Eve Candlelight Service  
in the Sanctuary



CHILDCARE PROVIDED FOR CHILDREN UNDER 5!

## REMOVAL OF THE CHRISTMAS GREENS

SATURDAY, DEC. 27, 9AM

SUNDAY, DEC. 28, 11:30AM IN POTTS  
HALL (AFTER THE COMBINED SERVICE)

WE WOULD BE GRATEFUL IF YOU COULD SPARE  
A COUPLE OF HOURS TO HELP US TAKE DOWN  
ALL OF THE CHRISTMAS DECORATIONS.

THE MORE, THE MERRIER!

Friday January 23  
in Potts Hall



Hamburgers  
& Hots Dogs  
5:45 - 6:30pm

Bingo  
6:30 - 7:30pm

Prizes for  
Adults & Children

RSVP AT SVPC.ORG

### PRAYER LIST

SUBMIT PRAYER REQUESTS AT [WWW.SVPC.ORG](http://WWW.SVPC.ORG).  
WE REMOVE NAMES AFTER FOUR WEEKS UNLESS REQUESTED.

**Members:** Pete Griffin, The Clutts Family, Ann Perry, David Knowles, The St. Onge Family, Debbie & Grady Allen, AJ Kilgore, Dale Frieden-Bell, Pat Alexander.

**Non-Members:** Tim Anderson (Denise Dale's friend), Terri Whirett (The Seigler's friend), Jackson Richard Jansen (born to Alexy & Ben Jansen, & grandchild of Cathy & Rick Jansen), Dendy Sloan (Pastor Sloan's brother), Leila Evans, Freida Dean, Leesa Aiken (visitor), Lynn van Dijk, Port Loyola & West Street Baptist Churches, Children receiving treatment at Prisma Children's Hospital cancer ward & their families.

For **EMERGENCY** purposes, a defibrillator (in a red case) is available for trained CPR users on the cabinet outside of the pastor's office, as well as one mounted in a white cabinet on the wall outside of the Outreach Room.



SVPC, 125 Sparkleberry Lane  
Columbia, SC 29229  
803-788-3589, [www.svpc.org](http://www.svpc.org)

You Tube [SpringValleyPresbyterianChurch](https://www.youtube.com/SpringValleyPresbyterianChurch)



[www.facebook.com/svpc.mychurch](https://www.facebook.com/svpc.mychurch)



@springvalleypres

# The Longest Night Service

**SPRING VALLEY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**  
**DECEMBER 21, 2025, 6PM**

We are a community of sinners saved by the grace of God  
through Jesus Christ and inspired by the Holy Spirit.  
We seek to glorify God, nurture one another and express  
the love of God in word and deed.

**PRELUDE**

**WORDS of WELCOME**

Rev. Dr. J. Ben Sloan

\* **CALL to WORSHIP** (Isaiah 9)

Leader: The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light.

**People: Those living in the land of the shadow of death, a light has dawned.**

Leader: For to us a child is born

**People: To us a son is given.**

Leader: And the government will be upon His shoulders.

**All: And He will be called Wonderful, Counselor, the Mighty God, the Everlasting Father, the Prince of Peace.**

**LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH** (Psalm 139)

Leader: The meaning of the four candles in the advent wreath are hope, peace, joy, and love.

**People: On the longest night we focus on the love of God and His people that envelope us.**

Leader: Even the darkness is not dark to you.

**People: the night is bright as the day.**

**All: For darkness is as light to you. Your love turns mourning into comfort, sadness into joy, worry into peace, and grief into hope. Your love and presence is the light of the world.**

**OPENING PRAYER**

\* **HYMN No. 9**

*“O Come, O Come Emmanuel”*

**SCRIPTURE**

John 1:10-14; 3:16-19

**HOMILY**

“Loving Light in the Darkest of Nights”

\* **HYMN No. 38**

*“It Came Upon a Midnight Clear”*

**BRIEF TIME of SILENCE**

You are invited to sit for a brief time in silence acknowledging your loss, your pain, your grief. Listening to God’s invitation to rest and be still; to feel God’s loving embrace.

**CANDLE LIGHTING**

We will light 4 candles tonight – one for our grief; one for our courage; one for our memories and one for our love.

Then I will invite you to come forward to light one of the votives for your loss and your pain.

This candle represents our grief. We own the pain of losing loved ones, of dreams that go unfulfilled, of hopes that evaporate in despair. ( brief silence)

This candle represents our courage. It symbolizes the courage to confront our sorrow, to comfort each other, to share our feelings honestly and openly with each other and to dare to hope in the midst of pain. (brief silence)

This candle represents our memories. For the times we laughed together, cried together, were angry with each other or overjoyed with each other. We light this candle for memories of shared caring and joy. (brief silence)

This candle represents our love. The love we have given and the love we have received. The love that has gone unacknowledged and unfelt and the love that has been shared in times of joy and of sorrow. (brief silence)

I invite you to come now to light your own candles. If you wish to have a prayer and anointing I will be standing by the communion table.

We light the Christ candle, remembering that Jesus Christ is always at the center of our lives. He hears our cries, he knows our hearts and in the midst of all our thoughts and our emotions, he offers us hope and healing.

**PRAYER**

Leader: God of creation you made light when there was nothing but darkness. Your will is to bring hope to a hopeless people and world.

**People: Lord have mercy.**

Leader: Jesus, Light of the world, you know suffering in birth, in life, and in death. You are a man of sorrows and acquainted with grief.

**People: Have mercy on us.**

Leader: For all who are in need of healing... Lord in your mercy...

**People: Hear our prayer.**

Leader: For all who are disabled by injury or illness... Lord in your mercy...

**People: Hear our prayer.**

Leader: For all who are troubled by confusion or burdened by pain... Lord in your mercy...

**People: Hear our prayer.**

Leader: For all whose increasing years bring weariness... Lord in your mercy...

**People: Hear our prayer.**

Leader: For all who are about to undergo surgery or treatments...Lord in your mercy...

**People: Hear our prayer.**

Leader: For all who practice the healing arts... Lord, in your mercy...

**People: Hear our prayer.**

[Here petitions are made offered by the people and the presider- each one followed by a response of the people: “Hear our prayer”]

“Into your hands, gracious God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy through Jesus Christ our Lord.” Amen

**LORD’S PRAYER**

**BENEDICTION**

Rev. Dr. J. Ben Sloan

“May the peace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that passes all understanding, keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus our Lord.” AMEN.

**POSTLUDE**

