



# The Spire

## First Presbyterian Church

December 2025

Greenwood, SC

### ADVENT HAPPENINGS

Sunday, November 30	First Sunday of Advent Hanging of the Greens (11:00) No 9:00 service
Saturday, December 6	Rick & Janice May Christmas Open House (4:00-7:00 pm, 127 East Cambridge Ave.)
Sunday, December 7	Second Sunday of Advent Communion at 11:00 No 9:00 service
Saturday, December 13	Christmas @ First Pres Rehearsal (10-12, Sanc.) Youth to participate with Wreaths Across America (1:00, Edgewood Cemetery) Sojourners Christmas Party (4-6:00 pm, 232 Deer Run Ln.)
Sunday, December 14	Third Sunday of Advent No 9:00 service Christmas @ First Pres (4:00, Sanctuary) Caroling (5:30ish pm, Wesley Commons)
Monday, December 15	Palmetto Girls Sing Concert (6:00 pm, Sanctuary)
Sunday, December 21	Fourth Sunday of Advent Birthday Party for Jesus (10:00 am, Alexander Hall) Christmas Joy Offering accepted (11:00) No 9:00 service
Wednesday, December 24	Nativity Service Rehearsal (10:30 am, Sanctuary) Church Offices close at noon Nativity Service (5:30 pm, Sanctuary) Candlelight Service of Lessons & Carols (7:00 pm, Sanctuary)
Thursday-Friday December 25-26	Church offices closed

# SPECIAL SERVICES



**NOVEMBER 30, 2025**  
**11:00 AM**

## *Christmas Eve Services*

*Family (Nativity) Service*  
**5:30 pm**

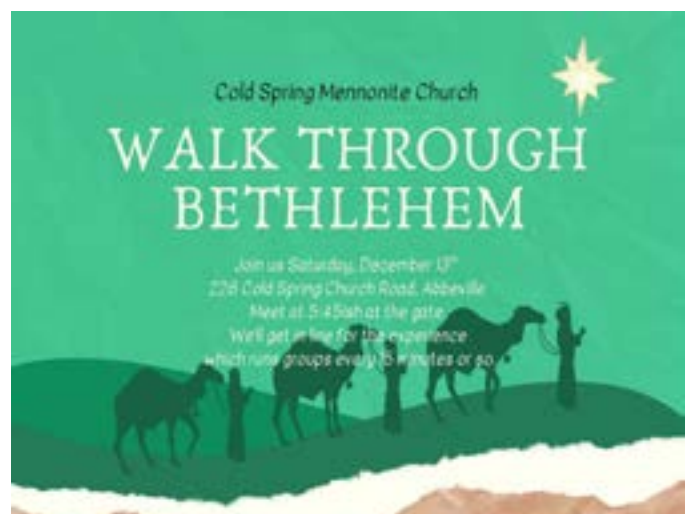
*Candlelight Service  
of Lessons & Carols*  
**7:00 pm**



## **NO EARLY SERVICE**

There will not be a 9:00 service from Nov. 30th - Jan. 4th.

We will resume with our two services on Jan. 11th, 2026.



# SPECIAL SERVICES cont.

*Festiva Presents*

## CHRISTMAS AT FIRST PRES



SUNDAY, DECEMBER 14<sup>TH</sup> 2025

4:00 P. M.

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
108 E CAMBRIDGE AVE, GREENWOOD

Greenwood Festival Chorale  
Emerald Bells

First Presbyterian Choirs

ART DISPLAY  
SNOW GLOBE PHOTO OPP  
LIVE YOUTH NATIVITY





# SPECIAL SERVICES cont.



**LET HEAVEN AND NATURE SING!**

**MONDAY, DECEMBER 15  
6 PM**

**FEATURING  
PALMETTO GIRLS SING!**

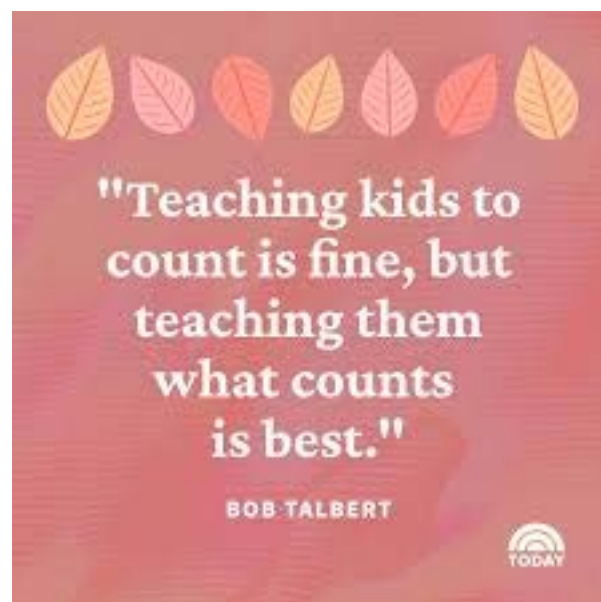
**FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

**\*\$10 TICKETS AVAILABLE AT THE DOOR OR ONLINE  
WWW.PALMETTOGIRLSSINGGREENWOOD.COM**





For children K3 (completely potty-trained) – 5th grade  
From 10:00 – 10:45







---

The "true story" of "Silent Night" ([Stille Nacht Heilige Nacht](#)) involves Joseph Mohr, who wrote the lyrics in 1816, and Franz Xaver Gruber, who composed the melody for a broken organ in the Austrian village of Oberndorf in 1818. The carol was first performed on Christmas Eve 1818 to a congregation at St. Nicholas Church, accompanied by a guitar, because the church organ was damaged by flooding.

The song's message of peace and comfort transcended cultures and faiths, as evidenced by the story of German and British soldiers singing it together during the Christmas Truce of 1914.

Can you even imagine?

Check out this amazing story and recording by Cantus:





**SHinE Choir Singing Sundays:** Nov. 30, Mar. 29, Apr. 26 at 11:00,  
Dec. 14 at 4:00







## **Calling all children!**

**If your child would like to participate  
in the Christmas Eve nativity,  
they will need to attend practice**

**Wednesday, 12/24 at 10:30 in the sanctuary.**

**K5 children are featured in the main roles.**

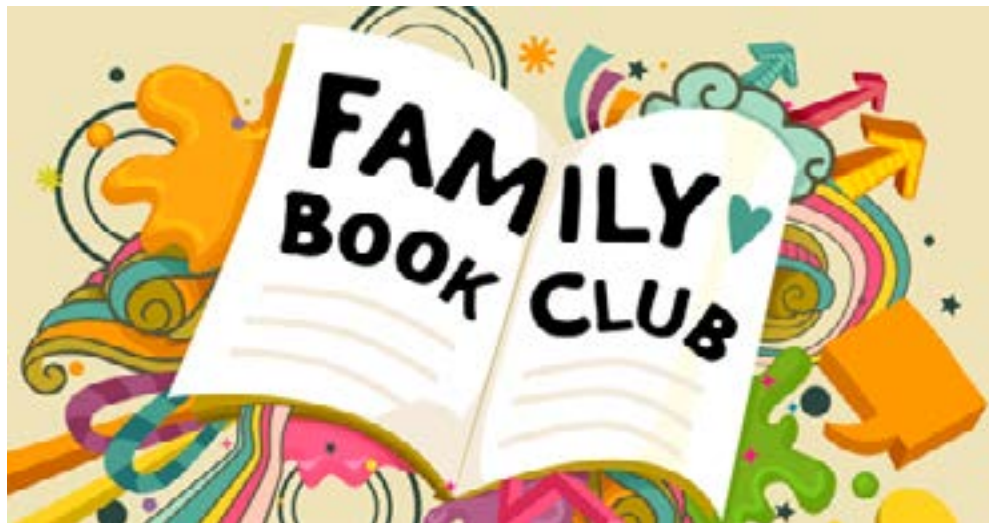
**Contact Elise to let her know who can participate.**



