

December 1, 2024

Hope
1st Sunday of Advent



First Presbyterian Church Aiken, South Carolina

A community actively seeking ways to continue

... writing new chapters in an old story ...



A Stephen Ministry Congregation.

First Presbyterian Church of Aiken extends a simple and unqualified welcome, in Christ's name, to all who seek to join us. We affirm that there can be no exclusiveness within the body of Christ, and, therefore, we invite all children of God into our worship, study, mission, and fellowship as we together seek ways to live in grace and respond with gratitude. We would be happy to answer any questions about our mission, ministry, and membership.

We invite you to please join us again in worship.

Call To Worship

Gathering Music: The people are called to worship God through the Gift of Music.

Congregational: The people are called to worship God. Words from scripture are spoken or sung to proclaim who God is and what God has done. We are thus reminded that our worship centers in God and not in ourselves. "Our help is in the name of the Lord, who made heaven and earth." (Psalm 124:8).

Prayer Of Confession

is intended to encourage people to lay down any burdens of guilt, regret, sense of failure, or inadequacy, and to reaffirm their trust in Christ's unending love and forgiveness.

Assurance Of Pardon

in the waters of baptism, God claimed you and named you a child of God. In the waters of baptism, we receive God's forgiveness, healing, and love.

Gloria Patri giving glory to the Good Father in thanksgiving for grace and forgiveness.

✦ Please rise in body or spirit.

GATHERING IN GOD'S NAME

PRELUDE

STRIKING OF THE BELLS

ANNOUNCEMENTS

WELCOME

One: The Lord be with you.

All: **And also with you.**

GATHERING MUSIC

CHRISTMAS IS COMING

Mike & Judy Loftus

CONGREGATIONAL CALL TO WORSHIP

One: Christ is coming!

All: **We see the signs!**

One: Christ is coming!

All: **We will be ready!**

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

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

ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING

JAM Kids

✦ **HYMN 82**

COME, THOU LONG-EXPECTED JESUS

✦ **INVITATION TO CONFESSION OF SIN**

(Silent Confession)

God of tender mercies, we admit that sometimes we don't know what to do with ourselves. We anger at the slightest insult and imagine great vengeance upon those who wronged us. We laze about in the good news of our faith and do not consider the deep commitment of faith. We care for ourselves but not for others. Forgive us, we pray. Forgive us, help us to repent, and make us whole. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

✦ **GLORY TO GOD 121 v. 4**

O LITTLE TOWN OF BETHLEHEM

4. O ho - ly child of Beth - le - hem,
de - scend to us we pray;
cast out our sin and en - ter in;
be born in us to - day.

✠ **PASSING OF THE PEACE - WELCOMING OUR NEIGHBORS**

TIME WITH THE YOUNGER CHURCH

Rev. Dr. Christopher Erde

PROCLAIMING GOD'S WORD

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYERS

**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.**

✠ **HYMN 347**

LET ALL MORTAL FLESH KEEP SILENCE

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

FIRST READING

JEREMIAH 33:14-16

SECOND READING

LUKE 21: 25-36

SERMON

Rev. Dr. Beth Yarborough

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

✠ **AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

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 thence
he shall come to judge the quick 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.**

PRESENTATION OF OUR TITHES, GIFTS, AND OFFERINGS

Please sign and pass the friendship register on your pew during this time.

OFFERTORY MUSIC

CALL TO ADVENT
Sanctuary Choir

Passing of the Peace

worshippers may share signs of Christ's peace welcoming each other i.e. "The peace of Christ be with you" response "and also with you".

Prayer For

Illumination is a prayer seeking the guidance of the Holy Spirit, to lead us to a deeper understanding of the reading, hearing, and proclaiming of God's word.

Sermon Or

Meditation when the Bible has been read, its message is proclaimed in a sermon or other form of exposition of God's Word. The God who speaks in scripture speaks to us now. The God who acted in biblical history acts today. Through the Holy Spirit, Christ is presented in the sermon, offering grace and calling for obedience.

Affirmation of Faith

the congregation speaks as one, affirming essential tenets of the reformed Christian faith.

The Offering is a

significant part of our response to the Gospel. As we present the financial gifts that represent our commitment to the work of the church. We resolve to maintain this community of worship, fellowship, and service.

