

CHILDREN'S Opportunities

Sundays

Infants-K2
Nursery room 119 (8:45-12:15)

10:00
K3 – 5TH
Sundays@10 from 10 – 10:45
(Root Cellar)

11:00
K3-K5 are welcome in worship or may participate in extended session in room 120 if they like.

1st – 5th grade in worship until the sermon during which they may choose to adjourn to Children's Chapel and return following the sermon.

Holiday SHinE Choir:

SHinE Choir will sing on December 24, Christmas Eve!
The service begins at 5:30. We will meet in the music room at 5:00 to prepare.

Christmas Eve Nativity

December 24th
10:30 Rehearsal for children, readers, and musicians
5:00 call for children; 5:30 Service

Birthday Party for Jesus

Come join us in Alexander Hall at 10:00
for breakfast and festivities as we celebrate Jesus' birth!

Youth

Sunday, December 22nd – **Birthday Party for Jesus** from 10:00-10:45.

Sunday, January 5th – **The Range in Cold Springs** from 2:00-4:00. Meet at FPC at 2:00 for the bus. RSVP by Friday, January 3rd by paying \$10 on Realm or to Nan.

ADULTS

Sundays @ 10; Sojourners in room 110
FISH – room 205; Young Adults Class (up to age 40) in Room 206.

Mark your calendars!

12/24 – **Nativity service rehearsal** at 10:30 and call at 5:00
Children K3-K5 will be featured.

All children are invited to participate if they would like –
after singing with SHinE Choir. Rehearsal at 10:30 on Christmas Eve.

Sunday, December 22

9:00 a.m. - Worship Service (Sanc)
10:00 a.m. - Sunday School
10:00 a.m. - Birthday Party for Jesus (AH)
11:00 a.m. - Worship Service (Sanc)

Monday, December 23

9:15 a.m. - Staff Mtg
Tuesday, December 24
10:30 a.m. - Nativity Service Rehearsal (Sanc)
12:00 noon - Offices Closed
5:30 p.m. - Nativity Service
6:20 p.m. - Choir Rehearsal
7:00 p.m. - Candlelight Service

Wednesday, December 25

MERRY CHRISTMAS!

Offices Closed

Thursday, December 26

Offices Closed

Friday, December 27

Offices Closed

Saturday, December 28

THE POINSETTIAS placed in the sanctuary are in memory of and in honor of loved ones.

NEW MEMBERS CLASS

We will be holding a New Members Class beginning Sunday, January 19th, at 10:00 in the Barksdale Room (Room 122) and continuing on Sunday mornings, January 26th, and February 2nd. You will be received into church membership during the 11:00 service on February 2nd. If you would like to participate in this class or have any questions, please contact the front office (office@firstgreenwood.com or 229-5814) or talk with Dr. Brad Christie.

*Have you seen the wise men?
They're following the star on their way to meet
the new king. Where can they be today?*

This morning we will be accepting gifts for the Christmas Joy Offering.

This offering 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. Please use the brown envelopes in the pew and mark for Christmas Joy.

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

to be held on Sunday, January 5, 2025 at 10:00 am

for the purposes of:

- 1.) Electing the 2025 Nominating Committee,
- 2.) Pastors Terms of Call,
- 3.) Pastor Kyle's State of the Church

Sunday School Teacher(s) needed for our children.

Meets in the Root Cellar from 10:00 – 10:45 every Sunday during the school year.

Find a partner and come shape little lives in a big way!

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We need recommendations and applicants for **nursery workers**.  
Please contact Elise Collins at dce@firstgreenwood.com.

