

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: Wednesdays 12/4 and 11

Holiday SHinE Choir:

SHinE Choir will sing on Sunday, December 15, Christmas at First Pres! The service begins at 7:00 PM. We will meet in the music room at 6:30 to prepare.

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.

Youth

Sunday, December 8th – **Sunday School** in the youth room from 10:00 – 10:45.

Sunday, December 8th – **Christmas Caroling** at Wesley Commons from 5:30 -7:00. Meet at Wesley Commons covered drive lobby in the independent living building.

Saturday, December 14th – **Wreaths Across America** from 12:00 -2:00. Carpooling after the service to distribute wreaths in Greenwood.

ADULTS

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

Mark your calendars!

12/8 – **Caroling at Wesley Commons.** Meet at the bistro at 5:30 or whenever you can get there. Hot cocoa and caroling for all ages! Come enjoy some church family fun!

12/15 - **Christmas Open House** from 3-5 at the home of Janice & Rick May (127 East Cambridge)

Advent Dinner in Alexander Hall from 5:30-7. Bring a covered dish to share
Christmas @ First Pres at 7:00 in the Sanctuary

OFFERING ENVELOPES

Offering envelopes are available for pick up in the front lobby. If you do not see yours, please reach out to Nan Smith in the front office.

SECRET ANGELS

We need several more Secret Angels. The Secret Angel provides small gifts throughout the school year to our college aged people. Please contact the front office if interested.

Sunday, December 8

9:00 a.m. - Worship Service (Sanc)
10:00 a.m. - Sunday School
11:00 a.m. - Worship Service (Sanc)
4:15 p.m. - Chancel Bells
5:30 p.m. - Caroling & Cocoa (Wesley Commons)

Monday, December 9

SPIRE DEADLINE
11:00 a.m. - Circle #3 (Montagues)
4:30 p.m. - Endowment (Conf Rm)
5:00 p.m. - PGS (Sanc)
5:15 p.m. - Bldgs & Grnds (BR)
6:30 p.m. - Boy Scouts (HR)
6:30 p.m. - Cub Scouts (Base)
6:00 p.m. - Girl Scout Leaders (AH)
6:30 p.m. - Girl Scouts (YR)

Tuesday, December 10

9:15 a.m. - Staff Meeting
10:30 a.m. - Circle #7 (Becky Bryson)
12:30 p.m. - Circle #5 (AH)
7:00 p.m. - Chorale Concert (Sanc)

Wednesday, December 11

7:00 a.m. - Men's Bible Study (AH)
10:30 a.m. - BEMA Bible Study (HR)
4:30 p.m. - Stephen Ministry (BR)
5:30 p.m. - WNF (AH)
6:00 p.m. - SHinE (Base)
6:00 p.m. - Adults (FISH/HR/Conf Rm)
7:00 p.m. - Chancel Choir

Thursday, December 12

10:00 a.m. - Home Communion Comm (BR)
11:00 a.m. - Visitation (BR)
6:00 p.m. - NA Christmas Program (Sanc)

Friday, December 13

9:00 a.m. - Noah's Ark (HR)

Saturday, December 14

12:00 noon - Wreaths Across America service (Sanc)
12:00 noon - Girl Scouts (AH)

Wednesday Night Fellowship

December 11th

This is our last WNF until Jan. 8th
5:30 dinner (Shrimp & grits)
6:00 programming for all ages (nursery available)
(\$5/children, \$10/youth & adults)
Check your Spire for details.

Thornwell Bells

Thornwell Bells are ready to choose from on the Christmas tree in the lobby. Please pick your bell, sign it out on the sheet provided and return it UNWRAPPED with your bell attached by Monday, December 16th. When picking a bell with the Amazon link on it, those gifts will be delivered directly to Thornwell Children's Home.

Have you seen the wise men?

They're following the star on their way to meet the new king. Where can they be today?

Christmas Wrapping Fundraiser

On Wednesday, December 18, Palmetto Girls Sing members will provide a gift wrapping service in Alexander Hall from 4:00-8:00 PM. There are also a registration form printed in the lobby or you may visit our website, www.palmettogirlssinggreenwood.com.

Christmas Caroling Fundraiser

On December 19, Palmetto Girls Sing members will provide caroling services as a fundraiser. Registration forms are in the church lobby, or you can visit our website, www.palmettogirlssinggreenwood.com.

Palmetto Girls Sing Concert

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

WOMEN

Our women's retreat will be in Kanuga! Register today!
Brochures in the lobby Direct Realm Registration:
All payments due by Thursday, December 19.



Second Sunday of Advent

December 8, 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

PRELUDE

WELCOME AND GREETING

Leader: God is our refuge and strength,
People: a very present help in trouble.

Rev. Hite
Psalm 46:1

(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

Ryan, Claire, Maryclaire, and Caroline Griffith

Leader: The second week of Advent, we light the first purple candle of hope and then we light our second purple candle. The “Peace” candle can also be called the “Bethlehem” candle. Both allude to the quiet and calm night that Jesus was born.

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

Leader: I can’t imagine it was quiet with a chicken, rooster, goat, sheep, cow, or donkey around. And I don’t envision it being calm if a baby is being born and then shepherds come visit. But the feeling of peace pervaded because of the wonder and significance of this baby – the Son of God.

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

Leader: Still today, we can experience this peace in the midst of chaos. Christ will come again and we will live eternal life with him – eternal peace with no more death, grief, or pain.

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

***OPENING HYMN** #83** “Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus” STUTTGART

CONFESSION

CALL TO CONFESSION

Rev. Christie

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Loving and Merciful God,
as we enter this season of waiting and preparation,
we recognize our need for Your forgiveness and grace.
We are humbled by the realization that, like the prodigal son,
we must return to you in repentance.
We have strayed from your path,
seeking fulfillment in places and ways that cannot satisfy.
Lord, in this season we come to our senses and seek Your mercy,
knowing that you are always ready to welcome us home.

SILENT CONFESSION

DECLARATION OF PARDON

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

RESPONSE Hymn (On Screens) “Hark! The Herald Angels Sing”

“Come, Desire of Nations, Come” MENDELSSOHN

GIVING of TITHES and OFFERINGS

Call to Offering

Rev. Christie

Offertory

“O Come, O Come Emmanuel” arr. Zoltan Kodaly

***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

Beth Justesen

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

PROCLAMATION

SCRIPTURE READING

Luke 15:11-20a

Rev. Hite

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

Musical Meditation

SERMON

“Strayin’ Too Far”

PASTORAL PRAYER 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.

***CLOSING HYMN #93**

“Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates”

TRURO

***BENEDICTION**

Minister: The peace of the Lord be with you.
People: And also with you.

*(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