✦ **DOXOLOGY 108 v. 6**

The **Doxology** is sung, ascribing glory to God in three persons - praising Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

**Christ, to thee with God the Father,
and, O Holy Ghost, to thee,
hymn and chant and high thanksgiving
and unwearied praises be.
Honor, glory, and dominion,
and eternal victory,
evermore and evermore! Amen.**

✦ **PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

✦ **HYMN 100**

MY SOUL CRIES OUT WITH A JOYFUL SHOUT

BEARING AND FOLLOWING GOD'S WORD INTO THE WORLD

INVITATION TO MEMBERSHIP

CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

CONGREGATIONAL BLESSING 92 v. 1

WHILE WE ARE WAITING, COME

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

POSTLUDE

PASTORALE

Charge And Benediction are delivered from the pulpit, font, or table. The charge is a challenge to take the lessons learned in worship, and apply them to our lives. The benediction concludes the worship service, and confers the Triune God's blessing upon the congregation.

Congregational Blessing we join hands and voices as we acknowledge God's blessing which binds us together in ministry.

WORSHIP NOTES

Lay Reader: Phyllis Britt

Head Usher: Graham Reynolds

Large print hymnals, bulletins, and wireless assisted hearing receivers are available from any usher.

Childcare is available during Sunday school and worship for our youngest members ages 0 - 5. Join us in Room 6.

Worship Bags are available in the Narthex for children through 5th grade.

Offering Cards have been added to the pews for our online givers. Please use these during the offering as the plates are passed.



CHURCH AT WORK

Service of Comfort and Hope - You, your loved ones, and friends are invited to attend the Service of Comfort and Hope on Sunday, December 8, 2024, at 5:00 PM in the sanctuary, childcare will be provided. This quiet meditative, communion and candle lighting service provides a worship experience for those who face the holidays in their own season of sadness. A light supper will be served following the service in the Fellowship Hall.

Alternative Gifts - Honor family and friends with simple gifts of hope this Christmas. Brochures are available in the Narthex and the office hallway. The agencies that are being sponsored this year include, Children's Place, Inc., Cumbee Center, Fellowship Camp & Conference Center, Standing at the Crossroads, The Community Medical Clinic of Aiken County, The Honduras Agape Foundation / Mwandai, and The Presbyterian Mission Agency.

Art Wall - A new exhibition for The Art Wall featuring Ray Kent is now up in the Parlor. His work will be on display until December 29th. Please stop by the Art Wall anytime and enjoy his beautiful work.

Giving Together Store - This ministry relies a great deal on contributions of money to restock the store. Contributions can be made payable to FPC with "Giving Together" on the memo line. The Giving Together Store still needs volunteers December 8-13, we will need cashiers in 2-hour shifts. On Sunday from 12:00-2:00 PM, 2:00-4:00PM, and 4:00-6:00PM. Monday- Friday hours will be from 4:30-8:00PM. If you would like to volunteer, please contact the office at the church.

Congregational Meeting - A congregational meeting will be held after worship on December 15th, in order to elect FPCA officers for the class of 2027.

2024 Christmas Memorial & Gift Poinsettias - Our sanctuary will be decorated with poinsettias during Advent. As in the past, the money generated from Christmas memorials will be used to purchase poinsettias and other seasonal items for worship. Donors will be listed on an insert to be placed in the worship bulletin on December 22nd and 24th. The suggested minimum for each memorial or gift is \$25.00. Please fill out the form and return it with your check, payable to First Presbyterian Church, marked "Christmas Memorial/Gift." Extra forms are available in the Narthex and church office hallway.

CHURCH CALENDAR

Sunday, December 1, 2024

9:15 AM - 9:30 AM Coffee
9:15 AM - 11:30 AM Nursery
9:30 AM - 10:15 AM Sunday School
10:30 AM - 11:30 AM Worship
2:00 PM - 4:00 PM Indoor Soccer
7:30 PM - 9:00 PM Men's Basketball

Monday, December 2, 2024

7:30 AM - 3:00 PM Preschool
5:16 PM - 6:45 PM Pickleball
6:00 PM - 7:00 PM Stephen Leaders

