

<p>SERVING THE CHURCH This Week</p> <p>Liturgist: Linda Marshall Ushers: Sharon Flesch Linda Marshall</p>		<p>SERVING THE CHURCH Christmas Eve</p> <p>Liturgist: Linda Stenhouse Ushers: Bill Marshall NS Linda Marshall</p>																					
<p>Elder of the Month</p> <p>For December: Candie Vaitkevicius, 864-631-1010(H), 630-247-9507 (cell)</p>																							
<p>SESSION MEMBERS</p> <table border="0"> <tr> <td><u>Class of 2024</u></td> <td><u>Class of 2025</u></td> <td><u>Class of 2026</u></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Linda Stenhouse</td> <td>Barb Daugherty</td> <td>Bill Marshall PA</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Jackie Koch</td> <td>Bill Marshall NS</td> <td>Candie Vaitkevicius</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Candie Vaitkevicius</td> <td>Linda Marshall</td> <td>Jackie Koch</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="4" style="text-align: center;">Linda Stenhouse—Clerk of Session</td> </tr> </table>				<u>Class of 2024</u>	<u>Class of 2025</u>	<u>Class of 2026</u>		Linda Stenhouse	Barb Daugherty	Bill Marshall PA		Jackie Koch	Bill Marshall NS	Candie Vaitkevicius		Candie Vaitkevicius	Linda Marshall	Jackie Koch		Linda Stenhouse—Clerk of Session			
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Sunday, December 22, 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 22, 2024

Fourth 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 "O Little Town of Bethlehem" arr. Herbster

***OUR CALL TO WORSHIP** Linda Marshall, Liturgist
Leader: My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior.

People: The Mighty One has done great things for me, and holy is his name.

Leader: With Mary, our spirits rejoice, and we sing God's praise.

People: Let us honor God with our worship this fourth Sunday of Advent.

***OPENING HYMN "My Soul Cries Out with a Joyful Shout" (bulletin insert)**

*PRAYER OF ADORATION

JOURNEY TO THE MANGER: Reading: John 1:1-5, Gary Klein

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE: Judy Rainey & Sue Seidel

Response: Advent Song:

*Light the Advent candle, four: Think of joy forevermore;
Christ Child in a stable born, gift of love that Christmas morn.*

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

CALL TO CONFESSION

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.

INSTALLATION OF ELDER CLASS OF 2026: The installation of the 2026 Session Members will be on Sunday, January 5th. 2026 members are Candie Vaitkevicius, Bill Marshall PA, and Jackie Koch.

BIBLE STUDY: A 4-week Bible study on honoring the Sabbath will be offered on Sunday mornings at 9:15 am from Jan. 5 through Feb. 2. In a quick-moving world filled with routines, the Sabbath can often become just another day of the week. It is so much more than that! Come join us and discover how honoring the Sabbath can lead to peace and joy. Please sign the sheet in the back of the sanctuary if you are interested. Books will be provided if you sign up by Dec. 29.

NOTE: The Church office will be closed on Thursday, Dec. 26th.

COMING CHRISTMAS EVE: 7 p.m.

Scriptures: Luke 2:1-14/Isaiah 7:10-17

Sermon: The Other Christmas Tree: Mary, of whom Jesus was Born

COMING NEXT SUNDAY:

Scriptures: 1 Samuel 2:18-20, 26/Luke 2:41-52

Sermon: Carol Sing

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. NOTE: There will be no pantry hours on Christmas Eve.

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 today.

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 in your bulletin and place it in the wooden church on the table at the back of the sanctuary. Requests must be turned in today.

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.

CONFESSION OF OUR SIN (unison prayer)

Soon we will celebrate the Prince of Peace, but we are not a people at peace. We glorify violence and dismiss the pacifist as weak. We dominate and demean, turning dialogue into debate. We wage war with enemies and invest in self-defense before giving non-violent strategies a chance. Lord, forgive us. Help us work towards your peaceable kingdom, where swords will be beaten into plowshares and spears into pruning hooks. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Leader: "And he will stand and feed his flock in the strength of the Lord ...
And they shall live secure,

People: for now he shall be great to the ends of the earth; and he shall be the one of peace."

Leader: In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.

All: Thanks be to God. 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 # 8 "Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates"

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

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE LESSONS: Micah 5:2-5a/Matthew 2:13-18

SERMON: "The Other Christmas Tree: Joseph, the Husband of ...
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 "Christmas Medley" arr. Bisharat/Purifoy

*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 #11 "O Lord, How Shall I Meet You?"

*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

"See Amid the Winter's Snow"

Goss

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 is inserted in today's bulletin. Those of you who indicated that you want to take your flower(s) home, please do so after the Christmas Eve Candlelight Service.

REFRESHMENTS today are given by Sharon Flesch. 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: Bill & Linda Marshall, Susan Medina

BIRTHDAYS THIS WEEK: Sharon Stone (12/27, Kitty Shealy (12/28)

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.