



The Spire

First Presbyterian Church

December 2024

Greenwood, SC

Mark your Calendars for our Advent Schedule

- Sunday, Dec. 1** - First Sunday of Advent
Communion during both services
Hanging of the Greens Service @ 11:00
The Rev. Dr. Cliff Cain preaching
- Sunday, Dec. 8** - Second Sunday of Advent
Communion during early service
Caroling and Cocoa at Wesley Commons at 5:30 pm
- Tuesday, Dec. 10** - Greenwood Festival Chorale Concert (7:00 pm, Sanctuary)
- Saturday, Dec. 14** - Wreath Across America Service (12:00 noon, Sanctuary)
- Sunday, Dec. 15** - Third Sunday of Advent
Communion during early service
Christmas Open House (Home of Rick & Janice May,
127 E. Cambridge, 3-5:00 pm)
Advent Potluck Dinner (5:30 pm, Alexander Hall)
Christmas @ First Pres (7:00 pm, Sanctuary)
Dessert and Live Nativity
(following service, Lobby & Courtyard)
- Monday, Dec. 16** - Palmetto Girls Sing Concert (6:00 pm, Sanctuary)
- Sunday, Dec. 22** - Fourth Sunday of Advent
Communion during early service
Accepting Christmas Joy Offering
Birthday Party for Jesus (10:00 am, Alexander Hall)
- Tuesday, Dec. 24** - Nativity Service Rehearsal (10:30 am, Sanctuary)
Church offices close at noon
Nativity Service (5:30 pm Sanctuary)
Candlelight Service (7:00 pm, Sanctuary)

SPECIAL SERVICES



DECEMBER 1, 2024
11:00 AM
See page 4 for more information

Wreaths Across America Service

Saturday, December 14, 2024
12:00 Noon
Sanctuary



Christmas Eve Services

Family (Nativity) Service
5:30 pm
See page 5 for more information

Candlelight Service
7:00 pm

Sunday,
December 15th
Great happenings at church!

Christmas Open House with light refreshments and fellowship at the home of Rick & Janice May (127 East Cambridge Ave) from 3-5 pm

Advent Covered Dish Dinner in Alexander Hall. Church is providing fried chicken. Please bring a covered dish (or two) with enough to feed your family, from 5:30 -7:00 pm.

Christmas at First Pres will begin at 7:00 pm in the Sanctuary. Join us for the Christmas concert of the season!

Dessert and Live Nativity
at the conclusion of the service
in the lobby and courtyard



Sunday, December 1st
11:00 Worship

Come join us as we decorate our sanctuary
and learn all about the symbolism of each item.

We're going to sing Christmas carols
near and dear to our hearts.

K3-K5 children

are invited to carry crèche pieces as part of the service.
Please meet in the lobby before service.

High School seniors are invited to be our readers.

The **Confirmation Class of 2025** will be hanging the
wreaths and placing poinsettias.

Please join us as we kick off Advent together!

Thank you to Linszy Anderson, Michelle Barkdale, Andrea Scott,
Rhetta Smith, and Kristi Tucker



Children ages K3-K5 as well as our older children are invited to participate in the nativity. Please contact Elise before 12/15 if your child would like to be included. Rehearsal at 10:30 on Christmas Eve. Call at 5:00.



Sundays@10

Children K3 (potty-trained) - 5th grade

Meet in the Gathering Room in **The Root Cellar**
10:00 – 10:45 A. M.

December 1	Advent - symbol of star	Art
December 8	Advent - symbol of Lamb	Art
December 15	Advent - symbol of angel	Art
December 22	Birthday Party for Jesus	
December 29	12 - Moses plagues and the wilderness - obeying God	Recreation



Dawsey Collins has been our Sundays@10 facilitator for our children for the last few years.

He has finally promoted himself to the brand-new young adult class.

So, our children need a teacher/facilitator/coordinator for Sundays@10.

Can you help?

Do you know someone who would be amazing? Ask them if they can help? Praying for a helper to start in January.



Wednesdays
5:15 - 7:00
For children K3
(potty-trained) - 5th

**Wednesday evenings are for church family!
God equips us for life when we grow deep roots as children!**

Dec. 4	Advent Fun!
Dec. 11	Advent Fun!

SHinE Choir

Thank you for allowing your child to sing in SHinE Choir! We truly get to SHINE in December as we celebrate the birth of Jesus. Please make our rehearsals and worship services a priority. Email Amy if your child cannot participate (amyqfennell@gmail.com).

Rehearsals on Wednesday Nights!

December 4
December 11

Worship Time!

December 15, Christmas @ First Pres- The service begins at 7:00 PM.
We will meet in the music room at 6:30 to prepare.

December 24, Christmas Eve- The service begins at 5:30.
We will meet in the music room at 5:00 to prepare.



Lisa Sanders is one of our weekly table parents!

Lisa is just smitten with her group of girls. She brags on them all the time and can't get enough of them, so they've had several fun gatherings at her house! And the feeling is mutual. These girls love Mrs. Lisa. They tell her about their weeks, and they ask questions and have meaningful conversations. There is also a good deal of laughter. Mrs. Lisa will live in these girls' memories for years to come as someone who loved on and invested in them as part of their church family! This type of connection is what keeps people engaged.
Would you like a similar opportunity?





CHILDREN'S CHAPEL

Sundays during 11:00 sermon



December 1	Advent Hanging of the Greens		
December 8	He's Here (176)	Sarah Pinson	Jamie & Ruby Ortiz
December 15	The Light of the World (184)	Merrie Wright	Olivia Wright
December 22	The King of all Kings (192)	Beth Justesen	Quay Justesen & Maddie Ray Shirley
December 29	Heaven breaks through (200)	Cindy Leary	Linsey Anderson

Birthday Party FOR JESUS



Sunday, December 22

10:00

Alexander Hall

Breakfast compliments of the Fellowship Team

Festivities compliments of the Christian Education Team

**Children's Communion
participants 2024
Recognized during Communion
November 3rd.**

**Parks Penney, Kate LaForge,
Livy Dunlap, Lainey Campbell**





5th Grade
Service
Projects

Crafts

Friends
Welcome

Snacks

Nightly
Features

K3-K5th
Completers



PIE

Games

Bible

Live Worship
Music

2025 VBS: God is Love!

June 8-12, 2025

5:30-7:30 P. M.