# MERRY CHRISTMAS

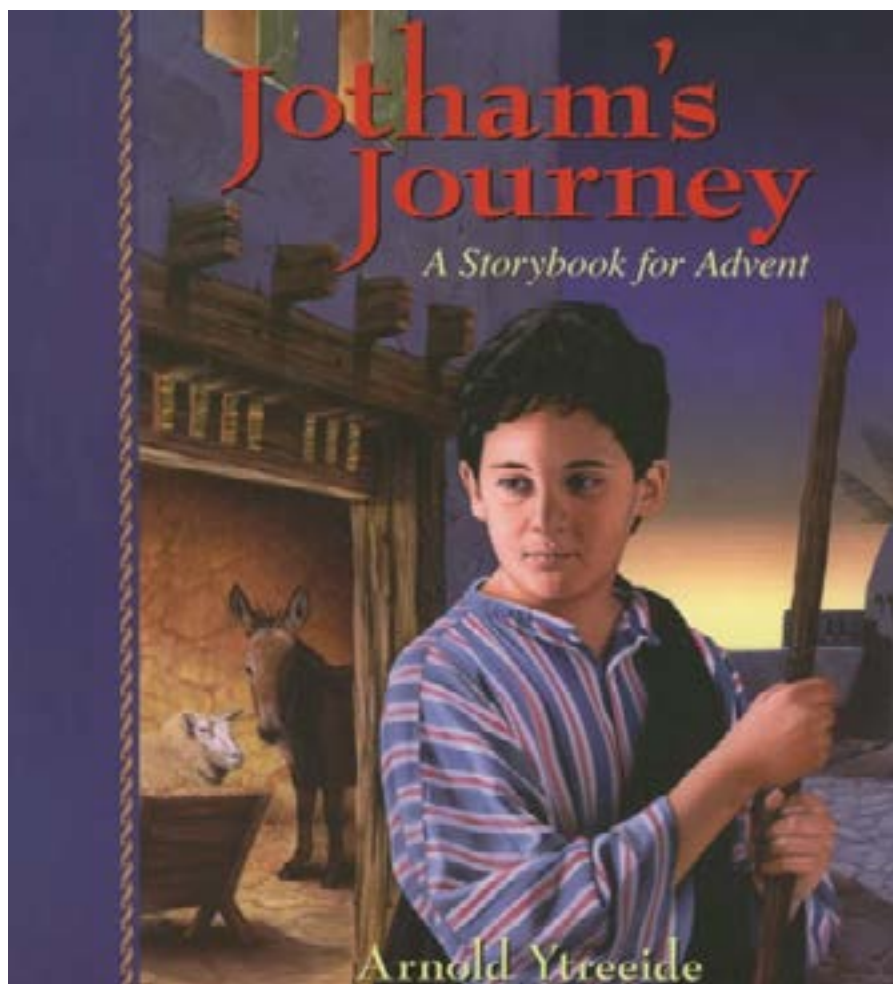
Sunday, December 14th around 5:30ish  
(following Christmas @ First Pres concert)  
Caroling Festivities at Wesley Commons





## Join us for a family book club!

We are encouraging families and everyone interested to read *Jotham's Journey*. Elise has 10 copies available if you would like one or you can order one.





# Shine God's Light This Season



Call, write, or text someone you miss.



Cook something with a family member or friend.



Share a link to a holiday song you love.



Ask your family/friends what their favorite Christmas carol is and learn it.



Invite a friend to go caroling with the church.



Support local, small businesses.



Send a card to someone who is sad this season.



Think of a gift you can create instead of purchase.









# December Youth Events

12/3 – **WEY GOTE** at Panera and Christmas shopping for children in the community @5:30 – 7:00

12/7 – **Sunday school** @10:00-10:45

12/7 – **SNY GOTE** at Panera with Mrs. Elise @ 5:00 - 6:00. Bring money for dinner.

12/10 – **WEY** wrapping presents @5:30 – 7:00

12/13 – **Wreaths Across America** @12:00 – until wreaths are placed.

12/14 – **Sunday school** @ 10:00 – 10:45

12/14 – **Christmas @ First Pres** @4:00  
arrive @3:30 to get into costume for the live nativity.

12/14 – **Caroling at Wesley Commons** @5:30ish. We'll carpool from FPC

12/17 – **Christmas Party** at the Pinson's (508 Henrietta Ave E) @5:30 – 7:00

12/19 – **Lock-in** at Big Air in Laurens @11:00 pm – 7:00 am.  
Meet at FPC to carpool.

12/21- **Birthday Party for Jesus** @10:00- 10:45 in Alexander Hall

12/28 – **Sunday school** @10:00 – 10:45



## **YOUTH LOCK-IN AT BIG AIR IN LAURENS**

**FRIDAY, DECEMBER 19TH  
@MIDNIGHT - 7:00 AM  
MEET AT FPC TO CARPOOL @11:00 PM  
PICK UP FROM FPC @ 7:45**

**RSVP BY PAYING \$40 ON REALM  
OR TO NAN BY WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 17TH.  
BRING MONEY FOR THE SNACK BAR.**

**FPC BEHAVIORAL CONTRACT & BIG AIR WAIVER  
REQUIRED TO PARTICIPATE.  
YOU CAN FIND BOTH ON REALM EVENT REGISTRATION.**



## **Youth Christmas Party**

**Wednesday, December 17<sup>th</sup>  
@5:30 - 7:00 at the Pinson's (508 Henrietta Ave E)**

**Join us for a devotion, food, Christmas  
themed games, and fellowship!**

**Secret Snowman Gift Exchange  
Bring a gift up to \$20**



# Youth Choir

Learn a song with Mr. Skinner  
to perform at Christmas at First Pres on  
Sunday, December 14<sup>th</sup> @ 4:00 pm



12/7 - Practice @ 6:30 pm - 7:00 pm @ FPC

12/13- Concert run thru @ 10:00 am - 10:30 am @ FPC

12/14 - Arrive @ 3:30 pm for the concert (youth nativity immediately following the concert)



## *The King's Kids A Royal Celebration*



Saturday, February 21st from 2:00 - 4:00 at FPC.

