

**SERVING THE CHURCH**

**This Week**

Liturgist: Jackie Koch  
Ushers: Jackie Koch  
Gail West

**SERVING THE CHURCH**

**Next Week**

Liturgist: Sharon Stone  
Ushers: Ronnie Storch

**Elder of the Month**

For December: Candie Vaitkevicius, 864-631-1010(H), 630-247-9507 (cell)

**SESSION MEMBERS**

Class of 2024

Linda Stenhouse  
Jackie Koch  
Candie Vaitkevicius

Class of 2025

Barb Daugherty  
Bill Marshall NS  
Linda Marshall

Class of 2026

Bill Marshall PA  
Candie Vaitkevicius  
Jackie Koch

Linda Stenhouse—Clerk of Session

**2 Cents-A-Meal**

**Please Donate Today!**

Cover Art:

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Office Hours: Mon.-Thur. 8:30-10:30 a.m.

510 East Curtis Street \* Simpsonville, SC 29681 \* (864) 963-8854

[www.simpsonvillepres.com](http://www.simpsonvillepres.com) E-mail: [office@simpsonvillepres.com](mailto:office@simpsonvillepres.com)

Rev. Dr. Mary Anne Welch, Pastor

Darrell Johnson, Pianist

Jackie Koch, Office Administrator

The WiFi Identity is FPCS-Guest and the password to connect is Grace4all.



**Sunday, December 1, 2024**

**Simpsonville Presbyterian Church**

**Simpsonville, SC**

*"Growing Together in Faith – Loving and Serving in the World"*

# THE SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

December 1, 2024

First Sunday of Advent

**Welcome, announcements**

**Prayers and Concerns**

**Rev. Dr. Mary Anne Welch has office hours on Tuesdays from 9 a.m.-Noon. Please call 864-963-8854 to make an appointment.**

**Please note that the wearing of masks during service and singing hymns is optional. NOTE: This service may be video recorded.**

**Please stand if you are able where asterisk.**

PRELUDE

**\*OUR CALL TO WORSHIP**

Jackie Koch, Liturgist

Leader: Christ is coming!

**People: We see the signs!**

Leader: Christ is coming!

**People: We will be ready!**

**Leader::** Christ is coming! Raise your heads because your redemption is drawing near!

**People: Praise be to God! We will worship and prepare.**

**\*OPENING HYMN #447 "Lead On, O King Eternal"**

**\*PRAYER OF ADORATION**

JOURNEY TO THE MANGER:

Reading: Luke 1:28-33, Susan Medina

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE:

Barb & Roger Daugherty

**Response: Advent Song:**

***Light the Advent candle, one: Now think the waiting has begun;  
We have started on our way, time to think of Christmas Day.***

***Candle, candle, burning bright, shining in the cold winter night;  
Candle, candle, burning bright, fill our hearts with Christmas light,***

CALL TO CONFESSION

**CONFESSION OF OUR SIN** (unison prayer)

**Prince of Peace, the wars and rumors of wars betray our addiction to violence, our destructive and dehumanizing ways. We deserve your**

**CAROL SING!** Do you have a favorite Christmas Carol? Our worship on December 29th will be in the form of a carol sing. We would love to know your requests. Please submit your suggestion on the form provided and place it in the wooden church on the table at the back of the sanctuary. Submissions must be turned in by December 15th.

**CONGREGATIONAL CHRISTMAS GATHERING:** Celebrate the Christmas season at our annual Christmas Gathering on Friday, December 13th at 5:30 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. Meats and drinks will be provided; attendees are asked to bring a salad, side, or dessert to share. We will have an Ugly Sweater contest (so wear your ugliest one), Christmas trivia competition, and our "Chinese" gift swap. Gifts should be no more than \$15, wrapped but no name tags. Each person attending should bring one wrapped gift. Friends and family are welcome. Please sign up on the sheet on the back table if you will attend. Deadline to sign up is Dec. 8th.

**CHRISTMAS JOY OFFERING:** The Christmas Joy Offering provides assistance to current and retired church workers and their families in their time of need, and develops our future leaders at Presbyterian-related schools and colleges equipping communities of color. This offering will be collected on Sunday, December 8th. Envelopes will be inserted in the bulletin on that date. There are brochures on the table in the Narthex with additional information on this collection.

**STEWARDSHIP UPDATE: 2025 PLEDGE CARDS** – You may return your pledge card by placing it in the offering plate or leave it in the Church Office with Attn: Bill Marshall - Stewardship Team. Thank you in advance for your pledge consideration.

**YEAR END GIFTING:** Reminder that gifts to the church for tax purposes, must be received by the Stewardship Team no later than Tuesday December 31. If you are considering gifting of stock, please contact Bill Marshall on the stewardship team (864)230-5268 as soon as possible. Additional steps and a longer timeline need to be considered with stock gifting.