We're going to talk about how everything good and loving is from God.

And this is how we can live as well.

We'll learn from the Bible and put our love into action.

- Michelle Barksdale and Janice May are coordinating VBS.
 - Kristi Tucker is helping to write our curriculum.
- We need adult volunteers for Bible, recreation, snack, & craft.
- We'll be having our special surprise after VBS each evening.
 - We need volunteers to be crew leaders for the children.
- 5th graders will be doing service projects all week and need a volunteer.
- We're hoping to have live worship songs for our opening and closing sessions and will need musicians.

Fall Fest Highlights





YOUTH



2024 DECEMBER

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 Hanging of the Greens Sunday School @ 10 SNY 6-8	2	3	4 WEY @ 5:30-7	5	6	7
8 Sunday School @ 10 SNY Caroling 5:30 @ Wesley Commons	9	10	11	12	13	14 Wreaths Across America @ 12 noon
15 Sunday School @ 10 Advent Dinner @ 5:30 Christmas @ First Pres & Live Nativity @ 7	16	17	18 Christmas party @ 5:30-7:30 @ the Hamm's	19	20 Highschool Night @ 5:30-7:00	21
22 Birthday Party for Jesus @ 10	23	24	25	26	27	28
29 Sunday School @ 10	30	31	1	2	3	4



Youth Group Mission Trip to Middletown, Ohio

FPC youth will be part of 400 youth who will be serving those in need of home repairs. This is for rising 9th to completed 12th. 10 youth may register. If others would like to go beyond that, we will start a waiting list and try to get extra tickets. After Endowment support, we hope youth price will be \$249 but we will be fundraising to help offset this cost.

Youth who help with fundraiser will receive assistance.

Your registration confirmation is your \$50 nonrefundable deposit.

Thank you to Lily Collins, Kirstin Sherrer, and Charlie Fennell!

We appreciate all of your hard work and dedication serving as leaders of our youth team this past year!



Congratulations to Jade Green!

Jade is graduating from Lander with her Master of Science in Management on December 14th. She's worked very hard and we are so proud of her! Please reach out to her and let her know how proud you are of her. Feel free to email her at youth@firstgreenwood.com or send her a card to the church: P. O. Box 426, Greenwood, SC 29648.



**Swamp Rabbits
Hockey Game**

  **HIGH SCHOOL**  

 **NIGHT** 

CHRISTMAS EDITION 

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 20TH 

5-7 IN THE YOUTH ROOM 

BRING A GAME TO SHARE



 *Youth*
CHRISTMAS
Party

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 18TH

5:30-7:30

AT THE HAMM'S (103 DIVOT TRL)





Cocoa + Carols

Sunday, December 8
5:30
Meet at Wesley Commons
covered drive lobby in the
independent living building.
All ages welcome!

Kaleidoscope in January



"Thin Spaces" with The Rev. Dr. Cliff Cain

An exhibition of thirty-eight of Cliff Cain's photographs which explore the "shining through" of the divine into the human, and the spiritual into the everyday, will run for the month of January, 2025. "Thin spaces" are those places and moments of experience where/when we have a sense of the sacred—of God—in our sites and in our sights. Three lectures will accompany the exhibit and will examine three persons who thought about, wrote about, and lived-out an appreciation of the "Thin Spaces":

January 12—Francis of Assisi
January 19—Hildegard of Bingen
January 26—Pope Francis

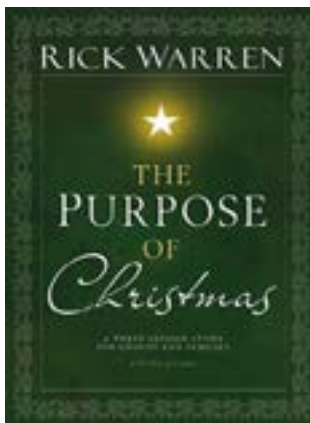


Sundays@10 for Adults!

10:00

Sojourners - Henry Reynolds (Room 110)

Dec. 1	Rick Warren: <i>The Purpose of Christmas</i> #2	Philip Bell
Dec. 8	Rick Warren: <i>The Purpose of Christmas</i> #3	Bob Roddey
Dec. 15	Adam Hamilton: <i>Wrestling With Doubt: Finding Faith</i> #1	Lelion Elledge
Dec. 22	Adam Hamilton: <i>Wrestling With Doubt: Finding Faith</i> #2	Jukie Leary
Dec. 29	Adam Hamilton: <i>Wrestling With Doubt: Finding Faith</i> #3	TBA



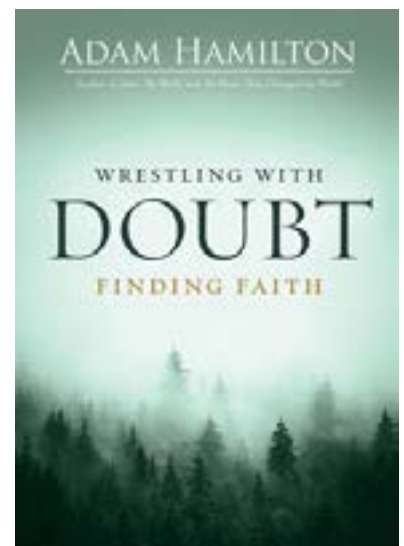
At the very first Christmas – the birth of Jesus – an angel announced three things. In those three statements of the angel, we find the three purposes of Christmas. The three sessions in *The Purpose of Christmas* look at each of those purposes:

- Christmas Is a Time for Celebration
- Christmas Is a Time for Salvation
- Christmas Is a Time for Reconciliation

Everyone has doubts. Where is God when bad things happen? Does God hear our prayers? Is there a heaven? How can we know? Often, we treat such questions as the enemy of faith. But uncertainty doesn't mean our belief is lacking. Doubt can be a path to a deeper, richer encounter with God.