Dress up as royalty!

Come ready for games, crafts, a bouncy castle, light refreshments and fun, all in celebration that you are a part of God's family.

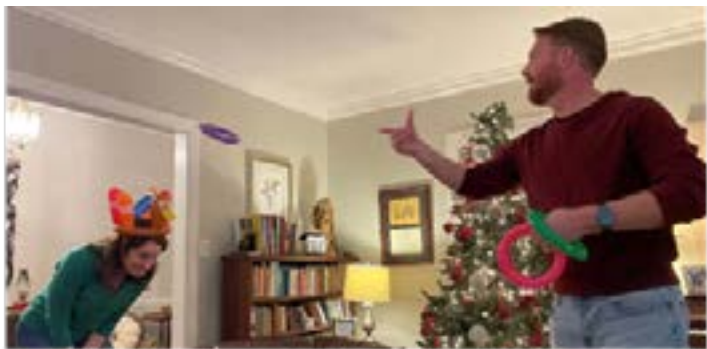
Hosted by the Youth!

Rsvp by paying \$15 per ticket on Realm or to Nan by Monday, February 9th.

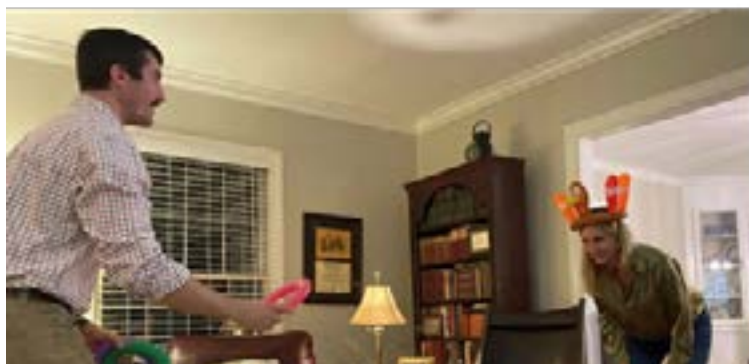



All proceeds will go towards the youth mission trips and activities.





*Highlights from the Young Adults Dinner at the Collins'!*






## Young Adults

Join us for food, fun, and fellowship.

Sunday, December 7<sup>th</sup> after Church @5:00 - 7:00  
at the Leary's (2507 Highway 248 South, Ninety Six)

Childcare at FPC  
Pack a dinner for children





## GOTE AT PANERA & CHRISTMAS SHOPPING

Wednesday, December 3<sup>rd</sup> @5:30 - 7:00

Drop off & pick up at FPC

Donate towards buying Christmas gifts for children in  
the community by using the giving tab on Realm.

REMEMBER

HONOR

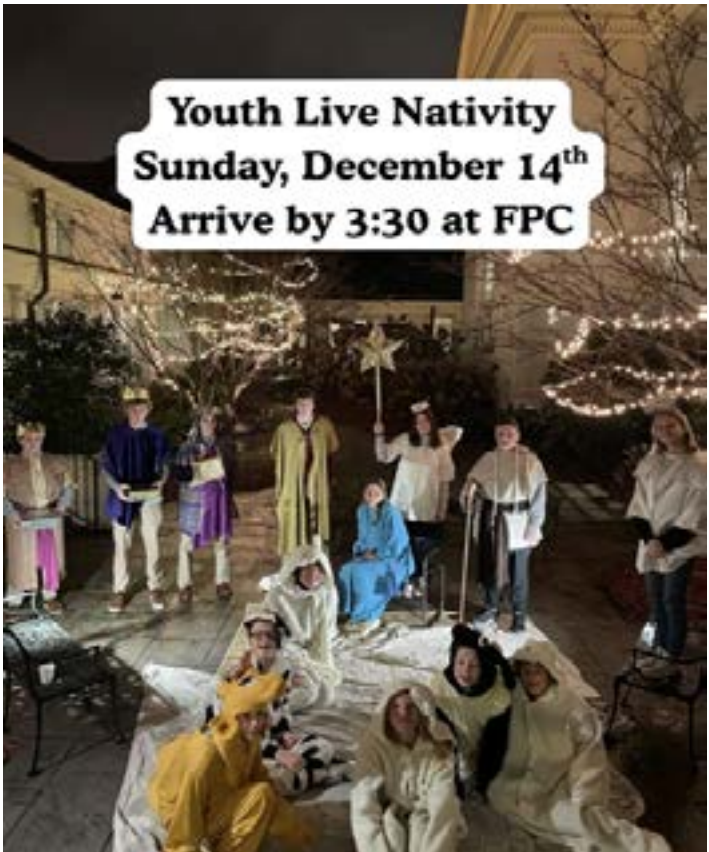
TEACH



### Wreaths Across America On Saturday, December 13th

We will be placing wreaths  
at Edgewood Cemetery (722 Grace St)  
immediately following the Ceremony  
@12:00


If you are interested in volunteering  
with the youth, contact Jade at  
[youth@firstgreewood.com](mailto:youth@firstgreewood.com)



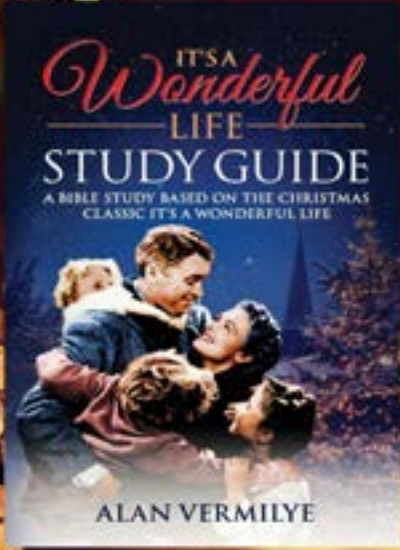
**Youth Live Nativity**  
**Sunday, December 14<sup>th</sup>**  
**Arrive by 3:30 at FPC**



## Sojourners - Henry Reynolds (Room 110)



# Sundays@10 Sojourners Class



**It's a Wonderful Life**  
STUDY GUIDE  
A BIBLE STUDY BASED ON THE CHRISTMAS CLASSIC IT'S A WONDERFUL LIFE

ALAN VERMILYE

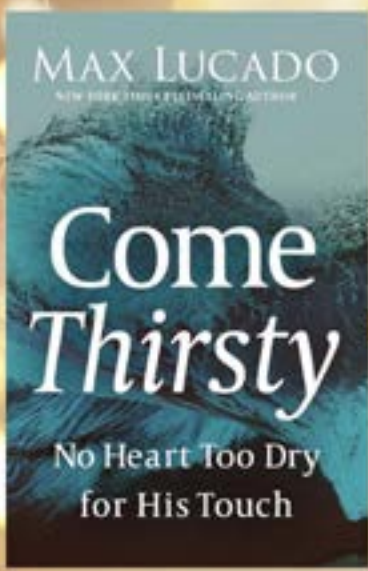
It's a Wonderful Life is one of the most popular and heart-warming films ever made. It's near universal appeal and association with Christmas has provided a rich story of redemption that has inspired generations for decades. It's a Wonderful Life Study Guide examines this beloved holiday classic and reminds us how easily we can become distracted from what is truly meaningful in life. This five-week Bible study experience comes complete with discussion questions for each session, Scripture references, detailed character sketches, movie summary, and related commentary. In addition, a complete answer guide and video segments for each session are available.

