

SERVING THE CHURCH

This Week

Liturgist: Sharon Stone
Ushers: Ronnie Storch

SERVING THE CHURCH

Next Week

Liturgist: Jackie Koch
Ushers: Jackie Koch

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



Cover Art:

Provided by Google Images

Sunday, December 8, 2024

Simpsonville Presbyterian Church

Simpsonville, SC

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



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

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

www.simpsonvillepres.com E-mail: 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.

THE SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

December 8, 2024

Second 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 "Prelude on 'Wachet Auf'" arr. Smith

***OUR CALL TO WORSHIP** Sharon Stone, Liturgist

Leader: Zechariah sang to his newborn son:

People: "You, child, will be called a prophet of the Most High, for you will go before the Lord to prepare his way."

Leader: You will tell his people how to be saved through the forgiveness of their sins.

People: Because of our God's deep compassion, the dawn from heaven will break upon us,

Leader: to give light to those who are sitting in darkness and in the shadow of death,

People: to guide us on the path of peace."

***OPENING HYMN #13 "Prepare the Way, O Zion"**

***PRAYER OF ADORATION**

JOURNEY TO THE MANGER: Reading: Luke 2:1-5, Bill Marshall, PA

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE: Joe & Candie Vaitkevicius

Response: Advent Song:

Light the Advent candle, two: Think of humble shepherds, who Filled with wonder at the sight, of the child of Christmas night.

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

CALL TO CONFESSION

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. Envelopes are inserted in today's bulletin. There are brochures on the table in the Narthex with additional information on this collection.

PRESBYTERIAN WOMENS' DECEMBER MEETING and LUNCHEON: After a short business meeting of the Presbyterian Womens' group on Thursday, December 19th, we will all meet for lunch at the Olympian Grill, 7 Five Forks Plaza Ct. off of Woodruff Road. All are welcome to both the meeting and lunch, but if you can only make it to the Grill, we should be finished with the meeting by 11:30 and you can either meet us at the Church or the Grill around 11:45. Hope to see you! If you have any questions, please contact either Sue or Candie.

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:
Lessons & Carols

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. 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.

As we celebrate this Advent Season, we need to be aware that there are others not as fortunate as we are. We have already received a donation of hats and gloves that will be given to Triune Mercy/ Miracle Hill as they assist the homeless and others in need. If you would like to contribute any hats, gloves, or blankets they will certainly be appreciated. Donations may be placed in the red box next to the Christmas tree in the Narthex by Dec. 22nd.

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. **Please sign up by today.**

CONFESSION OF OUR SIN (unison prayer)

Holy God, we confess we prefer the crooked paths where we think we can hide from you. We'd rather you didn't examine us too closely, all we do and fail to do. Yet you are coming not to judge, but to save us from our sins and our love of sinning. So come, Lord, by crooked path or straight, to enter our aching hearts. In the certainty of your grace we make our prayer. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Leader: Hear the good news! Christ is our peace. Through him we have forgiveness and new hope.

People: He comes to break the power of sin and set us free again. Alleluia! Amen.

RESPONSE: "While We Are Waiting, Come"

*While we are waiting, come
While we are waiting, come
Jesus our Lord Emmanuel,
While we are waiting, come.*

HYMN #10 "On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry"

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

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE LESSONS: Malachi 3:1-4/Hebrews 11:32-40

SERMON: "The Other Christmas Tree: Names We Cannot Pronounce"
Rev. Dr. Mary Anne Welch

***Affirmation of Faith**

The Apostles' Creed

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 sits on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from there He will come to judge the

living 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.

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 First Noel" arr. Bisharat

***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

***CLOSING HYMN #376 "Love Divine, All Loves Excelling"**

*BENEDICTION

***RESPONSE: "Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus"**

*Come, Thou long expected Jesus
Born to set Thy people free;
From our fears and sins release us,
Let us find our rest in Thee.*

POSTLUDE "Break Forth, O Beauteous Heavenly Light" Bach

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, 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 Ronnie Storch. 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: Lena Staschak, Steve & Cindy Brawley

BIRTHDAYS THIS WEEK: None

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); Alysa Berdan (co-worker of Roger Pryor); the Powell family (friends of Jackie Koch); 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) about any pastoral concerns.