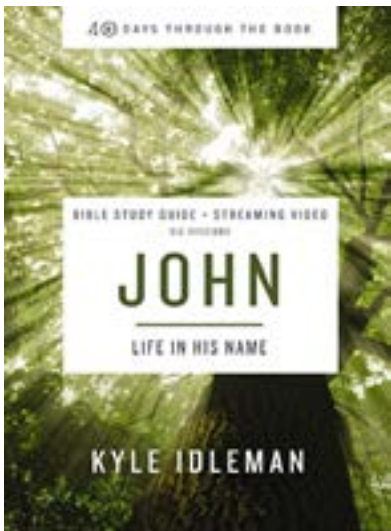
In *Wrestling with Doubt, Finding Faith*, join best-selling author and pastor Adam Hamilton as he discusses some of our most significant sources of doubt and shows how a steady trust in God can emerge from them. You will delve into questions like:

- “Does God exist? How can I know?”
- “Is the Bible true?”
- “Why do prayers go unanswered?”



FISH (Fellowship in Serving Him) – room 205

Dec. 1	Kyle Idleman: <i>John: Life In His Name</i> #4	Gardner
Dec. 8	Kyle Idleman: <i>John: Life In His Name</i> #5	Sherrer
Dec. 15	Kyle Idleman: <i>John: Life In His Name</i> #6	Pinson
Dec. 22	Rick Warren: <i>You Were Created to Dream</i> #1	Collins
Dec. 29	Rick Warren: <i>You Were Created to Dream</i> #2	TBA



WHERE DO YOU PUT YOUR TRUST?

We all believe in *something*. We all put our faith in what we trust will sustain us and help us move ahead. For some of us, that might be a relationship or a job. For others, it could be an education, a financial portfolio, or a political platform. But the disciple John, in his Gospel, invites us to put our belief in something much more secure. As he states, “These things [in my Gospel] are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name” (John 20:31).

In this six-session video Bible study, bestselling author and pastor Kyle Idleman reveals that John didn’t write his Gospel just to tell us about a profound teacher or a powerful miracle worker. Rather, his purpose was to tell us about the very Son of God who came to this earth so that we “may have life, and have it to the full” (John 10:10). John challenges us to trust in Christ—and to demonstrate our faith in him through the way we live and love others.

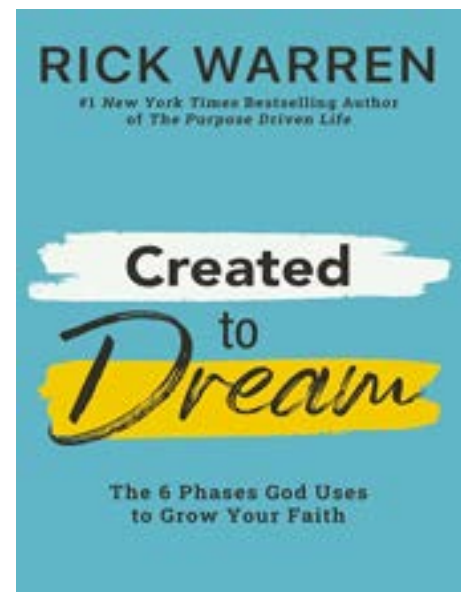
The **40 Days Through the Book** series helps you actively engage with God’s Word. Each study encourages you to read through a book of the Bible at least once during the course of the study. As you do, you will gain an understanding of the background and culture of the book, insights into key passages that you might have overlooked before, and clear takeaways that you can apply today to your life.

A great dream is a statement of faith. Whether you dream of creating something beautiful or accomplishing something incredible, your dream is the first step God uses to develop your spiritual maturity and change your life. The Bible is full of stories of people whose God-given dreams became reality—but to get there, they had to take a journey of faith.

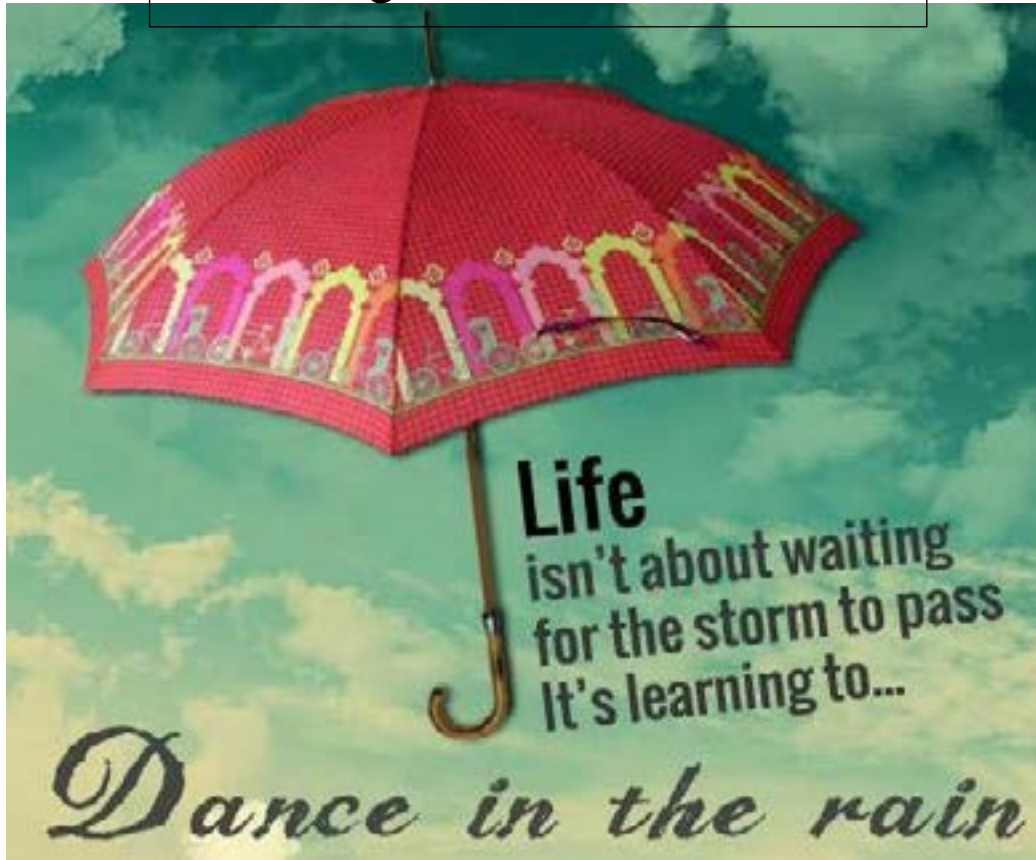
In *Created to Dream*, beloved author of *The Purpose Driven Life* Rick Warren reveals how God uses six phases to develop your spiritual maturity while fulfilling the dreams he gives you. Each phase is a test of your faith, bringing you closer to your goal:

- Phase 1: **Dream**—God puts an exciting dream in your heart.
- Phase 2: **Decision**—You make the decision to go after the dream.
- Phase 3: **Delays**—God allows delays to get you ready for the dream.
- Phase 4: **Difficulties**—You face problems that grow your character.
- Phase 5: **Dead Ends**—You hit an impasse that God uses to deepen your faith further.
- Phase 6: **Deliverance**—God fulfills the dream, sometimes in ways you hadn’t expected or imagined.

Knowing these six biblical phases of faith will allow you to stop wondering if you’ll succeed or what you’re doing wrong and begin looking instead for God’s way forward so that you can be prepared for all that God has dreamed for your future.



2025 Women's Retreat Jan. 24-26



Our lives are full of sunshine and rain! It's easy to feel like dancing in the sunshine.
How can we choose to dance in the rain, too?

Join us for our annual women's retreat!

Please note that William Black Lodge had flooding on their first floor and are
working hard to make repairs.

So just to be safe, we will be retreating at Kanuga Episcopal Conference Center
in Hendersonville, NC.

They are so excited to host us this year. Register here:
If you have already registered, you do not need to re-register.





2024 Advent Devotional

Written by and for the church family of

First Presbyterian Church

108 East Cambridge Avenue P. O. Box 426

Greenwood, SC

29646/29648

(864) 229-5814



Wednesday Night Fellowship

5:15 – Gather - Children on the playground;
adults and youth in AH

5:30 – Dinner for adults and youth (\$10)
RSVP by Monday or request to be added to the weekly list.

5:40 – Dinner for children (pay \$5 weekly or by semester/year)

5:55 – Prayer for everyone

6:00 programming Women in the Conference Room (206), Men in the FISH class (205), and Pastor's Bible study in the Henry Reynolds room (110); Children (The Root Cellar); Youth (the Loft)


Menus:

December 4: BBO Chicken, brown rice, English peas

December 11: Shrimp & grits (chicken available)

December 18: Breakfast for Christmas

December 25: MERRY CHRISTMAS!

“No matter how simple
the meal might be, 
the most important thing is
everyone sharing time
with one another,
creating memories.”



MISSIONS/OUTREACH

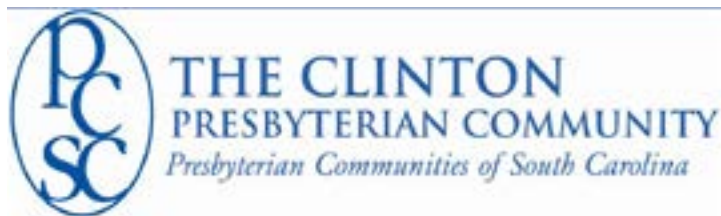
MONTHLY MISSION SPOTLIGHT



**Join us in making Christmas at Thornwell
Home for Children even brighter!
Items due Monday, December 16th.**

Choose a bell from our lobby Christmas tree
and sign it out on the sheet provided.
Purchase and return the item to the lobby by
Monday, December 16th for delivery.
Items will be wrapped at Thornwell.

MISSIONS/OUTREACH cont.



Presbyterian Women will be accepting donations for The Presbyterian Community in Clinton. The residents and staff are extremely grateful for your gifts. The staff takes your gifts and puts them into gift bags for the residents. The kind of gifts needed include:

Postage stamps	Large print Word Search or Crossword Puzzles
Scratch pads	Calendar for 2025 (pocket size or large)
Post-it Notes	Soap: Liquid or bars, anti-bacterial preferred
Pens & Pencils	Body Wash: men or women's
Small Umbrellas	Shampoo & Conditioners
Hand Sanitizer	Toothbrush, Toothpaste, Mouthwash
Deodorant	Socks: black or white or navy blue, men or women's
Moisture lotion	Fuzzy bright colored socks with gripper bottoms
Lip balm/ Chapstick	Flashlights with batteries
Nail clippers	CARDS: All occasion
Nail polish, especially pink	Birthday cards—lots needed!
Hair brushes & combs	Thank you cards
Shower caps	Kleenex: (Lots needed!) boxes or pocket sizes

You are asked to have your gifts at the church on or before noon on **December 1. Please leave your donation UNWRAPPED.** There is a box in the front lobby for you to drop off your gifts.