Available in print or e-book formats

There's no better time than at Christmas to be reminded that every human life has value and that true wealth, spiritual wealth, comes from a right relationship with God and selfless love toward others.

## FISH (Fellowship In Service to Him) – Room 205

# Sundays@10 FISH Class



What image best describes your heart? A water-drenched kid in front of an open fire hydrant? Or a bristled desert tumbleweed? You're acquainted with physical thirst. Stop drinking and see what happens. Coherent thoughts vanish, skin grows clammy, and vital organs shut down. Deprive your body of necessary fluid, and it will tell you.

Deprive your soul of spiritual water, and it will tell you. Dehydrated hearts and desperate messages. Snarling tempers. Waves of worry. Growing guilt and fear. Hopelessness. Resentment. Loneliness. Insecurity.

But you don't have to live with a dehydrated heart. God invites you to treat your thirsty soul as you would treat your physical thirst. Just visit the WELL and drink deeply.

Receive Christ's work on the cross,

- ★ The energy of his Spirit,
- His lordship over your life,
- And his unending, unfailing love.

Come thirsty and drink the water of life.





## Wednesday Night Fellowship

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

5:25 – Dinner for children (pay \$5 weekly or by semester/year)

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

5:45 – Prayer for everyone

6:00 programming: Women in the Conference Room (206), Men in the FISH class (205), Children (The Root Cellar); Youth (the Loft) and Pastor's Bible study in the Henry Reynolds room (110) at 6:15.

Menus:

December 3:

EVERYBODY NIGHT (ALL AGES)

A HOLY Family Craft & SHINE Choir (children only)

Spaghetti Supper

\$5.00 per person \$15.00 for families

December 10:

EVERYBODY NIGHT (ALL AGES)

A Thumb Print X-mas tree craft & SHINE  
Choir (children only)

Pizza Supper/ Pizza Name Game Activity

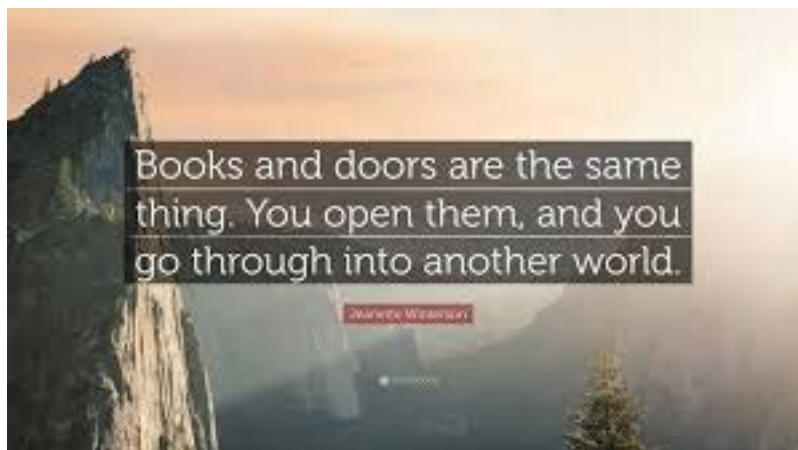
\$5.00 per person \$15.00 for families

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



## Books & Spirits Group

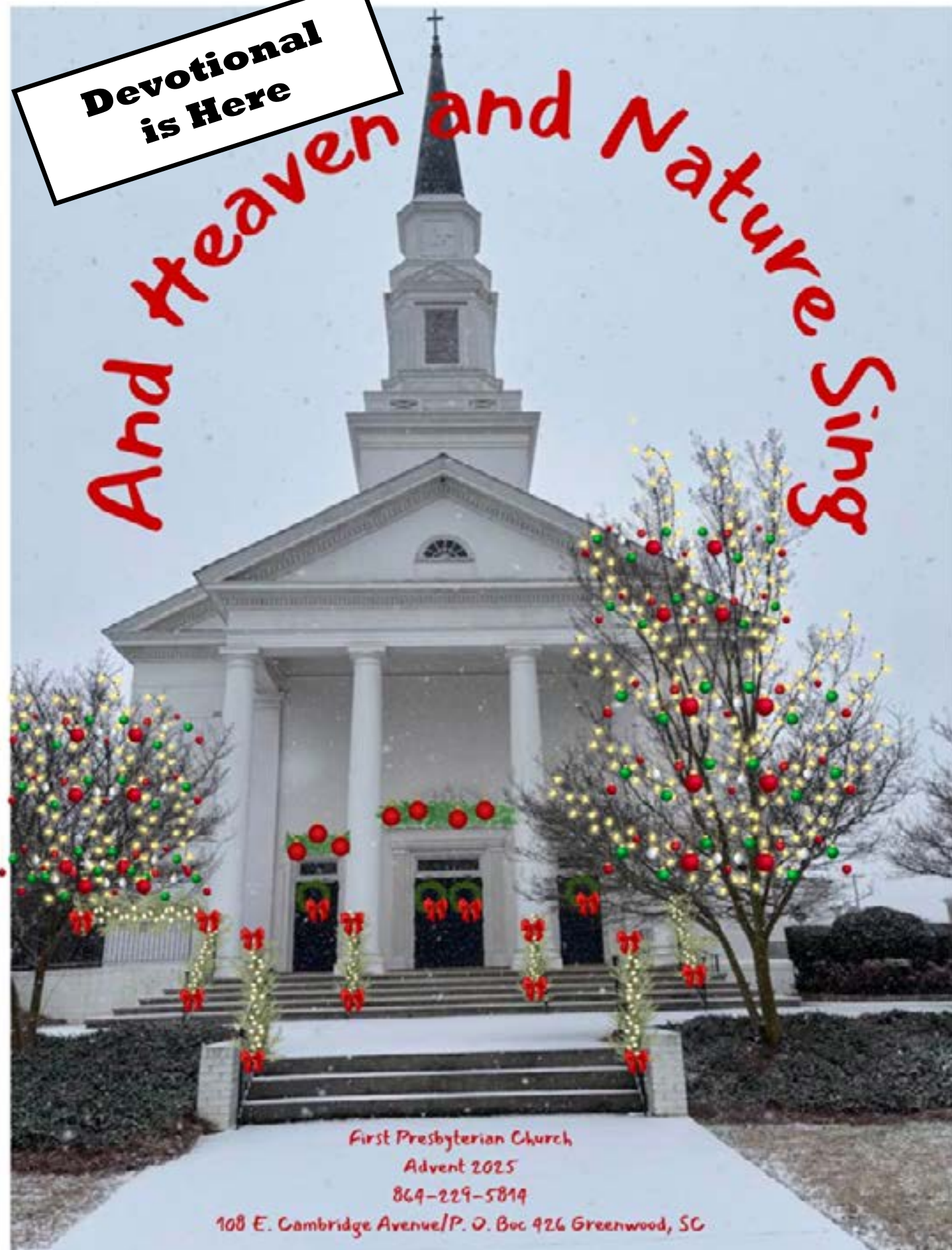
Meets monthly and discusses a book of their choosing together.