### *Fourth Sunday of Advent*

*December 22, 2024*

*11:00 am*



*Senior Pastor -- The Rev. Dr. Kyle D. Hite  
Director of Christian Education -- Elise Collins  
Director of Music Ministries -- Steve Skinner  
Director of Youth & Young Adult Ministries -- Jade Green  
Parish Associate -- The Rev. Dr. Brad Christie  
Theologian in Residence -- The Rev. Dr. Cliff Cain  
Music Associate/Organist -- Tim Walters  
Music Associate/Guitarist -- Stephan Botchie  
Noah's Ark Director -- Lauren Trantham*

#### **First Presbyterian Church**

108 East Cambridge Ave.

P.O. Box 426

Greenwood, SC 29648

Phone: (864) 229-5814 Fax: (864) 229-3489

Office hours: M-Th: 8:00 - 4:00 and Fri: 8:00 - 12:00

**GATHERING MUSIC**

**WELCOME AND GREETING**

Rev. Hite

Leader: This is the day that the Lord has made.  
People: Let us rejoice and be glad in it.

*Ps. 118:24*

*(Please sign and pass the Member/Guest Registry. If you are a guest, your name, address, phone number, and e-mail address will be most helpful.)*

**ADVENT WREATH LIGHTING & RESPONSE**

Roy and Lynn Hemphill

Leader: The fourth week of Advent is the Sunday before Christmas. We light the first purple candle of hope, the second purple candle of peace, the third purple (or pink) candle of joy, and the last purple candle. This candle is known as either the "Love" candle or the "Angel's" candle.

People: Behold I bring you good news of great joy!

Leader: God loved us so much he sent his son to live on earth in the flesh! Jesus felt emotions and he experienced tiredness, hunger, and so much more. That's love! And the angels sang about it – a big choir in the sky celebrating Jesus!

People: Behold I bring you good news of great joy!

Leader: Even today, we can feel God's love from the act of sharing his son with us to guide us and show us what God's love looks like. Jesus modelled for us how we should love others – all others - with grace and without condemnation.

People: Behold I bring you good news of great joy!

**\*OPENING HYMN\*\* #143** "Angels from the Realms of Glory"

REGENT SQUARE

**CONFESSION**

**CALL TO CONFESSION**

Rev. Christie

**CORPORATE PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

Heavenly Father,  
as we journey through this season of Advent, we come before you with humble hearts, confessing our sins and seeking your forgiveness. Like the older son in the parable, we admit that we have been envious of others' blessings and have struggled to find joy in the celebration of your grace. We have been quick to anger and slow to give mercy.  
Forgive us, Lord, for our lack of joy and our failure to fully embrace the grace you extend to all. Teach us to celebrate the return of the lost and to rejoice in your boundless mercy and love. Help us to let go of our grievances and open our hearts to the joy of your salvation.

**SILENT CONFESSION**

**DECLARATION OF PARDON**

Leader: Friends in Christ, we are forgiven.  
People: Thanks be to God!

**RESPONSE Hymn #147** "The First Nowell" THE FIRST NOWELL  
*Stanza 6*

**THE SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM** Eleanor McLean Steinbacher  
*Eleanor is the daughter of Lucy and Matt Steinbacher*

**\*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH** (*The Apostles' Creed*) Rev. Hite

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.

**GIVING of TITHES and OFFERINGS**

**Call to Offering** Rev. Christie

**Offertory** "Unto Us is Born a Son" arr. Archer, Willcocks

**\*Advent Doxology** (On Screens) IRBY

**\*Dedication of the Offering** Rev. Christie

As we have received, so now we give.  
As Jesus has shown us, so now we do unto others,  
as God has so graciously done for us.  
Thanks be to God!

**TIME WITH CHILDREN** Rebecca Wise

*Children may choose to exit at this time:  
K3-K5 -- Room 120; 1st-5th grades -- Children's Chapel*

**PROCLAMATION**

**SCRIPTURE READING** Luke 15:25-30 Rev. Hite

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord.  
People: Thanks be to God!

**Musical Meditation**

**SERMON** "What's In the Way of Your Joy?"

**\*CLOSING HYMN #128** "Infant Holy, Infant Lowly" W ŻŁOBIE LEŻY

**\*BENEDICTION**

*(At the conclusion of the service, please share the peace with another.  
Be sure to greet those who are unfamiliar to you or those you have not seen in a while.)*

**\*POSTLUDE**

**AIDS FOR WORSHIP** - Large print hymnals and wireless hearing devices (instructions are in the pew racks) are available in the narthex.

\*Congregation stands

\*\*Late comers may be seated