We now have a prayer shawl ministry in our wonderful community. Susie Aufderheide has put together a wonderful group that are both members and non-members contributing their love and prayers to wrap warmth and love to anyone that needs it. The ministry supplies shawls, capes, lap blankets for the different committees that determine a need within the church or community. Our group is small but mighty which includes at this time Barb Zorzie, Martha Bell, Bobby Kirkland, Karen Short, Janice May, Beth Hammon and of course, Susie. We also have a wonderful group at Wesley Commons called the Knit Wits. So far we have distributed approximately 14 pieces of love and support. If anyone knits or crotchets and would like to join our group or if you wish to contribute materials or funds, we would be most appreciative. We hope this ministry grows and we can meet the needs of our community. Please reach out to anyone in our group if you have any questions.



MISSIONS/OUTREACH cont.



Hospice & Palliative Care of the Piedmont entering the holiday season and will host several events including the following:

The Annual Memorial Service will be held at 5pm on Tuesday, December 3 at First

Baptist Church, Greenwood to remember those served by Hospice & Palliative Care of the Piedmont including patients served from November 11, 2023 to November 15, 2024.

The annual "Star Angel" ornament is available for \$25. This is a special and unique way in which hospice families, as well as community members, can pay a special tribute to their loved one's memory. The ornaments will be displayed on the Hospice Memorial Tree at the 2024 Festival of Trees and can be picked up after the Festival between December 11 through 23.

The theme for the 33rd annual Festival of Trees is "Rockin' Around the Christmas Tree!". The Santa Stroll will be held on Saturday, December 7 at First Baptist Church. Registration starts at 8:30am and the walk begins at 9am.

Guests can attend the Festival, hosted at First Baptist Church, on Saturday, December 7 from 11am - 5pm and Sunday, December 8 from 1pm - 5pm. Admission is \$5 for adults and \$1 for children 12 and under. The silent auction bidding on trees and wreaths will end at 5pm on Sunday and the live auction of trees will follow starting around 5:30pm. The larger trees will be delivered and fluffed by Hospice & Palliative Care of the Piedmont volunteer elves on Monday, December 9.

GIVING OPPORTUNITY

Many of you know that Brad and Gloria Christie's son, Luke, lost his beloved service dog, Oscar, last year to a liver disease. Happily, Luke has now entered the process of getting another dog! The cost is \$10,000 and the fundraising is underway. Should you wish to be a part of his efforts, donating instructions are as follows.

Here is the link to donate securely to The Service Dog Institute, the organization training Luke's next service dog: <https://theservicedoginstitute.org/donate/>. **To ensure that your donation supports Luke's dog, please put Luke Christie in the box labeled "I would like my donation to be in honor of."**

If you prefer to donate by check, you may mail a check payable to The Service Dog Institute to the address below. **Please put "For Luke Christie" in the memo line.**

The Service Dog Institute
655H Fairview Road #173
Simpsonville, SC 29680

Online processing fee is optional. Gifts are tax deductible.
Luke and his future helper thank you for your consideration!





Presbyterian Women News

WOMEN OF THE CHURCH

This Christmas, may you be surrounded by warmth, love and joy. You are a shining example of strength, grace and resilience -qualities that make this season all the more special. Take a moment to reflect on how far you have come, and celebrate the beauty to the world.

As you give to others this holiday season, don't forget to give yourself the gift of rest, peace, and self-love. You deserve every bit of it. May the new year bring even more opportunities for growth, connection, and moments of pure happiness.

As we approach the new year, we hope you will visit our Circles and find one you would enjoy. We would love to welcome all.

Local and Regional benevolences Presbyterian Women Circles have supported throughout the year are: Pathway House, Greater Greenwood United Ministries, Mission Haven, Samaritan's Purse, Secret Angels, Thornwell Home for Children, Presbyterian Home in Clinton, Kathryn's Closet, Burton Center, Faith Home for Women, Greenwood County Food Bank, Boys and Girls Club, MEG's House, Camp Fellowship, Healthy Learners, Food Bank and Soup Kitchen, Beyond Abuse, Salvation Army, Joseph's Ministries, and Kairos Prison Ministries at Leath.

Our Circles donate to the operating funds including funds for bereavement meals and receptions, materials for baptism cross-stitch and framing for babies, annual dues, nursery/sitters, our kitchen and more.

Worldwide Missionaries our PW Circles support are: James McGill: Niger; Cheryl Barners: World Missions Africa Area Coordinator; Shelvis and Nancy Smith-Mathers-South Sudan; Kenya Faith Missions through Bishop Manasseh; and Pakistan Missions-Asher and Samar Din through 10/40 Connections.

Lisa Yarbrough
CT Moderator

PW COORDINATING TEAM MEETING
Monday, January 25, 2025 ~ 10:00 am ~ Henry Reynolds Room

Circle 1 will meet on Tuesday, December 3rd, at 10:30 am, at Wesley Commons.
Contact Jean Mabe 941-7817.

Circle 3 will meet Monday, December 9th, at 10:30 am, in the Henry Reynolds Room.
Contact Rebecca Wise 554-6993 or Gigi Smith 554-8177