**Devotional  
is Here**

*And Heaven and Nature Sing*



*First Presbyterian Church*

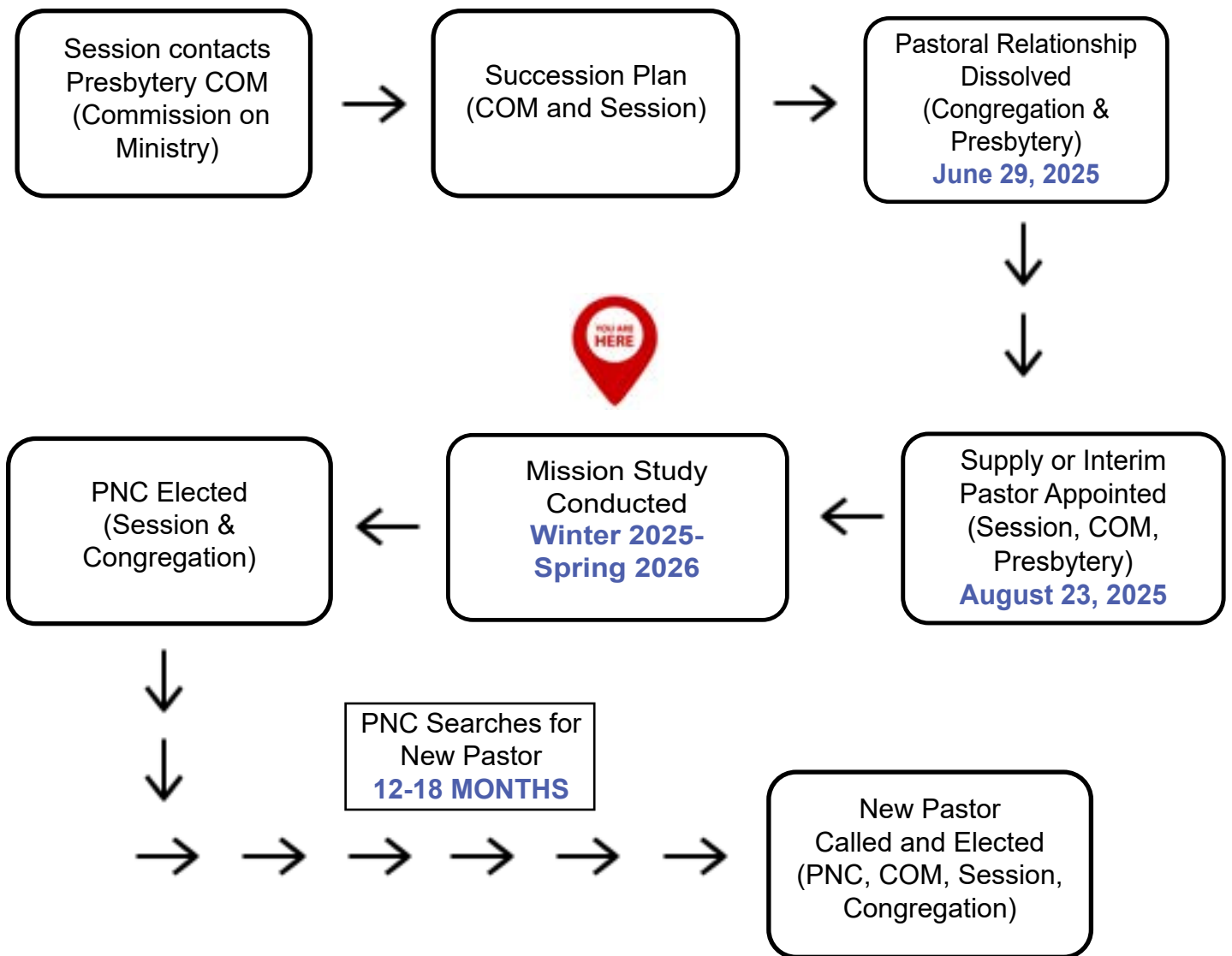
*Advent 2025*

*864-229-5814*

*108 E. Cambridge Avenue/P. O. Box 426 Greenwood, SC*

# MOVING FORWARD

## Flow Chart for New Pastor Search



## Pastor Search Process Explanation

The weeks and months ahead stand to be exciting as First Pres searches for its next called and installed pastor. Here's how the process will go.

On August 23, Presbytery approved Brad Christie.

COM and the Session will now collaborate on a mission study, possibly in early fall. This study will produce a clear picture of where the church is now and a vision for moving forward with new pastoral leadership. Once the mission study is completed, the Session, through a special nominating committee, will recommend a Pastor Nominating Committee (PNC) for approval by the congregation.



The PNC will publish a detailed description of the church and its vision. They will then receive and review applications from ministers seeking a call to such a church. Eventually, the PNC will interview a short list of top candidates and confer with COM about terms of call for the new pastor, who will then be presented to the congregation for approval.

The search for a new pastor entails many important steps, which cannot be rushed. The PNC will consult with COM throughout the process and report regularly to the congregation. The entire process typically takes at least a year to 18 months to complete.

Clearly, we need to keep this whole transitional season in fervent, concerted prayer! God is good. And God has good things in store for FPC. Thanks be to God!

## Moving Forward

We're about to advance the **You Are Here** marker on our transition timeline (see opposite page). At their November joint meeting with the diaconate, the session unanimously approved a proposed **Consultant-Led Mission Study Process** for our church. The consulting group working with us is Pinnacle Leadership Associates based in Chapin, SC. David Brown, not our member David Brown but Consulting Coordinator at Pinnacle, will be our lead consulting partner. David has consulted nationwide for some 30 churches of various denominations, including Shandon Presbyterian Church in Columbia. We are in faithful, capable hands with David.

The mission study will encompass three broad phases. In **Phase One**, David will meet with the Mission Study Team (see below) and church staff to set expectations and map out a timeline and plan for the rest of the study. Also during this phase, the whole congregation will participate in a series of assessments that will produce much of the data needed for the study. Eventually, analysis of this data will be most helpful to the Pastor Nominating Committee (PNC).

**Phase Two** will feature a series of listening sessions that culminate in what Pinnacle calls a Vision 360 Workshop. The whole church will be invited to participate in this retreat weekend, where David and the study team will guide everyone through feedback sessions focusing on the church's past, present, and future. The work of this phase—the feedback and collective discernment that develops through this time—will be at the heart of the final mission study report. And, again, the heart of that report will shape much of the PNC's work.