Tuesday, December 3, 2024

7:30 AM - 3:00 PM Preschool
9:00 AM - 9:15 AM Preschool
Chapel
5:16 PM - 6:45 PM Pickleball
6:30 PM - 8:30 PM Stephen
Ministry Mtg.
7:00 PM - 8:30 PM Boy Scouts
7:00 PM - 9:00 PM BSA Girls Troop

Wednesday, December 4, 2024

7:30 AM - 3:00 PM Preschool
8:45 AM - 9:15 AM Morning Prayer
10:00 AM - 11:00 AM Staff Meeting
5:30 PM - 6:30 PM Handbells
5:45 PM - 7:00 PM Wednesday
Dinner
7:00 PM - 8:00 PM Choir

Thursday, December 5, 2024

7:30 AM - 3:00 PM Preschool
5:00 PM - 6:30 PM Pickleball
7:00 PM - 9:00 PM BSA GA-CA

Friday, December 6, 2024

7:30 AM - 3:00 PM Preschool

Saturday, December 7, 2024

11:00 AM - 12:00 PM Memorial
Service

Sunday, December 8, 2024

8:20 AM - 9:15 AM Men's Breakfast
9:15 AM - 9:30 AM Coffee
9:15 AM - 11:30 AM Nursery
9:30 AM - 10:15 AM Sunday School
10:30 AM - 11:30 AM Worship
12:00 PM - 6:00 PM ACTS
Giving Together tore
2:00 PM - 4:00 PM Indoor Soccer
4:45 PM - 7:15 PM Nursery
5:00 PM - 6:00 PM Service of
Comfort & Hope
5:30 PM - 7:00 PM Dinner-
Service of C&H
5:30 PM - 7:00 PM Youth Group
7:30 PM - 9:00 PM Men's Basketball

CHURCH OFFICERS AND STAFF

First Presbyterian Church

224 Barnwell Ave. NW Aiken, SC 29801 (803) 648-2662

E-mail: aikenpresbyterian@aikenpresbyterian.org

Website: www.aikenpresbyterian.org

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/aikenpres>

Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/aikenpres/>

Office hours Monday- Thursday 9:00 AM- 3:00 PM

Friday 9:00 AM-12:00 PM

The Church Organized For Work

Pastor/Head of Staff	Rev. Dr. Christopher Erde
Parish Associate	Rev. Dr. Beth Yarborough
Director of Operations and Media	Joanna Hamilton
Director of Christian Education	Tamra Erde
Director of Music	Daniel Hamilton
Director of Finance	Cassie Buchanan
Office Manager	Debby Dugan
Organist/Accompanist	Kathy Clark
Preschool Director	Mary Maddrey
Finance	Suzanne McLeod

The Session

Moderator: Rev. Dr. Christopher Erde

Clerk of Session: Clark McCants

Class of 2024

Katie Brown
Robin Callicott
Chuck Dynarski
Jennifer Feraldi
Katie Kucharski
Connor Patterson
Jerry Shumpert
Chick Warner

Class of 2025

Trey Brown
Suzanne McLeod
Melissa Patterson
Graham Reynolds
Wayne Rickman

Class of 2026

Richard Abney
Dub Bankes
Wallace Fraser
Martha Funk
Sharon Rodgers
Bill Tucker

The Deacons

Class of 2024

Dave Clerc
Mary Fran Crook
Kathy Kent

Class of 2025

Barbara Bower
Anne Elkins
Mary Hunter

Class of 2026

Mike Anderson
Gail Ebner
Brock McLeod

The Trustees

Class of 2024

Reggie Ebner

Class of 2025

David Keisler

Class of 2026

Bob Buchanan

Stephen Ministry

Rob Gray, Kathy Kent, Mary Maddrey,

Carol Mondschein, Lucy Sutter, and Vic Sowers

If you are wanting a Stephen Minister assigned please contact:

Gayle Gordon (803) 507-7725, Karalee Kludzuweit(803) 335-8632,

or Julie Taylor (803) 979-9919

Presbyterian Women

Moderator:

Sandy Evans

Gathering Contacts:

Amy Gray and Margot Salzman

Church Officers the congregation of the PCUSA operate using a model of shared leadership and responsibility. Ordained Ministers of Word and Sacrament work along side men and women called to serve in the ordained officers of Elders (the Session) and Deacon (the Diaconate). In the PCUSA, the gifts of leadership and ministry are affirmed and celebrated in all people and the service of all is appreciated.