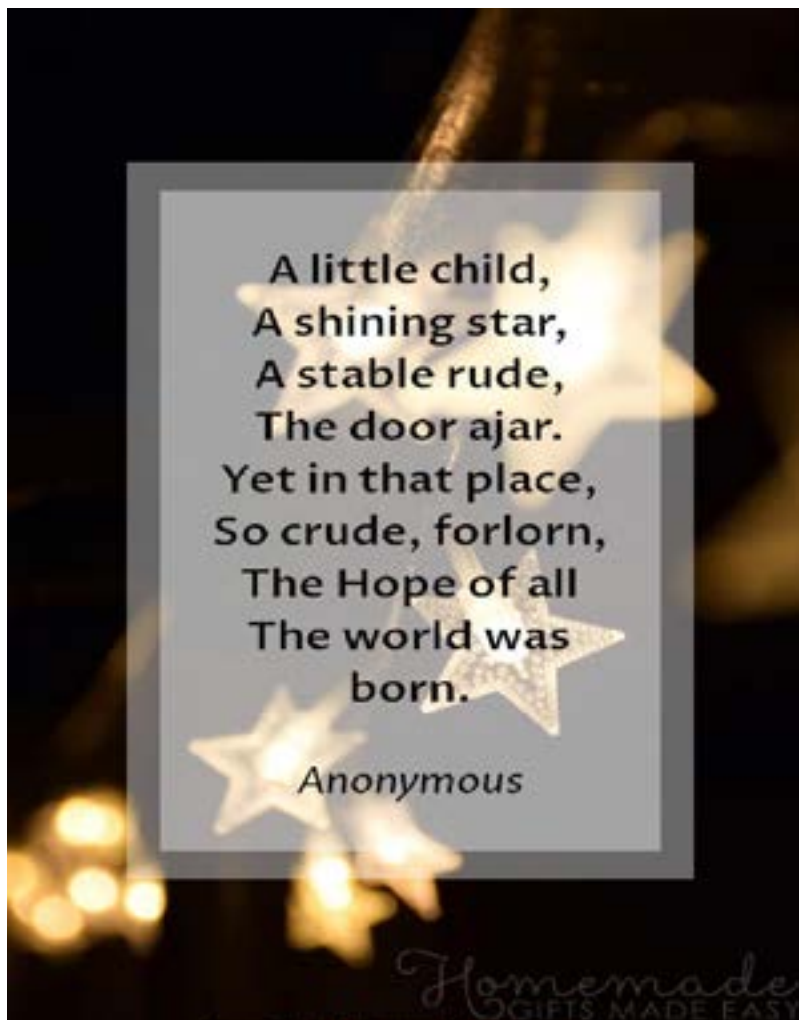
Circle 4 will meet Monday, December 2nd, at 11:00 am, at the home of Lisa Yarbrough.
Contact Marilyn Towne 229-6990

Circle 5 will meet Tuesday, December 10th, at 12:30 pm, in Alexander Hall.
and includes lunch & childcare.
Contact Meg Stevens 993-7536 & Tara Gibson, 773-991-3374

Circle 6 will meet Monday, December 2nd, at 6:30 pm at the Olive Branch restaurant.
Contact Jessica Willard (jesswillard81@gmail.com, 993-5980) or
Nickie Murphy (famurphy01@aol.com, 205-317-5347)

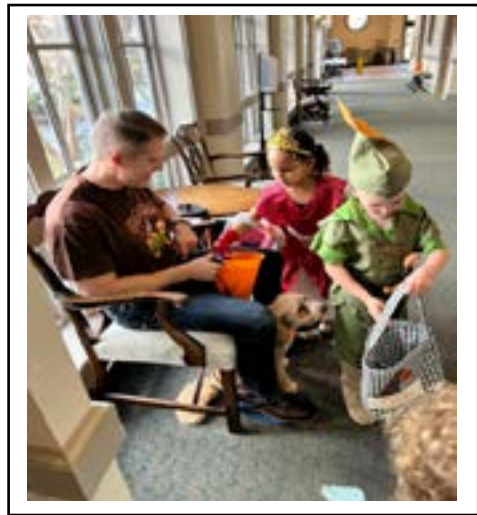
Circle 7 will Tuesday, December 10th, at 10:30 am, at the home of Becky Bryson.
Contact Becky Bryson 223-2998 & Jill Koczwara (570) 344-3192.

Circle 8 will meet on Tuesday, December 3rd, at 11:30 am, in the Barksdale Room (122).
Contact Betty Williams 993-0466.



Noah's Ark News

Noah's Ark is full of EXTRA cuteness this month! We are cruising through the holiday season with gratefulness and joy! Noah's Ark will start a new tradition with Mrs. Claus this year! She will have story time and cookies with cocoa for our little ones on Wednesday, December 4th. We are pleased to announce that the "big man" will make his appearance too! Santa will be here for our special Chapel lesson reminding us of the REAL meaning for the holiday. Shhh! Teachers are busy working on ornaments and creating meaningful lessons. Our Fruit of the Spirit is GOODNESS. How GOOD is it to GIVE. Be on the look out for the Noah's Ark Giving Tree. All donations will benefit our local Hospice House.



We are always thankful to the First Presbyterian Church Staff for helping us make the holidays special for our children at Noah's Ark. We were excited to continue our tradition of trick or treating through the Main Lobby following our precious Halloween Costume Parade. We will dress up again for our annual Thanksgiving Feast at the end of November. Children will wrap up the year with our Christmas Program which is scheduled for December 12th at 6pm.



Palmetto Girls Sing!



Mission Statement of Palmetto Girls Sing

Palmetto Girls Sing is a girls' choir that serves girls in grades 4-12 in Greenwood, SC and its surrounding areas. Palmetto Girls Sing seeks to enrich the lives of girls through diverse and high quality choral music. An emphasis is placed on the joy of singing and its importance in our world. Palmetto Girls Sing offers girls opportunities for personal, social, spiritual, and artistic growth as the girls learn vocal technique, vocal health, music reading, and performance skills. Palmetto Girls Sing presents its music, both sacred and secular, to the glory of God. As an outreach of First Presbyterian Church, Palmetto Girls Sing is a non-profit organization. We have an official Palmetto Girls Sing website! Visit us at www.palmettogirlssinggreenwood.com!

December Fundraisers!

Please support us as we raise funds for our upcoming 10th Anniversary Festival Celebration!

Christmas Wrapping Fundraiser

On Wednesday, December 18, PGS Members will provide a gift wrapping service in Alexander Hall from 4:00-8:00 PM. If you would like help with your holiday gift wrapping, we are here for you! You may bring your own wrapping paper, or we can provide wrapping paper! You may register by scanning this QR Code. There is also a registration form printed in the lobby!