**Phase Three** produces the final version of the mission study report. Once completed, the report will be presented to the full session for approval. The report then will be presented to the congregation and to Trinity Presbytery's Committee on Ministry.

The plan is for the session's Administrative Committee to form the core of the Mission Study Team. But there is room on the team for anyone else who might want to be part of this crucial effort. If you're interested, please contact Brad ([brad@firstgreenwood.com](mailto:brad@firstgreenwood.com)) or Mark Abell, Administrative Committee chair ([mark.abell@lonza.com](mailto:mark.abell@lonza.com)).

Blessings,



Brad

First Presbyterian Church  
Greenwood, SC

## 2026 ANNUAL WOMEN'S RETREAT



*IS STILL WRITING YOUR STORY*

God is still writing your story . . .

- nurturing Bible study
- engaging fellowship among women
- meals you don't have to cook or clean up
- free Time
- worship on Sunday

**January 23 - 25,  
2026**

Kanuga Retreat Center, NC

**For More Information or  
to register: 864-229-5814**



**Deadline to register for the retreat is December 23rd.**



# Noah's Ark News

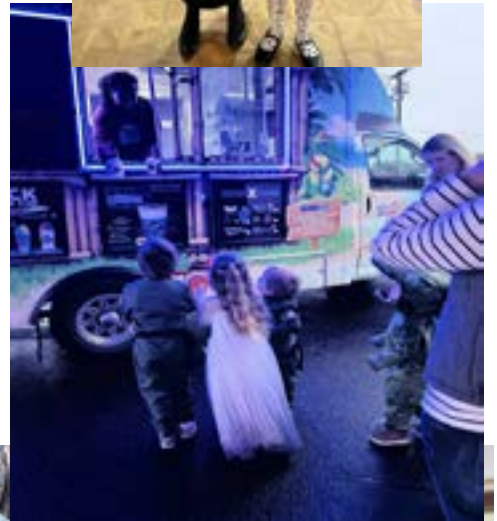


We have had so much to be thankful for this month. We were excited to host Chicken Salad Chick again! Lauren used the profits earned to help show the Noah's Ark staff just how thankful we are for them! Each staff member received a Pantry Shoppe gift card just in time for the holiday! In Chapel, the children have been discussing giving with a cheerful heart. Teachers have explained how pleased God is when we help others in need. Teachers have also been covering the birth of Jesus and conducting Parent/Teacher conferences. It's hard to believe we are almost halfway through the school year already! The children are learning so much this season!



We had great success with our Christmas ornament sale this year. This is a wonderful tradition, and we hope that these keepsake ornaments bring joy in all the years to come for our Noah's Ark families. We have decided to postpone our baskets for our annual silent auction until February. We would like our focus to be our Giving Tree this season. The Noah's Ark Giving Tree will be up from December 1st -12th. Please consider donating to benefit the local Hospice House. They could use items such as foam cups, shaving cream, adult wet wipes, individually wrapped snacks, hand soap, paper plates, ground coffee, coffee creamer, laundry detergent, tissues, paper towels, peppermint candies, and body lotions/wash. Thank you for all you do to help our preschool give back to our community!

## Fall Fest Highlights





# MISSIONS/OUTREACH

## MONTHLY MISSION SPOTLIGHT Thornwell Bells

### Thornwell Bells FPC Christmas Ministry 2025

For the third year, we are excited to partner with *Thornwell: Building Tomorrow's Families* to help support their residential children and staff.

This year, most items are available via Amazon and will ship directly to Thornwell. Here is the QR code to scan with your phone :



If you prefer to shop locally and in person, then there are items available on the tree for you. Thank you so much!  
Items are due at the church  
by Sunday, Dec. 7.

# MISSIONS/OUTREACH cont.



The Missions/Outreach Committee is responsible for the designation and oversight of the congregation's gifts to various mission and ministry projects locally, nationally, and globally.

For over 18 years, David Hyde has faithfully served on this committee as Treasurer. David is retiring at the end of this year.

The Missions/Outreach Committee honors David for his dedication and leadership. On behalf of the congregation, we thank him for his service.



## Get Ready for the Circle 4 Souper Bowl Sale

"The weather outside is frightful, but our delicious food will be delightful!" We are happy to announce that Circle 4 (Sara Smith Circle) will be holding our ever popular Souper Bowl Sale in February.

We will be offering a yummy assortment of soups, casseroles, dips, and snacks. Soups will be sold by

the quart, and we'll have casseroles in both 8 x 8 and 9 x 13 sizes. **We're making a major change: SOUPS AND CASSEROLES WILL BE PRE-ORDER ONLY! Ordering information will be in the January Spire, and the pre-ordering window of time is January 1st -11th.** We will have certain quantities available, and we will fill orders as they come in, until we run out. Don't be late and miss out! Some dips and snacks will be sold in the Lobby on Super Bowl Sunday, February 8th. Your support always amazes us, and the funds are used for our different missions.



# MISSIONS/OUTREACH cont.

## **A Replacement Vehicle for Burton Center**

The Burton Center was created over four decades ago to provide free services to individuals and their families who have disabilities and special needs (autism, intellectual disabilities, head injuries, spinal cord injuries, and related disabilities).

Ranging from Adult Day Programs to Residential Programs and Supervised Living Programs, these services help their clients discover opportunities to mature, grow, and reach their full potential. They have community partnerships in Abbeville, Edgefield, Greenwood, Lexington, McCormick and Saluda counties.

**The Burton Center currently has 51 buses and vans for daily transportation of their clients to and from the center or their places of employment. They average more than 45,000 miles each month which is 1500 miles each day with these vehicles.**

On July 1 of this year, one of their buses caught fire and was destroyed. Blessedly, the driver was able to get all the occupants out safely.

Funds were needed to replace this vehicle. Our Endowment Committee provided \$15,000 to help purchase a 2025 Ford Transit 15 passenger van. This vehicle has many safety features that are not on the older yellow school buses like the one destroyed by the fire.

The Burton Center is located at 2605 Hwy 72/221E in Greenwood.



# MISSIONS/OUTREACH cont.



**FESTIVAL OF TREES**

"TWELVE DAYS OF Christmas"

**SATURDAY, DECEMBER 6<sup>TH</sup>**  
10 AM - 5 PM

**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 7<sup>TH</sup>**  
1 PM - 5 PM\*

**2025**

**First Baptist Church**  
Grace Street, Greenwood

*Admission*  
\$5/Adult and \$1/Child (12 and under)




**2025**

TWELVE DAYS OF Christmas

**SATURDAY, DECEMBER 6<sup>TH</sup> AT 9 AM**

**5K RUN & WALK**

**FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH | GRACE STREET**

[HTTPS://BIT.LY/2025SANTASTROLL](https://bit.ly/2025santastroll)






# MISSIONS/OUTREACH cont.



## Greater Greenwood United Ministry Food Pantry Needs

1 lb (16 oz.) Canned Ham  
Canned Chicken  
Canned Tuna  
Canned Beef Stew  
Canned Chicken & Dumplings  
Canned Yams  
Canned Mixed Vegetables

Canned Cranberry Sauce  
Instant Mashed Potatoes  
Macaroni & Cheese  
Small Bags of Rice  
Packet of Gravy Mix  
Jiffy Cornbread Mix

They have a good supply of green beans and corn at this time.