**COMING NEXT SUNDAY:**

Scriptures: Hebrews 11:32-40/Malachi 3:1-4

Sermon: The Other Christmas Tree: Names We Cannot Pronounce

## LIFE IN THE CONGREGATION

**PRAYER CONCERNS:** Jan Johnson; Lena Staschak, Donnett Hanson; Alice Grooms; Cory and children (friends of Brenda Stenhouse); Conner Dixon (friend of Jimmy Cheeks); Sue Marshall's mother; Tina Minnich (daughter of Candie & Joe); Beverly Sullivan (friend of Jimmy Cheeks); Everett (sister of Donnett); Debra Datko; Lisa Shelf; Dixie Suit (sister-in-law of Kitty Shealy); Roger Edney (relative of Barb & Roger Daugherty). Do not hesitate to call or email the Church Office ([office@simpsonvillepres.com](mailto:office@simpsonvillepres.com)) about any pastoral concerns.

## SCHEDULES AND EVENTS

**FOOD PANTRY:** Your continued prayers and giving hearts allow us to keep this mission to our neighbors going. Suggestions for the month of December are flour and sugar. As always, we are grateful for all donations.

**VIDEO RECORDINGS:** Video recordings of services that have been previously recorded are available on the Church's website: [www.simpsonvillepres.com](http://www.simpsonvillepres.com). Click on "Videos" in the menu at the top or click on the picture of a worship service in the lower right.

**ADVENT DEVOTIONALS** are available on the table by the front door. Please take one if you wish.

### **"SANTA'S" SENIOR HELPERS STRIKE AGAIN!!!**

As we have in the past few years, the Presbyterian Women are collecting needed items requested by the Clinton Presbyterian Home in Clinton SC for their residents. A red collection "gift box" has been set up in the narthex for you to place any donated items for us to deliver by December 3rd. PLEASE DO NOT wrap the gifts so the "Elves" at The Presbyterian Home can make individual selections specifically for each resident.

For ease of handling by the residents, if you purchase any liquid items, please purchase medium size bottles. The Holidays can be a hard and lonely time for individuals being separated from family. Please open your hearts and purchase one, a few, or many if possible of the items listed. If you have any questions, please contact either myself or Candie Vaitkevicius. Blessings to you all, Sue Marshall (C) 864.305.9355

judgement and condemnation. Yet, you remain faithful, a steadfast source of peace in the midst of our warring madness. Holy God, turn us from evil. Return us to Christ and his path of peace. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Amen.

### **ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

Leader: Comfort, comfort my people, says your God.

**People: Your sins are pardoned.**

Leader: The penalty is paid.

**All: Thanks be to God!**

**RESPONSE: "Rain Down"**

*Rain down; rain down;*

*Rain down your love on your people.*

*Rain down; rain down;*

*Rain down your love, God of life.*

**HYMN #513 "Let Us Break Bread Together"**

SILENT PRAYER: A few moments of silent communication with God.

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE LESSONS:

Matthew 1:1-17/Joshua 6:22-25

SERMON: "The Other Christmas Tree: Mothers of Faith"

Rev. Dr.

Mary Anne Welch

**\*Affirmation of Faith**

The Nicene Creed

**We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen. We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, True God from True God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary and became truly human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; He suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have**

**no end. We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

### **Prayer of the People and The Lord's Prayer**

**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,**  
**The power, and the glory,**  
**For ever and ever. Amen.**

PROCLAMATION OF OFFERING AND PRAYER (the offering plate is located in the sanctuary just inside the back double doors.)

### OFFERTORY

#### **\*The Doxology**

***Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;***  
***Praise Him all creatures here below;***  
***Praise Him above ye heavenly hosts;***  
***Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.***

#### **\*PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

### THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

#### **THE GREAT PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING**

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts!

**We lift them up to the LORD!**

Let us give thanks to the LORD our God.

**It is right to give our thanks and praise!**

Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:

**Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again.**

#### **THE SHARING OF THE MEAL**

As the trays are passed please serve your neighbor with the words, "The Body and blood of Christ, given for you."

The Communion wafer is not gluten free. It is our tradition to take the bread individually and to hold the wine to drink together.

#### **\*CLOSING HYMN #536 "Lord, Make Us More Holy"**

#### **\*BENEDICTION**

#### **\*RESPONSE: "Share His Love"**

***Share his love by telling what the Lord has done for you,***  
***Share his love by sharing of your faith,***  
***And show the world that Jesus Christ is real to you,***  
***Ev-'ry moment, ev-'ry day.***

#### POSTLUDE

**WELCOME TO SIMPSONVILLE PRESBYTERIAN!** Whether you are a long-time member or first time visitor, we are glad you are here. If you would like to learn more about the Simpsonville Presbyterian community, we invite you to contact us through our website [www.simpsonvillepres.com](http://www.simpsonvillepres.com), or by calling the church office at (864)963-8854.

**SANCTUARY FLOWERS** today are our lovely poinsettias given in memory of or in honor of loved ones. A list of honorees will be in the Dec. 22nd bulletin.

**REFRESHMENTS** today are given by Linda Stenhouse. Thank you.

**BIBLE STORY BAGS** are available for children during worship. See an usher if you would like one for your child to use. Please return the bag to an usher after worship.

**PRAYER FAMILIES OF THE WEEK:** Jo & Gary Klein, Bill & Linda Marshall

**BIRTHDAYS THIS WEEK:** Barb Daugherty (12/03)