Christmas Caroling Fundraiser

What Christmas gift can you get for someone who already has everything they need? We've got you covered! On December 19, PGS members will provide caroling services as a fundraiser. You will need to register ahead of time to provide this service for friends, family or businesses that you would like to honor at Christmas. The cost is \$25. It includes 3 songs, a package of cookies, and a Christmas card with your message.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

Our Winter Concert is Monday, December 16. Please join us! Tickets will be on sale online or at the door for \$10 each.

Would you like to donate to Palmetto Girls Sing? Any amount is so helpful! You may donate to a scholarship for a particular girl, or make a donation to benefit all of the girls.

Name _____

Gift Amount _____ Date _____

I would like my gift to help provide a scholarship. _____

Palmetto Girls Sing!

GIFT WRAPPING FUNDRAISER

Let our girls take care of your Christmas gift wrapping!
Proceeds benefit our 10 year anniversary festival in May.



Wednesday
December 18, 2024
4:00-8:00 PM



Alexander Hall
First Presbyterian Church
108 Cambridge Avenue E

Registration is requested, but walk ins
are welcome until 7:30 PM.



Scan the QR Code or visit our website,
www.palmettogirlssinginggreenwood.com



Holiday Harmonies

A FUNDRAISER FOR PALMETTO GIRLS SING!

HIRE PALMETTO GIRLS SING TO PROVIDE CAROLS AND COOKIES TO
YOUR FAVORITE PEOPLE OR BUSINESSES!



\$25 COVERS A SMALL TEAM OF SINGERS WHO WILL PROVIDE
THREE CAROLS, A PERSONALIZED CARD AND A DOZEN COOKIES.



USE THE QR CODE TO REGISTER OR VISIT
WWW.PALMETTOGIRLSSINGGREENWOOD.COM

DEC 19

PALMETTO GIRLS SING!

Winter Concert

DECEMBER 16 | 6:00 PM

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

\$10 PER PERSON ONLINE OR AT THE DOOR
SCAN THE QR CODE OR VISIT OUR
WEBSITE FOR TICKETS

WWW.PALMETTOGIRLSSINGGREENWOOD.COM





2024-2025 SEASON

Sunday, October 6,
4:00 PM

The Carolina Baroque Trumpet Ensemble

The Carolina Baroque Trumpet Ensemble is composed of trumpet performers and scholars from across the Carolinas who specialize in performance on historic natural trumpets, known today as “Baroque Trumpets” because of the instrument’s celebrated usage during the Baroque period (c. 1600-1750). Joined by leading Baroque trumpeter and international performing and recording artist Kathryn Aducci, the CBTE will present a concert of fanfares and processions from the 17th and 18th Centuries on replica period instruments.

Sunday, December 15
7:00 PM

Christmas @ First Pres

Presented by the music ministries of First Presbyterian Church, Sing Noel is performed by choirs, handbells, and congregation. Anthems and carols engage the audience with melodies of the season. Join us for music that will bring joy to all this holiday!

Sunday, February 23
4:00 PM

A Pageant of Keyboards

Be our guest for a collaboration of local keyboardists! Stanley Colbert, Steven Skinner, and Tim Walters utilize five keyboards to create a rhapsodic collage.

Sunday, March 16
4:00 PM

Modern Choral Classics

In its annual concert honoring the diverse heritage of recent composers, the Greenwood Festival Chorale presents modern choral standards. Director Mr. Steven Skinner leads the chorale in its musical offerings to the community throughout the year. For auditions, contact steve@first-greenwood.com or see the Greenwood Festival Chorale website at www.gwdfestivalchorale.com.

MY GIFT TO SUPPORT THE 2024-2025 FESTIVA ARTS SERIES

FRIEND: \$50-\$99 \$ _____; **SPONSOR:** \$100-\$599 \$ _____; **PATRON:** \$500-\$999 \$ _____; **ANGEL:** \$1,000 + \$ _____

Name: _____

Mailing Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____

ZIP: _____ Telephone: _____

Email: _____

Please complete this form and mail it to:

First Presbyterian Church

P.O. Box 426, Greenwood, SC 29648

or leave it in the church office. Your check payable to
FPC is tax deductible.

DATES TO REMEMBER

Please keep in mind that these events/happenings/places are not set in stone. Keep watch in the bulletin, next month's *Spire*, and the Pastor's Update for more current information.

Sunday, December 1	First Sunday of Advent Communion during both services Dr. Cliff Cain preaching Hanging of the Greens (11:00 service, Sanctuary)
Sunday, December 8	Second Sunday of Advent Communion during early service Christmas Caroling & Cocoa at Wesley Commons (5:30 pm)
Tuesday, December 10	Greenwood Festival Chorale Concert (7:00 pm, Sanctuary)
Thursday, December 12	Noah's Ark Christmas Program (6:00 pm, Sanctuary)
Saturday, December 14	Wreaths Across America Service (12:00, Sanctuary)
Sunday, December 15	Third Sunday of Advent Communion during early service Christmas Open House (3:00-5:00 pm) at the home of Rick & Janice May, 127 East Cambridge Ave. Advent Dinner (5:30 pm, Alexander Hall) Christmas at First Pres (7:00 pm, Sanctuary)
Monday, December 16	Palmetto Girls Sing! Christmas Concert (6:00 pm, Sanctuary)
Sunday, December 22	Fourth Sunday of Advent Communion during early service Christmas Joy Offering accepted Birthday Party for Jesus (10:00 am, Alexander Hall)
Tuesday, December 24	Nativity Service Rehearsal (10:30 am, Sanctuary) Church offices close (12:00 noon) Nativity Service (5:30 pm, Sanctuary) Candlelight Service (7:00 pm, Sanctuary)
Wednesday-Thursday December 25-26	Church offices closed
Tuesday, December 31	Church offices close (12:00 noon)
Wednesday, January 1	Church offices closed
Sunday, January 5	Communion during both services Annual Congregational Meeting (10:00 am, Sanctuary) Installation of Officers (11:00 service, Sanctuary)

Stewardship

1. When we give, we will have all we need.

And God will generously provide all you need. 2 Corinthians 9:8

When we prioritize the things that are important to God, he takes care of the rest. God always makes sure we have enough to live on when we give to further his kingdom. It seems counter-intuitive to give away more and still somehow have enough, but it's how God works.