You can purchase anything on the list and drop off between 9-noon Monday through Friday  
at GGUM, 1404 Edgefield St., Greenwood

## 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 First Things email for more current information.**

Wednesday, November 26	Church offices close at noon
Thursday-Friday November 27-28	Church offices closed
Sunday, November 30	First Sunday of Advent Hanging of the Greens (11:00) No 9:00 Service
Saturday, December 6	Rick & Janice May's Open House (4-7 pm, 127 East Cambridge)
Sunday, December 7	Second Sunday of Advent No 9:00 Service
Thursday, December 11	Noah's Ark Christmas Program (6:00 pm, Sanctuary)
Saturday, December 13	Christmas @ First Pres rehearsal (10:00 am - 12:00 noon, Sanctuary) Wreaths Across America (1:00 pm, Edgewood Cemetery) Sojourners Christmas Party (4:00-6:00 pm, Home of Hunter Bell)
Sunday, December 14	Third Sunday of Advent Christmas @ First Pres (4:00 pm, Sanctuary) Caroling at Wesley Commons (5:30ish) No 9:00 Service
Monday, December 15	Palmetto Girls Sing Concert (6:00 pm, Sanctuary)
Wednesday, December 17	Men's Bible Study & Breakfast (7:00 am, Alexander Hall)
Sunday, December 21	Fourth Sunday of Advent Birthday Party for Jesus (10:00 am, Alexander Hall) Christmas Joy Offering accepted (11:00) No 9:00 Service
Wednesday, December 24	Nativity Service Rehearsal (10:30, Sanctuary) Church Offices close at noon Nativity Service (5:30 pm, Sanctuary) Candlelight service (7:00 pm, Sanctuary)
Thursday-Friday December 25-26	Church offices closed
Sunday, December 28	Andrew Goforth preaching No 9:00 Service





# Presbyterian Women News

## WOMEN OF THE CHURCH

33

Joy to the World!

Those familiar words from one of our favorite carols remind us that real joy isn't about everything going perfectly—it's about knowing that Christ is with us, right in the middle of our ordinary days. As we move into this season of celebration, we're invited to pause and remember that God's love came to us in the most beautiful way—through the gift of Jesus. That's the kind of joy that lasts, even when life feels busy or uncertain.

This Christmas, let's make room for that joy to fill our hearts and overflow into the world around us. Whether it's through a smile, a helping hand, or a word of encouragement, we can each share Christ's joy with others. May our church family be a reflection of that joy—shining God's love in every corner of our community and reminding the world that the Lord has truly come!

*Lisa Yarbrough* ~ Moderator, Presbyterian Women  
864.313.5511 ~ yarbroughsc@gmail.com

**Circle 1** will meet on Tuesday, December 2nd, at 10:30 am, at Wesley Commons.  
Contact Jean Mabe 941-7817.

**Circle 3** will meet Monday, December 8th, at 10:30 am, at R Place.  
Contact Kappy May 864-554-7434 or Kathy Snyder 864-941-1838

**Circle 4** will meet Monday, December 8th, at 11:00 am, at the home of Martha Ann Davis.  
Contact Carol Umphress 770-316-5010

**Circles 5** will meet Tuesday, December 9th, at 12:30 pm, in Alexander Hall.  
and includes lunch & childcare.  
Contact Meg Stevens 993-7536, Tara Gibson, 773-991-3374,  
or Michelle Barksdale 864-344-2450

**Circle 6** will meet Monday, December 1st, at 7:00 pm in the Barksdale Room.  
Contact Jessica Willard (jesswillard81@gmail.com, 993-5980) or  
Nickie Murphy (famurphy01@aol.com, 205-317-5347)

**Circle 7** will meet Tuesday, December 9th, at 10:30 am at the home of Janice May.  
Contact Becky Bryson 223-2998.

**Circle 8** will meet on Tuesday, December 2nd, at 11:30 am, at the home of Betty Williams.  
Contact Betty Williams 993-0466.



## 2025-2026 SEASON

Sunday, September 14  
4:00 PM

### **The Golden Age of the Trumpet: Music for Trumpet and Strings**

Transport yourself to the Baroque era through the sound of period strings, harpsichord, and trumpets, all tuned to replicate music as it was heard in that time! Trumpeters Cody Beard, Robbie Collins and Noa Miller appear with the North Carolina Baroque Orchestra Chamber Ensemble in this lineup of Italian, French, Czech, and Bohemian composers from the late 1600s to the late 1700s.

Sunday, December 14  
4:00 PM (Corrected Time)

### **Christmas @ First Pres**

The Greenwood Festival Chorale collaborates with the choirs of First Presbyterian Church in "Angels We Have Heard on High." Join us with your family and friends for a moving performance of holiday music.

Sunday, February 23  
4:00 PM

### **Pageantry of Keyboards**

Stanley Colbert, Steven Skinner, and Tim Walters return to the keyboards at First Presbyterian Church for another rip-roaring keyboard extravaganza! Enjoy hearing your favorite sacred and popular melodies dazzle under the creativity of these artists!

Sunday, March 15  
4:00 PM

### **Modern Choral Classics**

In its annual spring concert honoring the diverse heritage of contemporary composers, the Greenwood Festival Chorale presents modern choral selections. Director Mr. Steven Skinner leads the chorale in its musical offerings to the community throughout the year. For auditions, contact [steve@firstgreenwood.com](mailto:steve@firstgreenwood.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.





Palmetto Girls Sing, an outreach of First Presbyterian Church, is in its 11th season. With 50 girls enrolled in the program, we are excited about the opportunities that are ahead of us. The "Grace Notes Choir" is for girls in grades 4-6, and the "Lyrics Singers" are our 7th-12th grade girls. We meet each Monday

night in the sanctuary and choir room at First Presbyterian Church.

November has been a busy month. We have been polishing music for our upcoming performances! We also went to see Part 2 of the Wicked Movie. Most importantly, we were able to lead in worship during our Community Thanksgiving Service, one of our favorite performances of the year.

### **Appalachian Festival of Young Voices**

Palmetto Girls Sing has been accepted into the Appalachian Festival of Young Voices in Charleston, WV. We will participate in this festival with other singers from around the country from June 12-16, 2026. The clinician and composer in residence is Rollo Dilworth who is known for his work with young singers. We are pleased for this opportunity for our girls.

### **When Will the Girls Sing?**

Friday, December 5- PJ Party for Santa (Grace Notes Choir)

Monday, December 15- Winter Concert at First Presbyterian Church, 6:00 PM

Tickets will be sold at the door and in advance on our website.

### **How Can I Help?**

Attend a concert, and/or become a patron of Palmetto Girls Sing! We are raising funds to provide three year-long scholarships for singers. We also hope to reduce the cost for the girls' trip to West Virginia. All donations will go directly towards these projects.