2. When we give, we will bless others.

Then you will always have everything you need and plenty left over to share with others. 2 Corinthians 9:8

Giving toward what is important to God will always bless other people because people are what is important to him. Whether it is a regular gift to the church, an offering to missions, or investment in ministry, God's priorities always impact people for good.

3. When we give, we will be equipped to be more and more generous.

In the same way, he will provide and increase your resources and then produce a great harvest of generosity in you. Yes, you will be enriched in every way so that you can always be generous. 2 Corinthians 9:10-11

It's a basic biblical principle of stewardship—when we are faithful with a little bit, God will trust us with more. Generosity causes God to invest more in us because he knows we will continue to be generous. It's a cycle of God blessing us so we can give that goes on and on and on and on...

4. When we give, the people we help will be thankful.

And when we take your gifts to those who need them, they will thank God...they will joyfully express their thanks to God. 2 Corinthians 9:11-12

Doesn't it feel good to be part of making a difference in someone's life? Whether your giving helps someone learn about Jesus or feeds hungry kids around the world, they will be thankful. You changed someone's life for the better with your giving, and that means something to them.

5. When we give, people will be drawn to Jesus and respond to the Gospel.

As a result of your ministry, they will give glory to God. For your generosity to them and all believers will prove that you are obedient to the Good News of Christ. 2 Corinthians 9:13

Your giving is directly tied to your testimony. The generosity of followers of Jesus draws people to Jesus because it reflects the generous heart of God. What this literally means is that when you give toward the ministries of the church, you are directly involved in leading people into a life-changing relationship with Jesus. It strengthens the testimony of the church and proves the Gospel to the world at large.

6. When we give, people will pray for you.

And they will pray for you with deep affection because of the overflowing grace God has given to you. 2 Corinthians 9:14

GENERAL CHURCH INFORMATION

Our Christian prayers and sympathies are extended to the family of Pat Fronzak upon her passing on November 11, 2024; and to John Wilde and his family on the passing of his wife, Mary Lou Wilde, on November 16, 2024. We share with them the joy of the promise of resurrection and eternal life.

We need ushers for both the 9:00 and 11:00 services. Please contact the front office if interested.

TEAM MEETINGS

The **Buildings & Grounds Committee** will meet Monday, December 9th, at 5:15 pm, in the Barksdale Room (Room 122).

The **Committed Prayers Team** will meet Monday, December 2nd, at 4:30 pm, in the Chapel.

The **Endowment** will meet Monday, December 9th, at 4:30 pm, in the Conference Room (Room 206).

The **Home Communion Team** will Monday, December 2nd, at 11:00 am, in the Barksdale Room (Room 122).

The **Men of the Church** will meet Tuesday, December 3rd, at 5:30 pm, in the Henry Reynolds Room (Room 110).

Stephen Ministry will meet Wednesday, December 11th, at 4:30 pm, in the Barksdale Room (Room 122).

The **Visitation Committee** will meet Thursday, December 12th, at 11:00 am, in the Barksdale Room (Room 122).

Please note that the place, time, and date of these meetings are subject to change.

Other Items of Interest

We will celebrate the **Lord's Supper** during both services on **December 1, 2024** and during the early service on **December 8, 15, and 22.**

Deadline for the January issue of *The Spire* is Monday, December 9, 2024.

The **church offices will close** at noon on Tuesday, December 24 for the Christmas holiday. We'll be back in the offices on Friday, December 27.

We will be accepting the **Christmas Joy Offering** on December 22, 2024. Please use the brown special offering envelopes located in the pew racks and mark for Christmas.

2024						
DECEMBER						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

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FROM THE FINANCIAL OFFICE

CONTRIBUTIONS FROM YOUR INVESTMENT PORTFOLIO OR BANK

If you plan to give contributions from your investment portfolio or from your bank directly to the church, please let Nan Smith in the financial office know. Nan can be reached at 864-229-5814 or finance@firstgreenwood.com. Stock and other direct transfers often come with no additional information about the donor's identity.

2025 OFFERING ENVELOPES

Offering envelopes are available in the hallway between the two lobbies. If you do not see yours or would like to start using offering envelopes, please contact Nan Smith in the financial office. These offering envelopes are mailable. There is no need to put them in another envelope to mail them, just put a stamp on them. If you give online or once a year, and would like to discontinue receiving the envelopes, please return them to Nan with a note letting her know.

Note that your envelope number may have changed. If you use offering envelopes, be sure to use the ones for the current year. As more people start giving electronically, we are ordering fewer offering envelopes, and your envelope number may have changed.

A congregational meeting was held on Sunday, November 10th, to discuss a motion from the Session "to conduct a capital campaign, which would determine the feasibility of building a Family Life Center." The congregation voted 121 in favor and 26 against the motion. Therefore, the motion carried. While there were differing opinions on the campaign, it is the session's hope that we can now come together and give people the opportunity to pledge for this project. In the coming weeks, Jeff Newlin will begin training groups on how we will conduct the campaign. Through prayer and devotion, our congregation will discern where God is leading us as we work to reach people for Christ in a meaningful way.





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Parish Associate

The Rev. Dr. Brad Christie

Theologian in Residence

The Rev. Dr. Cliff Cain

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Mrs. Elise Collins

Director of Music Ministries

Mr. Steve Skinner

Director of Youth & Young
Adult Ministries

Miss Jade Green

Music Associate/Organist

Mr. Timothy Walters

Music Associate/Guitarist

Mr. Stephan Botchie

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Mrs. Tamara McLeod

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Moderator of Deacons

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Moderator of Presbyterian Women

Mrs. Lisa Yarbrough

Chair of Endowment

Dr. Jukie Leary