\*\*\*\*\*  
Patron Name (as it should appear in our Winter Concert Program)

\_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address \_\_\_\_\_

Donation Amount \_\_\_\_\_

Thank you from Palmetto Girls Sing!



## A Service of Lessons and Carols Christmas Eve 7:00 pm

The Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols was first sung in 1880 in Truro Cathedral at 10 p.m. in order to “get the men out of the pubs early so they would not be drunk for the midnight service”. Our 2025 service is at 7, but of course, for different reasons...



This service follows a pattern of 9 scripture readings followed by carols. The carols take on the role of reflecting on each text and exhorting the congregation. The tone of the worship service is both solemn and joyful, reflecting the intimidating grandeur of the story—from Fall to Incarnation—and rejoicing in the love of God and the redemption that is ours through Christ.

Here is a list of the Carols sung by the congregation so that you can familiarize yourself for full participation (numbers given are from our *Glory to God* hymnal):

*Once in Royal David's City* (a tradition for 140 years!) #140

*Good Christian Friends Rejoice* #132

*Blest Be the God of Israel* #109 <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NuLiAdY6Auw>

*Creator of the Stars of Night* #84

*While Shepherds Watched Their Flocks* #118

*The First Nowell* #147 (stanzas 4-6)

*O Come, All Ye Faithful* #133

*Silent Night* #122

These carols, plus the ones performed at Christmas @ First Pres, should envelop us in the glory and wonder of the first AND second Advent of our Lord Jesus Christ!



# GENERAL CHURCH INFORMATION

## RECENT HOSPITALIZATIONS:

(Home unless noted)

Ann Heironimus -- SRH

Jane Anderson -- GRRH

Jim Sherrer -- SRH

*Our Christian prayers and sympathies are extended to* the family of Sally Baumeister upon her passing on November 4, 2025; and to Amanda Dunlap and her family on the passing of her grandmother, Edna Posey, on November 14, 2025. We share with them the joy of the promise of resurrection and eternal life.

## Other Items of Interest

We will celebrate the **Lord's Supper** during the **11:00 service on December 7, 2025.**

**Deadline for the January issue of The Spire is Monday, December 15, 2025.**

The church offices will **close at noon** on Christmas Eve and will remain closed on Thursday and Friday.

We will have only one service (11:00) from November 30, 2025 to January 4, 2026. We will return to two services (9:00 and 11:00) on January 11, 2026.

On Sunday, December 21, we will receive the **Christmas Joy Offering**. God has blessed the church with incredible leadership in every time and place, but those leaders often need to be supported by their communities as well. 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 special offering envelopes located in the pew racks and mark for Christmas.

## TEAM MEETINGS

The **Admin Committee** will meet on Tuesday, December 16th, at 5:30 pm, in the Barksdale Room (Room 122).

The **Buildings & Grounds Committee** will meet Monday, December 8th, at 5:15 p.m. in the Barksdale Room (Room 122).

The **Committed Prayers Team** will meet Monday, December 1st, at 4:30 pm, in the Chapel.

The **Endowment** will meet Monday, December 8th, at 5:00 pm, in the Conference Room (Room 206).

The **Finanical Oversight Committee** will meet wednesday, December 17th, at 12:00 noon, in th Barksdale Room (Room 122).

The **Home Communion/Visitation Committee** will meet Thursday, December 11th, at 10:00 am, in the Barksdale Room. (Room 122).

**Stephen Ministry** will meet Wednesday, December 10th, at 4:30 pm, in the Barksdale Room (Room 122).

The **Worship Committee** will meet Tuesday, December 9th, at 5:45 p.m. on the Barksdale Room (Room 122).

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

## NEW OFFICERS INSTALLED

The New Officers will be installed during the 11:00 service on January 4, 2026.

## CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

We will hold our annual congregational meeting on Sunday, January 4, 2026 a the conclusion of the 11:00 service. The purpose of this meeting is to vote on the 2026 Nomintaing Committee.

# GENERAL CHURCH INFORMATION cont.



## CHILD PROTECTION POLICY

Did you know that we have a Child Protection Policy in place here at FPC?

Contact the front office if you would like a copy.



## JOINT OFFICER MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

Below are some of the highlights from the November meeting.

- 1.) Lee & Shannon Balentine are transferring to South Main Baptist Church
- 2.) John & Barbara Holman are transferring membership to Myers Park Presbyterian Church, Charlotte.
- 3.) Approved wedding ceremony of Margaret Masters and Hayden Jordan in August, 2026.
- 4.) Heard report of the Presbytery meeting
- 5.) Approved Congregational Meeting on January 2, 2026 for the purpose of electing Nominating Committee for next year.
- 6.) Approved contract for Mission Study





# GENERAL CHURCH INFORMATION cont.

## Stewardship

Jesus tells a parable of a man planting a mustard seed. Even though the seed is small, it grows into one of the largest plants. Eventually it becomes a tree with branches on which birds can perch.

Jesus compares the small mustard seed to Heaven – meaning that if we're good stewards of the small gifts we've been given, we can turn them into something even greater that can support others around us.



### ARE YOU FRAZZLED?

Have you or someone you know been sick or hospitalized?

Are you or someone you know homebound?

Are you or someone you know completely frazzled?

Please let the church office know so that we can visit with you, offer home communion, pray with you, or set you up with a Stephen Minister. We are here for you.

Feel free to contact the front office or one of our ministers.

## 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](mailto:finance@firstgreenwood.com). Stock and other direct transfers often come with no additional information about the donor's identity.

### 2026 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.



THE SPIRE - (USPS 736-430) is published monthly by the First Presbyterian Church, 108 E. Cambridge Ave., PO Box 426, Greenwood, SC 29648-0426. Periodicals paid at Greenwood, SC. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to First Presbyterian Church, PO Box 426, Greenwood, SC 29648-0426.

@

Phone: (864) 229-5814 Fax: (864) 229-3489  
Office hours: M-Th 8:00-4:00 and Fr 8:00-12:00 noon

e-mail: [office@firstgreenwood.com](mailto:office@firstgreenwood.com)  
website: [firstgreenwood.com](http://firstgreenwood.com)

Interim Pastor  
The Rev. Dr. Brad Christie  
Theologian in Residence  
The Rev. Dr. Cliff Cain  
Director of Christian Education  
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  
Director of Children's Music  
Ms. Sarah Bowen

Audio/Visual  
Mrs. Tamara McLeod  
Administrative Secretary  
Mrs. Lea Jones  
Financial Administrator  
Ms. Nan Smith  
Sexton  
Mr. Vince Plotczyk  
Noah's Ark Director  
Mrs. Lauren Trantham

Church Treasurer  
Mrs. Laine Orcutt  
Clerk of Session  
Dr. Brad Griggs  
Moderator of Deacons  
Mr. Lelion Elledge  
Moderator of Presbyterian Women  
Mrs. Lisa Yarbrough  
Chair of Endowment  
Dr. Jukie Leary